

Chosen by Fate 181

Chapter 181 - Trinity - Time To Prepare For Another Attempt At Locating The Kids (VOLUME 2)

Trinity

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I never once saw this as something that would happen. But I had to figure out a way to move on, for now at least. We had come here with a clear objective. We were looking for the missing kids, and the warlocks were supposed to be able to help us. Granted their HQ had just been destroyed, but that wasn't our fault. And we had even fixed it.

Honestly, you had to give us props. If it wasn't for us, they might have all died, which they didn't. And even if they had lived, they would not have had the building fixed so quickly. So hey, kudos to my team.

All that excitement, and sorrow, was settling. And I was doing much better after spending a night being held in Reece's arms. Honestly there is nothing like being wrapped securely in the arms of a man who loves you unconditionally. I used to think that I would never have that luxury, but now it was one of my favorite things about life.

After a loud and boisterous breakfast with the whole group in the resort's largest dining room, we met with Crawford and Eldrige to discuss what we needed to do. I had learned that Crawford was the High Warlock, the leader, of the magic council. And Eldrige acted sort of like his second in command. There were a few people on similar levels with Eldrige, but he seemed to be the one that dealt with Crawford the most. Henrich and Lionel were Eldrige's subordinates and acted as attendants in most situations. The hierarchy of the magical world of warlocks and witches was kind of feudal and outdated.

Not to mention that they had a fabled leader as well, just like the wolves, but theirs was a man. The Warlock King, as he was to be called. The magic council firmly believed in a patriarchal society. I much prefer the more female friendly wolf community. Perhaps I was biased here, but you know, I am the Queen after all.

At a quarter to eleven, the two warlocks come into the large suite that I shared with Reece. I had gotten used to this room, after I had finally taken the time to look around and actually see it last night. You know, after my freak out in the shower from my miscarriage. Anyway, it was a good room, really beautiful actually.

When you came into the room, it opened immediately into the large, spacious living room. The design was a mixture of rustic and state of the art. There were a lot of natural stained wood accents, like the beams running across the high ceiling and the trimmings on the windows and doors. But there were a lot of high end and expensive accents as well, such as the white with gray marble countertops at the wet bar and in the kitchen. The floor was carpeted in a super soft and plush, yet neatly short carpet in a neutral beige satin color. The walls, where they didn't have the natural looking wood, were a bright, pristine white. The furniture was done darker to offset the brightness of the room, in shades of dark grays and blacks. The curtains at the windows and the sliding glass door were a soft, silky, sheer white that did little to block the natural light, but offered the privacy one might want when alone in the room.

There were three bedrooms in the suite, we could have housed a good chunk of the guards here with us, but Reece had wanted to be alone. Two of the bedrooms had two queen sized beds with enough matching furniture so that they could house four people at once. The only single room was the master bedroom that Reece and I shared. It spared no expense for comfort or beauty, with a design similar to that of the living and dining areas. The Alaskan King sized bed was soft and more than spacious enough for us. The cozy armchairs next to the fireplace were soft and perfect for curling into so you can think.

We met with the warlocks in the living room, no time to waste here. The two men sat on opposite ends of the large sofa. Reece once again had me on his lap and locked in the circle of his arms, holding me close to him as he took up most of the space on the love seat.

"Good morning Gentlemen." Reece greeted them after they sat. Noah and Vincent took their places behind us in their rightful places of honor and respect as our second in commands.

"Alpha Reece, Queen Trinity." Crawford nodded at us, offering our titles to show his respect. I was glad that he had come around after the initial meeting.

"I will get right to the point." I said, putting power and authority into my voice, causing all five men in the room to look at me. "We need to find the children. That is all that matters right now. And Eldrige told us that he would be able to locate them if we had something personal that belongs to the children."

"Yes, we should definitely be able to help track them down." Crawford was nodding his head to agree with what I was saying. "It is not an easy spell to do with multiple targets. It is something that works best with fewer people to find. And it will most likely be made more difficult with the added resistance of Edmond." I saw Eldrige frown at those words.

"Do you think that you won't be able to do it?" I asked of them both, but hoped for Eldrige's response, if anything his attitude would answer more than anything else.

"No, we will most definitely do it." Crawford answered immediately, Eldrige nodded half heartedly. Hmm, that was interesting. He was definitely nervous.

So, we set about preparing for the spell. Eldrige and Crawford unrolled a large parchment-like sheet that was at least big enough for eight people to stand on without touching anyone else or invading anyone's personal space.

On the sheet was a large magic circle with swirling lines and rune like designs in each corner. It was elaborate and the markings looked strangely like dried blood with it's dirty, rusty looking reddish color. I could tell the cloth was very old.

"What exactly is this?" I asked them, worried about the implications it might have here.

"It is a magic focusing circle. When performing a large, concentrated spell such as this one, using a circle like this will only aid you in your efforts." Eldrige answered, it was one of the very few things he had said since coming into the room today.

"And this works for everyone with magic?" I asked them curiously which elicited a nod from them both as they answered me silently. "If this circle is all that it takes, why not wear the mark to always be at your best?"

"It is exceedingly difficult to make a circle such as this." Crawford answered solemnly. "This is the last circle in existence."

"Huh." It didn't make sense to me. Why would it be difficult? Yeah, the runes would be a little hard to replicate if you didn't have a visual to look at, but if you have the original to go off of it wouldn't be that hard. And honestly, if they wanted an advantage over Edmond, why not find a way to wear the mark and focus yourself when you were not standing on the stationary circle.

I was losing myself in thought again, thinking hard about my questions while Crawford and Eldrige chanted something around the circle. I was only half listening to their words, but I gathered that they were repeating the same thing over and over again.

"Grant us your power and wisdom to strengthen us, your humble children. Lend us aid to do as we must do. Show us the way, oh wise Thoth."

So they were praying to the God Thoth, of magic and wisdom. That makes sense. He was probably a god that was the polar opposite of Hektate. As I stared at the magic circle, thinking about the power focusing runes, I repeated the words they had said in my head. 'Grant us your power and wisdom to strengthen us, your humble children. Lend us aid to do as we must do. Show us the way, oh wise Thoth.'

Once the words had been recited carefully, though silently, I felt a sharp pain on my left shoulder with a quick flash of golden light.

"What was that?" Reece looked at me confused as the light quickly faded.

"I'm not completely sure, but I think it was the application of a new mark."

"A new mark?" Eldrige's voice was a question in and of itself as he looked at me with wonder.

"What kind of mark?" Reece asked me.

"If I had to fathom a guess without looking, I would say that one." I pointed at the cloth the men had just finished chanting around. The dried rusty blood color was now glowing and was the color of fresh blood.

"Really?" Reece's voice was awed.

"Here, look for me." I told him as I slid my jacket down to expose my shoulder.

"Shit." He put his hand right where I had felt the stinging pain.

"How is this possible." Crawford seemed baffled.

"Your guess is as good as mine." I assured him. "But if I can use this to boost my powers, perhaps you all can as well, if you just try."

"I don't think it will be that easy." Eldrige was looking at me reverently, he seemed to be seeing me with rose colored glasses, like I was a saint that could do no wrong in his eyes. "Crawford, Sir, I think we should ask Queen Trinity to assist us in this spell."

"I wouldn't know how to." I assured them.

"It will be more of a sharing of power than anything. I am certain with your power assisting us, we will find the children in no time at all."

"I concur." Crawford was quick to agree with the reverent man. I looked at Reece to see him smiling at me contentedly. I sighed and resigned myself.

"If you think it will help, then I will not say no." I agreed. And so now, I was going to be assisting in magic like this for the first time.

Chapter 182 - Trinity - Unexpected (VOLUME 2)

8-10 minutes

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Trinity

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No sooner had we decided I was to help, and we were just about to get started, did an urgent sounding knock come from the door to the suite. With a raised eyebrow and a curious expression, Noah made his way to the door, the rest of us standing in the room and watching.

At the door was a group of warlocks and witches ranging in age from early twenties to late fifties, by appearances anyway. But I knew that they could be over two hundred and look thirty, so age wasn't the relevant fact here. The thing about them that was the most interesting was the nearly identical looks of shock they were all wearing. Not a single one of them looked calm. Some were practically bouncing up and down from excitement and shock while others merely looked unsettled.

"We are very busy, is there something you need?" Noah asked them in a clipped and curt manner. He was standing at the door with his back to me, so I couldn't see his face, but I knew the potential that Noah had when it came to his frustrations.

"We would like to speak with Crawford momentarily." Henrich, who was standing near the front of the group spoke up.

"Henrich, it can wait." Eldrige glared at the man.

"Sir, this is something that you both should see." Henrich insisted.

"Just let Henrich in, not the others." I told Noah.

"You heard her. Him only, he will relay any info you all need." Noah was acting like a good security agent now. Had he always been like this? I thought he had, but then there were times when it came as such a surprise to me.

Henrich walked into the room and Noah shut the door behind him, directly in the faces of the excitable people outside it. Henrich made his way to where we all stood in a hurried manner. He looked like someone had recently chased him and he couldn't shed that feeling of adrenaline. I saw the look in his

eyes and was instantly curious to what he had seen that would make him scared, nervous, shocked, excited, and happy all at one.

"What is it?" Crawford demanded of him when he had come to a stop.

"Sir, there has been something wonderful, no glorious, that has happened to us all." Henrich was sounding reverent about this mysterious occurrence he was talking about, he sounded like Eldrige had just a few moments ago.

"Well, out with it, just tell me what it is already." Crawford ordered him. With a nod, Henrich began to speak again.

"Yes, Sir. Well, you see, we have all been blessed."

"Blessed how?" Reece asked as I stood next to him, silently watching.

"What kind of blessing?" Vincent added.

"A blessing from the God Thoth. This is most definitely a cause to celebrate."

"I do not understand." Crawford rubbed his temples in agitation. "Please explain everything." He sighed as he looked at the man who was praising the god.

According to Henrich's retelling of the events. He had been waiting in the three room suite, like ours but less extravagant, for Eldrige to return. He had not expected the onslaught of visitors that had rushed to his room in their excitement. They had begun to talk among themselves after the first of them noticed the mark on their right shoulder. That man who had first noticed the mark on himself had ran excitedly to his roommate and showed him. The roommate had one as well.

