

Chosen by Fate 311

Chapter 311 - SIDE STORIES BOOK 1- CEDAR AND ACACIA CHAPTER 4

Cedar

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Things got a little busy after my date with Casey. I went to the pack estate with Paul in preparation for a trip to visit the Warlocks. I may not feel like I was in love with Trinity anymore, not since I met Acacia, but she was still a good friend of mine. I would still love her in a way, I always would, and because I would always love her like family I would do what I could to help her. Not to mention she was my Luna Queen after all.

What surprised me the most about that visit to the estate was joining the Goddess Guard. Not only that but I was named as Reece's second Gamma and Paul and I were both granted abilities by Trinity. Paul could see where someone's true strength lies so he could train them better and I could control foliage like trees and plants. That was pretty awesome if I do say so myself.

After the new powers were granted to me and Paul we ended up leaving to head to the Aerie Convento, riding on Reece's private helicopter and making it there before everyone else. When we got there we had to prove ourselves in more ways than one.

First came proving ourselves head Warlock then we were almost immediately launched into a battle against some strange beasts that the evil sadistic bastard we were searching for had created.

And during that battle I had learned that Trinity was pregnant. Well, she had been. During the fight she had been injured and the baby was lost.

I used my new powers along with Trinity's cousin to help rebuild the headquarters for the Warlocks but we had to stay elsewhere that night. We all went to a resort and stayed for the night. During that time, Trinity ascended again. She was now not just the Queen of Shifters but also the Queen of the Warlock and Witches.

The next I was part of Trinity's group that rescued the kids that had been kidnapped. We had accomplished our mission and done what we wanted to do, casualties notwithstanding. Things could have ended better, yes, but they also could have been a lot worse.

There was a lot going on in the pack following that trip, but I wasn't part of it. I was a Gamma now but I was not one of Trinity's personal guards. Maybe I would be eventually but I was not yet.

That's fine though, the personal guards to Trinity were leaving for France and no one really knew how long they were going to be gone. Noah, Trinity's cousin, was staying behind to run the pack. And since Vincent, Trinity's guard and the first Gamma, was going with them I was responsible for helping Noah run the pack in Trinity and Reece's stead.

The pack was not an unruly one, so it didn't require too much work to make it all happen. And since Noah was a very confident overachiever I was not given too much work to do. Because of that, I was given permission to accompany my new mate to her home and meet her family, and her Queen.

To say that I was nervous to be meeting the Queen of the Fae was an understatement. I mean, who wouldn't be nervous about meeting a two thousand year old queen that looks like she is maybe thirty or forty years old. According to Casey she is an eternal beauty who has ruled for over a millennium. What the hell was I supposed to say to the woman?

I was nervous as fucking hell! But I wouldn't let that stop me. I wanted to be with my mate. I needed to be with her. I would never abandon her. I would never reject her. I would make her the most important woman to me in the entire world. So, I guess I was about to meet the Queen.

Can someone promise me this wouldn't be like the Queen that Alice had met? I don't want to hear anyone say off with his head.

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Acacia

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A lot had happened since I had met Cedar. He was a wonderful guy, and an excellent lover. He was strong and had a sense of justice that was hard to rival.

Not to mention, he was part of his Queen's Goddess Guard and had been granted an ability. When I told my Queen that my new mate could do plant magic she didn't believe me at first. She said she would expect a demonstration when I brought him to meet her. But seriously, how perfect was that?

I am a Dryad, all of my magic revolves around trees and plants. Now to have met a mate, a wolf mate at that, who could use similar magic. We must have been made for each other. This was wonderful.

We were on our way now, heading toward the private compound that was the home of all the Fae that didn't live in the human world. I could tell the Cedar was nervous, but he really didn't have a reason to be. Queen Gloriana was going to love him.

When Cedar pulled his car to a stop outside the gate Valoc was the one on guard duty. That was a tiny bit awkward for me since Valoc had been my first boyfriend, but we had remained friends after it.

"Good morning Acacia. I see you have returned. Is this the new soulmate that we have all heard about?" Valoc didn't sound any different than usual which was good.

"Indeed it is." I smiled at Cedar, showing my growing love for him. "I've come to introduce him to my family and to Queen Gloriana."

"Well, don't let me hold you up. Have fun you two." Valoc grinned and opened the gate for us.

"Is it me, or were his words a little ominous?" Cedar questioned as he started to drive forward.

"You're just being nervous. Relax." I soothed him as best as I could. "Everyone will love you."

"But, don't most Fae think like Breon? Don't they think that having a non Fae mate is a bad thing?" There was worry clearly dripping from those words.

"Some do. I admit that. But there are a lot that don't care. There are two factions among us Fae. Those that cling desperately to the past and the old ways, and those that are embracing a more accepting and varied future. We can't hope to remain strong as a whole if we do not evolve with the times, can we?"

"Having a different species for a mate is a little different than evolving with the times." He was laughing when he said that, like he thought I had been funny.

"Not to me. We used to be a closed off society that only bred within our own people. But that will severely limit us, don't you think? There will never be any new blood and everything will eventually get sullied. We need to bring in fresh faces and fresh genetics so that we can continue to grow and expand."

"Not to sound rude, but you know about genetics?" He looked confused.

"Several of us have been to college. I have been educated. And the books of the outside world have been brought in here for us to read. I may not have any hands- on experience but I have read medical texts for the last fifty years. It's fascinating to see how much things have advanced over that time."

"That is both really cool and very strange." He was laughing again. "You've been researching science since before I was born." He laughed even louder then. "I have myself a cougar."

"No, I'm a Dryad not a feline." How could he ever mix me up with a cat shifter?

"That's not what I meant." I don't know how he managed to continue driving with how much he was laughing.

Cedar then explained what a 'cougar' was and I also started to laugh. Well, he wasn't wrong I guess. I couldn't help myself, I laughed as well.

We finished the drive through our compound and went straight to the Queen's castle. Yes she actually lives in a castle at the center of the compound. The castle was the same one that had been in the earth mounds long ago. She had brought it with us when we purchased and enchanted this land.

The castle was large and looked just like the ones out of fairy tales. They really had based those tales off of us. The tall towers and spires. The lovely robins eggs blue. The stained glass that filled the windows. It was all so wonderful and perfect. And I was happy to call that place my home. I had grown up in that castle and I would never tire of seeing it. In there I would find my family: mom, dad, my seventeen brothers and sisters, most of my cousins, not to mention my favorite relative of all, my aunt the Queen.

Chapter 312 - SIDE STORIES BOOK 1- CEDAR AND ACACIA CHAPTER 5

9-11 minutes

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Cedar

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Well, at least there were roads and a garage at the castle. There were even a lot of other cars so I know that we didn't stick out too much. Though, my vehicle was considerably cheap compared to all the others in that garage. And to think, I had not skimmed out when I bought the Mercedes. Damn.

By the time that I had parked the vehicle and was ready to get out and begin my walk toward the castle itself I had mostly calmed down. I had worked up the courage for what was to come. Or at least I think I did.

I walked around the car and opened Casey's door. She took my outstretched hand so that I could help her out of her seat and to her feet. She didn't let go of my hand before walking off toward the door that led us to my doom, I mean the castle.

She held my hand, slightly pulling me along behind her. I could tell she was excited for this meeting and didn't really think that there would be any issues. I hoped she was right.

She led me through that side door which entered into a long hallway. She pulled me along that hallway to and into what looked like the main entry way for the entire castle. I tried to keep up with where she was leading me to but it all passed by in a blur. Before I knew it we were in a huge sitting room.

"Mom!" Casey exclaimed once we were in the room. I saw a large group of people and a lot of them looked like Casey.

"Acacia, sweetheart." The woman who must have been Casey's mom rose to her feet and the two of them ran to hug each other. "Look at you. The first time you leave home you find your soulmate."

"Lucky." A girl who was identical to Casey but had a different smell spoke up. She was smiling but I could sense jealousy coming off of her.

"I'm sorry Willow." Casey ran to her and hugged her tight.

"She's not the only one who is jealous." A man that had the same hair and eyes, even the shape of the eyes, spoke then.

"Birch, you know I won't forget you guys." Casey hugged him next.

"You better not." Another identical man spoke.

"Hickory." I could hear the love and affection in Casey's voice when she said the man's name and hugged him as well. "And I won't forget you either, Hawthorn." Another man had walked up for a hug.

After she hugged the third man Casey turned to look at me.

"Cedar, this is my family. Willow, Birch, Hickory, Hawthorn, and I are quintuplets." I think my mind had just exploded. I knew that Casey had a large family, but she hadn't told me how large.

"Quintuplets?" I asked with shock reverberating through me.

"Yup. Most Dryads have multiples when they get pregnant. My mother had two sets of quintuplets, two sets of triplets and two sets of twins." That many every time? Why did she keep having kids? I think I would have lost my mind.

"That's exciting." I said as evenly as I could.

"Let me introduce you. This is my mother Lotus, my father Ash, and the rest of my siblings here are Poplar, Sequoia, Redwood, Spruce, Elm, Magnolia, Fig, Bark, Maple, Walnut, Cottonwood, Oak, and Fir." I can't remember all of this shit. I would definitely need help keeping them all organized in my head, even though they had all nodded or waved at me when their name had been called out.

"It's nice to meet you all." I grinned at them and tried my best to stay calm. I walked over to Casey's dad, the man named Ash, and held out my hand. "Mr. Aspen, Sir, it's a pleasure and an honor to meet you." I was doing my best to be polite and to present the best possible version of myself that there was.

Despite my best efforts though, Casey's father just glared at me with eyes filled with loathing and other dark things.

