

Chosen by Fate 41

Chapter 41 - Reece-What Happened To Little Bunny???

Trinity

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I never got to finish my sentence. Someone had come up behind me and placed a hand over my mouth so tightly that it hurt. I couldn't even scream. An arm wrapped around my upper body, locking my arms in place and lifting me off the ground. In the commotion my phone fell to the ground and was shattered when someone's foot came crashing down on top of it.

I tried to bite the hand holding my mouth even as I kicked my feet frantically behind me to try and hit the man who had a hold of me. My feet made contact in several places. I felt the give of soft flesh and the cracking of what felt like bone at different times that I kicked him. He grunted and yelled in pain several times.

Finally, my attacker dropped me. I landed on all fours. Spinning as I stood, I kicked out, kicking where I estimated his face should be. I made contact and felt the shattering of bone.

"God damn it, help me with her will you." He growled through pain before he spat blood onto the ground. I sensed movement, but it was too late. Two sets of hands grabbed me from behind.

"Tie her up." The one I had gotten free of groaned through his pain.

These men were not wolves, but I did not know why they were here or what they wanted with me. I could tell that they were not human. There was something different about their smell that confused me.

"Can we use-." One of them began.

"No, human methods only." The one who tried to get me first snapped. "Don't give them another way to track us."

I started flailing again, trying to get free. I could not let them tie me up. If they did, they would take me away from here to who knows where.

I was kicking and snapping at them with my teeth at every chance I got. They were getting frustrated. I was not going to go down easy.

"We're running out of time." One of them groaned.

"Oh hell, watch out." A Different one of them hissed. I didn't know what he was planning or what he was going to do. He came near me, his awkward scent making me want to sneeze. I sensed him lift an arm and then suddenly I felt an intense pain in the side of my head. That was the last thing I knew before everything went black.

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Reece

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I had only been in my meeting with Riley for about twenty minutes when my phone rang. I ignored it, silencing it without even looking at the screen as I continued my conversation that was about forty percent business and sixty percent him grilling me on my new mate with a smile on his face.

"Don't you love having a mate? It's the best feeling in the world for me man." He was saying.

"I'm still adjusting, we both-." My phone rang again.

I looked and saw that it was Vincent calling. My heart sank seeing his name. I hoped it wasn't bad news. I ignored the call again. I would call him back later.

"You will see man. Having your mate around is the best. Her scent will calm you down when you need it. Excite you when things are too calm. You will feel her presence and she will always be exactly what you need, no matter the situation." He smiled at me, the love for his mate clear on his face.

"And when you finally have your first pup together, it will make you feel like you're on top of the world." He continued. My phone rang again. It was Vincent again. I pulled it out, expecting to hear the worst about his mate and pup.

"Vincent! I'm in a meeting right now, I will call you back later." I said curtly. I did not want to have this conversation with him in front of Riley.

"Alpha!" He yelled, interrupting me.

"What Vincent?"

"Something's wrong with the Luna."

"No, she's downstairs at the party." I told him. "She's fine."

"No, she's not, Sir!" He yelled. "She just called me to ask about Heather and the baby. Afterwards, I asked her where she was because it was so quiet on her end and she had said you were in a meeting."

"Quiet? Where was she? She didn't listen to me." I growled. "I told her not to leave that spot."

"She went outside."

"ALONE!" I snarled.

"Yes Sir, and as I was talking to her, she was cut off mid sentence. Then the phone cut off completely a few seconds later, but I clearly heard the sound of a struggle."

"Dammit." I was on my feet and running out of the room already. "Why couldn't she stay put? Why can't she just listen to me for once?"

"Reece, what's wrong?" Riley asked as he caught up to me, running at my heels.

"Something happened to my mate!" I snapped at him.

"What? How is that possible?" He ran ahead of me to speak to someone.

I ran to where I had left my mate, Little Bunny was not there. I followed her scent to the front door and out into the night. I could smell blood instantly. I followed her scent to the car. It was strong here. She must have been standing here when she was attacked.

I could smell blood here, yet it wasn't hers. But there was something off about the scent of the other person. I couldn't make out what their scent was. It was as if their scent had faded to near nothing. Their blood was easy enough to smell at least.

"Little Bunny managed to fight a little I see." I smiled to myself as I bent down. I found her phone where it had fallen on the ground. It had been smashed with a boot print clearly visible on the screen.

I looked at the ground, trying to get a visual of what happened. The man had come up behind her while she was on the phone. If even I had a hard time detecting his scent, then she would have as well. But she should have heard him coming at least. But she was on the phone, and she was distracted by the party.

"Dammit Little Bunny, why didn't you listen to me and stay inside? When I said stay put, I never thought you would get attacked, I just didn't want to have to find you after the meeting." I growled through tightly clenched teeth.

"Reece!" Riley was running toward me.

"Wait." I held up a hand to stop him. "I'm still checking the tracks."

"What happened?" He asked me.

"From what Vincent told me and what the tracks show, she was attacked by what looks like three men. She fought them off as good as she could for a while, but they managed to take her."

"Who were they?"

"I can't get a read on their scent, it seems off somehow." I growled again.

"Are they wolves?" He asked, anger in his voice.

"No, not wolves, and they don't smell human either."

"Magic users?"

"Probably. I think they're using a concealment spell on themselves."

"What the hell are those dirty Warlocks doing in my territory?" Riley snarled.

"That's what I want to find out." I told him. "Trinity managed to fight them for a while before they took her, but we have to hurry. There are three types of blood here. Two are from her attackers and one is hers." Anger filled me and I was ready to rip someone apart.

"Do you think she is alright?" He asked, apprehension filling his voice.

"I don't know." I snapped, as I finally tracked which direction the boot prints were moving. Their muted scents were partially obscuring hers. I could still get traces of her though, which was more than I got from them.

I locked my eyes on the path and took off running in that direction, jumping mid stride to change forms. Landing the next second on four feet instead of two. I ran as fast as I could, following the faint traces of her scent along the trail they had taken. I was breathing heavy already, mostly from anger. I had to fight not to lose the trail, but I wouldn't give up. They would pay for taking what was mine.

Don't worry Little Bunny, I'm on my way.

Chapter 42 - Both-Save Little Bunny

9-11 minutes

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Trinity

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My head was pounding, and I felt disoriented. I didn't know why at first. But then I realized that I was hanging over something, like how Reece had thrown me over his shoulder. But this time the person was not taking as much care. They were being rough, and it showed.

My stomach was laying across someone's shoulder just like it had Reece's, but it was pressing against it in a way that made their shoulder dig in uncomfortably. I could barely breathe. And whoever this person was they were running fast. The constant movement up and down was like a stabbing pain to my gut with every step they took.

I came to my senses, shaking the last of the fog from my head. I remembered what had happened. The attack, the struggle, the searing pain in my head, then everything going black. They had been trying to tie me up, but I was fighting them too much. Apparently, they had given up the idea on tying me when they knocked me unconscious. They clearly didn't expect me to wake up so soon.

I would need to get away, and quick. If I could just get to my feet, I could run away. I was part wolf, so I was bound to be faster than them. I noticed they were going up a hill and had noticeably slowed. This was my chance.

I grabbed a fist full of the man's hair, yanking it back and giving myself leverage, all the while lifting myself (with the use of my grip on his hair) and bringing my knee crashing up into his throat. His grip on me loosened, I dropped and rolled to the side, he fell to his knees gasping and choking for air. I got to my feet and made a run back toward the Alpha house, but the man's scream had alerted the others too quickly.

I felt a hand grab me by my hair and pull hard. I cried out, involuntarily, as I was yanked off my feet. I fell backwards and landed with a crashing thud on the forest floor. The breath rushed out of me as I was momentarily dazed. I lost the precious time I needed to escape.

"You should have just kept still." One of the men said through clenched teeth. I saw two of them approaching me. The other was just struggling to his feet. I scrambled backwards, trying to put some distance between us.

"Stay away from me." I demanded.

"Or what?" The man who had spoken earlier asked. He was right. I couldn't do much. I could fight, and I would. But it would most likely end the same as before. But I still had to try.

