

Chosen by Fate 521

Chapter 521 - Trinity – Living In Peace (VOLUME 3)

Trinity

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I honestly had to say that everything was going just about perfectly since the issue with the Fae had been taken care of. We had a new baby girl that was getting big by the time that Reagan and Rika turned three years old. Reece was the most loving and doting dad there was in the entire world. And my people seemed to be mostly at peace. I think that it was all going according to plan.

What was making me truly sad was just the passage of time. Talia was almost five months old already and Reagan and Rika were showing just how smart they were while they started a sort of at home preschool with Mom and Lyla.

Reagan and Rika could already recognize every single letter of the alphabet and they were working on their pen control, or rather, crayon control as they colored and drew different pictures every day. They knew all their colors and loved to sing songs that were perfect for preschool aged children.

Honestly, I didn't even think they would need a preschool class if they kept this up with their grandmothers. It was cute though, both Mom and Lyla were so devoted. They were also teaching Elias. And I know that Mom took trips to visit CJ and work with him and Bree. All of these kids had overly devoted grandmothers that worked hard for them. I think they all missed their callings as preschool teachers to be honest.

When Talia's first Christmas came around, she was four months old and could actually play with small toys on her tummy. Because of that, Reece went a little overboard with gifts for her. She was basically given the makings of a baby mouse maze. Reece planned to have her learn to crawl at an early age and hoped she would crawl and scoot around in a controlled environment. He just didn't want her to get hurt, but I just couldn't believe him sometimes. He was so over the top.

Juniper had finished her degree in child psychology just a month before she found out she was pregnant with a little boy. He had been born three days after her twins turned three. Ella was pregnant with another baby as well. She was due to have her little boy in March of the following year. It looked like we were all expanding our families some more. Even Carter and Noah, both announced to the family on Christmas that their wives were expecting again. Both Nikki and Emmalee were due the same day and the thought of them having their babies at the same time made me smile, but also hoped that they weren't the same so that the new little cousins would feel ripped off for sharing a birthday.

Yeah, all in all life was amazing. And I was happy that we were all getting to spend Christmas at home this year. It was the first time since the year that Reagan and Rika were born. Two years in a row we had gone to the Yule celebration, only for it to be cancelled the second time. Still, as fun and amazing as the Fae compound was during the holidays, I was glad that we had been home for it this year.

Things with Alpha Corp, the company that was now legally co-owned by me and Reece, were also doing amazingly well. We were branching out and expanding the number of companies that we owned and operated. There were now more than twice as many people working for us in one way or another, most

of which as security detail that were spread out all over the world. It seemed that hiring someone from Alpha Corp had become the next big thing, and celebrities, politicians, and dignitaries couldn't get enough of us.

They also wanted to use the highly efficient and expertly trained construction crews, analysts, and everyone else that was employed by Alpha Corp or one of its subsidiaries. I had never believed that an explosion in our popularity was ever possible. It made me wonder how they would all feel if we reveal ourselves to the world. Would they still want to work with us so much? I hoped so, but that wasn't something that was in the cards right now.

Another new year came and there was still nothing but calm and peace in the world of shifters and magic users, and apparently in the world of the Fae. We continued to have our quarterly meetings where the high Nobles and Grand Nobles came to tell us what had been happening in their provinces.

Crimes were reported and major issues were settled. I am proud to say that there were less issues than the first year that I had implemented this policy, and I was hoping to have things keep continuing on this trend. There may never be world peace, but I can get a calmer and more serene world than what there had been before.

I could hope and dream for a world like that at least. I knew that it would take a long time and a lot of effort from everyone involved, but I hoped that one day it could be possible.

Reece told me that it was a pipedream and that it would never happen and, to be honest, I knew that he was right and I was being too naïve due to my age and overall experience in the world.

However, I think that part of me wanted that eventual outcome because of my experience with the world. I had more death than I care to admit. I had faced the horrors of what someone was capable of doing to their own children. I had seen that jealousy for your fellow people could sour into murderous rage. I had seen how envy, lust, power, and so much more had corrupted the souls of my people and others. I didn't want that sort of thing continuing to happen. I wanted to help everyone, protect everyone.

Though, I knew that was impossible.. Still, I could hope.

Chapter 522 - Trinity – Wedding Plans (VOLUME 3)

6-7 minutes

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Trinity

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I celebrated my twenty-third birthday. Reece and I celebrated our fifth Valentine's Day together and then our fourth wedding anniversary, time was passing, and things were going great.

Just after the year had started, I had gotten a message from Aunt Glory letting me know that her and Trevor were finally getting married. She had wanted to wait at least a year before they tied the knot.

Aunt Glory didn't want to wait on the wedding because she didn't trust Trevor, but more because it was common for 'most' Fae to be engaged for years before they ever got married. They were basically immortal and didn't have to worry about aging too much if they didn't get married soon enough.

Hey, speaking of not aging, I had noticed that everyone around me started to either age really slowly or not at all. Ever since I became the Luna Queen it was like everyone had frozen in time. I wondered if that was only during the time that I was alive, the time that I was ruling, or if it was permanent. I guess time would tell.

Anyway, as far as the wedding plans for Aunt Glory and Trevor went, they had chosen to get married in April, after my wedding anniversary and that business at the beginning of the year. They thought that would be perfect and I couldn't have agreed more. They were set to get married on Friday, April the eleventh. We were all preparing to head there and finish helping them finalize wedding plans and plan the parties.

"Trinity! Reece!" Aunt Glory ran to greet us the moment we stepped into her private study. I saw that Trevor was there, still looking the same as ever in his black suit pants, untucked and half buttoned dress shirt, and wild appearance. He was a sight for sore eyes and hugged me as fiercely as Aunt Glory had.

