

## Chosen by Fate 651

### Chapter 651 - 68- Trinity – On The Other Side (VOLUME 4)

Trinity

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I immediately put my hand up to block out the light that was blinding me. I couldn't see anything anymore, and it was all that light's fault. All I could do was alternate between squinting and closing my eyes to let them adjust. I was also trying to blink out the tears that had formed in them.

"What the hell?" I couldn't move forward at all because I couldn't see anything. This blinding light was worse than the full darkness that I had been in before. This was causing me physical pain just trying to look into it. Darkness didn't hurt the eyes like this.

As I sat there, trying to figure out what to do, I felt myself being pushed and pulled. Two of the little imp boys were pulling my hands while the third one was pushing me at the small of my back. They were trying to force me through the door.

"What are you doing? I can't see in there. This place isn't safe for me. Let me go."

They weren't listening to me, though. Of course not. They were imps and that meant that they were trying to play tricks on me. And even if they were children, well a lot of them don't listen when they're young either.

"Please, stop pulling me. I don't want to go in there right now." I tried to stop them, but they had already pulled me over the threshold. The moment that my feet went over it the same thing as last time happened. It was like I was being pulled into some type of vortex. I was spiraling and falling uncontrollably.

Well, it felt uncontrollable, to me at least. However, I wasn't alone. For some reason, all three of those little imps were still with me. The two that had grabbed my hands were still holding them and the other one that had been pushing me had grabbed a hold of my waist. All four of us were spinning and falling into that bright white light.

I still couldn't see anything, but I didn't think that mattered very much. I mean, when I splattered and died, I didn't think it would help me at all when I saw the end coming. It would be so much easier on me if it all just ended abruptly.

Only, I wasn't about to die, and I knew that. I was just being melodramatic. I was already slowing down, and I could tell that the light on the other side of my eyelids had lessened at least a little bit. I was coming close to landing in a new place once again.

How many times was this going to happen to me? How many more doors did I have to find until I found out where I was going and took care of what I needed to. How long was it going to be before I got to go home?

When I landed, it wasn't as soft as I thought that it would be. I landed in a slightly painful heap with the three little imp boys tangled with me. I don't know about them, but that fall hurt my ass.

When I looked at the little imps, I felt my heart break just a little bit. All three of them looked like they were about to cry. They looked like they were in pain and wanted to cry so that their mommy would kiss their booboo and make it all better.

Why was it that the more that I was with them, the more I was seeing these three little imps as little boys instead of trickster devils?

"Are you OK?" I asked them. The two that were holding my hands nodded and forced their faces into something that looked like they were being big boys that didn't want to cry. The third one, the one that had been behind me and who had been under me when I landed, shook his head no. He had tears streaming down his cheeks and was rubbing the side of his head.

"Aww, did you hurt your head?" I spoke to him like I was his mom. I spoke to him like I had spoken to Reagan when he was about three or four and he had hurt himself.

That was something else that was strange. The three little imps seemed to be changing in how old they looked. Most of the time I would put them at about seven or eight, about the same age as Reagan and Rika. But right now, they looked younger. Especially this one that was crying. The other two looked to be about five at most, a year older than Talia. But this one looked like he was about three at most. Was their appearance based on their emotions? That would be interesting if that was the case.

The little imp boy was nodding his head when I asked him if he hit his head. He was truly very childlike at the moment.

"Come here." I moved and spoke on instinct. I pulled the little boy toward me and pressed my lips to the part of his head that he had been rubbing, the part that had his booboo on it.

I don't know why I did it, but it just felt right. It seemed to me like what I was supposed to be doing. And when I did it, I got the slightest whiff of someone's scent. Someone that I knew wasn't here and was surprised that these little imp boys smelled like. They smelled like Reece. Not fully, but just a little.

"All better?" I asked him as I pulled away from him. That was when I saw him smiling and looking at me with those familiar golden eyes.

It wasn't just my imagination anymore. These boys really did look and smell like Reece. I just didn't know why yet. I did know that I could trust them. If they were part of Reece then they were meant to help me.

After I made the little imp boy feel better, I looked around me. I hadn't gone far. I seemed to be just outside of the compound and on the road that led into the heart of Colorado Springs. There was color around me now, but it was muted. And I didn't see a single person around me at all.

"HELLO!?" I called out, knowing that it would do me no good. There was no one around that was going to answer me.

'What do you think we should do now, Trinity?' The other me asked after my echo died down.

"I think we should go into town." I looked at the three little imps as if I was telling them and not just the voice inside my head. "Want to come with me?" The three of them nodded eagerly. "Then I guess we are going into town."

Two of them held my hands, the last one held onto his brother's hand. It really did make me think of something a family would do. But that was crazy, they weren't my family. They were just helping me, that was all.. Though they were really adorable, I wouldn't mind if we really were family.

## **Chapter 652 - 69- Trinity – To The City (VOLUME 4)**

6-8 minutes

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Trinity

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It felt very strange. Walking down the road and toward the city with the muted colors surrounding me and no sounds filling the air. I hadn't noticed it at first, I had been a little too preoccupied by other things, but there were no sounds at all coming from this world. There was no sound of the wind. No birds chirping or frogs croaking. There wasn't even the sound of crickets in the woods.

And, just like the other sounds, there were no sounds that could be heard from the city. No matter how peaceful it was, I should have been able to hear the sound of cars and other things coming from the busy city. That is, I would have heard those sounds if I was in the real world. I guess the underworld was so empty and desolate that there were no sounds to be heard coming from a major metropolitan area.

I tried not to think about the desolation of the landscape around me as I walked on. This was supposed to be the underworld, a land of the dead. Shouldn't it be filled with the souls of those dead people? Or were they all in their respective heavens and hells?

While I was doing my best to not think about those things, I thought about something else. At least I could walk normally now. That strange sticky feeling in the atmosphere was no longer affecting me. Though, I didn't know if that was a good thing or not.

Did the fact that the land was no longer pushing against me mean that I was closer to being a permanent part of the underworld? Would I be stuck here forever if I didn't hurry and finish my business? These were the thoughts that were plaguing me at the moment.

It felt like it took me about forty-five minutes to make it to the edge of the city from the gates of the compound. I think that I had subconsciously adjusted my walking speed so that the three little imp boys didn't have to run to keep up with me. The mommy part of me had naturally walked at a pace that was easier on their small, child sized legs.

