

Chosen by Fate 541

Chapter 541 - Trinity – Down The Rabbit Hole (VOLUME 3)

Trinity

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Is it bad that I literally felt like Alice as I fell through the passageway to the dark Fae realm? And I was literally going into a strange and unknown land. As long as I didn't need to eat some messed up mushrooms and desserts, or drink the tea, then I would be fine. I most definitely wouldn't be eating anything down here.

Not to mention that the bitch I was after was loonier than the hatter and that fucking cat combined. And there was also the fact that this was bound to be a horror land instead of a wonderland.

I needed to stop thinking these stupid thoughts, though. I was heading into the belly of the beast to face the truest of monsters in this battle. I needed to focus, still, it was too easy to make the jokes as a way to break the tension that I was feeling, so I understood why I was doing it.

I tried to stop joking and focus on that light that was steadily getting brighter at my feet. It wasn't an actual bright light. It wasn't white or yellow or pure light of any kind.

In all actuality, the light that I could see was a sickly greenish and purple mix. It was like a special effects light that was being filtered through some hazy fog or something. It was definitely not normal, that's for sure.

Finally, I landed lightly on my feet at the bottom of the large, stony tunnel. I felt like I had been set down gently on my feet by someone who had been carrying me the whole time. It hadn't been a dangerous fall at all, and yet, that fact alone kind of creeped me out.

I took a moment to look around me, where it was that I had landed. The tunnel had literally been hollowed out of the stone in this underground cavern. It was made of dark gray stone that was covered in dirt and growing vines. In front of me there was a hazy fog that just stood there. It wasn't swirling, it wasn't moving, it was just there.

The fog was a light green in color, and I could tell that it wasn't normal in any way. To me, this was a barrier meant to keep out people, or other things, that weren't supposed to be in here. It didn't seem like it was here to keep things in, it was specifically meant to keep things out. Most likely things like non Fae and non magical beings. I should, hopefully, have no trouble passing through it.

"Well, let's see if I can make it past this stupid thing." I said to myself as I tried to move past that last barrier to the dark Fae realm. I stepped forward quickly, not wanting to draw out the motion any more than I needed to.

Moving forward felt like I was passing through a thick, sticky cloud. Not that I have ever moved through a cloud, but I didn't know what else to call it. It was soft to the touch, but it was hard to move through and felt like it was clinging to me. I just wanted to make the sensation of the fog go away.

Finally, I passed through it. The moment that I was past the strange fog, all feeling and sensation from that thick, sticky substance just disappeared with it. It was still there behind me but it wasn't clinging to me anymore.

When I first saw the hazy fog, I hadn't been able to tell how big of an area it took up to begin with, but it filled at least ten feet worth of the tunnel's length. And it felt like it had taken me forever just to walk that ten feet through it. Whatever magic it was that had made that haze accepted me through it, but it felt like it had done so begrudgingly.

Now that I was past it, I was able to see what was around me. I was finally able to see the dark Fae realm and it wasn't pleasant.

I had a feeling that when the lands of Fae split, all that was left behind was the hideous, ugly places that no one wanted. Not even the dark Fae would want to be here. This place was truly hell.

There were large, black, jagged, volcanic looking rocks that shot up out of seemingly nowhere. There were trees, but they looked scorched and burned, like there was no life in them, yet they still bore fruit. The fruits that were on the trees that I could see were red, gray, or black. They looked like blood, ash, and rotten things. The leaves on those trees looked like they were already shriveled even as they bore new buds for its fruit. The tree and everything on it looked like it was born dead and decayed.

The lands here actually mirrored the clearing where the battle was taking place. It was the same place only backwards and more evil looking. Even the ocean that I could see past those large rocks looked disgusting and evil. It was blood red and seemed to reflect the black sky that was above it.

And now that I mention it, there was actually a sky in here. I hadn't expected that at all. The sky was almost pitch black, and there was what looked like a black sun floating behind gray and red clouds. It looked to me like there was no life to be given by that sun or the sky, but there were still birds flying in the distance. Hideous, skeletal looking birds but they were birds nonetheless.

And there was nothing about the way this place looked that could hold a candle to the way that it smelled. Rotten. That was the only word for me to use to describe what this place smelled like. The fruits that were growing on the trees smelled putrid and disgusting. The spray of the waves from the water crashing into the bottom of the cliffs, which is usually a pleasant enough smell back in the worlds filled with light, smelled like rotten fish and iron.

It was almost like the water itself was pure blood, like the sea had been filled with the enemies of the dark Fae. It still smelled salty, but it wasn't the salt of the ocean air that I was used to. This was just not right at all.

I couldn't see any houses where I was at, but there was what appeared to be a city in the distance. I didn't know if Solanum had gone in that direction or not, but I would find her, eventually.

"SOLANUM!" I yelled out for her. "WHERE DID YOUR COWARDLY ASS RUN OFF TO!?" I said the words in as loud of a voice as I could muster. I wanted to make sure that she heard me no matter where she was. "COME ON GRANNY! DON'T YOU WANT TO SAY HI TO YOUR DEAR SWEET GRANDDAUGHTER?"

I knew that last part would draw her out of hiding.. She truly did hate anything that connected her with me in a familial sense.

Chapter 542 - Trinity – Face To Face With A Monster (VOLUME 3)

6-8 minutes

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Trinity

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"GGGRRRRUUUUUUUAAAAHHHHHHHHHHH!" There was a loud, screeching yell that could be heard in the direction that was opposite of the city. The scream came from within the forest that was to my left. That was where Solanum was.

"Oh look, I get to play the part of Little Red Riding Hood as I search for my Granny in the woods. Good thing that I am also the Big Bad Wolf that will be killing Granny this time. "Come out, come out wherever you are, Granny. It's not time for hide and seek right now."

Was she hiding from me because she was afraid of me or because she didn't think that I was worth her time? I guess I wouldn't know until I asked her that question myself.

