

## Chosen by Fate 301

### Chapter 301 - SIDE STORIES BOOK 1- DAVID AND RAWLYNNE CHAPTER 15

Rawlynn

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I had been engaged for six days by the time that I found out I was pregnant. That was short lived. And I refused to have the baby without being married first so we planned our wedding really fast. It was the beginning of July already and I didn't want to be showing too much. Plus we didn't have too many people to invite. It was just the rest of the guards at the estate and their mates, plus Jackson, Trinity and Reece.

Jackson was happy when I had told him I was getting married. But when I told him I was pregnant he was not so happy.

"It's too fucking soon!" He yelled when I went home from work the day after the party for Reece.

"It is what it is, Jackson, you just need to accept it."

"But you haven't known him that long. You're not even married yet."

"I've known him long enough. I know that just under five months seems quick to you Jackson, but that's actually a long time for this to take for wolf culture. And we didn't plan it this early, it just happened."

"Ok, so what, you got pregnant on your birthday? How do you already know about it?"

"Another wolf thing. David can smell the baby."

Jackson was having a hard time processing all of this right now. He was used to all the wolf stuff, but this was actually quite a shock for him.

"OK, OK, fine I get it. So I will be an uncle by the end of March next year?"

"More like the end of December this year."

"Wait, how is that even possible? Pregnancies take nine months."

"Not a wolf pregnancy. A pregnancy for us only lasts six months."

"You've got to be kidding me?" The wide eyed look of shock told me he was definitely not expecting that revelation at all. "Is there anything that you guys do that is normal?" He was at least laughing when he said that.

"Well, you'll have to stick around and tell me what differs from the human aspect and the wolf aspect."

"Deal." He laughed then, finally smiling about all of this.

David had Jackson be his best man for our wedding. David didn't have any family but Jackson was going to be his brother now. All the people that we had grown close to in the pack were there with us and the ceremony was held in the same clearing that Trinity and Reece held theirs. Apparently everyone they considered close could have their parties there.

Following the wedding things were calm for a while. However, the closer I got to delivering the baby, a girl, the more I knew that I needed to get Jackson some help in here for while I was gone. We had a full staff, but I was the one who basically ran everything next to Jackson. I couldn't leave all of that on him.

So, I had asked Harris to find someone who could be my third in command. Someone who wouldn't mind working with and taking orders from a human. He was sending me a newer agent but someone who had shown great promise. Her name was Melita and she was a bear shifter. She was actually a member of Trevor Jacoby's pack.

She was due to arrive today, since I was taking off after tomorrow. The baby was due by the end of the month and tomorrow was Christmas Eve, you could say I was pushing this a little late.

"Where the hell is Jackson?" I growled into my office. "Melita was supposed to be here already. He was supposed to be keeping an eye out for her but I haven't seen him in a while. The last of the office staff just left and it looked like I was the only left in here.

"Ok, that's it, I am going to find him. He probably fell asleep in his office again." Jackson had been working long hours, preparing to take over my position while I was on leave.

I stormed out of my office, as best as I could with a massive belly, and headed to his office that was across the open office space. His door was shut and the blinds were closed. Yep, he was probably taking a nap and missed the call from the new agent saying she was running late or something.

I pulled his door open, already calling for him.

"Jackson?" I expected to see him lounging in his chair with his feet on his desk like I had the last couple times. So, imagine my surprise when I saw him and a pretty young woman wrapped around each other, Jackson pressing the woman against the wall next to his desk.

Jackson's shirt was partially unbuttoned and pushed down his shoulders and the woman's blouse was all the way undone, her pale pink bra visible and her skirt hiked up around her thighs as her right leg was wrapped around Jackson's waist.

"Well, I see I've interrupted things here." I laughed. "Do you mind explaining to me what is going on around here, little brother?" I could hear the laughter that I was desperately trying to hold back.

The woman put her leg down and frantically started to rebutton her shirt. Jackson cleared his throat and started to straighten his own clothes.

"Ah, um, Rawlyne, this is, um, this is Melita Johnson, the new transfer."

"I did not know that you gave such a personal introduction to all the new transfers." I joked with him. "It's nice to meet you Melita, and I am sorry for the awkward intro here but I am your boss."

"I-I'm so sorry Miss Otsana." She stuttered momentarily as she looked sheepishly at me.

If you're going to call me anything other than Deputy Director then I prefer you call me either Rawlyne or Mrs. Martin since I am recently married."

"Oh, I am sorry Deputy Director, I didn't know. I just knew you from your reputation."

"No need to worry, Melita. May I assume this was more than a mutual attraction that you felt for each other."

"Um, w-well." Melita looked at Jackson like she didn't know what to say about what was happening.

"He knows about us, Melita, feel free to talk freely."

"Oh, that helps a lot." She looked relieved. "I didn't know that humans could be affected by a mate bond like this. I walked in and my bear just started screaming that he was my mate, and the next thing I knew we were, well, you know." I laughed at her explanation. She was maybe twenty-six years old, I couldn't remember what the file said about her.

"Allow me to be the first to offer you my congratulations. Jackson, can I trust you to keep your tongue out of her mouth long enough to explain things to her? I do want to get home to my husband."

"Just shut up and go home already." He growled at me, he'd been spending too much time around us wolves it seemed. I would call him later and talk about it, but it looked like my little brother had found himself a new bear mate.

I enjoyed my first Christmas with my mate. We got gifts for each other as well as gifts for the baby that we opened for each other. We made dinner together, or I wanted to but every time I got in there David was sending me to go sit back down and rest. He had been very doting when it came to the baby.

The day after Christmas we washed, dried, and put away all the baby's new things. We were completely prepared, or as prepared as we could have been at the moment.

I was not prepared for my water to break in bed while sleeping next to David just the next night. It was just after midnight actually for it was the 28th now.

David rushed from the bed and got towels and new clothes for the two of us. He cleaned me up and helped get me dressed. He carried my bag to the car and then insisted on carrying me to the car as well.

I was in labor for several more hours, even though my water had already broken and our sweet little baby didn't make her debut until after five in the morning. We called Jackson, who came with his new mate Melita. We called Trinity and Reece who had just recently had their own babies earlier this month and told them the news.

Even though we told them they didn't have to come, Trinity insisted on coming to see me in the hospital. Reece looked annoyed with her but was still happy for us. Everyone of them gushed over our little Kaede. I couldn't have been happier.

## **Chapter 302 - SIDE STORIES BOOK 1- SHANE AND FALENA CHAPTER 1**

9-12 minutes

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Falena

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I was currently standing in my Alpha's office. Landon Clayton, the leader of the felines for this area. The problem with us felines is that we're usually solitary creatures that like to stick with just our own family and not a lot of others. If there are too many of us around we tend to fight and argue. I was an exception to the rule really. I didn't mind having the others near me.

Maybe it was me being different that had landed me the Gamma position. I don't know how I felt about that though. I had been Landon's Gamma since he took over the position of Alpha when his dad died. Everyone used to think that Landon and I would end up together but that was so never going to happen. I saw the man as my brother and gagged at the thought of being with him that way.

Maybe it was because I saw him as a brother that I tended to get annoyed by his aloof attitude. If anyone I ever met personified the image of a house cat, it was Landon. He always seemed so lazy.

He wasn't really that bad though, because he really did work harder than everyone else I knew. But his attitude, such a house cat.

"Hey, Lena, do you remember Reece?"

"Yeah, I remember him." I said as I put my hand on my chin, remembering back to the last time I saw Reece. "He's a wolf, and he's an Alpha now too, right?"

"Yeah, he and I were good friends as kids since we were the same age and went to school together. Not overly close but we hung out from time to time."

"What about him?" I asked Landon, hoping he would cut to the chase.

"Well, he's getting married next week."

"Landon!" I snapped at him, knowing exactly where this was going.

"Lena?" He gave me that lazy smile he thought helped him to win every argument. Dammit, I hate that it worked.

"Why can't you go to this damn wedding yourself. He's your friend not mine."

"You know I am too busy for that. I have to run this damn company and this fucking pack. It's not like I am rolling in spare time."

"That's because you refuse to let anyone else do anything for you. You insist on being the one to do everything. If you shared the damn-."

"I'm not arguing with you." He snapped at me. "And I'm not asking. Go to the damn wedding as my envoy and present a peaceful attitude."

That was how it all went down. That was how I ended up coming to Reece Gray's estate to attend his wedding. I had to wear a dress to this thing and that wasn't really me either. I would rather be wearing fur. My fur. While I ran free through the mountains.

I first went up to Reece before finding my place for the ceremony. This was how Alpha weddings went. First I would greet the groom and then after the ceremony I would meet and introduce myself to the new Luna. I was used to this since it wasn't the first time Landon sent me to one of these things.

"Reece, it is good to see you. Congratulations on your wedding, I cannot wait to meet your mate." I hugged him lightly with a smile.

"It is good to see you Lena." He hugged me back. "Make sure you tell Landon he needs to come himself next time." Oh if you only knew Reece, if you only knew. I wish I could get that good for nothing out of that damn house.

The ceremony was beautiful, and the bride looked amazing. It honestly made me wish I could find someone to call my own. I wanted to have the whole mate thing too, dammit, I was twenty-four now after all. What, was I not good enough for anyone to call their own?