I couldn't take my eyes off of them to form a plan. I could only feel around in my surroundings for anything that could help me. My hand bumped into a large stick hidden under the leaf strewn ground. I closed my hand around it, halting my retreat and putting a pathetic look on my face, like I was frightened.

"That's right, just give up." The man spoke again, and he lunged at me. I swung out with the large branch as hard and fast as I could. It caught him hard across the face. He yelled in pain and frustration.

"Why won't you just stop you little bitch?" He screamed at me. The other two were lunging at me now. I swung again and hit one across the back of the head, and the other across the face on my back swing, breaking his nose. I could smell that all three of them were bleeding now. And all three were noticeably angry.

The three of them leapt at me at the same time. I tried to swing at them as quickly as I could, but I wasn't fast enough. They all lunged simultaneously. Two of them landed on my arms and pinned me down. The other landed on my legs, he leaned forward and he placed his hands on either side of my head.

"We're supposed to take you back with us, but you're being a bit of a handful. Perhaps we need to make you more compliant." He whispered in my ear.

"Get off of me." I yelled at him. "Don't touch me." I spat the words in his face.

I heard the sound of a wolf snarling in the distance, and I instantly knew who it was. I was happy to hear it, but I didn't think he would come for me. But it was probably only because he had to pretend that we were a proper couple while we were here.

"Reece." I breathed his name in a sigh of relief.

"God damn it, we're out of time." One of them snapped, releasing me. I felt a rush of relief as they let go of me.

"But we will be back for you." Another laughed as he stood.

"Here's a parting gift." The one whose nose I broke said as he kicked me hard in the side of the head, right where they had hit me earlier. I cried out in pain and saw bright stars flash before my eyes, but I managed to stay conscious as I watched them run off.

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Reece

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I was following the trail. I knew I was getting closer to them as Little Bunny's scent was getting a little stronger. I heard a yell still a little off in the distance. A man's cry of pain. Little Bunny must be awake

and on the offense again. Then I heard the sound of her cry out in pain. I snarled. My wolf didn't like them hurting our mate.

I couldn't hear anything the voices were saying yet, but I could hear the angry tones from the men and my Little Bunny. There was the sound of another scuffle, the men crying out in pain and the fresh scent of blood, none of it hers. Way to go Devil Bunny.

Then I heard her scream something that made my blood boil.

"Get off me! Don't touch me!" Hands off! My wolf screamed. No one touches what's mine, even if I don't use it, it's mine. Leave her alone. I snarled out loud at the sound of her screaming those words, knowing all too well what would make her say them.

I heard them now, their voices were close enough to be clear.

"Reece." She sighed my name in relief.

"God damn it, we're out of time."

"But we will be back for you."

"Here's a parting gift." When the last one said this, I was close enough to see through the trees now. He had been laying somewhat on top of her, which infuriated me. When he stood up, he kicked her hard in the side of the head with his boot. She cried out in pain.

I put on a burst of speed and tried to catch up to them. I noticed she had risen to her knees and was watching them leave. She didn't seem to have the energy to get to her feet. I was torn between going after them and stopping to help her. I had never been torn like that before. But my duty was to my pack and she was part of my pack. I would send Riley's men after the Warlocks.

It took me another minute to get to her, running all out and weaving around the obstacles in my way. She didn't even look at me, she just continued to watch the direction they had left in. I was worried she was in shock.

I shifted, back to my human self, while crouching right next to her. She still didn't look at me.

"Are you alright Little Bunny?" I asked her. I knew that blow to the head had been a bad one, and she was more susceptible to injury than I was. She didn't answer. She continued to act like I wasn't even there. "Little Bunny, are you OK?" I asked her, trying to get her attention. She still ignored me. Fearing that she might have a head injury I knelt lower and moved to look her in the face.

I could see her eyes now. For the first time since I found her in the woods tonight. I had looked at her from the side when I spoke the first two times, so I hadn't seen her eyes. But now I was looking. And what I saw almost made me gasp. I was glad I was the first one to find her.

Trinity's eyes were glowing. The bright sky blue was glowing almost white now, the inner blue ring was shining like a sapphire and the gold ring looked metallic and reflective. The inner two circles were turning to the left and right, alternatingly. Half or full turns one way then they would switch back. It was almost like a camera lens permanently trying to autofocus and zoom at the same time. I had never seen anything like it before.

"Trinity? What's going on?" I asked her, shocked.

"They're going to get away if we don't hurry." She yelled.

"They've already gotten away." I told her, they were long gone, and we couldn't track their scent.

"No, they haven't, they're right there." She said pointing somewhere in the trees. "They're about eighteen-hundred meters that way." She added.

"You can still see them?" I asked her.

"You can't?" She sounded confused.

"No."

"Then follow their scent, it's a little weird, and it makes me sneeze, but I'm sure you guys can get it better than me." She sighed, further confusing me.

"Trinity, we can't smell them at all." I told her. She finally blinked and broke eye contact with whatever she was focusing on. She looked so confused, but she also looked tired and hurt.

"What do you mean you can't smell them?" She asked me.

"None of us here can smell them, only you. It's like they were hiding their scent and it was hiding yours too."

"What?" She looked shocked. "So, I'm the only one? Further proof I don't belong". For some reason that made her look depressed.

"At least you can smell them when they're trying to hide, be on your guard next time." She nodded. "More importantly," I started, letting anger fill my voice, "why the hell did you leave that spot. I told you to stay put." I growled at her. I could see the defiance fill her eyes. She was preparing to argue.

"Look, Mighty Dog," she was gearing up for an argument as she was slowly getting to her feet. "I don't ne--." She slumped toward the ground and I caught her as she fell.

Chapter 43 - Reece-Finally, Little Bunny Is Safe. Right?

Reece

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Just as I caught her, Riley and the others came into the clearing. Riley and one of the others had shifted, they had taken to searching the surrounding areas in pairs, using human and wolf senses to make sure nothing was missed. Riley shifted back.

"How is she?" He asked me and I lifted her up into my arms.

"She's been through a lot, and she's beaten up. I need to get her back to the house." I told him. "The men who took her left going that way. They have about a mile and half head start, maybe two miles now. They were heading south east probably toward the highway."

"Deek, Nick, Cole track them as best as you can. Her scent may linger with them, follow that if you can." Riley told his men. They nodded and ran into the woods. "I will head back to the house and prepare a room for her. I am sorry, Reece, this should not have happened. This is my fault."

"No, it's mine. I left her alone. I didn't come prepared. And none of us thought this would happen."

I held Little Bunny in my arms, cradled against my chest. She wasn't just asleep like last time. No, this time she was unconscious and was not likely to wake up and catch me carrying her. Which was probably a good thing, since I was stark naked at the moment and she would probably take offense and have some problem with that.

I carried her swiftly, getting to the house in no time. Still, Riley had gotten there first as he had run in his wolf form. He was waiting in the forest with a set of clothes for me to put on. I had to make a choice, set the bunny on the ground or let him hold her while I got dressed. I set her gently on the ground, propped against a tree.

Once I was dressed, I lifted her into my arms again, doing so I heard her groan. She was in pain, and hearing that made my wolf snarl.

I carried her into the house and laid her on the bed in the room that Riley had gotten ready. I had not told him or anyone in his pack that she didn't have a wolf. I didn't want rumors spreading and following her everywhere. But I needed to tell him now.

"Riley, I need to talk to you. Privately." I implored him. He cleared the room, leaving just Little Bunny, myself, and Riley.

"What is it Reece?" He asked me, looking worried.

"There is something I need to tell you, about Trinity." I looked at him, with a pleading look.

"What's wrong?" He was fearing the worst, I could tell.

"I don't want what I am about to tell you to leave this room, I do not want it to become public knowledge in your pack."

"You have my word, brother." He promised, looking at me intently.

"Trinity, is not like the other pack members, she is not like you and I."

"Meaning?"

"She does not have a wolf."

"How can that be?" He asked, confusion written all over his face.

"I don't know exactly. But her mother was a wolf, I know that for a fact."

"And her father?" He questioned.

"No one knows." His eyes widened in response to my words.

"How could no one know?"

