

Chapter 71 – Their Beautiful Strong Queen

The flight to Russia was a long one but I spent the trip getting to know my brothers better. They loved the snacks that I had packed up and said that they needed to bring me more often for trips. I disagreed, I couldn't handle being stuck in a plane for this long all of the time. I don't know how they do it, because I know that they go back and forth for work all the time. I'm not a bird, I'm not built to be in the air all the time. I'd much rather keep my feet firmly planted on the ground thank you very much.

While in the air we played cards and watched movies when we weren't talking and getting to know each other better. I liked my brothers and enjoyed being able to get to know them all better. Their jet had a bed in the back and even though I refused they had me take it to get some sleep. I lay there and looked out the window for a while, just thinking about my guys. I missed them so much, and still wish that I knew what had happened to us. Maybe one day I'll find out for sure what had happened.

I eventually fell asleep and when I woke up it was four am. We would be landing at eight am Texas time but it would be four pm Russian time. Russia was eight hours ahead of us and It would take me time to get use to that. I was confused about the way the time was anyway. I even had to look it up to see what the difference in time was between us and Russia. I honestly don't know how they do it and not be tired all of the time. If I had to fly like they do I had a major case of dragonass.

I was wide awake so I got up and used the restroom. When I was done I peeked out and saw Leo awake drinking coffee and looking out the window. I walked over, plopped beside him, and asked "Who do I need to kill for a cup of that?" He turned and looked at me and smirked. "You don't have to kill anyone for coffee. I ensured that we stocked plenty on the jet along with the weird creamer you like." "Ugh, my creamer is not weird thank you very much. It's good and you don't know what you are missing" I huffed out at him.

"I'll go make you a cup I'll be right back," Leo said as he got up. He headed to the galley area to make me a cup of coffee and I sat and watched out the window. I still had my throw blanket wrapped around me because I was cold. When Leo came back he handed me a cup of coffee and then sat back down beside me. "It won't be long now and we'll be home. I can't wait for you to see it."

"I've never been there and we didn't learn much about it in school. Is it beautiful there?" I asked him. "Da, it is, very beautiful. I can't wait to show you around our city. I think that you'll like it, especially all of the food. I know how much you like to cook and eat. You'll love it here, and I have so many different restaurants in mind to take you to." "I can't wait to see it all and I'm excited to see it all. But the thing that I look forward to the most is getting to you, my brothers. You have no idea how it feels to say that I have siblings who love me and want to be around me."

“We’re here for you always River. The instant we found out that Dad may have a daughter we started to look into things. I have to say when we learned about you and the shit you went through at the house. Even not knowing if you were our sister or not I wanted to put that whole family in the ground. Hell, I still do, and before it’s over with I probably will. No one messes with our sister and gets away with it.”

“Da, no one ever will again. We will all protect you with our lives and when you go back home at least two of us will be with you. We will split our time between places and will switch back and forth. That way we will be close to you. You’re ours to protect now and we won’t let you down. You are the only Printsessa of the Russian Bravata and no one will harm you again. We’ll even assign you a guard or ten to protect you if we have to” Santino said.

“Thank you guys, I love that you all want to protect me. But I’m not a delicate little flower, I’m a badass warrior. I started in self-defense classes and worked my way up to boxing and MMA. I’m actually an MMA champion just not on the main circuit. I can take care of myself and when I get the approval to get back into the ring I’ll prove it to you” I said with a cheeky grin.

Leo looked at our brothers who were waking up and said “She’s right she can protect herself. I’ve seen her do it. She’s beat my ass a few times in the ring. I’ve also been to a few of her fights. She’s tiny but she’s mighty, I’ve seen her hit guys fucking four times her size and knock them out. She is the one punch wonder, one punch and it makes you wonder why you got in the fucking ring with her.”

We all sat and talked quietly until the other guys got up. Once they were up we talked and made plans for the places that we could tour while I was over here. When the stewardess got up she made us breakfast burritos and more coffee. The food was just to tide us over until we got to their house. The guys all admitted that while they did have apartments and girlfriends. They still lived in the mansion with our dad and that is where we will be staying. But he said that he’d stay somewhere else if being there would make me uncomfortable.