I walked through the thick trees as I tried to find some semblance of a path. I couldn't hear any sounds aside from my footsteps as I walked into the darkened forest. No birds, no animals, no insects, not even wind rustling through the leaves. It would have been completely silent if it hadn't been for the sounds created by me walking into this dead looking place.

I had never smelled Solanum before and that was making things more difficult for me as well. I would have tried to follow her scent if it hadn't been for the fact that I didn't know what her scent was.

I did catch a few traces of things that didn't seem to be part of the trees. Those smells that didn't quite belong were what I was following. They were the trail that I was following for right now.

"Oh, Granny! Where are you?" I called out to her again, trying to get Solanum to give herself away again. "Come on Granny, you don't want to keep your poor little granddaughter lost and alone in the woods, do you? That wouldn't be very nice of you."

The words were working. Almost as soon as they were out of my mouth I heard the sound of someone screaming and screeching in frustration and anger.

"GGGRRRRUUUUUUUAAAAHHHHHHHHHHH!"

"I know you can hear me, Granny. Why are you hiding from me?" I goaded her some more, intentionally trying to piss her off so that she would make a mistake in her frustration.

"I AM NOT YOUR GRANNY YOU PUTRID MONGREL!" I heard her yell as she started to storm through the tree toward me. "I AM NOT YOUR GRANNY, YOUR GRANDMOTHER, YOUR SEANMĤATHAIR [1], I AM NOTHING TO YOU!"

"Don't be like that, Granny." I basically cooed the words at her as she came to stand across a clearing from me in the forest. She was breathing heavily and very visibly angry about what I had been saying.

Her dark plum eyes were narrowed and there was a flush to her purplish cheeks that looked a little funny to see. "You know as well as I do that, however reluctantly it might be, we are related."

"I know nothing of the sort." She snarled at me. "I had one son who died without having a wife or children. You cannot, and are not, related to me. Stop trying to tie me to that man. I have been free of him for many years and I loathe the idea of being associated with him in any way." She spat on the ground as if the words and the idea had caused a bad taste in her mouth.

Despite being crude and disgusting, there was something else off about her having spat on the ground. The moment her saliva touched the root of a tree nearby there was a strange hissing sound, like the roots were dying even more than they already were. It was like the saliva from her mouth had literally started to kill the tree on contact.

"Noticed that, did you?" She grinned at me. "At least you're not completely stupid."

"What the hell was that?" I couldn't stop myself from asking her for clarification on what was happening.

"The time that I have been locked away in these darkened lands has strengthened me more than Valerian and his family could ever have thought possible. I have been here for a century, and during that time, I have found every piece of wild magic and made it mine."

"That's unfortunate." I shuddered at the thought of her having some sort of acid spit, or more likely some kind of powerful venom. But there was something wrong with what she had said. "You've been here for five centuries, not one." I pointed out the error in her math.

"For you it was five centuries, for us here it was only one. Time moves differently between the two realms. Even now, for every minute you spend here arguing with me, five minutes pass back there in the world you know."

That was news to me. I wasn't sure how I felt about that since I hadn't been told about it in advance. It didn't matter though. It's not like I was going to be spending that much time here.

"Thank you for the information, Granny, it's so helpful."

I instantly saw her face darken and her anger flare once again. She did not like me calling her that name. I already knew that, though, that was why I kept doing it. I wasn't going to show her an ounce of respect or courtesy. This psychotic bitch didn't deserve that from me.

"Don't call me that!" Her voice was low and filled with malice.

"Why? I am your kin, Solanum. Do you need me to break it down for you?" I smirked at her in a truly irritating way. "You see, before you and the other asshole dark Fae could manage to murder Rhinum, he had met his mate. He had even given her his ring when he asked her to marry him. Then, when he saw that her life was in danger, he protected her at the cost of his life. What neither of them knew at the time, though, was that she was pregnant. Later, she was alone and needed to raise her baby all on her own. And she had suddenly found herself immortal, like her son. That child of hers went on to have a daughter but he never met her since he had died in another battle. Now, a few more generations after that, I am here as your descendant. So, once again, hello Granny."

"I will kill you!" She spat the words at me. "I will kill you, Valerian, and Gloriana. I will kill all of those pathetic Fae that live without the darker halves of themselves. I will take over the throne and rule in Gloriana's stead. I will take over the Fae realms and then the human world. We will once again go back to the times where humans are our food rather than our oppressors. I will bring the Fae back to their former glory."

Well, wasn't that a megalomaniacal plan that she had there. And there was, of course, absolutely no fucking way in hell that I was going to let that happen.. I was going to put an end to her and her crazy ass plans right here and now.

Chapter 543 - Trinity – The Monster’s Ramblings (VOLUME 3)

6-7 minutes

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Trinity

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"You know that I can't let you do that, don't you Solanum?" I leveled a firm glare at the evil bitch that was standing in front of me. "I refuse to let you hurt anyone else. I will stop you. I will put an end to this chaos."

That must have been funny to the psychopath because, the moment I said that, she flung her head back and started to laugh so hard that spit flew from her mouth. That spit landed in various places around her, and the ground immediately hissed like it was screaming in pain. Everywhere that had been hit with that dangerous fluid seemed to literally be wasting away, like it was being eaten by some invisible animal or something.

However, that was nothing compared to what I saw when Solanum lifted her head back up to look at me. I noticed that the spittle that flew from her mouth had also landed on her face. There were now bright red patches where her venomous saliva had fallen on her flesh and was being eaten, or corroded, or something, that was causing her flesh to melt and her bones and blood to show. It was almost like her saliva was pure acid.

Even as Solanum's body was healing the wounds in her face with the natural Fae ability, I saw that the wounds were spreading. It was an odd and eerie sight to see, watching an injury spreading and healing at the same time right before your eyes. It made my skin crawl and I had to fight off the urge to shudder.

After a few moments of watching that grotesque imagery, the acidity of the saliva must have worn off. That was when the wounds in her face stopped trying to spread and the red holes were slowly closing up in her pale purple skin.