"Her mother either did not know or was afraid to tell anyone. Or somehow manipulated into not telling." I told him. I was starting to have some thoughts concerning her lineage, I wondered if I was anywhere near the truth.

"Do you think he was a human?"

"No, most human and wolf half breeds still end up with a wolf, just a weaker one."

"Do you have any theories?"

"Just one." I said. "But I don't know if I want to say it just yet."

"Fair enough. I won't push you Reece. What do you need from me right now?" He asked me, never once pressuring me to give more.

"I want a pack doctor to look at her. Do you have one you can trust?"

"We only have one pack doctor. She's an OK person, but I don't know if I can reach her on such short notice." He admitted, and that annoyed me.

"Then I will call one from home and tell them to hurry."

"Alright."

I sent word to have my most trusted doctor sent over. He worked in the hospital in the city, and since I said it was an emergency and I was willing to pay out of my ass for the cost, I told him to take the helicopter to get here. I also called Vincent while I waited. I knew he would be worried sick as he had gotten cut short from both me and his Luna. He answered after only half a ring.

"Is she alright?" He demanded the second he answered the phone. He had clearly been pacing with the phone, waiting for my call.

"I found her, and she is resting. I am waiting for a pack doctor from the city to get here to check her out." I answered him obligingly.

"Oh Goddess, is she hurt bad?" He still wasn't satisfied.

"She has been hit in the head a few times, and she is unconscious. I think that might have more to do with the spent energy and the adrenaline leaving her body than anything, but only time, and the doctor, will tell."

"I'm so sorry, Alpha, I should have gone with you. I should not have left her earlier this evening."

"You did as you were ordered to do. I would have told you to go as well. None of us would have expected this to happen. This is a pack we have a treaty with, and she was not attacked by wolves."

"Wait, what?" He seemed shocked by my words. "Then who was she attacked by?" He asked, confused.

"Warlocks."

"WHAT!" He shouted into my ear. I growled at him and he got his tone under control. "What do Warlocks want with the Luna?"

"I don't know, but I intend to find out." I told him.

"We still have our other meeting, which will have to be pushed back to a later time in the day or until Sunday. I will keep you all posted. But when we get back, she is to be watched more carefully at all times."

"Yes sir."

"Oh, and Vincent."

"Yes, Sir?"

"Why does she seem to have a problem with Leslie and Jeremy?" I asked him. If anyone would know it would be Vincent.

"Well." He seemed uncomfortable, like he didn't know if he should tell me or wait until the Luna told me.

"Answer me." I told him.

"As for Jeremy, he just makes her feel like he hates her. And Leslie, well the night you marked the Luna, he made her feel very uncomfortable." He told me in a weak voice.

"Uncomfortable how?" I asked him. He went on to detail everything that Leslie had said and done the night of the marking, which made me understand why Little Bunny had shown an aversion to him ever since. Well, someone's going to find himself getting punished.

"Thank you for the information, Vincent, it was very enlightening."

"You're welcome, Sir." He sounded spent and exhausted.

"Get some sleep." I told him.

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Trinity

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I could hear Reece talking, but it sounded fuzzy. My head was killing me. I had a feeling that if I opened my eyes any light I saw would be like knives to my brain. I tried to shift slightly and groaned.

"Are you awake?" I heard Reece clearly this time.

"Not really." I answered in a muffled voice.

"How are you feeling?"

"Like my head is about to explode." I told him, which felt accurate to me.

"I have a doctor on their way. He should be here any minute now." He told me.

"Does he carry a pharmacy?" I asked sarcastically.

"I didn't ask." He chuckled.

"Ugh, if he doesn't, he's fired." I growled with deadly seriousness.

A few minutes later there was a light knock on the door, the sound of which was still too loud for my head. A man who appeared to be in his early forties came in carrying a dark blue duffle bag. He was dressed in a casual business suit and looked nice enough.

"Hey Griffin, I need you to check her out." Reece told him, pointing to me. Reece started detailing everything that had happened tonight, my head hurt so bad I spaced it out.

Chapter 44 - Both-A Burden

8-10 minutes

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Reece

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Little Bunny wasn't looking so good. After I told Griffin what she had been through, he went over and started examining her. She winced and cried out several times. My wolf didn't like that one bit. It proved that her head was in bad shape.

"It would be best if I could get a scan, but I'm guessing that's not an option right now?" Griffin said looking at me.

"Do you believe there is something majorly wrong?" I asked him.

"I can't be certain, but things might get worse if there is."

"I just want to take a pain pill and rest." Little Bunny grumbled.

"And if you have a concussion and never wake up?" I asked her.

"Well, at least the pain would be gone." She quipped. I growled at her. "Oh, drop it. If things get worse, then bring the helicopter back and fly me to the hospital, if I get better on my own then all's well that ends well." She sounded annoyed.

"Fine. Have it your way." I told her.

"If you have problems with balance or vision, I want you in the hospital ASAP, do you understand me?" Griffin told her.

"Sure, whatever." She told him.

"I'm serious. Agree or I don't give you the good stuff." He demanded holding up a bottle whose label I couldn't see.

"Fine, I promise, I will go to the hospital immediately if anything gets worse." She sighed. "Cross my heart." She promised, making the motion. "Now please, make my head feel better."

"Fine." Griffin laughed as he took out a syringe, filling it. "You're going to go back to sleep for the night."

"That's fine with me." She held out her arm for him.

Once the meds were administered and my Little Bunny was sound asleep, I walked Griffin out, telling him to keep this to himself. It was an order, and he was forced to obey.

I was standing in the hall by the door when Riley called me.

"Reece?"

"Yeah." I frowned, turning to him.

"I'm about to watch the security footage from tonight, I was waiting for you, so are you coming?"

"Yeah, I want to see what happened." I nodded, following him to the security room that housed the video cameras. It looked a lot like the one at my Alpha house, only fewer monitors as this estate was smaller.

We watched as the scene unfolded before us. There had been a sound off in the trees, but that was in front of her, so she was not suspicious for something behind her. The man who snuck up behind her had done so without her noticing. But she managed to get free and was fighting him off pretty well.

Just as I thought she was doing great, the other two ambushed her from behind, pinning her arms to her sides. Even then she was not giving up. She kicked and bit as much as she could. She was bound and determined to get free. She did manage to bloody two of them after all. But they quickly grew frustrated and one of the men lifted his arm, in it I saw a metal pipe. He brought it crashing down on the side of her head with great force.

"That's how they got her." I noted.

"She's a fighter that's for sure." Riley praised.

"Yeah, but if she had a wolf, she would have gotten away no problem. She's too weak to be my Luna." I snapped, slipping back to my typical attitude.

"REECE!" Riley yelled at me.

"It's the truth." I snapped at him. "Can't you see how much of a disaster tonight was just because the Goddess gave me a mate with no wolf?"

"But can't you see how much worse it could have been? Think about how much farther they would have gotten if she wasn't able to fight. Or what they could have done to her or you in return."

"Would they be targeting her if she wasn't the Luna?" I asked him. "Being a Luna with no wolf is just a danger to her and my wolf pack." The anger and frustration in my voice was reaching its breaking point. I stormed out of the room.

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Trinity

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I woke the next day feeling mostly better. My head still hurt but not quite as bad. I could get out of the bed I was laying in without feeling like I was going to die or wanting to vomit, so it was a definite improvement. Someone had put my bag in here, it was on the table near the window.

I was getting my stuff, and hoping to find a shower, when the door opened.

"You're up?" Reece asked.

"Yeah, I'm feeling better." I told him. "I wanted to shower and change. I'm sure we need to leave as well."

"Yes, we need to hurry. The bathroom is through there." He pointed. "But before you go, I want to talk to you for a moment."

"Alright." I frowned at him, I could feel his tension, something was wrong. We were standing by the window, Reece looking out over the front yard, away from me.

"What happened last night will not happen again." He seemed tense.

"I'm sorry. I will not leave when you've asked me to stay put again."

"That's not what I meant." He said impatiently.

"Then what is?"

"I could mention so many aspects." He murmured, turning to look at me. "The dance for one. I won't allow that to happen again, ever."

"That's fine, I found it awkward."

"The kiss, it was never supposed to happen in the first place."

