

## Chapter 41 – Their Beautiful Strong Queen

On the way back to the compound, we stopped by the grocery store to get food for the house. We didn't have much left there after this week and I wanted to make homemade meatballs. The guys wanted spaghetti, but I wanted meatball subs. So we walked through the store and picked up groceries for the next week. Plus, what I would need to make dinner? I also got the stuff to make a homemade brownie cheesecake with strawberries on top of it.

After getting everything we needed, we checked out and Zeus paid for our stuff. Then we headed back to the truck. After we got everything loaded up and got back into the truck, we headed back to the compound. We were blasting Shinedown, and I was singing along to it. When we pulled into the compound, Simple man was playing, and I was belting it out like I always do. There were a bunch of guys standing outside as we drove past and Zeus stopped because he saw his dad and Aries.

"I'll be right back baby, then we'll go up to the house and get everything put away," he said as he got out of the truck. The windows were down so I kept singing and looking out the window. In the compound, there are two play areas for the little kids. One is close to the clubhouse and the other is in the middle of the houses in the back part of the property. There's always a prospect to watch at each of them and at least one mom. Especially if there are little kids out there playing. From what I understand, the moms, or sisters of the club, as they are called, take turns watching them.

I was singing and watching the kids playing on the jungle gym that the guys built for them. I know that I had a smile on my face as I watched them. I can't wait until the day that our little ones are out there playing and being rotten with the other kids. I looked over at the driver's side door when it opened up, and I was giggling. "What's so funny baby, what has you giggling like that?" Aries asked me as he hopped up in the driver's seat.

"The little kids over here playing on the jungle gym, they are pure rotten. I can't wait until we have kids, and they are all running around and playing with the other kids." "I can't either babe, a bunch of little mini ME's and Zeus, Dom, and Marcello's running around. Damn, that's a scary thought. Now a bunch of little Rivers running around I could get down with."

"Yeah, but in my family there tend to be more boys than girls. I'd like a couple of each anyway. But I'll be happy with whatever we are blessed with. Now topic change, I missed you today. What have you been doing and what are you doing now?" I asked him.

"I've been busy with work stuff, trying to make sure that everything is good to go. I talked to your Aunt Bella today. She told me that she's not heard from anyone either, and she plans to leave in the morning to go find out what's going on. She also said that you were going to go with her. I know that you told us that you may go. So I talked to my dads and

Dad Legal is going to stay here, and Dad Ripper is going to go with us. I'm going to take you up to the house and Zeus is going to stay here and catch up on work. I'll help you get everything inside and dinner done, and then we can get packed up. Zeus' dads and some of the guys are going with us. We don't know what we will be walking in on, so I want to be prepared."

"OK, I grabbed my passport and my emergency credit card out of my safe when we were at the house. I wanted to have them just incase I needed them. That way I didn't have to go back to the house if we did end up having to leave. It won't take me long to get dinner done and then I'll pack. I washed clothes last night, so I shouldn't have to wash any tonight. But to save us some time, I think that I'll just make meatball hoagies for dinner. That way I have time to get everything done. When are we leaving?" I asked him.

"We're meeting your Aunt at the airfield at nine in the morning. Your Nonna told the pilot that if he didn't hear from her by Thursday to come back here and get Bella and you because something might be wrong. He got back last night and got a hold of Bella. He said that he needed sleep, and then we could take off in the morning. He's getting the plane checked out as well. Having maintenance done on it and making sure that it's good to go."

"OK babe, I'll be ready to leave in the morning. Have you talked to Dom's dad and let him know what's going on or see if he's heard anything from anyone over there?" I asked him. "Fuck, no I haven't, I didn't even think of it. It's usual for me to only hear from them a couple of times while there in Italy because of the time change. So I never even thought of it. I'll get everything carried into the house, and then I'll call him."

"OK baby," I said as we pulled into our driveway. After we got parked, Aries got my scooter out and then helped me out. I walked up to the back door and unlocked the door and opened it. Aries carried the bags of groceries into the house first and then started bringing everything else in. While he was bringing my other stuff in, I put the food away and then got started on my meatballs.

I preheated my oven and then got a big bowl down and put my hamburger in it and then added all the seasonings that I used. Then I chopped the onion and added some of it, one egg, shredded cheese, and seasoned bread crumbs, and mixed them all together. When they were all mixed up together, I rolled them out and then put them on pans. After I put my meatballs in the oven, I started on my sauce. I didn't have time to make my homemade sauce, so I opened up a few jars of sauce and put them into a kittle, and then I fixed it up some. I added spices, mushrooms, the rest of my onions, and garlic.

I stirred it up and then turned it down to simmer. "Hey baby, where do you want your art stuff?" Aries asked me as he came back into the kitchen. He had carried everything in and sat it in the mudroom. "My art stuff can be left in the mudroom. Zeus said that it would be OK if I used part of the room for painting," I answered him.

"Yeah, that's fine baby, we'll get it fixed for you to use when you're here. Dad and I were also looking at places where we could build you an art studio close to the clubhouse. I

want it down there because I imagine you'll do most of your painting during the day when I'm at work. I want you close to me, especially once we start having kids," he said.

