

Chosen by Fate 211

Chapter 211 - Trinity - Witch Magic 2 (VOLUME 2)

Trinity

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The days that I didn't have wolf training I had Witch training. It was difficult at first, but I eventually got the hang of it. It didn't take long for me to get used to the flow of magic through my body but it was still exhausting.

Moving magic took a lot of effort and drained a lot of energy. I was beyond tired everyday that I worked with Crawford and Eldrige but I had a lot I still needed to learn. There were a lot of things that they wanted, and needed, to teach me before we went back home.

We started first with shielding magic. Shielding myself and others would be a great thing, especially if I were hanging in the back of a fight. It would even come in handy when I was in the front of the fight.

So, I started with blocking things. First it was just how Reece told me they trained Vincent with his shockwave magic. Crawford, Eldrige, and Gabriel took turns throwing different things at me. I admit, I got hit a lot at first. But it only took me about twenty minutes to make a shield that would protect me from the small projectiles.

After that little task was done, I needed to make a shield that would stop people from entering. I had to keep people away from me like a shield was meant for. This was using the magic more as a barrier than a shield.

This part was harder, and I admit, it took me two days worth of practicing to make one strong enough to actually work like it was supposed to. I could keep all three of them out when I wanted to.

I also practiced using these shields as prisons. If I could make a shield around someone I could stop them from moving altogether. After some practice I managed to make shield prisons of various sizes. I could make them large enough for several people, or small enough for just one person.

Crawford also gave me the task of forming a shield that let certain people in while keeping out the others. This type of shield was by far the hardest. I could set parameters, like keeping out enemies, keeping out men, or keeping out specific people. But this type of shield required a lot of concentration and a lot of magic. But the benefit was that those allowed in could just keep walking like nothing was there, and those being kept out would bounce off an invisible wall.

Over a few lessons I worked on making shields that would keep out specific people, like keep Crawford out but let in Eldrige and Gabriel, or some variation of that. I was the most drained on these days, they were the worst since that first day. But I did it, and I was immensely proud of myself for it.

After shields, apparently, the next logical step was bindings. I was going to be able to either block people with my shield or magically tie them up. And I won't deny that my mind went somewhere it shouldn't have when I heard the word bindings. Bad me, stop thinking like that during training.

It felt weird at first to tie up my friends and instructors. But I started using the bindings as part of pranks to make the practice go easier. People didn't find it as funny as I did when they suddenly found their

feet magically bound together when they were trying to walk. I laughed a little more than I should have when they fell. But I was nice and never let anyone get hurt. I used my other magic to make a last minute soft landing. I'm a kind hearted prankster, to everyone except Reece cause he's fair game.

The bindings were very simple magic to learn. That or I was just starting to learn it all faster. But I was able to move on from them fairly quickly.

The next thing I wanted to work on was my whirl wind. I knew I had a mark for it under my warlock side and I had done it once before so I knew I could do it again. I just needed to practice, practice, practice.

I tried remembering and imagining everything that I had thought of that night to make the whirlwind happen but that was to no avail. I had thought about the wind, about tornados, and moving. It took several days of meditating and trying. But after a while I finally got it, sort of. I managed to move five feet.

It took me another week of practice to move anything more substantial, but by the time I was done I was moving all over the training grounds. I managed to move at least fifty yards by the time the week was over and the feel was exhilarating. At not once did I ever get dizzy from spinning around inside a miniature tornado.

I could also use my mind link like it was a cell phone. I had been using it with my guards and other pack members back home, but I could use it with the warlocks now as well. And now that I had it figured out, they could use it to contact me now too.

The others would need to practice their part on their own, using it to speak to each other as well as to me, but I could apparently use my mind link to contact people from a long distance away. And if they concentrated really hard on their mind link to me, assuming I had opened one to them before, then they could contact me as well.

If someone tried to call me, for lack of a better word for it, I would end up hearing a small buzzing inside my head and just instinctively know who was on the other end. I tried it a lot with Reece and my guards while they were training, effectively bothering them while they were busy, but I found it fun. And we had them practice the link the other way, calling me as well.

The real test I put it through was when I called home to mom. She didn't expect the buzzing then the words coming from inside her head out of nowhere, but she was happy to hear from me just the same. That was how I learned that I had no distance limits on my mind link. And, I had a gut feeling I could use that link to call in reinforcement that I hadn't even met yet. I felt it as what I was effectively calling the alpha summons.

This alpha summons meant that I would contact every alpha in the world. I would summon them to my aid. Or, I could narrow it down to a specific area. If I was fighting somewhere and needed back up, I would contact the alphas that could get there in time and they would be compelled to come help their queen. That would come in handy too, huh.

The most difficult magic that I was being taught was the magic circles. Just like the one on the large parchment back at the resort, the magic circles were difficult to create. I learned them and their meanings no problem, that wasn't the issue. No, the issue was that if everything wasn't done just perfectly, then they were ineffective.

I was learning circles for binding. That is as in binding someone's magic away permanently. There were circles for locating things, circles for imprisonment, and circles for death. That last one I would not be practicing, I would only be learning what it looked like. There were others, but these ones were the ones I thought would come in handy the most.

And last, but not least, it was time for me to learn the way warlocks and witches fought in combat. I had seen it first hand, but I didn't know the dynamics of it. And apparently, the fighting styles varied significantly based on the person and affinity.

As my witch affinity was mostly tied to wind I would be better at that type than others, but I also had three different elemental runes on me and that meant I was good with all the elements.

It was time for me to take everything I had learned and put it all together. And by everything I meant everything. I was going to be taking what I had learned from Sebastian and Hideki, from Crawford and Eldrige, from Lucas, Gabriel, Reece, Vincent, Shawn, Shane, David, Dietrich, Noah, Carter, Grandfather and his tutors, hell even what I learned from Jim back when I was training on my own. I needed to make a fighting style that wasn't quite wolf and wasn't quite warlock.

I had learned a lot of hand to hand combat. I had learned fencing when I was a little girl. I knew how to protect myself until my life got turned upside down, then I learned to adapt some more.

Have I been on top of everything? No. Have I been perfect? No. But no one ever is, and I was learning, adapting, and becoming something more every day. I was evolving.

Now, as I evolved and ascended, I needed to fight like a queen and a goddess. I practiced with Lucas and Reece for several days, using not just my wolf side and not just my witch side, but also the side of me that used to think that I was nothing but a slightly special human. I put everything I had into my fighting and training. I had already proven my abilities to Reece and the others before, but that wasn't enough. I needed to perfect this, I needed to unite everything that I was.

Chapter 212 - Trinity - Ominous Warnings (VOLUME 2)

10-12 minutes

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Trinity

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No matter what training I was doing or how busy I was, I actually rather enjoyed it all. But, I did miss my family back home. I wanted to see Mom and Dad, Carter and Noah, Nikki and her growing baby bump, Grandfather and Lila. I missed them all, and we only got intermittent cell service out here. It wasn't reliable enough to talk all the time and I felt bad invading their private time with mind links.

We did talk sometimes though. Which was good. They made certain we were being safe and that we were alright and then they updated us on the progress of the little community we wanted to build. Things were apparently coming along nicely. Leave it to a construction company owned by Reece to be super efficient. I wouldn't have it any other way.

I wanted to work even harder whenever I heard from my family back home. I wanted them to be proud of me and of the progress I was making. I wanted to prove to them all that I could do this, that I was worthy of being the Queen. My stubborn streak had gotten buried a little with everything that had been going on the last few months, but it was back and ready to show the world that it meant business.

When I had learned to fight at a, more than, adequate level we decided it was time for us to head home. We had a couple days to rest before we were scheduled to fly out so we were using that time to pack our things and spend some more time with the people of the Sentinelle that we had gotten close with over the last two and a half months.

There would also be quite a few people coming back with us when we left. Gabriel was coming with us and would be serving as my personal assistant. Ghirald was coming with us, he would be the new steward of our estate back home. Lucas was coming back to train the young ones that desired to become warriors. He would work with Paul to train a great new army for us. Nick, Grant, and Perkins were coming as well, they were all joining my Goddess guard along with Lucas, they were going to be wonderful additions to our ranks.

There were some women coming back with us too. Lana was coming back to work in Griffin's clinic. She was so excited for this opportunity, and Giffin was happy to have a new assistant to train. The sisters, Izzy and Thoma were coming back as well, they too were joining the Goddess Guard and my personal guard detail.

Other additions to the Goddess Guard that were coming back with us were Hideki, Sebastian, Celest, Micah, Seiji, Yuri, and Victor. The rest were joining the guard but staying behind in the abbey. They would be at our call when we needed them.

And, after some negotiations, we were bringing in some vampires that we were guaranteed could be trusted and several warlocks. They would be moving into the community that we were building for the shadow world. They would be there and available whenever we needed them, further adding to the power that I had at my beck and call.

I spent this time relaxing and recovering from all my days of fighting and training. I used to feel worn out all the time, but not so much any more. What I felt now after three solid weeks of fighting every day was loose, limber, and toned. I felt strong.

I had to admit though, that these last few days were pretty calm and pleasant. I didn't have to worry about a thing. I pushed it all out of my mind for the three days leading up to our departure. I needed a mental break.