"I've missed you both." I told them the moment that I was set back on my feet. That was also when I spotted Athair mòr and Daciana. I went to Athair mòr and hugged him as well, holding the now almost nine month old Talia in my arms. "I've missed you, Athair mòr." Even though he came to all the meetings he had been asked to attend, it never felt like enough time.

"I have missed you too, Trinity."

"It is so nice to see you again, Queen Trinity" Daciana was still nervous around me and called me that every time that she spoke to me.

"Daciana, you're about to become my step great great great grandmother, I think we can drop the formalities." That caused everyone in the room to laugh, aside from the children that is.

"I...I guess you're right."

"Did I tell you?" Athair mòr looked at me excitedly.

"Tell me what?" I was confused for a moment but let him continue.

"Daci and I are getting married in a joint ceremony with Glory and Trevor."

"Oh my Goddess, really?" I felt the damn burst inside of me and released all of my excitement.

"Uh oh, how does Winnie the Pooh feel about that?" Reece joked as he looked at his friend of many years.

"Shut up, Scamp." Trevor snapped at him with a tinge of pink in his cheeks.

"Actually, it was his suggestion, and I thought it would be amazing as well. There will be separate parts for both of us. It is not like we will be going up at the same time." Aunt Glory was explaining it to us.

"That's right. I suggested it to give my future brother-in-law a special part of the day as well. He has been waiting for this day for a long time as well."

"Won't it diminish the joy you all feel for that day?" I was slightly worried about it, but I knew that they probably thought about that as well.

"We've talked about it and I think that it will just make the memories that much sweeter. When we talk about it in the future, we can reminisce about how much we all enjoyed that day for our own reasons." Aunt Glory truly seemed to be happy about all of this.

"As long as you're happy then, so am I." I smiled at them and thought about how wonderful this upcoming wedding was going to be.

Following that discussion, it was my job to work with Aunt Glory and Daciana to get some parties planned. I was basically trying to make the bulk of it all a surprise to them so that neither of them knew what was really going to be there. This was going to be their bachelorette parties after all and they needed to be slightly surprised about it all.

Given that we were in the Fae compound and there were a lot of different things that were here that I could never find in the human world, I decided to enlist the help of some of my other family members here to make this perfect.

The entire night ended up being a party in a magical clearing. There were going to be lights made from magic, bubbles that were basically pure liquor, music that literally came from nowhere and everywhere at the same time. There was good food, lots of fun, and plenty of laughs.

I did learn a lot about Aunt Glory's younger days during that night. Daciana's as well. They had both lived such long and interesting lives that I couldn't get enough of their stories. Maybe one day I can convince them all to write an autobiography or something. Maybe.

Before I knew it, we had been at the Fae compound for a couple of days and it was the day of the wedding. We were all busy getting ready for the big show, or should I say that we were busy being prepared for the day since none of us, not me, Aunt Glory, or Daciana, were allowed to do our own hair, makeup, nails, any of it. We were being forced to let 'experts' handle it all.

At least I wasn't the only one that was being distrusted. I wasn't the only one that people thought was incapable of doing these things for themselves. OK, I guess that they didn't think that way, we were all just royalty, or soon to be. That meant that we needed to be pampered before things actually began.

Oh well, I put up with it for now.. It was the day that Aunt Glory and Athair mòr were both marrying their mates, and they both deserved it too.

Chapter 523 - Wedding For Aunt Glory And Athair Mòr Part 1 (VOLUME 3)

6-7 minutes

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Trinity

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Today was the day of the wedding for Aunt Glory and Athair mòr. I was in the wedding party for both of them. Aunt Glory made me her maid of honor, feeling that there was no one more deserving than me. That was flattering, but also a little scary. For Athair mòr I was going to be standing in place of a best man. I guess without many family members that they were close to, the duty fell onto me.

I did think that this was going to cause some strife between me and Sorrel's descendants, however, they seemed to be just fine with it. I don't think they wanted to stand in front of the entire Fae community as such an important figure. Not to mention, they said that after I saved all of the Fae last year, I deserved the honor of both of them.

Dammit, this was a lot of responsibility. I was nervous and didn't know what I was going to do. Though I loved Aunt Glory and Athair mòr, and I wouldn't let them down. I would be there for them, right at their sides to help make sure that their special days were perfect. I would never abandon them or make them worry at all. And this was the best way that I could think about doing that.

Everyone was ready and raring to go the day that the wedding was due to start. Aunt Glory had a dress that was made of pure light, flowers, water, and other accents. It was long and flowing and a beautiful shining gold color. The train of the dress stretched out behind her about five or six feet, but it never twisted, tangled, or got in her way when she was moving.

The bodice of the dress was strapless and sleeveless. It showed how ample that her chest was, a fact that was typically hidden by her more modest looking clothes and small stature.

Along the bodice there was a shimmering line of pure gold that I knew was not sewn on, but rather it had been applied magically by her long time friend Alloy. There were also diamonds, rubies, sapphires, and emeralds adorning the dress to help create an intricate pattern in the shape of flowering vines and flowers. The flowers were actually real flowers created with magic at the end of the golden vines. The gems were adorning the leaves of those vines. And to top it off, there was actual flowing water that moved along the dress to make it look like the vines were creating a lattice-like bridge across the water. It was interesting and so beautiful.

I had never thought about a dress that was pure magic before. I have gotten dressed magically before, but I had never actually thought about making the clothes be nothing but magic.

