

Chosen by Fate 501

Chapter 501 - Reece - Trinity Returns (Volume 3)

Reece

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"Where the hell is she?!" I yelled at the shining rectangle that was the door. It had closed behind my Little Bunny after she left us here. How could she just leave like that? How could she do this to me? "Trinity!" I yelled at the door. "Trinity!"

I had tried to follow her several times after she disappeared, only to be thrown back several times until the door shut. I was frantic, scared and lost without her here with me. Right now, I was on my knees in front of the door, hoping and praying that she was going to come back to me sometime soon.

"Trinity." I pounded the floor with my fist as I said her name. "Trinity. Trinity.. Trinity."

"Reece!" I heard Vincent's voice call out to me, but I ignored him.

"Trinity."

"REECE!" He yelled at me again but this time he grabbed my shoulder and pulled me back.

"What?!" I shouted at him.

"Pull yourself together, Reece."

"How can I? She's gone. She disappeared."

"You're a King! You're too smart and strong to let yourself become like this!" He was yelling at me still, telling me that I needed to stop my blubbing. That made me angry.

"Really, Vincent? Really? You're the captain of her guard and you let her disappear like that." I threw the words at him, trying to hurt him, even though I knew it was childish behavior.

"Yeah? You want to go there? You're the great Warrior King that she praised so much. You're her mate and her number one defender. How could you let her disappear like that?" I could clearly see that he was a wreck as well, doing his best to hold it all together.

"Oh, no you-."

"Shut up! Both of you." Trevor yelled at us, cutting me off and breaking up our bickering.

"Who the hell do you think you are?" I asked him with an angry expression.

"I'm the future King of the Fae. That's who the fuck I think I am. And since this is the land of the Fae, that means that I outrank you. So shut up, Odie." I felt the fight start to slip away from me and a hint of laughter tried to creep up in me. He just fucking called me a dog. Damn him.

"Haha, that's funny. They were fighting like two stupid dogs. It even fits the show, big dog and little dog." Landon, who felt like he needed to join in on the fun.

"Shut up, Garfield." I snapped at him, making Landon the opposite of what Trevor called me. "You and Yogi here need to stop with this bullshit." It was a lost cause now though. I was laughing even though I really shouldn't be.

"No, Dino, you need to stop with the bullshit." Trevor snapped at me, a smile on his face as well. "Yeah, I get that you're worried, but Trinity is the most powerful person that any of us know. If she can't handle herself over there, then we would all be doomed. I for one, have faith in my Queen."

His words hit me hard. I knew he was right. As hard as it was, I needed to admit that my wife, my tiny little fragile looking wife, was stronger than me. The only person who could go through that door was her because of the power that she wields. I had to accept that and just wait for her.

But it was hard waiting, dammit. I wanted her to come back right now. I needed to see her and know that she was OK. I didn't like having to wait like this.

"Have you calmed down now?" Vincent asked me when I was quiet for a little bit.

"Yeah, I think I am." I looked him in the eyes and thought about what it was that I had said to him. "I'm sorry, Vincent. I know that it wasn't your fault that she disappeared."

"I am sorry as well. I guess we are both just a little bit stressed from this situation." He grimaced as he thought about the way that we were fighting.

"More than a little stressed." I chuckled but the sound died out too quickly. "We just need to wait here for her. I am sure that she will be back soon. And when I get her alone, I'm going to-."

"None of us need to know about your kinky pleasures. So, please spare us the details." Trevor laughed at me as he spoke.

"I don't know, I think I might want some details. Being unmated is lonely."

"Well tough, I won't be giving any of you intimate details that have to do with my sex life." I snapped at them.

"Enough, all of you, please." Rahim cut across the bickering. "I believe that the door is opening again." He was pointing at the door that was indeed changing.

"Is she coming back?" Vincent asked.

"I hope so."

We all stepped back away from the door to allow Trinity to come out easily. I watched with bated breath as the door seemed to swing open with nothing more than light creating the substance. When the door was finally opened, I could see shadows on the other side. There were three shadows.

Either Trinity was on her way back with more people, or this wasn't my wife and mate coming back to me. I hoped it was the former because if it wasn't my Little Bunny then that would mean that something bad had happened to her.

I waited with bated breath for the people on the other side of the door to come through to this side. Slowly, the three figures, two small and one taller, made their way through the door.

The first thing that I saw was my Trinity, she was safe and sound, and didn't look like she was hurt at all. I started to move toward her, but I wasn't quick enough, someone else beat me to her side.

"Oh, thank the Goddess! Trinity, I am so glad you're safe."

Vincent had his arms wrapped around my wife as he hugged her in relief.

"Ahem." I cleared my throat behind him, kindly asking him without words if I could hug my mate now.

"Sorry." He stepped away and gave me access to her.

"Trinity." I said my Little Bunny's name as I wrapped my arms around her for a hug and lifted her off her feet. "I was so fucking worried about you. Please don't ever do that again."

"I was fine, Reece. And I might have solved the case."

Her words threw me for a loop. She might have solved the case? Did that mean that she had found the men that we were looking for?

I sat her down and looked at the men that were behind her. One of them was covered in so much blood that if it was his he would be dead. I didn't see a wound though, so that was confusing for me.

"Who are these two?" I asked her, feeling the need to protect her but she wouldn't let me push her behind me.

"Well, these are Alloy and Sterling, and they have an interesting story about what has happened recently."

Trinity began to tell us everything that happened while she was on the other side of the door. I knew that she never trusted Hibiscus and I didn't want her to be taken in by a story just because of that. I decided to have Vincent listen to them speak their side of it all so that he could judge them for me.

"They are not lying to us." He clearly looked relieved. He had been unable to get a read on Hibiscus, so I know that he was glad to not have that problem this time.

"That means she was lying to us." I couldn't believe it. I had been taken in because Queen Gloriana fully believed in Hibiscus's innocence.

"There is a lot that we need to figure out back in the city, Reece. I say we leave immediately."

Chapter 502 - Trinity – Proving Their Innocence Part 1 (VOLUME 3)

6-7 minutes

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Trinity

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"Wait!" Reece called out as soon as I started to walk toward the door.

"What? Why wait? I know that we need to get back to the city as soon as possible. Something terrible is going to happen if we don't hurry." I gave him an exasperated look as I questioned his questioning of me.

"How are we going to prove their innocence? I mean, I know that we all trust and believe in Vincent's assessment of them, but will Gloriana and Valerian believe it? They both seem to believe that Hibiscus is innocent no matter what you say to the contrary."

"Well, it just so happens that I planned for something just like that." I grinned at him.

"How exactly did you plan for something like that, Trinity?" Vincent looked at me with confused eyes..

"When she healed me." Sterling was the one to answer the question on my behalf.

"That is right. When she healed him she called on me for my magic. It was then that she prayed to the celestials for their assistance. She asked that we be marked if we were innocent."

"OK, well that would be convenient, but what markings did she give you? I don't see any right now."

"You don't see them because they're on their collar bones under their shirts. The marks are where the goddess blessings usually show up on the people that I bless."

"Well, that is convenient. But what do the marks look like? How are they different? How will they prove that they are innocent?" Reece was still not convinced that things were going to go smoothly when we got back.

