

Chosen by Fate 281

Chapter 281 - SIDE STORIES BOOK 1- SHAWN AND DIETRICH CHAPTER 27 (BL)

Dietrich

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Shawn had taken the lead, he had taken me, and he had marked me. What more could I want out of life right now? Oh, I know, to marry him. I still couldn't believe that he had asked me out of nowhere like that.

Truth be told, I had been planning on asking him to marry me sometime very soon. But he had beat me to it. I even had the rings and everything. Now to just show him how much I have been wanting this.

I snuck out of bed early, hating the fact that I was leaving him warmth, and went to get the rings I had hidden in my closet. I wanted to surprise him with them when he got up this morning.

I had ordered the rings before we went to France, with hopes of using them sooner rather than later. They were nearly twin platinum bands. I had done something similar with them that I did with the suits for Trinity and Reece's wedding. The band on my ring was trimmed in a stormy gray, Shawn's band was trimmed in a pale, light, icy blue. The stripes of color on either side of the platinum was thin and barely noticeable in most lights, but we would know they were there, after I showed them to Shawn that is.

These rings would work as engagement rings and wedding bands and I couldn't wait to slide the one for Shawn onto his finger.

I had something else I wanted to do before my fiancé woke up. I grabbed my phone and tiptoed out of the room and into the bathroom. The number I had been calling picked up after just two rings.

"Dietrich?" He sounded groggy and still half asleep but Shane was more than alert enough to worry about his brother. "Is Shawn OK? Did something happen?"

"Ja ja, bruder, he is fine." I heard him heave a sigh on the other end of the line.

"You had me worried when you called so early." I could actually hear the tension leaving Shane's voice. He may pick on his brother a lot, but he loved him too. That's just how their relationship was. "What's wrong? Did you need something?"

"I would like to go see your parents sometime soon, with you there if that is possible."

"Well, you already met our parents, twice, but if you want to do it again, then that's fine. I can get something ready for tomorrow or the day after."

"Thank you Shane."

"No worries, I will text you when it's all set."

"I will be waiting."

I wanted to officially announce our engagement to his family, and of course to his Alpha and Luna. I don't have any family left, but I will announce our engagement to our people. Ha, it's going to be a trip for them when they hear me through a mental link.

When I snuck back into the bedroom Shawn was still sleeping. I crept to his side and knelt on the floor beside him. With a quick kiss to his cheek I roused him from his sleep. The sleepy look in his eyes was so sweet and endearing.

"Hmm, Dietrich? What's going on."

"I wanted to be the first thing you saw this morning, my love." I kissed him again.

"When we get married you will be the first thing I see every day."

"Sometimes, the things you say are just the sweetest things in the whole world."

"They might stay sweet, as long as you have a good reason for waking me up so early." He was so cute when he joked like that.

"I have something for you my love."

"What's that?"

He was blinking the sleep out of his eyes now, waking more fully. Without another word I took the ring from my pocket into my right hand and grabbed his left hand in mine. I pulled his hand toward me and slid the ring onto his ring finger all in the same smooth motion.

"What's this?" He said when I released his hand.

"The ring I was going to use to propose to you with. But you beat me to the punch."

"You were going to ask me to marry you?" He looked so surprised, too surprised, to hear those words.

"I wanted nothing more than to marry you, Geliebte, and I am beyond ecstatic that you asked me. You may not have been as prepared as me, but you love me just as much as I love you, and that is what matters."

"I was just happy that you said yes." He looked away from me sheepishly then, seemingly worried about what he was saying.

"Did you really think I would say no?"

"For a minute I did."

"I love you too much for that, Liebling, I love you more than life itself."

"I love hearing you say that."

Our morning went wonderfully, with a little extra dessert that we must have had left over from the night before. And I had received word from Shane that we could meet with their parents in a few days, after the funeral.

When we finally went to see them, to tell them that we were getting married, it went better than I could have expected. Shane was more supportive than Shawn had thought he would be, which was good. He didn't even crack a joke that day. And they were all quite accepting of Shawn having become a Hybrid. Given that it was either I could change him or I could let him die it was a pretty convincing sell.

Honestly, what surprised them the most was that I was no longer the Vampire Emperor but now the King. I was really happy, all things considered, that day had gone very well. And we were set to get married the first weekend of August.

We were planning a simple ceremony. Something small with just Shawn's family, Trinity and Reece, and Gabriel from the Sentinelle acting as the justice of the peace. It was going to be small and intimate. And we were getting married in the mountains at our spot. I couldn't wait for that day to come.

Also, the house I was having built for the two of us to live in would be done sometime in the next month or so. We should be able to move in shortly after our honeymoon.

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Shawn

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Things were all coming up aces for us right now. Since the battle with the Warlock and I had almost died. Ever since that day I was a changed man, literally. I had asked Dietrich to marry me, I lost another form of my virginity, and we had set a date for our wedding.

Now all we had to do was make the preparations.

We were having a small, intimate wedding so there wasn't much to plan. But there was a small reception being held at the pack estate afterward.

Dietrich was ordering new tuxedos for us, and I just about died when he told me that they cost over forty thousand dollars each, which was apparently twice as much as the suit I had worn to Trinity and Reece's wedding. If I had known that I was wearing something so expensive at the time I probably would have had a heart attack. But strangely, I was getting more and more OK with it. I mean, I had already done it once right.

We were at a bakery now though, trying to find a dessert for the wedding reception. And for some reason, Shane was with us.

Shane had been relatively better since I became a Hybrid, he didn't joke about me as much, and he was truly happy for me when he found out Dietrich and I were getting married. But I just knew something was going to give soon.

This bakery was owned by pack members, thankfully, and we were the only ones in the building at the time. Dietrich, Shane, Trinity and I were all in there together. I didn't care what we got for the dessert, it wasn't what mattered.

Allison, one of the chefs was prepping a pie while we waited for Jenn to bring out an array for us to see. Allison was putting whipped cream onto the pie at that moment that Shane couldn't hold back anymore.

"Hey, Shawn, does that cream remind you of anything?" Shane's laughter was more than I could handle at the moment.

"Shut up." I growled quietly at him. "Just don't go there."

"Come on. I see you're both marked. I know what you've been up to." He was still giggling.

"I swear, Shane, don't do it. Don't go there."

"Come on. I know you've done it. Did you enjoy the cream he gave you?"

I lost it then, my patience snapped and I just had to retaliate. I focused on the room and where the shadows were. Thankfully, there were a lot of them. I concentrated on the pie, the one that had started this whole joke for my brother. Then I focused on my stupid brother's annoying face, that one that was no longer identical to mine.

With just a little bit of effort I lifted the pie with my mind and sent it through the shadows. In less than a second the pie reappeared, in the shadow that was laying across Shane's face.

The pie landed cream side against his face, splattering him and the wall behind him with the fluffy white cream.

"What the hell?" He yelled at me after wiping the cream away from his mouth. Trinity and Dietrich were both laughing hysterically next to us.

"I told you not to go there." I laughed at him. "Did you enjoy your cream, Shane?"

"You're an asshole." He laughed as he licked the cream off his fingers. "A fucking asshole." He took a step toward me then. "Come here." Now he was running at me, and we weren't that far apart to begin with.

Shane ended up smearing the pie's filling across my face, making us even. But I have to admit that it was fun throwing a pie into his face to begin with.

And in case you're wondering, we got an array of pies for the reception. All thanks to Shane.

Chapter 282 - SIDE STORIES BOOK 1- SHAWN AND DIETRICH CHAPTER 28 (BL)

8-10 minutes

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Dietrich

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August had arrived. The seventh to be exact. On this day, this Saturday was the day that I was to marry my love.

We did this as properly as we could. I slept at Trinity and Reece's while Shawn slept at his home. We did not have bachelor parties, because neither of us wanted one, but we still didn't see each other until it was time to head to the mountains.

Reece was there for me, as my best man since he was the closest thing that I had to family here or anywhere really. Shane was going to be acting as Shawn's best man. He had been there for his brother since the womb and neither Shane nor Shawn would have had it any other way.

Reece had his Brioni Tuxedo he had worn to his own wedding so I didn't need to buy one for him. However I still bought new ones for Shawn, Shane, their father Franklin Asher, Gabriel, and of course myself. I paid for brand new beautifully designed dresses for Trinity, Pauline Asher, and Falena.

There were no decorations to be had, and there were no flowers or bouquets. The only things I could plan for were the clothing, the time, the place, and the food so I was going to go all out where I could. I was marrying the love of my life after all and I wanted to make this day as special for him as I could. But I also knew that he didn't want this wedding to be a big affair.

No matter how bold Shawn had been acting lately, he was still my shy little Cupcake and I would not force anything really big onto him. This day was for him, for the both of us to prove our love.

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Shawn

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I was standing in my living room, holding up a suit that had cost my fiancé somewhere in the high forty thousands. And he didn't just buy one of these suits, he had bought five. He had wanted to buy Reece a new one too but he had the suit from his own wedding which was a perfect match for ours as it was. The only thing Reece needed was the shirt and tie to match us completely. If you added in accessories and shoes, which Dietrich bought as well, he had spent over half a million on tuxedos alone.

Oh Goddess, how was I ever going to get used to this?

"You're a rich trophy wife now, just deal with it." Shane joked with me. "Just let your husband pay for everything."

"Just shut up, you asshole. Do I need to hit you with something again?" I joked back at him, I knew he was just playing around, but what he said was true in a way. I was not a trophy wife, I wasn't talking about that part. No, I meant that part where he said I was rich and I needed to get used to it.

I was now a very rich man because I was marrying a very rich man. I was used to being economic and now I could do whatever I wanted or needed to without worrying. That was both nerve wracking as well as comforting.

