

Chosen by Fate 491

Chapter 491 - Reece – Trinity's Suspicions (VOLUME 3)

Reece

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This night had not gone at all like we had expected it to. I mean, of course no one expected that there was going to be a brutal murder happen right at the end of the light show. That was not what I was talking about. No, I was referring to the fact that when we got the supposed witness back to the castle to talk, we found out that she was the one who killed the woman.

OK, so she was bespelled and killed the woman without knowing about it. She didn't remember doing it and had no control over herself. Still, back in the rest of the world, that is still a punishable offense. You will most likely not get off scot-free. Most of the time you will be charged with something. So, why was it that Gloriana was perfectly fine with letting this woman go? I just didn't understand how the Fae did things.

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And do not even get me started on how Trinity was feeling about it all. I could tell that she was not at all happy about the current turn of events. She seemed to be thinking about something the entire way back to our residence. In fact, she was so lost in thought that I literally had to help guide her to the door as she thought about whatever it was that was on her mind.

As soon as we were through the door the sounds of Reagan and Rika calling out to me and my Little Bunny, pulled her out of her stupor.

"Mama!" Reagan called out first. "Daddy!"

"Mommy! Daddy!" Rika was running after her brother as the two of them raced toward us.

"We were just about to put them to bed." I saw Mom racing after them as they came toward us. "But they wanted to check and see if you were back yet." I could see worry in her eyes. She had come back to the residence with them when Trinity and I ran toward the screaming place. "I'm really glad that you made it back in time."

"So am I." My Little Bunny smiled as she lowered herself for a group hug. "I would have hated to miss my goodnight hugs." I watched as she squeezed them tight, taking in some of their warmth and love. "I love you both so much."

"Love you too, Mommy!" Rika grinned back.

"Me love Mama, too." Reagan boasted.

"Hey, what about Daddy?" I grinned at them and knelt next to my Little Bunny so that I could get my hugs as well. They both grinned, giggled, and switched over to me.

"Love Daddy too." Rika buried her face in my chest as she said the words.

"Yeah, love you Daddy." Reagan piped up next to my ear.

"I love you too." I felt the love that I had for them causing my heart to swell. Who knew that having a family would be this great? Even in the face of bad times, their love could melt you down to nothing but a puddle with just a hug.

"Come on now, you two." I heard Mom call out to them. "I am sure that Mommy and Daddy have work to do. Lola and I will put you to bed."

"K!"

"OK!" Reagan and Rika called out to her, and just like that, my hug was over. That was sad, I liked my hug. She was right though, we needed to talk and I knew it.

My Little Bunny and I went up to our room under the disguise of taking off the stuffy, formal looking clothes that we had been wearing. After the night that we'd had, I could have used a shower as well but I would settle with just changing.

As luck would have it though, my Little Bunny also wanted to shower.

"Come on, Fido, let's talk while we shower." She beckoned me to the other room as she walked. I knew that nothing was going to happen, not after tonight, but we could help each other to calm down with just our presence at least.

We stripped the clothes away and started the shower. As soon as the spray of the water was steaming, and I could tell that it was ready to relax our tense muscles, we stepped inside. Trinity started to talk immediately when we were in there.

"Reece, do you think Hibiscus is innocent?"

"Well, that is a little hard to answer. I mean, she did kill Frida, however, since she was being controlled and didn't consciously kill her, she doesn't remember killing her. So, she did kill her but it's not quite that black and white. I know that some would say she is innocent, but others would say that it doesn't matter." I did my best to explain the situation the way that I saw it while I washed her back.

"Yeah, if her story is to be believed." I felt her shrug and curiosity instantly gripped me.

"You think she's lying?" I raised my eyebrow even though she couldn't see it.

"I don't know. I think that the story fit together a little too well." What she said both made sense but didn't. What was it she was getting at here?

"I don't know what you mean."

"I'm saying that I don't entirely trust Hibiscus." She turned her head to look over her shoulder at me. "I know that Aunt Glory trusts her and Athair mòr has known her just as long as she does, the trust runs deep between them. I won't let that cloud my vision though, I don't have the trust that they do."

What she was saying finally made sense. But even though I could understand the words that she was saying, that didn't mean that I could understand the feelings behind them.

"Are you sure that you're not just being overly cautious and just suspicious of every single person?"

"Isn't that what I need to do, though? I need to suspect everyone until they've been eliminated. That is the only way to be thorough and find out who is behind all of this."

"Yeah, I guess you are right about that." I agreed with her as I turned her around so that I could wash her hair, but that was just an excuse, in truth, I just wanted to see her face and look into her eyes.

"What are you thinking about?" She asked me. Her eyes were closed and her head was tilted back, and even with all that, she could tell that I was giving her a look that was full of curiosity.

"Are you psychic now or something?" I asked her with a laugh, more of a way to stall things than anything else.

"Only when it comes to you." She smirked, her eyes still closed and a look of happy contentment on her face. She always did like it when I washed her hair for her. I mean, who wouldn't like it? It's a free head massage. "So, what are you thinking about?" She asked me again.

"I am just trying to process everything that has happened tonight, everything you've said, and everything that I have thought and felt tonight. But I think you are right though, suspect everyone until they're proven innocent." I saw her smile like she was happy with what I had said. "Though, didn't we confirm that Hibiscus was innocent already?"

For whatever reason, my question made her sigh in exasperation. She didn't say anything though, she just tilted her head so that it was under the water so that she could rinse the soap out of it.

It seemed that that was the end of the discussion. We didn't say another word about what happened tonight. We just finished cleaning up and got ready for bed. I truly wanted to know what it was that she was thinking, but I wasn't going to ask just yet.

Chapter 492 - Trinity – Cancelling The Festivities (VOLUME 3)

7-8 minutes

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Trinity

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The first thing that I did the next morning was get up and get dressed as quickly as I could. I wasn't going to be wearing a dress today. I was going to be busy tracking down a killer, so I needed to be able to move freely. Today I was wearing a pair of blue jeans, a dark gray t-shirt, and a pair of hiking boots that were dark green and black.

