

Chapter 36 – Their Beautiful Strong Queen

When we made it to the main room, there were way more people there than this morning. The main room of the clubhouse was full of brothers, sisters, and kids. Aries leaned over and whispered into my ear. “It’s family day today, baby, which means it’s just brothers, sisters, and kids. No club whores, ever. Come on, I’ll introduce you to everyone after we eat.”

We went to the kitchen with Zeus walking before us to make a path for me. Aries stood behind me with his hand on my back. I got a lot of curious looks from the ones who didn’t know who I was. Only a few of the brothers had seen me here and only a few knew who I was. As we were walking through everyone to get to the kitchen, people kept saying hi to Aries. Or they would want to stop him to talk to him.

He finally told everyone that he’d talk to them after we ate. When we finally made it to the kitchen, Sunny and Ivy were both in there restocking the food as the guys fixed their plates. When Sunny saw us moving she yelled out “Move your asses out of the way my daughter-in-laws coming through.” That had everyone in there looking around to see who she was talking about.

When they saw Zeus and Aries, they started to move out of the way. But when they saw me they stopped and stared. They were giving me an array of looks. They ranged from curiosity to hostility to wonder to pissed off. The ones that were pissed were the women. I’m guessing that they were the single ladies who wanted a chance with my men. Ivy yelled out “Move your asses like Sunny said and let our daughter-in-law through. Don’t just stand there like a bunch of nincompoops.”

After she yelled, they moved and made way for us to get through. I wasn’t going to let the bitches giving me the evil eye get to me. I had let way too much get to me lately, and it had changed the way that I was. I used to be a badass, and lately, I wasn’t myself. So I put my head up and wheeled up to Sunny and Ivy and gave them both a hug. “Good afternoon ladies, how are you both doing today?” I asked them.

“We’re both doing just fine. How are you? They guys said that you were studying in Aries’ office. Do you need to study more after lunch or are you done for the day?” Sunny asked me. “I’m done for the day. I have passed the pre-tests and the practice tests, so I think I’m ready for the actual tests. I’ll study again tomorrow and Wednesday. I have a picture that I’m working on, but it’s not an assignment. It’s just something that I’m doing as a present for my art teacher. I have a couple of days to finish it though. Aries said that you are all cooking out tonight. Do you need any help to make anything?” I asked them.

At the same time, Ivy went to answer with a “No, I think we have...” Some bitch on the other side of the counter got snotty. She said with a sneer “As if she could actually cook. She obviously can’t even walk since she is using that fucking contraption. Or are you just

faking to get attention from Aries and Zeus? I bet you're just faking and trying to gain sympathy from them."

I looked at Aries with a pissed-off look on my face, and he just nodded to me. So I looked back at this bitch and said "I'm sorry, but do you fucking know me?" When she said, "No, but I know your sisters." I shook my finger at her and said "Let me fucking stop you right fucking there. If you're talking about that fake, plastic, barbie-looking whores. They are not my sisters. Those bitches are nothing but abusive twats. I don't claim them and haven't since I was five, and they tried to kill me. Yeah, you heard that right. They were ten years old and tried to kill a five-year-old kid. Don't believe me, I have proof."

I put my cup in my little basket in front of my scooter and took off my hoodie and laid it on the top. Even though I had the outline of my tattoo done, you could still see the scar really well. I pulled up my shirt so that she could see most of it. Sunny and Ivy both gasped when they saw it and when I looked at them, they had tears in their eyes. The guys' sisters were in the kitchen as well and had walked over, and I could hear them gasp and could hear someone crying.

"I did nothing to deserve this. What years that I spent in the house of hell were spent sleeping in a cold damp basement and always being sick and abused. So anything that comes out of those nasty-assed whores mouths is a lie. I can actually cook, and I'm damn good at it. If you've ever eaten at Nonna's Diner, then chances are that you ate my cooking. I'm in school not only for business but to be a chef as well. And I'm not faking anything. I am hurt and Dom and Marcello were there when it happened. If you think I'm faking ask them, I'm sure that they'll tell you I'm not. You're obviously jealous that I'm with Aries and Zeus. Get used to it because a bitch like you is NOT going to run me off. I'm with them, all four of them. They are my men and will stay that way. You can like it or lump it, I don't give a fuck. But don't come at me with gloves raised because I'm an MMA fighter and a boxer, and I'll knock your ass out."

When I got done talking, everyone who had been in the kitchen and even some of the guys from the main room who could hear me were clapping and cheering. Aries looked at her and said "Tammy, go home and don't bother coming back tonight. You've been warned a couple of times about how you talk to the sisters of the club. You're not a sister, you're just a brother's daughter. We have told you many times that we'd NEVER be with you. Hell, your dad had to talk to you about it. We don't want a jealous, manipulative bitch as an old lady. And get it through your head, River is our old lady. We plan to marry her and have kids with her. We won't ever be with anyone else. Your band from the clubhouse and the get-togethers that we have here for the next two months. And if I find out that you or anyone else here have anything to do with the Montgomerys, you're out. Those people are toxic and are child abusers. Now Tammy go home and the rest of you go back to eating or whatever you were doing. The show's over."