Anyway, I didn't need to be thinking of this right now. What I needed to do right now was get ready for my wedding.

This wedding was different than the one I had pictured when I was a kid. Everyone imagines their future at some point, imagines how their life would end up.

I used to imagine some beautiful woman coming down an aisle toward me. She would be wearing a big smile and a white gown. But it had never felt right to me. I used to think it was because I could never truly see her face. But now I know it was because I was waiting for a man, not a woman. And that we would be walking with each other, arm in arm, to the place where we were to take out vows.

Was it weird that I had butterflies right now? Was it weird that I was excited and eagerly anticipating this day? Or that I was happy that we were leaving on a honeymoon to a private beach in Belize?

I was actually really looking forward to that. It was time alone with Dietrich, just the two of us for two weeks at the beach. I could just imagine the things we would get up to while we were there. Especially with my new found confidence in myself when I was with Dietrich.

After Shane and I were dressed we got ready to go. Mom, Dad and Falena were meeting us at the estate and would be walking with us to the cliff. I was meeting Dietrich, Trinity, Reece, and Gabriel there as they would be waiting on us.

I was nervous when I got to where my parents were waiting for us outside. Mom hugged me with tears in her eyes and she smiled happily.

"I can't believe that my baby is getting married today."

"Mom, I'm the oldest." I whined playfully.

"You're both my babies, and since you're the oldest you found your mate and are getting married first, so just take what you can get while I take what I can."

"Alright Momma." I smiled as I kissed her cheek. "I love you."

"I love you too, baby boy. I love you so much."

After that we walked to the clearing at the cliff together. My parents walked in the lead hand in hand, Shane and Falena followed us and also walked hand in hand. I felt lonely, being the only one who was not there with their mate to walk while holding their hand.

When we finally got to the place the wedding was to be held I saw the best sight in the world. Dietrich was there, waiting anxiously with a massive smile on his face. The moment he saw me his eyes lit up like he had seen the best thing in the world. I had a feeling I lit up in the exact same way.

Our wedding started the moment Dietrich and I joined hands. We walked to stand before the cliffs and stood facing Gabriel who had his back to the beautiful view. My family stood just to the side of me, Trinity and Reece stood on the other side of Dietrich, and Falena took pictures for us.

My future sister in law might not be part of the photos, but I was so happy that she had offered to help us preserve these memories.

Dietrich and I had opted for a nontraditional ceremony with vows we wrote ourselves. We both pledged our undying love and spoke of how we were happy to have such a long future together ahead of us.

Following the ceremony Falena took some couples photos for us. Several of the pictures turned out to be wonderful and perfect. There was one in particular, a shot of the two of us staring into each other's eyes next to the trees overlooking the river. I wanted to have that one printed out in particular.

We had our dinner then, more of a late lunch really. The small gathering was intimate, sweet, and fun. Following the meal we changed and headed for the airport. It was now time for two weeks of nothing but me, Dietrich, and the beautiful beaches of Belize.

I couldn't imagine a more perfect wedding, or a more perfect person to have shared it with.

The day we were to head home from our honeymoon, Dietrich received a phone call. Our house that he was having built for us was done. The only thing we needed to do now was have the furniture moved in and then we could move into it as well.

"We will have our own home together soon my love." Dietrich's voice was full of love as we settled in the luxury seating on Dietrich's small private plane. I just couldn't believe that between Reece and Dietrich they owned seven private aircrafts.

"When do you think we can move in?" I asked him as we sat close to each other, snuggling a little.

"Maybe a week." He sounded contemplative. "Perhaps we will have a combination moving in party and birthday party for you." He grinned now as he turned to look at me. You know, sometimes I loved that we were almost the exact same height, the level of intimacy when we looked at each other was so amazing.

"Really? Do you think it will really be ready that soon?"

"I am sure I can manage it, as long as you are there to help me to pick at least some of it out, my love."

"It's more your department than mine, but I will not leave you to do it all alone." We smiled at each other then, naturally gravitating toward each other until our lips met for a slow, passionate kiss.

We were still kissing when the plane took off from the ground. There was so much to look forward to with my mate, so much that we could do now that we were going to be together forever. And I was really, really looking forward to living with him and being there with him every single day.

Chapter 283 - SIDE STORIES BOOK 1- SHAWN AND DIETRICH CHAPTER 29 (BL) ((MATURE))

9-11 minutes

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Dietrich

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Two glorious weeks of beautiful sandy beaches, bright sunlight, and a radiant Shawn had left me in the best mood of my life. We had spent more than half of that time away wrapped in each other's arms, tangled in the sheets or covered in sand.

But there was wonderful news on the way home from the trip. Our house was finished and it was time for us to move the furniture in. I had a lot of things that I had already purchased and had in storage waiting for this time.

I spent that first week back from our trip staying at Shawn's place every night as we both picked out our new things and packed the things he wanted to take with us. He was giving up the apartment and giving most of his things away to friends, family, or charity.

Shawn said that all he wanted was his keepsakes, photos, and clothes. I tried to convince him to take more but he said he wanted to fill our home with things that represented us together.

We had flown back on Saturday, eight days before his and Shane's birthday and it only took six days to move everything in. We planned to move in on Saturday, the day before my love turned twenty-seven. We were having a joint birthday party for Shawn and Shane and a housewarming party.

All of our friends, new and old, were there with us. The guards from the pack and the Sentinelle, the warlocks, the other vampires and shifters that had settled in the area, into the houses that Reece's construction company had just recently finished.

The party was larger than Shawn would normally have wanted, but I swear he was more than willing to let it happen this time. And everyone brought gifts for him and his brother (we had forbidden gifts for the house since we had covered it all ourselves).

But, the real party that night was between the two of us after all of our guests had left.

I led Shawn by the hand up to our new room. The interior of the house had mostly been done in shade of gray and blue since those colors had seemed to fit us so well, and our room was no exception. The hardwood floor was covered by a large, soft rug that had varying shades of the two colors. The furniture was all done in black with accents of blue or gray. The extra large king sized bed was draped in a stormy gray comforter that had a pattern that consisted of streaks of blue lightning running across it.

I pulled my mate, my Geliebte, my husband into the room with me and I backed up toward the bed.

"I want to make our first night here special." I said as I sat him down on the edge of the soft mattress. I went around the room then, lighting the candles that I had placed there for us. Then I grabbed two glasses of champagne for us to toast with before walking back to his side and sitting next to him.

"Thank you." He smiled as he took the glass from me.

"A toast, my love, to us. Together for all eternity." I smiled softly.

"Forever and ever." He added as he too smiled.

We each drank a few sips of the bubbling liquid from our glasses before setting them aside. There was like a magnet between us then, drawing us toward each other.

Cupping his cheek, I leaned Shawn back and pressed my lips to his. The kiss was passionate, heated, and hungry. I needed him, even though I have had him so many times before I would never get enough of him.

Shawn was returning the kiss with fervor, matching my hunger, my need, my desire. We both wanted each other in that moment and neither of us saw a reason to deny it at all.

Shawn's hands found the buttons to my shirt then, at nearly the same time that I had started to undo the buttons on his shirt. Working in tandem we had each other stripped in no time at all.

With Shawn laying sprawled on the bed beneath me I set my lips to his body, kissing every inch of him that I could. This night was a special one, and I wanted this to be sweet for my love. I went about my work gently, arousing the both of us at the same time.

When we were both ready I leaned against the headboard of the bed, I then pulled Shawn up from the bed and sat him in my lap. He worked with me to position himself as I slid into the only place that has ever truly felt like home for my body.

"Ahhh!"

"Ngh!" We both moaned at the feel of the pleasure at the same time.

"I love you." Shawn's voice was already breathless when he spoke these words.

"I love you too, Liebling." I whispered back to him as we both started to rock our hips in a rhythm that seemed to be perfectly in sync with each other.

Our pace was slow, and unhurried. We were more focused on being joined, being connected with each other, than we were with anything else.

The slow rhythm of our joining was like heaven. Shawn rocking above me, panting and moaning. My head pressed against Shawn's chest listening to the steady rhythmic pounding of his heart as I panted and moaned right along with him.

I felt the building of power within me. I didn't quite understand it but it came with a vision of a future for us. A vision of Shawn and I after having been married for Goddess knows how long, a future after we had already adopted or contracted a surrogate. It was a future with the family we would one day have. And the joy on our faces, it was something I never thought was possible until I had met my Shawn.

The tension in our bodys reached the fever points then and we came together, calling each other's names.

"AHHH! DIETRICH!"

"NGH! HHMMM! SHAWN!"

We collapsed together against the bed then, panting and exhausted. We roused a few moments later for a quick shower just so we could go back to the bed together, wrapped in each other's arms for sleep this time.

It had been after midnight when we came together for this union, it had officially been my mate's birthday.

I had slept peacefully, not moving an inch as I held Shawn against me all through the night. But now, now that morning had come, something was tickling my nose and making me want to simultaneously smile and do a double take at the same time.

What was that scent? What was it I was smelling right now? What was this strange feeling I was sensing?

If I didn't know any better, I would say that I was sensing more life forces here, in this room. But that was crazy, wasn't it? It was just me and Shawn alone in our room.

In a state of foggy confusion I opened my eyes and looked around the room. Looking for the source of the extra energy I was feeling. Was there an animal in the room? No, I didn't smell one. Was there another person in the room? No, I didn't see or smell someone else either. But I was clearly sensing more people here with that added sense of mine.

And what was strange. I could smell strawberry cream, custard, and other confections that went above and beyond Shawn's normal scent. Was this what it was like to be married?

I was staring at Shawn, trying to figure it out, to figure out what it was that was different. After a moment it hit me.

"OH MEIN GOTT!" I yelled, inadvertently waking Shawn, scaring him really.