I was fine with being in the same house with him. After all, we would have to talk eventually. While I won’t forgive him right away, he is my bio dad and was just trying to find out what had happened to me. I talked to Nonno about it all and he said that he never guessed that I would’ve been Rodions missing kid. He kept saying boy and Nonna didn’t know of Loretta ever having any boys after us girls were born. While he didn’t really torture Nonno after the first few months he did still keep him hostage. I have a lot to think about still but I will need to talk to him eventually.

When we got closer to Moscow, Leo traded places with me so that I could look out of the plane. It was so beautiful here and I couldn’t wait to play tourist and check everything out. We gathered up all of our stuff and had it ready for when we got off the jet. When we finally touched down and were able to get off the jet I felt like that kid in The Pacifier movie. When Vin Diesel lets the oldest daughter drive and when she stops the van the youngest girl gets out and screams land, solid land. Yeah, I feel like her right now and

would love to yell it. But I just giggle instead and tell the guys what's so funny. Of course, they've never seen the movie so now I have to watch it with them. My time in Russia is going to be really fun I think. Hello Russia, I hope you're ready for me and the hell I'm sure that I'll end up bringing. Because you know as well as I do that it follows me everywhere. See you're even shaking your head and agreeing with me because you know that I'm right. Let's see if I can behave on this trip. Yeah, I couldn't say that with a straight face and I know that you're laughing at me.

Chapter 72 – Their Beautiful Strong Queen

After a long assed flight we finally made it to Russia. After landing we gathered up our stuff and headed for the SUVs that were waiting for us. We had to wait for a few before we left because the staff were still unloading our bags. We were on our way once they were all unloaded from the jet and loaded up into the SUVs.

I couldn't believe how beautiful Russia was. I looked out the windows on our way to the mansion that the guys lived in. On our way there we passed through the capital city and I got to see the Red Square with the Spasskaya Tower, Saint Basil's Cathedral, and the Ostankino Tower. We drove through the town and headed out the other side following along the Moskva River.

"It's so beautiful here. I can't wait to play tourist in a few days and see everything that there is to see." "We have lots to show you and at least one of us will always be with you. When you go out there will be more of us with you. Although this is our town, we don't trust easily and want to make sure that you are ok while your ok" Cassio said.

"Good, then I won't get lost because I can assure you that If I go out alone I will end up getting lost. I'm pretty good at getting around on my own back home. But here, being that it's a new place that I've never been. Yeah, I'd be lost in a New Your Minute" I said while laughing.

My brothers all laughed with me and pointed out different things that they would take me to see when we had time. Leo told us that we would be home soon. I never thought about it until now so I said "You know, I never did ask. What does your mom think of me and of your dad having another kid?" Prospero or Po as I have taken to calling him, said "At the time that our dad was with Loretta, he and our mom were split up. They didn't actually divorce because that goes against our family values. But she was with another guy for about five years. Eventually, Dad started to spiral, and no one knew why. Mom came back and worked things out with Dad. She found out for sure that he had another kid at the same time that we did. He admitted that he was pissed off and hurt that Mom left him. And while he was in America checking on our businesses there he slept with Loretta for a few months. When he realized that he wouldn't ever love anyone but our mom he kicked Loretta to the curb" Leandro said.

But Uros picked up with “Yeah, and besides the fact that he was still in love with our mom. I’m pretty sure that I remember him saying one time that Loretta was the worst fuck of his life. That she was so loose that it was like throwing a hot dog down a hallway. And that he only knew that expression because of some of our guys who stay in America permanently and work for the business. He heard one of them say it and had to have him explain it. It stuck with him.”

I started laughing when he said that “That’s funny shit right there. I say that about the Botox, faked-assed twins all the time. Well, that and they’ve been on more weiners than Hinze ketchup. It’s funny that they brag about all of the guys that they’ve been with. When every guy that they’ve ever slept with was because their dad pretty much sold them. He got paid every time that one of his little friends came around and then that creep would disappear with one or both of the girls.”

