

## Chosen by Fate 111

### Chapter 111 - Trinity-An Intimate Moment

Trinity

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I was deep in thought for a moment until Reece dragged my attention back to the bath by running his hands through my hair.

"What are you doing?" I asked him, surprised.

"Finishing your bath. This new position of yours will make it a lot easier. I don't know why I didn't think of it first." He grinned as he continued gently working his hands through my hair and across my scalp. I could feel the shampoo lathering between his hands and my head. The feeling of his fingers was like a gentle massage that I didn't want to stop.

I felt him moving his hands lower and lower once he was done washing my hair. His hands tickled lower until they went below my shoulders, below the surface of the water. Down they went to the small of my back. He stopped there, gripping me lightly in the water.

"Do you want me to rinse your hair for you?" He had a wicked look in his eyes as he asked the question.

"Normally, I wash my hair in a shower, the few times I do so in a tub, I lean back and rinse my hair."

"How do you want to do it today?" I thought about that for a moment, it would be awkward with him in the tub as well, but I had way more than enough room to accomplish the task.

"I'll just lay back I guess." I went to move off his lap but he held me in place.

"I was hoping you'd say that. Which way, toward me or away?" He was giving me a triumphant smile, as if he had just won something.

"What?"

"Do you want to lean back away from me how you're sitting, or turn around and lay back against me?" He asked me, grinning even wider. He really wasn't going to let me go.

"Are you going to be clingy like that all the time?" I asked.

"Maybe." He laughed. I just rolled my eyes and leaned back, arching my back to dip my hair into the water. Reece wrapped his arms around me a little tighter to hold me steady. I ran my hands through my hair quickly, until I felt that all the shampoo was gone.

While I leaned back, I felt Reece remove one hand from around my back. He pressed his hand against my chest. He squeezed my breast gently, applying a light pressure with his finger tips. I moaned softly at the feel of his finger. While I continued rinsing, he ran his hand over my chest and stomach, up and down, repeatedly.

Leaning back hadn't been that painful. But coming back up, using the muscle that had been stretched into a completely new form last night, is what hurt. When I went to sit up I felt a stabbing pain and bit

my lip to stop the cry of pain. Reece must have felt my hesitation as he gently pushed me into a sitting position on his lap again.

"I'm sorry Little Bunny, I should have turned you around."

"Stop it, it was my choice to lean back Reece. My muscles are just sore. I've got pains all over, it just seems like I don't know where they all are." I was trying to reassure him.

"Let's hurry this up and get out of here then."

"I'm not going to break Reece." He was starting to frustrate me.

"Maybe not, but you've had enough pain, lately. I don't want to cause anymore for you."

We finished our bath in a hurry, apparently the relaxation was over. Reece bundled me in a towel and carried me back to the bedroom. I knew better than to argue, he would just tell me he wanted to carry me and to let him, or something like that.

Reece set me down on the edge of the bed, the towel still wrapped around me.

"Reece, the sheets will get wet."

"It doesn't matter, I'll be asking for them to be changed today." He dismissed my protests.

"This isn't a hotel." I snapped at him.

"Treat it like it is." I rolled my eyes at him.

"Now, let's get dressed, and to do that we need to get dried."

Reece snatched the edges of my towel and tugged it open. I watched in embarrassment as he purred when he looked at me.

"I promise, I'm not going to do anything, I'm waiting until you're better, but man are you hard to resist." The hungry look in his eyes helped to drive the words home, even with the smirk on his face. I blushed scarlet as his eyes devoured me.

Reece took another towel that was sitting nearby and knelt in front of me before he began to pat my body dry. He gently rubbed the towel up my left leg, then my right. He rubbed the towel over my thighs, but he did not press himself forward between them.

Reece was as close to me as he could get without touching me, his towel still wrapped around his waist while I sat exposed on the bed. He smoothly moved higher with the towel, drying me as he moved his hands up my body. I watched his face intently as his eyes stared hungrily at me. I could feel the heat radiating from him, from the look he was giving me.

I felt his large, firm hands through the cloth. They wrapped almost completely around my hips as he gripped me firmly. He slid his hands up over my waist, across my ribs, until he reached my breasts. I saw the smile that settled on his lips as he cupped my breasts in his hands. He squeezed gently for just a moment before moving on.

"I need to behave myself." He muttered to himself as his hands reached my shoulders. He took the towel and ran it once down each of my arms quickly before he got to his feet.

I thought he was finished but he held me in place with a gentle hand as he climbed onto the bed. He settled himself behind me, pulling me back to nestle me between his thighs. He gently took the towel and started rubbing my hair gently. The massaging feel of his hands was almost enough to make me want to sleep again.

After my hair was sufficiently dried he moved onto my neck, shoulders, and back. Gentle stroking motions that seemed different from how he dried me moments ago.

"I can still see these marks." I heard him whisper behind me, I don't know if he meant for me to hear him or not.

"What marks?" I asked him.

"Where they whipped you. I can still see them. Where it tore open your flesh. I remember how I felt that night, when I saw what they had done to you. I wanted to kill them. I wanted to be there in that room for real and rip them to shreds." I heard the anger he felt, but also the sorrow at having not been there to save me.

"You did stop them, eventually. It's not your fault, Reece. I'm alive, let's just focus on that." I tried to soothe him.

"But their leader got away."

"We will find him, eventually. For now, let's focus on the here and now." I begged him.

"I will never forgive them." I felt him trace the lines on my back with his fingers, the towel all but forgotten now. "I will find him, and anyone else left in his coven that didn't die last night, and I will make them all pay." I felt the bed shift as he leaned toward me, the next thing I knew I felt his lips press lightly against my back. "I will avenge you." He kissed my back again. "Every single person, Warlock, wolf, no matter what they are, they will pay for hurting you." He kissed another mark on my back. The mixture of his words, the gentle breeze of his breath across my skin, and feather light touch of his lips, together they all made me shiver in his embrace.

I heard a rumbling purr come from his chest, I knew that meant his control was on the verge of snapping.

"I will make sure you heal, I will make sure you are made whole again. You will stand at my side and together we will lead our pack. No one will ever dare to touch you again." His words sent shivers down my spine and butterflies whirling in my stomach. He never talked like this, but I was enjoying the moment.

Reece wrapped his arms around me then, one around my breasts the other around my waist, as he threw himself backwards and rolled to the side. We ended with me face down on the mattress with him straddling me, his knees next to my hips. I felt the bed shift again from him moving forward, his breath tickling the back of my ear.

"You are my Luna, my mate, my everything Trinity. You are my Little Bunny after all." I felt him press his mouth to my mark, or marks now. "This here, tells me you're meant to lead the pack." I could tell he was pressing his tongue against the first mark I received. The firm pressure of his tongue was stirring things deep in my core. Every stroke of his tongue was like a caress of somewhere much lower.

His tongue trailed along a sensitive path making me writhe beneath him.

"These other marks." He said as he lapped at another mark that was up on the side of my neck, just below my ear. "These marks tell me you're special." He whispered into my ear before following the path with his tongue again. The marks and the lines connecting them were still extremely sensitive to the touch.

"These marks tell me that you will be unlike any other Luna in our pack's history. Possibly in the history of the world." He followed the line once again after he spoke these words. "They tell me that you are strong as well as beautiful, not to mention sexy as hell and mouth wateringly delicious." I felt the hum of repressed desire as he was holding himself back while following the line again. "You may not need or want me to protect you anymore, or ever, but I hope you let me. I promise to do it properly from now on." He followed the line to the last of the outer marks. "I promise to treat you right from now on."

His mouth made it ways back to the center of the marks, the original mark. I felt him press his lip to it gently before he opened his mouth. His lips had just settled against my mark, tongue pressing in the middle of the sensitive patch, when my stomach growled loudly. I was mortified, embarrassed beyond belief and glad my face was hidden so he couldn't see how red it was.

"Yeah, you're probably pretty hungry aren't you? Did you even eat during those two days?" I could hear the laughter in his voice.

"No, I didn't." I shook my head from side to side to emphasize the answer.

"I should have gotten you food sooner. Your body needs it, especially after the first shift. It explains why you haven't fully healed as well. Your body will require more calories now that you can shift. Without the calories you won't be able to heal as fast, shift properly, or stave off the cold like we usually do." I felt him move away from me, allowing me to roll over and sit up.

"All that if I just get too hungry? I knew that wolves ate more than other people, but I hadn't actually thought about the why before. I had just assumed it was the natural metabolism, I didn't think it had other implications." He was walking to the table near the door, where I noticed a large bag sitting.