"What? What is it? What's going on?" Shawn had jumped up, sitting up next me to where I was leaning against the pillow, staring at him. "What's wrong Dietrich?" He rephrased his question after he had seen my face.

"Shawn, my love, this is a miracle." I grinned at him.

"What is?"

"We're going to have children."

"Huh?" He tilted his head then, confusion plain to see on his face. "Yeah, we will, eventually. After we adopt them."

"No, my love. We do not need to adopt them."

"Fine, we will use a surrogate."

"No, you're not understanding me, my love. We do not need a surrogate or to adopt." I know I was grinning like a fool then.

"What are you trying to say?" He was getting nervous now since he had not fully understood what I was getting at.

"You, my love, you will have our children."

"What?" He looked like he was about to laugh then.

"You, Liebling. You are pregnant. Pregnant with twins."

"WHAT?!" He screamed the words then, jumping out of the bed. "That's impossible. I am a man, Dietrich, I cannot be pregnant."

"I do not know how it has happened, but I see it, Shawn. I see the babies inside of you, the two life forces that were not there before."

"I don't see anything like that."

"You will learn to see them as you get older, Geliebte. But I see them. One boy and one girl. You, my love, are giving us children that are from the both of us."

"This can't be." He was backing away from me now. "Dietrich this is impossible."

It took a while to get Shawn settled down enough to call in some help. The only people I could think to call were Trinity and Reece, as they could speak to Gabriel on our behalf. Gabriel was a wise man who had collected a lot of information over the centuries. He was even older than I am and he was here to be Trinity's personal assistant. If anyone knew what was going on it was him.

Chapter 284 - SIDE STORIES BOOK 1- SHAWN AND DIETRICH CHAPTER 30 (BL) ((MATURE))

9-12 minutes

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Shawn

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Dietrich had just about given me a heart attack this morning when he screamed. But then it got even worse. He had said that I was pregnant, which was impossible. Wasn't it?

There was no possible way that I was pregnant. That was only something that women could do and I was most definitely not a woman.

It wasn't long after we had woken up that the others arrived. Trinity, Reece, and Gabriel came in just before noon. I was so glad Shane wasn't with them. I definitely didn't need to deal with his jokes right now.

I was sitting on the edge of the couch, curled in onto myself, trying to keep myself from hyperventilating as the others sat on the couch opposite me.

"So, Dietrich, what's wrong? Did something happen?" Reece asked with curiosity in his voice. Trinity must have seen the look on my face because she spoke to me instead.

"Shawn, what's wrong? Are you alright?"

"Well, Trinity, we seem to have woken up to a bit of a surprise on our hands." Dietrich was still smiling happily. He didn't seem to think that there was anything wrong with what was happening.

"And what is that?" She looked curious and happy as she looked at the happy look on Dietrich's face."

"We're going to have a family." His smile got even bigger. I had seen Reece smiling like that when he had found out that Trinity was pregnant. It was definitely the look of a man who was happy to be starting a family with his mate.

"I didn't know you were already looking for a surrogate." Trinity exclaimed happily.

"We weren't." My voice was flat, still filled with shock.

"I don't understand. What is it then?"

"We will be having a family that is born from both Shawn and myself." Dietrich proclaimed with pride.

"Huh?" Reece and Trinity had matching looks of confusion, but Gabriel seemed to have a knowing look in his eyes.

"Which one of you?" Gabriel asked that and nothing else.

"Me." My voice was still flat.

Don't get me wrong, I was happy to be having a family, but did I have to be the one to carry them? I was a man dammit.

"What's going on here?" Trinity turned to look at Gabriel as the man smiled at where Dietrich and I were sitting together.

"Shawn is the one who will be carrying our children." Dietrich blurted it out. "I do not know how it is possible, but he is pregnant now, with twins."

"HUH?!"

"WHAT?!" Trinity and Reece both looked like they had just had their brains exploded, at least they looked how I felt.

"I have only heard legends of this." Gabriel spoke as if he was not even phase. "You are far from the first same sex couple from shifter history. And legends tells of a magical form of pregnancy between these same sex couples. Be it from a male and male or a female and female relationship. The point of the matter is that someone in the pair would then bear the responsibility of carrying a pregnancy to term for that couple so they may have a child that will carry on their bloodlines. You may rest assured that the legends state that it will only happen once, but it is almost always twins."

"Yes, yes, Shawn is pregnant with twins. I see them, a boy and a girl."

"That is how the legends have always explained it. But it has not happened in so long that I thought it was just a story. Perhaps it was waiting for the new Goddess Incarnate to return that power to the world.

Great, I was going to suffer through being a pregnant man because my Luna was the reincarnated Goddess, thanks a lot Trinity. I love her and all, she's the best Luna ever and a great person, but I would have liked to have had a choice in this matter.

We discussed things for a bit more, wanting to work things out between us. I was not going to go through the pregnancy where anyone besides Dietrich could see me. So it was for that matter that we had decided that Dietrich and I would take an extended trip to Germany until I had the babies. We would call Griffin over to deliver them for us, about a week or so before I was due. Him, Trinity, Reece, and the two of us would be the only ones who knew what was happening.

After our guests left I could feel a little bit of anger coursing through me. It wasn't really anger I guess. It was more like a desire to prove myself.

"Isn't this wonderful my love. We will have children that are ours and ours alone." Dietrich was happier than I would have expected.

"You're just this happy because it's not you that has to go through it." I grumbled.

"I would have happily been the one to bear this responsibility, my love. I am just happy to be starting a family with you. Are you not happy to have children of our joint lineage?" He looked hurt now. Upset about my anger.

"No, I am happy about that." I answered honestly.

"Then what is wrong." Dietrich sat next to me, putting his arm around my shoulders as I sulked.

"I am a man, Dietrich. I am not a fucking woman but a man. This shouldn't be possible."

"But it is possible, my love, and I am beyond happy about it."

"Really. You wouldn't be so if it were you."

"What is really bothering you?" Dietrich looked hurt then.

"I feel the need to prove myself." I once again answered honestly.

"Prove yourself how."

With that question from him my control snapped. I needed to prove that I was a man. That I was masculine, and strong, and not at all a woman. I needed to prove to him he had a husband and not a wife. I needed to take him then and there.

I lunged at Dietrich, grabbing his shirt in both of my hands and pulling it violently away from him. The material shredding easily in my strong grip. I had already pressed my lips against his, kissing him fiercely and passionately as I pushed him against the back of the couch.

I broke the kiss only long enough to pull my own shirt over my head. My lips were then on his once more as I removed first his pants then my own. It seemed like we were both naked in less than a minute and I was already hard and needy.

I didn't have the patience to be gentle and caring. This was a need that went beyond the desire for physical contact. I needed to take him, to dominate him, and prove that I was a man as much as he was.

All of our love making up to this point had been gentle and passionate and most of all extremely intimate. But today I was rough and hungry for him. I flipped him over, placing him on his hands and knees as I fitted myself against his entrance.

"Shawn." His voice shook with need and desire as he seemed to be begging me to enter him, to keep going.

"Dietrich." I growled his name hungrily as I thrust forward.

I rammed into him hard and fast, hilt deep in a mere second causing Dietrich to cry out incoherently just from my brutal invasion. But he still seemed to be enjoying himself.

I didn't stop there though. I set about creating a hard, fast, brutal rhythm as I pounded into him over and over. Dietrich was panting and moaning louder and faster than I had ever heard him before.

While I ravaged him, ravaged his body, I thought about the future we were about to have, the family we were creating. And I thought to myself that maybe, just maybe, if I had been the one to take him last night maybe he would be the one who was pregnant instead of me. Maybe he would be the one to feel that mind blowing sensation of realizing your whole life is going to be crazy for a while.

And while I thought about that I had a vision of Dietrich's stomach growing and rounding. Of him being pregnant with our babies and that thought made me smile. I now understood what it was that he had been feeling when he found out this morning.

The heat was growing inside me and inside Dietrich. The way his body felt when he welcomed me inside of him was nearly burning now but I couldn't stop it. I just started crying out his name repeatedly as I drove in and out of him.

We both reached and leapt over that edge of glory together, coming apart at the same time. I roared with my pleasure as he seemed to scream out at the same time. I emptied myself inside of him before collapsing against him.

The whole thing had been so needy and hungry that it drained us completely. We barely separated ourselves before we passed out together, right there on the couch.

I once again woke to an exclamation from Dietrich, this time it was laughter. I sat up, blinking the sleep from my eyes and looking around the room. It was late afternoon, we had slept for a good few hours.

"What is it this time?" I heard a note of laughter in my voice.

"Do you notice anything different about me?" Dietrich asked, beaming.

"Should I?"

"Smell me my love."

His request sounded strange but I complied.

"Ok." I leaned forward and smelled him. I put my nose against his neck and inhaled deeply. I smelled his cognac, musk, and leather. I took another deep breath though, drawing his scent in again because there was something else. I could smell strawberries, vanilla, and something else I couldn't quite place.

"Why do you smell different?" I asked him, pulling away in a hurry which only made Dietrich smile even more.

"We're pregnant together, Shawn."

"What?"

"We will go through this together now, my love."

"Are you t-telling m-me th-that, that, that-. I was stuttering and stammering too much that Dietrich finished for me.

"I am pregnant Shawn. See, you proved you are a man as well. I am pregnant just the same as you. One boy and one girl." Dietrich seemed to giggle.

"F-f-f-four? F-f-f-four b-b-b-babies?" I was like a scratched CD, skipping at the same spot over and over again. "F-f-f-four b-b-b-babies?"

"Yes, Shawn, we are having two sets of twins. We will have such a big family. Isn't this wonderful?"