Before anyone could even ask, I had to tell them that no, we did not pack these clothes and bring them with us. I had conjured the clothes with my own magic. These were brought straight out of my mind and put directly onto me, I didn't even have to actually 'get dressed'.

I skipped breakfast, opting to eat later. I had work to do right now, and I could talk to Aunt Glory while she was eating her breakfast. My guards and knights, as well as my husband, were all a little shocked to see me striding right out the door without them..

"Dammit Trinity, wait up." Reece called out as he shoved the rest of his food into his mouth and kissed Reagan and Rika goodbye.

"Trinity?" Vincent was running out the door before Reece had even gotten to it.

"My Queen." Gabriel was chasing after me as well. "Please wait." Landon and Trevor also rose from their chairs and followed me but they did so without saying anything at all.

All three of them were out the door and chasing after me in a very undignified manor.

"The five of you did not need to chase me." I stopped and looked at them with a little bit of anger in my eyes. Sometimes, I would just like to be able to do something alone.

"Trinity, you're the Queen. You need us there to protect you." Trevor's words annoyed me. I knew that it was just the anger and stress from the night before that was truly annoying me, but I was taking it out on his words.

"No, Trevor, I do not need any of you to protect me. I am more than capable of protecting myself." I made my point by levitating them off the floor a few inches before I turned around and stalked away.

After that, I let them down gently, of course, since I didn't want to hurt them. But that little show of mine still didn't make them leave me alone. They were still following me; I just sighed and resigned myself to this fate.

"Trinity, no one said you couldn't protect yourself." Landon spoke from behind me, but I didn't stop to look at him. "It's just that you shouldn't have to."

"I know that, Landon, I really do. But that does not mean that I have to like it at all times. Sometimes, I think it would be nice to go somewhere without an entourage."

"You know that's not truly an option." This time it was Vincent who spoke, and I know he was just trying to remind me of it, but it pissed me off.

"I know." I snapped at him, my anger flowing freely. I planned to channel that anger of mine into finding the asshole who was behind all this shit going on here.

As I continued to stalk down the hall to Aunt Glory's room, I did my best to ignore the fact that the five of them were staring holes into my back. This was a little odd as well though, usually they were surrounding me, protecting me. I hadn't led a group of people like this in years. It was nice, actually. I don't want to say that it made me feel even more powerful, having these five big strong men at my back as if I was protecting them instead of them protecting me, but it did give me a sense of satisfaction.

When I made it to where Aunt Glory was, I told the guard to let her know that I needed to see her and that there was no time to waste. He seemed a little scared of me when he saw the look on my face, that made me wonder how pissed off I looked. Still, he ran into the room and informed Aunt Glory of what I had said. He was back in less than a minute.

"Th..the Queen will see you now." His voice only trembled a little as he spoke.

I didn't chance saying anything else to him. I didn't want to make him wet himself or anything. I just strode past him and the men at my back followed me immediately.

"Trinity? What is wrong so early in the morning?" I saw Aunt Glory sitting at her table, eating her breakfast. It was a more normal looking meal than I had been expecting: pancakes, poached eggs, and what looked like bacon and sausage.

"We need to get to work, Aunt Glory. There is no time to waste."

"That is true." She nodded her head and looked behind me at the men that had come with me. "Good morning, Trevor." She lit up when she saw him, he was her mate after all.

"Good morning, my love." His words were soft and his voice was deep. It was clear that he was trying to sound seductive.

"Ah-hem." I cleared my throat and got her attention.

"Yes, yes. We need to work. Can I finish eating at least?" She laughed when she asked me that. "I will summon Valerian here as well. We can work this out together. I am sure that-." I ended up interrupting her, I couldn't help it

"I already have a plan. All we need to do now is set it into motion. First off, you need to notify the people that the festivities are cancelled. I recommend summoning everyone in the city to the amphitheater, or the courtyard, and speak to them directly. After that, I want you to enlist the full force of your guards and have them protect the city. They will need to do patrols in shifts. There should be no public part of the city that is not in some way under surveillance."

"My, my, you have been thinking this through, haven't you? What else do you have in mind?" She sipped her tea as she listened to me.

"We need to start the interrogations again. Every single person in the city whose whereabouts for last night is questionable. They will be the starting point in the city. Other than that, we need to investigate everyone outside of the city as well. There is no one spared from this investigation. It does not matter who they are or how close you are or used to be with them. This is not the time to let your past friendships cloud your judgement."

"Yes, Trinity, I agree." It was nice to see that she had taken my words to heart last night.

Athair mòr was indeed summoned, but he was to meet us at the amphitheater where the announcement was being made. The guards and knights were all present to provide protection to the people as they were told about what was happening.

They were all instructed to stay indoors as much as possible until we had this situation settled.

"I promise you all, that I will find out who is behind all of this and I will make them pay." I announced to them. "That is my vow to all of you." That seemed to give them all a little bit of hope. They had the protection of the two Queens.

Chapter 493 - Trinity – Exploring The Lands Of Fae (VOLUME 3)

6-7 minutes

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Trinity

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I wanted to be part of the interrogations this time, both inside and outside of the city. I needed to know what everyone knew without the filter of someone else's explanation. No matter how thorough the person relaying the information was to me, there would always be something that was lost in translation. There would be a subtle way that they moved that could tell me whether they were lying to me. Maybe, they were incapable of maintaining eye contact. There was always going to be something that was missed when someone relayed information. And this was too important for me to lose that information.

So, I joined the guards as they conducted the interviews. I was pretty sure that they thought that I was just going to be observing while they talked to everyone. I had really surprised them all when I started asking questions myself. Again, there were things that I wanted to know that these people didn't seem capable of finding out for me..

The interviews went well though. I got to find out a lot about the Fae and the city, but I didn't learn anything about the case. That was enough to piss me off. Why was it that no one knew what was going on.

All in all though, there were only six Fae from inside the city who were not present at the light show, and more than half of them were people who were busy inside the chambers for the Queen, Athair mòr, and myself.