All of this had happened in a matter of seconds and fractions of a second. Still though, it was enough to creep me the fuck out. This was not normal. This was completely insane and crazy.

"You truly think that you can stop me?" Solanum gave me the most annoying look that I could ever imagine. It was like she was telling me to just go ahead and try to stop her from doing whatever it was

that she wanted to do. She clearly didn't think that I had what it took to stop her. "I am nearly all powerful. I have siphoned all excess magic that this place has to offer. I have been using that magic to reach out to those that were susceptible to me in the light. I have been working behind the scenes for longer than you can even fathom, you mongrel."

"Reach out to who? Susceptible how?" This was not something that I was expecting to find out. Who was it that she was talking about? What had she done?

"I believe you know of one such individual. She told me that you were on to her right from the start." Solanum chuckled as she seemed to think about it. "She was so proud of what she was doing but you didn't fall for it at all. She was just a pawn, though. She had her uses and purposes, after they were fulfilled, I didn't care what happened to her."

"You're referring to Hibiscus? Did you make her do all of those things? Did you corrupt her?"

"Oh, honey, how can you easily believe that there is nothing about those in the light that could harbor darkness." When I looked into her dark plum eyes I knew that she hadn't been the one to make Hibiscus think and do what she did, she most likely just gave her the encouragement that she needed to do it. And she wasn't the only one either.

"No, you didn't force Hibiscus to do it, but you were most likely the one to make it easier for them to follow through on their dark thoughts. You were like the strength that they needed to move forward, the wind beneath their wings, so to speak."

"How inspirational you make me sound." Solanum giggled like a little girl. "Hibiscus had her uses. She caused problems for the Fae, and killed some of them too. And best of all, she was the one that weakened the barrier that let me eventually escape. All in all, she became my most valuable pawn."

I didn't like the way that she took pride in what I was saying. She was the source that led to all of this.

"So, how long have you been trying to do this? I know that you were behind Grier challenging Queen Gloriana, and Hibiscus who plotted against her. Were you also the one that had influenced Curtis? Who else have you been causing issues with?"

"If you knew the amount of people that I have been trying to influence over the years it would blow your mind. Yes, mongrel mutt, Grier and Curtis were my drones as well. Only they were stopped before they could get anywhere with their plans."

"You truly are a psychopath." I balked at the idea of her controlling things from the shadows like this. How in the world was she able to do that?

"You're so sweet, but those words won't make me let you live, mongrel. I am still going to rip you to shreds. And then I will take your filthy, disgusting head back for Gloriana and Valerian to see. You may have them fooled, but I am no sucker. I know you're not our kin. Antirrhinum had no children, and I thank hell that he didn't."

She was still certain that we weren't related. There was nothing that I could say that would ever convince her otherwise. My only option here was to destroy her before she managed to get out of here and hurt anyone. I wouldn't let her actions go unpunished. I refused to let her hurt my family and get away with it. And I am going to avenge Rhinum's death. I was going to do it all.

Solanum was still glaring at me after her firm declaration.. She didn't know what it was that I was thinking, or I didn't think that she did, but I knew what she was thinking.

Chapter 544 - Trinity – The Fight Begins (VOLUME 3)

5-7 minutes

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Trinity

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"I am going to stop you, Granny. I am going to make sure that you never leave here again."

"STOP! CALLING! ME! GRANNY!" She bellowed each word out as if it were its own sentence, its own declaration. There was so much anger in her voice at the time that the force of it, literally, shook the blackened trees around us. I had to wonder if it was just her voice that was shaking the trees or if it was her magic.

"I won't stop calling you what you are. Do you want me to stop because you don't want people to know how ancient and decrepit that you truly are?" She narrowed her eyes at me, her anger getting stronger and stronger.

There was a reason I was doing this. I wanted her to be so angry at me that she wasn't fighting in top form. I knew that she was powerful, as was I, but we didn't need to have a fight to the death to know who the top contender was here.

"You will die for your insolence. I will see to that you little bitch." Solanum was ready for this to be over. That's fine, so was I.

"If you think you can kill me, Granny, then just try it."

That was all the prompting that Solanum needed. Her face contorted to match the rage in her eyes and that was when she flung herself at me. I was faster than she had expected though, because I leapt out of her way before she could even lay one finger on me.

I rolled to the side, landed back on my feet, and spun to face the evil Fae all in one swift and fluid movement. Solanum looked angry, pissed, and vicious. She didn't look humanish at all, all I could see was an animalistic nature rolling off of her. I think she was starting to channel her true Kelpie form.

This was going to be it. This was the moment that we were going to fight for real. And I was going to use everything that I had in me to win this battle. I was going to prove to that psychopath that she wasn't as good as she thought she was.

As I watched Solanum, I saw that she was pulling a sword out of the air. She had literally reached her hand up into the empty air and gripped something that I could not see. However, the moment that she started to lower her hand back to her side, there was a gleaming silver and black sword in her hand.

"Let's see how you fair against this." She was smirking like she thought she was better than me and I was supposed to be afraid of her weapon.

I decided to take inspiration from my husband at that moment. I remembered Reece's sword that he fought with on the battlefield. It was made of pure fire and virtually indestructible. That was something that I needed right now. I needed a weapon like that.

Fire was Reece's thing though, not mine. I needed something that was more my style. I could, and have, used fire magic even though it wasn't my primary element. No, my primary element had more to do with water and ice. I was descended from an Undine after all.

That was it. Ice. I could use my magic to conjure myself a sword made of pure ice. Fire and ice were mine and Reece's elements. We were polar opposites but perfect mates. That was why his wolf took on fire and mine became the ice. That was why I needed an ice sword.

I only had to think about it for a moment before I could clearly visualize the sword in my hand. It was heavy, but not too heavy. It was perfectly balanced and made of pure ice.

As I thought about it the sword actually appeared out of nowhere in my hand. It was literally growing from a single ice shard that had appeared in my palm. The hilt and blade came first, shining and glinting like it was made of a bluish tinted glass but it wasn't anything as fragile as glass. It was also extremely sharp and lethal looking.