I giggled and then busted out laughing. "What's so funny?" "Zeus said that you'd say that to me. That you would find somewhere close to the clubhouse to build a studio so that I was always close to you both." He just shrugged his shoulders and went back to moving stuff around in the mud room. He got all of my art stuff on one side and out of the way for now and took my other stuff upstairs.

When he came back down, he went back out to the truck. When he came back in, I was taking the meatballs out of the oven and transferring them to the kittle to simmer in the sauce. I could tell that he was still in the kitchen with me, but he wasn't saying anything. So once I had the meatballs all in my sauce and the French fries in the oven, I turned around to look at him.

He was standing there looking down at his hands, at the picture that I painted. My face turned red and when he looked up at me, he had tears in his eyes. "When did you do this, when did you paint it?" he asked me in a choked-up voice. "I painted that right after I met Dom and Marcello. It was just a day or so after I got hurt. I was zoned out while I was painting it and didn't even know what I had painted until I came back to. I didn't know who the guys were supposed to be until after our first FaceTime call."

"I love it, it's beautiful, and I can't wait to hang it up. I'm going to go do that now, while you finish up dinner." "It won't take much longer until it's done. When it gets done, I'm going to make the hoagies and wrap them up in tinfoil so that we can go eat with Zeus. I also have some to-go boxes that I can put the fries in as well. That way we can go eat dinner with Zeus and spend time with our family before we leave in the morning" I said as I was stirring up my meatballs again.

When I sat the spoon down, Aries spun me around and gave me a big kiss. When he let me up for air, I asked him "Wow, what was that for?" "You said our family, not your family or you and Zeus' families but OUR family. That makes me so fucking happy that you see our family as your family now as well. Let me get this put up, and then we'll go spend some time with our family and then in the morning we'll head to Italy to figure out what's going on with the rest of our family."

I kissed him again and said, "OK hurry up, I'm starving." He took the picture to the living room and then went back out to the garage to get the stuff to hang it up. I got the pack of buns out and cut five of them long ways. Then I put the shredded cheese onto the bottom of them and set them aside. After I took the fries out of the oven, I turned the broiler on. I filled each bun up with meatballs and added more cheese to the tops of them. I put them on the pan and put them in the oven to melt the cheese.

I got the tinfoil out and cut eight pieces off of it. I laid five of them aside to put the hoagies on and used the other three and put them down in the to-go boxes. That way, the French fries would stay warm. Then I divided the fries up between all three boxes. I got

out little containers and put ketchup in two of them, Ranch and hot sauce mixed in one, and barbeque in the last one. I like the ranch and hot sauce together with my fries, Aries just eats ketchup and Zeus eats ketchup and barbeque sauce on his. I added the sauces to the takeout containers and then put them in a tote bag.

When the hoagies were done, I pulled them out and turned the oven off. I wrapped each one up and put them into the bag as well. We had gotten the stuff to make root beer floats because Zeus said that he had been wanting one. So I got out three tumbler cups with lids and straws and made the root beer float in them. I was ready to go when Aries came back into the kitchen. After he cleaned up the stuff he had out, he grabbed the bag of food and two of the cups. Then we went off to eat with our man and spend time with our family.

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After we ate dinner with Zeus, we spent a couple of hours with our family before going home to pack. Before we had left the house to go to the clubhouse, I had put the rest of the meatballs in the fridge. So when we got back to the house, I used what was left of them and made up more hoagies and wrapped them up. I figured that we could take them with us in the morning. I also made some stuffed biscuits with sausage gravy in some and bacon, egg, and cheese in the others. When they are done, I put them into containers and put them in the fridge as well.

The guys were both upstairs packing, so I rolled over to the stairs and then sat down on the bottom step. I kept my right leg up and used my hands and my left leg and foot to scoot up the stairs on my butt. When I made it to the top of the steps, I managed to stand up hold onto the wall and hop into the bedroom. When I got to the doorway, I couldn't see the guys, so I hopped over to the bed and sat down for a minute.

I had just sat down on the bed when Aries came out of the closet. "Baby, how the fuck did you get upstairs? Your ass better not have walked up them. I'd smack your ass if you did" he said to me. I just gave him a grin and asked him "Is that supposed to be a threat because it sounds like a promise to me? And one that I would like at that. But no babe, I didn't walk up the steps. I rolled over to the steps and sat down and then scooted up the steps on my ass. It's huge. It can take it. I got the food done for in the morning and put it in containers in the fridge. Now I need to get my backs packed up and ready."

"First babe, your ass is NOT huge, it's fucking perfect, and if you keep talking about it like that, then I'll stick my dick in it. And secondly, you could've yelled at us, and we would've come and got you. And we'll gladly smack your ass anytime. I'll go get your scooter so that you can pack your stuff up," Zeus said.

I just gave him a cheeky smile just like I did with Aries. "We're going to get showers tonight so we don't have to get them in the morning. Dad is going to drive us to the airport and your Aunt is going to meet us there with her boys. I still have to try to call Dom's dad. I didn't get a chance to call him earlier. When we get to Italy, one of our

chapters of the club is going to pick us up. I contacted them earlier and the President of that chapter is going to pick us up at the airport. He has his guys out trying to find Dom and the rest of them,” Aries told me.

