

## Chosen by Fate 161

### Chapter 161 - Trinity-Meeting With The Sentinelle (VOLUME 2)

15-18 minutes

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Trinity

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"Trinity, please summon the man Gabriel." Grandfather instructed. I nodded and began to focus. I had been practicing my telepathy quite a bit over the last two months and was getting quite good at it. As long as I had met the person before and was familiar with their voice and the way they looked then I would most likely be able to talk to them. As long as they were not too far away that is. I hadn't pressed the distance issue too much, I knew I could span a distance of at least ten miles, but I never tried to go beyond that.

I focused on the way the man appeared yesterday. The small bits of his face I had managed to see through his hood, the sound and timbre of his voice. I even focused on what he had been wearing, the black cloak that gave him an eerie air.

The more that I focused on him, the more that I clarified his image in my mind, the easier it was for me to sense the connection. With my eyes closed, seeing with my mind's eye, I could practically see a line forming, leading from my head to his.

Following that mental link I spoke out to him and instantly knew that he had heard me.

'Gabriel?' I called out.

'My Queen.' He seemed happy to hear from me. 'I have been awaiting your message.'

'We have decided it is time to ask you to come discuss things with us.' I tried to sound formal as I spoke to him.

'Yes, Your Highness, we will head over immediately.'

'We would like for just you to come.' I informed him.

'I will not ask for you to explain, I can understand that in this modern time it is hard for you to trust those you do not know well.'

'I mean no disrespect to any of you, we simply think it would be wiser to have a smaller group come to this initial meeting.'

'There is no need to worry, Your Highness, you are my Queen and I vow to follow you and your commands.' His words made me a little nervous, this was more than I had bargained for.

'If you don't mind heading over immediately please.' I requested.

'Of course, I will be there shortly. Thank you for agreeing to see me.'

"He has been summoned." I told them as soon as I severed the connection to the man.

"Did he agree to come alone?" Noah asked immediately.

"Yes." I nodded my head as I answered. "He said he would follow any request I gave."

"This guy really does think that you are his queen doesn't he." I heard Reece's voice, so filled with jealousy, as I stood there in my wolf form.

Fifteen minutes later, having shifted back and getting dressed, our meeting changed locations. We wanted to appear more relaxed when Gabriel arrived. We had no sooner sat in the downstairs sitting room when the elders decided to excuse themselves. They said that this was not something that was any of their business and should be left up to us. They informed Reece that they would be awaiting his summons to share any information that he deemed they needed to know.

"This is getting to be way beyond us, boy. No offense but we elders can't handle anything like this." Oswald grumbled.

"We're merely an advice council, please understand." James looked embarrassed.

"We fully understand, don't we Reece." I smiled at them as I went to shake their hands one after the other.

"Regardless of what they say, you are a queen in my eyes." Liam took my outstretched hand and kissed the back of it.

No sooner had the elders left than Gabriel arrived. He didn't seem to have driven to the house, instead he was walking toward the house from the trees at a quick but steady pace. When he was in the driveway facing the group of us at the door he stopped and knelt to the ground the same as he had yesterday. His right hand in a loose fist was placed in front of his chest over his heart.

"My Goddess Queen." He spoke reverently. "And Sir Alpha King. Thank you for inviting me to your home. I am humbled to be in your presence."

"Well, he seems to talk like someone who deals with a queen, or someone out of the middle ages." Shane said snarkily in a quiet voice. I could tell that Gabriel had heard him but chose to ignore his words, which was silenced with a glare from Reece.

"Please, Gabriel, come inside and let us discuss things further." Reece was speaking softly as if he was trying not to appear too out of control. I was glad he was restraining himself because I knew that he had been quite upset yesterday.

We settled into the sitting room. The room was at least twice as large as the office and had more seating. It looked a bit old and antiquated but still so full of charm. The walls were panelled in dark wood that were polished to a shine. The floor was covered in a soft dark blue carpeting. The wood of the furniture went well with the walls and carpet and everything was either upholstered in dark blue or light grays. There was plenty of natural light from the large window wall that seemed to give the room a welcoming air. There was a large fireplace, a wet bar, and lots of seating. Aside from the few bar stools

in the room, the only furniture were the sofas, love seats, and armchairs scattered around with side tables and coffee tables for accents.

Gabriel sat in a large, high backed armchair across from the love seat Reece and I were sitting on. He didn't seem nervous, scared, or uneasy in the least. In fact he was looking quite pleased as he smiled at me.

"I think the first thing that we need is a few explanations. Who you are, who the Sentinelle is, and what exactly it is you want from my wife."

"Of course, I would be more than happy to provide you with any information that you desire. I exist only to serve the new Queen." Gabriel's slightly accented voice spoke politely as he nodded his head.

"I will begin with my introduction. As I said yesterday my name is Gabriel Abadie, and I am the Watcher of the Sentinelle. Simply put the Watcher is the highest authority in our organization. I was born six hundred and ninety years ago. I have been in position for nearly six hundred years." These words threw me through a loop because I knew he was a wolf but I had never heard of a wolf living that long. Not to mention that he only looked like he was in his early thirties.

Today Gabriel was not wearing his cloak. Instead he wore a pair of black dress pants and a white button up shirt tucked into the waistband. It was plain, yet presentable at least. He had a fair complexion with deep auburn hair. His eyes, a bright hazel color, looked old and wise beyond the age he appeared to be. He wasn't remarkably handsome, but he was still a good looking man with a well kept figure.

"How is it you could be nearly seven hundred years old?" Dietrich questioned the man.

"Ahh, Lord Dietrich, I am quite grateful to make your acquaintance as well. And to answer your question, we who devote our lives to the Sentinelle freeze in time until we are permitted to serve the next Goddess Incarnate, our Luna Queen." He seemed all too happy to explain.

"How do people like you join the Sentinelle?" I asked him, not understanding how people applied for a job like that.

"Young men who were nomads, men without homes, were brought to our abbey and given a chance to devote their life to our cause. If they chose to then their life was spent in the service of the future queen, if not, then they were not permitted to stay."

"Did you often have people who refused?" David wondered aloud.

"It was rare, but we did have a fair few who chose to walk a different path. It is not easy to know that your life will be like that of a monk waiting for a woman you will never be able to have as your own, but it is a spiritually enriching life." He was still smiling happily.

"What do you mean by that?" I asked him.

"We live life like we are monks. We do not seek mates. We do not live in packs. The headquarters for our organization is located in an abandoned abbey in a small village in France. Truth be told, the village is entirely populated by those associated with the Sentinelle. There are but a handful of women among our group, relationships are strictly prohibited. And to be honest, once you have joined our ranks, one

no longer has those desires and urges. It is part of the magic that keeps us young and strong while waiting for the Queen."

"What exactly do you do though?" Reece asked him, a little frustrated.

"We scour the earth, gathering information about all the living beings on the planet. Our Queen may need information at any time and we will be able to easily aid her in any situation no matter the country. Also, we have scouts that we send out to every country that travels around and gathers information. These scouts are specially trained to be able to sense the Goddess's energy from a relatively close distance."

"What do you consider relatively close?" Noah didn't sound happy.

"Anything within eight kilometers, but within five or less is preferential." Gabriel had yet to even let his smile falter, answering question after question happily.

"So it is safe to assume that one of your scouts was here recently." Grandfather finally spoke up.

"Yes, he was here just a couple weeks ago. We didn't know that a wedding was being planned and we simply made our way to your city immediately. It took a little more than a day to narrow down our search, but when we did we headed to your location without hesitation."

"How did you know that I have abilities and marks that are not normal?" I asked him, this was something that I was most desperate to learn.

"It is how the last queen was. She was able to do many things and had marks unlike that of any other wolf."

"How many queens have there been?" Rawlynn asked in a voice like she was in the interrogation room.

"Queen Trinity will be the second. The last, Queen Ylsa, was born one thousand two hundred and twelve years ago. She lived to be nearly two hundred years old, as did her consort, the King."

"Did they have children?" I asked him. "If so, why weren't her children kept in a royal line of succession."

"Unfortunately, they did not have children. No one knows why, but I suspect that the compatibility between the last queen and her mate was not as suitable for the Goddess lineage as it should have been, even though they were a mated pair."

"Did she ever get pregnant?" I asked, now worrying about my own child growing within my womb.

"To my knowledge, which is as vast as the crypts of the abbey, no. The former Queen and King never conceived at all. They did spread their magnanimity throughout the world of werewolves. They took in several orphaned children and raised them as their own." I looked at Reece with worry filled eyes.

"What if the Queen were to conceive and have a child?" Reece asked the question that was shining in my eyes.

"If the queen were to have a child that was successfully raised, then the reincarnation cycle will be broken until her bloodline is no longer able to rule our people."

"How do you know this?" I wanted to know more specifics.

"Our guiding principles were handed down to us by the original Goddess herself. When she decided to no longer walk the world with her children but to mother them from afar, she left prophecies, guiding words, and directives. The original scrolls are still being protected in the abbey, though they have been copied to other mediums with the advancement of time."

"So the moon goddess herself left instructions saying that Trinity would be a Goddess?" Jackson was in awe by this conversation.

"In a manner of speaking, yes." Gabriel smiled at him.

"Ok, let's say we believe you, what exactly do you want from Trinity?" Reece was growing tired of the endless talking and was trying to cut to the heart of the discussion.

"We would ask her to take up the crown that is rightfully hers and to lead her people."

"And when you say people you mean-." Reece trailed off, unable to finish.

"I mean all of us, every wolf alive now or soon to be."

"Do we have the right to refuse?" Noah wondered.

"Yes, and no. You will still be what you are no matter what. It will just make those of us in the Sentinelle obsolete at the current time. I guess if that were to happen we would continue on as we have until the next incarnation." This was the first time he looked less than cheerful as he spoke.

"And if I were to accept, what does that really mean for me?"

"Queen Trinity, you will be asked to visit us at the abbey. There we will share our knowledge with you and help you to train your abilities and unlock those that you might not know about."

"What types of powers might those be?" I admit, I was intrigued and needed to ask.

"It is said that all the abilities will not remain the same, but some are set in stone. Your telepathy for one. That is an ability that you have been granted to quickly communicate your needs with your retainers and guards. Another, is you have the ability to awaken powers in others."

"What kind of powers?" Reece looked stricken as he asked this.

"That will depend on the person. It could be something as simple as making someone stronger or faster, or it could be something with a magical or god like ability that alters reality as we know it." I looked at Reece and knew exactly what he was thinking.

"So, making my mate stronger, faster, and able to become a wolf made of fire would count as that type of ability?" The words trembled out of me in my nervousness.

"Yes, my Queen." Gabriel smiled knowingly. "That would most definitely be considered an ability release." He was grinning now as he looked between me and Reece.

"Wait, you did that?" Jackson's eyes were shining.

"To be fair, I don't know how I did either."

"This is wonderful news?" Gabriel was still grinning widely.

"You have given us much to talk about." I looked at Reece nervously.

"My wife and I will discuss things and sort our thoughts. Please wait until we summon you again."

"But of course. Until we meet again." He knelt and bowed to us once more. "I thank you for your time my Queen, and you as well my King."

