

Chosen by Fate 171

Chapter 171 - Reece- Like An Answered Prayer (VOLUME 2)

Reece

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When I saw her eyes flutter open and heard that one word come from her mouth I felt like my world, that had been spinning out of control, had finally been set right. Finally, up was up, down was down, and my mate had come back to me.

I had been standing nearby and watching the scene as it unfolded, but when she woke up I rushed forward. I threw my arms around her and pulled her close. The feeling of her arms snaking around me and squeezing me back was like heaven.

"Thank the Goddess, you're awake."

"I'm sorry for worrying you, Fido." Her voice held a slight edge of laughter.

"So you were not fazed at all." I smiled, hearing her joking words made it feel like everything was back to normal.

"My Queen, it is good to see you awake." Gabriel interjected.

"I'm sorry I couldn't help you more." Griffin sounded like he was depressed by the events.

"You did though, didn't you?" My Little Bunny spoke to him as she pulled away from me. I was not ready to break my contact with her, so I moved around her and pulled her to sit against my side.

"I did nothing but confirm that you were healthy." Griffin hung his head.

"But you're the one that actually woke me up."

"How do you know that?" I asked her, confused that she would know this.

"I couldn't move, or talk, but I was able to hear and feel everything." She smirked at me. That made me remember how pathetic I probably sounded when I was waiting for Griffin to get here. Oh well, it just confirmed my love for her.

I watched her, sitting there pressed to my side, her pale face shining like a moon among the dark wooden furniture and dark bedspread. She really did look like an extension of the Moon Goddess, she always had.

"I love you." My whispered words brought a smile to her regal face.

"I know."

"So, if you heard everything, then does that mean that you know-." Griffin trailed off.

"That you were given a goddess gift?" She finished for him. Griffin nodded, looking uncertain.

"I guess I really should start talking to you differently, huh."

"Oh Goddess, no!" She exclaimed while laughing. "Please, people that I know calling me Goddess and Queen will start creeping me out."

"It is a title you will need to get used to, so the sooner the better Your Majesty." Gabriel gave a half bow at his words.

"Just don't try to rush me into, alright." She grimaced at the thought.

"How did it happen, giving a gift while you were unconscious?" I asked her. "I know that you could hear everything but how did you grant the ability?"

"I don't know, I just simply agreed that Griffin is someone worthy of an ability and felt the power being pulled from me."

"Then how was it you granted me an ability when we never experienced that light or those words?"

"I don't know, do you think I am an expert." She snapped snarkily at me with an irritated look in her eyes. "Maybe it's because you were marked."

"My King? You were marked?" Gabriel was beyond shocked at those words. The look on his face was one of utter bewilderment.

"Yes, I have a mate mark that Trinity gave to me."

"That is stupendous. Sincerely, it is beyond amazing. To have been marked by your Queen, one can only hope to be quite as blessed."

"Does it mean something?" Little Bunny asked him.

"It does indeed. It means that King Reece has been elevated to not just a mate and King. He will be able to exhibit and share in abilities similar to those you will be capable of. You have raised him to the status of something like a demi-god."

The three of them were staring at me quite intently. I think I finally understood why my little mate kept getting embarrassed with all this Goddess and Queen stuff. I was not a regular wolf anymore? I guess I was somehow infused with her magic, her power, her aura when we simultaneously bit each other that night. But honestly, being stronger made things easier didn't it. I could protect my family and my pack better.

Now that I think about it, I don't have a 'pack' anymore. I have 'people'. Every breed of shifter in the world was under my rule. I was King, and I would need to have someone take over for me here from time to time. Still, this was my pack and it always would be. Looks like Noah will have his hands full from now on.

"Looks like you get to be my Almighty Reece now." She winked at me. "Are you going to use those powers for good?" Her joking voice made me smile.

"I might just use them to keep you in check." I purred at her.

"You couldn't control me too well before I outranked you, how are you going to do it now." The laughter that came from her was beautiful, musical, and full of evil mirth.

"You evil Devil Bunny." I growled playfully.

"Muwahahaha." She gave a fake evil laugh.

"Well, I'd say that it looks like you're back to a hundred-percent now." Griffin seemed embarrassed, did we take our joking too far? Oh well.

"Griffin?" That little devil bunny called out to him.

"Yes Luna?" He responded deferentially.

"I want you to remember something. I may have granted you that ability but I didn't know I was doing it, and you're the one who instantly figured out how to use it on your own. You were worried about me and were being very caring and gentle with me. You made certain both me and my baby were healthy. And in the end, I couldn't wake up without you. You're the one that used the new ability you have to wake me up. I will always be thankful for that." The smile that spread across his face at her words was filled with happiness and thanks.

"Thank you."

"Griffin, use the gift the Queen has given you. Abilities like yours can bring great healing and happiness to the world. Over time you will figure out all that you are capable of doing."

"Thank you Gabriel." Griffin gave the man a smile and a nod. "I need to do some reflecting, so I will leave you for the night since it is very late. Reece, Trinity, have a good night."

"I shall accompany you, Griffin. I believe it is time for me to take my leave as well."

"Gabriel?" Little Bunny called after him before he could leave.

"No worries my Queen, I know that you have accepted who you are, but there is something else that is taking priority, am I correct?"

"Yes." I answered for her. "It's something that you might be able to help us with."

"Then I will come back in the afternoon to discuss it with you."

"Make it noon." Little Bunny told him.

"As you wish."

"Oh, Griffin, let everyone know that things are OK now, will you? Tell them we will have a meeting in the morning." I asked the man as he was walking toward the door.

"Yes, Sir."

With having said all that needed to be said between us the two men took their leave and left the room. Gabriel bowed before he left, Griffin nodded his head at us. This day had been nothing but a rollercoaster ride. Ups and downs, twists and turns, happiness, excitement, anger and fear. I experienced all of that in the course of just one day and I was feeling mentally and emotionally exhausted.

"What do you say we get some sleep, Little Bunny." I smiled at my mate who was still sitting against me.

"I say lay me down and call me sleeping beauty. I feel like I can sleep for a hundred years." She joked, the natural flow of her humor always made me laugh.

"Then let's turn the lights out and get to bed."

I scooped her up into my arms and walked to the light switch.

"Why are you carrying me?" She asked me, confused by my actions.

"After what happened today, I'm never letting go of you again." I responded quickly and smoothly.

"Oh no. You just intensified my prison sentence, didn't you."

"So, being with me is like being in prison?" I faked a hurt expression and tone of voice.

"I feel like I'm gonna be shackled to you like I'm in a chain gang or we are two escaping criminals in an action movie."

"You can be so mean sometimes." I pouted.

"Thank you." She batted her eyelashes at me.

When I made it to the bed I managed to unbutton my jeans and strip them off one handed, but no matter how talented I was, I wouldn't be able to pull the t-shirt off with her in my arms. So I climbed into the bed and set her on my lap while I pulled it over my head and threw it aside. Once I was in just my boxers I nestled her next to me and pulled the blanket over us.

"Hmm, look at you Mr. aggressive."

"This isn't me being aggressive, this is me being loving and caring." I smiled before laying my lips against her forehead for a quick kiss. "Now, be quiet, hug me, and sleep."

"Oh, yes Sir, Mr. King, Sir. I will be certain to do just that." Her words were mocking but she did as I asked. She wrapped her arms around my neck, nestled against my chest and closed her eyes. She was asleep in under a minute. She really was exhausted too. I laid a gentle kiss against her hair and whispered one word.

"Mine."

Chapter 172 - Trinity- My First Morning As A Goddess And A Queen (VOLUME 2)

8-10 minutes

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Trinity

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Thankfully I slept soundly. I fell asleep snuggled in Reece's arms and woke up the same way. And I was glad that I didn't have any dreams at all. It was completely calm and serene compared to the rest of that day.

After my oh so eventful day, I expected to sleep late, so I was not surprised when I didn't wake up until almost ten in the morning. Reece had still been there with me as well, snuggling me happily. After waking I was too hungry to shower first before breakfast, I needed food in me.

The first thing that we planned to do after breakfast that morning was send David and Rawlyne to collect the personal effects of the missing children. We needed to get one for everyone of them just in case they were being kept in separate locations.

The Warlocks had already left and returned to the Aerie Convento, which I had learned was the name of the magic council's headquarters. Reece and I, along with a proper amount of guards, would be traveling there tomorrow so the search for the missing kids could finally commence.

I admit that I have been busy the past month, but we didn't abandon the kids at all. Half of the pack warriors have been traveling all around the country looking for any trace of Edmond and the missing kids. The problem is, if someone was actively covering their tracks it would be so much easier to hide from us. Most wolves could not smell the trails left behind by a Warlock.

That was something I wish I could take care of. My warriors needed to level up, so to speak. I would have to figure that out at some point. I couldn't leave them so ill prepared.

I was now sitting in the kitchen, eating a large plate of pancakes and bacon, and don't forget my favorite poached eggs on the side. I had almost forgotten that Juniper had been here all night when she came walking into the room.

"Hey, glad to see you're doing good today. After all that commotion last night I was worried about you." She called out to me as she went to sit in the chair.

"Hey Juniper, sorry to worry you." I was embarrassed that everyone knew what had happened by now. How weak it made me sound.

"No, don't sweat it. Gabriel and Giffin came and told us all that it was because you're not used to your Goddess powers. It was my fault wasn't it?" She looked sad, and her eyes were filled with guilt. "It's because you granted me that ability that you ended up sick, right?" I saw tears in her eyes and I just had to stop her.

"Absolutely not, Juniper, it is not your fault." I put as much sincerity into my words as I could. Those bright green eyes of her were usually filled with just joy and an intensity for life, so seeing her so upset was causing me physical pain. "Juniper, what happened to me was because I was not fully accepting my Goddess powers before. In all fairness I didn't know about them, but my body has not had a chance to adjust to them and therefore using them completely drained me of all my energy."

"Are you sure that it is not my fault?" She still looked sad.

"Yes, Juniper, I am sure. Plus, you deserved that ability. It was inside you already anyway. All I did was help to bring it out."

"Really?" She smiled like those words made her really happy.

"Yeah." I nodded at her. "And like Gabriel told Griffin last night, keep using it and learning more about it so that you can discover the true extent of your abilities."

"I really don't think there will be much use for it, honestly. Yeah, it can help calm people down when they're upset, but what else is it good for?"

"I have an idea for it, but I'll tell you about it later. Do you feel like coming on a trip with us tomorrow?"

"A trip?" She was confused since I hadn't told her about the rescue mission we would be going on soon.

"Yeah, it has a purpose, but I will tell you about it later."

Throughout the whole conversation with Juniper, Reece had sat there eating his breakfast in silence, listening to us talk. I honestly didn't think he could keep his mouth shut for this long so I was kind of shocked. As I looked at him during a momentary lull in the conversation his phone rang.

"Hmm, what does Griffin want?" He mused as he stood up. "I'll take the call in the other room so you two can keep talking." He kissed the top of my head as he walked by. "I'll see you later Juniper." With that he walked out of the kitchen and toward the sitting room across the house from us.

"So, uh, Trinity." Juniper was looking nervous as she spoke. "Now that Reece is gone, there is something that I want to talk to you about."