“OK, I just hope that they are all OK. We’re taking the private jet over, so I’m taking my Tomcat with me. I have my permits for it. Call Dom’s dad and see what he has to say. I’m going to send my dads a text and let them know that I’m leaving. Then I’m going to get busy packing” I said. “OK baby, I’ll call him now.”

Aries walked away to call Dom’s and I got my phone out of my pocket to text my dads and let them know that I was leaving for a few days. I haven’t talked to them much this week. Between my busy schedule and theirs. I know that they have been busy all week.

Me- Hey Pops and Poppa, I just wanted to let you know that I’m going out of town. We’re flying out in the morning and going to Italy. Neither Aunt Bella nor I have heard from Nonna, Nicco, or Uncle Zain. We’re starting to get worried. Aries and Zeus are going to go with us. Aries is also calling Dom’s dad to fill him in on what’s going on and see if he’s heard from Dom or Marcello. Because we haven’t heard from them either. I promise that I’ll be careful and stick close to the guys. A few of the other guys from the club are going with us, as well as my cousins. Aries also called in a chapter club that is in Italy to help us also. Can you do a favor while I’m gone, please? Can you check on things at the house and dinner? I was just at both places yesterday and everything should be good for a couple of days. But I’m going to let them know if they need something at the dinner to call you. I’ll try to be back in just a day or two, but I don’t know what the hell is going on over there, and I’m worried. I love you.

Pops Chris – Hey baby girl, don’t worry, I got you. Let the manager at the dinner and the guards at the gate know that I’ll be around to check things over. Leave a key with Aries’ dad for the office, and I’ll stop in and get the paperwork done in a couple of days. I hope that everything is OK with them all. It’s not like Dom not to answer calls or texts. I had called me a few days ago and his phone went straight to voicemail. I talked to Uncle Luciano, and he said that he’d not heard from him either. Let me know when you find them, please. I love you and be careful and if you need me, call me.

Me – I’ll let you know as soon as I find them. I’ll make Dom FaceTime with you. Thank you and I’ll let them all know. I love you.

After texting with Pops Chris, I sent a text to the main guard of the house and also sent a text to the front of the house assistant manager. I let them both know that I would be out of town and to get ahold of Chris if they needed anything. And if they can’t reach him call Sunny and I gave them her number.

When that was done I put my phone on charge and then went into the closet. Zeus had brought my scooter into me and then went to get a shower. I laid my suitcase on top of the dresser in the middle and opened it up. I got enough clothes out to last for five days but I also added extras so I had clothes for warm or cold weather. I was hoping that would be

enough. I packed up three pairs of blue jeans, five pairs of shorts, five spaghetti-strapped shirts and hoodies, a few T-shirts, and three sundresses. I also packed up eight bras, eight panties, just in case, and three pairs of socks. I only packed one tennis shoe and boot for my left foot. I was planning on wearing a ballet flat.

I also packed two pairs of yoga pants and a couple of pairs of night clothes. When I had everything packed up into my bag I set it aside and laid out a pair of yoga pants, a tank top, a hoody, and a bra and thong. That way my clothes were ready for in the morning. I sat my bag down on the floor and then laid my clothes for the morning on top of it. I grabbed night clothes for the night and then I was done. Once I was sure that I had everything that I needed I rolled my bag into the bedroom and sat it by the door.

Zeus was standing beside the bed when I rolled my bag out of the closet and Aries was in the bathroom. I laid my clothes on the bed and then picked up my clothes for the morning and laid them on a chair in the bedroom. "I'll take your bag downstairs in a minute babe and put it with ours," Zeus said. "Ok no hurry, Is Aries in the shower now?" I asked him.

"Yeah, he just got in there. He was on the phone with Dom's dad when I came out of the shower. His dad is going to go with us tomorrow, he's worried as well. He's leaving his brother in charge while we're gone." "Ok, I figured that he may end up going with us. Chris said that he tried to call Dom this week and it went straight to voicemail. So he called Luciano and he had not talked to him either and wasn't able to get ahold of him. I swear if someone did something to my family I'll destroy every fucking one of them" I said with anger in my voice.

"Don't worry we'll find them and if someone does have them then we will get them back." "I know, I need to go pack up my toiletries bag and get a shower when Aries is done. Then I'm going to bed, I'm tired and nervous for tomorrow." "Ok baby, you can go in and pack your toiletries bag up. Aries won't mind, hell you can get in the shower with him and he wouldn't care. I'm going to take your bag down and lock up the house."

I just nodded to him as he grabbed my bag and went out the door. I decided to get in the shower first and then pack up my bag. So I sat down on the side of the bed and took my boot off. Then I got undressed and picked my clothes up. I wheeled into the bathroom and put my clothes in the hamper. I took my hair down and laid my hair tie on the counter and then went to the shower. I wheeled as close as I could and then sat down on the shower seat.

Aries was standing in the middle of the shower with his back to me. So I stood up and carefully hopped over to him wrapped my arms around his waist and kissed the center of his back. He turned around and wrapped his arms around me and bent down to kiss me. He started by brushing his lips across mine and then he kissed me. I opened up my mouth and he swept his tongue in to touch mine.