The dress that Daciana was wearing was just as beautiful. It had a base dress that I knew Athair mòr had created for her. It was pure blue and made of water. But since Daciana had magic of her own, she added the final touches so that it was a mixture of their two powers.

Daciana was a Gypsy that had lived all over Europe, but had originated in the eastern part of the continent, because of that she had a lot of different cultural influences. She had added some traditional looking accents that were common among Gypsies and added plenty of flair that was all her own.

The end result of Daciana's dress was a beautiful blue dress with colorful blue, green, and purple accents of different lengths to the skirt, a corseted top over the off the shoulder bodice, wider sleeves that belled out around her arms, and long flowing scarf like material that was connected to the back of the dress and would spin out behind her when she danced.

Overall, her dress was completely mesmerizing, and I loved it. Both her and Aunt Glory had such unique and beautiful wedding dresses.

Trevor was wearing a suit that was black and looked to be made from normal cloth. However, he also had a metal that had been used to outline his clothing, this time it was platinum and stood out in eye-popping clarity against the black. The buttons on the jacket of his suit were also platinum and his shirt was a pure white. The tie and other accents that he wore matched the golden color of Aunt Glory's dress.

Athair mòr had a suit that was a dark indigo blue and looked like it was made of Ocean water. It was cloth, to the touch at least, but it was so perfectly colored that it looked like real water.

I had to admit, Athair mòr looked like a true God of the Sea when I saw him, and I had to wonder if other people thought the same as me. He was so regal, as well as handsome, in that suit for his wedding.

I was wearing a dress that was made with the joint efforts of Aunt Glory and Athair mòr. It was a combination of light and water magic so it was the shining golden light as well as different shades of blue from the ocean.

My dress was much simpler than Aunt Glory or Daciana's but I wasn't upset about that. I liked that it was a simpler looking design. It had a tight, corseted top that was strapless and a long A line skirt that trailed the ground and swished when I moved. It was pretty but so much simpler than the others.

The wedding was being held in the same place that all the large banquets for the Yule celebration had been held. The wedding was perfect, as always, and the place had been decorated beautifully. There were flowers of every possible color, benches that were brought out and draped in magical cloth. And it even seemed to be raining flower petals over the entire place.. It was perfect, beautiful, and amazing.

Chapter 524 - Trinity – Wedding For Aunt Glory And Athair Mòr Part 2 (VOLUME 3)

7-8 minutes

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Trinity

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"Come now, Athair mòr, it's almost time for your ceremony to start." I called out to him as we all prepared to leave the temporary room that had been set up for the grooms. Trevor was standing at the back of the ceremony and watching on with wistful eyes as Athair mòr and I made our way to the front of the gathered crowd.

The way the ceremonies were going to be held today was that Athair mòr and Daciana would complete their ceremony and then Athair mòr would walk Aunt Glory down the aisle for her ceremony with Trevor. The weddings were going to be consecutive, not concurrent.

Athair mòr and I were standing at the altar that had been built just for today. It was made of different metals and covered in flowers. It was part of Aunt Glory's plan to make the city and citizens of Fae more open and accepting of their only metal magic users.

As we waited under the flowing flowers of the altar, Athair mòr and I watched Reagan and Rika walk down the aisle, one was throwing flowers and the other was carrying rings on a blue satin pillow. Following them was a woman that I had seen when Daciana had first come to my castle. Finally, we saw Daciana and a man I didn't know walk down the aisle.

The beautiful dress that the bride was wearing was shimmering in the bright light of the sun, but that was nothing compared to the bright, radiant smile that was on Athair mòr's face. His eyes had lit up and I could see tears forming in his eyes. He was happy beyond belief that he was finally marrying his mate.

When Daciana and the man came to a stop at the front of the altar, one of Aunt Glory and Athair mòr's nephew named Ash spoke in a clear voice.

"Welcome friends, people of Fae, and new families. We have all met here today to join in the union of Valerian Undine and Daciana Joviak. This wedding has been a long time coming for my dear Uncle Valerian. First, let me ask who gives this bride away to be married on this fine day?"

"I do, Silvanis Joviak, her father. I am proud and elated that my daughter has finally found a mate to walk the path of life with."

Silvanis then turned toward his daughter and lifted her blue veil over her head. Now that her face was free of barrier he leaned in and kissed her cheek.

"I love you, Daciana."

"I love you too, Daddy." This was such a sweet and tender moment for them, and I was on the verge of tears at the moment.

After Daciana joined Athair mòr on the altar, the wedding commenced. It was time for them to vow to each other and actually be married.

"For a Fae, marriage means something different than it does for a human." Ash started the ceremony with a smile. "Humans can say that they will love someone for all of eternity and truly think that they mean it, but their lives are fleeting and they are not often given the chance to love for that long. We Fae, and other celestial blessed beings, have the chance that humans do not. Often, when we say that we will love someone for all time, it truly will come to pass. I am happy that these two have finally found each other, so that they may have that life of eternal bliss with the one person that will complete their soul."

He took a breath, smiled at the bride and groom, and continued with his words.

"If there is anyone among us that believes that these two should not be wed, please speak now or forevermore hold your peace." Ash paused to give any objectors a chance to speak. Seeing that no one opposed the union he continued the ceremony. "Valerian, will you repeat after me and make these sacred vows to your wife to be."

"I will."

After that the vows were started and I watched Athair mòr's face as he stared into his bride's eyes.

"I, Valerian Undine, will love you, Daciana, for the rest of my days, no matter how infinite they might be. I will support you in every way that might be possible, from magical to emotional. I will protect you, fight for you, defend you, and be the one constant that you can count on for the rest of your life. I choose you to be my wife since no one else will ever hold a candle to you in my eyes, or my heart."

