

## Chosen by Fate 401

### Chapter 401 - Reece - Father's Day (VOLUME 3)

Reece

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Trinity planned something almost as special for me on Father's Day as I did for her on Mother's Day. Only she had the food brought to me in bed. There were no other fathers in the house aside from Peter, and he didn't like to celebrate for himself anymore.

Mom had suggested that we go out for a little bit without the babies to celebrate. We were going to catch a movie, go to lunch, maybe do some shopping. It felt nice just thinking about going out.

While I was eating my breakfast in bed, Trinity was sitting on the couch watching Reagan and Rika play. I think Reagan kept looking at me eating and reaching while making a hungry face.

"No Reagan, you can't have Daddy's food." Trinity pulled him back from where he had crawled to.

When my Little Bunny turned and grabbed some clothes from a nearby drawer, the strangest thing happened. A piece of my bacon from my plate rose into the air and flew straight to Reagan's outstretched hand.

Reagan promptly stuck the food into his mouth and started to gnaw at it with his four little baby teeth.

"Reagan?" I gasped in shock causing Trinity to turn around and stare at me in shock.

"Reece, he's too young for bacon." She scolded me and ran to the boy where she started to pry the food from his tiny little hand.

"I didn't give it to him, he took it."

"Right, what did he do, fly up there to take it?" She laughed at me.

"No, he flew it to him. His magic is getting stronger."

"What?" She stopped what she was doing and stared at me.

Reagan took advantage of her distraction and shoved the bacon back into his greedy little mouth.

"H..h..he really made it f..f...f...fly to him?"

"Yes." I nodded my head and looked at our boy. "He's definitely powerful, just like his mommy." I was smiling, grinning happily that my son was so strong.

"Yeah, but he can hurt himself with magic. I think we need to call Crawford and ask him what we should do about this." Crawford was the leader of the Aerie Convento, and the highest authority in the warlock and witch community next to Trinity. If anyone knew what to do about this he would.

After I ate, I showered first, then I watched the twins so that my Little Bunny could shower. I was having my daily dose of daddy bonding time with them, and they were crawling around their room and playing.

Reagan and Rika were currently about five feet apart when they stopped and looked at each other. They sat on their bottoms and started to babble and make sounds. They hadn't actually talked before so I wasn't expecting much from this little exchange of theirs. It was like they were talking to each other and having a real conversation.

I was just smiling and watching them when I heard it.

"M..m..mmm..mm...mama." Rika's babbling turned into her first word, and I just about lost it. I didn't make a sound though, I didn't want to stop them from 'talking' to each other. I did, however, grab my phone and start recording it.

"M..mm..ma...m..m..mama." Reagan babbled similarly, but just a little different. That was just the beginning of it all.

"M..mm..mama."

"Ma..mammm..mama."

"Mama, mama." Rika was getting more confident in her word and saying it easier now.

"Mma..ma..mama, mama." Reagan babbled a little more, but said the name twice as well. Next they started saying it at the same time.

"Mama, mama, mama."

"Mama, mama, mama."

My heart was literally melting. I couldn't believe they did this for the first time when Trinity wasn't in the room.

"Why did you guys do this without mommy here?" I laughed as I watched them. "Also, it's Father's Day, you need to say dada. Come on, say dada." I was trying to entice them to say my name instead as I sat there on the floor next to them.

They looked at me and giggled almost at the exact same time which was so cute. Almost as if on some sort of command, they came at me at the same time. They crawled and then pulled themselves into a standing position using my legs. They were attacking me with their cuteness.

"Come on, say dada."

"D..d..d..d." Rika started it, and Reagan followed.

"Dd..d..d.dd."

"That's it, say dada." I was still filming them.

"D..d..d..mama."

"D..d..d..mama." At exactly the same time they twin synced and psyched me out.

"That was mean." I set my phone aside and tickled them as I picked them up. Their giggles were full of love, cuteness, and baby evilness.

"What's going on in here?" My Little Bunny came back all cleaned and refreshed while I had Reagan and Rika piled on my chest and tickling them.

"Trinity, you need to see this." I called her over as I sat up. She took Reagan and sat next to me while I sat Rika on my knees.

The moment that she saw the video she started to cry.

"I missed it. I missed their first word."

"I recorded it for you, you didn't miss it."

Having sense that Mommy was sad Rika leaned over, and Reagan reached up.

"Mama?"

"M..Mama?" They didn't like that Mommy was sad.

"My babies." She hugged them both to her and sobbed. "You're getting so big."

It was hard to get her to leave the babies after that, but they said mama several more times, and she seemed to be happy with that. Finally, we went on another date. We did everything that was planned, but the shopping was mostly for the babies instead of us. They truly were all we thought about. That was fine, it just proved that we were loving parents.

### **Chapter 402 - Trinity - Situation At The Mall (VOLUME 3)**

8-10 minutes

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Trinity

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I took the babies shopping with me when I went for a birthday present for Reece. They were almost seven months old now, just a couple days away now. I couldn't believe it, where was time going?

Juniper was with me for the trip and so were Thoma and Izzy. They had been going with me more frequently when I left the house. And since I was going to the mall, I thought they would like that. They needed to find their own place in the world as well.

They had both found mates, which was amazing, one had been among my pack and the other was in Landon's feline pack; Izzy had mated with a bobcat. They were getting better with their adjustment to the modern world, but it was still hard sometimes.

I didn't know what to get Reece today though. I was here to shop for him and didn't know what to get him. I was thinking I could get him a new suit so that he could mix up what he wore every now and then, but I didn't know if he would like that.

He always wore black suits, and they looked great on him. But I thought he might want to try something a little different for once. I was in the store browsing the color choices when I came across two that I thought were perfect.

The two suits were still dark colors so I think he might actually wear them. One was a navy blue and the other was a dark forest green. You could tell they weren't black, but they were both still very dark, and I thought Reece might actually wear them for once.