The night before we were to leave I went to bed early. I wanted to be well rested for the long trip. I laid in the bed, wrapped in Reece's arms, and drifted off into an easy sleep. Too bad it didn't stay an easy sleep.

Soon, my dreams took a turn for the worse, changing from something calm to something very unnerving. I knew I was dreaming, that was the only comforting thing about what I saw as the images flashed past my eyes.

I was standing on top of a hill in a clearing in the middle of nowhere. The clearing was surrounded by tall, tall trees and nothing else. But as I stood there looking around me different pictures of pain, sorrow, suffering, and death would flash by.

I saw children as young as ten withered away to nothing. Adults that were misshapen in odd, grotesque ways. There seemed to be something wrong with almost every single person I saw, aside from the fact that they had obviously died in a very horrific way.

What was worse was when the swirling images stopped passing by but began to settle. There were piles of bones, twisted bodies, and petrified corpses littering the clearing around the hill. The sight of them made my stomach do a few somersaults, I didn't know if it was from fear or disgust. Probably a little bit of both.

I spun in a slow circle, looking around the clearing at all those things, I didn't want to think of them as people because that would only make it worse. My heart ached and my stomach lurched from making that small, slow circuit. But before I was done, I caught the flicker of movement out of the corner of my eye.

Something had moved, but what was it. I paused and spun back around. There was nothing there, just the piles stirring on the ground.

Stirring? They were stirring on the ground? They were moving? Why were they moving? What was going on here?

I watched on in fascinated horror as one pile after the other began to shift and stand. Even the ones that didn't have bodies anymore. They began to reform to what they were before.

Soon, the clearing was full of people. They no longer looked dead, no longer piles of bones or twisted limbs. They looked like normal people, and they all appeared to be alive.

As I looked around the group of people I saw they ranged in age from approximately ten to maybe twenty-five at most. They were all still so young and yet they were all dead, and there were hundreds of them.

I looked in their faces. I saw their eyes, the complexion and pallor of their skin. The slim build of their bodies. They all looked so similar to each other. And as I thought about it, they all looked like me.

"Who are you? All of you, who are you?" I asked them, fear and other emotions swirling within me.

One shape stepped forward. It was a young man close to my age with the same shade of blue eyes I have and a pale look to his face. But his hair was pale blonde and he was wearing clothes from an era that was long since past.

"We are the children of Edmond." He spoke in a somber tone as another person stepped forward, a woman close to his age with a similar look but with an auburn color to her hair.

"We are the one who did not survive his experimentations." Her voice was eerily calm as she talked about her own death.

"We are the one who were born like you." A chorus rang through the crowd, every voice speaking at the same time. "We are the ones who were not strong enough."

"Am I the only one who ever survived?" My heart and mind couldn't handle that thought.

"No, there have been others, but they were not as strong as you. They easily bent to his will and did his bidding." That eerie, echoing chorus of their voices sent shivers down my spine.

"What became of them?" I didn't know if I really wanted to know, but I had to ask anyway.

"Most did not live long after their awakening. They were either killed by their own people or drowned in their magic." The man who had stepped forward answered my questions alone.

"What made me so special?" I asked them. "What was different about me that allowed me to live but killed all of you?"

"That we do not know." They all spoke again.

It was finally hitting me. This group of people, the hundreds of people before me, they were all my brothers and sisters. Edmond had not been lying when he said that he had been up to these tricks of his for a long time. And I most definitely was not the first. But I would be the last if I had anything to say about it.

"I won't let him do this to anyone else. I won't let another child be his unwitting pawn and helpless victim. This needs to end." I could feel the determination growing within me, right alongside my hatred for Edmond.

"We want to help you." A little girl spoke up as she moved forward. She was the smallest of them that I had seen so far, and she looked the most like me. This little girl was wearing a little flowered dress with a beaded leather vest over it.

"Help me how?" I wondered.

"Our father is on the move." The crowd chorused. "He seeks to return to where his troubles started."

"Where his troubles started? What troubles could he have?"

"You!" Their voices, so calm and scarily in sync, caused all the blood to leave my face. I felt myself swoon in place as my body began to feel cold all over.

"Me? So if he's going to where it all started does that mean he's going to my home? He's going after my people? My friends? My family? My city?"

"You must hurry, sister." Their voices were insistent. "You must stop him. He must not be allowed to succeed here. If he wins this battle then the world will be lost forever."

"Believe in what you have learned. Believe in yourself as we believe in you. But now you must hurry." The man who started the whole thing ended it as well.

When he finished speaking with his pleading voice the whole group turned and began to walk away. None of them took more than a few steps before they all faded and floated away on the wind, nothing more than wisps of smoke or mist in the night air.

I woke with a start, sitting bolt up in bed and breathing hard. My hands reached out next to me in search of Reece and his comforting warmth.

"What is it Little Bunny?" He asked as soon as he felt me frantically searching for him. He sat up and placed a warm, strong arm around my shoulders.

"We need to go. We have to get home. Now!" I was sweating hard and my heart felt like it was about to jump out of my throat.

"What's wrong? What happened?"

"Edmond is on his way to our home. He is going to go after and attack our people." I saw the look of shock on Reece's face as he heard my words. Things were about to get ugly if we weren't careful.

Chapter 213 - Reece - A Rush To Get Home (VOLUME 2)

8-10 minutes

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Reece

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I woke to the feeling of my Little Bunny frantically sitting up and searching for me in the bed like she thought I wouldn't be right there with her. Like I had anywhere else to be. She was scared for some reason. Her heart was racing, I could feel it as I slipped my arm around her and pressed myself against her to let her feel that I was right here with her.

"What is it Little Bunny?" I asked her, my voice soothing with no hint of the worry I felt.

"We need to go. We have to get home. Now!" The breathlessness of her voice, the fear that was resonating in her tone, and below all that the anger that was slowly vibrating, all these combined to set my hackles on edge.

"What's wrong? What happened?"

"Edmond is on his way to our home. He is going to go after and attack our people." I felt my heart stop and my stomach drop at those words. Edmond? He was making his move now?

We were out of the bed and getting dressed in the blink of an eye, it happened so fast that I didn't even get to spare a glance at my wife as she changed. We weren't scheduled to take off from the airport for another twelve hours, but we didn't have that kind of time. We needed to leave now.

Once we were dressed we started to alert the abbey. Pounding on door after door dragging sleepy individuals out of their beds. Once we had woken everyone that was down our hall we told them what the problem was, there wasn't an unaffected face in the bunch.

"He's going to Colorado Springs?" Vincent looked like someone had just punched him in the gut, with a knife. "No, he can't. We need to stop him." The worry that was plain as day on his face showed how much he was afraid for his family at that moment.

"That's what we plan to do." I assured him as I put a bracing hand on his shoulder. I could feel the tension coursing through him, surging stronger and stronger every second.

"We need to get going now." Trinity spoke to them in a voice full of command and authority.

"But we're not scheduled to fly out for several hours." Shane pointed out.

"And this is a situation where Reece can definitely throw his money around to fix. I don't care if I have to buy both airports, I am taking off from here in less than two hours and we will be landing back home with no issues." Her voice was rising in volume but lowering in tone at the same time. It was an unsettling sound.

"Let's not go spending that much money before we have to. I'm sure you'll find that I can be quite persuasive. For now we need to wake up everyone else and get the hell out of here." I put an arm around her, pulling her close in an attempt to calm her frustration a little. Who would have ever thought that I would be the calm and rational one between us. Whatever she saw while she was sleeping had really scared her.

We split into several groups after that, going from floor to floor and room to room waking up everyone in the abbey and then the village. Gabriel was just as shocked as we were when he had heard the news and started preparing to leave at once.

It wasn't even half an hour after Little Bunny had woken from her nightmare prophecy dream and we were all ready to go. I had called home to let Noah know what was going on. Those who had already planned to come back with us were going to be flying back on my plane, while the others would be taking seats on another flight departing later in the day.

I hoped that we would be there and ready for Edmond long before he showed his sorry ass to anyone in my city. But for now it was nothing more than a tense waiting game. We all piled into cars and SUVs to head to home.

If I ever thought we had a long caravan before, it was nothing compared to this one. This train of vehicles stretched at least fifty long. And we all sped together through the dark, quiet, pre dawn streets and roads. Not one vehicle in our party adhered to the speed limit as we hurried on our way.

Several laws were broken but we made it to the airport in less than an hour, effectively cutting the drive time in half. Together we marched into the airport. A horde of nearly two-hundred people really makes an impression on people when they all show up at once.

The big execs at the airport weren't very happy when I announced what it was I needed. They tried to complain about me in French while stalling, but my adorable little wife and I put them in their place when we countered them right back in French as well.

Little Bunny had been right. With enough money changing hands we had the clearance to take off within minutes. And with another copious sum of money, I paid for a flight to be cancelled and redirected to Colorado. The rest of the Sentinelle would be flying back on that flight, all except for the non fighters who would be staying behind to care for the abbey.

We were on the plane and preparing to take off within half an hour of showing up at the airport. Trinity got exactly what she wanted, less than two hours for the take off. It was three AM here and with the

flight time and time change we would be arriving home around ten in the morning. That felt so weird to think about, it would be five in the evening here when we landed in Colorado. I hate time changes.

Once we were settled on the plane I turned to my Little Bunny and gave her a serious look. I needed to know what she had seen that had scared her so much. She was looking out the window, her forehead resting on the seat and she was clearly exhausted.