Aww, that was so sweet. I could feel the waterworks starting, why was this happening to me right now?

"Alright, Daciana, it is your turn to make your vows to Valerian." Ash gave her a soft smile before continuing.

"I, Daciana Joviak, will love you, Valerian, for the rest of my days, no matter how infinite they might be. I will support you in every way that might be possible, from magical to emotional. I will protect you, fight for you, defend you, and be the one constant that you can count on for the rest of your life. I choose you to be my husband since no one else will ever hold a candle to you in my eyes, or my heart."

The vows were the same for each of them and they both recited them with so much love that I know the whole crowd watching on could feel it.

"I have one more thing that I would like to add." Athair mòr lifted his bride's hand and kissed the back of it gently. "I have prepared my own speech, or vows, for my bride that I hope to share with you now."

"Yes, my love, I would love to hear what you have for me." Daciana was more than happy to hear what it was that he had to say.

"Daciana, my love, I don't think that you will ever know just how happy I am to have met you. I know that I am a man frozen in time that does not age, but before the day that I met you, I felt like my heart had been frozen as well. The thick layer of cold had been chipped away bit by bit after I found my family, but that deadly cocoon of a frozen chrysalis did not fully go away until that day when we saw each other here in the lands of my home. It didn't melt away slowly either. No, that ice shattered and broke away in an explosion of love and happiness. From that day on my heart has begun to beat with a passion once more and it is all thanks to your beautiful smile, kind eyes, and sweet, gentle nature. I want you, and everyone here, to know that I will make you the happiest woman in the world from today until the end of time."

"Oh, Valerian." There were tears streaming silently down her cheeks and I finally was able to see what the effects of magical Fae makeup had. The tears were leaving no marks in the makeup at all. No streaks, no mascara marks, nothing. Daciana still looked just like she had just with some tears added. I was thankful for that since I was crying as well, and I didn't want to be a mess for Aunt Glory's ceremony next.

I present to the people of Fae, Valerian and Daciana, husband and wife.

Chapter 525 - Trinity – Wedding For Aunt Glory And Athair Mòr Part 3 (VOLUME 3)

6-7 minutes

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Trinity

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Following the ceremony for Athair mòr and Daciana, the two of them walked back down the aisle arm in arm. The entire crowd: all the Fae, the gathered bears, wolves, other shifters that were here for Trevor, and all the Gypsies that had come here for Daciana, were on their feet and applauding. The sound of that applause was deafening, but also made me smile because it was for my family. It was for my Athair mòr and his new bride.

It hit me then that Daciana was truly now a part of my family. She was bound to us for eternity, and I couldn't have been happier about it. It made me think about how one of Reece's best friends was joining the family as well. They were going to be in-laws but that didn't mean anything. They were like brothers as it was already. This just gave them one more bond that united them.

Now that the ceremony was over, it was time to prepare for the next one. Daciana was taken to a special location where she could watch the next ceremony when it commenced. There had been a special throne prepared just for her to wait in while Aunt Glory and Trevor shared their vows of eternal love. Valerian was going to be escorting Aunt Glory down the aisle before he joined his bride as a guest instead of the groom.

All of our positions needed to be reset and changed. Reece was now smiling happily as he stood next to his friend, and pseudo-brother, Trevor as the best man. Reagan and Rika were once again the first ones to walk down the aisle. They were tossing out the flower petals and carrying rings on a golden pillow. I followed after them nervously as I felt the eyes of tens of thousands of people on me. I did my best to ignore it though, as I proceeded to where I was supposed to stand.

Once Reece, Reagan, Rika, and I were all in our proper places the music that was being played shifted so that we knew it was time. We all turned to watch as the door of the bridal room opened at the end of the long aisle. Aunt Glory and Athair mòr emerged with bright, shining smiles on their faces. Their magical air to their appearances was making them look like they stepped right out of a fairy tale. They were a prince and a princess, or a Queen and a King, in appearance, but in truth, they were more like an updated and happier version of Hansel and Gretel. These two siblings had found their happiness and were sharing that with the world.

Aunt Glory was looking even more beautiful than I had ever seen her before. Now that she was out here in the light, I could see that her dress looked as if it had come to life with all of the sparkles that were dancing all along its surface. Her long, beautiful black hair had been pulled into a half up and half down style with a decorative flower ornament that looked like it was made from a real crystalized flower. The hair that was hanging down her back was curled loosely and bounced as she walked. Her brilliant sky blue eyes stood out radiantly like they were truly shining with all of her magic behind them. And then, there was the way that her makeup had been done so perfectly that it made look like she should be adorning magazine covers as the world's most beautiful woman.

On top of all those enhancements from her clothes, makeup, and magic, I knew that Aunt Glory looked a million times more beautiful than she usually did simply because of how happy she was. The moment that her eyes fell onto Trevor, that beauty of hers intensified so much that it was unbelievable. Aunt

Glory had never been married before, never been mated before, this was a day that had literally taken millennia in the making for her.

With her taking her place before Ash amid the shining gazes of her people, Aunt Glory was finally ready to take the next step. She was finally ready to marry the man that was meant for her.

"Thank you all for your attention once again." I could see happy tears in Ash's eyes as he started to speak. "We are here now to join in the union of Trevor Jacoby and Queen Gloriana Belphoebe. Our Queen has been searching for many years for a mate to complete her. I know you all join me in the joy that I feel knowing that she is as happy as she is now that she has found him."