I was just enjoying the reception, there were so many people around that it was actually kind of annoying me. That cat part of me was still intact, I hated being in really large crowds. I was enjoying the food though, so it was well worth the time spent suffering here.

I watched as first Trevor Jacoby, the bear Alpha, introduced himself. Then came the warlocks. I was next after them. Slowly, I made my way to Reece's table to meet his new bride, Trinity. She was pretty, but so much younger than me. How come she had a mate already and I didn't.

I was into the opening near their table now, just beyond the swell of the people. And that's when the scent finally hit me. There was the unmistakable mewling inside my head that told me that I had just found my mate. The lynx inside of me was purring uncontrollably and screaming one word over and over.

"Mate. Mate. Mate."

I can't believe it, he was here. Who was he? Who was this man that my lynx was smelling? He smelled like cocoa and raspberries, it was intoxicating. That's when I saw him stand up, a gasp coming from his slightly parted lips. His gray eyes were locked onto mine, his silver hair shining in the sun, and that body, so perfect, so toned, so yummy looking.

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Shane

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I had thought that this day was just going to be boring with nothing much to do. Except watch the damn wedding. Don't get me wrong, I love Trinity and Reece like they were part of my own family, but weddings were boring. And I was still here under a partially official capacity so I couldn't even look for a new date.

This was going to be hell for me.

Still I put a smile on my face and did my job properly. I did quite enjoy the way things were going after a bit. The ceremony was nice, all things considered, and the food was amazing. I would have expected nothing less from Reece though, he would always want the best.

Following the food, there was a part of the ceremony where the other packs and clans came to introduce themselves to Trinity. The first to come up was Trevor Jacoby, the mountain of a man that was the bear Alpha. I had met the man a few times in my life and I knew he was a good friend of Reece's.

Good friend or not though, I might not have taken his flirting with Trinity like that if I was Reece. But it did look like he was joking so I don't know. I was still laughing at Reece saying 'fuck you Winnie the Pooh' when the next envoy came up.

There were three warlocks that came and introduced themselves after Trevor. I always hated how Warlocks had no scent for us so they threw me off. I wonder if a warlock mated with a wolf or other shifter, would they have a scent then? That would be interesting to find out.

I was absentmindedly lost in thought, thinking about my little brain teaser when the next envoy was supposed to be walking up. I didn't even pay attention to who was supposed to be next and so I was thrown through a loop when I noticed my wolf howling inside my head.

'Mate. Mate. Mate. Mate. Mate. Mate.' He was panting and kept repeating the same word over and over again.

I snapped my head in her direction and gasped at the beauty I saw before me. She had long, wavy, dark brown hair. Her eyes looked like they were the color of the sun itself. And her body, so beautiful and so sexy with that narrow waist, firm arms, and that tanned, sun kissed looked. She was perfect.

I couldn't help it then. I stood up and looked at her with my mouth hanging open. She was perfect. And oh that scent. She smelled like a sweet bubbling brook in the mountains that was surrounded by wild berries. Sweet, tart, and fresh all at the same time.

"Reece?" I barely registered Trinity's voice as I stared at the woman who had just captured my heart.

"It looks like another of your guards has found a mate. This is very good for the pack." Reece's words barely registered as well, all I wanted was to stare at this woman forever.

"Falena, it looks like this wedding has been very advantageous for you as well as me. I think this is cause for celebration, don't you?" There were cheers and applause ringing through the whole party after Reece spoke again. "Come Lena, let me introduce you." That was when I saw Reece and Trinity start walking over to where the woman was still standing, motionless.

Slowly, as if still in disbelief, the woman walked closer at the same time that I walked closer to my Alpha and Luna. With every step she took, the shock slowly disappeared from her face bringing back her radiant smile. By the time she stood right next to Reece and Trinity, she was beaming at me and I couldn't have been happier.

"Shane, let me introduce you to your mate. This is Falena Areli, a lynx shifter from the Rocky Mountains Pride. Lena, meet Shane Asher, one of my mate's guards and an excellent fighter." I had heard him say her name twice before this but it hadn't registered until right now. All I could do now though was stare into her eyes now that we were standing there face to face.

"Lena." I breathed her name with a sigh and a smile.

"Shane." She smiled right back at me.

"Let's get you two seated together so that you can get to know each other. Lena, come by to see me later tonight or tomorrow." Reece motioned for someone with a wave of his hand and whispered to them. "Please put another place setting at this table for our guest."

I stopped paying attention after that, but I was vaguely aware that there was another mating right after mine. I didn't care though, all I could see was the beauty sitting with me. Falena and I spent the rest of the night talking and getting to know each other. She was twenty-four with a birthday next month in April, I was going to be twenty-seven in August. We both loved nature, had similar tastes in music, and we both had important positions in our packs. I couldn't get enough of her and wanted to see her more. She even lived close by so I could see her quite easily.

We made plans to go on our first date in three nights, it was going to be perfect. I could show her how much of a gentleman I really was and there was nothing keeping us from jumping into this mating with no reservations. We were shifters, and we were mates, that's the majority of the info that we would need to make all of this work out.

### **Chapter 303 - SIDE STORIES BOOK 1- SHANE AND FALENA CHAPTER 2**

8-10 minutes

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Falena

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Well, that was a more exciting wedding than I had expected it to be. Yeah sure, there was the ceremony, there was the reception, there was me finding a mate and then another person finding a mate, and finally the Sentinelle showing up to announce that the Red Springs pack had the newest incarnation of the Moon Goddess. Nothing big right?

Fuck that! It was massive as all fucking hell. I can't believe I found my mate at that wedding. And to think that I didn't even want to go. I would have kicked my own ass if I hadn't gone and met him. Not to mention Shane was hot as well. I loved the look of his body too, I couldn't wait to lick all over him with my tongue.

What? I am an animal you know. I'm allowed to act like it every now and then.

Right now I was on my way back to the pack house. I needed to tell Landon what had happened. I just knew he was going to have a field day with this knowledge.

When I knocked on the door to his office he grumbled his answer to me.

"Just get your ass in here Lena, why do you bother to knock?"

"Maybe because I don't know what you're doing and don't want my retina scarred." I laughed as I opened the door and walked in.

"Hardy har har. That was so funny I think I forgot to laugh." He rolled his eyes as he set his pen down and glared at me. That was quite the feat, to roll his eyes and glare at me. I don't know how he managed it, but that's what he did. Multi-talented prick.

"Boy, you seem to be in such a great mood." There was an excessive amount of sarcasm dripping from those words.

"Oh, you could tell?" His sarcasm matched my own. "I just love it when the man who is supposed to help me run this fucking company ups and leaves town without telling me. That's the best thing in the world you know."

"So, Greg went on that vacation he was talking about even though I told him not to?"

"Yeah, that asshat." I watched as Landon ran his hand through his hair and sighed with exhaustion. "This is why I don't ask for help, no one is reliable."

"Hey, I resent that." I laughed at him as I flopped in the chair across from him, just as exhausted from yesterday.

"Yeah, you're the only person I seem to be able to rely on." He laughed as he looked at me. "I'm thinking of making you my Beta you know, since I still don't have one."

"Seriously?" I could tell I was giving him the most shocked face I could manage.

"Yeah, what do you think?"

"I think that I am honored, seriously. Are you sure you want me?"

"I couldn't imagine anyone else."

"Then thank you."

We were both smiling at each other now, happy with the outcome that the conversation had taken. I honestly couldn't believe that he had asked me to be his Beta, that was huge. Almost as big as the news I had for him.

"So, what did you need when you came in here, since I usurped the conversation and sidetracked you?"

"Well, I had some news for you." I was getting nervous now and I didn't really know why.

"What kind of news?" He tilted his head and looked at me with wonder filled eyes, sometimes he was so childlike.

"Well, I met someone recently."

"Meaning?" He hadn't gotten my reference. UGH!

"I met a guy." I tried again.

"So what? I'm not your dad, you can date whoever you want."

"You don't get it." I shook my head as I looked at the floor and put my hand on my forehead. "I met my mate." I guess direct was the only thing men understood.

"Oh?" He sounded shocked and surprised to hear those words. "Well, that's great news." He was smiling now. "Where?"

"At the wedding yesterday." I didn't know what he would say about my mate being a wolf.



"So I'm guessing he isn't a feline."

"Nope." shook my head and waited for the hammer to fall.

"Is he a wolf in Reece's pack?"

"Yup."

"Anyone I know?"

"His name is Shane Asher." I didn't know if he knew Shane or not, but this was going to be an interesting time for me if he did.

"I've heard of him but never met him. He's a warrior, right?" I nodded my head in agreement. "Well, congrats. Make sure you bring him by to meet me sometime."

"Seriously? That's it?" I was confused. "You don't have anything else to say?"

"Did you want me to forbid you from seeing him?" He was looking at me with curious eyes again.

"No, I just didn't think that would be it."

"I will save the grilling for when I meet him." I saw a devilish smirk and an invisible set of devil horns on his head since I just knew he was planning something.

"Oh Goddess." I groaned into my hands.

Following that revelation told Landon what had happened with Reece's mate, Trinity. He found that much more interesting and had actually scolded me for not leading with that. Sorry, but my love life is more in the forefront of my mind right now.