After the hilt and blade had been finalized in my hand, large shards of ice started to grow around it. Large, jagged, and uneven shards of ice started to form all over the sword and encompass the entire blade. The shards had tiny icicles hanging from them and they looked like they would be fragile and easily broken, but I knew that they were going to be just as strong as the rest of the sword.

Around the hilt of the sword the ice formed a semi circular cover that would protect my hand as I fought against my foe. That protective part of the hilt that covered the grip from the tang to the pommel made me think of a basket hilted sword [1] that I have seen when looking at antique swords in the past.

The sword that was now in my hands didn't look perfect since it had the ice covering it at uneven and imperfect sections, but it was still the most beautiful work of sword crafting I had ever seen. All the imperfections in it made it that much more special. I loved it.

"What is that?" Solanum looked angry when she saw what I was holding.

"I can hardly fight you without a weapon of my own now, can I, Granny?" I smirked at her and nearly laughed at the anger that my words caused in her.

"Well, that paltry little icicle will be nothing when compared to my sword made of steel and darkness."

"We will see about that, Granny."

Chapter 545 - Trinity – The Showdown Begins (VOLUME 3)

7-8 minutes

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Trinity

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Solanum wanted to prove herself right away. She ran at me with her sword raised and ready to attack, actually, she was ready to kill. I needed to be on my guard and ready to do just the same as her. I needed to be prepared to kill her in an instant.

I lifted my sword with plenty of time to spare. Using my sword to block her attack, I parried the blow and countered the move with one of my own. Solanum had been prepared for that though and my move was blocked as well.

Now, with Solanum standing a few feet away from me and panting with anger, I knew that the true battle was about to start. This was going to be what decided the outcome of the war that was happening back in the clearing. This was it.

Right before my eyes, I saw Solanum changing. It was subtle, but I could see it happening, nonetheless. Her hair had grown a few inches, but it also looked wet. It was as if she just stepped out of a lake or pool, there was water just dripping from it. It was also moving as if it were in water, like there was a slight current moving through it.

Solanum's complexion changed as well. Instead of that pale purple she started to turn pure black. She was literally the color of pure onyx by the time that her complexion had finished shifting colors. And it didn't take long either, it was in the span of a few seconds.

The last thing that changed about Solanum's appearance was her eyes. They stayed their deep, plum colored purple, but there were no longer any whites to her eyes. All the white around her irises disappeared and her eyes seemed to get bigger. Also, they were glowing with a trail of mist coming off of them. She looked even more sinister than usual.

"Oh, Granny, did you decide to power up because you were worried that you couldn't handle me in your original state?" I may be making a joke about it, but she truly did seem like more of a monster than a person right now.

"I cooould taaaake youuuu onnn wifff nnooo proooblemmm." Her words came out slurred and stretched out a little bit, like she was having trouble speaking with and using the mouth that she had now. Maybe her monster side wasn't used to talking. "Ssstooopp tryyying toooo deelayyy thissss furtherrr."

Hearing the way that she was talking now didn't make it seem funny at all, it made my skin crawl. Just what was she now? Was this the true human form of the Kelpie?

"I don't plan to delay it anymore, Granny. I plan on ending this here and now." Following through and putting actions to words, I lunged toward the other woman with my sword at the ready. She hadn't been prepared for that at all, however, she still moved quickly enough to save herself. My attack only caused a slight cut to open up along her left arm.

The blood that dripped from Solanum's injury was pure black. It was also thicker than regular blood and seemed to ooze out of her like it was some kind of thick and disgusting looking syrup.

What was worse though, was when that blood fell to the ground it started to cause the ground to scream in pain again. Just like her saliva had with the tree. She truly was evil through and through, every part of her was deadly to the world around her.

I worried for a moment about what her rotten blood would do to my beautiful new sword. With panic filling my eyes I looked at it hurriedly. I could see small traces of that thick, black, viscous fluid on the end of my blade, but it was freezing over. It was like the ice was stronger than the blood and it was not affecting it at all. Thank the Goddess.

"Youuu beeeterrr waaatch oooout." Solanum smirked and laughed when she noticed me checking the blade of my sword. "Iiiiiif annny offff mmmmy boodilyyy fluuuiidsss getttt onnn youuuu, theyyyy wiiiiill eeeeat youuuu alllllive." She seemed to think that was funny.

"Well, then I guess I need to make sure that they don't touch me at all."

My resolve was firm and unbreakable. I wasn't going to let her shake me or break my confidence at all. I was going to win this battle, she would see. Still, I wanted a small amount of protection against her deadly bodily fluids.

As a last attempt at protecting myself, I decided to send a thin, yet extremely strong, layer of ice out all over my body. It was going to be flexible for my sake but strong enough to block her fluids from damaging me if she were to fling them at me in an attempt to sway the battle in her favor.

The armor didn't take long to put into place, and it was virtually impossible to notice it if you didn't know that it was already there. With that in place now, I was ready to get back to the fight. This was far from over right now.

"I thooought I ssssaid tooo stoop taaaakingggg sssooooo llllongggg." She was getting so frustrated with me right now that I just wanted to goad her some more.

"Oh, but Granny, don't you like playing these games with me?"

"I! AAAMMM! NNNNOOTTT! YYYOURRR! GGGRANNNNNYYYY!" She had trouble getting the words to form as she screamed at me. That was kind of fun to see.

"Yeah, yeah, believe what you will, Granny." I chuckled and lunged at the same time.

"Youuu wiiiiill paaayyy fooor yourrrr insooolennncce."

Solanum dodged my attack and started to chant a spell that I did not recognize in a language that I had never heard before. Thankfully, due to the translator spell that I had used on the instructors at the castle, I could understand every word that she was saying.

"Water, my home, bring it to me. Water, my source of life, come to me. Water, offer me your aid, be my shield and my weapon. Water, powerful as you are, give me your strength. Water, give the child of your lineage your assistance."

She was calling on the water? But why? What was she trying to do here?