"Our metabolism is actually the cause. It's why we heal so fast, why the cold doesn't bother us, and of course, why we have such large appetites. But without that metabolism, we couldn't be what we are. Shifters of any kind have the accelerated metabolism." With the bag in hand, he walked back toward the bed. I watched the uninterrupted display of his body as he made his way closer to me.

"Huh." His words had given me information I had never cared to learn before. If I wasn't a true wolf then why bother, that had been my answer when someone tried making me learn more about it. I knew what I needed to know about wolves up to that point. And academically I was stellar, I just didn't want to depress myself learning about something I would never be. Or so I thought. Guess I was wrong.

"Come on, get dressed. I will call to have some breakfast brought up." He looked over at the clock on the nightstand. "Make that lunch." He amended with a smile and a laugh.

Reece had packed the bag for both himself and me in mind. There were clothes, comfortable ones. He handed me a bra and panties that weren't picked out for their sex appeal but for their softness and comfort in mind. Next he gave me a pair of dark blue satin lounge pants. Instead of the matching top that went with the lounge pants, that was kind of low cut and revealing, he handed me one of my favorite t-shirts I usually wore to bed.

"You definitely didn't pick this to make me look sexy." I said as I pulled the shirt over my head.

"One, I'm trying to stop temptation. Two, you look sexy in everything you wear. And three, I thought you might need some comfortable clothing after what you went through, I didn't expect you to be shifting into a wolf and healing most of your injuries that quickly." I smiled at him and blushed at his words.

"I look sexy in everything, huh?" I asked teasingly.

"Yes." He purred as he leaned forward and pressed his lips to mine for a brief moment. The kiss told me he was fighting to hold back. It spoke of hunger, need, desire, and restraint. "Now, be good and don't tempt me too much, I know my self control is good because I kept my hands off of you for almost three months, but I don't want to see if my control can stand another test of wills." His eyes seemed to be begging me to give him a break, I had to cut the man some slack. He was right, I was still in a lot of pain since I hadn't healed completely. Not to mention I was really hungry.

"Alright, alright." I laughed at him. "I'll be good."

"Thank you." He pressed a kiss to my forehead before backing away.

"By the way, Reece, is there a brush in that bag?"

"I didn't even think to pack one." He smacked himself in the head, realization dawning on his face. "I usually only need a comb. Will that help?" I looked at him skeptically, wondering if he were serious.

"No, Reece it won't. Not with hair as thick as mine."

"I'll send someone out for everything I forgot." He promised.

## **Chapter 112 - Trinity-A Gift From Reece**

7-8 minutes

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Trinity

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Ten minutes later we were sitting at the table when a young woman walked in. She was pushing a cart covered in food. It smelled and looked good enough, but it wasn't Abigail's cooking. I missed her food already. Reece was right when he said it would be lunch that was brought. It was just after noon now so

it was definitely past breakfast time. We were each served massive plates. It wasn't an overly complicated lunch. They had obviously prioritized speed here.

The lunch was large mushroom, steak and cheese subs piled with meat, cheese, lettuce, mushrooms, onions, and smothered in Italian dressing. It had been toasted so the bread was crispy and the cheese had been melted perfectly. The sandwich was bigger than my head, but my stomach growled so loudly when I smelled it that I dug right in as soon as the maid left the room. I picked up the messy sub and sunk my teeth in.

At that moment, I didn't care that it wasn't Abigail's cooking anymore. I had ignored my hunger so long that I hadn't realized how truly starving I was until the food was right in front of me. I quickly worked my way through the whole sandwich as well as the heaping pile of fries that was on the plate next to it. Before all this happened, I might have been able to eat half at most.

When my plate was cleared, I leaned back in my seat fully satisfied. I cleaned my hands and face on several napkins before taking a long drink from the glass in front of me. Reece had asked for lemonade and soda to be brought to the room. I had opted for the lemonade to start with, and after the first sip I realized then how thirsty I was. My body had been deprived of food and drink for so long. I had been given a drink once in all the time I was held captive, and since then I had ignored my body's screams and protests for food and water. Before I knew it, I'd drunk nearly the entire pitcher of lemonade that was sitting on the table.

"Oh Goddess, I can't believe I just did that." I looked at Reece, embarrassed again as I noticed him smiling at me.

"What's wrong?" He seemed genuinely confused as his smile disappeared from his face.

"I just ate like a total pig, that's what." I buried my face in my hands. I heard him laughing at me and just wanted to melt into a puddle.

"Little Bunny, we've been eating our meals together for months, I've seen you eat your food before. Now was no different."

"So, I'm always a pig?" I glared at him.

"That's not what I meant." He stumbled over his words momentarily. "What I'm saying is it doesn't matter to me. I love you how you are. And you shouldn't be ashamed. You were starving, literally. Anyone who hasn't had food in nearly three days is going to eat fast. And even though it wasn't our home's cooking, they were good enough. Plus, these sandwiches were messy regardless." His smile did little to settle things for me.

"So, what you're saying is, the foods to blame for being messy and I'm allowed to be a pig cause I was so hungry?"

"If you're so inclined to hear it that way, sure. But I'm saying you're fine, and you weren't a pig." He was exasperated now.

"Agree to disagree?" I asked him.

"If I must." We laughed together. "Oh, before I forget, I have something for you."

I watched as Reece went back to the bag he had gotten our clothes out of. He dug around in a pocket for something before he turned and came back to me, his hands hidden behind his back. He knelt in front of me, looking me straight in the eyes.

"Happy birthday, Little Bunny." He said as he brought his hand out from behind his back. He was holding a small square, white box wrapped in a blue ribbon.

"What?" I asked him, perplexed.

"It's Thursday, January 28th, it's your birthday." He was smiling at me with a happy grin. "Actually, it had just struck midnight when you shifted. Today is your birthday, and the night of the wolf moon. Maybe that's why your wolf finally decided to show." I thought back to the night before, the bells ringing.

"It was midnight?" I asked him.

"Didn't you hear the twelve bells in the distance?"

"I heard nineteen tolls of the bell." I was lost in thought.

"Maybe it was just everything that was going on last night, that made it seem like nineteen."

"Yeah, that's more likely." I nodded in agreement with his words.

"Anyway, here." He put the small box in the palm of my hand.

"You didn't have to get me anything, Reece." I smiled at him. "You saved me after all, that's gift enough."

"I bought it before you were taken." He was looking at the box expectantly. "I planned to give you this regardless. And I will always be there to save you, always." He looked up into my eyes again as he said those words. "Go on, open it." He encouraged me.

I smiled once more before doing as he asked. I pulled the ribbon, untying the bow from around the box. The blue fabric of the ribbon made a slight noise as it slid against itself. I dropped the ribbon into my lap then gripped the lid of the box. When I lifted the lid, I saw the most beautiful necklace I had ever seen. It was made of platinum, both the pendant and the chain. The pendant was in the shape of a heart with two wolves, one clearly male, the other female based on the size of their heads. The wolves' noses seemed to be touching in the center of the pendant. Below them was the symbol I had just recently learned had the same name as me. Two wolves, a heart, and a trinity symbol. The detail of the necklace was exquisite.

"It's beautiful Reece. It's too much really."

"Nothing will ever be enough." He said as he pulled the necklace from the box. "You deserve the world, Little Bunny, and I'm going to do my best to give it to you." He leaned forward then, putting his hands around my neck. He moved forward just a little more and pressed his lips gently against mine. I didn't notice when he moved his hands from behind my head to holding my cheeks, but when he pulled away he was cupping my cheeks in his hands.

"Two wolves bound to one heart with a trinity." He said as he lifted the pendant of the necklace. "At first I got it because of your name, but now we both have trinity symbols on us. It's fitting."

"You said Trinity means group of three, but we're only two." I reminded him.

"Well, you can look at it two ways. One, the pack is the third, or two, our future pup is the third." He grinned at me.

"I--I--I don't think I'm ready for that yet." I stammered.

"No worries. We will know when the time is right." He let the wolf pendant fall to rest against my chest again. "As long as I get a pup that looks like you I'm happy." He was grinning like a loon when he said that and for most of the rest of the day.

### **Chapter 113 - Trinity-Vincent Visits**

6-7 minutes

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Trinity

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Just after the maid had come to clear away the dishes from lunch, there was a knock on the door. I could smell the man standing in the hallway.

