

Chosen by Fate 201

Chapter 201 - Trinity - Loyalty Is Essential For Leading (VOLUME 2)

Trinity

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This day, the first official day in France, was exciting. That was the simplest and easiest way to describe it. I never expected that there would be anything like those men in the Sentinelle. Everyone else was so devoted to their cause, so why did those other men join the Sentinelle if they never intended to take it seriously.

But then, with everything that happened, I honestly think it was necessary. Reece needed to make sure everyone knew that we were not to be trifled with. Everything that happened, while tense and unexpected, did serve a purpose. And I know that it helped to cement Reece's authority and dominance among these wolves. He was their Alpha as well as the alpha back home.

Hell, Reece was essentially the Alpha for the whole world, and I was the Luna that was there at his side. That was going to take some getting used to. Knowing that I was the leader of every single shifter and warlock in the world, it was a bit much, wasn't it? But I would work hard to live up to the expectations that everyone had for me.

But there were a few things that we now had to discuss with everyone, specifically with Gabriel. I needed to know how this was going to impact us in the long run. What this was going to do to our goal here.

So, it was with those thoughts in mind that I asked for a meeting after dinner. We had eaten in our rooms, everyone was a little on edge. And by everyone I mean everyone in the Sentinelle and all of us here for training.

Gabriel came to my room where we were all waiting for him. He didn't come alone though. The man named Perkins who had come to fetch us this morning and Ghirald, the steward, were with him.

"Excuse me, Queen Trinity, I hope you do not mind the additions. These men are some that I trust very much."

"Vincent?" I asked him for his opinion on these men.

"They are of no threat." He answered me immediately with a nod.

"Your ability seems to be stronger than it was before." I smiled at him, happy that the gift he had been granted was coming in so handy for us all.

"He got a level up? No fair, I want one too." I heard the joking tone in Shane's mocking voice.

"Maybe when you get some more XP, but right now you're nothing but a useless NPC." Vincent joked right back at him.

"Dude, when did you learn to talk like that?" Shane was shocked. "Don't tell me, you had Conner teach you? Isn't he like six?"

"He's seven now." Vincent snapped, his ears turning a bright pink as Shane sniggered at him.

"This conversation is confusing to me." Perkins was looking between the two men who were joking with each other.

"It's also irrelevant." Reece's voice quieted the room and brought the jokes to an end.

"Ignore that part of the conversation." I smiled at the three men before me. "I of course trust you, and Vincent has given me no reason not to trust the others, so please come in and let us talk." I had been trying to act more regal around the Sentinelle, you know, to live up to expectations. But I had to admit that this way of talking was a little strange. It made me want to laugh at myself, if I wasn't the one actually saying it all I probably would have laughed already.

We all seated ourselves around the room. I sat beside Reece, holding his left hand in my right. Side by side we really did look like a true power couple, I just never thought that that power would have been as King and Queen.

"My Queen, what is it you have summoned me for?" Gabriel asked as soon as we were seated.

"Frankly, Gabriel, I want to know if today is going to have any long lasting repercussions." I spoke matter-of-factly, just cutting to the chase was the best case here. Wasn't it?

"What kind of repercussions are you speaking of your grace?" Perkins was the one to ask this question as Gabriel seemed a little taken aback by my words.

"Will the rest of the Sentinelle view us as enemies now? Will they be too afraid or angry to serve us in any capacity? What will become of our status here? Will we even be able to accomplish our objectives?" I loaded him with question after question, my worries leaking out even though I did my best to remain calm.

"My Queen, I think all will be just fine." Ghirald was the first to answer.

"I agree." Perkins nodded his head in agreement, the light shining on his glossy black hair. He was a very exotic looking man with smooth skin the color of creamy chocolate. His eyes were a warm, rich honey color, very close to Reece's.

"They are indeed correct, Queen Trinity." Gabriel finally spoke just to agree with the others. "It was necessary for the King to put those behaving impudently into their place. The King and you both need to be firm in situations like these. There is none that truly believes in our ways that will be disheartened or unsettled by your actions."

"So you have no problem with the outcome from today?" Reece asked him.

"No, quite the opposite, King Reece. Today showed the others what I already knew to be true. You two are very much Goddess blessed. King Reece has been granted with the only lycan form in over two thousand years. And our Queen has had so many blessings, not just from the Goddess Nehalennia, but also from the God Thoth. Who could rightfully deny someone so proven worthy by the Gods?" Gabriel was as reverent as always when he spoke about me.

"Gabriel, if I may?" Dietrich interrupted when the other man had finished speaking.

"Yes, Lord Dietrich?" Gabriel was having a hard time letting everyone's title go, apparently.

"What will become of those two? How will they be punished?" Dietrich was more concerned with the more immediate aspects of the day's events.

"They will most definitely need to be punished. The method for that can be decided by our leaders." He gestured toward Reece and I. "Or as the acting Watcher and highest authority in the organization, I can decide the punishment myself."

"What type of punishment would be normal for something like this?" Dietrich wondered.

"We have never had something like this happen before, so I must admit that there is no precedent for the punishment. If there is something that our esteemed rulers would like to suggest, then we will most certainly accept that as the intended punishment." Gabriel seemed a little uncertain as he spoke, clearly thinking through everything he had ever learned before.

"Is execution an option?" Reece smirked.

"Yeah, I like that idea." Vincent chimed in.

"Vincent?" I yelled his name, complete shock on my face at his lack of gentlemanly attitude.

"Why are you only yelling at me?" Vincent seemed hurt that I had reprimanded only him for his response.

"Him I expect that sort of childish response from. But you? You're supposed to be better than that." I shot him a disappointed look causing his face to fall with guilt.

"I'm sorry Trinity. It's just I will not accept someone mistreating my Luna in such a way. They need to be punished."

"And they will be. But their wrong doings do not warrant such a harsh punishment." My voice rang with a note of authority and finality.

"I agree with Trinity, it is not that serious of an issue. They must be punished, and made an example out of, but death is not the option here." Dietrich added his support for me.

"Why do we need to make an example out of them?" Shane asked, confusion written all over his young looking face.

"Because, dear brother, Trinity and Reece will not be able to command respect if they do not use this opportunity to show everyone that they are willing to retaliate. The only way to rule is through loyalty. And sometimes, you need to show people what it means to be disloyal. Everyone else in this abbey and village are loyal to the King and Queen, but what if they show weakness to their enemies? Will they still have their respect and loyalty then? No, they need to cement themselves as strong rulers now so that they never lose the loyalty of their followers in the future." Dietrich spoke as if he knew exactly what he was talking about.

"Do you really think it will come to something like that?" Shawn asked him with a note of worry in his voice.

"Ja meine Geliebte, I do. It is exactly what I had to do." There was a far away look on Dietrich's face, like he was remembering something from a long time ago. Something that wasn't exactly pleasant but gave a wistful feeling of fondness nonetheless.

"You did?" Shawn looked worried for his mate.

"Worry not, Liebling, there is nothing to worry about now."

"Will banishment and stripping them of their status in the Sentinelle be efficient for this matter?" I asked Gabriel and Dietrich.

"Stripping them of their ranks will make them normal citizens. They will not be given the same advantages that we of the Sentinelle are privy to."

"Such as?" David asked, speaking up for the first time in this situation.

"We were frozen in time while we waited for the new Queen to be named. Once she accepted her role we would begin our lives again, however, at a much slower rate. We can again find mates and will age, but we will not age at the same rate that everyone else does. Those in the order will age as slowly as the Queen and King, allowing us to better serve her during her entire reign."

"So, what, they will be forced to age at a normal rate?" Reece asked, not satisfied with that as a punishment.

"That, or possibly even faster to make up for their unnaturally long lives."

"So their lives will be shortened?" Reece smirked.

"Possibly. I am not certain." Gabriel was answering all the questions while the other two men just stared on in awe.

"Is there anything else that we can do to punish them. They don't even deserve to call themselves wolves anymore." Reece ground out.

It was with Reece's words that I had a sudden inspiration. I knew something we could do that would be a punishment for these two, that would most likely be acceptable to everyone present.

"What if I were to seal away their wolves. They would never again be able to shift, hear their wolf's thoughts or emotions. They would most likely lose the extra senses that we have as shifters. In a sense, it would be like I made them human."

"That is quite the fate." Perkins looked shocked, but not against the idea.

"It is the life that I thought I was going to live, until I finally shifted for the first time. I thought I would never be a shifter. If it can be granted by a Goddess, then it can be taken away by one as well. This will help serve as a reminder not to just the Sentinelle, but the world. If I can sever the link someone has with their animal form, then they will think twice about crossing us. Likewise, we can also spread the knowledge that I have unlocked new shifting forms. Whether I can do that for other people I don't know, but I am guessing it will help people to remain loyal if they think they might be granted something extra."

"That is actually a very good idea." Dietrich smirked and looked at me with a proud glint in his eyes.

"And I like that they will no longer be wolves. They don't deserve it." Vincent added.

"And, they will probably have to listen to us still, won't they." Reece grinned with a wicked light in his eyes.

"I must concur with them, your grace, it seems to be the best punishment available, and a fitting one as well." Ghirald smiled happily.

"So, the punishment for their crimes will be the sealing of their wolf and banishment."

"With the banishment will come a blacklisting to all packs worldwide. They will be forced to live life without any aid from the shifters ever again."

"That sounds much more appealing to me." Reece's voice held a slight growling edge as he gleefully spoke those last words.

"Will you be able to pass judgement tomorrow, Queen Trinity? Or would you prefer to wait a little longer?" Perkins looked at me with expectant eyes, but I didn't know which answer he was hoping for.

"I think I will let them stew in the dungeons a little longer." I smirked. "No need to rush things." At that, everyone in the room smiled like they were quite pleased with my answer.

Chapter 202 - Trinity - Training Wolf Magic 1 (VOLUME 2)

14-18 minutes

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Trinity

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With the punishment decided, it was time to get back to work. I needed to remain focused. Today was Wednesday, and I planned to deliver the verdict on Charles and Ralph Saturday evening. This would give me time to think about the process, and figure out exactly how I was going to do it.

I knew I could do it. That wasn't the issue. I could feel it in my gut that I was capable of sealing away their wolves. However, I obviously had never done this before. Furthermore, I knew that Nehalennia would be on my side for this. She would not like this show of disobedience toward her successor. That much I was absolutely certain of.

The day after the fight, I was to begin training and learning about the marks that had appeared on my body. These marks apparently had different meanings. Each one would tell me about different abilities I had. Some I had been able to discern for myself, like the arrows, but the others were still a complete mystery to me.

Thankfully, there was a complete record of shifter history, and there had been people over the last few millennia, aside from we Queens and Goddess Incarnates, that had received marks. Their runes, as they called them, were studied in great detail so as to ascertain the truth behind the abilities they granted.

I met with Gabriel, it seemed like he was going to attend all of my lessons with me, and two other men. They were the experts on runes, aside from Gabriel who seemed to contain the entirety of the Sentinelle's knowledge.

The first man Hideki, a tall thin man with black hair, handsome gray eyes, and a slight Japanese accent. He looked clean cut and very studious. And he was the only one I had seen in the entire Sentinelle that wore glasses. He didn't seem to have the greatest of personalities, but he wasn't outright rude either, just brusque. I had dealt with that plenty of times with Reece.

The other man, Sebastian, looked similar in a way. He had the same black hair but it was paired with eyes that were so dark they nearly looked black. He looked very capable and spoke very politely.

Also, the two of them were wearing very nice looking suits. Sebastian's was black and Hideki's was dark, navy blue. These two men looked like they would be thorough and efficient with teaching me all about the runes and markings I currently had and ones I could expect later.