"Alloy, Sterling, would the two of you mind showing us the marks that you have been given?" I saw the shock and fear on their faces.

"D..d..d..do we have to?" Alloy looked at me nervously.

"It's alright, Alloy." Sterling took his hand and squeezed it tightly. "All we need to do is show our new marks, nothing more will happen other than that. I promise, we will be fine." Alloy looked as if he had been through something that made him afraid to show his body to others.

"A..a..are you sure that nothing more will happen?" Alloy asked with fear in his voice now.

"I promise you." I answered him instead of Sterling. "I will not allow anything to happen to you. Not here and now, and not back in the city. I will make sure that everyone knows the truth." I saw the fear begin to ebb as tears filled his eyes slightly.

"Thank you, Queen Trinity. Truly, thank you for caring so much about what happens to us." Sterling was the first to respond to my words.

"Y..y..yes, th..th..thank you. I..I..I don't kn..kn..know what we w..we..would do without you here Queen Trinity."

"I may not be the Queen of the Fae, but I am still part Fae, and that makes you my people as well. I will protect my people when they need me."

Everyone that was inside the shed was looking at me with reverent eyes. It was like they thought that I had said something very beautiful and wise. That just made me feel awkward at the moment.

"A..a..a..alright, w..w..w..well, lets s..s..s..see these m..m..m..marks so that we can get a move on." I was the one who sounded like they were embarrassed now.

"Yes, I think that it is time for us to get this over with." Reece agreed.

"Right." Sterling nodded.

"OK." Alloy reluctantly consented.

I watched the two men as they slowly unbuttoned their shirts just a little. I thought to myself that Sterling could have just pulled the gaping hole in his shirt up and showed us that way. Then again, that would have left just Alloy being the only one unbuttoning his shirt and he would have felt awkward and embarrassed because of it. I guess this was Sterling's way of showing solidarity.

It seemed like it was taking a long time for them to reveal that part of their chests, but I know that, in reality, it wasn't really that long. No matter how long it did or didn't actually take, eventually I did see the marks start to appear.

The marks were a vibrant mix of three different colors. There was a bright and shining green and blue background that looked like a landscape with a pure white songbird that seemed to be flying over the untouched land in the back. It was an image that, to me, spoke of pure innocence.

"Well, I don't know about you, but that to me says that Danu recognized them as being as innocent as babies." Reece laughed at his own words. "You gentlemen have my respect. I am sorry to make you do this, but I thank you for obliging."

"That is fine King Reece, we understand what this all must have looked like to an outsider that was not there when we were attacked." Sterling was the one to answer, as always.

"Alright, well, I think it's time to head back to the city. We need to prove their innocence, prove Hibiscus's guilt, and save Aunt Glory. I have a feeling that something is going to happen very soon." I just had a really bad feeling coursing through me. There wasn't really an explanation behind it, I just had an inkling that Hibiscus did all of this for a reason and that she was going to make her move soon enough.

"Well, we still need to find out if she was truly being controlled by someone or not." Nathair was the one to respond from beyond the shed door. "I know that most likely she has not been, but you know that Queen Gloriana will be inclined to believe that she has been." He had a point. I didn't want to think that Aunt Glory would still stand in my way, even with all this evidence presented to her, but that didn't mean that it wouldn't happen.

"Yeah, well, I plan on proving that she isn't." With that, we left the shed.

Chapter 503 - Trinity – Getting Back To The City (VOLUME 3)

7-8 minutes

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Trinity

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We needed to get back to the city now. There was no way that we could take the horses to get back and have it take us days to make it back to the castle. I didn't think that we had nearly that much time to spare.

"Let's mount up." Trevor said as he walked toward the horses.

"No." I stopped him as I thought about something. "That's not quick enough."

"What other option do we have?" Trevor looked confused.

"I want to ask the same question as you, Trevor, but I won't. I have a feeling that Queen Trinity is going to show us something very important and special right about now." Landon looked at me with eager eyes.

"I think you just might be right." Reece looked at me with excited and love filled eyes. "I think my beautiful, strong, powerful, and talented wife is going to be showing us something truly amazing very soon."

"Stop flattering me, Reece. It won't get you anything special right now." I rolled my eyes at his words.

"Wh..wh.. I..I..I wasn't-- th..that's not.. I d..d..didn't-- Hahh!" He spluttered through a mess of words before giving up and sighing in frustration. "You're so mean sometimes." He pretended to pout as he sidled up to my side. "You're going to have to make that up to me later." He looked at me with heated eyes. "That will be all that I accept." He winked then and kissed the top of my head.

"Are you finished yet?" I asked him.

"HAHAHA! That's what she said!" Trevor turned my words into a crude joke but I realized that I walked into that one with the words that I said, consequently, I laughed along with him and that only made him laugh harder.

"Honestly, Trevor, I don't know how Queen Gloriana is going to put up with you." I shook my head at him.

"She already loves me, there is no putting up with me." He grinned. "Besides, I'm loveable like a special kind of teddy bear."

"Oh, Goddess!" I clapped a hand to my forehead. "I didn't need to hear that! That gave me visuals. Get out! Get out! Get out!" I had tilted my head all the way to the left and was lightly hitting the right side just above my ear. It was like I was trying to knock the visuals out of my head physically.

"This all makes no sense to me." Alloy looked at us with wary eyes. That made Trevor and I laugh even more.

"I am sorry, Alloy. We were just trying to break the tension. Now is not the time, though. Let us get ready to go."

I walked to the side of the shed and turned to look back at Alloy and Sterling.

"I need to ask you two a question." I was smiling at them now, forming my plan in my head.

"What is it?" They walked over to my side and away from the others. I think that made Alloy a little more comfortable in the long run.

"I want to make a magic door. I want one that will take us back to the city. To the castle."

"WHAT?!" The two of them shouted the words like there was a problem with what I had just said.

"I am going to make a door to take us back to the city. I know that the door you made was permanent. but I want to make a temporary door. Can you guide me through it?"

"No offense, Queen Trinity, but the spell for these doors is not an easy one to cast. I don't think that you can master it that quickly. The two of us had to pour magic into our door for days before it was functional." Sterling sounded like he couldn't believe that I would suggest such a thing.

"Yes, I can understand that. However, like I said, your door is permanent, and I will be making a temporary one. That alone should make it require less magic."

"I truly do not think this is wise." Alloy agreed with his lover. "This is not a simple process to complete."

"Alright, I will just ask the Goddesses and Gods for guidance." I shrugged my shoulders at them and turned to face the side of the shed. That wall in front of me was where I was going to make my magic door.

"Queen Trinity, please don't-."

"Silence." Reece stopped Alloy in the middle of his protest.

After that, all was silent around me. I could hear the birds chirping in the distance. There were crickets, the sound of frogs, the soft whistle of the wind. Everything that reminded me of nature. Then there were the smells. The flowers, the dirt, the blood that was still on Sterling and Alloy. Everything was intensifying, even the feel of the gentle breeze on my face was more noticeable than it was before.

I could feel myself tapping into the feeling of the Goddess Danu, the mother Goddess of the Fae. She was Athair mòr's mother. She was my great, great, great, great grandmother. I was part of her so there should be no magic that was beyond me.