"Come in Vincent." Reece called out. I tried to move from my current position, as I was sitting across Reece's lap on the sofa near the fireplace, but he just held me tight against him, not letting me move off of him.

"Alpha." Vincent nodded his head in deference before looking at me. "Luna." He sighed looking at me. "It is so good to see you Trinity. I am glad that you're safe." The smile that lit up his face then was bright and happy. I was glad I was able to see him again.

"It's good to see you again too, Vincent." I smiled at him, but for some reason his smile disappeared and his face fell.

"I am sorry. So very sorry."

"What's wrong?" I asked him, frightened by the pained tone in his voice.

"Vincent, has something happened?" Reece asked him, slipping into his Alpha voice.

"No, nothing has happened Sir, I just came to inform you that the Luna's family wished to meet with her. I wanted to make sure that she was up to it first."

"Then what are you sorry for?" I was still so confused by his words and tone of voice.

"I wasn't there to protect you, Trinity. This is all my fault." He dropped to one knee, bowing his head. I could see how much he blamed himself, how full of regret he was.

"Vincent, it wasn't your fault." I tried to console him. "Those at fault have been punished. The one who got away, the mastermind, we will find him soon enough."



"No, it is my fault. I wasn't there. I am your lead guard, the head of your security, and I wasn't there. I am to blame."

"Vincent." I made my voice soothing to stop his self directed anger. "It was your day off. That was why I didn't call you."

"But I shouldn't have been off that day. I have taken too many days lately."

"Vincent, don't you see, I told you to take time off. You have a new baby at home. Your wife and daughter needed you. You did nothing wrong. They would have made their attempt at me no matter what. This was bound to happen."

"You're far too forgiving, Trinity." He looked me in the eyes, I could see his pain in them but also his respect for Reece and me as well. "You're going to make a great Luna though, because you will listen to people. But I also know, you will cut people off who deserve it." He was smiling now.

"That's right, and I'm not cutting you off." I assured him. "You're an amazing guard, and a wonderful friend to have around Vincent. I could never imagine replacing you."

"You're too kind."

I slid off of Reece's lap then, nearly surprised that he let me go. Slowly, I walked to Vincent.

"Please stand up." I asked him. He looked at me briefly, sorrow still filling his eyes, before he did as I asked him. "Don't be sad anymore, Vincent. I'm here, I'm safe, and so is everyone else that I care about. That includes you." I spoke these words with my arms wrapped around his waist. I felt him stiffen in surprise before he started stuttering.

"W-w-what L-L-Luna, what are you doing? A-Alpha, th-this isn't, I mean I don't know-." He couldn't finish his sentence at all. The slight growl that Reece had been giving turned to laughter.

"Well, my mate sure is full of surprises." He chuckled. "Accept her affections Vincent, I won't allow it often." He warned the man. "She's trying to comfort you, don't you get it."

"B-but the Luna is the one who needs the comforting now." Vincent protested.

"I think she will be just fine. Plus, she has me." Reece told him, laughter and dominance waring in his voice.

"She has us all." Vincent corrected him as his arms wrapped around me to return my hug. I smiled a little, happy that I was able to comfort a friend. "I'm so glad you're back safe and sound Trinity." He squeezed me for just a moment before letting me go and taking a step back. He knew that Reece would not be happy if he lingered.

"Oh cool it, Reece, he has a mate already."

"So." He growled at me.

"Honestly, you're like a child sometimes." I snapped at him.

"I definitely don't do things to you that a mere child would do." His voice purred as he looked at me hungrily.

"Calm down Fido, you know what I meant." I heard Vincent laugh quietly beside me, so quietly that I wasn't sure Reece heard it.

"Shall I bring in your family now?" His smile was back again.

"Yes, please. Thank you Vincent."

I watched Vincent leave the room as Reece came up behind me. I could feel him standing close long before he wrapped his arms around my shoulders.

"Do you want me to stay while you talk to them, or should I go?" He asked.

"That's up to you, Reece." I answered, not certain exactly how I felt about it.

"I'll leave for now, give you some privacy with your family." He kissed my cheek before he followed Vincent out of the door he just left through.

I didn't have to wait long for my family to arrive. Vincent must have gone straight to them to let them know I was well enough to receive visitors. I heard them coming long before they got to me. It sounded like one of them was running and the others were walking quickly. I could guess who was running. And as his scent was the first one I noticed I knew I was right.

They were getting nearer, and I was getting nervous. I knew I had to tell them what I had learned during my time with the Warlocks. And I knew they would still love me. But a part of me was afraid of their reactions. I just didn't know if I was ready to tell them everything yet.

## **Chapter 114 - Trinity-Family Visit**

7-9 minutes

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Carter came running into the room first. He saw me standing next to the fireplace, leaning against the mantle for support as much as warmth at the moment. My nerves were making me feel cold.

"Trinity." He called out to me before he ran over and wrapped his arms around me. He lifted me off the ground in a great big hug, turning in slow circles. "Trinity, I thought I was never going to see you again." He said as he set me down, his hands on my shoulders. "Are you alright? Does anything hurt? Is there anyone I can kick the shit out of to make this all better?" He asked me the questions in rapid succession, so fast I couldn't answer him yet.

"I'm fine Carter. I'm just glad to be out of there." I smiled at him.

"I can't believe what happened, and to top it off, you got your wolf out of it all." He was smiling at me. "See, I told you you have a wolf, but you never believed me." Carter seemed so relieved to see me, I was just happy to see his smiling face.

At that moment Noah and Uncle Wesley came into the room.

"Trinity." They both called out at the same time. Noah rushed to me much like Carter had, picking me up in his arms and hugging me tight, tighter than Carter had.

"Ah, careful Noah, I'm still sore." I warned him. His arms loosened and he set me on the floor gently, a look of pain filling his eyes. "I'm fine, just sore is all." I assured him. I had a feeling I would be telling a lot of people that.

"I'm sorry, Trinity. I told Reece it would be best to leave you home." He was blaming himself, the same as Reece and Vincent had.

"They would have tried at another time. This would have happened anyway." These words were already feeling old.

"I'm so sorry."

"Calm down Noah, it's not your fault." Uncle Wesley said as he patted Noah's shoulder.

"I know, Dad, but I still blame myself."

"Don't." I told him firmly.

"Listen to the lady." Uncle Wesley laughed softly as he pushed past Noah. "Now, come here Trinity, it's my turn for a hug." He had his arms held out and was smiling at me with a mixture of happiness and worry.

"I'm alright, Uncle Wesley." I said as I hugged him tight. He held me firmly, but his arms were gently around me.

"I was scared to death when I heard you were missing." I heard Uncle Wesley say from above me. "My entire world had been flipped upside down. I was afraid I would never see you again." I felt something wet drip onto my cheek and looked up to see the man who raised me crying.

"Uncle Wesley, there's no reason to cry. I'm fine now. I'm alive and kicking."

"I'm going to cry, just like I'm going to worry about you for the rest of my life." He said firmly.

"But why Uncle Wesley? I'm out of the house now, there's no reason to worry about me anymore." I saw Uncle Wesley bite his lip then, a wave of emotions so strong I didn't know what to call spread across his face.

"How can I not worry about you?" He seemed so hurt by my words. "How am I supposed to not worry when you don't have me there to protect you anymore?"

"Uncle Wesley?" I was confused, I didn't know what it was he wanted from me. He took my hands and pulled me to the sofa to sit with him. I could see Noah and Carter standing behind him, looking at me.

"Trinity, do you not see yourself as part of our family?" Uncle Wesley asked me, further confusing me.

"What?" I nearly yelled in shock. "No, that's the only constant that I had in my life. I knew that no matter how bad things ever got for me, I always had you guys there for me." I could feel the heat rising in my face, tears were stinging in the back of my eyes. Was my family rejecting me now? Was Uncle Wesley telling me that I am not one of them?

"Then why would you think that we would quit worrying about you just because you no longer live with us? A parent will never stop worrying about their children, no matter where they live or how old they

are." He was looking at me pleadingly. It finally dawned on me what he was getting at, what he was saying. I finally understood the pain in his voice.

"But, I'm not your daughter, Uncle Wesley." I looked at the floor, feeling the tears drip slowly down my cheeks.

"You are in my eyes." I could hear tears threatening his voice as well. When I looked up to meet his eyes, he stared at me with a mix of love and loss.

"But, Uncle Wesley-" I started but he interrupted me.