"It is a pleasure to be working with you, my lady." Sebastian swept forward into a deep bow but did not kneel. His left arm was folded behind his back while his right hand was placed over his heart.

"It is a pleasure to work with the both of you." I gave a kind smile and a nod of my head.

"Please, come with us and let us get to work." Hideki's voice was calm and with a slight hint of kindness. It was in there, just not on the surface. Oh well, as long as he was polite, that's all that mattered.

We got to work, a very thick, very dusty book opened on the table. The writings in it were done in many different languages. Each line repeated itself over and over in Old English, German, French, Spanish, Italian, Japanese, Chinese, and so many more that I couldn't keep track of it all.

The writing of each line was also very small to allow for the multiple translations. And after every couple pages there was an accompanying picture of a runic mark.

"These marks have been passed down since before the Goddess left the earth. Each mark that she has given has been recorded in some way. Now, we must not only teach you about these runes, but study any that might be new on your body." Hideki's words gave me pause. Were they planning on looking everywhere on my body just to be certain that I didn't have other marks.

"W-well I-I have marks f-from Thoth too." I informed them stutteringly. They needed to know that I was marked by more than one celestial being.

"Really?" Sebastian seemed intrigued.

"Yes, when I was named the Queen of Thoth's children as well I was given new marks."

"May we see your marks?" Hideki spoke clinically, with no feelings at all. Did he not know that I would have to remove my shirt for them to see all the marks.

"Let us teach her about the marks we know of first. When she has learned all of them then we will check her markings with the King present." Gabriel interjected for me. I silently thanked him with my eyes for his help. He nodded as if he understood and gave a small smile.

"What is the issue?" Hideki seemed confused.

"The King is quite possessive of his wife." Gabriel's words still seemed to go over Hideki's head, like he couldn't understand my modesty at all.

"Let it slide, my friend, we do not wish to anger our King." Sebastian smiled knowingly.

"As you wish. Let us begin." Hideki finally conceded and moved to sit at the wooden table in the middle of the room.

They were very knowledgeable about the runes. The explanations they gave were extremely easy to understand. Not to mention, there were both more and less runes than I expected.

With all the different kinds of runes in the world, I at first thought there had to be a lot of them, considering the size of that tome they were reading from. But then I got to thinking about the fact that they only recorded runes that had been granted to shifters by Nehalennia.

They had recorded and extensively researched fifty-six different Runes. Chances were at least a few of them matched the ones on my body. Also, from my quick skimming of the book, some of the designs were elaborate and clear in their meaning, while others were very simplistic and therefore cryptic about their power.

Also, there weren't just runes for positive things. It seemed that one could be cursed by the Goddess as well. There were runes for chaos and destruction, suffering, and mortality and pain. These definitely weren't favors granted by the benevolent Goddess.

Likewise there were runes for prosperity, strength, speed, accuracy, success, and so many more. There were some that seemed like they wouldn't give you a necessary advantage in the short term but were great for the long term, like growth, reaching potential, and happiness. The people who had received those runes must have gained a lot of favor with Nehalennia.

We spent hours pouring over the text. Learning, studying, researching. That was what my day consisted of. It was boring, that was for sure, but the information I gathered was actually pretty interesting.

I didn't mind studying and learning like this, but I was eager to finally get to physical the training. But, I guess we all must start with academic lessons first. This was truly where all things started.

Just when I was starting to get a headache from all the reading and studying, Reece and Vincent came into the study room near the library that we were in. The room was really too bland, it only had two wooden tables with four chairs each, nothing else. I guess it was really only for studying.

"Just about done?" Reece smiled at me, clearly pleased with himself after a hard day of training.

"Hmm." I made a noncommittal noise as my head was really starting to hurt from all the small writing I had been staring at.

"King Reece, there is one thing that we would like your help with." Sebastian stood as soon as they had come into the room and he once again bowed just like he did before.

"Help with what?" Reece looked confused at his words.

"Ah, well-." He started before Gabriel cut him off.

"Allow me to explain." He grinned, hoping to bridge the gap between the two groups of men as I just sat there and massaged my temples.

"Ok." Reece encouraged him to go on.

"We would like to examine the marks on the Queen."

"Examine them?" Vincent was stunned by these words.

"It is one mission of the Sentinelle to thoroughly record all Goddess given marks. But we would not like to offend the Queen or yourself. We want you here to assist, if that is possible."

"Why do you need to know?" Reece was skeptical.

"We cannot begin to fathom what types of power she possesses if we do not know what her marks look like." Hideki answered blandly. Reece quirked his eyebrow at him, but he knew that all the men here were trustworthy. He had met them all yesterday after all.

"Gabriel, is this something that is necessary?" Vincent asked him for clarity.

"I'm afraid that it is, Sir." Gabriel nodded to us. "We need to know what runes she has so we know how best to train her."

"And how am I supposed to help?" Reece still seemed to be perplexed.

"Well, we didn't feel comfortable examining the marks without you in the room." Gabriel actually blushed a little as he spoke those words.

"Oh." Reece grinned then looked over at me. "I see you're treating my wife right, Gabriel. I'm glad none of you thought to disrobe her while I was not here." I saw Hideki stiffen for a moment, most likely he was remembering his earlier words.

"We wouldn't dream of it, Sir." Sebastian said with a grin.

"Plus, you need someone here that knows when she got each and every one of those marks." Reece smirked as he looked at me. "No one knows her body better than I do." I blushed crimson red at his remark. Goddess, did he have to put it like that?

After the permission was given and Reece was with me, we moved on to examining the marks on my body. I removed my shirt, feeling heat rise in my face as I felt their eyes on me. I was not really comfortable with this, but I just imagined it was like a doctor's visit. It was no different from Griffin giving me that exam for the baby.

My blue lacy bra was still in place, and I covered my front with my shirt as I moved to sit in the chair. Vincent stood behind me, keeping an eye on the other men in the room while Reece knelt before me.

Gabriel, Sebastian, and Hideki all looked over my back with intense looks on their faces. I could feel them staring at me, but it wasn't heated so that made things easier. They were definitely looking at me with clinical interest and not lust. That was both comforting and disheartening. Wasn't I pretty enough?

No, I shouldn't be thinking that way. I wasn't interested in them looking at me heatedly. It was just wounding my pride as a woman that they were so uninterested. For all I know they were hiding any interest because they knew that my husband would kill them if they showed any sort of sexual interest in me. Yeah, that was most likely it, and I definitely don't need people around here getting murdered. I nearly laughed at that thought.

"Which marks are from the initial Goddess marking?" Gabriel asked Reece with curiosity in his voice. "There are so many new marks here that I have never seen before."

"Everything on the left shoulder is from the Moon Goddess, everything on the right shoulder is from Thoth. The ones across the back, I am uncertain of. And the collar bones go with their respective shoulders for who gave the marks." Reece told him what he wanted to know in an almost flat voice, almost. I could hear the slight heat that laid low in his voice as he looked at me.

"These marks are fascinating." Sebastian spoke with excitement. "There are some that seem somewhat similar to the ones we already know."

"Yes, like here." I felt Hideki's finger as it grazed my back and heard a very low, nearly silent rumble come from Reece's throat. Hideki instantly pulled his hand away.

"Yes, that is most definitely a memory recall rune." Gabriel answered him.

"And this is the wisdom rune." Sebastian added.

"I also see accuracy, tracking, precog, and communications." Hideki added without touching my back this time.

"Which runes are those?" Reece asked curiously.

"This eye here is precognition. She will, with training, be able to detect danger to those immediately around her. This tree here, and all the others like it, have to do with communications."

"Is that why she can speak to us inside our head, and why her animal forms can speak like a human and not, well, an animal?"

"Yes, that would most definitely be the reason." Hideki responded with a steady tone.

"This bullseye is the accuracy rune, most likely to work with these arrow runes." Sebastian was moving on.

"I can make arrows of both ice and wind." I told him.

"That will most definitely come in handy. I am certain that is why you have this archer symbol." I nodded in agreement to Sebastian's words. "But you also have multiple elemental markings. On both shoulders and across the back. To me that speaks volumes about your connection to the elements."

"I would guess that you will be able to make arrows out of any element, given practice." Gabriel sounded awed as he looked at the markings.

"This mark here is a bit unique." Sebastian pointed to one and Reece immediately answered.

"That mark has changed, it was just a slight modification of our pack crest, and it is right where a true mate mark would go. But since she was named the Queen of the Warlocks as well, it was changed to have multiple animals and people kneeling to what appears to be the Goddess."

"What was it before?" Hideki questioned.

"It was the Goddess descending to a pack of leaping wolves."

"Hmm." Hideki seemed interested in the mark. "I see it is on both shoulders. It must truly be the mark of her ranking."

"That was my assumption as well. And also that she now had warlocks to add to her personal pack." Reece told him of his thoughts.

"She also seems to have this mark in multiple areas. The clasped hands, what could they mean?"

"I always associated it with my ability to share powers with the others."

"That is a very valid thought." Gabriel sounded proud as he listened to my idea.

"This one here, with the moon." Hideki stopped there as he pointed.

"I feel a sense of the Goddess from it. I can almost feel Nehalennia." Gabriel seemed awed.

"My thoughts exactly." Sebastian spoke reverently. "And this mark also feels celestial." He pointed to another one.

"The Ankh?" Gabriel questioned.

"Yes, it's like I can feel another God's power in it."

"Thoth." Vincent provided for them. "It's safe to assume these runes are to mark her as the Queen of the different people."

"I believe you are right, Vincent. They are very definitely full of power. They must be how Thoth and Nehalennia will stay connected to her." Gabriel answered him.

"What intrigues me is that there are trinity symbols connecting everything. That and the colors." Hideki intoned.

"The trinity symbols, beside associating with her name, is most likely speaking to her multiple roles." Sebastian mused.

"Roles?" Reece asked him

"Luna Queen, Warlock Queen, Goddess Incarnate. Three roles for a trinity. But there is also the chance that there could be another role coming for her." Shock filled me at Sebastian's words.

"Another role?" There was genuine fear in my voice at that. I didn't want, or need, another role. I had my hands full already.

"That's just a possibility. It could also mean the wolf, the witch, and the Goddess."

"I hope you're right Sebastian." I gave him a look that I know was filled with dread.

I had a lot to think about for the rest of that night. I was so distracted that I barely paid attention to anything Reece said to me. I think he was a little upset about that, but oh well. I was having a mental crisis here.

Chapter 203 - Trinity - A Warlock History Lesson (VOLUME 2)

8-10 minutes

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Trinity

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After the, ahem, excitement of the runes lesson it was time for me to have the first lesson on Warlock history. Crawford and Eldrige wanted to have the same type of lesson for me that Gabriel had held. We would be learning in the study room instead of my room this time, but aside from that it was the same.

Well, that and Reece decided to attend the lesson with the guards following suit. None of us knew anything about the history of Warlocks and Witches. And since we would now be working with them regularly it was probably a good idea for all of them to learn it as well.

Gabriel was joining us as well, intent to be present during all my lessons. Gabriel acted much like an assistant to me, like Noah did for Reece for so long. If I had to give people around me positions like Reece did, then I would assign Gabriel as a Gamma, Vincent was my Beta and there was no doubt in my mind about that. He had proven to me that he was fiercely loyal and would do anything to protect me and the pack.

Did I really need to assign these roles to people though? I would need to have a serious talk with Reece and Gabriel about this. They would tell me what the best course of action here was. But I had a few people in mind to help me fill ranks if I needed to.

But for now, it was time to learn. After breakfast the seven of us joined the Warlocks and Gabriel in the proper room for our study time. Crawford and Eldrige stood in front of us while the eight wolves, half wolf and vampire (we were a diverse group) sat with rapt attention.