"So, you're the man that is stealing my little girl away from me?" He was acting like I was some predator that was taking away his baby. She's eighty-nine years old for crying outloud and she was not an innocent little flower. I'm sure her family has to know that she wasn't going to be a ninety year old virgin.

"I'm not stealing her away Sir, but I do love her and I have mated with her. I intend to be with her forever."

"That sounds a lot like taking her away to me. You plan to make her live out there in that world with you?" His glare intensified even more. I wanted to gulp, I wanted to fold under the pressure of him, but I couldn't I was a Gamma now for crying out loud. I was a member of the Goddess Guard. I would not be intimidated.

"Sir, I-." I was cut off then by Casey's mom, Lotus.

"Oh stop it, Ash. Can't you tell you're scaring the poor boy away. You've had your fun, it's time for us all to get along."

"Aww, come on Lotus, you ruined it." Mr. Aspen was laughing and rubbing the back of his head in embarrassment, but I noticed that his eyes were no longer filled with anger and hatred. What the hell was that. "I had to give you a hard time boy. You've never met any of us and it was an opportunity that I just couldn't pass up."

"R-really?" I wasn't sure how to react right now.

"Come on, loosen up. It was just a joke." With that, Mr. Aspen threw his arm around my shoulder and pulled me into a tight hug. "We've got another member of the family now, after all, it's a time to celebrate."

"Don't worry Cedar, my dad is very nice, he just looks mean." Casey's sweet smile helped to settle my nerves a little.

After that we enjoyed a quick chat with some drinks and snacks. I had been told not to eat anything that a Fae gave you, but I also couldn't refuse. I knew that Casey wouldn't let anything bad happen to me.

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Acacia

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The meeting with my family was going really well. I knew that my dad was going to pull that mean schtick because he had done the same when my older sisters got married. He always pretends to be a hard ass when one of us leave the house.

After we had a light snack it was time for me and Cedar to head to the throne room. I had to follow schedules whenever I visited my aunt since she was not just family she was the one in charge of us all. I couldn't even refer to her as family when we were around other people.

When we were with the other members of the court she was Queen Gloriana, when we were in her private quarters she was Aunt Glory. I love my aunt dearly. She is a wonderful person and I just know that Cedar and her will get along really well.

We walked hand in hand again as I led him down the hall to the throne room. When we went inside I saw that the full court had been assembled. There were six nobles on either side of the long aisle in their lesser throne like seats.

At the far end of the room on a raised dais sat the largest of all the thrones. In that throne was Queen Gloriana. She was sitting there in a flowing white gown that covered everything except her hands and everything from the shoulders up.

Queen Gloriana was gracing us with her beauty right now. Her long, flowing, black hair that reached down to her bottom, the wonderfully luminescent shade of her sky blue eyes, the pale, nearly perfectly white shade of her skin. She was beautiful and wonderful.

When we got to the end of the carpet that led to her throne we both lowered ourselves to one knee, kneeling in respect for her.

"Please rise, children." I didn't know how Cedar would like being called a child right now, but in truth he was a child compared to Queen Gloriana.

I pulled Cedar back to his feet as I fluidly stood, I had been practicing these motions for a long time.

"Good afternoon to you, Queen Gloriana. I am pleased to introduce to you my soulmate, Cedar."

"Is that a joke?" a voice came from my left. It was Jasper, a Gnome that lived up to the nasty human rumors about them. He was an asshole, plain and simple.

"Is what a joke, Sir Jasper?" I hated that I had to use that title for him, he didn't deserve that kind of respect.

"His name of course. Is that meant to be a joke toward us. His name is not really Cedar. You're just using that to make it seem like he is meant to be with you more."

"No, that really is my name. I am Cedar Woods, and my sister is Juniper. We were named after trees."

"Really?" The Queen was quite intrigued. "Everyone is dismissed, I will not have this antagonism in my court right now. Acacia, child, will you and your new soulmate follow me?"

She rose to her feet then and walked to the left side of the hall. It led to a hallway that would go directly to her private room. Cedar seemed nervous now but I still pulled him along beside me. When we got into the room where my aunt could toss aside her royal attitude she turned to look at me with the loving eyes of a family member.

"Casey, my dear sweet niece, I am so happy for you." She held her hands out to me, ready for a hug.

"Huh?" It seemed that Cedar wasn't expecting this development. I don't blame him. I hadn't talked too much about my family, for fear that he would be scared off too soon.

"Cedar, it is a pleasure to meet you. You will take good care of my niece for me, won't you?"

There were some tense moments, but for the most part the meeting with my aunt went well. And she showed an interest in meeting with Cedar's Alpha and Luna, King Reece and Queen Trinity. She like the idea of us uniting our people and forming a strong bond between the Fae and the shifters.

We are going to be staying in the compound for a few days, I think Cedar will adjust to all of this by the time we leave. I hope so anyway.

Chapter 313 - SIDE STORIES BOOK 1- CEDAR AND ACACIA CHAPTER 6

8-10 minutes

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Cedar

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Adjusting to the fact that Casey was the Queen's niece was the biggest struggle I had to come to terms with while I was here in the Fae compound. I had dealt semi easily with the fact that she was one of eighteen siblings. I had come to understand her dad's unique sense of humor. I had learned that her mom was the most caring person there ever was.

Everything was easy for me to understand, everything except that she was technically royalty. How did I not know that before coming here? I wish she would have told me sooner. Then again I might have flipped out if I knew sooner.

I didn't mind though. I had quite enjoyed my time with her family. I had also learned that Casey was one of the youngest in the family. And that each set of the siblings was approximately twenty years apart. The oldest were a set of triplets that were one hundred and fifty-one years old, then the next set the twins aged one hundred and thirty. The first set of quints was next and they were one hundred and eleven. Then Casey's set of quints was eighty-nine, and last was the other triplets that were sixty-eight. Casey's mom and dad were a lot older, three hundred and twenty-seven and four hundred and thirty-two respectively. Apparently age gaps were very common around here.

One day while we were still staying with her family in the castle Casey went shopping with her sisters and her mom asked to speak with me. I would have been nervous if it wasn't for the fact that Lotus was very sweet and kind.

Lotus, who looked so much like Casey, or should I say that Casey looked like her, had asked me to come into the library. I thought it was just going to be the two of us but Ash was waiting for us in the room, a book in his hand while he sat leisurely in an armchair.

"Good of you to join us." Ash smiled as he set his book aside and stood to walk closer to me.

"Cedar, won't you have a seat?" Lotus pointed to a high backed chair next to the fireplace.

"Sure." I was confused as to what was going to happen but I knew better than to be worried.

As soon as I sat down a bookcase on the far side of the library opened and revealed a hidden door. Through the door walked the most ethereal person I had ever seen, Queen Gloriana. I was hurriedly starting to get to my feet when she waved her hand and spoke.

"No need to rise, young man. I am not here as the Queen today. Instead, I am here as a loving family member." She was smiling beautifully at me.

"Your Grace?" I was confused and didn't know how to respond.

"You are mated to my favorite niece. Please don't tell the other eighty-three of them that Acacia is my favorite though." She was laughing and it was a sound that was like lots of tiny musical bells.

"She is my favorite person as well." I was doing my best to speak properly since I was in front of someone who could kill me on a whim.

"She's very special and very dear to me. Would you mind telling me what your intentions are?" There was a serious look in the Queen's eyes now.

"My intentions?" I was confused for a moment. Did they doubt me or something? "I intend to marry her. To be with her forever and take care of her. I want to start a family with her and treat her right for as long as I live." Ash, Lotus, and Queen Gloriana were all three looking at me with big smiles on their faces.

"That is what I wanted to hear." The Queen spoke first.

"I approve." Ash spoke next.

"Yay, a wedding." Lotus was the last to show me her approval.

"I want you to have these." Queen Gloriana held out a box to me.

"What are these?" I asked as I opened the lid. There were three rings sitting inside.

The thinnest of the rings looked a bit like an engagement ring. It was made of light green gold and was not too elaborate. The thin band was only adorned at the top of the ring where it had four very tiny leaves that held a big diamond that was surrounded by a ring of emerald.

The second ring looked like it went with the first one. It was green but had a wider band. The entire ring looked to be made of tiny leaves that formed a circle. The band was also adorned with tiny emerald and diamond flecks. At the top of the ring there was a flower shaped diamond that was held by more leaves. The first ring and this ring looked like they would fit together with tiny little grooves that had been made in them.

The third ring looked like the male equivalent of the second ring. It was thicker than the female ring and lacked the flower shaped diamond. The stones along the band were also a little different. There were no diamonds but there were still emeralds along with sapphires, rubies, and a few more I didn't know the names of just yet.

"Consider this a gift from me. The rings have belonged to my family for a long time. They have been cleaned and slightly updated recently but they will bring you great luck and prosperity in the future. The groom's ring in this set was specially updated for you Cedar." Queen Gloriana was looking at me with tender eyes as she spoke.

"For me?" I didn't know what she meant by those words.

"The stones that adorn the band of your ring are special. They are not the ordinary type you would find in a jewelry shop. They will help to extend your life. If you wish to marry a Fae, a mortal such as yourself will need the aid of stones such as these to assist you."

"Really." I could just imagine the look I was giving her. I had feared that I would eventually grow old and leave Acacia behind. "Thank you so much."

"There are some things you need to understand about this ring. It will only work for one person. If someone else were to put the ring on before you then they will be the one granted the longer life. The longer the ring is worn the longer your life will be but you do not need to wear it constantly. I understand that you are a warrior and there will undoubtedly be times that you need to remove the ring to do your job properly. Simply keeping the ring near you will have the same effects. Also, if the ring is ever destroyed, the magic that goes with it will be destroyed. So make sure that you are very careful with it."