"F-f-f-four b-b-b-babies?" I think my brain was broken.

Chapter 285 - SIDE STORIES BOOK 1- SHAWN AND DIETRICH CHAPTER 31 (BL)

9-11 minutes

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Dietrich

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Shawn and I spent about a month in our new home before we left for Germany. He wanted to leave before either of us started showing. He was still quite distressed about the idea of people seeing him while we were pregnant, but I didn't think it was that big of a problem.

I mean, who cares if people knew we had carried our own children. There was magic at work here, magic that was making our dreams of a family come true. And we had gotten pregnant the same day, just hours away from each other. This was splendid, really.

We had gotten pregnant together on Shawn's birthday at the end of August. Both pregnancies seemed to be following shifter rules, according to Griffin who came to check on us from time to time. And with that fact in mind, it meant that we were due at the end of February. Possibly a little earlier since we were carrying twins and they usually went early as it was.

We had moved into my castle in Germany, using my subjects to do our shopping and other important things so neither of us would have to be seen. I guess Shawn was right, to see two men, obviously tall, fit, and strong men, walking around pregnant would arouse some sort of suspicion about us. So, it was for that matter that we stayed secluded in my former home for the nearly five months that we had to wait.

Things were going great though. Shawn was a little hormonal at times, but who wasn't when they were pregnant?

"Dietrich! I want some ice cream!" Shawn was yelling at me from the bedroom where he was looking over things on the computer. He had been taking remote online classes, learning more German, and shopping for baby items. That was how he had spent his days.

My servants here had mostly accepted him immediately. I had told them about my ascension into royalty and about my partner, who was the Hybrid King. There were only a few bad eggs that needed to be disciplined. Ever since then, things had been smooth sailing.

"What kind of ice cream do you want, Geliebte?" I asked him as I set my book aside.

"I want chocolate ice cream with jalapenos and blood." That was another thing, my mate had been craving blood ever since getting pregnant. We both needed it to survive, and we both needed more of it since we had gotten pregnant, but he seemed to want it more frequently than I did.

"Donor blood?" I asked him even though I knew what his response was going to be.

"No, your blood. It tastes so much sweeter than the donor blood."

"Whatever you want, Liebling." I rose to my feet and walked to the kitchen. We were both quite large now, needing to walk differently as the babies grew inside of us. But I would do anything for my love, and I could not stop spoiling him.

I scooped the ice cream into a large bowl and topped it with the freshly chopped peppers he wanted. The last thing I did was bite into my wrist gently and drizzle the blood onto the ice cream for him.

I walked back up to the room, neither of us felt comfortable shadow walking while pregnant, not knowing how it would affect the babies, so I just waddled as quickly as I could.

When I got back to the room I found Shawn looking at yet another site for baby clothes and other things we would need. All of the stuff he was ordering was going straight to our house back home, we had the essentials here but we would be flying home within a week of the deliveries and would therefore need to have everything there instead.

"Here you are my love." I handed my husband his bowl and kissed his head.

"What do you think of this set?" He asked me as he took the dessert from me.

The image on the screen showed a double set of baby clothes, one blue one purple. They were meant for fraternal twins of opposite genders and they had little paw prints all over them.

"Aren't they adorable?" He asked me with the sweetest looking smile on his face. He didn't realize how much he was getting into this whole idea of parenthood. How, dare I say, motherly he was becoming. But I couldn't get enough of seeing him like this.

It was valentines day now, and we were having a special dinner, just the two of us alone in our room sitting before a roaring fireplace. Griffin and Lana were down stairs in their room and our staff was elsewhere. I just wanted to spend a night where my mate and I could have some romantic time together.

We hadn't been intimate in a long time, not since our growing bellies had gotten past a certain size. Though in the beginning the raging hormones had made us want each other so much more than we had before the pregnancies. That had been some fun times.

We still wanted each other now, the need and desire was still there for the both of us, but we wouldn't be able to be together that way until there were no obstructions in the way. Still though, we wanted to do something together.

Following dessert, I sat Shawn down on the couch and knelt before him.

"What do you think you're doing?" He asked me with skepticism in his voice. "You know we can't do this right now."

"I just want a lollipop." I joked with him. "Is that so bad?"

"Dietrich." He laughed as he said my name while he shook his head. Then he took a deep, sharp breath and said my name again, but this time with pain. "Dietrich!"

I felt the surprise and pain that had come over him then, not understanding what it meant.

"What is wrong, my love?"

"Something's wrong. It hurts, it hurts so bad." His face was already going pale and beads of sweat were forming on his brow.

"I will go call for Griffin." I said as I went to stand up. However, before I could get to my feet a sharp, whole body pain overtook me and I fell to the floor, gasping. "Ahh!"

"W-what's wrong?" He asked me through pained breaths.

"Pain, so much pain."

"What is happening?" Shawn looked scared as he asked me that.

"D-do, do you think it's time?" I wondered, not knowing what else it could be.

I linked to my staff then, demanding they go to fetch Griffin and Lana immediately.

Things happened quickly then. Griffin came in and said we were indeed having the babies tonight. The delivery room had been set up for a week now, ever since Griffin and Lana came to stay until the babies were born. We were being moved there immediately. However, neither of us were able to walk so we were instead carried there by members of the staff.

Shawn in one bed, me in the other, we laid there side by side as Griffin and Lana moved between us. There were various monitors being connected to us, laying across our large bellies. And someone was setting out a lot of metal instruments.

We didn't know how the men of the past, of the legends, had delivered their babies, but we were opting for cesarean sections. No way were we going to try and figure this out some other way.

Griffin did his work quickly and efficiently, as did Lana. Between the two of them they delivered the babies and set them into their corresponding bassinets. We had indeed each had two babies, one boy and one girl. And with us being vampires, we healed very quickly. Not even ten minutes after the surgery we would have healed even if Griffin and Lana hadn't used their magic on us.

But, as it was, Griffin and Lana both did have powers and as soon as they had gotten the babies out they had us closed up and back to normal in seconds. There was no evidence on our bellies at all that we had been pregnant. No stretch marks, no scars, no loose skin. It was amazing really.

The only evidence of the whole ordeal were the four squirming squealing babies.

The babies were cleaned up and handed to us, one by one. Shawn had had fraternal twins, as did I. But then, why was it that we had two sets of identical twins?

The thing about our babies was that both the boys looked just like Shawn and both the girls looked just like me. They looked like one set of identical girls and one set of identical boys, but we had birthed them separately. That was quite unique. Aside from that, the babies were perfect and beautiful, and ours.

The two girls were born with full heads of black hair and eyes that were so light they looked white. I'm sure the blue would come into them later. The boys were born with Shawn's silver hair, full heads of it. And their eyes were gray. They were as handsome as could be.

We spent a few minutes then just looking over them. We did notice one slight difference in the babies. They seemed to be born with birthmarks. All the marks were in the same place on all four of them, the right shoulder. All four of the marks were of a crescent moon as well. It's just that with the two babies Shawn had birthed the moons faced out, toward the right side of the body. The two that I had birthed had the moon facing inward, toward the left side of the body. It made it easy to tell them apart at least.

We chose the names for them as we sat together in the giant bed in our room. We had wanted to see the babies before we chose their names. We wanted to know what they looked like first. The girls were named Alyssa and Alexandria. The boys were named Levi and Luka.

We spent the first week with the babies in Germany, getting used to our new lives as parents. But we had sent word that we were coming home with surprises very soon.

Chapter 286 - SIDE STORIES BOOK 1- SHAWN AND DIETRICH CHAPTER 32 (BL)

8-11 minutes

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Shawn

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Our time in Germany was interesting to say the least. I admit that I was a little unstable and hormonal during it. I realize that. But I couldn't help it. And then there was the fact that Dietrich was the best mate in the world even though he was going through the same things I was.

Dietrich took such good care of me while we were pregnant, so much so that I couldn't complain about a single thing. And then, the day finally came. We had had a romantic dinner together on Valentine's day, and Dietrich wanted some dessert. I was surprised by that but almost immediately after he tried to start I felt sharp pains. When Dietrich went to stand he had equal pains.

We were in labor, together. We had Griffin and Lana come to us then. We were carried down to the delivery room that Griffin had set up when he got here the week before. Things went fast and we ended up with two sets of fraternal twins that also happened to be two sets of identical twins.

Our children Alyssa, Alexandria, Levi, and Luka. Our babies looked like us, the girls like my husband and the boys like me. We spent some time getting to know our babies and getting to know how to be parents. But soon, it was time for us to head home.

I was glad we were flying on private planes. It would make taking care of the babies that much easier.

The babies had been born on the fourteenth and we were back home on the twenty third. We went straight to our house, which was in the woods not far from Trinity and Reece's estate near the housing development that Reece had made.

When we got home, with the helping hands of Griffin and Lana accompanying us, we found that there was a welcome home party for us.

Mom, Dad, Shane, Falena, Trinity and Reece with their children, David, Rawlynne, Jackson, Vincent and his family, and Gabriel. Everyone I was close with was there. The moment I walked in through the door my mom ran to my side, happy and angry at the same time.

"SHAWN!" She called out to me. She had clearly wanted a hug but I was holding Luka in my arms at the time. "Shawn?" She said my name again, curiosity in her eyes and voice.

"What's this?" Dad asked as he joined Mom at my side.

"Well, we have a surprise for you guys."

"Are these children your?" Mom asked, she was looking at Luka in my arms and Levi in Lana's arms.

"Yes, yes they are."

"And these two look like Dietrich." Dad smiled at Alexandria and Alyssa.

"They're our children."

"Did you get surrogates?" Mom asked me as she cooed over the babies. "You got surrogates and made us grandparents."

