

Chosen by Fate 91

Chapter 91 - Trinity-Caleb And Frederick

Trinity

~~

'Oh my Goddess, that was embarrassing.' I couldn't believe Noah barged into my room while I was laying in bed naked after spending the night with Reece. I felt like I was going to die from the embarrassment. I was going to catch fire from the burning in my cheeks that was spreading throughout my whole body. Or I might just melt into a puddle from the heat.

"Why did he have to see me like that?" I asked my empty room.

Once the heat in my face settled slightly I decided to take a shower. I wasn't in nearly as much pain as I was the day before. He had only taken me once last night as opposed to the multiple times the night before, so getting out of bed was not a painful chore.

I walked into the bathroom in a daze. Memories from the last two nights kept creeping up at random. All through my long, hot shower I would have images of Reece's naked body pop up in my mind. The memories sent jolts of desire twisting through my core. My body wanted him back here with me already. I had hoped that this need for him would lessen after we finished the mate bond, but it only felt stronger now.

I took my time in the shower, washing slowly then letting the hot water relax the tension in my body. I hoped I would be able to clear my mind soon, I really did have classes starting tomorrow and would need to think clearly.

While I was drying myself I felt a dull ache throb through my neck. The pain brought back more memories. Reece had bitten me again, he had basically marked me again. And to make matters worse, I had bitten him as well. I didn't know why, I just did it on instinct.

I moved my hair out of the way to look at the new bite mark. I could see his teeth marks perfectly imprinted into the tender flesh at the curve of my neck and shoulder. The skin around the area was bruised, but it was already turning yellow, it was healing.

What was more surprising to me was the area around my mate mark. The pack crest had darkened, possibly from the bruising, but it wasn't as clear as it was before. But the dark cloudy area that surrounded it seemed to be just a little lighter than usual. I was probably imagining it though, wanting to hope that something was different after being with him.

Thankfully, my day was less eventful than the previous one. I didn't have as many unannounced visitors. None to be exact. Instead, I spent my day reading my text books. I had another English Comp class with professor Thompson this semester, but I was taking some classes that were bound to be interesting this time. Violence in Society, Crime Theory, and Intro to Forensics were my other classes that went along with my last English course.

Thankfully, when I went down to the dining room Lila didn't make a big deal about me and Reece. I didn't think I could handle that embarrassment two days in a row as well as Noah barging in on us. There was only so much my heart could take for crying out loud.

My first day back to school didn't go as planned. I didn't have to attend actual classes, all my learning was done on my own time, but I wanted to have as much of a normal school day as I could for the first week at least. But I had a major issue, two of the books that were picked up for me were the wrong ones. So, I was already behind. Great.

I was planning on asking Vincent if he could run to the bookstore for me tonight, but he was off today. We had lessened his schedule to make things easier on him and Heather, I wanted him to be there for his baby, there was so much he could miss in the beginning.

I was getting frustrated, I needed to get these books but I didn't want to call Vincent on his night off. I was in the living room after hanging up the phone, neither of the twins had answered their phone when I called them.

"Ugh, what am I gonna do now?" I growled in annoyance.

"Is something wrong Luna?" I heard an elderly voice ask me with concern.

"Huh?" I looked up and saw two men standing at the door to the room. I hadn't noticed them coming. Their scents were familiar but I didn't remember seeing them before.

"You seem upset, is everything alright?" The younger of the two men asked. The younger man looked to be about Reece's age with dark orange eyes that were close to ochre. He had dirty blond hair and a tall muscular build like all the wolves, but he just barely made it to six feet it seemed. The older man had silver hair, and bright green eyes. They resembled each other, similar jawline and nose shape, but the younger man had the same cheek bones as Reece. There were other small similarities between the younger man and Reece, but nothing significant.

"Luna?" The older man called out to me, getting my attention.

"I'm sorry, I was just thinking. No nothing really wrong. Just something I need and can't get right now."

"That won't do." The older man smiled. The more I listened to him, the more I felt I had met him before. But where?

"I'm sorry, excuse my rudeness, but who are you?" The older man laughed with a gruff, gravelly voice.

"You're not rude, dear. We've only met once and I don't think you've had the chance to meet my grandson here." He smiled at me warmly before he continued. "My name is Frederick, I am one of the elders of the pack, and Reece's great uncle."

"Oh, now I remember, I met you my first night here. There was so much information I had to take in that night that I forgot who a lot of people were."

"That's understandable. You were put through a lot that day." The younger man had the same smile as Frederick. "My name is Caleb, I'm Reece's cousin, and his Beta."

"Oh, it's nice to meet you. I'm sorry we haven't gotten the chance to meet before." I shook Caleb's outstretched hand as I greeted him.

"Think nothing of it. I have been away on business off and on a lot lately, so you're not the one at fault here."

"I'm sorry to tell you though, that Reece isn't here."

"Oh, we missed him?" Frederick seemed disappointed. "Well, we could always try again tomorrow."

"No, I'm afraid he won't be back for a few days. If you want to come back Wednesday or Thursday he should be home by then."

"Really, that's a shame. I'll just have to give him a call, let him know what I found out recently." Caleb sighed.

"Have you been investigating?" I asked him, hopefully he had information that would lead to solving my problem.

"Yeah, I've been checking out some leads lately. And I found out something really important."

"Well, I hope it helps." I smiled at him.

The conversation with Frederick and Caleb was an easy going one, but for some reason I just felt off about the whole thing. But no matter the situation, I still had the same problem.

"Well, I'm going to make a few more phone calls." I told them, trying to excuse myself.

"What is it you're missing?" Caleb asked me.

"What?"

"You said you needed something but couldn't get it. What can't you get?"

"Oh, I'm missing a couple books for my college courses that started today." I answered him, but for some reason I felt embarrassed.

"We can't have that, can we?" Frederick smiled at me.

"Would you like me to get it for you?" Caleb smiled wide, showing his perfectly straight, white teeth.

"No, I couldn't impose on you. You just recently got back, after all."

"It's no problem, Luna." Caleb soothed me with his soft voice.

"If you really don't mind, I would appreciate it."

"Of course, I'm here to help you as much as my cousin."

I tried to explain to Caleb what it was I needed, and where Shane had gone wrong when he picked up my books last week, but Caleb wasn't certain he would be able to tell the difference between the books I already had, and the ones I needed.

"It's fine Caleb, I can always wait until Vincent is available." I deflated as I spoke, a defeated tone filling my voice.

"How about you come with me?" He asked, a smile spreading across his face. I was momentarily filled with anticipation, but it was quickly replaced with apprehension.

"I don't know, Reece would be angry if I left right now. You know, with everything that is going on."

"If you're not safe with the second strongest wolf in the pack, his own Beta, then who could you be safe with?" He asked, a confident look in his eyes. "Besides, it's the only way you'll make sure you get the right books." He had a good point. I needed these books, and as Reece's Beta, he should be strong enough to protect me."

"Alright, but just to the store and back."

"Of course, Luna, I wouldn't dream of taking you anywhere else that might be considered dangerous."

"Just let me go get ready." I hurried from the room so I could get shoes and a jacket from my bedroom.

Chapter 92 - Trinity-Enemies Revealed

6-7 minutes

~~

Trinity

~~

A little while later Caleb was pulling the car into the parking lot near the campus bookstore. It was just a little after seven so I had plenty of time before they closed. Frederick had stayed behind at the house to wait for us. That left Caleb and I alone in the car. I'm not used to him yet so the ride was a little tense and awkward.

Caleb parked near the back of the empty parking lot, Vincent always did the same but usually when the lots were going to be full. Maybe it was just something that they all did. One major difference that I noticed between Caleb and the other though, was he didn't open doors like I was told to expect. Maybe that was because he wasn't a guard but instead the Beta and just wasn't used to it. Oh well, I could open them myself.

