

## Chosen by Fate 641

### Chapter 641 - 58- Trinity – Spiraling (VOLUME 4)

Trinity

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I was just sitting there, waiting for the other me to start what she called: the next part of this whole thing. She had gone as far as leaning into the fire and burning the two of us to make me comply with her, but now she was just sitting here and staring at me. What was she playing at? Why was she doing this?

And to top it all off, the other me was wearing a very smug and sly look on her face. It was annoying me and pissing me off so much that I just wanted to hit her.

This was not like me, though. I didn't usually think about hitting people and causing them pain. OK, I have executed people. I have gone to war. Twice. I have stood by while others were executed. I had done a lot and yet, at the same time, I had not done enough.

There were a lot of bad things that I didn't know about, yet I allowed them to happen. And the flip side of that was the fact that I had personally done a lot of bad things to people. Did that make me a bad person? Did that make me evil? Was I a corrupted leader that shouldn't be leading my people?

While these thoughts went through my head, I started to panic. If these were indeed true facts, if they were what I was really like, then what kind of person was I? I needed to find the answer to that before anything else. I didn't care if the other me went on right now or not, this was more important to me.

"Good." The other me spoke out of nowhere while I was deep in thought, and it made me jump in shock.

"Huh?" I was trying to right myself on the log when I raised myself and looked at her. I had jumped so much that I nearly fell off the seat altogether.

"I said good." She answered with a look that was at least fifty percent more sly and smug than it had been before.

"What is good?" I asked, hoping that my anger at her wasn't showing too much at the moment.

"I am referring to your thought process, Trinity. That is a good direction to be moving in."

Dammit! I had forgotten that she knew what I was thinking. That was annoying. UGH! That means that she knows all the mean thoughts that I have had about her since this whole thing started. Great, that was not good. What if she decides to get angry with me?

"If I was going to get angry with you, Trinity, I already would have. I am trying to help you. This is a place that you need to be. Trust me when I say that when you leave here, you will be thanking me."

"For some reason, I don't really see that being a possibility. I mean, forgive me for saying this, but you've been a shitty host and you have been quite cruel with me."

"I have only done what needed to be done. Nothing more and nothing less. This has all been a necessity, Trinity. You know, there truly is a purpose for what I have done here."

The other me had the audacity to sound as if I had hurt her feelings or something like that. It wasn't like she was the one that was having everything she had ever done thrown back into her face and being told to look at all the repercussions that her actions have had on those around her. Nope, that lovely little bit of cruelty and torture was reserved all for me.

"Are you done with your little rant inside your head there? If so, we can get a move on to the next stage of why you are here and help you to move on. Just remember that the longer you are here, the more time that passes in the land of the living. I am sure that you want to get back sooner rather than later." It looked to me like the other me didn't care too much one way or the other if I finished with my little freak out or not. She seemed to be enjoying herself.

"How much time is passing there? How long have I been in this place? And how much time has passed for my family back home? What do they think has happened to me?"

Her words did strike a chord with me though. I didn't want to be here any longer than I needed to be. And I didn't know how long I had been here already. What if it had been months or years already? What if they thought that I was dead, and they buried me alive? What was really going to happen to me?

"Would you like me to show you how your family is doing?" The other me smirked and I didn't know if she was going to show me something that was real or not. "Do not be so skeptical, Trinity. I am not going to lie to you. It would be pointless for me to lie to you anyway. I am you, after all."

"Fine, then I want to see them. Please show them to me."

"Of course."

The other me smiled and once again took a handful of dust to throw into the fire. The usual scene happened again with the fire responding and making a screen for me to see the people inside the flames.

There they were. I could see Reece as well as my children. There were Reagan, Rika, and Talia. I missed them so much.

"REECE!" I shouted his name. "REAGAN! RIKA! TALIA!" If this was what was happening right now, maybe they could-.

"They cannot hear you." The other me said before I could finish that thought. "This is a viewing screen only. It does not transmit to the land of the living. It is usually meant to show the viewer their past, however, it can be used to show someone what their family is doing after they are gone." I didn't like the way she was talking. I didn't like the sound of those words.

"But I am not gone. I am not dead. And I need to get back home."

"I know you do, Trinity." The other me gave me a firm look. "And we need to work together to get you out of here. You have been here for a lot longer than you think. In your world, it has already been almost two weeks." [1]

"T..t..two w..we..wee..weeks?" I couldn't believe what she had just told me.

"Yes, Trinity. Almost two weeks. Time passes slower here than in the land of the living. The reason for that is because the souls here are dead, so time does not matter to them anymore. Well, they are usually dead." She giggled while she looked at me. "Come on now, let us get back to this."

I tried to keep looking at the screen, to see Reece and the kids as they sat there at our dining table, eating what looked like dinner. They all looked so sad and somber. Reece looked worn out and worried, and the children all looked like they were on the verge of tears.

"No, my babies. Let me see them. I need to get to them now. I need to make them feel better."

"Then let's hurry up."

I felt my heart aching. No, it was more than that. My heart was shattering as I looked at my children and saw them so close to tears. And knowing that those tears were for me made it even worse. All I wanted to do right then and there was to hold them, all of them. Reagan, Rika, Talia, and Reece. I wanted to hug all of my family and feel their warmth and love.

#### **Chapter 642 - 59- Trinity – Accepting (VOLUME 4)**

6-8 minutes

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Trinity

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"What is the next stage? What is it that I need to do? What is going to happen next? What do you want me to do?" I heard my voice shaking as I said those words to her. All I could think about were my kids and Reece as they sat at the table looking miserable. I knew that they were hurting. I knew that they needed me, but I wasn't there to help them and make it all better. I was failing them. I was failing as a wife and as a mother.

I was on the verge of tears, but I didn't want to cry. Crying right now, for the other me to see, would just add insult to injury for me. I needed to be strong, to make sure that I didn't fall apart completely.

"The next stage, Trinity, is to accept who and what you are. To accept the atrocities that you have either committed or allowed to happen. Then, following that, you need to accept that there is no such thing as perfection. You may not be human, but you have mostly human thought processes, all humanoid creatures do. The shifters, the Fae, the vampires, the witches and warlocks, all of them. They all think like humans do. It is because you are all closer to humans than animals. Even those of you that can become animals, you still live most of your lives as humans so that makes you human in this aspect. You are not animals, you are not angels, you are not demons, you are people, the 'humans' that live in the land of the living."