I had pulled my shirt back down and Zeus had his arms around me holding me tight. "Ignore her baby, she's just a jealous bitch that wanted what she couldn't have. Let's get you some food, yeah." He squeezed me tight and then let go after I nodded against his chest. Aries grabbed me next and gave me a big hug. I didn't put my hoodie back on, but I

wrapped it around my waist and tied it. Aries grabbed my cup to go fill it up and Zeus and I made plates of food.

I put two pieces of pizza on my plate as well as curly fries, cheese sticks, and marinara. I also got broccoli cheese bits, onion rings, and cheese bread. After loading our plates up, we waited for Aries to get his. He put my cup into my basket and then made his plate. Once we all had our plates, we went back out to the main room to sit down to eat. We had just started to eat when the main door was thrown open. You could hear someone stomping and cussing.

People started to move out of the way of whoever it was. We were sitting at what I had learned from the guys was their table. They had put me in the corner and then sat on each side of me so that I was protected. I had a wall at my back, so the only way to get to me was over the table or over the guys. The guys were watching to see who was coming when we heard the door slam open and close again.

I could hear what sounded like Ripper yell “Get the fuck out of my way. Move your asses right the fuck now.” Everyone parted like the sea and moved back so that there was a path from the door to us. When everyone moved, I could see another guy come stomping up to our table ahead of Ripper. He was a big guy, not as big as my guys but big. And he was extremely pissed off. Aries stood up and said, “Nutcase, what seems to be the problem?”

“I want to know why the fuck my daughter’s not allowed at the clubhouse for the next two months. She said that some bitch was running her mouth and got her kicked out. This bitch that got her kicked out isn’t even a member of our club, from what she said. Just some lien manipulative whore. And I want her brought to me so that I can fucking deal with the disrespectful bitch” he spit out.

Aries looked at him with fury on his face. “Your daughter is the one that is a lien disrespectful bitch. She’s the one that was running her mouth to OUR old lady. Yeah, that’s right, Zeus and I have an old lady now, and NO ONE talks to OUR QUEEN the way that that little bitch did. So she’s out for the next two months. You touch our old lady, and you will be out of the club if not six feet under.”

He looked at me and then back at Aries and said “What did my daughter supposedly do now?” Aries then proceeded to tell him what the hell she had done. And told him that all I did was take up for myself and everyone in the clubhouse vouched that she was the one that started shit by running her mouth. He stood there running, his hands threw his hair when a woman walked up beside him and put her hand on his arm.

“Thomas, I saw the whole thing and Tammy is the one that started it. She deserves to be out for the next couple of months. She’s running with a bad crowd and getting in a lot of trouble. She needs help, and you won’t listen to me when I tell you what she’s doing. She’s going to get herself in a lot of trouble or worse. She needs to be punished for once in her life. Cut her off and make her stand on her own damn feet. Stop babying her, it’s not doing her any good” she said.

He looked down at her for a few minutes before he said “You’re right, and I have babied her way too much. I felt so responsible for losing our other daughter that I didn’t want to lose the only one we had left. So I spoiled the only one that we had left way too much. I’ll fix it, and she’s going to change or else. I’m sorry I didn’t listen to you love” he said.

While they were talking, Ripper came up to us, shoved Aries out of the way, sat down beside me, and wrapped me up in a hug. He then whispered to me “Bacardi sent me a video of what all happened. From the time that Tammy opened her mouth. I am proud of you for sticking up for yourself. And I want to go strangle the Montgomerys for what they did to you. Are you OK darling?”

“I’m OK, I promise I didn’t let what she said get to me. I’m going back to the way that I used to be. I’m not letting anyone get to me anymore. I’m bringing the bitch back” I said with a smile. “Good, just remember that you have all of us in your corner now. We’re your family now too.”

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After the cookout that night, the guys and I went back to their house. And after separate showers, we went to bed. It had been a long day, and I was exhausted. When the alarm went off the next morning, we got up and prepared for the day. After using the bathroom, I got dressed, brushed my teeth, and put some makeup on. Then I brushed my hair, pulled it up, and braided it.

After I got done in the bathroom, the guys took turns going in and getting ready. Zeus was done first, so he carried me downstairs. “Mom makes breakfast at the clubhouse throughout the week with Sunny, so we’ll wait and eat over there,” he told me. “That’s fine, but I need coffee, lots and lots of coffee. I always drink two or three cups at home and stop on the way for iced coffee before I get to school.”

“Don’t worry baby, we’ll make sure that you have plenty of coffee to drink today. We have a couple of big coffee pots in the kitchen at the clubhouse, and they are always full in the morning. Pops is driving you to work today because I didn’t make it yesterday to check on that bike. I have a lot of other shit to do today that I have to get done. He’s going to stay with you and make sure that you’re OK today. He’ll stop and get you coffee. Legal doesn’t have anything to do right now, so he said that he’d go with you. And if he does have paperwork or anything, it’s probably stuff that he can do on his laptop”, Aries said as he came downstairs with my scooter.

“OK, and all I’m doing today is painting in the art room, so it should be pretty quiet in there. So anything that he needs to do he’ll be able to. Don’t worry about me, I’ll be OK today. Now, if we’re ready, let’s go please, I need a huge cup of the elixir of life”, I joked. They both just laughed at me.