Ash paused for a moment to look at everyone again just like he had last time, then he began to speak once more. "As I said before, for a Fae, marriage means something different than it does for a human. Humans cannot love someone for all of eternity like they wish to do. As much as they truly think that they mean it, their lives are just too fragile that they cannot possibly love for that long. As I mentioned before, we Fae and other celestially blessed beings are able to do what the humans are not. Often, when we say that we will love someone for all time it truly will come to pass. I know that these two will love each other for more than several human lifetimes. I know that my Queen and future King will share love like that of legends and old tales.

He took another breath, smiled at Aunt Glory and Trevor, then continued with the next part of the ceremony.

"If there is anyone among us that believes that these two should not be wed, please speak now or forevermore hold your peace."

This was all progressing beautifully and, just like it had when Athair mòr and Daciana had their ceremony so shortly before this, it was perfect and nothing was at all out of the ordinary.

Or so I thought.

Chapter 526 - Trinity – An Objection (VOLUME 3)

6-7 minutes

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Trinity

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"I have an objection for you." A voice was heard rising above all other sounds. It was a woman's voice, and it sounded like it belonged to someone drunk on power: maniacal and slightly unhinged. Aside from the craziness in the voice, it was beautiful and seductive. The contrasting feelings I was getting from hearing that voice was almost making me dizzy.

"What?"

"Who is that?"

"What is going on?"

"What's happening?"

"Where is that voice coming from?"

So many shouted cries of worry and fear rose from the gathered crowd. I could understand their fear though. That voice didn't sound like it came from nearby, it sounded like she was moving through the air itself and speaking right into my ears. That had to frighten most of the people that were in attendance.

"Who is there?" Aunt Glory's voice was firm and steady, but I could tell that she was more than a little pissed off based on the look that was in her eyes and the set of her jaw.

"What? Have I been completely forgotten already?" The female voice chuckled and I literally felt the air vibrate around me from the sound of that laughter.

"Huh? Oh, please no." I heard a gasp from Athair mòr that was followed by those words.

"Ah, I see that someone does recognize the sound of my voice. He is the one that should recognize it as well, since he was the one that I was forced to marry all those centuries ago."

"Solanum?" Aunt Glory's voice was a gasp now as she said that name.

As soon as Aunt Glory and Athair mòr recognized who it was that was talking, there was a sound like the crack of thunder and a flash of lightning filling the sky. Everyone who was attending the wedding were instantly on their feet and looking in the direction of that bolt of lightning.

"HAHAHA!" There was the sound of a maniacal laugh that caused many people in attendance to shiver with fear at just the sound. I had a feeling that almost all of the Fae in attendance knew exactly who this person was and what her being here meant. "It's good to see that I have regained enough power to frighten you all." Solanum's words filled the air around the wedding just as there was another fork of lightning spreading across the sky.

It was like night was already falling on the city, even though it was way too early for that to happen right now. The sky was darkening steadily and there were shadows spreading quickly among us.

As I watched the bright and beautiful day disappear, I saw what looked like a woman appear in the sky. To be exact, it was just her upper body, and it was massive. She took up the entire northern part of the skyline that we could see from the central plaza.

The face that I could see was beautiful, pale, and slightly purple. Not like she was sick or anything, but like her skin was naturally a light shade of purple. Her hair was long, wavy, and green. Her hair actually looked like it was large wavy plant leaves. Her eyes, the very large and malice filled eyes that were staring at us, were a dark plum colored purple. She was beautiful, that wasn't even in question here, but it was clear that she was evil and meant to do us all harm.

"Solanum, what are you doing here? How are you even here? What is the meaning of all of this?" Athair mòr rose to his feet and glared at the woman. "Solanum black, you are not welcome here. Cease this childish display and leave here at once."

Her name made me start to think. Solanum? Solanum Black? Like Solanum Nigrum, the scientific name for deadly nightshade? Athair mòr was married to this woman who was either named after or the reason for the name of a deadly, poisonous plant. So, Rhinum's mother that hated her husband and left him as soon as she was able to was actually a deadly nightshade? Well, isn't that just wonderful?

"You think you can tell me what to do, Valerian? I am not your wife anymore, and we share no kin anymore. There is nothing between us and that is exactly how I had wanted it to be from the start. Now, I will destroy you and your sister while your people watch on." The voice that was coming from the woman was more than evil, it was insanely deranged.

"No kin? That's what you think, woman. There is more to the lineage we shared than you ever knew. However, you don't deserve to know their love or kindness."

"Ha, you lie. Don't you know how happy I was when that brat of ours died. I no longer needed to dread the day that the disgusting union between us had living breathing proof."

OK, her words made me go into a rage of my own. She had just told Athair mòr that she was happy that their son had been killed. She told a man who had grieved for centuries over the death of his only child that she was happy that he had suffered and lost the only person he had at the time. Who the hell did that bitch think that she was?

"Solanum!" I yelled out at her, drawing her attention to me rather than Athair mòr.

"And what do you want? You don't know me and therefore you have no place in this conversation. Silence now, before I kill you."

"I will not be silent and let you talk to my Athair mòr like that. He does not deserve your cruel and insensitive words."

"Athair mòr? You know that is what you call a grandfather, right? That man is not your grandfather you ignorant brat."

"You're partially right, Solanum. He is actually my great great great grandfather.. And I guess that makes you, as repulsive as the idea might be to the both of us, my great great great grandmother."

Chapter 527 - Trinity – A Declaration Of War (VOLUME 3)

5-7 minutes

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Trinity

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"Ha! You are not my kin at all, mongrel. I sense more wolf in you than anything. This little game of yours will not save you at all. I will kill Gloriana and take my place on the throne. This shall be my kingdom to rule." Solanum bellowed the words for the whole crowd to see.