When Gabriel rose David walked with him to show him out. I just sat there in shock at everything I had heard. I didn't think I could deny it any longer. If what Gabriel was saying was actually true, then I was for certain the Luna Queen and Goddess Incarnate.

"I think things have become quite clear." Dietrich was smiling as much as Gabriel had been.

"I would have to agree." Shawn added.

"I think the information we gathered was most enlightening." Grandfather was looking at me with a soft smile.

"Even I must agree." Noah looked at me with soft, loving eyes.

"It would explain something else as well." Rawlynne looked at me with kind eyes and a knowing smirk.

"It explains why she was able to issue a command that I had to follow."

"And why I was compelled to follow her orders over the Alpha's." Vincent seemed like he finally understood something.

"I guess it explains something for me as well." Reece grinned. "Luna or not, she shouldn't be able to give me orders that I have to follow, unless she outranked me."

"Haha, even as a King you won't outrank your wife, she's a Queen, and a Goddess." Shane chuckled earning a glare from Reece before he too smiled.

"I guess I really am lucky though, since I get to be second in command of all the wolves in the world." Reece was smiling and laughing lightly.

"All hail the Goddess, Queen Trinity." Jackson smiled like he was living in a surreal dreamlike movie.

"All hail Queen Trinity." The rest of the room echoed him in a laughing tone causing me to blush scarlet.

## **Chapter 162 - Another Meeting, This Time Unplanned (VOLUME 2)**

8-10 minutes

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Trinity

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It was not even ten minutes after Gabriel left when there was an unexpected knock on the door. We didn't smell anyone coming so this was a little nerve wracking for us. My thoughts jumped to the supposed Sentinelle. Were they really out to get us after all?

"Vincent, Noah you two come with me, Trinity you stay here with the others." Reece commanded. I knew better than to argue with him right now.

I listened as the three of them made their way out of the sitting room and into the foyer. The door slowly clicked open as if Reece was trying to get a feel for who was on the other side.

"Dammit Eldrige." Reece's voice echoed through the hall and into the sitting room.

"Is there a problem to which we were not made aware?" I heard the old fashioned old man's voice from the door. Sensing that the situation had been cleared of all danger I rose to my feet and walked toward the new arrivals.

"You were there yesterday when those Sentinelle weirdos showed up." Reece snapped.

"That was yesterday, not today." Henrich commented with a tilted head just as I entered the foyer myself.

"Yes, but we have been dealing with them today as well." I smiled at the men. "What can we do for the magic council today?" I asked.

"Trinity, you were supposed to wait in the other room for crying out loud." Reece yelled once again.

"Stop yelling Reece, you'll scare off our guests." I smiled at him as I took his hand.

"Why didn't you wait?" He demanded of me.

"I successfully ascertained that there was no threat and so I came into the hall. If there is a danger I will listen but if there is no danger I will not be held in a bubble." I ground out through teeth that were clenched in a fake smile.

"So difficult." He whispered before turning back to our unexpected new arrivals. "Why are you here?" He barked.

"You informed us that we would hold a meeting soon."

"Yeah, I did, didn't I?" Reece sighed. "Please come in." He held the door open for them and proceeded to guide the three men that had arrived into the sitting room we had just left.

"Noah, Vincent please stay. Everyone else may leave. This has nothing to do with the Luna's guard detail. Actually, Rawlynne and Jackson should stay as well. And probably Dietrich." Reece seemed to be thinking as he spoke.

"If Rawlynne is staying then I want to stay." David spoke up.

"I too would like to stay." Shawn chimed in as he stood next to Dietrich. I watched as Dietrich put his arm around Shawn, who didn't pull away. It made me smile to see that they were finally getting closer, and the bright happy look in Dietrich's eyes didn't escape my notice either.

"I might as well stay too, I don't want to be the only guard left out." Shane added.

"I will, however, take my leave." Grandfather smiled.

"Great, only one person listened to me today." Reece grimaced. "Have I lost all authority as an alpha?" He laughed as he joked.

"Not all, sweetheart." I smiled sweetly at him but he understood the joke.

"Heh, it might as well be all, I can't control you and you control them all." He ran his hand through his adorably messy hair and sighed. "Fine let's all sit down and get to business talks."

Once we all resettled in for another talk, Reece started us off.

"So, Eldrige, you know what I wanted to talk to you about, but you said there was something you wanted to talk to us about as well."

"Indeed I did." Eldrige nodded his head. "I would like to find out more about your young bride if I may. I would like to ascertain what type of magic she wields. And lastly, we of the council wish to offer our sincerest apologies to you all. The Sacramentum de Mortis has been a bane on our existence for quite some time. I am saddened to say that we were not able to control Gannon. Due to our inability he has been allowed to run rampant, there is no excuse for our shortcomings."

"That's an understatement." Noah's snide comment may have been spot on and quite funny, but I had to fight hard not to laugh right now.

What exactly have you been doing about him?" Dietrich asked them with a rather unkind tone.

"In truth, as he was banished from attending council meetings we had not kept a very close eye on him." Lionel hung his head as if in shame.

"So basically, he had free reign to do whatever he wanted?" Shane seemed angry.

"I would not go that far. We still have laws he had to follow, if we received word that he would have broken them he would have been captured and punished." Eldrige seemed indignant, like he was not liking how this conversation was going.

"An how do you view mass kidnappings and torture?" I snapped at him.

"Pardon me?" Henrich looked pale at my words.

"That's what Edmond is up to. He kidnapped and tortured me and now he has kidnapped numerous children from our very city."

"We had not been notified of such things." Eldrige denied.

"Seems like you need to have a better system for watching people." Shawn growled. "If not for your unwatched rogue we would not have the current problem plaguing our city."

"He's right. It's thanks to all of you ignoring the problem that we now have to track down a man who is capable of turning into a damn purple cloud." Reece growled.

"If you just tried a little harder, none of those children would have been taken." Rawlynn glared at the men.

"We simply have no excuse for our actions."



"Don't you mean inactions?" Jackson chimed in, glaring at the men.

It was honestly getting a little painful to watch this browbeating that the Warlocks were getting. They clearly knew they had a situation that was well past FUBAR. This issue with Edmond was way past Fucked Up Beyond All Recognition. It was a hot mess that had been shattered, burned, the ashes put into water to try and form a pasty clay and reform into something ugly and unrecognizable and so thoroughly different than what you wanted.

"Ok, that's enough. We have a lot of work to do from here on out." I interrupted the verbal beatings. "Eldrige, Henrich, Lionel, do any of you know how to track down Edmond?"

"There are ways we can locate him, yes."

"Then do it." Reece demanded.

"We have been looking everywhere and have found nothing. There is no trace of him." Noah sounded dejected and angry at himself now.

"Indeed we will. Is there anything else?" Eldrige looked like he was trying hard to make up for their mistakes.

"What about the children?" Dietrich asked. "Can you find them?"

"I believe we should be able to, if we have something of the children's to help locate them with." Henrich smiled to show his willingness to help.

"This is something we should be able to teach your Luna." Lionel added.

"Questions and lessons about her magic will have to wait." Reece declared. "What matters now is finding the children. How long will it take to find them?"

"It will take us maybe two days to gather the items and people we need for this type of thing. As long as you have the items from the children in two days time, please come to the Aerie Convento."

"Fine, that seems like it will be doable." Reece still seemed angry but was relieved to be getting the help. "If you are only playing games, or pretending to help you will feel my wrath." Reece warned them, his eyes turning ruby red in his frustrated anger. I saw the fear flash on the three Warlock's faces as they saw this display."

"We would never do such a thing. Especially not with the Goddess and her Consort." Lionel squeaked as the other two nodded.

"You've been warned. We will see you in two days. If that meeting is fruitful then we may discuss what you're wanting to talk about."

"We thank you." Eldrige bowed his head and the three men left, this time Noah walked them out.

"Well, that could have gone better, but this is still very good news." Shawn smiled.

"Agreed, if they help as they say they will, then we will find the children soon." Rawlynne was looking slightly relieved.

After the busy day I was feeling tired and definitely done with meetings. Reece, however, had one more to attend. He needed to talk with both Acacia and Falena who were both still in town. He wanted to extend them a welcoming hand into the pack and congratulate them again. Me on the other hand, I suddenly felt fully drained of energy and needed a nap.

### **Chapter 163 - Trinity- Talk With My Inner Wolf (VOLUME 2)**

8-10 minutes

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Trinity

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After leaving the sitting room on the first floor I slowly made my way up the stairs. With each step I took it felt like my energy was slipping away. I staggered and swayed down the hallway, dragging my feet along behind me. I barely made it to my room and into the bed before I collapsed. I didn't know what was wrong with me, but this exhausted feeling was pulling on me strongly.

"What's happening to me?" I asked the empty room as my eyes fell shut and I drifted off into unconsciousness.

I was suddenly standing in the clearing where we hold pack meetings, and where my wedding was held. It was bright, and clear of all the decorations. The midday sun was shining down on me as I squinted to see what was happening around me.

I was confused. I knew I had just been in my bed, my eyes heavy and filled with exhaustion. But now, for some reason, I was standing outside. And to top it all off, I didn't feel tired at all.

I saw something shining with the sun glinting on it. The large shape was moving toward me across the clearing to where I stood atop the stone platform. I gasped when I finally made out what the shape was.

I watched, in awe and apprehension, as my wolf slowly and steadily walked to me. She leapt lightly and landed in front of me, her paws making no sound at all on either the grassy and rock strewn clearing or the large stone platform. Her movements were completely silent like she was not real, not solid at all.

"It is a pleasure to see you again." My wolf spoke to me, her mouth not moving at all.

"I didn't think I would ever talk to you like this again." I let my doubt show in my voice.

"I will come to you in times of great need. When there are things that you need to understand. When time is of the essence, or when I am needed to guide you through something that you cannot traverse on your own." She sounded just as wise and serene as she did before.

"And now is one of those times?" I asked her, causing her to nod her head in answer. "What do I need to know?" My voice held a note of desperation. "Does it have to do with the missing children? We've had people searching for them continuously. But there have been no traces of them or Edmond." I could feel the hurt that spread and ached throughout my body at my words of failure.

"I believe it will help and aid you to find what you seek, yes. But to a more immediate end, it will help you to understand yourself."

"What does that mean?" I demanded.

"You need to trust the Sentinelle." The words she said hit me in the face, hard.

"So everything they said, it's-." I trailed off, unable to finish my thought.

"Yes, young one, they speak the truth. You are the new goddess, and it is your destiny to lead your people."

My mind reeled at her words. I felt myself spinning as I stood still on that raised rock. Had this been reality and not a dream I am certain I would have fallen over. Still, I felt the blood drain from my face with fear and nerves.

"How is this possible?" I needed clarification.

"I chose you to be my next vessel. What the Goddess Incarnate looks like and the form the wolf takes depends on the woman chosen."

"So, you are Nehalennia?" My eyes popped open wide revealing my surprise.

"I am, this is not the form I had when I lived more than two thousand years ago, but it is instead the form you have given me."

"How did I give you a form?"

"Just by being yourself. Your wolf, the powers that will be unique to you, they all depend on you. This form shows your purity and strength as well what you are capable of."