"Lend me assistance, Seanmháthair. [1] Lend me your assistance and help me to save the ones that we both wish to protect. I kept my eyes closed, but I envisioned my words flying up to the sky on the wind to dance among the clouds as if they were a brightly colored moving rainbow. I refused to open my eyes and check to see if that was truly the case or not. but it was what I saw in my head.

I felt the magic in me start to move and take form. I saw the words for the spell forming in my mind's eye and I knew then and there that all I needed to do was say those words and I would have the door that I wanted.

"Mother Danu, Goddess of nature and Fae, lend me your strength and wisdom to guide me to where I need to be. Show me the place that I need to be. Open the path before me and allow, not just myself, but those that travel with me to step from here to there. With the swiftness of the wind, we will travel great distances. Help me, Mother Danu, help me to step from here to there."

The power surged from within me, and I felt a heat spread from my palm to the metal of the door. There was a pulsing of light from the spot just in front of me, but I did not open my eyes. I kept my eyes closed until the pulsing was gone and the heat had dissipated. Only then did I look at the wall I had intended to make a door on.

"Holy shit!" Trevor yelled in surprise just as I opened my eyes.

"She did it?" Alloy sounded just as surprised as Trevor had.

"I am sorry, Queen Trinity, I stand fully corrected. I should have helped you from the beginning." He bowed his head in shame and reverence. He was in awe of what I had done.

"I never had a doubt, I knew my wife could do it." Reece smirked at me.

"There is only one problem." Alloy stopped us all. "Doors like this will not give you access into the castle. They won't work because of the wardings."

Chapter 504 - Trinity – Returning To The City (VOLUME 3)

5-7 minutes

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Trinity

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"I think I will take my chances, Alloy. There is no other option. And besides, it doesn't need to get us into the castle, just close to it." I smirked at him, seeing that there was a way around what he was saying.

"I guess that would work well enough. I just do not know how close it could get you. We might not even end up in the city at all."

"As long as we are a hell of a lot closer to the city than we are now, I will count that as a success." Reece turned and snapped at him with a slight amount of anger in his voice. "Damn, Alloy, you're such a pessimist."

I saw Alloy's shocked look on his face and the poorly suppressed laughter on Sterling's face. I knew that it was true, and I was pretty sure that Alloy did too, but that didn't mean that he was going to admit it outright like that. I stopped his protest the moment that he started, though.

"I am no-."

"Enough. Come on, we need to get back."

"Yes, let us just try the door, it will get us closer than we are now. Alloy, please stop finding new things to complain about right now. Please, my love."

"Sterling!" Alloy gasped when he heard the man's words.

"Oh, drop it, they already knew before they met us. They are not negatively judging us."

"That is besides the point." Alloy crossed his arms in petulance.

"Hush and let's go." Trevor snapped at them. "I, for one, want to get back before my mate is put into more danger."

"Like your mate matters right now, we're trying to save Queen Gloriana and Valerian." Alloy rolled his eyes at him.

"Queen Gloriana is my mate, asshole. Now let's go."

While shock filled the two Fae's faces, I opened the door to the city and started the process of taking us back to the castle.

"Here goes nothing."

The moment that I stepped through the door and toward the city that I was seeking, I was enveloped in a warm sensation. That had to be the magic itself. It was part of the Goddess, and she was such a calming presence that it was helping me to calm down and think things through as I walked onward.

When I had been going through the door into Alloy and Sterling's magical clearing, the walk had not seemed nearly as long as this one. Right now, I felt like I had been walking for several minutes and I hadn't reached the other side. Maybe my door hadn't been made properly after all.

Just as I started to doubt myself though, I saw another door on the other side. It was the exit. Thank the Goddess, there was the city. At least I hoped that it was the city.

"Trinity?" I heard Reece call out to me as I got closer to the door.

"Just keep walking, Reece. I can see the exit. Just keep going straight ahead."

I guided him with my voice, not daring to turn around and take my eyes off of the door. I was nearly there. I was almost to the other side. I could save my Aunt Glory soon.

"Hang in there, Aunt Glory, I am coming to save you and Athair mòr." I whispered the words to myself. It was more to make myself feel better than anything else, that was why I had said it so softly that I was sure that no one else had heard it.

"We're all coming to save them, together." I heard Reece's voice respond to my nearly silent words. He was right behind me now, closer than I thought he would have been.

Just as I felt Reece nearly brush against my back, I made it to the other side of the door and the bright warm light of the door was replaced with the late afternoon light of the city.

One by one, everyone started to come through onto this side of the door, only there was not actually a door there. Everyone was literally just appearing out of thin air. One moment they were there and the next they weren't. Even the carriage and horses all came through the door and appeared out of the air. One moment there was nothing there and the next the animals and the carriage were walking along the cobbled sidewalk.

"We're in the city!" Alloy was surprised to see the scenery around us.

"Not only are we in the city, but we are also right outside the castle." Sterling added. "Queen Trinity, I believe you are indeed a lot more powerful than we had given you credit for. Thank you for showing us just how wrong we were." I could see true sincerity in his eyes as he spoke.

"We can worry about that later, right now, it's time to go find Gloriana." Trevor was a little frantic as he spoke. "Something doesn't feel right."

"Trevor, have you already marked Gloriana?" I asked him, curiosity in my eyes. That was a little fast, but then again, others have moved faster.

"Of course I have, she is my mate after all. I wasn't going to not mark her when I knew that it was important for me to mark her so I could protect her."

"Trevor is right. Marking Queen Gloriana would inevitably protect her. He can sense whenever she is in danger, and I am guessing that he is sensing something now. Am I right?"

"Yes. Something seems off. It's like she is in danger but doesn't know it. I am guessing that something is about to happen, and soon."

"Then we need to hurry." I turned toward the knights that had the animal harnesses in their hands. "The three of you secure the horses then gather the others. We are heading to Queen Gloriana's private quarters. Meet us there when you are done."

"Yes, my Queen." The knights saluted and answered me in unison before heading off with the animals.

"Everyone else, let's go."

Chapter 505 - Trinity – Finding Aunt Glory (VOLUME 3)

9-11 minutes

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Trinity

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The rest of us started toward the castle at a brisk pace. The doors to the large, fantasy looking façade would usually be guarded by Aunt Glory's soldiers and knights, but there was no one to be seen standing near the doors right now.

"Where are the guards?" Reece asked, echoing my thoughts. "Aren't there supposed to be two to four guards at the castle doors at all times? Where are they?"

"That was just what I was wondering." I told him as I flung a hand toward the doors to open them for us. "Something isn't right here. And I don't like the way this makes me feel."

"Neither do I." Sterling added.

"We should have stayed home." Alloy sounded scared.

"If you would have stayed home, you might have died there. Is that what you would have preferred?" Landon snapped at him. "We will have this settled and you can go home when it's all over. Stop your belly aching."

"I wasn't belly aching." Alloy whined but shut up after that. That was good, I needed to focus.

The moment we were inside the castle, we found out where all the soldiers were. They weren't guarding the outside of the castle, they were guarding the inside. The ones that were awake, that is.