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Shane

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Lena and I had made plans to go on a date three days after the wedding, that would make it Saturday night. But then the day after the wedding I was notified that I would not be in town for that night. Lena at first thought I was lying, trying to get out of the date. It took me a while to convince her that I was telling the truth about where I was going.

It broke my heart having to break the date too. I wanted to go on it so bad. I wanted to get to know my mate more and have a good time, and maybe get a little more.

I promised her that we would reschedule once we got back from the mission and she accepted. And boy was there going to be a lot to tell her now. I had been blessed by the Goddess to get an extra special power. I had fought giant combo monsters that were big, nasty, and fucking ugly. Unfortunately Trinity lost her baby but we did manage to save twenty four kids and six captive Warlocks. I know that is not a perfect balance there but at least no one else had to die.

We were gone for two nights and were exhausted after the trip so I slept like a log when I got home. After that, though, I was ready to have my date with Lena. I called her up and made plans for that same night.

I asked her where it was that she wanted to go, if there was anything special she wanted to do. She had grown up close enough to us that she came into Colorado Springs all the time so there were no real new places for me to take her, she knew them all already.

We settled for dinner and a movie. You can't beat the classics sometimes right?

I took her to a French restaurant that we both had been to and had seemed to like. I ordered a bottle of wine and hors d'oeuvres before we had placed our order for the main course. This place was the type that did full five course meals that we could sit and enjoy for a long time.

During the dinner we enjoyed some more conversation. I found out that Lena was the middle child with one older brother and one younger brother. She had always been protected by her brothers who taught her to fight for herself and to never take shit from anyone. Her family seemed really close and I liked that. Shawn and I were the only two in our family and I couldn't imagine life without my twin brother there with me. That must sound pathetic given that I was in my mid twenties but it was the truth.

Following dinner we went to see a movie, one that I let Lena pick for us. It was an action movie, not a romantic chick flick or romcom. She was truly my soulmate wasn't she?

The movie was awesome. We started with junior high basics, holding hands while watching the movie. But that all soon proved to be too tough and I was glad we had sat at the back of the theater. By the middle of the movie we were making out like real lovers and just as the movie ended I was ready to do something that I had never done before. Damn movie ending too soon, that could have been really fun. Oh well.

The night had seemed to be going perfectly so I decided to ask her to come back to my place, and I was beyond elated when she had said yes.

### **Chapter 304 - SIDE STORIES BOOK 1- SHANE AND FALENA CHAPTER 3 (MATURE)**

13-16 minutes

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Falena

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I honestly couldn't believe how well things had been going and how much we got along with each other. I mean, I knew the Goddess was there to pick our perfect mates for each other, but man did she ever choose the perfect man. Shane was the best, he was funny, he was sexy, and we agreed on almost everything.

And then there was the fact that he was so doting. Everything that I wanted he just did without being asked. When we were driving on the way to dinner if I made a slight comment about the car being too

stuffy he worked on getting the level for the windows so I got fresh air but also so that it didn't mess up my hair. I just wonder how dedicated he was going to be to me?

Then after dinner and the movie he asked me to go with him back to his place. Apparently, he had an apartment not too far from where we were right now. I have to admit, I had been waiting for this moment and if he didn't ask me to go with him then I was going to ask for it myself.

I was glad that his place wasn't far either, I was getting desperate for him. This mating shit was extremely intense, that's for sure.

Shane pulled his car up in front of his place which was in a fairly nice apartment complex. His place was on the second floor and everyone had private entrances that you entered from outside. I followed him up to his door and waited for him to unlock it. He stepped back and smiled at me.

"Ladies first, or would you like me to carry you?" He was giving me a truly seductive look when he spoke just now.

"Ooooh, is that actually an option?" I giggled and smiled at him.

"Of course it is." He swept me off of my feet then and scooped me up into his arms. "Come with me, my queen." There was definitely heat in those words as well as his eyes. That was a sexy and seductive feeling I was getting from him.

He paused for just a minute after we were through the door. He shifted me until I was in just one of his arms as he pulled the door shut and locked it. After he was done with that he kicked his shoes off and carried me straight to the bedroom in the back of the apartment.

As soon as we were in the bedroom Shane seemed to drop me on the bed with a need and hunger that was taking over him entirely. That's fine, I was ready to let my lynx take me over too. I wanted him, I needed him, and I knew just what I wanted to do.

"Mind if I take a look around first?" I asked him slyly. "Why don't you prepare something good for me to see while you wait."

"What, you're not a fan of the show?" He laughed.

"I like a good show, don't get me wrong, but I wanted to look around a bit, see where I am. You know how it is."

"Be my guest. I will wait for you and still give you a show."

"Ooh, so accommodating." I grinned at him.

I made a show of looking around the whole apartment, but what I really wanted was in his closet the whole time. I grabbed two ties, nothing that looked overly expensive. I wanted to use them for something specific.

When I was done I sat back on the bed and let Shane give me his show. I have to say, he did great. The way he slowly unbuttoned his shirt and lowered it down his shoulders in beat with the music he had turned on. Then there was the fact that his hips were swaying and twisting to the beat.

When his chest was bare he continued to his belt and the button of his jeans. He slowly pushed the jeans open, revealing his hips and the top of his boxer briefs. The jeans then began to slowly move down his legs as he danced out of them. Soon he was able to kick them to the side so they landed out of sight. He was good at this.

"Let me remove the last bit." I smiled at him with an innocent look in my eyes.

"Ooh, I like the sound of that." He sat on the bed then and scooted until he was in the middle.

"Scoot back some more, until you're leaning against the headboard." There was a wonderfully convenient wrought iron headboard with a pattern of branches and twigs and I wanted to make use of it tonight.

I was happy to see that Shane obliged with no complaint at all. Such a good boy.

I climbed up after Shane and straddled his legs. In the movie theater we had our first kiss, but I was ready to take the lead and make it more. Even more than the heated moments we had shared while ignoring the movie completely.

I placed my lips to his, gently at first but heated almost instantly. It was a great distraction while I made a loop with one of the ties and slipped it around his wrist. He gasped and turned his head away from me, breaking the kiss, when he felt the tie tighten around his wrist and tie him to the bed.

I took advantage of that momentary confusion to tie his other hand back and to the headboard. Once he looked at both his hands that had been secured, though he could get out if he wanted to, he looked at me with heated eyes.

"Planning on playing with me or torturing me?" He asked with a smile.

"Is there much of a difference?" I giggled as I kissed his lips lightly. "I want to play."

"Such a frisky kitty." He was grinning happily as he purred those words.

I set to work then. I had tasted his lips, now I wanted to taste his body. I started with his ears, I had to know if they were ticklish. I had a feeling they were. I licked the lobe of his left ear and nipped at it quickly. Following that I blew gently onto the slightly moistened flesh. I grinned as he shuddered from the ticklish feel of it.

From there I traced my tongue down the outside of his jaw and to his collarbone. I licked across his chest to the swell of his pectoral muscles and across his left nipple. I even bit down for good measure which made him cry out in surprise.

With a chuckle I continued on. He was tasting so good, that flavor was mind blowing. I needed more of it.

I licked down his abs and to his hips where I met the waistband of his boxer briefs.

"Looks like you're going to have to change your method of play if you want to continue." I just laughed again and continued on my merry way.

I took his waistband in between my teeth where I proceeded to pull it down. I used my hands to help with the back and to urge his hips off the bed which he happily complied.

"I stand corrected." He was laughing now too.

I pulled the boxers all the way off of him in that fashion until they slipped past his ankles and came away from him. Releasing my jaw had them falling to the floor where I didn't need to worry about them anymore.

"Ready for your show now?" I asked him as I heard the music shift to another song, something that was seductive and easy to move to.

"Yes please." He was staring at my body excitedly then as he watched me start to pull the shirt over my head.

I stripped for him slowly until I was fully naked before him. His eyes were wide with excitement, surprise, and desire.

"Can I play now too?" He asked me so sweetly, but I wasn't ready to let him go just yet.

"Nope. I want to play some more." I gave him a mischievous smile as I crawled back onto the bed and set my tongue to his right leg.

I had licked down, now I was going to lick up. I slowly tasted him as I made my way up his leg past the swell of his calf muscle, past his knee, and to his thigh. I heard his breath catch when I got closer to his sensitive area and he could finally feel my breath on his rock hard erection.

"Finally, time to get to the good part." I purred as I settled myself between his legs and took his shaft into my hand. He was big, very big, and so hard. I licked him again, from the base of his shaft to the tip.

When my tongue reached the tip of his erection I swirled my tongue in a circle just to drive him insane. The moan of pleasure and the increase to his panting told me I had accomplished just that.

While he was in mid moan I took him in my mouth, that caused his moan to become something louder and more frantic. I pulled him all the way into my mouth until he reached the back of my throat and my lips were touching the base of his shaft.

I pulled back then, slowly, until just the tip of him was still in my mouth. I swirled my tongue again and then took him into my mouth once more. I set about creating a rhythm that was sure to make him go insane as I repeated those motions. I would go up and down a few times then swirl my tongue at his tip, he seemed to really enjoy that.

After a while he was bucking his hips and trying to go deeper into my throat. I could tell he was going to come soon. He was getting harder inside my mouth and his moaning was nearly constant. After a few more bobs up and down he exploded into my mouth.

He seemed to be panting from the experience of what just happened but he was still able to talk.