"What about my marks?" I asked her pointing to some of the mate marks that appeared on her left shoulder.

"Those are some indicators of your special abilities. As you grow in power you may receive more marks as well."

"How will I learn more powers?"

"Start by training with the Sentinelle. They are not your enemies." She smiled. "They are indeed the children that have chosen to walk the path of servitude to the Luna Queen."

"So they're like slaves?" I asked, appalled at the thought.

"Far from it." She laughed lightly. "These are men and women who chose to put their lives on hold until they could help you. When you reestablish the Goddess Guard their lives will continue. They will once again age, though slower to help match your lifespan. They will once again be able to find mates and live normal lives. This is not a punishment inflicted upon them, but rather a life they decided to live on their own."

"Won't any mate they were destined for be long since dead?" My heart broke for all those in the Sentinelle.

"I choose their mates, do I not. And those around you are more likely to find their mate than others. One perk to being the goddess is spreading the happiness you yourself have."

"So, that is why so many of my guards have mated recently?" This actually made me happy, I didn't want to make those around me miserable. If I could spread my happiness then I would definitely do so.

"Yes, and there will likely be several more." I smiled at her words.

"What exactly am I supposed to do though?" I asked, still nervous about my future.

"Listen to the Sentinelle, and your heart. Find the children, then travel to France. That is as direct as I can be with your instructions at this time. You are an extension of me, trust in your instincts. If you begin to walk the wrong path, I will once again come to help guide you."

"I understand."

"Just trust in yourself, for trusting yourself is the same as trusting me. The Goddess will always come to the right conclusion. It may not be the right choice to start, but you will understand everything in time."

"Thank you, Nehalennia." I smiled at her.

"That name is no longer mine. That was the name of the goddess that walked the earth. When I gave up my physical body so I may protect and watch over all my children I gave up all my earthly connections, name included."

"So what shall we call you."

"Moon Goddess has sufficed for a long time, and many call me Mother, names have no meaning to me as long as my children are happy and safe."

"One last question, if I may."

"Please." She tilted her head telling me to continue.

"Is it just wolves that I will be the Queen of? Dietrich said that all shifters worshipped you."

"He speaks the truth, and you are correct, you will not just rule over the wolves but over all the shifters this world has to offer. Whether they be wolf, feline, bear, eagle, or any of the other smaller species, they are my children and now yours."

"What if this becomes too much for me to handle?"

"Turn to those around you for help. No one ever said a Queen needed to save the world single handedly. You will always have help."

She turned around and jumped off the stone. While she was walking slowly away from me she stopped and turned toward me again.

"There will be many who do not trust and believe in you at first. You simply need to show them your strengths. And when you find those you trust and who believe in you, keep them close to you. Your Goddess Guard starts with the Sentinelle but you may grow it larger." With that being said she turned back and left the clearing. I was alone once more.

I opened my eyes and felt fully rested, Even though a look at the clock told me it had not been much longer than half an hour since I collapsed into bed. The exhaustion was the pull of the Goddess. I now understood that.

I smiled to myself and sat up in the bed.

"Thank you for your guiding support. I will do my best to live the life that you have chosen me for."

I left the bed and went down to the kitchen. It seemed like having metaphysical meetings with the Moon Goddess left you very hungry. I had a brief curious and scary thought about if I had somehow left the room physically and went to talk to her. Or was my body still laying in bed and only my consciousness travelled to the clearing.

Either way, everything I learned I would need to share with Reece and the others. I wonder what they would have to say about it. I hadn't even told them about the first dream. Oh well, time will tell. I smiled to myself as I got something to eat.

### **Chapter 164 - Trinity- Someone Has Been Attacked (VOLUME 2)**

11-14 minutes

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Trinity

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While I was still sitting in the kitchen I decided to pull my phone out and text Reece, I wanted to tell him about my dream before we met with the Sentinelle again.

T:Are you done with the meeting yet?:

R:Heading home now, what's up?:

T:I just need to talk to you about something.:

R:Did something happen?:

T:Don't panic. It's nothing bad.:

R:Then don't scare me like that.:

R:Are you feeling ok? Nothing wrong with the baby?:

T:No Courage nothing is wrong.:

R:Courage?:

T:Yeah, Courage the Cowardly dog, lol. Don't be a worry wart.:

R:Even in texts 😊:

T: 😊😊 Calm down Fido, you know I love you 😊😊❤️:

R: Love you too Little Bunny 🐰❤️ I'll be home soon.:

T: See you soon. I'll be waiting in the office.:

Just as I told him, I went to the office to wait. I was reading a chapter for my next class while I waited for him. I hadn't even been there for ten minutes when I heard three sets of footsteps coming down the hall. It seemed like Noah and Vincent were with him.

Seeing three tall, impressive figures come into a room was a sight to behold. Especially when one of those three figures was your super sexy, drool worthy, thick headed, worry wart of a husband. Just seeing him brought a smile to my face. I was sitting in the chair behind my desk and felt like a CEO about to deal with some corporate issue.

"Now, why does this position seem right to me?" I asked them with a giggle.

"What position is that?" Reece quirked an eyebrow as my question.

"Me behind the desk while you three come and report to me?"

"Already drunk with power are you, Queen Trinity?" Noah joked.

"Ugh, that sounds so wrong." I laughed. "But unfortunately it's exactly what I needed to talk to you about."

"Really?" Reece asked as he came around the desk and lifted me out of my chair. Instead of sitting in his chair he took mine and put me on his lap again.

"Seriously?" Noah asked him with a disgusted voice. "You have your own chair."

"This is more comfortable." Reece snapped back.

"Just sit in your own chair for crying out loud." Noah seemed like he was still adjusting to seeing his baby cousin acting intimate with his best friend.

"Fine." Reece responded to him by getting up and sitting in his chair, with me on his lap.

"You're an asshole, figuratively and literally." Noah laughed. "Is this going to be the new thing?"

"It helps me to think, and to calm down." Reece answered him.

"Yeah, sure, it helps you to calm down. Just keep it PG until I'm gone. Please, I'm begging you to do that at least."

"I'll try." Reece smirked at him with a wink.

"Sure you will." Noah laughed as he rolled his eyes. "So Trinity, what's up? What did you need to talk about?"

"Well, I sort of received confirmation of what Gabriel was telling us."

"About you being the Goddess Queen?" Reece looked suspicious. "How?"

"Well, I had another metaphysical meeting with my inner wolf."

"Metaphysical?" Vincent looked confused.

"Another?" Reece asked.

"Explain." Noah demanded.

So, I did as Noah asked. I told them about the first dream just after my first shift and the second dream today.

"These are dreams, Trinity. They're not real." Noah seemed exasperated.

"No, I don't believe that." Reece looked at me with curious eyes.

"I agree with Reece, these weren't just dreams."

"Don't be so cynical Noah. You already know things were pretty much confirmed earlier today." I wanted him to understand me, and to trust in me. "I think what was said is the truth, and she told me that we needed to rescue the children then go to the Sentinelle. So, once they're safe we will be going to France."

"Oh joy." Noah scoffed. "I hate travelling." That he did. Noah was a stick in the mud, serious and tightlaced. Travelling didn't suit him very well.

"Well, the first thing we need to do is get a hold of the parents of the children and get some personal effects." Vincent brought the conversation back to where it needed to be.

"Agreed. I will start calling them now." Reece shifted with me on his lap to grab his phone.

"There are four of us here, you doof, split the work to make things go quicker." I laughed at him as I stared at the black cellphone in his hand.

"Fine, you all can help me." He took a file folder out of his desk and placed it on the top, flipping it open to the contact info page. "Move down the list and call the next one you see. Put a check next to the ones you've already called."

The first number on the list was for Sammy's family. Sammy was Ella's little brother. I knew that she was hurting really bad without her brother here, but she had been doing her best to be strong.

"I'll call the first family." I snatched my phone and a pen at the same time.

"Why?" Noah asked me, bewildered.

"That's Ella's family. If there's a chance we can find her brother then I want to tell her."

"Fine, call the Taylors, I will call the next one." Reece put his check mark by the second name and started dialing.

I slid off Reece's lap and walked across the room, pulling up Ella's number in my contact list as I went. The phone only rang twice before she answered.

"Hi Trinity, what's up?"

"Hey Ella, I hope this isn't a bad time?" I asked her as I looked at the time. It was only about six, late afternoon, but it was already starting to get dark.

"I'm just closing up the shop for the day. Mom didn't seem up to working too late today. It's been hard on her lately. On all of us really." I heard the sorrow in her voice, the sadness she tried so hard to hold in.

"That's why I'm calling really."

"It is? You have news? Is he alright? Is he going to be ok? Please tell me he isn't-." She was bombarding me with questions without even taking a breath.

"Calm down Ella. Slow down and take a breath." I tried to settle her with just my voice.

"You're right." She said the words between long, slow breaths.

"Feeling a little more calm?" I asked her.

"A little, but I really miss him, Trinity. I wish it was me that was taken and not him." She was holding so much pain inside right now that it broke my heart to think about it.

Just after Ella said those words I heard a voice growl from her side of the line.

"Then I can make that happen." His voice felt sticky and disgusting over the phone call.

"Who are you?" I heard her ask the man.

"A message." Another gravelly voice answered her.

"Leave me alone, I don't have time for this." She sounded annoyed as she spoke to them.

"We can't get to your Luna, but we can get to you." A third disgusting voice laughed over the line.

"Ella!" I called her name but she didn't hear me.

"Stop, let go of me."

"What kind of message should we make out of her?" One of the voices said.

"ELLA!" I screamed her name into the phone.

"Sorry, she can't come to the phone anymore." The first disgusting voice laughed into the phone. "Want to give her a message?"

"How about one for you instead." I snarled at him.

"Ohhoho, really. Fine go ahead little Miss." He spoke so condescendingly.

"Trinity? What's wrong?" Reece came over to me after finishing his call. My outburst had alerted him that something was wrong.

I didn't say anything for a second. I grabbed a pen and scrawled a note to Reece on the calendar. 'Someone is attacking Ella. Just left the shop.' The quick, two lined message told him everything he



needed to know. I saw the understanding on his face. He grabbed his phone and keys and started toward the door, the phone already to his ear.

"Stay here Trinity, we will take care of this." I knew that was coming so I nodded my head.

The three of them left the room, leaving me alone.

"I'm waiting, or are you too scared to answer?" That mocking voice spoke again.

"Sorry, I had to calm myself down before I said something I truly shouldn't." I tried to placate the annoying asshole.

"Calm enough? How about you give me that message now."

"Fine, if you're so willing to hear it. If you touch so much as a hair on her head, if you hurt her in any way, I will kill you myself."

"Such fierce words for a woman." The man laughed. "What makes you think you can threaten me?"

"Because I am her Luna, and it's my job to protect her. And if I ever fail in my duties it pisses me off and makes me really wanna hurt someone." I was slipping into an improper way of talking. Grandfather would be displeased but I didn't care, my friend was in trouble.

"The Luna you say? Well, we were just looking for you. You know, your friend here is only in trouble because you refuse to come out and play with us."

"Trust me, you don't want me to play with you. It would be the last thing you ever did."