When I said that the guys all got pissed off. “Did he ever do that to you?” Leo asked me. “No, or at least he wasn’t able to that I know of. I remember when I was five, I had to get dressed up and be at a party that they were having. One of the creepy guys just kept looking at me and saying how pretty I was. The twins kept getting pissed because of it. That the was night that they attacked me and Nonna took me out of the house of hell” I said while looking out the window at the water.

The vehicle got quiet as the guys thought about what I said. It wasn’t long and we were pulling up to a gate and going through. When we got close to the front of the huge mansion I said “Damn this place is huge, and you never did answer me. Is your mom going to hate that I’m here? Especially if she’s back with our Dad?” “No, she’ll be fine with it. We have a younger brother as well. He’s only a year older than you. He’s excited to have a sister but didn’t want to push himself on you. He figured that you would be overwhelmed with all seven of us. And as for mom, she’s excited to have a daughter. She’s the one that asked me what girly shit that you use and what your favorite color is. She was planning on getting your room ready while we were gone” Leandro said.

Leo said “Yeah, and when I mentioned that you paint and that we were going to your first show. She started making plans for a room for you to paint in. She told Dad that if you wanted him gone while you were here she’d back you up. And that she was excited to finally have a girl after eight boys. So she was staying here and getting to know you better.”

I was amazed that she didn’t hate me and actually wanted me as her daughter. That hardly ever happens, usually, the wife doesn’t want something to do with the other woman’s daughter. At least that’s the way that it is in the books that I’ve read. The illegitimate daughter gets the blame for being born when she has nothing to do with it and is the only innocent one of the bunch. Those books usually piss me off and I end up yelling at the book. Does that happen to anyone else or is it just me?

Right before we got out of the car I took a deep breath and let it out. “Ok, then I hope that she likes me.” The guys got out of the car and Leo helped me out. I had my purse and laptop bag over my left shoulder and I tucked my right hand into Leo’s elbow. We started

up the steps of the mansion and when we got to the top the door opened up. A man in a tailor's suit opened the door and stepped aside. "Sirs and Madam please come in, well take care of your bags and get them to your room. Mr Leandro, Don Smirnov is waiting in his office. He needs all of you to go there, please. He said that it wouldn't take long but that it involves the Printsessa as well. Miss River, welcome home, If you should need anything at all just ask any of the staff and we'll see to it that we get it for you. I am Abram by the way" He said while taking a bow.

"Thank you, Abram, boys lead the way to Mr. Smirnov, please. The quicker we get this meeting done the faster I can eat. The burrito just didn't do it for some reason. I'm starving all of a sudden" I said. "Follow me then," Leandro said and started towards the back of the house. We all fell into step with him. We walked through the foyer and past a set of steps that led to the second floor. They were beautiful, there were two one on each side with a hallway between them. Both sets of steps curved up to the second floor. We went down the hallway that was between the stairs.

We passed by a huge dining room, and kitchen on the right side. On the left side was a huge living room, there was a sitting room off to the left back by the front doors. I saw it when we first came in. We turned down a hallway on the left side and walked to the end. On the right side of the hallway were nothing but floor-to-ceiling windows that let you see outside to the big backyard. I could see a huge Olympic sized swimming pool out there. On the left side of the hallway were mostly windows as well. They let you see from the living room straight through to the outside. I loved the way that it was set up.

When we got to the double doors at the end of the hall Leandro knocked on the door twice. We soon hear the voice on the other side say "Come in." Leandro opened the door and stepped through with all of us coming in behind him. The office was massive, there were floor-to-ceiling windows on two walls. On the right was a massive desk with my Dad sitting behind it. On the left, there were two big couches and four chairs. As well as a huge fireplace along the wall. There were also bookshelves and filing cabinets in the room.

Dad was looking down at his laptop and didn't realize who was in the room with him. "What do you need?" he asked. Leandro said "Fuck if I know, what the hell do you need. We were told that you needed to see us when we got here. Abram said you needed us to come to your office. So what's up, we need to feed the beast before it gets cranky." When he said that he turned and smirked at me. He was standing in front of me so I smirked back and leaned on Leo. Then I pulled my left leg up and kicked Leandro in the ass as hard as I could.