"T-th-that w-was a-amazing L-Lena." There was a huge grin on his face as I lifted my head, wiping my mouth.

"I'm not done having my way just yet."

I grinned as I settled myself onto his lap. I put one hand between our bodies as I guided his still stiff shaft to my dripping entrance. There was a look of joy and surprise once again filling his eyes as I slid myself down, slowly enveloping him with my body.

Oh my Goddess, the feel of him inside of me. He filled and stretched me to my limits, to the edge of pain, and still I wanted more. It was wonderful and amazing.

I put my hands on his chest since he was sitting up in front of me. I used that firm and strong platform to help me as I began to move. I rocked my hips as I slid up and down on his shaft, riding him and controlling every bit of this situation.

The rhythm that I was creating was fast and frantic, it felt so good that I just needed more and more. My moans mixed with his as I moved above him, panting. I could feel myself approaching my climax, if I kept this up it wouldn't be long before I came, but it didn't seem like Shane was getting as close to that point as I was.

Just as I felt the waves of my orgasm hit me I leaned forward and untied his hands. His arms came around me at the very second that I let my head collapse onto his shoulder, the waves of my pleasure pulling me down and sapping away all my strength.

"Goddess, that was amazing, Lena. But I am nowhere near done yet. I hope you don't mind." I could hear the chuckle in his voice then as I felt the excitement build inside of me. No, wait, that was his erection still throbbing away inside of me. My bad.

It hadn't even been three seconds since Shane said he wasn't done and he already had me pinned to my back on the bed with my head near the footboard. He had slid his arms up under my legs so that he could hook my ankles over his shoulders. This new position let him slide just a little deeper into my already pulsing center.

He started immediately, pounding in and out of my body. I felt him reaching further inside of me than anyone ever had before. My body was screaming and weeping for him to give me more. In and out, in and out, over and over he drove into me at a hard and fast rhythm that had me screaming and moaning and panting for more.

He leaned forward then, bringing his mouth to mine. The move completely bent me in two, good thing I was flexible.

His lips locked with mine for a few brief moments, the intensity of the kiss mixed with the mind blowing pleasure almost made my eyes roll into the back of my head. But soon he broke the kiss and moved his mouth along my jaw and down my neck until he could lick at my shoulder and neck.

"Oh Goddess, Shane, bite me. Please bite me." My voice came out on a scream as I begged for what I wanted. I wanted, needed to feel that power I knew would course through my body. I had never been bitten like that before but I wanted it, right now.

Shane didn't object. In fact, he honored my screamed and panting request. His teeth seemed to have been partially shifted when I felt them break through the surface of my flesh. He bit down deep and hard but I didn't feel any pain from it.

All the bite did was add to my pleasure. It made the glory of his pounding thrusts feel at least three times more intense. Goddess, I couldn't get enough of it.

And that's when the power started to build. That's when the heat started to rise inside of me and I felt like I was drowning in the passion. The heat helped to guide me back toward my point of oblivion. I was close to my climax again, and this time I could tell that Shane was getting there too.

Shane's pounding thrusts got even more frantic and needy. His breathing was more ragged and he was holding me so close and so tight with his arms wrapped around my back that there wasn't room for us to separate even if we wanted to.

After a few more thrusts we both came at the same time. I screamed Shane's name and he threw his head back on a roaring howl. My body was clenching tight around him, milking him for everything he had but neither of us were capable of moving anymore.

Shane collapsed onto me and pulled himself from my sheath. Both of us were still breathing heavily as he wrapped his arms around me and moved us to the pillows, that was about all he could muster at the moment as we both just fell onto the soft pillows and then fell right into sleep.

The next morning when we woke up, I decided to take a shower at his place and borrow a clean t-shirt before heading into work. I would be able to go home and change at some point during the day but I needed to get a move on.

When we went into the bathroom though, I noticed something on my neck and shoulder. The place where he had bitten me was already turning into a mate mark. That thought made me smile. And the design for this particular mark was a wolf and a lynx looking into each other's eyes with devotion and they were surrounded by swirling clouds and lightning, just like the power that Shane had been granted.

#### **Chapter 305 - SIDE STORIES BOOK 1- SHANE AND FALENA CHAPTER 4**

9-12 minutes

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Falena

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Following my date with Shane things for him got really busy. He was being taken to France to train with his Luna, the new Queen of shifters, and of course his Alpha, the new King. It was quite awkward to think that I was mated to a man that was so important. I mean, he was one of the Queen's personal guards. That was some major shit.

Could I really handle a life like this though? Him being taken away on a whim like this? It hurt that he wasn't going to be here with me. It was hard having to say goodbye to him for an unknown amount of time.

I didn't want to be without Shane. I wanted to have him with me. We hadn't spent much time together, not enough for me to feel this way. Still, I knew that I was already head over heels in love with him. He

was the mate that fate chose for me. We got along perfectly. And he was a fucking god when it came to sex. I couldn't ever imagine being with someone else.

While he was gone, I was preparing things for the future, for the possible day that I might eventually move in with him and maybe marry him. I was sorting through my things and deciding what I wanted to keep and what to get rid of.

On top of sorting all my stuff I was also looking for a place in Colorado Springs. I know I was just outside the city and it wasn't that hard to drive over to see him. But what would we do when we moved in together? We both had apartments, not a house. Neither of us would want to start a family in a place like that would we?

Then there was the fact that the Alpha King was having a community built for new residents that were shifters. It was on the land he owned next to his current pack compound and there were already several houses nearing completion.

I asked to tour one of them and saw that they were being done so nicely. They were like luxury homes even though they were just the size of a normal family home. I fell in love with the house immediately and signed the papers the same day. I wanted a home for me and Shane if that was what it came down to. I hoped I wasn't wrong with my feelings and that he wanted the same thing that I wanted.

The house took until the beginning of May to fully finish with the interior design. The housing offered by Reece's pack was quite affordable and worked with you to furnish them. It was actually a really pleasant experience.

I had been living in the house for a little over a month by the time I got word that Shane was coming back, but there was to be an immediate fight following his return. Even my pack was joining the fight, every able bodied fighter. The non fighters were sent to another wolf's pack for their safety.

That battle was crazy. There were a number of monsters that showed up out of the blue and they were extremely hard to take down. I was fighting alongside my mate, doing my best to protect myself and him.

This battle was the first time that I had seen Shane use his Goddess given powers. He was wielding a sword made out of lightning as well as causing bolts of lightning to flash down and strike the enemies. He was amazing and I found the sight of him fighting to be so sexy.

Following the battle, though, we learned that Shane's brother had been badly injured.

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Shane

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We had rushed home for a fight that we were not fully prepared for. We had sent a rush call to all the Alphas that were around our area and put in a request for them to fight alongside us. We had bear, feline, bird, and wolf shifters on our side. We had the vampires that Dietrich had called in for help. And of course there were the warlocks that Crawford had summoned. We would have had more but we simply didn't have the time to summon them all. Edmond was already on his way.



The battle was hard, that was for certain. The monsters that looked almost the same as the last ones had been strengthened by magic. They were much harder to destroy than the last two times we had fought them.

Then, there was the new type of monster that Edmond had created. Those strange looking spider beasts were formed from the twisted and molded bodies of people. What kind of person could do that to people? What kind of sick fucking freak could possibly do that?

I fought alongside Falena during the battle. It was the first time I had seen her since the day that I left, and I had ran to her side and kissed her right there in the field before the battle started. I had missed her so much and I never wanted to be apart from her again. This was the woman I wanted to marry, that I wanted to spend the rest of my life with. The woman that fate said was mine.

Once the monsters were finally destroyed, but what looked like Trinity's arrows, we Goddess Guards were all summoned to the field that Trinity and Reece had been fighting at. I learned that Trinity had single handedly killed Edmond. Well, mostly single handedly, the ghosts of her dead siblings had helped her to destroy the man. She had even returned with his head and I will admit, that I shamelessly asked if I could kick it.

Not long after that though, I learned that Shawn had been hurt. I hadn't immediately run to his side like Dietrich did. No, I wasn't able to. I felt like I couldn't move. I felt like there was a part of me that was dying when I heard that Shawn might be dying.

How could I have not known? How did I not know he was hurt? We're twins for crying out loud, wasn't there supposed to be some telepathy thing that told me when my brother was in mortal danger? What kind of brother was I for not knowing that he was hurt?

I was on my knees in the field, the place I had learned what had happened to my brother, when Falena came to my side and put her arms around me.

"He will make it through this, Shane. I know he will."

I had of course introduced my mate to my entire family before I left for France. She loved how close my family was, and how even though I rag on my brother he knows that I love him. It was the way things had always been between us and neither of us were ever willing to change it. My family loved her and she loved them. She didn't even have a problem with Shawn and Dietrich, which made me happy.

Right now though, I was sitting here about to cry with worry over my brother. I was regretting all the times I had made fun of him. And I was telling myself that I should have been nicer to him this entire time.

"Come on, Shane, let's get home and wait for news on Shawn." Lena was pulling me to my feet.

"No, I have to go to the estate. I need to wait for the news there. I need to see him. I have to make sure he will be OK." I could hear the desperation in my voice as I spoke these words.

"Alright, come on, let's go to the estate with the others."