"Don't make me laugh you stupid bitch. There's nothing a weak piece of half breed trash like you could ever do to me." He spat the words in anger. "Let's make the bitch sing so her Luna can hear the song we're making with her." He spoke to someone on his side of the line.

Just after he said these words I heard Ella scream out in pain or fear, I didn't know which one.

"ELLA!" I screamed again.

"Didn't you like her singing voice? It's got potential." He growled sickeningly. "Again." He spoke to whoever was hurting Ella and she screamed again.

"HELP ME! PLEASE! SOMEONE HELP ME!"

"Leave her alone and bring your fight to me instead." I snarled at him.

"Nah, this is getting fun." Ella screamed again. I could hear her sobbing quietly when the sounds settled.

"Shit, someone's coming." One of the other men said in the background.

"Leave her, the message has been received by the target loud and clear. Isn't that right Luna?" He spoke so arrogantly.

"I swear, I'm going to kill you." I ground out through my clenched teeth.

"Freeze! Put your hands above your head." A strong, masculine voice shouted in the distance, you could tell he was running but he didn't sound out of breath at all.

"Bye for now Luna." The disgusting voice said just before a loud banging noise and static filled the line. Judging by the pounding footsteps could I hear I guessed that he had dropped the phone to run away.

I heard Ella's heavy, pained breathing still on the line and several sets of running footsteps.

"Are you alright, Miss?" The new voice asked her. "You guys go after them." He said as he had clearly knelt down by her side. The other sets of steps continued running on.

"ELLA!" I yelled into the phone again.

"Hello, who is this?" The man picked up the phone and spoke to me after hearing my screaming voice.

"Who are you?"

"I am Detective Scott from the CSPD. Again, who are you?"

"I'm Ella's friend. Is she alright?"

"It looks like she will be." I could hear sirens in the background that were getting louder as they approached Ella.

"My husband called the police when I heard the men attacking her. He is also a friend of hers and on his way."

"Really? And just who is your husband?" He seemed skeptical right now.

"Reece Gray."

"Reece Gray? The Reece Gray? As in the billionaire Reece Gray?" He seemed shocked at my declaration.

"Yes. Ella is a family friend and he is on his way to offer his help."

"Just perfect." He didn't sound happy. "Well, I guess you'll know how things are with her soon enough."

"Trinity." I heard Ella's voice in the background.

"Take care of her, please." I begged him.

"Already planned on it." He hung up the phone then, cutting off my only connection to knowing what was happening with Ella.

"Ella." I whispered as I looked at the phone in my hand. I needed to tell Reece everything I had heard. He needed to know what was happening and what those disgusting assholes had said and done, and that there were police on the scene already.

## **Chapter 165 - Reece- To The Rescue (VOLUME 2)**

11-14 minutes

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Reece

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"Mrs. Little, this is Reece Gray, the private investigator assisting the FBI in finding your son. We think we might have narrowed down where your son is being held, but we need to send in dogs to locate the building. For that purpose we are asking for a personal effect to track his scent."

"Oh my God, is he dead? You need to find his body don't you." Her hysterical voice answered as she immediately jumped to the wrong conclusion.

"No Ma'am, I assure we are certain he is still alive. We just need to narrow down the building among those in the location we have in mind."

"Really?" She asked me with relief in her voice.

At the same time that Mrs. Little felt relieved I heard an outburst from my Little Bunny.

"ELLA!" Her voice sounded worried and I saw anger and panic wash over her face.

"Either I will be there or I'll send someone over to pick an item up from you later today."

"Thank you Mr. Gray, thank you so much. Please bring Jacob home to me."

"I will Ma'am." I ended the call just as I heard another angry outburst from my wife.

"How about one for you instead."

"Trinity? What's wrong?" I had walked to her side and I could feel the anger rolling off her in waves.

Trinity didn't answer me right away, instead she walked over to my desk and grabbed the same pen from earlier. She wrote a small note on my desk calendar. 'Someone is attacking Ella. Just left the shop.' I knew instantly that she was on the phone with the attacker now and not Ella. I also knew she would try to keep them distracted for as long as possible. I grabbed my phone that I had sat on my desk and my keys. Seeing that something was up the others ended their calls and got ready to leave as well.

"Stay here Trinity, we will take care of this." I told her just as I walked out of the room.

I knew I couldn't just shift and run there, even though that would likely be quicker. No, I had to drive as it was in the middle of a busy city street. The three of us got into the mustang and sped off immediately.

Knowing that Ella was potentially in great danger I called Andrew. He was pack and a detective so he would handle this situation right away. The ringing coming through the speakers didn't last long before a voice answered.

"Hey Gray, what can I do for you?" Andrew's typically amiable voice sounded like it had a smile held in it. He was always a happy guy, well usually.

"Ella Taylor is being attacked outside her shop right now."

"What?" All happiness and jokes were now gone. It was time for Andrew the Detective to show his face. This version was full of determination, cunning, and a perpetually angry sounding voice. His serious mode was something to behold. "Give me all the details. Now" Sometimes I had to remind myself that

Andrew was not a street cop and therefore bossed around his juniors so that command probably came natural to him.

"I don't have many details right now. Who ever is there was on the phone with my wife just now. She had called Ella just before the attack."

"Do you know what they're after?"

"No, Trinity is still getting details from them right now." I was past the gate of the compound now and speeding toward town.

"Does she know what she's doing? Or is she going into this blind?" He seemed to doubt his Luna in that moment. That pissed me off.

"Whether she's experienced in hostage negotiations or not doesn't matter. She will know to keep him on the phone for as long as possible. Trust in your Luna."

"I didn't mean to express doubt. I'm sure she knows what to do." He sounded scared. "I am on my way and I will be sending others as well."

"Good, I'm on my way also."

By the time I pulled onto the street of the dress shop I saw flashing lights and a large commotion about a half a block away from the storefront. Ella was most likely walking home. I knew she lived on her own somewhere close to the store and enjoyed walking to and from. I pulled the car to a stop right next to where the largest gathering of people was.

As soon as the car was in park I was already jumping out. I saw Ella sitting on the ground with a man supporting her upper body. Ella looked as if her attackers had beaten her as well as cut her. I saw more than a few large bloody red lines sliced into her arms. There were also bruises all around her face and arms. There might have been more damage that I simply couldn't see yet.

"Ella?" I called out to her while I ran to her side.

"Reece?" She seemed to be in pain and unable to stand.

"What happened? What did they do to you?" I asked her but someone else answered instead.

"Mr. Gray I assume?" He didn't sound happy.

I looked into the face of the man who had spoken. It was the man supporting her. He seemed tall, maybe a few inches shorter than me with a strong look about his face and body. His light blond hair and light brown eyes would have fit into the pack just fine if it wasn't clear that he was human.

"Yes, I am Reece Gray. And you are?"

"Detective Devon Scott, CSPD."

"Thank you for your help, Detective." I filled my voice with sincerity to show that I meant what I was saying. For some reason it appeared as if Detective Scott didn't like me.

"It wasn't for you, Mister Gray." He dragged out the title into a sneer.

"Did I offend you Detective Scott?" I asked him, starting to lose my patience as well.

"You walk around this city like you own it. You even act like you can run the police department." He snapped at me angrily.

"I don't try to run the police department. I do however, try to help people. And in case you didn't notice, Detective, I do own about sixty percent of this city."

"See, that's the attitude I am talking about."

"Enough!" Vincent snapped from near my left shoulder. "Ella is the one who matters right now, so stop your damn pissing contest."

After his outburst, I watched as Vincent knelt next to Ella, checking on her. He had been with my Little Bunny on most of her trips to the dress shop so he had gotten to know Ella as well.

"Are you alright?" His voice was soothing as he reached toward her.

"I will be." She told him.

"An ambulance is on its way." Scott told him, the anger gone from his voice.

"We can get her there sooner." Noah offered.

"No, she needs an ambulance."

"I will be alright, Detective Scott." Ella smiled at him. Just the sight of the look in her eyes told me all I needed to know.

"No, Ella, you need to be taken care of." I wonder if he knew what he was feeling yet?

"Fine, when the ambulance gets here I will ride with you Ella." I assured her, after all we couldn't let the humans see her healing already.

"Like hell you will." Scott yelled.

"Will you two stop arguing?" Vincent snapped at us again. "Ask Ella what she wants and stop trying to decide people's lives for them."

"Thank you Vincent." Ella smiled at him but it looked like the gesture hurt her like it was painful to move her face.

Detective Scott looked like he was five years old and just got scolded for stealing a cookie, the embarrassment and shame on his face was kind of comical.

"What do you want to do Ella?" Scott asked her.

"Since the two of you are arguing, perhaps it would be best if Vincent rode with me. I think he will be the most level headed." It was understandable for her to choose him, honestly. She didn't know this human before her, and I was the alpha so she would be nervous. Vincent, on the other hand, was a kind and gentle person when he wasn't needed to fight. I had seen him fight though and I knew he could be just as fierce as me.

"Of course, I will be happy to ride along with you." Vincent told her. "How about I wrap those wounds up while we wait." He smiled amiably, making her feel at ease. I saw Scott give Vincent a very jealous look after that smile.

"Relax, he's very happily married with three children. And he's definitely not the type to cheat on his wife." I patted Scott on the shoulder with a smirk.

"What are you even talking about?" He asked me with shock written on his face.

"Yup, just try to keep that attitude up for a little longer." I laughed as I stood up. "Ella, I will leave you to Vincent while Noah and I go and talk to the other officers. I want to know what happened here but I will let you rest first. Do you mind if I come see you tomorrow?"

"No Reece, that will be fine. Will Trinity be with you?" I could guess that a familiar face would help soothe her, also she was probably thinking about how worried Trinity was likely to be right now.

"If you want her to be, then yes."

"Mmhmm, thank you." I saw the gratitude in her eyes just before I walked away.

When I left her side I went in search of Andrew. I knew he was eventually going to tell me what the hell had happened here. I found him with a small group of officers, some uniformed some not.

"Andrew." I yelled for him. All those surrounding him were wolves from my pack or Riley's.

"Reece." He waved me over.

"What the hell happened here?" I demanded.

"Sir, it appears as if wolves under the protection of a Warlock attacked her." One of the uniformed officers answered.

"A Warlock, huh?" I mused just as my phone started to ring.

The display screen showed Little Bunny's name as the ringing continued. She would have info that we didn't, so answering it would be helpful.

"Hey Trinity."

"Reece, is Ella ok?" Her voice held a slight note of panic. "I know the men ran away after the cops showed up. That Detective Scott sounded a little less than friendly." So, even she could tell that he was not happy with us. Did he know about us?

"She will be alright." I assured her. "Tell me what you know about the attack."

"Three men were there, well I heard three at least, it could have been more. I don't know what they did to her but she was screaming and sobbing in pain." My Little Bunny took a steadying breath before continuing. "The man who seemed to be their lead said they were a message, that they were using Ella to send their message."

"To who?"

"Me." She sounded pissed about that.

"So they're after you and are using your friends?" I asked her, anger rising in my voice for a different reason than hers. These people were not just attacking my pack but they were targeting my mate. This had Edmond written all over it.