I stood on the tips of my toes on my left foot, wrapped my arms around his neck, and deepened the kiss. He was a great kisser and we didn't come up for air until I couldn't



breathe anymore. Aries bent down and touched his forehead to mine and we just stared into each other's eyes until we could catch our breath.

Once we were breathing normally again Aries said "I'm done with my shower but I'll stay in here and help you. I don't want you to fall and hurt your ankle again." So he helped me by washing my hair with my shampoo and then rinsing it out and putting conditioner in it. Then he wet my shower puff and put my soap on it and washed my body. When he was done he rinsed me off and rinsed my hair. When we were done he shut the water off and sat me down on the shower bench.

Aries went to get out but Zeus was there handing him towels for both of us. After wrapping a towel around his waist he took the other towel and wrapped it around me and picked me up. He sat me down on the counter and Zeus used another towel to dry my hair and legs and then used the towel around me to dry the rest of me off.

Zeus brought me my clothes and after I got dressed I brushed my hair out and brushed my teeth. I then went to the linen closet that we have in the bathroom and got my travel toiletry bag out of it. I grabbed new bottles of shampoo, condition, and body wash, as well as a new puffy from the house yesterday. So I packed that all up in my bag and added my make-up, extra hair ties, toothbrush, and toothpaste. I already had a box of tampons in there, that I had stuck in there and had just left them. You never know when you need them and I wanted to be prepared.

After I had everything packed up Aries took my bag and his downstairs and sat them with the rest of them. I wheeled into the bedroom and crawled into bed. I kissed Zeus and Aries when he came back and then curled up in between my men and went to sleep. I was ready for the morning to come, I was ready to find my family and make sure that they were all ok. If someone took them, I will get them back. And whoever took them better pray to a higher power because I will send their asses straight to hell for messing with my family.

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The next morning, we got up at five and started to get ready to leave. After using the bathroom and brushing my teeth. I brushed my hair and pulled it up into a messy bun. Then I wheeled back into the bedroom to get dressed. One of the guys had made the bed so I grabbed my clothes and my boot and went to the bed.

Before I sat down, I slid my shorts and panties down my legs and then sat down. I bent down and took them the rest of the way off and then put my clean thong and yoga pants on my legs. I pulled them up as far as I could and then stood up to pull them the rest of the way up. I had just stood up when I heard "Damn baby, that ass, I just want to bite it." When I looked over my shoulder Zeus was standing there biting his bottom lip and staring at my ass.

“My eyes are up here” I joked as I pulled my pants and thong up. Then I sat back down, took my shirt off, and put my bra and tank top on. “You’re trying to kill me here babe. It’s not my fault that you’re so fucking sexy. Are you done in the bathroom?” he asked me. “Yeah, I’m done in there. I’m almost ready to go now. just need to put my boot and hoody on.”

“Ok baby, and you don’t need the hoody.” “Yes, I do, because my cousins are coming with my Aunt as well as Dom’s dad and whoever else he has with them. None of them have seen my scars and I’d like to keep it that way.” “You know that none of them would ever judge you right? Hell all of them would probably be willing to go and kill them for you just like we would” he told me.

I took a deep breath then bent down to put my boot on and said “I know that and I know that you all would. I’m still just self-conscious about it though. I try not to let it but occasionally my sisters’ evil words from that day come back. I’m sure that I’ll end up taking my hoody off on the jet at some point but I have to start with it on.” “I understand that baby, let me go finish getting ready and then help Aries load shit up.”

Zeus headed into the bathroom and I finished getting ready. I made sure that I had extra chargers for my phone, tablet, and laptop. And put them into my laptop bag. I also had a sketch pad, colored pencils, and regular pencils in there as well. Then I zipped it up. My purse was downstairs so I’d get it before we went out the door. When I was ready I stood up and got on my scooter and wheeled over to get my phone off of the nightstand.

I put it in my hoody and then started to wheel out the bedroom door. When I got to the top of the steps Aries was starting back up them. He looked at me and frowned and said “Just where the hell do you think that you’re going?” “I was heading downstairs, I planned to sit down on the top step and scoot my butt down them just like I did to get up last night.”

He shook his head and then came stomping up the steps mumbling “Bull-headed woman, can’t wait or yell for help. Has to try to do everything on her fucking own.” I just giggled at him and said “Well someone didn’t get up on the right side of the bed this morning. It’s either that or you need to get laid. Tell me something Sexyman, do you need a blowjob before we leave?”

He just gave me a dirty look and swept me up into his arms as I stuck my tongue into my cheek and pushed out. He shook his head at me and carried me downstairs. When we got downstairs he took me to the kitchen and sat me down on a stool at the island. He made me a cup of coffee and sat it in front of me When I said, “Hey I forgot, I got fruit and veggies when we went to the store. Will you give them to me and a knife and I’ll chop them up real fast and put them into containers. It’ll give us something else to eat on the jet as well as the biscuits that I made.”

“Yeah baby I’ll get them for you and then I’m going to start taking our bags out to the truck.” “Ok baby, Zeus said that he was just going to finish up and then he’d be down to



help you,” I said. “What am I doing?” Zeus asked as he came downstairs with my scooter. “Helping to carry our bags to the car, after grumpy Gus here hands me the fruit and veggies so that I can chop them as well.” “Can do, I’ll start taking them out now.”