They began the same way Gabriel had, with a run down of the Gods behind the race. Unlike we shifters with a single starting entity, witches and warlocks were started by two beings. Thoth, the Egyptian God of light and magic, along with other things but these were his major areas. And Hektate, the Roman equivalent of the Greek Goddess. Hektate was the Goddess of magic, witchcraft, the night, ghosts, necromancy, and oddly is associated with the underworld.

Apparently Hektate had started off with just magic and night as her domain. While night and day are opposites, the similarities in their power had drawn Hektate and Thoth together. The love they shared was what led to the birth of their children.

Apparently the first warlocks and witches were born directly from the union of Hektate and Thoth. They spent nearly a millennia together, loving each other and ushering a whole new species into existence. All seemed to be going well.

But, as time went on, Thoth noticed that Hektate was more interested in the darker practices of magic. She became ruthless, power hungry, and not afraid to hurt people to get what she wanted.

Thoth, the benevolent God that he was could not condone her behavior. As he watched and noticed that Hektate's powers had grown to encompass more and more dark and sinister things he could no longer stay with his beloved.

For the sake of his children and for the sake of the world, Thoth banished his lover. He didn't just banish her from the mortal realm, he also banished her from the celestial realm as well. There was only one place left for her to go.

The reason, as it turned out, that Hektate was associated with the underworld was because she was trapped there until someone sinister enough came along to summon her back to our world and in return release her from her eternal prison. That sinister asshole was Edmond.

After Hektate was banished Thoth was saddened to have lost the wife and lover he had had for so long. He remained on earth for about a hundred years longer, watching over his children, but he didn't have the heart to stay beyond that.

Like Nehalennia, Thoth left his children with the knowledge that one day someone will be born that he deemed to be worthy of inheriting some of his power. That person would be their leader, a royal to guide them into the future.

Unfortunately, in Thoth's depression before he departed this realm, he did not think to leave such precise teachings for his people. His children, and their children, and their children's children, they were all left to feel lost and empty like the children from a broken home shattered by divorce.

In a sense that is exactly what had happened. Thoth, angered by what his lover had done had essentially divorced her and took custody of his people from her. But saddened as he was he could not maintain the order among them.

It seems that the Warlocks and Witches have been a bit lost these last three thousand years. Left with no one to guide them they were essentially on their own like baby birds pushed from the nest too soon.

There was a lot of chaos among them when they were first abandoned by their father. Many of Thoth's children took their anger about the abandonment out on humans. Many thought they were better than humans and any other species there was.

There were countless wars that started among the shadow world. That was the wording that Crawford used to encompass everything supernatural. The Witches and Warlocks often fought with the wolves and other shifters. There were battles with the vampires and the Fae as well. It got to the point that there was a lot of bad blood among the children of Thoth and the other factions.

It wasn't until the witch trials that things were finally settled and they were able to move on. During the witch trial it wasn't just the witches and Warlocks that feared the humans, the entire shadow world was terrified by it all.

The shadow world was named because they, mostly, tried to hide who and what they really were. They had not flaunted their abilities. No the entire thing behind the various witch hunts was nothing more than human paranoia.

Advancement in science and medicine, seeing someone do something you've never seen before, ignorance of many things, these things are what caused people to be labeled as witches. Many humans lost their lives to this mass hysteria and paranoia that spread through the world at that time. Seeing such horrific sights caused the various shadow communities to tighten their securities and put stricter punishments to those who broke secrecy laws.

The Aerie Convento, the governing body for all the children of Thoth, was established around the same time as the witch trials. The reason was so that they could more effectively govern the different covens all over the world.

Not to mention that with the superiority complex with the various covens, the number of children born to the Witches and Warlocks had been dwindling for years. Many feared that tainting bloodlines would lead to weakened magic and eventual extinction.

And, add to that the fact that when a coven was found to have broken secrecy laws, the entire coven was destroyed. This had, apparently, not happened often, but it was still a massive blow to their population.

If you were to compare the number of Nehalennia's children to that of Thoth's children there would be a staggeringly large difference. But I guess that the shifters were, usually, born with a strong sense of loyalty and family. The broken family of the warlocks and witches most likely led to how they felt about familial bonds and trusting people.

There was a lot more to the history of the Warlocks than I had expected. And their tale was more tragic than I thought it would be. But, I was happy to learn it all nonetheless. This was as much a part of my heritage as the tale of Nehalennia was.

Having heard these stories, the origins of both sides of my being, it made me even more determined to help my people. I wasn't just a wolf, I was also a witch. And for some reason both Nehalennia and Thoth chose me to succeed them, to lead in their stead. Was this something they planned or did it just happen coincidentally? I have a feeling that they aren't done guiding me through this hectic world.

They want me to bring peace to their people. Their people are my people. And if I can unite and bring peace to them both, the two largest groups in the shadow world, then it will help to bring peace to even more people.

Is that what I am meant for? Has that been my purpose this whole time? Am I the bearer of peace meant to unite the entire shadow world. And what, then, would be our goal? Where would we stop after that? Would we stop? Or were we to make peace between everyone, human and not human? That seems like a bit much. World peace? It sounds like a joke.

Chapter 204 - Trinity - Training Wolf Magic 2 (VOLUME 2)

8-10 minutes

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Trinity

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The history of the Warlocks didn't take too long to learn, surprisingly. So, after we all finished cramming that knowledge into our heads we readied ourselves for some physical lessons.

Reece and the others went to train with Lucas, the resident warrior guide. I went with Gabriel as well as Sebastian and Hideki. We were going to focus my primary training on what my runes appeared to be. They had identified a few of them, and knowing what they are meant for they would attempt to give me guidance in how to handle those powers.

This training was all purely theory for them, as none of them had ever been able to perform magic before. But they had researched everything they could over the years. I just wish they knew that practical lessons and researching were not the same thing.

Gabriel had at least seen me perform some of my magic before, so he knew a little of how to guide me. The problem is, that aside from the small things I had learned to do during training before the wedding, I had only used my powers while in the middle of fights.

Before everything went to hell I had learned to control my wolf's ice form and could move in and out of it at will now. I had, on two occasions, successfully performed what I call a sonic howl. This was essentially a howl with the power to push back anything in front of me.

During the night that I had shifted I had used powers of fire, ice, and lightning. But I was nowhere near being able to control those elements at will. Also, my speed and strength had increased and I was able to handle myself a little better but I still was no match for Reece or my guards when fighting in wolf form.

"Show us what you can do with little or no time to prepare." Gabriel instructed me when we were outside, standing near the rocky edge of the cliff.

"Alright." I nodded to him.

I instantly shifted into my wolf form, something that Gabriel had seen, but not the other two. Based on their awed gasped and shocked faces they didn't expect my appearance. Especially all the marks that were visible on me.

I started by turning my wolf into ice. The shift for this form used to require me to touch the ice or snow but now I could do it whenever I wanted. I felt the ice spread across my body, my fur literally turning into ice not just freezing over.

When I was covered in ice I never felt cold, no matter what the temperature was outside. Also, I never felt hot. It was basically like I was locked in at the perfect body temperature. When I knew that I was standing there glowing in front of them, my many marks glowing on my pure white icy body, I opened my eyes to look at them with a sense of pride.

"This is one thing I learned." I didn't use the mind link but I still spoke in my voice and not a wolf's.

"That is simply amazing." Hideki spoke with awe filling his voice and his face momentarily showing the most emotion I had seen from him thus far.

"And that is a form you can take at will?" Sebastian asked me.

"Yes, the first time was quite the shock, but I can do it any time I want to now."

"Have you done anything with this form yet?" Gabriel asked me. "Or do you just transform?"

"So far, it's just the transformation. I don't know how to do anything else with it."

"That is somewhere for us to focus your attention and efforts. What else have you managed?" Hideki asked with genuine curiosity.

"I have used my arrows." As I said these words I summoned both an ice arrow and a wind arrow.

"How good are you at managing those?" Sebastian inquired of me, a smirk on his face as he saw all the new things.

"Pick a target." I was a little smug when I said these words, but I knew that I had this task in the bag.

"See that?" Hideki said, pointing to a sign some eighty feet away and behind me. The sign was written in French but it essentially was a notification for the docks with a picture of the abbey below the words.

"Aim for the arched entryway, if you can hit it from here that is." I heard the clear ring of the challenge in his voice. He didn't think I could do it.

"And for my second shot?" I looked at him with determined eyes, signalling that I was more than happy to accept his challenge.

"If you manage that, then aim for the little flag flying above the abbey for your second shot."

"Done." I nodded. I couldn't smirk in this form but I could still tell him how confident I was about it all.

I had seen the sign and locked my targets in my mind when he pointed to them initially. So, without even turning around I launched the arrows. I concentrated on the spots I wanted to hit, the picture clear in my mind.

I heard the clear thwack of the arrows hitting the wooden sign. The three men standing in front of me looked at the sign with awe. We all had the eyes of wolves and could see the sign clear as day, the distance didn't pose an issue right now. So, we were all able to look at the sign and see that the arrows hit their intended targets at the same time.

"Well?" I asked Hideki for his opinion of my arrows.

"Wonderful. Now you need to work on getting more types of arrows." He didn't look surprised at all. I guess he knew I would hit the targets all along, or at least hoped I would.

"What else?" Sebastian wanted to move on, excitement was brimming in his eyes.

"Well, when I first transformed, I killed four people using elemental magic. But I haven't managed to use it since. And I have used a sonic howl a couple times but it's not reliable."

"Try." Sebastian demanded.

"Which one?" I asked him, perplexed.

"All of it." He looked at me pointedly.

"Alright." I didn't even sound confident to my own ears, I know they could hear it as well.

I looked at the sign, figuring it would work well as a continued target. I concentrated on what type of element to use but nothing brought it out at all. I couldn't do it. And when I attempted my howl I barely managed to produce any sonic waves, it was too weak and ineffectual.

My head drooped and my shoulders slumped. I knew that I had these powers, but most of the time they were useless to me. I couldn't make it happen.

"The power resides in you, Queen Trinity, there is no reason to be so saddened." Hideki encouraged me.

"What he says is correct. Is it not the entire purpose of your visit to learn how to do the things you cannot do yet?"

"You're right. That is exactly why I am here. So I can learn how to protect my people." I gave them a firm look of determination.

"Then let us work on just that."

We set to work immediately. It was a long, exhausting day, but I worked extremely hard to accomplish something new. There was little progress in the beginning, but by the end of the day I had managed a slight improvement. I could form arrows of lightning and fire now. And on top of that, I was able to slightly produce the other elements, but nothing compared to how they were when I first shifted.

That night I was tired beyond belief. I could feel the exhaustion spreading through my body, weighing me down like a brick. I guess this is how I was going to feel for a good majority of the trip.

Using these new powers of mine was going to be like working muscles that were close to atrophy. Something that was not used to being worked out and stretched. And in the long run it was going to be like I was out of shape for a while. I might as well get used to it.

When I collapsed onto the bed, ready to skip dinner, it was Reece who took care of me. He drew me a bath and soaked with me in the large tub. He rubbed small circles over my shoulders, across my back, down my arms, and over every other part of my body he could reach. The massage felt like heaven as I laid there, melting in his arms.

After he was done I was no better than putty. He had to scoop me out of the water and dry me off. He laid me in the bed after I was dry, pulling the sheets up around me. Afterwards he climbed in with me

and pulled me close to his chest, running his hand up and down my back causing a light tickling sensation. However, I was too exhausted to make him stop and soon, I fell asleep listening to his heart beating steadily and his deep, sexy voice telling me all about the day he had with the other as they trained.