Caleb was already standing at the front of the car when I got out. He was moving fast like he was in a hurry. As soon as I shut my door behind me I sensed a shift in the air. There were others in the area, and based on the scent, they were wolves.

"Caleb?" I called him apprehensively.

"Don't worry Luna, everything is just fine." He said calmly.

"Yeah, it's all going according to plan." A voice rang through the night. I recognized it instantly, it was Leslie. I hadn't seen him since the night I had been marked.

"He's right, this is all on schedule." Now it was Jeremy, another voice I hadn't heard since that night."

"Stop trying to play nice with the bitch, let's just get this over with." A female voice joined the group. I had only heard it once, when she protested my mating with Reece. It was Donna. Here was everyone who had recently shown hostility toward me or made me uncomfortable in some other way. I was beginning to get scared. I thought it was just rogues and Warlocks I had to worry about. I didn't think there was an enemy in my own pack.

They had me surrounded, closing me in around the vehicle.

"Are you in on this too?" I asked Caleb, already knowing the answer.

"For me, this has nothing to do with you. I'm being paid to hand you over to someone else." Caleb's voice was empty, void of all emotions.

"Then what do you get out of this whole thing?" I snapped at him.

"With you out of the picture, Reece will be forced to step down. When that happens, I become the new Alpha."

"You're stupid if you think he would ever hand his pack over to you." I growled at him.

"He won't have a choice. It's our laws, he can't rule us without a mate."

"He can find another mate. And he had a mate, he had me."

"You never finished your mating. Isn't that right?" He smiled cruelly. For some reason, I thought it was best not to correct him, not to tell him the mating had been finished, just recently. "If he never finished the mating then it doesn't count. He wasn't mated, therefore, he will have to step down or be taken down."

"You're insane." I yelled at him.

"Maybe, but I will rule this pack, and a wolfless mongrel like you isn't welcome in my pack."

"You're not just crazy, you're an asshole too." I spat the words at him.

"Thank you for the compliment." He smiled at me as he sauntered toward me slowly. The other three prowled, lower to the ground and aggressive, ready for the attack.

"You won't get away with this." I snapped at them all. Their maniacal laughter was all that answered me.

It happened quickly. I would like to say it was in slow motion, or that I saw everything clearly, but I didn't. The four of them came at me together. I wasn't going to go down without a fight, or without trying to get away.

I first tried to jump onto the hood of the car, if I could get near people then I should be safer. But I didn't have the time for that. Just as I had reached the other side of the hood I felt someone's hand close painfully around my ankle. Their fingers were digging in, biting deep into my flesh.

"Get back here." I heard Leslie growl. "It's time for some fun."

"What's in this for the rest of you, huh?"

"Jeremy and I are former 'independent' wolves, or so we told your bleeding heart alpha. We were rogues hired to infiltrate your pack over a year ago. Our boss wanted men on the inside." Leslie had pulled me back across the hood of the car and was pressing himself against me in ways that made me sick just thinking about it. Only Reece was allowed to touch me like that.

"Get off me." I growled at him as I tried to push him away. I managed to move him away from me several feet and was about to make a run for it when Donna stepped in front of me.

"Don't even think about it bitch." She said as she reached out and slapped me across the face, hard. "That's payback for what your aunt did."

"Is that why you're part of this? Because my aunt slapped you."

"No, I just don't think a slut like you deserves to be my Luna. You're a disgrace."

"Who are you calling a slut you tramp?"

"Watch your mouth, you wolfless girl. You're not my Luna, and you never will be," Donna raised her hand again to smack me. I felt her hand as it whipped across my face, the striking blow made my head snap to the side.

"Enough of this." Caleb snarled. I felt him grab a fist full of my hair and yank it backwards until I was looking up at him. "Say goodnight." He laughed as he brought a white cloth near my face. I knew what he was planning.

"Reece." I breathed the name before the smell of the chloroform could make me lose consciousness.

Chapter 93 - Reece-She's Missing

7-9 minutes

~~

Reece

~~

"As you can see, gentleman, my company's success rate with acquired businesses has been phenomenal. I have no reason to believe that your company wouldn't follow suit." I was currently in the middle of a meeting with the owners and operators of the bodyguard agency, but my mind was actually eleven hundred miles away. I couldn't stop reliving every moment with my sexy little temptress from the past two nights. I needed to stop it, I needed to focus.

"Mr. Gray, I see no reason not to proceed." The current owner of the company was smiling happily.

"Excellent. Then please, allow us to sign the contract. Once it's all done we wi-." I stopped mid sentence. I couldn't finish. I had just had the most intense feeling of my life. It felt like my Little Bunny had just called for help. I could feel her fear, taste the night air around her. It smelled like she was in town

somewhere. Near the Thai restaurant by the university, but that made no sense, she couldn't leave the house.

"Mr. Gray, are you alright?" The middle aged man in the suit sitting across from me asked.

"I'm sorry gentlemen, but something has come up. I need to go, but I will be back shortly to finalize this paperwork. Either myself or a representative on my behalf." I was already rising to my feet, gathering my things. If Noah had been here I would have had him get them as I ran out of the room. But I was on my own today, so I had to do the bare minimum.

As soon as I left the meeting room I was on the phone with Noah. It was almost six-thirty, an hour behind home. It had gotten dark a long time ago and my Little Bunny was supposed to stay inside, so why did it feel like she was in danger, and that she was missing?

"Is the meeting finally over? Man I didn't think that thing was ever going to end."

"Something's wrong Noah." I said in a rush as I ran to the stairs.

"What is it? Are they not selling?"

"No, something's wrong back home, something's wrong with Trinity." I had reached the bottom of the three flights in no time at all. My car was parked right out front, I got in and sped off.

"Wrong how." He asked, finally taking the call seriously.

"I don't know yet, but I can sense she is in danger. She's scared, and I can tell she was near the university just now."

"That makes no sense at all, Reece. What's going on?"

"I don't know, but you call her and I will call the house."

I hung up with Noah as I sped toward the hotel. Mom, answered the call on the second ring.

"Hi Sweety, how-?.?"

"Mom, is Trinity there?" I interrupted her.

"What? Reece what's wrong?"

"Is she there?"

"No, she left with Caleb a little while ago." I felt my heart drop into the pit of my stomach when I heard those words.

"What are you talking about, Mom? Caleb isn't even supposed to be in town, let alone picking my mate up from the house." I growled into the phone.

"Is everything alright?" She asked me, I could hear the panic in her voice.

"No, Mom, it's not. I'm pretty sure that Caleb is in on all the attacks."

"Reece, no." Mom gasped.

"I'm on my way back, we need to find her."

I called Noah back as soon as I hung up with Mom.

"Any luck?"

"No, her phone went straight to voicemail."

"So they turned it off?" I snarled. "I'm almost back to the hotel, get everything ready and get out here quick, we're going back tonight, even if I have to charter a plane."

"I'm already on it."

I wasn't about to leave my mate to fight against whoever had her by herself. It was my job to protect her. It was my job to save her.

I'm coming, Little Bunny.

Noah was waiting for me outside when I pulled into the hotel driveway. He had our bags and threw into the car as soon as it came to a stop. He jumped into the front seat even as I was starting to speed away.

We made it to the airport just after seven. It hadn't even been an hour since I had known that something was wrong but I felt like it had been too long already.

I let Noah return the car while I tried to buy tickets. But I ran into a problem. There were no seats available on any flights back to Colorado without connections that would delay me too long. I needed to hurry.