I grabbed my purse and put my ballet flat on. Zeus grabbed my laptop bag and scooter and Aries picked me up and carried me out to the truck. Once we were all loaded in, we headed down to the clubhouse. When we got down there, there weren't many people there yet. So we left my bag in the truck and went in to eat breakfast.

Ivy and Sunny had a huge spread of food sitting out on warming plates. They made pancakes, waffles, scrambled eggs, hash browns, fried potatoes, sausage gravy, sausage links, bacon, biscuits and toast. They also had coffee, orange juice, milk, and juice, sitting out to drink.

The guys and I loaded up plates of food. I got scrambled eggs, hash browns, fried potatoes, biscuits with sausage gravy on it, sausage links, and bacon. And Aries found me a big coffee cup and made me a cup of coffee. I could've given him a big kiss at that moment. But I didn't want to start something that I couldn't finish. Aries helped me out to the table we sat at last night and got me situated. Then he went back to get his food and coffee.

His dads and Zeus' dads were at the table, so he was fine with leaving me alone. The guys were done eating and talking. So I took a big drink of coffee and started eating. While I was eating, I decided to check my phone. I didn't have any new texts from the guys or Nonna, Nicco, or Uncle Z. So I decided to text them and see what was going on. I needed to know that they were OK.

Me to Nonna- Hey Nonna, I haven't heard anything from you, so I'm checking in. Are you guys OK, is everything ok? Text me back and let me know that you are all fine so that I don't worry. I don't have any tests today, but I have to go to school to finish up my painting for art class. I have two tests, on Tuesday and Thursday. So get a hold of me anytime today. Legal (or my father-in-law as he says lol) is going to school with me this week as protection. There will also be a couple of prospects stationed around the school. I miss you the most. Let me know if you're OK. I love you.

Me to Nicco- Hey Uncle Nicco, how are you guys doing? I miss you all, and I've not heard from anyone since yesterday. Let me know that you're all OK. I love ya.

Me to Dom- I miss you and Marcello, are you both OK? I've not heard from you since yesterday morning. I hope everything is going OK over there. I'll be at school today, but it's only to finish up my art picture. Text me when you can, Bellissimo.

Me to Marcello- I miss you and Dom, how are you doing? I've not heard from anyone since yesterday. I'm worried about everyone. Let me know that you're all OK. I don't have class today. I'm just finishing up my painting. Text me later, please, Bello.

When I got done texting everyone, I put my phone away and finished eating. Aries and Zeus were at the table now and were eating their food and talking to their dads. When I got down with my food, I pushed my plate away and wrapped my hands around my coffee cup. I sat there thinking about what could be going on in Italy. Something had to have

happened for them to go over there. And I wasn't sure what it would be. I hope that all of my Molto Nonnos and Molto Nonnas are OK.

While I was sipping my coffee and thinking, Zeus leaned over to me and asked me "Are you OK baby? You look lost in thought. Is everything OK? We saw you on your phone when we sat down." "Have either of you heard from Dom or Marcello since yesterday?" I asked him. "No, I talked to Dom yesterday morning and Marcello texted me while we were in the office yesterday afternoon. Since then, nothing and I've tried to message them but haven't heard back."

"I haven't heard from any of them since I got up yesterday morning at three am and had texts on my phone from them. I messaged them all back and still nothing. I sent texts to Nonna, Nicco, Dom and Marcello. And I'm about to text Uncle Zain also. I'm hoping that I hear back from them soon. I'm starting to get worried. They didn't say why they had to go over there, just that they'd let me know, and they'd be back."

"I'm sure that they'll get a hold of you, baby. I'll try to call Dom and Marcello while you're at school today. If I hear from them, I'll let you know, I promise" Aries said. "Thank you." "You ready to head out to school? The girls are getting their bags and will meet us in the SUV. The prospects will follow on their bikes", Legal said. "Yeah I'm ready to go, I need to get my bag out of the guys' truck though," I said.

"Don't worry baby, we'll walk out with you and get them and see you off. If you need us today, call or text us, but Dad will be with you all day", Aries said. The guys took our plates and cups to the kitchen and then helped me out to the SUV. Zeus went to get my laptop bag and Aries helped me into the front seat of the SUV. The girls were already in the back. Then he put my scooter into the back of the SUV.

When he got it in there, he came and kissed me goodbye and then went to talk to Legal. Zeus brought me my laptop bag and then kissed me as well and shut my car door. When Aries and Legal got done talking, Legal got into the SUV and started it up. The guys waved to us and then headed back inside. Legal looked at us and asked "Who wants to stop for coffee? I haven't had anywhere near enough and need more."

"Us girls all yelled "Me" and then started laughing. After we stopped and got coffee, hot for Legal and cold for us, as well as muffins, we headed to school. He dropped both girls off in front of the buildings where their classes were. Three prospects had followed us and one stayed with each of the girls and the last one followed us. So I had extra protection, just in case something happened.

When we got to the art building, Legal parked the car and then got my scooter out of the back. After I got out and got situated on my scooter, he grabbed a laptop bag also. I had my iced coffee in my little basket and my purse and laptop bags over my shoulder. When we were ready, we headed into the art building. I led Legal to my class and showed him where he could sit.