"OK, so, what does this being human mean? What is the purpose of you saying all of this?" I didn't understand why she went off of the original topic and started to talk about me being a 'human' all of a sudden.

"Have you ever heard the phrase 'I am only human? Are you familiar with it?" She grinned and looked at me.

"You mean what humans say when they make a mistake that is caught by someone else? They will say something like 'I made a mistake, I'm human' or something like that, right? Is that what you mean?" I wanted to make sure that I knew what was being said right now.

"Yes, precisely. You have made a lot of mistakes Trinity. However, you are only human and, therefore, you are prone to making errors and mistakes. That is the first thing that you need to understand right now."

"But I'm not human. I am so much more than that. I am not just a shifter and a witch and a Fae. I am more than that. I am the Luna Queen and I used to be the Goddess Incarnate. But even that is no longer all that I am. I am a Goddess now. I need to be better. I need to do better."

Why? WHY? Why did I sound so desperate and hopeless right now? What the hell was the matter with me? What was going on with me? I needed to fix this, all of this. I needed to make everything better.

"STOP IT, TRINITY!" The other me snapped at me loudly. "That is the thinking that led you to this place to begin with. That is what caused all of this. And remember, all of these errors, mistakes, and other issues that I have shown you, happened BEFORE you became a Goddess."

"Yeah, but it was still me. I didn't change just because I got a new title."

"Precisely." She was looking at me with such intensity that I wanted to recoil. I wanted to, but I didn't.

"What are you talking about?" I was still confused but I needed to act like I didn't know what was going on at the moment.

"You are the same person, Trinity. You have grown and learned things over the last several years, but you are the same person that was taken against her will to the Alpha's estate when she was eighteen. You are the same person that was rejected and then accepted. You are the same person, you have just learned and grown through it all."

"But I-." I started to object. I started to make excuses, or defend myself, or something. I actually didn't know what it was that I was going to say. I just knew that I wanted to defend myself in some way or another. I wasn't able to, though, because the other me interrupted me.

"Stop that." She snapped at me, causing me to stop immediately and just look at her.

For some reason, I was feeling quite vulnerable and broken. Hmm, I wonder if that had anything to do with all of the memories and images that she showed to me. Seeing the heartache and destruction that I had caused, as well as the heartache that my family was feeling right now, that was taking its toll on me, and I was beginning to crack and crumble.

"You need to stop trying to argue with me, Trinity. I am you and I know what I am talking about."

"OK, if you truly are me, when did you first start to come into existence? What was it that actually created you? What part of me are you?"

"I am your darkness, Trinity. I am the part of you that has been harboring all of your dark thoughts since you were young."

"I don't have dark thoughts." I denied it instantly and without even thinking. And even I knew that it was a lie. It was so much a lie that it would probably fuel the darkness inside of me for having so callously and unfeelingly lied.

"I don't want to hear that, Trinity. I wouldn't exist if you didn't."

"When did you start to actually exist?" I needed to know. I needed to know what actually caused something so evil inside of me.

"Well, let us just say that one of my earliest memories is of the things that you wanted to do to your grandfather when you were younger. You used to be so angry with him."

"Huh? B..b..but that was just-."

"That was just the frustrations of a child that didn't understand. Yes, I know. Still, you used to imagine yourself punching him in the face when you first met him. You used to imagine people being as mean to him as he was to you, or what you thought was him being mean to you." I was having sudden flashbacks to when I was a little kid, back when Carter and I would get so mad and angry at Grandfather. We used to dare each other to punch our grandfather when we said hi because he made us both so angry. Neither of us did it, we never would have. It was just a way for us kids to blow off steam.

"So, because I was angry as a child, I am an evil person."

"Stop doing that.." She glared at me then, she just gave me a look that said she was getting frustrated and annoyed while simultaneously crossing her arms in front of her chest.

#### **Chapter 643 - 60- Trinity – Accepting Part 2 (VOLUME 4)**

7-9 minutes

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Trinity

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"Just stop doing that, Trinity. You need to listen to me and for that I need you to stop talking."

"Fine." I nodded, planning to do my best to stay quiet and not interrupt the other me.

"Just do your best." She nodded at me. "I do not expect you to be perfect. You are human, after all. Remember?"

After a small chuckle and a wide grin, the other me settled herself onto the bench a little more, looking a little more relaxed than she had through any of this so far. I guess she was finally starting to get to the real reason why I was brought there. For that, I needed to shut up and listen.

"Now, you asked when I first came into existence, right? Well, that started when you were perhaps five or six years old. It was when you started to realize that everyone had a mom and a dad, or at least one of them. You started to realize that all of your classmates, your cousins, pretty much everyone in the pack had parents of some kind, but you did not remember a single thing about yours."

The other me's voice was ringing eerily in my ears. Or was that just the heartache I was feeling at her words? Still, I was currently holding my chest and straining to hear each word that she said.

"Your aunt and uncle had always talked about your mother. They told you stories about her and about what a wonderful person she was. However, you couldn't match up your mother with your mind. She was just a thought and a story, not a memory. As you got older you asked more and wanted to know more. You even asked your grandfather, but that led to him getting angry and you thought that he was mad at you. In truth, he was just sad and didn't know how to express it very well. As those questions, thoughts, and worries about who you were and where you came from started to grow, so did I. So, to answer when I actually came into existence, Trinity, it was when you started feeling upset about not having parents."

How could that be, though? I loved my family growing up. If I didn't, why would I ask Aunt Eve and Uncle Wesley to be my mom and dad? Didn't I feel loved as a child? Why would I let the darkness start to grow in me because of that? How could that even happen when I was so young.

"Now, Trinity, from there, I was not given the power and strength that I have today. I would not have been able to give you these memories and lessons if that was all that it took to create me. No, that was just the beginning." The other me went on to explain further.

"So, when did you get to be like this? When did things get to be this bad?" I couldn't help it, I just had to interrupt her and ask that.

"To be honest, it was when you first met Reece. There was nothing but animosity between the two of you. You both antagonized each other so much. I cannot say the same for Reece, but you had a lot of dark thoughts, need I remind you of the time you wanted to beat him with a baseball bat?" The other me laughed at the absurdity of it all, but I didn't find it so funny.