"Really? And just what would you do if you were to take over the Fae throne?" I was trying to keep her talking, trying to figure out a plan, or to give time for Aunt Glory and Athair mòr to think of a plan. I needed to do something at least and keeping her talking seemed good enough to me right now.

"I will take the throne, annihilate my enemies, free the dark Fae, and rule the world."

Well, that was easy. I got her entire evil plan right up front. I guess it was true that evil villains were so maniacally stupid that they always seemed to reveal their whole scheme so easily.

"So, you seek world domination? Well that simply won't do. Do you know how many innocent people there are in the world? Do you know how many people you would be destroying just to seek the end to a maniacal plan that would ultimately leave you just as miserable as you were before?"

"What? What are you saying?"

I seemed to have confused her. That large projection of her face was tilted to the side and glaring at me for some reason. She was so honestly and truly confused by what I had said to her that it was nearly comical.

"What I am saying, Solanum, is that you won't be happy even if you take the throne. It would be a pointless and wasted loss of life. So, I simply won't allow it to happen." I gave her a firm look that I usually reserved for misbehaving children. In other words, I was telling her that she wasn't really worth my time.

"SILENCE!" She bellowed the word so loud that I felt like it almost burst my eardrums. Everyone in attendance, aside from me, Aunt Glory, Athair mòr, and Reece covered their ears. Was it because we were royalty and trying to give off a commanding air that we managed to keep ourselves from reacting like the others did?

"I will not be silenced, Solanum. You crashed a wedding that had nothing to do with you only to threaten my Aunt Glory. I will not stand aside and let that slide."

"Stop calling these people your kin. That is simply not true." She seemed truly angered by this fact. I guess she really didn't want to know that there was more proof of her time spent married to Athair mòr.

"I will not stop it. I am the last descendant of Antirrhinum and his mate. My ancestor was conceived before Antirrhinum was killed in the war. I will not be silenced because it is true."

I intentionally let her think that I was the only one related to her. I did not need her focusing on anyone else in my family. And while I said those words, I placed silencing barriers around everyone that might say something to the contrary. I wanted to protect Reece and my children. This woman was not to, under any circumstances, know that I had children. I just knew that she would target them next.

"If you are the last descendant of my bloodline, then all I need to do is kill you." She grinned and I saw a hand enter the large vision that was standing hundreds of feet tall in the sky. "I will strike you down here and now and put an end to this."

I knew she would lash out. She was a maniacal, sociopathic, homicidal bitch. I gathered all of that just from the way she had talked. Oh, and the way that she told me her whole evil plot.

"Prepare to die, bitch."

The good thing about what I had done was that those silencing barriers I put around my mate, children and guards kept them from running toward me as well. I didn't need them getting in the way right now. I was going to handle this.

Just as I managed to put a barrier over the entire plaza, and every guest in attendance, there was a bright red streak of light about the side of a small stream of water flying from the floating hand and straight at me.

It didn't reach me though. It just bounced off the barrier and rebound toward Solanum. She was obviously not physically there because it flew right through her face and dissipated into nothing.

"What?" She was shocked again, unable to believe what had just happened.

"I will not let you harm me or the Fae. Give up now, Solanum." My voice was strong and firm when I spoke to her.

"I will never give up." She screamed at me. "I will have your head for this. I will have all of your heads. Mark my words, death is coming for you all. Blood will rain down upon the walls of your castle and it will turn black with the hatred that we, who were sealed away, have for all of you. I will bring war upon the land of the Fae and my army will be those that you cast away. You have been warned."

With that, Solanum's image disappeared from the sky, and the blue sky and shining sun returned.

"Trinity?" Reece said my name as I let the barrier around him drop. He was worried about me and just a little bit pissed off. "Don't ever do something like that again."

With Reece's arms around me, I looked out at the terrified faces of the Fae that were looking at me. Most of them were in awe of the fact that I had fought back against Solanum, the others were just too scared to move or talk.. This wasn't good.

Chapter 528 - Trinity – Strategy Meeting (VOLUME 3)

6-7 minutes

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Trinity

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The wedding was over after that. The attendees were too frightened to do anything other than head home and hide away. This was just over a year after the fear and worry that had plagued them when Hibiscus was wreaking havoc on the city. This was all happening too soon for them.

The citizens were sent home and ordered to stay inside. Honestly, with the threat of war having been issued, I don't think they would want to come out of their homes. They would probably want to leave the city and take their chances among the humans. They all probably felt safer doing that.

What I felt the most heartbroken about, was that Aunt Glory's wedding had been cancelled. She and Trevor were not able to finish their ceremony with everything that had happened today. And poor

Daciana, she will forever have to remember the day of her wedding as the day that a war had broken out among the Fae of the light and the ones that had been sealed away for centuries. That would most likely make her never want to celebrate this day.

She was handling it well, for now. Her and Athair mòr walked hand in hand behind Aunt Glory and Trevor as we all made our way to the study for a strategy meeting. Reece was holding for my arm as we marched onward, and I was just glad that I had some of my family here to take the children back to the residence.

I was actually thinking about the children a lot. In all honesty, I was probably going to send my parents home with all three of them and have them protect the children there. The ley lines would keep the protection magic going strong in the castle and protect them. I would most likely send quite a few people there if I thought that things were going to get too dangerous here for them. Those that were incapable of fighting needed to be protected.

When we made it to the office, we all sat in our usual places. Aunt Glory and Trevor were seated together on an armchair next to the fireplace. Athair mòr and Daciana were sitting on a loveseat opposite them. And Reece and I were sitting on a couch that was to the side of them and caused us to form three sides of a rectangle.