After putting my bags at my station, I got my picture and set it up on my easel. Then I got out my paints, brushes, and palettes. Once I was all set up, I got busy painting. I was so lost in what I was doing like I always am. But I was still aware of what was going on. Legal was working away at his laptop and taking the occasional call. I could hear him working, but every time the door opened he would stand up, and once he saw that it wasn't a threat to me, he would sit back down.

He hadn't seen what I was painting yet because he was sitting off my left side and a little bit in front of me. He came to stand behind me when a guy stepped into the classroom and was looking around. He whispered to me "Do you know who that is? Is he a teacher or a student?"

I looked around my canvas to see who he was talking about. I recognized the guy immediately and jerked my head back so that he couldn't see me. I didn't feel like putting up with him and his bullshit today. I'd probably lay him out, and I didn't want to mess up this picture. I whispered back to Legal "That's the guy that's been harassing me at Sips. He's the reason that I met Dom originally. He's also the one that was following me the night that I first met you all."

"That's what I thought, he must not see you. He's leaving now." "Good, I don't want to deal with him today. I don't want to mess up my picture. I'm so close to having it done, and I want it finished as a present to Nonna." "It's very beautiful, you are very talented. If you didn't want to be a chef, I'd say go into art and sell your paintings. I may have to have you paint a picture for Sunny. She would love it, she loves art."

"Anytime, just let me know when and I'd be glad to paint one for you or her. All that I need is the picture that you want to be painted and to know what size you want it made." "I'll find a picture for you. We have a family picture that's her favorite that would look good. I'll get it for you, and after you're done with school for the year I'll have you do it." "Sounds good to me, I'm not going to have much to do right now, anyway, once school is over. I can't work until my ankle is better. Speaking of. I need to stop by the diner on the way home to make sure that everything is going OK", I said.

"OK, we can, and I'll get you that picture so that you can do it for me. And I will pay you for doing it. That's nonnegotiable" he said. "OK," I said as I went back to painting. I was finishing up when the door opened up again and the plastic twins and their brothers stepped in. Because they didn't go to college, I could guess why they were there. Shit was about to go down.

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I didn't want to deal with these fucking people, but I figured that it was time that I finally stood up to them all and put them in their place. The only ones in the art room at the moment were Legal and I. The art teacher had stepped out for a moment to take a call.

I looked at Legal and said “Hang back for a few minutes, please. I want to deal with them once and for all. It’s time that I did it, and it’s something that I need to do. I have a restraining order against them also, so they could go to jail for even being here.” “OK darling, I’ve got your back if you need me. I won’t let them put their hands on you, but you do what you need to.”

I nodded at him and then set my stuff aside. I then got up, put my knee onto my scooter, and started to the front of the classroom but stopped a few steps ahead of my station. “Anthony Jr, Caleb, Derrick, Plastic twins, to what do I owe the pleasure of you showing up at my school? How the hell did you even know that I am here? And what the hell do you fucking people want?” I asked them.

Why can’t we stop by to see our dear little sister? You are still family, after all, so we’re allowed to stop in and see you. And we have our ways of finding out where you are at and where you go to school”, Anthony Jr sneered.

I started laughing my ass off at them. “Oh, that’s hilarious right there. Family, dear little sister. Oh, Anthony, you should be a comedian. We have NEVER been fucking family. Family doesn’t abuse you, a family doesn’t starve you, and FAMILY doesn’t try to kill an innocent child just because she’s prettier than them” I yelled as I looked right at the Botox twins.

For people with no money, they’re still able to get it done. And you could tell it had just been done because they couldn’t move their faces. “Where I live, work, or go to school is none of your business. And just in case you forgot, I have a restraining order against your whole fucking family. I wonder if the penitentiary where your mommy and daddy are currently has family cells. Then you can all be together again where you belong.”

“You need to drop those bogus charges on Mom and Dad and drop the restraining order on us all. Everyone knows that you make shit up and lie about shit Ursula. From the time that you were old enough to talk, you were making up lies about our parents and sisters. None of them would’ve ever abused you”, Caleb sneered.

“Yeah OK so tell me Caleb, how the hell does a BABY lock herself in a trunk from the outside, huh? Or how does she get locked downstairs in the basement for days at a time with no food or water? With the door locked on the outside and at the top, where she couldn’t fucking reach. Or how about when her own parents let one of their friends touch her in places no man should touch a baby? I guess that was my fault, as well, huh? Do you know? I found out on the night of the party when those two fake, plastic, self-centered whores cut me from my neck to the top of my pubic bone and on my face. The party that night was because dear old dad and mom had blown through all the money that they had and Grammy and Pop Pop wouldn’t give them more. They were disgusted by the way that they both were. Anthony Sr was fired from the company because he didn’t go to work ever. And of course, Loretta thought she was too good to work. Since they were broke, they decided to find a way to make money. They got in with the wrong people and decided that they were going to sell me. Apparently, I was the only one of the girls who was worth so much money. They were going to get a million dollars for me. And figured that they

would be set until the girls overheard him talking about how beautiful I was. Then they decided to cut me up. I should thank you for that, but I won't. Because of you doing that, I ended up with Nonna and Nonna and ended up protected. The guy also didn't want me anymore because I was all scared up. I don't know what they did for money after that and I don't care. Those people are NOT my parents and you are NOT my siblings. Stay the fuck away from me for good."