"No, let me say something first, please." He pleaded. "I know I am not your father and Eve is not your mother. We never called ourselves as such when you were growing up, and I never hid anything about your mother from you. The reason for that was simple, in my eyes anyway, I didn't want to get rid of my sister's memory. She left you, she left me, she left all of us too soon. And no matter how much Eve and I love you, Trinity, I didn't want to erase my sister from your life. But I have always thought of you as my daughter, not my niece. In my eyes, you are no different than Noah and Carter. No, maybe you're more precious, because you are my baby girl, and they were rambunctious little devils." He laughed at the end, a mixture of tears and a smile, the look on his face made my heart ache for him.

Uncle Wesley had lost a lot when my mother died almost nineteen years ago. He was eleven years older than his sister, so he wasn't always around when she was young. But when their mother died and she was lonely at home, she would spend her time with him and his family. Noah was five and Carter was just a year old. They grew close, my mother and Uncle Wesley, he was happy to finally be a major part of his sister's life.

"When you disappeared Trinity, all I could think was it's happening again. I wasn't able to protect my sister back then, and now I failed to protect her daughter, the child I raise, my little girl. I thought I was going to lose you like I lost Lily. My heart broke into a million pieces. You're older than your mother was by a couple years, but Noah is the same age I was. Looking at you, I see so much of your mother in you. And Noah looks so much like I did back then, that I thought the past was coming back to haunt me. It terrified me Trinity. I knew I had to be there to help bring you back. I wasn't going to sit idly by this time."

"Uncle Wesley." I sobbed after hearing what he had to say. "I've always thought you and Aunt Eve were the best parents I could ever ask for. I'm sorry if I made you feel like I don't love you." I threw my arms around him and hugged him tight. "I love you Uncle Wesley."

I felt him hug me back, rocking me side to side like he used to do when I was a little girl. He had always been there to quell my fears when I was young, or to calm me down when my emotions were running high. He had always been there for me, why did I ever think that was going to change?

"I love you sweetheart." I felt him kiss me softly on the side of my head just like he did when I would cry on his shoulder as a little girl. His actions brought more tears to my eyes, but these ones were of happy and fond memories.

The four of us talked for a little while longer before they left. Carter said he would be heading home shortly and would see me when I got back. The others would be flying back with Reece and me tomorrow.

## Chapter 115 - Trinity-Grandfather's Visit Part 1

8-10 minutes

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Trinity

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I thought that Reece would come back after our talk was over, but the next person to come to the room was not Reece, but Grandfather. I hadn't expected him to come see me. I knew he had been part of the rescue group last night, but I didn't think he would decide I needed a visit while here at another pack's territory. Uncle Wesley and the others would accept me, that's for sure, but I was pretty certain that Grandfather would call me an abomination. This could very well be the last time I ever saw him face to face.

Grandfather came into the room like he always walked, standing tall and straight, his arms behind his back, his posture perfect as always. I was still sitting on the sofa from my conversation with the others, but I stood when Grandfather entered the room.

"Grandfather, what a surprise, I didn't expect to see you today." My voice shook with shock and fear as I spoke to him. I just could not stop my emotions from leaking into my words right now.

"Trinity." He called my name in a much softer tone than I was expecting. To my surprise he hurried over to me and hugged me, awkwardly but tightly.

"Uh, Grandfather?" I was confused, I couldn't remember a time when he had ever hugged me before.

"I thought you were gone forever." Grandfather had leaned forward and pressed his face against the top of my head. These were all things I had never seen him do before. His posture and his perfect behavior were signatures for him, so what was going on.

"Trinity." He said, pulling away and looking me in the face. Grandfather put his right hand on my cheek cradling my face. "I've been so afraid of losing you the same way I lost her. I've done what I thought was best to keep you safe, but I couldn't protect you any better than I could her." His voice was trembling and he seemed to be on the verge of tears.

"What do you mean you tried to keep me safe?" I asked him, still so confused about everything.

"I know your mother didn't run away, she didn't leave that weekend intentionally. She was taken from us. For whatever purpose they had in mind, they took her. When she came home she had no memories of it at all, but she also had you growing inside of her." He gripped both of my shoulders tightly. "I was so angry back then, angry at whoever took her, whoever had hurt my daughter, and angry at myself for not being able to prevent it."

"But she was kidnapped, Grandfather, how could you be angry at yourself?"

"I didn't raise her to be a fighter. She was never that kind of girl. She was always soft spoken, sweet, and so very kind. She was never the kind of girl who would have wanted to fight. But if I would have just made her learn, the basics at least, maybe she would not have been taken, maybe they would not have been able to destroy my little girl." I saw the tears flowing silently down his cheeks. I had never seen Grandfather cry, not once in my entire life.

"They targeted her Grandfather. They chose her, they would have done anything they could to get her, even if she knew how to fight." I tried to make my words soft and reassuring. "Look at me, I know how to fight, but they were still able to get me." I reminded him. He pulled me to him again, squeezing me tightly. I could feel my muscles and bones protest the force of his hug, but I had never experienced this before and was in a bit of shock, so I did not stop him.

"They took you too. No matter what I did, no matter how I tried to prepare you. I'm nothing but a failure." He sobbed as he held me.

"You're not the failure, Grandfather, I am. I am the one who didn't have a wolf for so long, I am the one who could not protect myself." He just shook his head in denial as he released me, collapsing on the sofa beside him.

"No, Trinity, I am the failure. I didn't tell you what I was thinking, why I was doing all this for your entire life. I wanted to protect you, physically, but also emotionally. I wanted to spare your feelings as much as I could. I didn't want you to know what it was I suspected this entire time."

"That my mother had been kidnapped and raped? That my father is a psychopath?" I asked him. He just looked at me confused for a moment before he nodded his head.

"Yes, I knew she hadn't run off for those two days, so I knew someone had to have taken her. When she found out she was pregnant, I knew she had to have been raped. And I have always feared that your father would come back for you. I knew it was probably just paranoia on my part, that he would have no way of knowing about you, but I always feared that he would know and he would come back for you."

"He did." I told him in a calm voice, but he jerked away from me as if I had slapped him.

"What are you saying?" He asked me, confused. "Are you saying the man who took you was your father?"

"Not the one who kidnapped me directly, that was Caleb, Reece's cousin and beta along with some other undesirables from our pack."

"Wait." He held a hand up to stop me. "You were taken from our pack, to the man who took your mother all those years ago, by members from our own pack? And the beta no less?"

"Yes." My answer was simple but seemed to hurt him immensely.

"What is wrong with that man? A beta is not supposed to behave like that." I could guess this news hurt him so much because he was the former beta.

"Grandfather?" I attempted to get his attention.

"I'm sorry Trinity, I was just thinking." He smiled at me sheepishly, it was a look I never expected to see on his face. "Who was the man they took you to? What was he after?" He looked like he was both

determined to find out, but terrified to know. This was what I was afraid to tell him, but I would not hide it. He was the one who had lost the most in this whole thing, over all these years.

"He called himself Edmond, Gannon Cornelius Edmond." I told him, trying to delay the part that would ruin me even more in his eyes. "He is the leader of the rogue Warlock coven that has been in our area lately." I lowered my eyes, afraid to see the disgust in his.

"Edmond?" He seemed shocked and appalled. "That son of a bitch." He snapped, confusing me. I looked up at him to see anger filling his eyes.

"Do you know him?" I asked.

"I've met him, yes. When his coven was in our area years ago. He seemed emotionless, but there had been no harm coming to the surrounding community or our pack. They had already started to move on when your mother was taken, I did not even think he was behind it. Why? Why did he do it? What was his goal?" He was angry and hurt, but still he was begging me to continue. "Why did he take her?" He sobbed as he asked the last question.

"Me." I tried to hide my face as I spoke. I knew he would hate me forever after this conversation was over.

"What?" He hadn't understood, as I knew he wouldn't. I needed to explain more.

"He wanted me. He took her to make me. He's been making half breed Warlocks he can use to infiltrate other groups. He was trying to make a half wolf that would survive until adulthood. He said most are aborted or killed in infancy. I hope he is referring to a long time ago and not in recent days." My voice broke thinking about how many children he had caused to die or killed himself. "He said that half wolves never shift, that it's not compatible with magic, but he needed someone raised among the wolves, trusted by them, to bring about their downfall. I don't think he ever planned on me mating with one, and the alpha at that."

"He was trying to make a child the whole time?" Grandfather seemed like the information broke him further.