"No surrogates mom." I smiled at her. Since the babies were born I was no longer embarrassed, I was ready to tell my family the truth. I was ready to tell them what really happened.

"I don't understand." Dad frowned at me.

"We carried them. Dietrich and I."

"Wait? Are you telling me you left because you were pregnant?" Shane yelled from across the room.

"Are you fucking serious?"

"We both were." I didn't feel upset or angry at all when he said this. "It was magic and it allowed us to have our own children."

"So you had twin boys and Dietrich had twin girls?" Mom asked me, taking this all in stride with a happy smile.

"No."

"So you had the girls?" Dad asked then.

"No." Dietrich answered that time.

"I'm confused." Shane scratched his head.

"We each had one of each." I told them.

"But they're two sets of identical twins." Dad pointed out.

"And they were conceived with magic." I also pointed out. "So we had them split between us."

"Oh my goodness. This is amazing news." Mom was jumping for joy then. "I am a grandmother to four babies at once. We have quadruplets Franklin. We have such a big family now."

"I know what you mean, sweetheart. I am happy as well. We have seen what our son is capable of." They were beaming at us then, smiling with joy at their grandchildren.

"Don't forget that I am an uncle. And Falena is an Aunty. Oh, and Shawn will be an uncle before too much longer as well." Shane was adding happily.

"Really?" I was surprised to hear what he had to say.

"Yes, she's due next month." Shane looked like a proud father, I knew that feeling well. I had felt that feeling while I was pregnant and every moment since when I looked at my children.

"Our kids can be close, almost like siblings." Dietrich smiled at Shane. "I am happy for you Shane, you will know the joy of parenthood so soon."

The party commenced then. Everyone present was giving advice and taking turns to meet our children. Mom and Dad were making plans to stay with us for a while, to help take care of the babies until we hired a full time nanny, if mom even allowed a nanny other than herself.

We were all ready to settle into our new lives with our family. Mom and Dad were happy to have the babies there. Shane was a proud uncle and father to be. Falena looked like a radiant expectant mother. Trinity was already a wonderful mother. Reece was a protective and doting father. And Dietrich was being the best husband and father to our children that I could have asked for. What more was there to want out of life?

We settled into our bed for the night, the nursery that Reece helped to set up for us was right next to our room so we would be close if the babies needed us. Mom and Dad were settled into the room on the other side of the nursery, fully intending to pull their weight when it came to helping with their newborn grandchildren.

Life was perfect.

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Five Years And A Half Later

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Shawn

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It was a bright morning in late August, the sounds of kids fighting and laughing could be heard no matter where I went in the house. I had just finished packing four lunches. I was preparing four backpacks. And even with all that I had to do, I never once felt like I wanted anything else. This was my life, our life, just me, Dietrich, and our beautiful children.

"Alex, stop picking on your brother." Dietrich was yelling from down the hall as he helped to tie Ally's shoes.

"But Papa, he was being silly again." Alex whined in her adorable little voice.

"Was not." Luka pouted.

"Was too!" Levi added. "You were walking in the dark again. You know we can't do that when we get to the school."

"I know." Luka hung his head. "It's just so much fun."

I walked to Luka's side and knelt next to him. He looked so much like me and his Uncle Shane that it made me remember back to when Shane and I were this age. Only, there were just the two of us and I have four this age. It was usually a chaotic time.

"Luka, I know that you're a good boy, and a smart boy too. I know you won't do anything that you're not supposed to."

"I won't Daddy. I promise."

"We know, Luka." Dietrich smiled at him as he stood, Ally now ready for us to leave.

Today was their first day of school. The first day of Kindergarten. What was I going to do? I think my heart was just about to break.

We got the kids into the car, strapped them in securely and set off. We had other ways of getting them to school, but we chose a normal family way. Even though they were much, much more sturdy than other kids their age.

When we arrived at the small school that Reece and Trinity had built just for the use of our community we all got out of the car. The kids alternated naturally, boy, girl, boy, girl. It was like they didn't even have to talk about it, they all went to where they were used to going.

Dietrich and I went to follow our brood into the school but they stopped us immediately.

"No Daddy, you two stay here." Ally said firmly.

"That's right, we're big kids now." Levi added in his soft voice.

"We want to go in alone." Alex, a born leader, spoke next.

"We don't want the other kids picking on us." Luka rounded out their refusal to have their dads walk them in.

"Why would they pick on you?" Dietrich asked with his head tilted to the side.

"Because if you walk us in we will look like babies." They all four spoke with perfect timing. They really were a perfect set of quads.

"Alright, we get it." Dietrich laughed. "Do we get hugs and kisses at least?"

They thought about that for a second before coming to an instantaneous and unanimous decision.

"YUP!" They all ran to us, jumping into our arms. We hugged them, holding them tight and kissing them all over their faces.

After that, they held hands and walked away in one long line. I felt the tears begin then as my heart shattered.

"It will be just fine, Liebling. They will be home later today." Dietrich pulled me to his side, hugging me gently.

"I know, Geliebte. But I miss them already."

"Makes you wish we could have more, huh?" He chuckled into my ear.

"Shut your fucking mouth." I snapped at him as I pulled away to get back into the car.

But he wasn't wrong.

## **Chapter 287 - SIDE STORIES BOOK 1- DAVID AND RAWLYNNE CHAPTER 1**

8-10 minutes

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Rawlynn

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"Raw, I need you on this ASAP." My boss, Director Harris, threw a file onto my desk before slouching into the chair across from me.

"What's this?" I asked as I grabbed the manilla folder.

"Serial kidnapping in Colorado Springs. They've had eight kids go missing in the course of two weeks." I could see him itching to grab the pack of cigarettes from his pocket, but he wasn't allowed to smoke inside so he just had to push past it.

"Eight?" I felt the shock settle on me when I heard what he had said.

"Yeah, and there is crap for evidence. Half the kids even disappeared from their homes and nothing." There was tension in his voice and the set of his shoulders.

"Any suspicion of the parent's?" That's always the first place to look at a case like this, but the fact that there were so many of them made that a little less likely.

"No, it all seems to be clear that it was done by someone else. The kids came from good homes, no abuse, nothing that sticks out at all. But the fact that we have nothing to go on is pissing me off." His voice was full of anger and barely controlled rage. Harris had a soft spot for kids and he knew I did as well. "You're the best I have for a case like this Rawlynne. I need you on it right away."

"No worries, Harris, I will head out immediately. Do you have some contact info for someone I need to make feel very uncomfortable now that we're stepping in?"

"It's all in the file, so do your best to get this settled as soon as you can."

"No worries, I will get it done, boss. I've never failed yet."

With that Harris left and I could already see Jackson making his way toward my office. Jackson McIan was my partner, a year younger than me but fiercely loyal and protective of me. Jackson was the brother I never had growing up.

"So, do we have somewhere to go?" Jackson was a sweet guy that was often misunderstood by others. His light blonde hair and warm chocolate colored eyes were all innocent looking, but his bodybuilder's physique and imposing six foot two stature worked against him.

"I was thinking of going alone." I told him as he flopped into the same chair that Harris had been in a few moments ago.

"What? No way, Where you go I go." I knew that he was going to insist on that. He always insisted on going with me.

However, there was a reason why I wanted him to stay home this time. I knew that the place I was going was crawling with wolves. I had no pack and was considered a rogue. Ever since my parents died I decided not to be involved in the whole thing. But if this was exactly what I was expecting it to be then there was no staying out of the wolves' territory this time.

I suspected a strong supernatural force behind these kidnappings. They weren't the first and they wouldn't be the last. Harris knew about me, about what I really was, but he had known me for a long time. Jackson didn't know, and he didn't need to know. But what I was, what I am, that let me crack these types of cases wide open.

"Come on Raw, we go together, you know that. I have to keep an eye out for my little sister."

"Jack, I'm older than you." I reminded him for at least the thousandth time.

"Semantics. I'm bigger so you're my little sister." He was grinning at me. When Jackson and I met a few years back he had just lost his sister in an accident. He seemed to latch onto me then, and not really knowing that I was missing that whole family essence I latched onto him as well. We made the perfect team, always in sync.

"I'm going with you." He insisted, leaving no room for arguing.

"Fine, but no one else, we will handle this alone, just the two of us."

"Sure, no prob." He was grinning now, all seriousness washing away from him in an instant. "Soo." He dragged the word out a little before smiling at me again. "Where are we going?"

I put my head in my hand, shaking the laughter from me before I made fun of him. He would have insisted on going with me without knowing the destination, and he would never back out after finding out. He was always like this.

"Colorado Springs."

"Another kidnapping?"

"Serial." I handed him the file. "Eight kids in two weeks. We need to stop the bastard."

"Damn, what do you think they're after? Trafficking? Sex ring? Or a child killer?"

"I don't know yet. I won't know until I review everything they have and that we have."

"How soon do we leave?"

"Tomorrow. I want to get this over with soon."

I looked at my watch. It was still early so we could get it all planned out now. Too bad that the local office in CS was out of commission. They had a bombing suspect who had wanted to make an impression. Thankfully no one was killed, but there had been quite a few people hurt in the explosion. And unfortunately the office was not back up and running yet. It would have been easier to use their facilities while we were there.

Calls were made to the proper people. And I couldn't help but notice that one of the names and numbers in my file was not police related. Though the person did have a private investigator's license, this man was actually a CEO of a massive company. The kind of company that is passed down through the generations and is very selective on who they hire.

This was the company that was owned by Reece Gray, Alpha of the Red Springs wolf pack, the largest pack in the country. This was going to be touchy, he probably would not take kindly to me investigating on his territory.

Shortly before I was due to leave the office, I got a call on my cell phone. A call from someone in the Colorado Springs Police Department.

"Hello?" I answered as I shut my door, something that earned me a curious look from Jackson.