After we eliminated those four people, that only left Hibiscus and a woman named Babby. And Babby was a brownie that usually worked in the castle. She was off that day and had decided to sleep most of the day and night. She hadn't even known what was happening until she was called to the meeting in the morning. So, in my opinion, the only suspect that was inside the city limits was Hibiscus. She was the only person that made sense in my mind.

Still, I needed to explore the rest of Fae and talk to all of those people. I couldn't pin this on Hibiscus until I knew for sure. Plus, there was that man that she said she saw. Aunt Glory and Athair mòr both knew who he was, yet I hadn't heard anything about him yet.

"You will find out about him when you meet him." Athair mòr said every time that I asked him. "I do not wish to cloud your judgement about him." At least he was taking that part seriously. All I knew about this mysterious person was his name, Alloy. I guess that made sense with his metallic appearance.

Well, there was one other thing that I knew, this was what I had learned from Aunt Glory. Alloy lived on the very edge of Faerie with his friend, Sterling. Apparently, they were two of the only Fae in existence that had magic that was specifically geared toward metal. Sterling was apparently only good with silver, but Alloy was skilled with all metals and could mix them to make whatever it was that he needed.

There was also the fact that the sword pinning Frida to the wall when she was killed had been a specially made sword that only Alloy and Sterling knew how to create. The fact that the killer used that meant that she, or he, knew Alloy and Sterling.

I knew that I needed to meet these men, the supposed makers of that sword. They needed to tell me whether or not they had given it away to someone else or if they were involved in the murder.

Another thing that I had been able to figure out for myself, if Aunt Glory and Athair mòr knew Hibiscus since they were little, and Athair mòr apparently knew Alloy since he was little, then it stands to reason that she would know Alloy as well.

So, why is it that she was pretending to not know who he was? If she truly was brainwashed, she should still remember him, shouldn't she? Or did it mess with her head that much?

I was just running in circles with all these questions in my head. I needed to get out there and talk to more people. I needed to explore the rest of Fae, find out who was where, and find this killer.

When I did start exploring the area I found out something interesting. Apparently, the gate that we came through to get into the Fae city was not the front of the area. It was the middle. Yes, that sounds odd, but let me explain how the land of Fae works here.

The Fae city was in the middle of the realm. There was a magical gate that would take you to the city from the human world, but that was if you had the intent, and permission, to enter the realm. That's why the humans couldn't come in here.

If you were leaving the compound, then you left the same way down the same roads. However, if you weren't leaving the lands of Fae, you would see what was beyond that magical gate. And what was there was a beautiful setting with rolling green hills, mountains, forests, lakes, and rivers, it was an entirely different place and it looked a lot like the place that Danu had taken us, except that it wasn't on the cliff at the coast. I was sure that, if I searched, I would find that place here.

The entire realm of Fae, all the land that it encompasses, was quite large. There was only one city, where the Queen lived, but there were several small towns and villages that were set up for the others. And then there were the people that didn't live in a village at all, they just had houses on the outskirts of the realm.

Reece and I were travelling the realm and talking to everyone individually. Many of them had come to the city for the light show and parts of the festival so they knew what was going on, but they didn't know the full scope of it. There were many people who broke down, crying with fear over what was going on.

Sometimes, I truly ended up hating the fact that I was interviewing everyone, but it had to be done. And those times that I hated what needed to be done, I apologized to them for disturbing them. Still, I was not getting any closer to solving this crime.

Chapter 494 - Trinity – Exploring The Lands Of Fae Part 2 (VOLUME 3)

6-7 minutes

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Trinity

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"Don't beat yourself up." Reece had encouraged me when he saw that I was getting frustrated. "We will get to the bottom of this soon, I just know it."

The problem was that our investigation was already moving into the third week. Christmas, the New Year, all of it had already passed. We had spent most of our time since coming here for the Yule celebrations searching for a killer..

I was sure this was what Danu had asked me to help with. I was certain that she had asked me to help with this problem right here. It was possible that the person that was behind it all was going to try and kill Aunt Glory and Athair mòr. I would never let that happen though. I was going to make sure that we protected them, saved them, and let them continue to live their lives in peace.

Today was the day that we were going to be meeting with Alloy and Sterling. We had left them for last because we were slowly making our way toward their place across the realm. This place really was big. And since we had left the city to investigate, we hadn't been back. I was just glad that those magic mirror calls could let me see my babies. They weren't happy that Mommy and Daddy weren't there with them, but they were spending a lot of time with their grandparents, not to mention, Acacia and Aaron's families as well. They were learning so much about their Fae side from them.

I missed them, but I knew they were being taken care of, and I was going to make sure that the future was safe for them. I didn't want them growing up in a world that was hiding an unknown enemy, they needed to be safe.

Oh, and there was one other thing that was making this trip a little less than desirable. We were riding horses. Yes, there was a carriage behind carrying all of our stuff but Reece, myself, and all the guards were riding horses. The carriage was 'technically' meant for me, however, I had refused to ride in it.

I couldn't help but think about how bold I was becoming. Not that it was new, really. This was the way that I used to be before my life started to change so much. I think I was just finally not caring what everyone around me thought. I was the Queen, I was able to make my own rules.

I think it was looking at Aunt Glory what made me want to not follow all of the norms. I wanted to forge my own path on a few things. Instead of a damsel Queen, I was going to be a warrior Queen. It was time for me to show them all what I could do.

When we pulled the horses up in front of the house that Alloy and Sterling were living in, I got an uneasy feeling. I could tell that something had happened here, and it wasn't something pleasant.

"Does anyone else get an uneasy feeling about this place?" Vincent asked as he stopped next to me. "I get the feeling that place has some truly bad juju inside of it."

"Did you seriously just say juju?" Reece asked him with a laugh.

"I was going to say the same thing." Trevor guffawed.

"Leave me alone. I end up talking like I have a kid around me a lot, if you two weren't so childish I would remember that I wasn't at home with young impressionable minds to preserve." Vincent snapped back at him which caused me and Landon to laugh.

"I agree with Vincent." Rahim sounded serious as he spoke.

"Yes, something bad has happened here." Nathair added.

"I can smell blood." Kayda added.

"I think we all can." I added as I slid from the back of the horse. "This just tells me that we were meant to find something here. I say we stop waiting and find out just what that thing might be."