The city looked the same as I last saw it, only muted in color. I tried to think of it as there just being a thin layer of fog in the air that was partially obscuring my vision. Though I wasn't truly able to convince myself of that at all.

Besides the lack of sound, I barely saw anyone moving around in the distance. But even that was a shock to me. I hadn't expected to see anyone in here at all. Since the only other people that I had seen were the three little Reece look-alikes and the other me, I had started to think that I wouldn't see anyone else here at all.

Another twenty minutes or so later, I was walking down a familiar looking street in a part of town that I used to frequent when I was a freshman in college. This path would take me to Franny's Kitchen.

I hadn't been there in a few years because the elderly Franny had needed to retire, and her family hadn't wanted to keep the business going without her. I don't know why I came this way. I think I was just letting my muscle memory take over for me as I walked the familiar streets.

There were some people who were slowly milling about as they went about whatever business they had here in the afterlife. I saw a man with a dog leash walking aimlessly about like he couldn't find his dog. There was a woman who was just sitting on a bus bench like she was waiting for the bus that would never come for her. Three teenagers with confused looks on their faces, and very different clothing styles were walking in single file as if they were on their way to the university.

This was all really strange to me, and very creepy too.

When I got to the door for Franny's Kitchen, I saw someone very familiar looking. They were just standing there outside the diner and whispering something so softly that I could barely hear it.

"I can't get in. I need to start my prep work for the day, but I can't get in."

Standing there, just staring at the door, was Franny. She looked older and smaller than the last time that I had seen her. And the fact that she was here told me that she had passed away. I hadn't heard that she had died and learning about it like this was almost like a punch straight in the gut.

"Franny?" I called out before I could stop myself. She didn't stop her whispering and she didn't even seem as if she had heard me at all. "Franny, what is wrong?" That was a stupid question to ask. I should have scolded myself for asking such a ridiculous question.

"I can't get in. I need to start my prep work for the day, but I can't get in. Why won't they let me in? I need to get to work. I don't want to stay home and do nothing all day. I want to do what I love."

"Franny, why won't they let you in?" I don't know why, but I wanted to help her somehow. I didn't understand why she was just standing there with such a sad look on her face. She should have been able to get inside because it was her restaurant after all.

"I can't get in. I need to start my prep work for the day, but I can't get in. Why won't they let me in? I need to get to work. I don't want to stay home and do nothing all day. I want to do what I love. Why won't my family let me go back to work? Why do they need to keep me away?"

With each time that I heard Franny repeat these words, I heard more and more of what she was saying. It was like she was adding to it for my benefit.

"Did they make you stop working, Franny? Is that why you retired? But you weren't able to do your job anymore, right? Wasn't that why you closed up?"

"I can't get in. I need to start my prep work for the day, but I can't get in. Why won't they let me in? I need to get to work. I don't want to stay home and do nothing all day. I want to do what I love." She stopped adding to the phrase now. All she was doing now was repeating that initial part. I felt so heart broken as I stood there listening to her.

I tried to ignore Franny then. I wanted to see what was happening around me now. So, I looked again. There was that man again, walking in the same endless loop as if he didn't know what he was doing. There was that woman still waiting on the bus. And there were those teenagers again, walking in single file.. It was like they were all stuck on repeat. What was all of this? What was happening around me?

### **Chapter 653 - 70-Trinity- Where Am I? (VOLUME 4)**

6-8 minutes

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Trinity

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Seeing all of those people stuck on some sort of endless loop broke my heart. I didn't know what had caused this to happen to them. I mean, this couldn't be what death was like for everyone, could it?

"What is going on here? Where am I? What part of the underworld is this?" I spoke that last part out loud without even realizing it. To be honest, if I hadn't heard my own voice echo back to me, I wouldn't have known that I said it, I was so distracted by the events going on around me.

'No, Trinity, this is not what the afterlife is like for everyone.' The other me started to speak to me inside of my head.

"Then what is going on here?" I asked her as I started to walk around the sidewalk and look at all the different people that were around me. There were more than those that I noted before. some of these others I hadn't noticed before because they, like Franny, were just standing there and looking in a window or at a wall. Some of the people were even wearing clothes from times that had passed long ago. Were they looking at things that were not part of my memories but theirs instead? Were they looking at the historic Colorado Springs? Just how long had those people been here? What was it they were seeing? Why were they here?

I just couldn't help it. I couldn't stop all of these questions from running through my mind. All I could imagine right now was myself in the future, standing at one of these street corners while I whispered pathetically about whatever it was that had brought me here to this place. I was picturing it all so clearly in my head that it almost brought tears to my eyes as my heart threatened to shatter into a million and one tiny little pieces.

"What is happening with these people? Why are they here?"

'All of these people have refused to move on. Whether it be from a fear of the unknown or from a feeling that they did not do something truly important to them, all of these souls you see here are stuck in this place until they let go of those feelings and choose to move on.'

"So, what is this, some sort of Limbo?" I didn't know what type of place this was, but I knew that it was the saddest place that I had ever been. Just looking at all of the souls around me, I could tell the emotions that they were carrying with them. All of them were filled with either sorrow or regret.

'You could consider this place to be Limbo. According to theology, Limbo was the in between or the edge of hell. It was where the souls that died in original sin were sent because they had not been assigned to purgatory or the Hell of the damned. In truth though, this place, this 'Limbo' is where those that refuse to be assigned end up. They are stuck here for eternity, basking in their own sorrows.'

"That is the most depressing thing that I have ever heard." It truly was. I mean, who would choose this for their final stop? Who would choose to not move on?

OK, I guess I could answer that. Everyone that was doomed to the torture chambers of hell would choose this land of Limbo. They would most likely want this sad existence over anything else.

'Fear not, Trinity. Those that belong in the halls of damnation are assigned there automatically. These souls are not evil, so they are left here to wait until they allow themselves to move on.'

"So, none of these people would be receiving punishments in the afterlife, but they still can't give up their attachments and move on. Is it just that their attachments are too strong for them to move on? That is the only thing that I can think of that would hold them here."

'That is indeed correct, Trinity. These people have yet to give up on the attachments that brought them here. Their desires. Their bonds with other people, places, or things. Their love for family and friends. It could be any number of things, but they just cannot seem to let go.'