As soon as I asked myself those questions, the entire forest around us was flooded with water. It came in as a massive wave that pushed trees from the ground and sent everything in its path flying. Everything except for Solanum and myself.

After the wave passed, the ground beneath us was covered in a thin layer of crystal clear water. I was just glad that it wasn't that nasty red water from the ocean beyond the cliffs. I didn't want that water touching me at all.

"Heheheh, youuuu wiiiill ssssee whyyyy youuuu arrre ssssooo usselessss nowww." Solanum grinned evilly as she took a step forward and disappeared altogether.. She was there one moment and then the next she seemed to just fall straight into the water at her feet. What in the hell?

Chapter 546 - Trinity – Water Walking (VOLUME 3)

6-8 minutes

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Trinity

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I looked around me for a moment after Solanum had disappeared, but I didn't have to wait long for her to show herself again. Before I knew it, Solanum had reappeared right behind me, her sword ready to strike.

Thank the Goddess that I felt the disturbance in the thin layer of water and was able to jump out of the way in time. That was not something that I was expecting. The person I was trying to fight had called the water to this clearing in the forest and was using it to sneak attack me.

"HAHAHA!" The psycho bitch was laughing at me and the shock that I knew was written across my face. "Arrre youuu sssurprissed?"

"Not really. You are a water Fae." In truth, I really wasn't all that surprised by it. I had been taken off guard, but it only made sense that a water Fae would be able to do what she had just done.

"Innnteressstinggg." She didn't look like she thought it was interesting at all. She looked more like she was pissed off that I wasn't shitting myself in fear at her awesome new power. "Wwwellll let'sssss connntinuuuuue, shalllll weee?"

Solanum took another step forward and disappeared into the water. I tried to figure out what she was doing and where she was going but, the moment she was in the water, she disappeared completely.

She disappeared, but not all evidence of her did. I could see small little ripples moving on top of the water. They were tiny and nearly imperceptible, but I managed to spot them. I could tell where she was moving.

I was trying to concentrate, trying to focus on where she was moving to so that I would be able to fight her off when she reappeared. There was a problem, though. I kept hearing a slight whispering, as if it

were coming from behind me. Then it sounded like it was next to me, then in front of me. and back to being behind me. The whisper was moving, and I could barely hear it at all.

I could make out what it was telling me, just barely, but I understood it.

"Do what she does." The words were small, almost childish, yet there was an underlying tone that sounded like it was ancient. "Walk in me like she does." I didn't want to answer it though, because that would distract myself from the battle that was taking place. "You're my kin too, young one. You can walk in me like she does. Come now, step, step, step."

The voice, which was sounding so calm and friendly, wanted me to do what Solanum was doing. Was that even possible?

"Come on, cousin, walk in me. Walk in the water." Now, each time that the voice spoke I felt a tugging sensation on my right hand. It was like it was tugging on me and urging me to follow it. In truth, it reminded me of Reagan and Rika when they wanted to show me their latest discoveries or art projects. It was the encouraging excitement of a child eager to share something new and exciting. "Come on. Water walk with me, cousin."

Just as the voice spoke again, Solanum popped up out of the water and appeared before me. There was pure rage on her face, and it was clear that she was intent on killing me. I quickly stepped to the side and attempted to evade the attack.

At the same time that I stepped to the side, I felt the tugging on my hand again. That childlike voice was speaking into my ear again as it called to me excitedly.

"That's it, cousin, walk with me."

The moment that my foot touched the water when I stepped, I felt like I was falling forward and down at the same time. My foot hadn't touched the solid ground like I thought that it was going to. Instead, I was sliding down into the water and felt weightless.

I felt like I was swimming, even though I was just standing there, under the water. I was swimming but I was still able to breath. I could see everything about me like I was looking through a window. This must have been what Solanum saw when she slipped into the water.

"What is this?" I asked but I didn't really expect that I would get an answer from someone.

"This is water walking. No one walks with me anymore. None of the Fae anymore. The water children of the moon swim with me though. They are the ones that love me the most. But you are my cousin too. You can walk with me. I can feel your magic. Walk with me, cousin."

"How? How do I walk with you?" I was confused by this whole scenario. It was just crazy to think that this was happening.

"Just step. All you need to do is walk and you will move. If you want to leave the water just jump. If you want to go back into the water, just think about it when you walk again. You will get the hang of it soon, cousin."

That childlike voice was sounding so excited. I guess even the water gets lonely when it has no one to play with. I decided to follow its instructions and just try to move through the water that was around

me. I could see Solanum still standing up there, looking around for me. She hadn't realized that I had gone into the water like she did. That was good, that meant that I had an advantage here.

I circled around her, coming up behind the raging lunatic. She didn't know that I was coming for her and that was a good thing.

"Wheerre arrre youuuu, biiitch?" I could hear Solanum perfectly. Nothing was distorted at all. That made me really glad that I didn't respond directly to the voice when it spoke in my ear.

Now that I was behind her, in the perfect position, I jumped just as the voice had told me to. I jumped and went flying toward the surface of the water and beyond. The next thing that I knew I was jumping toward Solanum's back with my ice sword at the ready.

She seemed to sense me, but it was almost too late for her. I slashed down with my sword again just as she jumped up and away. This time my sword slashed across her thigh and down to her knee. She howled in pain but didn't let it stop her.

"Youuuu biiitch! Hooooww diiid youuu ddooo thaaat?" She was pissed at me, that was evident, however she was also shocked.

"I told you, Granny, we're related. That means that I can do what you can do." I matched her angered look with one of my own. I was going to use whatever tricks I already knew and the new ones that I was learning right now. I was going to kill her and end this war.

"Fuuuck youuu!" She screamed, spit flying from her mouth as she lunged at me again. All the games are over now.. It was time to get serious with this fight.