"Is this Agent Otsana?" A rough man's voice answered on the other end.

"Yeah, who's this?" I could hear my prickly nature already rising in my voice.

"My name is Detective Masterson with the Colorado Springs Police Department."

"You're calling awfully late, aren't you Detective?"

"Well, I assume I had a busy day, same as you usually do." He chuckled a little, at least he seemed to be an amiable guy.

"What can I do for you, Detective Masterson?"

"I hear you're on your way here for a visit. When might we be expecting you?"



"I already told your Captain this. I will be there tomorrow afternoon."

"You know how it is, they never communicate very well." He was laughing again. "I will be working with you primarily when you get here. Just look for me and I will set you right up."

"Oh, speaking of. I want to have a meeting with Mr. Gray." I was pretty sure I knew why this Detective Masterson had reached out to me, if he reacted how I expected now, then I know I was right.

"With Reece?" Bingo. He didn't just know that man in question, he was on a first name basis with him. That meant that Detective Masterson was one of them too. Heh, I wonder what they will say when I finally show my hand. I had my ways of hiding my true self even among my kind.

"Yes, Mr. Gray's name came up in my investigation and I would like to talk to him. I hear he even went to question the victim's families."

"Mr. Gray is a very good man that cares about his town. He's no suspect here." He was definitely loyal to his Alpha.

"Still, I'd like to meet him for myself. You know, just to be sure."

"Yes ma'am. I will set up a meeting for tomorrow for you."

"I would appreciate it." This was going to be interesting. "Have a good night, Detective Masterson." I hung up then, smirking to myself. The good detective there had called to snoop out info on me, most likely he had been informed of my visit but not the arrival so he called me to find out all just so he could pass along all the details to his Alpha.

Oh, this was going to be interesting indeed. I just hoped that when they find out who, what, I really am that things don't go too bad. I usually never reveal myself to the Alpha's of territories that I investigate in, but then again most of them don't run packs that are the largest in the country. This man, this Alpha, was not someone to trifle with. I had to tread carefully, that's for sure, but I was still betting that it was going to be fun.

## **Chapter 288 - SIDE STORIES BOOK 1- DAVID AND RAWLYNNE CHAPTER 2**

10-13 minutes

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Rawlynnne

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This day had been busy so far, and it wasn't likely to settle down anytime soon. I had woken up early to head to the office. There had been a few things I needed to finalize before I left with Jackson. We weren't going far so we were driving, I didn't want to worry about looking for a new vehicle there.

After a few hours I went to get the Expedition out of the garage. I loaded my bags and some gear into the back then hopped in to get Jackson from his house.

The trip from Denver to Colorado Springs would take a little more than an hour. The ride there was calm and filled with the usual type of banter that Jackson and I usually had. I hoped this case wouldn't be too difficult, but with Jackson there with me it would be easier on me a little. He always helped to make me feel better. He was the only man I could trust, the perfect brother for me.

When we got to the police station in Colorado Springs it was the same old same old. The detectives from the local beat and their captains weren't happy about having their case taken from them and handed to the FBI.

Stepping on their toes. Leeching their hard work and evidence. Stealing the spotlight and making them look like idiots. Craving glory. Attention seekers. Backstabbing dogs.

Those were just a few of the insults I usually got when I took a case from the local boys and girls in blue. They never really liked working with us.

There were always a few that didn't mind. A few good eggs among the bunch that would help us instead of insult us.

There were two such good eggs that I noticed right away. The first was the overly eager Detective Masterson, I had known that he would be willing to help me ever since he called me. The other was a Detective Scott, a quiet and tall man that seemed very capable.

I was going to use these two and get all the information that I could from them.

After the brief introductions I spoke with Detective Masterson to get directions to Reece Gray's house. He wanted to come along and encouraged me to wait.

"He has a representative coming to the station as we speak. His name is David and he is a pretty good private investigator."

"No offense, Detective Masterson, but I don't want to see his representative, I want to meet Mr. Gray myself. Unless he has something that he needs to hide from me." I grinned at the man before me, his bright green eyes went wide with shock and a desire to defend his Alpha.

"Absolutely not. Mr. Gray is an amazing man."

"Then he should have no problem meeting me, right?"

"Yes ma'am." He conceded to my words and handed me the directions that would take me to the Alpha's estate.

To get to the estate I had to go through some sort of a gated community which I thought was kind of pompous. Did these wolves really feel the need to separate themselves from everyone else? That was just so idiotic.

When I started to drive up the driveway to the Alpha's estate I knew I was in for something extremely over the top. I had seen Alpha estates before and I knew that they had all been made to look like mansions or mini castles. The one that was hidden in the woods was the largest estate I had ever seen.

Seriously? Being an Alpha must be a very lucrative job. This level of security and insanity was just not normal.

I walked to the front door of that castle in the woods, that was the only name for it, and rang the bell. The person who answered the door was an aging man that basically personified the word butler.

"Good day to you Miss, how may I help you?" At least he was polite, and he was definitely a wolf. I could smell it coming off of him.

"I'm here to see Mr. Gray. My name is Agent Otsana from the FBI." I could tell by the look in his eyes I had not been expected.

"Please wait in the sitting room, I will announce your visit."

The elderly man took me to wait in a parlor while he went upstairs to speak to his Alpha. I had asked for a meeting with Mr. Gray and had gotten a representative instead. Clearly, Mr. Gray was trying hard to avoid meeting me so soon.

After a little while the man came back and told me I was permitted to head up to Mr. Gray's office. I was guided from the sitting room to the stairs and up to the third floor. I walked down the hallway almost to the end and was shown inside.

The shock was clear on all their faces. None of them knew what to think of me. And I knew that the special perfume I had been wearing, which I helped to develop myself, was hiding the fact that I was a wolf completely.

"Good morning." I smiled sweetly at them as I scanned the room, cataloguing everyone that was present. "Thank you for taking the time to meet with me, I am Agent Rawlynn Otsana from the Denver field office. I'm here to investigate the recent kidnappings." I intentionally spoke friendly and soft, I didn't want to put them on edge at all.

"Good morning Agent Otsana, my name is Reece Gray, it's a pleasure to make your acquaintance. May I ask what brings you to see us today?" Mr. Gray was a very good looking man with black hair and golden eyes, and very tall.

"As I said, I am in town investigating the recent child abductions."

"And your investigation immediately led you to my doorstep?" The Alpha who was sitting in his throne like chair behind his desk looked at me with a stern expression.

"Well, I could say it was your private investigations that led me to you." I smiled at him.

"So, trying to help the families of the missing children is a crime now?" The Alpha was definitely getting angry now, interesting.

"Only if it interferes with my investigation." I just smiled at his anger, knowing that it would piss him off even more. Toying with Alphas was fun, if you did it right. "But, to say that would be dishonest of me." I smiled again, showing that I didn't really suspect him of anything.

"Then what brought you here?" The Alpha demanded from me.

"I figured I should introduce myself to the local alpha."

Oh if I had been expecting shock then I wasn't disappointed. They all looked like they had been slapped with a stupid stick when I said that. They had just discovered that I knew what they were and who they were. But they still didn't know that I was a wolf as well.

"I don't know what you're talking about." Reece Gray said after just a few moments of hesitation. He was clearly more surprised than he had thought he would be during this meeting.

"No?" I cooed. "I must be mistaken, you see I was under the impression that the Alpha of the Red Springs wolf pack was Reece Gray. Have you been replaced already?" I raised an eyebrow and tilted my head to the side to show a fake sense of confusion. "And I was just told about you this morning too. Wow, that was definitely fast." I laughed quietly at my own joke since I had in fact not been told today but years ago when I had found out.

"Who exactly are you? And what do you want?" This Alpha barely kept his anger in control then. He clearly didn't like being surprised like this.

"Me? I already told you, my name is Rawlynne Otsana of the FBI."

"You know what I mean." He snapped at me causing me to laugh.

"I take it there are no name experts in this room." I giggled, batting my eyes as I looked at him.

"Nope, so that means you need to explain." A different man, one with dark brown hair, answered this time.

"Let me break it down for you. Rawlynne, it's a varied spelling of the English name of the same pronunciation, it means wolf counsel or wise wolf. And Otsana is an old European name that means she-wolf. Does that explain anything?"

"So either you know about us because your name made you curious, or you're hiding your true scent and your parents had a sense of humor just like mine." A young man with bright eyes and ashy blond hair answered .

"The latter." I looked at him with a serious look. "What humor did your parents have?" I was curious.

"They named me Cedar Woods, and my twin sister is Juniper." That made me belly laugh.

"I think our moms must have been friends, both being the comedians that they are." Cedar actually laughed at my words. The tension in the room finally eased a little after that.

"Alright, so you're a wolf as well. That still doesn't tell me why you're here." Reece Gray grumbled. "And how are you hiding your scent?"

"Years of practice and getting used to strong perfume. That's all you're smelling from me right? Well, I can still smell you." She smiled at us. "And as for why I am here, I know that three of the missing boys are cubs from your pack, and I know you're going to be investigating with or without my help, so why not skip the middle part where we act like we can't help each other and are somehow enemies for no reason and we can get straight to helping each other out. Willingly or reluctantly, I'll accommodate the best I can. But just so you know, I think it'll be easier if we can just help each other out now so we don't need to get to that whole you scratch my back, I'll scratch yours situation." I hadn't intended to be so

helpful at first, but I could tell this was a strong pack, there was no need to stay away from them. No point in it really.

"Seriously?" The Alpha looked dumbfounded, he hadn't been expecting that answer from me at all. "So, you want us to work together?"

"Yeah, and what makes it so much easier is that a lot of you are PI's so I can say we're just working together."