Dad had looked up about the time that Leandro went forward a few steps and caught himself on the desk. "That's what you get you asshat. I'm not a beast, but I am starving and want real food. No junk food or nasty airplane food. Real food like tacos, mmm tacos sound so good right now." I had a dreamy look on my face and the guys were all laughing at me. I even saw Dad smile at me.

"Well let's sit down and get this over with then so we can get you food. I just sent a message to Abram to get the stuff to make tacos. He'll have them done by the time we're

done talking. Also, River I'm happy that you are here. I'd like the chance to get to know you better as well while you're here but if you don't want to be around me I understand. And I'll stay away as much as possible, this is your home and I want you to be comfortable here. I was told about how much you like that orange cream sickle slushy stuff. So I bought a machine and had it sent here, we got it while the boys were gone as well as plenty of stuff for it. The kitchen staff got it set up in the kitchen for you. Now the reason I asked you all in here. I got a call from Sal about two hours after you took off and was in the air. We need to keep a close watch on River. There are some people after you and while I know who or at least the why. I won't tell you because it's not my place to. You will be filled in after your home and the threat is over. Right now as far as we know, no one but those of us that need to know, even know that you left the country. So you should be safe here and they can take care of the threat there. But when you go out you will have a full team around you."

"Ok, I'm good with that. I started to have bodyguards at home as well because of the other psycho that's after me. I'm kind of getting used to all of the man candy that I'm always surrounded by" I said with a cheeky grin. Everyone just laughed and then Dad said "That's all I needed for now. Take your sister up to her room so that she can put her stuff up. And you all should have about an hour until dinner is done. You can get showers and wash up from traveling. You don't have to dress up for dinner here. Those Yogy pants that you girls wear are fine. My wife insists that we don't get fancy when it's just family. Only for important dinners."

With that said we all got up and headed back to the front of the house. When we got back to the foyer the guys led me up the stairs and to where the bedrooms are at. I couldn't wait for a hot shower and food in my belly. I don't know why I'm so hungry all of a sudden. But tacos sound so freaking good right now. What do you think, you want tacos now too don't ya?

Chapter 73 – Their Beautiful Strong Queen

When we got upstairs, the guys split up; half went left and half went right. Leandro took me towards the right hallway and about halfway down he stopped at a door on the left. When he opened it he led me into a huge bedroom. There was a bed on the right side, two doors on the left side, and floor-to-ceiling windows straight ahead. There was even a huge balcony attached to the bedroom. Looking around I could see lots of camo orange everywhere, I loved it.

"Wow, this is beautiful, I love it. Your mom did a really good job on it" I said while still looking around. "I'm glad that you like it and I'm sure that Mom will be as well. Get a shower and change and I'll be back in about forty-five minutes to get you for dinner" Leandro said. "Ok, I'll be ready." He nodded and then headed out the door. After he left I shut the door, laid my purse and laptop bag on the bed, and then walked over to the door on the left side of the wall. When I opened it up I stepped into a huge walk-in closet. My clothes had already been unpacked and put away. There was a door on the right that led

to a huge bathroom. There was a huge garden tub straight ahead by floor-to-ceiling windows. On my left, there was a huge walk-in shower with a lot of shower heads in it. In the back corner of the room was a little room with just the commode in it. There was also a smaller closet on the left that held towels, shampoo, condition, body wash, and anything else you would need.

I could that the boys' mom had stocked it because there was also a few different boxes of tampons and pads. There was also a double sink and a vanity and they were all stocked with everything that I would need. I went over to the shower and started the water and made it hot. I made sure that there was shampoo and stuff in the shower and then grabbed a towel. Then I stripped down, put my clothes into the hamper, and then got into the shower. The hot water felt really good on my muscles, especially after being stuck in a jet for so long.

I scrubbed my hair with shampoo twice because it just felt nasty and then put conditioner in it and left it. I grabbed my puffy, put my body wash on it and scrubbed up. I even shaved my legs and pits really fast. I had to use the shower chair and sit down while I shaved my legs though. My ankle and foot were hurting some. When I was done I washed my body again and then rinsed my hair and body off. I shut the water off and wrung the excess water from my hair. I grabbed my towel and dried off and then brushed out my hair and pulled it into a messy bun. I brushed my teeth and then went into my closet to get dressed.