"Yes. They intended to get my mother with child and send her home with no memories of it at all. They hoped that I would survive until I was useful to them. He never thought I would shift into a wolf last night." I was looking away from him, unable to bear how he must be looking at me.

"I don't understand, why would he do that? Why take my little girl?"

"He said that she was deemed to be compatible with his magic. That I would likely be born with magic as well. And I was. I just never knew it."

"Was he behind all the attacks on you? Since the one when you first mated with the alpha until now?" He seemed angry now, insistent.

## **Chapter 116 - Trinity-Grandfather's Visit Part 2**

8-10 minutes

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Trinity

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"I think so." I was nodding my head. "He didn't say as much, but I think he was."

"I knew it. This was why I always had you escorted whenever you left the house. You were driven to school, and half of your professors were wolves in either our pack or an ally pack. When you made your three friends that were also from our pack, I was relieved. I knew with them around, you could live a more normal teenage life. They would help to protect you."

"You thought I would be attacked if I was ever alone?" I asked him.

"I suspected it, dreaded it."

"Why didn't you tell me?" I demanded. "Why didn't you tell me what it was you feared this whole time?" I was angry and hurt now. "Why did you make me miss out on everything as a child? Why did you treat me like an abomination, a pariah?"

"I didn't want you to worry." His face looked broken like he was about to break down, but his voice was sincere. "I didn't want you to look over your shoulder every time you left the house. And I didn't treat you like a pariah. I wanted to protect you."

"By making me avoid everyone? By homeschooling me so I couldn't have any friends? By making me skip halloween and all the other celebrations?"

"I didn't do that to be cruel, or mean. Please believe me Trinity. I didn't know what had happened to your mother. But I had you to protect, to care for. I didn't know if the enemy was close to home or not. I didn't want to give the man who caused all of this access to you if he was closer than I was expecting. I was scared and paranoid. I suspected everyone for the longest time. I didn't mean to hurt you Trinity. I love you." I didn't remember Grandfather ever telling me he loved me before. He had never said those words. I gasped upon hearing them, the sound unfamiliar and alien coming from him.

"You should have talked to me. As I got older at least, you should have told me. I have thought that you hated me my whole life." I was crying now, I could feel the stinging in my eyes and the wet trails the tears were leaving as they ran down my cheeks.

"I have never hated you, Trinity. I have loved you from the day you were born. I remember the first time I held you after you were born. I cried. I was heartbroken about what had happened to Lily, but here was this tiny little baby that was pure innocence. You were not to blame for what happened. You were the blessing that we got out of the curse." He smiled at me again as he cradled the side of my head once more. "I loved you so much in that moment that I knew I needed to protect you, to do a better job than I had done before. And when I lost your mother, when she was taken from this world too soon, it shattered me, I didn't know how to go on at first. I had lost my wife and daughter." He was looking at me intently while the tears flowed unhindered down his cheeks.

"Then, when you were taken, just a little older than your mother was all those years before, I thought I was being punished for not protecting you enough. I thought the universe was telling me I had failed



again. When I heard that you were gone, Trinity, I sobbed. I refused to stay home. They had tried insisting that I was too old to help them rescue you, but I would not stay behind. I was going to come along, I was going to help, even if it killed me." I had never heard this type of conviction coming from him before.

"Grandfather." I said, my heart breaking from hearing the pain he had endured all these years. I wrapped my arms around him, squeezing him tight, trying to help him hold himself together.

"I love you, Trinity. I'm sorry that I ever made you feel otherwise. I have no excuse for how I treated you. I was just scared, and so very stupid." He wrapped his arms around me and held me close to him. It was something that I had longed for as a child, a loving embrace, a hug, from the only Grandfather I would ever know. To know that he loved me as much as I had always loved him, despite me thinking he had hated me.

"I love you too, Grandfather."

We talked for a few moments longer before Grandfather excused himself. He said he needed to check on something, but I think he just wanted to clean himself up. He had been crying a lot, something he wasn't used to doing, and his face was red and blotchy. And, as I could hear Reece coming back down the hallway, I think he just didn't want to feel embarrassed. He hugged me again before walking out the door just moments before Reece came back in.

"Did you have a good visit Little Bunny?" He asked me as he came back in. But then he saw my face. He could clearly tell that I had been crying. "What's wrong? Did he say something cruel to you? He told me before that he was going to explain himself to you." Reece rushed to my side and picked me up, holding me in his arms like a princess.

"What do you mean, he told you he was going to explain himself?" I asked, confused.

"On Christmas, when I talked with him. He said he was going to explain everything to you."

"So, you've known these things longer than I have?" I gave him a sharp look. He stuttered for a moment.

"W-well I-I th-thought I should t-talk to him." He seemed uncertain for a moment until I laughed. "Huh?" He was confused.

"I'm not mad Reece. Though I would like to know why you talked to him, that can wait. But to answer your question, no he was not cruel. However, we did talk about a lot of difficult things. We both cried today. And, not to mention I cried when I talked to Uncle Wesley. I feel like I have been doing a lot of crying since you left."

"Should I have stayed? Maybe you wouldn't have cried." He looked upset.

"No, then I doubt we would have talked so freely. It was actually good. We got a lot of things out in the open, it was good for all of us." I smiled at him.

"Will you tell me about it?" He asked.

"I'll have to, as I need to explain it all to you anyway."

"Explain what?" He was confused.

"What happened. Why I was taken, all that."

"I know you were taken to the Warlocks, and that you have a wolf and magic now. I've suspected for a while that you're father was likely a Warlock." His voice was so matter-of-fact that it shocked me to my core. "Am I right?" I couldn't form words after what he said so I just nodded my head. "I thought so."

"How did you figure it out?" I asked him.

"Well, there was the attack at Riley's for one. You were the only one who could smell the Warlocks even though they were blocking their scents. And remember when you were watching them retreat, following them with your eyes?" I nodded to answer his question. "Well, your eyes had begun to glow and the inner two rings of color were twisting back as forth. They looked like a camera lens trying to focus. You were zooming in on them from over a mile away."

"I had no idea." Then there was the fact that each subsequent attack seemed to have the aid of Warlocks in some way. I'm guessing even that first attack I saved you from when we first met was also aided by the Warlocks."

"So, you knew this whole time?" I asked him, the shock was plain in my voice.

"Well, I suspected at least. I didn't know for certain obviously."

"That's one hell of a guess." I told him as he sat down on the sofa, snuggling me into his chest.

"Well I'm not the alpha and head of a major corporation for nothing. I'm pretty smart myself." He smiled at me.

"Really? I never would have guessed that with all the stupid shit you've said to me." I laughed. He growled playfully at me.

"You rob me of all my good judgement and sense." He smiled joyfully. "But I wouldn't change a thing." He told me.

"Nothing?" I asked.

"Well, you could be fully healed and naked, but I can't change that right now, so no nothing."

"Perv." I laughed as I slapped his chest.

"Get used to it, you're stuck with me forever." He leaned forward and kissed me gently on the lips. I could still feel his repressed desire. He truly was holding himself back, but he didn't try to go any further.

## **Chapter 117 - Trinity-Meet Emmalee**

7-8 minutes

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Trinity

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Reece and I were supposed to have dinner with the alpha of the Black Canyons pack, my dilemma however, was that Reece had only packed me three pairs of comfortable clothing. I didn't have anything that would be acceptable to wear outside of the room. I know he meant well, and he was trying to do his best, but he had really hindered me here, a lot.

Reece had told me he would send someone to get everything that he had forgotten, but I was still waiting. So, when I smelled a female wolf coming toward the room a little while before dinner, I was surprised.

"Hi, Trinity, can I come in?" She asked, knocking on the door. I looked at Reece confused, clearly he didn't recognize her either.

"Yes, come in." I told her, seeing the angered look on Reece's face. He wasn't happy I was inviting a strange wolf into the room.

When the door opened I saw a pretty wolf girl about my age. She had beautiful, long, wavy blonde hair and bright green eyes. Her skin was so clear and pretty, pale but not as light as my own. She was on the short end for a wolf, but still taller than me by a couple inches.

"Hi, I'm so happy to meet you." She smiled at me sweetly.

"Um, hi." I responded a little apprehensively.

"Oh, I didn't introduce myself." She giggled. "I'm Emmalee Evans. My father is Bryce, the alpha of this pack." I felt a little better knowing who she was at least.

"It's nice to meet you Emmalee." I smiled at her as well. "Was there something I could do for you?"