"What is going on here?" I demanded of the guards that were right in front of the door.

"Guard the castle. Stop the intruders. Guard the castle. Stop the intruders."

Those words sounded like a mantra the way they were repeating them. And the dazed and stupefied look in their eyes told me that they didn't know what was going on.

"Guard the castle. Stop the intruders. Guard the castle. Stop the intruders. Guard the castle. Stop the intruders. Guard the castle. Stop the intruders."

The soldiers were looking at us but not looking at us at the same time. It was like they couldn't actually see but the magic that was controlling them could see. They didn't need to use their eyes to find us.

"Stand down, all of you. I do not want to have to hurt you." The two dozen soldiers that were advancing on us didn't seem to be paying any attention to what I was saying at all. They just kept chanting their mantra.

"Guard the castle. Stop the intruders. Guard the castle. Stop the intruders. Guard the castle. Stop the intruders. Guard the castle. Stop the intruders."

"Stop." Reece yelled at them.

"Guard the castle. Stop the intruders. Guard the castle. Stop the intruders. Guard the castle. Stop the intruders. Guard the castle. Stop the intruders." They still weren't listening to us at all.

"We're going to have to fight them, aren't we?" Landon asked with sadness in his voice. "They aren't doing this because they want to, but we still have to fight them."

"Incapacitate them, don't kill them, don't hurt them. I want you all to keep in mind that they are not our enemies. They are innocent in all of this. I do not want them irrevocably hurt and punished because of someone else's wrong doings."

"Yes, Queen Trinity." Everyone answered me in unison.

"Guard the castle. Stop the intruders. Guard the castle. Stop the intruders. Guard the castle. Stop the intruders. Guard the castle. Stop the intruders. Guard the castle. Stop the intruders. Guard the castle. Stop the intruders. Guard the castle. Stop the intruders. Guard the castle. Stop the intruders."

The chanting continued as the fighting broke out. They had us outnumbered but that wouldn't be an issue. Almost everyone with us was able to fight with special abilities. In an instant, Trevor, Landon, and Vincent shifted into their animal forms. Reece decided to take on his Lycan form. Nathair became the giant snake that he had inside of him, a twenty foot long blue Malaysian coral snake; he was frightening

to look at. Kayda became a fifteen foot long, powerful looking Komodo dragon that was a beautiful glittering green color. Rahim didn't transform, but he did let his magic flare around him just the same as I did.

"Guard the castle. Stop the intruders. Guard the castle. Stop the intruders. Guard the castle. Stop the intruders. Guard the castle. Stop the intruders." The knights hadn't even stopped their chanting when they saw the transformations in front of them. They were waiting for us to come for them.

"Try not to kill anyone." I reminded them just as I lashed out for the soldier in the lead.

I had flung a whip made of light at the Fae that was closest to me. The whip wrapped around him, and I tugged him toward me, pulling him off of his feet. As soon as the soldier had unbalanced and fallen, I let the whip dissipate and closed him inside of a magic cage. I had practiced these cages years ago, and I never truly thought that they would come in handy at any time, but I was wrong now, wasn't I?

I did my best to pay attention to the others that were fighting around me, but I was also busy fighting as well, so I didn't have that luxury. Right now, I had three soldiers that were coming at me from different angles, so I decided to let a three stooges type moment happen. I jumped into the air and let the wind hold me suspended in the air. The moment that I was out of the way, the three soldiers ran headfirst into each other and collapsed onto the floor. I sent out my whip again and split it into three. I wrapped it around their feet and lifted the three stooge guards from the floor and promptly dropped them into the magic cage along with the other soldier.

When I looked around me, I saw that Nathair was holding two different soldiers wrapped up in his tail. Kayda had one guard clenched gently in her mouth and another under her feet. Rahim had taken my lead and was using whips to hold the soldiers.

"All of you, put your captives into this cage." I called out to them. They would be able to push them in through the bars but they wouldn't be able to escape in the same fashion.

Reece, who had one soldier in each hand, started to follow the command without me needing to tell him. Vincent also took the soldier he was fighting and dragged him over toward the cage. It was slowly growing with each man added to the confines of the cage.

Landon and Trevor were having a little bit of trouble not hurting the soldiers that were going after them. They had a natural defense that also worked as an attack. Every time one of the soldiers reached for them their hands would be speared on the ends of the fur that was covering Landon or Trevor's body. And they were both so much larger than when they initially transformed.

Trevor, who was already almost ten feet tall when he was in his bear form, was now nearly twenty-five feet tall. Landon, whose head was six feet off the ground when on all fours, was now at least fifteen feet off the ground, from head to tail he was at least twenty five feet long as well.

Knowing that I wanted the soldier alive and in the cage, Landon opened his large mouth and caught two of the soldiers in his mouth simultaneously. He didn't bite down, he just kept them still as he walked them over to the cage. Trevor did something similar, only he hooked his three foot long claws through their armor and carried them like shopping bags in his hands.

"We had a bit of an obstacle. No worries, we took care of it all." I pointed to the guards that were falling all over themselves in the cage that I made, trying their best to get out and attack us even now.

"I am sorry that we were not here to assist you, my Queen." He bowed his head in shame as if this was the worst situation he could have imagined.

"It's fine, Nigel, we were all doing what it is that we needed to do. There is no need to apologize. Now, let us be off."

Together, our group started through the halls of the castle. I had, once again, tried to take the lead, but Reece put his foot down this time. We were in an active battle situation. There was, in his words, 'absolutely no fucking way in hell' that I was going to be in the front leading the party. And he simply wouldn't listen to me when I tried to protest.

Not wanting to turn anything into a demand and force the issue, I let the others take the lead over me. Trevor and Landon took the first position with me and Reece right behind them, which I did insist upon. I needed to be able to see some of what was happening in front of me so that I could make any important decisions regarding our attack.

The halls seemed to be quiet. Too quiet. It was eerie to walk through these halls and not see someone that was working or another resident that was just moving about. There were way too many people that lived in the castle for this to happen. What the hell had they done to everyone? I swear, if Hibiscus hurt them, she will be sorry.

Since there was nothing, and no one, in the way to stop me, I made it to Aunt Glory's private office quicker than I normally would have. Once again, the sight of the unguarded door made fear rise within me. Seeing that the normal guards that would be stationed out here were gone was making me fear the worst already.

"Aunt Glory, I am coming in." I shouted at the door.

"Gloriana, my love, I am coming in as well." Trevor yelled as he threw himself against the door. The door was, as expected, locked.

"You are not permitted entry." I heard Aunt Glory's voice coming from the other side. "Please leave. I do not wish to see any of you at the moment." There was something strange about her voice, something that was off.

"Aunt Glory, I know that isn't you talking. I am coming in there."

"Trinity, go away. I do not want to see you." That tone, the way that she spoke, it wasn't like her at all.

"Hibiscus, I know what you have done." I called through the door, speaking to the mastermind behind all of this instead of my aunt. I knew that she was in there and I knew that she was the one behind all of this.

"Bissy isn't even here, Trinity. Why must you always think the worst of her?" I heard the angry note in Aunt Glory's voice then, it was like she was pissed that I was accusing her friend of treason.