I picked out shirts that would go with them as well, something other than white or gray. I also got him a couple of monogrammed pocket squares and ties. I was making the whole ensemble tie together.

While I was there, I even looked at new watches, but nothing could beat the one that I had made for him for our first Christmas together. He still wore that watch too, which was amazing. I loved that he did that.

I had taken to wearing the jewelry he had gotten me. That meant that I stopped wearing my mother's necklace which I had all my life, but I still had it tucked safely into my jewelry box.

After shopping, Juniper and I took the babies to the play area that was in the center of the mall. It was designed for babies a year old or less. There was another one next to it meant for toddlers and another on the other side meant for older kids. It was really nice to have places like this for them.

"Rowan seems to be the calmer of my two. Ilana on the other hand, she is a handful." We laughed together as we watched the four babies crawl around the soft surfaces and explore the sensory toys.

"Reagan is my handful. He is a mommy's boy, and he cries when most people hold him. I love it, but compared to Rika, he is the handful. Plus, there are the little incidents that the two of them put us through. If it wasn't for Crawford coming to give us a binding bracelet for each of the twins, then we'd still have a hard time trying to hide it from other people."

I was explaining to her about the tool that Crawford made for us to help with the babies. I was happy since I didn't know what to do about it.

"Will the bracelets hurt them?" Juniper sounded worried as she thought about it.

"No, it just makes them unable to use the gifts they have. They're still there."

I watched as Reagan, standing on his two little legs, bounced up and down like he wanted to jump, but couldn't figure out how. He was wearing his little bracelet around his ankle and so was Rika. They would move to their wrists when they were older, but for now this was what we had to do.

It made me think briefly of the Hidden Paw pack, but this wasn't hurting them at all. This was keeping them safe. And thinking about that pack made me remember that Star and Artem had agreed to go to the Yule celebration this year. We would be there for their babies first Christmas.

While the two of us talked some more, I kept feeling like something was off. Something was wrong, but I didn't see anything at all. Whenever I was at the mall, I always felt like someone was watching me. It was most likely because someone was usually watching, people watchers are everywhere. Still, today was different.

While I thought about this, I saw a shadow swoop in and grab a hold of something. Only it wasn't a something, it was a someone. Someone had just run up and grabbed Reagan.

A man was running away from the play area as fast as his human legs could carry him. Thoma was standing closest and started to chase him like a good guard, she wasn't close enough to stop it, but she was going to try and take care of it.

"Izzy, Juniper, please watch Rika." I picked her up and handed her to my best friend before I took off and chased after the man with my child.

I was naturally faster than Thoma, being the Shifter Queen, and I was also able to call on my magic to make me run faster. I was gaining on the man who was running toward the door to the mall. I could hear Reagan crying in the asshole's arms, he wanted me, he wanted his mommy.

"Mommy's coming, Reagan." I whispered even though I knew he couldn't hear the words. "Mommy's coming, baby boy."

I caught up to the man and screamed at him, that made him hesitate for just a second as he looked back at me.

"Give me back my baby!"

"What the fuck." There was fear in the man's eyes, but I was already to him, Thoma hot on my heels.

I grabbed the man's shirt and pulled him toward me as I reached for my son. I had the baby in my arms and was already aiming a kick right into his most sensitive area all in the blink of an eye.

The asshole screamed in pain and fell to the ground.

"And never use that language around babies, you jerk." I glared at him as Thoma held him down. He was still in a state of shock and awe that he had been caught, and so soon.

"What did you want with the baby?" Thomas asked as she moved him about roughly.

"Fuck you!" He yelled at her so I kicked him again.

"Don't talk like that in front of babies." He screamed again. "Now what did you want with my baby?" I glared at him and put every ounce of authority into my voice that I could. He responded to me better than he did to Thoma, even though he was human and not affected by my power.

"I wanted money. I was going to hold him for ransom." He sobbed, afraid I was going to kick him again.

"Were you working alone?" He shook with fear every time I looked at him.

"No, I had a partner. He scoped you out and left just as I did. He's over there." He pointed at the man who tried to bolt away. Thoma was on him in a second and had him secured the same as the first scumbag.

The cops showed up then, led by Devon Scott, Ella's husband, and one of the newest wolves of the pack. He had been changed into a wolf by Reece because of the new ability he had gained.

"Ah, Devon, I am glad you're here. These two men tried to kidnap my baby." I started to explain what happened.

"I am glad you got him back, but I am sure Reece is going to be scared that you took matters into your own hands. I will take care of these two. I can imagine that Reece is going to see to it they're punished severely."

"What can he do? It doesn't matter if he wants something done or not, he's just a man." The second man that Thoma was holding down was yelling at me so I walked over to him, a smirk on my face.

"Have you ever heard of Reece Gray, the billionaire?" I eyed him carefully. "Well, you just tried to kidnap his son."

That sent the people in the mall into a frenzy. They hadn't known who I was before, but they did now. I had called Reagan my son and Reece's son. The fear was in the man's eyes like I wanted, but there were now pictures being snapped repeatedly of me and Reagan.

The next day there were photos everywhere, and the headlines didn't make me feel any better about the previous day.

The reclusive Mrs. Gray catches kidnapper as he snatches son.

They mentioned that there were twins, and even got Rika's name as well. Now the whole world knows the names of my children. That pissed me off.

### **Chapter 403 - Trinity - Walking (VOLUME 3)**

6-7 minutes

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Trinity

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We had to fend off the paparazzi for a while, but it finally died down. The kidnappers had been sent away, and the babies were safe. I was enjoying the down time and was just generally happy that everything was peaceful for us right now.