"Agreed. I didn't expect it nor want it to happen. I didn't want my first kiss forced on me like that." I noticed his eyes widen for a fraction of a second.

"And lastly, I will not save you again. You will either save yourself, or not put yourself into such a situation like that ever again." Those words surprised me. "If you require assistance after today, call one of your guards." He added.

"I'm sorry I was such a burden to you." I told him, looking down.

"You're more than a burden." He groaned, causing me to look up at him, his eyes were filled with anger and other dark emotions. "I hate you." He snapped, my heart shattered in that instant.

I had known he would never love me, but I had hoped for a level of civility. For mutual respect at least. And maybe, just maybe, affection might grow over time. I knew I was already developing feelings for him. I couldn't help it. But he would never return them. Even then, I kept myself from crying.

"I understand." Was all I said.

"Now, finish getting ready for the day." He snarled at me in anger before he left the room.

I went into the bathroom to shower. I had intended it to be quick, but things were different now. I sat there, on the floor of the shower, with the hot water falling on my head. I didn't know what was water and what was tears as I sat there and cried.

I cried until the hot water ran out completely. I continued to cry while I dried myself off and get dressed. I cried until I had no more tears left in me to cry. It was both more and less than I expected. I cried for nearly an hour, which was longer than I had ever cried before. But I couldn't believe that was all the tears I could muster for my mate.

When I pressed a cold cloth to my face to soothe the red, swollen skin around my eyes, I didn't even feel like crying when I thought about Reece. Smacking him upside his big Alpha head, yes, but crying, nope.

I don't think the feelings I was developing would go away so quickly. They were aided by the mate bond after all. But maybe, eventually, I could manage to look at him with an empty, apathetic feeling. I could hope at least. Dammit, why did he have to go and kiss me last night, that had made my heart and body all confused.

Reece was upset when he finally saw me.

"You took way too long." He snapped at me. He didn't comment about my red eyes, so either he didn't notice, or my makeup job had done the trick. I was glad I decided to pack the little bag after all. I just shrugged my shoulders and ignored him. I didn't want to talk to him yet, we would have to play the happy Alpha couple later.

He sped along the highway and we made it to the next pack within forty-five minutes. This pack was just as small as the last and paid fealty to ours. It meant that they didn't actually have an Alpha. They had a Prime Beta. It was like the Alpha of a pack, and functioned as one in Reece's absence, but they never truly had the same power over the pack members as the Alpha did. And his mate had no official role among the pack, but she did help with all the women and children still. The trip here didn't take long.

Chapter 45 - Trinity-Heartbroken

9-11 minutes

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Trinity

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Reece met with the Prime Beta, telling me to sit in the dining room with the Prime Beta's mate and not move. I thought about ignoring him and leaving the dining room, he was a jerk and didn't deserve me listening to him, but that would just make things harder on me. So, I stayed put. I would make his life hell when we were at home. On the road, people had to see us in a certain light.

When the meeting was over, and it was time to leave I couldn't be happier. I went out to the car and got in, ignoring him all the while. I heard him telling them that I was still feeling tired from the incident last night, which he had told them a little about to explain our tardiness.

We drove home in silence, because I ignored Reece's every attempt to talk to me. Once we were back to the estate, I retreated to my room and locked the door. I didn't want to see him more than necessary right now. I know it will get better eventually, but right now, just the sight of him was too painful.

As soon as Vincent picked me up for classes Monday morning, he knew something was wrong. But I refused to elaborate. I think he just assumed it was the trauma of the weekend and ultimately blamed himself. I couldn't tell him what was really bothering me, but I did try telling him that it wasn't his fault. I don't think he believed me at all.

Juniper didn't know about the events of the weekend, and she could tell right away that something was wrong.

"Spill it." She told me with no preamble or greeting.

"What?" I asked her.

"Whatever has you so down in the dumps." She told me.

"It's nothing, really."

"I'll believe that when I become the next Alpha myself. News flash, that will never happen." Her tone was firm, no hint of humor in the joke she just told.

"Seriously Trinity, you look like hell." Paul told me.

"Gee, thanks Paul." I snapped at him.

"You can tell us what's wrong Trinity." Cedar added. I just shook my head no, fighting back the tears, apparently, I had more to cry over him than I thought I had. I turned and ran into the bathroom that was just down the hall. I heard all four of them call my name and two pairs of feet chase me.

"Trinity?" Juniper called as she came into the bathroom. Checking which stall I was currently hiding in. "What the hell is the matter with you?"

"Just leave me alone and let me finish crying this out. Once all the tears are done, I will be able to talk about it clinically." I told her through sobs.

"Does it have anything to do with the trip this past weekend?" She guessed, she knew I had gone away, but she doesn't know anything that happened. I ignored her question. "Bingo." She said intuiting the non-response to mean yes as she always did.

"Does it also have something to do with a certain tall, sexy Alpha?"

"Just drop it." I told her.

"Two for two I see. What did he do to you?" She asked me. She knew that Reece and I weren't on the greatest of terms, but that we were at least civil when others were around.

"Juniper." I pleaded with her.

"Look, whatever it is, it's major, otherwise I would leave you be. But this is affecting you so much that you're having a breakdown. I'm trying to help you, because I'm your friend, I'm here for you, and I love you." She said. Those three words. Something I wish I could hear a mate say to me one day, but that was never going to happen. I would never hear a man tell me that now. Not ever. Because I was mated to a man that hated me. I cried harder.

"Trinity." She called out, pushing the door open with sheer force and looking at me with pure worry written on her face.

"I'm sorry Juniper." I cried, feeling so pathetic in that moment.

"Girl, you got nothing to feel sorry for. You just need to tell me what he did to you, so I can decide if I'm going to go right to my death by trying to murder my own Alpha."

"I'll tell you, but just leave it be after that alright." I told her.

"That depends."

"Promise me." I told her again.

"Fine, I promise." She finally gave in.

I nodded and told her everything. From the call Vincent got to the moment Reece said he hated me. She sat there listening with rapt attention. Anger was slowly building behind her eyes. First it was at the three men who had taken me. And she was happy Reece saved me. But the moment I told her what he said to me, her face contorted with rage.

"What the HELL is that ASSHOLE thinking?" Her voice thundered throughout the room.

"What?" I heard Paul ask from outside.

"How could he do that? How could he say that to you? How could he treat you like that?" She was livid. "I swear I'm going to kick his--."

"No, you promised to just leave it be." I told her. "I've known all along that I am a mate in name only. But I had thought we might have a relationship grow out of mutual respect eventually, or something. But I see now that it's not going to happen."

"You were ok with that?" She asked me.

"I didn't agree to it before becoming Luna, no. But he didn't tell me before I became Luna, so I had no choice."

"So, he tricked you into this? How can he ignore the pull of the mate bond? Are you sure it's even a mate bond?" She asked me.

"I'm sure. I've seen how it affects him, and it affects me too. It's real, but he just doesn't care. He doesn't want me. He would rather have nothing than a wolfless girl like me." I told her.

"That man needs a wake up call." She snapped.

"Don't worry, eventually, things will get easier, and I never truly wanted a mate either. So, this works out best, I don't have to have a true mate and I get all the other benefits of having a mate."

"Yeah, and the heartache." She sighed, hugging me tight.

We left the bathroom shortly after. I had washed my face and was calmer, but I didn't feel up to classes today. We would just get the assignments from someone else and make them up later. Instead, Vincent offered to take me to get ice cream.

"Why ice cream?" I asked him, perplexed.

"It always cheers Heather up." He smiled sheepishly.

"Yeah, let's all go get ice cream." Juniper smiled. So, it was decided.

Vincent took us to Heather's favorite shop. It was a quaint little parlor on a side street in the city. They had just opened for the day so they weren't busy yet.

"Vincent, nice to see you. Who're all these with you?" The old man asked.

"Hey Eddie." He called. "Trinity, this is my Uncle Eddie, Eddie, this is our Luna, Trinity, and her friends, Juniper, Paul and Cedar." Eddie's eyes had gone wide at the word Luna.

"My goodness, but our new Luna sure is a pretty one, that Alpha is a lucky man." I tried not to let my eyes darken at his mention of Reece. "I take it Vincent here brought you for some of the best homemade ice cream in the whole city?" He asked, making me smile. Eddie was nice, just like Vincent was.