Those two went room to room, looking for others. As it turned out every single warlock present had the mark now on their right shoulder. It was just like what had happened with my mark. The only difference was that the appearance of their marks had not been accompanied with the light or slight pain.

Eldrige and Crawford looked at each other in mystified confusion. Every single witch and warlock they had brought with them was now marked with the power focusing runic symbols. After a quick mutual examination they saw that they too had the mark. It did indeed look just the designs on the parchment like sheet.

I felt the stares from six sets of eyes on me. My nerves were just as high as ever, but I did my best to not let it get to me. I knew what they were thinking though, and it was mostly likely true. I had given them all the marks.

"Queen Trinity, what exactly did you do?" Crawford asked me with a hint of worry in his voice.

"I only recited the words you were chanting. I said them in my head as you two were activating the circle."

"That was all?" Vincent asked me.

"Well, yeah. But you all know that I said it would be a good idea to wear that circle to make things easier. It was right after that when I said the words. But like I said, I only said them in my head."

"You blessed all my people that are here, that is more than just saying the words inside your head."

I was feeling the weight of his words and skepticism as it bore down on me. The tension in the room was mounting as they all looked at me.

I first noticed something was off while the warlocks had their eyes locked onto me. I saw a rolling cloud of pale blue fog. It was blowing in around us like we weren't even there. I could smell a sweet yet spicy incense filling the fog.

Reece and the guys noticed the fog at almost the same time that I did. Looking out the corner of their eyes first then turning to look at it directly. The last to notice anything were the warlocks.

The fog moved fast and had surrounded us in an instant, but I didn't feel anything ominous about this cloud. Though I was still wary because of the purple fog I had dealt with so recently.

Once everyone was aware of the presence, the fog stopped moving forward. Instead the fog rose higher and high, coalescing into one place. And forming a vaguely man shaped form. As the form cleared I noticed some strange things about its appearance. The man had the head of a bird. He was bare chested but had a circular collar thing around his neck and cuffs on his upper arms. He was holding a staff and an ankh. The only clothing he was truly wearing was a knee length skirt.

"Thoth." Crawford breathed as the man came into better focus. This was an embodiment of God Thoth.

"Greetings my children."

"Thoth." Eldrige said with a little more substance to his voice.

"Is it really you?" Crawford asked. Reece, Noah, Vincent, and I were just watching on with awed looks on our faces.

"Yes, dear son, it is I." He was smiling happily at all of us present.

"What are you doing here?" Crawford asked him.

"I have come to announce my successor."

"Successor? You mean the Warlock King?" Eldrige was smiling.

"Yes, and no." Thoth answered him. "I have never named a successor in these past millenia. The reason being no one has been worthy enough."

"But you believe someone is worthy now?" Crawford smiled.

"I do." Thoth smiled as he looked at me.

"Me?" I asked him, causing him to nod. "You are half witch, that makes you a child of mine as well. But you have not been raised to be like any of my people. You have, however, been raised to accept people no matter who they truly are. You are strong, mentally, emotionally, and physically. Not to mention you are extremely powerful. With you taking the helm, on top of your other roles, you can unite the magic world with the shifter world. With these two lines coming together, you will help to unite the world."

"She will be the Warlock Queen?" Vincent smiled as he looked at me.

"That she is." He smiled at all of us in turn. "I leave it to all of you to spread the word. Queen Trinity, please lead your people with pride and wisdom."

"Wait, what if I can't do this?" I asked him, panicking.

"Much like your shifter goddess, I will always be near to help guide you. After all, I am part of all my children."

Thoth reached out his cloudy, barely there left hand, the one clutching the ankh. He brushed the stone piece in his hand across my forehead and whispered something so quietly I could not hear it, but there was a flash of light blue light and I felt another quick flash of pain in my shoulder, but this time the right one. I could clearly tell it was the formation of more marks.

I just became queen of another whole group of people! Would the surrealness of my life ever stop. What the hell am I going to do now? This was way beyond my capabilities, wasn't it?

Chapter 183 - Trinity - Casting The Spell (VOLUME 2)

14-18 minutes

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Trinity

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The blue fog quickly faded and we were all left stunned by what the apparition had told us. The warlocks were staring at me stunned into immobility.

"Trinity?" Reece said my name, breaking the tension.

"Luna?" Vincent was being formal because of the situation.

"Trin?" Noah dropped all formalities. Three different men, three different ways of addressing me, all people I couldn't imagine my life without. But I wasn't sure how I was supposed to imagine my life anymore. What is my life now? Is it even my life to live?

I just continued to stare at them, stricken with shock, completely dumbfounded, at a loss, whichever way to word it, it applied to me in that moment. I could feel my heart pounding in my chest, a numbing cold spreading again. Then, the three warlocks moved.

First, Henrich broke out in a smile, it spread slowly across his face, brightening and lightening his features. Eldrige moved next, he bowed with his head tilted forward and put his right hand over his heart. And last, Crawford knelt to the ground, his eyes never leaving mine as his gaze was locked onto me.

"My Queen." The three of them said at the same time, as if it had been planned.

The sight of yet more people acting like I was their reverent leader was a little more than I could handle at this moment. I just wanted to get a move on and finally find the children.

"Please, stand up." I told them. "We have work to do." I didn't want to explain to them that I just didn't want to be treated this way. But it was bound to happen wherever I went outside of the pack, I might as well stop complaining about it.

All three men nodded and stood side by side.

"We are at your command, Queen Trinity." Crawford seemed much less oppositional than he had ever seemed to be before. Was it my new status or was he just used to me? Probably the first one.

The magic circle was still active, the lines still glowing red as it hadn't even been ten minutes since they had activated it. They said it was best that Henrich was here, having four of us here was beneficial for the spell in the long run.

Each of us stood on one of the runic symbols at each corner of the sheet. I didn't know the spell, but Crawford said he would be reciting the words, the rest of us were responsible for focusing on the names of the children and our objective.

"Aided by Thoth's guiding light, help us find those we seek. Show us where those that hide from us are waiting unseen. Reveal their location and help us to bring them home. Thoth, great God of Wisdom, please guide us."

I listened to Crawford's words as I thought to myself. 'Help us to find the children. Sammy Taylor, ten years old. Marcus Black, nine years old, Spencer Hall, eleven years old. June Addams, eight years old. Tiffany Justice, eleven years old. Brandon LeMac, twelve years old. Jacob Little, nine years old. Liz Townes, twelve year old. Help me to bring them home Thoth, please. Show me where they are.' I just kept repeating their names and my simple request with my eyes closed as Crawford chanted his words.

I was hoping to get a mental picture of the location the kids were. Something pointing me in the right location. Or maybe a whispered name to the city they were in. But I didn't expect what happened next.

My body felt heavy, like I couldn't stand up any longer, but I fought against the feeling, forcing myself to stand. I faltered a little, leaning forward in a slight slump like I was about to fall asleep on my feet, but I straightened my back and stood up.

When I stood up straight was when I noticed the light breeze on my cheek. I snapped my eyes open and saw that I was standing in the middle of nowhere. Well, it wasn't exactly nowhere, there was a small town, more of a village really, off in the distance. I was surrounded by barren looking farmland. It was either beyond its prime or had yet to be readied for the next growing period. Dilapidated old farm buildings were scattered and falling down around the area.

Nothing was very close to anything else. Even back when this place was new it never had to worry about an overpopulation problem. But, it looked like this place had never seen a boom in its economic growth cycle, it was nearly a ghost town.

I did wonder briefly what I was doing here, but I figured it had something to do with the spell, so I didn't worry too much about it. Instead I focused on what was around me, doing my best to remember everything that I saw. I noticed a faint light flickering in the distance, it looked to be just beyond the small village. The light almost seemed like a beacon, calling me to it, like I was the rescue party and that was the S.O.S. signal.

I did the only thing that felt right, I followed the light. I moved quickly but cautiously, keeping my eyes and ears on everything around me. When I reached the small village I saw a sign telling me where I was: KANORADO POPULATION 154.

Kanorado? I knew where that was. It was a joke of a city with the names of two states meshed together. Kansas and Colorado, hence Kanorado. It was on the same list as places like Texarkana, though that one was more famous.

"Are the kids really just over the state line? They had to be, right. That's what I was here to find out anyway.

I continued to walk forward, following the light. The village of Kanorado was extremely small, it was maybe a quarter of a mile in length. The most lively thing I saw was a highway in the distance that looked like it exited here, but didn't have much traffic getting off to see the sights.

I just continued following that beacon. I had started a good distance from the town and was now beyond it, all the while I saw nothing but this little, old timey Main Street. But now, that light was finally growing bigger and brighter.

I saw a large, but still very old, house begin to form. It looked like it hadn't lived in for many years, but was still standing firm. The house was once white, but had long since yellowed and then grayed with age and time. It was a two story house, obviously beautiful when it was first built, with a lot of windows and a wrap around porch. It should have looked sweet, homely, something you would see in a movie.

Well, you could say it belonged in a movie alright. A horror movie. This place just radiated sinister. I could tell it had a lot of secrets hiding in its depths.

The light was now coming from within that house, deep inside it, guiding me to where I needed to go. I climbed the porch, not leaving a footprint behind but hearing my footsteps and the creaks of the floorboards.

There were no little puffs of smoke when I walked on all that dust, like they teach you to expect in books and movies. When I reached the door I extended my arm and touched the door, it was very much solid. This wasn't like a dream, nothing like what Reece said he experienced.

Pushing the door open I saw a living room filled with furniture that was covered in white sheets and several hundred layers of dust. I could smell that dust, it tickled my nose and made me want to sneeze. There were two halls leading off the room as well as three doors and a large staircase leading up on the right side of the room. The light was not flashing anymore. It seemed I had to narrow the locations down on my own.

I slowly started to explore the house. I checked the doors leading off the room first. The one to my immediate left was a coat closet, which is what I would expect given its position in the room. The door to the far right led to an office. There was a desk, also covered in a sheet, and what looked like a desk chair, also covered in a sheet. I noticed a really old filing cabinet in the corner and nothing else. The room was nearly empty.

The last door leading off the room had a flight of stairs leading down to a basement. I decided to wait on going down for the time being. This door had been in between the two hallways leading off of the living room.