"Do you think Edmond upped his game because we met with the magic council?"

"That's a possibility." I answered her honestly. "I will find out what I can and get back to you later."

"Be careful Reece."

"Now who's the worry wart?" I laughed quietly. "I'll be home soon."

"Ok, I love you."

"Love you too, Little Bunny." I smiled as I hung up the phone. "Well, you all heard that I assume. Three men, sending a message to my wife."

"What I remember most, or am dwelling on the most, is that you called her Little Bunny. What's that about?" Andrew grinned at me.

"None of your damned business." I snapped at him. "Now focus."

"Yes, Sir." He grinned again but didn't say anything else.

"It's just a fucking nickname, drop it." I growled at him.

"Alright." He was still smiling.

"Dammit, Andrew, I'm going to knock that look off your face." Andrew laughed this time.

After the laughter was settled, and Andrew was rubbing the side of his head, we got to work. I directed the wolves to search the surrounding area for any trace of their scent or clues leading to who they were. But I was already certain this was a warning message sent by Edmond to tell Trinity to stop looking for him. That Warlock was already going to die, but now I wanted to make his death slow and painful.

## **Chapter 166 - Trinity- Angry, Nervous, And Waiting (VOLUME 2)**

12-15 minutes

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Trinity

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When my call with Reece ended I knew I would go crazy with nothing to do. Between the four of us, we had only managed to call half of the families of the missing kids. I figured I should call the rest while I waited. I didn't even know if Reece would be home tonight with what had happened.

It took me nearly an hour, but I called the rest of their families and obtained permission to get an item from them all so we could use it in the tracking spell. Hearing the parents go through the same cycle over and over. Nervous, afraid, apprehension filled relief, pleading, that was the order they all went

through with their emotions when I called them. They all feared that we had found the likely location for their child's dead body.

I know I didn't have concrete proof, but I felt that all the children were still alive and I did my best to convince the parents of the same thing. I just hoped I wasn't wrong.

While I was sitting there waiting for Reece to come back and tell me what had happened I got a call from Juniper.

"Hey, I'm outside, can I come up?" She seemed like she was upset.

"What happened, Juniper?" I was afraid of what might have happened to her now.

"Nothing, but Reece sent us here. He told us that we needed to be careful."

"Us? Who else is with you?"

"Emmalee, Heather, and Nikki." She had just listed off everyone that I had been spending time with lately. It was clear that Reece was worried about my friends and family with what was going on.

"Yes, please come on up."

"Can you let the attack dog know please, he has the house on high alert and won't let us in."

"Attack dog?" I was confused.

"Shane. Him and Peter have the house on lock down and won't let us in unless you or Reece give permission."

"Not Lila?" I asked her with a hint of interest.

"Nope, only the Queen or the King will do for them."

"So, you believe it then?"

"Trin, you couldn't pay me not to. You're special, I knew it when I met you."

"So are you." I smiled at her. "Let me talk to Shane."

"Here Under Dog, talk to your Queen." I heard Juniper say angrily.

"Queen Trinity?" Shane's voice came over the phone and the title made me want to roll my eyes.

"Shane, why are you not letting them in?" I asked him with a hint of anger.

"King Reece told me that the house was on lock down. It's procedure."

"Yes, but he also sent them here for their protection."

"I know this, but I was not notified."

"They notified you, did they not?" I asked him with annoyance clear in my voice. With everything going on tonight my negative emotions were getting out of hand.

"But they didn't have the authority. Queen Trinity, I was just doing my job."



"First, please stop with the Queen stuff right now, I may be the Goddess Incarnate and new Luna Queen, but I don't want everyone in my pack calling me Queen all the time."

"But it's your title." He seemed to be serious now, his usual playful attitude gone.

"I know, but I have never been a royal before. But that's besides the point, let my friends and family in. Never stop them from coming in unless I tell you otherwise."

"Yes, Your Majesty." I sighed at his annoying words.

"See you in a few minutes." Juniper's voice came back over the line before the call ended.

I opened my bedroom door and stood in the hall waiting for them to arrive. I watched as they all rounded the corner together. Lila was with them as well.

"Trinity." Juniper called out and ran to me. Her arms wrapped around my shoulders, hugging me tightly to her as her words rushed out of her and into my ear. "I don't know what happened but I know it was serious." I heard the nerves rattling in her uneasy voice.

They all deserved an explanation. Reece had called them all and told them to come to our place for safety. In among the group was also Heather's three small children.

"Heather, would you like me to bring a bassinet into the room for Faith, and we can get Renea and Conner settled into one of the daycare rooms." I knew the kids shouldn't hear what we were all about to talk about.

"I don't want them to be alone." She seemed nervous.

"Then how about the room across the hall? We can leave the door open so we can hear them." I offered her.

"I can look after them." Lila offered with a smile. "I know something major happened, but I can find out later. If you would like I can sit with them for the time being and you all can fill me in later."

"I don't want to burden you." Heather was visibly upset still.

"It's no burden, besides I need the chance to brush on being around little ones." Lila smiled at her as she tried to soothe her.

"Thank you Lila." Heather handed the diaper bag and baby to her. "Faith ate right before we left so she should be good for a little while. If she wakes up needing to eat just come get me."

"Will do." Lila smiled at the baby in her arms, already in full grandma mode.

Once the children were settled with Lila in the other room the rest of us settled into my room. The five of us were sitting in a tight circle, being close together offered a comfort of its own.

"Trinity, what's going on?" Nikki seemed scared and nervous, placing her hand over her slightly rounded belly for comfort. Watching her make such an unconscious gesture reminded me that I had been doing the same thing. When I felt scared earlier I had placed my hand over my belly, feeling that comforting warmth inside of me.

"Ella was attacked." They all gasped, shocked by my revelation.

"What?"

"No way."

"Is she all right?"

"By who?" They all let loose their questions at the same time.

I told them. Everything I knew about everything that had happened this evening. I told them all of it. The anger and fear on their faces showed how much they had all come to see Ella as a friend as well, and how mad they were that these people were targeting my friends to get to me.

"These assholes are going to pay." Juniper's yelled words seemed to give the others the ability to speak.

"I know that you didn't have to include me in this group, but I thank you." Heather's sweet, innocent voice was full of emotions.

"Trinity." Nikki rubbed her belly. "We need to stay strong and protect each other." Her voice was trembling and her eyes glistened with tears.

"Nikki, I will not let anything happen to you." I leaned forward to rub her arm comfortingly.

"I'm going to kick someone's ass because of this." Emmalee was just as fierce as Juniper in her emotional outbursts.

"For now, all I can do is wait for Reece to get back. But I will not let any of this slide. The men who hurt Ella, who threaten my friends and my pack, they will pay dearly." I felt the tears begin as I sobbed. "I just wish I wasn't still so weak, so worthless."

"Sweetie, you're not worthless." Juniper, sitting next me to, put her arm around me and squeezed me tightly.

"You're always such a comforting presence, Juniper. Did you know that?"

"Well, I couldn't be planning to become a child therapist if I couldn't be a comforting presence for the children." She smiled at me. She may have been fierce at times, but she was still the most calming person in my life. She naturally made me feel like I was able to deal with whatever my troubles were whenever I was with her.

"You're a natural when it comes to that kind of thing, it's your gift." I smiled at her, letting myself succumb to her soothing aura.

No sooner had I said those words than a blindingly bright, white light emanated from my hand where it rested on Juniper's. There was no pain, nothing frightening at all. In all actuality, it was a soothing light. I heard the whisper of a voice as it spoke quietly yet clearly in the room.

'Gift granted.'

I really had no idea what was going on, this was totally beyond me.

"What was that?" Emmalee asked before anyone else could.

"What does it mean 'gift granted'?" Juniper wondered.

At their words I suddenly remembered what Gabriel had told me today. As the Goddess I had the ability to unlock and grant special powers or abilities to people. Was that what this was? Was Juniper granted an ability?

"Do you feel different Juniper? Anything at all?"

"No, nothing is different. At least I don't think so." She answered me with confusion on her face.

"I don't like this. Why does all this have to happen to us like this?" Heather was scared. She was really better off being in a calm environment, it was my fault her life was so hectic all the time. And to top it all off she was still carrying around extra hormones from the pregnancy and was full of exhaustion from taking care of three young children.

With Heather looking frightened the caretaker in Juniper took over. There was no hesitation in her moves as she went to her side and placed her hand on her shoulder.

"Heather, it's definitely tough, we all know that, but we all have mates out there who are fighting to protect all of us. We don't doubt them do we?" Heather shook her head as she looked in Juniper's eyes. "The world can be a scary place, but it's beautiful too isn't it? We just need to look at what the positives are. You are safe. Your children are safe and happy and healthy, right? Vincent is safe, he's alright, and he will be back soon. And he loves you and your children more than anything."

Juniper was speaking in a soft, comforting voice the entire time. And as I watched I saw a slight golden aura surround her and Heather. The aura was faint and barely noticeable, but it didn't look like any of the others noticed it. But what they did notice was the calm, serene look on Heather's face as she smiled sweetly at Juniper.

"You're right. As long as we're all together and safe then it will all be just fine."

"How did you do that?" Nikki asked her.

"Juniper, you're like a real therapist" Emmalee was in awe.

"No, it's more than that." I grinned.

"What do you mean?" Juniper asked.

"I don't know if I was the only one who saw it because I was the one who was looking closest or because I am the Goddess Incarnate, but what she just did was beyond talking. She now has an ability, like I do."

"You have abilities?" Emmalee asked.

"Many of them, and one is that I can grant them to others. Juniper, I think you now have the ability to make everyone come to terms with their sorrow, fears, worries, whatever it is that is troubling them. You can bring true healing to them mentally and emotionally."

"Wait, really?" Juniper looked taken aback.

"Yes, and that will come in very handy when you graduate and go on to be a therapist or social worker, just like your dream."

"I can? It will?" She still seemed shocked. "And--and you did this for me?" She was smiling happily now.

"I don't know how I did it, but I know that I somehow unlocked it for you. Use this ability to help others." I tilted my head and smiled at her affectionately. Juniper is like a sister to me and I would always be happy for her.

"You know I will." She looked overjoyed at my words, like all her dreams were coming true.

It was getting late, and so much had happened that I was getting tired. So many meetings, so many tough phone calls, so many stressful situations, I was done with them all for the day.

"I think it's time to call it a night." I smiled at them all.

"Should we head home?" Heather asked me.

"No, you will all be staying here for the time being. If they're targeting my friends to get to me, then you're all in danger." I was already reaching for my phone. I could have used the phone in my room, but it was quicker to just use my cell. The person on the other end answered almost immediately.

"Miss Trinity, how may I be of service." Peter's calm and friendly voice came through the speaker.

"Hello Peter, can you get someone to prepare some rooms for our guests. I'm sure Heather will be just fine in the room with the children across the hall. However, we will need a room for Nikki, Juniper, and Emmalee."

"Yes, of course Miss, I will have them prepped right away." He was always so amiable and helpful.

After the rooms were prepped and the girls all went to their rooms I was ready to collapse into bed. Shutting off all the lights and walking to the bed was all I could do. I remembered I had gotten close to the bed but I didn't remember anything after that. The last of my energy drained from my body and suddenly everything just went black.