And Devon had been right. Reece was pissed off when he found out what had happened. He wanted to go down to the station and beat the shit out of the person as soon as I told him what happened. I had to forbid him from doing so because we didn't need word of that getting out at all. I had to remind him that Reagan and I were both OK at least a hundred times before he settled down enough to think straight.

It was August the thirty-first right now, which made it technically one day after Reagan turned nine months old and the day before Rika turned nine months old. It was funny how months made them further apart in age. I could always tell Reagan he lost his month older status because February doesn't have a thirtieth.

The babies were getting so big now, bigger than I thought they would be at this age. If you compared them to how little they were when they were born, they were giants. They were off the charts for heights compared to Griffin, and they were developing amazingly well.

They enjoyed exploring and having fun together too. I knew it wouldn't last forever so I wanted to enjoy the cooperation while I could. Eventually, they would fight and argue like most siblings did.

I was finishing up a paper for school, having gone back after taking the spring and summer semesters off. My class load was still just two classes though. I needed to have the chance to watch my babies. The good news, though, is I had done so many classes in the beginning, loading them up when I was on lock down, that I was still on track to graduate in the next year or so at max.

We were in the living room when Reece came home from work. He always came right to us and said hello before he did anything else. Usually we opened the gate, and let the babies crawl to him; that always made Reece smile happily and his eyes to mist over.

I went about the same routine as I always did. I opened the gate to the play yard, and then walked over to kiss my husband and welcome him home. We turned to look at Reagan and Rika, and they were both holding onto the sides of the play yard and looking at us curiously.

"Come on." Reece bent down and beckoned them to him. I knelt next to him and did the same.

"Come on you two, come give Daddy his hugs.

That was when the most amazing thing in the world happened. Reagan and Rika held each other's hands and started to take steps toward us. They had been walking while holding onto things for weeks, but this was the first time that they walked without assistance.

And they were walking together too. That was just so cute. Neither of us thought to take our phones out to record it; all we could do was stare at them in awe as they took eight steps in total. They were right in front of us, but they lost their balance and fell back onto their bottoms.

"You walked!" I cried out.

"They're walking!" Reece added.

At our outburst, Lila came running from down the hall where she was painting a picture.

"They're walking? Already? And I missed it." She was so happy yet so sad as she watched Reece and I hold the babies against our chests and hug each other. It was a hug with all four of us. It was a family hug. and I couldn't have been happier.

We watched them like hawks over the next few days. It didn't take long for us to see them walking again. This time they were walking toward each other until they met in the middle and hugged each other. Between Reece and I, we filmed the whole thing. He had Rika on his video and I had Reagan. We filmed them until they hugged and then fell to their bottoms.

"Ree Ree." Reagan said his sister's name to the best of his ability.

"Rea." Rika did the same.

I wished that this love for each other would last. This was the sweetest, most perfect thing that I had ever seen. They really were the best of friends, even though they had play dates once or twice a week with all the other babies. Even Jackson's little girl Melody, and Heather's twins, a boy named Tyler and a girl named Charlotte, were finally here and able to come to the weekly meetings. This was going to be an interesting couple years, twenty two babies in the course of a year and that was just for those close to me. What was going to happen with them all? It would be interesting to see.

Over the next few months, the babies went from barely walking to running. Their words cleared up, and they were able to say more things. Lila was Lolo, mom was Nono, dad was easy for them since he was just Papa. Grandfather was recently shortened to Momo.

They even had names for their aunts and uncles. Some were funnier than others, but it was still cute: No No and Nin, Car Car and Emm Emm, and Ry Ry and Kay Kay.

We were now getting close to their first birthday, and all I could think about was that time had run away, and I couldn't believe that it had been a year already. I even found myself crying that they were almost a year old already. It didn't seem possible at all.

I caught Reece staring into their cribs one night about a week before their birthday. He was crying silently, and he would go back and forth between them as he rubbed their heads gently. Even he was sad that time was moving so quickly.

He was such a good dad, so sweet and gentle with them at all times. We really were a lucky family.

#### **Chapter 404 - Trinity - First Birthdays Part 1 (VOLUME 3)**

5-7 minutes

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Trinity

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Reece and I had been planning these days for the last couple weeks. As sad as it was that the twins were already one, it was exciting as well. We were having their party with everyone over the weekend after their actual birthdays. That way we could celebrate with them before anyone else. Mom, Dad, Grandfather, and Lila were the only ones coming to celebrate on the days of their actual birthdays. Well, I guess you can say that Noah was too, since he would be at the house, but he had to cover Reece's work while we celebrated with the kids. He would be able to drop by though so it was like he was there to celebrate with us.

Reece and I woke up early so that we could decorate the house for Reagan's first birthday. The twins had different birthdays so we were going to celebrate them individually instead of making them share everything. When they have their big party it will be shared, but Mommy and Daddy would treat them as individuals.

One of Reagan's favorite things right now were dinosaurs. He called them dine dine and tried to collect every dinosaur that he saw. We had gotten a lot of party supplies that had dinosaurs on them. Tiny little



party hats, banners, balloons, cut outs, everything we could get to decorate the house. And we had bought a lot of it too.

When we were done there wasn't a place in the main part of the house that wasn't covered in dinosaurs. Abigail made a special breakfast and a special birthday cake. Well, two cakes really. There was a small little dinosaur shaped smash cake that was all for him. And all the cakes were baby friendly.

When it was time to go and get the babies out of their beds I felt the excitement bubbling inside of me. I was sad that this first year was gone already, I truly was, but there was nothing stopping me from being excited for my little boy.

Reece and I had the dinosaur party hats on so when we went into the room where Reagan and Rika were bouncing in their beds, Reagan saw them immediately.

"Mama dine dine, Dada dine dine." Reagan was giggling and clapping his hands at the sight of us.

"Mama, Dada." Rika was giggling as well since we were dressed in a way that we usually weren't. "Mama hat." Rika pointed at my head with a smile.