We slowly made our way toward the house and with every step I could tell that it was getting colder. It was like all the warmth was being sucked out of the air. Usually, I could stand naked in the middle of a snow storm and not feel the cold but this was a different type of cold. This was something that felt like it was sucking the life right out of my soul. Just what the hell had happened here?

The house didn't look like it should be the hotspot, or should I say cold spot, for evil. It was, though, that was easy to see. Whatever had gone on inside this place, had been evil. I could feel it like it was still going on. I hoped that I would find the people inside, and get to the bottom of this, but what kind of person could live in that soul sucking coldness and survive?

As I looked at the house itself, a cute, not so little cottage with a true fantasy appearance, I thought that it looked beautiful. The entire thing seemed to be made out of different metals which gave it different colors and shades in certain spots. It was actually adorable in a way. It if wasn't for that vortex of cold ridding the world of warmth I would actually like this place.

"This place makes me think that it's going to be Goldilocks's revenge on the bear or something." Trevor tried to laugh it off, but I could tell he was worried.

"Yeah, and she teamed up with Little Red to kill the big bad wolf too." Reece added.

"I am so glad that there isn't a popular story about a cat and a girl that could go evil like that, but still, it's making me nervous too." Landon added.

"I am glad I am not a Genie." Rahim forced a laugh to lighten his spirits too. "I might be stuck with that house being my new bottle."

"I wish I had a witty comeback." Kayda added. "But I can't think of anything."

"Don't worry." I smiled at her. "We're the women in the stories." That made the men laugh but it still didn't lessen the tension.

Chapter 495 - Trinity – The House Of Alloy (VOLUME 3)

5-7 minutes

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Trinity

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The moment that Trevor opened the door, we were able to see why this house smelled like blood. Not to mention, why this place felt so evil. There was blood all over the house. The blood had long since dried, which meant that it was starting to soak into the essence of the house itself and was tainting it.

I didn't know what happened here yet, but I could tell that it was brutal. Someone had definitely tried to, or actually did, kill someone in this house. The furniture was overturned, there were giant slash marks in the walls, dishes were smashed all over the floor. There seemed to be no part of the house, or the main part that I could see, that was spared from the carnage that had taken place within these walls.

"What in the world happened here?" Kayda asked as she came into the house behind me. "Was there another murder?"

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"I don't know. What I can tell you though, is that it doesn't look like Alloy or Sterling are here." I answered her in as calm of a tone as I could. I needed to find these men and talk to them. I needed to get the bottom of all of this. "Search the house. Do not skip a single room, cupboard, closet, basement, anything. We are to search for them everywhere."

"I saw two buildings out back when we were on our way up. Should we search there at the same time or wait until we're done in here?" Landon asked me with a serious tone in his voice.

"There are eight of us, I say we split into two groups and search in the house and outside at the same time." I turned my head to look at him as I said this. "Nathair, Kayda, Trevor, and Reece please search the other buildings. The rest of us will search the house."

"Yes, my Queen." The voices of everyone but Reece responded.

"Are you sure it's wise to split us up?" He asked me as he eyed the room.

"Reece, look at this place. This blood is drying. It's been here for over a day at least. Whatever happened here, whoever was here, they're most likely not a threat to us anymore."

"I know what you're saying, I do, but I am still not comfortable with this." He was just worried about me. I knew that, I really did, but I needed him to understand that I couldn't have him coddling me all the time.

"Reece, you're a warrior King, you can lead, fight, and rule. Don't you think that I am capable of that as well? I am a Queen, yes, I am a woman, yes, but that doesn't make me a fucking China doll. I can protect myself. Not to mention that Vincent, Rahim, and Landon will be here with me as well. And there are four knights back at the carriage. Tell them to keep an eye and ear out for things as well."

"Hahhh." He sighed and lowered his head for a moment. When he did look at me, I could tell that he had resolved to listen to what I had said. "Alright. I know that you are strong and can protect yourself, but it's just my job as your mate to protect you. It's instinct and it's hard to turn that instinct off." I saw a forced smile on his face as he thought about that.

"I know Reece, I understand that. But, for right now, I just need you to do as I ask, please."

"I will." He kissed my forehead after that and took the people that I ordered with him outside. "Come on, the Queen gave her orders, we need to get a move on. Nathair, please instruct the knights to be on guard."

"Yes, my King." He nodded and ran off to follow orders.

The rest of us started to search the house then. I wasn't going to leave here without some sort of clue. I was going to find out what happened here, as well as what was happening in the city.

I started to move things around the cabin with my magic. I was setting things like the broken chairs, shredded couch pillows, and splintered tables in a corner that I had already personally checked myself.

Now that the rest of the area was cleared out a little, it was time for us to look for things around this room and the other rooms. I didn't want to move too fast through the search, so I had everyone double and triple checking every place that someone might be able to hide. I had them searching for openings to hidden rooms or anything that might just look like it was out of the ordinary.

We weren't finding anything though, no matter how thoroughly we were searching. We had moved into the rest of the house as well, searching the bedrooms and the bathroom. There was something that I had noticed. It looked like Alloy and Sterling shared a bedroom since there was only one that seemed 'lived in'. There was nothing wrong with that, all I wanted to know right now was where did they go and were they both safe?

"Queen Trinity!" Nathair came running into the house calling for me. "Queen Trinity, King Reece has found something that requires your attention. I am here to escort you to him."

"Don't beat around the bush, Nathair, what is it?" Landon asked him, which was good because I was about to say the same thing.

"There is a magical door in the barn. Queen Trinity, King Reece would like to see if you are capable of opening it." He sounded frantic, like there was something else going on. I guess I would find out what that was soon enough.

"Take me to this door, Nathair. I wish to see it for myself."

Finally, there seemed to be some sort of progress for us. This could be the break in the case that we've been waiting for.

Chapter 496 - Trinity – The Magic Door (VOLUME 3)

7-9 minutes

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Trinity

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I followed Nathair out of the house, the other three that had searched inside with me were following behind at my back. They were just as curious as I was about what this mysterious magic door meant and where it might lead.