The hall to the left led to a large eat in kitchen. The cabinets doors were hanging off, their hinges long since rusted. The table in the room had no sheet but was covered in dust, dirt and leaves as the window in the back door had been broken by a fallen branch that was still pushing through the frame.

The kitchen held nothing of importance, the only interior door leading off this room was to a small walk-in pantry. It looked like no one had lived here in a long time, given how old and outdated the appliances looked.

Backtracking to the living room, I investigated the other hallway. Down here there was a small bathroom and a bedroom. There was an empty bed frame and a busted chest of drawers in the room but nothing else. The bathroom, which was filthy, at least had nothing broken inside of it.

I once again went back to the living room and made my way up the stairs. The second floor was one long hallway with six more doors. The one to the left was a linen closet, the one on the right was another small bedroom, this one completely empty.

The second door on the left was a small bedroom, nearly the same size as the last one but this one had three pieces of furniture. There was a dresser and mirror, a night stand, and an armoire, all were broken, complete with shattered glass on the floor. The door opposite it was another bathroom. It too was filthy but all the base components were there.

The last door on the left was another storage room filled with empty and broken shelves. The door opposite that was a master bedroom. I only knew this because it had two doors, not just one like the others. Both doors had been removed, one had led to the closet and one to the en suite bathroom for the parents to have for themselves. Yet, in terms of size it wasn't much bigger than the rest of the rooms.

Well, that was everything upstairs and on the main floor, guess I had to check the basement now. I had avoided that because I didn't want to be without any light when I found the kids so I had hoped they were elsewhere.

I started down the stairs slowly, step by step inching my way forward. There were more stairs than I expected, way more. Instead of around a dozen, I had already counted sixty and wasn't done walking down. This was not a normal basement.

When the descent leveled off and I was no longer on stairs but solid ground I had gone down more than a hundred steps. And, contrary to what I had thought, there was light down here. But I seemed to be in a long corridor with another six doors leading off it. And at the far end of the corridor there were two men standing guard. I thought they had seen me as they were staring right at me, but that was when I heard someone coming down the stairs behind me.

Their steps were light, nearly quiet even though they seemed to be moving fast. I turned and saw a man who looked to be in his late twenties coming toward me. He had long black hair that reached to his waist and eyes that matched. He looked like he was only a little taller than me, way shorter than the

men I was used to dealing with. And his build was slight and thin, he didn't look strong, but that didn't mean he wasn't powerful.

I moved to the side, knowing it was too late to hide myself but trying to buy myself time. He had just reached the bottom of the stairs, his eyes on the end of the hall. He never even glanced at me, he just continued to walk on.

I followed after the man, more confident now that I knew I couldn't be seen. Slowly, I crept along after him until he was about ten feet away from the men, and three feet in front of me.

"Lord Phillip, we are honored by your return." The man on the left spoke as they both bowed their heads and knelt to the ground.

"Is there word from his majesty?" The other man asked.

"There is indeed. The wolf pack has arrived and provided aid to the council. The attack was not successful." The man who seemed to be called Phillip answered. I could not see his face but I saw fear wash over the other men.

"Is the king's daughter with them?" The man on the right asked.

"She is, in fact she seems to be leading them."

"But, does the king plan to eliminate his daughter now? I thought he still needed her."

"He does, without her the binding will be impossible. But, we can now send warriors to her home and have them lie in wait." Phillip sneered and seemed to be laughing.

"Yes, Sir." Both of the still kneeling guards answered in unison.

"We will ready the children to be moved tomorrow. And make sure the others fortify the puppetry as well, King Gannon plans to send a horde at the same time we move the children."

"Yes, we will have them ready, Sir." The man on the left answered.

"Good, I will be back by noon." Phillip spun on his heels and I stepped aside out of his way. I didn't need to push the issue of if I was really here or not, I mean doors were solid to me, would I feel solid to these people?

Phillip went up the stairs just as quickly and quietly as he came down. The two guards stood when he was gone. They looked at each other before walking down the corridor. I quickly moved with the, avoiding the two of them so they didn't run into me, or walk through me. That would have been a little too horror movie for me to deal with. The man on the left opened the door closest to the stairs, in the room were about a dozen more people in what seemed like a large barracks. The man on the right opened the middle door on his side and in there I saw four women and the children. There were indeed more than just the eight. It seemed like there were two dozen altogether. All of them looked to be twelve or under.

I had found them and now I would come back for them. I'd save them and get them home to their families.

"Hang in there kids." I said, more to myself than anything else, but the two men who had just opened the doors paused and looked at each other like they were asking if the other made the sound. Oops, time to get out of here.

No sooner had I thought that than I felt a tugging in the back of my neck. It felt like someone had grabbed me by the scruff of the neck and started to drag me. I closed my eyes, afraid I was going to hit the ceiling as the tugging sensation started to lift me off the ground.

The next thing I knew, I was laying in Reece's arms as he crouched next to the magic circle.

"Trinity." He breathed my name and hugged me when he saw me open my eyes. I saw the other men in the room standing around us, watching me closely.

"What happened?" Noah asked me.

"You were there, weren't you?" Vincent asked me.

"Yes, I was. I saw the children, where they are being kept."

"How did you know that she had gone there?" Henrich asked Vincent, uncertain of how he had reached that conclusion.

"It's not the first time something like this has happened to someone in our pack. Plus, what else could explain it?" Vincent's answer seemed simple but it was indeed knowledgeable.

"What exactly happened here?" I asked, curious to know why I was actually laying in Reece's arms. "And how long was I gone?"

"While Crawford was chanting you swayed forward and collapsed. You were only out for like two or three minutes." Noah's answering voice was full of concern for me.

"I almost had a heart attack." Reece whispered quietly into my ear. "Why are you always scaring me like this?"

"I don't mean to." I consoled him with a returned whisper and a quick small hug.

Chapter 184 - Trinity - New Marks And Setting Off (VOLUME 2)

17-21 minutes

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Trinity

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Reece decided to change the positions of us all in the room. He stood with me in his arms and moved us to the love seat from before. The three warlocks sat on the sofa facing us, Noah and Vincent were behind us defensively again, albeit unnecessarily.

"Can you tell us what exactly happened?" Eldrige asked me with a steady and calm voice. I nodded and began my explanation, a play by play account of what had happened from the moment I closed my eyes to focus until I closed my eyes and braced for impact with the ceiling in the basement.

"They were seriously that far underground?" Vincent seemed shocked by that the most.

"Yes, it felt like they were at least fifty or sixty feet underground."

"And you said there were two dozen children?" Crawford seemed confused. "I don't know why he would need so many children. That is more than what the summoning would require."

"How many guards do you think they have there? What kind of fight are we looking at?" Noah wanted to get straight to the strategic planning.

"I know they had at least a dozen and a half warlocks."

"That seems like it will be no problem at all." Henrich sounded confident."

"Don't be so rash." Reece reprimanded him.

"Why, we have nearly a hundred. Their measly eighteen will be next to nothing compared to that." Henrich was smiling with his overconfidence.

"You're missing something." Vincent informed him.

"Precisely." Reece nodded.

"What am I missing?"

"Trinity, you want to tell him?" Reece smiled at me as I sat wrapped in his arms.

"Sure." I nodded at him before turning to face the warlocks. "Phillip told the guards to fortify the puppetry for the horde."

"What's that got to do with us?" Henrich was really beginning to sound stupid now.

"It means that the massive beasts that Edmond sent to attack us yesterday are likely being kept there." Reece was in Alpha mode, calm, cool, and collected. He always seemed so much wiser and stronger when he was in this role

"More of those beasts?" Crawford paled.

"How many more?" Eldrige asked.

"I didn't see them but I am guessing a lot."

"We have to assume that it will be a lot more than we dealt with before. But we have an advantage now." Reece smiled at me as he spoke. "We now have a Warlock Queen who will enhance the abilities of all those that fight with her." I blushed, a slight smile on my face. I loved the feeling his confidence in me gave me. It made me feel strong, powerful, and of course loved.

The Warlocks were dismissed and ordered to spread the news about what had happened. They needed to tell the others about Thoth's message, my being the Queen, and of course that we had found the kids

and would be heading out soon. It was a quarter to one when they left and we planned to leave no later than two-thirty this afternoon. We had a time limit, and it was less than twenty-four hours away.

I was happy that Reece wasn't going to try and keep me away. That I was going to get to help and fight to save the kids. I didn't want to put my foot down and force him to let me go.

We had little to prepare, but there were still some things needed. First was acquiring more vehicles. We would be having more kids to transport, and with all the warlocks going with us we needed to have ample room. So, Reece sent some of the group to get more.

When we had originally set out we had a dozen SUVs, enough seating for maybe eighty-four people. That would have allowed room for the eight or twelve kids we were expecting to be rescued and no crowding among the passengers. But now we already had more than that number of people who would be traveling with the group, and add to that the fact that we had to accommodate twice as many kids. We thought adding another eight SUVs would be a good idea.

I just wish that Reece and the others knew how conspicuous we would all look driving around in a huge ass caravan of big black SUVs. Did they want us to look like some military outfit that was on the move? Did they want to terrify and intimidate the public? Oh well, he would do what he wanted I guess. He probably thought it looked cool.

"Reece?" I called his name shortly after the others had left the room.

"Yeah Little Bunny, what is it?"

"Phillip said he was sending an attack to lie in wait for us. We need to let the others know." I didn't want them being left unguarded and be no better than lambs awaiting the slaughter.

"I have already sent word to the guards back home. As well as calling up The surrounding packs."

"Good. I don't want anything happening to the people back home."

"Too bad you couldn't just talk to them like you do." He smiled at me jokingly.

'You mean like this?' I asked him mentally as I slinked toward him seductively.

"Yup, just like that. Only hopefully without the accompanying visuals." He smirked at me as he reached out his right hand. In a quick gesture he wrapped his hand around my waist and pulled me toward him.

I hadn't intended for an intimate moment between us, just a little teasing. But I couldn't deny the need in either of us when he buried his face in the hair at my neck. His tongue licked up and down, gently caressing my flesh and leaving behind a thin wet line.

I gripped his shirt in my fists as I shivered from the feeling of his hot breath on my wet, sensitive flesh. Goosebumps were beginning to spread their way up my arms just from the feel of him being so close to me. He purred softly when my body had shivered, moving against him.