"Is there some way for me to help them? Is there anything that I could do? I am a Goddess for the moon's sake. I should be able to help these people."

"You cannot help them, little Goddess, but you can help me!"

That voice wasn't from inside my head. And it most definitely was not the voice of the other me that had been talking to me inside of my head.

"Who's there? Who are you? What do you want?"

Like an idiot, I started to shout questions back at the mysterious voice that had just filled the entire city around me. Yeah, that was really smart of me. Haven't I learned anything in my life? I mean, the last time that I heard someone shout through the air like that, I was issued a declaration of war by my great great grandmother. So, you know, you'd think that I had learned my lesson and knew better than to shout at the voices in the sky.

"You do not recognize me, Trinity? How sad. And to think that we have so much in common." The voice chuckled through the air as I spun around and searched the sky. I was checking everywhere but I didn't see anyone at all.

"I have never heard your voice before. I am very certain of that. If I have never heard your voice, then how could I know who you are?" This wasn't a lie at all. I had never heard this voice before, not once in my entire life. I would recognize it. This person had a strange quality to their voice. It was like whenever they spoke, I could hear birds.

I wasn't hearing the sound of birds singing. No, this sounded more like the cawing and screeching of other birds. It was like ravens and crows or something. The carrion birds that always seemed to be following death. It was so eerie that it was making the hairs on the back of my neck stand up whenever

she spoke. Not only that, but I also felt goosebumps prickle their way up my arm and to my neck as I shivered involuntarily at the sound that was echoing around me. Whoever this person was, she was bad news. That was the only thing about this situation that was easy to figure out.

"I have spoken to you and many more of your kind over the ages, Trinity. I have done my best to guide and mold my children in my image. I mean, it is the least that I could do since they all descend from me."

"And what others like me are you talking about?" I was at a loss here, confused and on edge as I tried to process the meaning of her words.

"Well, the magic users of course. I am the mother of all magic."

#### **Chapter 654 - 71- Trinity – Why I Am Here (VOLUME 4)**

6-8 minutes

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Trinity

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The mother of all magic users? If that were true then that would mean that she was.. she was.. she was Hekate. On my Goddess! I was in the underworld talking to Hekate. What the hell was going on here right now.

Well, there was one thing that I knew for certain now. This meant that the other me had most likely been right. I was here because of this evil Goddess. But what I wanted to know was how? And why? How had she managed to bring me here, and why did she bring me here?

"Do not ignore me, Trinity. That could be very unfortunate for you." Hekate snapped at me after a few moments of silence. I could hear the sound of thousands of angry birds screeching in her voice as she spoke. In my opinion, that alone would scare most human beings. Good thing I wasn't one.

"I am sorry. I was just stunned by the realization of who you are." I did my best to placate her since I didn't know where she was at the moment.

"So, you have figured out who I am. Go on, tell me. I want to make sure you are not just some ignorant girl. I would very much like to know that you have correctly ascertained my identity from this short conversation."

"How could it be anyone else? The mother of the magic users, of which I am one, is none other than Hekate. You are the goddess of magic and darkness, isn't that correct?" My voice was still calm as I did my best to reign in my anger.

"Very clever of you. I am happy that you are not as stupid as you look." OK, she was intentionally trying to piss me off. If that was how she was going to play it, then I was going to piss her off by not rising to her bait.

"Well, you know how we mortals are. We live our lives in a bubble and are often ignorant of the true events of the world." I wonder what she was going to say to that one.

"HA HA HA HA HA!" Well, that was a new sound. And it was one that made me want to vomit. I didn't truly know if Hekate was laughing or not. The sounds of those angry birds in her voice obscured the laughter and made it sound ten times more sinister than it already did.

I remained calm though. I didn't let it bother me. Or rather, I didn't let it show that her laughter had bothered me. I am pretty sure that she would have pounced on the fact that her laughter had rattled me.

"I have not heard something that funny in a long time, Trinity. Thank you for that." Hekate almost sounded as if she were truly grateful to me, but I didn't buy it. "I mean, of course I know who you are, girl. I know that you are no mortal. No shifter or magic user is mortal anymore. Their lifespans are equal to that of the Fae now. How interesting. And it is all thanks to you, their goddess. Isn't that wonderful, Trinity? I think it is superb. All of my children now live for all eternity. They had long lives thanks to me and Thoth, but they did age and die after a long time. Now they won't" There was something childish in the way she spoke. Childish and sinister at the same time. It was like watching one of those horror movies where some crazy child-like dwarf pretended to be a kid and killed so they could be adopted and kill the family. It was really creepy.

"I am sorry, I did not intend to mislead you, Hekate. I used to be a mortal, and I live in the realm of mortals, so therefore I still refer to myself as a mortal. Living among the humans does tend to make one act like the humans." I rubbed the back of my head in fake embarrassment as I pretended to laugh nervously. "Ha ha ha."

"I do not want to hear your paltry excuses, Trinity. You are a pathetic goddess. You do know that, right? You are weak and useless while you are on earth, and you are weak and useless while you are here." That was pissing me off even more, but I couldn't rise to her bait. I knew that she was just goading me.

"Well, that might be true. However, I am a new Goddess. I need to fully commit myself to the job. I am sure that after a while I will get the hang of it."

"You will not." She snapped at me then, her voice so filled with anger that it sounded like the whole flock of birds in her voice took off all at once. There was cawing, screeching, and the sound of wings flapping. Seriously, that had to be one of the weirdest powers ever.

While I waited for her to say something else to me, I looked down at the three little imp boys that were standing near me. All three of them looked scared and nervous. I could see one of them shaking as if he were about to start crying and another one of them had his hands over his ears to block out the sound of the birds. The last one was staring at the sky as if he were in shock or denial. They all looked just like regular little boys right now that all I wanted to do was protect them.

"Hekate, why am I here? Why am I in the underworld?" I needed to ask her that. I needed to get this conversation done and over with.

"You are here because I brought you here. Or rather, I tried to. Those three led you astray though. They took you through a different door and made you go through a path that was not in my original plan."



"Why did you try to bring me here? What purpose will it serve?" The anger within me was starting to boil into a rage.