It seemed that a lot of people were going to the estate so I rode in the same car as David. David's mate, Rawlynnne, hadn't been part of the battle and he was anxious to get back soon as well so he wanted to rush back as quickly as I did.

When we got to the estate we were all made to wait in the main sitting room on the first floor. I felt like I was falling apart, like something pivotal to my existence was missing and I would soon cease to exist.

I didn't think something like this would ever happen. Nor did I think that it would affect me this bad if it did happen. Lena tried to get me to sit with her but all I could do was pace the room until I heard that I could finally go see my brother.

I admit that I didn't wait for anyone to come with me. When I was told I could go into Dietrich's room to see Shawn I ran toward the stairs and was already gone before I could think of anyone or anything else.

I ran into the room and to my brother's side. The first thing that I noticed was that there was a massive scar along the side of his face. I felt the tears I had been fighting back this entire time begin to spill over and stream down my cheeks.

"Shawn." I called his name as I fell into the chair next to the bed.

I took his hand in mine and started to talk to him then. The emotions were making my voice thick and hard to understand.

"I'm so sorry Shawn. I'm sorry that I didn't know you were hurt. I'm sorry that I wasn't there to help you, to protect you, to save you. I'm so sorry." I let my head drop as the emotions overwhelmed me. "I'm such a horrible brother."

"You're a wonderful brother." I heard Dietrich's voice from right behind me as he put a hand on my shoulder. "Your brother knows you love him, and he loves you too."

"I wasn't there for him." I cried even harder.

"Neither was I bruder, it's not either of our faults. This is just how life happens sometimes."

"Will he be OK? Is he going to live?" I lifted my head and tried to look at Dietrich through my blurry, tear filled eyes.

"Yes, he will live. But he will be different."

"Different?" I asked him, wondering what he meant. "Are you talking about the scar? Is that permanent?"

"Yes, I believe it is, because of the beast's poison. But I am referring to something else."

"How else will he be different?"

Dietrich then told me that Shawn was going to be a hybrid, he was now part vampire as well as wolf. This made him different from me again.

"I'm losing him." I cried out. "He is going to move on without me."

"He will not leave you, bruder. Shawn and I are staying right here so he can be with his family."

"But we're not the same anymore. We're not twins anymore."

"You are, you're just twins that have grown into different people. Do not worry, Bruder."

I stayed by Shawn's side for a while, but it was clear he would be asleep for a while longer. That was why I decided to leave and head home.

### **Chapter 306 - SIDE STORIES BOOK 1- SHANE AND FALENA CHAPTER 5**

8-10 minutes

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Shane

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When I left Shawn's side, leaving Dietrich's room, I met Lena in the hallway. She had been waiting for me.

"I wanted to give you your privacy. I didn't want to intrude." That both made me happy and broke my heart.

"You're my mate, you could never intrude." I pulled her into my arms and hugged her tight. "I am sorry for losing my composure."

"I understand. I would be just as worried if it were one of my brothers. I can't imagine how you're feeling. You have a bond like no other. You're twins, you shared a womb, you were born together, you were each other's first and best friends. I would be more concerned if you weren't this upset."

"Thank you Lena." I squeezed her tighter, letting her know that I was grateful for her.

"Come on, Shane, let's go home." She had said that earlier too. Did she want me to go back to her place or did she want to come back to mine?

"OK." I agreed nonetheless.

I let Lena drive to wherever it was she wanted to go. I was sitting in the passenger seat with a hand over my eyes so I wasn't really paying attention. We seemed to get to our destination sooner than we should have. This was too close for my apartment and definitely too close for her place.

When I sat up and looked out the windshield at where we were I saw that we were in the driveway of a nice looking house in Reece's new housing development.

"Why are we here?" I asked her with a proper amount of shock in my voice.

"Come with me." She smiled and got out of the car.

I shrugged and followed her. I figured she just wanted me to meet someone or see something so I followed her inside.

The first thing I saw was a really nice entryway with stuff that looked and smelled like it belonged to Lena. The further I went into the house the more I smelled Lena's scent.

There was nice furniture and the place was beautifully decorated with colors that fit the both of us.

"What is this Lena?" I asked her with shock written on my face.

"I wanted to be in Colorado Springs. So, I decided to get a place here."

"You could have moved in with me." I told her, still confused.

"I know, and I thought about that, but then I thought we needed a place that was ours." She smiled at me sweetly. "I'm sorry I did this without talking to you, but I wanted to surprise you too."

"So, this is 'our' place?" I asked her to make sure I was understanding things properly.

"If you want it to be." She was looking nervous now.

"Of course I do. This is amazing Lena. I am so happy that we could have a place together like this."

"I'm glad you're happy."

I hugged her again, a smile spreading across my face that I didn't think would come back anytime soon. This was amazing. Dietrich said Shawn would be OK and Lena wanted us to move in together. I was the happiest man alive right now.

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Falena

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The day after I had shown Shane our new house, which he loved, I took him to go meet Landon. Landon had insisted I bring him since he didn't have a chance to meet him during the battle. Actually I was really surprised that Landon had gone to the fight. He hardly ever left the pack house or the office.

Today, however, Landon was back home but not working. He was recovering his energy from the fight we had all participated in. So, just before lunch I drove the two of us to meet Landon, my Alpha.

Shane looked nervous as we got out of the car and I led him to the door. He probably thought that Landon was going to have a problem with me being with a wolf, which was ridiculous. There were fewer felines than wolves so we never questioned a mate bond. The Goddess provided our mates for us and we accepted them with no complaints. Or at least most of us did.

I swear I think Shane was sweating when I led him into Landon's office. I think this was like the equivalent of meeting my parents, which Shane had already done. My mom and dad loved him by the way and both of my brothers had approved of him as well.

"Landon, I'm coming in." I said as I opened the door without knocking.

"Hey Lena, how're things?" Landon was sitting comfortably on the couch in his office for once. He didn't have a pen or a stack of files sitting in front of him.

"I brought someone to meet you." I smiled at him.

"Oh, the infamous mate." Landon got to his feet and walked over.

Landon was a good guy, and a great friend, but he was also like a protective older brother to me. He took my safety pretty seriously when we were kids and that never went away.

"So, wolf, I hear you mated with my Beta. You know she's like a kid sister to me right?"

"No, no I did not know that." Shane sounded scared, he didn't want Landon to disapprove of him. I knew he wasn't afraid of a fight, Shane would be more than capable of handling that, I think it was the relationship aspect that scared him so much.

"You're going to treat her right, aren't you?" Landon glared at Shane and there had been a menacing growl in his voice.

"Of course I will." Shane stopped sounding nervous and started sounding offended when Landon asked him that. "I love her and I will never do anything to hurt her."

"That's what I wanted to hear." Landon laughed then and held his hand out toward Shane who took it with a confused look on his face. "I was just giving you a hard time. I'm glad to finally meet you, Shane. Welcome to the family."

Following that awkward exchange we had lunch with Landon. After that I took Shane for a walk around the lake that was outside the pack house, we walked hand in hand. It has always been a place for me to find comfort and solace and I wanted to share that with Shane.

We were on the far side of the lake, near the trees, when Shane stopped and looked at the water. It was like he was trying to figure something out but was having trouble with it.

"Is something the matter?" I asked him. My arm had been pulled slightly as he stopped and I kept walking.

"Lena." He pulled me toward him, a smile on his face. "I love you." He had told Landon he loved me, which shocked me because we had barely said the words to each other, it was still a shock every time I heard it. But right now it was like he was being extra affectionate.

"I love you too, Shane." I was still a little nervous when I said those words, I hadn't expected this to ever happen for me.

Shane hugged me to him then kissed my lips gently. His arms around me felt like the most natural thing in the world. When he broke the kiss I watched in shock as he smoothly lowered himself to one knee as he held my hand.

"Falena, I love you. I love you more than I ever thought it was possible to love someone. There isn't a thing on this planet I wouldn't do for you. I want to spend all the rest of my days with you by my side. I want to fall asleep next to you and wake up to your beautiful face every day. I want to start a family with you and I want to grow old with you. Will you marry me?"

While he was speaking Shane had smoothly pulled out a box from his pocket. Inside the little black box as a ring. The ring was beautiful with a large oval shaped diamond in the middle and smaller flecks of diamonds on the white gold band.

"Are you sure?" I asked him, still nervous that I might be hallucinating all of this.

"I want nothing more than to marry you."

"Then my answer is yes. I want to marry you Shane. Yes. Oh Goddess yes." I felt like jumping for joy, which is probably why I jumped straight into Shane's arms when he stood up with a big grin on my face.

I couldn't believe this. I was marrying Shane. I was marrying the man that I had fallen in love with and had mated with. This was wonderful.

We set to planning the wedding and decided to get married on September first, it was my grandfather's birthday and he had recently passed away, so it would be a wonderful way to include him on my big day. Plus, I was going to make Landon be there, no matter what.

### **Chapter 307 - SIDE STORIES BOOK 1- SHANE AND FALENA CHAPTER 6 (MATURE)**

9-11 minutes

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Shane

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I know that I was currently the happiest man in the world. I was getting married today and nothing could ruin this for me or my mate. I had had a birthday party just this past weekend with my brother to celebrate, I was now twenty-seven years old. My mate and I were doing great and I would never take any of this for granted.