"Actually, I came to help you. I was told you needed some more clothes and things that were forgotten, but no one has had a chance to go yet. I would have stopped on my way home if I knew, but will my clothes work for you?"

"Oh." I was surprised by what she had said, she was so friendly and open. "Actually I think that would be great. Thank you."

"Not a problem, we girls need to help each other out when we can, right."

"I'm just not used to this is all. But I would appreciate the help a lot."

"Well, come on to my room then, you can pick out something to wear to dinner tonight. And I can get you a brush, it looks like someone might have forgotten to bring you one." She laughed.

"Is it that bad?" I asked self consciously.

"It's not too bad, we can fix it easily."

"Sounds good." I tried to get off Reece's lap, but he held me in place like he had done earlier. "Reece?" I asked him, confused. "Can I get up now."

"Trinity." He looked at me pleadingly. "You can't just go."

"And why not?" He really was clinging to me like crazy today, it was kind of cute but would get old really fast. "I'm not going to leave the house Reece. I will be inside and safe the whole time."

"I'll keep an eye on her, I promise." Emmalee was smiling at him.

"Fine, I have to go talk to someone anyway, so I'll walk you there." He grumbled. I was pretty sure he just wanted to know what room I was going to be in.

"Whatever you say." I rolled my eyes at him with a smirk on my face.

Once Reece had successfully walked me to Emmalee's room, complete with a quick, not so chaste, goodbye kiss, I was taken immediately to her vanity area and handed a brush while she started pulling things out of the closet.

"Dinner isn't going to be formal or anything, but if all he brought you was loungewear I can understand why you would want something else for tonight." She was laughing. "With how much staff we have, even I don't feel comfortable wearing my loungewear around the house."

"See, you get it, why can't he. No woman wants to walk around a strange house with a bunch of people she doesn't know while basically wearing pajamas." We were both laughing now. Emmalee was very easy to get along with.

"Still, I envy you." Emmalee said in a slightly somber voice.

"You envy me?" I asked her in astonishment. "What for?"

"You've found your mate. I want to find mine. I thought I had recently, but I guess I was wrong." She sounded so sad, like she had lost something so precious to her.

"Yeah, well, it hasn't been all perfect." I told her with a slight edge to my voice.

"You seem so happy though." She noted.

"I am, now. But we weren't so happy when we first got together." I recalled how hard things were in the beginning.

"I wouldn't care, I just want to find my mate. I know that I will be happy." Her lopsided smile was both heartbreaking and encouraging.

By the time that I heard, and smelled, Reece coming back down the hall toward Emmalee's room, I had found something suitable to wear for the night and something to wear home tomorrow. I had also managed to brush my long, thick hair and pull it back to keep it more manageable.

"I'll send these back to you once I get home and have them cleaned."

"No worries. This just makes room for something new." She laughed, clearly she liked shopping and was going to take advantage.

"Thank you Emmalee. If you're ever in Colorado Springs, come say hi." I told her just as there was a knock on the door.

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Reece

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I heard Little Bunny and Emmalee talking inside the room. They seemed to be getting along well, which was good I guess, since she didn't have many friends. I just wasn't happy with her being out of my sight. With what happened recently it made me nervous when I couldn't see her. It would take a while for me to get comfortable with the idea of letting her out of my reach.

When Emmalee opened the door and I could see my mate standing behind her, a tension that had been steadily building eased instantly. She brought peace to my life, made me feel calm. Just seeing my Little Bunny made me so happy. I smiled involuntarily as soon as I saw her.

"Alpha Reece, so nice of you to come and escort Trinity to dinner. You're such a caring mate aren't you?" Emmalee cooed as she saw me staring past her.

"She's my world." I told her quietly, causing my Little Bunny to blush.

"Stop, you're making me jealous." She joked. "I envy you two, you seem so happy. I want that too."

"I hope you get it soon, it's the best thing that's ever happened to me." I hadn't taken my eyes off my Little Bunny. She looked beautiful. Her hair neat and pulled back, a cute, loose fitting, red top and a black skirt that came to her knees. It was simple but looked amazing on her. Everything did.

"Come on you two love birds, let's go down to dinner." Emmalee grabbed Trinity by the hand and pulled her out of the room and into the hallway. She then linked her arms around ours, one in my left arm, the other in my mate's right arm, she was putting herself in between us. "I think we're all going to get along just fine, as long as you behave yourselves." She was laughing again. I didn't like that she was separating us, but I know she didn't have any ulterior motives so I let it slide this time.

## **Chapter 118 - Reese-Emmalee On The Loose**

11-14 minutes

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Reece

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When we got to the dining hall I saw that we seemed to be the last to arrive. I hadn't lied when I said I was going to talk to someone when I left Little Bunny earlier. I had gone to see Bryce about what the future might hold for our packs, it seemed an alliance was possible for us. But in the time it took me to fetch the girls from Emmalee's room, everyone else had already arrived for dinner.

Wesley and Noah were sitting on one side of the table side by side. Bryce was sitting at the head of the table, sitting on the end to view everyone else easier. His mate was to his left holding his hand, it was the most gentle I had seen his look since meeting him. The place on his right was open, intended for me so we may talk if needed.

Further down the table was Bryce's other two children, I hadn't met them yet but he had told me about them. His son was almost my age, and his younger daughter was fourteen. Emmalee was in the middle, same age as my Little Bunny.

Emmalee dragged us to our seats. I sat in the one intended for me. I pulled Trinity to the seat next to mine, and Emmalee sat next to her. Once we were seated two female servers came in to put the food on the table.

"Wait, where's Grandfather?" My Little Bunny asked.

"He had something he needed to take care of so he left a little while ago. He told me to tell you that he is sorry he didn't get the chance to tell you goodbye. But you will see him when we get home tomorrow." Wesley explained to his niece. I had known that the old man left, but he had asked his son to explain for him. I hope he knows what he is doing.

"Oh." She seemed dejected for a moment, but she perked up after a moment, she seemed to trust her grandfather a lot more than she used to.

"No worries, Trinity, you will see him again soon." I assured her. "For now, let us enjoy dinner. It is your birthday after all."

"It is?" Emmalee exclaimed excitedly. "No one told me that. We need to celebrate."

"No, please it's not that important. Don't trouble yourself."

"I absolutely must, birthdays are special. Isn't this the first one you're celebrating with your mate? Come on Trinity, you need to treat it like the special occasion that it is."

Bryce laughed as he listened to his daughter's enthusiasm before chuckling out his response. "You might as well let her do as she wants, Trinity. She's quite stubborn when she wants to be. And she absolutely loves birthdays."

"I'm going to go get it ready." She rose from the table and started to leave the room.

"Let it wait until after you've eaten, will you." Bryce's mate, Bree said sternly.

"Fine." Emmalee sounded exasperated. "But since I will have less time, then Katie and Jordan need to help me as well." She informed them excitedly.

"Already saw that coming." Jordan sighed.

"Yay, I get to help." Katie squealed almost as excited as her sister. It was clear who was on board and who wasn't.

We enjoyed a pleasant meal with the Evans family. It was better than I thought it would ever be. Despite Bryce's surly nature when you first meet him, once you get past the outer shell he's a pretty good guy. He was a little older than my father was, but reminded me a lot of him when he was around his family. It was actually really nice to see. But it made me miss my father more than I have in a long time.

We talked about our families a lot. Bryce quietly asked me if I was going to give my mate a human wedding to follow traditions. That way we were married in the eyes of the world and not just the pack. I

told him we would discuss it. I didn't want my overly excitable mate to hear what he was talking about. I thought she would accept a marriage, but I didn't know for sure.

Little Bunny was excited when she found out that Emmalee's birthday was just a little over a month before her's. She had apparently turned nineteen on December 18th. This was something that seemed to bond them even more.

I had noticed Emmalee excitedly trying to discreetly texting someone throughout the meal. And once dinner was over she rushed her siblings out of the room and told us to wait in here and give them some time.

"Hey, Noah, she's your sister right, you come and help me."

"What?" He jumped in surprise at Emmalee's command.

"Come help me get everything ready for her." She insisted.

"Fine. But just so you know, we're cousins." Noah seemed to grumble as he got up.

"Really?" Emmalee seemed surprised. "I usually have a sense about who is family and who isn't, you just come across as her brother." I noticed Noah smile proudly.

"Well, I am like her brother though. My parents raised her, so I was raised with her."

"See, you are her brother, so come on we got work to do." She grabbed his hand and pulled him out of the room. Noah looked back with a pleading look that made the five of us still at the table laugh at his desperation.