"Yes, of course. I will guard it with my life, just like I will always guard Acacia."

"You are so very full of love, aren't you?" The Queen was smiling at me now. "Come here boy." She beckoned me toward her.

I rose to my feet and took the few steps that I needed to have me standing right in front of the most powerful Fae there was. With no warning at all, Queen Gloriana leaned forward and wrapped her arms around me. I was momentarily frozen in place as I just stared at Lotus and Ash.

The two of them, while silent, were waving at me and egging me on. It was clear from their gestures that they wanted me to hug the Queen back. So, slowly and hesitantly, I wrapped my arms around the Queen in return.

Queen Gloriana was tall and beautiful. Her body felt tiny and vulnerable. But I knew that she was stronger than she looked and felt. With my arms around her, the Queen tightened her grip around me.

"Welcome to my family, young Cedar. I hope you make me just as proud as Acacia has."

"I will do my best, Queen Gloriana."

"Hush with that nonsense." I was worried for a moment but then she continued speaking. "When in private like this, you may call me Aunt Glory. That's what my favorite niece calls me."

"Thank you, Aunt Glory." I felt nervous saying those words but no one said anything in response to them. "Thank you for the gifts and for your approval."

"If you really want to thank me, then you will have your wedding here." She pulled back and looked at me. "Ask my niece for her hand while you're here and if she says yes we will have the wedding here."

"Can I invite my family as well?" I didn't want to get married without them.

"Yes, of course. I would love to meet the rest of your family."

"Thank you."

Chapter 314 - SIDE STORIES BOOK 1- CEDAR AND ACACIA CHAPTER 7

8-10 minutes

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Acacia

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I had gone out for a girls day out with my sisters. The invitation came so suddenly in the morning that I feared that something was wrong but we ended up just going to the mall, which I had never been to, and bought lots of new things.

Most of my sisters that were married and mated lived off the compound and knew what I would need the most if I was going to stay in Colorado City with Cedar. I was so happy that my family was so supportive and accepting of my mate.

When I got home I was surprised to see that Cedar was looking nervous and giddy. The sight of him made me smile though, because despite the range of emotions he was showing, there was clear happiness shining in his eyes.

"Hey." I ran up to him so that I could kiss his cheek, my bags all but forgotten in my hurry. While I was running at him Cedar had grabbed my waist and brought me closer to him, hugging me tight and spinning us in a few circles.

"Will you take a walk with me?" He asked once he had stopped spinning, though he was still holding me.

"To where?" I was curious about what he was thinking at the moment.

"Your parents told me about the garden. It sounded beautiful so I wanted to see it for myself."

"Which garden?" I laughed at him. "There are five gardens here, silly."

"The inner garden."

"Oh, that one is my favorite." I squealed as he sat me down. "I used to love having picnics in there when I was little."

"Then let's have a picnic today."

"Really?" I looked into his sincere and honest eyes and let the happiness wash over me. "Oh Cedar, that sounds wonderful."

We gathered food from the kitchens and a soft blanket from the maids. When we were ready I guided Cedar to the inner garden.

It was called the inner garden because it was located in the heart of the castle. Inside the castle. It was enchanted to grow even without the sunlight hitting it, though there was an enchanted ceiling that changed to look like a sunny day or a starry night sky. It was so beautiful.

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Cedar

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The moment I walked into the inner garden with Casey I instantly knew why it was her favorite. It was inside but looked like we were outside. The walls were just barely visible behind climbing blankets of ivy. There was a bubbling brook that started at one corner and twisted its way across the large expansive space until it ended at the opposite corner. It even had a current even though the water seemed to just end abruptly.

There were several types of flowers that I recognized but many more times that number that I hadn't seen before. There was so much lively color filling the space that it was hard not to smile just looking around. There were small white stone benches, just big enough for two people to sit together. These benches were apparently scattered all over the garden and they were covered in that same ivy that was climbing the walls.

There were large trees of several breeds, big and small bushes and shrubs that both had flowers and did not have any. The flowers ranged from tiny little things to some that were bigger than I was. And it smelled so wonderful. The place was perfect.

Casey went to a spot that was right in the center of the garden, right next to the brook. That was where she set down the blanket and started to unpack the food. The setting and visuals were different but the feel of this had just reminded me of my first date with Casey. The memories of which made me smile as I thought about what had happened that day.

"Come on, sit down." Casey beckoned me to her by patting the blanket next to her. Who was I to deny my love what she wanted? I moved to sit next to her immediately.

The food was delicious, just what I had come to expect from the castle kitchens. And of course the company was unbeatable. At first Casey was telling me about the stuff she had bought with her sisters while she was shopping.

"It was fun. I got lots of new clothes, each of my sisters and sister inlaws got me something. We ordered lots of new things that I will be bringing with me to wherever it is that I will be staying in the city."

"Won't you be moving in with me?" I was concerned by her words just now.

"Well, I didn't want to assume." She looked so shy right then. "I would like to, but I didn't know if you were ready for that just yet."

"Casey." I was giving her a pleading look. "I want to be with you, always and forever."

"Cedar?" She looked so happy to hear those words.

I rose up onto my knees then and took her left hand into my own. I was gazing into her eyes and pouring as much love and affection into the look that I possibly could. Now felt like the perfect time to do what I wanted to do.

"Casey." I cupped her cheek with my right hand and rubbed it tenderly. "I love you. I know I haven't told you that much yet but I hope you know it. I can't picture a single day of my life without you. I want to fall asleep with you in my arms every night and wake up to your wonderful smile everyday for the rest of my life. I never want to be away from you if I can help it. I want us to start a family and watch as our children grow." I took my hand from her cheek and stealthily reached into my back pocket for the ring I had brought with me. "I want to share all my moments with you, the good and the bad, the happy and the sad." As I spoke I slowly slipped the ring onto her finger, drawing her attention away from my face and to her hand. "Acacia Aspen, will you marry me?"

I saw a happy smile spread across Casey's face when she saw the ring. There were tears swimming in her eyes but not yet streaming down her cheeks.

"Cedar, are you sure?" She didn't trust my proposal just yet. Why would she doubt me?

"I am beyond sure."

"Then my answer is yes. I want to marry you Cedar. Nothing would make me happier." I smiled then and kissed her. It was chaste and innocent and just what was needed in the moment.

The wedding was set to happen in two days time. When I called Juniper and my parents to have them come to the wedding they couldn't have been happier. Though, they were nervous to be going to the Fae compound and the castle. Not to mention they were nervous about attending a wedding that the Fae Queen was going to be attending but they also said that their Alpha and Luna were now a King and Queen so they needed to get used to royalty.

True to their word, Casey's family was able to get the wedding ready in such a short time. The dress that Casey wore was a family heirloom that had been passed down for a long time. It was made of silk gossamer and was a light green. It made Casey look like a real fairy princess as she walked down the aisle toward me. Her hair had been done beautifully in an updo and her thin silky veil made the princess image that much more prominent.

I couldn't believe that I was finally married to my mate. It hadn't been long since we had met but I knew that there was nothing more that I would have wanted.

For our honeymoon we traveled the world. We would head to the most beautiful gardens in the world. The New York Botanical Garden in Bronx, New York. Pukekura Park in New Plymouth, New Zealand. Mauritius National Botanical Garden in Pamplemousses, Mauritius. Aswan Botanical Garden in Aswan, Egypt. Powerscourt Estate in Enniskerry, Ireland. Humble Administrator's Garden and The Master-of-Nets in Suzhou, China. Mirabell Palace and Gardens in Salzburg, Austria. Kenroku-en Garden in

Kanazawa, Japan. Ryōan-ji Garden in Kyoto, Japan. Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, London. And a few others. We would take our time to visit each location over the course of a month.

It had taken us a little over a week to get the whole trip planned but when I had told Casey what my idea was she had been ecstatic. She loved the idea of seeing so many different famous gardens from all over the world. I was just happy that I had managed to make my beautiful wife happy with my idea.

Chapter 315 - SIDE STORIES BOOK 1- CEDAR AND ACACIA CHAPTER 8 (MATURE)

8-10 minutes

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Cedar

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On the last night of our trip, when we were in Kyoto, Japan, there was not much else for us to do after visiting the garden so we just went back to our hotel. We were staying in a hot springs resort with a private bath. I was quite enjoying our time in Japan so far. The food was great, the sites were spectacular, and then there was seeing Casey in a traditional kimono that we rented from the front desk at our resort.

We had been enjoying a dinner that had been brought to our room by the exceptionally friendly staff. The night was going great and I couldn't wait to get into the hot springs. I knew that they were going to be wonderful and relaxing. Not to mention, that I would get to see Casey naked in the water. We had been sleeping together regularly of course, but she seemed apprehensive about bathing together.

When the food was cleared away by the staff and a lazy sort of atmosphere settled over the room I smiled at Casey, my wife.

"Would you like to soak in the water?" I asked her. I knew she had been looking forward to this but was also apprehensive.

"Together?"

"Of course." I smiled at her. "It will be more fun that way."

"OK." She smiled and finally agreed.

The kimono took a little time to remove, but I enjoyed the slow reveal of her exquisite body. With slow, hesitating movements, layer by layer, Casey showed me the body that I loved so much.

After a few more minutes, when we were both stripped and rinsed off we stepped into the hot water. It felt so wonderful to soak in the tub and relax after the whirlwind of our vacation.

Casey had sat across from me so that she could look at me while we soaked. Now that wouldn't do, would it? I moved closer to her and sat right by her side.

"Cedar?" She sounded nervous. I know she knew what was on my mind.