When I got done talking, I was so pissed off from having to relive shit from when I was a kid that I was crying. I was so ready to be done with the lot of them. They had better be lucky that I wasn't a killer, or I probably would've gotten my Beretta Tomcat out of my purse and shot their asses. Just seeing them pissed me off. I didn't think that I could hate anyone as much as I hated them.

"Even if all of that really did happen, you have no proof of it. Just like you have no proof of what supposedly happened with Dad or with Mom the next day. They will get off and get out because they won't just take your word for any of it, your whore" Immaculate mumbled.

"I'm the whore, but you're the one mumbling like you gotta mouth full of dicks right now. Yeah ok. One, I'm not a whore, I'm actually still a virgin. Yes, I have four boyfriends, but I have yet to take that step because I'm NOT a whore and want to get to know them better first. Although I do plan to spend my life with them, you know that whole married and kids thing. Oh yeah, that's right, both of you can't have kids now, can you? I have heard that all of those abortions that you both had caused you not to be able to have kids. And in turn, caused the rich husbands that you wanted to marry not to want you. I'm sure the fact that it was like throwing a hot dog down a hallway had something to do with it as well. After all, everyone in town and probably five towns away knows that you both have been on more wieners than Heinz ketchup. Now, I have lots of proof of everything that I have ever been through. The nanny that I had when I was younger took photos and videos of the abuse and gave them to Nonna. She knew it was useless to go to the police because Anthony was friends with a few. So she saved everything and eventually found Nonna and gave it all to her. As for now, with Anthony and Loretta, I have not only video proof of what happened at the diner but witness statements as well. All in my favor. And with Loretta, we have cameras throughout the house, and they caught everything that happened. Even you whoring yourself out to the guard. The court will side with me against them and against you all as well," I said.

"Against us. That's funny we've not done anything wrong" Fantasia mumbled. "Oh, but you have. You are all here at my school where none of you are enrolled. I also have a restraining order against you all. I'm sure the police will take my side in that as well. After all, you broke it by coming here to my school where I am enrolled" I said as I waved to Chief Roberts as they came in.

He had a few cops with him who arrested my brothers and sisters. Legal stepped up beside me and put his hand on my back. I looked back to see if he was OK because I could feel his hand shaking. Just by looking at his face, I could tell that he was pissed off. He looked like he wanted to rip my family apart.

Chief Roberts walked up to us and asked “Are you OK River? I got the text from Legal about what was going on. We tried to get here as soon as possible. What did they do?” he asked me. “I’m ok, and they didn’t do anything that I’m not used to by now. The only one who didn’t say anything was Derrick. He stood close to the door and looked like he didn’t want to be here,” I said and then I filled him in.

Legal said “I got the whole thing on video. I started it as soon as they came in and River got up to talk to them. I started it and then texted you. I was going to make sure that we had proof of what was going on in here. I wasn’t sure if there were cameras or not, so I videoed it.”

“It’s good that you did, most of the classrooms don’t have cameras in them. The teachers are trying to change that though. I’ve got both of your statements so we’re good to go. You try to stay out of trouble, young lady. Rest up and heal up, gotta have you in tip-top shape next year to get us to the championships again” he said with a laugh.

“I’ll do my best, I promise. After this week I’m gonna hide out and rest and relax for a while.” “Good, well, if you need me, call or message me. I’ll see you all later.” “Bye,” Legal and I said together. After they had all left, I looked at Legal and said “You know just once I’d like to have a nice quiet day. No drama and no one’s bull shit. Seems like lately, though I can’t catch a break.”

“Get through the next four days, and then you can hide out at the compound. Lay beside the pool and make the guys wait on you hand and foot. I’ll tell them that they have to. I am sure that my daughters, Buffy and Gypsy would all love to hang out with you. That’s all that they have been talking about. They want to sit by the pool and relax and get to know their new sister better.”

“That actually sounds perfect. I think I would like that. And I also plan to find somewhere to set up to paint. I have a studio on Nonna’s property that is my art studio to paint in. I think that when I’m here though, I’ll use the guys’ mud room. It’s like and airy with lots of space. I’ll be able to paint the picture that you want in there. And if I need to hide it I’m sure that I can find a spot” I said.

“We’ll find a place to paint even if we have to build you a studio behind the guy’s house or somewhere else on the compound. There’s plenty of space. Now it’s been a long day, and I’m starving. Are you done yet? Are you ready to get the girls and head for home?” he asked me.

“Yeah, I’m done. Let me just put my picture up and clean up. I set my picture back up in its place to dry and cleaned up my paints, palettes, and brushes. After everything was cleaned up, I was ready to go, so I grabbed my bags. I was starving as well and ready to go see my men. I couldn’t wait for this week to be over. I needed a vacation and sitting beside the pool with my boyfriend’s sisters sounded like a good way to spend my time.