"You are going to get me out of here, Trinity. You are going to be my ticket to escaping this prison that I have been in for so long." There was pure glee in her voice right now. So much so that it terrified me even more.

"No!" My response was immediate and expected.

"You will not have a choice. You will do it because you are already here. And if you don't do it, then I will just keep toying with your mind until you cannot take it anymore. And while I destroy your mind, I will just lure someone else here to help me. I will see my freedom, no matter the cost."

"I will not allow that, Hekate. I will not let you out of here. The world does not need you in it again."

"HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA!" There was that screeching laughter again. That sound made me shiver. I simply wasn't able to stop it.

"I swear to you Hekate, I promise this to anyone and anything, I will stop you. I will make sure that you never escape the prison that you were sentenced to. You will never set foot in the mortal realm or the celestial realm.. I will not stop until you are destroyed."

#### **Chapter 655 - 72- Trinity – Hekate Retaliates (VOLUME 4)**

6-8 minutes

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Trinity

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"YOU DARE TO SPEAK TO ME THAT WAY! YOU DARE TO SPEAK TO A GODDESS AS OLD AND POWERFUL AS ME IN SUCH A MANNER! I WILL DESTROY YOU, TRINITY GRAY. I WILL DESTROY EVERYTHING THAT YOU LOVE BECAUSE OF YOUR INSOLENT!"

The moment that I threatened Hekate, I felt the air around me become icy cold. I was not usually affected by the cold at all. especially not since I had gained various ice abilities. However, even I thought that this was way too cold. It was almost enough to freeze me in place, and I could tell that the three little imp boys were feeling the cold as well.

"I need to do something." I said the words out loud to myself as all three sets of those familiar looking eyes gazed up at me with pitiful, helpless expressions.

If these little imp boys were Reagan, Rika, or Talia, I would never let this happen to them. I would never let anything bad happen to them. So, that would stand to reason that I couldn't let something like this happen to these little imp boys either. I needed to protect them, to save them. I needed to protect these little Reece looking babies.

"Dammit! If only I had my magic right now. If only I could wrap these little ones in a protective barrier I could-." I stopped right then and there because I was too shocked by what I saw. As I had been saying those words, I had envisioned what would happen if I had been able to perform magic in that moment. And it was actually happening.

The three little boys were all suddenly inside their own little bubble. The bubbles looked like they were made out of such fragile things, but they were actually quite strong, judging by how thick they felt when I reached out and touched them.

And to top it all off, those little bubbles were warm to the touch. It felt so much warmer next to the bubbles than it had when Hekate's icy air was buffeting around me.

"Are you warmer now?" I asked the three little imp boys. They didn't speak, just the same as before, but they nodded their heads. I tried to focus on them and their answers instead of the fact that my magic seemed to have worked. I didn't know if it was a one time thing here or not, so I didn't want to get my hopes up at all.

"Oh, how sickeningly sweet. You are being so nice to three little lost souls. Well, maybe I will destroy them first. Maybe I will take them away from you before I escape this eternal hell and destroy the world you once knew. I will enjoy tearing them limb by limb and devouring the deliciousness of their souls. I will make a snack out of those three before I take over the world and feast to my heart's content."

This bitch was fucking bat shit crazy. What the hell was she talking about? I didn't know right now, but I knew that I needed to stop her. I needed to keep her here in her hell forever.

"I have a present for you, Trinity. I will end you right here and right now. I will make it quick and painless for you."

"Oh gee, thanks Hekate. That sounds like it would be so wonderful. Only, you know, I don't really feel like having any gifts right now. It's not my birthday and it's not Christmas. Damn, it looks like I will have to wait."

'OK Trinity, do you think that you might be able to tone down that sarcasm? We do not know what she will do. We do not even know what she is capable of doing. We need to be careful. We need to tread carefully.' The other me spoke up, obviously not happy with the turn of events.

"You will have no choice, Trinity. You will see what it is that I can do. You will see what kind power the Goddess of Darkness possesses."

After Hekate finished her little threat, I heard something that sounded like millions of crows and ravens scream through the air. I figured that this was the entirety of Hekate's plan coming together.

"Lost souls need a shepherd." I could barely hear Hekate above the sound of the birds. Not to mention, I was too busy looking around me for the swarm of birds that was obviously making their way toward me. From the sound of them, they were coming at me from all angles. I was going to need to protect the three little imp boys and defend myself against an onslaught of bloodthirsty birds. I needed to be on guard and watching for their approach.

However, I was watching the sky a little too much. Because of that, I didn't see what was happening around me. If I had been watching my surroundings, and not just the aerial ones, I would have noticed

that all of the people in the vicinity were no longer running on their loops. I would have noticed that they were all seemingly frozen for just a moment or two.

By the time that I did look down and pay attention to what was happening around me, all of the souls that were near me had just started to unfreeze and turn to look at me. It felt odd in a way. To have so many sets of dead eyes watching and acknowledging me.

OK, this was creepy. Why were all of these people suddenly paying so much attention to me? I mean, when I had tried to speak to Franny earlier, she wouldn't even acknowledge me, now she can't take her eyes off of me.

Those three kids that were walking all in a row had stopped and were now standing there, side by side. They were just watching me like I was some exhibit in a zoo on display for them to ogle at.

"You will see what I can do even from my prison cell, Trinity. You will reap the fruits of your insolence."

I did not like the sounds of what she was saying, and I definitely did not like the way that all of those lost souls were looking at me.

These people were supposed to be good people, definitely not evil. Yet, every single one of them was now wearing a look that was nothing but hostile and downright malicious. I was hesitant to actually call the looks evil, but to be honest, that is kind of what they were.

And as I watched on even more, I saw that all of them were positioning themselves in a certain way. In a way that made me fear for those three little imp boys beside me. All of these people were now poised to attack. And their target was going to be me.

"Destroy the souls of the children but bring me her soul in the halls of the damned. If any of you fail to do as I say, you will spend eternity being tortured whether I escape from this cell or not.." As one, everyone surrounding me started to move.

#### **Chapter 656 - 73- Trinity- Attack In Limbo Part 1 (VOLUME 4)**

6-8 minutes

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Trinity

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The moment that all of those people started to move toward me I felt a shift in the air around me. It was like I was able to sense when and where they were going to be. This was not something that I had felt before, but I had known for years that I supposedly had a precognition type of ability. I had just never been able to use it. Or rather, I never knew how to use it.