"That's right, what do you recommend?" I asked walking to the counter. Eddie went through the list of all his flavors, which there were a lot. He had all the traditional ones that he could buy, but there were also the three-dozen special, homemade flavors he had invented. They all sounded good. Unable to choose, I had Eddie pick for me. He gave me a bowl with several sample sized scoops so I could try quite a few.

"Come back and we will give you another variety. We will keep it up until you try them all." He told me with a smile.

"Thank you." I nodded, taking the bowl. When I turned around, I saw that Juniper and the guys were all talking, their heads held together. I had a feeling she was telling them everything. When they turned around, all three of the guys had a look that was a cross of pity and anger, even Vincent. Yup, she told them.

"Juniper!" I whined at her.

"Sorry Trinity, they were worried about you as well."

"Astro." Paul cried, coming over and hugging me tight just like Carter would do.

"Trin." Cedar added, joining the hug. Vincent just stood there looking sad, like he wished he had known what had been going on, but that he couldn't do anything against the Alpha. His hands were tied, but he cared about me, same as Noah.

We ate our ice cream and tried to have a good time. But everyone kept looking at me with worry filled eyes. It was hard for me to enjoy the ice cream. I barely even noticed the flavors. It felt like a waste, really.

Vincent drove me home in near silence. Just before we got home. He started apologizing again.

"I'm sorry Luna. So very sorry."

"For what Vincent?" I asked him.

"That I wasn't there for you. Not just this weekend, but this entire time. I didn't know what you were going through."

"Obviously. That's because I didn't tell you. It's my problem, no one else's."

"Luna." He cried out, sadness filling his voice.

"I won't let it get to me. Today was hard, because of this weekend, but it will make me stronger in the end. Just be patient for me, alright." I smiled at him.

Chapter 46 - Trinity- Seeing Double And What I Think Of Reece

8-10 minutes

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Trinity

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Noah visited me that night. The look in his eyes told me he knew what happened over the weekend, but he had no idea of anything else. He had David and another man I'd never met with him.

Noah ignored the formalities he usually tried to show at the estate, he came right over to me and wrapped his arms around me tightly.

"Trin, I'm so sorry you were hurt, but I am so happy you're ok." He squeezed me tight like he was trying to make sure I was real, that I was still here.

"I'm fine Noah." I soothed, hugging him back as tight as I could. At that moment I was just happy to have a member of my family there with me.

"Mom has been beside herself. Dad has been pacing nonstop. And Carter is livid. They will come here themselves if I don't let them know you're safe." He squeezed me tighter still. "Nikki and I were both worried about you as well, so expect her to bombard you sometime soon."

"I love you, all of you guys." I felt like crying again, but I couldn't, not with the strange man here that I didn't know.

I gently pulled away from Noah, breaking the hug that I wanted to continue.

"Who is this, Noah?" I asked him.

"Oh, yes, let me introduce you." He composed himself while gesturing the men forward. "Obviously you know David already. This man here is Shane, he will be joining David and Vincent as your guards."

"Nice to meet you." I greeted him. I hoped he would be better than the last ones. Jeremy didn't make me feel weird like Leslie, but he seemed to hate me. And Leslie, well, he was nice at first but ended up creeping me out.

"It's a pleasure." Shane smiled, bowing his head slightly. He looked to be about my age, and he had a kind smile on his face. He was just over six feet tall and looked like he worked out quite often. He wasn't overly handsome, about average but he had some very interesting features. He had gray eyes and hair that looked to be a gray, almost silver, color. His wolf was bound to be interesting. Just then there was a knock on the door.

"Ahh, there is the other guard that will be joining you as well." Noah declared walking to the door. I watched as he went to the door and pulled it open. The man standing at the door was identical to the man standing in front of me.

"Either I'm seeing double or you're twins." I said with a sarcastic tone and a grin on my face. "That or someone slipped me some double mint." I cracked the bad joke and got no laughter. "Tough crowd." I mumbled, that however did get a laugh from David, Shane, and his as of yet unnamed brother.

"Stick to your day job Trinity." Noah joked, laughing at me.

"I don't have a day job. I'm a student, remember." I laughed. "That and I'm the Luna."

"Yeah, well, learn all you can cause you suck as a comedian." Noah laughed.

"Oh, hardy-har-har, so funny. That's coming from the man with almost a negative sense of humor." My retort earned me laughter from the other three men, and we all got a glare from Noah.

"That's almost too true, Trinity." David said between his fits of laughter.

"My job requires me to be serious, it's not my fault." Noah snapped. I laughed at him.

"Is it always like this?" The newcomer asked.

"Don't look at me I just got here." Shane shook his head.

"Nope, this is a first for me, but it's quite the show isn't." David answered them.

"Enough!" Noah growled. "Let us move on. Trinity, this is indeed Shane's twin brother, Shawn."

So, normal names for this set of twins, got it. I noted to myself. Juniper had told me she thought her mom was a bit of a hippie wannabe and therefore gave her and her brother hippie like names in her opinion. I didn't think it was hippie like, just fitting for the name trends in our current world.

"Nice to meet you Shawn, and I will apologize in advance if I mix you up. I'm sure you act different as you are completely different people, but until I know you well enough, I will probably mix you up a few times." I knew it was inevitable, so I thought it best to just apologize for it now.

"No worries Luna, it happens all the time." Shane laughed, I only know this because he was here first and was the one wearing a blue shirt. Shawn came in wearing a red shirt.

I didn't see or talk to Reece again all week. Not until it was time for us to go to the next set of pack introductions. I was called to his office early Saturday morning before we left. I went in, alone, and saw that he was alone as well. I was nervous, but I refused to let it show. We were still at home, so I didn't have to pretend anything right now.

"Are you prepared to leave?" He asked as soon as the door shut, without even looking at me.

"Yes." I said curtly.

"I expect you to be as convincing as you were last time. Can you manage that?" He asked, still looking at his desk.

"I don't know, I guess that depends on you, doesn't it?"

"What's that supposed to mean?" He looked confused as he finally looked up, questioning my meaning.

"I'm saying it depends on if you can manage to not be an ass the entire time. If you don't talk the way you are now. If you can behave yourself Fido, then so can I." He growled loudly as I slipped back to his favorite pet name with a grin on my face.

"Are you trying to piss me off Little Bunny?" He asked, sneering at me with the name he knew I hated.

"No more than you're trying to piss me off, sweetheart." I countered batting my eyes and giving him an evil smile. He looked visibly more upset than he was before.

"You better get this out of your system now, because this attitude will not be allowed while we are in other territories."

"I can get it out until my heart's content, got a baseball bat?" I gave him an angelic smile.

"You really are an Evil Bunny, aren't you?"

"Only where you're concerned?" I snapped at him.

"As long as no one else in the pack, or any other pack sees this attitude I don't care. Got it, nobody outside you and I are to know how things really are between us. Is that clear?"

"Crystal. As long as you know that anytime I'm alone with you I'm going to make what I think of you be known."

"What you think of me. And what exactly do you think of me?" Oh, I couldn't believe he was asking me that.

"You're an egotistical, self-centered, high-handed brute with an ice-cold heart and the emotional maturity of a mayfly."

"Ouch. Don't hold back on my account, keep going." He pretended to be hurt.

"I think you believe you're more special than you are just because you're the alpha. I think you expect me to fall at your feet and worship you or fawn all over you like all the pack bimbos, but that's never going to happen, and deep down that pisses you off. And you didn't get to have things go your way so now you're basically having an eternal tantrum and taking your frustrations out on me. Well fine. If you

get to take it out on me, I'm going to take my frustrations at your attitude out on you. Just fair warning, be prepared because I am just getting warmed up and things will only get worse from here on out." I ranted at him until I was out of breath. I was taking slow deep breaths to calm myself while glaring at him. He was looking at me like he was bored, he didn't even have the decency to be annoyed by my rant.

"Finished yet?" He asked me.

"Yeah."

"Good. We will be leaving in twenty minutes. Please do your best to convince them, the same as last time, I will play the part the same as before." He seemed so unfazed, what an annoying JERK!