As we were heading out, the art teacher was coming back in. I explained what had happened today, and she said that she'd stick close to her room. She also said that she had cameras in there if we needed them as well. I let her know that I was done with my picture and would get it on Thursday. My other pictures were good to go, so Legal handed me his laptop bag, picked them up, and carried them for me.

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After leaving the art room, we headed to the parking lot. When we got to the SUV, we headed to the back to put my pictures there. The SUV was locked and Legal had the keys in his pocket. “Damn it, I should’ve handed you the keys before we came out. I don’t want to have to sit these on the dirty ground” he said.

“Here, lay them on the front of my scooter, and I’ll help hold them so you can get your keys out,” I told him. He laid them on the front of my scooter and I held onto them, and he kept hold of them on his end with one hand. And used the other to get his keys out. He hit the lock button and the back opened. We heard a bike approaching us as the back hatch opened up.

Legal tensed up and looked around to see where it was at. Once he saw that it was a prospect, he was fine. “I forgot that I sent the prospect out to drive around and make sure that things were OK. I had him going between all three buildings all day to make sure that the girls were OK as well. I wouldn’t put it past anyone to try to nab them to get to you. If they know that you’re staying with us and hanging out with the girls.”

I just nodded at him, I understood what he was saying. And if I was being watched, then they would know where I was staying if they were good at their jobs. But I know that the guys are better and always make sure that we’re not being followed. I couldn’t answer him back because the prospect was pulling up right beside us and his bike was loud. After he shut it off, Legal looked at him and said “Put that back seat all the way down so that I can lay these pictures down. Is everything good around the girls’ buildings?”

“Yeah, everything is quiet, and the guys both said that nothing had happened in either building. Everything has been quiet all day, other than what went down here earlier. Both girls will be done with their classes in about fifteen or twenty minutes”, the prospect said as he put the seats down. Once the seats were down, they loaded my pictures up in the back of it. Then Legal helped me into the front seat and took his laptop bag back from me.

He and the prospect took the scooter and put it onto the back carefully so that my pictures didn’t get messed up. Then he got into the SUV and the prospect got back onto his bike. Legal texted both girls to see what they wanted for lunch. They both wanted a burger and fries. So we decided to go and get lunch while we were waiting for the girls to finish up their classes. After the prospect started his bike, he backed up and let Legal back out and go first.

We just got seven baconators, seven baconator fries, and seven, ten-piece nuggets. To drink, we got two chocolate frostys, one caramel frosty cream cold brew, and four Dr Pepper. Legal paid for our food and wouldn't take any money for it. After we pulled up and got our food and drinks, we headed back to the college. When we got back to college, Buffy was just walking through the doors of her building, coming outside. She stood beside the prospect's bike waiting for us to pull up next to her.

She got into the SUV, and then we pulled around to Alley's building to wait for her. Both prospects, as well as the one watching Alley, pulled around the SUV after we parked to wait. The prospect that had been watching out for Alley went back to stand guard outside the door again. "Here, Buffy, we got you a chocolate frosty," I said as I handed it back to her. "Awesome, I needed this. That test was so damn hard, I'm glad that it's over and done with. Now the only test that I have is Wednesday, and then I'm done. I can't wait" she said.

"I know I told River a little bit ago that once you girls were done with school for the year, then you can relax by the pool, and she can make the guys wait on her hand and foot. I know after Thursday Alley will be ready for it as well. Hell, she wasn't even supposed to come today but her Tuesday exam got moved to today. The professor has to go out of town for a family emergency or something, so he's trying to get the last tests done," Legal said.

Buffy laughed and said "Yeah, I know, she was so pissed off when she texted me last night. She was planning on sleeping in today, and then lying around the pool studying. But she can do that tomorrow with me." "Lucky, I have to come tomorrow. I've got two tests, and then I have to come on Thursday as well. I shouldn't have to come on Wednesday though, since I managed to get my painting done today. Even with the bullshit that happened" I said.

"What happened today?" We filled her in on what happened in the art room today with my siblings. She was pissed just like we were. "Oh, my brother and Aries will both be pissed off over that happening. Those two both pissed off can be scary as fuck." We kept talking about our day when Alley finally came out of the building with a shit load of other people. I felt like I was being watched, so I started to look around without making it obvious.

I saw him standing on the steps to Alley's classroom. I looked at Legal and said "Text the prospect and have him take Alley on his bike. The guy that's been stocking me is standing on the steps to her building watching me." "OK, which one is he?" he asked me.

"He's standing towards the top with the blue shirt and a hat on," I told him. He started to text on his phone, and then we saw the prospect, and Alley both looked at their phones. His phone buzzed back letting him know that he had a text. "The prospects are all going to leave, and we'll wait and then we'll go. Hopefully, he will move off the steps and we can slip past him. I'll make sure that they were not followed, and then we will meet up with the guys and Alley can get in here. Buffy, he can't see you back there, but kinda keep down just in case darling."

“I don’t know how he saw that I was in here. I mean we’re not close to where he’s standing at all. So he shouldn’t have known. Unless he had someone watching out for me. And they told him who I was with and in what vehicle I was in.”