Zeus started to take the bags out and after Aries handed me the fruits and veggies, the knife, and the containers he went to help. I cut up apples, oranges, strawberries, kiwis, and watermelon and put them into one container. Then I cut up broccoli, cauliflower, sweet peppers, celery, cucumber, carrots, turnips, tomatoes, and a red onion. I put everything but the cucumber, tomatoes, and onion in another container. The rest I added into the last container and put a bottle of Italian dressing on top of it.

When I was done I got a tote bag out and put the containers in it. Then I grabbed the containers of breakfast sandwiches that I made and put them in another tote bag. I figured that we could stop on the way and get paper plates, paper bowls, and plastic silverware to use. I know that my Aunt probably made a lot of food as well as she usually does. She told me that she was going to make food, she just didn’t say what.

When I had those bags ready, I set them on the island and then went around to make sure that everything was turned off that needed off. I turned the coffee pot off and rinsed it and the basket all out. When the guys came back in, they double-checked to make sure that everything was ok. Zeus checked downstairs and Aries checked upstairs. Their moms were going to make sure that everything was ok here while we were gone.

When they were satisfied that everything was off that needed to be off, they grabbed the bags of food and we headed outside. Aries helped me up into the front seat and then he and Zeus put the bags of food and my scooter into the back. After they got in the truck we pulled up to the clubhouse. That’s where we were all meeting.

The guys got out of the truck to go talk to their dads and make sure that everything was ok for us to leave. I got the key for the office out of my purse and scooted over to the door as Sunny walked up to it. I opened the door and said “Hey my dad Chris is going to check in at the house and the diner while I’m gone. I told him I’d leave the office key for the diner with you just in case he needs it.”

“That’s fine, I’ll keep a hold of it and if he needs it all he has to do is call me. I know who he is and he knows me. Don’t worry, we’ll keep things going here. You just go make sure that your family and our boys are ok” she said as she hugged me tight. “I will,” I said back to her.

She went to hug the guys and Ivy and the girls came to hug me, Blondie was even there. It was going to be Aries, Zeus, and I as well as Snake and Venom. Stone was stepping up to acting President while we were gone because he was the V.P. After the girls all hugged me, the guys all started to load up in vehicles. As my guys came back and got into the truck, a prospect pulled in on his bike and pulled up to the truck. He reached into his saddle bags, pulled out a couple of bags, and handed them to Aries.

Aries took them, thanked him, and handed them to me. “What is this?” I asked him. “It’s paper plates, paper bowls, and plastic silverware. I also had him grab a few cans of cold coffee so we’d have it.” “Ok babe, I’m glad that you sent him, I was going to have you stop and pick them up.” “Great minds think alike,” he said as he winked at me.

I giggled and shook my head at him. I looked over at the passenger side and Zeus wasn’t there but the door was still open. “Where the hell did he go? He was right behind you when you came to get in the truck” I asked Aries. “Fuck if I know but there comes my dad’s and his. My dad Ripper and his dad Dexter are going to go with us. The other two are going to stay here.”

Legal and Maverick both gave me a big hug as the other two loaded their bags into the back. They said goodbye to Aries again and as they turned around Zeus was walking up so they hugged him as well. Then Zeus, Ripper, and Dexter all got into the truck. When Zeus got into the truck he handed me my cup and it was full of slushy. I kissed him for it.

Aries pulled his truck to the front of the line and then the prospects in another vehicle with the other guys pulled up behind us. The prospects we’re going to drive the vehicles back so that they weren’t sitting at the private airport the whole time that we are gone. We pulled out and Aries honked the horn. The airport that we were using was only about half an hour away. I was still tired so I laid my head over on Zeus’ shoulder and shut my eyes. He wrapped his arm around me and held me to him.

When we pulled into the private airport, we were the first ones there. I could also see that two jets were waiting to board. I was guessing that the second one was Dom’s dad’s. I could tell that his dad’s was bigger than my family’s jet. It looked like it held a lot of people. I know that ours could hold up to nineteen people.

Aries parked close to my family jet and parked. The staff that was there came over to help unload bags and get them loaded up into the jet. When I got out of the truck one of the main guys that I had talked to with Nonna was there. He walked up to me and said “Good morning Miss Russo, the pilot as well as your Aunt, Mrs. Russo said that you all would be leaving today and to take orders from whoever got here first. What bags would you like loaded up?”

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When both vehicles stopped and the doors finally opened up I could see who was in them. My Aunt Bella, Dante, and Enzo were in one SUV, and Luciano, Nonno Francesco, Renzo, and Giorgio were in the other. I didn’t figure that Nonno would be with them but I was happy to see him.

I smiled big and started to wheel over to them. “Nonno, I didn’t think that you would be going with us,” I said. “My nephew and his “guard” as well as your Nonna and Uncles are

missing. Of course, I would be here, I have to protect my granddaughter. How are you feeling, did you get your schoolwork all done this week?" he asked me.