"I never would have hit him. It was just me being frustrated, that is all. Why did that have to count as me being evil?" I couldn't believe what I was hearing.

"I did not say that it was evil. I said it was a dark thought. Everyone on the planet, every humanoid that is, will have dark thoughts. That does not make them evil, it makes them human. You did not act on those things, and that makes you a good person, but you need to understand that every person in the world has a little bit of darkness buried deep inside of them. I do not mean to say that you are evil, Trinity. Quite the opposite, you are a good person and that is why you have been haunted by the horrors you have seen."

The other me was right about that as well. Ever since I killed my father all those years ago, I have been haunted by it. I will still have nightmares about the battles I have seen and the people that have died. I never told anyone, and I would never admit it to anyone, not even myself, but I have felt guilt for years. It's been eating away at me. Is my time here meant to help me cope with all of it?

"I can see you contemplating it all, Trinity. And I know that you can see that I am right. You have darkness inside of you. Everyone does. Even the most kindhearted and sweetest people in the world have darkness inside of them. And contrarily, even the darkest and most evil of people, have a shred of goodness inside of them."

"All of them?" I crossed my arms and questioned her.

"All of them." She agreed and stared blankly at me.

"So, you tell me people that have committed some of the biggest atrocities that the world has ever seen had goodness in them?" I couldn't believe what she was telling me. Maybe this other me didn't really know what she was talking about after all.

"Were those people born doing those things? Were they not once innocent little children? Did they not have mothers that loved them and little giggles that brought joy to their hearts? Even your father wasn't born bad, as you saw, he was made that way by the things and people around him. He was an innocent child when he was born and no matter what he did, a scrap of that innocence remained when he did all those evil things."

"I cannot deny that what you are saying is true. I saw with my own eyes that he was not evil. But that doesn't mean that I wholeheartedly agree with you on the issue of my father. I saw no innocence in him when he died."

"I will agree to that, he did not show anything remotely close to his childhood innocence at that time." The other me nodded her head and conceded to me. "However, Trinity, can you agree that you have darkness even though you are a good person? Now that you have been faced with all the things that your actions have caused, can you accept that about yourself and move forward, can you try to think of the broader aspects of the situation rather than just what you see before your eyes?"

The things that the other me was saying made sense, and I knew that I needed to accept it, but it was hard. Knowing that all those things had been my fault. Knowing that I caused so much destruction without even meaning to. All of that would weigh on my mind forever.

"Yes." I answered as I thought about it. "I will never forget what I have seen here. I will never let myself be blinded by what I see ever again. I will look farther and think broader. That will help to eliminate the darkness inside of me." I looked at the other me and saw that she was smiling happily.

"That took a lot less time to convince you than I thought, Trinity." She rose to her feet and stepped toward me, only this time, the fire disappeared as she moved instead of burning her and me. "You have done well. Please stand up."

I did as the other me said and rose before her, standing still and frozen before her as she approached. I didn't move or say anything when she came closer and closer. It looked to me like the other me was going to give me a hug.

"Accept the truth, remember it in the future, and take me with you as a reminder. That is what you must do."

With that, the other me wrapped her arms around me. It didn't just feel like she was hugging me, it felt like she was walking into me. And, as I raised my arms and went to hug her, the other me turned into dust and fell away.. I hadn't even placed my hand on her back and she was already gone.

#### **Chapter 644 - 61- Reece – Telling Little Bunny's Family (VOLUME 4)**

5-7 minutes

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Reece

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Now that I had made all of my calls to ask for help, there was something else that I needed to do. I needed to tell everyone, specifically my Little Bunny's family, about what had happened. The only one that knew about it so far was Noah, and I knew that he was keeping that a secret until we could figure something out.

I knew that I didn't have answers for them right now, but I needed to tell them. It had been two days so far and they would start to worry and wonder soon. If they didn't hear from her or see her soon, they were going to get suspicious about what was happening.

Not to mention, I couldn't keep them in the dark about it. I wouldn't feel right doing that. I would feel like I was doing something wrong and deceitful. That was not the image I wanted to have when it came to dealing with my in-laws.

So, for better or for worse, I invited everyone to come have dinner at the house. It was going to be for the day after the phone calls that I made, since Carter and Emmalee would need to drive a couple of hours to get here from their pack, which by the way was flourishing under Carter's reign.

Everyone other than Carter and Emmalee lived in the area around the castle, or even in the castle. It would be a lot easier for them to come to dinner and therefore I didn't need to wait for them.

I wasn't going to forget anyone at all when I counted those that my Little Bunny called her family. Juniper, Paul, Cedar, and Acacia were coming to the dinner as well. Their children were coming, but they would be spending time with Reagan, Rika, and Talia while I spoke to the adults alone.

I had called down to speak with Abigail and ask her to prepare the meal. That was when she asked me about Trinity.

"She has not had a meal since breakfast two days ago. What is wrong with her, Reece?" I could see the heartache that was filling her eyes. She was such a kind and loving person and she adored my Little Bunny.

"We don't know what is wrong with her, Abigail." I sighed and looked down at the floor to hide the pain in my eyes. "We're trying to figure it out but, at the moment, we are stumped. She is asleep, almost like she is in a coma, but there is nothing physically wrong with her."



"Huh?!" She gasped in shock when she heard my words. "Reece, my boy, I am so sorry." She came closer to me and hugged me then. I remember how she had taken care of me after my mother went into a similar condition. She had been there for me to be the family that I needed at the time. I guess, for her, she was always going to be that family for me. I was happy to see that.

After that, Abigail started to prepare for the dinner and left the room. I hadn't told those that would be the most upset about it yet and it was already almost too much for me. I needed to do better next time. I needed to try harder next time.

Finally, the time for dinner rolled around. I waited in the hall for the children who were getting ready for the meal on their own. Their attendants were given time off for this current situation. We needed to keep the information protected at the moment. We knew them, and we trusted them, but that didn't mean that they wouldn't gossip. Of course they probably wouldn't do it maliciously or anything like that, but it was still a possibility that they would tell someone and I couldn't risk that happening. No, this was safer right now.

Now that the children and I were all ready, we went down to the dining room where we were due to greet our guests. They were all waiting for us already. I wanted to have everyone here and greet them all at once. That would be the easiest on the kids. They were going through enough right now, I didn't need to add more to it.