Legal sat and thought about it for a minute and then said “I think that your right. He had to have someone following you. It’s the only thing that explains why he would know what vehicle you’re in. Your car is not here, and I know that he can’t see into this one. The windows are all tinted so that no one can see inside of them.”

He sat there staring out the window for a minute and watching Alley get on the back of a prospect’s bike. When they all pulled out, he kinda nodded to Legal. Once they were gone, Legal looked back at the steps and saw that the guys were still there. He still had his phone in his hand, so he pulled it out and made a call.

“Hey Zeus, I need a favor, I need you to check something out for me. Yeah, I need you to look at the cameras for the art building. The ones that are in it and around it. Someone has to be watching River. First, those fucking people that are supposed to be her siblings show up and start shit. And now the guy that had been stocking her had just come out of the same building that Alley was in..... I don’t know if he has a bookbag, so he may have had a class there. River, Do you know if he’s in the same school? Or what about you, Buffy? Have you seen him before?”

“I don’t remember seeing him anywhere other than at Sips before. I can’t remember seeing him at school at all. But there are so many classes here that he could come here, and I’ve just not seen him before” I said. “I think I had a class or two with him, freshman year, but other than that, I don’t remember ever seeing him here. I do know that he works at Sips. He’s a super creepy dude. I think that I heard that he had been expelled last year for stocking someone else. But with the way rumors are around here, I’m not really sure. I tend to just ignore that shit because most of the time, it’s just a bunch of lies,” Buffy said.

“Did you hear that, Zeus? Yeah, OK, well, we were going to meet up with the prospects and get Alley. We didn’t want him to see her get into the same vehicle that Rivers was in and try something with her the next time that he saw her. No, we’re good. They were only about five or ten minutes ahead of us. Yeah, we’re leaving now. He just left from where he was standing. I’m sure that he has someone watching us, but I’ll be sure to lose whoever it is. OK well, we were going to meet up with the prospects at the car park. We’ll get Alley into the car and head out for the compound and then the prospects will follow us to make sure that no one else is trying to follow us. OK, we’ll see you then.”

He hung up the phone, started the car, and pulled out. We started slowly, and then he picked up speed. “The guys are all going to meet us after we stop at the car park to get Alley. They’ll join up with us along the way a little bit at a time. They wanted to make sure that we were safe and that no one was following us. Don’t worry, we have your back and they won’t touch you.”

“I’m not worried, I trust you all and if that creep gets close to me again, I’ll knock his ass out. I’m done letting people try to walk all over me again. I did that once and I won’t be doing it again. I’ll be so glad when I’m healed so that I can get back into training,” I said.

After what seemed like forever but was about half an hour, we finally made it to the car park. It was one of those four-story ones downtown. Legal explained that the club owned it and that people pay so much a month to park there. They also have one section on the bottom that is for people to pay by the hour to use. The guys of the club have a plastic key card that they use to get through.

We got right in and drove up to the top floor. When we got there, the prospects and Alley were there waiting. Legal stopped and got out and gave Alley a hug and then got her into the back of the car. While he was explaining what was going to happen, we checked on Alley and explained to her what was going on. I also gave her the chocolate frosty that we got her.

Chapter 40 – Their Beautiful Strong Queen

After what happened on Monday, the rest of the week went by quickly and quietly. I didn’t have any more unexpected visitors, and I made it through all of my tests without any problems. I also managed to stop by the diner a few times to do the paperwork and make sure that everything was going OK there.

I was starting to get worried because the last time that I had heard from Nonna or any of the guys was when I woke up on Sunday morning. I’ve texted and called them all a few times and haven’t heard back from them. I even called Aunt Bella, and she’s not heard from them either. She said that if she didn’t hear back from Uncle Zain by Friday, then she’d fly out there. I told her that I would go with her because I was worried as well.

It’s Friday, and I’m on my way to my house with Zeus to make sure that everything is OK. I also want to set Nonna’s picture up so that she can see it when she comes into the house. I know just the place to put it also. There used to be a blank spot in the living room that had always bugged me. I had hung up a painting that I did so that it wasn’t there anymore, but it didn’t fill the space up or fit.

When Zeus and I got to the estate, the guards didn’t want to open up the gate at first, until I leaned over Zeus and they saw me. Then they started to apologize profusely. “It’s OK, just open the gate for me. How has everything been while we’ve all been gone all week?” I asked him. “It’s been pretty quiet all except for Monday. On Monday, Loretta’s brats tried to get onto the property, but after we said no for the fifth time, they finally got the hint to leave. They didn’t want to go, but one of the girls got a call that made her happy,” one guard said.

“Yeah, she squealed something about knowing where the person that they were looking for was. Someone that she knew called and told her, I guess. They went flying out of here

after that. We did tell them before they left there, though, that the next time that they showed up here, we'd call the law on them. Because there is a restraining order banning them from even being anywhere near here," another guard said.

"Good if they show back up here, call me. I had to have them all arrested on Monday for harassing me at school. I bet that's what the phone call was about. Someone told them that I was at school because that's where they came to," I said. "Yeah, that's what I was going to say as well. They were looking for you to start shit. If they come back here, call me, and I'll show up here. I'll give you my number so that you can get a hold of me", Zeus said, and then gave the guards his number and made sure that the night shift had it as well.