Next, his teeth clamped onto me, next to the place where my marks started. His gentle but firm pressure caused a quiet moan to escape from between my lips.

I so desperately wanted to continue, but I knew we didn't have the time. We had to leave, and soon. But it was hard, oh so hard, to push him away from me.

"Reece." I said as I placed my hands against his chest. "We can't do this."

"Of course we can." He chuckled against my neck. "We just need a few less layers." He started to push the jacket I was wearing down my arms. "See, it's that simple."

"No, we've got to stop. We need to leave soon."

"There's time for both." He murmured.

"Not if we wanted to savor our time and enjoy it." I teased him. "Come on, let's get ready to go." I pushed him, gently but firmly, causing him to take a small step back.

"Fine." He looked me in the eyes as he answered, the heat in their depths was almost enough to set me ablaze and throw the schedule out the window. Almost. I was still in control though and knew that wasn't an option.

I wanted to be ready to leave before the others. I wanted to show my leadership abilities by setting the example. So it was with that thought that I pushed the desire and need from my mind and started to change for the mission.

But, just as I stripped off the jacket completely, leaving me in nothing but the sleeveless racer back t-shirt I had on under it Reece's eyes went wide with a gasp.

"What is it?" I asked him curiously as I looked over my shoulder at him.

"Your marks." His eyes looked like they were about to pop out of their sockets.

"What about them?" I was confused, we already knew that I had a new one, did he forget that? "Reece, I know there's a new one."

"There's more than one new one." He walked back toward me as I turned to face him. When I looked directly at him he paused, his eyes locked onto my chest.

"Now's not the time to look at my boobs Reece." I reminded him firmly.

"While that would be a very pleasant sight, that's not what I'm staring at." He smirked at me again.

"Then what?" I followed his gaze and saw a little of what he was looking at.

It was just a glimpse, that's all I could see with the shirt on, but there were more of the trinity symbols in a chain moving from left to right. Three lines of them in fact, but they were silver instead of black. It looked like they went all the way across my chest, at my collarbone really. They went from one shoulder to the next.

In a panicked hurry I pulled the shirt off over my head and threw it aside. I saw that I was indeed right in guessing that the chains went from one shoulder to the other. There was still that pawprint and crescent moon on my left collar bone, sapphire blue and silver like before. But now, there was the runic magic circle on my right collar bone, and this one was a dark ruby red color.

Both were attached to the chains marking their way from one shoulder to the other. No longer did the chain just move down my shoulder to the mark on the collar bone. No, they looked like they were pendants dangling from a very large and elaborate necklace.

"Wasn't that mark on my shoulder?" I asked Reece pointing to the symbol on the right.

"It was, but now it's not. It wasn't there anymore when I looked just a moment ago, but there is a different new mark."

"Really?" I asked him, interrupting him.

"Yup." He nodded. "And there are a bunch of marks here now." He pointed to my right shoulder.

My head was spinning, I didn't know what to think. I had so many new marks. What did they all mean?

"Describe them. All of them. Please." I looked at him with shock filling my eyes. He nodded and obliged.

"Let's start here." He said pointing to my left shoulder. "There are some changes."

"What changes?"

"For starters, all the marks on this shoulder are now blue. Next, the pack crest, that was already different from everyone else's, is different again. Before you had a group of wolves leaping and the goddess descending. But now the goddess is suspended in the middle of the moon, the pure white of your skin is visible in rays around her like she is glowing. And now, instead of wolves leaping you have a group of people and animals. There seems to be several different types of animals, like wolves, felines, deer, bears, even birds and rabbits. And the people seem to be wearing cloaks, like warlocks. All of them are seen from the back but you can tell they are looking up at the goddess. Maybe it's because you're the queen to all the warlocks and all the shifters."

"Hmm." I hummed my agreement, unable to think of anything else to say.

"All of the original marks are here. The clasped hands in the triangle, the wolf head with a tree growing out the top inside the oval, the eye inside the square, the different elements inside the plus sign looking shape. All of those are the same, but now there is a new one. It's inside a hexagon and it has what looks like icicles hanging from the top and snow falling around an arrow."

"An arrow?" I asked him, confused.

"Yup, maybe you can form ice arrows now." I could hear the awe in his voice.

"Alright, what else." I encouraged him to continue.

"That is all on this shoulder. But on the right shoulder you have just as many marks. But these ones are all red. In the center is the same crest that is on the other shoulder. That is another reason why I think it changed to incorporate the warlocks. You have a coven now as well as a pack."

"You're probably right." I agreed with him. "What marks are surrounding this one?"

"Well, there are six, and they are connected with silver trinity chains. All the chains are now silver, even the ones on the other shoulder." I nodded to show I had guessed that when I saw the chains on my chest. And it seemed that the marks were the same ruby red as the one on my collar bone.

"This one," he put his finger on a mark just above the crest on my right shoulder, "this one is an ankh, like Thoth had. Then this one is a tornado." He continued to move his finger across my skin, leaving a warm trail in its wake. "This one here is a compass rose, that might have something to do with why you were able to take your consciousness to find the children. And none of these three are inside of a shape like the others. But this one, it is an oval like on the other shoulder, only instead of a wolf head with a tree coming out of it it's a hand with a tree growing out of it. This is the same symbol from the other shoulder, the elements one. And there is another hexagon with an arrow in it, only it shows wind and leaves blowing around it, perhaps meaning wind arrows as well as ice arrows."

"So my wolf powers have an affinity for ice and my witch side has wind?" I asked him with a smile so big it could be heard in my voice.

"Seems like it."

"Well, at least I know all of the marks now." I laughed as I went to move away.

"That's not all of them." He said as he put a hand on my shoulder.

"You said there were only six surrounding the crest." I reminded him of his previous words.

"Yes, but there are marks along here." He said as he ran a finger along my back and across my shoulder blades.

"What?" I hadn't expected that.

"Yup. Just like your chest there are three chains of trinity symbols going from one shoulder to the other."

"That's it?" I asked him as I was about to laugh, that wasn't much.

"Nope." His words shocked me.

"Then what?"

"There are nine symbols back here. In the middle is a large trinity symbol dangling from the chains. It is about the size of my fist and is by far your largest mark. It probably is meant to represent Wolf Queen, Warlock Queen, and Goddess. Trinity, means three after all."

"Yeah." Again all I could really do was nod my agreement. "What else is there?"

"There are four symbols on either side. On the left side there is another elements symbol, I think it means that it is counted among both and therefore extra powerful. Then next to that is another hexagon, but this one with a bow and the word archer. Then a rectangle with a strange looking capital F, it slants to the right a little and the lines lean down toward the bottom. And the last one on that side is a circle with an open padlock, there is a skeleton key inside the padlock as well. To the other side of the Trinity symbol there is another triangle with the hands clasped, I think this means you can grant powers to anyone as it seems to be a unity or allies symbol. There is another oval, this one with two trees and their branches are intertwining and the roots are showing below them very long, I think this has to do with your telepathy. Then, there is another circle with two fancy letters, an R with a C overlapping it. And lastly, another compass rose, not inside any shape, and this one has an arrow for the east to west line."

"Arrow and a compass?" I had an idea about what that meant, but I would have to ask the god and goddess if I was right. "Could that mean precision, or target seeking?" I asked Reece.

"Seems right to me." He nodded. "One last thing."

"What?" I asked him, worried about what else there could be.

"All the marks on your back are a dark purple, like the sapphire blue on the left mixed with the ruby red on the right."

"Great, so now I am an overly tattooed rainbow freak." I grimaced at my words.

"You're not tattooed, you're blessed and marked with power. And this does nothing to diminish your beauty. Never forget that these marks mean you are stronger than anyone around. Except for me of course." He leaned forward and wrapped his arms around me from behind, his hands just happening to cup my breasts as he did so.

"Oh stop, you perv." I snapped at him playfully.

"You're beautiful, Little Bunny, these marks only add to that, never forget that, got it."

"Yeah, I got it." I nodded and smiled at him as I turned my head. I kissed him on the cheek quickly then stepped out of his arms. "Come on, let's get ready."

After learning just what had happened to my body when I changed statuses again, I needed to get dressed. I wanted my marks to be hidden at first, but then I thought about what they would mean to the others. So, I decided to dress in a light blue cami that would show off all the marks easily. I chose one of my favorite black jackets to go over it, one of the ones made of cloth but with no buttons or zippers. I finished the outfit with a pair of comfortable black jeans and hiking boots that would be good for the mission, both for walking in and kicking ass with.

The last thing I needed to do to get ready was contain my long brown hair. I pulled it back into a high ponytail then braided it so it would not get in the way. I thought I looked like I was ready to kick some major ass.

Less than ten minutes later I was with Reece standing in front of the resort. We had told the manager that we would be leaving for a late check out but would pay for the two days to accommodate them for the inconvenience. As everyone was getting ready to leave they were carrying all our things to the car, slowly but steadily.

We had essentially rented out about half of the resort, a few other guests were here but not many at all, and with our large group we were definitely intimidating to the others. The manager and other employees mostly just watched us from a distance as they seemed too afraid to spend much time directly in our presence. It was probably the sheer amount of money we'd spent on a whim.

The rooms hadn't been cheap, and we had rented seventy of them. Add to that the food we had ordered in the restaurant and had delivered to the rooms for all of us to eat since yesterday afternoon, we had probably spent around sixty thousand dollars, if not more. And Reece just handed over his credit card without batting an eyelash, that was a lot of money.

After we had all loaded up and were seated in the SUVs, we were ready to ship out. Twenty SUVs total, that's what we were all spread into. I had wondered what had happened to all the cars the warlocks had driven, but Noah told me that they had gone in teams to drop them off at the Aerie Convento and then come back. We were going with uniformity here apparently. Noah and Reece were both stuck on this Hollywood idea of group travel. I just wanted to laugh at them.

Chapter 185 - Trinity - Infiltration (VOLUME 2)

8-10 minutes

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Trinity

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It took almost seven hours to drive from just a little north west of Crested Butte where the resort was to the edge of Kanorado. We did, of course stop for provisions and a restroom break so we would be ready to fight when we got there. That was an interesting stop. Nearly a hundred people and twenty vehicles all moving together, it felt like everyone was staring at us, again.