"I will protect the three of you." I looked at the three little imp boys for a quick second before the fighting started. "I promise you that you will not be hurt at all. I will take care of all of you."

After having said those words, I thought about the protection that I wanted to give them while I fought off the others. I wanted to put a barrier around them. I wanted to make sure that they were out of harm's way, so I didn't have to focus on them too much for the time being.

Sure enough, while I thought about it, the barrier appeared. It seemed that most of my magic was back here. Well, it was back, but not at full power. I could just feel that it was not as strong as it had been before.

'The further you get from the mortal realm, the stronger your magic will get.' The other me chose that moment to inform me of the circumstances.

"How do you know that?" I didn't know if I could trust her assessment at the current moment.

'My knowledge of this world came with the magic that gave me sentience. I have knowledge of this land, but it is not like I am actively thinking about what those secrets are. I am sorry I cannot be of more help, but I will offer you the knowledge that I have when it is of importance.'

"Gee, thanks." I couldn't help but be sarcastic at that moment. I was literally watching those lost souls surge toward me.

With the barrier now in place around the three little boys that I was protecting, I leapt forward into the fray. It was an immediate start as well, since the soul closest to me was already swinging toward my head with her fist.

I never once, in a million years, would have thought that Franny would be attacking me like that. She was such a sweet and kind old lady that seemed to love everyone. She literally made it her life's work to be there for people and make sure they had a great place to eat and unwind.

Now though, she looked like some sort of beast that was straight out of a horror movie. That alone broke my heart. I didn't want Franny to be like this. I didn't want to see her hurt herself, me, or anyone else for that matter. I just wanted to see her move on to her afterlife so that she could be at peace.

"Franny please, don't do this." I begged her, hoping like hell that I could get through to her to calm her down.

"I will carry your limp body to the Goddess. I will please the ruler of the darkness."

Even the voice that was coming from Franny's mouth was unlike her. It sounded like her, but it didn't at the same time. There were emotions and inflections in it that I had never heard from her before. She sounded like a witch or a banshee or something along those lines.

"Franny, stop this. It's not what you want." I continued to plead with her, but the woman who had been sitting on the bench was now leaping toward my head so I couldn't look at the old woman anymore. I had to break eye contact, so I didn't see what she was about to do next.

It wasn't until I sent the bench lady flying across the street that I noticed that Franny was going toward the three little imp boys. She was trying to attack them instead of me.

"Leave them alone, Franny. Your fight is with me."

"Destroy the children and take the invader's soul to the Goddess."

This was insane. I didn't want to hurt Franny, but I couldn't let her hurt the boys. I needed to stop her. I needed to put an end to this.

"FRANNY!" I called out to her one more time, trying to break Hekate's spell on her while also weaving in and out of the others that were attacking me. Of course, she didn't stop and she didn't look at me. I needed to try another approach.

I called on as much magic as I could at the moment. With that in mind, I sent out the binding that I had used when learning my magic all those years ago. They were a weak spell but effective.

The moment that the binding shot from my hands, they wrapped around Franny and suspended her in midair. She was hanging there, upside down, about five feet off the ground. The others were still surging though. I needed to stop them before I could do anything else.

Several of the others were too close to me for comfort. I needed to get away so that I could tie them up. Wanting to get away from them, I leapt into the air and flipped backward, toward the three little imps that were secured in their barrier and bubbles.

I landed protectively in front of them and focused on all of the souls that were still trying to attack me. I now had a pretty good amount of distance between us and was able to call on those bindings once again.

I focused hard on each and every person that I could see. The bench woman whose face now looked like an evil spirit from a horror movie. The three teenagers who had been walking together like they knew each other but were from different eras; the three of them now looked as if they were members of some greaser gang from an old movie I had seen years ago. The man with the leash that had been walking aimlessly was now running at me swinging his leash like it was a morning star that he was going to take my head off with. Everyone around me had morphed and changed somehow, and it was odd and slightly interesting.

Now that I had taken in everyone that was in front of me, memorizing where they were and what they were doing, I sent out my bindings once again. They all ended up the same as Franny had. They were suspended approximately five feet off of the ground while hanging upside down.

"There." I sighed the word in relief as I looked around the streets and buildings in the area. I needed to make sure that I hadn't forgotten anyone.

"Now what the hell am I going to do with all of you?" That was the million dollar question, wasn't it? What was I going to do to fix this situation and make sure that none of them were harmed because of Hekate?

## **Chapter 657 - 74- Trinity – Attack In Limbo Part 2 (VOLUME 4)**

7-9 minutes

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Trinity

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'What is your plan, Trinity?' The other me asked as I looked at the people that were all floating upside down.

"I am working on that." I tried not to snap at her, but I couldn't help it. In truth, snapping at her was just me snapping at myself. Only a part of me that acted independently and annoyed me just a little bit.

'To be fair, Trinity, you annoy me as well.' The other me just had to have the last word, didn't she? 'Yes, yes I do.' I could hear the smirk that she had to be wearing. It was audible in the smugness that she had in her tone.

"I want to end this fight without any of these souls suffering. If Hekate was telling the truth about them suffering for eternity in the pits of hell, then I need to keep that from ever happening. You told me that they're not bad people. They're just too attached to their lives to move on. Well, it's either that or they were too scared to move on, right?" I was just clarifying things as I watched all of them trying to break free of the bindings that were holding them in place. Several of them were even snapping at me like they were some sort of weird alligators or something. It was the weirdest thing I had ever seen, and I had battled Edmond's monsters.

'Yes, Trinity, that is indeed the way that it is. They are destined for either mediocrity or paradise. But none of them are doomed to hell. Of that I am certain.'

"OK."

I put my hand to my chin as I thought about the possibilities. What could I do? What could I change about this situation? How could I save all of these souls?

My attention was drawn to Franny. Unlike the others, I knew her personally. I knew what she was like. I knew stories from her past. There was a time when I felt closer to her than most of the people in my life. Sadly, that had been a long time ago.

"Franny?" I called out to her as I walked up to her hovering body.

"Destroy the children. I need to destroy them all and take the Goddess the soul she seeks." It was like she was in some sort of crazy trance. I didn't know how to put it, but that was what it felt like.