"Hey, out of curiosity, none of you have heard from Nonna, Nicco or Uncle Zain have you?" I asked the guards. "Not since they left here, Miss River. They told us that if something came up to get a hold of you. That you are the acting Do... I miss mistress of the house with Mrs. Russo gone," the one said. That was weird, he almost called me another name, and he's known me for years, I thought to myself. "Um, OK, if you happen to hear from them please let me know. I won't be here long. I'm just dropping something off, and then I will be going. So I should only be here for about half an hour. If anything happens around here after I leave, please get a hold of me" I said. "Yes, mam."

After we speak to the guards, they open up the gates, and we drive through them. Zeus drives up to the front of the house and parks his truck. The pictures are in the back seat, so after he gets my scooter out, he helps me out. Then he started getting my paintings out of the back. He grabbed my painting of Nonna and Nonno first, and we headed in to take it into the house. We went in through the garage because it's easier to go in and out that way for me.

I unlocked the door and put the alarm code in to disable the alarm. Zeus and I went into the living room and I showed him where I wanted the picture to hang. "I can do that, and it won't take long. I saw a small stepladder in the garage so, I'll grab it and a hammer out of my truck and get it done in just a few minutes. Where do you want that picture and the rest of them?" He asked me.

"I have a studio at the back of the property that we can put them in until I decide what to do with them. I'm thinking about doing an art showing and selling them, but I'm still undecided about that" I said. "OK, I can carry them out there for you. Let me put this one up first after I take that one down. I'll be right back."

I sat down on the couch while he went to get what he needed to take the old picture down and put the new one up. Once he had a hammer, a nail, and the step stool, it didn't take him long at all to take the old picture down and put the new one up. I was so proud of the picture that I made for Nonna. She was going to love it when she saw it. I hope that I'm here when she comes in and sees it so that I can see her face.

Zeus put the hammer back in his truck and put the step stool back in the garage when he was done. Then he grabbed the paintings out of it. I grabbed the one that he took down and my keys out of my purse and went to the back door. When he met up with me, we went out the door and down the path to my studio. I was nervous for him to see the inside my studio.

No one ever goes into my studio, not even Nonna or Nicco. That's my space, and they tend to stay out of it. When we got to the door, I unlocked it and then stepped inside so that I could disarm the alarm. Then I opened up the door so that Zeus could bring the paintings in. "Just sit them on the table over here," I said, as I wheeled over to it to sit the painting that I was carrying down.

He sat them all down and then looked around at the ones that were on the walls and the ones that were still on easels because they had been drying. "Wow baby!" he exclaimed. "These are amazing and so beautiful. You should most definitely have an art show. Everyone would love these pictures" he said as he kept looking around.

He stopped at one picture and just kept looking at it. I couldn't remember what picture he was looking at. So I rolled up to where he was at to see what one it was. "This is beautiful, and I love it, baby," he said as he wrapped his arm around me. "I forgot that I had even painted that picture. I came out here to paint right after I met Dom and Marcello. I think that it was a couple of days after I got hurt because I had been using the scooter. I kind of zoned out while I was painting and when I came to I had painted this picture. I didn't know who the guys in it were until I started talking to you and then seeing all of you."

"It's beautiful, and I can see our family looking like this one day. I'd love to have this to hang up in our living room. And one day I hope that we can recreate this picture with all of us and our kids. With you pregnant with another little one. I can see it now. You will be so beautiful when you are round with our children." "You can take it and hang it up at your house. I'll paint another one just like it so that Dom has one for his house as well. This reminds me, I need to get some painting stuff so that I can paint. If you and Aries don't mind, I'd like to set an easel up in the mudroom to paint. There is plenty of light there and when I'm not painting there is room to store my stuff. Legal said that he'd talk to Aries and see if they could find a place to build me a small studio on the compound."

"We could do that, there are plenty of spots that we could put one at. I'm sure that Aries, like me, would prefer to have it close to the clubhouse so that when you paint during the day you're close to us. Especially when we start to have kids. It would be easier and closer, and we could check on you more often. I'll set it up with the bells and whistles of tech as well. And we can move stuff around in the mud room and set one side up so that you can paint at home also. There is enough room in it and the only thing in there at the moment is a washer and drier. And I know the perfect place to put this picture. I'll hang it in OUR living room. Get the stuff that you need together and I'll carry it for you baby. "

"Ok," I said. I gathered all the paints, brushes, canvases, and anything else that I would need. I put what I could into a bag and the rest would just have to be carried out. Zeus took out the picture that I gave him and the easel and when he came back he grabbed the

blank canvases that I had ready to go. It was only a couple because I needed to get some more. I was almost out. He took them out, and I made sure that I had everything that I needed. I made sure that everything was turned back off and then set the alarm and locked up.

As I was wheeling back up the path, Zeus was walking back to me. He took the bag from me and put his hand on my back and helped me back to the house. When we got inside, I locked the door back. He took that bag out to his truck and I went up to my room in the elevator to grab a few things that I needed. I had a safe in my room that I kept my emergency credit card in as well as my passport. After I took them out, I shut it and locked it back, and covered it back up. I put them both in my purse and grabbed the stuff that I needed and went back downstairs.