I was happy, though, that my wedding wasn't later in the month. For some reason my selfish brother was leaving for Germany for half a year. He didn't tell me why, but I guessed it had to do with Dietrich and the vampires. Still, he was here today and was able to act as my best man.

Though, I was a little concerned for my brother. He had been feeling sick to his stomach for the last couple of days. Was his married life already getting to him? Was Dietrich being too hard on him? I really didn't want to think about my brother's sex life, but I also didn't want my brother feeling worn out and sick afterwards.

Still, it was my day and I would worry about Shawn another day. Maybe some time away from the pack would do him some good. And I would make sure that I went to check on him before the day was over.

The wedding started around noon. It was a medium sized wedding with all our family and friends there to celebrate with us. We held the wedding in the same clearing where everyone else was having theirs recently.

Lena came walking out of the trees wearing a beautiful white gown that dragged across the golden carpeted path. Landon had come to the wedding, because Lena had made him act as the justice of the peace for us so he was officiating our wedding.

The ceremony was perfect, the reception that followed was filled with wonderful food and dancing. It was kind of funny to see Reece carrying Trinity so that she couldn't dance by herself. He really was doting on her. I wanted to be that kind of husband to Lena, doting and caring. Shawn often told me I was whipped but I didn't care. My life was dedicated to my love, aside from my duties as a guard.

I was happier than I could have expressed with how this wedding had gone.

We went on a small week long honeymoon to Guadalajara. There was a remote cabin in the forests there that was owned by the pack and it would be nice to have the opportunity to run around in our fur coats for a little bit.

We flew out the night of the wedding and were in the cabin by the next morning. I carried Lena over the threshold of the cabin and into the small living room. I was happy to see that the cabin had been fully prepared before our arrival. It was cleaned and the kitchen was fully stocked.

Since we had spent our wedding night travelling, I guess I could count this morning's arrival as my wedding night. It was for that matter that I didn't set Lena down until we were in the cabin's one bedroom.

We had both worn loose and comfortable clothes for travelling. It didn't take me long to have us both stripped out of them and for me to be hovering over my new wife.

"I love you." I whispered the words into her ear before kissing her cheek.

I wanted to make love to her long and slow. I was in no rush to leave this bed at all. So I kissed slowly down to her chest and made my way to her breast. I took my time to lick, suck, and nibble all over her breasts. I left a trail of hickies as I went lower and lower toward her beautiful, dripping core.

When I had settled myself between her thighs I first kissed lightly at the top of her slit. Then I blew cold air onto her over heated core, drawing a shudder from her. When I finally lapped at her with one long stroke of my tongue I heard Lena moan above me.

I took my time devouring her. I lapped at her center taking in all the wonderful juices that she had there for me. Her moans, her screams, and the hands she had fisted in my hair told me that she was enjoying herself as much as I was.

Soon, her moans got higher and louder. She was on the edge of her climax, but I wasn't going to force it, she could cascade over the edge when she was ready. I kept the rhythm I was already at and soon enough she came screaming my name and flooding my mouth.

Following my meal I kissed and licked my way back up her body. I slowly made my way back to her neck and the place where I had marked her. I licked that mark once, getting a moan from her. Once I was in position I fitted myself against her entrance.

Right before I entered her I bit down on that sensitive mark I had left on her neck. She screamed and wrapped her arms and legs around me right as I thrust forward. I sunk my shaft all the way to the hilt while she still clung to me.

"SHANE!" She screamed my name again and made me purr in satisfaction.

Following that first intrusion onto her body I pulled back slowly. When just the tip of my erection was left in her tight clenching core I thrust forward again causing her to scream again, this time incoherently.

I created a steady rhythm that was casual but mind blowing. We both started ascending the pleasure mountain at a leisurely pace. It was something that I could have kept up all day, and thought I probably would.

In and out, in and out, the gentle thrusting was eventually driving me to the point of oblivion. Right when I felt that I could take no more I slipped a hand down between our bodies, pinching gently but firmly on that bundle of nerves at the top of her slit. That pinch and once final thrust was enough to take us both over.

She screamed my name again while her core squeezed me so hard it was almost excruciating. While her orgasmic waves milked me for everything I had I threw my head back and roared my pleasure, just like I had the first night we had been together.

I wasn't nearly satisfied enough. That was the first time I had had sex with my 'wife', before then she was just my girlfriend. I needed to make up for lost time.

Neither of us slept at all that day or night. Not until the wee hours of the next morning when we both finally passed out from exhaustion. It was the best day of my life, aside from the previous one where I had actually married this super sexy, wonderfully mind blowing woman.

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Falena

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The morning after Shane and I first got to Mexico we woke to a pleasant surprise. Shane had just about screamed with joy when he woke up.

"FALENA!" He shouted, waking me out of a sound sleep.

When I had opened my eyes I saw that he was looking at me with the biggest grin I had ever seen.

"What the hell?" I yelled at him as I tried to settle my racing heart from his uncalled for wakeup call.

"Lena." He said my name again, his grin getting wider and wider.

"What is it?" I was getting nervous again.

"How do you feel?" He asked me as he leaned forward, placing his face against my stomach.

"Tired and cranky, thanks to you." I was giving him the full force of my grumpy attitude.



"Are you sure you're not feeling anything else?" He asked me then proceeded to inhale deeply right around my belly button.

"What are you talking about? What's gotten into you?"

"Just pure joy, that's all. Pure joy at the thought of me being a daddy."

I felt my heart stop right then and there. What did he just say? He was going to be a what now?

"What did you just say?"

"I said I was happy and filled with joy because I was going to be a daddy."

"And why do you think that?" Though I thought I already knew, since he inhaled deeply at my stomach again.

"I can smell the baby in you."

The rest of our honeymoon wasn't nearly as eventful as the beginning of it. Thank the Goddess for that. And when we got back we continued our lives the way we had planned, only now we were preparing for a new addition.

Just about a week or so before I was due, at the end of February, Shawn and Dietrich came back from their time away. They came with four babies that looked just like them. At first we all thought that they had had two sets of twins born to surrogates. But then we found out that the babies were born from them via c-section on Valentine's day. That was something that nearly blew my mind.

I was happy for them though. It was a joyous occasion to have such a wonderful family. And the four of those babies were my nieces and nephews and would play with my little boy all the time.

Just shy of two weeks after Shawn and Dietrich brought their babies home I was being taken to the hospital to have my son. Shane was a wreck and kept alternating between happy and nervous the entire time. The moment I started to push, he passed out in the delivery room.

Our son was born late in the afternoon, nine pounds and seven ounces, twenty-two inches long. He was a big boy. Our little Kaiden. I loved him from the minute I knew about him, but seeing him was just something else entirely.

## **Chapter 308 - SIDE STORIES BOOK 1- CEDAR AND ACACIA CHAPTER 1**

9-11 minutes

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Acacia

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I was currently preparing to leave the Fae compound, my first time ever being let out. We used to live in a magical mound that was hidden away from the humans, but as time went on we migrated to living

inside houses instead of in underground castles. I barely remember living in the ground, but I much prefer living in the light of the sun every day.

I am a Dryad so I love being out where the sun could hit my face. When I was in my woodland form I liked to sun my leaves and branches as I sat by the lake in the back of the compound.

This was the first time that I have ever been given permission to leave home, even though I was nearly ninety years old. The reason I never left was because our Queen didn't often give her permission to leave.

Some would run away of course, and when they came back they would be punished for having left without the Queen's approval. I had seen what her punishments could be like so I never wanted to experience them for myself.

There was an upside though. The Queen had been willing to accept more and more of modern society into our daily lives and she was even more accepting of the other races of nonhumans.

She used to have a vampire friend named Dietrich who was helping to introduce her to the world around us. He had told her that she was too stuck in her ways and that she needed to embrace life, not flee from it. Since she had met him I had noticed her wrath became less destructive. Still, she didn't like being disobeyed.

I think Dietrich was a good influence on our Queen, and I am sure he was a consort of hers, a lover that she treasured dearly. But alas, Dietrich could not be tied down for too long, he had his own people to govern.

Enough about the past though. I was finally getting to leave the compound. I was selected to be one of Queen Gloriana's envoys at a wedding for a wolf Alpha. She didn't often send envoys to things like this, but this Alpha was from a pack that for some reason held a high amount of significance to our Queen.

Their previous members had helped us in more than one way and this particular pack was also the largest and most powerful wolf pack in the country. And I had heard rumors that the new Alpha's mate was a half witch and that meant she could do magic like I could. I wonder if we would be allowed to become friends.

Now that I was granted permission to leave I could come and go as I please. This trip out for the wedding was opening new doors for me that I had feared I would never have. I was beyond excited.

When we got to the wedding, Breon wanted us to stay away from all of the shifters, at least as much as possible. Breon was the leader of our envoy. Essentially he was the boss during this trip.

But, can you imagine the surprise I got when I felt something inside of me begin to be drawn by something that felt like a magnet. There was a pull inside of me trying to draw to me a man that I saw standing and staring at me. The man was tall, and handsome with ashy blond hair and bright green eyes that made me think of leaves in the summer sun. His eyes and hair almost seemed to match me.

However, not everyone was supportive of what I was feeling in this instant. I couldn't believe my ears when Breon objected so vehemently.