"What?" She looked so embarrassed that I couldn't help but have a smirk on my face and a laugh in my voice.

"So, I woke up this morning with a strange mark on me." Her eyes were darting around, side to side, as if she was afraid someone would hear.

"What kind of mark?" I was intrigued but didn't know if this was a joking matter or not.

"Well, it almost looks like a tattoo." She smirked now. "But I definitely didn't go and get one last night."

"What is it? Is it embarrassing?" I laughed trying to lighten the mood.

"Not really embarrassing, no. But I didn't have it before."

"Come on, just spit it out, Juniper. What's the big deal? You've seen my marks before."

"Those are mate marks, they're different."

"Actually, they're goddess marks, apparently. I got them when I was fully mate marked, but they're symbols of my powers."

"Huh, I didn't know that." She tried changing the subject, I could tell what she was doing and I wasn't going to let it slide.

"Neither did I til yesterday, but we're talking about you, not me." I fixed her with a firm look. "What kind of mark is it Juniper?"

"Just, look for yourself." She snapped at me and pulled the collar of her t-shirt to the side.

When she revealed her collar bone to me I saw a mark about half the size of my fist. It was a sapphire blue paw print with a silver crescent moon to the left of it, well left in my view but on her right side. The crescent moon was thin and went from the middle of top of the paw print to the bottom middle, half encircling it.

"That's, interesting." I only slightly paused as I was saying these words.

"I've never seen it before, and it definitely wasn't there last night."

"Do you think that maybe, me granting you that power somehow, you know." I couldn't fully form that thought to even ask the question. Did I leave that mark on her? I didn't know if I would ever find out for certain.

"Do you think it's possible?" She asked me. "It's the only thing I can think of."

"I guess it's possible. But what would it mean?" Gabriel said me marking Reece made him special, but this was different. Wasn't it? I mate marked Reece, we shared power between us, this was just a tattoo after getting an ability.

"It's kind of strange to just wake up with it, but it's pretty cool too. Don't you think so?"

"Yeah, it's interesting." I smiled at her as I tried to wrap my head around the idea of putting a mystical tattoo on my best friend's collar bone. It was surreal.

"I'm gonna get going. I need to call Paul."

"He can come stay here too you know."

"I know that, now. But yesterday I didn't know that I would be staying here, so I sent him to spend the night with Cedar. Anyway, I'll talk to you later."

With that, she left the room just as Reece came back in.

"So, uh, Griffin told me something strange."

"Really? Like what?"

"He woke up with a tattoo."

"A paw print and a crescent moon? On his collar bone?"

"How did you know that?" He looked shocked.

"Guess who else told me they have one."

"So, it's because of the powers you gave them?"

"Seems like it." This was going to be interesting. I needed to talk to Gabriel about this right away. I just wonder what he had to say. Was this kind of thing normal? Could this be something he would have a record of? What exactly am I capable of now that I was the goddess? I guess I had to wait and find out, like they say 'time will tell'. I just hated waiting.

When I went back upstairs to take my shower, Reece tagging along, The first thing I noticed when I took off my t-shirt was a mark that matched the ones on Juniper and Griffin. It was just below my collar bone. The crescent moon was a bright shining silver and the paw print was an iridescent sapphire blue. Only my mark was connected to the others by the chain of trinity symbols that linked all my other marks. The chain trailed down from my shoulder to the mark. I guess it really was meant to show that whoever got a power from me would be marked.

Chapter 173 - Trinity- Preparing For The Aerie Convento (VOLUME 2)

14-18 minutes

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Trinity

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When noon began to creep closer and the meeting loomed over us Reece and I settled into the formal conference room on the third floor. The room was down the hall from our office and would be quite large enough to accommodate everyone that would be present.

Today's meeting would have a lot of participants just like the last few. On top of me and Reece there was Noah, Carter, Vincent, David, Shane, Shawn, Dietrich, Rawlynnne, Jackson, and Gabriel. A dozen of us all together. And the formal conference room had seating for twenty.

Reece and I were sitting in large, imposing chairs seated next to each other at the head of the table, him on the left and me on the right. I really couldn't help comparing them to thrones in this situation. We definitely looked like we were lording or ruling over our group.

Slowly everyone trickled in until all the expected participants were present. Noah sat near Reece on his left hand side. Vincent sat next to my right side across from Noah. These were the best fitting positions for them as Noah was Reece's Beta and Vincent was the captain of my guard and as close to my right hand man as I had at the time.

The rest of the attendees spread out through the remaining seats. Shane sat across from Shawn who was sitting immediately to Dietrich's left and a couple of spaces down from Vincent. Carter was sitting at the opposite end of Noah, watching the whole table with interest. David was across from him, watching with interest but sitting next to Rawlynnne who was across from me and next to Jackson. Gabriel was sitting in the seats in between Noah and Shane on the left side of the table.

I expected Reece to get the meeting started like usual, but there was something I wanted to ask Gabriel before we got started. So, I cleared my throat and started the meeting myself.

"We all know what we are here for, and we all know what the end goal we're hoping to achieve is. We need to discuss strategy for the trip to the Aerie Convento, or the rescue mission so to speak. We want to find the kids safe and sound. But, we are going to be going up against warlocks, which have a significant advantage over us. So it's for that reason that I want to talk to you about this Gabriel."

When I started talking everyone, including Reece, had turned to me in surprise. Reece probably felt like this was another part of his Alpha identity being taken away from him but I had to do what I had to do.

"Yes, My Queen, I will help however I can."

"I want to make everyone stronger. Give them an advantage. Do you think that will be possible?" I saw looks of shock on everyone's faces as they stared at me.

"It most definitely is, My Queen. You can simply grant them all an ability. But furthermore, once you accept the role of queen, which you have, then those that you recognize as being in your personal Goddess Guard will be enhanced."

"Enhanced how?" Vincent asked him with a curious tone.

"Speed, strength, and other things that the Queen might deem every member of her guard should have. The benefit for her here is that she can do things where the outcomes are endless and boundless. Whether it will work or not isn't what the issue is, she simply needs to try first."

"So you're saying that she can do anything?" Carter seemed skeptical.

"Maybe not anything." Gabriel shook his head. "But she will never know what she can do unless she tries. If that makes any sense to you all."

"I understand what it means." Noah told him. "It means that no one is certain what she can do so she needs to do everything to figure it out." Noah, like Carter, didn't seem too happy right now.

"Yes, and no. She is the Goddess Incarnate, the only ones who know what potential she will have is the original Goddess and the new Goddess vessel. However, we from the Sentinelle have been collecting information about the Goddess for millennia, and we will be there to help her come to terms with her powers and abilities."

"That sounds just like a cop-out." Carter was getting angry now, his tension and volume both rising.

"Enough." I snapped at them all. All of them instantly stopped talking and looked at me. "This is not the time for us to be fighting among ourselves." I levelled a glare at not just them but the entire room.

Under my intense gaze I saw most of the people in the room stir in their seats. It seemed like they were uneasy and squirming from the look in my eyes.

"We have something important to do, so I want to get this settled first. Gabriel, how do I accept the Goddess Guard, how do I add to it's ranks."

"Listen to your heart. Talk to your soldiers, and express what it is you want." Gabriel's voice was still calm and serene as always.

"That's all?" Shane sounded incredulous as he scoffed.

"Is that not enough?" Gabriel looked confused. "Why must it be so complicated for it to work?"

"I guess it doesn't, but it just seems too simple." Shane laughed.

"So, I just need to talk to them? About what?" I asked but before he could answer I held up my hand and added more. "I know, I know, listen to my heart."

I stood up and looked at everyone in the room. I felt so many emotions welling up inside of me threatening to spill over. I decided to tell them all what I was thinking.

"Reece." He looked into my eyes as I stared at him with love in my heart, eyes, and smile. "You are my first and only love. You have protected me even when I didn't know you were there to do it. You shield me from as much as you can whether I want it or not. You are, and will always be the only man I want in

my life. You are my other half. You are the fire to my ice. You are my king." I saw the love and gratitude spread across his face, but he didn't say anything.

Next I looked at Noah, my cousin by birth but oldest brother was the role he was always meant to have.

"Noah, we were born to different mothers, you are my cousin but the role you were always meant for was that of my big brother. You're very protective of me and you have been like the rock that supports me for most of my life." I smiled at his emotion filled face.

The next guard in the line was Shane with his lightning quick wit and reflexes.

"Shane, you're quick with humor as well as your actions. Nothing and no one is beyond your limits, that's both brave and reckless. But that electricity in your eyes is something worth preserving and using. You're strong, never forget that."

"Carter." I smiled at my closest confidant and coconspirator from my childhood. "You are my brother, there was never any doubt. We were as thick as thieves when we were kids. Whenever I did something you were always there with me. You helped me, guided me, and protected me. Without you I never would have been able to be a part of the world, to blend in with those around me."

"David, you were one of the first guards that I trusted. You're sweet, strong, and I know how revered you are for how fast your wolf is. You're an amazing person, you helped to bring me out of my self imposed prison. The one I had around my mind when I first took the position of the Luna. You were always there and quick to cheer me up with a smile and a laugh." I was going in a circle around the room. Talking to all my guards and those closest to me.

"Shawn, you are sweet and soft spoken. I would say sensitive but that's not the right word for it. You are affected by the world around you, but I don't think you realize the effect you have on the people and things around you. It's like being around you can move people."

"Vincent, you have no idea how thankful I am for you. You are not just my guard, you were the first friend that I made after coming to this house. You are so kind hearted yet stronger than so many others. There isn't anything you wouldn't do to help those you care about and I am honored to be one of them. You, with your boundless determination, deep compassion, and endless heart, you always seem to center us and get to the heart of the matter when we need it most."

"Dietrich." I started with those I haven't known for as long now. "I don't know you as well as my guards, but you are an important person to me now. As a friend, an honorary pack member, and the mate of someone I hold dear. What I admire most about you is that you seem to know things before anyone else and with that it's like you can read people's minds and in turn manipulate them into getting the outcome that you want."

"Rawlynne, Jackson, I am sorry that I do not know the two of you more. The time that you have been here with us, we've not spent as much of it together like I have with me as the others, but I do hold you dear. You know of us and are willing to help us. You accept us. And to top it all off, you're an information source for us. I don't mean that is a bad way, but with your connections there is a lot we might not have known about if not for the two of you. You've revealed things and enlightened us to a vast amount of hidden information. I sincerely hope that we can continue this friendship, with or without the inside help."

"Gabriel, I do not know you much at all, but what I have been able to see from you is an immense loyalty. You have a way of bringing people together and gathering information. It's like you can make almost anyone your ally."

This was what I wanted to tell them all. These words with my emotions open for them to see. I wanted them all to be strong enough to survive the trip and the battle that would most likely follow. And no matter what other abilities they might get, I wanted them to be stronger and faster like Gabriel said. I would also like them to be able to communicate among themselves and smell the warlocks, for now that was the most important thing for me to worry about.

No sooner had I thought those words than a blinding light filled the room. I understood what it was this time and was not frightened by it. The pulling and tugging on my psyche was not painful, but it was still awkward. It was like I was a rubber band being pulled in a dozen directions at the same time.

Just as I felt like the rubber band had reached its limits and would surely snap and break, the tugging stopped. The light faded, and it was followed by words that were different than last time.