Chapter 547 - Trinity – Deadly Duel (VOLUME 3)

5-7 minutes

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Trinity

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I was prepared for this fight. I was in my fighting stance and watching as Solanum started to lunge at me, her sword at the ready. I could see the lethally sharp blade and the deadly pointed tip coming right at my throat. I wasn't going to be stupid enough to just stand there. I was going to fight and do whatever it took for me to win this.

'Wait! Not yet.' I heard a strange yet familiar man's voice talking to me in my head as Solanum charged toward me. 'Wait until she is almost at you before you dodge. Spin out to the side when she is about to strike. Then you can strike at her and turn your dodge into a counterattack.'

Who was it that was speaking to me inside my head? I knew the voice. I had heard it before, but it was hard to place it right now. I had a feeling it wasn't someone I knew all that well. Whoever he was, he was right. His advice about moving at the last minute was spot on.

I followed the instructions that had been given to me. When Solanum was almost at me, I spun to my right and swung out with the sword in my hand. I slashed not once, but twice in that attack, and both of them landed exactly where I had intended. The blade of my ice sword opened two large gashes across the bitch's back.

'YES!' I congratulated myself inside my head.

'Well done.' The man spoke again. 'Keep going, it's not over yet.'

'I know that.' I told him silently. 'Who are you?' I needed to know that. I was starting to suspect someone specific, someone I had spoken to only once before. But it couldn't possibly be him, could it?

'I think you know who I am, Trinity. Hasn't it occurred to you yet?' There was a soft note of laughter in his voice when he said that.

'But how? How are you inside my head? Aren't you dead?'

I was having this conversation while I was watching Solanum recover her balance from my attack. She had not been prepared for my counterattack. My strikes had caused her to lose her balance and fall to her knees. A smart plan of action would have been to attack her while she was down but that would have also been cowardly of me.

'Yes, Trinity, I am dead. Does that make a difference? I was dead when I met you.' It didn't sound like a joke, probably because it wasn't one. He was being completely serious right now.

'OK, yes, you were dead when I first met you, but that doesn't make this any less weird. I mean, I don't even know what to call you. I already call Valerian Athair mòr, but that would be you as well, wouldn't it?' I am so confused right now. Why were there so many people 'talking' to me during this fight?

'Calling me by my name is more than acceptable. We never knew each other in life, so a closer connection is not expected of you.'

'But Rhinum, you are still my family.' I pointed out to him, finally calling him by his name.

'And that is why I am here to watch over you. Now, watch out, she's coming back for her next strike. I will help you with this fight. I will help you destroy this woman once and for all.'

I couldn't believe what it was that he was saying to me. He wanted to help me to kill his own mother. Who would want to do that? Granted, she was responsible for his death, and two different wars. So, I guess it wasn't that surprising.

'It doesn't matter that she is my mother.' He said to me, having caught onto my line of thought. 'She is an evil woman and evil needs to be banished. Now prepare yourself, Trinity, she's attacking again.'

Solanum was indeed attacking again. She was running at me while swinging her sword around wildly. The sword was moving in large, seemingly uncontrolled arcs. She looked like she was in just as much danger of killing herself than she was of killing me. In fact, I could see a line of black on her face that was slowly oozing after the sword had accidentally nicked her cheek.

'She's a psychopath.' I barely had the time to think before Rhinum was giving me more instructions.

'To your left. Spin now. Slice up.' Following what he said I was able to deal another blow to Solanum's back. It was all going so well. 'Keep on your toes, she's not down yet.'

Just as Rhinum said those words, Solanum started to slash out at me again. This time, when I went to dodge out of her way, she hit me with the blade of her dark sword. It didn't cut me, though, but it did cut away the armor at the spot where the blade had hit. That was a close one.

'Be careful. She is becoming more and more unhinged as this battle continues.' Rhinum warned me, but I could already tell. Solanum looked delirious and deranged at the same time.

When Solanum struck at me this time, I parried her blow with my sword again, attempting to knock her back. She wasn't a large woman, she was taller than me, but not by much. And, she didn't look overly strong compared to me. However, in her furious state, she was becoming a lot stronger than I was at the time.

With her emotionally fueled rage, Solanum was pushing me back with each blow she landed on my sword. I felt myself losing ground and knew that if I didn't do something soon, she might get the better of me.

'Dive!' I heard Rhinum shout into my ear.

'What?'

'Dive Trinity! Into the water. Now!' Rhinum sounded worried, like he thought I wouldn't survive if I didn't do as he said. Fine, I would follow what he said, this time at least.

Chapter 548 - Trinity – Channeling A Vision Of The Past (VOLUME 3)

8-9 minutes

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Trinity

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I stepped to the side, leaned forward, and literally dove into the water like it was a swimming pool. I didn't hit my head though. I was just below the surface of the water and looking around me in stupefied curiosity.

The last time that I stepped into the water, it was like I was standing there like I was on the ground. However, now I felt like I was literally swimming inside this vast water filled world. I didn't float to the top of the water like I might have in a real pool, but I was partially suspended in the water, and I felt like all I needed to do was swim toward my target to attack her.

Just as I started to race toward the crazy bitch that I needed to kill, she dove into the water where I was. Solanum came shooting into the water so fast that she was literally coming right toward me.

'Prepare to move. We're going to exit the water.' Rhinum told me what was going to happen, but before I could even think about following through with his words my body moved of its own accord.

"You will reap what you sowed." Rhinum told her, using my voice of course. And with that declaration, he slashed down and across Solanum's chest from her left shoulder to her right hip. The gash was deep, wide, and disgusting to look at.

"Hoooww.?" She tried to speak with that feral voice of hers.

"Just take a look. A close one." Rhinum grinned this time, again using my body to accomplish the task.

Solanum's eyes focused and I saw some of the whites returning to them. Some of the feral anger was subsiding as well. She was becoming a little more human-like than she had been moments ago.

"How? How can this be?" Solanum was giving me and Rhinum a look of wide eyed shock. "This is impossible. Antirrhinum, how are you here? You're dead."

It was hard to describe the look on the woman's face. She was angry, that was obvious for sure. However, there was a trace of something else as well. Something that was sad and broken.