"Daddy, why do we have to have a party right now?" Reagan asked me while we walked to the dining room.

"This isn't a party, son. This is just dinner with our family so that we can tell them what happened to Mommy. We don't want to repeat it several times, do we? It would just be much easier and makes more sense to have them all here at once to tell them." I tried my best to explain it to them.

"Then, why do we have to play with the other kids? I don't feel like playing right now." Talia sounded so sad, and heartbroken at the moment.

"Well, Talia baby, it wouldn't be nice to make the other kids feel bad by hearing about Mommy, right? I know you're all sad but you don't want them to hurt as well, do you? So you will all be playing with the other kids so they don't hear us grown ups talking. And I would like for you all to not talk about Mommy at all during the dinner. It would be best for them not to know at all."

"Alright."

"OK, Dad."

"We won't tell them anything at all." All three of them agreed to what I said so readily. They really were good kids. How did I get so lucky to have such good kids? I hoped that the triplets made it with Trinity in the state that she is in right now. I didn't want anything to happen to them or my Little Bunny. I wanted all of them to survive. And I couldn't wait to see what kind of people the triplets grew up to be.. If they were anything like the other kids, they would be perfect.

#### **Chapter 645 - 62- Reece – Telling Little Bunny's Part 2 (VOLUME 4)**

6-8 minutes

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Reece

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The four of us made our way down together with slow, sad steps. It was like we all were so listless and lifeless. By the time that we all got to the doors to join our family in the royal tower's dining room, I literally felt like we were all walking to a funeral rather than a meal. That wasn't the mood we needed to enter the room with.

"Hey guys, look at me for a moment." I crouched down and called out to them and had them turn to face me. I could see that they were close to tears, but they weren't fully crying. "I know we're all sad and miss Mommy. We want her to wake up soon, but we have to be patient. However, I think Mommy would like it if we were all just a little more upbeat. She wouldn't want to see us so sad right now. We need to stay strong so that we can make sure everyone else is strong. That is what Mommy would want from us. So come on, let's put some smiles on those faces and do our best. For Mommy's sake, right."

I didn't know how they would react to what I said, but thankfully, they were all three smiling with light grins when they looked back at me right now.

"Do you guys think you can manage that? For me and for Mommy?" They were all nodding and giving me looks filled with a little more confidence than they had before. "OK, good. Now let's go have a nice dinner with our family and then you can play with your cousins afterwards."

I stood then and opened the door to the dining room. Everyone was already seated around the table and waiting for us.

"Sorry for keeping you all waiting. We had some things that we needed to discuss." I smiled at them as I started to move around the room. I had all of my Little Bunny's family here as well as my mom who was here with her new husband, Little Bunny's grandfather.

I could see that everyone was waiting for the explanation, the reason why they were all here. Their eyes were curious and their faces were tense.

"Reece, where is Trinity? Why isn't she here yet?" Eve asked as I went to sit down after greeting them all.

"She isn't coming to dinner today. Let's just eat and we will talk about things afterwards. I am sure that the kids are eager to play together when we're done with the meal."

I knew that they understood the subtle little things that I was saying. Trinity isn't coming and now isn't the time to talk about it. Let's eat and talk in private later. That didn't make any of them feel any better at all. Actually, they all looked more tense, but none of them said a word.

We all enjoyed the meal as best as we could. There was some talk about how the kids had been and new developments in their lives, but aside from that, nothing was mentioned about Trinity. That was good, I was glad that they all followed along so easily.

After the final dish was cleared away, Reagan, Rika, and Talia stood instantly and started to call the kids to their respective rooms. The large group of children left the dining room as they followed after them. Now it was time for me to get to work.

"Come on everyone, let us go to a sitting room and talk things over." They didn't say anything at that moment. They all just stood and followed me into the other room where we could sit and relax. However, the moment that they were seated, the first question was thrown at me.

"Reece, where is my sister?" Carter asked me with a little bit of anger in his voice.

"Where is Trinity? Come on Reece's Pieces, I want to see my best friend."

"How come Trinity didn't come to dinner?" Eve asked next.

"Reece, what is going on here?" Wesley sounded concerned.

"Tell us Reece, where is my granddaughter?" Samuel looked as stern as ever.

"Son, what is going on?" Mom was next.

"Yeah, I agree. I want to know where my Astro is." Paul piped up.

"Give him time to breathe and time to answer." Cedar came to my aid a little. "We all want to know but you're not giving him the time to answer."

"Cedar is right, you guys. Reece needs time to answer all of our questions." Acacia added for her husband.

"Thank you." I nodded at Cedar and Acacia to show them my thanks.

"Oh, it's not just for your benefit." Cedar gave me a stern look. "I just want to speed this up so I can find out what happened to Trinity."

"Yeah, and if we find out that you did something to her, we will make you pay." Carter was so protective of Trinity. He always had been.

"Calm down." Noah snapped at him. "He didn't do anything."

"You know what happened and didn't tell us?!" That seemed to make Carter even angrier.

"How could you keep this to yourself?" Wesley sounded hurt.

"I asked him to. We needed to figure some things out. So, if you would all give me some of your time, I will explain it all now."

They didn't say anything but all of them settled into their chairs and turned to look at me. They were ready for the explanation.

I gave it to them. I made sure to tell them everything from the moment that I got the call about her being found in the hall and up until today when I had seen her last. She was still laying there, as still as could be. She was pale and not moving. It was like she was asleep, since I could still hear her heart beating and see her breathing.

I had also had Griffin hook her up to the equipment that monitored her condition. She was given a feeding tube to make sure that she was still getting nourishment and the triplets could grow and thrive.

"How could this be?" Eve was the first to ask in a low wail as she held her face in her hands.

"What happened to her?" Carter looked like he was close to tears.

The others added their questions too. Almost all at once.

"What happened to my best friend?"

"Wake her up already. Kiss her like it's a fairy tale."

"This is impossible."

The outbursts went on for a while. They were upset and I knew that they would. I had to try my best to explain things to them while I told them what I was doing to wake her up and fix this situation.

They all went from anger to sadness, back to anger, and finally settling on heartbreak. Some of them were in a state of denial that Noah and I had to work hard to break through. It was a tough night, but I finally managed to make it through and have them all understand what had happened.. Finally, they knew and I didn't have to feel like I was doing something wrong by keeping it from them.