Looks like I was going to follow through on my chartering comment. I would buy a whole damned plane to get me to where I needed to be dammit. This was LA, there were plenty of private planes for rent, I just needed to find one this late at night.

After nearly half an hour of searching, a copious amount of threats and a hefty bribe I managed to get a pilot who would fly us back home. The problem, they couldn't get clearance for the small airport right in our own city, the closest we could get was Denver, it was over an hour away and no where near the car we had waiting for us.

I made another call and had a car waiting for us as well. I would not waste a second once the plane landed. I was going to find my mate, and quickly.

I called Vincent to let him know what had happened. I knew it was his night off, but as the head of her security, he needed to know what had happened to Trinity, he needed to know that my Little Bunny was missing.

"Hey Boss, this is a surprise, I didn't expect a call from you. Aren't you on your business trip?" Vincent sounded so unassuming. He was not prepared to hear what I was about to tell him, he would blame himself as much as I blamed myself. If only I had brought her with me like she wanted, this wouldn't have happened.

"Vincent, I have some work I need you to do."

"What's wrong?" He could sense the tension in my voice, so I heard as it entered his to match mine.

"I am on my way back home now, but I am still a few hours away. Trinity is missing."

"What?!" He nearly shouted into the phone. "What happened? How can this be? She's not supposed to leave the house, how can she be missing?"

"Caleb came back. It seems my suspicions were right, and he took advantage of my absence."

"Caleb? Caleb took her?" He seemed to be in a state of shock. "Why would the Beta take her?"

"He wants to be alpha, so he has been working against me. I think he has been helping the rogues and Warlocks that are after her."

"He'll pay for this. I swear to you Sir, he will not get away with this."

"I'm glad to hear you say that. I intend to make him suffer for hurting her." I growled into the phone. "I need you to go investigate where she went missing, or where I think she went missing."

"Where? I'll get the others and go right away." His voice was alert and intense.

"From what I could sense, it seemed like she was near the university. It smelled like it was near the Thai restaurant."

"I will start at the house, ask if they know anything about where they went. Then, I will run a thorough search in town. I will have a report ready for you when you return."

"I would expect nothing less of you. You're a good man, Vincent."

"We will find her, Sir, I promise."

"We'd better."

Chapter 94 - Reece-Frantic For An Update

7-9 minutes

~~

Reece

~~

It was nine before we were given the all clear for take off. The Liberty 75 Learjet was small and wouldn't fly nearly as fast as a commercial plane, but it was better than having layovers that last hours long. The result was a nearly three hour flight, and with the time change it was one in the morning when I deplaned and made my way toward my rental car.

I had rented the fastest sports car I could find, and I would be putting it to the test. I raced through the night, across the empty highway. I made the seventy minute drive in just over forty-five minutes. I pulled into the garage back at home by two in the morning.

I should have been tired, with how late it was and the hectic night, but sleep was the last thing on my mind. I found Vincent and David waiting for me in the kitchen when I went inside.

"Tell me you found something." I begged him.

"I'm sorry Alpha, it seems like they had help from the Warlocks. Their scents disappeared almost immediately." He hung his head in shame.

"Dammit." I growled. "What do they want with her?"

"I don't know, Sir, but we will find her." He was showing his deference by refusing to look me in the eyes, he was focused on something over my shoulder.

"Where are the others?" I demanded, she still had two more guards and they weren't here right now, I needed to know that she hadn't been betrayed.

"Shane and Shawn are trying to track them as best as they can, Sir, they refused to stop until they had something to report."

"Good, let me know when they get back."

I left the room to change out of my suit and into something I didn't mind getting dirty, or destroyed if I had to shift in a hurry. My tension was at its max and I would not relax until I saw my Little Bunny's face again.

I needed to focus. If I was going to find her I had to use the mark I had given her. It was the only way. But with how wound up I was there was no way I could focus. I needed to relax a little first.

Perhaps a hot shower would help relax the tension in my body long enough for me to focus on the mate mark I had put on her. I set the water to nearly scalding and climbed in.

My entire time in the shower I kept thinking about my Little Bunny's face, her tender little body that was no match for a full grown wolf. If anyone hurt her I would kill them. Rip them apart with my bare hands, tear them to shreds with my own teeth.

My wolf had been alternating between snarls and whines all night. His anger would overflow at the disappearance of our mate, and his hackles would rise. More than once I had to stop myself from turning after he had already initiated it. When he wasn't snarling and growling for her return he was whining, howling to the Moon Goddess to bring her back. I felt every ounce of his pain. I needed to see my mate, to hold her in my arms again.

When I finally got her back, I was probably never going to let her out of my sight again. I should have listened to her. I should have just brought her on the trip with us. She would have been safer. How could I have been so arrogant to believe that she would be safe as long as she was in my home. She was only safe as long as she was at my side. I would never forgive myself for this.

When I couldn't stand to be in the shower any longer, I finally shut the water off and stepped out. While drying myself I felt a small, sharp pain in my neck. That was when I remembered that my Little Bunny had bitten me back last night.

The sensation of biting her while inside of her had been amazing, but when she bit me back, completing the circle, it had turned that feeling from amazing into mind blowing. I finally knew what it was she had felt when I marked her so long ago. The heat that was pouring from her body into mine.

The flow of heat followed the rhythm at which I drove into her small body. It poured from me into her with every thrust in, and it flowed back into me from her mouth with every pull back. The developed rhythm, the flow between us, made it the best night of my life. I couldn't believe I had waited so long for her.

She was also the first woman I had gone back to. The first woman I had been with more than once. And she was the first woman I had spent the entire night with. I had never fallen asleep with a lover in my arms, nor woken to the feeling of her pressed, naked, against me. It was something I could definitely grow to enjoy, and I never wanted another lover again. She was it for me. There could never be another woman for me for as long as I lived.

I examined the point on my neck where she had bitten me. She had gotten me right where a mate mark was left. 'I wonder if she did that on purpose?' I asked myself jokingly. But I noticed that there was a dark spot there still. Surely it wasn't still bruised, it would have healed by now for certain.

Sure enough, I could see something there, right where she had bitten me. I inched closer to the mirror, to get a better look. But it wasn't a bruise I was seeing. It was a mate mark.

How is this possible? Men have never gotten mate marks before. But there it was. I could see the outline of a crest forming where her teeth had been. She'd partially changed again last night, her teeth, nails, and eyes had become wolf like just like the night before but she still hadn't changed. With any luck she will change soon, and could possibly help defend herself even more.

I concentrated on the mark I left on her, and the mark I could see forming on myself, they were links between us. She could link to me with my mark and I could link to her with hers. If we each had a mark that should just make the link that much stronger.

I put my hand on my mark and closed my eyes. I thought about my mate, my Little Bunny. I pictured her beautiful face, the soft curve of her jaw, her plump, cupid's bow shaped lips, her small, perfectly shaped nose, those big, curious, bright blue eyes of hers. The heart shape of her face. The pale, moonlike glow she had to her skin. The dark brown, almost black, hair that smelled so wonderful. Her tight, exquisite little body.

I imagined the feel of her. The way she smelled. Every detail about her would help me link to her. The image was so clear that I felt like I could just reach out and touch her.

I watched as she looked around her, the serene look on her face changed into one of anger and pain. The room around her came into focus. I saw her there, sitting in a dimly lit stone room.

I couldn't see anyone else around her, but I could see my Little Bunny. She had a bruise across the left side of her face. Blood was running down from a split in her lip. Her eye was swollen. But there was no trace of fear in her eyes. There were no tracks in the dirt on her face, so she had not been crying. She was being brave, but how long would that hold out for.