"Trinity." I called her name softly but she jumped, startled by the sound coming from so close to her.

"Yes." She turned to look at me, her eyes were red like she had been crying but her face was dry. She was tired and upset and I didn't yet know why.

"What did you see?" She just shook her head and started to look away from me, but I put a hand on her chin forcing her to look back at me. "Sweetheart, tell me, please. Don't you know a burden shared is a burden lessened? Tell me and let me help you." I pleaded with her.

I saw my wife take a deep shuddering breath, her eyes closed and her brows creased. She released that breath on another shudder before taking another, more steady breath. Finally, she opened her eyes and looked at me.

"I was given a message about Edmond. He's going back to where all his troubles began."

"Troubles? He has troubles?"

"Me." The one word said it all. She was the wrench that was thrown into his plans, she was the one standing in his way. He wanted to stop her, and he knew how to do it.

"We will stop him." I hugged her tight to my side. "The gods warned you for a reason."

"It wasn't the gods." Her voice was so even and flat that I knew it wasn't a joke, but I didn't understand at first.

"If it wasn't the gods, then who?"

"Edmond's children." I was confused, and didn't follow that for a moment. With an eyebrow quirked I asked her the only thing that came to my mind.

"What children?"

"All the ones he experimented with before. The others that were just like me."

"And you're sure it wasn't a trick from him?" I was worried for a moment after hearing these words.

"No, I know what I felt, and I know it was real. The gods probably helped to facilitate the meeting, but it was my dead brothers and sisters that gave me the message."

"I'm sorry you had to see that." I chaffed my hand up and down her arm for comfort more than warmth.

"There were so many of them, Reece. He killed so many of his own children. Hundreds of them. It was horrible. He's a monster."

"We will stop him, honey. I promise he won't do it again."

"I can't let him hurt another child Reece. Some of them were little children. I can't bear to think about that." She had turned her face and sobbed the last of those words into my chest as I held her.

"He won't. He has you and me to contend with now, and he is going to regret it."

We flew the rest of the way home holding each other close and sleeping when we could manage it. We would need our rest for the coming fight.

Chapter 214 - Trinity - I Gotta Protect My Home (VOLUME 2)

8-10 minutes

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Trinity

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From the time that I woke up from that warning I had constantly been alternating between a state of intense frustrated anger and pit of endless despair. I would never forgive myself if anything happened to the people of my city and my pack. I would never forgive myself if my family were to be hurt by that psychotic asshole that called himself my father. I needed to protect them, all of them.

The moment we landed in Colorado it was like a well rehearsed circus event. Noah and a bunch of pack warriors were there in the same SUVs we had left in. The difference this time was that we were arriving later in the morning and there were a lot more people around to see the spectacle.

It was like celebrities had arrived and were taking over the airport. That's what it looked like with all the people scrambling to get a look at us all as we were being escorted through the crowd. Reece and I were buried in the middle of the crowd with the several large, very strong looking body guard types all surrounding us and very on edge.

We moved through the airport as fast as we could, piling out to the curb that was crowded with the twenty large SUVs waiting for us. Once we were all seated we pulled away immediately. We needed to get home and have a meeting with the others.

This part of the trip was quick in comparison to the rest of it. It was not a long drive from the airport to the estate and we made good time with the intimidating presence of our envoy. It might have also helped that Rawlynn and Jackson, and Andrew and Devon from the local PD, were leading us like some sort of presidential escort. Things were too pressing and too important to leave up to chance.

The regular group, Reece, myself, Noah, Carter, Vincent, David, Shane, Shawn, Dietrich, and Gabriel, all met in the conference room where we waited approximately thirty seconds before the elders came into the room led by Grandfather. The group was definitely too big for our office.

"What is going on?" Grandfather hadn't even sat down before he started to ask questions.

"Edmond is coming." I didn't just hear that gasp that ran through the room from those who hadn't heard this news before, no I felt it too. I felt the gasp as the air shifted and passed over my skin in a small shuddering shockwave.

"What do you mean Edmond is coming?" Michael's words came out on a breathless exhalation. He seemed like he couldn't quite believe what he had heard.

"Trinity, what happened?" Grandfather gave me an imploring look, begging me to say something.

They were all confused, even Noah who had been briefed on everything by Reece already. I didn't want to hide anything from them, they all needed to know what I had seen. I hadn't even told my guards everything I had seen, only that Edmond was making his move.

Slowly, as if pushing the words past an invisible barrier that had lodged itself into my throat, I told them about my vision. I described in detail the hundreds of children that Edmond had tortured to death because they weren't strong enough to withstand his personal attention. I even told them how they all looked alike, and how I looked like them.

Reece, who had been sitting in his chair next to mine at the head of the table, stood and stepped close to me only to kneel on the floor next to me. He placed his forehead against mine and rubbed soothing circles on my back. He didn't say a word, he just knew that I needed his warmth and comfort in that moment. He was there, being the fire that melted the ice slowly forming around my heart.

There was silence in the room for a few minutes after I relayed my information. The seriousness and gravity of the situation just finally hitting the others for the first time while my guards had had several hours to process it already. There was not a single face in the bunch that wasn't full of worry, fear, or anger. I was glad that several of them were angry, anger meant they were ready to face the threat that was coming with the proper fierceness.

Before the unrest from my revelation even had time to disperse, the door to the conference room burst open. The door rebound off the wall with a loud banging thud. Framed in the door were Riley, Bryce, and half a dozen other Alphas that I had met on my rounds with Reece, behind them were the Prime Betas from the fealty packs. Reinforcements had arrived.

We continued the strategy meeting with earnest now. We needed to iron out every detail, and fast. The first thing that I insisted on was removing as many people from the city that we could. I wanted all the women, children, elderly, and non fighters taken somewhere safe. I would not risk the lives of innocents here, they weren't safe around Edmond.

I wanted scouts watching the land from every position, even though I knew that Edmond had ways around that. The truth was, he might not be coming alone and even though Edmond could move without being seen, could he move an army? It's possible, but I still wanted to be safe. He had moved his creations, but they weren't people anymore and I didn't know how his purple mist worked

The meeting lasted several hours, but we had a plan, albeit not too much of one. How do you plan against a man who could appear literally out of nowhere? How do you plan against someone that even the gods considered a threat? There's not much you can do except have backup plans for when things went wrong. So that's what we spent the bulk of our time on, multiple backup plans.

There was one thing I knew for certain though. I would not let Edmond escape this time. I would not let him get away. He had to answer for everything that he had done. What he had done to me. What he had done to those children he had kidnapped. What he had done to his own children. He needed to atone, with his life.

I was still too tense and uneasy when everyone set about putting our plan into action. I watched as warriors and guards, and anyone who was a strong fighter, said goodbye to their loved ones. Wives, children, parents, siblings, they were being separated from people they loved and cherished and cared about. I just hoped they would all be united again soon.

Those who were being relocated temporarily were taken to other packs far away. Bryce offered to house many of them, he had one of the largest territories after ours and he was one of our strongest allies. Plus, his lands were far enough away that there should be no casualties. And another added benefit, our packs could form a stronger bond with the citizens getting to know each other.

I only had a brief moment to see Nikki before she left but I saw that her belly was getting so big and it made me just a little jealous to be honest. She was due in a little over a month, at the end of July. Right now, it was teetering on the brink of summer and the kids had just been released from school. Perhaps I should be glad that Edmond waited until the kids could relocate and not mess up their education. I'd be sure to thank him, right before I ripped his head off.

I said my goodbyes to Mom, Lila and Grandfather. I hugged Ella goodbye in between her attempts to explain everything to her mate, Devon. Then I watched as they all drove away and caused my heart to sink. This was actually happening. This was actually real.

Edmond was coming. He was coming to my home in search of a fight. He wanted to get rid of me but he would not get that chance, I wouldn't let him. This was my home, and I gotta protect my home.

I wasn't going to go down without a fight. And I had learned to fight, quite literally, tooth and nail. He didn't know what he was getting himself into by coming here. He was the one who needed to be scared. He was the one who needed to be worried and frightened and unsure. He didn't know what I could do. He hadn't seen my abilities yet. This would be my time to prove to him that messing with the lives of others, and experimenting on children especially his children, was his fatal mistake. He was going to be brought to his knees by one of his creations, one of his experiments. I would destroy him and avenge my family in the process, my mother and my siblings.

You had better watch out Edmond. I'm ready for you.

Chapter 215 - Trinity - A Distraction Is Needed (VOLUME) ((Mature))

16-20 minutes

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Trinity

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We spent so much of the day planning for every eventuality that I was mentally exhausted, the problem was I was so keyed up that my heart was racing a mile a minute. Dinner was a tense time with only me and Reece left in the house. The staff had been dismissed since none of them were fighters and should be sent somewhere safe. I never thought I would hate the quiet this much, but it wasn't just quiet, it was eerie as well. Sinister somehow, as if the silence was channeling my dread, or Edmond himself.

The excess energy had me feeling jittery and unable to sit still. By ten that night Reece had had enough of my frantic pacing and wringing of my hands.

"You need to stop." He finally exploded as he looked at me, a half smile half frown on his face. It was a complicated look and I wasn't sure how he had pulled it off, but he managed it somehow, and still managed to look sexy doing it.