#### **Chapter 646 - 63- Reece – What Is Going On? (VOLUME 4)**

6-8 minutes

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Reece

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Seven days. A week. One hundred and sixty-eight hours. Ten thousand and eighty minutes. Six hundred and four thousand eight hundred seconds. That was how long it had been since I came home to find my wife comatose. OK, I don't know about the exact second, and I might be off by a minute or two, but everything else is exact.

"Where are you, Trinity? Why aren't you coming home to me? To your family? What are you doing out there?" I knew that asking her these questions was pointless. It wasn't like she could answer them for me right now anyway. Still, it made me feel a little bit better to actually say them out loud.

For this past week I have done everything that I could to keep myself from falling apart. I have been trying to stay strong and calm for the kids. I had even kept it together as best as I could when I spoke to Trinity's family. That had been hard, way harder than I expected it to be. I made it though and it was done.

Now, all I could do was sit there and wish that there was more for me to do. I wanted to do something, anything, that would help my wife's soul to come home. I needed to do something that would fix this whole situation.

As I went round and around with these thoughts inside my head, I heard someone knock on the door to my room. There were very few people that would come to disturb me while I was in my room with my wife. And I could tell by the way that they walked and they smelled, that they were someone that would have no problem interrupting me right now.

"Reece, can I come in?" Trevor called from the other side of the door.

"Yeah, come on in." I agreed, but I didn't look away from my Little Bunny, and I didn't let go of her hand. I was still putting almost all of my attention on my wife. No offense to one of my best friends in the entire world, but my mate came first.

"Hey man, how are you holding up?" He came right over to me after he opened the door and clapped a hand on my shoulder. With his grip firm on me, squeezing comfortingly, I finally looked away from my Little Bunny and up into Trevor's face.

"I'm not."

That was the first time that I honestly admitted that I was not doing so well. I have been trying my best to be positive for the kids and everyone else, but it was so hard on me. It was all just an act. I wasn't really holding it together at all. On the inside, all I wanted to do was scream, yell, howl, whine, tear someone's throat out, anything that would be doing something. I couldn't, though. All I could do was sit here and hold it all together with will power and duct tape.

"I'm not holding it together at all." I added, feeling the grip on my self control getting very thin. "I don't want to hold it together anymore either. All I want to do is let it all go."

"Go ahead man, no one's looking but me. Let it go. Get it out." Trevor would never judge me, and I knew that, but I still couldn't do it.

"No. No, I can't." I shook my head and tried to violently push that idea away. I couldn't let it go. I needed to be strong. I needed to be tough. I needed to make sure that I was the heart, soul, and strength of this family. I needed to do that for Trinity."

"Listen to me, Reece. If you don't let off some steam, you will be no better than Trinity was when we came to visit you recently. You will be bottling up everything that is bothering you and keeping everyone in the dark. Do you want to end up in the same position that she is in? Do you want that to happen to you too? Are you willing to let the kids have no parents for the time being?"

Trevor's words were definitely eye opening. He was right. I was acting the exact same way that my Little Bunny had been before this happened to her. I was following right after her without even thinking about it.

"Maybe I should try to follow her. Maybe I should, so that I could go get her and bring her back." That thought made my heart race with sudden ideas. Could I go after her? Could I bring her back? How would I do it?

"Shut the fuck up, Reece!" Trevor snapped at me. "You know, that is the stupidest idea I have heard in a very long time. How the hell are you going to sit there and even contemplate that idea?"

I didn't understand Trevor's anger at me. Why was he so pissed off that I wanted to go after my wife? Why was he so pissed that I wanted to try to bring her back?

"What the hell, Trevor? You don't know how it feels. You don't know what I am going through. You can't imagine what I want to do. I should go after her. I should help her. I am her mate, it's my job to help her." I was fuming right now, nearly frothing at the mouth as I responded angrily to him.

"Yeah, you're right, I don't know what it is that you are feeling. I couldn't even imagine it because I have never felt something like that, and I thank the Goddess that I haven't. but that doesn't mean that I want to see you go through this. Or watch Talia, Reagan, and Rika lose both of their parents. You know that those three kids are already suffering, do you want to make it worse?"

His words brought me back to my senses. He was right. I knew that already. But he had pointed it out to me and that was good enough. I couldn't leave to go after Trinity. If I did, the kids would be devastated, even more than they already are. I can't do that to them. I can't bring myself to put them through that.

"I'm sorry, Trevor." I hung my head, the tears that I had been fighting to hold back for the last week finally streaming down my cheeks. "I'm so sorry. I just feel so helpless. I want to help her, but I don't even know what is going on. I don't know how to fix this. I don't know what to do. Dammit, I'm at a loss." I was crying. Bawling really. I was like a little baby that wasn't able to stop. Once I started, I just couldn't stop.

"Why the hell do you think that I am here, Reece? What do you think that I came here for if not to help you out?" I didn't understand what he was saying for a moment.. How could he help me? I didn't know, but apparently he did, because he looked very confident in his knowledge.

#### **Chapter 647 - 64- Reece – What Is Going On? Part 2 (VOLUME 4)**

6-8 minutes

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Reece

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"What are you saying, Trevor? I don't think I am following you? How can you help Trinity?"

"Well, ever since you called, I have been researching some things. I have a couple of people in my pack that are half bear and half witch doctor. They were a little uhm.., well, let's just say that they were not ordinary, OK. These people, they're twins, and they can do some things that no one else can."

I was trying to follow along with what he was saying but he was still standing over me from where I sat. In all honesty, I was not accustomed to tilting my head back that much looking that high up, so it was throwing me off a little.

"I don't think that I am following you, Trevor. Sit down somewhere so I can see you better and then we can talk."

"It doesn't look to me like you can see shit. Those eyes of yours are swollen nearly all the way shut with the tears you had been shedding, that and the force of holding them in. You look like a wreck, man."

"Gee, thanks so much for that vote of confidence in me. I appreciate it so much." I wanted to snap at him, to say the words angrily, but I didn't. Instead, the words came out weak and defeated.

"Come on Reece, let's go sit at the table so we can talk. Maybe call someone to bring you some coffee."