"Trinity." I called out to her. I saw her head turn toward the sound of my voice but she couldn't see me, I didn't even know if she could hear me. But the movement she made and my outburst seemed to have broken the connection. I couldn't see the outside of the building, but she seemed to be in an old building with a stone basement. It looked like the cellar of a very old house.

"I'll find you, please hang in there." I cried out. "I'm sorry, Little Bunny."

Chapter 95 - Trinity-A Surprising Truth

9-11 minutes

~~

Trinity

~~

I woke up in a room that was nearly dark, just a small lamp across the room from me. It was damp and smelled like mold, mildew, and dirt. I felt a slight chill. All these clues made me think I was underground somewhere, most likely a very old cellar or basement. The table the lamp sat on and a single chair next to it were the only furniture I could see in the room.

The last thing I had remembered was calling out Reece's name when Caleb was about to put the cloth over my mouth. Now, I was waking up groggily with my face pressed into the dirt. The left side of my face stung like I had been hit, or maybe dropped, on my face.

I tried to push myself into a sitting position, but that was when I realized that my arms were tied behind my back. They had obviously been there for a while because they had gone numb from the position they were in. I didn't know what time it was, or how long I'd been here, but I knew I needed to get away.

I used my shoulder and rolled to the side to get myself into a sitting position. My head and face throbbed and it was difficult to see out of my left eye. There was also a slight taste of blood in my mouth and a stinging ache on my lips. I couldn't tell if someone had hit me while I was unconscious or if they had just dropped me on my face when they threw in this room.

I was looking around the room, trying to get my bearings when I heard someone whisper my name. It sounded like Reece's voice but I didn't see him anywhere. It was impossible for him to be here anyway, he was in LA, he didn't even know what had happened to me. And we might have gotten closer over the last few days, but I doubt he would put that much effort into finding me. No, I was going to be here until I saved myself.

"Finally, you're awake." A man spoke from the shadows, his voice was ominous, deep and smooth, and vaguely familiar.

"Who are you?" I demanded of the dark corner.

"I've been waiting a long time for you, Trinity." The man stepped forward into the dim light. He was tall if you were thinking from a human perspective, but he was shorter than most of the men in the pack, probably just shy of six feet tall. He had hair that was as white as snow yet he looked no older than thirty. His face was long and full of angular lines. But his complexion that looked moonlight and his bright blue eyes were the exact same as mine.

"Who are you?" I asked again but in a much weaker voice.

"You've been asleep for several hours, how are you feeling?"

"Stop ignoring me." I shouted at him. He smirked, looking at me with an odd expression, it was calm but looked frightening.

"You don't want my full attention yet child, so be careful what you ask for." His voice was menacing as he stalked in slow circles around the cold, damp room.

"What do you want with me?"

"I was bringing you home, child, back to where you belong." He was smiling now, his voice holding a fake sense of happiness and concern.

"Home? What do you mean home? I don't belong here. I was born in the pack, that's where I belong."

"You may have been born there, Trinity, but that's not where you belong. I'm certain you know that as well as I do." His words were cutting deep, hitting me hard where I've always felt the most insecure.

"No, I belong with the pack. I am the Luna, I have a mate. I belong there, with my pack, with my mate."

"A mate who doesn't love you? A mate who doesn't want you? Are you certain you're even compatible? Could you really be mated with him?" He spoke in a calm, even voice but his words were sharp and biting.

"Shut up. You don't know what you're talking about. You're wrong. I don't belong here, I belong with my pack, with my mate." I screamed at him.

"We will see about that." He seemed to hum. "If he comes for you, then you belong with him and the pack. But if he doesn't, then you belong here, with your father."

"My father?" I gasped.

"I have been waiting for you, child. All these years I have been waiting for you to return to me."

"You can't be my father." I scoffed at him.

"You wound me. Why would you deny me, my own daughter? I have finally found you after you were stolen away from me. I have never been given the chance to be part of your life, and when I finally find you you deny me." The fake sense of hurt in his voice was frightening, it was like every emotion he had was fake. Did he feel anything at all?

"How could you be my father? You look like you're thirty, at most, that would have made you nothing but a child when I was conceived."

"Looks can be deceiving, especially among us with magic my dear. It is something you will learn for yourself soon. I have been leading this coven for over two hundred years."

"Are you telling me that I am half witch?" I asked him incredulously. "That can't be. It's impossible. I am not a witch, I belong to the werewolf pack."

"Do you have a wolf?" He sounded smug as he grinned at me. I didn't answer him. "I know you don't, there's no use trying to hide it to me. You don't have a wolf because it is not often compatible with us magic users."

"You're wrong. I have wolf traits. I have the enhanced abilities. That means I can't be a witch."

"That is why I created you."

"Created me?" I was shocked to hear what he had just told me.

"Yes, I created you, Trinity. I needed someone to be my pawn, my way into the wolf packs. And that's where you come in."

"I don't understand? How did you create me? And how is having me around of any use to you?"

"How did I create you? Come now, child, you're not that young and naive are you?"

"So, you raped my mother?" I was disgusted, just the sight of him was making me sick to my stomach.

"She was needed to serve a purpose. If it makes you feel any better, she didn't remember any of it."

"No, it doesn't. Because of you, and what you did to her, my mother killed herself."

"Yes, but without me you wouldn't be here." He smiled like that made it all better, like he didn't ruin my mother's life when she was just fifteen years old.

"Why? Why would you do this? Why would you do that to my mother? She was only fifteen for crying out loud."

"I'm well aware of how old she was. I chose her specifically. She was determined to be especially susceptible to my bloodline. My mistake was sending her back to her family so soon. I should have kept her longer. She might not have ended up so weak minded if I had more time with her."

"You're a monster, you sick son of bitch." I wanted to get away from him but I had no means to get by him at the moment. I knew he would destroy me in my current state.

"Think what you want of me, but I will do what's best for my coven. I have fought to live the way we see fit for centuries, I will not give up because some pathetic little girl calls me a monster." His voice was icy and held an edge of anger. It was the first emotion I had seen from him.

"You've fought against wolf packs for centuries?" I asked him, confused.

"Not just wolves. I have fought against the magic council, vampires, Fae, anyone who tries to oppose the way my coven lives."

"If everyone thinks you're wrong, don't you think it's about time to accept that they're right and you're wrong?" I snapped at him.

"I don't care who is right or wrong. My coven will continue to live the same way we always have. And I will destroy anyone who tries to stand in my way."

"You're insane." I breathed, unable to comprehend everything that he was saying.

"Maybe I am, but I will not give up my coven or my power, not for anyone. That's why I needed you." There was a maniacal fire burning in his eyes now.

"Why? What can I do?" I yelled even though he was right in front of me.

"You will be my tool. I am going to force your magic to manifest, and when it does I will send you back to your precious wolf pack. You'll be the agent of destruction among the wolves that I have been planning for all these years. You will simultaneously manipulate them to work for me as well as bring about their ultimate downfall. I will rule the shadow world. And when I do, I will reveal my ever growing coven to the humans. When that happens, I will rule over the entire world." He was nothing more than a megalomaniacal fiend, his plot seemed like something out of a comic book to me.

"Do you seriously think that I will help you? That I will just play along with your little plan."

"You won't have a choice. You think I can't manipulate your mind? I'll change your memories, make you forget everything that happened here just like I made your mother forget. It will be a compulsion to you. You will do anything I ask you to do." He reached his hand slowly toward me and pushed my hair out of my face. His hands were as cold as ice when they touched me. I shuddered in disgust when he touched my face.

Chapter 96 - Trinity-Torture

8-10 minutes

~~

Trinity

~~

"It's time for us to get to work." He grinned at me. I heard a door open in the shadows where he had appeared from. Four people walked in, three men and one woman. The men were the same group that had attacked me outside of Riley's pack house. I had never seen the woman before.

