

“Promise”

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[30 Days of Writing](#) – One Word Prompts  
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Day 12: “Promise”

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The first time Kat heard the word 'promise', her father uttered it and left the girl feeling confused.

“Promise?” she repeated, turning her head up to him. “What does it mean?” Unlike her mother, Dylan would give her an explanation, even if she didn't entirely understand it.

He canted his head to one side, thoughtful expression passing over his face. He considered it as he studied the child. “S'a declaration, of sorts... an assurance. That m'gonna do exactly what I say.”

On Edaros, the dimension where she'd been born, no one used the word. It was a kind of assurance demons didn't need. Threats were the only sort of pledge that even compared. A promise seemed softer than a threat. She thought about it, her brow furrowing.

“Okay.”

Dylan's eyebrows shot up in amusement. “Okay?”

Kat nodded. “Means you're gonna come back. And that's okay.” A wide grin spread across her face. A promise couldn't be a bad thing, she decided.

His grin mirrored her own. “Brilliant.”

Much later—years, by her count, less by his she was sure—she learned that 'promise' didn't at all mean what he'd said, for he hadn't returned. If that was what a promise was, then she wanted nothing of it.