"I don't want to leave Trinity's side. I just want to sit here and hold onto her and hope that she wakes up." I refused his suggestion and looked back at my Little Bunny through my swollen eyes.

"Fuck that, come on." He grabbed me by the back of my neck and pulled me to my feet. I tried to fight him off and hold to my Little Bunny's hand, but he stopped me with little effort. "This is pathetic. You're letting yourself get beat by me too easily, Reece. You see what I mean about you, you're going to end up hurt soon. You need to vent and for Goddess's sake, Reece, you need to fucking sleep. And, are you even eating at all? You're losing weight like crazy."

"I haven't lost that much, it's only a few pounds." I tried to deny his accusation but even that sounded half hearted to my own ears. Dammit, this was not going well. Trevor was right, I was letting myself go. I was giving up. And if I did that, I would end up catatonic like my mom did.

"Come on, sit at the table, order the maid to bring you some food and coffee, then sit here and talk to me. I won't leave until we have said our peace, but I am not going to say anything until you take care of yourself." He was being firm with me and I knew it was out of the brotherly bond we had since we were kids.

At this point, Trevor had just forcibly sat me down in a chair after literally carrying me across the room. He was standing behind me and hovering over me until I made the order to have some food brought up to me. I did as he wanted and sent a mental link to Abigail and Roisin. I asked for lunch, coffee, water, beer and snacks. I wanted to make sure that Trevor had something as well and I didn't know how long he and I were going to talk for.

The food was apparently already made. They had been waiting for me to call for them to bring the food to come to the room. I hadn't realized how much I was worrying the few staff members that we were still keeping on at the moment. They were probably thinking that I was going to end up like Trinity as well. Dammit! I've been a fucking fool.

The food was brought right up by a relieved looking Roisin. She didn't linger though. She just set down the plates and then backed out of the room with a smile on her face. After that, Trevor refused to say anything until I ate at least half of my food. I needed to get the nourishment into me, or so he said.

After the two of us ate and downed a few beers, Trevor was ready to move on and actually talk. I didn't know what it was that he had to tell me, but I knew that it was enough for him to have come all the way here from the compound.

"Alright, now that you've gotten a little bit of color back into your face, sit right there, shut up, and listen." He growled at me but not in an angry way. I could tell that he had truly been worried about me when he first got here.

"I am already sitting, and I hadn't said anything, so I didn't need to shut up." I joked with him as he was doing with me. It was our way of showing our love for each other.

"Well, now you do need to shut up." He grinned then leaned forward to brace his arms on the table in front of him. "Now, I mentioned to you those twins from my pack, right. Well, they've had differences about them their whole lives, and I admit that I didn't pay much attention to them all that much before. When I started to ask people in my pack about souls and things like that, I was told to talk to Chloe and Charlie. They are not often out and socializing with the rest of the pack. In fact, the two of them live up in the mountains and try to avoid everyone at all costs." I was a little intrigued by what he was saying, but I didn't know what it mattered to me.

"So, why are these twins so important?" I asked him, still trying to figure it out.

"Well, apparently, these twins are able to communicate with spirits. They can contact ghosts and other apparitions. And it's legitimate too. It's not a hoax or anything that is fake. It's real."

"OK, well, thanks for that Trevor, but Trinity isn't a ghost. She's in a coma because her soul left her body."

"Yeah, I know that, dumbass. What is a ghost if not a soul that does not have a body anymore? I am coming to you with this because I want to bring the twins here to see if they can see what happened with Trinity and find out why her soul isn't here anymore. It's a long shot but it's the only thing that I can come up with. And not to mean, Glory hasn't managed to find anything yet either. So, you have to admit, it's worth a shot."

Trevor had a point. A ghost was a soul. So if these twins can communicate with ghosts, it means that they communicated with souls. And my Little Bunny was currently without her soul right now.

"Yeah, you're right. It's worth a shot." I smiled and nodded at him as I thought about what he was offering me. "Thank you, Trevor."

"See, I told you I had something for you, moron." That was his way of being embarrassed and being happy that I accepted his help.. He was easy to read, to me at least.

#### **Chapter 648 - 65- Trinity – Where To Go Now? (VOLUME 4)**

6-8 minutes

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Trinity

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I was reeling now. I didn't know what to think. I went to hug the other me back after she put her arms around me and, all of a sudden, she just turned to dust and disappeared.

"What the hell?! Where did she go?" I asked the emptiness that stretched out before me.



'I am still here. I am just inside your head once again.' There was a slight amount of laughter that came with that voice.

"Are you going to be in there forever? Are you going to start those whispers again that drove me crazy?" I was a little upset that I was going to deal with the voice in my head once again.

'I only started to talk to you once you got here in the self reflection realm. Prior to that, I never spoke to you. Not like this anyway. And I will only continue to speak to you while you are in the underworld. It is part of the magic that brought me to life. I can only speak to you here. The rest of the time, I will be part of your intuition. That will be me subtly speaking to you by guiding you in the right path.'

"What do you mean? Wasn't that you that had been talking to me the entire time? If it wasn't you that was driving me insane, who was it?"

I was starting to hyperventilate now. I didn't like the idea that someone else had been inside of my head. I mean, how many visitors did I have?

'I was not a visitor. I was always one of your permanent residents. I was just a mute one until you came here.'

"OK, but who was the other person? Since you seem to know so much about this place, can you tell me who that person was?"

'I would think that it would be obvious. The voice was telling you to stop someone from escaping and causing a calamity. Yet, those voices were also blaming you for everything. My guess is that the voice and the someone trying to escape are one and the same.' The other me, or should I say that part of me, sounded so matter of fact when she answered me just now.

"What? How is that even possible? How does that even make sense?" I was trying to wrap my head around the things that I had just heard. "Why would the voice warn me against itself?"

I tried to think about that for a minute. If I was someone that was trapped in hell and wanted to get out, namely Hekate, then, wouldn't it make sense to lure someone to their location as a means of getting out? OK, if that is true, then that would mean that the voice that was saying all those things to me, was Hekate.

Now, if that was right, assuming I was moving in the right direction at all, then how was it that she planned to use me to escape? And, how was she even able to reach me in the first place? Those were the big issues that I needed to answer.