"What am I supposed to do Reece? All I'm doing is sitting around, waiting for the shoe to drop, so to speak."

"Well, you can't just wear a rut into the floor, I don't have the time to get it replaced right now." His joke was meant to make me laugh, but all it earned him was a glare. "Geez, tough crowd." He laughed at himself this time.

I knew he meant well, and I know he was right. I had to calm down, one way or the other. The problem was that I had too much energy from all that adrenaline coursing through my body. My body was acting like I had popped some speed and downed a gallon of espresso just for shits and giggles. I was at a loss though.

Reece walked slowly over to me, placing himself in my way as I paced the bedroom for the twentieth or thirtieth time. I don't remember how many really, but it was a lot.

"Come on, let's sit down. I'm already exhausted just from watching you." His voice still held a note of laughter. He was trying to make me forget, make me loosen up. I hoped he could.

"I'm not ready for bed Reece." I told him with a firm voice.

"Who said anything about sleeping." He looked at me with a wicked glint in his eyes and I knew exactly what he meant. I have to admit, even with all the nerves for the coming battle, I still felt the stirrings of desire for him. There was nothing that would ever make me not want him.

"What did you have in mind?" I heard the tone of my voice, how it had deepened slightly to become more heady, lustful, and slightly erotic.

"There are a few things that I could think of, but is there anything you can think of. I'd be more than willing to please you by doing anything you desire."

"Anything?" I nearly cooed the word. "You might regret that." I smiled at him.

"I don't think I could ever regret being with you for a second, ever."

"Even if I wanted to take charge of you?" I winked at him.

"Then I'm all yours to command, your highness." He spread his arms wide and bowed to me. "What is it you wish for me to do?"

I could definitely get used to this. Watching him as he stood back up to tower over me. I had been looking forward to doing a few things since I had learned how to control my magic, I guess now seemed like as good a time as any to try them out. I smirked at him with all the thoughts running through my head. I could definitely work off some of that tension with him.

"Get on the bed." I told him. "Sit back propped against the pillows." There was a spark of excitement in his eyes as he heard my instructions.

"At once." He was behaving like someone who served me, that's fine, he could serve me with his body all night long.

I watched as he backed up against the bed, the back of his knees colliding softly before he sat down. He never took his eyes off me. Not even when he started to scoot further away, back into the shadow of the bed's canopy. He just continued to stare at me as he moved and leaned back against the pile of pillows.

"How is this?" He asked me with a smile lighting up his face.

"Almost perfect." I grinned. "Just needs something else."

"Really? What's that?" He asked.

I didn't answer, I just summoned the magic to me, pulling it from the cloak of power I was permanently wrapped in now. Then, without warning, I pushed that magic toward him. Bright blue tendrils of my power wrapped around his wrists and pulled his arms out and to the side. The power tied him with his arms slightly raised above his head but his arms looked like wings that were spread out now.

There had been just a tiny note of fear in his eyes when he had felt my magic snake around him. The slightest widening of his eyes as he felt himself being overpowered. But then, just the slightest hint of mischief entered his eyes alongside the rush of excitement.

"Ooohh. What do you have in mind?" The way Reece's voice had gone deep with his seductive tone sent shivers down my spine. I was the one in charge here, he couldn't touch me at all, yet I still felt his words like the caress of his fingers along my body.

"It's time to have a little fun." I knew there was a wicked glint in my eyes when I said that, there was no avoiding it at all.

"Oh please play with me." He wiggled his eyebrows at me as he said those words.

I called my magic to me again. This time I concentrated it into invisible copies of my hands. He didn't see them moving toward him but he felt them the moment they fell upon his legs. There were more than just a pair of hands, there was one pair that were removing his socks, another pair busying themselves with the button and zipper of his pants, and another pair was slowly unbuttoning his shirt.

I watched as he laid there, laid out like a smorgasbord for me to devour. Hot, sexy muscles flexed under his beautiful honied skin. The well toned ripples of his abs as they tensed and untensed from the phantom tickles of my magic hands.

"You seem to have a problem." He chuckled as he lay almost completely naked before my eyes. "You can't get the shirt off me while I'm tied up." He grinned, like he thought I was going to let him go. I saw the desire and need in his eyes and knew he was almost at his limits.

"You think so?" I asked with a note of curiosity. "Hmm. Let's see." I made it sound as if I were musing about what to do, how to solve this dilemma of mine. "I guess there's no other way."

The look of triumph in his eyes was so strong I could feel it from where I stood, just a few feet from the edge of the bed. His gaze was so powerful in that moment that I felt it too, like it was nothing less than fingers playing gently at the hem of my shirt.

"I was right, there is no other way." I added before using my magic to tear away the fabric from his body. The button-up shirt became nothing more than shreds of cloth that had been tossed to the floor. The hitch in his breathing and surprise in his eyes was more than enough reward for having destroyed his shirt.

"I liked that shirt you know." He put on a false sense of anger, still smiling at me with his eyes.

"I'll buy you a new one, besides, you deserved a little payback." I joked with him in turn.

"Well, now you have me spread before you, naked, what are you going to do now?"

"I'm going to take this slow, I've got a lot of tension to ease and you're my tool that's going to help me."

"Hmph." He pretended to be offended. "I feel so used." The slightly raised pitch in his voice almost made me laugh, he was trying to sound effeminate when he spoke but he could never pull it off. "Am I nothing but a toy to you?"

"You're better than a toy, you play back." I smiled as I pulled my shirt over my head. I was only going to give him half of what he wanted, I would leave enough to have him wanting more, but he would not see the whole package. That was what I was thinking as I slid my jeans down my hips, leaving the silk waistband that lay beneath them in place. His eyes darkened when he saw my almost naked body, just as I knew they would. Those eyes so full of desire and hunger, eyes I once misunderstood but could now read like a favorite book.

I crawled onto the bed by his feet, only to find his legs a little too close together for my needs.

"Hmm, this won't do." I sounded sad as I looked at him.

"What?" He barely had time to ask this before my magic was on him again. More blue tendrils came off me and wrapped around his ankles, pulling his legs apart and making a path for me. "Ahh." He actually cried out a little that time as the magic pulled him down the pillows just a little, causing him to lean back even further.

"Much better." I purred as I looked at him. I could now crawl up the bed between his legs.

"What are you going to do?" This time he was truly curious when he asked.

"Explore." I answered with one word.

I had explored Reece's body before, that was true. But it was never uninterrupted like this. It was done in bits and pieces, caresses and kisses stolen in the height of our passion and desire. But now, I had him splayed out before me and there was nothing he could do about it.

"Explore, huh? What do you want to explore?"

"Everything." I could hear the desire dripping from my words and so could he. His body shivered from the force of my hunger for him.

I was so hungry for him, that I thought I should have a taste or two, or twenty or a hundred. There was no one who could stop me as I devoured him anyway. I was going to take my time and enjoy this.

I looked at him in the eyes one last time. I saw excitement, desire, hunger, and curiosity all warring inside their golden depths. The heat of that emotional battle had turned the soft golden color to something molten and hot and full of fire. He was fire after all, my fire, my phoenix, my lycan, my mate.

As I moved my eyes down his perfectly sculpted, beautifully toned, sexy body I saw just how much he wanted me in another place. He was already standing at attention and ready for me to take him. Too bad I wasn't nearly ready.

Once I devoured him completely with my eyes, mapping every last inch of him, on the front anyway, I finally set my mouth against him. At first it was nothing more than a feather light touch just above his right ankle. But even that was enough to make him gasp and flinch from the feel of it.

"Are you ticklish Reece? I never knew you were ticklish right here." He looked at me with a pleading look, a look that asked me to release him so he could take me. He was already ready to drive into me. I just chuckled and ran my tongue up his shin in a long sweeping motion.

"Ahh." He cried out and shivered above me making me laugh once again. "You're going to torture me?" He made it a question.

"Not torture." I shook my head in denial. "Worship, treasure, conquer. Any of those words would do, but not torture." I grinned at him.

"It's the same thing in this case." He grinned right back.

"Just lay back and enjoy yourself. I'm certainly going to."

"You're going to be the death of me." He laughed.

"Yeah, but in a good way."

I wanted to let all my worries, all my tension, and most of all, all my inhibitions go. I wanted to do something I had never done before but may, or may not, have fantasized about doing several times before. As I dipped my head down to loom over him again I let my wolf take control.

I didn't shift, not even a partial shift, it was more like I was letting my primal instincts and desires take over for me. Letting my beast take the lead would make me less nervous, less afraid, and more willing to do what it was I really wanted to do. When next I looked up and into Reece's eyes, I knew he would see the primal energy oozing from me.

I licked him again. A long lapping motion that brought the taste of his skin into my mouth. I had heard Reece talk about how he could taste my scent on my body but I had never experienced that as I kissed or licked him before. I could now though.

With every swipe of my tongue I tasted the different layers of his scent as they flooded into my mouth. There was even a new, very subtle layer to that scent that I tasted now. With the first stroke of my tongue I tasted coffee, the strong robust flavor that came with the high energy scent of my mate. The second stroke brought the cinnamon, spicy and strong just like him. The third was chocolate, this was the part of him that could be so sweet and loving, the part that he hid from me for so long but I loved more than anything else. Then there was a flavor on the next long swipe of my tongue that I hadn't expected, a scent I hadn't noticed until now. I tasted citrus, oranges to be exact. Reece had told me that once he could smell my witch side it had added the scent of lemons to the layered mixture that made up my unique smell, and now he had oranges that marked him as the warlock king. Not to mention the oranges followed the chocolate making it taste like chocolate covered oranges. His flavors all mixed together was like a hot cinnamon latte and chocolate covered oranges and I thoroughly enjoyed the decadence of it all.