"I am here because of this, Mother." At that moment, Rhinum reached down to grab the glowing ring that was my necklace. "I am here because my kin needed me."

"She can't be your kin, Antirrhinum. She just can't be." There was a single tear that rolled down her cheek as she spoke, and I didn't really know why.

"She is, Mother. She is my kin and yours too."

"NOOO!" Solanum screamed again, ready to attack at the reminder that I was her family as well. She truly did not want any more family that tied her to Athair mòr.

"You never did get it, Mother." Rhinum sighed at her anger and unwillingness to even listen.

"I will not accept her, no matter what."

There was a loud crunching sound and I saw the earth at Solanum's feet start to crumble and break away. She was getting herself free. That wasn't good.

"You will pay. You will both pay with the price of one body."

Solanum was panting and moving slowly as she stalked toward me. Much slower than I had ever seen her move so far. And, if I wasn't mistaken, she was still getting slower with each step.

"What is happening?" She panicked and looked down at her body. I did the same, which allowed both, me and Rhinum, to see the cause for her slowness.

I could see dozens of cuts all over her body. None of them had even begun to heal with her Fae magic. Instead, those cuts were starting to freeze over. As I watched, the large gash that went across her chest was turning white like it had frost all over it. The frost was still spreading though, covering her chest slowly, bit by bit.

"This is impossible. This can't be happening to me." With fear and panic replacing the anger and rage that Solanum had been feeling up until this point, she started to run away. The problem with Solanum running away was that the frost had already almost completely taken over her legs. She was mostly covered by the whitened frost by now, and I knew that this was almost over.

"Goodbye, Granny." I called out for myself.

"Goodbye mother." Rhinum spoke in my voice again.

While she was attempting to run away, Solanum finished turning into the frosty and icy statue version of herself. She was off balance which caused her to fall against one of the trees that were nearby.

I walked to Solanum's side, what was left of it. When she fell down, she had broken apart and nearly shattered. There were a few larger chunks of her, the biggest being her head. As disgusting as it was going to be, I needed to take that head back with me. I need to prove to everyone that Solanum was dead. And hopefully, without her pumping more monsters onto the field, the others were able to end the battle they were fighting out there.

At least, I hope they have already ended it.

Chapter 549 - Reece – Where Is My Little Bunny? (VOLUME 3)

6-8 minutes

THIS GOES BACK TO WHEN TRINITY DISAPPEARED INTO THE DARK FAE REALM

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Reece

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I had been sitting in a chair and watching over the battle. I was only seated because Dietrich and Trevor insisted on it. They were apparently worried that I was spending too much time watching over Trinity during her times on the battlefield. Could they blame me, though? She was my wife, my mate, and my Queen. I needed to protect her.

I did my best to make sure that she never left my sight. I followed her with my eyes, like I was watching a very messed up tennis match and she was the ball. And this time, while she was on the field, she was bouncing all over the place.

I knew what she was doing. I knew why she was all over the place. She was trying to find the bitch that had started all of this. Every single time that she even glimpsed someone that even remotely looked like Solanum, my Little Bunny was running to see if they were who she was after.

And when they turned out to not be the one that she was there to kill I saw the frustration and anger rise in my Little Bunny's eyes. She still killed them of course, they were the enemy, and this was a war so that was to be expected. But the problem was that my Little Bunny was upset about not seeing the person she was looking for.

I was only able to stay somewhat calm during all of this because my Little Bunny had her guards there with her. They were travelling with her while she looked for the psychopath that we needed to find to end this whole mess. They may not have been able to stick right by her side since they were fighting off

enemies along the way, but they weren't letting her out of their sight so that was something that I could be happy about.

Well, that is until my Little Bunny saw something that made her start running right into the belly of the beast. She glimpsed someone near the crack in the boulder that must have looked just like Solanum. I could see the person but not their physical appearance so I couldn't tell if it was her or not.

The person that she had seen and was chasing after was sending more of those monsters out onto the battlefield. Even if it wasn't Solanum, killing that bitch would be beneficial for us. We didn't need someone sending more of those things out to hinder us.

I watched for a moment as my Little Bunny hesitated when running after that person. Had she seen something that surprised her? Was that really Solanum? Could that psychotic hag finally have shown her face? I honestly thought that might have been the case.

The guards were giving chase now as well. Following their charge and Queen as she ran into the fray. I nearly had a heart attack when Trinity was almost hit by an enemy attack. She was focusing too much on her target that was running back into the dark Fae realm and didn't notice the attack coming at her. Thank the Goddess that Vincent was right there to protect her.

Vincent might have stopped the attack but there was something else that was starting to worry me. My Little Bunny was heading straight for the opening and her guards weren't following her.

"Trinity?!" I called out her name, scared of what was happening.

'Reece?' I heard Vincent's voice in my head, he was sending me a message telepathically.

'WHY DIDN'T YOU FOLLOW HER?!' I screamed back at him through that connection just as my wife disappeared into that crack.

I was already up and out of my chair, running after my Little Bunny before Vincent responded to my question.

'She ordered us to stay behind and continue fighting.'

'I don't care! You should have gone after her.' I felt like my heart had both stopped and was beating so fast that it was going to fly right out of my chest at the same time. Why would she do this? Why would she go off to fight alone? DAMMIT! I'm going to kill her for this.

'Reece, you know that we couldn't follow her after she made it an order. I wanted to go. I didn't want to stay here.'

"GRRRRRAAAHHHH!!!!" I roared in frustration as I ran to where the guards were. My mind was singularly focused on following my stubborn and obviously suicidal mate in through that barrier. "I'M GOING TO PUNISH HER FOR THIS! I SWEAR TO THE GODDESS THAT I WILL!" I roared and didn't care who heard me say it.

The moment that I got to where my Little Bunny disappeared inside that boulder I leapt in after her. I didn't care about the battle anymore, I just needed to catch up to and find my mate. And then I would turn her over my fucking knee and beat her ass for disappearing on me like this. AGAIN! Because this

was definitely not the first time that she disappeared on me in the middle of a battle. That reckless little idiot!