'Might I interject for a moment?' The other me spoke up again. 'You were not the first person that Hekate has communicated with while inside the underworld. Do you not remember your father's childhood and his invisible companion? That was him talking with Hekate's voice. She has reached out several times to powerful people over time. Most of the time, she tries to get them on her side, but that usually does not work out for her. I think that she has changed her tactic now. She needs to be reaching out to you in hopes that you will attempt to stop her and inadvertently let her out.'

"That is quite the theory that you have there." I crossed my arms at the way the other me was taking this train of thought.

'I am simply a part of you, Trinity. I am not thinking about something that you haven't already thought about. It is just that those thoughts were dwelling at the back of your mind where they were trying to stay buried. That is where the darker and more morbid of your thoughts usually stay, and that is also where I usually stay.'

"OK, you're probably right. So then, I should do my best to leave the underworld without coming into contact with Hekate. Is that what you are saying?"

'Well, if you can, yes. But then again, would that not just lead to her invading your mind even more? I think that we need to destroy her. That would be the best option in my, or rather our, opinion.'

"Hahh." I sighed loudly, it wasn't like anyone other than me, or me, was going to hear it.

'Stop your bellyaching. We have work to do Trinity.'

"Yeah, yeah, I know. I just wanted to get home now rather than to go after the fucking Goddess of dark magic. I can't even use my magic here, so I don't even know how I am going to destroy her."

'We will figure that out. For now, we need to find a way out of this place. I say we move out.'

"What are you, my commanding officer?" I laughed at myself for having just made a joke with myself. Damn, if anyone else saw me talking to myself like this, I would be the talk of the town. And they would reward me with a nice new jacket, one that buckled in the back and gave the best self hugs ever.

'Just start walking. I do not have that ability anymore.' The other me laughed at me again. Dammit, this was weird, but somehow comforting.

I did as the other me told me to do. She was me after all, so I wasn't listening to someone else's orders, I was listening to myself and what I wanted. Don't think too much about it, it will just confuse you. Just know that I was doing what I wanted to do and nothing else.

The moment that I left the circle with the fire in it, the barrier finally gone, the blaze extinguished itself. It went from blazing high and hot, to being nothing there at all. I was hoping that I was moving in the right direction, whatever the right direction was right now. And I was once again moving slowly and dragging my feet to make sure that I didn't trip over anything.

"Hey, other me, I wanted to ask you something."

'Yes, Trinity?'

"If you are me, from the inside of me, then why did you burn me, twice?"

'You were not physically harmed. It was more of you just feeling the effects of it. And I am you, Trinity. You would not have liked someone talking to you like that. I did not like it either.'

"I think you're just making excuses, but I will listen to it for now. Just don't ever do it again."

'I make no promises for when you die. But that will be many, many, many years from now.'

"Great. I get to come back here again." I truly sounded enthusiastic about that. Yup. And I was the Queen of the universe and not just the shifters and magic users. That's how true that was. You know,

sarcasm. Yeah, I know, I am being overly obvious right now.. Can you blame me, though? I am trapped in this dark prison.

#### **Chapter 649 - 66- Trinity – Guides (VOLUME 4)**

6-8 minutes

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Trinity

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It felt like I had been walking for hours. I was moving along in the same direction without seeing anything and therefore without knowing if I was making any progress at all. For all I knew, I could have been walking in circles. Wouldn't that just be grand? Making an ass of myself that way as I tried to move into the proper direction that I needed to only to be stuck here forever.

"STOP IT!"

'Hush Trinity!' I scolded myself at the same time that the other me did the same thing.

"Yeah, I know. This isn't going to help me at all."

'No, it will not.' She agreed with me. 'You need to stay positive. That is one key to making it through the underworld. Just as you referred to it already, this is the place that the mortals call hell. It is the afterlife for all living beings on Earth. That means that it will try to make you feel despair.'

"Wait a minute. If this is hell, does that mean that there is a heaven?" I had to ask. I mean, I never thought about heaven in that way but if it were actually real, then I would like to know. That would be some prime information.

'Not in the sense that you are thinking about. Heaven and Hell are both the afterlife. They are both in the land of the dead and gone. Where you end up in the underworld all depends on you and the things that you have done.'

"Well, based on the marathon session that we just had, I can assume I am winding up in the hell section." I felt my head and shoulders lower without even meaning to.

'No, you are not an evil person, Trinity. You did what you did thinking you were doing things for the greater good, not to be evil or malicious. There is a difference, you know. And all I wanted you to do while we spoke, was to acknowledge that you still have a lot of room to grow as time moves forward.' This other me was taking on a whole new attitude now that she was inside of me again.

"I will do my best to remember that."

Things were settling down with the conversation and I was doing my best to stay positive. I mean, I truly was trying my hardest. It was just really, really hard when you're in a place like this. Not to mention, it was completely dark in a way that filled your whole body and soul.

"Think happy thoughts." I told myself as I kept moving. "Just think happy thoughts."

'It won't make you fly.' The other me laughed.

"Yeah, because I am already in Neverland. As in, I never want to come back here again."

As I made my little joke, I finally saw something out of the corner of my eye. It was just a slight flash of light, but it was the first thing that I had seen since I left the circle with the fire and was plunged into darkness.

I immediately turned to my right and started to follow after that light that I saw. That light was important. If nothing else, it proved that there was something over there and that I had been moving in the right direction. It was a symbol of hope. It was my happy thought.

"Follow the light. Follow the light. Follow the light." I was just whispering the words to myself over and over again. It was like a near silent mantra that I just needed to repeat again and again until I found out what that light was and where it led me.

After a little while, I stopped walking in a slow shuffle. I started to jog and then run as I rushed forward blindly. I was doing something reckless and dangerous once again, but I had no other choice. I needed to be able to get out of this purgatory and into the next stage of my time here. I needed to move forward so that I could get home.

The first thing that I saw looming up before me, was what looked like a giant mountain. It was tall with sheer cliffs and slippery slopes that looked like it would be extremely hard to climb. There also seemed to be no end in sight as it rose before me. I couldn't see where the top of the mountain was.

Without thinking, I rushed forward and tried to climb the mountain. I instantly fell back and slid down to the ground, or was it a floor. I couldn't always tell if I was inside or not.

I tried again. I rushed forward, faster than before. This time I managed to get a hold of the rock and hold on for just a few minutes. I made it several feet up the side of the slick, slippery rock surface. I struggled to hold on but I couldn't manage it. I started to fall back down and slipped all the way back to the beginning.