"What?" I asked her in as innocent of a tone as I could muster.

"Don't what me, what do you think you are doing?"

"I am getting closer to my wife. What does it look like?"

I slid an arm around her back and pulled slightly. With that movement I lifted Casey from the ledge-like seat she was balanced on and took her place. After I was in place I settled her on my lap so that she was facing me.

"You are such a perv." She giggled at me once she was seated on top of me.

"Is it pervy to want to touch and look at the most beautiful woman I've ever seen? Especially if that woman is my wife and mate?"

"No, that's not the pervy part. What you have planned next is." She giggled and leaned forward to gently kiss my lips.

"And what do I have planned?" I gave her an impish look.

"Oh, you know." She grinned as she put her hands on my shoulders and rose above me. "It's exactly what I knew would happen if we came in here together" She was positioning herself so that my erection was pressing against her opening.

"You knew it would happen, huh?" I asked her as she slowly settled herself down, sliding down my shaft until she reached the hilt.

The feeling of her tight body wrapped around me was pure bliss. The way her core hugged and quivered around my erection was its own kind of amazing that I didn't think anything could ever match.

"Goddess, I love you." I growled the words out as I gripped her hips with a biting force. If she were human she would have bruises for a few days, but they will fade away long before the morning.

I used the grip on her hips to lift her off of me and slam her back down.

"NGH!" She moaned loudly with just the first thrust. I set about creating a mind blowing rhythm after that. I needed to feel her more and more and I could tell she needed this too. The two of us were already panting hard and moaning with pleasure as I lifted her up and pulled her down against my thrusting hips.

My instincts were taking over for me. My wolf was coming out and he was telling me that I needed to bite my mate. I hadn't marked her yet and he was not happy about that. On instinct I leaned forward and sunk my elongated teeth into the soft and tender flesh of her neck and shoulder.

I felt the power, the heat that rushed from my body into Casey's. The feeling of it made our union so much more special. And I didn't let go of her flesh until the both of us had come screaming each other's name a long while later.

I had carried the limp Casey out of the water and into our futons that were laying on the floor. It was a wonderful night. And what made the night that much better was that I woke to the tickling of a new scent in my nose. A scent that was more sweet than the floral scent I was used to from Casey.

I knew what that scent meant. Casey was pregnant. She was going to have a baby. We were starting our family already.

"Casey?" I breathed her name softly yet excitedly.

"What's the matter Cedar?" She stretched while I held her in my arms.

"We're having a baby." I grinned at her.

"Wait, really?" She was smiling at me happily.

"Yup." I kissed her softly on the tip of her nose.

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ALMOST SIX MONTHS LATER

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Cedar

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Casey's family had been happy to find out that we were expecting. My mom and dad were happy to be having their first set of grandchildren. Juniper laughed at me and told me I hadn't wasted any time huh. But Juniper couldn't say anything for long. She was soon expecting a set of twins herself. She was due less than a month after Casey was. With so many new babies coming you can imagine that everyone was excitedly offering to help us all out.

I would take that help too. I didn't know much about raising a baby. Not to mention just one baby was bad enough, but we were having three at once. And even though I hadn't really told my sister this, I was happy that her babies and my babies would be so close in age. I had quite enjoyed my life as a twin and liked growing up with someone there for me at all times. Now my kids didn't just have their siblings to turn to, they also had their cousins. I hoped to become the best father and the best uncle that I could be.

We had gotten married in the middle of April. We had left for our honeymoon right before the start of May. Just before June we found out we were pregnant. Now, it was November eighteenth and Casey had been on bed rest for the last month and a half.

Why was she on bed rest? Because we were having triplets and if she didn't rest then she risked having the babies too soon. As it was we were still almost two weeks away from the due date. The babies didn't care about that though because Casey's water had just broken.

I was a frantic mess while for some reason she was as calm as could be. I was running the bags out to the car while she just sat there and told me what to do. While I was moving frantically I couldn't help but think about when we had moved in here, not to mention when we had built our house. We had picked a secluded spot in Reece's new community. There were still a lot of trees in the lot but we didn't care. We used our combined magic that dealt with trees to reshape those trees into a beautiful house. All we needed was to add windows, carpeting, and furniture.

We had built our beautiful spacious ten bedroom home ourselves. Because we didn't have to worry about construction costs it was easy for us to manage. We also weren't certain if we would ever end up with more kids so we wanted to have lots of space.

Now though, we were about to welcome the first additions to our family. Two boys and a girl that were to be named Beech, Cypress, and Ashle.

Casey went into the delivery room and had all three babies naturally, with no pain killers. That is something that I could be proud of her for and made me know that she was the strongest person I had ever met.

When the babies were born I couldn't help but fall in love immediately. My children were beautiful like their mother and I felt my heart swelling with love and protectiveness for them. We were going to be one big happy family from now on.

### **Chapter 316 - SIDE STORIES BOOK 1- ELLA AND DEVON CHAPTER 1**

8-10 minutes

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Ella

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These last two weeks have been the hardest days of my life. My baby brother Sammy had been kidnapped and no one knew where he was. Several people thought he had been taken by a rogue that had skipped town after finding out that pack life wasn't for him. But that rogue had been found and there was no evidence that he had taken my brother.

Mom and I couldn't afford to stop working. We had to keep our heads up and keep the shop running so that we wouldn't end up losing our only source of income. It was hard though, there was no doubting that. I couldn't believe what had been happening to the pack.

After Sammy went missing there were seven other children that had been kidnapped. Two of the other children were from the pack and the other five were humans from the city. Who was responsible for taking these kids? And what did they want with them? Were they OK? Were they still alive? These were the thoughts that plagued me all day every day. I couldn't even sleep because of what had been happening.

I was doing my best to put on a smile though, and I was picking up a lot of Mom's slack around the shop. I know this was harder on her than it was on me. Quite a few times I had to send Mom home for the day because she was so upset about Sammy. I needed to stay strong though.

Today, though, we had a big surprise. The Alpha and Luna were officially getting married. That was a major pack thing and we couldn't ignore it. Not to mention I was actually able to forget about things little while I was working. The busier I was or the harder I was working on a dress the easier things were for me.



The Luna needed her wedding dress, which I happily offered to design for her. She would also need bridesmaids dresses, a maid of honor dress, and the mother's dresses. This was going to be a busy month but until Sammy came back I would happily welcome the distraction.

I worked diligently for weeks to get all the dresses done and ready. I saw the Luna several times since she needed to come in for the fittings and adjustments. I was making things a little looser than they needed to be since Trinity, as she had told me to call her, was pregnant.

They had apparently not told too many people yet but I thought it was wonderful. A new pup born to the Alpha family was also a major deal in the pack. I was happy for them, truly I was, but I still couldn't forget about my brother. He had been missing for almost a month and a half now and all I wanted to do was cry when I wasn't working.

More often than not I was happy that I lived on my own. I had bought a small place last year so that I could feel more independent and because I felt that I spent enough time with my mom at work so as a grown woman I needed my own personal space. However, there were more than a few days that I ended up staying at my mom's house and sleeping on the couch in the living room. I hoped that I would be there and Sammy would just come home to us.

He never did though.

Tomorrow was the wedding and tonight I was being invited to the bachelorette party for the Luna. It was fun, and I was glad I went, but it couldn't make me forget about my brother. I missed him more and more every single day. I missed him more than I thought it was physically possible to miss someone.

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Devon

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I honestly couldn't fathom what had been happening in this city. Just recently in the course of two weeks eight children had been kidnapped. They had just disappeared without a trace. There was no evidence left behind at all.

Some of them disappeared from the playground at school, but no one saw anything or noticed anyone that shouldn't have been in the area. Most of them disappeared from their homes but there was again nothing to lead us toward the culprit. There was no evidence of forced entry, no fingerprints, not even a fucking shoe prints.

Just who the hell had taken these kids?

When the first kid disappeared we had thoroughly investigated the parents while also looking for other clues. That was just standard practice. It doesn't matter who the parents are, you look into them as well because unfortunately a lot of times the parents or other family members are involved.

But then, more and more kids started to disappear and we knew that we were dealing with someone outside of the families. These kids didn't know each other. They didn't go to the same schools. Most of them lived in different parts of the city. Hell, three of them even lived up in that gated community that everyone talked about.

So, who was taking these kids and why? We all thought about it all the time. And more than a few of us discussed it several times.

There was talk about it being a trafficking ring. Bastards like that had started popping up all over the country and as a detective I wanted nothing more than to make them disappear.

"Hey Scott, got a second?" That was me, Detective Devon Scott. I had just made it to detective this year and now this shit happened. I am twenty-eight years old and have been a cop since I turned twenty-one. It was all I ever wanted to do.

"Yeah." I called out to my captain as I rose to my feet.

I walked quickly to his office and shut the door behind me, chances are this was not going to be an overly quiet conversation. As soon as I was in his office and the door was shut he had already started yelling. I knew it so I wasn't shocked by it at all.

"What the hell are you up to?" his voice boomed and echoed off the glass around us.

"Well, I am here to talk to you, I am guessing that is what you called me over for." I played dumb for a minute.

"Cut the shit, Scott. You know what I mean. I told you that you're not to do any more private patrols. I can't sanction them when you're off duty."

"Then I will work overtime. I am canvassing the city in search of eight missing children. I don't think that any one in IEB will tell you to make me stop. If we don't find these kids then we will be the ones to take the heat for it."

"We're not in this alone anymore. The FBI is sending over two agents to help us investigate all of this." He wasn't yelling anymore but I could tell he wasn't happy.

"Took them long enough." I grumbled the words, knowing he wouldn't be happy with me at that moment.