Two of the men came and grabbed me by the arms, yanking me to my feet. The woman went across the room to the chair. She dragged it into the middle of the room which I could now see had a pattern drawn on it in black. I couldn't see the whole pattern clearly but it seemed to be made up of curving lines that formed a three leaf pattern, running through the pointed tip of each leaf was the line of a circle.

The chair was put right in the middle of the symbol. The two men carried me over to the chair, my feet dangling in the air below me. I would have kicked out at them, doing something in an attempt to get away, but the look on the third man's face as he held a knife menacingly in his hands stopped me.

The man with the knife was the man that had kicked me in the head before. He used the knife to cut the ropes from my hands. As soon as my hands were free the two men holding me forced me into the chair. I saw an eerie flash of light out of the corner of my eye, it was a strange purplish light so dark I almost wanted to call it black. The next thing I knew there were ropes winding their way around my arms and legs, binding me to the chair.

"What are you planning?" I snapped at them.

"Shall we get started now, Master Edmond?"

"So, that's your name? Edmond? At least now I know the name of my father that I can hate and resent for the rest of my life."

"Watch your tongue, mongrel. He is the high warlock of this coven. Master Edmond is the greatest of all time." The woman glared at me as she spoke.

"I don't care who Edmond is. To me he is nothing more than a psychotic bastard."

"I said watch your tongue." My head snapped to the side as the woman smacked me across the face with tremendous force.

"That's enough, Reya." Edmond spoke calmly. "Actually Edmond is my surname, child. The name you should have been given but I was not able to grant to you. Gannon Cornelius Edmond, high warlock of the Sacramentum de Mortis." Edmond boasted proudly as he leaned over me.

"The Covenant of Death, how charming. I'm sure you have people begging to join you everywhere you go." I snapped sarcastically.

"So you speak Latin, wonderful."

"It's one of the languages I was forced to learn growing up, never thought it'd be coming into use like this though."

"You're in need of an attitude adjustment, aren't you."

"I don't think so. No one else has ever had a problem with my attitude. You seem to be the only ones who don't like it."

"Hmm, we will just need to take care of it ourselves then. Grantham, Cormac, Beckett, why don't you do something about this. Reya, you help them out." He grinned as he went to leave the room. "If you can't change her attitude or make her magic manifest by tomorrow, well, then it's my turn."

I heard the sound of four sinister laughs as Edmond left the room. I slowly turned my head to focus on the four people who remained in the room with me.

"This will be fun." One of the men said as he punched me in the face. I felt an explosion of pain as blood began to trickle down my face, over my lips, and onto my lap. The man who hit me was about five-foot-ten with short, greasy, light brown hair and pale gray eyes.

"Yeah, we can get some payback from before." Another of the men said as he aimed a blow right into my stomach. He was maybe an inch taller than the other one, with long, dry, dirty blond hair and muddy brown eyes.

"Let's not play around, we have other methods." The last man said as he walked to the outer edge of the room. He came back carrying a large device with a crank handle on the side. This man had the muddy brown eyes of the second one but the light brown hair of the first one, he was similar in height and features to them both as well. It looked like they were all related somehow.

"Oooh, you brought us a toy." The woman, Reya, laughed excitedly. She looked nothing like the men. She was short, like me, but she had bright, unnaturally red hair and black eyes. Instead of the normal pale complexion that goes with red hair she had an olive complexion. Her overall look was wild and unkempt.

The device the man carried in was attached to my hands, feet, and head with cables.

"Douse her, Beckett." The man with the light brown hair and muddy brown eyes said. I didn't see which one but one of the other men must have grabbed a bucket of water from somewhere as the next thing I knew I felt the ice cold water being dumped over my head. I shivered for a moment, letting my body get used to the feeling of the water. I had a feeling I knew what was coming next, and I was not looking forward to it.

"Crank it Cormac." The same man instructed, by process of elimination this made him Grantham. The man with the dirty blond hair smiled as he put his hand on the device's crank.

"Ready to jump?" Cormac smirked as he began to turn the crank.

I felt jolts of electricity when the crank started to turn. They started out small when he was just getting started, but the more the crank turned the more intense the currents became. It wasn't long before it was nearly unbearable.

I refused to cry out. I clenched my jaw and squeezed my eyes shut as my body began to jerk uncontrollably. I couldn't move a single muscle in my body. The spasms wracking through my body was throwing me against the ropes binding me to the chair causing them to dig in painfully.

Gradually the current running through me lessened. My body began to settle back into the chair. I slumped forward unable to hold my head up. I was breathing heavily, the breaths sawing in and out of my lungs painfully.

I glared at the man, Cormac, through the hair that was stuck to my face with water and sweat. I wanted to hurt them. I wanted to destroy them in that moment. With every fiber of my being I wanted to do harm to another person unlike never before.

"I see your attitude hasn't improved at all." Grantham chuckled. "I think you need another lesson." Cormac began to turn the crank again, faster this time. The spasms began once more causing my body to toss and thrash about wildly.

The pain was more intense, but still I did not cry out. I held my cries, my screams of pain inside.

Just as I was ready to throw my head back and scream the current stopped. I nearly sighed in relief, but I managed to hold it in. Once again I glared daggers at the sadistic warlocks in front of me.

"We need to do something about you moving all over the place. Let's tie her up some more." Beckett said from behind me.

"I have just the idea." Reya said from somewhere in the dark. She came sauntering out with another cord of rope. She wrapped the cord around my neck, not quite choking me.

"A garrote, good thinking, that will hold her in place." Beckett laughed. "But let's add one more." He came forward, apparently he had another cord. He wrapped his cord around my upper chest, this one was much tighter than the one around my neck.

Once again the current poured into my body. Jolt after jolt. My body jerked harder than before. Cormac was spinning the crank wildly, faster than he had either time before.

My body spasmed and thrashed against the bindings. The cords cut into my chest and tightened around my neck. I couldn't breathe. I could feel the ropes scraping the skin away where they rubbed against me at my neck and wrists. But the pain was nothing compared to the jolts of electricity.

I couldn't bear it any longer. I had tried to keep from screaming. I had tried not to cry out. But I gave in. I used the last of the air in my lungs to scream long and loud. I lost consciousness as the last of the breath left my body.

Chapter 97 - Reece-Missing Warriors

6-8 minutes

~~

Reece

~~

I told Vincent to wait until six to call the rest of the pack warriors to the house. I wanted everyone here working on finding my Little Bunny. I wouldn't accept anyone not putting their all into this.

The men and women started to arrive quickly, having been summoned to the alpha house on official business. I was expecting nearly a hundred warriors to show, but imagine my surprise when I barely had eighty-five show up. We seemed to be missing quite a few people.

I gave Noah the task of seeing who exactly was missing while I called Riley. I needed to have as much backup on this as possible.

"Reece, you better have one hell of a good reason for calling me so damn early." Riley grumbled into my ear.

"Someone kidnapped my mate last night." I snapped back at him.

"What the hell? Who?"

"I don't know, I was out of the state on business when it happened." I sighed. "I need your help Ri."

"Yeah, anything, man, just tell me."

"First, find out if there are any members of your pack missing. Then I need you to take everyone that is left, everyone that you trust, and help me search for clues. I need to track any one that might be missing from my pack and yours."

"Missing from your pack? Who is missing from your pack?" Riley seemed shocked at the very thought that someone from my pack had betrayed me.

"I'm not certain who all yet, but I seem to be missing about a dozen warriors at least. I'm not sure who else, I have a bigger pack and a much larger territory, it will take a lot longer to find out the complete list."

"I'll rouse the pack and do a full roll call. Once that's done I will wait for your instructions."

