

Two for Eternity Excerpt

By the time the coroner carted the three corpses out of Raiken's house, the sun had risen. They had questioned him repeatedly about the men who shot up his house. He told them he knew nothing about the gunmen and why they had tried to assassinate him.

He requested time to sleep before the next round of questions. They left, except for three police officers who guarded his house.

He went inside his battered house where Dalia and Sally waited for him. Thank God his wife and sister had survived this hellish ordeal. It would have shattered him if either had died.

"Scott, we need to talk," Dalia said.

During the attack, the gunmen destroyed the kitchen chairs, so Sally sat on the floor. "I know you were lying to the police, and we've had enough of your lies."

"We want to know what's going on," Dalia said, "and we want to know now!"

"And we're not just talking about why these guys shot the house apart while trying to kill you. We want to know everything."

"It's impossible for a person to do what you did tonight." Dalia paced around the kitchen. "You moved so fast, I couldn't even follow you with my eyes."

Sally looked up at him. "Not to mention that you know about, oh I don't know, sixty languages or so, and talk about places that you've never been to as if you've lived there your whole life."

"It doesn't add up, Scott. We want you to explain everything."

Raiken tilted his head back and closed his eyes, clutching the bandaged area above his hip where the bullet had pierced him. Weariness sank deep into his bones as if the past twelve millennia had crept up on him.

Raiken gave a harsh laugh that made Sally and Dalia jump. "I've never told anyone my story, but for the first time I *need* to let someone know the secrets I've buried for so long. You want to know the truth? You'll have to forget what you thought you knew about the world."

Dalia's face tightened. "After what we saw tonight, that won't be too hard."

Raiken took a deep breath. "What I'm about to tell you is a tale that spans thousands of years. The pyramids in Egypt weren't even a thought when I entered this world. This is a tale of good and evil. It's a tale of betrayal, heartbreak, and revenge. But in its essence, this is a tale of two people. Scott Mullen is the latest of many names I've had. The other is my dark twin, who is responsible for tonight's attack." Raiken closed his eyes and sighed. "Where do I even start? I guess the only place to start is in the beginning."