"Welcome to the Goddess Guard, use your new abilities to serve your Queen well."

When the room was quiet, and everything had settled, eleven awed looks were staring back at me.

"Were we granted special abilities?" Vincent, like always, got straight to the heart of the matter.

"I don't know. But I do know that you've all been made part of the Goddess Guard."

"How would we know if we were granted an ability?" Shane asked me, excitement on his face.

"Well, you would have a mark like this." I pulled aside the thin, long sleeved, black cloth cover I was wearing over my tank top, it was like either a very thin and short robe or a jacket without buttons and zippers.

When they saw the crescent moon and paw print they were in awe. I heard several gasps and a few excited exclamations. Jackson was the loudest with his.

"This whole wolf world is fucking cool as hell."

"Jack!" Rawlynne was at a loss for words after he spoke.

"What? She didn't have that mark two days ago, did she? That means it appeared there by magic. And she is saying that the guards will have them too."

"Still, watch your language."

"It's fine, Otsana." Reece finally broke his silence. "None of us have virgin ears. And he's right, this is all fucking cool." Reece smiled at me. "And she didn't even have that mark yesterday. It appeared sometime in the last several hours."

"Do you have one?" Jackson asked him excitedly.

"No." He shook his head. "I would have seen it this morning."

"You did not have one this morning, my King, but that was a different time." Gabriel told him as he held the collar of his button up shirt to the side, revealing a mark just like the one I showed, only he had an addition to it.

On top of the moon and paw print, Gabriel had a circle with two capital letter G's in an elegant and beautiful handwriting. The circle was silver and the G's were gold.

"That looks different from hers." Shawn noted.

"Of course, she is the Goddess Incarnate, she cannot be a member of the Goddess Guard. I think we have been marked as accepted into the guard. And the mark that matches the Queen's means that those who bear it will indeed have an added ability."

"What kind of ability?" Dietrich said as he looked at his own chest which had the same two marks as Gabriel's.

"That is probably something we will come to understand over time. Or, perhaps the Queen will be able to see that as well." Gabriel looked extremely happy to have been marked.

"I only have one of them." Reece complained. "I am not in the guard."

"You are the King, you bear the protector symbol already. You will be our commander as well as our king." Gabriel's words brought a smile to Reece's pouting face.

"Who all has a mark?" I asked them.

After everyone in the room checked they all raised their hands and said, almost in unison. "I do." I hadn't expected this. Even Rawlyne and Jackson were marked with both marks. Meaning they have been made members of my guard and given abilities.

"Can you tell what abilities they are?" Reece asked me, excited to learn more about the powers he possessed.

"I can try." I answered him.

I looked around the room, trying to detect their abilities. Reece, it seemed, had shields, barriers that would protect him or those he wanted to protect. Noah, my rock I had called him, could manipulate earth. He couldn't move it too much, but he could reform it and crumble it, perhaps it would grow with him as he came to understand it all. Shane had an electricity manipulation that varied between low and high voltages. Carter, the spy for our pack, could camouflage almost like a chameleon. Jackson and Rawlyne would be able to find hidden information easier. David was now going to be nearly supersonic in his speed. Dietrich, as I said he could almost control people to his outcome, was now able to perform that ability for real. Shawn, the man who affected those near him with his personality, could now truly affect things around his with telekinesis. And lastly, Vincent, he seemed to be able to see the world for what it truly was, enemies would never again be able to hide the truth of their hearts from him.

When they all heard their powers they seemed to be awed, excited, and reverent. Just what did I do?

With the stuff about the abilities over, we discussed what was likely to happen for the mission. And I told Reece I was bringing Juniper so that she could help the kids, mentally and emotionally, after they

were rescued. He agreed, and said that we should bring Griffin as well. Having a healer on hand was a great idea also.

When I told Juniper why she was coming, Paul and Cedar both insisted on coming along as well. So, now our traveling party was up to sixteen. We would not fail to rescue the kids this time. I would see to it.

Chapter 174 - Reece - Another Mating (VOLUME 2)

12-15 minutes

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Reece

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With all the changes that have been going on around me, changes in my wife's status, in mine, in the whole order of the pack, I knew there were decisions I had to make. There were going to be more people around my pack than there was before. And after hearing what Gabriel had to say about the type of people who joined the Sentinelle it had me thinking about another project I wanted to undertake.

But right now, I had to focus on the situation at hand. I would not let these rogue warlocks get away with what they had done. And now that my pack was stronger than it has ever been before we could expect things to go better.

One thing I noticed when the meeting with what effectively became the Goddess Guard was over is that my sexy little mate smelled differently, again. This time, I knew what I could attribute it to though. I had most likely been given the ability to smell warlocks, like she had intended. And since my mate was half warlock it altered her scent to me.

It didn't alter her smell too much. In truth, it added a slight lemon scent to her already intoxicating smell. I didn't know if that smell was distinctive of the warlocks or not, but I would find out soon I guess.

All my mate's female friends were still staying at the house, and with them all of their mates. Ella was coming to the house today so that she could be protected as well. She was going to be driven here by her mom. Gia was in quite the state with her son missing and her daughter attacked. From what I gathered she was barely holding it together.

Little Bunny suggested having her meet with Juniper while she was here, the emotional calming would do her a wonder of good. So while we waited for Ella to arrive we were in that same sitting room as before. In the room with us were Cedar and Paul, we were just waiting on Juniper to arrive. Both of the men wanted to join us on the mission tomorrow and had even joined the ranks of the pack warriors. They both showed such initiative and skill among them that I wanted to do something for them. Honestly, it had nothing to do with them being friends with my mate. Ok, very little to do with it.

I had a sudden inspiration and decided to run with it.

"Paul, Cedar, I want to talk to you guys about something." I saw the looks of shock and panic wash over them. Honestly, am I that scary? I know I could be but come on guys, you've been around me for a while now.

"What about?" This came from my Little Bunny, like she was going to protect them. She's always been very protective of her friends and family.

"Nothing bad." I smiled to soften the mood. "No need to be worried."

"I'm not worried." Paul tried to sound convincing when it was clear on his face that he was nervous.

"Look, you're both great warriors. You've done a lot for the pack in such a short amount of time. And I am finally starting to fill out the ranks like I should have done a long time ago. There are a lot of roles I should have assigned and delegated when I took over but I admit I didn't trust anyone enough to do so." That seemed to shock them both completely.

"What kind of roles?" Cedar was at least curious by my words. Paul was too I guess, it's just he still hadn't recovered enough to speak.

"I've added a gamma, though I should have two. And there are other small things that need to be addressed. I'm thinking that the two of you should each take a role."

"Did you have anything in mind?" Little Bunny asked me, seemingly more curious than those two warriors were.

"I do. I want Paul to be the new trainer for the warriors. He has progressed in training faster than any warrior I have ever seen before. And as for Cedar, he is a go getter and extremely capable. I want him as my second gamma."

Those two looked at me like I had grown a second head or like I was speaking gibberish. And my little mate was looking at me with joy filled eyes. At least I could tell that she was thankful for what I had done.

"What do you say?" I smirk at them, letting them know that they were essentially staring at me with their mouths agape and eyes popped open. They reacted instantly. Their mouths closed and they both cleared their throats. It was clear that they were best friends even though Paul had married Cedar's sister. I wondered briefly if there had ever been that protective big brother urge from Cedar like I was dealing with Noah. I guess it wasn't exactly the same thing. I doubt Paul had ever said he hated Juniper, and then admitted it to the brother. No, Noah had his reason, but still I was better now wasn't I?

"Are you sure?" Cedar was in disbelief.

"I will happily accept." Paul seemed more willing.

"I am very sure. You both deserve this." I answered Cedar's question. "In fact, how about you make them part of the Goddess Guard Trinity." I knew she would do it with or without my prompting, so I decided that we should get it over with now.

"I was thinking the same thing." She smiled. "If they want to join that is." She looked at them expectantly with hope in her beautiful blue eyes.

Both of the men smiled excitedly at her words. It was easy to see that they were more than happy to join her.

"Yes." They said in unison. These two often acted more like twins than the actual twins in their group did.

"Then I will add you. Paul, I am so proud to hear that you have progressed so much since joining. Perhaps it's easy for you to see where your strengths lie, and maybe even those of other people. And Cedar, you have advanced and sown the seeds of your usefulness among the pack. It seems you've truly grown your roots here." That now familiar glow was once again accompanied by those words.

"Welcome to the Goddess Guard, use your new abilities to serve your Queen well."

"What just happened?" Paul asked her.

"You're now part of the Goddess Guard and have been granted a special ability." She smiled looking at them. "True to my words, Paul you can see where someone's strengths lie, effectively helping to train your people better. And you Cedar, like how you've rooted yourself you can control foliage, primarily the roots of the plants around you. Practice will make progress, and over time you will get very skilled in your abilities. Also, as part of the Goddess Guard, you have also been given enhanced strength and speed as well as the ability to track the scent of warlocks. Oh, and one last one, you can communicate telepathically with any other member of the Goddess Guard as well as Reece and myself."

"Really?" I was surprised by that last part, that was something that I hadn't learned from her yet.

"It was just something that I thought would help us a lot. You can do it now too, just so you know."

"Sweet, it will be cool to be able to talk like that." Paul was excited now.

"Just so it doesn't come as a surprise, you both will now have a mark. There is one for the power and one for the guard. They are on your collar bone."

"Really?" Paul quickly pulled his shirt aside and looked. "Dude it's true. This is awesome." The grin on his face was clearly showing how excited he was.

Without warning, Juniper came running toward the room.

"Hey, Trin, Zeek at the gate said that Ella is on her way up to the house."

"Thanks Juniper." Little Bunny thanked her immediately.

"Hey, Ju, I got a mark from Trinity." Paul ran up to her immediately and with so much excitement that it looked like he was a toddler.

"You too?" Paul's face fell so much at those two little words that I nearly laughed.

"You have one too?" Cedar asked her.

"Yeah, the two of you weren't here last night and I hadn't told you yet, but Trinity granted me a special power last night."

"That's awesome." Cedar looked excited.

"You joined the Goddess Guard?" Paul was clearly not happy.

"Goddess Guard? Hell no." Juniper seemed to put an end to that right away.

"No Paul, she just got an ability, so she only has one of the two marks that you have." I assured him.

"Thank the Goddess." Paul spoke with obvious relief.

"Haha, I just thought of something." Cedar looked like he was about to explode. "When we say thank the Goddess, we're really thanking Trinity."

"Haha, that's funny. The great Goddess Astro." Paul's joke annoyed me but I saw my Little Bunny smile back playfully.

"Wanna see what a goddess can do to you, Paul?" She spoke with a bit of mischief in her voice which made Paul go pale.

"N-no, no I don't."

We were still laughing from Paul's mini freak out when the car pulled into the driveway out front. We went to go meet them and officially welcome Ella to the house. The only problem was that it wasn't her mother that had driven her.

Trinity and I stood on the porch and watched as two people got out of the black mid sized sedan. The car just screamed that it belonged to a cop. Ella was getting out of the passenger side as Detective Devon Scott got out of the driver's seat.

"Ella?" Trinity called out in a pleasant voice but I noticed the hint of unease. "I thought your mom was going to bring you."