"I won't let you hurt them, Franny. I won't let any of you hurt those boys." Not surprisingly, I wasn't even alarmed or fazed at all by the intensity with which I said those words. I was a mother, a Luna, a Queen, and a Goddess. It was my job, multiple times over, to protect those that couldn't protect themselves. And right now, that meant that I needed to protect these three little imps that looked so much like my mate.

"I will do as I was instructed. I will take the intruder's soul to the Goddess."

I sighed in exasperation. I don't think that there was anything that I could say or do to change what Franny was thinking. Not yet anyway.

"Franny, what can I do to help you?" I knew that asking was pointless, but I did it anyway.

"Destroy the children. Hand soul over to Goddess." Yup, that was what I thought she was going to say. More or less anyway.

Let's see. Franny was here because she hadn't wanted to retire but her family had made her do so. She had just wanted to go back to work but she died before she could. Considering that, I had to wonder if she died because she wasn't able to work, or if her family knew her health better than she did and knew that she didn't have much time left. Either way, Franny was here because she was dwelling on the past and missing her work.

"I wonder if I can help her move on." I asked myself. "And how can I do that?" I laughed at myself.

Without thinking too much about what I was actually doing, I walked up to Franny and placed my hand on her head. I was moving more on instinct than anything at the moment. I had never done this before and I had a feeling that, after this incident, I would never be doing this again.

The moment that my hand touched Franny's head, I started to see images that were from a long time ago. There was a pretty young woman in an old fashioned dress. She was happily signing a contract while a man held a set of keys out to her. The next image had the woman standing in front of the diner with the sign above it reading 'FRANNY'S KITCHEN'. The woman was obviously Franny and these were images of her life.

I watched the images like they were a movie. The movie that played showed me how Franny had met her husband through her work. He had been a customer and they seemed to have fallen in love through the small exchanges they had when he would come in for breakfast. And dinner. I saw when he proposed to her in the diner. I saw them when they held their wedding reception in the diner. I saw when they took their children to the diner to play while Franny ran the place and her husband happily helped.

I watched all these images as Franny grew older and her family grew. She had so many happy memories that were tied to the diner that it was easy to see why she didn't want to leave it behind. For her, the diner was her happy place, it had been her heaven on Earth and no one would ever want to leave behind the place that had brought them so much joy and happiness.

"Franny?" I was nearly in tears as the images of her life came to an end. When her family demanded that she stop working and take care of herself. Franny had been diagnosed with stomach cancer, an especially aggressive kind. She hadn't been able to make it through her work days without being in pain and vomiting several times. Her family just wanted to make her last days more comfortable, and to give her time to receive treatment.

She didn't last long, though. She passed away within weeks of retiring. Some of Franny's thoughts had been so depressing as she thought about the heaven that she had been forced to give up.

"Franny, don't you think that you will find happiness again if you move on? Your diner has been your heaven on Earth. And you were such a good person when you were alive. You will certainly be rewarded with an eternity in your favorite place. If you want to go inside your restaurant again all you have to do is move on. Let go of the past and move on. You will find your peace and your heaven in the afterlife." I saw that my words had an effect on Franny. Now that she was acknowledging my existence, she was

able to hear what I said, and she seemed to like it. With her eyes wide open she smiled and spoke in a soft and sweet voice.

"I can go home if I let go?" She was shocked by the logic of it, but I was certain that it was true.

"Yes, Franny. All you need to do is move on. There is no reason to be stuck here in Limbo. Move on and go home. Go to your happy place."

"Move on?" She sounded confused but she was all smiles. "Move on." She kept repeating those words, but they stopped being a question and were more of a statement. "Move on."

After she had repeated herself several times, I saw a light start to shimmer around her edges. It looked to me like the light had been coming from inside of her. The more intense the light was shining, the harder it was for me to see the old woman.

"Move on." She said the words one last time and that was it. She disappeared completely in that light and the bindings that had been holding her fell to the ground. Franny had done what she had been repeating over and over. She had moved on.. She had left this Limbo and found happiness.

#### **Chapter 658 - 75- Trinity – Helping Them All (VOLUME 4)**

6-8 minutes

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Trinity

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I know it was what I had been trying to do, but I was still shocked that I had actually managed to help Franny move on. However, doing that had left me feeling so happy and excited. I had done a good deed. I had helped someone and there were going to be no negative consequences because of it.

Now, I needed to help the others as well. I needed to make sure that all of these souls were able to move on. I wanted them all to get to their final destination. None of them needed to be stuck here forever.

The next person that was closest to me was the man with the leash. He had looked so sad and lonely when he had been walking around aimlessly. I tried to look beyond the rage filling him and see the man beneath that false mask.

He was maybe in his early forties or late thirties. He wasn't too old, and he was a decently handsome man. I briefly wondered if he had a family that he had left behind. I didn't dwell too long though. I just put my hand to his head and started to watch the important parts of his life like I had with Franny.

This man seemed to be happy and in love with a young woman that was always smiling at him. In those images he was younger as well. They got married and started a family. They had a daughter that looked like his wife, and he seemed to be a wonderful and doting dad.



I smiled as I watched him give his little girl everything over the first few years of her life. She was spoiled, but she still seemed to be such a sweetheart. When the girl was about two, the family got a puppy and the girl loved him so much.

From there all the images I saw had the dad, the daughter, and the puppy. They were always going to the park or just walking around the neighborhood. It was nice.

One day, when the girl was about five, they were on a walk. The dog's leash broke at the clasp and he took off running toward the street. The dog made it to the other side in the blink of an eye, but the little girl had started to run after her dog, right into the middle of the busy street.

The dad, seeing this, ran after his daughter. He managed to get her out of danger at the last second, but he wasn't so lucky. He died protecting his daughter. He died a hero. I could tell that the man's love for his family was what had kept him in this place. He had died instantly when he was hit in the street, so he actually didn't know if his daughter had been saved. Because of that he was doomed to walk aimlessly around the street he had died on, looking for her forever.

"I can see beyond your death. Just seconds past it, but it's there. She lived. She wasn't hurt that day. You saved her. And when she moves onto the next life, I am sure that she is looking forward to thanking her daddy for saving her life. You should go there to wait for her. Go and be happy and watch over her from your paradise."