"Dine dine hat." I loved the way they talked with us, it was so cute.

"Reagan, do you know what today is?" Reece picked him up and tossed him into the air. "Today is your birthday. It's not the time that you were born yet, but today you turn one year old."

"Mommy's big boy." I kissed his cheek before I went to get Rika out of the bed.

The morning routine followed of getting them dressed and ready for the day and then we went down to breakfast. The twins were getting more and more solid foods added to their diet and starting tomorrow they were going to get whole milk mixed into the breast milk they drank. I was pumping exclusively now too so that they could feed themselves with their sippy cups. So that was one less thing that I did every day with them. That too was a little sad, but they also tended to bite so I had to stop nursing.

Following breakfast, we had a little dance party with Reagan and Rika in the living room while we waited for everyone else to get to the house. They were coming over around lunchtime so that we could eat together and party together. The way the twins moved when they danced was so cute as well. They shook their little bottoms and moved their arms wildly. It was super adorable.

When Mom, Dad, and Grandfather got to the house, they were immediately rushed by the twins. Rika was a Daddy's girl, but she loved her Momo. There were gifts today, but just one for each of them as the rest were coming at the party. We were giving him a gift today too.

The first thing that we did when they all got to the house was have the lunch that Abigail had made for us. She had gone all out and made things that she knew that Reagan liked. He was happy to be shoving the little bits of food in his mouth while also sipping from his cup. He was getting to be such an independent little boy.

The cake, the presents, and the love of the grandparents all went over smoothly. The party was a total success. And then we did the exact same thing the next day with Rika, only her decoration theme was butterflies. They were currently her favorite thing in the entire world. She also had a smash cake made just for her and a lunch full of her favorite foods, mostly fruit for her. The two days in a row was hard

since it was the first time, and we weren't used to it at all yet, but I wouldn't have changed a thing about it at all. Except for maybe having a little more time with my babies being little babies instead of growing so fast into giants that were already so much taller and bigger than when they were born. That brought a tear to my eye, one that was both happy and sad.

Now that these two personal parties were over we had a day off before the big pack bash. They may only be turning one, but they were the children of the Alpha and Luna as well as the children of the King and Queen. This was major for the pack, and it was going to be as big, if not bigger, than our wedding. The good thing is this one was a lot more fun. And even though it was being held inside, we still had a lot of fun things coming.

### **Chapter 405 - Trinity - First Birthdays Part 2 (VOLUME 3)**

5-7 minutes

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Trinity

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That one day of peace that I thought I was going to get between Rika's birthday and the birthday party on Saturday didn't end up happening at all. No, I was too busy for any moment of it to be considered peaceful or restful.

I spent the day getting the entire first two floors of the house ready. I had staff helping, yeah, but I wanted to do some of it too since they were my babies, and I should be part of the whole process.

Reece was on the first floor getting various bounce houses delivered that would be good for kids of all different ages. There was an older kid room with obstacle courses and large play areas and then there was a room meant for the babies and toddlers. Those for the little babies had nothing but soft sides for the babies to bounce on and giggle and lay. Even those younger than Reagan and Rika should be able to have fun in these specially-designed baby bouncers.

Abigail had a lot of work to do as well. She had enlisted the help of several others, mostly people in her family, to bake lots of little cakes and tiny pies. After all the little ones, she set to work on two big cakes that were meant for the babies to blow out the candles on, with my and Reece's help of course. The large cakes were what the bulk of the party attendees would eat for the dessert.

After all of the sweets were done, Abigail started to prepare all the food for the party. It would save her a lot of time the next day if she did it all today, and I know that Abigail wanted to finish early tomorrow so that she could be part of the celebrations.

That day was so busy that Lila ended up watching Regan and Rika almost all day. We saw them at meals, and when it was time to get them ready for bed, but that was it. I was just glad that we didn't need to rush so much in the morning to finish it all now. I would be able to have a little bit of relaxing time before the party.

Oh, how fucking wrong I was. After showering and dressing, I was running nonstop all morning. The party was supposed to start at noon, an acceptable time I would have thought, but it was met with complaints by at least half of the invited guests; it was either too late in the day or too early in the day. Well, I guess we can't please everyone.

We had a band of helpers that were here with us early, most of which were grandparents or guards and their wives, husbands, or future husbands. Now that I think about it, the only one of my Goddess guards that hasn't met a mate yet was Gabriel. I wonder if he will find one soon?

Now wasn't the time to be thinking about him though. I needed to pull this party off. I guess this wasn't the life of a normal queen, but I just don't know how to be a queen yet.

Oh and nice, look, guests are showing up early. It wasn't even eleven thirty, and we already had nearly a hundred guests here. I know that they were eager to see the babies and the Shifter Queen, but that didn't help when I had a million things to do.

"Queen Trinity." Gabriel beckoned me to the side for a private talk. "Now that people have begun to arrive, might I suggest that you stop attempting to assist with the party and take on the role of hostess and noble."

"Gabriel, thank you." I smiled at him while the relief was setting in. "I need to start being proper now, don't I?" I giggled at him.

"I would assume so." He smiled at me. "Perhaps you can use some of that handy magic of yours next time you need to do all of this. I think you will find it all a little easier." His wink almost made me laugh.

"Yeah, but I have been trying not to use that around the babies since they have been trying to mimic me." I shuddered at the thought of what they would someday be capable of.

"They are so much like their mother. Now while they aren't looking, be your own fairy godmother so you can go greet the guests."

"Thank you."

I did as he suggested and used magic to fix my clothes, hair, and even makeup. I had been practicing with it, but I didn't like to rely on it too much, not yet anyway. Maybe as time went on, I wouldn't mind doing it all with magic.