"She wasn't feeling up to it." Ella hung her head as if she was unhappy.

"I was hoping we could have offered her some solace." Trinity was the one who looked sad now. "I will send her something to make her feel better." I understood her words, Juniper would be going to see Gia now and bringing her to stay at the house.

"Detective Scott, it's a pleasure to see you again, but to what do we owe this pleasure?" I tried my best to keep my voice level and I think I did a pretty good job. It helped that I was standing there with my mate pressed against my side to give me a little extra stability.

Before he answered, I watched as Detective Scott walked around the vehicle and wrapped his arm around Ella to match the way I was holding my Little Bunny.

"I think that I have a right to be here, do I not."

"Huh." Little Bunny gasped. "Ella, does this mean what I think it means?" My adorable little wife didn't see a problem with what was happening in front of us. Neither did I, as long as Scott didn't cause problems. I guess we would find out.

Ella smiled at her Luna and nodded her head. "Yes, it does." The happiness shining in her brown eyes and the rosy tint to her cheeks was a very good sign. I know a human can mate with a wolf, a true mate bond. At least, I did now that mom had knocked some sense into my head.

"This is amazing Ella." Trinity ran away from my side and down the steps. She threw her arms around Ella, who was just a little taller than her. "I'm so happy for you."

"Thank you." Ella smiled more broadly.

"And I take it that you are the Detective Scott I spoke to on the phone yesterday?" She asked the man who stood dumbfounded before her. He just nodded.

"Ella, how much have you told him?" I asked her, needing to know the extent of what we needed to explain.

"Not much, I was nervous. But he knows we're not..... normal." Her hesitant words were not comforting.

"What do you know?" I asked the man, blunt and to the point. He quirked an eyebrow.

"I know that as soon as I even heard Ella's voice it was like I had found my destiny. I don't know what is different about her from other people, she just told me that she was not like other girls and that she would like to leave the explanation up to you guys."

I smirked at the man's smugness. "Ella, it seems that you wanted me to blow your new mate's mind." I joked. "Come on in and we will explain everything."

Scott seemed to take it well..... enough. He didn't have a freak out. But just like Jackson he was apprehensive. But once he saw Ella turn into a wolf he believed us. He wasn't as gung-ho about it as Jackson who now thought the whole supernatural world was amazing. But Scott did good. He didn't reject his mate, and he actually started looking at my mate and I with respect.

"Well, at least I don't have to wonder about your motives now. I see you had your hand in everything to protect your people and that you weren't some wanna be mobster."

"You thought I was a mobster?" I asked him incredulously.

"He did say wanna be." Trinity laughed. "So he obviously thought you weren't doing a good enough job. Really you own what sixty, maybe seventy percent of the city. You're not a mobster unless it exceeds seventy-five percent." Scott found that funny. Me, not so much.

Chapter 175 - Reece - Departing For The Aerie Convento (VOLUME 2)

14-17 minutes

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Reece

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We now had our full attack party. After discussions were completed it was decided that along with our group we would be taking half of the Sentinelle with us. Gabriel would be in charge of relaying the commands to them, and he assured us they were very well trained. We were also taking an additional twenty of my men along. There would be a little over four dozen people fighting and four people staying

away from the fight to help afterwards. Juniper, Griffin, the human, and of course my Little Bunny would be left out of the fighting party.

No matter what she says, I will absolutely stop my Little Bunny from fighting. I will keep her away no matter what it takes. Even if I have to stay away from the fight myself, which I hope she doesn't make me do. But I will not let her be put into danger like that.

The Aerie Convento wasn't overly far away, but it wasn't the easiest to get to. It was in a remote part of the Rocky Mountains near Crested Butte. It wasn't so out of the way that it was impossible to get to, but it would still require us to go in a roundabout manner of getting there. That's why the bulk of the fighting party was leaving in the herd of off-roading vehicles I had assembled for them, with a few extra seats available for us later if need be.

Most of our private group, however, would be travelling by helicopter so that we could get the information we needed sooner. It would take about four hours for them to drive up the mountains. The flight would take less than an hour.

We left at most an hour after the others. With this time spacing we will be there for about two hours, give or take, before everyone else arrived. This would give us ample time to have the spell performed. With luck, we can just head straight out to get the kids when everyone else gets there.

I couldn't help but smirk to myself when we got onto the large helicopter, because the last time I had been aboard this type of craft had been when I took my Little Devil Bunny to that cabin in the mountains. That had been the night she had agreed to marry me. The after was pretty fun too.

We all filed in, one by one. I don't do things cheap or half assed. It was for those reasons that I had long ago purchased the Eurocopter EC 155. It was enough to seat, with extreme convenience for today, sixteen people, and had only cost me a measly ten million. It was well worth it. The one I took before was a Sikorsky S-92. That one was a little more luxurious and VIP oriented with a price tag of around twenty-two million.

Since I met my Little Bunny, I had begun adding aviation equipment to my long list of personal vehicles. And with a personal pilot who could fly either helicopters or planes I didn't need to worry at all. These were all needed things, no matter what my adorable little wife said. She really did have a problem with spending so much, I should spoil her more so she didn't have to do it all alone.

It was a smooth, comfortable flight. Juniper and my Little Bunny spent the flight talking about the baby. I had just been sitting there, my eyes closed and resting on the back of my seat listening to my mate's hypnotic voice. But I just had to watch them after a little bit.

"So, which are you hoping for?" Juniper asked her.

"Honestly, I don't care. My main concern is that the baby is happy and healthy. If it's a boy though I hope it looks like Reece." Those words brought joy to my heart.

"I hope it's a girl that looks as adorable as you." I whispered in her ear so quietly that no one else could hear me. I smiled at the slight blush that crept on her beautifully pale face.

"Anyway." She cleared her throat to clear her mind and push past her blushing embarrassment. "When are you and Paul going to have one?" She asked Juniper. It was now time for her friend to blush.

"I don't know. Soon maybe. I wanted to wait until I was done with school, but I'm sure we all have a pretty good support system here, so if I decide not to wait it will be alright, don't you think?"

"Absolutely. What other reason am I making the pack daycare for?" My Little Bunny truly was so loving and caring towards everyone.

"Right." Juniper was still blushing slightly. "Then, perhaps our kids could grow up together."

"That would be amazing Juniper. You're going to be my baby's aunt after all." She was grinning widely as she said these words to her best friend.

"So, you're going to continue school right? Even after the baby is born?" Juniper asked curiously.

"Definitely, but I might continue to do the online thing. With how busy things get from time to time it allows me to do everything without the same time constraints"

"You don't have classes at a set time?" Juniper was still not used to everything Trinity was doing for school.

"There are a few with set times, but the classes are recorded and I can watch them after the fact. But, in all honesty, I work at my own pace on my own time. I work asynchronously."

"That actually sounds a lot better. With all the changes, not just for you but all of us, it might be easier that way."

"If you ever decide to switch it up, we could be study buddies and do our work together. It helps cut down on the feeling of being alone."

"That'd be great, since you and the guys have changed your schedules so much I feel alone as it is."

It now looked like I could count on Juniper being around to help protect my wife in the future. It was great that she was building such a good group around her. Just as I thought before, she was only so alone because she was so isolated. She's a very likable person and people just naturally want to flock to her. Well, good people anyway. The not so nice ones would end up being jealous of her beauty, intelligence, and natural ability. I would protect her from that type of thing from now on.

Not long after that conversation, we landed in the courtyard of the magic council headquarters. The build was large and sprawling. It apparently housed several of the more prominent members with lesser witches and warlocks tending to them like they were nobles. I guess in a way they were. Would they welcome Trinity as a noble or a lesser being? I wondered exactly what their reaction would be.

The Aerie Convento looked like an elaborate ski resort. It was in a traditional architecture style that went well with the mountains and trees surrounding it. The snow covered roof and piles of snow drifts were a definite sign that winter hadn't fully left this high up in the mountains.

As soon as I stepped off the helicopter my nose was assaulted with the strongest smell of lemons and other citrus fruits that I had to wrinkle my nose a little. That was a testament to the sheer number of warlocks that were present. And I guess that citrus was really a signature smell for warlocks. At least it was easily distinguished and we could smell them now.

"Alpha Reece, is there something the matter?" Eldrige, the same man from before, asked me with concern written on his face as he saw me and almost everyone who got off the aircraft wrinkle our noses.

"Just, not used to the smell." I told him as I made the effort to settle my face and adjust to the new scent.

"The smell?" Eldrige looked confused.

"Yes, I thought that, given what has happened lately, that they needed to be able to smell warlocks like I can." My adorably tactful mate answered for me.

"I was not aware that you were capable of smelling us, Miss Trinity, but now you say that all those present can as well? Interesting." A new voice, one I have never heard before, entered the conversation. I was noticing the slight differences between each person now. The citrus smells were mixed with others, same as we wolves they seemed to have a multi-layer scent signature for each person. Given time I would be able to smell, and tell, them all apart from each other.

We as a group turned our heads to look at the newcomer while every warlock present lowered their head in a show of deference and respect. Well, I guess it's safe to assume he is someone of importance here.

"Yes, I didn't want my group to be at a disadvantage when we fought against Edmond." My little mate was in full queen mode now, taking the lead.

"And you say you gave them this ability?" He asked her, a strange smile on his face, as if he didn't quite believe it.

"Among others, yes." She smiled at him, sensing his lack of confidence in her words.

"And how, might I ask, did you do that? It is beyond any magic I know of to grant powers to a wolf like that."

"If I may." Gabriel raised his hand and looked at the woman he called queen. She nodded at him, giving him the permission to speak that he was seeking. "Sir, I may not know who you are, but please understand this, the woman before you is none other than the newest Goddess Incarnate."

"Hmph." The man scoffed. "You say that, but is there any proof?"

"Am I not the proof myself. Surely you ambassadors who attended the wedding informed you that we members of the Sentinelle had arrived to greet our newest queen."

"Eldrige?" The man shouted.

"I am sincerely sorry, Lord Crawford. We had indeed planned on telling you, but as you were not present until this moment I was unable to pass along the word."

"Hmm." The man named Crawford was looking intently at my mate now. "It seems I missed much in my absence. Is this the truth?"

"It is indeed." Little Bunny smiled at him before turning her head with a smile. Then I heard her voice in my mind, soft and sweet but full of power. 'But don't just take my word for it, Crawford, you can use this demonstration to help confirm and alleviate any doubt.'

"What a wonderful ability." The man smiled. "That is indeed something that is said to be a power belonging to your legendary goddess. But it is also something that we more powerful warlocks are capable of."

"Who would have taught me to do such a thing?" She snapped at him.

"Did you not spend time with your father?" He asked her, still not accepting.

"He and his minions were too busy torturing me to teach me anything." She glared at him.

"Perhaps a show of abilities then?" I offered just so I could break the tension growing between them.

"Such as?" He asked.

"Just yesterday, my wife granted abilities to the guards present. If they were to show you what they can do, what will you say then?"

"I would say that if anyone who is clearly just a wolf with no other blood in them could perform a feat not indicative of a wolf ability then I would accept what you are saying with no further denial."

"Fine then, we will prove ourselves."