"What the hell was that about?" Trevor blurted the words out the moment we were all alone and seated in the room.

"That was a shit show, that's what that was." Reece answered him.

"I wouldn't call it a shit show." I scolded him. "Honestly, it could have gone a little better, but it definitely could have gone a lot worse as well."

"Yes, I am truly thankful that Trinity was there with us today. If it had not been for her, then we might not have been able to survive this day." Athair mòr was giving me a look that was filled with both gratitude as well as shame.

"Athair mòr, is she that strong of an enemy?" I needed to know this. I needed to know what we were up against.

"It is hard to say." He was intentionally not answering my question.

"Athair mòr." I just stared at him, not letting him get away with this. "Tell me about Solanum. Tell me what we need to fear about her."

"Trinity." He clearly didn't want me to know what was going on, or rather what had happened."

"Stop beating around the bush." I snapped at him angrily. "You both know that Danu asked me to help when you were both threatened by the evil that was coming. We all assumed that she had been talking about Hibiscus, but I think that she was talking about Solanum. It's just that Hibiscus was clouding the vision. Or perhaps Hibiscus led to Solanum's return. We don't yet know enough to make that call."

"Do you truly think that what Hibiscus did could have led to Solanum escaping from the dark lands?" Aunt Glory seemed truly shocked to even think that idea had been possible. "I should never have been so relaxed with her. I should never have let it get this far."

"Live and learn, Aunt Glory. You know now that when something like this happens you can't trust people that you thought you've known for years. Simply not suspecting them because you love them can give them the perfect time to put that knife right into your back."

I was sounding so cynical but that was what was needed at the moment. I needed to get this point across so that we could move on. I needed to learn the story of Solanum and Valerian. I needed Athair mòr to tell me what had happened between the two of them. I needed to know why it was that she hated him and the rest of the Fae so much.

This was the true danger that we had been waiting for. This was the true battle that Danu had warned us against. We had grown complacent and soft thinking that the threat was gone. But it was still here. It was still growing stronger and waiting for us. And now that evil was ready to strike.

"Athair mòr, Aunt Glory, the two of you need to throw out everything that you thought you knew about your kingdom. I hope that one day you can go back to normal. However, for right now, there is nothing but fear and hatred that I can sense around you. The love, happiness, and acceptance of this afternoon is gone. I am sorry, but that is the reality of it all."

"Yes."

"You are right." Aunt Glory and Athair mòr nodded in agreement as they heard my words.

"Good, I am glad you understand. Now, Athair mòr, please tell me what happened. Tell me why there is so much hatred in Solanum's heart.. Tell me what I need to know so that we can figure out how to win this war before it even starts."

Chapter 529 - Trinity – The History Of Valerian And Solanum Part 1 (VOLUME 3)

5-7 minutes

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Trinity

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"You want to know what happened between me and my ex-wife?" He looked from me to Daciana with worried eyes.

"It is fine, my love. I know that whatever happened was in the past. I know that what you had with her was not a true mating. I will not hold any of it against you." Daciana ran a hand along Athair mòr's arm as she consoled him and encouraged him to speak. "Trinity is right, we all need to know what happened all those years ago. If we're going to come out on top in this situation, we need to be well informed."

"I know, my love. I know that I need to tell you all. It's just that, I have locked away those memories for a reason. It was not a pleasant time for me."

I could see pain and heartache in Athair mòr's face as he spoke. There had to have been a lot that happened to him for that look to be there. And if I was not mistaken, there was also fear in his eyes.

Was he afraid that we would judge him over what had happened, or were the memories that horrible? I guess only time would tell. Hearing the tale would be the only way for me to find out and know for sure.

"Athair mòr, for starters, can you tell me why Solanum said she was forced to marry you?" I thought that was the most important thing at the moment. "What brought about a forced wedding that she did not want?"

"That had been back before mother had left our world. At that time, there were many different types of Fae species, but most of them did not have much strength or power. There was a new species that was trying to become prominent among us. With me being the youngest prince and therefore someone that everyone thought would be easily manipulated, I was the target of political moves."

I could understand what it was that he was saying. If I had become the Luna Queen before I was married, I know that a lot of men all over the world would have been fighting to become my king.

"One of the most prominent Fae at the time were the Kelpies. They were more powerful than most of the others when we were just starting out as a people. They were not as strong as the first three, which were me, Sorrel and Glory, but they were coming along in strength."

Athair mòr took a deep breath and continued his story with a weary look on his face. He was painting his picture of the past but hadn't yet got to the important parts.

"There were several Kelpie families, many of whom people thought that I would choose a spouse from, because Kelpies are from the sea the same as I am. However, there was only one family brave enough to approach us about it. This was the year that mother had decided to leave us in this world without her. She was making preparations to join the others in the celestial plane and watch us from afar. This man, Strom, approached mother when she was too preoccupied to pay much attention and propositioned her with an offer. The offer was for his daughter Solanum to marry me."

"And Danu accepted?" Reece asked when Athair mòr paused for a breath.

"That she did. She was happy and excited for the chance to see her son be wed before she left this world. She rushed the wedding between us and within a week we were married. I hadn't even gotten the chance to meet my bride before the wedding day."

"That had to have been horrible." I was so taken aback by what he had just said. "How could Danu expect you to be married to a woman you didn't even know?"

As I asked that, I turned to look at Reece and his guilty expression. He had actually done the same thing along that line with me. I had actually been moved to his house without even knowing about it in advance. At least Solanum knew it was coming. That could have been worse though. She had time to let the anger fester during that time.