But even though we caught the eyes of many, we still made it to our destination unscathed and ready to go. It was now my turn to lead them all to the proper place. I sat in the front and guided Reece as he drove, leading the caravan. I pointed to the house in the distance, showing them where we were going.

We circled back and found a secluded place to hide the large number of vehicles. It was best for us to do the final approach on foot. We formed groups of around ten, mixed with wolves and warlocks alike, then set off. We moved silently, wolves naturally making less sound than humans and the warlocks adding noise blocking spells.

I knew we should expect them to be ready for the ambush, ready with a counter attack, but I didn't know what to expect. And, that was when I felt a stinging pain on my left shoulder and had a sudden vision.

I saw a group of about twenty monstrosities guarding the outside of the house. They didn't move at all until they saw us, but they then descended on us with fury filled eyes as warlocks hidden around the house started shooting spells at us. We would manage to win, but not without a few casualties.

"Reece, wait." I told him. "They're ready with an ambush." I added.

"What are you saying?" Noah asked me and Reece looked at me with curious eyes.

"There's a group waiting to attack us while we fight the monsters out front."

"How do you know?" Noah was skeptical apparently.

"I'm the goddess." I told him, that was all I needed to say.

"You have the eye, do you not?" Gabriel asked me.

"Yes I do." I smiled.

"So, you have the gift of future sight. That will be useful when you learn to develop it."

"What do you propose we do?" Vincent asked me, glossing over Gabriel's words.

"David, Carter come here." I called these two specifically for their abilities.

"Yes?" David asked me.

"What's up?" Carter came to my side.

"You two take who you think will be of most use and take care of the warlocks hiding around the house. It seemed to be about four total. They were acting like snipers as they hid in the shadows of the house."

"Will do." Carter answered with a grin.

"Understood." David nodded his head understanding what he had to do.

The two of them took a few others with them, two warlocks and two wolves. While they were on their way to deal with the snipers, we positioned ourselves and waited to deal with the mutants that Edmond had created.

I was waiting for their signal to let us know that they had accomplished their objective. While I watched on I thought of something that Reece had told me earlier. There were arrow markings on both of shoulders and an archer mark on my back. Am I really capable of doing something like that?

I decided to just trust my instincts and try. I closed my eyes and imagined an arrow made of ice. I pictured one that was small, only about a foot long and thin. But the tip looked leathally sharp. While I pictured the arrow in my mind I felt a slight stinging pain in my left shoulder and in my back where Reece had indicated the archer symbol.

"Whoa!" I heard someone exclaim nearby. I opened my eyes to see everyone looking at me and the arrow that was floating next to my head.

"All hail Queen Trinity." One of the warlocks spoke reverently, and as I watched he and all the other warlocks and every Sentinelle present knelt to the ground and bowed to me.

"You're amazing." Reece grinned at me. "But don't forget that you had two types of arrows."

"I know." I nodded as I closed my eyes again and imagined another arrow made entirely of wind. The same stinging pain arose again only on my right shoulder.

When I opened my eyes, I saw a second arrow hovering next to the other one near my head. Everyone was still staring at me, just as they had before.

"We should have no trouble this time." Shawn was smiling confidently while the others nodded.

I could see from the other side of the yard that the first group had made contact and eliminated the snipers. The threat of their attacks was now gone so we readied our next move on the beasts outside the house.

Once we were all in position I prepared several arrows. I wanted to test out the effectiveness of my newest weapon and the aim I would have with them. With over fifty arrows at the ready I focused on the location of all the monsters.

With just a simple thought I was able to send an arrow flying. It landed at exactly the right target I planned on. Right between the eyes of the closest beast. I wanted to test things a little more. I thought of the two enemies standing one in front of the other. I wanted to know if my arrows would change direction to hit targets, so I aimed for the one in back.

I watched as the arrow soared away from me and toward the beast in the front. But, as it got closer to the target it swerved to the side, looped around and struck the back beast in the head, just like I planned.

I was grinning at the discovery of this new fighting technique. I quickly summoned more arrows and had them fly all at once. They rained down on the monsters outside, annihilating them all.

We were now clear of obstacles. We could enter the house and save the kids. There would only be about half of us entering as there would not be enough room for us all, but if we needed reinforcements then I could call for them easily.

Reece and I, all my guards, Dietrich, Gabriel, Crawford, Eldrige, and a handful of other trustworthy fighters entered the house slowly. We expected another ambush and attack to be waiting, but there wasn't one.

The inside of the house looked exactly like I had seen it in my vision. Everything was exactly where it was before.

We made our way slowly to the basement stairs. Noah and Reece took the lead, with me being guarded in the middle. The reasoning was so that I would be protected, and they led because they said with Reece's shields and Noah's rock ability they could block an attack.

Step by step we all descended the stairs. We moved quietly so we would not be heard. But no matter how silently we moved, we couldn't avoid the guards at the end of the hall. I knew we could handle things, or at least I hoped we could.

There was a gasp and a yell from the floor below. That was quickly followed by a snarl and a cry of pain. I couldn't see the floor below, but I knew what the hallway would look like. I couldn't stand not knowing. I needed to see the front of the fight. Blame it on my nosy nature and my need for control. I mean, come on I'm the queen I needed to know.

I thought of the hallway, and where I wanted to be. I imagined myself there as I tried to make my way down the stairs. With a quick stinging pain I was engulfed in a whirlwind. It was like a miniature tornado sprung up at my feet. I didn't spin inside of it, but I felt myself being pulled along on a wind current. I didn't move forward in a straight line. No it was more like I was swallowed by the wind and reappeared in another whirlwind right where I wanted to be almost instantly.

It was a disconcerting feeling, and quite frankly off putting, but it was also an exhilarating experience as well. It was also accompanied by a look of shock and anger from Reece and Noah. And the stunned looks of the warlocks in the hallway.

"Trinity, why are you up here?" Reece growled.

"I'm here to do my job." I told him as I looked toward the door to the room the children were in. "You fight them, I will get the kids."

"Dammit." Reece snarled. "You should have stayed back there."

"Yell about it later Chopper, we got work to do."

"Even in a situation like this." He laughed as he lunged for the warlock that was running toward him.

"Just do your job." Noah yelled at him.

The battle ensued. Vincent, David, Rawlynn, Gabriel, Shane, Shawn, and Dietrich came with me. Everyone else went with Reece. The last thing I saw before running into the room was a massive flood of those beasts spilling out of the last two doors in the hall.

Chapter 186 - Trinity - Freeing The Children (VOLUME 2)

8-10 minutes

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Trinity

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The inside of the room looked like it was a large barracks mixed with a prison. There were a dozen bunk beds in the center of the room, each had two children chained to them. There were no tables or chairs the children could get to, they were confined to their bunks and nothing else.

There were six men and four women in the room with the children. Four of the men seemed to be standing guard. The other two men and all four women were wearing black collars and cuffs and seemed to be quite afraid.

The moment we entered the room, the six people wearing cuffs ran to the children to protect them, each of them hugging onto four children at a time.

"Stay calm children." One man soothed his group.

"Please, don't harm the children." A woman begged as the children cried around her.

"We're not here to hurt them." I assured them all. "We're here to save them." I saw hope flood the eyes of the six people protecting the children.

"We will not let you." The other four men sneer at the same time.

"You don't belong here." One of them added. All four men both had their heads shaved and were wearing identical black robes.

"Get ready." I told my team as I readied my arrows. There was no need to worry about if they were going to be prepared, they were top notch.

At my signal the arrows flew and David appeared instantly next to the children on the far right.

"I'm here to take you home." He soothed the children as the others rushed the room. Rawlynn went to the children on the other end. They were working on freeing them of their bindings.

"Queen Trinity, those wearing the cuffs are being forced to serve here."

"He's right Trinity, they have no connection to Edmond outside of those servitude cuffs."

"Why are they being forced to serve them? Doesn't he have his own lackeys?" Shane asked as he produced his lightning sword to cut down the rebounding attack from the warlocks. They were a little harder to deal with than the monsters outside. They had summoned shields to block my arrows, but they would not be able to stop us all on their own.

"Perhaps none of those crazy bastards were capable of taking care of children so they needed to outsource." Dietrich offered his perspective.

"I think you're right Dietrich." I told him. "No matter the reason, they aren't with him and are just as much victims as the children are, free them and take them with us." I immediately saw the light of hope enter their eyes.

"Dietrich, I think your specialty will come in handy here." Shawn told his mate.

"I think you're right mein Schatz." Dietrich smiled as he responded. Did Shawn know that Dietrich had just called him his darling?

I left the four guards to the others and went to help David and Rawlynn with freeing the children.

The shackles on their legs were not coming off easily, and we did not have the keys yet.

"Are these done magically?" I asked the woman closest to me.

"Yes." She nodded at me. "The chains and these." She pointed to the collar around her throat. "If we try to take them off they send an intense burning throughout our bodies." That small light of hope that had entered her eyes was already fading. "We can't leave here Miss." The woman was completely broken.

I knew then and there that I needed to save them all. Every slave of Edmond's would be saved.

'Don't hurt the people with the collars and cuffs.' I told everyone through my mental link. 'They are slaves and here against their will.' I wanted them to know in case there were more slaves in the other rooms.

I focused my attention on the shackles binding the children and did not immediately notice the arrival of several of those beasts. I was alerted to them being there by the screams from the children and terrified looks in the eyes of the caretakers.

When I turned around I saw half a dozen monsters already in the room and more coming.

"Everyone, cover me while I free the children." I ordered the room full of guards.

"You got it."

"Yes Luna.

"With pleasure my Queen." These words and others echoed behind me. I did my best not to pay attention to the battle. I told the children and their caretakers to look at me and to not watch the monsters.

When I touched the metal of the chains it sent an electric shock through my hand. It was so powerful that my hand immediately felt numb. The metal was obviously spelled. Too bad I didn't really know magic yet.

What I could do though, was try to use the same abilities I had when I first shifted. I had been practicing them before and was able to use them on command before. I didn't want to hurt them so I figured my wolf's affinity would come in handy the most right now.

I put my hand on the chain again, ignoring the electric shock feel. I thought of ice, the blistering cold. I concentrated it on the chain only. I willed the ice to infuse itself with the metal, to weaken the metal and make it as fragile as ice.