I watched the lonely father's eyes sparkle with tears. He was happy to hear that his daughter had not died. That was all that had been holding him here. He didn't want to abandon her here. He was a good man.

His passage to the afterlife was quicker than Franny's had been. His light engulfed him sooner and he disappeared from in front of me.

I repeated this process again when I went to the woman that had been sitting on the bench, waiting for the bus that was never going to come for her. She had a life that was harder than a lot of people's. Still, she rose up and made it to the point where she could do whatever she wanted and didn't need to rely on people.

The day that she died, she had been waiting for the bus to take her to an interview at a famous architect's office. She was applying for her dream job and refused to accept anything but success.

While she sat on the bench, reading a book while waiting for her bus, a drunk driver had left a bar down the street. He immediately lost control, confusing the gas pedal and brake pedal, and ran right into the woman and several others that had been waiting. She wasn't the only person who lost their life that day, but she was the only one still here. She had been so determined to get that job that she never stopped waiting for the bus that would take her there.

"Dreams come true when you're a good person. You are not doomed to live in purgatory. You will do what you love when you move from this place. There is nothing that should be holding you back. You're stronger than that. Rise above it and be your own boss." The woman smiled and nodded at my words. She seemed to appreciate that. After having relived her life through the images that I saw, she seemed ready to move on. She, like the man, disappeared quickly. She moved on from her limbo and transitioned to her next stop.

I was helping these people. That was what I needed to do. If I could help them all find peace and move on, then there would be no one left for Hekate to send after me. At least, not in this part of the underworld. While I was in this particular area, she would be rendered powerless.

One by one I went to the others to help them. Those three teenagers that had been walking together had all been murdered. All three of them had been murdered in almost the exact same place and by the exact same person.

The first boy, who had been killed in the seventies, had been the man's first victim. The second boy, killed in the eighties, had been his twelfth. And the last boy had been his next to last victim. He had been killed just after the turn of the millennium.

The murderer, a man that owned a shop on that street, had targeted the boys and his other victims, after they had been customers of his. He killed them shortly after their orders had been finalized and they were on their way home. He had been a prominent and upstanding citizen, so he had never been a suspect until the last victim, who he mistakenly left alive. The girl that lived told the police everything and he had finally been brought to justice. I was able to see all of this even though the boys had died long before the conclusion of the case. All they needed to know though, was that they had received their justice. That was all it took to help them move on.. They smiled as their lights took them out of the bindings and into their afterlife.

#### **Chapter 659 - 76- Trinity – Moving On (VOLUME 4)**

6-8 minutes

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Trinity

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One by one I went to the others. I don't know what to call what I was doing exactly. All I knew was that these people were moving on and finding peace and that was making me feel so much better.

There had been almost two dozen souls that had come after me when Hekate had issued her command to them. Nearly two dozen people that she threatened with her eternal damnation. She wasn't able to do that though. I wasn't going to let her. She wouldn't ruin their afterlife anymore than she would get out of hell.

Person after person. Soul after soul. I got closer to being safe and moving on from this place as well. As long as Hekate sent these people after me, I myself was stuck in limbo. I was a living being that was stuck in the in between.

And to make matters worse, with each person that I freed from this place, the air around me got colder. It was like the air was reflective of Hekate's mood. I knew that she was pissed off at me for foiling her plans to get my soul.

The moment that the last person was freed of their binding, having moved onto their eternal happiness which involved painting murals, Hekate screamed in frustration. Her voice once again sounded like carrion birds that had taken flight for a particularly juicy piece of roadkill. Man, that was creepy.

"DAMN YOU!" She screeched the words so loud that I felt like they were spoken right into my ear instead of from the entire space surrounding me. "YOU HAVE ONCE AGAIN RUINED EVERYTHING, TRINITY! YOU HAVE DESTROYED MY PLANS!" She seemed to be breathing heavily enough for it to be called hyperventilating. The frustration, anger, fear, loathing, whatever it was that you wanted to call what she was feeling, it made her sound as if she were shaking uncontrollably.

"And I am glad that I ruined it for you, Hekate. You don't need to be toying with people like that. You are an evil, sadistic, psychotic, bat shit crazy bitch." OK, that insult wasn't the greatest, but at least it was true.

"You will pay. Mark my words, you mongrel scum. You will pay for foiling my plans. I will destroy you, and then the world." I couldn't believe that she was still thinking that was a possibility.

"Go ahead and try, Hekate. Go ahead and try to get out of here. I will stop you."

There was no response to my words. It felt to me like Hekate had disappeared from the vicinity. Even the atmosphere, and not just the temperature, felt better with her being out of this place. I could breathe easier and the goosebumps had left my arms and neck.

"Finally." I sighed and nearly collapsed to the ground in relief.

I couldn't let myself get too relaxed, though. I had just been through one major attack that had been thrown at me by an evil Goddess bent on destroying the world. Letting myself do anything aside from taking this seriously would literally be like signing my own death certificate. Mine and everyone that I love.

Without showing my vulnerability, exhaustion, or anything else that would be seen as a weakness, I jogged over to the three little imp boys that I had been protecting. The moment that I got close enough to them, I removed the barrier and then the bubbles of heat from around them.

"Are you alright?" I knew that they were OK physically, but I needed to ask about emotionally and mentally as well. They may be imps, but they were still living creatures.

Not a single one of them spoke. It was the same as every time I had spoken to them before. They nodded at me but didn't speak. The one that had cried when we first got here, because he had been hurt, hugged me around my waist when I asked him if he was ok. He seemed to be more affectionate and clingy than the other two were.

I found all of that adorable, but I couldn't dwell on it for too long. We had a lot of work to do between now and when I finally found Hekate in her prison cell. I needed to talk to the other me as well as them. I needed to figure out how I was going to destroy a Goddess that was already living in the underworld. In truth, is there even a way to do that?

I didn't know the answer to that question, but I will work really, really hard to figure it out. I would do what it took to come out on top and save the world. This one and the other one.

After vowing that, I looked at the three little imp boys with a serious look in my eyes. I needed to know how far they were willing to go with all of this.

"I am moving on. I need to finish this and stop Hekate. Are you three going to come with me? Or you would like me to go on my own while you stay here?" I swear that all three of the imps looked as if they were going to cry now. Why was it that they sometimes acted like little kids that didn't want to be away from their mother? I mean, I know that they weren't my children, but it felt that way at moments like this.