I turned to look at them, the shock and anger on their faces was very clear.

"You all have had your abilities for just over twenty four hours, most of you probably haven't even tried to use them yet, but now is the time."

"Oh, we practiced." Vincent smiled confidently. I never should have doubted these men. They, like me, had gone on to practice using their new gifts after the excitement of the morning passed.

"Then let us show him so we can move on." I smirked at them and they all understood the look in my eyes. They knew I was essentially telling them to not hold back.

First, without provocation or warning, Cedar turned to Noah and ensnared his legs in a prison of tree roots that sprang up magically from the snow. In retaliation, Noah threw his hands up and Cedar was suddenly fifteen feet off the ground on a high stone pillar with a flat platform on top. They laughed at each other like they were teens having fun. While the two of them laughed, a snowball landed on Noah's head. It seemingly came from nowhere until Carter appeared next to his brother's side, laughing along with them.

Next, I saw Shane send small electrical currents across to Shawn. The currents were bright yellow and easy to see. Shawn, in retaliation both formed and sent snowballs flying at his brother without so much as moving a finger. As Shane's electrical attacks got stronger Shawn's snowballs got bigger. Until finally Shawn sent one roughly the size of a car at his brother, he knew that it wouldn't be a big issue. Which it wasn't, because the next thing I saw was a large sword made of yellow lightning slice through the air and annihilating the large ball of snow.

"Oh, boys, you're brothers so shouldn't you be nicer to each other?" Dietrich said in a playful tone. He was looking at the two men with a glint of mischief in his eyes. I noticed his eyes turn pure black for a moment, like it was a cloud moving within them. In the next moment the twins walked toward each other and hugged each other. Then they started leaping about and telling us they were snow fairies and that they were going to put on a show for us. When Dietrich began laughing hysterically at their show the two men stopped dancing around.

"That wasn't nice Dietrich." Shawn looked a little upset but was still smiling at his mate.

"I am sorry, my love. I could not help myself. I have often thought that a ballet with twins would be a wonderful show."

This left only David and myself, as everyone else had less noticeable abilities. I didn't see him move at all, but David had disappeared from Otsana's side and the next thing I knew, someone was pelting the others with snowballs. I didn't even want to chance it, I put a shield around Trinity and myself. And sure enough, I saw a snowball smash against nothing in the air about three feet in front of me.

"Well, I must say, those are some magnificent abilities, and definitely not normal for a wolf to have. Aside from your mate, Mr. Gray, none of you should be able to do these things. And her only because she is half witch. But I guess that means she truly is the new Moon Goddess Incarnate."

"She most definitely is." I looked pointedly at the man named Crawford as he smiled.

"Please understand, I meant no offense. But as I have been trying to gather any information I could on Edmond I was a little more skeptical of someone who calls herself his daughter."

"Crawford, never say those words to me or about me again." My mate was furious now. "I am not now, nor will I ever be that man's daughter. My dad is Wesley Whitton, not Gannon Cornelius Edmond. I have the unfortunate circumstance of sharing DNA with him but he is not my father at all. And when I see him again, I will kill him, personally."

"I must say, I am happy to hear those words." Crawford smiled happily. "I cannot trust someone associated with him, not after what he has done. Please, come inside and let us get out of this cold." Crawford gestured with a hand before turning back to the door.

Chapter 176 - Trinity - The Aerie Convento (VOLUME 2)

8-10 minutes

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Trinity

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My first impression of Crawford was not a good one, but I can admit that I wouldn't trust anyone that I knew was associated with Edmond either. Though it seems like we did finally convince him that I truly am the new Luna Queen and Goddess Incarnate. I was just glad we were finally able to get down to business.

We were taken to a large meeting room. It resembled the sitting rooms back home only larger. There were countless chairs, love seats, and sofas all around the room. There was either a set of side tables or a coffee near every seat. It was a room meant for a large, comfortable meeting.

Once we were all seated, mates with mates and those without their other half sitting alone, we got straight to the point.

"I gather that there is something that you need from us." Crawford said with no suspicion or animosity. "What do you need help with?"

"Like you Crawford, we are looking for Edmond. We want help finding him as well as the children he has taken."

"How many children?" He asked me concerned.

"So far, we only know of eight, and they were all taken from our city. I don't know for certain if there are any others."

"Do you know what he could be planning to do with the children?" Reece was angry and worried anytime the children were mentioned.

"Depending on the total number of children he takes and the time of the year, it could be a number of things."

"What does the time of year have to do with it?" I didn't like the direction he was taking this. I knew that Edmond didn't have any pure intentions, but I had an extremely ominous feeling now.

"Given the time of year it is, if he has gathered a dozen children, he might be planning on summoning Hektate, the Goddess of Witchcraft. She is especially known for magic, doorways, and hellhounds. If this is the path he has taken, then he is planning an all out war on the world." Crawford's words turned my blood to ice and left me feeling like a weight was sitting on my chest.

I heard the collective gasps from everyone in the room. It seemed that even Eldrige and his travelling group hadn't known the full meaning behind Edmond's actions.

"What kind of time frame are we looking at if that is his end goal?" Dietrich asked in his dignified voice.

"If that is his goal, then we have eight days."

"The night of the full moon?" I asked him, causing him to nod his head in agreement.

"Indeed, Queen Trinity, we will need to find the children before the night of the full moon."

"Why this full moon?" I asked him. "They've been missing for the last two full moons, why this one?"

"Do you know the names of the full moon in March?" He knew I did, all wolves learn them.

"The Worm Moon, Crow Moon, Sugar Moon, and Windy Moon."

"Those are all correct, but you are missing one." Crawford didn't sound chastising or upset, it was like he knew I wouldn't know the last name he had in mind.

"What is the name she forgot?" Vincent asked curiously.

"The Chaste Moon." It was a simple name and I didn't understand the meaning around it.

"What does that have to do with anything?" Shane asked brusquely.

"The Chaste Moon is when those who practice magical arts are supposed to sow seeds of new thoughts, mentally as well as in their gardens, but it is also the moon that signifies innocence."

"Innocence?" Shawn looked scared as he said that, like he expected the next line that would be coming out of the warlock's mouth.

"What better represents innocence than children? Children are inherently pure and innocent, as long as they are not yet teenagers. The younger the better in this case. And with the blood of children he will be able to entice the Goddess to return to the world. If he is strong enough and casts the right spell, then he can control Hektate and bend her to his whims."

"He plans to bring destruction to everyone who opposes him?" My voice was steady but it felt like my world was trembling.

"It seems so."

I feared just what he might be planning to do. Did he truly want this to happen? Was this what he really had planned? I couldn't chance it, we needed to hurry and find the children. But while I thought these things, and while I listened to Crawford speak, there was an explosion from outside the building.

The explosion was big enough that it shook the building around us.

"What the devil was that?" Crawford seemed shocked beyond words. I heard a maniacal laughter respond to the question.

"So glad you're all in one place. I did not think that my ungrateful bitch of a daughter would be here with the worms from the magic council." Edmond's voice rang through the entire building.

"What do you want, Edmond? Have you decided to turn yourself in?" Crawford's face was twisted in rage. I immediately thought that Crawford had double crossed us.

"Vincent." I called out to him quietly.

"Yes?" He ran to my side to see what it was I needed amid the chaos of the room.

"Have you looked at these people with your ability? Are they against us?"

"No, Luna, they appear to be fully on our side and against Edmond. There is no malice in their hearts toward us. He has spoken only the truth, despite his initial anger."

"When did you scan him?" Reece asked.

"Both in the yard and just after the explosion." He was as efficient as ever, that was for sure.

"Good, then we don't have to worry that this was a set up." Reece nodded to him. "Trinity, you stay out of the way while I handle this."

"I can help too, Reece." I tried to argue with him.

"NO!" He nearly shouted the words. "I will not risk you or our baby. Please, stay out of the fight." He was begging me and I couldn't argue against protecting my baby as well.

"Fine, I will stay out of the way."

"Thank you." He kissed my head and called David, Rawlynn, Jackson, and Shane over to me. "Protect her, don't let anything happen to her." His order was received by everyone, including Jackson, as they all nodded their heads in agreement. "Juniper, Griffin, come here and stay with them." He was meaning to protect everyone that hadn't been trained to fight, but he also knew that if it came down to it, Griffin and Juniper would fight for me.

I watched on in horror as half the building around me exploded. We had not been paying attention to what the warlocks were saying around us. But apparently, talks between Crawford and Edmond were not going well.

"You will be the first to die as my days of ruling this pathetic world comes to fruition." Edmond sounded insane, more so than usual.

"We will not let this slide." Crawford snapped at him. "This is not how we are to use our magic."

"You know nothing." Edmond bellowed as the debris from the destroyed building began to swirl around the room amid the purple smoke that was beginning to fill it. "You may now face the first wave of my army." There was laughter in his voice as a horde of misshapen beasts flooded into the room.

The monstrosities looked like a cross among different species of super naturals. There was one that was a bear and bird combined. I saw a merman and feline combination among several others that I simply couldn't describe. They were somewhere in between their human and animal forms, more beast like in appearance but human enough to walk and throw punches. And the sounds coming from them were the most pitiful, painful screeches I had ever heard. Immediately I was sickened and saddened at the same time. What did he do to these people?

I watched as the fighting started. Monsters leaping toward the warlocks and wolves alike. The guards and warriors were responding with fierce determination and a desire to protect us all. There were nearly five dozen monsters in total, there were nine among our party that were not busy protecting me and the others. On top of them, there were at least three dozen warlocks swarming around the room. We were still outnumbered, but not by as much as we could have been. I wasn't worried at all.

That was, until I saw another dozen monsters break through the side of the house, and they were lumbering straight toward me. I saw a look of shock wash over Juniper's face. It was matched by the look on Griffin's face, he was a healer not a fighter. The guards around us readied themselves, knowing just what they needed to do. Any moment now, there would be a full out battle in our secluded little corner. I had tried to stay away from the fight, but the fight literally came to me. Reece might be mad, but I had no choice now.

Chapter 177 - Reece - Battle At The Aerie Convento (VOLUME 2)

11-14 minutes

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Reece

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I had just told my little mate to wait with the guards I assigned her when the building exploded around us. The beasts I saw flooding into the room was nearly enough to turn my stomach. The sight of them was sickening, but I needed to protect my mate.

The warlocks around us were casting spell after spell toward the beasts, but the magic didn't seem to be doing as much damage as I thought it would. I had to wonder if Edmond had given them some kind of shield.

No matter, I would still rip them apart. I was stronger and faster now than I was even after my Little Bunny had placed a mark on me. Once I had been given the position as commander of the Goddess Guard I could feel the power coursing through me. And that power wasn't just in my wolf form either. I leapt, still in human form, toward a beast. It was the size of two people, twice as tall and twice as wide but with no intelligence what-so-ever. It seemed that Edmond was controlling them with that swirling purple fog he seemed to enjoy using.

When I met the half wolf half deer beast mid leap I latched onto its arms. I felt the immense strength that it had, but it was nothing compared to mine. I pulled its arms down easily, forcing them to its sides. While I pushed those hideous limbs out of the way I heard the snapping of bones, but the creature just didn't seem to notice.