When I saw the metal change color and frost over, I knew that I had succeeded. All I needed to do now was add pressure to the cuff around the child's ankle. I tightened my fingers and twisted my wrist slightly.

The moment I moved my hand I heard the sounds of the metal shattering between my fingers. I watched as the child was freed and the relief washed over her face.

"You'll be safe now. Just stay here and wait for me." The little girl nodded showing me she had understood.

I went to every child, quickly breaking them free now that I knew how to do it. Once they were all able to leave, I focused on the cuffs on the caretakers. These were not made of metal, so they probably would not break in the same way, but I tried it anyway.

In the end I was right. They didn't become fragile enough to shatter. I decided to try another element. The feel of the collars and cuffs seemed like a sturdy cloth. I wondered if fire would burn them away.

I concentrated on the flames. Just a small thin line of flames running up the cloth. Thankfully it worked. I repeated the action for all the cuffs and collars. All of them were free of their bindings.

It seemed like it had taken me a long time to free them, but it had been just two minutes, if that. The powers were coming more naturally than they had ever done before. I guess ascending in my title had made things easier for me.

When I turned around the battle was still raging. All those that had come with me were fighting the beasts to the best of their abilities. None of them were overwhelmed yet but the monsters just kept coming.

I summoned and unleashed a barrage of arrows on the creatures. The arrows flew around and swerved my friends as they found their way to the true enemies. Within seconds the monsters storming in were on their knees. They weren't finished off but they were less of a threat to those fighting them.

I watched as they were dealt with swiftly. Vincent delivered a finishing blow the last one as it tried to get back to its feet.

Once our room was cleared of threats and enemies, I led the group out of the room, instructing them to protect the children and caretakers.

When I was back in the hall, I saw the long corridor flooded with beasts and warriors fighting. Reece was in his wolf form, fighting against three bests at once. This section of the basement was overrun by the monstrosities. There were simply too many of them.

"Take the kids back into the room and protect them." I ordered Rawlynn. "Gabriel and David you go too. Keep them safe."

"Queen Trinity, we cannot leave you in here." Gabriel objected.

"Just go and do as I said." I ordered him. "I will be fine."

And in truth I would be. I would not let anymore people get hurt because of me. If I failed to protect them in the beginning, then I will save them in the end. This was my battle because these were my people.

"Go." I made the word a command.

As I focused on the monsters before me, I only had one thought. 'Protect my people.' I steeled my resolve, and set my mind. I would do this. I could do this. I would not fail.

I shifted into my wolf, not bothering to worry about the clothes that were about to be ripped in my rush. Then I once again summoned my arrows, and prepared to fight.

Chapter 187 - Reece - Battle In The Basement (VOLUME 2)

11-14 minutes

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Reece

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I stood there, having just watched my mate unleash a barrage of flying arrows, decimating those monsters in no time at all. I was in awe of her power and ability. This was not how I thought my life was going to be like last year when I was told I had to find a mate. I never expected this much excitement in my life that's for sure, but I would not trade the woman who was chosen to be mine, not for anything.

But, no matter how powerful she was, no matter how strong and capable she was, she was still mine to protect. And I planned to do my duty by her. I had allowed her to be hurt earlier, but I would not fail again. Too many times since she became mine she was targeted, I needed to stop the threats from coming at her ever again.

I gave the orders for the formation. Noah and I were going first because we could block attacks. All the guards that my Little Bunny always had, the members of the new Goddess Guard, and about forty various warlocks, Sentinelle, and warriors from the pack followed. My Little Bunny was nestled in the middle of the group.

I know I should have tried to stop her, but she would have forced her way into the group no matter what. So I figure it was better to just let her go. At least this way I could keep an eye on her.

The rest of the group was to surround the house and stop anyone who tried to escape. I would not let anyone who willingly followed that evil bastard to get away with what they had done.

We marched down the stairs, the most we could proceed down was by two at a time, any more per row and it would have been a little uncomfortable.

As soon as we were at the bottom of the stairs we were attacked by the two warlocks at the end of the hall. It was just as she had predicted it would be. I put a shield up immediately and ran toward them in an instant.

With a snarl I had leapt past my shield, leaving it intact so it would still help those behind it. I ran down the hall at breakneck speed, out pacing Noah considerably as I was most definitely faster than he was. When I reached the first warlock I grabbed him by the neck, cutting him off mid scream, and threw him to the ground.

No sooner had the man hit the ground did my headstrong, danger magnet of a mate appear in the middle of the hallway. She appeared in the middle of a miniature tornado that showed up out of nowhere. A rush of wind, a swirl of leaves that hadn't been there before, then suddenly my Little Bunny was just standing there looking around like she was in shock. Well, I guess I know what the tornado symbol on her shoulder means now. Thanks Thoth, one more way that she can defy me and put herself into danger.

"Trinity, why are you up here?" I growled.

"I'm here to do my job. You fight them, I will get the kids." She seemed so sure of herself.

"Dammit." I snarled at her. "You should have stayed back there."

"Yell about it later Chopper, we got work to do."

"Even in a situation like this." I couldn't help but laugh as she called me another dog character. Suddenly the man I had thrown to the floor was running toward me, having regained his footing. I quickly lunged at him and grabbed him by his throat again, cutting off his air supply.

"Just do your job." Noah yelled.

My Little Bunny, the ever loved queen that she was becoming, took her group of guards and warriors into the room she had seen the kids in before. Just as she stepped inside that room the doors at the end of the hall burst open and a horde of monsters started to flood out of them

At the same time that the horde flooded into the hall, the two doors we had already passed exploded and three dozen warlocks and witches came rushing out. This was twice as many as we were hoping for. But it made sense that she didn't know the total, she had only seen inside two of the six doors.

"Let no one escape." I yelled to those present. That was all it took for the battle to begin. Almost every wolf in our group shifted instantly and the warlocks said a small prayer to Thoth for increased strength which caused the marks on their collar bones to glow blood red like the mark on the parchment had. The fight was immediately intense.

Having shifted into my wolf myself I started to take care of the horde of monsters before anything else. I knew that the warlocks would be a danger as well, but there were so many of those beasts that I had to stop them from getting into the room with the kids and my mate.

The blood that came from these beasts was horrid. When I bit into their throats and ripped the flesh out with a quick jerk of my head the blood that rushed into my mouth made me want to gag. Whatever Edmond did to these shifters to cause this grotesque change also changed everything else about them.

It saddened me to destroy these people, people that had probably been taken by surprise just because they were not as strong as others. These were my people, even before I was the Alpha King, these were shifters, part of my world, the hidden community of supernaturals that walked unseen among the humans.

I would never let my people suffer like this again. I would never abandon them to this fate. Every shifter, every warlock, every one out there, they would be safe under my rule.

With this conviction on my mind I did what I had to do now. These were no longer people, I couldn't save their minds or bodies, but I could release their souls.

Beast after beast, monster and monster, I destroyed them, my heart aching with every kill. But there was no end in sight for the monsters. They had even made their way toward the door to the room my Little Bunny was in, I had to stop them, or at least slow them until she could get the kids out.

I focused my attack on the creatures closest to the door. Doing all I could to slow the flow into the room. I had managed to stop many of them, but a few still made it past me.

I was so busy with my fight that I hadn't been paying attention to the others so I didn't know what anyone around me was doing. My main goal was to stop these creatures and protect my wife. But I needed to protect my people too. So I made a conscious effort to pay attention to the room as a whole.

It hadn't even been ten minutes since the battle started. The wave of beasts was still coming, but it seemed like the warlocks that had stormed out were no match for us, especially the warlocks with the runic circle. At least that was an upside to the situation.

I watched as Shane, still in human form, sliced through a monstrosity then turned to slice through a warlock that was about to cast a spell at an unsuspecting Crawford who was fighting another two warlocks at the same time. Shane was now a lot stronger in his human form than he was in his wolf form, but he would have to find a way to wield that lightning in his other body if he was going to be truly effective.

Just then, I heard my mate's voice as she ordered some of the others back into the room so they could protect the kids. She was planning to fight out here where the true danger was.

'Trinity, no!' I tried to yell through the mental link so I could stop her but she ignored me as she shifted into her wolf right before my eyes.

I watched as the clothes ripped and tore from her changing body. The scraps quickly fell into a pile at her feet. Her wolf had changed along with her human body. I could see the silver chains along with the symbols in blue, red, and purple. When I looked around the room, I saw that the symbols on the Noah

and Carter were also glowing. These marks that she had given us glowed with the same celestial power that radiated from her.

As I watched, momentarily dazed by her beauty, I saw her use her arrows of both wind and ice, sending them flying around the room to hit all enemies possible. While the arrows swirled around four different marks lit up on her body, the two with the arrows along with the archer symbol and the precision mark, when she used an ability it would shine on her wolf's body to indicate it.

As I watched the symbol with the eye lit up and she came running toward me, tackling me to the ground. Just as we skidded to a halt a monstrosity barreled right into the spot I was just standing.

'I know I'm beautiful Reece, but pay attention.' She reprimanded me.

'You mesmerized me.' I admitted to her. 'Plus I've never seen you fight like this, so I was in awe.'

'Yeah well, snap out of Fido, I don't want you getting hurt.'

'Yes, Little Bunny Queen.'

'I'll show you a bunny one of these days.' She snapped at me. And with her words the mark on her back with the lock lit up, and she instantly turned into a rabbit right before my eyes.

'What the fuck just happened?' I screamed mentally.

'Shit, what the hell is this?' She was just as surprised. 'Great, now I'm informed.' She snapped.

'What?' I asked her as I picked her up by the scruff of her neck and moved to the side of the hall, out of the way.

'Apparently I have a shifter unlock mark.'

'What's that mean?'

'It means that I am not limited to one animal form anymore.' She growled, which was funny to think of it coming from a little bunny. That really made me want to laugh.

'So you can really be my Little Bunny now?' I purred at her suggestively.

'Can you at least stop thinking about sex during a fight Dino.'

'Haha, fine, fine. Whatever you say Thumper.' I joked right back with a rabbit name.

'Yeah, you think this is funny, check this out.' She spoke defensively and just as she finished the words, she shifted from the little rabbit into the form of a large grizzly bear but white instead of brown, and the marks still visible. 'This form should be better for fighting right? Or-.' She shifted again, this time into a white tiger, the stripes sapphire blue and the marks once again where they should have been.