Needless to say, I slept soundly and woke up feeling quite rested.

Chapter 205 - Trinity - Witch Magic 1 (VOLUME 2)

9-11 minutes

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Trinity

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I was getting a little exhausted with all the nonstop excitement of this trip, but I had to keep going. I was going to have a full schedule for a while, training and getting to know the members of the Sentinelle. The morning after the lesson with Sebastian, Hideki, and Gabriel I had a lesson with Crawford and Eldrige.

I knew next to nothing about magic. This was something that they were not able to comprehend since I had used it already. I tried to explain to them that using it and knowing how to actually use it are two different things. They were gonna have to start from the very beginning with me, beginner level stuff.

We started with how to draw my power to me. How to wrap it around myself and feel its presence. Magic wasn't unlimited, we had a set amount we could use before we reached our limit and was exhausted for the day.

Using all our magic in a day would not kill us like I had read in books before, but it would leave you feeling weak and tired for a few days until you recovered. And, it would likely make you pass out from exhaustion if you used everything in one go.

Another thing was that most people were set in their magic level when they were born. It would increase until you reached adulthood and then cap out. But there were a few people over the last several millennia that had managed to increase their levels beyond what anyone had thought possible. Edmond being one of them.

When I successfully managed to wrap my magic around me it felt like a second layer of skin. But this new layer was shining a light that shimmered in a light aquamarine color.

"Can you see the light too?" I asked Crawford as I stared down at my arms and admired the lights as they shimmered in the sun.

"No, my queen, I cannot. You can see it because it is your magic, but unless you were gathering a large amount to cast a spell we would not be able to see it." His words were smooth and proud as he looked at me with happiness. "But I am happy that you are making such progress." Even though he said this I knew that we were only training the basics right now, something a child would learn.

No matter what level of magic it was, having my magic wrapped around me, protecting me, felt comfortable. It made me feel safe and warm, like I was being hugged all over. It was very reassuring.

"Most of our kind will keep themselves wrapped in magic at all times. It is a good way to protect yourself in the event of an emergency." Eldrige told me as he, too, beamed a proud smile my way. I could definitely get on board with that, this comforting feeling was definitely something I wanted to keep.

From there we moved onto little things, small magics. They taught me to first levitate something, holding it in the air for different lengths of time. Then we increased the size and quantity of the objects that I levitated. I even managed to learn how to levitate myself, though that was much harder than floating an object.

We practiced many things, one after another. The good thing about some of my runes was that it made learning and remembering things a lot easier. I would never forget something, apparently, and I would absorb information faster. That's what the memory and wisdom runes helped with. So no matter how much they threw at me, eventually I would learn.

All through the first day, however, we never touched onto combat magic. They wanted me to get used to learning how to control the flow and output of my magic before I worked on something that could prove dangerous for other people. If I put too much into a spell, it could become too strong and hurt those around me.

What I focused on instead, was practicing life hacks with magic. I could do many things once I got a handle on the basics. But we were focusing on transfiguring something to suit my needs, magically changing my clothes, and summoning an item that I wanted. With these things learned and some creativity I would be able to do a lot more things over time.

The ideas and possibilities were endless, really. I could use these new powers of mine all around the house. I would have a lot easier time when we went back home too. If I wanted something and Reece was on another power trip, forcing me to stay in my room, then I could just magic whatever I wanted, even if that was putting his dog collar onto him so everyone knew he was my Fido.

After training I was exhausted, but I wanted to go around and meet everyone. It was still kind of early when I had reached my limits for the day, and consequently I still had a couple hours until dinner. The others were still training with Lucas, so Gabriel and Ghirald were accompanying me around the abbey.

I would eventually meet the others as well, but for now I was going to spend some time with those still in the main building. A lot of people were still out doing their daily work or training, but there were a few people that were inside that I could meet.

First I met the sisters, or so they were called. Izzy and Thoma were as close as sisters and always worked together. They looked nothing alike but got along like they had been with each other their entire lives.

Thoma was shorter, but still taller than me by a few inches, with platinum blonde hair and bright hazel eyes. She had a slight build that made her look almost childlike if it wasn't for the height and ample curves she flaunted.

Izzy was beautiful, just over six feet tall with dark, dark brown hair like mine only full of beautiful curls that she held up in an elaborate looking knot on the back of her head. Her eyes were a warm looking hazelnut brown. And the distinct mediterranean look made her look like a goddess to me.

Thoma seemed to be sweet, but there was a definite warrior look in her eyes. She looked like the kind of woman who would finish off her enemy before you even realized what had happened. Izzy on the other hand looked shy but strong. It seemed that she was most likely one of those people that was just shy until you got to know them, then they would open up and be a great friend.

I spent some time with the two of them and we got along really well. For women who were nearly a hundred years older than me, it was surprisingly easy to get along with them. They also act a lot more modern compared to the others, mostly because they worked together as scouts to search out information on, well, me.

After I got to know the two of them, Gabriel took me to go meet Lana. She looked like she was about my age and she had joined around the same time that Izzy and Thoma did. She was the resident nurse of the Sentinelle and patched up anyone who came back too injured.

Lana had a natural light tan that made her look like she spent a lot of time in the sun. Her hair was a long chestnut brown that reminded me of Mom's. And her eyes were really pretty, they looked like a nearly clear green crystal that was made into a pair of inquisitive eyes.

"It's very nice to meet you Queen Trinity." She smiled and bowed to me when she was introduced.

"It's lovely to meet you as well, Lana."

Lana and I talked for a long time. She told me all about the things she wanted to do with the advancements in medicine, how she wanted to learn how to help people more. Throughout the entire conversation I could feel her sincerity. I kept feeling a pull toward her, something calling my magic forth. I had a feeling she was supposed to be just like Griffin.

I didn't fight the magic, I just let it flow. I didn't need to say anything, just let it move as it wished. And the moment I agreed with my magic's desire there was that telltale light, that sure sign that someone had been granted a new ability.

"Huh.?" Lana gasped, surprised by the light. "What on earth was that?" She asked in her sweet sounding voice.

'Gift granted.' The voice of the goddess filled the room.

"Gift? What gift? Who was granted a gift?" She seemed shocked and a little scared.

"You were, Lana." I told her matter-of-factly.

"Me?" She didn't seem to believe me but I just nodded my head to reassure her. "What kind of gift?"

"A new ability. Just like my guards and some people back home. You now have a magical healing ability. You will need to practice it so that you can learn how to use it."

"Really?" She was finally getting excited with the news.

"Yes."

"Am I the only one with this ability?" Excitement was dripping from her voice as she happily asked me that question.

"No." I shook my head. "Our pack doctor back home has the same ability." I thought she would be a little unhappy to know it wasn't a unique gift, but that only made her more excited.

"A doctor? A real doctor? And he has the same ability as me? Can I meet him?" She asked all these in a rush then seemed to realize she was being a little forward. She clapped her hand over her mouth and blushed before continuing on in an embarrassed tone. "I'm sorry. Forgive me Queen Trinity. I didn't mean to be rude." I just laughed at her lightly.

"No worries Lana, it's fine. And you can most definitely come back with us to meet Griffin. He's a wonderful man and an excellent doctor."

"Really?" She beamed happily. "Thank you so much."

We talked a little more and I moved on to meet a few other people. But I was getting tired and it was getting close to dinner time. It was time for me to call it a day and head back to my room.

Chapter 206 - Trinity - Punishment (VOLUME 2)

13-17 minutes

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Trinity

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With everything going on the last couple of days, I had almost forgotten what day it was, until Gabriel asked me a question while we were all eating dinner together in one of the large dining rooms.

"Your Grace, what time would you like the punishments to begin tonight?"

My mind blanked for a few moments. Punishments? What punishments? Then it hit me like a smack in the face. Right, today is Saturday and I said I would take care of the punishments for Ralph and Charles tonight. How had I forgotten that?

"Let's begin at eight this evening." I told him as I looked at my watch. It was six-thirty now and we would have plenty of time to prepare after we ate. Right?"

"That sounds fine. We will have them moved to the courtyard."

"The courtyard?" I asked, shocked.

"Yes, my lady, it will be done in the courtyard, so that all can see." He looked firm and determined with that statement.

Deep down I knew he was right. It was best if everyone could see that I was able to perform the punishment that I had sentenced them to. If I couldn't prove that I was capable of it then it was likely that some would not believe it was possible, or that I had done it at all.

"That's fine." I finally answered after several more moments of stunned silence. "I will pass judgement on them in front of everyone and carry out their sentence for all to see." I spoke much more confidently than I felt. This was not going to be a pleasant time for me or the two being punished.

I finished my meal in silence. I knew it was a delicious meal because I had tasted the first half, but my taste buds seemed to have stopped working mid way through. So had my ability to maintain my body heat apparently since I was feeling cold and numb after that conversation.

The time after dinner passed in a blurring blink of the eye. One minute I was sitting at the table and eating my tasteless meal and the next I was standing between Reece and Vincent while Gabriel Ghirald stood before the entire Sentinelle.

The nearly one hundred and fifty people were all standing before us. Ralph and Charles were on their knees bound with magical cords that Crawford had summoned for us. Gabriel and Ghirald had their backs to me as they watched the crowd. And behind Vincent, Reece, and myself were the rest of those who had come with us, wolf and non wolf alike.

"Thank you all for gathering on such short notice." Gabriel's words rang with the authority that was granted to him by his position as their leader. "You all know of the crimes that were committed here earlier this week. This is something that has never been seen in our midst before, but these traitors were among us all along. They simply went unseen by us."

There was a small murmur that swept through the gathered wolves as they stared at us all. Their eyes would flit from Gabriel to me then to the two men bound and sitting on their knees and then back again. Some of them had fear in their eyes, but most were looking at me with reverence and the traitors with disgust.

"These two men never had the intention of serving the new queen and Goddess Incarnate. They simply used our power to secure themselves a much longer life. They wanted nothing more but to stay in our ranks until they could be released from their positions here and live life in another time. They joined us for their own selfish reasons and that is unacceptable. We are a noble and honorable organization that dedicates ourselves to the service of the Goddess." Gabriel's words were ringing with truth, conviction, and anger. And I saw several people nodding along with him as he spoke.

"Our new Queen, and the new Goddess Incarnate, has men with her who have all been granted an ability by the Goddess herself. Among those men there is one that can see the true intentions of someone's heart. If they are not true to their word or honorable, he will know." Ghirald explained to the crowd. "I took her men around the entire village as you know, and only these two were found to be untrustworthy. I am beyond proud of everyone else who was proven to be honorable."

"These two did not just prove untrustworthy." Gabriel's voice became deeper and angrier as he spoke. "They outright insulted our Queen and King. They outright refused to accept them as the Goddess chosen royals. They even dared to fight against our king, who is the only wolf to be granted a lycan form

in over two thousand years. If any of you needed another confirmation as to the validity of their positions, that is yet another indicator, another proof if you will."

There seemed to be no doubt in any of the eyes I could see. The crowd listened with rapt attention as the men before them spoke. But now it was my time to take the lead.

Moving to stand between Gabriel and Ghirald, I raised my voice to address the crowd.

"These men have shown that they are no ally of ours. Mine or yours. We are all in danger as long as they know what our plans are. I do not believe their crimes warrant death, but they cannot remain among us. They must be punished for their actions. For that matter, they will be stripped of their status by the Sentinelle, allowing them to age again. As no one knows what this will do to their bodies, they may have a shortened life span now." I saw genuine fear take the lead on the two faces that were looking up at me. Their anger dropped and fear took over. "Furthermore." I began again. "They have expressed no desire to follow the leader of their people. The Goddess chose me to be the queen not just of the wolves but of every shifter on this planet. If they choose not to follow my lead or my command, then they have no need, no right, to call themselves wolves."