The two buildings that were outside were: a large barn and a small storage shed. I figured that Nathair would be taking us to the barn to investigate this magic door, however, he led us straight toward the storage shed instead. That was interesting, but I guess it made sense. The barn was the first place that I suspected, it was probably the place that most other people would have suspected as well.

The shed was like any other shed you would expect to see. It was designed like a miniature barn, it was maybe ten feet by twelve feet. There was a set of double doors that had half of an 'X' on each one so that when they were closed they could form the completed pattern. They also swung out toward us rather than sliding like most barns..

The difference about this shed compared to most others was that it was, just like the house, made completely of different metals. It appeared that Alloy and Sterling have made the house, the shed, and the barn with their magic.

The shed wasn't exactly big enough for all eight of us to be inside comfortably so Nathair, Kayda and Rahim waited outside while those that were more part of my inner circle stayed inside the shed with me and Reece. Still, with large men such as Reece, Trevor, Landon, and Vincent, the inside of the shed was quite cramped.

There was blood on the floor in this shed, so it was clear that whoever had been in the house had been in here. It seemed that either someone escaped into this place, or the fight spilled over into the shed, whichever it was this place was an important clue for us.

"So, Reece, where is this door?" I asked him as soon as I entered the shed.

"Right here." He said as he pulled aside a false panel on the wall.

"Well, I am quite impressed with your level of scrutiny. Thank you for not overlooking anything." I smiled at them all and thought about how many people would have overlooked something like this.

"We didn't want to disappoint our Queen." Landon smirked at me. "There is no telling what punishments we might receive if we were to fail her."

"Yes, I heard she can be quite vengeful. Using animal names for you is just the start of it, it gets much worse from there."

"Oh, hush you two." I laughed and shook my head at them. "You're making me sound truly diabolical and evil."

"Aren't you, though?" They asked me together as they laughed. I swear sometimes the two of them sounded more like twins than friends.

"This isn't the time for this, you know that, right?" I leveled a serious stare at them and watched as the nearly tripped over themselves to straighten up.

"Yes Ma'am."

"Sorry Ma'am." I rolled my eyes again and turned away from them.

I walked to the door and let my magic reach out towards it. I needed to get a feel for it, so that I could determine the best way to open it, and find out what was beyond it.

"Have you tried to open the door yet?" I asked them as I placed my hand against the surface and listened.

"We wanted to try." I heard Reece's words and it took me a minute to understand what it was that he was saying, the thrum of the magic that I was feeling was so much stronger than I expected.

"What do you mean that you wanted to try?" I turned to look at him, letting my hand drop from the door.

"We can't even touch the door." He looked at me with shock with just a little bit of fear and awe mixed in.

"What do you mean? How could you not touch the door? It's right here." I was confused by his words. I wasn't having any trouble touching the door so they obviously hadn't even tried to open it yet.

"What I mean is..." he started, while looking me in the eyes with not a hint of laughter or joking in his voice, "...that, whenever we tried to touch the door, it threw us away from it."

Now that I looked at Reece, and Trevor, I saw that the two of them were covered in dust, and there were marks on the floor that showed where someone or something had been moved across it. Honestly, I just thought that they had been searching thoroughly. I never once thought that they had been thrown away by a magical door.

"This makes no sense to me." I turned back to look at the door. It was shimmering and glowing, gold and silver, that seemed to be lit by some kind of magical light within the door itself. The door was thrumming with immense magical power that felt like it was calm and pleasant. If this door seemed so calm and pleasant, why would it throw the others away from it? Oh, and there was no knob or handle on the door to try and open it with.

"This is just a thought, Trinity, but perhaps the door will allow you to touch it because you are part Fae, unlike any of the rest of us. You are the only one part Fae among us." Vincent's words seemed to stab me in the gut. He was right, I was the only part Fae among this group. If that was the reason that I was able to touch the door then, I should have been able to think of that reason myself. Why was it that I tended to forget that the others weren't quite like me?

"Trinity? Do you think that might be the reason?" Reece looked at me with wide eyes. "I mean, it makes sense to me."

"Yeah, now that Vincent mentions it, that seems like the only logical thing." Trevor added as both he, and Reece, looked at me with curious eyes.

"I think it is a good thing that we have a Fae with us then." Landon grinned.

"Are you going to try and open the door?" Reece asked me.

"I am." My voice was steady and my resolve was firm. I would do what I needed to do because I was a strong, warrior queen. This was what I could do that they couldn't. This was my time to prove that I was more than capable.

I turned my back to them so that I could concentrate on my task. When I placed my hand on the door, I poured just a little bit of my magic into it. I was doing my best to make sure that it would open for me and not push me back.

I felt the magic in the door reach out and touch the power that I was pouring into it. I felt that it was skittish and afraid at first, but the moment that it sensed that I meant it no harm, it started to feel as if it were warming up to me. The magic within the door felt like that of a scared little animal that was nervous around people.

After that magic seemed to welcome me and accept me, I felt as if it were smiling with relief and gratitude. What exactly was going on here? Since when did magic have a mind and emotions of its own?

With that acceptance and gratitude the door was giving me I felt the seal on it break. With my hand still pressed against it the door began to open or, should I say, disappear. It was there one second and gone the next. And, on instinct, I walked forward into the shining white light that it revealed.

As that light surrounded me, I felt a comforting warmth spread through my entire body. It was like I was being taken to some sort of paradise. Though, I was certain that no paradise would smell like blood this much. Whatever had happened in the house and the shed had moved to this place too. Before that bright light faded, I started to wonder just what was waiting for me on this side of the door.

Chapter 497 - Reece – Searching The Barn And The Shed (VOLUME 3)

7-8 minutes

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Reece

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I was a little frustrated when Trinity told me, and the others, to search the outer buildings. I would have preferred to stay with her. I didn't like leaving her when we were in unfamiliar situations like this. We didn't know if there was a killer on the loose somewhere in this vicinity or not. So why, then, was she sending me away?

Actually, I already knew why. The others were nowhere near as strong as we were. Trinity was the most powerful person that I had ever met in my entire life and, through her, I was an extension of that power. She wanted to send someone that had been blessed by the Gods and Goddess with the other party, and that only left me. So that was why she wanted to split us up. Still, I didn't like it.