Even with two broken arms, the monster continued to come toward me, fighting me. When I looked into its eyes I saw an empty soulless expression. Whatever Edmond had done to these people to make them this way had killed everything about them. It seemed like he was taking not just children recently, but people from every shifter class there was.

These were my people. I was their king, but I couldn't protect them from this psychotic warlock. I had not known of their existences, nor their suffering. But now here I was seeing the outcome of their lives. I was fighting against my people and I could do nothing about it. Right then and there I vowed I would not let my people suffer like this ever again.

"I'm sorry I couldn't stop this from happening to you. All I can promise now is to end your suffering torment and do what I can to stop it from happening again." I said to the beast before me just as I finished yanking on its arms, separating them from its body. Still I heard nothing from the creature.

The thing was still coming at me, its head lowered so that its horns were pointing toward my head. I knew I needed to finish it off, I couldn't dwell too long with one monster with so much going on around us.

I swung myself up behind the thing and latched onto its neck. I yanked him down to be on my level. I was not a short man by any standards, but this thing dwarfed me like I was a child.

With the beast bent over backwards, allowing me to plant my feet on the floor for leverage, I pulled hard. The sounds coming from the thing were beyond terrible. The snapping of bones and ligaments.

The tearing of flesh, sinew, and cartilage. These sounds reverberated in my ears as I pulled hard on the things head.

The moment the monster's body separated from its head I heard its gurgling screeches cease. Also, I was sprayed along one side of my body, head to foot, in the spray of blood and other fluids that arced from its falling body.

I scanned my immediate area for my next target, and that's when I felt my stomach drop to the soles of my feet and my heart stop beating altogether. There were a dozen monsters bearing down on the group I had left my mate in. These were not part of the original group that came in, but another set that had just broken through the side of the building.

On top of the monsters, there was debris falling all around them. I had left them in a corner, hoping that they would be safer that way. Now, with the falling debris and the monsters approaching them they had nowhere to escape.

"Noah!" I called out to him as I ran to protect my mate.

Noah knew instantly what I needed, what I wanted, and started racing to help. He was almost as covered in blood and gore as I was from the creature he had just finished off, but unlike me he was in his wolf form.

I leapt, quick as lightning, onto the back of another beast, this one seeming to have part of an eagle shifter as it reached toward me with hands covered in large talons. I would not let these beasts hurt my mate or my baby.

The monster's neck snapped under my arms and stopped moving. It slumped to the floor, falling out of my grasp as I sought another target. I would need to kill them as quickly as I could to protect everyone.

One after another Noah and I helped David, Otsana, and Shane destroy the monsters. We had cut their numbers in half and were steadily moving on to the others when I heard Juniper scream out.

"Get back!" One of the creatures was close enough to grab her now. She and Trinity had moved to the side to avoid the corner a little as the battle was waging around them.

"Back the fuck off." I heard my mate scream as she pulled Juniper toward her and narrowed her eyes. A second monstrosity had joined the first and they were bearing down on them. I watched as my mate sent a pillar of flame from her hand to the creature in the lead, causing it to fall to the ground and begin to burn instantly.

The second monster was still closing in just as a third and fourth started looming from their side. The girls were still facing the corner where the first two beasts were lumbering at them and hadn't noticed the addition of the creatures from the initial attack squad.

"Trinity!" I yelled in panic. I was running toward her, my mind nearly blank from worry when I put a shield in front of her to block the attack from the monsters.

"Luna!" David had noticed her situation as well and was at her side in an instant. He pulled the two of them aside just as all three monsters converged on the spot. The one in front bounced off my shield as

the other two ran headlong into the wall. I had just leapt onto the back of one, Noah on the one beside me, when I heard the sound of the world falling around me.

It wasn't the world really, but it might as well have been. I turned to look in what seemed like slow motion as everything around me moved too quickly. Just as I turned my head and looked at my mate along with David and Juniper I saw what had made that sound.

Even David with his supersonic speed didn't have the chance to react quickly enough when he noticed what had happened. It seemed like we were all just doomed to watch it happen and not be able to stop it.

A chunk of the ceiling, at least six feet in diameter, had been hanging down. Sagging from the weight and the missing support of the building around it. That chunk of sagging wood and plaster and whatever else was right above them when they had moved out of the way. But when the creatures smashed into the wall, it was knocked loose. It didn't have that far left to fall, and in the blink of an eye it had crashed down onto them.

"NO!" I screamed as I finished the creature in my hands off as I started to run toward them. It had just started to move as David was pushing it off them when a gust of wind swirled with purple smoke. Inside that smoke were two more of those beasts.

That smoke dropped both of those large, looming figures right onto the fallen chunk of the ceiling. They regained their balance as David crashed back to the floor. The beasts ripped through the debris beneath them as if they were being guided by Edmond directly.

I ran as fast as I could, forced to watch as I made my way to my mate's side. The creature on the left had reached her first. It pulled her from the rubble and lifted her up.

My Little Bunny was dangling in its grasp, blood smeared across her face.

"Trinity!" I yelled her name again.

I was not the only one converging on the scene. Gabriel, Dietrich, and Crawford were all running as fast as they could along with Noah and myself. Still, we weren't quick enough to stop the second beast from landing half a dozen blows to her in quick succession.

All of this had happened in less than a minute. My Little Bunny had been dazed from the ceiling landing on her head, then the large, heavy beasts slamming down on top of them. She had not recovered herself enough to react. But I was trying hard to get to her.

The five of us slammed into the beasts at the same time. Just after, I noticed everyone else running our way. They had all been busy with their own fight when this horror scene played out in front of me.

I reached for my wife, to snatch her out of the air, but she moved before I could get to her. Shawn had used his telekinesis to guide her safely to the floor. Griffin stopped at her side as soon as she was laying down. Shawn then used his powers to lift the debris off David and Juniper who had still been trapped under the beasts. They, like my mate, had lost consciousness when the enormous creatures with their immense weight crashed down onto them. Paul ran to his mate's side as Otsana reached David. Together the two of them pulled the unconscious duo out of the way and over to Griffin.

Dietrich went to assist Griffin as the rest of us finished off the last of the beasts. The ones that had landed on the debris were the last two. All the others had been taken care of by our group and the warlocks alike.

There were several injured parties among the group, but none so as Trinity, Juniper, and David. I watched as Paul and Otsana both caressed their mate's faces. Fear, sorrow, and anger were written in every line of their face and the set of their eyes. I wanted to pull Trinity into my arms, to hug her and find a way to make things better, but I had to let Griffin work.

"Step back please." He told the others who had crowded around. Otsana and Paul were pulled back by Jackson and Cedar respectively. I was forced to just watch on as Griffin's healing light emanated around the three unconscious figures.

It was a heartbreaking few minutes that felt like they lasted for an eternity. But I watched, ever vigilant, as the bloody gash on the side of my mate's beautiful face closed and left nothing, not even a scar. The blood remained but not the injury.

The same thing happened to the scratches and bruises. And the place where a part of the ceiling had penetrated her abdomen, something I was too blind to see before. It seemed to push itself out as the wound closed with the magic Griffin was using.

Within minutes, they were all healed and I saw their eyes fluttering. All three of them were waking up.

"David." Otsana called his name as she ran to him and kissed his cheek.

"Juniper." Paul did the same, pulling his wife into his arms.

I was right there with them, pulling my Little Bunny into my arms and onto my lap.

"Baby, are you alright?" I asked her, worry still thick in my voice. I watched out of the corner of my eye as Dietrich leaned in close to whisper to Griffin. I didn't care what they had to say to each other, I was just happy to have my family in my arms.

"Reece." My Little Bunny called out from in my arms.

"Shh. I'm right here sweetheart." I assured her.

"Reece." She said my name, more urgently this time. "I don't feel it." She was beginning to cry now.

"Feel what, Little Bunny? What's wrong?" I felt the tension and fear begin to wash over me again.

"The baby. I don't feel its warmth in me anymore." I looked up to see Griffin and Dietrich looking at me with sad and angry eyes.

"I'm sorry, Reece, I couldn't save it."

"I am sorry, but its light is gone."

"No." I shook my head trying to force what they were saying to be untrue. "No. Tell me you're lying. Tell me it's a cruel joke. Please." I pleaded with them.

"I'm sorry." Griffin hung his head.

"No." The tears were streaming down both my face and my Little Bunny's. "No."

Chapter 178 - Reece - The Battle's Conclusion (VOLUME 2)

9-11 minutes

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Reece

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I sat there, with my world crumbling around me. Cradling my mate in my arms as the tears flowed freely down my cheeks. The room around us was somber and quiet. I didn't know what to do for my wife at that moment.

"I failed you." The words shook as my voice trembled.

"No, it was my fault." She was crying as well, I could feel her shaking in my arms as we held each other. "You told me to not risk it, to stay out of the fight-."

"You listened to me, the fight went to you, you didn't chase it."

While I did my best to get through this most personal of moments in a room full of people, there was another of those maniacal laughs. The laughter was followed by a cold, mirthless voice.

"Aww, did the poor bitch lose her whelp." The laughter that followed was sickeningly sinister. "Guess I accomplished something already."

"You son of a bitch." I snarled.

"No, that would have been your useless child. But I saved you from that disappointment. You really should be thanking me, boy. "

"I should be ripping your damn head from your body right now." I snapped at him, the growl in my voice growing more and more fierce.

"Perhaps I should just send another wave of my new army after you." He chuckled as his purple smoke started to swirl around once more.

"Not again." Eldrige's voice came from somewhere across the room.

Another swarm of those monsters could be seen swirling within that smoke. Wherever they were, it was clear that Edmond was bringing them to us. He wanted to continue his assault in hopes of overwhelming us.

Just as it looked like the monsters might actually step out of that swirling purple cloud, a swarm of black SUVs pulled into the driveway. The calvary had arrived, so to speak. I wasn't worried about handling those monsters personally, but I needed to get my Little Bunny out of here and somewhere safe. She had been through enough for today already.

"We shall finish this later." Edmond's voice sounded angry and full of rage. He had apparently judged the situation to not be in his favor. "Just know, you stand no chance against me." His icy cold words disappeared along with that swirling cloud of purple smoke.

Zeek, the man who got out of the vehicle first ran toward me where I knelt on the ground holding my wife in my arms.

"Alpha, what happened?" He was looking around the destroyed building and the bloody bodies lying scattered across the whole room. He turned to look at Griffin, who was healing the warlocks. Zeek's expression was one of shock, and disbelief.

"We've just been through an attack. The man who we're after sent these monstrosities after us." I was a little more sharp tongued with my response than I should have been. I knew that the others had arrived as soon as they could, but I still had to wonder if they had gotten here just a little sooner, would my baby still be alive? Would it still be growing strong in my mate's womb? I thought that it would.

"Is everyone alright?" A member of the Sentinelle came up next, looking apprehensively at the blood covered queen I was holding for him and all the others to see.

"We're all fine." My words held a hidden meaning. I hadn't announced to the pack yet that Trinity was pregnant, so there was no need for me to tell them all that my unborn child had just died inside of its mother. Or that I wasn't sure how my wife was going to take this tragedy.