Another ripple ran through the audience at my words. There was curiosity on all the faces looking at me from the crowd.

"Since these men are not worthy of being wolves, I will be locking that part of them away along with all their memories of the abbey. They will no longer be able to find their way back here. They will live out the rest of their lives as humans."

"No, you can't do this!" Ralph yelled when he heard my declaration.

"No, she can't. She doesn't have that ability." Charles seemed petulant as he spoke.

"I wish you would have shown at least a little remorse, Charles. But the fact that you didn't means that I no longer feel sorry for what I must do." I gave him a look that I know was full of anger and frustration.

I moved forward, placing a hand above each of their heads as they looked at me. Ralph had a face full of fear and anger but Charles only looked at me with disdain and smugness. I felt my magic swelling within me. The gathering felt like it did when I was training earlier in the day.

I thought of what I wanted, what I needed, to happen. I thought of their wolf forms from when they had fought against Reece the other day. Then I imagined putting those wolves into a cage. I locked the cages and sealed them with magic. After the cages were locked I covered them in a cloak of magic so strong the voices from their wolves would never be able to penetrate its barriers.

"No, no, no, no, no!" Ralph was screaming over and over again.

"No, how could you? You can't do this to me. Give me my wolf back you bitch." Charles screamed at me with venom dripping from his words.

"Pay heed to how you address my wife." Reece snarled at him.

"Fuck you and your wife!" Charles yelled back to Reece. "Give me my damn wolf back. I can't hear him. Did you kill my wolf? You bitch, you murdered my wolf!" Charles began to thrash on the ground yelling while Ralph began to sob with his head bent toward the ground.

"My wolf." Ralph moan. "My wolf."

"You bitch. You will never rule. I will see to it that you never rule our people."

There was a rush of movement as six men rushed past me all at once. Frustrated by Charles' constant berating and foul language, Reece, Dietrich, and all the guards had moved in unison. Not paying attention to the actions of the others and focusing on their own task, they all six landed a kick on him at the same time. Their feet all landed in various points from his head, abdomen, groin (that one was Vincent) and legs. Charles' ranting and raving ended abruptly with a very painful sounding cry.

"I told you to watch your mouth asshole." Reece snarled as he walked back to me and put his hand around my waist.

"I'm not done yet Reece, I need to lock their memories." I told him, causing him to retract his hand from my waist and instead settle it on my shoulder.

Shane and David violently pulled Charles back up so that he was sitting on his knees again. He was still glaring at me with angry eyes, but this time they were filled with tears and rimmed in red. Was he crying because of his wolf or the pain of six kicks?

Ignoring his look I placed my hand over his head again. Doing the same to Ralph's as he still sat there sobbing. I thought of the abbey. I thought of the name of the village, the closest airport, the roads we took to get here, the scenery I had seen. I thought of everything to do with the abbey that I could.

Then, as I was certain I had gathered as much information as I knew of, I felt the link to others in their minds. I followed those links, pulling more memories to the bundle I was gathering in their heads. Once I was certain that I had them all, I imagined placing all these memories inside of an incinerator. These weren't just going to be locked away, they were going to be destroyed. They will never again be able to recall these memories.

I was momentarily saddened by that thought. But then I saw the anger on Charles' face and that feeling instantly melted away. They would be a danger to us if I didn't do this. It was for the best.

With all of their memories burned from their minds, my job was done. I took my hands away and the moment I did, they lost consciousness. The two of them slumped to the ground, not moving but still clearly breathing. I had hoped that this would happen. I didn't need them seeing the abbey after the memories were destroyed.

"Don't worry, they are merely sleeping." I told everyone looking on who had gasped when the men fell over. "I require some volunteers. I want these two men removed from the village and taken somewhere safe. Leave them money and any of their belongings that does not mention the abbey. They will wake in twelve hours." I felt the ripple of magic that meant the sleep spell would last just that long. "They need to be far enough away that they will not even remember what country the abbey is in."

"I will go, your grace." A buff looking man about six feet tall with a head full of thick brown curls and bright yellow orange eyes that looked like the sunset, stepped forward.

"Thank you Nick." Reece nodded to him.

"As will I." Another man stepped forward. This man was maybe an inch taller than Nick with ashy blond hair and grass green eyes, he was also equally buff and powerful looking.

"Much appreciated Lucas." Oh, he was the man training everyone.

"I'll go." This man was the same height as Nick with black hair and gray eyes. He wasn't as burly and buff looking but he still looked strong. I couldn't help but notice his eyes, they looked so familiar. Just like Shawn and Shane's eyes. And the more I looked at him the more similarities I saw.

"We are thankful for the help, Grant." Reece thanked this man as well.

"I will go, Trinity." David spoke up. "We can use your private plane to get them out of the county. That will be the easiest way to do this."

"Thank you David." I was happy that I could thank someone by name like Reece had. "Take Shane, Shawn, and Dietrich please. I don't want any mishaps to occur."

"Understood." With that the seven men converged on the two sleeping men.

"I will gather their things." Ghirald moved forward.

"And I will help." Perkins, the man I had seen before came forward. Perkins was a definite contrast to Ghirald. He was a little taller with graying hair and bright orange eyes.

They all left the courtyard with the unconscious men. After they left the crowd dispersed. I was now alone in the courtyard with Reece and Gabriel.

"You did wonderful." Reece leaned down and kissed the top of my head.

"Indeed you did." Gabriel turned and smiled at me. "You have proven yourself once again. But I suggest that you rest now. You have had a busy day."

"I think you're right." I smiled weakly. "I feel so tired."

"Come on Little Bunny." Reece scooped me up into his arms. "I will carry you to our room."

"Hmm." I just agreed with a nod and a murmur.

I wasn't ready to fall right to sleep, but I was content to let him carry me off to the room. When we got to the room we took another bath together. The hot water was relieving some of the stress I was feeling from the day, and night.

Reece's firm, strong hands, powerful arms, and warm embrace helped to ground me so that I didn't feel like I was the worst person ever. I needed that comfort, that reassurance.

Slowly, and methodically, we got ready for bed. There wasn't much talking, just him helping me to get ready. But once we were in bed we started to talk a little.

"Are you alright?" He asked me, worry clearly present in his voice.

"I'm alright, just a little numb really."

"You did the right thing, you know that right Little Bunny?"

"I know. But that doesn't make me feel any better about it." I snuggled in closer to his chest and he kissed my head gently. "Plus, I'm so tired. Tired down to my core. It was a long day even before dinner."

"Just rest, baby, I'm here for you" He pulled me in tighter and held me close.

Right as I was on the verge of sleep, I felt that pull from the Goddess. I had felt it before, when I had spoken to Nehalennia in my dreams. It was happening again. But this time, it was stronger, more powerful. I didn't even close my eyes, it was like I couldn't move enough to even do that.

Chapter 207 - Trinity - Celestial Meeting (VOLUME 2)

10-13 minutes

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Trinity

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The magic was pulling me but I could still make out the room that I was laying in. I could still feel Reece laying next to me. I could feel his hand gently stroking up and down my arm. I tried to call out to him, to let him know what was happening, but I couldn't do anything. I was just free falling through space, yet somehow tethered to reality.

I fell and fell for what felt like a long time. But oddly enough it looked like I was moving up not down. Was I falling up? If I could have turned my head to look away from my room with Reece then I would have. But no, I was locked in place.

The view was still there before me, but much smaller. I had stopped moving but it now felt like I was floating in the air, weightless and bobbing up and down slightly. This was worse than when I made myself levitate earlier.

"We meet again." A male voice reverberated around me, seemingly to come from nowhere and everywhere at the same time. The voice was deep and familiar, and seemed to rattle my bones.

"Thoth?" I asked with shock filling my voice.

"We need to speak to you, young one." Nehalennia's smooth voice joined Thoth's.

"What is going on?" I asked them.

"You exhausted yourself." Thoth spoke immediately.

"We're happy that you are learning and taking things seriously, but you need to learn when you're at your limits."

"So this will be the extent of my power?" I asked with sadness filling my voice. I had done a lot, yes, but being Queen I had hoped for more.

"Not in the least." Thoth's voice held a soothing edge. "But you are just learning. And you have been going nonstop for the last few days. Your body is not ready for that yet. You need to work your way up, so to speak."

"What will my capacity be?" I asked him.

"As you are the Queen of my people, you will need to have the highest quantity of magic possible. You will have more power than any other witch or warlock. But your body is not yet used to using it. That is why you need to move slowly." Thoth was being kind in his words but was ultimately just telling me I was stupidly powerful but I was equally stupid for rushing into things. Great, this was going to be easy. Not!

"You have been doing well, so worry not. You handled those traitors with perfection. I did not even need to send you my guidance. That means you are learning how to behave like a leader. Trust those close to you, the team you have is one of great talent and wisdom."

"Thank you Nehalennia." I put as much sincerity into my voice as I could. It meant so much to me to know that I had earned her approval.

"You are making great strides. And we thank you for learning your histories. Please, make sure you guide our peoples, lead them into a new life of unity." Thoth's voice was wistful as if he were speaking of a dream he has had for a long time.

"We trust you, young one. That is why we chose you."

"Was it on purpose?" I asked them, feeling as if they were getting ready to leave.

"Was what on purpose?" Thoth wondered.

"Did you each decide to choose me coincidentally or was it planned?"

"From the moment of your conception, there have been no coincidences." Nehalennia's words cause a shiver to run up my spine.

"There were things that we did not plan for. That is for certain. But we knew the eventual outcome." Thoth added.

"Did you know my mother was going to kill herself? Did you know my father and his goons were going to kidnap and torture me?" I was getting angry now, my words coming in a rush.

"Those were not planned for, no. We knew you would be the successor for the both of us. And that with the power you receive from us there will always be someone there to try and steal it from you."

"Is there another traitor among us?" I needed to know this, we had to keep ourselves safe and protected.

"He is not among you yet." Thoth answered.

"For now he is nothing more than a shadow looming in your future." Nehalennia added.

"It is possible that he may never cross your path."

"But if he does, you will be ready for him." Her words brought the discussion to an end. I felt them slipping away from me.

With their departure it was like the magic holding me in the air snapped. I felt myself freefalling all the way back to my bed. The scene rushed up to me so fast that I wanted to scream, but I held my tongue.

My body didn't move at all, but I felt my mind jolt with the abrupt landing. Light was visible around the edges of my vision. The darkened curtains letting just the barest traces of light through.

It was already morning. How long did I spend talking to them? Was the time mostly spent falling up and falling back down? This night was a blur. And I still felt so exhausted. Dammit, didn't they tell me I was too tired already? Now they go and keep me up all night. When am I supposed to sleep?

I felt Reece stirring next to me, having woken for the day. He kissed the top of my head and slid out of the bed. He probably thought I was still asleep and didn't want to wake me up.

I heard him head across the room and into the bathroom. He left the door open so I was able to hear the shower start and I could even smell his soap when he was washing. It was a special bottle with cinnamon and chocolate that Lila had bought for him after they finally pried out what he smelled like to me. He also had one that smelled like the forest after a rainstorm, that one was my personal favorite.

When I heard the shower stop I listened to what it was he was doing. I heard the slide of the towel against his body. If I was going to be stuck immobile as an inanimate object then I would have preferred to be his towel. Then I could have still touched him even if I couldn't move.

I just continued to listen on, imagining what he looked like during the different stages of his morning routine. I wasn't scared this time like I was the last time. I had exhausted myself to the point of being a vegetable before. But I could be brought out of it, I just needed to wait.