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When we got outside, I immediately saw that Nathair had followed my orders and was instructing the nearby knights to watch the house since Queen Trinity was still in there with half as many guards. I was glad that he was so willingly following orders.

When we got around to the back of the property, I could see the barn and the shed that we were going to search. They were both made of metal like the house was, the primary source of metal seemed to be silver and gold.

In the barn, which we searched first, there were four horses that looked to be a little hungry, but otherwise fine. Their stalls had clearly not been cleaned out in a day or two which made for a stronger stench and a bigger mess.

Since they were hungry, the horses were a little less than cooperative. So, to achieve our mission of thoroughly searching the barn we had to feed the horses while searching. Oh well, it wasn't that bad I guess, and it helped the animals.

In the end, no matter how thoroughly we searched the barn, there was nothing that we could find. There was nothing that was out of the ordinary or amiss at all. I was beginning to think that coming all the way out here had been a waste of our time.

When we went into the shed, we found out just how cramped it was with the four of us in there. Still, we did our best to search every nook and cranny possible. However, I wasn't very hopeful, and I was swiftly losing faith in this whole thing.

"I think I have found something." Kayda's voice sounded so loud in the silence of the room that it might as well have been an explosion.

"What is it?" I asked as I hurried over to her. The other two were already following after me.

"There is a panel here that doesn't seem to fully match the others."

When I was next to her, I saw what it was that she meant. There was part of the paneling that didn't have the exact same pattern as the rest. The difference was subtle but it was there. When I touched the panel, I felt that it was able to slide to the side.

When the panel moved, it revealed what looked like a door. There were hinges and a frame, all made of gold and silver, and it was shining brightly, but it had no handle at all.

"How the hell are we supposed to open that thing?" Trevor asked as he walked closer to the door and tried to touch it.

The moment Trevor's fingers tried to touch the door he was knocked to his ass and slid across the floor until he hit the wall.

"What the hell?" He looked confused as he stared at the door.

"What happened?" I asked as I went to touch the door. I too was thrown to my ass and slid away from the door. I ended up against the wall about four feet to the side of Trevor.

"What is up with that door?" Trevor asked me with shock.

"It's enchanted." I shook my head. "I think we need Trinity. Nathair, please go and get Queen Trinity for me." I instructed him and he disappeared after a quick nod. "This is something that we should leave up to someone with magic like her."

A few minutes later, Nathair returned with Trinity and the others. They had supposedly finished searching the house and was happy to have been called out here to see what we had found.

I had re-covered the door while Trinity was on her way here to stop the temptation of the others, and myself. We didn't need to test it again to see if we were able to touch it. It would just end the same way as the previous two times.

"Have you tried to open the door yet?" Trinity asked me with a serious look in her eyes and her hand pressed against the door.

"We wanted to try." I answered her honestly as I watched on in awe. She was not thrown back when she tried to touch the door. I knew we had needed her.

"What do you mean that you wanted to try?" She was confused.

"We can't even touch the door."

"What do you mean? How could you not touch the door? It's right here." She just didn't seem to get it yet.

"What I mean is that, whenever we tried to touch the door, it threw us away from it."

After she looked at the door for a few minutes, she broke her silence.

"This makes no sense to me."

"This is just a thought, Trinity, but perhaps the door will allow you to touch it because you are part Fae, unlike any of the rest of us. You are the only one part Fae among us." Vincent's words seemed to surprise her more than I thought they would.

"Trinity? Do you think that might be the reason?" I felt my eyes go wide as I asked her that. "I mean, it makes sense to me."

"Yeah, now that Vincent mentions it, that seems like the only logical thing." Trevor added.

"I think it is a good thing that we have a Fae with us then." Landon grinned.

"Are you going to try and open the door?" I asked her.

"I am."

No sooner had she said those words did the door start to glow even more. It was clear she was putting magic into it. The rest of us were just standing there, staring at her as she did her work. And soon enough, the door just disappeared entirely.

The moment that the door was gone, it was like my Little Bunny just stepped right on through to the other side without even looking back.

"Trinity!" I screamed her name as I went to follow her. However, even with the door gone, the magic threw me back. The others were right there with me, trying to rush forward.

"Trinity?"

"Trinity?"

"Queen Trinity?"

"Queen Trinity?"

Trinity?"

"My Queen?"

All six of the others, the three inside with me and the three outside who had been watching at the door, all rushed forward and tried to follow their queen. They were all thrown back and at a loss.

"Trinity!" I called after her, trying again and again to make it through the door. It was no use, though. She was on the other side and we couldn't make it to where she was. "TRINITY!" I screamed her name, hoping that she could hear me.

Chapter 498 - Trinity – The Other Side Part 1 (VOLUME 3)

5-7 minutes

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Trinity

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I could still smell the blood, thick and pungent. Someone had been hurt really badly, that was the only explanation for that amount of blood. My question though, were they still alive? With how much blood was in the house and how much was here, was it even possible for them to still be alive?

The light around me finally faded. I could see the place that the door had taken me. I was in the middle of a bright clearing. It rounded and had tall grass and trees, closing it off completely. I had a feeling that I wouldn't be able to go beyond those trees even if I wanted to.

The inside of the clearing was beautiful, I could tell that much at a glance. The grass was cut perfectly with not a blade out of place. There were bushes with beautiful flowers.. A weeping willow stood tall in the middle of the large space to provide a little bit of shade. That was something else that I noticed, none of the trees near the edge cast a shadow into the clearing. It was like the light didn't exist anywhere but straight above.

I swept my eyes over the clearing until I spotted the trail of blood. There it was, heading to the very center. And crouched under the tree was a man on his knees next to what looked like a dead body. Well, I guess I just found Alloy and Sterling.

The man on his knees had to be Alloy. His skin was pale, practically paper white. His hair and eyes were indeed a pure silver that would catch the light and reflect it back to you. He was a good looking man, but relatively small in comparison to all the other men that I had ever met.