"Thank's Riley." I didn't know how far this web of lies in my pack went, but at least I still had my allies.

When Noah came back, he had a list of everyone that was missing from the warriors. Among them were the former guards that seemed to have caused problems for Trinity. There were a few other newcomers to the pack missing, but the rest had been in the pack their whole lives.

I realized now that I might have gone too easy on those guards. I had reassigned them, put them back through training, and disciplined them. But I had not banished them, or better yet killed them. If they had anything to do with this directly, then I will personally see to it that are ripped to pieces.

As for the missing pack members that had been with us since birth, their families had been here for generations. I just needed to look at who the families were. That was enough to tell me that each one of them had been loyal to Caleb, or better yet, my Uncle Frederick for years now.

It looks like I've got to clean house. There are clearly some problems inside my pack that need to be rectified. Traitors will not be tolerated in my pack. If they didn't do anything directly and walked away they might live. But if any of them so much as touched her, or knew about what was going to happen to her then they would pay dearly.

Mom had been asleep when I had gotten home. So, even though she knew what had happened yesterday, she didn't have any new details. She came to see me in my office just after noon, after she had lunch. She had the Whittons with her when she came .

"Reece!" Mom exclaimed as she ran toward me. She threw her arms around my neck, squeezing me tight. "Oh Reece, we will find her. I know we will." She soothed me, rubbing one hand over the back of my head.

"I hope so, Mom. I won't ever stop looking for her." I whispered dejectedly.

"Alpha?" Wesley, Little Bunny's uncle, said my title as question, he seemed to be at a loss."

"Call me Reece, we're family now after all." I told him. He looked taken aback by that, but continued nonetheless.

"Reece, what happened?"

"I don't know exactly, but I'm trying to figure that out."

"How did this even happen?" Eve seemed to have been crying a lot recently.

"Noah and I were gone on business, someone took advantage of that and orchestrated this situation."

"You find her, boy. You need to find her so the same thing doesn't happen to her that happened to my daughter." The old man's face seemed to have broken, tears were falling from his eyes and sorrow filled his face. I had never seen the old man behave so emotionally.

"I won't let that happen to her, Mr. Whitton. I refuse to lose her to anyone." I could see Noah standing behind his family, a strange expression on his face, a mix of pain and anger. He was blaming himself as much as I was. He had advocated for me to leave Trinity home as well, he didn't want to put her at risk, now look what had happened.

"Reece, you haven't eaten or slept since you found out what happened, have you?" Mom sounded worried.

"I can't, I need to find her first."

"What use are you going to be to her if you don't have the energy to function? The same goes for you Noah. I know that you two will refuse to sit idly by and let others rescue her when she is found, you need at least a little rest."

"I wouldn't be able to relax enough mom. I can't bring myself to sleep knowing she's out there somewhere. Who knows what's happening to her." I had been imagining things all night. Horrible things that they might have done to her. My imagination was running rampant.

"Reece, you need sleep. You need to be at your best for her."

"She's right son, you need to rest. You too Noah. Go get something to eat and get some sleep." Eve added, backing up Mom's insistent words.

"I know that you're right, it's just not going to be easy. But I promise to try." Noah agreed.

"That's all I ask." Eve smiled at him.

"Reece?" Mom implored me.

"I'll try." I grumbled.

I did intend to try. Mom forced me into the kitchen where I was given a plate of food made by Abigail. But all I could think about while trying to eat was how Little Bunny wasn't there. How her not being there made the food taste bland. I managed to force myself to eat almost half of it, but that was all I could manage.

Chapter 98 - Reece-Another Vision Of Little Bunny

9-11 minutes

~~

Reece

~~

I dragged my feet slowly up the stairs. Each step seemed to take its toll on me mentally, telling me I was getting further and further away from where I needed to be.

I didn't want to go to my room. I would find no solace in there. My room was a place of solitude and loneliness. It was the prison I had sentenced myself to for years.

I turned left at the top of the stairs, away from my room. I followed the scent that lingered from my mate, the smell that drove my wolf wild and made everything seem right with the world. I trudged along, down the hall to her room.

It hurt, opening the door and seeing her room empty. She wasn't there to brighten the space. But smelling her scent so intensely did help a little.

I was actually starting to feel really tired, now that I was here. I walked slowly to her bed, the bed we shared so recently. The bed where I had learned so much about her body. I felt a hollow ache inside me when I thought about those nights, and how she wasn't here for me to hold now.

I grabbed her jacket as I passed the chair it was hanging on. The soft blue cloth held so much of her scent trapped in it's folds. I kicked my shoes off next to the bed and pulled back the covers. I crawled into the middle of the bed, but I didn't bother to pull the blankets around me, I didn't need them, I just needed to smell more of my Little Bunny's scent where it was trapped in her pillows.

With my head resting on the soft pillows, holding her jacket close to my face, I closed my eyes. I didn't expect to fall asleep so quickly when I came to her room, but I was more exhausted than I thought.

I started to drift into an uneasy sleep. All I could think about was finding my mate. Finding my Little Bunny. Finding Trinity.

I felt myself walking as if on air. The feeling was disconcerting but I paid no mind to it. I was focused on what I was seeing. I was walking through the woods toward an old run down house, approaching it at an angle. It was clearly built in the late 1800s, there was a stone foundation under the dark wooden construction.

The front of the house had two windows and a door, and had a slightly taller pitched roof with two chimneys. The side of the house I could see had four windows, two upstairs and two down. There was a second portion of the house in the back, all one floor, with a small porch set back into the house, walls from the house closing it in on three sides. There were cellar doors near the front of the house, leading down to what was likely to be a very old basement.

I didn't know why I was seeing this place, why I was here, but I continued walking toward the old house. I thought it would be dilapidated, void of all life, but it was clear that people were here, either living here or coming here frequently.

I saw footprints, drag marks, and scuffs in the dirt and dust around the house. Whoever was here had only started coming recently. I wasn't able to smell anything, at all, and that was disconcerting. I couldn't smell the dirt, the trees, the old rotting wood of the house, nothing. But I could feel how cold it was here. It felt like I was covered in ice, I had to resist the urge to shiver.

I hadn't heard the sound of any animals since I had been here. Not a single bird, no mouse scurrying in the woods, it was silent. Until I got to the front of the house. Then I heard the sound of someone screaming, long drawn out sound like someone was in immense pain. It sounded like my Little Bunny.

I whipped my head side to side trying to find out where the scream was coming from, where the sound was most intense. She sounded so close to me, yet so far away.

"Trinity?" I called out to her. "Where are you?" I ran through the house just as the screaming started to fade. "Where are you Little Bunny?" But there was nothing but silence now. The sound of her scream was still ringing in my ear. I searched every room but I could not find her.

"Trinity?" I called out for her several times but there was no answer.

I heard a slamming from somewhere outside, and several voices laughing. When I ran outside I saw no one, but the voices still echoed. The only place the voices could have come from was the cellar.

I threw the cellar doors open and bolted down the stairs. The stairs went down farther than I expected. The long narrow staircase was dark, no light penetrated to help guide you down. Thankfully I didn't need the light to make my way down.

When I emerged I was in a stone room carved out of the rocky earth. It was square, maybe twenty feet long per side, with only a lamp on a small table to light the room. One chair was sat in the middle of the room on top of strange black licks. And there in the corner of the room, was my mate.

She was unconscious. Blood had dried on her face even though it looked like it had been rinsed off somewhat, there was blood on her clothes, like it had dripped down her face onto her jacket, shirt, and pants. I could see red marks around her neck and wrists like she had been tied to something and then thrashed around a lot. Bruises were starting to show on her face, neck, and wrists.