Now that I looked presentable, it was time to get this party for my little ones started, and the first thing that I needed to do was find their father. He was not getting out of this at all. He was my husband, my mate, my partner in this whole queen and king thing. He needed to be right here by my side helping me. Not to mention, that I just really did not want to face a thousand pack members that I barely knew all on my own.

When I found Reece, he seemed to be in hiding, trying to play with Reagan and Rika more than anything else.

"Reece." I called out to him, and I saw him stiffen. His guilty expression clearly said 'oh no, she found me'.

"Yes, dear?" He smiled at me and didn't mention anything else.

"Please come with me. We have quite a bit of work to do." I grinned at him. He was definitely not happy about needing to do his job now.

"B..but I was playing with Reagan."

"Reagan will be just fine with his Uncle Trevor. Isn't that right." I looked at the man in question.

"That's right, my Queen." Trevor grinned and played along with me. "I will take good care of the young Prince so that the King may get back to his duties." It looked like He was trying hard not to laugh.

"Traitor." Reece whispered at him.

"Reece."

### **Chapter 406 - Reece - First Birthdays Part 3 (VOLUME 3)**

6-7 minutes

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Reece

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I had been playing with Reagan and Rika all morning. My Little Bunny on the other hand had been running all over the house making sure that everything for the day was ready. Family had been invited to come early so that they didn't have to wade through the massive horde of shifters and warlocks when the party started.

The problem was, that a lot of guests had started to show up early, and by that I am referring to the guests that hadn't been invited to come early. There were a lot of overly eager and excited guests that just wanted to be here early to see who and what they could.

I was just doing my best to avoid them, and everyone really. I just wanted to be with my children and my friends and family. Was that so bad?

Apparently it was. Trinity came and found me while I was hiding away. I could tell that she was a little upset with me. I was the Alpha of this pack even if she did outrank me as the Queen of all the shifters. I was the one that knew almost everyone in the pack, at least a little. Then again, my wife being who she was, meant that we had more than just wolf shifters here, and all the warlocks and witches that were here fell under her territory as well.

I think, in all honesty, she just wanted me at her side for moral support. That's what the consort to the Queen was supposed to be, right? Not that I was just a consort, I was her husband and that made me the king. But our world of shadow dwellers was a matriarchy, so king or not, I was nothing compared to her.

I allowed myself to be led from the room while the laughter of my friends followed behind. It was time to play the part of a proper host like I would have done if this was just a normal pack and I was still the highest authority in these lands.

Trinity and I went to greet all the guests that were already here, though they shouldn't have even been in the house yet. The thing that got me though, were these were the guests that got starstruck around my adorable little mate.

That still made me laugh sometimes, not in a bad way though. These people were starstruck and literally afraid of my wife, their queen. They saw her as someone they could barely approach and all my Little Bunny ever really wanted was to be friendly and cooperative with just about everyone that she met. They really didn't know what her true nature was like.

Several of the guests were disappointed that we didn't bring Reagan and Rika with us. They wanted to meet the Prince and Princess.

"I was so looking forward to seeing them in person." Several of them said dejectedly.

"Oh, there will still be time for that later. We're just making rounds to greet the guests so far. The twins are playing at the moment and we will be bringing them along with us soon." My wife was so smart and capable. She handled those situations with ease and grace befitting someone who called themselves the leader of these people. There was a reply that we usually got to her response, it wasn't word for word from everyone but they were close enough I guess.

"Oh, that is wonderful. I can't wait to meet them, and my children are just in awe of finally meeting a real life Prince and Princess." I thought that they should be just as excited to meet a Queen and King, but hey that's just me.

Over the course of an hour all the guests, or most of them at least, had arrived. Now that they were all here the party could "officially" start, and it also meant that I was finally done greeting people.

The formal ballroom was the central point for the party and that's where they all were at the current moment. I was just really glad that the room was way bigger than it absolutely needed to be. I would have hated trying to cram all of these people into a room that was too small.

After the introductions had finished Trinity and I went to get Reagan and Rika. After that we headed to the stage that was in the ballroom. Trinity was about to give a speech.

"Hello guests, friends, family, I want to thank you all for coming to celebrate with us today. We are overjoyed to be celebrating the first birthdays of our twins. These two little ones are the heart and soul of our little family and I am beyond thankful that they have a community that cares about them as much as we do. Most of you have never had the chance to be properly introduced to the twins before, so without further ado, Reece and I would like to present to you Reagan Kincaid Gray and Rika Sarai Gray."

After my Little Bunny announced the babies and their full names to the crowd there was a wave of nearly deafening cheers. Both Reagan and Rika covered their ears and scrunched their little faces against the noise. Their unique eyes squinted as they made nearly identical movements. Reagan, who had Trinity's dark brown hair, had primarily honey colored eyes that matched mine but there was a very thin line of the bright blue of his mommy's eye color ringing the honey on the outside and the inside. It was almost like someone set a honey colored circle inside of a blue circle that was just a little bigger than it was. Rika's eyes were the same color only opposite. She had my black hair of course, but her eyes were primarily Trinity's blue and they were ringed in the honey color of my eyes both on the inside and

outside. I thought it was interesting how their eyes were the same colors only opposite of each other. I thought it made them that much more special.

### **Chapter 407 - Trinity - First Birthdays Part 4 (VOLUME 3)**

6-7 minutes

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Trinity

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The room had screamed with delight over the full introduction of the babies. Most people that were family didn't usually get to see this much of my children, and if it weren't for the fact that I was expected to be a 'royal' they wouldn't even be seeing them like this now.

Still, I was glad that there were so many people that seemed to love and care for my children. None of the people here seemed to have any negative thoughts or feelings toward my family, at least according to Vincent and Gabriel.

The good thing about this introduction being over though, was that the guests could all move on to other parts of the party. They could go to the bouncy rooms or the game rooms. They could go to the buffet in the other room and eat the wonderful food that Abigail had prepared for today. They could do as they pleased until it was time for the babies to blow out the candles on their cakes. And when it was time for that I could just simply summon them all here mentally.

