Forever in the Past and Forever in the Future

Chapter 170

Chapter 38

"Alright, Luna Regent lokaste Mason, let's see what we're working with, my dear," Lady Camile's soothing voice calms me as we settle into the comfortable pillows on the floor of the meditation room. Bronx made the male wolves who were working out in the weight room next door all leave and turn off the music. That way, we could have some peace and quiet, and I wouldn't have to walk by the weight room in my meditation outfit. Bronx gets jealous like that. Yeah, I still roll my eyes at the notion too. 2

"Delilah tells me things have been...tumultuous lately," she takes my hands and massages my fingers. Her hands are nice and warm. The feeling is so calming.

"Yeah. It really has been," I nod, feeling a little sleepy.

"Well, let's do things a little differently today. Since there are stretches of time you are having trouble accounting for, let's do a bit of hypnosis. See if we can find it," her voice sounds soft and seems to melt into my mind.

"Yeah, okay," I hear myself answer, but my consciousness is slipping away.

"I love this part," Lex yawns, "I wonder what we're gonna find, Kas"

"Hopefully answers, Lex."

I let myself fall back into the endless abyss of hypnosis, letting Lady Camille's words lead me around until I'm standing in a hallway of an apartment building.

I look around. It doesn't look familiar. It is clean with flowery wallpaper. The sconces on the walls are nondescript. I look to the left and right. There are doors up and down each side. I decide to go to the right. When I get to the second door, I stop and face it.

It feels like I should knock on it. I raise my hand, but pause. No, I belong here. I should just open the door. I don't know how I know it's

unlocked, I just do. I grasp the handle and feel a tingle of energy. The door easily swings open at my touch.

I stand in the doorway and look in, "Hello?"

I can hear someone moving around inside.

"Well, don't just stand there. Come in. This is your home, after all," I hear a woman's high-pitched voice call to me.

I take a couple of tentative steps inside and look around. The door behind me closes on its own accord, making me jump slightly. I let the energy inside me build slightly. This doesn't feel like any of the hypnosis Lady Camille and I have done before. This feels more like it is happening now. Different from when I meditate and send my essence out into the world. I look down at my hands. Not just an idea of a presence. I'm actually standing in this apartment.

"W-Who's there?" I call out tentatively.

A small woman steps into a shadowy part of the hallway. I can see her wiping her hands on a dish towel as she approaches. When she passes by the lamp placed halfway down the hall, I gasp.

It's me. The woman walking down the hall is me. Wait, what? What kind of hypnosis session is this?

"Hello lokaste," she smiles warmly as she stands in front of me.

Her hair is slightly longer, but her face is exactly like mine, except for the scars on the sides of my neck and shoulders. Sparkly silver hair and vibrant violet eyes. I could practically be looking in a mirror.

"I - is this a dream?" I ask in awe.

"No, darling, this is not a dream," she shakes her head.

"Are you one of my sisters?" I ask, unsure of what else to say. I want to reach out, hug her, and cry with joy that I have finally met one of my sisters, but something stops me. An invisible formality that makes me feel like I need to stay one step away from her.

"Yes, I'm Leticia. I know you don't remember me, but several lifetimes ago, you asked me to keep this place safe for you. We placed an enchantment on it so you could come back when you were ready. So here I am. Please come in."

There is something scratchy about her voice. It makes the spot where my jaw and ear meet feel uncomfortable.

"Ready for what?" I finally inspect around the living room I'm standing in. They decorated everything in shades of green, gray, and white. It reminds me of my blanket back home. It definitely looks like my style. Contemporary and comfortable. Not too modern.

"I don't know. You just said you would be back, but since you don't seem to remember anything, maybe it's too soon?"

"Where are we?" I ask as I step further into the room, feeling the need to feed my curiosity.

"Well, it's not that simple. It's kind of a cross between where and when. It fluctuates," she squints her eyes with a shrug, shaking her

hands a little at the same time, "How did you get here?"

"I was being hypnotized by a witch to figure out what happened during some lost time," I say, still looking around, taking in details of the apartment.

"A witch?"

"Yeah, don't worry, she is a light witch. I trust her."

"Oh, I see. A light witch," she emphasizes the word light as she speaks.

A thought suddenly jumps to my mind, "Leticia, did you save me from the guys who tried to kidnap me during the jewelry store robbery two years ago?"

She crosses her arms, looks at her feet, then back up to me. There is a sharpness to her grin. A hidden threat she is trying not to expose.

"Yeah. Some of my better work, if I might add."

"Thankyou," I smile in return.

"No need to thank me," she looks around, avoiding eye contact.

"Umm, what about that man at the ATM? Was that you?"

"I was just following orders," her tone turns defensive.

"Orders? Whose orders?"

"Yours, Kas."

I feel like my stomach is going to drop out of my body, "What?"

"Hey, I don't know why you do the things you do or order the

things you order. Hell, you probably don't either. Losing your memory after each lifetime. It's so cruel."

"I'm sorry. This is all kinds of confusing. What are you talking about? Why would I order you to kill anyone? Why is it cruel to lose my memories?" I try not to sound suspicious, but she is speaking like I should be in on some sort of secret.

"Don't worry, darling, we will right the wrongs soon enough and we will finally find balance in our lives."

As she speaks, the edges of her body start to fade. Her voice becomes softer and softer as another voice becomes more clear.

"Luna Regent lokaste Mason, I command you to come back to your body. By the will of the Moon Goddess, Selene, and Goddess of Witchcraft, Hecate, return to your form in good mind, good health, and good spirit," I can hear Lady Camille drawing me back to where she is.

I feel myself floating in the familiar emptiness of hypnosis before I open my eyes.

"lokaste, my child, are you alright? Where did you go?"

I sit up and take her hand. I can't stop the smile, even though the encounter was unsettling, "Lady Camille. I-I met one of my sisters."