The man on the ground must have been Sterling. In contrast to Alloy, this man's skin was literally silver, though it looked slightly pale and sickly right now. His hair and eyes were both pure black, he didn't even have whites to his eyes, it was all black.

"W..w..w..who are you? And h..h..h..how did y..y..you get in here?" Alloy asked me as he took a defensive stance in front of Sterling. "You shouldn't have been able to come through that door, it's warded."

"What are the rules for coming through that door, then? Who is allowed to come in here? And I am guessing this is a magical room and not a real clearing." That was the only thing that explained how this room made me feel, it was beautiful, but I still felt like I was inside somewhere.

"That door is warded against anyone who means to do us harm or are our enemies. Only a Fae that is a friend should be able to make it through that door." Alloy spoke angrily as he looked at me.

"M..may..maybe she is a fri..fri..friend." Sterling, who was laying on the ground slowly bleeding, struggled to speak.

"She's not, she can't be. You heard what she told us."

"I haven't told you anything yet." I pointed it out to him.

"Not you." He snapped back at me.

"Then what are you talking about?" I pressed him for more details.

"She told us that the whole castle thinks we are the ones who have been killing the other Fae. She told us that they want us dead. She tried to kill us. She wouldn't even listen to us." I could see the desperation in Alloy's eyes as he looked at me.

"Who is she?" I was curious now, but I was still confused.

"Hibiscus. She said that they know that I am guilty, and that Sterling helped me."

"When did you speak to Hibiscus?" That was a shock to me. How was she able to get out here if she was still under surveillance at her house?

"Yesterday. She came here first thing in the morning and surprised us. She had our sword that was used to kill someone. It was a silver sword that only Sterling and I are capable of wielding, or we should be the only ones capable of holding it given that silver is toxic to most Fae."

Now this was starting to answer a few questions as well as create new ones. The reason that Alloy and Sterling were being implicated was because they should be the only ones capable of holding the sword without being injured. I am guessing gloves would help but not eliminate the issue altogether. So then, why was Hibiscus able to hold it? None of this was adding up to fit the scenario that had been presented to us.

At that moment, I heard Sterling cough. It wasn't just one cough it was a long, wet, hacking fit of coughing that left him crying out in pain and had Alloy hovering over him frantically.

"Hang in there, Sterling. Please, don't die on me." There was a pleading note of love and longing in his voice as he begged the man laying on the ground to be OK.

"I don't think I can, Alloy. I think that I am coming to an end."

"Can I help?" I spoke up, breaking into their intimate moment. "I can heal you?"

"NO!" Alloy yelled at me. "You're just going to finish killing him."

"If I wanted to finish killing him, I would just sit back and let him die painfully. I don't want him to die. I don't want anyone to die." I gave him my most sincere look and hoped he would believe me.

"Alloy, maybe we should trust her. What could it hurt?"

"She could kill you, Sterling. She could take you away from me." There were tears flowing from Alloy's eyes and down his pale cheeks. I saw that the tears were silver in color, like pure liquid silver or titanium or something.

"I will die without her help." Sterling took Alloy's hand and held it close.

"I will find a way. I will protect you. Just please don't leave me."

Chapter 499 - Trinity – The Other Side Part 2 (VOLUME 3)

5-7 minutes

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Trinity

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I just watched the heartbreaking scene before me with tears forming in my eyes while the two men nearly wept for each other. I knew that I needed to do something, I couldn't just sit and watch as Sterling died if I was able to stop it. Slowly, with one cautious step after another, I walked toward the two men, where they were huddling together under the tree.

Neither of them seemed to notice me until long after I was right next to them. I placed a hand on Alloy's shoulder and spoke to him in a soft, soothing voice.

"I promise I will help him. You have my word." I could see that he still didn't trust me.

"Please, help me.." Sterling begged despite the hesitation from his partner.

"NO! We don't even know who you are." Alloy was still looking at me angrily.

"Would it help you trust me more if you know who I was first?" I looked at him with curious eyes. However, while he looked at me with those wary eyes of his I had reached out and taken Sterling's hand.

The hand that I held gripped me firmly and I could feel the pulse of his heart, weak and erratic. He truly was dying.

With my eyes still on Alloy, watching him to make sure that he wasn't doing anything that he shouldn't, I poured all of my magic into Sterling. I thought of what it was that I wanted that magic of mine to do. I wanted to use my abilities to heal the wounds that were threatening this man's life.

As I looked at him in my peripheral vision, I had to wonder how it was that he had managed to get these wounds? He had a massive slash across his chest. It was long and deep, but there was something off about it as well. I don't want to say that it looked like it was infected, but that was what it seemed like. Only, instead of a red inflammation that was spreading to the edges of the wound and into the veins, it was black.

The sick and infectious looking black flesh started just before the edges of the wound and was moving out into the veins that spread through his body. That wasn't the only wound that he had either. I could see one on his left arm, there were two on his right arm, and several more on his legs. There were so many injuries that I couldn't maintain eye contact with Alloy and count them in my peripheral vision at the same time.

I did everything that I could, pouring as much magic into him that I could. I started to beg and plead with Danu, Thoth, and Nehalennia for help. Finally, after what felt like a long time, my magic started to intensify. A bright shining light spread from me and into Sterling. Though it didn't stop there, the light moved to cover Alloy as well.

"What is this? What's going on?" Alloy started to panic when my magic overtook him.

"I feel so warm. It's so pleasant." He was smiling, though I could barely make it out in the brightness of the light around us.

"What are you doing to us?" Alloy screamed.

"Calm down, Alloy. Please, don't cause a scene. Just embrace it."

I saw that wounds on Sterling were closing. The smaller ones were closing quickly, but that large one across his chest was taking a long time. I had a feeling he needed a little bit more magic to help him. Magic that I didn't have.

"Alloy, take his hand. He needs your magic to help him as well. He needs magic similar to his own as well as the love you share."

"What?" Alloy looked at me like I was a weird creature.

"Don't worry about how I know, help him." I gave him a stern look.

"Alloy?" Sterling held his hand out to the other man as he called his name. Finally, Alloy took his hand and I saw a silver light start to form at the point where they held hands.