"With all due respect, Sir, what should we do now?" The Sentinelle spoke again. There was nothing at all wrong with his tone of voice, but I was angry, so very angry right now. I didn't know that losing my baby was ever a possibility. And I had lost so many members of my family over the years, but this was the hardest thing that I had ever faced out of all the losses. To lose my child, my flesh and blood, a piece of me and my mate combined, to have it taken from us before we even got to meet them, it was like a knife in my heart twisting constantly.

"What do you mean? Why do you even ask me that right now?" My roaring voice scared the man and all those standing behind him.

"Reece." My Little Bunny put her hand against my cheek. "Calm down, it's not his fault." Her cool fingers calmed me instantly, and that was when I realized she was cool to the touch, was she in shock? Or was this from her anger that raged like mine?

"Trinity, are you alright sweetheart?" I asked her quietly.

"Me? You're the one I told to calm down." She gave a fake half smile. She was forcing herself to hold emotions in right now.

"You're cool to the touch. Are you ok?" I asked her again.

"I am? I didn't notice. Actually I'm kind of numb right now." At her words I pulled her in closer, hugging her to me and sharing my warmth with her.

"I think we should call it a day for now." Gabriel broke the tension that was building all around. "Clearly, My King, it has been quite the busy, and emotionally taxing day. We have another week we can spend on this case, right? So, let's retire for the evening and get ourselves settled down first."

"Where are we going to stay?" Juniper asked in a small, weak voice.

"I will call and make a reservation somewhere." Noah had shifted back and covered himself after the arrival of the group. "Please, just give me some time."

Ten minutes later, Noah had returned, fully dressed, with information regarding our accommodations. He had even booked rooms for the warlocks that had just had their home destroyed.

"How did you find all these rooms?" Carter asked him when he came back with the information.

"It's late March, peak travel season is over."

"Huh, I guess that works." Carter responded.

"What are we going to do about this place?" Vincent asked, concerned for those losing their home.

"I actually have an idea for that." Cedar walked forward. "It would be a team effort." He was looking at Noah as he spoke.

"What is it?" Noah asked him confused.

"Everything a house or building like this is made of essentially comes from the earth in a way. I have an ability to control plants and trees, and you rock. Between us we cover the primary elements of this place. If we work together, we may be able to reform it."

"Seriously?" Noah looked doubtful.

"It's just a hunch, and it might not work, but-."

"It's worth a shot." I finished for him. "I think you should try it at least."

"Yes, Sir." They both answered in unison.

The now very large group piled out of the building. With help from Shawn, all the corpses were removed from the inside. And finally, Noah and Cedar put their hand on the outside of the structure.

"Remember, just tell the elements that you want to reform and remake what was here before."

"Do you think it will listen?" Shane asked sarcastically.

"Shut up you moron." Shawn dropped a floating snowball on his brother's head.

"Shane, my boy, have you ever heard of water memory? Well, perhaps it works the same with earth elements as well."

"I never thought of it like that." He seemed embarrassed like he was the only one who got a question wrong on a big school test. I hadn't thought of that either, I was just thinking that my team was very talented.

I watched as the two of them closed their eyes and began to concentrate. They both started emanating an interesting aura. Cedar's aura was a light earthy green while Noah's was the color of sandstone. The two auras, first side by side, began to swirl with each other.

The auras didn't mix or blend together. Instead the colors moved among each other in a push and pull pattern, like they were working in tandem. And as I watched, awestruck, the building began to reform itself. The fallen debris was lifted by roots that grew from within the walls and floors themselves.

The stone materials from the outer walls blew together in a giant cloud of dust to reshape the bricks that had crumbled into nothing. Everything that was made of wood and stone reshaped itself and looked brand new.

"Huh, do you not recognize glass as coming from stone?" My Little Bunny asked her cousin as she looked at the building, missing several windows but otherwise looking whole again.

"They're glass." Noah told her.

"Glass is made from sand, which is made from rock." She laughed at him. "You're skipping a major element here."

"I'll work on it." He glared at her. "But still, we reformed the place, that's good enough for now."

"Indeed it is, and we appreciate it very much." Crawford told him with a smile on his face.

"Now, shall we go now?" Gabriel suggested as he looked at the still shell shocked mate in my arms.

"Yes, let's go."

We all got into the SUVs, the warlocks in their personal vehicles. I had instructed Ken, the pilot, to fly somewhere out of the way when we had arrived, so thankfully the helicopter was not damaged, but the resort we were going to was close enough to not warrant taking such a drastic transport there.

This was definitely not how I expected today to go. This outcome was nowhere near my thoughts when we left this morning. And then, to top it all off, there was the tragic outcome. Yeah, we won the fight, but Edmond got away and my child was taken from us before we even got to know them. I just wanted to get my mate somewhere quiet and private. Somewhere we could help each other through this hard time.

Chapter 179 - Trinity - At A Loss (VOLUME 2)

8-10 minutes

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Trinity

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Since the moment that I realized I could no longer feel that little flickering warmth inside me, that little light of life I associated with my little Jelly Belly, I felt like I was numb both inside and out. Something was missing. Something was broken. I had failed.

I felt like I had been spiraling out of control, and if it hadn't been for Reece's constant touch I would have already lost it all completely. The entire time we rode from the Aerie Convento I sat on his lap. I didn't want to sit in my seat beside him.

I needed to feel his arms wrapped around me. I needed him to ground me. I needed his warmth.

When we got to the hotel resort we were going to stay at he placed his hand at the small of my back, guiding me as we walked. He never let his hand leave me. I don't know if it was because he knew I needed him, or if he needed me just as much. But I didn't care, I was happy for his touch.

To say that the hotel was surprised to see us was a bit of an understatement. They watched as several people got out covered in gore. And then there was the sheer number of people.

In total, there were nearly a hundred of us with the Warlocks included. And there were so many matching big, black, expensive SUVs. The sight of all of us showing up at once was most definitely overwhelming.

I honestly hadn't thought about what we would look like. A very large group of mostly very tall, and mostly very handsome, men showing up like this. What exactly did they think was happening?

But, nevertheless, I had a sudden inspiration. I asked Noah quickly first to find out what he had said to them.

"Noah, did you tell them anything when you made the reservation?" I wanted to know what he told them when he had requested enough rooms for a hundred people.

"Just that Alpha Corps was in need of a large scale reservation on very short notice."

"Nothing else?" I whispered. "Didn't they ask what we needed so many rooms for?"

"They asked, but I simply chose not to answer." He was infuriating at times.

"Seriously." I rolled my eyes at him. "Urgh." I growled impatient at him. "Let me handle this."

"What are you going to do?" Reece asked me curiously.

"Just watch." I winked at him with a grin.

I saw the manager of the resort coming our way. Noah, Reece, and I were in the lead after all. He looked a little nervous, but confidence was still shining through. I could tell he was really good at his job. Also, based on his scent, I could tell he was as human as they come.

"Good afternoon." He smiled when he was close enough to us. "My name is Francis and I'd like to welcome you to The Tiger Lily Resort." His smile didn't falter but I saw his eyes widen when he noticed the blood that covered both me and Reece.

Good afternoon Francis, I'm Mrs. Trinity Gray." I included my full name so that he would know to associate me with the group that Noah had called about. "I am sorry for this unplanned interruption. We had intended to stay elsewhere, but unfortunately there was an incident with filming." I chuckled lightly with the lie.

"Filming." He turned his head.

"Yes, quite unfortunate really. But while filming the big fight scene, the house we were using was damaged and we won't be able to stay there."

"Oh, you're filming a movie?" He asked, realization washing over his face.

"Yes, but we've been keeping it under wraps, you see. So I would appreciate it if you were to not let this matter slip to anyone." I winked at him. "This is going to be a big hit and we can't let secrets out. You know how it is." He looked confused but nodded like he understood all the same.

"You can count on us." He was still nodding with a broad smile. "We deal with all sorts of celebrities and high profile corporations. And I know that there isn't a business in Colorado that hasn't heard of your husband."

"Is that so." Reece's deep voice purred next to me. "I didn't know I was that famous." He was grinning at the man who obviously had no idea that the man he had just been talking about was standing in front of him. That reaction from Francis actually made me giggle for a brief second.

"I guess your reputation is more famous than the actual you." I slid in close to him to feel his warmth as that brief expression of true emotion which had been quick and fleeting had left me feeling even emptier and more numb in comparison.

"Mr. Gray, I apologize. I knew of you, but I have never had the chance to meet you before. I am honored to be able to host you and your group. Please, do not hesitate to ask for anything." Francis seemed a little subservient after that, it really made me wonder how people in the business world view my husband.

Francis summoned a gaggle of excited employees. It seemed that they were excited to be in the presence of Reece. How well known was he outside of our own city? The employees were laden with guest pamphlets and key cards. They had already assigned Reece and I to a large, luxurious suite, but they asked for us to assign any other 'important' rooms.

Reece assigned rooms of importance to people based on their status and importance to us. So the high ranking warlocks were assigned better rooms, as were my personal guards and friends. And of course those with mates present were given rooms to themselves, so Juniper and Paul were together, as were Rawlyne and David, and of course Dietrich and Shawn.

I had expected Shawn to look nervous and scared or embarrassed at least. But no, he just acted like it was nothing. I was really glad to see his relationship progressing well. No one should have to deal with too much stress in their relationship, trust me on that one.

It didn't even take ten minutes before we were all assigned rooms and we had all scattered to our respective places. The representatives among the group would come and get orders from Reece and myself later, but for now we just needed to relax and get cleaned up.

But there was something that I just hadn't calculated. I hadn't thought about the fact that I was only holding it all together because there were so many people around us. But as the group dwindled down and we made our solitary journey down the hall to our suite, I realized it wasn't just Reece's warmth I had come to rely on today. No, it was the warmth of everyone together.

Everyone who had been present and knew about the baby. Those who lost almost as much as I did with the loss of my baby. Juniper, Noah, Carter, Vincent, David, Shawn, Shane, Dietrich, Paul, Cedar. All these people were part of my daily life. They knew that they would be part of my child's daily life.

They were excited and happy for the upcoming changes. Their excitement had been providing me with a sense of calmness since I found out about the baby. And they were just as devastated that this life had been snuffed out.

The shared pain and sorrow they felt along with me was helping me to cope this whole time. I felt the loss of their shared feelings very distinctively. It was like I had a blackhole sucking away all my emotions.

I knew that Reece was just as upset as I was. I could feel the tension, the anger, the sadness, the sorrow. He had been so excited for everything to do with the baby. I knew he wanted to be a dad, but I had destroyed that dream of his.

The longer I was without that warmth, without the others, the more I began to shake. That numb feeling was spreading and it was like I would never be warm again.

I didn't even notice it when Reece gently put his hand on my shoulder and tried to get my attention. I paid no mind as he guided me to sit on a wooden chair near the sliding glass door. I hadn't even registered what the room actually looked like. I was beginning to run on autopilot.

I was at a loss. I usually knew at least a little of what I should be doing at all times. Most of the time I was quite capable. But now, I didn't know what to do, what to say, what to feel. I was broken, because I failed in my most important job ever. How could I ever save anyone, protect anyone, if I couldn't keep my baby safe?