"Yes, I finished up on Thursday with everything, and I'm ok. I'm still stuck with the knee scooter but I should only have it for a few more weeks, I hope." After I hugged him and we talked we went over to where everyone was standing at. Luciano was off to the side on the phone. I went to stand with my guys and Nonno kind of gave me a weird look at first. Then It was like a light bulb went off and he smiled at me and winked. I knew that he had figured it all out.

Finally, Luciano walked back over to all of us and said "Ok, so I have a bunch of my guys about to pull in to go with us as backup. I'm going to have them go on my jet because it will fit all of them. There are fourteen of us and we should all fit on the Russo jet. We all need to be on the same jet so that we can make a plan and figure out what to do. We also need to figure out why the Russos left to go to Italy. As soon as my guys get here we're all loaded up and get going. Ahh, here they come now."

As he finished talking about ten vehicles pulled in. About four guys got out of every vehicle except for two and it had five in it. "We're only taking thirty guys with us, the extra guys are here to drive the vehicles back. Bella, we even have a guy here to drive your car back to my house so that it's not sitting here. I don't want to leave any cars here just in case someone's watching the airports. Right now, no one is watching us and our flight paths show that we are going to New York and then to London. We'll change the flight path when we get closer to Italy. I'm being cautious at the moment until I know where they are all at and who has them if they have been taken."

Aunt Bella gave her keys to one of the guys that walked up to us. After all of the bags were out of the vehicles and loaded into the jets, the extra guys got into the vehicles and left. One's even got into Bella's, and Luciano's and the prospects took the keys for Aries' truck and they left as well. Once they were all gone we started to load up into the jets.

I wheeled over to the steps and then Aries carried me up them while Zeus handed my scooter to one of the workers to be stored under the jet. There wasn't enough room for me to use it in the jet and if I needed the bathroom one of my guys could carry me.

We got on first and Aries carried me to the back and sat me down in a seat. He sat down beside me and Zeus sat across from us. Everyone else boarded the plane and took seats as well. Ripper and Dexter sat across the aisle from us with Luciano, Francesco, and Aunt Bella beside Zeus. The rest of the guys sat towards the front of the jet in the seats.

It didn't take long and we were told to fasten our seatbelts and go over pre-flight briefing. Soon we were in the air and well on our way. After we leveled out during the flight we were given the go-ahead to move freely about the plane. I looked at Aunt Bella and said "I made stuffed biscuits for breakfast, there's two different kinds of them. I made sausage gravy stuffed biscuits and bacon, egg, and cheese stuffed biscuits. I also fixed up two different containers with fruits and veggies and one of summer salad."

“Ok, I’ll get them heated up and we can eat and then get busy with planning. I made stuff to bring for lunch because I figured that you’d do breakfast foods.” She got up and went to have the flight attendant help her get breakfast heated up. When she got up Luciano looked over at us and said “We need to talk alone, Let’s step into the bedroom for a minute so that it’s just the four of us please.” he said as he was looking at us three.

So Aries and Zeus got up and Zeus picked me and we went into the bedroom. When we were all in there Luciano shut the door behind him. Zeus sat me down on the bed and the guys stood around it looking at him. “What’s going on Luciano? What did you need to talk to us about? Does it have to do with Dom?” Aries asked him.

“Yeah, it has to do with him and Marcello as well as both of you guys and River here,” he said. I was confused about why it would have to do with us. “Why would it have to do with all of us?” I asked him. He took a deep breath and then said “I know that my son has been keeping things from me. At least one major thing, that I know of. I’m pretty sure that he’s afraid to tell me what It is and I think that I figured it out on my own. Now, tell me if I’m wrong, but I’m pretty sure that the four of you guys have been in a relationship for years now. And now you have finally added a woman to the mix, the lovely River. So I can now get the grandkids that my wife and I would love to have. Am I right or not?”

The guys looked at me and I nodded my head. Aries took a deep breath and said “We’ve tried to tell him for years to tell you but he was afraid to. Even though your nephew is gay he was afraid to tell you that he was bi and in love with four guys. Hell, we’re still amazed that he’s trying to be in a relationship with River after what his last ex did to him. He didn’t want you to be disappointed in him, especially since he’s to take over the family business.”

“He should know by now that I would never be disappointed in him. I’ve guessed for a while now that he was bi because I have seen him with girls before, just not for a while now. And you guys always stay with each other and spend time together. I don’t mind at all, hell I even look at you two as my sons as well. And now I have another daughter, we just have to find them both now.”

“Do you have any idea of where he’d be at or who would have them?” Zeus asked him. “I have a guess as to who it would be and why. To tell you this I need to explain more to River. That’s part of why I wanted you to come in here to talk. I think you deserve to know before the others hear, River.” “Hear what, what do you need to tell me?” I asked him.

“My family and yours have been friends and allies through the years. Your Nonno and I became best friends as kids. When we were growing up our fathers were allies and worked together. This will be hard to hear River but I need you to keep an open mind ok? And please don’t let this change your opinion of us or your family, especially not Dom or Marcello” he asked me. I nodded my head and he went on.