"Stand back away from the door, Aunt Glory, I don't want you getting hurt."

"No! I told you to go away!"

I didn't listen to her. I knew that we needed to get inside right away. I pushed past Trevor and Landon and threw off Reece's hand when he tried to stop me. There was no danger on this side of the door, they didn't have to worry. This was something that I could do with no threat to me.

When I was past the others and standing before Aunt Glory's ornately carved doors, I placed my hands on them. I knew that Aunt Glory would have the doors guarded and protected so I needed to overpower them as much as I could. I started to pour all of the magic that I had into the doors. I poured in everything that there was for me to give. I gave light magic, water magic, nature magic. After I gave my all to the Fae magic, I started on my witch magic and even the wolf magic. I was going to push so much into the door that there was no possible way that it would be able to withstand the sheer force of it all.

Sure enough, after I put everything that I had into the door, I heard it start to groan. The wood couldn't hold anymore magic. It had reached its limits and there was nothing left for me to do but to push it aside.

I used my magic to make the door fly off of its hinges, but I also kept it from flying across the room. I didn't want to hurt Aunt Glory when it shot across the room. I followed the door into the room, taking the lead despite Reece's attempted protests.

"Aunt Glory?" I called out to her when I saw her standing next to the fireplace. "Where is she?"

"Where is who?" She called out to me. "There is no one here aside from myself and you intruders." She was glaring at me. "I cannot believe the betrayal, Trinity. How could you do this to me? I thought we were family. I thought there was love between us. How could you betray me and do this to my people?" There was pure anger in Aunt Glory's eyes at the moment.. This wasn't what I expected when I came to save her.

Chapter 507 - Trinity – Breaking The Spell (VOLUME 3)

8-10 minutes

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Trinity

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"Aunt Glory, what are you talking about? What betrayal? All I have done is try to protect you and the other Fae. I have done nothing to betray you."

"I only wish that were true, Trinity. I have been shown the truth. I have seen the proof. How could you do this? How could you kill my people? How could you kill my friends?"

"Who have I killed, Aunt Glory? Who am I supposed to have done these things to? I have no idea what it is that you're talking about."

I was standing there with my hands on my hips as I watched her begin to cry. She was clearly not herself. I could see it in her eyes. There was the same look in them that was in the eyes of the guards. Only it looks like Hibiscus had put more effort into bespelling Aunt Glory than into the men guarding the door.

"You killed my friends, Alloy and Sterling. You took their lives to silence them. You are the one that was behind this whole thing. You have been the one attacking my people and leaving them too afraid to leave their homes. You were the one who killed them all."

"How would I have done that, Aunt Glory? I wasn't even here when it was starting. How could I have been the one to do that?"

"It had to be you. That is the only explanation. There has never been a Fae that could control the minds of others. There has never been anyone who has been able to bespell people like you do."

"I urge you to think about this, Aunt Glory. None of what you are saying makes any sense. Alloy and Sterling aren't even dead. If that part isn't true, then, don't you think that the rest of it isn't true?" She didn't even hesitate when I said those words to her.

"I know they're dead, I was shown the proof. I don't have the heart to kill you, Trinity. I don't want to do that. But if you don't turn yourself in then, I will send all that I have after you." Her eyes were now showing me a look of pure hatred.

"Gloriana, my love, this isn't right." Trevor stepped forward. "You have to know that none of what you were told is true." I could see the pain and fear in his eyes. It was clear that his heart was hurting because of the spell that Aunt Glory was under.

"No!" She screamed at Trevor. "I trusted you. I believed you when you said you were my mate, but it was all a lie. None of it was true. You lied to me and violated me and my trust. I fell in love with you only to learn that it was all a part of your plan. Leave! Go! I never want to see you again."

The tears in Aunt Glory's eyes were starting to spill over and stream down her cheeks. She looked completely heartbroken and the sight of it all was enough to bring a tear to my eye.

"Aunt Glory?"

"Gloriana?" Trevor and I spoke at the same time.

This needed to end. There had to be a way that I could stop this from continuing. We needed to break this spell that Aunt Glory was under, and we needed her to realize that she had been lied to. But how?

I was thinking about this, about what it was that we needed to do when I saw that Aunt Glory was lifting her hand as she stared at Trevor with those hurt filled eyes.

"Go away!" She was still screaming at him, saying the same words over and over again. "Go away! Go away! Go away! Go away! Go away! Go away!"

"Gloriana?" Trevor was crying as he reached out for his mate that was literally breaking his heart with her words. "Please, Gloriana, remember what it is that we have shared. Please don't do this."

"You're the one that lied to me." She said as she finally swung that raised hand toward him.

I barely had the time to react. I barely managed to get the shield into place before the dangerous looking ball of light slammed into it, right in front of Trevor's face.

"Gloriana?" The shock in his face was enough to tell me that he never thought, not once, that she would attack him. Bepelled or not, they were still mates. No one should be able to break that bond. It was still there. It was fate.

Wait a minute. Fate? Fae? The Fae are the fairies of all the old stories. Could there be a connection here that is way too childish and cliché for my own good? I didn't know for sure, but for some reason it felt like it had to be true.

"Trevor?" I called out to him, but he ignored me. He just continued to look at his mate with incredulous eyes. "Trevor!" I called out to him again. "Trevor."

Finally, after the third time that I called Trevor's name, he looked at me. His eyes were rimmed in red, and it looked like he was about to crumble to pieces.

"Trinity?" I could tell that he was trying to ask me why this was happening to him.

"Trevor, I have an idea. I think I know how to break the spell that she is under."

"Can it be broken?" He asked me, his words squeaking a little with the emotions that were filling him.

"It can. I am sure of it."

"Then how? How do I get my Gloriana back?" He was pleading with me now and I saw how much his words were affecting those around us. "Tell me how to save her."

"We're in Fae, Trevor. Follow the way of the fairies." I smiled at him, but he didn't seem to understand what I said. "True love's kiss. You need to show her and everyone around you, that you truly love her. It should work."

"Are you sure about this, Trinity?" Reece asked me with worry in his voice.

"Not one hundred percent, but I am at least ninety-five percent sure." I nodded at him.

"That's good enough for me." I saw Trevor straighten up. He was wiping the tears from his face and gave a look that said he was going into battle.

When I looked back at Aunt Glory, it was like she was frozen, waiting for us to continue this little play that Hibiscus had set up for us.

"Aunt Glory, Trevor wants to come and apologize to you. He will bow down to you and grovel for your forgiveness." I was lying, of course, but I thought I would play to the scenario that Hibiscus had created.

"I don't want to forgive him." She spat the words at me. "He is scum."

"Then tell him that when he comes to see you." I encouraged her. "Wait until he has said his peace and then tell him. Will you allow that?" I asked her with as calm of a voice as I could manage.

"I will allow it." She turned her head up and to the side like she was scoffing at us but still agreed.

"That is good." I nodded at Trevor to encourage him onward.

As Trevor walked toward her, I kept my shield for him in place. I didn't need to have it hanging over my head if I dropped it too soon and she killed my friend and her lover. Thankfully, she didn't even look at him while he walked to her. I had no doubt in my mind that she knew where he was at all times though, she only needed to sense him with magic.