Chapter 180 - Both - How To Heal A Broken Heart (VOLUME 2)

13-17 minutes

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Reece

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"Trinity?" I called her name for the fifth time and still there was no response. I was losing her, she was spiraling and I didn't know what to do. I had memories flashing through my mind. My mom, rapidly moving beyond my reach. My father gone. My family decimated. I couldn't handle that again. I wouldn't survive it this time, not without her.

"Trinity?" I called to her again, my voice cracking and shaking. "Baby please look at me." I tried one more time to get her attention as I shook her.

"Huh?" She finally responded, like she hadn't even heard me before at all. "What's wrong Reece?" She asked me like nothing had happened at all. Like she had not just been sitting there staring off into nothingness for several minutes.

"Trinity, baby, are you alright?" I asked her, trying to get her to open up to me.

"Yeah, I'm fine." She tried to smile but it was clearly a grimace. She was not ok, but she was trying to be, for me.

"Honey, please don't do this."

"Don't do what?"

"Don't lie to me, please. Don't pretend to be alright. Just talk to me." I wanted to be upset, to hurt like her, but I wouldn't let myself because she needed me to be strong for her. I needed to be her rock, her support, her strength. Whatever she needed from me I would do it. I couldn't lose her. I knew I would never survive it.

She looked at me with shock filled eyes. Either she thought she was a better liar than that, or she really was blocking out what she was truly feeling.

"Reece, I don't know-."

"It's fine to be upset, Little Bunny." I held her in my arms. "It's fine to be mad, and angry, and want to kill Edmond even more than you did before." I chafed my hands up and down over her arms, trying to warm her through the friction. "It's fine to be sad, and hurt, and want to cry. Trust me, I am feeling all those, but just don't leave me behind. Please."

"Leave you behind? What do you mean?" She was confused, at least that was genuine.

"Don't go into the darkness. Don't get lost like my mom did. Please, baby, just talk to me instead of holding it all in."

"Reece?" She seemed to be thinking about what I said, about everything, based on the look on her face. "I don't want to go into the dark. I never want that. But I just felt numb after everything today." I watched as a tear slowly fell down her cheek, trailing a path through the dried blood on the right side of her face.

"I'm going to be here, to anchor you. I am going to be whatever you need me to be. I love you too much to live without you." I was on my knees in front of her, holding her hands tight in my own.

"Reece, I'm sorry." She threw her arms around my neck and hugged me tightly. "I'm not going anywhere. Just stay with me and I will stay with you."

"Always." I breathed into her ear as I wrapped my arms around her waist.

~~

Trinity

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Reece was being especially attentive and emotionally supportive. I didn't think that he would be that open with me. I knew he was hurting too, but he was more worried about me than he was himself.

"Reece, aren't you upset as well?" I asked him as I pulled away, breaking the hug but keeping my hands on his shoulders.

"I'm devastated, it's the hardest thing I have ever had to hear. But if someone were to tell me you were gone, I would be destroyed. I can't survive without you." He cupped my cheek as he spoke, rubbing his thumb over my cheekbone as he looked me in the eyes.

"If it came to saving me or our baby, which would you choose?" I asked him, curious to hear his answer.

"You can't ask me that right now." He seemed scared of that question. "Our baby didn't have a chance to survive without you."

"True, but if it did?" He was really not excited to hear that question.

"I don't know." He ran his hand through his hair, or he tried to since half of it was stiff with dried blood and other things. We were both a mess. "Let's not talk about this right now, ok. We need to get cleaned up."

At those words he picked me up and carried me into the bathroom. This kind of luxury resort had lots of amenities, and a killer bathroom. Not as awesome as mine, but hey not everyone could have my place. It had a waterfall shower big enough to fit four people so it would be just perfect for the two of us. And there was a large tub that we could soak in together, given that we were fine with being very close.

Reece set me down in front of the sink and started the water in the shower. I would have loved to soak in the tub. I would feel better after a nice long soak. But as I was currently covered in blood and dust and Reece was covered in gore, that would not make for a pleasant bath. Maybe next time.

While Reece busied himself with getting everything ready for the shower I looked at myself in the mirror. There was blood all over the right side of my head, dried in my hair and smeared down my cheek and neck. My light blue sweater that I had chosen to wear today was covered in dust and dirt that ranged from the white of plaster to the blackish brown of true dirt. There were also smears, and splatters of blood all over my arms. As for my top, in the middle of the belly area, there was a hole about two inches wide where something had pierced through me and had probably been partially responsible for me losing the baby. My black jeans made it hard to see any of the filth, but I felt the stiffness of the dried blood running down both legs.

I don't know how badly I had been injured. I don't know what all happened to me after David pulled us away. But I know that it was bad. I don't remember exactly when I lost consciousness, fully or partially. I remember darkness, pain, yelling, and then nothing. And when I woke up, I was in Reece's arms, the place I most want to be.

"Are you coming?" Reece called out to me, breaking through my thoughts.

"Uh, yeah, sorry I was just lost in thought."

"Come on, get out of these things." He pulled me toward him and started to undo the button on my jeans. There was no seduction or heat to his moves or body, neither of us was interested in anything but getting clean right now.

I let him help me undress. Shedding piece after piece and throwing them directly into the trash. He had already shed his clothes and threw them into the same bin. Filthy or not, covered in a bloody mess or not, I could and would always appreciate the view of this man naked. He was just too hot to ignore.

"Come on, let's get cleaned up." He pulled me along behind him, into the shower. The moment the hot water touched my skin I was able to feel just how cold my body had become. The water felt hot, nearly scorchingly so, but it also felt so nice.

I needed that warmth. My body was craving it right now. The numbing cold that I hadn't noticed at all hit me all at once, causing my body to tremble and shake in Reece's arms as he stood behind me.

"Are you ok?" He asked me as I shivered.

"Just realizing now how cold I was." I told him.

"Come on, get yourself cleaned up, it will help." He grabbed a white washcloth that was hanging nearby and lathered it in soap. The scent that was coming off of it was that of my favorite body wash. The scent was so mild that it was even nearly unnoticeable to shifters like us. Meaning that it would not seem overbearing in any situation. Most of us hated scented soaps, perfumes, and colognes because they were too strong. But there was an entire team of shifters that owned a line of beauty products designed with us in mind. And of course, for humans with allergies that still longed for something scented that didn't bother them.

Reece took that soapy washcloth and began to rub it all across my shoulders and arms. It was like the time he washed me in the tub back at Bryce's pack house. He was thorough and didn't miss anything. This time, however, I insisted on washing my own hair so he took that time to wash his own body as I watched him.

It was still alluring and made me somewhat happy to watch him move his own soap covered washcloth over his sexy, well toned, honied body. His moves were almost hypnotic to me.

I was just standing there, gently rinsing the conditioner from my hair with my eyes glued to his body. As I watched his enticing movement I first felt a slight twinge of pain in my stomach. It was uncomfortable but nothing overly bad so I ignored it.

I had just tilted my head back, to fully rinse the creamy conditioner from my hair when I was wracked with pain. It felt like cramps, only ten times worse. It was the worst thing I had felt, and I had not made it these nineteen years fully unscathed. I curled forward and bent down, nearly sitting on the floor as I wrapped my arms around my midsection.

"Trinity?" Reece crouched down next to me, a look of pure horror and worry in his eyes. "What's wrong Little Bunny? What's happening sweetheart?" He didn't know what was happening to me and was about to panic. I just shook my head, unable to talk. I didn't know what it was either.

I just crouched there, unable to move, unable to talk, wracked with pain. I squeezed my eyes shut in a pathetic attempt to ward off the pain, and ignore it all, but it didn't work. It felt like claws were twisting through and gouging out my insides. Unable to bear the pain any longer I let out a squealing, yelp of pain.

"Ahhh." I breathed after I yelped then hissed through my teeth as I inhaled.

"Baby, what's happening?" Reece asked me again.

"I don't know." I said as I looked at him, my eyes full of tears and pain.

Reece had had his hands on my shoulders, helping to steady me as I crouched in my pain. And just as he moved to help me up I was wracked by another wave of pain that was by far worse than all the rest. But this spasm of pain was accompanied by the sharp scent of blood.

I felt the pain as the blood flowed and poured out of me. The shower now looked like the scene of a murder as the blood swirled around our feet, lingering momentarily before disappearing down the drain. It felt like a lot, but in reality it wasn't as much as it seemed like.

The thing that caught my eye the most was the thing that was not blood. It was a mass that looked like a large blood clot, something any woman who had been through puberty would recognize. But this was no mere blood clot. I finally understood what was happening. My body had just rid itself of the baby that was no longer living inside of me. I had officially miscarried.

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Reece

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I didn't know what to think as I crouched there beside my sweet Little Bunny. She was doubled over in pain, barely able to say three little words. She was holding her abdomen with her arms crossed in front of her. I had so many thoughts going through my head. Was this something residual from the battle?

Was this something that Edmond was doing to her?

Was she going to be alright?

What could I do to help her?

What exactly is happening?

I wanted answers to these questions, but I didn't know how I was going to get them. Then, after she cried out in pain, the floor of the shower was covered in blood as it swirled down the drain. The sharp scent of her blood filled my nose causing anger to well up inside of me. What was I going to do?

"Trinity?" I called out to her as she stared a clump of blood and other things as it sat on the floor of the shower. The last of the blood was washing away, rinsing off of her pale, nearly translucent skin.

I turned off the water and scooped her up into my arms again, holding her close to me as I left the shower and grabbed a towel. I wrapped her in the white cloth that was instantly dyed pink from the remnants of the blood. I would be paying extra for that but I didn't fucking care. I needed to see to my wife.

I carried her to the room and sat her on the side of the bed. She adjusted so that she was sitting on top of the towel rather than the bedspread. I went to grab another towel so I could dry off and get dressed quickly. She seemed to figure out what I was doing and called out to me.

"Reece, stop." Her voice held a note of sadness that I didn't understand.

"What do you mean stop? I'm going to get Griffin." I couldn't fathom what was going on in her head.

"There's no need."

"What the hell do you mean? There's no need, what's that supposed to mean? You're bleeding."

"It's nothing."

"I don't call that amount of pain or the blood nothing." I tried my best to convince her of my point, but she didn't seem swayed.

"Really Reece, I'm alright. There is no reason to get Griffin."

"You told me you didn't know what was happening, but now you tell me you're fine like you do know. What is going on Little Bunny? Tell me, sweetheart, please." I was pleading with her, I didn't like being in the dark.

"I didn't know at first. But I do know now." Her words felt hollow, empty, like she was detaching herself from what just happened, trying to make it less impactful to her.

"What is it?" I knelt in front of her, half dressed with worry clearly spelled out on my face. "What was that just now?"

"Our baby." Those two words confused me.

"What are you saying?"

"I'm saying that was me miscarrying. That was not just blood in the shower."

"So, that clump of blood, that was-." I trailed off as the truth of those words hit me. All she did was nod her head. I wrapped my arms around her, holding her close to me, sharing with her the tragedy of the situation.

How was I going to heal my wife's broken heart? How was I going to make this situation better? How was I going to help her not blame herself or feel like she was to blame?

The only thing that came to mind was Juniper, and her new found healing ability. Griffin had healed her body, and Juniper could heal her mind. But that wouldn't heal her heart. That job fell on my shoulders. And I would bend over backwards, walk through hell, and jump through hoops just to help my mate through this situation.