You know, sometimes I tried to live like everyone so much that I forgot I even had the ability to do some of the things that I could. It was weird, you know, living your whole life one way and then finding out you're something else, it doesn't mean that I am going to be instantly changing the person that I am.

With the room slowly emptying and the guests scattering I was feeling a little calmer. There was also the fact that I had sealed parts of the house to people, places that the party guests didn't need to be. I didn't need any of these people who viewed me as a celebrity to go into our private things. So, not only were the rooms marked as no entry permitted, they were literally sealed with magic. Yes, I was still using 'some' of my magic when I needed to.

I wanted to see my babies having some fun right now. That was what mattered most to me right now, more than the guests or anything else. This was their party and they needed to enjoy it no matter what. I would never get the chance to repeat this day, I would never get another chance to make these memories with my family now. I wanted to see it now with my own two eyes and take pictures so that I could reminisce about it all later.

Reece and I took them into the room with the baby friendly bounce houses. I hadn't gotten to see them play with them yet and I really wanted to. When the babies were put into the play area I saw that CJ, Elias, Ilana, Rowan, Alexandria, Alyssa, Levi, Luka, Kaiden, Kaede, Sophia, Isabella, Beech, Cypress, and Ashle were all in there with them. A few of the babies that were playing were just learning to walk but they were doing well enough to enjoy the bouncy, air filled toy.

Dominic and Vivian, Griffin and Lana's Twins, and Tyler and Charlotte, Vincent and Heather's twins, were the only babies born over the last year that weren't playing in the bounce house with Reagan and Rika at the moment. The four of them were just a little too young since they couldn't walk and were just learning to stand. I understood that Lana and Heather were afraid that their little hands might get smashed if they were in there with the others.

I still found it so weird that between myself and everyone that I knew, there had been so many babies born over the last year. It was such a shock, really. And that didn't account for the other babies being born to the pack and the warlocks and witches that had moved here to be close to us. I guess what everyone was saying was true, being the Goddess Incarnate was like a love and fertility magnate to those around me.

As I thought about it all I watched the babies playing. There were so many of them and they had all spent so much time around each other that they were already friends. I could see CJ and Elias acting like the big brothers of the group. They weren't even that much older than everyone, less than six months for Elias and CJ was younger than a few of them, but still they were Carter and Noah's boys and I just knew that they were going to grow up to be strong and protective just like their daddies. I knew that Elias and CJ would stick with Reagan and Rika as they got older, just like Noah and Carter were sticking with me even though we all had our own lives and families now. There was just this unbreakable bond that held us together.

Reagan seemed to be bouncing all over the place, literally. He would go from one friend to the other and giggle with them playfully for a minute or two. He was such a social butterfly, when it came to kids. Rika was playing as well, but she was slightly more reserved with her time and energy. She started off playing with just a couple friends but she was better at drawing the others to her. Before long half of the kids were surrounding her and it looked like she was having a little meeting as they all babbled in their baby talk. Looking at it, seeing it right there in front of me, I couldn't help but smile. I knew that Rika was special, but this was proving to me just how special she was.

"She looks like a natural born leader." Landon commented from just behind me causing me to turn and look at him.

"Yeah, she looks like she will do just fine when she is all grown up." Trevor added. Usually these two are hard to pry from Reece's side when they're here, why was it that they were coming to talk to me now?

### **Chapter 408 - Trinity - First Birthdays Part 5 (VOLUME 3)**

6-7 minutes

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Trinity

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"You really think so?" I smiled at the two of them, thankful that they thought that my babies were so special.

"Yeah, both of them are leaders; you can see that, but in different ways." Landon was smiling as he looked at the babies.

"What do you mean?" I was confused for a second. I know what I saw in them, but I didn't know what exactly it was that he saw in my children.

"I think what Landon is saying is that Reagan and Rika are both meant to lead when they're older, which is fine because there are two different leadership roles for them." Trevor was explaining it for me.

"Reagan is a lot like Reece in his personality. He is outgoing and gets along with most people easily. He seems like he would be a good pack leader. Rika on the other hand looks a little more diplomatic; she draws others to her, much like you. If you ask me, that makes both of you fit to be Queen. When you step down, Rika will be there to lead in your stead."

I thought about what he said for a moment, my eyes moving between Reagan and Rika as I did so. I had known that their personalities were different, and I never once treated them like they were one thing instead of two, but the fact that others outside of me and Reece could already see these important truths about my children was amazing. I also hoped that I didn't put too much pressure on them as they got older. Reece and I had both been sort of forced into our roles. Neither of us really had a choice for what we ended up becoming. I didn't want to do that to my children. If they didn't want to bear the responsibility of the world being on their shoulders, then I wouldn't do that to them. They deserved to live their own lives.

"You know, Trinity, I think you've changed things in this world. For the better of course." Landon's words pulled my attention back to him and Trevor. "I won't pretend that our world was in the worst state possible, but we also know that it was far from perfect. As a whole, we of the shadows have a long way to go before we can achieve anything even remotely resembling peace. But I think with you in the leadership position, we've already started moving in the right direction."

"I don't really know about that, but I will try my best." I grimaced, trying not to let my insecurities show too much.

"No, he's right, Trinity. You are the leader that we all needed. Even if we didn't know it before we had you, we can all see how our lives are slowly changing for the better. And I know that I personally will be here by your side to watch over you and protect you and your children." Trevor's words rang with sincerity and conviction as he basically made this vow to me.

"As will I." Landon smiled as he started what constituted a vow for him as well. "You, Reece, and all your children, the twins and any others that you may have, all of you are special. We can see it, we know that it is true. And the two of us will never abandon you. You can count on us, no matter what."