The moment that Trevor was right in front of Aunt Glory, I dropped the shield.

"Gloriana?" He said her name, causing her to turn and look at him with a look of disdain. He didn't even let her finish turning though, he put one hand around her waist and the other on the back of her head and pulled her against him so quick that he cut off her protest before she could even voice it.

"Sto-! Mmph." The sound of him muffling her words as he pressed his lips to hers was the last thing that we heard before the kiss truly got underway.

At first, I could see Aunt Glory fighting against Trevor. She was struggling to push him away from her and break the kiss. However, after a few moments she stopped pushing him and started to pull him closer.

As the kiss went on and on there was a light that could be seen building up between them. A bright, white light that looked pure and clean. By the time that Trevor had lowered his hand low enough so that he could cup his mate's slender bottom and lift her up against his chest the light was blindingly bright.

With that new closeness between Trevor and Aunt Glory, with her arms thrown around his neck as he held her in his arms, the light seemed to explode. The brilliance of that light left me reeling for a moment, unable to see as my eyes readjusted. But the kiss seemed to be over after the explosion.

"Gloriana, my love." Trevor smiled at her and I could see small little tears of joy streaming down his cheeks.

"Trevor?" Aunt Glory called her mate's name as she looked him in the eyes. "What is going on?"

Well, it appears that the spell is indeed broken, however Aunt Glory doesn't seem to remember what had happened at all.. Oh boy, this is going to be good.

Chapter 508 - Trinity – What's Really Happening (VOLUME 3)

8-9 minutes

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Trinity

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"Aunt Glory, when was the last time that you have seen Hibiscus?" I got straight to the important question before I told her what was going on.

"Why? What does she have to do with anything?" She was looking at me with a confused expression as Trevor set her back on the floor.

"Gloriana, my love, you were under a spell just now. You thought that we were traitors. You attacked me." Trevor looked her in the eyes as he spoke, telling her the hard truth before anything else was said.

"What? No, that's not possible. Please tell me that this is some sort of joke. Please Trevor. This is not funny at all."

"It is not meant to be funny, Aunt Glory. He is telling you the truth. You weren't the only one bespelled either. Your guards were as well. There were two dozen men in the front of the castle that tried to attack us when we came in through the doors."

"How? How did this happen? How is this even possible?" Aunt Glory looked at me with a disbelieving look. "Even if Hibiscus had something to do with this, I haven't seen her since she went to her place for her protection. She has not left her house. The guards have told me so."

"Oh, she left her house. Of that I am certain." I was pissed off right now. I was tired of Aunt Glory defending this psychopath.

"How do you know? What makes you so certain?"

"Because she tried to kill us." I heard Sterling's voice as he and Alloy made their way to the front of the group. They had stayed back out of fear when I broke into the room, but it was safe now, so they were coming up.

"Sterling?" She gasped when she saw the large blood slash across the front of his shirt. "What has happened to you? And you, Alloy. You both look as if you have been hurt so badly."

"We had been." Alloy confirmed. "My wounds were not poisoned though. Only Sterling's were. He nearly died. He would have, if it wasn't for Queen Trinity."

"That's my niece, saving the day again." She gave me a sweet look as she responded to Alloy's words.

"Now is not the time for praise. We need to get to the bottom of this whole situation, and fast." I could feel my heart racing as a thought occurred to me. "Where is Athair mòr?" Fear was settling over me again as I realized that we still didn't know if he was safe.

"I...I don't know." Aunt Glory looked as if she couldn't think properly. "Trinity, I think I am starting to feel that worry that you've been experiencing for days now." She grimaced. "I am starting to get a bad feeling and it is settling on thoughts about my best friend. I am still hoping that you are wrong, but I don't know if that is going to end up being the case."

"I think that we should send someone to check on Athair mòr. We need to send someone to his quarters. I don't think that I will rest easy until I know that he is safe."

"I agree." Reece nodded at my words. "We need to make sure that he is not in any danger."

"Yes, please, send someone to make sure that my brother is safe. I won't feel better until then."

"I will go along with some knights." Landon nodded and ran from the room. He didn't even wait for confirmation.

I was glad that someone was taking care of that for me. It would give me a slight amount of peace to know that someone was on their way to check on him. But I would still feel uneasy until Landon returned. For the time being, it was time for an explanation.

"Well, since you are more open to hearing things now, Aunt Glory, let me tell you all that has happened lately."

I took a deep breath then and started to explain to her all that had happened. I told her about the horror movie scene that we walked into when we got to Sterling and Alloy's place. I told her about the magic door and the clearing. I told her about how I had healed Sterling and saved him from dying while using Alloy's magic and asking that the Goddess mark them if they were innocent.

Aunt Glory had been quite excited upon hearing about the marks of innocence. She thought that was an amazing thing that she just had to see. Sterling was the only one who showed his mark this time, since I told her they both had matching marks.

"Worry not, Alloy, I alone will be enough this time." Sterling had told him.

"How cute is it that the two of you have matching marks now?" Aunt Glory smiled at them. "I always knew you two were the best couple ever and I never understood why you chose to live so far away." She frowned at them after the mark had been shown.

"You know why, Gloriana." Sterling hung his head. "People do not approve of us."

"Are you referring to the fact that you're gay?" Reece asked him with shock. "I have a hard time believing that. Our friends were here recently, and no one had a problem with their relationship."

"I wish that was the only thing that we had to overcome." Sterling laughed at him. "No, King Reece, it is the fact that we are metal Fae. In the eyes of the other Fae, the Fae that have more natural elements to their magic, we are abominations. We are not accepted by the general population. They think that we are unnatural and evil. We have put up with it for millennia. It is not something that we care to deal with anymore. That is why we moved to the farthest reaches of the land of Fae."

"And it is probably why Hibiscus chose us to frame." Alloy crossed his arms. "We are already considered evil by everyone else so, if she committed a series of crimes, we would be the most likely culprits when compared to her."

There is still one thing that I don't understand." Aunt Glory shook her as she thought about this. "How did Hibiscus do this if she doesn't have any notable magic?"

That truly was the million dollar question wasn't it? How did she do all of this if she couldn't perform any magic at all?

As I contemplated that thought I heard the sound of hurried footsteps coming close to the private room. I could smell Landon coming up fast, but the scent that was chasing him made me breath a sigh of relief.

"Gloriana?" Athair mòr cried her name when he ran into the room. "I am so glad that you are safe." Athair mòr ran to his sister's side and hugged her, even with her mate standing so close that the two of them brushed against each other with Aunt Glory in between them.

"Brother?" Aunt Glory hugged him back with a relieved sigh.

"What has happened? How did this come to be?"

"I will explain that, old friend." Alloy smiled at him and moved closer to him. The shock that was on Athair mòr's face when he saw the blood covering his friend was clear. He, like Aunt Glory, thought that something horrible must have happened, though when he heard the tale it was obvious that he had never expected the true extent of it all.

"So, it truly was Hibiscus after all?" He looked at me with an apologetic look. "I am sorry, Trinity, I should have listened to you. You were right all along."

