## Game of Destiny – A Thrilling Tale of Power, Love & Fate

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We spent the rest of the morning changing the plan for how we would get to and from the meeting. There was a short break as Matilda insisted I needed a snack. After we were done and had lunch, Finlay and I settled down in our office. We were going to call my brother. Just because I insisted on going to the meeting didn't mean I didn't see the risks. It definitely didn't mean I wouldn't do anything I could to mitigate those risks. The new travel plan was one way of doing it. My brother was another, he would probably be the biggest mitigation of them all. We called him and he answered and I saw his smile.

"Little sister, Finlay. It's nice to hear from you. I hope nothing has happened that has you calling unexpectedly this close to the meeting. We hadn't planned this call, right? It has been a lot to do these past weeks, but I think I wouldn't forget a call with the two of you," he said. I smiled at him.

"You are right. It's an unplanned meeting, but nothing bad has happened," I reassured him.

"But we do have something we want to talk to you about," Finlay added.

"Right, and what is that?" Elder asked.

"Before we come to that, I need you to swear on your life that what we tell you in this

call, you won't repeat to mom and dad," I demanded.

"Um, why?"

"You will understand when I tell you. But you must swear first. Not even under the threat of mom never cooking her special chili ever again," I insisted. His eyes grew bigger.

"That is a tall order, sis."

"It's a big secret. I promise you won't have to keep it for long." He hesitated for a moment. "I'm just going to say purple dress." Elder's eyes grew even bigger if that was possible.

"This must be one juicy secret. Fuck, now I'm curious. Have I told you I hate you?" Elder muttered.

"Not today."

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"Well, I do. But I will swear not to not tell our parents what you are telling me, not even if it means I will never eat mom's chilli again," he told me. I smiled and looked up at Finlay. He smiled back and kissed me.

"I think it's safe to tell him," my mate said. I turned to face the phone again.

"We are going to have a pup," I said. Elder just looked back at us and blinked, for a long time.

"A pup?" he finally asked.

"Yes," Finlay said.

"My baby sister is having a pup?"

"How is this not registering?" I asked. Elder laughed.

"Congratulations! This is amazing news. I'm going to be an uncle. Mom is going to be ecstatic, and dad is going to lose his mind," he told us, excitedly. "Wait. Why are you telling me this now? We will see each other next week. I get that you may be eager to share good news, but it could have waited."

"I need you to do me a favour," I said.

"Sure. I will do anything for you, you know that."

"You are sweet. I need you to tell James before the meeting. This will sound extremely self–centred, and I know he has been seeing Carol, but I can't have him doing something stupid out of surprise. Finn is having a hard time letting me come as it is. If James does something without thinking it through..."

"I will put an end to it without hesitation," Finlay ended the sentence.

"Ah, yes. I didn't think of it from that aspect. Smart move. I think it's in all our best interests for James to have some time to get

used to the idea before seeing you," my brother agreed.

"I'm sorry to ask you to keep it a secret from our parents, but I want to be there in person when they find out. Feel free to tell Becky," I said.

"No sweat. I can be good for a week. I'll make sure James keeps quiet as well. I'm so

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happy for you Amie, and for you as well Finlay."

"Thank you. We are over the moon," Finlay told him and placed a hand on my stomach.

"And the pack must be happy as well?" Elder asked. I giggled.

"They are. I'm being spoiled rotten by everyone," I told him.

"As you should be," Finlay added.

"Feeling better?" I asked Finlay.

"True," Elder agreed. We talked for a little while longer and hung up.