I felt a ripple in the air, and the magic began to build. I knew that they had just made a binding contract with me, whether the two of them knew that or not.

A moment after the magic began to buzz in the air, there was a quick flash of white light, and words were spoken in that phantom like voice that I had heard before.

"Welcome to the Goddess Guard, use your new abilities to serve your Queen well."



When the voice and the light faded away, both Trevor and Landon looked at me with surprise while Reece and Vincent walked over to stand on either side of me.

"Well, that was unexpected." Reece laughed.

"What just happened?" Trevor was confused and Landon looked like he was too shocked to speak yet.

"The Goddess has recognized the two of you as members of the Goddess Guard." Vincent answered for him.

"And what is the Goddess Guard?" Landon had apparently found his voice as he asked.

"It is a group of specially gifted warriors that are expected to protect Trinity with no questions asked."

"Well, we would have already protected her. But this is cool too." Trevor laughed.

"Trinity, did they get powers as well?" When Reece asked that, it made both Trevor and Landon perk up.

"Powers?" They asked me at the same time.

"Yes, most of the people that get the pretty little light of hers end up with a special ability. I for one have several." Reece puffed himself up to sound more important.

"Yeah, well, you're the King; of course you'd have more, you pompous ass!" Trevor laughed at him.

"Yeah, stop trying to diminish this for us." Landon chuckled at him.

"Shut up!" Reece snapped at them. "Did they get powers or not? I hope they didn't."

I looked at them with the eyes that I looked at all the guards back when I had accidentally blessed them. I searched them for their new abilities to find out what it was that they were able to do now.

"Yes, they did get abilities. Oddly enough, they have the exact same abilities. I guess the two of you are more alike than I thought."

"What ability do they have?" Vincent asked me while I was busy laughing.

"They're armored. The fur in their animal forms will be hardened like steel; it will be a shield and a weapon. It also looks as if they can get bigger and faster in their animal forms, they will be like giant versions of their animals. Maybe the Goddess got confused because they were so close, she just gave them both the same things."

"That's odd, but pretty interesting." Reece looked as curious about this as I felt.

"How do we use these powers?" Landon smirked.

"We'll help you figure it out. We've all had practice accessing the Goddess-given talents we have." Vincent's smile was helpful, but also a little mischievous. I remember when he first got his abilities, and no one knew how to use them.

### **Chapter 409 - Trinity - First Birthdays Part 6 (VOLUME 3)**

6-7 minutes

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Trinity

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After that little power granting incident, the party got back on track to being all about the twins. There was a party game that Riley wanted to have all the babies play. He said that they played it at Roan and Alexia's parties when they turned one, and that every baby should be able to participate even if they don't win.

All of us set to work and started blowing up some balloons for the game. I admit, I got lazy and used magic to finish my pile. They all looked at me slightly annoyed after that so I finished all the balloons with magic.

All the balloons were lined up on the opposite side of the room and all the parents lined up with their babies. Shane, David, and Jackson helped Cedar and Shawn with their extra kids since they had more kids than parents.

The babies had to go on a race to see who could get a balloon first. The older kids, the ones who could walk, were to bring a balloon back to their mom, dad, or adult who launched them into the balloon hunt.

Music was played and babies were set free, all twenty-two of the babies from our little group and about two dozen others including Riley's daughter, Alexia. It was chaotic, but it was so cute.

I don't think there was a person in the entire ballroom who wasn't laughing at the scene of almost four dozen babies and toddlers racing for balloons. The thing is, not a single one of them wanted to bring the balloons back.

That was what made it so funny. Four dozen babies just started crawling and running through the hundreds of balloons we had set out for them. That part of the ballroom had become their own personal ball pit, and they were in baby and toddler heaven.

"Oh well, sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn't." Riley laughed. "At least it was cute, and they had fun."

"Definitely." I agreed with him. "This will be something I remember for a long time."

Following the unsuccessful balloon race, we called everyone together for the cake. Everyone sang to the twins as their own little cakes were set in front of them just like on their actual birthdays. After the singing was over, Reece and I helped them to blow out the single candle that was on each cake. They still weren't used to it yet, and the large number of people were making them a little nervous.

Several people came forward to help cut the larger cakes that were made with multiple different flavors so everyone had something that they would eat. And for those that didn't like cake, whoever those monstrous fiends might have been, there were pies. There was obviously way more food than was needed, and we asked people to take some home with them when they left so none of it went to waste.

Some people wanted the babies to open their gifts during the party, but there were way too many for that to happen. Opening the gifts was going to require an entire team of people, and we were going to have everyone write down who gave it and what it was. With nearly three thousand presents in the other room between Reagan and Rika, there was no way that something wasn't repeated. What we planned on doing, though, was donating almost all of the gifts to families in need. It was close to Christmas, and I am sure that a lot of families would love to have these gifts that our babies didn't need.

Finally at just after five, the party was over. It had been a long day, and I could tell that Reagan and Rika were both very tired. All I wanted to do was rest after everyone had gone home, and for the first time since coming to live at this estate in the forest I was really, really glad that we had a staff to clean up for us. I just did not have the energy nor the desire to clean after that birthday party.

We had dinner in our room with Lila and the twins so that the rest of the house could be cleaned up. There wasn't a lot of talking since we were all sleepy by now. We bathed the babies and then took turns showering. I didn't really want to leave the twins in their room tonight; it had been so long since they had slept in our room, and I missed that closeness with them.

Instead of them sleeping in their cribs, Reece and I put them to bed with us. We laid on either side of them and held hands above their heads as they drifted off to sleep. This was honestly the sweetest and most peaceful way that I could think to end the night, watching my babies sleeping.

Reece and I stayed like that all night. We didn't move at all. We either looked into each other's eyes silently over top of our sleeping children, or we watched them sleep. I think we both were sort of broken hearted because so much time had already passed since Reagan and Rika had come into our lives.