'This form feels powerful.' I could hear the excitement in her voice.

'Then let's fight.' I nodded my head to her. There was nothing she couldn't do, and even though I was going to continue to be protective, I would still admit her strength at times like this.

Together the two of us attacked the beasts. She still had her arrows present and would send them flying at the monsters as well as the enemy warlocks. The battle, that had seemed endless but winnable, was now easier with her there. Those arrows were very effective, as were the lethally long and sharp tiger claws.

We heard the sounds of shock from everyone in the room when they saw her running around as a tiger instead of a wolf, but the sounds were of awe coming from our allies and fear from our enemies.

The last of the warlocks were cowering in fear and the monsters finally stopped pouring out of the doors. None of the servant types had been present among the ones out here so we were able to take care of them as we wanted to, and these last five would be no exception. But things never go according to plan, do they?

The last door, the one directly across from the one leading to the children, blew off its hinges from the powerful blast aimed at it from the other side. In the ruins of the door stood three people, two men and one woman.

'The man in the middle is Phillip.' My Little Bunny, or should I say tigress, told me mentally as she stopped to look at the newcomers. I could feel the magical aura coming off of these three, they were indeed powerful, close to the level that Edmond was.

"Guess it's time for a boss fight." I heard Shane joke when he stopped to look at the three powerhouses standing there.

Chapter 188 - Trinity - A Boss Fight? (VOLUME 2)

8-10 minutes

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Trinity

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"Guess it's time for a boss fight." Shane laughed as he turned toward the three warlocks that just burst into the room. "Let's take care of them right away." His voice still held laughter, but he didn't notice the buildup of magic that the woman was preparing to unleash at him.

"Shane no!" I yelled at him, my voice coming out very clear and distinctly human as I shouted.

"NO!" I heard the guttural wolf sounds of Shawn's voice.

The woman blasted a shining black ball of magic at Shane, just as he was about to attack her. However, instead of hitting the foolishly arrogant man, he was immediately knocked out of the way by Dietrich who had shadow walked as quickly as he could and pushed him out of the ball's path. Unfortunately the ball hit Dietrich, smashing into him instead of Shane.

"Dietrich!" With this sorrow and horror filled word from Shawn chaos erupted. The three warlocks that had just arrived swept into the room with evil looks on their faces. The battle that had seemed like it was almost over, was now reignited with stronger foes.

"These ones are stronger, be careful everyone." My voice rang clean and clear for all of them to hear. "We can't afford to lose this." I let them all know the stakes of this fight.

Time for talking was over. The three newcomers began their attacks immediately, launching attack after attack in quick succession. I had not seen an all out battle before. Even the one with Edmond had not been a true fight because he had underestimated the circumstances. But now, I was truly able to see what a high caliber warlock was capable of.

The room seemed to split into three groups with no prompting. Each group attacked a different warlock as we spread throughout the room. The attacks that flew all around us were unlike anything I had seen before, but I couldn't let that distract or scare me.

I once again shifted to my wolf form, it was the one I knew the most. Then, I readied my arrows again. Also, to go with those I called on all the elements I had used back when I first shifted. I was going to use everything I could think of to win this fight.

As I looked at the people around me I saw them all using their new powers to the best of their abilities. Except for Dietrich. Shawn had moved him to the back of the hall, out of the fight so he would not be hurt further.

Once Shawn had made sure Dietrich was safe he focused his attack on the female that had harmed his mate. Several bits of debris was floating around him as he was using them as projectile weapons.

The woman sent a volley of attacks toward Shawn, but with a wave of his hand he stopped them mid way through, freezing them in their tracks before flinging them back with the same, if not more, fierceness. He looked pretty amazing at that moment.

Shane was fighting just as fiercely as his brother. He was slicing away at the other male warlock, the one I didn't know. His lightning sword looked like nothing but electricity, but somehow it was able to cut away at things when he attacked with it.

The warlock Shane was facing with the others kept having creatures sprout from him. They looked to be made of tree bark and were only four feet tall, but they were vicious and strong for things so small. The lightning sword, however, took care of them with ease.

After making sure that the other two were being dealt with properly, I shifted my focus to Phillip. His long dark hair seemed to be flowing behind him despite the lack of wind. And he too had some sort of minions that were being summoned from the shadows at his feet.

The minions that were springing forth from Phillip seemed to be a lot more difficult to dispose of. Their bodies had no form and any attack sent their way just seemed to pass right through.

With a look, Reece and I began to walk toward each other. A silent understanding passed between us that we were to fight together. We met in front of Phillip and turned to face him at the same time. Our shoulders brushing together.

I felt the tension in his body, and he likely felt it in mine. His warm presence was stabilizing the numbing cold that was spreading through body since the fight started. Likewise I could feel his raging heat cooling with our close proximity.

Just after we brushed against each other, I felt the gentle pulsating heat of flame. I could tell that his wolf was engulfed in its flames, and without even needing to look down, I could sense the ice that had spread across my entire body.

The look in Phillip's eyes told me he hadn't been expecting this turn of events, and with the stunned looks on almost all the faces present, they were just as surprised. That's fine let them be scared, this was a power only Reece and I had, he was the fire to my ice, and we will work together to eliminate the enemies.

I thought of the ice that I knew covered me, how it would engulf the man before me if I just sent it his way. Instinctively I howled, unleashing a massive blast of cold air that rushed toward the warlock. He tried to avoid it but was unable to fully get out of the way.

The blast caught the warlock on his left side. Consequently, the man was frozen in place with the ice slowly spreading across his body.

"What the hell is this?" The man screamed. "What did you do to me?"

"What? You don't like fights where people might just be stronger than you?" Reece's mocking tone did it's job, infuriating the man as he struggled to get free.

Instead of aiming attacks at us, the warlock blasted at the ice holding him in place. He was freed. He was able to move but it wasn't that simple. Just as I was about to aim another blast at him, the ice started spreading again, freezing him in place once more.

"No!" He ground out through his clenched teeth. "This can't be." He was fighting against his ice bindings, struggling to get free.

"Too cold for you?" Reece mocked him. "I can take care of that." And as I watched I saw my mate throw his head back and prepared for a howl of his own. When he released that howl a ball of fire blasted from his throat and landed right in the middle of Phillip's chest.

Immediately the frightened warlock began to scream. Cries of pain and fear were echoing around the room. I could still see his face through the flames that were quickly engulfing him, his eyes were wide and filled with terror.

I couldn't listen to his shrieks a moment longer. The arrows I had readied were still floating around me, hovering in the air above my head. I sent a few his way, hitting major vital points, such as his heart, his throat, and between his eyes. The screams ceased instantly.

The other two warlocks were nearly finished off, distracted as they were by their friend's demise. I took advantage of their inattention.

I sent the last of my arrows flying. Unleashing them all onto the remaining enemies was the quickest way to bring the battle to a close. And with the oddly satisfying THWUMP noises filling the air I smirked, their deaths were bringing me a sense of joy right now. Should I be worried about my sanity?

After the last arrow hit its target, the sound echoing momentarily, the room was then silent. No one said anything for a moment. Shock and awe was on the faces of all the people in the room as they stared at me.

No words were exchanged as far as I could hear, though that doesn't mean that there hadn't been silent, mental, communication between them. What I did see though was everyone, aside from those in my close circle, fall to their knees and bow to me.

"All hail Queen Trinity." Every voice seemed to speak the words at the same time causing an eerie echo to spread throughout the hall.

"All hail my Queen." Reece smirked at me as he came right up to my side and rubbed the side of his head against the top of mine. In an instant, his flames were extinguished and my ice disappeared.

Reece looked just as he had before, with one exception. He still had his defender mark, on his left shoulder and there was the power mark on his chest with the paw and crescent moon. But now, he also had a mark on his right shoulder that looked like a howling wolf. Seems like his howling fireball was now something special for him. But why was it on his right shoulder instead of his left?

Chapter 189 - Trinity - A Positive Outcome (VOLUME 2)

10-13 minutes

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Trinity

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"Is it over?" Shane asked apprehensively.

"I think so." I told him.

"Stay on guard." Reece ordered. "We must stay vigilant in case someone else shows up."

"Agreed." Noah added. The two of them had shifted back and were in human form, and consequently, were very naked.

"Noah, that's not a sight I want to see." I glared at him in my wolf form. "Can someone please either get robes for us all, or go get clothes from the caravan for us."

"As you wish my queen." I heard Gabriel's voice answer my request.

"Someone keep the kids in the room, we're not in any state for them to see us. And Gabriel, ask for Griffin and Juniper to come back with you."

"Yes, milady." Gabriel nodded and left the basement.

No sooner had we decided on what needed to be done then I saw Shawn running across the hall. The battle had only ended a minute prior, and the confusion of it all was finally settling. But the moment

that Shawn had recovered from the shock he was running to the back of the hall, where Dietrich had been laying on the floor.

I watched on as Shawn ran to Dietrich's side as fast as he could.

"Dietrich?" His voice was full of worry and fear and the look marring his face was so filled with emotion that it brought a tear to my eye instantly. "Dietrich?" He yelled again as he skidded to his knees.

Just as Shawn came to a stop, Dietrich sat up, a hand on his head indicating the pain he was feeling. As Dietrich raised his head to look at the man calling his name he smiled gently.

"Shawn." The tender tone of voice and the happy smile Dietrich had when looking at his mate was enviable. Anyone, no everyone, would be happy to be looked at so lovingly.

"Liebling." Shawn exclaimed in German, calling Dietrich his darling.

Once that word was spoken Shawn threw his arms around Dietrich's neck and planted his lips on Dietrich's mouth. The tender love that I could see from the two of them, the devotion that was in Shawn's eyes, it was so innocent and pure. His actions shocked a few but it wasn't a cause for concern. In truth it was just further proof that pure happiness awaits everyone when they find their mate.

Having wrapped his arms around Shawn's waist Dietrich returned the kiss his mate had planted on him. The kiss started as innocent, sweet, and romantic. But soon, it morphed into something heated and full of passion for each other.

It wasn't until Reece cleared his throat, the silence finally broken, that they separated and looked at the room around them. A look of triumph and happiness on Dietrich's face and a look of embarrassment, as well as happiness, on Shawn's.