Slowly, I licked, kissed, and nipped my way up his right leg until I got to his thigh. Thankfully, even though Reece was a wolf he didn't have much body hair at all. That was all reserved for his wolf form. The smooth, intoxicating feel, and taste, of his body was uninterrupted.

After finishing with the right leg I once again lowered myself to his left leg, mirroring my actions there. He squirmed and jerked above me, gasping when the tip of my tongue tickled somewhere on its path up his flesh.

I was already drunk on the flavor of him, on the feel of him. I was really enjoying watching him writhe from my actions and the attention I was paying to him. And the moans he would let loose as I teased him were like spurs begging me to keep going.

Once I got to his thigh again I shifted my position until I was straddling his left leg. This allowed me to kiss, lick, and bite my way up his hip and skirt around the quivering erection that he was all but begging me to attend to it.

I continued my motions as I moved up his left side. I dipped my tongue in and around the curves of his abs, the rippling and twitching of his muscles sent even more excitement coursing through me. I stayed to the side of his body, ignoring the middle altogether, just continuing up until I reached his shoulder.

Once again I lowered myself until I was at his right hip and repeated all my movements on that side. He continued to moan and and gasp, making sure I knew he was enjoying every second of my slow torture.

This time, when I reached his shoulder I followed the curve of his skin to his neck. I bit down gently, pulling the tender flesh into my mouth. He shuddered as I slowly dug my teeth into him. It wasn't enough to draw blood, just enough to leave a bright pink mark. I soothed the reddened flesh with my tongue then placed a kiss over it before I continued up to his ear. I bit down gently on the lobe before licking slowly up the shell of his ear.

Now it was time to focus more with lips than anything else. I kissed my way up his jaw bone, up his chin and to his mouth. I captured his lips with my own, taking his mouth and breath like I was an explorer on uncharted territory.

His mouth always felt like home. Safe and secure and somewhere I could always return to. When I pressed my lips to his this time he opened his mouth, parting his lips and licking mine with his tongue as it slipped into my mouth to tangle with my own. I had him trapped under me, but his mouth was still free to move as he wished.

He kissed me hungrily, fiercely, and with a fiery passion. There was so much heat in the kiss that I could actually feel it bearing down on me, like standing close to a roaring bonfire. He couldn't grab my head and hold me in place but I felt his desire to as he struggled against his bindings. The kiss was not nearly enough for him.

Soon, I pulled my mouth away from his which also pulled a groaning whimper from him.

"Trinity." His voice was pleading.

"Shhh." I shushed him as I kissed his forehead. "Just wait a little longer." I made my voice as soothing as I could when I was so filled with desire for him.

It was time for me to make my way down again. I started at his collar bone and licked my way down. I swirled my tongue quickly around each of his nipples before following the line of his abdomen down. When I reached the dip of his hips he cried out again.

"Please." He begged me, need shining like a light in his eyes, like a fire.

"What do you want me to do?" I asked him. "How do you want me to take you?"

"Inside you. Please, baby, I need to feel you wrapped around me."

"Shouldn't I finish tasting you first?" I giggled.

"Please, sweetheart, I'm begging you."

"Well, if you're begging, then how could I deny you." I summoned my magic for just a second, this time making the last layer of clothes I was wearing disappear from sight.

I straddled his hips and teased his rock hard erection for just a moment, giggling when he groaned and begged again.

"Please, baby. Please!" His pleading voice pleased me more than I thought it would. I gripped his shaft in my hand and guided it to my opening which was already wet and waiting for him.

Chapter 216 - Reece - No Control (VOLUME 2) ((MATURE))

9-11 minutes

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Reece

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For the last half an hour, at least, my sexy Little Bunny had been slowly torturing me. Licking, kissing, nipping, devouring my body like it was the only source of nourishment she needed. But my need, my desire, my hunger for her only grew with every second. By the time that she had made her way back down to the dip of my hip and hovered above my erection I felt harder than I had ever been in my entire life. So hard that my erection seemed to be made of nothing less than steel.

I needed to feel her. Her sweet, dusky folds enveloping me, hugging me tight. The muscles of her sweet passage milking me of every last drop until I was spent and could no longer move. I had reached a level of desire I never thought was possible.

"Please baby. Please!" I had pleaded with her, my voice quivered as I begged once again for her to take me inside her tight opening. Then, like a merciful goddess, she guided me to her opening and I nearly wept with relief.

She lowered herself, shifting her legs until every last inch of my erection was buried deep within her core. We both cried out at the feel of it.

"Ahhh." She seemed to gasp and shudder at the feel of me pressing into her.

"Oh Goddess." I threw my head back and cried out in thanks. "Thank you baby." I could feel the smile on my face and was unable to stop it.

Slowly, she began to raise up, lifting herself and pulling my cock out of her.

"Ngh." I shuddered at the feeling of the slow, almost hypnotic move. Then next thing I knew she lowered herself again, her tight core wrapping around me once more. I couldn't help it, I cried out again, this time wordlessly.

"Ahh." I mimicked her cry from just a moment ago.

This time, when she raised herself up I dug my hips into the mattress, assisting her in pulling me out of her, and when she went to slide back down I slammed my hips back up, driving myself into her hard and fast.

"Ngh, ahh." She cried out twice from the feel of the invasion. "Reece." My name on her lips was always like a whip that pushed me forward and pulled my wolf to the brink.

I had seen her eyes, the primal desire that was riding in them. I knew that her beast was in control and I wanted to let mine out too, but he would have nothing to do in this position.

"I need to touch you, to feel you." I pleaded. "Please."

"I want your hands all over me." She agreed, instantly dissolving the magic that was holding me in place.

Once I was free to move, I let my beast take over. I wrapped my arms around her waist and flipped us over. Spreading her beneath me like she had spread me beneath her. My hands moved over her touching anything and everything they could. I would never get enough of her, the feel of her flesh, the mind blowing intensity of her kisses, the tight, squeezing pressure of her core. She was my heaven.

I didn't stop touching her even as I pulled back, drawing out of her until just the tip of my erection was left inside her flaming hot core. She ran her hands across my back and held on tight as I drove into her fast and hard.

"Oh! Reece!" Her voice, her words, they were both the sweetest thing I had ever heard. And the nails she dug into my back, scratching her desire and pleasure into my flesh and leaving lines was like a trophy I had won at the end of a long marathon. It had been a marathon too, holding back and hanging in long enough until she released me.

"Trinity." I whispered her name into her ear. I kept my back arched and my forehead pressed against hers as I pulled back again. Once again I slammed into her and elicited a moan.

In and out, fast and hard. I set about creating a rhythm that was designed to please us both and drive us toward the edge of paradise. I drove in and out listening to the song of her moans and heavy, panting breaths as they sang right into my face.

I refused to pull my face from hers. Every few thrusts I kissed or licked her lips. I would capture moans and swallow their intensity inside of me only to return it in a stronger, harder, or faster thrust. The chorus of this beautiful song she was weaving for me was my name that she panted over and over as she neared the precipice of glory.

"Reece." She gasped over and over.

"Trinity." I called her name in turn, turning the song into a duet as our bodies slammed into each other, dancing the most primal dance there was.

I felt the core of her body tighten to a near painful sheath around me and knew she was about to come apart in my arms. I shifted and drove myself into her harder and deeper, throwing my head back as I cried out upon my own release. She answered my cry with a wordless one of her own. Coming together and falling together in a breathless heap was like the end of the song bringing our dance to a stop.

But I wasn't nearly done with her. I needed her like air right now. My beast was in charge and there was no stopping him or me. And the answering look of hunger in her eyes as she blinked up at me told me that she was not yet sated either.

I pulled myself out of her and lifted her to her knees. I kissed her long and hard, devouring her mouth like the beast I truly was deep inside. When the kiss broke I turned her, close to but not quite rough with my movements.

Once she had her back to me I pushed her over the pillows and pulled her hips toward me. I fitted myself against her core which was still twitching slightly from her climax. I didn't pause for more than a second before I drove myself deep inside again.

"Reece!" She shook beneath me as she took me again, her twitching core instantly starting to milk around me once more.

I draped my body over hers, feeling her soft heated flesh pressed against my own. Our bodies, both slick with sweat, moved in perfect time with each other. Again and again I drove into her. Our flesh slapping against each other making the music for our primal dance and panting lyrics. She came over and over again, screaming with each orgasm. But I still wasn't done, even after my second orgasm.

I changed our positions again. Moving to slide off the bed, I pulled her until her ass was just barely past the edge of the mattress. I lifted her legs, hooking her ankles over my shoulders then planting my hands on either side of her head. As I stared down at her, laying there like a dream I never thought would come true for me, I smiled before fitting myself against her again.

"Mine." I growled the word that I had said so many times when taking her. "All mine, forever and ever." With that I drove into her again and she screamed for me.

"Yours, Reece. I'm all yours."