Vincent was joining us on the trip this time. He was trying to appear as unfazed as possible, but I know he was worried about Heather. I just hoped nothing happened during the trip, he could make it back if something happened to her, but then that would leave me alone with Reece again.

We took an SUV, one that I had not seen when in the garage before. It was large and afforded us lots of personal space. Reece was driving again. I think he liked driving, it must be a control thing. Vincent was in the front with him, and I was in the back reading a book, glad that I didn't have to try to keep up a conversation.

Chapter 47 - Trinity-Black Moon Pack

9-12 minutes

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Trinity

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We apparently had a busy schedule this weekend. It was just after eight when we left, we would be visiting three fealty packs that bordered ours. After that we would be visiting a pack that we had no treaty or fealty with.

According to Vincent, these were the packs we had to be wary of. They owed us nothing and tensions were often high between our packs. I would need to watch my surroundings the entire time I was there.

The fealty pack meetings went just as they did before. Reece met with the Prime Beta, while I waited in the dining area getting to know his mate. Only this time, Vincent was standing behind me like an attendant in some feudal war drama. He said that a proper bodyguard had to be standing, which I guess was true, but it was awkward. He never stood in class because it would look out of place and it wouldn't have been allowed.

I was just happy that things were going smoothly. It was easy to be the loving show couple with Reece for these fealty packs, because we spent so little time there. We literally just introduced me, they already knew Reece, then he pretended like he didn't want to leave me but had to for the meeting, making me promise to wait for him. Then the Prime Beta's wife would gush about how lucky I was and

how they were happy to finally have a Luna. I just needed to pretend to be embarrassed and give smiles and the occasional answers in response. We left as soon as the meetings were over.

All three fealty meetings passed in a blur. I couldn't even tell you which house belonged to which or what their mates looked like. I Simply didn't pay enough attention. I will meet them again and try to remember them then.

It was a while after sunset when we got to the last pack house for the day. Their pack was about the same size as ours, but they had significantly less territory than we did. Their land directly bordered ours, just like the Azure River Pack did, but they had apparently lost a territory battle a long time ago and ended up losing a lot of their land to other packs. Because of that, they have been jealous of the larger packs for a long time, including ours.

We were supposed to stay here overnight, same as we did at Riley's Alpha house, but I didn't know if that was a good idea, and I hadn't even gotten out of the car yet. I could, however, see about a dozen people stand outside their alpha house waiting for us when we arrived. That made me nervous.

"Reece, how are you, young man?" A man asked as soon as Reece opened his door. He looked like he was in his mid-thirties with bright blond hair and eyes that were such a dark green they almost looked black when I first saw them.

Reece opened my door for me, he had told me that as Luna I was expected to have people treat me like this. And while we were on these trips, he had to do it. I took the hand he held out for me and immediately felt Reece pull me into his side, wrapping an arm around my back.

"I'm wonderful Stanley, and how have you been?" He asked with just the slightest hint of annoyance. Stanley's eyes widened when he saw me, I'm guessing he had not expected that Reece was telling the truth about having a mate, or that Reece just hadn't mentioned me.

"My, I thought this was just going to be another negotiation. Who might this be?" The man asked. Well, that answered that question, Reece hadn't told him that he was mated.

"This is my mate, and the Luna of my pack." Reece announced. "Trinity, this is Stanley, Alpha of the Black Moon Pack." He introduced us while looking at me.

"Well, then I guess congratulations is in order. You should have told me in advance. I do not have a suitable room ready for you to stay in." Stanley sighed, his voice full of fake apologies. I could tell Reece and Stanley did not get along.

"No worries, we will stay elsewhere tonight. Considering how late it was already, and that it would take us at least three hours, or more, to drive home, add to that the length of the meeting time, I didn't want to fathom how late it would be if we drove home tonight. But I didn't know where he planned for us to sleep tonight.

"Well, come inside. Tell us all about your mate. Then we can get to business." Stanley interrupted my thoughts. His voice for some reason sent chills through my body, and not the good kind. He made me feel like I had bugs crawling on me. Something about him was off, but I just couldn't figure it out. Most likely, it was just because he didn't like Reece, and as much as my mate annoyed me, my bond with him didn't let me like people who were his enemies or trying to do him harm.

We went into the house and were taken to a grand dining hall. The men who had been standing with the Alpha outside all followed and stood stationed around the room. Stanley called in a maid and ordered her to set two more place settings at the table as we were seated.

"Our guest tonight seems to have brought his new Luna and another pack member along with him." The maid set the dishes in front of us and smiled before leaving the room.

"Reece leaned down, stroking my hair and pretending to kiss my ear, but he was actually whispering to me.

"Do not eat anything they give you. Trust no one here." I nodded but hid it in a small giggle like his kiss had tickled me. He seemed to have understood as he pulled away from me.

Stanley was watching us and smiled when Reece pulled his mouth away from my ear.

"You seem to have found yourself a beauty." Stanley smirked while leering at me, my skin crawled again.

"Yes, she is very beautiful isn't she." Reece agreed, squeezing me with his arm around my shoulder.

"Wherever did you find such a lovely girl?" Stanley asked Reece but didn't take his eyes off of me. I was almost ready to deal with Reece at his worst if it meant getting away from this creep.

"She's been hiding in my pack this whole time."

"Really, who would have thought."

The maid came in with the food then. I knew I wouldn't be eating any of it, but I was happy for the distraction at least, or so I thought. Stanley still didn't take his eyes off of me. His leering stare felt like it was boring into my skin and leaving a permanent mark. I just wanted to get out of here.

"It's a shame you have to leave, I'm sure we can ready something for you during the meeting, Reece. There will be no need for you to stay anywhere else." His words made me stiffen. Reece still had his arm around me protectively, so he felt the tension in my body.

"No, I must insist that we go elsewhere. I'm sure you remember how things were when you were newly mated, Stanley." Reece mocked with a hint of finality.

"Well, I do happen to remember those wild days." He laughed. "If you insist, then I will not push it, but the offer still stands."

I pushed the food on the plate around but didn't actually eat. When Stanley commented, I simply told him I was tired from the long day. He smiled at that, like he thought it was a good thing. Halfway through the supposed meal, Reece stood, declaring it was time that he and Stanley got on with business. The two of them left with just over half of the guards following them.

Vincent and I were left behind with only four of the guards remaining. Not one of them had said a word yet. They hadn't even looked directly at me since I had arrived, which was a relief since their alpha had done nothing but leer at me.

But things seemed to change the minute Reece and Stanley left.

"Your alpha better agree to the terms this time. This is getting ridiculous." One of the guards, a man with a dark tan and brown hair and eyes spoke with an angry tone. "I'm getting sick of having to deal with these constant meetings." He added.

"Our alpha is not interested in an exchange of territories." Vincent stated in a flat tone.

"Hmph! Your pack has more land than it needs." Another guard said, this one pale with yellow eyes and light brown hair.

"Lands were decided generations ago, it is no fault of ours that your previous Alpha made poor decisions." Vincent kept his voice flat again as he responded but I could tell he was not happy having to respond to these men.

"Your alpha will give up something." The biggest of the men said, he was standing by the door Reece had left through and was glaring at us with black eyes that set in his light brown skin. "He can pay with his land, his life, or his Luna, he can pick, or we can." He added, giving me a particularly nasty look.

"You will not lay a finger on the Luna." Vincent growled at him.

"Is that a challenge?" The man asked with a smile.

"It's a fact." Vincent answered as he tensed his body in preparation to either fight or run. I knew that against this many men I would not be much help, but I would fight them off as best as I could. I looked around the room to see if there was something I could use as a weapon just in case.

"You think you could stop us all by yourself?" The last man said as he took a slinking step toward the table. He had an olive complexion and hazel eyes, but he was the first werewolf I had ever seen with a shaved head.

"I will, or I'd die trying." Vincent declared proudly. My eyes went wide. I did not want him dying right now. Not with a baby on the way and a mate and two small children at home.

"Seems like the Luna has little faith in you." The yellow eyed man laughed as he mistook my apprehension. I glared at him.