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Reece

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It surprised me that my Little Bunny didn't get up when I left the bed. But I guess that just showed how tired she was. She's been working so hard these last few days, and it's taken a lot out of her.

I started to get ready for the day. I had decided that it would just be best to wake her up after my shower. She needed the sleep.

The shower was typical, though I wished she was there with me. Showers with my sexy wife are always a good time, even if it's just a shower and nothing more.

After the shower I followed the typical routine: dry off, apply deodorant, get dressed, brush teeth. Just the typical things. It only took me half an hour for the whole process, but that was a half an hour more that she got to sleep.

I snuck back into the room and slid into the bed next to her. She was so warm and the touch of her was so inviting that I wanted to just lay there with her, but it was almost time for breakfast. With a wistful sigh I pushed past that disappointment and shook her shoulder slightly.

She was laying on her side, face slanted down toward the bed and her hair was falling in her face. I gave into my temptation to stroke her face in the guise of pushing her hair out of the way.

When the hair was pushed back I saw her eyes were open.

"If you were already awake why didn't you say anything?" I asked her with a smile on my face. But she didn't respond. She didn't move. She didn't blink. "Trinity?" I called her name.

She was breathing. I knew she was, I could feel the air moving on my hand where it rested on her face. But why wasn't she moving.

"Not again." I cried out when I realized what had happened. "Trinity, how did this happen?" I asked her.

She had told me that when this happened before, she could hear everything, feel everything, smell it all too. She just couldn't move. She was basically catatonic but fully awake and aware.

"How are we going to fix this? There isn't anyone here that knows how to fix this." I could feel the panic in my voice. I guess I could summon Griffin here, but that would mean she would be like this for another day.

I could feel the emotions welling within me. I was powerless to help her when this happened. I didn't know what to do. I wanted to fix her. I wanted to wake her up. But how could I?

I leaned forward and pulled her into my arms. She was warm and soft and so wonderful to hold. But she didn't move herself to fit against me, she didn't wrap her arms around my neck or grab my shirt for balance. She was there but not there.

I held her close and kissed her lips softly, gently. I thought of the way she usually responded. I thought of the fire that burned in her soul and the love I always saw in her eyes. I needed that now.

"God dammit, if I am the warlock king, the king to Thoth's people, why don't I have the power to wake you up?" I demanded of no one in particular. I just pressed my lips against her again and kept thinking to myself. 'Wake up. Wake up Trinity. Wake up Little Bunny.' I said the words over and over in my head, but my frustration was growing.

"Wake up dammit." I yelled to the room. My words were followed by an eerie red glowing mist. The mist swept from me to surround us both. "Wake up Trinity." I begged her. This time the mist swirled around her head for a second before spreading across her entire body.

The next thing I knew, her eyes fluttered. She was awake.

"Oh thank you, thank you, thank you." I buried my face in her hair and just continued to say the words over and over. She was awake.

"Fido, you dolt. There is a healer here you know." She giggled at me. She clearly wasn't as scared as I was.

"She's just a nurse, she couldn't wake up you like Griffin did." I reminded her.

"She's not just a nurse anymore. I granted her the same power as Griffin."

"When? I don't remember this happening."

"Yesterday." She smiled smugly.

"Well no reason you were so exhausted. You trained, granted a blessing, and punished those pieces of shit all in the same day." I was glaring at her.

"Plus, I spoke to Nehalennia and Thoth last night. They pulled me in for a meeting."

"Of course they did. You need to rest, you're not getting out of bed at all today." I would see to that personally.

I called Vincent in and told him what had happened. They would train without me today, I was needed elsewhere. I had to take care of my Little Bunny after all.

Chapter 208 - Reece - She's Awake (VOLUME 2) ((MATURE))

8-10 minutes

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Reece

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That was definitely not the way to start my day. I almost had a heart attack. Seeing my wife in a state like that again, it brought back the bad memories of the first time. The time I had found her collapsed on the floor, unconscious with no explanation as to why. I don't ever want to experience that again.

I know what caused it though. This time and the last. I know that it's not really serious. But that doesn't stop me from worrying that she will never be able to come out of that state. Does she need to be woken every time or would she wake up after resting?

I really don't think she would. She said she didn't rest, didn't sleep, while she was in that state. If she's not resting while locked in like that then she can't wake up, can she?

Oh well. I know what to do. Griffin, Lana, or me could all wake her up. Seeing her wake up in my arms, knowing it was because of me, that was a happy moment. This is just another reason why I have to stay close to her and never let her stray too far. Until her magic is stronger she will get exhausted too easily.

After she woke up in my arms she was finally able to sleep. She was asleep within minutes actually. That was a true sign of how draining the night had actually been for her. When she finally woke up again it was dinner time.

We ate together in our room. A simple meal just in case she wasn't feeling well. I could tell she was still tired and had only woken up because her body needed food. It was hard seeing her so tired and knowing that it wasn't going to get any better for a little while.

After we ate she went right back to sleep. Not wanting to be anywhere else but by her side, I slid into bed next to her. I was far from tired and nowhere near ready to go to sleep, but it was nice to just lay there and hold her in my arms. But I did check often that her eyes were closed and she was actually asleep. I just couldn't shake that image of her laying there wide eyed and looking scared.

I don't remember when I finally fell asleep, laying there contentedly, holding her in my arms I finally let the sleep drag me under. I woke up to the feeling of someone shifting and moving against my side.

"Little Bunny?" I called out her name as I sat up in bed. She was awake. Thank the Goddess it didn't happen again.

"I was trying to get up so I could go take a shower." She smiled at me sweetly, instantly melting my heart and easing my worry. "But you were holding me so close that I couldn't get away without waking you up." She leaned in and kissed me on the tip of my nose. "Sorry."

"I would rather wake up with you than stay in bed." I grinned at her. "I'm so happy you're awake again." I pulled her against me and hugged her close.

She had been sitting up straight, her knees just inches from my leg when she kissed me making her taller than me at the moment. I didn't mind, I was able to bury my face in her chest and inhale her scent where it originated from, her heart. I took a few deep breaths just to center myself, there were really no ulterior motives, I promise.

Once I was content we finally broke apart and headed for the bathroom. I was able to have my morning shower with her this time, so I slowly helped her undress, revealing her body slowly.

When we were properly stripped we got into the shower together, the water already pleasantly hot. I washed her hair for her while she ran a soapy washcloth over my chest, arms and back. We continued washing each other, enjoying the feel of each other's body.

As I knelt on the shower floor, washing her back, I couldn't help but marvel at all the marks she had been granted by the Gods. She was special, and not just to me.

Soon, my look turned heated. I couldn't control it anymore. I started to trace the trails of water down her back and shoulders with my tongue. I dragged my teeth over her marks, causing her to shudder and gasp.

"Reece." Her voice was breathy and breathless when she spoke my name.

"Little Bunny?" I made it a question and I could clearly hear the desire dripping from just those two little words.

"Reece." She said my name with a little more passion and heat than the last time. I took that as a confirmation.

I dropped to my knees again, kissing everywhere I could put my mouth as I pushed her back against the shower wall. She gasped again as her back hit the cool marbled surface but it soon turned into a moan as I buried my face between her thighs.

She instinctively moved her thighs apart for me, but that made her a little too short. So I lifted her legs and put them over my shoulders, supporting all of her weight but also controlling exactly how she was positioned for me.

I had started slow. Long, slow laps of my tongue across her sensitive core as I tasted her. Moving at a slow and steady pace I explored every fold, lapping every last drop of her juices away.

She tasted like heaven to me. Sweet apple pie with a hint of lemons and an electric charge that lets you know it's just a little bit dangerous as well as sweet. I had never tasted anything like her before I was mated and now I was addicted. I longed for her constantly.

Her moans sounded sweet and sexy at the same time. With every lap of my tongue, every time I wrapped my tongue around that sensitive bundle of nerves at the top of her slit before drawing it into my mouth for a long, drawing suckle, she moaned endlessly.

Her hands found my hair, grabbing fistfuls and holding tight. It didn't hurt, if anything it made me want to go faster. And so I did.

I increased my pace, licking faster, suckling harder. Her moans turned into screams of pleasure as she breathed heavily and cried my name repeatedly.

She was pushing back against the wall with her shoulders, trying to get my mouth closer to her core. She was nearing her climax, every lap of my tongue pushing her closer and closer to that edge.

"Reece." She screamed my name one last time as she fell over that precipice. Her whole body spasmed above me as she lost herself.

Pulling my mouth away I put my hands on her hips to steady her as I stood up. She was already raised up off the shower floor, ready and waiting for me, so I hooked her legs over my hips and pressed forward.

My body was more than ready for her. All I had to do was see her and I would be ready, but those moans, that screaming, it all increased my desire, my need, for her. I wanted to be gentle, to treat her carefully after yesterday but she looked at me with pleading eyes that were half lidded with desire and need.

"Reece, I need you." Her words were heedy, her voice deepened because of her orgasm. My control snapped and I grinned at her.

"Then take me, sweetheart." I said as I drove into her tight body.

She threw her head back on a scream of pleasure as I settled her against my hips, my full length enveloped in her hot, sweet, soft flesh. Her body hugged me so perfectly that it drove me insane every time I felt it.

I started to pull back, leaving just the tip inside before I pushed back in a hurry. Her body was hot, wet, and more than ready for me so I set about creating the perfect rhythm.

I searched out her hands and pulled them above her head, pinning them in place with one of my own. My other hand cupped her bottom and squeezed and kneaded the supple flesh as I drove in and out of her body.

She was moaning and screaming with each thrust. Her breathing fast and heavy to match the rhythm. I could feel her body tightening around me, nearing climax again. Just as I felt her approach that peak I felt the tell tale signs in my own body, the tingling at the base of my spine, the tightening of my balls. I was driving us both there together.

With a few more well timed thrusts I felt her whole body spasm around me especially at her core as it clenched and milked every last drop from me as I threw my head back orgasming right along with her.

I let her hands go and she wrapped them around my neck as she fell forward against my chest. We both just stood there, letting the water run down us as our heart rates slowed and our breathing evened out.

"I love you." She whispered against my chest.

"I love you too, Little Bunny." I smiled happily above her.

Chapter 209 - Reece- Warrior Training (VOLUME 2)

14-18 minutes

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Reece

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When I arrived for training after breakfast I was still grinning. I got to have dessert before breakfast today and it had left me very hungry and very happy. The others noticed the smile on my face, but they said nothing.

They didn't have that close relationship I had with Noah. He was my best friend and we would always rag on each other like we were kids. It was just the way things were and I wouldn't have it any other way. We'd be proper and professional when we had to, but when it came to off time or when we were around just friends and family it was all fair game.

I also noticed I wasn't the only one walking around with a big satisfied grin this morning. Dietrich was as well and Shawn blushed a lot every time he saw that grin. He knew that we all knew, but it was not a big deal to us. Sex was sex after all, as long as you were happy and it was between consensual adults who cared who it was between.

In this moment I truly felt sorry for the others. The three of us had our partners with us, but Shane, David, and Vincent were all alone and missing their mates and family. I knew how that felt too and I wished I didn't have to put them through this.

I didn't have time to worry about that too much. Soon Lucas came into the training room with Nick and Grant. They had all worked together to take the traitors out of the country and our guards went with them, apparently they all got to know each other and we would all be training together now.

I had met and approved of Nick and Grant before. They seemed like strong and capable men. There was also something familiar about Grant. He just looked similar to the twins.

"Hey Grant." I called out to him when he came into the room.

"Yes, King Reece?" He asked me, I wanted to wince at the title. I still wasn't used to that.