"I love you." I growled the words, primal and driven by my wolf, almost all my words were coming out as growls.

"Ahh, I-I I-I-love y-you t-t-too." Each word took her multiple tries as I pounded into her core, but still her words brought a genuine smile to my lips.

As I drove into her, feeling deeper into her core than I usually did in other positions, I lost almost all ability to think. I just drove in and out of her, pounding away at her body. In that moment she was all the food, water, oxygen, everything that I needed, she was life. My life.

For the third time I felt myself getting ready to leap over that glorious edge. The building of pressure in my body, the tingling and tensing within me. I was nearly there, and right on cue I felt her orgasm building again. She was so sensitive now that it was not hard to build her back up. But she wouldn't last long and if I wanted us to come together again I would need to hurry.

I pictured my future with her as I reached my limit. I pictured my seed taking root inside her and her belly swelling with my pup. I pictured the happy family we could have one day. That was the last thought, the only thought, I was able to muster as my primal need pushed us both into oblivion.

She came on a scream, no words just a sound of pure bliss. I came on a roar of pleasure as I threw my head back and emptied the last of my seed inside her.

I had never had a night so filled with primal need and passion in my life. This was a night to be remembered for sure. Those were my first thoughts as I came back to my senses.

I could feel my strength waning as I held myself above her. Slowly, I unsheathed myself from her body causing her to shudder slightly from the feel of it. Once she was released and my body was free of her, I scooped her up into my arms.

Slowly, I crawled onto the bed and laid in the middle of the mattress, hugging her tight to my side. She was completely spent, seeming unable to move. I have to admit, that gave me a sense of satisfaction in and of itself.

"I love you, Trinity. More than life itself." She was too far gone, too close to sleep, to answer with anything more than a wordless groaning sound.

Chapter 217 - Trinity - Enemies Spotted (VOLUME 2)

8-10 minutes

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Trinity

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I was still laying in Reece's arms, held firmly against his body, when I heard his phone start buzzing incessantly.

"Mmm, Reece." I said, poking him and causing him to stir a little. We were both still exhausted from last night, but it had been so amazing that I would never complain about being tired or sore as a result.

"Reece, answer your phone." I pulled away from him causing him to wake up the rest of the way.

"They can call back, I'm still sleeping." He grumbled.

"It might be important." I poked him again. "Go on and answer it." I told him as the phone started to buzz through its second cycle of rings. That meant that whoever it was was calling again.

"Fine." He growled as he reached over to pick up the phone.

"Stop complaining, Fido." I joked with him as I moved to get out of bed. I could see the sun was up and that it had clearly been up for a while. A quick check of the clock told me it was almost noon. Wow, we had slept late.

"What is it?" He growled into the phone.

"I really should have gone for Cujo instead of Fido this morning." I giggled. I was just getting out of bed, wincing a little from the sore muscles from the olympic level feat we had managed last night, when I heard the voice that answered Reece's growl.

"Alpha, there's trouble approaching the borders." It was Zeke from the gate guards.

"What kind of trouble?" Reece asked now fully alert and slipping out of bed. I was already changing my path from the shower to the dresser so I could get dressed. My shower could wait if it was an emergency. I wouldn't be happy about it but I would deal.

"Purple smoke and what smells like hundreds of those monsters we fought before."

"How far away? How soon will it be here?"

"At least fifty miles, maybe a little more, I would estimate that they'd hit the city limits in not more than an hour, it's not moving super fast, but it's not slow either."

"We will be there soon." He spoke through clenched teeth.

I had hoped that Edmond would wait until nightfall to begin this battle. It would be easier to hide us all from the prying eyes of humans in the dark. But if he was intent on doing this sooner rather than later, we would comply. Illusions and aversion spells from the warlocks and myself would help keep the humans safe.

Reece grabbed a handful of clothes like I had done but he then dragged me into the bathroom.

'We have time for a quick shower.'" He said as he turned the water on. That made me happy, I needed one, desperately.

Once we had showered and dressed we headed to the place where Zeke was waiting. Edmond's beast seemed to be coming in at the edge of our land and away from the city. We had summoned half the troops guarding the city to where we were, hoping to handle this soon. The other half would be guarding the rest of the border, we didn't trust Edmond to only send one battalion of monsters.

We were ready and prepared for battle long before they showed up. But we had not even been there for five minutes when we got another call. There was another battalion at the opposite end of the town. Soon, there were four more calls like the first two. Edmond was surrounding the city.

"What are we going to do?" Shane asked as we strategized once more.

"Take care of the threat." Reece said matter-of-factly. "Edmond didn't seem to be among any of the groups closing in on the city, so this is most likely a diversionary tactic."

"But what about the citizens of the city? We need to protect them." Shawn seemed worried as he looked over the horizon and saw the buildings stretching toward the sky.

"I will work with Crawford and Eldrige to place a shield over the city." I told him. The two warlocks nodded in agreement with me as we stepped forward.

"We will be happy to protect the city with you." Crawford tried to smile, tried to show his confidence in our victory today, but he failed.

I stood between the two elderly warlocks, eyes closed and hands linked to make a chain. I concentrated on the shield I wanted to place over the city, over its population. I would lock the city to anyone in cahoots with Edmond.

I felt the power swirl around the three of us for just a moment as it built itself into a stronger force. Once the spell was properly weaved I felt the wind pick up as the magic flew toward the town. There was a slight pull in my chest as it flew so far and stretched so big, but once it was fully in place it was like fitting a puzzle piece into place, it just fit perfectly.

"Well, that takes care of the city itself, but what about the other hordes?" David asked, his usually calm voice now full of nerves.

"We spread out and divide the troops." I answered him. "We need to balance the power. So you will each go to meet a horde as it approaches."

"I don't think it's wise for us to split up." Vincent wasn't happy with my suggestion.

"This could be a trap to get you alone." Dietrich added.

"It most likely is, but Edmond will be ill-prepared for it. He doesn't know what I can do." I told them.

"Those beasts are not the smartest, but they're strong, and you're all stronger than any other fighters in the pack. We need to use your abilities to fight them. Reece and I will stay here, but the rest of you will need to split up."

"Understood." Vincent knew he couldn't argue, having no other choice he conceded and agreed to the plan.

"Remember that we need to protect the humans and our territory both. All of you are stronger, faster, and more powerful than all the others. This might be an undesirable situation and seem bleak, but we will overcome this and rise up as the victors." Reece gave a speech that seemed guaranteed to spur them on to a spirited fight.

Within minutes, the split of troops was decided upon. Shifters from wolf, bear, and feline packs were spread evenly as were the warlocks and vampires that had been summoned for this fight. It was the best we could do for now, but I was sure that it would be more than enough.

Soon, I saw the hoard for myself as it crested a hill in the distance. There had to be at least two hundred monsters approaching. The sight of all those twisted, mutated bodies as they shambled closer with dead, lifeless, zombie like eyes and expressions, it was enough to send a chill down my spine and make me shiver.

"Nearly time." I heard Reece declare to those around us. "Be ready and take no mercy. They used to be shifters but there is nothing of their old selves left. They're nothing but mindless weapons for Edmond now."

"Yes, Sir." A chorus echoed softly through those gathered around us.

"And if you see anyone who is not a mutant, let us know. It will most likely be a warlock. We're on the lookout for the coven leader but that doesn't mean he won't send in his cronies as well."

"Understood." The group chorus again.

Just hearing them speak as a group made me think about my dream and that premonition. The group speaking as a whole was so much like the voices in my dream. The voices of Edmond's children. The voices of my long dead siblings. My heart ached as I thought about them.

I pictured their faces, their features that were so similar to my own. I pictured their clothes, an array of fashion and styles from different eras through the last couple hundred years. I imagined what they might have been like had they not died, had our shared tormenter not murdered them and snuffed out their life's candle too soon.

These thoughts brought a tear to my eye. Just one solitary tear that rolled out of the corner of my eye and streaked an invisible path down my clean, pale cheek. I didn't have the time, nor the energy, to spare on tears right now. I would mourn them all once I had murdered our father and allowed them to finally find peace.

"I will avenge you, all of you." I whispered quietly to myself. "He will pay for what he's done to us all." I felt the firm conviction in my heart as the truth of the words rang inside my head. I knew I would succeed, I had no other choice. My surety spread through me, enveloping me in a warmth that was secure and comforting.

"Alright Edmond, I'm ready for you."

Chapter 218 - Trinity - The Horde Arrives (VOLUME 2)

8-10 minutes

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Trinity

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I watched on, my apprehension growing by the second, as that purple swirling smoke moved ever closer. This was it. This was the start of the battle that would determine the future. Not only my future but Reese's, my family's, the pack's, the entire world's. This was the battle to end all battles for us. We needed to eliminate Edmond here and now.

All around me, shifters of various types, vampires, and warlocks all assumed their fighting stances. Different though they may be and unique in and of themselves, they were all ready to fight for what was right. I was proud of every one of these warriors, no matter their species. For now we were all one pack, all one family, fighting to protect those we cared about.

The first monster appeared seemingly from thin air, nothing there one second and the next a twelve foot tall monstrosity. The first beast I saw was a tangled mass of limbs and torsos. This creature was so different from the last ones we had fought that I almost didn't think it was the same thing at all.

What we had seen before was a mixture of two shifters somehow blended and molded together like some sort of horror villain in a claymation movie. They were grotesque and vomit inducing but manageable somehow.