Chapter 48 - Trinity-Black Moon Pack Part 2

6-7 minutes

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Trinity

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Vincent leaned into me slightly and whispered, the words were barely audible to me, so I know the guards didn't hear them.

"When I grab your hand, you run with me out of here. Got it." I nodded just slightly so he would know I heard him.

"Trying to convince her that you're worthy of her trust. It's too late for that. Your pack will go down, soon enough. It would be better for you all if your alpha didn't make it so hard on all of you." The man with the black eyes taunted.

"You don't know who you're messing with." I snapped at him. I was meaning that they didn't know Reece, but they took it the wrong way.

"You think you're someone so special?" Hazel eyes sneered.

"HA, that's a laugh, you're a pathetically weak female, no use for anything but a roll in the sack and having pups." My blood boiled at these words. I just wanted to make them shut their mouths. They were pissing me off more than anything, more than Reece ever had and that was saying something.

"You really think that's all a Luna is good for?" I asked him, getting to my feet. "You think women can't be strong, huh? That's a laugh. Most men are the weakest people I know, and that's saying something. You want to try shutting your damn mouths and thinking with that thing between your ears for half a minute. Then you might not cause people so many problems. You might not find yourselves in so much trouble. You might not leave your alpha in a position where he's going to need to clean up after your bullshit. Goddess but you're stupid." I ranted at them.

All four men were glaring at me in disbelief when I was done yelling at them. I knew I shouldn't have done it, but I just lost control. I couldn't help it. Vincent was staring at me as well, shock all over his face.

"Who do you think you are?" Brown eyes growled.

"I'm a Luna, which is much better than an omega like you!" I yelled at him.

"How did you know I'm an omega?" He seemed shocked that I knew. Honestly, I couldn't explain how I knew he was an omega, the lowest ranked wolf possible. But just by looking at them I could just sense what rank they all were, and relatively how strong they all were. Perhaps it was an added benefit of being a Luna.

"You reek of weakness, and your low status is plain to see with your lack of tact." I ridiculed him.

"You little-"

"I wouldn't finish that sentence if I were you." I heard a familiar deep, smooth voice growl from near the door, cutting off the man who had been talking. "Vincent, the meeting is over. We're leaving." Reece growled stalking into the room and grabbing my hand. "Let's go, Trinity." He growled at.

I didn't say a word, as he pulled me out of the room. I just glared over my shoulder one last time as I tried to literally push my thoughts, my negative emotions towards them, into the room. I saw the man nearest me fall over just as I rounded the corner. I was so shocked at what I had just seen that I had to fight back my laughter.

"What? Is there something you find just so damn funny right now?" Reece snarled as he pulled the door of the SUV open and shoved me inside.

"Yes, actually there is." I laughed as he slid in the driver's seat. "One of those idiots closest to me was so unnerved by us leaving that he literally fell over right before we rounded the corner." I finally let out the laughter I was holding in.

"What?" Vincent asked in disbelief.

"I'm serious, the last thing I saw was that idiot with the green eyes falling over. He wasn't even moving. It was funny. I'm sorry, but at least I held the laughter in until we got out here. Give me a little bit of credit for that." I tried to make them see the merit in my accomplishment.

Reece and Vincent just looked at each other, worry and confusion on Vincent's face, a knowing expression on Reece's. They seemed to think that something was off about the situation but wasn't going to tell me about it. I didn't care right now. I was just happy to be away from them.

"The meeting ended much sooner than I expected, Sir, did something happen?" Vincent asked.

"Yeah, we heard the commotion. That and I was done listening to his stupid baseless demands. And I was tired of looking at that pathetic face." I snickered. I was feeling better than I had been for a long time. I felt like when I released my frustrated rant on those morons, I let out all the negative emotions I was feeling.

"Are things going to be alright between our packs?" Vincent wondered.

"Probably not, we will probably have a fight to keep our lands safe and boundaries intact." Reece sounded somber. I didn't want to have my mood brought down, but I knew I needed to be serious.

"Are they strong enough to take us on?" I asked.

"If it were just the primary pack, then they might stand a chance, maybe. But we have the additional support of the fealty packs and the treaty packs that will lend us aid." He answered without even grumbling to me, which was surprising.

"But you don't expect them to play fair, do you?" I demanded.

"Not in the least." He replied.

Reece drove us to a hotel that was about an hour away from the Alpha House we had just left. He said it was still technically in Stanley's territory, but we were on the fringe and in the border city now and that it was unlikely that they'd try anything. I still didn't trust it.

Chapter 49 - Trinity-A Night With Reece

6-8 minutes

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Trinity

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He took us to a very nice, very expensive hotel. And apparently, he had made a reservation. He had already planned on us staying here.

"It was supposed to be later when we got here. But I'm mentally exhausted right now, so I need some sleep before driving home." He yawned as we pulled in. I watched as a parking valet came to get the keys.

Reece once again opened my door for me, not letting anyone touch the door but him. Vincent grabbed the three bags from the back of the SUV and followed us inside. Reece was still putting on his loving mate act even though no one was around to see it. I guessed that he thought there might be pack members here at the hotel as well.

I had never been in a hotel this expensive before, but its splendor paled in comparison to the estate. It was beautiful, for certain. But the estate was old and majestic yet beautifully maintained and perfectly modernized all at the same time. Had I not been living in the Alpha house the past month or so I would have thought this was the most beautiful place I had ever been in.

"Reservation for Gray." Reece informed the clerk when he had reached the concierge desk. The man behind the large ornately decorated wooden desk was a wolf and tensed when he saw Reece.

"Yes Sir, one moment." The man prepared everything without another word from Reece, he returned with the paperwork to be signed and two thin leather pocketbooks with the room keys in them. He moved a few things around to make it more convenient for Reece, then explained which room was which.

"Here you are, Mr. Gray, this room is the single on the fourteenth floor, number 1433, and this here is the suite you booked, on the twenty-fifth floor, number 2501." He handed the leather books over. "Enjoy your evening, Sir." He looked terrified of Reece, as if he had had a bad experience with him before. Knowing Reece, he probably did.

We were on our way to the elevator when I held my hand out for the key card for my room. Reece looked puzzled.

"What?" He asked me, perplexed.

"I need the key to my room. How else will I get in?" I asked him, acting as if he were slow for a moment. Reece just raised his eyebrows and took the keys for room 1433. Finally, he understands. I thought to myself.

"Here's your room key Vincent." He smiled, handing the leather book for 1433 to Vincent. My eyes opened in shock and horror and the realization hit me just as the elevator doors shut in front of my face.

Oh my goddess. He expects me to sleep in the same room as him. Holy shit! What does he think is going to happen? My inner thoughts were revving up to the level of full on panic when I heard the ding and Vincent's gentle voice.

"Have a good night Alpha, Luna, I will see you in the morning." He stepped off the elevator. No, not my last safety net. Not the only thing keeping me safe right now. Don't leave me alone with him dammit! I growled in my head. But it was no use, he was gone, and the doors shut once again.

Reece didn't say anything for the rest of the ride to the twenty-fifth floor, which turned out to be the top floor. When I heard the doors ding again. I saw that there were only two rooms up here. 2501 and

2502. They each took up half of the floor. One room each to the left and right a large window wall directly in front of the elevator.

Reece stepped off the elevator and into the hall, I almost stayed behind, afraid to follow. But I knew he would be upset if I didn't go with him, not that it mattered, but there were other wolves here in the hotel, so I couldn't cause that big of a scene, yet. I reluctantly got off the elevator and followed him into the hall.

He stalked down the hall and leaned sideways against the door, staring at me. He slowly pulled the key from its leather holder and pushed it into the lock, all the while looking at me. When he heard the click of the lock disengage, he turned the handle and slowly opened the door.

I was getting more and more nervous by the second, it seemed like he was trying to be seductive. The next thing I knew he swept me up and held me in a bridal carry and walked into the room. I heard him push the door shut with his foot, the click of the door felt ominous.

The room was set up like an apartment, there was a living room that we had entered after the entry hall. He walked over and set me on the sofa before flopping onto the chair across from me.

"You should see your face Little Bunny." He laughed.

"What's that supposed to mean?" I asked him.