"What's the catch?" He just didn't trust me, I could see it on his face.

"Why do you think there's a catch?"

"There always is."

"Don't be so pessimistic, Reece." A woman sitting with him tried to calm him down.

"No, I know how this usually goes. It's not the first time that someone has tried to manipulate or use a pack to further themselves."

"Look, I'm here to help us all out. If you want to be a dick and throw that into my face that's on you."

"What the hell did you just say to me? Don't ever speak to me like that again." He snarled at her.

"Sorry big boy, but I'm not part of your pack, you can't order me around." I taunted him.

"I can still make you shut that-."

"ENOUGH!" That same woman yelled at us. "I don't want to hear another word from either of you right now, just shut up and listen."

When I heard her words my mouth snapped shut and my eyes popped in surprise.

"We're all wolves here and we're all looking for the same group of psychopaths, either you set aside your petty bullshit or you get the hell out. I intend to find these kids as quick as I can and your damn squabbling is only going to make things worse." Everyone looked momentarily shocked by her outburst.

"Watch your language Trinity Faith." An elderly man scolded her.

"Little Bunny, you're right." Reece looked like a little kid who was caught stealing cookies before dinner, guilty and embarrassed.

"How were you able to force me to follow your orders?" That hadn't happened to me since I was a teenager and frankly, it scared the shit out of me.

### **Chapter 289 - SIDE STORIES BOOK 1- DAVID AND RAWLYNNE CHAPTER 3**

13-17 minutes

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David

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Reece had told me that there was an FBI agent coming to help with the investigation and that they wanted to meet with him. He wanted me to go and vet this person, see what they were like and if we could trust them. So, that was why I had been on my way to the police station right now.

"Dammit, why does it seem like I am being punished?" I asked the empty car as I drove. "I have a feeling I didn't do enough during the battle and now I am in trouble." I hung my head and sighed as these things made me feel a little more than slightly depressed.

When I arrived at the station I found out that there had been two FBI agents there. The first left to go visit with Reece in person.

'FUCK!' I screamed inside my head. 'Reece is going to be mad that I couldn't stop her from going to the estate.'

The second FBI agent had gone to get them checked into their hotel rooms and I had just missed him as well.

'DAMMIT!' I couldn't win with this damn situation.

Well, I failed on my mission two for two so far. I was also supposed to get as much info from the local police as I could. There was no way I was going to fail with that part. I spent all day gathering the info they had. I needed to figure all of this out and organize it. The problem was, there was just not enough information to warrant anything.

I spent all day that day and the next gathering information by interviewing every street cop and detective that had even sneezed in the direction of this case. I was thorough and meticulous when it came to information like this. I needed to keep things clear and make sure that anything and everything was accounted for.

Reece had told me that I was going to be working directly with the FBI after I had gathered all the information that I could so I was doing the best that I could so that they wouldn't think that I was incompetent.

Today Reece had called me so that we could meet up with the FBI agents together. I had been busy over the weekend and was not able to connect with them, they had gone to interview the victim families while I handled my part so we were separately busy. Now, though, it was time for the big meeting.

I just hoped that they were not too angry over Reece sending us to work with them. I know that at least one was a wolf, based on what Reece had told me, but I don't think that they both were. This was going to be tricky. How were we going to work together if we had to hide things from one of them every step of the way?

They were staying in a house that Reece owned now instead of the hotel. He wanted to be hospitable to them, to show them that we were friends. As soon as we parked the car and started to walk toward the house a man opened the door and stormed out.

This man was clearly human, but he had the attitude of a wolf for sure. I knew that this man was Agent Jackson Mclan, the second in command for the FBI agents that were helping us. It seemed that not just

his attitude would have fit in with the wolves, he was tall, and very strong looking. If he had been a wolf he could have been a warrior.

"Mr. Gray, good evening." Agent Mclan called out to us as we approached. "I hope you don't find this rude, but can you explain to me why it's so important you and your cronies are part of my investigation?" He was definitely suspicious of all of us, especially since none of us had ever met him before.

"May we discuss this inside, Agent Mclan?" Reece smiled at him to show that we were not a threat. The man seemed to visibly darken at his words though and was immediately on guard.

"I would like to refuse, but as Otsana is in charge of this investigation I can't very well say no."

"That, and I do own this house." Reece joked with him.

"Of course you do. Because why not, you seem to own everything else." He actually laughed at that one.

"Jack, enough with the tough guy routine, these are important members of our investigative team." A lovely female voice called out from inside the house.

"I don't see why we need a group of PIs, especially one that's just a billionaire playboy playing games."

"Is that how the world sees me?" Reece looked between me and Noah as he asked this.

"Absolutely not, Sir." I answered immediately.

"Definitely." Noah was joking around like usual.

"I'm a billionaire, yes. But I am so much more than that. Can't we just talk for a little while Agent Mclan, I'm sure you will come to trust me more."

"Whatever." Mclan said, stepping aside and letting us in.

We started into the house again and as I did I heard that musical voice again, but I also smelled the most perfect scent in the world. It was my mate. She was here and my wolf was already howling.

"Forgive him, he's just acting like a big brother to me. Even though he's younger than-." The woman stopped mid sentence as she started to stare at me. Her face was full of shock and awe. I know that I, likewise, had a shocked and dumbfounded look on my face.

"What's the matter Rawlyne?" Agent Mclan asked her with a hint of worry. "Do you recognize one of them as a criminal?"

"None of us are criminals." Noah spat at the man.

"I know what's happening here." Reece laughed.

"How can it be?" She breathed in disbelief.

"I can't believe it." I sighed. "After all these years, I've finally found you."

"You two know each other?" Agent Mclan asked his partner, but still she didn't answer him.

"I'm ninety-nine percent sure they've never met before." Reece assured the man.

"Then how could they have been looking for each other?" He was thoroughly confused.

"That is a little hard to explain at the moment." Noah seemed uncomfortable.

I started to walk toward the woman. Such a beauty she was. But why was she backing away from me with every step that I took toward her? She was my mate. I was her mate. She should be just as happy as I am. So, why was she backing away from me?

"Why are you backing away from me?" I asked her with pain in my voice.

"This is the wrong time. I'm not ready." She pleaded. "I've got career goals, plans for my future that I thought I would follow. This wasn't part of it."

"But we can't fight fate." I cooed at her in a calming voice.

She had backed up against the wall, unable to move back any further so she just stared at me approaching her. She could have turned and fled in a different direction but she was mesmerized.

"What is going on here?" Agent Mclan asked.

"You're watching destiny unfold before you." Reece answered him.

"Destiny?" He scoffed before falling silent.

"What's your name?" I asked her.

"No." She shook her head.

"Her name is Rawlynne Otsana, David, didn't you hear us talking earlier?" I heard Reece's voice.

"Rawlynne." I smiled as I said her name. "I'm sorry, I stopped hearing anything for a little bit earlier. My dreams have all come true after all."

"Stop saying that." Otsana yelled as I inched closer still.

"Rawlynne." That name of hers was so sweet, I just had to say it again.

"Don't. Don't say my name." She shivered both times she had heard me say her name.

"But it's so beautiful. And you smell so wonderful. Like soft subtle flowers and sweet decadent fruits. The smell, and sight, of you is making my mouth water." I felt desire well up in me, and I knew my eyes were darkening.

"Stop, don't say anymore." Her voice was weak.

"That's fine by me, there's something else I'd rather do anyway."

At that I leaned forward, and wrapped my right arm around her waist and pulled her toward me. Placing my lips on hers I felt like I had just died and gone to heaven. My left hand was on the back of her head, angling her for a deeper kiss and holding her to me in an intimate position. We were kissing like it wasn't the first time but the hundredth time. This was like we were lovers, like we had been together for so long.



"Stop!" Agent Mclan came to his senses and yelled at us. "This is unacceptable and frankly inappropriate. Rawlynnne, you don't even know this man, why are you letting him kiss you like that?" He yelled at her.

"She can't help it, Mclan, it's destiny."

"What's that supposed to mean?" He looked even more perplexed.

"It's hard for me to explain, but for them just now, it was love at first sight."

"Love at first sight doesn't exist."

Rawlynnne pushed me away then, causing me and my wolf to both growl. I wasn't happy, right now, I wanted more. I was being more assertive right now than I had ever been in my life and I know it was all due to my new mate.

"Oh, it exists alright." Rawlynnne was breathing heavily when she spoke to Agent Mclan.

"What's going on here?" He asked her as I tried to pull her in for a hug.

"David, control yourself." Reece snapped at me. "We have business to discuss." I turned away from my new mate and bowed my head in depression.

"Yes, you're right, Sir." I finally let my hands drop but I stayed standing next to my new mate.

The five of us settled on the couches and chairs in the living room, I made certain to sit as close to my mate as I could. Agent Mclan was still glaring at me the entire time. Perhaps he was in love with Rawlynnne too.

"Will someone explain all of this to me?" He demanded, breaking the tense silence in the room. He was acting big and intimidating but it didn't go well with the pale blue armchair that matched the very girly living room around us, filled with pastel colors and pretty furniture.

"It's hard to explain, as I said." Noah told him.

"We need to tell him the truth, Noah. We would have to anyway, with the turn things have taken." Reece advised.

"Alpha, no!" I yelled at him.

"Alpha?" Agent Mclan picked up on that right away. "Why did you call him alpha?"

"Oh, well, I, you see, he's-." I was a fool to slip up like that.

"Because I am his alpha." Reece told him. "Agent Mclan, you are about to enter a world that you have never known before. But it is a world that has always been there, just unseen by you."

"What are you saying?" He was quickly losing his patience, he was apparently no good with being so out of control.

"Jack, let me explain a little." Rawlynnne spoke to him soothingly.