"Alright, don't worry, I will take you with me. I think it would be better to stick together anyway. You three will know more about this place than I would."

'Do not forget about me, Trinity. I have knowledge of this world as well.' The other me piped up again.

"Yes, that you do. I have four guys, one inside my head and three clinging to my legs." I heard the other me chuckle at that statement. Well, I was glad that I could make her laugh, but now it wasn't really a thing.

I took one last look around me, one last look at the city block that had once felt so familiar and welcoming. It didn't feel that way now. After the attack, it was cold and lifeless. That most likely was due to the fact that there literally was no life to be seen around this place. I had freed the souls and now, this block of the underworld was empty.

"I wonder how many more souls I will run into before I leave this limbo. How many more people will I need to help?"

'Do you intend to help every soul you encounter? Do you intend to take that much time?'

"I will not seek them out, but if they are in my path, then I will help them. I cannot abandon people here to be stuck forever."

That seemed to be all that the other me wanted to know about that topic. She didn't say anything else, so I prepared to leave. I needed to move on to the next level. I needed to find Hekate.

"Do you know where to go?" I asked the three little imp boys and they smiled excitedly. I was betting that that meant yes.. Well, I was hoping it did anyway.

## **Chapter 660 - 77- Reece – What Is Wrong With Queen Trinity? (VOLUME 4)**

6-8 minutes

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Reece

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I was still waiting, not so patiently, for Trevor to bring those twins that he had been talking about. I don't know what it was that has been taking him so long, but it was starting to piss me off. I just knew that I needed to see if they could help me with my Little Bunny.

And to make matters worse, the staff was starting to inquire about when they could come back to work. I was slowly adding some of them back as Vincent and Gabriel were making sure that they would not be a potential leak about the truth of my Little Bunny's current condition.

I couldn't risk the public knowing that their queen, their goddess, had fallen into a coma and that her soul had left her body. That was not something that we could let be known because it would open the door for several enemies to make their moves as well as bring fear and sorrow to the masses. No, that wasn't an option. We needed to make sure that this was kept quiet for now.

Right now, I had permitted only two maids, two butlers, and two chefs to return to the castle. That was on top of Peter, Abigail, and Roisin. So, aside from the guards, we had nine staff members that were running the entire castle.

I know that this was leaving them all a little overwhelmed and in over their heads, but they could manage it. They were amazing people, and it wasn't like I was expecting things to be perfect for right now.

I was on my way out of my office to go for a meeting in the city. That was something that I barely did anymore, especially with my Little Bunny in the state that she was currently in. Almost as soon as I was through the door, I ran into someone that had been waiting on the other side.

"I am sorry, my King." Thoma, one of my Little Bunny's guards, was standing there with an intense look on her face. Next to her were five other guards that were usually stationed in the castle. They had not been brought back on for duty.

"What do you need, Thoma? I am in a hurry." I let her know right away that I didn't have time and just wanted her to say whatever it was that she needed to.

"Yes, King Reece, I understand that, and I am truly sorry. But w..we just wanted to know if there is something wrong with Queen Trinity."

What the fucking hell was I hearing?! How the hell did they know about this? Who had talked? Who had told them about this? Whoever it was they were going to fucking die.

"What do you know, Thoma?" I glared at her and lowered my voice. I was speaking to her as menacing as I possibly could.

"N..nothing. Nothing at all my King. I swear. We are just worried. No one has seen her in several days and we are getting worried about her. We have all seen you and the children, but Queen Trinity has been gone for quite some time now."

I was furious. I was so pissed off at her at that moment that I felt like I was going to explode. And I would have exploded onto these half a dozen guards for their stupidity and impertinence. Didn't they fucking know how to just wait for their King and Queen to tell them what the hell was going on? Stupid morons.

"Thoma, I need to speak to you, to all of you." I glared at her and then the others, it was a move that made all of them flinch away from me in fear.

"Y..yes, Sir." Thoma nodded and spoke as calmly as she could.

"Get in my office, all of you." I turned around and stalked back into the room I had just left. While doing that I pulled out my phone and started to text the board members that were back at the office. I told them that an emergency came up and I would reschedule the meeting for another time.

I wonder if these idiots realize what they just did? I mean, I wasn't worried about my company going under or anything, but I still didn't want to get a bad reputation in the business world. Damn these morons.

I sat in my chair behind the desk, but I didn't offer them anywhere to sit. They needed to answer to me, not the other way around.

"Tell me what you know, Thoma. All of it." I demanded that she explain it all right away.

"I know nothing, Sir. Of that I swear. I am just worried about her. I have been guarding Queen Trinity for years and now we have all been kept away from the castle lately. We were all just wondering if something happened."

I could tell that Thoma was regretting asking me these questions. She was just having a hard time with what was happening, just like everyone else was.

"Listen, Thoma, all of you. I want you all to hear what I am about to tell you and you need to keep it a secret." The six of them raised their heads with curious and worried eyes. "There is nothing wrong with Queen Trinity. She has just recently found out that we are expecting again and the pregnancy is already quite difficult for her. You remember when she was pregnant with the twins, right. Well let's just say that this pregnancy is a little worse than that one. It's a little more intense."

I was trying to subtly tell them that she was carrying more than two babies. That would be a secret that would not be allowed to spread. Trinity and I would spread the news when she woke up and was ready, or I would spread it myself later. Until then, this would keep everyone calmer for the time being.

"We understand, Sir. Thank you for alleviating my fears."

At least that hadn't taken long. And I should thank them. Now I could skip my meeting with the board members. That was a win for me.

I got to go back to my office and relax for the rest of the evening. I would need to reschedule the meeting and take care of it at another time, but I didn't have to do it tonight.

Another upside to that was that I got to add more details to the presentation and to memorize the facts that the new CFO wanted to talk about. It really was only a positive that I was skipping out on it today. It was in no way me just trying to run away from my responsibilities.

And if I was running away, could anyone blame me? My family was feeling like they had been destroyed. The kids were a mess, I was barely keeping it together. I didn't know how I was supposed to do all of this without the one person that was our pillar. How was I supposed to manage without my other half?

"Please, Trinity, please wake up.. Please come back to me, to us."