But these horrors, these beasts that slowly marched towards us, they looked like cutting room rejects from a monster movie. Sights so horrible that they couldn't even be put into the final production.

These beasts had no less than four shifters or people melded together. There were parts that looked more human than anything else, no partial or full shift, just human flesh and bones. Perhaps they were warlocks or some other shadow creature.

In these tangled masses, I saw multiple heads in and around the areas that I guess would be considered the neck. Some had two torsos, and most had multiple extra sets of arms and legs. There were some very animalistic qualities as well, proof of shifters in the mix. Wolves, bears, felines, birds, deer, they were all blended into these mixes.

There were so many horrors that it was hard to look anywhere without feeling pity and anger at the same time. Edmond had created a new army after experimenting on even more people. I would not let this slide. I would show him what it meant to hold the life of another person in his hands and have the ultimate power of destruction or life at your fingertips. There was nothing he could do to redeem himself or save himself, he will be dying this time. I will be ending his life.

Once the initial shock and anger of seeing these creatures, these once men, had worn off it was time for us all, especially me, to get down to business. I pulled my magic out of me, wrapping twice as much of it around me as I had grown accustomed to. Once my magic was swirling around me, invisibly but still

somehow physically, I summoned my arrows as my primary weapon. I saw Reece summon his whip and sword and ready himself for the battle before us.

Those at the front of the lines, the first to meet the beasts, had already begun to fight. The warlocks were both shielding our troops as well as sending out attacks. I watched as one monstrosity took a shining yellow ball of light straight to the chest and was immediately pounced on by a large black bear, a member of Trevor's pack. The bear bit down with his powerful jowls and clawed at the thing's face and arms. But even with the team effort they didn't seem to be doing very much damage at all.

I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw the monster's injuries. There were bright red lines and gouges but no blood or anything. And to make matters worse, the beasts didn't seem to be phased by the attacks at all. What had Edmond done to them this time? How had he changed them?

While I watched a particularly nasty looking beast rise in front of a group of warriors I released a barrage of my arrows, two of each element just to be sure. Half of the arrows seemed to have no effect at all, only the wind and the fire even seemed to affect the thing.

When the monster was struck by the fire arrow, it didn't pierce its skin but it did set the beast on fire. The wind arrow, made of nothing more than fast moving air, was the only one that was able to pierce its flesh.

I didn't have the time to loose another set of my arrows just yet. The group in front of that beast, and therefore in front of me, began to scatter as the flames rose and swelled into a massive blaze. The next thing that I knew the thing had fallen forward and looked like a giant bonfire lighting the field.

I readied more arrows, prepared to take out more of the monstrosities as they waged their attack. I focused on the wind and fire arrows, summoning hundreds of them. I attacked at least a dozen creatures, but only two of them seemed to be affected this time. What was going on?

That was when I looked more closely at the monsters lumbering around us. They were all similar in their blended, melded looking appearance, but there were also differences I hadn't noticed at first. Some of them seemed to be made of dry, cracked, paper looking, albeit very sturdy, skin. That explained the burning of the first monster.

Other beasts looked like they were covered with something more like flesh colored sludge. There were others, also seemingly made of different elemental backings. One even seemed more bark-like than fleshy. What had happened to them all.

I guessed that the different flesh types would be susceptible to different elements. I tried a lightning arrow on the sludgy, fluid looking monster that was built like a tank. Those arrows did their job. That was good.

I tried again with fire, attacking the wooden, paper, and mud looking beasts. The wood and paper ones burned, turning into giant bonfires, and the mud looking monster hardened into what looked like old clay and began to crack and crumble apart. Good, I was figuring out how to handle them.

I saw another type of beast, that was unlike the others. It was flickering and slightly orange, like it was made of fire, or more so like it had fire under its skin. Those beasts I attacked with water and ice. The attack was a success. Thank the Goddess.

Next, I wanted to try the water looking ones. They looked soft and pliable but were hard as stone. I knew right away how to fight that one. Shane and I had that advantage. Lightning would fry them from the inside out. Sure enough, once it was hit by an arrow of pure lightning, the thing began to thrash about and fell to the ground, lying dead at the feet of the other warriors.

There was one more type I didn't know how to deal with. This monster seemed to be blowing things over as it walked. Its wind affinity was so strong it was like a walking hurricane. How did I fight that one? How do you fight the wind itself?

This would take some contemplation. All my arrows were knocked away from the beast instantly. And most warriors were blown away before they could get close. What was I to do?

While I contemplated I contacted everyone that was fighting. I focused on my mindlink with them all. I needed to tell them about the elemental issues.

'Everyone, focus on the element of the beasts. Some are dry and wood like, they can be burned. Also, use fire against the mud looking creatures. The water creatures can be handled by lightning, Shane you will have the upper hand there. Use water from the surrounding area to fight the flickering creatures, it will douse them and make them easier to kill. These ones are stronger than the ones we fought before.'

'Yes Luna.' There was a resounding chorus of the call from my pack that was followed by a much louder one.

'Yes, my queen.' That mental chorus was from all the warlocks, vampires, and other shifters. The vampire part of it confused me. Did they recognize me as their queen as well? But they were ruled by their emperor, Dietrich.

'Stay strong and fight hard. We will win this fight.' I encouraged them all.

'For our queen.' Through the mind link I noticed that every mind I was connected to seemed to have the same thought at the same time. Seriously, did these people spend hours planning amongst themselves how to respond to me or was this just fucking instinctual. Whatever it was, it was kind of creepy.

"Ok, time to get serious." I curled my fingers and prepared to fight some more.

Chapter 219 - Reece - War Rages Around Us (VOLUME 2)

8-10 minutes

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Reece

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I heard the message as my Little Bunny addressed the different groups of fighters stationed around the city. I heard the confidence as well as the apprehension in her voice. But I had also watched her methodically figure out how to handle all the beasts, except one.

She had yet to stop the wind beasts that were throwing everyone and everything away from them with tremendous force. These particular monsters would be quite difficult to handle, that's for sure.

I was focusing on the creatures that were most susceptible to fire. I was still in my human form and I was whipping arrows around the battlefield while simultaneously flinging my whip and slashing with my sword. I was hacking away at the things faster than I could think. There were now numerous large burning bonfire like piles scattered around us. There were also a lot of large piles of clay and dirt from the earth type beasts.

The battle was in full swing and it wasn't going to be an easy win. And from what I could hear in the mindlink between us all, the other locations weren't faring so well either. In fact, as I watched a group of warriors shifter and non shifter alike, were flung back when a water beast swept a large misshapen arm toward them. The force of the blow was so hard that it threw the five warriors at least sixty feet before they crashed into a group of trees. Only four of them got up from the fall, the fifth one had been impaled on several of the branches.

I was truly regretting my decision to let my wife join this fight. She had made me promise, made me swear to her that I would not keep her away if she could best me in a fight. What a stupid fucking deal that was. I would have preferred her to be home and safe instead of happily fighting her way to her death. What the hell was the matter with me?

I swiped the legs of a bark beast out from underneath it and made a beeline for a wind monster. I was stronger than them all, and only David was faster than me. I was going to use those abilities to fight that thing that she had not figured out a solution for yet.

But just as I was approaching the thing, a giant stone wall rose up in front of me. It was taller than the wind creature it blocked me from. That wall was quickly followed by another, then another, it kept going until the thing was enclosed in an octagonal stone prison, complete with a roof.

I looked around in confusion. I didn't understand what I was seeing at first, but when I saw the intense look of concentration on Trinity's face, I knew what was going on. She had thought of a way to fight the wind beasts.

Fully encased in the stone prison, the monstrosity couldn't blow back an opponent. But just as I thought things were looking up the beast started to beat at the walls of it's stone prison. One of the walls buckled under the pressure of a massive fist.

Again and again the beast tried to pound its way out, and it very nearly succeeded. But there was no way that my Little Bunny would let that happen.

"Don't you fucking dare." I heard her voice ring out from behind me just as a fresh set of walls sprung up in front of the others, strengthening her hold on the beast.

"That's my girl." I let the comment slip subconsciously as I watched her. I really had to admit that she was an excellent fighter, it just went against my protector instincts to let her fight like this. I wanted to take care of her and protect her so nothing and no one could ever hurt her again.

As I watched, semi lost in my thoughts, I saw what she had planned to do next. Trinity steeled her nerves and summoned more of her magic, I could feel it prickle along my skin and the scent of lemons swirling around her got stronger and more intense.

The next thing I saw was her fling her hands at the stone prison. In an instant, there were dozens of large spikes jutting through the walls. They had gone all the way through, penetrating the walls as well as the beast. Dark, black, brackish like fluid was seeping from within the stone prison and all sounds of movement had ceased.

She had done it, she had figured out how to destroy all types of these monsters. I was so proud of her at that moment. The feelings swelling within me brought a sense of pride and satisfaction.

However, before I even had the chance to express my pride in her, a group of the beasts began to bear down on me. I was quickly surrounded. It was time to pay attention to my surroundings more than her. This wasn't the first time I was nearly attacked while being distracted by her.

Tearing my eyes away from her ethereal beauty, I whipped my right hand, the one holding my flaming sword, around and slashed through the monster closest to me. My left flicked out and the burning whip snared around another creature. Another flick of my wrist and the beast's feet were pulled out from underneath it causing the thing to crash to the ground in a clumsy inelegant heap.