## **Chapter 167 - Reece- Reece Is Scared (VOLUME 2)**

8-10 minutes

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Reece

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Once I had finished the business with the human officers. I set about my duties for the rest of the night. I called David and sent him to see Mrs. Little so he could get the personal effect we needed. Vincent accompanied Ella but, unfortunately, so did Scott. I hoped he wasn't as observant as he seemed to be.

Noah and I followed the slight scent trails that were left behind, but like the street cop from earlier said it was hidden by the Warlocks. That explained why Ella didn't notice someone following her. She was distracted with the phone call and they had almost no scent. These rogue warlocks were getting on my last nerve, and if I found out that the magic council was in on this then I would kill them personally.

Now, thanks to this unfortunate turn of events my night was ruined. I was on a mock honeymoon for crying out loud. Yeah we weren't going anywhere, but I still wanted to be with my wife more. This was getting ridiculous. All I had done today was deal with unexpected events and have meetings. That's basically how my work days went. So much for my vacation.

Oh well, soon this business with Edmond should be over and I can take a real honeymoon with my wife. Ahh, I loved that word. Wife, wife, wife, wife, I had a wife now. That thought brought great happiness to my heart.

"Why are you so giddy?" Noah asked me as we were driving home for the night.

"No reason." I lied.

"Stop thinking of my cousin in that way while I'm sitting right next to you, you perv."

"I'm not a perv. And who's thinking what? Huh? I was just thinking how happy I am that I have not just a mate but a wife. Get your dirty mind out of the gutter McBarker."

"I see you've picked up on Trinity's bad habit." Noah laughed.

"I have to, otherwise she's going to out do me every time." I laughed back.

When we got to the house, Noah went off in the direction of the room Nikki was in. She had texted and told him which one it was. The last message I got from Little Bunny was telling me that the females were all going to stay in the house until things were settled. I had already planned that so I expected her to think of it too. I was glad we were on the same page.

I had tried to call Little Bunny while I was on my way home, but she didn't answer. She must have been so tired that she slipped into a deep sleep. I felt horrible, this was not the ideal way to spend the day after your wedding.

Expecting to find my little wife sound asleep, I crept quietly down the hall. Also I knew that Heather was in the room across from mine with the kids, and Vincent was likely to be with her also. Opening the door quietly I slipped into the room and took my jacket off so I could get ready for bed.

Just as I got to the other side of the room to hang up my jacket I saw something out of the corner of my eye. A heap laying in the floor next to the bed. When I turned my head all the way I saw what it was immediately.

"Trinity?" I called her name loudly as I ran to her side. She was laying on the floor, not moving. She was so still she almost looked dead.

The lights were off so I couldn't see her clearly. My heart was pounding in my throat and my ears. I heard every beat of my heart and it drowned out all the other sounds in the room.

"Trinity, baby, what's wrong? What happened?" I felt the pain and sorrow start to swallow me whole.

"Reece? Is everything ok?" Vincent was outside the door, I heard his voice but didn't register his words.

"Get in here, and turn the light on." I ordered him.

"Yes, Sir."

Vincent came in the room at once, Heather hiding behind him. When they saw me kneeling on the floor holding Little Bunny in my arms they both gasped in shock.

"Trinity?" They exclaimed at nearly the same time.

"Sir, what happened?" Vincent asked me.

"I don't know, I found her on the floor like this. Call Griffin and get Noah, I want you two to search the area, tell me if anyone was outside the house tonight."

"Understood." Vincent left right away, but Heather was still there.

"Is she alright?" She looked worried, but perhaps she might have some information.

"What all happened tonight Heather? I want to know everything."

"You mean after we got here, right?" I nodded, encouraging her to continue.

Heather looked nervous, but she started her explanation anyway.

"After the children were settled into the room across the hall with Lila, the rest of us came here and talked. Trinity told us about Ella, I admit that had scared me a lot. Trinity said she felt weak and useless, but she isn't. That would just be insane, she's so strong."

"What else happened?"

"Well, Juniper made her feel better, then there was this bright white light and a strange voice that said 'gift granted'. The light scared me, and on top of everything else I was nearing a breakdown. But then Juniper soothed me with words and a warm feeling washed over me."

"What was the light?"

"Well." She looked nervous now as she looked away from me. "Trinity said it was Juniper being granted a new power or ability. That Juniper now has like a mental healing ability."

"Granted an ability?" I knew that Gabriel said she could do it, and apparently she had done it for me. I was stronger and faster than I once was, and I can now turn into a fire wolf, but this? There was no light with my abilities, was there? Maybe they were granted in different ways.

After dismissing Heather I stood with Little Bunny in my arms, being careful not to jostle her too much. I was hoping and praying that she was alright as I laid her on the bed. Just as I slid my arms out from under her my phone rang, it was Griffin.

"Are you on your way?" I asked with no greeting or preamble.

"Yes, I will be there soon, what happened?" I could hear the sound of the car revving in the back and knew he was already driving.

"I don't know, I came into the room and found her collapsed on the floor."

"Did anything happen to her today?"

"Not that I know of. And I had the house under surveillance so I do not think that anyone made it close enough to get at her."

"I'll check her out when I get there. Don't worry Reece, she's strong, she will pull through."

"She'd better, I can't lose her." I heard my voice crack at my words.

"You won't. Do you hear me, you won't."

I ended the call and started to wait for Griffin to get there. All I could do was go from pacing the room and sitting by her side. I knew it wouldn't take Griffin no more than twenty minutes, max, to get here, but it was dragging by so slowly that it already felt like it had been hours.

After what felt like five minutes I checked my watch but it hadn't even been a full minute. Time was slowing down, it was freezing somehow. Those were the thoughts that came unburdened into my mind. Something was altering time to make my mate suffer.

"Hang in there sweetheart. Griffin is on his way." I whispered as I knelt on the side of the bed next to her legs. I leaned forward and kissed her cheek softly. "Please, please wake up. I need you." I felt the tears prick at the back of my eyes. "I can't live without you. You may have just become the Queen of our world, but to me, you've always been my Queen, my Goddess, and without you my life in nothing."

In my sorrow I held her in my arms. I let her scent, her warmth, wash over me as I pulled her close. I couldn't stop myself from touching her, I needed to make sure she was still there, still with me. I was worried about her, my wife, my mate, my everything, but I was also worried about the small, defenseless life growing inside of her. I now had to protect her and our child. I couldn't fail that duty here and now. Didn't my mark say that I was her protector, her guardian?

"Come back to me and wake up baby, please."

I kissed her soft lips quickly and gently, leaning over her still body and a tear ran from my eye and landed gently on her pale, soft, supple cheek. And, at that moment....

## **Chapter 168 - Reece- I Need Answers (VOLUME 2)**

9-11 minutes

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Reece

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At that moment the door burst open and Griffin came running it with Noah quickly following at his heels.

"Any changes?" He asked me as he strode over at a hurried pace.

"No, she hasn't woken, moved, or even made a sound." Panic was written all over me, I knew that. I was supposed to be the one in charge here, but I was panicking like I didn't know what to do.

"Let me examine her." Griffin gently brushed me aside as he set to work.

"Reece." Noah called out to me. "Come on, you need to get out of here and let Griffin work."

"No." I snapped at him. "I need to be here for her."

"You're not in the right state of mind right now. You need to take a walk and calm down. Griffin will send word when he is done."

"I can't leave her. I promised her I never would."

"You're not leaving her. You're giving the doctor the space to work. Come on." Noah grabbed my arm and pulled me reluctantly toward the door.

"I will be back soon, Little Bunny, don't worry baby." I called out to her as I was dragged out of the room.

"Come on Reece, let's do another perimeter check."

I let Noah pull me along in my daze. I didn't know what was wrong with my wife, if she or my baby were going to be ok. Until I knew I was going to worry like hell. I hadn't even reached the bottom of the stairs before someone else came running up to me.

"Reece?!" Mom called my name in a panic. "Reece what is happening?" She hadn't been given any information yet and was scared. "I saw Griffin come through, is someone hurt?"

"I don't know what's wrong right now Mom, but I will tell you as soon as I do know." She could clearly see the pain in my eyes.

"Is it Trinity? Is it the baby?" Her eyes instantly filled with tears and shook with emotion, the red rimming them probably matched my own.

"I can't answer that yet Mom, I'm sorry." At my words she covered her mouth and let the fear wash over her. She was just as worried about my mate as I was, of course she would be, we were a family after all.

I went with Noah outside after that. I knew that no one had gotten to the house. Shane and David were on duty tonight and they would not allow anyone to get close. But seriously, I would need to get more guards to watch the house. I needed to double, no triple, Little Bunny's guard detail.

I stood there in my yard, looking out away from my house. My eyes were closed to boost my other senses. I could smell the traces of everyone that had been here recently. There were so many. The wedding was just yesterday after all, well I guess two days ago since it was after midnight now.

I smelled all the familiar scents: Little Bunny, Noah, Mom, Vincent, David, Shane, Shawn, Dietrich, Emmalee, Riley. Those were people I dealt with often or had been around my whole life. Then there were the rest of the guests. I could smell the faint scent of the humans that had catered the wedding. I could smell the other supernaturals that had been here as well, except for the Warlocks, Trinity was still the only one who could smell them.

Yet there among the various scents was a new one. One I hadn't even considered: the Sentinelle. Trinity was told to trust them by the Goddess, and I trusted her. But, they were supposed to be experts on all



this Goddess stuff. Could what happened to my Little Bunny be something to do with her Goddess abilities? There was no reason not to ask them.

I pointed my nose in the direction of the trail that was strongest for that particular scent, specifically honing in on the scent for Gabriel I had gotten familiar with earlier. I started off in that direction, following the trail through the trees and down the sloping landscape.

The trail led me into the forest outside the compound. There were ways to get to the forest without having to leave the compound but they were not easy to find and were usually guarded at all times. It was for that matter that I passed by one of the six guards that were patrolling the forest on the night shift.

I continued on, walking further away from the compound and the city. This was still land that I owned. The trees went on for a while before giving way to the open, deserted land. The location of the Sentinelle camp was right before the trees gave way.

I saw quite a few large structures that had been made of natural materials as well as military like tarps. There was a campfire, perfectly maintained, and everything was being kept clean and orderly. It was a better campsite than anything I had ever seen before.

They had two men watching their borders and I was noticed long before I got to their campsite. I had noticed the scrambling of everyone present. There had been a dozen of them that showed up to my wedding, but it seemed that there were three dozen people here now.

"Alpha King Reece." I heard Gabriel's voice ring out as the entire group of them knelt to the ground as they had done before.

"ALPHA KING REECE." The sound of the other three dozen people greeting me was not unlike that of my pack addressing me, it was just the title they used that I was not familiar with.

"What may we humble members of the Sentinelle do for you this evening?" Gabriel seemed calm yet reverent, like he was used to dealing with people who awed him.

"Gabriel, come with me." I spoke curtly. I trusted Gabriel, but not the others, not yet. I had spoken to Gabriel on a couple occasions now anyway, and I didn't want this information being spread yet.