"It means you look so scared and your face is so red, that instead of the white rabbit I usually imagine you to be you now look like the Devil Bunny I've sometimes called you." He chuckled at his own words.

"I'm glad you're enjoying yourself." I glared at him.

"It was entertaining, I must admit. When you thought you were going to be staying in a different room, I had to mess with you somehow."

"And why is that?" I demanded. I just had to know his reasoning.

"Because I knew that if you thought I was going to try anything that you would be nervous or scared as hell." He laughed leaning forward toward me as he spoke.

"Of course I would be, I didn't bring my knife with me." I told him. He looked perplexed. "I told you, it was going to be mutual, or you'd lose something, didn't I. And it'd probably be a little hard to bite it off." I said smiling at him evilly. He jerked in surprise or fear at my words. I laughed near hysterically at how my words caused him to blush a deep red. "Ha ha, look at that blush, Clifford! Now I know where they found the big red dog."

"Stop it, it's not funny." He snapped.

"Stop messing with me and I'll stop messing with you, at least for tonight." I offered holding out my hand in a peace offering.

"Fine, deal." He agreed, shaking my hand with his much larger hand engulfing mine completely. "But I will have you one day, Little Bunny, that's a promise." He growled.

"Not if I have anything to say about it." I countered.

Chapter 50 - Trinity-More Spaced Out Than Usual

8-10 minutes

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Trinity

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I was glad to be back from that particular trip. We only had one more that I had to go on, apparently. After this weekend Reece would continue to go to his annual meetings without me. My introductions would be finished, and I would no longer need to attend them. Thank the Goddess.

Vincent was currently sitting next to me, dragging me out of one of my daydreams. I only really daydreamed in my English Composition class, Professor Thompson's voice just helped to lull me into a stupor.

"Trinity." I could vaguely hear him hissing at me. "Trinity, wake up." I didn't think I was actually asleep, why would he be telling me to wake up? "Luna." He growled harshly in a whisper. I jerked at the sound of my title being used somewhere so public. I blinked my eyes in confusion and he was glaring at me.

"Nice of you to join the land of the living." Professor Thompson sneered standing next to me.

"I'm sorry." I said automatically as I turned with a start and looked at her apologetically.

"Does my class bore you?" She asked me.

"No, not in the least, I just haven't gotten much sleep lately." I told her. Which. that was kind of true. I've been stressing so much about the other packs, the stuff to do with Reece, and just my life in general, that over this last month and a half since I moved in with Reece I have been getting a lot less sleep.

She leaned down and growled next to my ear. "You may have an alpha for a mate, but he can't protect you forever, take care to pay attention to what's around you." Her voice was harsh, and her words were ominous. I had never been this close to Professor Thompson, so I had not noticed that she was a wolf until just now. There were so many in this class that their scents simply overlapped, but with her so close it was easy for me to smell her now.

My eyes went wide at her perceived threat. I didn't know if she was part of my pack or not, I only knew her from class. I would have to ask the others later.

Class was over shortly after that tense moment. It was my second and last class for the day, so I would be able to leave campus and relax. I couldn't focus on school until the last of the meetings was over. It was driving me insane. And with what just happened it was like adding fuel to the fire.

"Why don't we get some lunch?" I heard Vincent say as we were leaving the room.

"Sounds good to me." I agreed. I was actually pretty hungry and some time away from the house where I didn't have to think about Reece, the meetings, or being Luna would probably do me some good.

"Are you free for lunch?" He turned to ask my three friends as they came out of the room behind us.

"Paul and I can't, we have stuff to do." Cedar declined.

"I'll go." Juniper smiled happily. "This makes it so that I don't have to sit and watch them play macho men." She turned her back on them and grabbed my arm. "Bye guys." She didn't look back at them as she dragged me out of the building, Vincent following us close behind.

"So, what are they off to do?" I asked her.

"They're auditioning for a martial arts tournament. It's not very fair of them, considering, but whatever." She said laughing. "They want to prove they know how to fight, then they plan to either join the pack warriors or the police academy." She finished telling me their plans.

"Both of them?" I asked, surprised.

"Yeah, it's funny, Cedar and I are the twins, but him and Paul are the ones who are so much alike. So, he finally has someone to do all his annoying stuff with." She seemed so happy talking about them.

The three of us went to my favorite little diner, Franny's Kitchen. Franny has been running the place for so long that she could change the name to Granny's Kitchen, and it wouldn't be a lie. I found the place as soon as I started school in August, and I loved it immediately. Her food was delicious home-style family food. Stuff you loved to eat and couldn't get enough of.

Franny's was a welcoming and happy place. She ran the place with her family, and everyone was just as sweet as she was. I loved coming here, especially when I was in a bad mood. It always helped to cheer me up.

We sat in a booth in the back. Juniper sat across from me and Vincent next to me with me on the inside of the booth. We ordered our food; I got a half order pot roast and a chicken pot pie. I was hungry, and the food was really good. While we waited, we chatted about random useless things. That is until Juniper asked how things were between Reece and me.

"Not much has changed." I tried to be evasive.

"Things haven't gotten any better? I thought they must have since you slept together at the hotel." Vincent just had to go and let that little tidbit out.

"OH MY GODDESS! Trinity, you didn't tell me about that." Juniper looked at me with hopeful eyes, eager for a story.

"There's nothing to tell." I countered.

"I'm not buying that. You slept together, how is that nothing?"

"We slept in the same hotel room. We didn't sleep together." I saw the look of confusion on her face.

"In the same bed?" She asked, still trying to hold on to a scrap of debauchery in my failing love life.

"Nope, it was a suite. So, there were two separate bedrooms for us. He did try to have a little fun and mess with me on the way to the room though."

"Fun? What kind of fun?" She asked, hopefully.

"He was being intentionally suggestive just to scare and annoy me. But I told him nothing will happen unless it's mutual otherwise he's going to lose something." I said with all seriousness. Juniper and Vincent both laughed at my words.

"Oh, I bet he just loved that." Vincent laughed. He was such a nice guy, but right now he was laughing almost maniacally. But it suited him still, it made him look a little younger and twice as handsome.

"Well, when I reminded him about that fact in the hotel and threatened to remove things through certain means he did blush."

"NO!" Juniper gasped. "You actually made the alpha blush?"

"Now I've heard it all." They were both laughing again. It was all really helping me to get past the uneasy feelings and stress I had been having lately.

"I hate to eat and run, but I've gotta go meet the guys. I'll see you tomorrow Trin, love you." Juniper told me as we leaned across the table and gave each other a quick hug after lunch.

"I'll see you tomorrow." I told her then watched as she walked out of the restaurant.

"Want to get dessert before we leave?" Vincent asked me as soon Juniper was gone.

"Tempting, very tempting, but I'm stuffed. And I get the feeling you're trying to make me feel better for some reason." I looked up at him suspiciously.

"Is it that obvious?" He asked sheepishly.

"You're a really nice guy Vincent, so it might normally be a little hard to tell, but you're trying a little harder than usual."

"I've only suggested lunch and dessert." He laughed.

"I know, but it's all the little things too."

"I just want you to be happy and safe Luna." He looked so sincere as he spoke.

"You're one of my biggest allies, and one of my best friends Vincent."

"I'm very happy you feel that way." He smiled.

"I just feel bad for you." I told him, looking down at the table.

"Why? There's nothing for you to feel sorry for."

"You're being forced to spend almost all of your time with a person ten years younger than you. You're being forced to go through college again. And you have to spend your time with my friends too. You never get to do what you want to do." To my surprise Vincent laughed at me.

"Trinity, you have it all wrong. Ok, here's how I see it. I have the privilege of being the personal guard of my Luna, a very high honor that was given to me. And I never went to college, so now I'm getting a free education by guarding you. And your friends are great, and what does it matter that you're all younger

than I am, we can share our perspectives and help each other learn and see things differently. I'm happy, so don't be sorry."

"You really are too nice." I smiled tearfully at him.

"Too nice, or just nice enough." He joked. "Come on, let's get you back to the estate." He stood and gestured for me to do the same. When we walked out into the midafternoon light, even the mid-November chill or the threat of impending snow wasn't enough to bring my mood down.