"Let us not lay blame on each other. What we really need to worry about now is, how we're going to get Hibiscus to come to us willingly? I have a feeling that if we tried to take her by force, something truly horrible is likely to happen." I brushed aside his words and redirected the conversation to where it needed to be.

"I agree. We need a plan." Reece looked worried as he spoke. "Does anyone have any ideas?"

"I think I might know just how we can get her to come to us and to prove that she is the guilty party all at the same time. But you will all have to trust me. This is going to be one hell of a show that we're going to give her.." I saw the confusion on almost every face in the room when they saw the smirk on my face and the mischief in my eyes.

Chapter 509 - Trinity - Trial (VOLUME 3)

9-11 minutes

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Trinity

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I was currently standing in the middle of the courtyard in front of the castle. My hands were in chains. There were three dead bodies lying in front of me covered with white cloths. There was a pile of injured guards laying all heaped together next to the platform that I was currently chained to. The magic cage filled with the guards that we had incapacitated was shimmering next to me to further showcase my crimes against the Fae.

Beside me, Reece, Vincent, Trevor, Landon, and all the rest of the members of the council were kneeling as if they too were being punished. There was a slew of guards behind them, holding them all in place.

There was already a sea of people that had arrived following the announcement that the crimes against the Fae had been solved. Despite the fact that there were so many people in the open space, there was still more coming with each passing minute.

In the distance I saw a group of guards that were approaching us as the protective guard for Hibiscus. She was giving us all a look of utter confusion as she walked to the very front of the group.

"Thank you all for responding so quickly to my summons." Athair mòr's voice boomed out across the group of gathered spectators. "I have summoned you all here for a very grave issue. It has recently been discovered that there was a plot against Queen Gloriana's life alongside the threats that have been plaguing the city. There have been three more lives lost this day. Three more senseless murders that needn't have occurred."

Athair mòr paused for a moment to let his words sink in as the people looked on and the whispers started to spread among the crowd as they saw all of us 'outsiders' being treated as criminals.

"The first murders that were brought to my attention today were those of my childhood friends." At those words, a guard pulled the white sheet-like cloths from the bodies of Sterling and Alloy, both of them covered in blood and deep, black tinged wounds. "These men were dear friends to both me and Queen Gloriana. I was heartbroken when I learned of their deaths." I could hear the way Athair mòr choked up when he spoke, tears filling his eyes as he thought about how he would never again be able to see the men that he grew up with. "I will miss these two friends so much." It sounded like he was crying for real now, but I couldn't see his face, so I didn't know for sure.

"Who killed them? How did they die?" I heard Hibiscus's voice call out, not a shred of worry or fear in the way that she spoke.

"I will get to that, Bissy." Athair mòr tilted his head at her and sniffled. "There is another murder I need to inform you all about." I listened on as Athair mòr cleared his throat and continued. "Please remove the last cloth."

At Athair mòr's orders a guard walked over to the last dead body. When the sheet was pulled back there was a gasp that ran through the crowd.

"HUH!"

"NO!"

"MY QUEEN!"

"WHAT HAS HAPPENED?!"

So many frightened responses spread throughout the gathered people.

"Valerian, what on earth has happened?" Hibiscus asked, once again her voice was calm and not at all concerned.

"My sister, Queen Gloriana, has been murdered." His words shook again as he spoke.

I could see Aunt Glory's body. She was laying there, blood still seeping from the wounds that covered her body. There was a slash that ran down her cheek, stab wounds and punctures all over her chest and arms. It looked like someone had pelted her with sharp, pointy objects that all pierced her body before they were removed. Worst of all though, was the large gaping hole that was in her chest where her heart used to be. It was clear that it had been removed viciously.

"NOOOO!" I screamed when I saw her body. "AUNT GLORY!"

"Silence." Athair mòr snapped at me when I screamed. There was clear anger in his voice.

"I didn't do this. Please, believe me." I pleaded with him, tears beginning to stream down my cheeks. "Please, Athair mòr, you have to know that I didn't do this." I felt every eye in the place on me. Well, every eye aside from one. Hibiscus was looking at Aunt Glory with a smirk on her face.

"This truly is unfortunate." She shook her head. "I tried to tell the Queen recently that these outsiders were not safe for us. These people should not have been allowed to come here. They were going to be the death of us all. I told her that and now look at what has happened."

"She was murdered by her own niece, as well as the man that called himself her mate."

"That is a lie." I called out to them all, but Trevor remained silent. "This is not what it looks like. I was only defending myself. Had I not done so Aunt Glory would have killed me."

"And why would she have done that?" Hibiscus asked as she climbed the platform and stood in front of me. "You murdered her friends and her people. She had every right to kill you." She almost sounded like she was laughing when she spoke to me. "And of all of you that stand accused, you are the only one denying the charges against you. They have obviously already admitted your guilt."

At that moment, Hibiscus turned to face the gathered Fae. She looked at them all as she moved in a slow semi circle.

"Friends, family, fellow Fae, I urge you to listen to me. The Queen had been tricked by these criminals. But as time went on, she told me that she was no longer able to trust her supposed niece. When I spoke to her just this morning, she told me that if anything were to happen to her, she wanted me to take her place. I guess she knew that this false Fae, this Queen Trinity, was going to attempt to harm her. I am just flabbergasted that the Queen was bested by someone like her."

Her words were seemingly trying to boost their support of her.

"No, I never meant to harm her. I never hurt anyone. I swear." I cried to them all.

"Silence, you dog." I saw Reece tense when he heard those words, but he didn't say anything, he was staying silent and wouldn't say anything for the time being. "I say we sentence these criminals to death, right here and now. I say we end this nightmare plaguing our people and attempt to move on to a brighter future with me as your queen."

"As queen?" I heard some people echo that, not sure what to think of those words.

"Hibiscus?" Athair mòr gasped her name when he heard what she had to say. "You plan to take the role in the absence of my sister?" It was like he was not even going to protest her declaration.

"It is what Queen Gloriana wanted." She placed a hand over her heart and faked her sadness as she spoke. "I just want to honor her last wishes." She turned away from the crowd and looked at me with glee filled eyes.

The moment that Hibiscus started to lean in toward me with that evil look in her eyes and the wicked set to her lips, I just knew that she was about to incriminate herself. Thankfully I was ready for this moment.

"I am so glad that I bespelled Gloriana this morning. All of this worked out so much better than I could have hoped for."

The moment that her words stopped echoing throughout the clearing, the evil look in her eyes had changed to shock and fear. She had just heard her words repeated back to her as if it was on a speaker, loud enough for everyone gathered to hear her.

"What did she just say?"

"Bespelled the Queen?"

"Is Queen Trinity the culprit or is it Hibiscus?"

"She lied to us!"

So many people were now starting to figure out what had truly happened. They had heard the admission of guilt from Hibiscus herself.

"You just couldn't resist the urge to brag, could you?" I grinned at her as I stood up, shaking the chains off of my wrists. Likewise, Reece and the others stood up as well as the guards stepped away from them.

"How could you do this to me, Bissy?" Aunt Glory asked as she stood, all signs of her injuries and blood now gone. Even Sterling and Alloy were standing, still in their blood stained clothes but completely healed and without injuries.