"You want the feds to come in here and steal our case?" He was glaring at me now.

"I don't fucking care who handles the case as long as the kids are found safe and sound."

"You're such a fucking boyscout, you know that." He was laughing at me. "That's why I am going to assign you to help them, you and Andrew." I never really liked Detective Andrew Masterson, but I needed to work with him now. Great, this was going to be fun.

Even when the FBI showed up things didn't seem to be going very well at all. Not to mention that the rich billionaire playboy that lived in that gated community I mentioned before had sent over some of his staff to help us as well. Apparently they all had private investigator licenses and they had been welcomed with open arms by the FBI.

I didn't mind the FBI stepping in and helping us. I wouldn't have minded the help from the PI's either, that is if they hadn't been wannabe mafia members following around that playboy like he was someone special. Just because he had a shit ton of money and owned more than half of the city he thought he could do whatever he liked.

Fuck him! I hoped I never had to meet him personally. If I ever did, I would probably punch him in his stupid playboy face. And then I would of course be fired, or at the very least I would be put on administrative leave. I couldn't afford that, I needed to find those kids. I refused to be taken off the case altogether. So, that's why I hoped I never came face to face with his stupid, smug, smarmy ass.

Oh, how I wish I would have known how wrong I was about so many things.

## **Chapter 317 - SIDE STORIES BOOK 1- ELLA AND DEVON CHAPTER 2**

13-16 minutes

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Ella

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Yesterday was the wedding for the Alpha and the Luna. It was a good day. The ceremony was beautiful and I loved seeing the dresses that I made as everyone moved down the aisle. They all looked lovely but I just couldn't get into the whole celebration. I opted to skip the reception and so did mom.

We learned the next day though, that some strange people came to the wedding claiming to be from the fabled Sentinelle. They told everyone at the wedding that our Luna, Trinity, was the new Goddess Incarnate.

I believed it though, she was amazing and it just made sense to me and everyone else. Trinity was a great Luna to us, and now she was going to be the Luna to all of the shifters in the world.

I was just shutting the door to the shop at a little after six. It was early but I was not feeling up to working later. As I pulled my key from the lock my phone rang. The caller ID said that it was Trinity, the Luna. I wonder what she wanted.

"Hi Trinity, what's up?" I tried to put as much energy into my voice as I could.

"Hey Ella, I hope this isn't a bad time?" Trinity sounded like she was excited. I wished I could be that excited.

"I'm just closing up the shop for the day. Mom didn't seem up to working too late today. It's been hard on her lately. On all of us really." I heard the sorrow in my voice, the sadness was so hard to hold in.

"That's why I'm calling really."

"It is? You have news? Is he alright? Is he going to be ok? Please tell me he isn't-." I couldn't stop the questions from coming out.

"Calm down Ella. Slow down and take a breath."

"You're right." I sighed and resigned myself to listening to what she had to say.

"Feeling a little more calm?" Trinity asked me.

"A little, but I really miss him, Trinity. I wish it was me that was taken and not him." I did my best not to cry.

Just then I heard a voice growl from within the nearby shadows..

"Then I can make that happen." A man's voice spoke then, it felt sticky and disgusting when I heard it.

"Who are you?" I asked the man.

"A message." Another gravelly voice answered me.

"Leave me alone, I don't have time for this." I sneered at him, annoyed.

"We can't get to your Luna, but we can get to you." A third disgusting voice laughed at me. That's when I felt fear for the first time.

"Ella!" I heard Trinity call for me just as one of the men moved forward and grabbed my left arm so hard that it hurt.

"Stop, let go of me." I screamed at him.

"What kind of message should we make out of her?" One of the men said.

"ELLA!" I heard Trinity scream from the phone that was no longer by my ear.

"Sorry, she can't come to the phone anymore." The first man laughed into my phone that he was holding now. "Want to give her a message?" Trinity must have said something then because the man laughed and spoke again. "Ohhoho, really. Fine go ahead little Miss." He spoke so condescendingly.

There was a moment of silence from the three men like they were just waiting for something.

"I'm waiting, or are you too scared to answer?" That mocking voice spoke again, then he must have gotten a response from Trinity again. "Calm enough? How about you give me that message now." Another pause, this was starting to scare me even more. "Such fierce words for a woman." The man laughed. "What makes you think you can threaten me?" Another message from Trinity. "The Luna you say? Well, we were just looking for you. You know, your friend here is only in trouble because you refuse to come out and play with us."

What was he saying? They were after me because Trinity was guarded too much. What did they want with her? Why go after me?

"Don't make me laugh you stupid bitch. There's nothing a weak piece of half breed trash like you could ever do to me." The man spat the words in anger after he heard what Trinity had to say. "Let's make the bitch sing so her Luna can hear the song we're making with her." The man that held the phone spoke to the others.

With a sneering look the other two men loomed over me. The man on my left grabbed my hair and yanked hard just as the man on my right struck out with his fist hitting me hard in the stomach. I couldn't help it, I screamed.

"Didn't you like her singing voice? It's got potential." The man growled sickeningly. "Again." With that the man hit me again while the other man grabbed me by the jaw so forcefully that I knew it was going

to bruise. They hit me repeatedly around my head, chest, and stomach. I felt a searing pain as one of them slashed my arm with their claws. They were clearly wolves, but I couldn't smell their scent.

"HELP ME! PLEASE! SOMEONE HELP ME!"

"Nah, this is getting fun." I screamed again and was sobbing as the man spoke to Trinity on the phone.

Over the sound of my sobbing I could hear someone's feet pounding against the ground. There was someone else coming here, was he going to hurt me too.

"Shit, someone's coming." One of the other men said.

"Leave her, the message has been received by the target loud and clear. Isn't that right Luna?" The man with my phone growled.

"Freeze! Put your hands above your head." A strong, masculine voice shouted in the distance, you could tell he was running but he didn't sound out of breath at all.

"Bye for now Luna." The man with my phone growled as he dropped my phone and the three of them ran off.

The man who had been running sounded like a cop. I could hear that he was almost to my side now but I had collapsed on the ground when the men had let me go.

"Are you alright, Miss?" The man's voice was filled with tender concern and worry. But what I noticed the most, even though I couldn't see him, was his scent. He smelled amazing and made my wolf howl, I couldn't think of that though, I was in too much pain right now. "You guys go after them." He said as he had knelt by my side. The other sets of steps continued running on.

"ELLA!" I heard Trinity's voice yelling from my phone where it was laying on the ground.

"Hello, who is this?" The man picked up the phone and spoke after hearing the screaming voice.

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Devon

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I had been on patrol again, though I was not alone this time. I had a group of uniforms with me. I hadn't found any of the kids over the last month of doing these patrols but I had stopped a lot of other crimes in the process.

I was walking the streets near a row of clothing stores. It was a relatively nice area but this was still the city and there were still bad people everywhere. All of a sudden I heard a woman screaming in the distance.

"HELP ME! PLEASE! SOMEONE HELP ME!" She sounded scared and like she was in a severe amount of pain.

"Come on, let's go." I signaled to the uniformed officers that were there with me. They started following me but I was still well ahead of them.

Whoever was there must have heard the pounding of my footsteps.

"Shit, someone's coming." A man said.

"Leave her, the message has been received by the target loud and clear. Isn't that right Luna?" Another man growled.

"Freeze! Put your hands above your head." I screamed at them, warning them to stay put.

"Bye for now Luna." One of the men seemed to be talking to someone. Just after he spoke I heard something fall and hit the ground.

When I got close enough to the scene I saw a woman laying on the ground. She was covered in bruises and blood from the beating she had clearly received.

"Are you alright, Miss?" I called out to her and could tell that she heard me. "You guys go after them." I yelled at the others to follow the woman's attackers.

"ELLA!" There was someone screaming from the phone that had been dropped onto the ground.

"Hello, who is this?" I asked the screaming woman after I picked up the phone.

"Who are you?" She seemed shocked to hear my voice.

"I am Detective Scott from the CSPD. Again, who are you?"

"I'm Ella's friend. Is she alright?" The woman was scared and sounded worried.

"It looks like she will be." I could hear the sirens of the approaching ambulance and other officers, someone must have radioed in for backup.

"My husband called the police when I heard the men attacking her. He is also a friend of hers and on his way." The woman sounded marginally calmer now.

"Really? And just who is your husband?" I didn't like the sound of what she was saying.

"Reece Gray." Shit!

"Reece Gray? The Reece Gray? As in the billionaire Reece Gray?" That was just my luck.

"Yes. Ella is a family friend and he is on his way to offer his help."

"Just perfect. Well, I guess you'll know how things are with her soon enough."

"Trinity." The woman, apparently Ella, was yelling at the woman on the phone.

"Take care of her, please." The woman begged me.

"Already planned on it." I hung the phone up then and decided to focus on the woman on the ground.

When I turned to look at the woman I felt like something inside of me just clicked into place. It felt like I was seeing the most beautiful woman in the world, even with her being beaten and bruised. She had sweet light latte brown eyes that gave her an innocent look and soft looking light brown hair. She was a

little on the shorter side and had a great figure. I felt like I had just looked at someone I've known for my whole life but hadn't seen in a long time.

"Ella." I whispered her name and pulled her into my arms. That too felt like it was something that I had done many times before even though I knew that this woman was not someone I had ever met before.

Why was my body telling me that I was already in love with this woman? It wasn't just my body either, it was also my heart. I just felt like I was instantly in love with her. Did love at first sight really exist?

Just then I heard a man shout for the woman I was holding in my arms.

"Ella?"

"Reece?" Ella yelled back at him.