When I drifted off to sleep that night, I had dreams of different things that we had experienced over the last year. All the memories that I had accumulated and stored of the days with the babies that weren't actually babies anymore. They had officially passed on from that stage and moved on to being toddlers. Pretty soon they would be big kids, and before I knew it they would be running off to live their own lives.

I wasn't ready for this. I wasn't prepared to lose that time when they were babies. No one ever told me that it was so sad when you watch your children growing up. No one ever told me that every day brought smiles of joy as well as tears of sadness. I really wasn't ready for all of this.

### **Chapter 410 - Trinity - Preparing To Meet The Queen, Again (VOLUME 3)**

6-8 minutes

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Trinity

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With the birthdays for Reagan and Rika done and over with, it was time for us all to prepare for a trip to the Fae compound. Since I was visiting as a Fae and not as an ambassador this time, I didn't need Acacia

to accompany me. Not to mention, Cedar wanted them to spend Christmas with his parents this year since they had gone to the Yule celebration last year.

It wasn't just me and Reece going though. All of us were going. Me, Reece, Reagan, Rika, Lila, Mom, Dad, Grandfather, Noah, Nikki, Elias, Carter, Emmalee, and CJ. All of us were going. Noah wasn't going to be able to perform his Beta duties like he usually did when the Alpha was gone, so Vincent, who had been captain of my guard since I became the Luna and was recently promoted to being my Beta, would be handling the pack for us while we were gone. To assist Vincent, Gabriel was going to be there.

I was still a Queen though, and no matter how peaceful, or mostly peaceful, things had been the last time that we were there, Reece was still insisting that I take guards with me. Alongside my family, Izzy, Thoma, Shane, Shawn, Dietrich, and David were the familiar faces going with us; oh and let's not forget Alexandria, Alyssa, Levi, and Luka were going too. We had recently expanded my guards somewhat as well, feeling the need to have as many capable hands near us as possible as the children got older. We had brought in another dozen Sentinelle warriors, both male and female guards. We had also added a dozen warlock guards as well; all of them came highly recommended by Crawford and Eldrige.

Among those new guards, six of them were coming with us. That would provide me with a dozen total guards and that in my opinion amounted to my husband being an overly paranoid moron who just couldn't stop thinking the world was out to get me.

I let Fido do as he pleased though; I didn't want to deal with the hassle of making him stop. Instead I packed our bags and made sure we had way more stuff than we needed. OK, I am overly paranoid as well, but mine was at the expense of space in the car and not wasting someone's time.

Mom was worried about what to bring so I decided that it was best to go over to their house and help her pack. I think that the real truth of it was that she was just nervous about meeting the Fae Queen. She didn't know what this might mean for all of us, and she wasn't Fae. Of those going, not counting the guards, there were fourteen of us; of those fourteen people, six of them had no relation to the Fae aside from marriage. Five of those six people had never dealt much with the Fae and were nervous about their first big excursion into the Fae world. The others were excited to see what we would find there.

"Trinity! Help me please!" The moment I walked into the house Mom ran up to me and started shaking me by the shoulders. "I don't know what to do, and your dad is absolutely no help at all."

"Calm down, Mom. It's not like you're flying to the moon. You're just going to the Fae compound for Christmas so we can try to find out who our Fae relative is."

"I know that, but we will be meeting a Queen. I've never met a Queen before!"

"Ha?" I Couldn't believe what she just said. I just crossed my arms and stared up at her as I tapped my foot in annoyance.

"Oh, you know what I mean. You're different. You're my daughter, and I raised you since you were a little baby. You've been my princess your whole life. Don't go acting all high and mighty now." I laughed at her and shook my head.

"Queen Gloriana is a really nice person, so you don't have anything to worry about. Let's just make sure that you pack something nice because there will be a ball and probably a banquet or two. We will be

there for three weeks and that will include Christmas and New Year's Eve, so we need to make sure we've got everything covered for that whole time."

"That's just it, I don't know what I need for all of that."

I watched as she put both of her hands on her face and threw her head back in frustration. She was so out of her element right now. To be fair, this wasn't exactly my element either, but I was better at it now since I had gotten some experience.

I worked with Mom for at least an hour figuring out what all she and Dad had that would work for the trip. We managed to get them each two large suitcases filled with the clothes that they were going to need for the time that we were gone. And just as I was leaving, Nikki called me to ask for help as well.

I went and offered as much help as I could to my sister in law so that she and Noah wouldn't have to worry. She was even more of a wreck than Mom since she had to pack for Elias as well. I told her not to worry too much about the babies since they would be with Acacia's family for a good chunk of the time if we had something important that required all of us to be there. I trusted Acacia's family and knew that they could handle all the children at once since they had nothing but multiples.

When I got home Emmalee video called me and asked for the same assistance as Mom and Nikki. The benefit of this call was that I didn't need to be there, and I could spend some time with the babies. Emmalee loved clothes and had a lot to choose from so hers had been so much easier than Nikki's had been. Really since she had gotten so many new clothes for Carter so all his suits were new and nice. Noah had nice suits too, but not all of them were exactly the newest they could have been.

Luckily, Lila and Grandfather didn't seem to require the same assistance. That was a relief, that meant that I was done and free to enjoy Ilana and Rowan's birthday party tomorrow before we left on Saturday. We needed to get to the Fae compound before the Yule celebration started after all.

The party for Juniper and Paul's twins was a lot smaller than the one that I had to throw, but they had one thing going for them that I didn't; they weren't shadow world royalty that needed to follow certain protocols whether they liked it or not.

Reece had to finish up some work before we left so I took Reagan and Rika to the party with Izzy, Thoma, Shawn, and Pierre who was one of the new Sentinelle warriors. Everything went smoothly, and the twins loved playing with their friends. I was really glad that we got to have this one last little thing before we left for almost a month.