I was falling, but it was slow. Too slow. This was fucking pissing me off. I needed to move faster. I had to find my mate and make sure that she was OK, that she wasn't hurt.

After what felt like forever, I made it to the bottom and stopped falling. I didn't land like I had been falling either, it was like the magic had set me down gently. Stupid magic. It moved too slowly.

In front of me, at the bottom of that tunnel I fell through, there was a foggy barrier. It looked odd but I didn't care. If my Little Bunny wasn't right here, then she was on the other side of this barrier. That meant that I needed to get onto that side as well.

I ran forward, hoping to pass through whatever this barrier was as quickly as possible. I ran face first into that hazy fog and promptly bounced off and flew backward into the tunnel.

The moment that I flew back into the tunnel I was sucked back up and out through the barrier. This time, the magic didn't make me move slowly. It rocketed me out so fast that I flew out of the broken boulder and landed on my ass amid the fighting.

"WHAT IN THE FUCKING HELL!" I roared in anger and rage at the magic that had just rejected me out of there.

"Reece? What happened?" Vincent asked me, running up to my side and helping me to my feet.

"I..I..I can't go after her." I felt the rage turn to sadness inside of me. What was I going to do?

"What do you mean you can't go after her?" Shane was there now.

"The barrier threw me out. It rejected me. I can't follow her in there."

"OH, SHIT!" Shane seemed to understand the gravity of the situation then.

"What are we going to do?" Shawn asked, standing next to his brother.

"I don't like this.." David added.

Chapter 550 - Reece – Battling On (VOLUME 3)

5-7 minutes

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Reece

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"The only thing we can do now is continue to fight." Dietrich's voice came from behind Shawn. He must have followed me out here when I charged onto the field and after my mate.

"He's right." Landon added. "We can't go after her, but we can finish the battle out here. Let's put our all into it."

"I agree, we need to show all these dark Fae assholes that we mean business. Let's annihilate them and send their asses to hell. That way when Trinity comes out of there, she will be happy to find that the battle is over." Trevor sounded confident and that was good. I needed to make sure that I stayed confident as well. I could channel my anger, rage, and frustration into strength and use it to kill these monsters and Fae.

"I'm getting back to the battle." I turned away from the boulder and toward the monsters and Fae that were still fighting on the field.

"It's not your turn." Vincent reminded me.

"I don't fucking care. I am taking Trinity's turn on the field since she isn't here. And as your King I order you to fight with me. Is that understood?" I could tell that I was taking a little bit of my frustration out on him and that wasn't right, but I didn't care.

"Yes Sir." Vincent looked a little pissed off to be spoken to like that, but he followed my orders and started to march into the battle with me. This was how it was going to be until my Little Bunny got back out of there.

All of us, my Little Bunny's guards, Landon, Trevor, Dietrich, and myself, went back to fighting the enemies. If I couldn't kill the main baddie here, then I was going to kill as many of her lackies as I possibly could.

There were monsters and Fae everywhere, so I didn't have to look very hard to find someone to kill. I brought out my weapons and started to attack everyone that was within range. My arrows were flying in every direction, hitting as many targets as they could. I would fling my whip out and wrap it around a Fae to bring them closer to me. Once that Fae was close enough, I would cut their head off then slice through their body to make sure that they were fully dead.

This pattern worked for all the Fae that I encountered but not all of the monsters. When I came across a monster that was too large for my whip to wrap around, I took inspiration from my Little Bunny's battle that I watched earlier.

I didn't make my phoenix wings appear, but I put more strength into my legs so that I could jump high enough to reach the back of the monster's head. From there I would continue to fight, hacking away at the thing until it was nothing but charred pieces of bone and monster flesh. It was the only thing currently keeping me sane.

About four hours or so after my Little Bunny disappeared into the dark Fae realm, I could tell that we were getting closer to winning this battle. I had just leapt off the back of a dying elephant monster and was about to go after a crocodile looking one, but I was distracted by someone's shouts.

"Watch out, Queen Gloriana!" Vincent was charging after the Fae Queen, putting on a burst of speed at the last second. Gloriana was just turning to see what the problem was and saw that there was a massive viper looking snake monster coming up behind her, its jaws opened wide and ready to attack her. Probably to swallow her whole.

Thankfully, this beast was smaller than some of the ones that were there earlier, it was only about fifteen to twenty feet long and wouldn't have been able to fit a whole person in their mouth as easily.

That didn't mean that it was harmless, though. The thing was definitely going to be able to cause a lot of problems.

Vincent got to Gloriana in time and knocked her out of the way. He readied his sword and was preparing to attack it but the beast struck before he could do anything to defend himself.

The snake caught him around his chest and stomach. I watched on in horror as its massive fangs pierced him and blood started to flow down his body.

"GAHH!" He cried out in pain just a little when the thing bit him.

"VINCENT!" I roared his name. I knew that he was fighting at his best, I knew that he was just doing his duty as a guard, and I knew that he very well might die because of this battle.

I couldn't let Vincent die. I just couldn't. He was the head of my Little Bunny's guards. He was a father. He was a good man. And he was my friend. I couldn't let this happen. I needed to get over there. I needed to find someone to save him.

"DAVID!" I called after him. "Find the best healer there is. Get them here now. Carry them so that we don't have to wait. Go! NOW!"

"I'm already on my way!" He said as he took off running. He disappeared immediately, moving so fast that my eyes couldn't keep up with him. He was, literally, the fastest person here. He would get that healer here as soon as he could.

While he got the healer, I needed to kill that beast.

I dropped my whip and charged toward the snake. I gripped my flaming sword in both hands and leapt at the thing's head. While it still held my friend and pack mate in its mouth, I slashed down with the sword, cutting the thing's head from its body. The head and Vincent both fell to the ground.

"Hang in there, Vincent." I said as I started to slowly pull him from the thing's mouth. "Hang in there, please.. Don't die on me."