"What happened? What did they do to you?" He sounded so worried when he asked her that question and for some reason it made me jealous.

"Mr. Gray I assume?" I snarled at the man.

"Yes, I am Reece Gray. And you are?"

"Detective Devon Scott, CSPD." I glared at him, the wannabe mafia boss.

"Thank you for your help, Detective." He tried to act all saintly or whatever.

"It wasn't for you, Mister Gray." I couldn't help the sneer that was in my voice.

"Did I offend you Detective Scott?" He seemed to be losing his patience now.

"You walk around this city like you own it. You even act like you can run the police department." I snapped at him as I looked at Detective Masterson, who seemed to be in Gray's pocket.

"I don't try to run the police department. I do, however, try to help people. And in case you didn't notice, Detective, I do own about sixty percent of this city." Was he rubbing that in my face.

"See, that's the attitude I am talking about."

"Enough! Ella is the one who matters right now, so stop your damn pissing contest." A man standing at Gray's side snapped at the two of us. He was right though, Ella needed help right now.

After his outburst, I watched as the man knelt next to Ella, checking on her.

"Are you alright?" His voice was soothing as he reached toward her.

"I will be." Ella told him.

"An ambulance is on its way." I told them, the anger gone from my voice.

"We can get her there sooner." Another man offered.

"No, she needs an ambulance."

"I will be alright, Detective Scott." Ella smiled at me and I swear I saw my instant love for her already being reciprocated.

"No, Ella, you need to be taken care of." I pleaded with her.

"Fine, when the ambulance gets here I will ride with you Ella." Gray offered and my jealousy flared so high that I wanted to growl.

"Like hell you will." I yelled at him.

"Will you two stop arguing?" That man snapped at us again. "Ask Ella what she wants and stop trying to decide people's lives for them."

"Thank you Vincent." Ella smiled at him but it looked like the gesture hurt her, it was like it was painful to move her face.

I felt embarrassed, we were arguing like children while she was laying there on the ground in pain.

"What do you want to do, Ella?" I asked her.

"Since the two of you are arguing, perhaps it would be best if Vincent rode with me. I think he will be the most level headed." It was understandable for her to choose him, honestly. She didn't know me at all.

"Of course, I will be happy to ride along with you." Vincent told her. "How about I wrap those wounds up while we wait." He smiled amiably, making her feel at ease. I looked at the man named Vincent, trying to figure out his angle here.

"Relax, he's very happily married with three children. And he's definitely not the type to cheat on his wife." Gray patted me on the shoulder with a smirk.

"What are you even talking about?" I asked him, shocked by his words.

"Yup, just try to keep that attitude up for a little longer." Gray laughed at me then as he stood up. "Ella, I will leave you to Vincent while Noah and I go and talk to the other officers. I want to know what happened here but I will let you rest first. Do you mind if I come see you tomorrow?"

"No Reece, that will be fine. Will Trinity be with you?" I could guess that a familiar face would help soothe her when she was feeling tense but that didn't mean that I had to like it. But why the hell was I so jealous right now?

"If you want her to be, then yes."

"Mhmm, thank you." I saw the gratitude in her eyes then as Gray started to walk away.

The ambulance came soon and they loaded Ella into the back. She looked like she didn't want to go, perhaps she had an aversion to hospitals. I asked the driver what hospital they were taking her to so that I could go and see her tonight. I was technically off duty already anyway.

### **Chapter 318 - SIDE STORIES BOOK 1- ELLA AND DEVON CHAPTER 3**

9-11 minutes

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Devon

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I hurried back to the station to give my report of tonight's events to Captain Franklin. He was concerned for the woman that I had rescued and encouraged me to go visit her as well. He could and would be a hardass most of the time but he was still a good guy.

I hurried over to the hospital that the driver told me that Ella was being taken to. I didn't know what room or even what floor she was going to be on when I got there so I flashed my badge to get the information that I needed. Apparently she was still in the emergency department and she was being seen by a doctor before she was to be discharged.

That angered me. Why the hell were they going to discharge her already? What the hell was going on? She was clearly hurt when I saw her, couldn't those assholes see that? What the hell were they going to do if she got worse through the night.

Despite still being in the emergency department, Ella was in a private room with a door. I saw that the curtain was pulled around the bed when I made it to her room but the door was not shut all the way.

Stupid people aren't even giving her the proper amount of privacy. They could have shut the door all the way. Was that so fucking hard?

I pushed the door the rest of the way open as I knocked on the glass panel in its frame.

"Can I come in?" I didn't really announce myself well there now did I?

"Who's there?" A man's voice answered me and I instantly felt a wave of jealousy so intense it was like some kind of beast had welled up inside of me.

"Detective Scott of the CSPD." I used a very authoritative tone when I spoke then.

"It's ok." I heard Ella's voice but it sounded like she was talking to the man behind the curtain with her.

"Let him in Griffin." So that was the doctor's name.

"Ella?" He sounded shocked as he whispered back to her. I didn't care what the man had to say about it all anymore. Ella said to let me in so I grabbed the curtain and flung it open, probably a little harder than I had needed to.

"Hello Ella." I smiled at her when I finished walking into the room.

"Oh, I get it now." The man named Griffin smirked as he looked between me and Ella.

"Get what?" I wondered, curious to what it was he was trying to say.

"Nothing." He shook his head gently then held his hand out to me. "Hello Detective Scott, my name is Dr Griffin White, it's a pleasure to meet you." I shook his hand out of professional courtesy only. I wanted to know why he was so friendly with Ella.

"How do you know Ella?" I got straight to the questioning.

"Griffin is the family doctor as well as a family friend. When he heard I was here he rushed over to help right away." I looked a little closer at the doctor in the room. He was closer to forty years old, good looking but still too old for Ella.

"Alright." I nodded to accept the answer. "I hear she will be discharged soon, do you want to explain why? She was injured too badly." I glared at him then looked at Ella again.

This was the first time that I had looked closely at her since coming into the room. Most of my attention had been on the rival that was before. No, the doctor. He was not my rival because Ella wasn't my woman in any way. What the hell was the matter with me?

Though, what I saw now that I was looking at Ella with my full attention was that she didn't look nearly as injured as she had less than an hour before. The bruises on her face already looked like they were fading and the cuts on her arm, that the doctor had clearly been cleaning, were already starting to close.

And now that I saw those cuts I could tell they looked like claw marks. Like she had been attacked by an animal and not a group of men.

"What the hell is going on here?" I was so shocked to see her and the nearly healed injuries that it seemed like I was a bit wobbly on my feet.

"Detective Scott, I can explain." Ella looked worried when she saw my reaction.

"Have a seat." The doctor put a hand on my shoulder and tried to guide me to the chair that was sitting next to Ella's bed. I let him, since I felt like I was spinning out of control.

Once I was seated Ella looked at me with steady eyes and gave me a wry smile.

"First, I want to say I thank you. I don't think I said that earlier but I was in a bit of shock with everything that had happened."

"You don't need to thank me, it's my job to help people." I smiled at her and I couldn't help but add a little more to that answer of mine. "But I would save you anytime, anywhere." Why did I say that? I must sound like a creep.

"Thank you." I saw that she blushed but looked happy to hear what I had said. "I am glad you're the one who saved me." She was looking at me with such sweet and tender eyes. And if I was not mistaken there was a look of longing in her eyes.

"Ella, I am going to step out to give you some privacy." I heard the doctor's words but I paid him no mind. He wasn't important right now anyway. Ella, however, nodded at his words before he walked away.

"I am actually glad you came here. I am glad you saw what you did when you got here because it makes it that much easier to explain things to you."

"I don't understand what is going on here. How did you heal so fast?" She looked at me uncomfortably, like she was uncertain of what to say.

"Well, let's just say that I am not like other girls. I don't know if I should explain it all to you, it's not just my secret to tell."

"Whose secret is it then?" I needed to know this, I needed to figure all of this out soon.

"There are a lot of people involved. But I do promise you will get answers, and soon."

"I can handle whatever it is. I mean, it's not like you're going to tell me you're not human." I laughed, half embarrassed by the word, my hand was even rubbing the back of my head as I squinted with the laughter, however, then I noticed the look on her face and that wasn't all that comforting. "Wait, are you not human?" I was truly worried then.

"I'm close enough to count." She sounded nervous.

"What is that supposed to mean?" I think I am starting to flip out here.

"Ok, let's put it this way, I am human but with a little extra."

"What do you mean by extra? You were born on this planet weren't you?" Was I seriously having a discussion with the beautiful woman about aliens?

"Goddess, yes. As far as I know aliens have never actually visited this planet."

"But you're not saying they don't exist?" Yup, I was talking to her about aliens now. Smooth Devon, smooth.

"Well, to think that our planet is the only one in existence with life on it is just conceited and stupid. There are too many galaxies with too many planets for me to believe that aliens don't exist."

"Well, that's actually a sound argument." I was nodding my head while I thought about what she said. "But, you're not an alien?" I still needed to make sure.

"No." She laughed as she said the word and it was such a cute laugh.

"That's good. I think I can handle whatever it is. I don't know why but I am being drawn to you like there is something inside of me telling me that I need to be with you for the rest of my life." Slapped myself in the forehead then and groaned. "Damn it, I probably sound like a fucking creep right now."

"Actually you don't. And I am feeling the same thing. What we're feeling is the pull of fate, which is something everyone of my type of people longs for and is always overjoyed when they finally find it."

"What are you saying?" She had just made me feel like it was normal to be feeling what I was currently feeling.

"It's destiny. The goddess that my people worship determines the perfect person for us to spend our lives with and that person will find us at some point in our lives, no matter what."