I know what you're thinking "What's the point of brushing your teeth when you're just going to go eat." But after being on the jet for all that time I needed to brush them. In the closet, I put on a thong, bra, yoga pants, and a tank top. You could see my tattoo really well and you couldn't see my scar now. I felt more confident walking around without a hoodie on. I went through my stuff and found my wrap on the nightstand by my bed. I grabbed it and then sat down to wrap it up. I just sat down to wrap it when there was a knock on my door.

"Come in" I yelled out. I looked up and saw Leandro walk in the door."Hey, are you about ready?" He asked me, he was looking down at his phone when he walked in so he didn't see me sitting on the bed. "Yeah, just about, just give me a minute," I said. He looked up and said "Shit are you ok? I didn't even think of your injury and we had you walking all over the house and up steps." I'm fine, it's just a little sore from all of the walking that I've been doing on it. I just got the boot off and the doctor said that it may be sore and swell up the first few times that I walk on it. I put my wrap on it and I'll be good, I just can't wear shoes." "That's not a problem, Mom won't be wearing any either. She says that shoes are to wear outside not inside. And even then she usually doesn't wear shoes when she's outside. At least when she's here at home she doesn't."

"Your mom seems like my kind of person. I think that she and I will get along just fine." I finished wrapping up my foot and then stood up. "Ok, all set, now let's go get tacos. I am starving and ready for food." I started out the door when Leo walked up to us and said "Wait, no hoodie? I don't think that I've ever seen you without a hoodie on before. You've always worn one." "I got my tattoo done and It covers up my scars. I feel much more

confident now that my scars are covered up. They're not controlling my life now, I am" I said. "That's my girl, I'm proud of you," Leo said as he put his arm over my shoulder and hugged me to him.

We made it to the steps and Leandro looked at Leo and said "One of us needs to carry her down them. She walked a good bit around the house and had to wrap her ankle. She doesn't need to be walking up and down steps." Leo nodded and before I had the chance to say anything he picked me up. Then proceeded to carry me down the stairs and to the dining room. "I can walk, my ankles fine It just swelled up some and hurts a little bit but I'm ok." "Nope, I'll carry you and you just rest. It's still healing up, hell you just got the boot off of it. It's no problem to carry you and make sure that you're ok."

I just gave in because I know how stubborn and bullheaded Leo can get. When we walked into the dining room most of my brothers were there already. My dad is there as well as another guy and a woman. When we came in Dad asked Leo "Is she ok, what's wrong?" "I'm fine, my ankle is just swelled up some and hurting a little bit. I just got the boot off of it, I guess you could say yesterday. I went to the doctor on Friday and he said that I could go without it now, but I had to wear it at my show since I would be on my feet the whole time. I have it with me just in case I need it. I wrapped it to help some."

"As long as you are ok, dear. We don't want you in any pain" the woman said. "I'm ok, it was just a lot of walking today and walking upstairs. I didn't wear the boot Friday night or Saturday morning or most of Sunday. But I wasn't doing a lot of walking either, and I especially wasn't walking up steps. I was still using the elevator." "River, this is our Mom Alena, and our other brother Ivan. Mom, Ivan, this is our baby sister River" Leo said with a big cheesy grin.

"Oh, you are so beautiful, and we are so glad that you are here. If you want Rodion to leave you just let me know and I'll send his ass to a hotel. I want you to be comfortable while you're here. And I know what he put your family through" Alena said. "It's fine, I don't mind being around him. Now that doesn't mean that I forgive you, because I don't, like at all right now. But Nonno said that you didn't really torture him and that Loretta played a big part in why you did what you did. That bitch is nothing but a lien ho-bag and only cares about herself" I said.