“My family and yours, are a part of the Italian mafia, I’m the Don of Dons and your Nonno was always under me in the hierarchy of the rest of the Dons. We thought that Salvador, your Nonno, died in a car accident. His blood was all over the car when it was found as well as DNA but the body was burnt so badly that we couldn’t tell if it was him or not. We always thought that It was him. We had heard rumors that he might have been alive and people had even sent us sightings of him. We got another tip when Dom first went over to Italy to check on a new hotel that’s building. He was told of the Russians holding a guy that resembled Salvador being kept chained up in the basement of one of their warehouses. They shouldn’t even have a warehouse in our city. Dom had guys check it out and they confirmed that the guy resembled Sal. I called Rosa and Zain to tell them what we had found out. I wasn’t able to leave with them right then but they didn’t want to wait. And I can understand that but now they are all missing and I can’t figure out why. We never had a problem with the Russians before so I don’t know why we would now. Or why they would’ve done any of this in the first place.”

I sat there thinking for a long time talking and trying to figure out what the hell would’ve caused them to take Nonno if he was alive. It was when I was around ten that we were told that he had passed away. Thinking back on it now, Anthony was pissed off at Loretta about something. She came to speak to Nonno, and Noona and I remember Nonna taking me to the hospital after that.

I looked up at the guys and said “I remember right before we were told that Nonno had died in the car accident. Anthony and Loretta had just been in a big fight and Loretta came to talk to Nonna. I don’t know what it was about but looking back now I think they did a DNA test on me.”

“Why do you think that baby?” Aries asked me. “Nonna took me to the hospital a day or so later and they took a swab and swabbed my cheek and then said that they would have me results back to her later that day. I don’t know what they said, and I had forgotten all about it until now. But looking back now, I don’t think that Anthony was my dad. It would explain why he was abusive to me and let them be as well. What if he finally confronted her over it and wanted proof that I actually was his kid? I wouldn’t put it past her to have cheated on him.”

“That would explain a lot actually. I remember that your mom and dad never really came around once she found out that she was pregnant for Anthony Jr, and moved out. But she did still call your Nonna once a week and would have dinner with them once a month. She never knew about what Sal was actually a part of, or that he owned a chain of hotels, or that Rosa owned a chain of diners. All she was ever worried about once she hit twelve was money and she always talked about wanting to marry rich and not have to work or be around her poor family. They were never poor they just didn’t spoil their kids. About six months before she got pregnant with you she and Anthony got into a big fight and she left. He actually threw her out of the house. When she came back she didn’t tell anyone where she had been. They worked things out and about a month later she was pregnant. She told everyone that you belonged to Anthony and when you were born you were small so she said that you were preemie. So It would make sense if he thought that you might not be his.”

## Chapter 45 – Their Beautiful Strong Queen

After talking with the guys about how Nonno could've possibly ended up kidnapped instead of dying in that car accident, we went back to the others. Zeus sat me back down in my seat and sat across from me. I looked out the window and thought about what we had talked about. It would explain why Anthony never liked me. He could've suspected that she was pregnant when she came back.

And if so then that would explain why he always hated me. What I don't get though is why you would hate an innocent baby. It wasn't the baby's fault that her mother was screwing someone else. And it wouldn't have been her fault that she was born. So why not blame the person that it should be put on?

There is so much from when I was a small child that is starting to make sense to me now. Like how he would whisper to the girls and then I was being tortured or abused. Or how he never wanted me to eat food but had to at least give me bread and water to keep me alive. And how to tried to sell me when I was five. I've always hated that he was my dad because no real dad would let their daughter be treated that way.

It also explains why he got so mad when I said that he wasn't my dad a couple of weeks back. And him hitting me because I said it, that was the first time that he had ever raised a hand to me himself. It also explains why Loretta was so pissed off and came at me the next day. Maybe she was afraid of her secret getting out. But if he's not my actual dad then who is, and what did the DNA test say? It makes me wonder if Nonna knows that he's not my real dad.

While I was staring out the window lost in my own world trying to work through things, Aunt Bella and the stewardess were handing out breakfast. When they got to us Aries patted my leg and said "Baby, you ok? Breakfast is ready if you want to eat." "Yeah, sorry, I was just thinking," I said as I took my plate and thanked them.

"Anything you want to talk about with us?" Zeus asked me. "Not yet I'll tell everyone when we're all done eating and ready to talk." He nodded his head and we all started eating. Everyone loved the biscuits and we were able to even get coffee. Thankfully Aries had a prospect to pick up cans of cold coffee. So I drank one of those while I ate my breakfast.

Once everyone had eaten and everything was cleaned up, we all took turns using the bathroom and then got ready to talk. Luciano stood where we could all see him and filled everyone in on the conversation that we had earlier. What we suspect might have happened. We just couldn't figure out why it happened.

I also shared what I had been thinking about after we came back. My thoughts on everything and why I thought it all. As we were all talking about it Aunt Bella sat there deep in thought. When she looked up, she looked at me and said "I remember when she



and your dad got into that fight and she left. I can't remember what the fight was about, I'm not sure that I was ever told honestly. But I remember her taking off and leaving, she left him with all four kids. And I'm pretty sure that she was gone for about six or seven months. It was about a month later I think when she said that she was pregnant with you. It was a miraculous pregnancy she said. I think Anthony had gotten a vasectomy after the twins were born and she claimed that it had to come undone. Said that he was the only guy that she had ever been with. When you were born she claimed that you were a preemie but you weren't, you were born right on time. You were so tiny because she didn't eat very much I suspect now that she may have been trying to kill you before you were born. It would make sense as to why you were so small. It also explains why they both hated you from the time that you were born. You don't look like either of them, you have curves and black hair with natural highlights and beautiful green eyes. They all have brown on brown, how they think that the twins are the pretty ones is beyond me."