"I hope she doesn't go through too much trouble. I really don't need much." Little Bunny seemed embarrassed.

"Nonsense, I wish you would have told us sooner, we would have prepared already." Bree pushed aside the words. "To think that you would get your long awaited wolf on your birthday, and tonight being the night of the Wolf Moon as well. It's like it was fate."

I looked at Trinity at those words, I had remembered that it was her birthday, but with everything that had happened I had completely forgotten that it was the full moon. It really did seem like fate when you thought about it. Was it really seeing me in the midst of battle, or was it the stroke of midnight, ushering in her birthday and the day of the full moon that aided her shift? And just what was with the strange markings that she had? Whatever the answer to those questions were, it was clear that she would be someone special.

"Yeah, you've got it, fate is probably playing a big part in it." Wesley added. "I'm sure that she is going to surprise us all." He was smiling proudly at his niece.

"It's definitely unique. And for it to happen when she is nineteen, that seems late, but I guess it's not completely unheard of."

"There's a lot to be said about the number nineteen if you think about it. In the world of numerology, the number nineteen has the power to influence life events. It's said to contain all root numbers so while it is not a powerhouse number like eleven or twenty-two, it is still quite special. Nineteen usually

references the sun arcana in tarot cards, but the significance with that is that it means the number is positive and influences all the cards around it, likewise those with that number tend to influence the people around them. It also signals renewal of primal energies." Bree was speaking expertly, but what she was saying was going over my head. I had never looked into numerology before.

"Excuse her, she really loves that numerology stuff. She says it has a lot of importance on our lives." Bryce was smiling at his wife.

"It's true though." She looked at him harshly as if he said she was speaking gibberish. "Let's take today for instance. The 28th, those with the number twenty-eight are said to be independent, self sufficient, original, and live with a strong sense of determination. Those with a twenty-eight and a one, as today would give, are given qualities of leadership and originality, they're also capable of teamwork and diplomacy. So I would say that Trinity has quite the good reading with her number chart already." Bree was smiling at her adoringly. "You're bound to be a wonderful Luna with numbers like those."

We continued our discussion a little longer. Trinity and Bree were talking about future prospects while Wesley and I talked to Bryce about more current events. Neither of us had ever been friends with Stanley's pack, and now with his hand in the attack on my mate and infiltrating Bryce's land, we both had reason to want his head.

"Whichever one of us comes across him first will take the honor, but just promise me you'll let me know if you kill him before me, will you boy?" Bryce assumed that I would find the man first. I hoped he was right.

"As long as you do the same." I told the man as I shook his hand.

Emmalee barged into the room, nearly bouncing with excitement, interrupting the different conversations.

"Come on now, we're ready for all of you." She was full of energy that just seemed to be bubbling over. She looked like a firework someone had set off, bright, cheery, and full of explosive ideas. I chuckled to myself at the comparison. She was definitely an interesting person to have around.

We were taken to the living room that the family used most frequently. It was large and spacious much like mine back home, but it had been beautifully decorated with balloons, streamers, and banners. I didn't know how she had managed it all so quickly, but if she truly loved birthdays that much then I guess she probably had a stockpile of supplies.

Katie, Jordan, Noah, and a small group of Bryce's staff and pack members were waiting inside the room, waiting for us all to arrive.

"Happy birthday!" They yelled when Trinity was in sight. I noticed the shock on her face when Little Bunny noticed the level of dedication Emmalee had put into this celebration for her.

"Emmalee, this is too much." She tried to protest, but I saw how happy it was actually making her. I was glad that they had managed it, just so I could see that smile. She radiated happiness and beauty in that moment.

Emmalee had apparently managed to get people to coordinate this party all while we were having dinner. A cake was purchased from a local bakery. A few gifts were picked out by her friends, easy since



they had talked earlier and she knew Trinity's size now. The room was decorated and music was playing. It looked like a proper surprise party that had been planned long in advance.

"So, were you surprised?" Emmalee asked her. "I mean, I know that you knew I was doing something, but did I still manage to surprise you?" Emmalee's bubbly personality seemed to be the perfect compliment to my Little Bunny's.

"I definitely didn't see this coming. I don't know how you managed this so fast." My Little Bunny's face was flushed with embarrassment and excitement simultaneously.

"A master will never reveal their secrets." Emmalee giggled. "I'm just glad I could make your day special. And this is a good way to introduce you and Reece to our pack. I'm going to look forward to pack visits from now on, I have a friend to visit with." Emmalee hugged her tight. "We definitely need to stay close." She added, releasing her.

"I promise." Little Bunny told her, beaming.

The next morning we slept a little later than we usually would have because we were up late getting to know Bryce's pack, but we got ready and were gone before noon. Bryce and his family were nice enough, but I was eager to get my mate home. But one thing was for sure, I walked out of this whole ordeal closer to my mate and with a new powerful ally.

We boarded the plane that had returned to the airport the night before, after Samuel Whitton had returned home suddenly. The man didn't tell me why, but he said he had something he needed to do and wanted to use my plane. I had officially hired the man who piloted it and purchased the craft so it was, in all sense, my plane. I hope he managed to conclude his business so he could be there when his granddaughter got home.

## **Chapter 119 - Trinity-Home**

6-7 minutes

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Trinity

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I had appreciated the last minute party that Emmalee threw together for me, but I was glad to be going home. I had been gone for several days already, but it felt like weeks. I wanted to see my family and Lila. I missed my friends. I wanted normalcy, even though it was a life that I never thought I would call normal, I desperately wanted it back now.

When we landed at the airport back home and got off the beautiful plane, that I had recently learned that Reece bought from the pilot just because he needed to get to me, I was escorted straight to a waiting SUV limousine. I guess that was one way to get treated like a VIP, private planes and limos. People see those and they think rich and famous. Well, we may not be famous, but Reece was definitely rich. I had never really thought about it before, but I guess that made me rich as well. I just didn't know how rich yet.

The ride home was quiet and quick. You'd be surprised by how many people seem to be afraid to drive in front of a big black limo. Everyone seemed to pull to the side or switch lanes to avoid having us behind them. The result was a quick, peaceful ride.

I noticed that it had snowed recently while I was gone. There were several inches of the white powder built up on the ground and pushed into giant hills around the city. I loved how the city and forest looked when covered in snow, it always seemed so magical. And just seeing the long winding drive and outside of our castle like home dusted with the white powder made me feel like I was entering a fantasy world.

I was just stepping out of the car, holding onto Reece's hand as he pulled me toward him, when the front door opened wide and Aunt Eve ran out, followed by Lila and a group of others.

"Oh Trinity." Aunt Eve wrapped her arms around me in a tight, bone cracking hug that pulled a cry from me. "I was so worried." She said pulling away from me and inspecting my face, turning it every which way to see it from different angles. "I thought I was going to go insane waiting for you. Even after the others got back and assured me you were alright, I knew I wasn't going to be satisfied until I saw you myself." She pulled me toward her again, hugging me and kissing my cheek repeatedly. I wrapped my arms around her as well, letting her feel that I was indeed back and just fine.

"I'm alright now, Aunt Eve. And I missed you so much." I squeezed her tightly. "I love you." I whispered to her.

"I love you too, baby." She seemed about to cry when she stepped back away from me.

Lila filled my field of vision next, hugging me nearly as tight as Aunt Eve had.

"Oh Trinity, I missed you. I was so worried. I should have been with you when you met with Caleb and Frederick that night, I would have stopped you from going." She was blaming herself just like everyone else was.

"If I didn't go with them willingly, I'm sure they would have taken me by force." I tried to calm her nerves but that just seemed to make her more scared.

"I would never forgive anyone who hurt you. You're too important to all of us." She was smiling at me now, looking into my eyes with a somber look and a determined set to her jaw.

It seemed that everyone that was close to me was there. Juniper, Paul, and Cedar came next to give me a group hug.

"Don't ever scare me like that again." Juniper scolded. "I nearly died just thinking about everything that could have happened to you."

"Yeah Astro, don't ever let that happen again. We were all so worried."

"Paul and I were ready to kill someone." Cedar added.

"I love you guys." I told them. "I'm sorry I worried you."

Heather and Vincent were also there with the kids. David, Shane, and Shawn as well. Grandfather was also waiting at the back. He said he didn't want to take away from my reunion with everyone else because we had seen each other so recently. Carter was standing next to him, apparently in the same

mindset. Everything was so great, seeing everyone who cared for me. The only thing that felt off was the strangely intense look in Grandfather's eyes, but with everything that had happened, I could understand why he was so intense and nervous right now.