"What is your family name?" I asked him.

"Is that relevant?" He seemed confused.

'It is." I nodded to him. I had a feeling I knew what it would be.

"It's Asher, Sir."

"I knew it." I grinned.

"What, really?" Both Shane and Shawn said at the same time. They really could act like real twins from time to time. That made me laugh.

"Is that a problem?" Grant looked worried.

"That's our name." They spoke at the same time again, in a rare show of perfect unison.

"You are Ashers?" Grant asked them. "From where is your family from?"

The three of them talked for a few moments while the rest of us watched on with curiosity. They were related. Grant was their great great great great uncle. Apparently, before joining the Sentinelle, Grant had had a massive falling out with his family and left home. He didn't think things would ever be reconciled so when he was offered a position in the Sentinelle he took it without hesitation.

"To think that my kin would end up in the service of the Goddess when that was the life I chose for myself all those years ago." Grant seemed happy to have reconnected with his bloodline. This couldn't be a coincidence, could it?

After the excitement of the reunion, we got down to work for the day. Those of us with combat abilities were trying our hardest to use them in new ways. But we could all feel new magic running through us on this day.

As I was practicing I felt myself wanting to feel a sword in my hand. I could imagine it perfectly, the smooth grip that was perfectly shaped for my hand, the blade extending far away from the handle flickering with light and heat as the flames moved gently. Flames? Why was I imagining a sword made of fire?

Just as I had thought those words I heard the gasps around me as I felt the firm grip in my hands and saw the light flickering through my closed eyes.

When I opened my eyes I saw a sword with a black onyx handle and a ruby red blade engulfed in swirling flames. I had made this sword appear. Was this part of my fire abilities I had? My wolf could turn into flames and I could howl fireballs, and now I could summon a fire sword. This was awesome.

"Holy shit, Reece, that's awesome." Shane exclaimed as he saw my blade. "It's like mine, only fire." He smiled as he summoned his own sword.

"So you've got a fire ability?" Lucas asked me. "Can you do anything else?"

"My wolf turns into fire and I howl fireballs." I grinned, happy to have this power.

"Anything else?" He asked.

"I haven't tried." I admitted.

"Try now. You never know until you try, right?" He was grinning, this was starting to get interesting. I nodded and decided I would just try imagining more things like I did the sword.

I imagined arrows, my Little Bunny could use them with her elements, maybe I could too. I closed my eyes and imagined how they would look. When I opened my eyes the red and orange arrow was hovering in front of my face.

"Amazing." Dietrich's voice was full of approval and happiness as he watched on. "Try hitting a target."

"Hit that target on the wall, we'll be ready with water." Nick told me.

I nodded and did as he wanted. I looked at the target and aimed for the center. But, it seemed like shooting these arrows was not as easy as making them. When I finally got it to move it went way off course.

The arrow was shooting straight toward Vincent with incredible speed.

"Shit!" He threw his hands up the split second before it hit him but the arrow was knocked off course. No one saw anything, but the arrow had moved away and landed on the floor, only to be extinguished by Nick's bucket of water a second later.

"What was that?" David asked.

"I don't know." Vincent looked shocked.

"No, he got another level up." Shane joked with a fake petulant voice. "I want one too."

"What exactly did you think about when you threw your hands up?" Grant asked him.

"Just that I wanted to send that arrow away from me."

"Let's try it again." Grant told him.

"I don't want to be burned if I can't do it again." I heard the desperation in his voice.

"We will throw something else at you, it will be safer." Vincent nodded at Grant and went with him to practice.

I decided to watch on for a little while as the others trained. Shawn and Dietrich worked together, David and Lucas were practicing hand to hand combat, and Shane was practicing with Nick all while Vincent was practicing deflecting items that Grant threw at him. That last one was kind of funny to watch.

Grant was throwing different sized rocks and chunks of wood at Vincent. He wasn't having much luck summoning the power he had used before, but he was trying. I watched him close his eyes to think for a moment before nodding at Grant. Grant then threw the rock in his hand and Vincent did his best to fling it away. Unfortunately the rock just flew straight and hit him in the head.

"Ouch." Vincent seemed mad. "Dammit, how did I do it before?"

"You were in real danger." I told him. "You need to think about that. Imagine that the rocks are something else."

"Like what?" He wondered aloud.

"Like these." I grinned and summoned another arrow. At the same time I winked at Grant who understood what I wanted him to do. I concentrated on the arrow and started it moving forward and Grant threw another rock.

Vincent saw the arrow coming toward him and closed his eyes, flinging his hand like he did before. I dissolved the arrow and heard the rock that Grant threw smack against the far wall. Vincent had successfully managed to block it.

"You did it." I smirked at him.

"You tricked me." He looked at me like he was upset for a minute.

"Would you rather I had kept the arrow and risked you not blocking it?"

"NO!" He yelled in response. "But how did you know that I would do it this time?"

"You managed it the first time because you were in danger and, admit it, you were scared. I had to invoke that same feeling."

"I was not scared." He snapped back at me. "I just didn't want to be set on fire."

"Fine, whatever the reason, you did it. And for what it's worth, I know you're a strong, capable, and very brave warrior."

"I wasn't scared." He insisted again.

"I know."

I left Vincent and Grant to continue practicing, Vincent was getting better at his blocking. And, we found out later, that wasn't all he could do. His new ability was a sort of wave length manipulation, so he had moved the air around the rocks and arrow to send them flying. He could also use that ability to attack an enemy too.

When I saw David and Lucas training, they were practicing martial arts. David was way better than I had ever thought. He was landing hit after hit, moving so fast his hands were a blur. His ability was speed so the blurring was not surprising but he seemed like a master with each move he made.

"Where did you study martial arts, David?" I asked him, impressed by his skill.

"I haven't." He responded without even looking away, he just swept a foot out under Lucas knocking his feet out from under him.

"What do you mean you haven't? You're clearly an expert." I was shocked by his answer.

"My only training came from you, Sir. I never studied martial arts anywhere."

"What is going on here?" I wondered.

"I don't know, but it's like my body just knows how to move. It feels like I'm lighter and more limber and I just know what to do."

"Hmm. It looks like you got an upgrade too." I smiled at him. "Keep practicing."

When I made my way to where Shawn and Dietrich were, I noticed they too were doing something new. Shawn was controlling a practice dummy with his mind, making it move as if it were alive. While avoiding the moving dummy Dietrich was shooting what looked like silk threads toward Shawn, trying to ensnare him. The thread almost looked like spider silk, but I saw that when it finally wrapped around Shawn it acted like the thread for a marionette. Puppet thread.

Shawn was forced to do whatever Dietrich wanted him to do, physically anyway. It seemed Shawn was still in control mentally and was trying to break the control with the dummy he was controlling. But just before he managed to knock the strings away with the dummy's large arm, Dietrich had forced Shawn to walk to him. When Shawn was close enough, Dietrich planted a kiss on his cheek and laughed merrily.

"I win, Liebling." Shawn looked upset, but on closer inspection I saw that it was all just a show, he was actually grinning.

Shane was the last for me to observe. He had his lightning sword out and was practicing sword techniques with Nick. They were attacking another set of dummies, and despite having the superior weapon it was clear that Nick was the better swordsman. In frustration Shane pointed his hand at the dummy and yelled.

"Why are you not falling apart." With his words a bolt of lightning flew from his hands and landed in the middle of the dummy's chest. The dummy exploded, unable to take the blast.

The shock was written on my face as well as Nick's and Shane's. But Shane was the first to recover and his face exploded with a huge grin.

"Yes!" He started jumping up and down. "Yes! I leveled up! I got a new skill. I got more XP!" He was acting a little childish as he and Nick were celebrating his new abilities.

I had to wonder, were they getting new abilities because of Trinity, or because I wanted us all to get better? As I thought about it all I started thinking what else I could use my fire for. I had the wolf form, the fireballs, the sword, the arrows, but I knew I could do more.

While sitting there, lost in thought, I started thinking how the trail left behind by my arrow looked like a whip. A whip made of fire. Now. that would be interesting. I was staring at the wall, not paying attention to what was going on around me when Vincent started yelling at me.

"Reece, watch where that thing touches."

"Huh?" I jolted back to my senses at his words.

When I looked around me I noticed I was holding exactly what I had been imagining. A shining red whip covered in red and orange fire. The handle was once again made of onyx and felt perfectly carved for my hand. I guess it would be, since it was made for my hand by my mind. Under the fire was the same ruby red color of my sword.

But I saw that Vincent's panic was unfounded. The whip wasn't burning the floor at all. The wood went unharmed as the whip curled around me.

I wanted to practice with my new weapons just like the others were. I summoned my sword again and held it in my left hand, the whip in my right. When I could feel the two perfectly balanced weapons in place I began attacking a few dummies as well.

The fire on both didn't affect the wooden dummies at all. Hmm, why is my fire harmless. Don't get me wrong, I didn't want to cause problems inside but shouldn't my fire be able to burn things?

I thought those words right as I flung my whip at one dummy and swung wide with my sword, striking a second dummy. Both dummies were instantly set ablaze, burning in front of me.

"Shit." I yelled. "I didn't want to burn the place down."

I ran forward, intent to pat the fire down until they could come over with buckets of water. I started patting the front of the first dummy to stop the fire from spreading. But instead of the fire going out, it spread to me. I was nervous at fire, flinging my hand to put it out, but the flames weren't hurting me at all.

"I can't be hurt by my own fire?" I wondered aloud as I went to the second dummy and touched the fire.

I could hear footsteps running toward me as I pulled the second set of flames onto me. My skin and clothes were unaffected and I didn't even feel warm. Guess I'm hotter than fire.

The fire was moving up my arms as the steps halted and I heard everyone gasp.

"Reece?" Vincent sounded worried.

"I'm fine." I told him with a grin. "It's not hurting me. It's my own fire." I had let my weapons dissolve and so I just stood there watching as the fire spread all over my body.

I could see more yellow and orange than anything as the flames licked their way across my body. 'Hmm, this looks like a phoenix.' I mused to myself. And that was when there was a bright red light filling the room.

I felt something then. It wasn't pain, more like a warm tingling sensation that spread through my whole body. It was actually kind of pleasant.

Then, I felt my body start to change. I was growing taller, and I felt like I was hovering off the ground. And, for some reason I was moving my arms up and down as I bobbed in the air. When I turned my head to look at myself I saw that I was a giant bird with red, orange, and yellow feathers.

I had become a phoenix. I was a real fire bird. This was a form that had nothing to do with a werewolf, but it had everything to do with fire. It basically meant that I was essentially the fire itself. I couldn't believe this.

"Oh my Goddess." Lucas looked at me in awe.

"Holy Shit." Shane's mouth was hanging open.

"Oh, mein Gott." Dietrich's voice slipped into his natural accent. Everyone was looking at me with shocked and wonder filled eyes. And I was hovering about them, feeling powerful.

Chapter 210 - Trinity - Training Wolf Magic 3 (VOLUME 2)

15-19 minutes

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Trinity

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After my eventful day, and night, training my witch side and visiting the Gods in my bed, followed by a much needed day of rest, I was back to training my Goddess given wolf abilities. I needed to get a hand on it and learn how to summon a specific ability at will.

Over the course of several days I practiced my howl. The one that would push things back like I had sent a sonic wave blast or at least a big gust of wind. At first, it was difficult to perform, I would howl and nothing would happen. But I never gave up.

After nearly a week of consistent practice I could force the howl every time. I would feel the build up of magic, the tightening of my vocal cords, and I knew that I could do it whenever I wanted. But, sadly, it was not something I could do in my human form.