"You talk about your mother like that," Ivan said with huge eyes. "Mine would flay me alive if I did that." "If I had to guess, and I'd say that I would guess right. Your mom is a good woman and has always treated you right. She took care of you and would protect you to the ends of the earth like a good momma should. I'm sure that at times she has even been a momma bear to protect you. Loretta never was that way with me, she was the opposite. She was abusive and cold towards me. Hell, my Nonna raised me from the time that I was five. She's always been my mom and after we thought that Nonno was killed I found two dads. Chris and Ren are a gay couple that came into the diner. I met them when I was ten and they became my stand-in dads. They were there for everything for me. I hate Loretta and her family with a passion. Hell I have a restraining order on them all and they are all in jail at the moment" I said.

“Damn, I’m sorry that you grew up that way. I have a different dad from the rest of the boys but Rodion has always treated me like I was his son as well. I see my dad occasionally but Rodion is more of a dad than him. I’ll share my mom with you since you have to share your dad” Ivan said. “I agree, I’d love to have a daughter. Unfortunately, I wasn’t blessed with any girls just boys, all boys. I thought that it was just because of the Smirnov curse, but nope. Still had a boy.” “I would like that,” I said.

The other boys finally came in and we all sat down to eat, finally. The maids helped the chef get the food all on the table. After it was all there I was doing a happy dance. I couldn’t wait for tacos and it all smelled so freaking good. We made our plates and then dug in. I made three soft shell wraps with hamburger, refried beans, salsa, shredded cheese, tomatoes, lettuce, and sour cream. I took the first bit and moaned at how good it tasted. The boys all looked at me and laughed at me. I just shrugged and went back to eating.

When we were done with dinner the chef and maids came in and cleaned the table off and then brought us a strawberry cheesecake. It was so good but I only ate one small piece of it. I was stuffed full. When we were done eating the boys and I all decided to head to bed. We all had jetlag, so I got carried up to my room and sat down. When I was alone, I went and used the bathroom. Then I brushed my teeth and brushed my hair out again. I braided it and when I went to find a small hair thing I didn’t see any.

As I checked the little closet for them I found them in a basket of stuff on one of the shelves. I grabbed one and tied my hair and as I went to shut the closet door I glanced back down at the tampons again. I shut the door, turned off the light and headed for bed. As I turned off a movie and was crawling into bed I was trying to remember when my last period was. I honestly couldn’t remember when it was. I grabbed my phone and went back through the calendar. When I saw where it was marked for the last period my eyes got round. Ohh shit, what the hell am I going to do?

Chapter 74 – Their Beautiful Strong Queen

The next morning when I woke up I just laid in bed and relaxed for a few minutes. I finally reached over, grabbed my phone, and sent texts to everyone back home letting them know that we made it last night and that I was ok. After I sent the texts all out I lay there thinking about what I had discovered last night. If what I’m thinking, is true then I’m not sure what I will do. I still have two years left at college and no matter what I will finish. Even if that means that I figure shit out on my own.

But first, I have to find out if it’s true or not and that means getting away from the boys and getting to a store. Maybe I can get Alena to go with me and help me. I lay there just resting and thinking for a few more minutes before I finally moved to get up. I just sat up and moved to get off of the bed and started to feel really queasy. So I sat still for a few minutes to see if it would pass. When I thought that it had, I was wrong. The instant I stood up I had to puke. I ran for the bathroom and then for the little commode room.

I fell to my knees and puked, and puked, It felt like it was never-ending. And just when I thought that I was finished I would start again. I finally stopped and after flushing the commode, I just sat on the floor when I was done. I was too afraid to move for fear of starting again. When I finally thought that I could move, I took my time and eased up into a standing position. I then went into the bathroom and brushed my teeth. When I had them brushed I used mouthwash to get the puke taste out of my mouth.

I walked back into my bed and sat down. I then picked up my phone and sent a text to Leandro. I didn't have Alena's number but I was hoping that he could have her text me or come to my room. I didn't want to talk to my brothers about this. And I'm sure that they would feel the same. So I sent my text.

Me- Hey Ro, can you have your mom text me or come to my room, please? I need to talk to her.

Ro- Is everything ok?

Me- Yeah, just not feeling good and she may know what I need to take for it.

Ro- Ok, I'll have her come up.

Me- Ok, thank you.