"I'm glad you seem to be ok, Dietrich. How are you feeling?" I asked him as I was still worried about him.

"Ja, ja, I will be fine, thanks to the lovely medicine." He grinned and looked at Shawn out of the corner of his eye. Shawn blushed crimson but the rest of us just grinned at their happiness.

The chaos of before seemed like nothing but a memory now. Everything was finally settling down. Gabriel returned with the others, clothes and cloaks in hand. Most of the group left the basement, those of us that stayed dressed quickly. Reece and Juniper kept me hidden so I could dress in private.

Once the group had thinned out and we were all presentable, I once again opened the door to the room the kids were in. I could see the fear written on all their faces. These children had been through a lot, more than anyone their age ever should have to endure. The horrible thing is that we would need to find out everything before they could begin their healing process.

Griffin was already busy healing everyone that had received injuries. Most would heal over time, and the warlocks could cast healing spells, but that would be no comparison to the healing from a Goddess given power. Those that had been injured were left healed and refreshed by the master medic, Dietrich included.

I went in the other room with Juniper and a few of the others in tow. The children and the caretakers were huddled in the far corner of the room, most of them shivering in fear. The whimpers from the crying children made me feel as if there were spikes being driven into my heart.

Slowly and cautiously I approached them all, a gentle and calming look on my face.

"I'm not here to hurt you." I spoke softly. "We're here to take you all home. You want to go back to your moms and dads right?" I saw a spark of life enter the eyes of most of the children, but others were just saddened even more.

"I want to go home." A little girl said as she started to teared up.

"I miss my mommy." The smallest of the boys cried out.

"We're going to take you all somewhere safe so that you can be reunited with your families." Juniper's soothing voice had an instant calming effect on the entire group. "Can you all come with us now?" I saw many of them nodding, the calm spreading through them.

"You can trust Trinity, she is a very good person." Rawlynne smiled at them as she gestured toward me. "She will make sure you're all safe." She looked at them all, adults included, as she reassured them all of her words.

We needed to get them somewhere safe, somewhere that they could calmly relay their stories and then begin the healing process. Kanorado was a little over three hours from home, and it was late, but we still chose to drive home, those that had been rescued slept the entire way, finally able to relax for the first time in a long time.

It was just after six in the morning when we got back to the estate, but Abigail had been notified in advance so there was a large, delicious breakfast waiting for us.

"This is the Alpha House." One of the boys said just as we entered the house.

"Shhh. Be quiet Sammy." Another boy spoke in a whisper to the other boy.

"It's alright." I smiled at the two of them. "You don't have to worry about being quiet. And yes, Sammy, this is the Alpha House. Are you Ella's little brother? Sammy Taylor?" I let him know that I knew not only him but his family as well, letting him know that I was a friend.

"You know Ella?" His face lit up as he asked the question, true happiness finally breaking through.

"I do, she is a friend of mine. And after we eat breakfast she will be coming here with your mom to pick you up." The smile that spread across his face was one of pure joy.

"Really?"

"Will my family be coming too?"

"Can I see my mom and dad too?"

"I want to go home." All the children started chiming in with similar questions and statements. It was good to see them opening up even if it was just a little bit.

We sat down and ate breakfast. The children seemed to be starved somewhat and ate more than they normally would have if it had not been for the ordeal that they had endured. The adults, all witches and warlocks, seemed more reserved and scared. But the food had the desired calming effect on them all.

With help from Juniper, Abigail, and Lila we were able to get the kids cleaned up somewhat, which also made them feel somewhat better. They hadn't realized that we had framed these moments, the eating and cleaning up, to get them comfortable with the idea of talking.

Slowly, we managed to get a picture of the true events that had happened during the last month. Thankfully, the children hadn't been outright harmed in any way. Edmond had been adamant about that because their purity and innocence needed to be intact for the summoning. But that doesn't mean that they hadn't been frightened and emotionally and psychologically damaged during their time there.

The warlocks had paraded those beasts in front of the children and the caretakers, telling them if they tried to run, or even fight back, those monsters would be sent after them. They had threatened them all with torture and beatings. The caretakers had actually been beaten and tortured during their time in captivity, proving that the men and women holding them there had no problem with hurting people. Fear, threats of pain, crying, and imprisonment, that was all that they had known this whole time.

As I listened to the retelling of these events from each child, I felt my heart breaking into a million pieces. At the same time, I felt my intense burning hatred for Edmond growing infinitely stronger. I would not let that man get away with what he had done. The only good thing is that Edmond didn't appear to have visited the house personally. He left that job to Phillip as an extension of his authority. Phillip, incidentally, was the one who had delighted in terrifying the children and torturing the caretakers.

Rawlynne and Jackson were able to track down the police departments in charge of the other missing children, and within two hours, all the families were at our house. Well, almost all. It seemed that six of the children had been orphaned by Edmond and taken to his house of horror.

This turn of events meant that we had six adults and six children left with nowhere to go. The witches and warlocks could have turned to the magic council for help, but given the feudal system it ran off they would not have great lives now that they had nothing. This was something that I needed to change among the world of magic.

Just before the children were reunited with their families we had them meet one on one with Juniper. She soothed the aching they would carry in their hearts and minds because of this ordeal. They needed to have a chance at life without having to deal with this situation looming over them forever.

With Juniper's personal ability she was able to make them forget what had happened to them, replacing it with a much easier to handle memory. It would be better for their families and the authorities to believe that they had all been brainwashed in a mass child abduction scheme than that they had been taken to be used as sacrifices and were just barely saved.

With their minds and hearts healed, their families were brought in, finally. Each and every child ran happily to the arms of the family that had been waiting for them to return. Ella, Gina and her other two children Lonnie and Wendy cried with joy, love overflowing the moment they were able to hug Sammy again. This was truly the best outcome we could have hoped for, the kids were finally home and safe.

But now I had to find Edmond and make him pay.

Chapter 190 - Reece - A New Endeavor (VOLUME 2) Short

6-7 minutes

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Reece

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Seeing the families reunited brought a tear to my eye. I would never admit it, I had an image to maintain in front of everyone now. But I was beyond happy that the situation was mostly resolved.

But there was still one problem. Those that no longer had a home to return to. This aligned with something I was already thinking very hard about.

Gabriel had mentioned when he first came to see us that most of those in the Sentinelle had joined because they no longer had a home to return to. That might have been harder to take care of all those years ago, but now it was something that was comparatively easy to fix. Even more so for someone like me.

I had resources at my disposal that most people didn't have. Most of the time I didn't know what to do with my personal wealth. I had spent so much of my time working and avoiding people that it was difficult for me to step away at times. Now I had a mate and whenever I was away from work and even while I was there, she was all that I thought about.

But now, with everything that had happened recently, I felt like I had a higher purpose. I had something else that I needed to put my focus into. And I had a feeling that my adorable little wife would be all for it.

With our newest visitors resting, and the previous visitors, those staying for their safety, in their respective rooms, we returned to our room to talk. Neither of us had slept since the battle last night, and it was just after lunch but we were exhausted. We planned to get some sleep after we took a quick shower.

With the exhaustion, and recent heartaches, I kept everything pretty cool. I didn't think she was ready for the steamy, hot and heavy moments just yet, not while we were so tired. So our shower really was a quick event meant just for cleaning up.

As we climbed into bed, decently clothed, I brought up the subject I wanted to talk to her about.

"What do you plan to do about those who don't have a home to return to?" I asked in a nonchalant manner.

"What do you mean?"

"The witches and warlocks we brought back. The kids that don't have families. What should we do? Where should they go?"

"You want to kick them out?" She asked me as if she thought I was a monster.

"No!" I exclaimed vehemently. "No, I want to help them. With Otsana's help we have gotten the kids to stay with us. But we need to figure out something more permanent."

"Do you have something in mind?" I seemed to have peaked her interest at least.

"I do." I smile at her.

I went on to detail the plan I had been mapping out. It wasn't half hearted, but it wasn't fully formed yet either. But I knew, with her help, we would be able to make it happen.

My plan? Well that was to take some of the unused land I owned outside the city and build a community where any supernatural without a home could feel safe. Somewhere they could all live together and support each other. With the ascensions my Little Bunny had made recently she was the Queen of much of that world, and I would not deny anyone a chance to live safely and happily. I also knew that my little mate would feel the same way.

With Little Bunny's compassion and smarts, Juniper's healing mind, and my desire to help (and a considerable fortune) We could get this issue taken care of swiftly. And with Vincent on our side we would be able to tell if anyone coming to stay in our community was trustworthy. This was something I could put my full passion into.

"You really thought about this, didn't you?" She seemed so shocked.

"Do you really think I am stupid or something?" I asked her jokingly. "You know I graduated highschool early and went on to finish my degrees early as well right?" I felt the need to remind her that I may have done some stupid things but I was infact not an idiot.

"Really? I didn't know you ever graduated Dudley."

"Which dog is that?" I asked, just knowing that it was another fictional character, just one I wasn't familiar with.

"A very stupid cartoon one."

"Meanie." I frowned comically at her. "Why are you always so mean to me." She laughed at that, more hysterically than I ever thought she would. Honestly it was a bit much.

"It takes one to know one. Remember that Fido. If I am mean then what does that make you?"

"But I stopped my wicked ways." I pretended to pout and I pulled her to me. "I'm a loyal lover and a caring mate now, aren't I?"

"That you are Trusty, that you are."

"You really like calling me dog names, huh BunBun?"

"Oh, don't you dare call me any bunny names. You get to call me Little Bunny, but nothing else."

"That's hypocritical."

"Yeah, but I don't care. You're my little puppy that needs to be trained."

"And you're my Little Bunny that I get to eat up."

"You are such a pervy little puppy."

She leaned forward and placed her lips on mine, silencing me, stopping me from talking back any more. The kiss was soft, gentle, and full of love. It was everything I could ever want, need, for her to show me how much she loved me.

"I love you puppy dog."

"I love you too, Little Bunny." I smiled at her with love filling my every fiber.

I pulled her against my chest and snuggled her close. That was all I needed to do. Holding her close to me filled me with warmth. I felt the exhaustion wash over me, and when I turned to look at her I saw that she was already on the edge of sleep. I squeezed her just a little closer, just a little tighter, needing to feel her against me as I drifted off to sleep.