For practice I would have different items stacked in various places. I needed to control the size and force of the howl. That was more difficult than doing the howl on command. I wanted to be able to hit a small target among other objects, to be able to knock over several large objects at a time, and to hit targets farther away.

Obviously, large objects right in front of me were easier to knock down or send flying as it took little to no concentration of the magic. But it was difficult to narrow that stream of power to a small, controlled blast. I had managed it though, and now I could make a sonic blast that was only about as big around as my little finger. And with some effort I could manipulate the blasts to move them around, swirling to the side or up and down. That allowed a lot more precision.

After we perfected my howl, we moved onto trapping, and not the type a survivalist would do. I worked on creating cages with my ice magic and freezing people in place. I also wanted to work on forming cages of lightning, fire, and wind. Different people would require different elements.

I also started practicing with earth as an element. I didn't know if Noah would be happy about sharing his element with me or not, but oh well. Earth was not hard for me to figure out as I loved nature anyway. I spent a good part of my childhood just laying about the grass, trees, and dirt back home. I loved being close to the earth all my life.

With earth magic I was able to shoot clumps of dirt, mud, and chunks of rocks at different targets. There was a lot of target practice in my training. I successfully formed an earth cage to go with the other elements. And as I got better and better I was able to form earth golems and make them move for me. I even infused those golems with some wind magic and made them move with surprising speed.

Something else that I did that I found super cool, was cause the earth to swallow people. Okay, well, they weren't truly swallowed. But the earth did open at their feet and they dropped into an oozing mud

that went halfway up their body before becoming super hard. They were trapped there until I released them.

And as far as my cages went, I had decided on what was the best option. I formed a cage from the earth, it could be as big or as small as I needed. Then, I would wrap that cage in the other elements, even if they broke the stone bars, they would then have to break free of the other barriers.

Oddly enough, with all my elemental magic, and my ease of using earth magic, I was having trouble with plants. That seemed to be unique to Cedar for now. Oh well, I couldn't complain too much, and I could always get the hang of it later.

After we worked for a while on the trapping techniques, I moved on to my different animal forms. I had already guessed that I could turn into any animal in the shifter world, and it turned out I was right. And I had a lot of options to pick from.

I had turned into a bear, bunny, and tiger before. All the animals I had become before stayed looking like my wolf form, white and shining with marks all over. But that wouldn't be a good camouflage would it.

I practiced a lot of different animals every day. I became an antelope, a bear, a bunny, a cheetah, a house cat, a deer, a dog, an eagle, an elk, a fox, a jaguar, a lion, a monkey, a parrot, a tiger, and a zebra. It appeared that I wasn't actually limited to just shifter animals, I could become any animal there was as long as I could picture it.

At first all my animal forms looked just like my wolf form. I was constantly snow white with blue, red, and purple marks. But as the days crept by, and with a lot of intense concentration, I was able to make my animal forms look like just any other from the wild.

I could be a regular white, black, or brown bunny. My fox was the usual rusty and white colors. My bears could be a regular white polar bear, a brown bear, or a black bear. The tigers, lions, cheetahs, jaguar, zebra, and parrots all had the proper colors and markings. My house cat and dog looked like anything you would see in someone's house.

And then there was my wolf form. I could now disguise that as well. I chose a very light silver that looked nearly white but had the darker colors streaking down my back. I felt weird, off somehow, to see my wolf looking so different. But if I was ever bored of the look, I could change it anytime.

This massive amount of work took me more than a few weeks to accomplish. But, I know that it was well worth it to see the looks of joy on everyone's faces as I managed to do something new. I was getting stronger, and I was slowly building up my body's tolerance for my abilities.

I still had witch training here and there as well, I needed to split my time obviously. I had so much I needed to learn, and I didn't want it to take too long before we went back home. Or before I went to hunt down Edmond.

After all my magic training, I worked on physical training, or combat training really. I still practiced a lot with my arrows and my howl. I could never get enough target practice in, apparently.

There was one thing I needed to learn that I had not had much practice in before. Almost none to be exact. I needed to practice fighting in my wolf form.

Back home, after I had my first shift, I had trained with Reece for a few weeks before everything got busy. But the problem was, he had seemed afraid to actually teach me how to fight in wolf form.

I don't know if he wanted to keep me away from fights or he was afraid I would get hurt. But whatever the reason was, I needed to learn this stuff whether he liked it or not. This was my world now, and there was no changing that.

Lucas was brought in to help me with combat training, effectively replacing Sebastian and Hideki who had been with me this whole time so far. And with Lucas training me, it meant that Reece and the others would be training with me as well.

I nearly fell over when I saw Reece's face the day we were to begin training together. He was so shocked that he turned as white as a ghost.

"Come on big boy, you're not afraid I'm going to hurt you, are ya?" I taunted him as he looked at me with concern. The look of worry instantly left his face, only to be replaced by one of arrogance and challenge, and of course lots of teasing fun.

"Oh no, baby, I'm worried you won't be able to keep up with me." His heated look was enough to get my juices flowing, but there were too many people around for that. Right now I had to focus on training, later, much later, I could follow that line of thinking.

Once we were all prepared we began our training. The others had been fighting together and training with Lucas for a long time while I was still a newbie. Being so green, as Shane was so happy to call me, I started training directly with Lucas.

Lucas was a great teacher, and he had had a long time to perfect his fighting style and many others. He was an expert in hand to hand combat and different ways to fight with no hands at all. It was going to be an interesting time to say the least.

After I shifted, away from everyone else, we got down to business. Lucas showed me different grapples, one that worked with biting and wrapping your front legs around your opponent. It was hard to get used to at first, all the fighting I had done before had included hands for grabbing someone with.

I admit, biting my opponent made things easier, but it was still different, to say the least. And needless to say I was uneasy with the idea of biting anyone here, I didn't like hurting people, especially good people. But Lucas just shook his head at me.

"You're our queen, it is our job to train you. If we get hurt we will heal, you know that." His voice held a slight edge to it, as if he were trying to anger me into training for real.

"You need to give her a clear target to fight against." I heard Reece's voice as he slowly made his way up to us.

"What do you mean, Sir?" Lucas wondered when he heard Reece's words.

"Like an enemy she wouldn't mind destroying. She needs to imagine she is fighting Edmond, or one of his cronies."

"Like that will be possible. Reece, what the hell are you thinking? If you're this far gone already, I should put you out of your misery Old Yeller."

"You know I'm not past my prime yet, Little Bunny." He smirked at me after I called him on that bullshit. "You need to train to fight Edmond, so you need to fight us like we're Edmond."

"But I don't want to hurt anyone." I felt my face blanch at his declaration. I needed to fight them so I could fight Edmond, that was so not going to happen.

"Do you want to hurt Edmond?" He asked me. "Or do you plan to let him get away?"

"What the fuck do you think?" I could feel my anger rising, the growl growing in my chest as he accused me of that level of treachery. "I would sooner kill him than let his ass get away with what he's done. In fact, that's exactly what I plan to do to him."

"Good, now use that anger and fight me."

He didn't shift into his wolf form, he stayed in his human shape, but I didn't care. Edmond would be in that type of body too, so I needed to know how to use a wolf's skill against a man shaped opponent. He's only man shaped because that cowardly, child stealing, family destroying piece of shit, Edmond, was nothing like a man.

I leapt at Reece, my teeth bared and claws aimed at his chest. He's the one that asked for this, and he was going to be the one to deal with the consequences later.

I hit him with full force, square in his chest. The momentum of my leap toppled him over and we fell to the ground in a rolling heap. One flipping over the other, we rolled a few times until he twisted his body and pinned me to the ground and blocked the light of the sun with his broad shoulders.

He hovered over me, acting as the moon in a solar eclipse, breathing heavily and grinning darkly.

"This is why I want you away from the fighting." His voice, his words, pissed me off. He wanted to lock me in a bubble for the rest of my life, I'll be damned if I let him do that.

"Fuck off, Toto, we're not in Kansas anymore and you can't tell me what to do anymore either. This is my time to shine."

I brought my back legs up under him, planting them right about where his belly button was, then I kicked with all the force I could muster. Even in human form he outclassed me with sheer size. I barely managed to move him to the side when I pushed him.

"See what I mean, Little Bunny, you can't take me on." He was looking at me with dark eyes, half desire and half anger. He wasn't angry at me, but for me.

"You're stronger and faster than almost any man alive, possibly every man alive. You've been gifted with strength by the Goddess, not once but twice." I snarled at him. "If I beat you, or even come close to it, you need to admit how strong I am."

"Fine, if you even get close to beating me in a fight, I will never say anything about you joining a fight again." His voice held a note of mischief. He thought he had this fight in the bag with his size, strength, and training. Yeah, well, I've got my own strengths too and he can't match those.

"You better not go back on your words, Fido, cause I hate liars." I glared at him with defiance practically oozing out of my eyes.

I knew I wasn't going to beat Reece in a fair wolf fight. But I wasn't just a wolf now was I? I had many tricks up my sleeve, and the point of me learning so much is so I could put it all to good use.

I Quickly shifted into his favorite thing to think of me as. One minute he held himself propped above my wolf form, pressing my front legs to the ground. The next, I was twisting to the side and rolling out from under him while he looked confused at the empty space where my head was just a few moments ago.

As soon as I had rolled and hopped out from under his large, looming presence, I shifted again. I spun on the spot as a rabbit for just a second and the next I was standing above him on my hind legs, looking down at him from a higher place than I had thought I'd ever be while standing on my own two legs. This time I took the form of a bear. These front legs would be larger and more powerful when holding a prey in place.

I didn't waste any time though, I just lunged forward and wrapped my front legs around his upper body, pinning his arms to his chest. I was slightly stronger in this form, but not strong enough it seemed. No sooner had I pinned his arms to his sides did he start to force them back out. With his muscles flexing and his shirt ripping under the strain to the fabric, he pushed my massive, claw tipped paws away from him and pushed me backwards.

I stumbled for just a moment as he rose to his feet and started toward me. I didn't waste a second of my time though, I knew he was coming. I shifted again, this time to the form of an eagle, soaring into the air. I flew higher and higher, ten feet, twenty, thirty, finally I was at least three hundred feet off the ground. Thanks to the excellent vision of eagles, I could still see everyone on the ground clear as day.

I hovered for just a moment as I planned my next move. Once I had my mind made up I pointed my beak down and pressed my wings back, driving straight toward my husband's face. I knew he would move at the last second, out of the way of the leathally sharp beak, while still trying to catch me out of the air.

Once I was close enough for him to step to the side, just like I predicted he would, I shifted. He thought I was going to attack as an eagle, but he didn't expect the three hundred pound tiger that landed with deadly accuracy right against his chest.

Reece was knocked off his feet instantaneously, slamming onto the ground with the wind being forcefully pushed from his lungs. I heard his head slam against the ground and the crack of more than one of his ribs from the impact, but I knew he would heal and I had to prove myself here.

With my face just inches from his I snarled at him, baring my wickedly sharp, three inch long, snowy white teeth. It would have taken me no time at all to rip his throat out if he were a real enemy. It would have been done in an instant while he was trying to catch his breath. I had won this round and he had to admit that.

"Fine, I yield. You would have killed me just now if I was Edmond."

"Not to mention, he wouldn't have your advantages." I reminded him.

"The strength and speed?" He wondered.

"Knowing what I can do." I told him with a smile in my voice. "But I'm glad you admitted defeat. Save some face in front of your friends sweetheart." I joked with him before licking the side of his face with a quick flash of my large, pink tongue.

That was the end of me holding back. I started fighting with them for real, and I quickly learned everything Lucas had to offer. I would add it to everything else to make a style that was all my own.