"This fucking sucks." I growled out as I made a third rush for the mountain side. I leapt just before I got to the hard surface and made it about ten feet up the side. I tried as hard as I could to hold on tight and move up the side of the mountain. Alas, I once again slipped and went tumbling down the rocks until I ended up landing on my ass, once again on the hard ground.

"DAMMIT!" I snapped as I rose to my feet.

As I stood there before the looming mountain face, getting more and more discouraged by the second, I started trying to find something else, some other way, that might help me to climb these slopes. I was looking all around me, all over the place trying to find something that I might have missed. That was when I noticed that the light was not coming from the mountain like I had originally thought that it was. No, the light was coming from somewhere down and to the side of the looming rocks.

After beating myself up for not paying enough attention in the beginning, I started to move again. I knew that I just needed to keep moving. I had to keep going. I needed to find my way out of here. That

was all that I was telling myself over and over again. Find the light, find a way out. That was the only thing that I was thinking about.

As I started to follow that path down the side of the mountain, I grinned in anticipation. I knew that this was going to be it. This was my way out. I just knew that it had to be. There was nothing that could possibly go wrong right now. I just needed to find that elusive light and I would find my way out of here. It was that simple. I kept repeating those thoughts, focusing on that as my happy thought to drive away the despair. I just knew that I was going to get out of here.

Well, that was, until I saw what was waiting for me when I actually found the light.

### **Chapter 650 - 67- Trinity – Guides Part 2 (VOLUME 4)**

6-8 minutes

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Trinity

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The moment that I saw the true source of the light, I wanted to groan or cry out in frustration, or something along those lines. WHY!? Why did it have to be this?

There was a door. Yes, that was a good thing. It was exactly what I was looking for. However, standing in front of the door were those three little imps. Those little imps had been there for every door that I had gone through since this ordeal started.

Those little devils had brought me to this place to begin with. My initial entrance into the underworld and the level of self reflection, all of it was them. Were they trying to sabotage me?

Then again, they stopped me from following that other voice. That one that was evil and probably belonged to Hekate. They made sure that I didn't walk right into her stupid trap. So, they did save me, I guess.

And, well, when I went through the door to the self reflection area, I had been looking for any way to get out of where I was to begin with. I was stuck because I had nowhere to go and nothing to do. I needed a way out of there and they gave me one. They led me here so that I could continue my journey. That was sort of helpful too.

OK. OK. I get it. They weren't here to sabotage me. But what was it that they did want? I mean, why were they here?

As I asked myself those questions, I looked closely at them again. They really did look like Reece. That was so insane. Why was I projecting his image onto these little imps? I know that I miss him and all, but I wouldn't think that I would be projecting him like that. I mean, that was pretty much the same thing as hallucinating. Was I seeing things that weren't really there?

Could there be something more to this? Could these imps be something more? I don't know if that was the case or not, but I did know that I needed to keep moving and not stay still. I needed to be like a shark. I can't stop moving for anything.

I almost stopped though. When I saw those little imps looking at me with huge smiles on their little child-like faces. It was almost too much for me. I didn't want to think of them as children and I didn't want to think that they looked like my children, but I couldn't stop it. That was all that went through my mind right then.

Those grins weren't evil and they weren't trying to hide anything behind them. All those smiles made me think was the way that Talia looked when I came home after a long day of working. Or the way that Reagan and Rika used to run to me smiling after their first few days at preschool. Those smiles looked like the smiles of children that saw their mother.

But these imps weren't my children. So, why were they looking at me like that? I tried to figure out the answers to those questions as I slowly approached the door in front of me. The imp on the right came running forward then and took my hand. He was looking up at me just like the way Reagan, Rika and Talia would do when I held their hands. This was so strange, so bizarre.

"Why are you here?" I asked them, I was unable to stop myself from doing it. They didn't answer me though. All they did was smile and point at me, specifically my waist. That made no sense to me at all. "Where did you come from?" I tried again. Once again they just pointed at me and didn't speak. "Where do you belong?" One of the imps put his hand on my belly but still didn't say anything. "No, you don't belong in there. I have my three kids at home, and I lost one baby before. Still, I would remember if I ever had three babies at once. That would kind of stick out in my memory."

I laughed and tried to shake off what the imp was doing, but he didn't stop. He just kept his hand on my belly while smiling at me. After a moment he even started to pat my belly like he was offering comfort or something.

Well, that was odd.

It didn't matter though. We had gotten to the door that was waiting here for me. The door was once again just standing there with nothing supporting it at all. There it was, in color, as were the imps, but everything else around me, including myself, were still in black and white.

I timidly reached out with my left hand, letting go of one of the imp's hands in the process. The knob of the door was solid and warm like it had been held by someone else recently. Or like maybe whatever was on the other side of this door was really, really warm.

That was a comforting thought. Was this door going to lead me into the true 'hell' part of this underworld? Was this the fire and brimstone section? That wasn't a very comforting thought. What exactly was going to happen to me when I opened that door?

"Is this safe?" I looked at the imps, one after another. I was trying to see if they were confident about this door or not. They were all still smiling, and they all nodded at me to tell me that it was safe. I guess that I had no choice, there was literally no other option for me right now.

I took a deep breath while I steadied my hand that was on the door knob.

I was procrastinating. I was stalling. I was doing anything that I could to not turn the knob. That included looking all around me as I was waiting with my hand on the door.

'Come on, Trinity, stop hesitating.' The other me called out from the back of my mind. 'You can do this. There is no reason for you to act like a baby at this point.'

"Oh, shut up you." I snapped at her and saw the three little imp boys recoil just a little. "Not you three. I am talking about the voice inside my head." They tilted their heads in confusion like they didn't know what was going on, but they were worried about me. Or they were just worried about my sanity. Yeah, the latter was probably the case.

'They cannot hear me, and they never saw me. They do not know anything about me. I am only here for you, Trinity.'

"Isn't that just wonderful?" I sighed as I shook my head. "I know you're right, though. And not about them not knowing about you. I am referring to the fact that I need to stop being a baby. I need to just open this and go."

No more deep breaths, no more stalling. I just bit the bullet, figuratively speaking that is.. I opened the door and saw a bright white light that blocked out everything else on the other side of the door.