After the hype died down, and most of our guests finally left some time in the early evening, we were informed of a visit from the elders. Just hearing a reference to the group of old men made me nervous. Caleb had been in on the entire plot and the attack on me. Was his grandfather part of that plot or no? I needed to find out since Frederick was a member of the elders, and if he was in on the entire thing, then I still wasn't safe.

With a heavy heart weighed down by fear and worry, I took Reece's hand and let him escort me to his office and the waiting elders.

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Reece

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My Little Bunny was nervous now. She seemed to be dreading this visit with the elders. I had my suspicions as to why. She was suspecting my uncle as much as I was. Frederick was not likely to be happy when he found out that I killed his grandson. Oh well, he would deal or he could face the consequences. I was surprised when someone stopped us as we were on our way to my office.

"Reece." Little Bunny's grandfather called out to me. "I will be joining you for this meeting with the elders." He didn't ask me, he was informing me of what was going to happen. That was peculiar, but I didn't want to start anything now, so I allowed him to come along.

"Sure Mr. Whitton, please, come along." He followed behind us as we went. Noah was in the lead, Little Bunny and me in the middle, and the elder Whitton bringing up the rear.

## **Chapter 120 - Reece-A Visit From MOST Of The Elders**

9-11 minutes

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Reece

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The first thing that I noticed when I entered my office was that we seemed to be missing an elder. My uncle was not here. This just confirmed that he was part of the entire plot. I would be adding him to my hunting list.

I settled in behind my desk, pulling my mate onto my lap and wrapping my arms around her protectively.

"So, gentlemen, what was so important that it couldn't wait?" I asked them with a hint of annoyance in my voice. I saw Michael look at Mr. Whitton apprehensively before continuing when it was clear I was not going to make them leave.

"There has been an attack." He said nervously. "With everything that has happened lately, and given who was attacked, we thought you would like to know immediately."

"And this message of yours could not be delivered by just one of you, or perhaps a phone call, it required all of you." I asked them.

"If you actually pay attention, you would notice that one of us is missing." Oswald growled.

"Oh, I noticed. I just don't care." I snapped at him.

"You need to care." James, one of the least outspoken elders added. "He was murdered." It took every ounce of my will power not to react to those words when they were dropped on me. I heard Little Bunny gasp and felt her stiffen in fear, but myself, Noah, and Mr. Whitton all seemed to keep our cool.

I didn't know if the elder Whitton kept his because he was a former beta, or because he had some information that I didn't. When I looked at him he just stared back at me with a firm, intense stare.

"As you can see, this is a very serious issue." Michael seemed very nervous. I guess it was time for me to go fishing. I needed to see if my uncle was the only traitor in the elders.

"He wasn't murdered." I told them with a flat, matter-of-fact voice, I noticed the shock register on all their faces. So far, I didn't notice any hint of deception coming from them.

"If he wasn't murdered, do you mind explaining what happened?" Liam asked, he was another of the typically quiet elders that did more observing than speaking at meetings with me. "The scene that we found at his house this afternoon was gruesome and disturbing. It looked personal."

"Oh, I'm sure it was still personal. But he was not murdered. He was executed. Frederick was involved in the scheming to attack and kidnap my mate. I'm not sure if any of you had been informed yet, but the one who actually took her from our pack lands was my former beta and cousin, Caleb Venoit. It was discovered that Frederick was not just a co-conspirator but the ring leader that was directing Caleb's actions. It was then determined that Frederick Venoit was to be sentenced to death, he met the same fate as his grandson, and so will anyone else who I discover was part of this plot." I had intentionally made my voice sound menacing as I gave them all intense stares. The look of shock that covered each of their faces was identical and seemed genuine. I took solace in the thought that none of them seemed to be part of the problem as well.

And now it seemed that I knew what Mr. Whitton's urgent business was last night. The man didn't want his family to know what it was he was doing, so he had not told us what he was going to do. He probably also thought I might stop him if I knew. The only problem I had was that I didn't get to kill him myself, or watch him die. I will punish everyone that was involved.

Something in my eyes must have conveyed to the men that I was one hundred percent serious when I told them what was going to happen to the traitors. They did not object, nor did they try to talk me out of it. If they were loyal to the pack, they would know what this kind of betrayal meant and what the punishment was. That was good.

"Thank you for letting us know, and I can understand why we were not informed in advance." Michael answered for the group like he always seemed to do. "You did not know who all you could trust until you met with us in person." He was rationalizing a decision I had not even made, though I would have given my permission and approval if Mr. Whitton had asked.

"That is correct, I didn't know if any of you had worked with the traitors or not. If I gave advance knowledge then you could have helped him escape or something along those lines." My voice was still even and flat. I just hoped that my Little Bunny wasn't too scared listening to the discussion. I had felt the fear and tension melt out of her when she had learned that Frederick was not murdered but executed. I knew she had never approved of executions before, but she would not mourn him, not with what had happened.

"Well, it looks like all is well now, culprits are being punished and you got your mate back." Michael gave his easy smile. "This is the best ending we could have asked for."

"There was another positive that came out of it." I smiled at them. "My mate finally got her wolf out of this whole ordeal." There was a collective gasp that ran through the four remaining elders.

"Her long awaited wolf has finally been revealed?" Michael asked with a note of awe in his voice.

"Yes, she shifted for the first time at the stroke of midnight on her nineteenth birthday." I smiled proudly.

"Her birthday was yesterday, correct?" Michael seemed to be in a state of shock.

"That's right."

"She shifted on the day of the Wolf Moon?" James gasped.

"Which was also her birthday?" Liam added in a breathless tone.

"That's not just a coincidence." Oswald added, for once not using his surly and antagonistic tone.

"You think so?" He asked me.

"Do you mind if we see your wolf?" Michael begged of my Little Bunny where she sat on my lap. She looked at me nervously.

"She has not had a chance to practice her shifting yet, so she can't do it at will." She gave them a sad look. "But I could always guide her shift and help her." I smiled as she looked at me. I know she had been looking forward to shifting again, she wanted to get a feel for her fur.

A few moments later I followed my mate into the private bathroom that was attached to my office. She would be removing her clothes so she didn't rip them to shreds, and so she could have something to put back on when she was done. I let out a purr of satisfaction when I watched her strip in front of me.

"Oh cool it Marmaduke, you can wait." She laughed at me.

"You know, you have a wolf now too." I informed her.

"That's different, I'm a dignified wolf, you're a scoundrel of a dog, more like a mighty mutt." She was laughing as she made fun of me.

"Be glad I love you so much, or I would punish you for that." I said as I walked nearer to her. Her eyes went wide, but I had to touch her to guide her into her other form. "I guess I still can punish you though." I joked as I pressed a quick, heated kiss to her lips. I could feel her body heat up and her tongue seek mine in that quick kiss, but I ended it before it could go much further. The fire in her eyes told me that she was angry at my lack of attention.

"Meanie." She grumbled.

"Consider yourself punished." I joke as I put my hand on her cheek. Normally I would put my hand on someone's forehead, but the cheek would work just fine.

"Now, close your eyes and picture your wolf. Call out to her and ask her to speak to you. Listen to what she had to tell you. Feel yourself become one with her. Imagine the change, the transition, as you shift from one form into the other." My voice was calm, smooth, and filled with love for the woman in front of me.

As I watched her, I noticed a glow start around her edges. Her skin seemed to shine brightly from within. Her mate marks on her left shoulder and neck were glowing a bright blue. I saw the blue and black marks appear on her face next, they looked different with her being in human form still, but they were still unique and beautiful. Soon, she leaned forward as her body began to stretch and change. She wore another look of pain as she shifted. This one was not going to be as painful as her first, but until she got used to it, the bending, twisting, and stretching of bones and muscle would be painful.

It wasn't long before I was looking at the tall, slender form of her radiant wolf. It was smaller than my wolf, that was true, but she was still much larger than an average wolf. I looked down at her, my hand resting against her furry head. Her fur was silky and luxuriously soft, so much so that I didn't want to take my hand away.

She opened her bright blue eyes and looked up at me with excitement filling them.

"I did it Reece." She exclaimed, only I didn't hear it as the guttural barks and yips I was used to hearing, no I heard her voice clear as day inside my head. Was this because she was half witch? Who knew, who cared, she was perfect regardless.