"Of course, your excellency." Gabriel rose to his feet and came toward me.

"Your Highness, King Reece, what should the rest of us do?" A young sounding man asked as Gabriel walked away from the group.

"Just go about your business as you were." I ordered him. The smile that spread across his face was relieved and elated at the same time.

As Gabriel and I were walking away I heard that young man's voice once more.

"Did you see that? The king spoke to me." He sounded like a teen girl at a concert having a freak out. I wanted to laugh but couldn't bring myself to.

We had almost made it back to the compound, having walked the entire way in silence thus far, when Gabriel spoke. His words broke into my inner thoughts and worries about my Little Bunny.

"King Reece, my liege, how may I be of assistance to you this evening?" His voice was calm and deferent, he was wholeheartedly acting like I was indeed his King."

"Why did you switch from calling me consort to king?" I had realized the difference when he came to the house to discuss things.

"The consort is what you were before the wedding. Technically I should not have called you that at all, so I corrected you to your true title."

"Oh." I guess his reasoning was sound enough.

"But surely, my liege, that was not why you sought me out in the middle of the night."

"No, that was just something that I started wondering all of a sudden." I answered him honestly and I saw the bright smile that appeared on his face.

"Then please, Sir, tell me the true meaning behind your visit." He was still smiling and that kind of pissed me off. If Little Bunny didn't get better I would never smile again.

"Something is wrong with Trinity." I told him in a flat, dead sounding voice.

"Sir?" His smile finally dropped as his face crumpled. "What happened, Sir? Please tell me."

"I don't know." I shook my head in desperation and despair, I needed to find out what happened, I needed answers.

"What is it you do know, Sir? There is a chance that something in our records could hold the key." He was instantly ready and willing to help.

"A friend of ours was attacked so I was gone and did not see anything. But she had spent the evening with some other members of the pack."

"If you don't mind, can you tell me what happened while they were there? I want to help my queen in any way that I can."

I explained to him everything that Heather had told me after I had discovered Trinity on the floor. What was said, the emotions she was supposedly feeling, and the blinding light that led to Juniper being granted a power. I even told him that I knew it was the truth because Trinity had gotten confirmation.

"Confirmation how?" He was taken aback by that last part.

"After our three back to back meetings early in the day, Trinity was tired and decided to nap. She said that while she slept she had a metaphysical meeting with her inner wolf. She said it was actually her talking to the original Goddess herself."

"She is special indeed." He seemed to be in awe at my words, he was staring at the ground as we continued walking through the compound.

"What do you mean?"

"There is no record of the last queen having these types of meetings with the original Goddess, but that does not mean that it never happened."

"Do you know what is wrong with my wife?" I asked him flat out, no alluding, no evasions, no flowery bullshit.

"I will know for certain when I see her, but it is possible that she is spiritually exhausted. She has not learned to control the output of her powers when she uses them and therefore may have overextended herself."

"Could it really be that simple?" I was reluctant to believe it but still couldn't keep myself from being hopeful.

"It's a possibility, but I will not know until I see her."

"Then let's not wait any longer." I told him, lengthening my stride and quickening my pace to move faster. I didn't want to wait any longer than I had to.

### **Chapter 169 - Reece- Gabriel Weighs In (VOLUME 2)**

7-8 minutes

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Reece

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Gabriel matched my pace as I sped through the tree to the house. He didn't slow down once, even when we ran through the door and up the stairs. He stayed close at my heels until I ran into the room and found Griffin looking frustrated.

"Reece." Griffin called out to me.

"How is she?" my voice was full of concern again.

"Still no change. From everything that I have been able to affirm she is by all accounts healthy and shows no signs of trauma. I can't detect any magic alteration or other cause of this issue."

"Would you mind if I examined her?" Gabriel asked with a smile. The fact that Griffin immediately moved protectively in front of my mate, as if to ward off danger, made me proud to have such a loyal man at my service.

"Who are you?" Griffin ground out.

"I am the Watcher of the Sentinelle." Gabriel's voice was still calm and collected.

"The Sentinelle? Those weirdos that showed up yesterday?"

"Indeed." Gabriel smiled at the description.

"It's alright Griffin, he is here to help and we can trust him."

"Does that mean what they said yesterday is true?" Griffin looked shocked.

"Yes, Griffin, it's all true. Trinity is the Queen."

"And that makes you the King, and the baby-."

"Baby?" Gabriel interrupted him as soon as he heard the word.

"Yes, the baby." Griffin smiled.

"Trinity is indeed pregnant, Gabriel. We found out last month."

"So she is not very far along, but she is indeed with child?" Gabriel asked to confirm.

"Yes, I confirmed it medically myself." Griffin told him.

"Is that your gift then?" Gabriel wondered. "You are a doctor, are you not? And your gift is to help people. Humans and non-humans alike?"

"Yes, I guess that is what you can consider it. But I never really thought of it as a gift before."

"You are a healer, that is a gift for sure."

After the word gift was repeatedly mentioned, something strange happened. Similar to what Heather mentioned earlier, there was a blinding light. But it was not white, instead it was a light shade of red and it felt like a healing energy was washing over me. The light looked like it was coming from Griffin. It looked like he had swallowed a glowing red ruby and it was being filtered through his body.

'Gift granted.' These words were spoken in a soft female voice just like Heather had described.

Gabriel and I were both staring, quite dumbfounded, at Griffin as he looked shocked. How could a gift be granted if Trinity was unconscious at the time? Could she hear us? Was she still aware of everything that was going on?

"Gabriel, am I wrong, or was Griffin just granted an ability like the ones you mentioned before?"

"You are entirely correct, my liege, he has most definitely been blessed by our queen."

"But what gift is it?" Griffin asked with a confused expression marring his handsome face.

"What is your gift? Were we not just talking about that."

"You mean me being a healer because I am a doctor?"

"Indeed." Gabriel smiled at the man. "I'm sure you will learn your ability over time, but it seems that you will have an easier time healing your patients now."

"Does that mean I can heal Trinity?"

"I do not believe that she is injured at all. As you said there appeared to be nothing wrong with her."

"Then what is it." Griffin ran his hands through his hair frustratedly causing the strands at the front to stick up a little.

"I think that her powers are overwhelming her at the moment. She has not learned to properly control them. And after her meeting with the original Goddess in the afternoon she was more open and

receptive to the powers that she has been ignoring and subconsciously pushing away." Gabriel was indeed speaking as if he were a man much older than all the rest of us.

"Wait, how did she have a meeting with the goddess? I thought Trinity was the goddess."

"Queen Trinity is the new Goddess Incarnate. In a manner of speaking she is an extension of the original Goddess herself but not actually that person. She is indeed still very much herself. But the Goddess chose her to be the vessel for her powers as they returned to the world for this cycle. And it seems that this incarnation is a much more suitable embodiment than that of the last one."

"So, Trinity somehow spoke with the old Goddess?" Griffin still hadn't grasped that concept.

"Not in person, it was metaphysically." I told him, explaining the truth of it.

"Ahh, that makes much more sense. I couldn't imagine a way that an incarnate and original can be in the same place at the same time." Griffin was shaking his head as if he should have understood sooner.

Even though he was a werewolf and a man with which magic personally moved through, he was a very rational person. If he couldn't explain it then it didn't happen. Magical wolf transformations be damned, to him that was a scientific reaction based on the genetic make-up of our physiology. I was just glad I had managed to stop him from turning into some crazy scientist, myself and my father both had. If not he would probably be dissecting us all one by one until he found out how that special transformation worked. Me, I firmly believed in magic, but I had met many Warlocks and seen it myself. Griffin spent his life studying and going to school to become a doctor.

"Gabriel, there may be nothing physically wrong with Trinity, but exhaustion is something that people have gone to see a doctor or healer for before isn't it? Should he try restoring her energy so she can wake up?"

"I must admit that it is worth trying."

"But I don't know what to do." Griffin balked at the idea.

"You simply must try. That is the only thing you can do."

"You've gotta try, Griff, please." I pleaded with him, knowing that my eyes were full of emotion as I looked at him.

"Hahhh." Griffin heaved a massive sigh. "I will try, I guess."

I watched as Griffin went over to my wife's side. My mate, my Little Bunny, was laying there completely motionless.

"Trust in your instincts and listen to your heart. Only when opening your heart, mind, and soul to the wisdom of the Goddess will you know your true path." Gabriel's wise words just made Griffin nod as he stood next to the bed.

He opened his hands above her and took a slow, deep breath. He didn't say a word or move at all. And I had absolutely no way of knowing what he was thinking.

As I watched him I noticed as a faint blue aura started to glow around him. Had I not been watching him so closely I would have missed it entirely. It was so pale that most eyes probably would never see it at all.

With his hands opened over Trinity and his eyes closed, he didn't see it when Trinity's eyes slowly fluttered open.

## **Chapter 170 - Trinity- A Surreal Experience (VOLUME 2)**

15-19 minutes

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Trinity

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I felt my strength leave me and my whole body just crumpled to the floor. I couldn't move a muscle. I couldn't talk, I couldn't turn my head. I couldn't open my eyes. I was extremely tired, and exhausted to the point of passing out, but I still couldn't fall asleep either.

I lay there, unable to move, unable to call for help. I'm not certain how long I was laying there. In the darkness it felt like forever. I had a feeling this was like the lost state that Lila had been in. How she managed to survive this, to keep her sanity during something like this for seven years I would never know.

After what felt like hours I heard the door click open.

'REECE!' I screamed inside my head. 'Reece, help me.' But of course no words could be heard.

I could sense where he was, I could feel the changes in the room's atmosphere as he moved. He was walking toward the closet to hang up his jacket, he should be able to see me soon.

I heard him gasp, his sharp intake of breath told me he had finally seen me.

"Trinity?" His voice was filled with worry, fear, and pain then I heard his pounding footsteps as he ran to me. I felt his hands as he grabbed me, gripping lightly so as not to hurt me at all. He turned me over so that I was laying against him. "Trinity, baby, what's wrong? What happened?" He sounded close to tears as he hugged me tightly.

Another voice entered my consciousness, a very familiar one.

"Reece? Is everything ok?" Vincent was outside the door and his voice was full of concern. I had almost forgotten that Heather was in that room with the kids and it was only natural that Vincent would come back here and to that room with his family.

"Get in here, and turn the light on." Reece instructed him.

"Yes, Sir."

I heard the door click open and the sound of the light switch flipping, but I couldn't sense the light at all. Usually if you're just laying in a room with your eyes closed you can still see the brightness of the light trying to push through your eyelids, lightening the edges slightly. But not this time, there was no change in what I was seeing. I was trapped in the darkness, and for some reason seeing this, or not seeing this, caused my stress level to rise.

"Trinity?" Vincent and Heather exclaimed at nearly the same time.

"Sir, what happened?" Vincent sounded scared and nervous. He was the captain of my guard and here I was probably looking dead.

'I'M ALIVE, GET SOMEONE TO HELP ME!' I screamed at them inside my mind.

"I don't know, I found her on the floor like this. Call Griffin and get Noah, I want you two to search the area, tell me if anyone was outside the house tonight." Reece's panicked voice was not helping my stressed feelings at all.