"So, you're telling me that you're-?" I couldn't finish the question just yet, I was too nervous to say the words.

"I feel like I fell in love with you at first sight. Well, actually it was when I first smelled you, or when I heard your voice. Take your pick." She was grinning now. "But, if you'll have me, I could be your mate for the rest of my life."

I couldn't believe my ears. It was like a confession of love and a marriage proposal from her all at the same time. This was insane. I know it was insane. But I still loved it.

"I think I would be willing to entertain that idea." I blush and smirked at her, trying to be smooth but feeling like I failed miserably.

"I'd like that." She seemed happy nonetheless. "Oh, by the way, Detective Scott, what is your name?"

"Oh." I laughed, I hadn't properly introduced myself to her had I? "My name is Devon, Devon Scott." I grinned at her.

"Nice to meet you Devon, I am Ella Taylor." We just grinned at each other for a while. I was truly loving that smile of hers already.

After that we talked and got to know each other while we waited for the discharge papers. That was when I found out that Ella's brother had been the first child kidnapped and that the men who attacked her had probably been working for them, if they hadn't been the culprits themselves. That pissed me off, my Ella was targeted and so was her brother. But then again, if she hadn't been targeted we would never have met and I wouldn't get to spend time with her. Fate can be cruel as well as rewarding. Fate was definitely a mysteriously cruel bitch.

I drove Ella home when she was discharged, I just didn't want to leave her alone yet.

#### **Chapter 319 - SIDE STORIES BOOK 1- ELLA AND DEVON CHAPTER 4 (MATURE)**

12-15 minutes

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Ella

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I may not have explained things too well to Devon when he asked what I was, but I thought I would leave that for Trinity and Reece when I saw them next. And apparently, Devon was going to stick by me regardless. He must feel the bond as strongly as I did. That made me happy. I had found my mate.

I couldn't get over the way he looked either. He was tall, almost as tall as the Alpha, maybe six feet three inches tall. His light blonde hair looked so soft and his light brown eyes were mesmerizing. Not to mention the drool worthy way that his muscles were showing through his dress shirt and suit jacket. He was sexy and powerful looking.

This whole situation was bittersweet though since I was still missing my baby brother. I wanted him home so that I didn't feel like crap for being happy right now. I mean, how could I be so happy while my brother was out here, possibly hurting and suffering? Didn't that make me a bad person?

Devon drove me home and went inside to make sure that no one had come back to my house after the attack. He wanted to make sure that I was safe no matter what.

"I am going to run surveillance on you, Ella. I don't want you getting hurt."

"Thank you, Devon." I smiled at the protective look of devotion that was on his face.

As shitty as I felt for being happy in this moment I really couldn't help it. Most of the happiness was coming from my wolf and high of the mate bond. I know that I couldn't control it even if I wanted to.

I sat in the living room while Devon searched the entire house for any intruders. Thankfully he didn't find anything. I was happy to be home too, but I didn't know if I was ready to be home alone. I could still vividly remember the way those men looked at me, and the pain I felt when they were hurting me.

"Devon?" I called his name when he was back in the living room with me.

"Yeah?" He gave me a curious smile.

"Will you stay with me for a while?" I felt childish for even asking. "It's just that I feel a little too scared to be alone." That made me feel even more childish. Dammit.

"I would have sat in my car all night watching the place if you hadn't asked me." He grinned at me. "I told you I was going to keep an eye on you. And it just so happens that tomorrow is my day off." I smiled at that. This was a nice development.

"Thank you." I took his hand then as he sat on the couch next to me, our knees touching despite the ample space the piece of furniture offered us.

"Think nothing of it, Ella."

I couldn't help it, when he said those words I just leaned forward and pressed my lips against him. That seemed to be all the invitation that he needed. Devon slid his hand up my arm and to the nape of my neck as he kissed me back. His tongue slid into my mouth as I opened my it for him.

Once the angle was better it was like a damn broke inside of Devon. He was exploring the inside of my mouth like he was Marco Polo exploring new lands. And I wasn't just letting him kiss me. I kissed him back with just as much fervor. I explored his mouth with my tongue and showed him that I was not a shy lover.

However, just as the kiss was getting really good, when Devon put his hand on my shirt to feel more of my body, I felt how stiff my shirt was. I had almost forgotten that I was covered in dried blood.

"Oh my Goddess. I can't believe I did that while I was still so filthy." I had pulled back away from him and I could see a heated, hungry look in Devon's eyes as he panted and tried to hold himself back. "Do you mind waiting here while I take a shower?" I thought about offering to let him take one with me, but that was a bit much for the night we met, right?

"Yeah, no problem. Do you mind if I get a drink?" He asked as he pointed with his thumb over his shoulder and toward the kitchen.

"No, make yourself at home." I was happy that he was feeling so at ease here already, and that we had such great chemistry.

I hurried into my room then and shut the door tightly behind me. I needed to rush through this shower but also make sure I didn't miss anything. I grabbed some cute and sexy pajamas, silky cami and shorts combo, and ran into the attached bathroom.

I threw the clothes that I had been wearing straight into the trash and then jumped into the spray of hot water. I cleaned away all the blood and dirt and washed my hair thoroughly. After that I made sure that my legs were properly shaved and that I was perfectly presentable if anything were to happen.

I dried and dressed in a rush. Toweled the water from my hair and pulled it back into a loose ponytail so that it was out of the way. When I was ready and figured there was nothing else for me to do right now I ran back out to my room and just barely calmed myself down before exiting back into the living room.

It seemed that Devon was still in the kitchen and there was a lovely smell coming from inside that room.

"Sorry but I got a little hungry so I used some of the food you had available." Devon came to the door and smiled at me only to stop and apparently gulp, did he like my pajamas that much?

"It's fine, I was hungry anyway." I smiled at him in return.

I sat at the table while Devon brought over two plates. I don't know why I was acting like I was in his space and not my own, but it felt nice to have him bring me the plate like that, like he was taking care of me even more.

The plate had four little tacos on it. But these weren't normal tacos, they looked like they had wonton wraps that had been fried crispy for the shells. I had forgotten I bought those last week, I wanted to make homemade soup when I had Chinese food next. Inside the crispy shells was what looked like coleslaw and chopped chicken and it was topped with a sweet, slightly garlicky sauce.

"This smells wonderful, what is it?"

"Wonton tacos." He looked proud of himself. They're easy if you have the stuff. I can't believe you had all the ingredients in your fridge. Talk about getting lucky, right?"

"Mhmm."

We ate the food while we talked. By the way, the food tasted amazing. To think I had the stuff to make all this. And I hadn't been in the other room that long so they were really easy to make.

Once we were done eating I asked Devon if he wanted to watch a movie with me. He agreed but then he noticed that I didn't have a TV in the living room.

"Um, how?" He asked, confused.

"I move the TV around sometimes. It's currently in the bedroom."

"Oh." I didn't miss the heated look or the smirk on his face.

Scott followed me into the room and we turned on a romantic comedy that definitely wouldn't give me any more negative thoughts to think about. I was already dressed for bed but Devon was still wearing his suit and I didn't think that would be comfortable for him to wear while lounging on the bed.

"Do you want to, maybe, get a little more comfortable?" I wasn't exactly nervous, but I felt slightly awkward as I said those words.

"My, Miss Ella, are you trying to see me naked?" He grinned at me and stepped closer to me.

"Would you be upset if I said yes?" I looked away sheepishly.

"On the contrary, I would be overjoyed." I looked up just in time for him to kiss my lips instead of my nose.

After that Devon stripped down to his undershirt and boxer briefs. I could see the outline of his manhood through the thin material and I couldn't help but imagine what he would look like fully naked and fully erect. I'm such a dirty minded pervert.

We climbed into the bed then, laying on top of all the covers. We made a show of watching the movie at first, but my attention was elsewhere, and I think Devon's was too. In fact, when I turned my head so I could look at his face I saw that he was staring at me.

"Ella?" He asked me, uncertain of if he should proceed with his thoughts.

"Devon." I didn't make it a question, no his name was a statement, something telling him to come over here and make it so I couldn't think about the men who attacked me earlier. I had fully healed already and I just wanted to make that connection with my mate. Call me a slut if you want, but I needed this right now.

Devon understood what I had been trying to tell him. He rolled a little, taking me with him. I was now pressed to the bed with him half laying on top of me and his lips pressed to mine. I could feel his body, the definition of his muscles and the long hard smoothness of his erection that he was already sporting.

With a quick swift movement Devon pulled his shirt over his head. I had been right in imagining how delicious he would look when he was naked. I knew that Devon was a man who took care of his body.

Devon was already touching me all over. His hands were exploring my chest as he pushed aside my silky cami like pajama top. He had his other hand down between my thighs, teasing me through my silky shorts and panties.

I don't remember exactly how or when but we were both suddenly naked. All I really remember were mind blowing kisses and Devon's hands touching my body. I was ready, dripping wet and in need of his body. Devon was ready, he had been since we had started.

I knew that Devon was trying to treat me right and give me the proper amount of foreplay, but I just wanted to feel him, on me and in me. I needed the comforting weight of his body as he pressed against me and the stretching and mind blowing feel of him invading my body.

"Devon!" I called his name and dragged his face away from my breasts so that he could look at me.

"Devon, I need you, now. Please." I begged him. I had never begged for sex before but I was doing it now. I couldn't help it though, I needed this.

"Are you sure, Ella?" He seemed like he was not wanting to skimp on pleasuring me.

"Yes, please Devon, I need you. I need you now."