Things may have worked out for me and Reece, but it seems that it didn't work out for Solanum and Athair mòr.

"I didn't know her and she didn't know me. It was what had started to open us up in the beginning. We joked about how our parents had forced us into these bonds that we didn't want. Still, even though Solanum put on a smile and performed her duties as a wife properly, she was never happy. And she never gave up on the old ways of the Kelpies either."

"Old ways of the Kelpies?" Reece sounded confused. "Are you referring to the legends of how they would murder humans?"

"That is exactly what I am saying." Athair mòr looked like he was still angry about the past. These were expressions and emotions that I never thought that I would see on his face. Likewise, these were topics that I never thought I would be discussing, not just with him, but with all of the people present here.

All I could think about right now was the legend of the Kelpies and how that blended with the psychopathic woman I had seen earlier. I couldn't see how Danu would have been so inattentive and, dare I say, stupid enough to allow a marriage like this in the first place.

Then again, if Danu hadn't allowed this marriage I wouldn't be sitting here today. Isn't that always how it was when you learned something bad? You wish that it had never happened, but if it didn't, then your life wouldn't be what it was today.

I wasn't about to dwell on that, though. I needed to hear the rest of the story.. I needed to know exactly what it was that had happened all those years ago.

Chapter 530 - Trinity – The History Of Valerian And Solanum Part 2 (VOLUME 3)

6-7 minutes

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Trinity

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"Valerian, my love, when did you discover that she was killing humans?" Daciana took Athair mòr's hand and looked him in the eyes as she asked this question.

"Let me continue in the sequence from when we got married." Athair mòr cupped his new wife's cheek and looked into her eyes for a few more moments. I think he was trying to gather strength from her with just that look.

"Alright dear. Just continue at your own pace. We are here with you." Daciana assured him to calm him down a little bit.

"Thank you."

After Athair mòr gave his new wife a quick kiss he turned to look at me again. I think he found it easier to tell me these things directly than to talk to his mate about them. He didn't want to be viewed negatively by her.

"Solanum and I didn't rush things in our relationship. I didn't want to pressure her or force her into something that she wasn't comfortable with at the time. She was my wife, but she was a stranger to me. There were many people who ridiculed me at the time for that way of thinking, but I could hardly be intimate with someone that I did not know. So, we spent the first year of our marriage getting to know

each other. There was a time when I thought that I might have loved her. Even to this day there are some fond memories that I had from those times."

"There is nothing wrong with that, Athair mòr. You were married, even if it was arranged, you spent a lot of time together and that led to the development of emotions."

"I don't know if Solanum developed feelings for me, but I did for her. In the end, I had truly thought she loved me but that had all been a lie."

There was heartache dripping from the words that he was saying. He truly had been hurt at the time. But he wasn't done with his story, so he took another breath and continued.

"About a year into our marriage, we started to actually act more like a couple when we were in front of everyone else and in our home. We had gotten close enough that we finally consummated our marriage. She got pregnant that first time. That wasn't just the first time, that was the only time. Every time that I went to her after that she would refuse me. Solanum had been more than just upset to find out that she had gotten pregnant the night of our first time. She was furious and insisted that she didn't want the child. However, she was forbidden by me, Glory, and her family from doing anything to harm the baby. I am just thankful that Antirrhinum managed to survive her."

The love and joy in his eyes now told me that he had been a proud father, even if his wife was against having the baby.

"Rhinum was a special little boy. He was so strong and wise from the very beginning. However, he barely saw his mother since she was almost never home. I had to use the assistance of a wet nurse to breastfeed him so that he would survive his infancy. I actually think that is part of the reason that Rhinum turned out as amazing as he did. He was not sullied by his mother."

"Where was Solanum during this time?" I asked him to clarify that so he would not get lost in the memories of his son.

"I followed her once, when Rhinum was a month old. She went out to the human world and shifted her form."

"She was a shifter?" Reece asked without thinking.

"Shut up, Fido. Think before you speak. Kelpies are a Fae creature that can turn into a water horse." Everyone in the room, aside from Reece and I, laughed when I scolded him.

"She is right." Athair mòr answered my idiot mate. "Kelpies were originally magical water horses that became Fae when mother brought together those that she included as her people. However, what most people didn't know at the time, was that Kelpies fed on humans. And when I followed Solanum I found that she was luring humans to their doom to feed on them in the water after they had been drowned."

"That is horrible." Daciana put her hands to her mouth to hide the horror and the gasp.

"That is why I put an end to it. She is not wrong when she says that she was cast aside. I hauled her back to the castle and told Glory about the crimes that Solanum was committing. That had been when we started to round up those that were committing different atrocities and locking them away. At first they

were in the dungeon of the castle, but this was when we were in the old lands of Fae and there were too many of them for us to round up easily."

"So, what happened?" I prompted, being drawn in by his tale.

"The first of several great wars had started. With each war we suppressed them and fought them back and there would be peace for a short time, but it wouldn't last. Over the following centuries we fought constantly with those that were dubbed the 'dark Fae'. They were no longer welcomed among the light, and they were shunned away from the city. But they refused to stay away."

"How did you manage to lock them away?" Reece asked this time. He was just as enraptured as I was.

"The battles continued, and what the dark Fae wanted was our lands. They wanted a place to call their home. So, we fought the war once again, pushed back against their commander, and when we won we fled our home lands and sealed it off with them inside."

That sounded like an extreme solution, effective but extreme.

"That was the battle, or rather war, that Rhinum died in?" I asked him even though I already knew.

"Yes. And at that time, he was fighting against people that should have loved him and been part of his family.. They never accepted that, though."