Once again there were several confused gasps and questions coming from the crowd. But there was one thing that everyone watching on had in common, they were all relieved to see Aunt Glory alive and well.

"This isn't possible. You're dead." Hibiscus looked at the three no longer dead bodies that were standing before her.

"No, we're not." Aunt Glory frowned at her before turning to look at the crowd. "I am sorry, my friends, I did not want to deceive you, but it was the only way to get the true culprit to come to us willingly and admit her crimes to us all. I know that we have all been living in fear of the attacks and murders that have taken place, but you may all rest assured that the mystery has been solved."

"NO!" Hibiscus screamed in rage as she jumped toward Aunt Glory, a lethal looking sword materializing in her hand and pointed right at Aunt Glory's throat.

Chapter 510 - Trinity – Capturing The Culprit (VOLUME 3)

7-9 minutes

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Trinity

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I acted entirely on instinct. I did not even let a single second pass before I was already moving to save Aunt Glory. I wasn't the only one who was already on the move either. Trevor had sprung into action to protect his mate the moment that Hibiscus screamed and so did many of my guards as well as Aunt Glory's guards.

None of them were faster than I was, though. I moved to save Aunt Glory without even moving from my spot.

I lashed out with a whip: long, blue, shining and made of pure water magic. It slashed across the platform we were standing on and wrapped around Hibiscus's waist in just a fraction of a second.

Once the whip was around the crazy, psychotic bitch I pulled back as hard as I could. Hibiscus's forward trajectory was halted and reversed it was almost comically, as I watched the way her whole body jerked when she flew backwards.

I slammed the 'would be Queen killer' against the ground a few times, creating a pleasant sounding thud each time. After that, I wrapped my whip around Hibiscus's entire body, trapping her in a cocoon of my magic. Now that she wasn't able to move, I suspended her in the air, leaving her body to dangle above the ground, while she continued to scream wordlessly in anger.

"NO! NO! THIS IS NOT RIGHT! NO! LET ME GO! I SWEAR I WILL KILL HER! SHE DESERVES TO DIE! I SHOULD BE THE QUEEN! ME! NOT HER! SHE IS A HORRIBLE PERSON! SHE HAS RUINED MY LIFE! SHE HAS TAKEN IT ALL FROM ME! I WILL KILL HER! I WILL KILL HER! KILL HER! KILL HER! KILL HER! KILL HER!" She was nearly frothing at the mouth by the time that she was done with her explosive display. There was no doubting that this woman was unbalanced, unhinged, and completely insane. She was so far beyond reality that she couldn't see what was truly happening right in front of her. I wondered for a moment what caused it, but I was too busy trying to protect those around me instead.

At the same time that I had pulled Hibiscus back, Trevor had gotten to his mate's side. Right now, he was pressing her against his chest as he held her in his arms.

"No, the only one around here that deserves to die is you, Hibiscus." Trevor was yelling at the crazy woman that had just tried to overthrow the Queen in front of all these people.

"What do you even know about it, shifter? You are not one of us, so you have no say in any of our affairs." Hibiscus snapped at Trevor in response to his words.

"I am her mate. I have every right to defend her and to sentence you to death." He growled at her.

"Her mate." Hibiscus's eyes turned black, pure black. There was no trace of the pink and yellow that her eyes usually held and there were no whites of her eyes left, everything about the turned pure black. "You have no mate, bear. You have no mate and the woman in your arms is trying to kill you. Kill her. Kill her to protect yourself. Get rid of the traitor that you hold against yourself."

As Hibiscus spoke, I saw a yellow mist or powder of some sort coming out of her mouth. That stuff coming out of her mouth was almost like the pollen of a flower, only larger. Or that's what it looked like anyway.

That pollen, for that's what I was going to call it for now, was flying right at Trevor as if it was being blown right into his face on a strong wind. There was no way that I would have been able to stop the pollen once I knew what was happening.

It hit Trevor in the face immediately and I saw him drop Aunt Glory from his arms and drop to his knees while he put the heels of hands against his eyes.

"Shit!" I knew that this wasn't going to be good. I now had to subdue my friend before the spell could be broken. At least now we knew how Hibiscus was controlling people.

Knowing how she had done it wasn't the important part of this right now, though. What really mattered was that now Trevor was blinking the confusion from his eyes, and I saw that they were just as dazed and confused as the guards had been earlier. He was under that bitch's control right now, and that meant that she could make him do anything that she wanted right now.

"Killer!" Trevor's voice was just as dazed sounding as his eyes looked. "Murderer. You're trying to kill me." He was speaking slowly, almost like someone had slowed him down magically so they could watch a superfast scene in slow motion. "I will kill you for this."

"Trevor, no. I love you. I'm your mate."

"I have no mate." He was still moving slow, much slower than any of the others had been earlier.

I had a feeling that the strength of the love he had for his mate was stopping the spell from taking full effect. That was the only thing that I could think of.

"Aunt Glory! Kiss him. Break the spell like he broke it for you. His love for you is slowing down the spell, kiss him and wake him up."

"Trinity?" She looked at me like that was not what she was expecting. Not to mention, she was the Queen, and shouldn't be seen acting so shameful in front of her people.

"Kiss him, Aunt Glory. It's the only way to break the spell."

"OK."

Aunt Glory looked back at Trevor with love filled eyes. The pain and sadness that she had felt just moments ago, when he said he didn't have a mate, had completely vanished when she looked into his eyes.

"I love you, Trevor." She smiled at him and threw herself at him as he started to slowly get to his feet.

Aunt Glory was much smaller than Trevor, so her weight didn't seem to bother him at all as he stood. He rose to his full height with her dangling from his neck and she pressed her lips to his.

I watched as Trevor moved a hand away from Aunt Glory and shifted it into a lethal looking bear paw that was tipped with five inch long claws.

"No!" I screamed as I watched his hand start to move toward Aunt Glory's back.

There was no need for me to worry though. By the time that Trevor's hand had reached Aunt Glory's body it had become the very large hand of a man once again. Trevor was now cradling the back of his mate's head as he kissed her back.

"NO!" Hibiscus screamed, not having believed me that the kiss would work. "This is impossible." She was thrashing around in her bindings, trying to get free.

"You've met your match, Hibiscus." I yelled at her, a smile on my lips as I thought about how she had lost this battle. "It's over now."

"That is what you think. It's not over until I say it is." Hibiscus's voice was that of a mad woman whenever she opened her mouth to speak. However, right now I could tell that she was about to cast another spell and I couldn't let that happen.

"Give it up, Hibiscus."

"Never." She spat the words as she looked around. "YOU!" She was eyeing someone among my group of soldiers, knights, and friends. "You will kill the interloper. You will destroy Queen Trinity. Stop her. Kill her. Kill her." She spoke fast and this time the yellow spores were flying before she was done with her little speech.

Once the words were spoken, I just watched on with slight surprise as I waited to see who she had chosen to be the new target of the spell. Hibiscus was bound to choose someone that she thought would be able to destroy me with their physical prowess or speed. I knew that she wanted me dead as soon as possible. I just wondered who it was that she was going to try and kill me with.. I wasn't worried about it all, I would just need to trap them in a cage or something.