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Cedar

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So many things have been happening around me lately. Too many things. It started last year when my sister met her mate and started to move on with her life. I was just happy that her mate and I got along nicely so that I didn't feel like I was being pushed aside and forgotten.

When we first met Trinity I had hoped that at some point we would end up mating. She was beautiful, funny, strong, and sweet. I couldn't help but fall for her. The problem was, she never saw me that way so I was just pining for her in silence.

When she met her mate I actually cried. I had wanted to be with her so badly. Then I found out that her mate was an asshole to her, someone that didn't appreciate the wonderful person she was.

I did everything I could to help Trinity, even after she mated. I knew I never had a chance with her, but I still loved her. I wanted to be there for her even if it would never mean the same for her that it did for me.

Now, here I was at her wedding. And to make matters worse, for me, her mate had only been acting like an asshole. He loved her more than I do, or so it looks like. And now I was crying on the inside because I will never have the chance to be there for her again.

I had somehow made it through the ceremony and was now trying to put on a happy face through the reception. When Trinity's guard Shane stood up the moment a beautiful woman came to introduce herself I nearly lost my composure. How could he have the happiness that I was longing for?

I was looking down at the table when the next group came forward. I smelled something then. Something that was like tree bark and beautiful magnolia flowers.

My head shot up and looked for the source of the scent. There were three men and three women standing before me, but only one of them seemed to be glowing like the sun itself was radiating from her. Her hair was close to the same shade of ashy blonde that I had, and her eyes were a similar shade of green. She was so pretty and looked so sweet, and her complexion was just a little darker than an olive tone. She was perfect.

"Again?"

"Another one?"

"What's going on?"

"How is this happening?" I could hear these whispers as the wedding guests stared at me while I stood there standing like an idiot.

"It seems this is a very fortunate day. Cedar, it appears your mate is among this envoy from the Fae. Will you all please join us up here." Reece invited the other group and me to join him where he was.

I moved as if hypnotized, unable to take my eyes off of her. Then, something happened that angered me.

"This is impossible." An exotic looking man with golden eyes and a beautiful mahogany complexion spoke with disbelief, disdain, and anger in his voice.

"How is it impossible?" Reece smiled at the man. "This is a wonderful thing to have happened. An event so filled with love that it is spreading to those around us."

"It is not right that one of us should mate with a shifter. We are not of the same type of people. This is not proper." His exoticly accented voice was trying to nullify everything that was happening for me.

"Is the Fae Queen against a relationship like this, Breon?" Reece asked him, slight anger in his voice.

"She does not usually approve." The man named Breon answered.

"I admit it has been quite some time since I have met with Gloriana, but when last we spoke she was more open to a new world way of thinking." Dietrich stood up from the table that I have been sitting at. "I am certain that she would have no problem with the union. The Fae have mixed with humans, why not another powerful species?"

"It has never been done." Breon told him. "You simply would not understand."

"I understand more than you think." Dietrich smiled down at Shawn as he spoke, causing Shawn to blush under his gaze. "I have recently mated within this pack myself."

"You, Dietrich, the leader of all vampires is allowing yourself to be sullied like this."

"Breon! Stop this." The beautiful girl that I couldn't take my eyes off of yelled. "I am certain that Queen Glory would have no problem with it at all." She turned and smiled at me then.

"Acacia, you understand nothing." That was her name? Acacia? So pretty.

"I understand everything Breon. I am the one who feels what the spirits are telling me."

"I trust in Casey." Another woman in the group chimed in. "We must follow not just our hearts, but also the whims of the spirits and gods. We are but pawns in this world for them to move at their leisure."

"Thank you River." Acacia smiled at her, it seemed Casey was a nickname for her.

"Is this truly what you wish to do? To lower yourself to this point?"

"It seems to me Breon, that you are the only one with a bias here. Believe in the powers that lead us all. That is all we can do, is it not." Trinity spoke up, unable to remain quiet any longer.

The man Breon looked at my Luna and first love in disbelief. He simply was not understanding it yet.

"How can you all not see what is happening here?" He asked in desperation.

"You have not been mated yet have you Breon?" Breon shook his head. "Then you would not understand the feeling you have when you are with your mate. The sense of completion, the feeling of being at home no matter where you are. You would not understand the longing you feel for that person even with the first meeting. You would not understand the sense of peace you feel when looking at them, seeing the love and adoration you feel reflected back in their eyes as well. I am sorry that you have never felt that, Breon, and I ask the Moon Goddess to help you with finding you mate soon."

"That may happen sooner than you think." A strange, gravelly voice spoke out and rang through the entire reception.

Following that the newcomers told us Trinity was the new Luna Queen and Goddess Incarnate. I always knew she was special. But I had a mate now, and she was all I had eyes for.

## **Chapter 309 - SIDE STORIES BOOK 1- CEDAR AND ACACIA CHAPTER 2**

8-10 minutes

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Acacia

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Breon was still having a fit at the end of the wedding. He kept telling me that there was no way that Queen Gloriana would allow me to mate with a wolf. But there were things he didn't know. There were things that Breon wasn't privy to simply because he was not a woman.

Like, he didn't know that my cousin Aaron had been with a wolf. He was a pixie, unlike me who is a Dryad, but we are both nature Fae and we both mated with a wolf. Well, Aaron less mated and more toyed with one but that's different. Being a pixie made Aaron a natural trickster.

Mine wasn't a trick though. I could feel the nature spirits all around me telling me that Cedar was my mate. And just his name fit me so well. Cedar was a type of tree and my names, Acacia and Aspen were both trees as well. We were literally made for each other.

I wished that Breon would just be happy for me. I wished he would just let me live my life the way that I wanted.

The first step was for me to get to know Cedar, and the second step was for me to introduce him to my Queen. I was excited for her to meet him. And I really wanted to tell her that Cedar's Luna, who just got married at the wedding that I had attended, was a Queen as well. She was the Luna Queen, the Goddess Incarnate. This new development would be amazing and special.

I told Breon I was staying in town following the wedding, that was something that had angered him but he had no choice but to accept it. I saw him and the others off at the door of our hotel room and waited until I could see the man that was my new mate. He had promised me that he was coming to see me the day after the wedding.

I didn't have to wait long. It was maybe twenty minutes after everyone else left that I heard the knock on the door. I was so excited to see him that I actually jumped off the bed and ran toward the door.

When I pulled the door open I saw him standing there, his handsome face, his gorgeous eyes, and a sweet, sweet smile. I felt myself smile as well and the warmth from the mating began to spread through me.

"Hi." I said in a breezy voice.

"Hey." Cedar smiled at me in return. "I was hoping that you would like to go out on a date."

"Of course." I grabbed my jacket and purse that were sitting by the door and was out before he had said anything else.

Cedar took my hand naturally and held it all the way out of the building. He led me to a blue car that was parked out front and opened the door for me. So far he was being the perfect gentleman. He drove us out to a remote spot near the river. There was a clearing where the water cut through.

I had just had time to think that it was the perfect place to have a picnic when I saw Cedar pulling a blanket and a basket out of the trunk of his car. He had the same thought I had apparently. I like that we thought alike.

Cedar and I worked together to spread the blanket out on the banks of the river. He told me to sit while he pulled out the food. He had brought a few different types of sandwiches, some crackers and cheese, bowls filled with fruit, and bottles of juices and water.

"I didn't know what you would like so I brought you a few different options."

"That's so sweet of you, thank you."

Soon, we had started eating and with that came talking and getting to know each other. I wanted to know everything I could about Cedar, what he liked, where he liked to go, if he had ever had any relationships. We sat and talked for hours on the banks of the river, learning about each other.

I learned that he had one sister, a twin, who he was very close to his whole life. He was protective of her and his friends and family. He was studying to be a cop and wanted to work as a warrior in the pack. He was a loving and caring person.

I found out that we had similar tastes in music and movies. Not to mention that Cedar liked to read, which was one of my favorite things to do. We both also liked to dance, and I made Cedar promise to take me dancing sometime.

Sometimes, there is just nothing better than learning about someone new.

"Cedar, you will come with me, won't you?" He was looking at me while I spoke.

"To where?" He didn't seem to get what I was asking.

"To meet my Queen."

"If that is what you want, then of course." His smile was so sweet and so sincere, but I detected a hint of something hotter and darker in there as well.

"I want her to meet you and to approve of you. I know she won't object though. This is a true mating, I can feel it." I know I was grinning, and I hoped he didn't find it off putting.

"I'm glad you're so happy, Casey." I loved that he was using the nickname that those close to me used. It made this moment feel that much more special. I couldn't get enough of this, enough of him.

"Casey? He asked me after a little while.

"Yeah?" I looked at him, curiosity in my eyes.

"Are you going to stay here in Colorado Springs?" He looked worried about this, like he thought I was going to leave.

"I was planning on it. I won't want to force you to leave your family. I want to stay near you."

"Won't you feel sad though? Leaving your family and all."

"I've been with my family longer than you have been with yours." He looked at me in shock then.

"Really?" I thought we looked about the same age." He was certainly confused now.

"In terms of physical appearance, we are about the same age. But we Fae age much slower than humans and wolves."

"So, how much older than me are you?" He looked at me curiously. "No, I'm sorry, don't answer that, it's not polite." I laughed at him then.

"It's true most women don't like being asked their age, but I don't mind. I am eighty-nine years old."