He didn't need any more prompting than that. He moved himself up so that he was over me more and his thighs were pressing my legs open even more than they already were. I felt Devon fit himself against my opening then. Goddess, but he was a big man, in more ways than one. I had been in awe when I saw him naked and I was glad that I was about to experience this for myself.

Devon thrust forward then, his shaft piercing through me until he hit his hilt against my body with an audible slapping sound. He was ready to create a rhythm that worked for the both of us. He pulled himself back repeatedly and drove into me hard and fast every time.

This was the urgency, the desire for each other that I needed. He was making it so that I was unable to think about anything but him. He was driving me closer and closer to my climax with pure sex without the need for foreplay to make it easier. This meant that he was the perfect lover for me. A man who could make me orgasm with little to no foreplay was a man who knew what he was doing. I loved it and I couldn't wait to see what he was capable of when I wasn't in so much of a hurry.

For right now, though, the two of us were panting and closing in on that moment of ecstasy that would send us into oblivion. I wrapped my legs around Devon's waist and helped to aid him in getting a deeper thrust that would bring us both that much more pleasure. Soon enough, I was falling apart beneath him. I could feel the waves of my orgasm take over my body and squeeze Devon tight. That was all he needed too, I felt him explode inside of me with a loud growling sound of satisfaction.

Devon collapsed on top of me for a moment, unable to move after what we had just done. That's fine, I enjoyed the weight and feel of his body. After a few moments though he came to his senses and pulled himself from my body.

"I'm sorry Ella." He sounded repentant.

"For what?" I laughed. "That was amazing."

"I should have worn a condom, or pulled out. I just got caught up in the moment."

"I don't mind." I kissed his cheek. "That's part of being mated, isn't it?" I grinned at him. "None of my kind ever really practice safe sex after being mated."

"That's going to take some getting used to." He laughed as kissed my forehead. "But I won't regret what I did if you're OK with it." He rolled to the side then and wrapped his arms around me. We drifted off to sleep then, with me snuggled against his chest. I have to admit, it was a wonderful way to spend my night.

And I didn't dream about the attack at all that night.

## **Chapter 320 - SIDE STORIES BOOK 1- ELLA AND DEVON CHAPTER 5**

9-11 minutes

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Ella

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I honestly can't believe that I did that. I woke up this morning in Devon's arms. I was well rested, fully healed, and completely satisfied. To think that I could find something like this during this dark time.



Devon was strong, sexy, and very skilled in many ways. He smelled so wonderful. His scent was like apricots and ginger. It was sweet and tart with just a hint of spice, perhaps some cardamom. I think that Devon's scent perfectly matched his personality. He was sweet, but I saw him acting sour toward Alpha Reece, and not to mention he was bad in all the right ways (that's what I will consider his spicy side).

I had hoped to spend all day alone with Devon. I wanted us to get to know everything there was about each other. I knew that he was my mate, my fate, my destiny, I just hope he thought the same way.

We spent the morning with each other. We made french toast together and ate it while curled up on the couch and talking. Following that we showered together and had a round two of the activities from the night before.

Just when we were getting ready to head to Devon's place, so he could get some more clothes, I got a call from Trinity. That seemed to upset Devon a little but he didn't show it too much.

It turns out that a lot had happened the night before and they wanted all of the women that are associated with the Luna to come to the pack house for their safety. I didn't mind going, but Devon was being a little jealous and protective. He didn't know it, but he was already acting like a wolf. I thought that was totally sweet.

Trinity and Alpha Reece wanted me to bring my mom to the house as well. The problem was, she was beside herself with guilt over what happened the night before. She was not in good shape and it was hard for her to leave the house at all right now.

So, since she didn't feel up to driving me to the pack house, Devon offered. He said that he wanted the explanation that I had promised would come from those that were in charge, and he already gathered that I was referring to Trinity and Alpha Reece.

A little while later, after stopping by Devon's for some fresh clothes, we headed to the estate so that we could get me to where I was needed, or wanted however you wanted to look at it.

I saw that Trinity and Alpha Reece were waiting for us when we got out of the car. I didn't wait for Devon to open my door for me, something that I was certain made him a little upset as he was a gentleman and wanted to do that for me. He had done it at his place at least, and when he drove me home last night as well.

I saw that Trinity was looking at me curiously, pure excitement in her eyes.

"Ella?" Trinity called out in a voice that was uneasy but happy at the same time. "I thought your mom was going to bring you."

"She wasn't feeling up to it." I hung my head, remembering how upset my mom had sounded when I spoke to her this morning.

"I was hoping we could have offered her some solace." Trinity was looking sad now, that wasn't my intention when I told her that. "I will send her something to make her feel better." I didn't know what she meant by that, but I was happy that she was thinking about my mom's well being as well.

"Detective Scott, it's a pleasure to see you again, but to what do we owe this pleasure?" Alpha Reece spoke next, a hint of authority in his voice but the rest of it was welcoming and knowing. He must have realized what was happening last night.

Before anyone said anything else Devon walked over to me and wrapped his arm around my waist. This move made him match the way the Alpha was standing, holding Trinity.

"I think that I have a right to be here, do I not?"

"Huh." I heard Trinity gasp. "Ella, does this mean what I think it means?"

"Yes, it does." All I could do was smile. I was happy, even though I knew that it was not the right time for me to be happy I was still ecstatic.

"This is amazing Ella." Trinity ran up to me then and wrapped her arms around my neck. It was a move that shocked everyone: me, Devon, and Alpha Reece. "I'm so happy for you."

"Thank you." I smiled more broadly at the elation that Trinity was feeling for me.

"And I take it that you are the Detective Scott I spoke to on the phone yesterday?" She asked the man who stood dumbfounded next to the two of us. Devon just nodded.

"Ella, how much have you told him?" Alpha Reece asked her, needing to know the extent of what we needed to explain.

"Not much, I was nervous. But he knows we're not..... normal." I was hesitant when I answered him.

"What do you know?" Alpha Reece asked my mate who just raised an eyebrow curiously.

"I know that as soon as I even heard Ella's voice it was like I had found my destiny. I don't know what is different about her from other people, she just told me that she was not like other girls and that she would like to leave the explanation up to you guys."

I could see a smirk spread across my Alpha's face when he heard what Devon had to say.

"Ella, it seems that you wanted me to blow your new mate's mind." He joked. "Come on in and we will explain everything."

We were welcomed into the Alpha's estate then, and led into a sitting room. There were pitchers of water to drink sitting on the table in between a grouping of small sofas and chairs. Devon and I sat on one together while the Alpha and Luna sat across from us. It was time for the truth to finally be revealed to my mate.

"Devon, you are going to learn a lot of things that you probably won't believe at first. But I want you to know that I am not lying to you at all." Alpha Reece looked at Devon with a serious look as he spoke.

"I will try to be open minded." I could tell that Devon meant that too.

"Good. You will need to keep an open mind if you are to make it through all of this." I saw another smirk on the Alpha's face then before he started to explain it all. "As you said outside, we are not normal. If you ask us if we're human, that's a hard question to answer. We are human most of the time, but other times we're not."

"What, are you fish the rest of the time?" Devon laughed.

"No, wolves." That was a bombshell that I don't think Devon expected to hear from the Alpha.

"Excuse me?" There was a look of shock on Devon's face as he asked for clarity.

"When we're not human we're wolves. In all sense we're werewolves. But not the Hollywood version."

"What are you saying, werewolves? That's impossible. Full moon, allergic to silver, bite someone and they become like you werewolves."

"I just said it wasn't like the Hollywood version of werewolves. We are children of the Moon Goddess. We shift at will not at the command of the full moon. Silver doesn't affect us. And aside from having an animal counterpart we're pretty much the same as other people."

"Sure you are."

"Well, there are some differences. We're stronger and faster than humans. We can smell and hear better than them as well."

"Well, that makes sense, if you're half dog."

"Devon, be nice." I scolded him.

"Ella, you can't seriously believe all of this? Don't tell me that you drank their kool-aid and became a member of this playboy's cult."

"Um, this playboy is married." Reece sounded offended. "And I have never been a playboy to begin with."

"I don't care what you are or aren't. What I do know is that you're not a werewolf. They don't exist."

I knew that Devon needed proof, he needed to see this to believe it all. That was when I stood and walked to a more open part of the room. I didn't need to get Devon's attention since his eyes had been on me since the moment I had stood up.

"Devon, I am sorry to do this right in front of you, but I think that you need to see this to believe it."

I didn't strip, that would have been embarrassing to do in front of my Alpha and Luna. What I did do, was will my wolf to come out right there in that room. I had been doing it for years now so it was second nature to me.

One moment I was standing there as the human Ella, and the next I was changing into the much larger wolf version of myself. My brown fur, pointed ears, large paws, all of it. I was my wolf self and the feeling was wonderful, like always.

"E-E-Ella?" Devon seemed to be a little scared but he didn't act like I expected him to. Once he took in the sight of what was standing in front of him he seemed to calm down quite a bit. "So this is real then. This is really real?"

"It's real." Alpha Reece answered for me since I didn't think that Devon would understand my words right now.

Devon rose to his feet and walked over to me. When he was standing right in front of me I nuzzled my head against his palm, encouraging him to touch me. I saw a happy and content look in his eyes when he saw that my eyes were the same color as they were before the shift. He rubbed my wolf head and felt the softness of the fur.

"Can I become a wolf too?" He turned to look at Reece then.

"There are legends that say we can turn humans, but I don't know how to do it. But if I ever find out, I will let you know."

There was sadness in Devon's eyes then but he didn't say anything, he just turned back to look at me. After that he accepted all the explanations that Alpha Reece had to offer him. Once we had told, and showed, Devon everything it was time for us to go up to the room I was going to be staying in so that I could shift back.