My heart ached seeing her hurt like this. I ran to her, I wanted to hold her in my arms, to take her home with me. To protect her, keep her safe. To make everything better again.

"Little Bunny." I cried out as I reached her side.

I stretched my arms out to her, intent to scoop her up and hold her to my chest, but my arms passed right through her. I couldn't touch her. It was like I wasn't really here. It explained why he couldn't hear any sound besides her scream and the voices outside, or why he couldn't smell anything.

"Is this where you are?" I asked her. "Is this real Little Bunny?" I tried to get an answer out of her, but she couldn't answer me. "I'm going to find you."

I felt myself being pulled. Like there was a tether attached to my navel, pulling me backwards. I passed through the ground, then the foundation and floor of the house. Once I was through the walls, I started moving faster, rising higher and higher.

I saw the area around the house. It was a farmhouse with a barn, but it was surrounded by trees on all sides. Once you went past the yard it was trees for at least half a mile or more in every direction. There was a small town nearby, the biggest building in it was an ornately decorated church with a bell tower that looked out of place in the tiny town.

As I got higher, I saw cliffs off in the distance. Black cliffs. There was only one place I knew that had cliffs that looked like this, the Black Canyons. But where at? Where is this house near the canyons?

Could they seriously have taken her this far? It was almost a six hour drive from the university. Why bring her all the way here. What was the purpose?

I woke to the sound of someone knocking on the door.

"Reece, are you in there?" Mom was calling me.

"Yeah, Mom, I'm in here." I said sitting up and sliding to the edge of the bed as she came into the room.

"Sweetie, what are you doing in here?"

"You told me to get some sleep, so I did." I yawned as I spoke, showing how little rest I had actually gotten.

"Doesn't look like it helped at all."

"I was plagued by strange dreams."

"What kind of strange dreams?" She seemed concerned, but I wasn't ready to tell her what I saw. Not until I found out if that house was real.

"Just my worries, coming to bother me."

"Reece, have you told her how you feel yet?" Mom asked me. My head snapped to the side, my eyes open wide in surprise. How did she know, I hadn't told my mom how I felt about Trinity, the only one who knew was Noah. She laughed at me before she spoke again. "Reece, I'm your mother. I may have been asleep for seven years, but there's still no one who can read you like I can. I know you love her."

"No, I haven't told her yet. I was going to before I left, but Noah got in my way."

"He is rather protective of her isn't he?"

"He's like a brother to her. I'm actually grateful he was there for her. Did you know he actually punched my in the face for how I treated her?"

"Now that's one brave man." Mom was laughing again. "I know that with the two of you working on it, we will find her. You both love her very much. Her mate and her brother working together, what better way to find her?"

"You know he's not really her brother right? He's her cousin."

"He's one of the only two brothers that girl will ever have. He's her oldest brother now, he may legally and genetically be her cousin, but that boy has always been her brother." Mom smiled. "And now that you're not in denial, you will always be her mate. The two of you will find her, I know you will." She seemed so certain that it was making me more confident as well.

Chapter 99 - Trinity-The Warlocks Return

8-11 minutes

~~

Trinity

~~

I woke with a start when I felt cold water splash over me. I was drenched from head to toe. When I gasped from the feel of the icy cold water I inhaled a mouthful which caused me to cough and choke uncontrollably.

"It's about time you wake up." Reya sneered as she stood over me holding an empty bucket. She was wearing a very pretty, flowing purple dress, she looked like she was going to a party rather than spending time in a dreary stone room.

"Too bad she wasn't a werewolf, then she wouldn't be choking." Beckett cackled at his own stupid joke while I tried hard to stifle the coughs.

"What do you want?" My voice came out hoarse when I tried to snap at them causing them to lose the biting edge they might otherwise have held.

"I see your lessons bore no fruit." I heard Grantham drawl from somewhere in the darkened room. "It's a good thing we're here for another round of your training."

"We've got some wonderful plans in store for you this time." Cormac walked forward out of the dark, a heavy looking chain in his hands.

A few minutes later I was standing in the middle of the room, directly in the center of the circle. The chair had been moved aside, leaving the area open and free of obstacles. My hands were once again bound tightly by the thin cords of rope.

The chain Cormac had brought in was attached to a hook in the ceiling and threaded through the ropes around my wrists. I was strung up with my feet barely reaching the floor. If I grew tired and was unable to stand, my wrists would be all that supported my weight.

"I don't think you'll be needing this." Reya laughed as she pulled violently on the jacket I was still wearing. The fabric gave and tore roughly away from my body. Beneath the jacket I had been wearing a thin, light blue, button-up shirt over a white cami and bra. All of which was already stained.

"One more adjustment should do." Beckett sounded giddy as he approached me. I couldn't see what he had planned as he came closer to me. But I felt the cold steel of his knife as he slid the blade into the top of my shirt. He moved the knife down slowly at first but then, with a chuckle, he finished the slice in a quick flourishing move. He moved the blade a little too eagerly at the end and I felt it slice into the small of my back for the briefest of moments. It stung, but the pain was tolerable.

"Oops, my bad." He seemed to giggle as he saw what he had done. I didn't know what they were about to do to me, but I was betting it was worse than a small cut on my back.

I was standing there, my back now almost completely bare to the four of them standing behind me. The cold air, and their eager gazes, were raising goosebumps all over my body. I was glad they were not

looking directly at my face, because I knew the fear was warring with the anger inside me and was likely visible in my eyes.

There were suddenly different lights glowing eerily in the room. Dark green, a deep burgundy, a muddy brown, and smoky gray, colors you wouldn't normally expect to see coming from lights. They gave off no sense of warmth, in fact they seemed to make the already cold room even colder.

The next thing I knew I felt a searing pain slash across my back. I bit down on my lip to keep from crying out but I couldn't stop my body from jerking with the pain. The four of them cackled with glee at the sight of my misery.

"That's right, mongrel, this time it's a dance lesson. Dance for us, come on dance." Reya almost seemed to be singing joyfully.

Another searing pain rent across my back. I felt the skin split open this time. It felt like hot coals were being pressed against my back, the heat around the slashes was so intense. I realized now what was happening, they had a whip and were beating me with it.

"Let's get to work." Grantham's voice seemed to coo as he spoke. His voice was beginning to sicken me.

I felt another slash followed quickly by another, then another and another. Four slashes in quick succession. They must all have a whip. Was that what those lights were? Did they have whips made of magic?

I didn't have time to think about it as I felt the pain searing and flaying my back, strike after strike. I bit down hard on my lip to stop myself from crying out and I locked my knees to stop myself from moving as much as I could. But that just made them more determined.

Whenever I did let a soft moan or cry of pain escape, unable to stop myself with the severe pain I was feeling, they would laugh maniacally. They delighted in the pain I was feeling and it made them eager to hear more. I didn't know how much more I could take, or how long it had already been.

My vision was growing dark around the edges. My back was on fire. Not a piece of my back felt untouched by the glowing light whips in their hands. My legs were getting weak and unable to support me. I wanted to scream, I wanted to cry, but I refused. I fought to stay awake. I fought to stay conscious.

To save a bit more of my strength I let my legs go slack, leaving me to hang from the ceiling by my hands. My arms and hands had long ago gone numb, and my back hurt so bad now that I could feel no pain anywhere else. But I remained awake. And I did not cry.

"That should do for now." Grantham sneered from behind me. I hadn't seen any of them since they had tied me in this position. "Cut her down."

"Shouldn't we just leave her?" Beckett said eagerly.

"No, Master Edmond wants her cut down, she can't be permanently damaged. Not beyond repair at least." Grantham seemed like he was the leader of the group and they all followed his lead.

"Fine." Beckett grumbled, his voice growing nearer.