"So what we need to figure out now is who she spent time with and who is my dad. As well as figuring out what happened for someone to kidnap Nonno and hold him hostage all of this time. What could've happened for someone to take him from his family? Especially if he was a powerful Mafia leader" I said. It just wasn't making sense and I couldn't figure out why someone would kidnap me.

I was wracking my brain trying to figure out what the fuck I was missing and It just wasn't coming to me. "So what's our game plan for when we land in Italy? What do we do first and where are going to stay?" Aries asked Luciano.

"We'll stay at my mansion that I have there, It's big enough for everyone to be in. You three can take Dom's room. Marcello's room connects to his but I now understand why it doesn't really get used" he said with a smirk at us. "We'll go there and get some rest first. We have time while we are on this jet to come up with a game plan and figure out what we are going to do. I'm going to start by getting ahold of Renzo and having him go and question both Anthony and Loretta at the jail. They are both being held still and will be until further notice. I'll have him see what he can find out and get back to me." Luciano took his phone and went back into the bedroom of the jet to make the call.

I had turned sideways and had the armrest up and my legs across Aries's lap. My back was hurting from the armrest behind me. So Zeus got up to go get me a pillow to put behind me. We were trying to figure out what our game plan would be and everyone was bouncing ideas around.

Aries said "I need to call the Italy chapter of the club and see if they have found anything out yet. The president of the club there has guys out trying to find out where they all are and where they're being held if they are. He's got them looking for everyone. When Luciano comes back out I'll go call him and see what he knows."

I nodded my head and listened to the guys trying to come up with a game plan. Zeus came back and put a pillow behind me and kissed my forehead. He also had a blanket that he put over my legs for me. I sat and watched everyone and just felt so thankful that my family was stepping up and trying to help me find out what was going on. Had it been

Loretta or Anthony they wouldn't have cared about what happened to any of them. Just what they could get out of it all.

So that got me thinking, what if the guy that she had been with found out that she was pregnant right after leaving him? What if he suspected that she had his baby and never told him? I just kept sitting there thinking and when Luciano walked back into the main cabin from the bedroom I decided to voice my thoughts.

Before he had a chance to say anything I said "What if the guy that Loretta was with for those few months was the Russian? If he found out that she was pregnant right after she left him and didn't tell him, he was probably pissed. Especially if he thought that the baby was his. If he didn't find out until years later and came to find out where the kid was and if it was his. She could've lied to him and said that the baby wasn't his. It would explain why I had to go have the cheek swab for a DNA test. But what would've caused him to kidnap Nonno? I don't get it and I can't figure it out."

"It would explain a lot, but what if she lied to him and told him that the baby was dead and that Sal had something to do with it? It's the only thing that I can think of that would explain why someone would kidnap him. They would want revenge for the baby's death and what better way to get it than by kidnapping the one that they thought caused it? And making them pay for it for years" Ripper said.

"That has to be it, or close to it. It sounds like something that I would do. If someone said that one of my kids had died and then pointed fingers at another and the one to do it. I would go after that person, and when you're a ruthless bastard like me you want them to pay for it for years. Rodion Smirnov is a man you don't want to mess with when he's pissed off about something. He's got a bad temper and when you fuck with those that he loves he becomes the devil himself. He's got about five sons but no daughters that I know of. I used to have an alliance with him and then he just stopped it. I never did understand why but maybe this explains it. Renzo is going to take a couple of guys and go to the jail and see what he can find out. He said that he'd call me as soon as he knew something. Until then we plan and we get our family back" Luciano said as he sat down.

Aries lifted my legs and slid out from under them. "I'm going to call Fury, he's the President of the Italian chapter of the club. He's got guys out looking around seeing if they can figure out where our people are all being held at. They should know something by now and if they do then that will give us an idea of where to start looking. And we can plan how to get our family back. I'll be right back" he said as he walked towards the back.

I sat there thinking and trying to wrap my head around the fact that the guy I always thought was my father might not be. And if he's not then there is a chance that a Russian that kidnapped my Nonno could possibly be my real dad. Now the question that keeps going through my head is why didn't Nonno tell him that I was alive if he thought that I was his daughter.

It would only make sense right? Tell him that his kid is alive and was being abused and you adopted her with your wife. Why would he not tell him about me? What happened for Nonno to not tell this guy that his kid was being abused and tortured? I don't get it and I don't understand it at all.

What is also going through my mind is, who am I? Do I really have a dad and brothers out there? And if I do are they also going to abuse me like the people that I thought were my family did? Will they actually want to be a part of my life? Will they like me if they are my family? And my biggest fear. Will they understand that I'm in a relationship with four wonderful guys that I don't plan to ever give up? These thoughts kept plaguing my mind for the rest of the flight to Italy. I just hope that when we touch down things don't go bad. But I have a feeling it'll go bad before it turns good.