"SERIOUSLY?!" He shouted in his shock. I would not have guessed you that old, I seriously thought you were nineteen. Personally, I just turned twenty." He was holding the side of his head and laughing then.

"Is this a problem, that I am so much older?"

"Goddess no." His voice was filled with force when he said those words. "I don't care if you're twenty, ninety, or five hundred. Age is a number but a bond is eternal." He looked so sincere when he told me that, it almost made me cry.

"Really?"

"Yeah, really. Though I think it might be a little sad that I will get old and you will stay young forever. But when I am old and gray I can just look like some super rich dude with a hot young wife." We both laughed at that and the conversation just continued in an easy manner.

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Cedar

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I couldn't believe my luck. I had found that mate that was perfect for me. Maybe I had just been drawn to Trinity so much because she would someday lead me to finding my mate? That would be an interesting way to look at all the heartache I had silently suffered for the last several months.

Still, I forgot all about that the instant that I met Casey. She was the most beautiful woman I had ever seen. She was sweet and kind, and just all around perfect.

I loved the smile on her face when I asked her to come on this picnic with me. I had felt the elation that just being close to her and touching her was causing for me. I felt myself being drawn to her every second that I was near her, like she had some sort of Cedar magnet and was pulling me along with her.

I was hopeless and I knew it. Still, I wouldn't object. I was happy to be hopeless. I had been longing for my mate for so long now that I was beginning to lose my hope.

The longer we talked, the more I listened to her sweet, sweet voice the more I longed for her. I couldn't help myself. I was being pulled in, I could feel the strength of that force and there was no reason for me to fight it.

We were sitting side by side on the banks of the river and I was watching her talk while she looked out over the water. I saw her lips moving, forming the words. I saw the pucker of her lips as she bit into a grape, the juices dripping down her chin. Then the slow and sexy way that her finger moved as it caught the juices before then got too far and the pink flash of her tongue as it slowly licked the droplets from her finger.

I could see it all, as if she were moving in slow motion. It was so perfect, so sweet, so erotic. I felt a heat, a passion began to burn inside of me that was so intense that I thought I would truly catch fire.

My lips itched to press against her. My tongue longed to lap away the juices that had spilled down her chin and that would spill elsewhere as well. My dick hardened at the thought of seeing, touching, and entering her body.

I couldn't take it anymore.

### **Chapter 310 - SIDE STORIES BOOK 1- CEDAR AND ACACIA CHAPTER 3 (MATURE)**

8-10 minutes

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Cedar

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I was slowly being drawn toward Casey, towards her mouth, her lips. I felt the tugging pull inside me and I didn't fight it. She turned toward me as I approached her, my closeness alerting her to what was happening.

"Cedar-?" She started to speak, perhaps to ask me what I was doing, but I didn't give her the chance. I cut off her words by pressing my lips against hers. Just the feeling of her lips was enough to drive me insane and I was absolutely nowhere near done.

She gasped at the suddenness of the kiss and I used that opportunity to slide my tongue into her mouth. She moaned slightly as I leaned even more over her, sliding my hand up her back and to the nape of her neck. In that one movement I was already sliding myself over to her, against her, and over top of her.

Before I knew it Casey was laying on her back, my left hand bracing my weight and holding me off of her, my right hand was still touching her but it had now moved to rest on her cheek.



I didn't know what had taken over me, why I was being so forward, why my body was so hungry and needy, but I wasn't about to stop this or complain. If Casey was right there with me then I had no intention of stopping at all.

I had been exploring her mouth for the last several minutes, our tongues entangled and our breathing speeding up to match our heart rates. When I finally broke the kiss it wasn't so that I could pull away. No I just kissed down her jaw until I could lick, suck, and kiss at her neck.

I bit down gently and sucked at the skin on her neck. I knew that was going to leave a mark but I didn't care, she was mine and a hickey would show that off to everyone. In the process of leaving the mark I had caused Casey to moan again, the sound of that moan caused my erection to get even larger, tightening the fit of my jeans even more.

My hands started to move on their own, with no conscious thought from me. Actually, my entire body was moving on its own. I was suddenly straddling Casey's legs as I leaned over her, still kissing her neck. My hands were swiftly moving down the front of her shirt, exposing her chest to the chilled twilight air and my roaming fingers.

As I had begun to spread her shirt open I moved my mouth down her chest, licking and biting a small path down to the lacy front of her bra. When I reached the thin layer of fabric I pulled away to ask her one thing.

"Casey, do you want me to stop?"

"No, Cedar, don't stop." Her voice was breathy and seductive and acted like a whip to spur me on. I gave into my desires then.

I pulled her into a half sitting position, holding her in my arms while I slid the shirt from her shoulders and undid the clasp of her bra. The straps of the bra were then pulled down her arms as I laid her back down against the soft blanket.

My mouth latched onto her right breast while my right hand went to play with the other. My left hand was lonely and wanted to play too, so I decided to continue to play down the side of her body until my hand reached her waist band.

With what seemed to be skill and precision learned from many years of experience I managed to unfasten the button holding the soft denim around her waist closed. It was just a lucky shot as I wasn't as experienced as I was telling myself that I was. I wanted to do what I could to make her feel good. To make her happy. To be the lover that she wanted and deserved.

With the waistband opened I managed to slide my hand inside, down the front of the jeans and into the soft silky panties that she was wearing. I heard a moaning gasp when she felt my fingers slide against her dripping wet core.

"Cedar." She moaned my name as I worked her over. My mouth sucking and biting at one breast while my fingers pinched and pulled at the other and then there were my fingers that were currently making a scissoring motion as they explored her depths. She cried my name out like that over and over again.

I couldn't take it anymore. I pulled away from her. That was a motion that earned me a pouting whimper from her.

"Shh. Don't worry baby, I'm not done yet."

"Hurry." Her urgency was making my wolf grin, I could feel his excitement as he panted and pawed inside my head.

I quickly pulled my t-shirt over my head and stripped away my jeans and boxers. When Casey saw the erection that I freed I saw both fear and excitement spread across her face and cloud her eyes. Now that is a look that any man would be happy to see on the face of his mate.

With my clothes now removed I worked swiftly, yet gently, to remove Casey's clothes. The sight of her lying there, naked beneath me, had me drooling and panting with need and desire.

I leaned over her and pressed my lips to her again while spreading her legs wide with my thighs. I slid my hand to her core and pressed my finger against her opening. While my tongue danced with hers I pressed my hand forward. Casey shuddered and moaned from the feeling of my invasion which caused a fresh wave of her juices to flow into the palm of my hand.

I felt the need to taste her then, to enjoy the bountiful meal she was so graciously providing for me. With some reluctance I pulled my lips away from her and moved as fast as I could to her core.

The first thing I did was lap the juices from my hand, then I set my tongue against her slit. I licked in a few long, slow motions that drew screaming cries from her. I enjoyed the taste as well as the music that I was getting from her.

I was getting a little impatient but I also didn't want to stop until I pleased her completely. I licked, sucked and gently bit onto the bundle of nerves at the top of her slit, I did all that while pumping in and out of her with my fingers. First one, then two, and now three. I was working her over pretty hard and she was just panting and moaning, gasping for air as she felt her pleasure and moved closer and closer to her climax.

She was clenching around my fingers tighter now, the thrusting invasion of my hand was being slowed due to her inner walls swelling and flexing while the waves of her orgasm crashed. With one last swipe of my tongue she came apart at the seams as well as into my mouth. I had pulled my fingers out of her at the last second so I could lap at the sudden rush of her fluids that poured from her heated body.

While she gasped for air to once again settle her body I slid to her opening. My erection now in dire need of release. I didn't give her time to settle her body before I was already ramming into her.

I thrust hard and fast into her, driving into her all the way to the hilt. I could feel her innermost barrier and delighted in the fact that we were a perfect fit for each other. She was my shaft's ideal sheath and I would never let anyone else touch her in the way that I was.

I thought about nothing but need and desire as I set my rhythm. It was fast and steady, driving her and I both toward the edge. I was breathing heavily above her, she was panting and moaning beneath me.

As I continued to thrust into her she wrapped her legs around my waist, a move that had me driving even deeper into her. Then she wrapped her arms around my neck, pulling me down toward her.

While I continued to pound in and out of her glorious body she planted her lips against mine and kissed me fiercely. We kept that position while I thrust in and out.

Again and again I rammed into her tight body. I could feel her tightening again, just as my spine began to tingle and my balls tightened. She was going to come again, and this time I would come with her.

A few dozen more thrusts and I was there. My climax hit just a second after hers. She screamed my name and her inner walls squeezed me hard.

"CEDAR!" When her body clenched tightly around me it was all that I needed to send me over the edge and cause me to growl her name.

"Casey!" We let the waves of oblivion wash over us as we both collapsed on the blanket.

It took several minutes for our breathing to regulate and for either of us to move again. I slid from her, a move that elicited another moan from her.

"Cedar." She smiled and sighed my name.

"Acacia." I smiled and used her full first name in lieu of the nickname I had been using.

We rested there for a few more minutes before we cleaned ourselves up and got dressed. I drove her back to the hotel, where she asked me to come up for a drink. I stayed so long that we ended up ordering room service for dinner and I stayed for seconds from this afternoon, it was the perfect dessert for any meal.