I pretended to be asleep as he came closer to me. He slid the knife against my wrist, I felt the cold of the steel again as I pressed against me. He flicked his wrist quickly, slicing through the ropes holding me to the chain. I wanted to brace myself for the fall, but that would give away that I was pretending to be asleep, so I had no choice but to take the fall full force.

I fell, the right side of my head banged against the stone floor first. The impact jostled me violently. When my upper body quickly followed all the air was pushed out of my lungs. I couldn't breathe, I couldn't take a breath at all. I knew I was going to lose consciousness again soon.

Some of the last things I thought of before I could think no more were about Reece. How I wished he would come for me. How I wanted him to save me, to rescue me. How I wished he would want to save me. And also how he was probably happy to be rid of me. How he no longer had me there to burden him. How this couldn't have come at a better time for him, he finished his conquest and now it was out of sight.

Wait, did he actually set this up? Did he plan this whole thing? Was Reece really the one behind me being taken. Was he actually trying to get rid of me?

Please, Reece, don't be involved. Please don't be a part of this pot full of crazy sauce. I can deal with you not caring enough to come save me. I know you don't love me like I love you, but please, don't be the one behind this whole thing.

If I found out he was the one that caused this, the one that did all this, I would never recover. I would rather die than face that truth. I love him, there was no getting around that. That's why it would destroy me too much.

I heard the sound of the four maniacs leaving the basement just as I was on the verge of losing my consciousness altogether.

"We'll be back to play some more when she wakes up." Reya laughed. That was when my strength broke, at least temporarily. I began to cry. With my face pressed into the stone floor, unable to move my arms, unable to roll over or even sit up, I sobbed into the floor as I let the pain take me into unconsciousness.

I fell into a state of fitful dreams, nightmares filled with words but no images. I heard Reece's words from so long ago and Edmond's voice from much more recently.

"You're more than a burden, I hate you." 'No, he said that was a lie.' I heard my subconsciousness reject the words.

"Are you sure you're compatible?" Edmond's voice sneered at me. 'Yes, we are! We're mates.' My mind reeled again.

"You are nothing to me." Reece's words stung so much more than they did the first time I heard them. 'No, things are better now.' I protested.

"If he comes for you, then you belong with him and the pack. But if he doesn't, then you belong here, with your father." Edmond's voice scared me. 'No, I will never stay with you, never.' My dreams continued like this until my mind seemed to crack under the weight of doubt.

Chapter 100 - Reece-Allies Arrive

7-8 minutes

~~

Reece

~~

I had been asleep for around five hours when mom came to get me. It was just starting to get dark again. My Little Bunny had been missing for twenty-two hours now, but if my dream was to be believed, then I had seen the house she was in.

I had no choice but to believe it. It was the same basement I had seen her in last night when I had gotten out of the shower. I needed to find that house, if I find that house then I find her.

I wanted to try using the mate mark again. I was sitting in the chair in her room, reluctant to leave her scent, when I put my right hand over the mark she had left on me. I had seen it in the mirror when I went to the bathroom and washed my face following my attempt at resting.

The outlines of the mark had gotten darker. The crest in the middle was forming its picture, though it seemed to be different from the pack crest. And I could see the outline of the shape that surrounded it, the lines that flowed around it almost forming a three leaf pattern. It was a trinity symbol. I recognized it and realized that was the symbol that had been on the floor of the cellar she was in, sort of. That one was a trinity symbol but it had a circle near the tips of leaf branches. Funny her pattern is her name, the thought made me smile.

I closed my eyes, inhaling deeply of her scent that lingered in the room and on my clothes. I pictured her, every detail of her. It didn't take as long to link with her this time.

I saw her hanging limply from a chain in the cellar. I still could not see the other people around her but I saw her clearly. The back of her shirt had been cut open, her jacket ripped away and laying in tatters across the room. There were dozens upon dozens of red slashes and welts all over her back. The skin split open in several places. Blood was pouring down her back in steady streams.

My wolf and I were ready to kill every single person who had laid a finger on her. They would all pay the ultimate price with their lives. They had committed the ultimate crime, the ultimate sin against me. They dared to touch and defile my mate.

I watched as it appeared someone was about to cut her down. One moment she was hanging suspended by her wrists, then the next she fell face first against the stone floor. I ran to her side, I wanted to hold her but I couldn't. I wanted to make sure she was alright.

I knelt by her side, unable to touch her, As I watched her lay there, the sound of the people in the room began to fade, and with it, she began to cry. I heard her cry out my name while sobbing before she drifted into a fitful sleep.

I opened my eyes, seeing Little Bunny's familiar room around me. I had seen the same basement this time. Every time it was the same. She had to be in that room. I just needed to find out where it was.

I may not know where the house she was in is at, but I might know someone who does. But I'm not so sure that someone would want to help me out right now, we're not exactly allies. Not enemies really, but not friends either.

First, I would need to gather my pack and explain everything to them. They needed to be prepared for what we were walking into. Then, I would need to call the alpha of the Black Canyons pack. He was not someone I had ever spent much time with, I didn't know what kind of man he was or if he would help at all. But I had to try.

When I left Little Bunny's room I noticed that the house was a lot busier than when I had last been down stairs. I could smell and sense dozens of people, and they all seemed to be on the first floor. Fear and panic flooded me and I made my way down the hall and to the stairs.

Was that dream a vision of something that had already passed? Did that happen a while ago? Have they already moved beyond the torture they were using on her then? Am I too late? These thoughts and more were running through my head as I moved down toward the crowd gathered in the formal dining room.

The table was full of men and women, all chatting in semi-hushed voices and working their way through the piles of food on the table. I could tell that Abigail had cooked the feast, the food was easy to recognize, but she had obviously done it in a hurry as it wasn't her best meal. Instead, the food was all things that could be cooked quickly and in large quantities. The group gathered around didn't seem to care.

Among the group I noticed Riley, sitting quietly near the head of the table, next to where I would sit. He was lounging in the chair, trying to appear casual and nonchalant, but it was clear that he was upset. The line of his body was rigid and the stiff set to shoulders and jaw was a tell tale sign. He was also not eating, instead he was watching the men and women gathered eat their food instead.

He lifted his head as I walked nearer to him. A tense look on his face.

"Reece, how are you holding up man?" I could hear the concern in his voice.

"I'm going to kill whoever took her." I grimaced. My voice didn't shake, I didn't have emotions filling my voice, but still I felt as if I sounded like a broken man. I watched as the sympathy filled Riley's eyes.

"Don't worry Reece, I'll make sure you get that chance." I saw the determination chase the sympathy away. Riley had a mate, he knew what it must feel like to be away from her.

"How do you do it, Riley?" I asked as I sunk into my chair, my head slumped forward as my shoulders hunched.

"Do what?" Riley was confused by my question.

"How do you leave your mate? How do you live every day when you have to leave her at any time?"

"You've fallen for her hard, haven't you? I knew you would. It's not like we can deny the truth the Goddess gives us, Reece. She told you that Trinity was your mate but you tried to fight it. Now, when

she is in danger, you've only just started building you bonds with her, am I right?" I turned my head and glared at him as he lectured me. "Looks like I nailed it in one. Look Reece, you have to understand that the Goddess doesn't make mistakes. When she tells you that your mate is right in front of you it's just a fact that you need to accept." Riley was always the immature goofy one of us, but having his mate around must have matured him somewhat.

"I know."

"Then why did you deny her?"

"Because I'm a damn idiot." I admitted to him.

"I won't argue there."

"Go fuck yourself." I snapped at him jokingly.

"Nah, I'd rather have my wife, it's more fun that way." He retorted. We both laughed for a moment as we watched the group around the table eat, but the laughter felt hollow to me.