"I am not going anywhere." Alloy looked at his lover with tender eyes and a soft smile.

Soon, that silver light started to spread around the three of us, Alloy's magic blending with my own and finishing the healing process. I thought of one last thing before the healing was over, something that

would help me to decide if they were telling me the truth or not. Though I was pretty sure that they were.

"Please, Nehalennia, Thoth, and Danu, if these men are innocent, mark them. Show the world that they did not commit the crimes that they are being blamed for. Help me to protect them if they are not the culprits."

As soon as I said those words the light seemed to explode. I watched as the shining gold and silver light became shimmering dust that was falling to the ground around us. I thought that it looked pretty, but Alloy was looking around us with shock and fear. But Sterling, however, was smiling happily as he sat up. He was fully healed and no longer on the brink of death.

"Sterling." Alloy called his name when he saw him.

"Alloy." I watched as the two men embraced each other, happy that the threat of death was gone for the moment.

"I am glad that you're safe." I lowered my head slightly in relief as I spoke.

"Who are you?" Alloy asked me, a little less wary of me than he was before.

"Yes, I wish to know the name of my savior." Sterling gazed at me with reverence.

"My name is Trinity."

That got a bigger response from the two of them than I had expected. They must have known who I was. If they didn't, then why would the both of them look at me with shock filled eyes. I had a feeling that the rest of this conversation was going to be interesting.

Chapter 500 - Trinity - Who I Am (Volume 3)

6-7 minutes

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Trinity

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"You are Trinity?"

"As in, the Trinity?" The two men before me were speaking as if I was some kind of legend.

"I didn't know that I was so famous among the Fae. That is, unless there is another person that I don't know about who lives here within the Fae realm and they're also named Trinity."

"No, to my knowledge there is only one Fae named Trinity.." Sterling, who was now able to sit up and support his own body since he was healed, answered me with a serious expression.

"The only Trinity that has ever come to the land of the Fae is the Queen's niece, Valerian's descendant. Is that who you are?" Alloy asked me with wonder in his voice.

"Well, I see that my reputation has preceded me." I laughed a little at his words. "I am indeed that Trinity."

"So, you are a Queen?"

"Queen of the shifters and the magic users?" These men, when one of them wasn't dying, seemed to be in perfect unison with each other.

"That I am."

"And you have been personally blessed by two of the celestials?" Sterling was acting like someone meeting a celebrity that they admired.

"Three actually." I smiled at him and pulled the collar of my shirt down just a little bit. "Last Yule celebration, I was blessed by Danu."

When the men in front of me saw the mark, and heard the name of their goddess, it was like they had been struck in the face. The shock that was written on their faces and the trembling in their eyes only got worse.

"Danu?"

"The mother Goddess?"

"How can that be?"

"Why would she bless someone aside from Queen Gloriana?" That little exchange started with Sterling, and the two of them alternated until they had said what they needed to.

"Well, I was summoned by Danu and asked to protect Aunt Glory and Athair mòr, that is the simplest way to explain it." I never let the smile slip from my face as I spoke to them. I wanted to let them know that I was not an enemy.

"Protect Gloriana?" Sterling sounded shocked. "Is she in danger as well? Is what happening in the city going to get her hurt?" I saw pain in his eyes as he thought about that.

"No, she cannot be in danger. She is powerful, what could possibly get to her?" Alloy sounded like he didn't quite believe his own words.

"That is what I am trying to find out."

I know that the firm look I gave them when I answered made them think that I suspected them. I could tell they thought they were in trouble because of the reactions they had to those words and that firm look of mine.

"N..no. We didn't do it." Alloy stammered.

"We're innocent." Sterling added.

"You cannot think that we would ever hurt Gloriana or Valerian. They are our friends."

"I know they are." I nodded at them, trying to let them know that I understood.

"Then why? Why are you here for us?" Alloy was getting angry again, just like he had been earlier. I could tell that anger was his response when he was afraid of something.

"I am not here for you." I tried to assure him.

"Yeah, right. You came here to either kill us or arrest us." He was backing away from me, then, trying to drag Sterling who was quite a bit taller than him. He was trying to get the two of them away from me.

"I assure you that I am not here for that." I stood and looked at the two of them, they had fear in their eyes. They knew that I was powerful, nearly as powerful as the Fae Queen herself. They knew that they would most likely die if it came to a true fight between us.

"I don't believe you. You're on the same side as Hibiscus."

"Calm down, Alloy." Sterling tried to sooth the man. "We do not know that she is here for that reason."

"How can she not be. She came from the city after all."

"I assure you that I am in no way on the same side as Hibiscus. However, I seem to be the only person investigating this crime who doesn't believe that Hibiscus was just an innocent bystander. I believe there is more that she is not telling us."

"Y..you truly are not siding with her?" Alloy paused in his struggle to pull the larger man away.

"No, I am not siding with her. Actually, I want to use the two of you to help me prove that she is guilty. I know that she has a bigger part in all of this than she is letting on.

"If that is the case, then Alloy and I are with you. I wish to let everyone know what it was that she did to me. She nearly killed me, while wielding my own sword against me no less."

"She will pay, won't she?" Alloy didn't quite believe me yet.

"She most definitely will." I nodded at him and smirked as I thought about proving that she was behind all of this.

"Then we will come with you."

Now, instead of trying to pull Sterling away, Alloy was helping him to his feet so that he could stand. I saw that Sterling was around maybe five feet ten inches tall, somewhere in that range, while Alloy was maybe five foot seven inches tall. The difference wasn't as big as I initially thought it was. However, Sterling was a little more masculine with more muscle definition, which made him seem a lot bigger than the thin and slight Alloy.

"We will come with you if it means that we can tell everyone that Hibiscus lied and tried to kill us." Sterling wrapped his arm around Alloy's shoulders and held the smaller man against his side.

"That is good. I believe that we should get back as soon as we can. Something tells me that there is danger awaiting Aunt Glory and Athair mòr in the city. I need to hurry and finish this mission as soon as possible."

"Then, let us go."

Together, the three of us walked toward the edge of the clearing and back toward the shed that I had come in through.