I was still surrounded. The beasts just didn't seem like they would ever stop coming, there was no end to them. But we all had to fight and try our hardest.

'Noah, use earth magic to trap the wind beasts and pierce them through with stone spikes.'

'I was wondering how to kill them, thanks Reece.' I used my mindlink to tell Noah what Trinity had discovered before I went back on the offensive.

As the creatures surged around me, as the war raged around us, I kicked out with my foot to strike one of the creatures on the side of the head. I put all the force I could muster into the blow, and consequently the creature's head was torn clean from its body. More of that disgusting dark colored fluid sprayed from the gaping hole in one of its necks. The spray caught me as I went to land on my feet behind the thing. This fight was proving to be tough as well as disgusting.

Again and again I attacked the creatures. Repeatedly, I killed them. Five dead, then ten, now twenty, soon fifty, and still it looked like there was no end to the things that just kept pouring out of that strange purple fog.

Seriously, how many of these beasts did he manage to make? How many people did he kill this time? This man was not a man, he was a fucking demon. And a coward. He made monsters to fight for him and ran away from a real fight. Just a fucking coward.

We fought. All day it seemed like we were fighting. I couldn't be sure of the time, or how long it had been since I was too busy fighting, but it finally seemed like the crowd of creatures was finally thinning around us. For once, it looked like no more was coming.

Or so I had thought. I was both right and wrong in that thought. The twisted, melded monsters that we had been fighting finally seemed to be exhausted, but there was a new threat crawling over the horizon.

I heard a collective gasp and several terrified screams as these new, even more terrifying monsters approached. I thought the last mutants that Edmond sent were the worst abomination I could ever imagine, but clearly I didn't give Edmond enough credit for his sadistic nature.

These new monsters that were crawling toward us looked like spiders. But they, too, were made from twisted bodies. The things had four heads that had somehow been modified to be larger and were even equipped with large, lethal looking pincers over their mouths.

The bodies of these things looked like one giant, blended torso, and there were four arms and four legs sticking out of the things, all of which the things used to scuttle around like real spiders. I felt my skin crawl and a shudder run through my body as I looked at the newest monstrosities. Edmond was truly a despicable person.

That shudder of mine seemed to be echoed physically and mentally throughout all the gathered soldiers.

'What is that?' I heard an unfamiliar, yet panicked, voice ring through my head.

'Oh Goddess, what the hell are those things?' Another voice joined the shouting.

'Are those people? He made those out of people too?' A female warrior's voice spoke this time, fear, apprehension, anger, all was evident in her voice as well as the others.

'Oh Goddess, it's attacking.' Another, even more frightened voice joined the mix before it was quickly silenced. That was when the screams became louder and the words were spoken out loud.

"Oh my Goddess. He's dead!" I knew that voice, it was Frank from the gate guards.

Chapter 220 - Trinity - Another One Of His Experiments (VOLUME 2)

8-10 minutes

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Trinity

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I took one look at the horizon and wanted to vomit. I felt the churning, the hypersalivation, the muscle spasms. I felt the intense desire to purge myself of everything that was foreign, that wasn't part of me. The desire was so strong that I had no choice but to comply. Just as the collective gasp shuddered through the gathered fighters I leaned forward, held my stomach and heaved. But there was nothing to come up. There was nothing in my stomach because I hadn't had the chance to eat today. All I managed was a thin watery gruel filled with stomach acid and fear.

As I watched on I heard the voices start screaming inside my head. The intense emotions they were emitting gave me a splitting headache but I had to hold myself together.

'What is that?' A man screamed inside my brain.

'Oh Goddess, what the hell are those things?' Another voice joined the shouting.

'Are those people? He made those out of people too?' A scared woman's scream reverberated inside my skull.

'Oh Goddess, it's attacking.' A man shouted to us all before he was quickly silenced.

"Oh my Goddess. He's dead!" These words were not spoken in my head but out loud. The fear and sorrow in that voice was enough to grip my heart in an iron vice. I felt his pain, his tears. The man who was killed was obviously a friend of his.

"Don't let your fear take over." I yelled at them all, mentally and verbally at the same time. "Stay strong. He's trying to break you. You're better than this." I felt the conviction strengthen just a little in the hearts of all those I was linked to.

The sounds of the battle raged around us. Warriors, warlocks, and vampires attacked the newest horde of beasts in teams. There were some saving graces though. There didn't seem to be as many of these monsters. Also, they didn't seem to have an elemental affinity like the first wave of enemies.

The draw back to these things, was that they seemed to be ten times stronger than the average shifter. Even stronger than Reece. And their heads, with their nasty, lethal looking pincers, seemed to be able to extend from their bodies on some sort of retractable spinal cord.

When I first saw one of these beasts stretch its head out to bite the arm off of a vampire in one lightning quick move my stomach roiled again. I very nearly had to lean forward and heave once again.

These new monsters may be easier to kill, in a sense, but they were much more dangerous than the last ones. I just had to wonder, how did Edmond gather so many people to do this to? How did he manage to make so many creatures that fight for him like mindless zombies?

I couldn't think about it for long though. Those things were swarming us and they would quickly overwhelm us all if I wasn't careful. I needed to help everyone. I needed to do my best to protect my people.

Slowly, I made one quick circle as I stood in place, looking out over the battlefields. I saw so many of our number being overwhelmed. There were so many people hurt. And for what?

These people were fighting and hurting. They were being injured all because of me. They were my people fighting my battle. I had to put an end to this. I had to save everyone that I could. I had to stop more people from dying.

I closed my eyes and summoned as many arrows as I could. I felt my power seeping from within me. The familiar warmth that enveloped me when I pulled power to me was gone. I was pulling so much magic that it felt cold, for once.

I felt the wind whip and buff against my face. It was like a storm was brewing and the clouds were rolling in. Even the sun was being blotted out, but that could have been from the sun beginning to set.

I didn't know how many arrows I had called to me, but I felt them floating in the air beside me. With a quick prayer to Thoth and Nehalennia, I opened my eyes. When I could see again, I gasped.

Not only did I have thousands of arrows arrayed around me, but I was also floating in the air. I looked down to see two shocking things that made me gasp.

First, I was floating inside one of my tornadoes. Only this wind vessel wasn't taking me anywhere, it was cradling me inside of it. Also, this tornado was much larger than any of the others I had ever summoned. And the last thing about the tornado was that it was not affecting anything about my surroundings.

The next thing that I noticed was that my entire body was glowing a bright, sapphire blue, just like the markings on my wolf. There was also a thin, but sturdy, layer of ice covering my entire body.

I could also feel the power radiating from my eyes. This was something I hadn't even thought to train at the abbey but was glad came to me when I needed it. The last time I had seen something with eyes like this was when I had been attacked at Riley's pack. I could feel my eyes zooming in and out, zeroing in on the different targets.

I felt powerful, and more than capable in my current state. I knew that I was going to be able to handle this situation. There was no way I would let myself fail here. There were too many people counting on me for that.

I felt my pupils expanding, my vision widening. I could see the entire clearing and everyone in it. With one quick thought I sent a volley of arrows in every direction at the same time. It was like I could see everything not just in front of me but also everything behind me. I didn't have a single barrier in my vision right now.

With this new all sight of mine I was able to see every arrow at the same time. And with a grin of satisfaction I saw my arrows strike home, hitting their targets with deadly accuracy. The remaining molded beasts from before and these new spider creatures, none of them were exempt from my attack.

With a little bit of concerted effort, I connected minds with the other warriors. Those warriors that were not fighting alongside me but at another equally deadly battlefield. I linked my mind with all of them, and in an instant I was able to see everything that they could see. I was no longer limited to my own field of vision.

I quickly locked on to where all the remaining enemies were. With all the targets located I just needed to send my attacks. I still had a large amount of arrows floating around me but still I summoned more.

I didn't know if there were enough arrows yet to finish them all off at once. I needed more. More arrow, more power, more time.

As I summoned more magic and more arrows I looked at the fight waging around us all. I saw the carnage laying scattered on the ground. Those were not just enemies, those were allies too. How many people had I lost? How many more would be sacrificed.

These thoughts seemed to swirl in my mind as I gathered my weapons. Just as I felt I most likely had enough I saw something that made my stomach drop.

There, at one of the other battlegrounds, a new group of spider beasts were sneaking up on one of my guards as he battled against two of the twisted once men. There were three scuttling sneakily behind him while he landed blow after blow to the things in front of him.

Even though his attacks were doing their job and he was about to win, there was nothing he could have done. In an instant the three spider things leapt forward and attacked him.

"Shawn!" I cried out in horror as I saw blood spray from a vicious swipe from one of the spider freaks.

With a lot more force than I intended I loosed my arrows once more. I sent them flying in every direction as quick as I could. Only this time I sent them much farther than before. The arrows were all landing in their rightful places, destroying their targets almost immediately.

But I didn't care about that. All I could think about was one of my closest friends lying on the ground and bleeding. All I wanted to do was get to him and help him.

"Shawn." I cried out again as I turned in his direction. I settled on the ground, out of my tornado, and began to run after him. If I had been paying attention to anything else around me, I would have noticed that the ground was icing over with every step I took.