"Wait, Otsana, let me start." Reece interrupted.

"Alright." She nodded.

"Jack, may I call you Jack?" Reece was speaking soothingly, trying to gain the man's confidence. Mclan nodded his head to show it was ok. "Now, Jack, the reason I am here, that we're all here and intruding on your investigation is that three of the missing boys are from my pack."

"Pack?" Jack looked skeptical at the word but Reece just continued.

"During my private investigation I believe I have narrowed down the suspect list to who is responsible. That is not saying he took the children personally but had his people do it for him."

"And who is this person?" Jack wondered but Reece ignored him.

"The problem is, we do not know exactly where this man is hiding. I had called a contact of mine in Europe to send someone to help us all. Unfortunately that man was not up to the challenge of living in modern day society and has unfortunately met a very abrupt ending."

"Ending?" Mclan quirked his eyebrow.

"Rest assured, he was at least a few hundred years old and had lived a full life."

"You expect me to believe that Reece?" Jack asked.

"You'll believe it soon enough. You see, the man in question was a vampire." Jack interrupted then with a loud, barking laugh.

"Yeah, sure, a vampire." He continued laughing. "Can we move past the fairy tales and get to the real story?" He asked.

"I'm afraid this is not a fairy tale, Jack. This is all real. The Emissary that came to me this morning was indeed a vampire, but he has since perished. I killed him myself." Reece was admitting to so much right now, this was dangerous.

"Are you a vampire hunter now?" Mclan chuckled.

"No Jack," Reece smiled at him with his canine teeth slightly extended on both the top and bottom. "I'm a werewolf." Jack exploded into laughter at that.

"Right, a werewolf. Beware the full moon buddy." He wiped tears from his eyes that were caused from the uncontrollable laughter.

"He's telling the truth." Noah told him. Jack looked between the two of them and saw the teeth and the changes in their pupils that marked a partial change.

"What the hell?" He jumped to his feet and backed against the wall, much like Otsana had. "What are you people? Stay away from me." He had genuine fear in his eyes now.

"I need you to understand that we are not monsters, Jack. People like me live and work in the world, all around you. We're here, among the humans. We do not cause problems. If someone does, we tend to take care of that person immediately."

"But you're monsters." He seemed frightened.

"Jack." Rawlyne said standing up. "They're not monsters." She walked over to the man at the wall and put a hand on his shoulder. "After all, if they're monsters then so am I." She told him, causing him to look at her instead of my Alpha.

"Rawlyne, you...you...you're one of them?" He stumbled on his words momentarily before he could talk.

"Yes, Jack I am. And I am not a monster am I?" She asked him, her canines elongated and her eyes shining.

"No." He shook his head. "No you're not." He was calming a little, just a little. "But, when?" He asked her,

"What do you mean when?" She laughed at him.

"When did you become a werewolf?"

"I was born one." She told him with a smile. "Werewolf doesn't mean what Hollywood has told you. We don't change during a full moon, but whenever we want. The moon is like a symbol of power to us. We are not monsters or freaks. We are just people, like you, only a little special." She was soothing him.

"You weren't bitten?" She shook her head to answer him. "So, I can't be turned out of spite or by accident?"

"No Jack, though I have heard that there are ways to become one if a human truly wants to, but I don't know the specifics of that."

"I need to sit down." He allowed her to guide him to the couch where he collapsed, seemingly spent from all the revelations.

#### **Chapter 290 - SIDE STORIES BOOK 1- DAVID AND RAWLYNE CHAPTER 4**

8-10 minutes

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Rawlyne

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My heart was still pounding. I had just had a man walk into the house I was staying in. A man I had never seen before but had an instant connection with. He was my mate. How was this happening?

He was a very good looking man though. He was about six feet three inches tall with jet black hair and eyes so light green that they looked like jewels. His face was full of perfect lines, an angular jaw, perfect cheekbones. He was a handsome man, that was for sure. And the body that he was hiding beneath those clothes of his, I could tell that he worked out a lot. He was a warrior in the pack, most likely a guard since he was so capable. He was a drool worthy sight and I felt myself react instantly.

It was too soon for me to have a mate. It was too soon for me to put my career on the back burner because fate told me this man and I were meant for each other.

But I couldn't deny that I was instantly drawn to him. I felt the wolf inside of me begging to be let free. Begging me to run to him and hold him tight. My wolf was apparently a horny bitch.

The man came in and we both looked at each other like our worlds had just been completed. I was stunned, awestruck, as he started to walk closer and closer to me. I wasn't paying as much attention to what was going on around me, my attention was almost fully on that man.

I was backing away from him as he walked closer and closer to me. Already this man was talking about fate and destiny. When he was right in front of me he asked me my name.

"What's your name?"

"No." I shook my head.

"Her name is Rawlynn Otsana, David, didn't you hear us talking earlier?" Reece told him in my stead.

"Rawlynn." The man named David smiled at me. "I'm sorry, I stopped hearing anything for a little bit earlier. My dreams have all come true after all."

"Stop saying that." I yelled at him as he came closer.

"Rawlynn."

"Don't. Don't say my name."

"But it's so beautiful. And you smell so wonderful. Like soft subtle flowers and sweet decadent fruits. The smell, and sight, of you is making my mouth water." David's eyes visibly darkened with desire.

"Stop, don't say anymore." I squeaked.

"That's fine by me, there's something else I'd rather do anyway."

That was when he wrapped his arms around me and pulled me to him, kissing me with a fierce passion. Goddess, but I did love a man who could take charge like this. I was so used to being the one in control that I really like the idea of a man who knew what he wanted and took it. But NO this was not the right time.

Not to mention that at that moment Jackson started to flip out. This whole situation was really taking its toll on him. He seemed to be having a really hard time. And it was for that specific reason that Reece decided it was only right to tell him. If Jackson was like a brother to me then he needed to know, or so Reece thought.

That's how the man closest to me found out what I really am.

We spent at least an hour maybe more with Reece explaining our world and then all of us discussing what we knew about the case. He had shared that he thought, no knew, that a warlock named Gannon Edmond was the mastermind behind these abductions.

Apparently, Trinity, Reece's mate that I met the other day, was Edmond's daughter and he was some psychopath. He was the man who had kidnapped Trinity and tried to force witch magic out of her. This was all becoming a lot more complicated than we thought.

And to top it all off, Reece would be helping us around his own work and planning for his wedding next month. Yay, so fun. Why did so much stuff have to happen all at once?

When Reece and Noah left David decided he was going to stay behind. He wanted to talk to me a little longer, without his Alpha there to interfere. But it didn't seem like Jackson was all that willing to let us talk.

"You can go now too, wolf boy." Jackson sneered at him. This surprised me since he had started to adjust by the end of the whole thing and was accepting of the others.

"Jack!" I snapped at him. "That was uncalled for. What is the matter with you?"

"I don't like him." Jack snapped back. "He thinks he can come in here and just steal my little sister away." Jack looked like a sullen child at that moment, a lost little boy who was about to be left behind.

"Jack." I smiled at him soothingly. "I'm not going anywhere. David and I are fated to be together. I hope that one day you could feel this way." I smiled at him to show that despite what I said I was still happy about meeting David. I wouldn't tell him that really, because I was still mad about fate's bad timing. Still, I could feel that pull, that attraction that was drawing me toward him.

"This is all too sudden, don't you think?" Jackson was still sulking.

"Not for a werewolf. This is how we are."

"Is it?" He looked perplexed by my words. It was like he didn't know what to do with himself with all of this going on.

"I am happy that I have met Rawlynn. And I know you two are close." David had walked closer to Jackson with a smile on his face. "I hope you and I can be friends, Jack, that we can get along and make things work out between all of us."

"That's a tall order, pal. Start by leaving and coming back next year."

"JACK!" I yelled at him.

"I'm just joking." And to prove his point Jackson was laughing like a child, the way he usually did. "I will give you a shot, but if you hurt her I will kill you."

At those words David grabbed both of my hands and looked into my eyes with a sense of longing and love.

"I could never hurt her. I know that I will love her fiercely, when the day comes. I already feel myself falling for her now."

"Ugh!" Jackson faked a gag. "I'm going for a walk. You two love birds get whatever this is out of your system before I get back."

He didn't say another word, Jack just turned, grabbed a coat, and left to disappear into the night. It was already late so I hope he didn't stay out there long.

"Rawlyne." David tugged on my hand, directing my attention to him. "What do you say we get to know each other." He was grinning devilishly at me. He looked like the type that was typically soft spoken and shy but was comfortable being in charge when they knew what they wanted.

"What did you have in mind?" I grinned at him, letting myself succumb to the feelings that had been struggling to get out since I had first seen him.

"I think there are many ways to get to know more about each other." He grinned as he pulled me into his arms again. "How do you want to spend our alone time?"

His arms were around me and lifting me off the floor almost instantly. He was supporting my weight with his arms as he kissed me right there in the living room. I felt his lips settle on mine, soft and strong and like something that had been missing from me for so long.

I moaned and gasped unconsciously at the feel of the kiss, allowing him to once again slide his tongue into my mouth. He kissed like a man who knew what he was doing, which was good, he would be as experienced as I was then. No need to beat around the bush.

I reveled in the kiss a little longer, enjoying the feeling of him exploring my mouth like it was the missing link, the lost piece of his soul, or just something he had been searching for for a long time. I buried my hands in his hair, grabbing two large fistfuls of the silky strands. I could feel his flat stomach and the muscles that rippled there. And more importantly I could feel the arousal he was holding for me as it grew, not so slowly, inside of his pants.

"I think we should take this back there." I pointed toward the hall as he held me against him.

"Hmm. I couldn't have chosen a better place." He kissed me again as he purred in satisfaction, already walking down the hallway.