"Understood." Vincent Answered.

"Is she alright?" I heard Heather ask after a moment or two.

'You tell me, do I look alright.' My snarky attitude that I usually worked so hard to hide from everyone, except Reece, was coming out in full force inside my mind.

"What all happened tonight Heather? I want to know everything."

"You mean after we got here, right?"

'No Heather, he wants to know everything that happened when I was alone without him or you.' I sneered, then immediately regretted it. I knew they couldn't hear me but Heather still didn't deserve that. I was just angry about my situation.

"After the children were settled into the room across the hall with Lila, the rest of us came here and talked. Trinity told us about Ella, I admit that had scared me a lot. Trinity said she felt weak and useless, but she isn't. That would just be insane, she's so strong."

'I am weak. I am useless. Just look at me. Look at what has happened to me. I'm pathetic. How can I be a goddess? How can I be a queen? I can't lead or guide anyone.'

"What else happened?" Reece growled slightly when he asked.

"Well, Juniper made her feel better, then there was this bright white light and a strange voice that said 'gift granted'. The light scared me, and on top of everything else I was nearing a breakdown. But then Juniper soothed me with words and a warm feeling washed over me."

'That's right, she got an ability, and just doing that has nearly killed me.'

"What was the light?" I seriously couldn't believe he was focussing on that, was it important right now?

"Well." Heather sounded scared as she spoke. "Trinity said it was Juniper being granted a new power or ability. That Juniper now has like a mental healing ability."

"Granted an ability?"

'Yes my Deputy Dawg, your wife used her Goddess powers and is now as good as gone forever. Do you have to be Mr. Inquisitive like you're Mr. Peabody or something, can't you just try to save me like Krypto instead. Pick which doggie character is best for this situation.'

"Thank you Heather, you can go now."

'Seriously, have you figured it out now, Einstein. And yes you dunce, that's a fictional mutt too.'

After I heard the door close and knew that Heather was gone, I felt Reece stand with me in his arms. He stood up smoothly, if it hadn't been for the shifting of his body I never would have known he had stood up. His movements were slow and smooth, like he was trying to be extremely gentle with me.

Reece gently laid me on the bed, and just as I felt his arms sliding out from under me I heard his phone ringing. He answered it in a hurry.

"Are you on your way?"

'Wow! Not even a hello for him huh Rover.'

"I don't know, I came into the room and found her collapsed on the floor."

'Oh, great, a one sided conversation where I'm missing the other half.'

"Not that I know of. And I had the house under surveillance so I do not think that anyone made it close enough to get at her."

'If you think someone attacked me then you're wrong.' I snapped.

"She'd better, I can't lose her." I heard his voice crack as he spoke.

'I don't want to lose you either Reece, you adorable little mutt.'

After he ended his call with Griffin he started pacing back and forth. To the bed and off into another direction, then back to sink onto the bed again and again. His sighs and exasperated sounds were getting on my nerves.

"Hang in there sweetheart. Griffin is on his way." He whispered as he knelt on the side of the bed next to me. He leaned forward and kissed my cheek softly. "Please, please wake up. I need you. I can't live without you. You may have just become the Queen of our world, but to me, you've always been my Queen, my Goddess, and without you my life in nothing."

'Come on Reece, you're making it hard for me to be grumpy that I'm in this state. I never get to hear you be this honest with your feelings. I love you so much Reece, I want to be with you forever.'

He leaned over and held me in his arms, hugging me close to his chest. It felt like he was rubbing his hands along my arms. When he pulled away from the hug he gently touched my hands and my face, it was like he was trying to remember exactly how I felt.

"Come back to me and wake up baby, please."

'I want to, Reece. I really want to wake up right now.'



I felt his lips press against mine ever so lightly, just a feather's touch of a kiss. As soon as the kiss ended I heard the door bang open and two sets of hurried footsteps nearly running into the room.

"Any changes?" I heard Griffin's panicked, slightly breathless voice.

"No, she hasn't woken, moved, or even made a sound." Panic filled Reece's voice.

"Let me examine her." Griffin was right beside Reece now and I could tell he was leaning over me.

'Finally, if anyone can figure this out it will be Griffin.'

"Reece." Noah called out. "Come on, you need to get out of here and let Griffin work."

"No." Reece snapped at him. "I need to be here for her."

"You're not in the right state of mind right now. You need to take a walk and calm down. Griffin will send word when he is done."

"I can't leave her. I promised her I never would." I wanted to cry at how much pain I was causing my mate, my husband.

"You're not leaving her. You're giving the doctor the space to work. Come on." Noah's soothing voice seemed to have worked and I heard a slight calming in Reece's breathing.

"I will be back soon, Little Bunny, don't worry baby." He called out to me as I heard their footsteps retreating and the door close.

"Now, time to find out what is wrong with you. I'm going to do my best Trinity, don't worry." Griffin's voice was like a soothing island in this whole messed up situation. As much as I love Reece, he was not handling this situation very well. I get he didn't know what had happened and therefore was unable to handle it at all, but still it was not good for my sanity right now.

I felt Griffin examine me. He opened my eyes, I felt the lids move at least, and I assumed that he shined a light into them but I still couldn't see anything. It was entirely as if I was a conscious spirit trapped in a dead body or something.

I felt him hold my wrist, most likely taking my pulse. He pressed a stethoscope to my chest and checked for a heart rate. But still I could only tell what he was doing after he started and it was very disconcerting.

"I don't know if you can hear me Trinity, but you are my Luna and the mate of a good friend of mine, I want to help you, I want to make you better, so please trust me." It was like he was asking permission to examine me.

'Do what you need to do, Griffin, I trust you.' I told him even though I knew he couldn't hear me at all.

"I'm going to check the baby next, ok." He really was going to tell me what he was doing, like he wanted me to not be shocked.

I felt him shift me a little on the bed, making it easier to examine me. Next, I felt my shirt slide up, he was exposing my stomach. Then, without warning, there was a sudden rush of cold on my belly. Judging

by the feel and sudden 'pfft' noise that accompanied it, I could guess he was putting that blue gel on me again.

There was a slight pressure added to my abdomen and that same static sound as he moved the item pressing against me around. He was looking for the baby's heartbeat. This was the first time that I realized that I couldn't feel the baby's warmth inside of me since I collapsed.

"Come on, where are you." He spoke softly but I heard him. I was getting nervous now.

'Please find it, please.' I begged him.

"There you are." His voice sounded relieved as the rapid beating sound came over the speaker.

'Thank you, oh Goddess thank you.' I felt relief wash over me even though I couldn't move or react.

"So, the baby is alright, I don't think there is anything to worry about there. I am going to examine you now."

At these words he started to check all over my body. I was wearing a pair of shorts and a loose t-shirt so it was easy for him to do so. It was evident right away that there were no bruises on me, but it looked like he was looking for more than just bruises.

He seemed to be checking closely. At times I could even feel his breath on my skin. Normally, in a situation like this I would feel uncomfortable, a man I barely knew intensely checking my body while I was for all intents and purposes unconscious. That would be creepy under most circumstances. But Griffin was a doctor, a damn good one too, and I knew he wouldn't hurt me or Reece would kill him.

"There are no apparent wounds or needle marks. So you weren't attacked or drugged. Of course I will have to have your stomach contents and blood run for toxins, but they're unlikely."

He checked around in my hair as well, feeling my scalp and checking my hairline. There was a point when it seemed like he was smelling me. I knew it wasn't anything sexual but that was the weirdest part of it all.

"There is no scent of magic or drugs, no bumps, bruises, anything." He sounded frustrated. "Your pupils are not reactive, you are basically catatonic. This is completely unexplainable."

'Yeah, it's a real mystery, call up Scooby and the gang, get McGruff the crime dog, do whatever you can, just get someone in here to help me.' My annoyance was back again. Griffin wasn't finding anything and I was getting scared.

"I'm not going to give up, Trinity, I promise. But right now, I am stumped. I need to get you to the hospital, or at the very least my clinic so I can run more tests."

Just after Griffin spoke those words I heard the door bang open and footsteps thunder in.

"Reece." Griffin yelled.

"How is she?" Reece sounded hopeful but like it was halfhearted.

"Still no change. From everything that I have been able to affirm she is by all accounts healthy and shows no signs of trauma. I can't detect any magic alteration or other cause of this issue."

'Yup, I'm healthy as can be, I just can't see, move, talk, or do anything. Guess I'm just going to be a rag doll from now on.'

"Would you mind if I examined her?" Gabriel's voice startled me, was this state messing with my sense of smell too, I didn't know he was in here until I heard his voice. Then again, I hadn't noticed anything other than touch and sound, guess I was down to just two of the five senses.

"Who are you?" Griffin ground out.

"I am the Watcher of the Sentinelle." Gabriel's voice was still calm and collected.

"The Sentinelle? Those weirdos that showed up yesterday?"

"Indeed." Gabriel seemed calm even with the insult.

"It's alright Griffin, he is here to help and we can trust him."

"Does that mean what they said yesterday is true?" Griffin sounded shocked.

"Yes, Griffin, it's all true. Trinity is the Queen."

"And that makes you the King, and the baby-."

"Baby?" Gabriel interrupted him as soon as he heard the word.

'Yeah, sorry Gabe old boy, we forgot to mention that.'

"Yes, the baby." Griffin sounded smug.

"Trinity is indeed pregnant, Gabriel. We found out last month."

'You mean you knocked me up last month, even though I had just told you in January that I wasn't ready for a baby. You're lucky I love you and am happy about this baby you stupid over grown dog.'

"So she is not very far along, but she is indeed with child?" Gabriel asked to confirm.

"Yes, I confirmed it medically myself." Griffin told him.

"Is that your gift then?" Gabriel wondered. "You are a doctor, are you not? And your gift is to help people. Humans and non-humans alike?"

"Yes, I guess that is what you can consider it. But I never really thought of it as a gift before."

"You are a healer, that is a gift for sure."

I kept hearing them talk about gifts and it reminded me of granting Juniper hers. Yes, Griffin should have a gift. He is truly a healer, someone who brings peace back to others by healing their body. I wish I could give him that ability, something to make it easier for him.

No sooner had I thought those words than I could feel a strange pulling sensation. It wasn't pulling my body, it actually felt like it was pulling my mind and my heart. The last of what I could hear and feel was being pulled from me.

Once the pulling was gone I was laying there in the dark with nothing but utter silence surrounding me. I couldn't feel anything or hear anything like I did earlier. Everything was gone now. I knew my heart was racing but I felt nothing.

Outwardly they could see nothing of the immense fear that was gripping me. I couldn't hyperventilate, I couldn't scream, I couldn't even feel the rapid beating of my heart. Fear was slowly taking over my entire body with every passing second.

Suddenly, I felt a warmth begin to spread over me. It started in my chest and moved slowly, outwardly, until it had spread to every part of my body. I could just barely sense the light that was in the room, but still there was no sound around me at all. I could however hear the pounding of my heart pulsing in my ears. I could also smell the three men who were standing in the room. I was back.

Slowly, I tried opening my eyes, fluttering them against the bright lights in the room. I opened my mouth and took a deep breath, I could even taste the air.

"Finally." I breathed quietly.