I unlocked my bedroom door and just from moving to do that I felt like I was going to be sick again. So I took off to the bathroom and once again I barely made it and I was sick of puking again. As I was bent over the commode again I could hear someone come into the bathroom. Then I realized that it was Alena when I heard her say "Oh dear you are sick." I could hear her moving around in the bathroom and then she stepped back into the little commode room. I was done puking for the minute so I shut the lid and then flushed the commode. I managed to get up and sit on the closed lid and she put a wet, cold, washrag on the back of my neck.

I looked up at her and said "Thank you, I didn't want to bother you but this isn't something that I can talk to my brothers about and my Nonna's not here." "You're fine sweetheart, if you need help I'm here for you. You may not be my biological daughter but you are my daughter nonetheless. Now do you know what's wrong or do you think it's from the travel yesterday?" "It's not from the traveling, I'm used to that. Just not used to such long flights. No, when I was checking the bathroom out yesterday I noticed the boxes of pads and tampons in the closet. I just looked over them at first and didn't think anything else of it. Until I went to braid my hair before bed. I was looking for a hair thing and when I looked in there I found one. But I also saw those again. It got me thinking that I haven't had a period for at least two months. It's only been about six weeks since I lost my virginity though. Right after that my men dumped me and wouldn't tell me why. I don't even know if they all know that I slept with one of them or not. It was supposed to be all of us my first time, or I guess I should say our first time together. I'm on the pill but I don't remember if he used a condom or not" I whispered.

“Oh, honey you could be pregnant, this is about the time that you would start getting sick if so. I have a couple of pregnancy tests in my room I’ll get one and be right back. I had a scare myself a while back and I grabbed a few boxes. Turns out that it was just the change of life that I was going through. Although, I don’t know what is worse, menopause or pregnancy. You just sit still I’ll be right back. I’ll also text Maria and have her bring you some toast and tea to settle your stomach down some.”

Alena left the room and I sat still and kept the washrag on my neck. When I thought that I could move I stepped into the bathroom and got a cup of water. I would need to be able to pee to do the test and I couldn’t right now. I also needed this nasty taste out of my mouth. I hated to be sick, so I hoped that this didn’t last long. Once I got my water I slowly walked out to the bedroom and sat back down. I took slow sips of my water, to try to keep from getting sick again. It wasn’t long and Alena was back in the room.

“Ok, I got it and because everyone was downstairs I was able to sneak it out of my room without questions. All that you have to do is pee on the stick and it will give you an answer in three minutes. This is one of the ones that tell you if you are pregnant or not. It even tells you how far along you may be.” “Ok, thank you. I need to get some water in my so that I can pee. I got up early this morning at around four and used the bathroom. I don’t have to go yet but a little bit of water and I’ll have to.”

“You are welcome, sweetheart and take your time. Maria will let the guys know that we’ll be down a little late and to start without us. And she’s bringing you some toast and a cup of peppermint tea. It’ll help with the nausea and calm your stomach down some. I never thought to ask if you have any allergies.” “I can drink the tea, I drink it every once in a while. Although if I am pregnant I guess I’ll have to switch to decaf coffee or tea. And the only thing that I’m allergic to that I know of is Tylenol.”

“That’s good to know, I’ll make sure that the Tylenol is all put up. I don’t want someone to accidentally give it to you if you need pain meds. Since you don’t feel good today, we’ll have a lazy day around the house. I have something that I want to show you. And then we can just hang out in the theater room and watch movies if you want. We’ll see what the test says and then I’ll contact our family doctor and have him check you out. Or if you are more comfortable I can have his wife come. She’s a doctor as well and a nice lady. I’ve seen her a few times myself.”

“Thank you, and I’d like that. A lazy day around the house sounds perfect. Especially after the past few days. With the show, I was so busy that I didn’t have time to breathe most days, at least it felt that way” I said. I finished up my cup of water and then stood up. “Ok, I think that I can go now. I’ll be right back” I said. Alena handed me the test and I went into the bathroom. I sat my cup by the sink and then went into the commode room. I read the directions on the test and when I was done I sat it on a piece of toilet paper and finished up.

When I was done I picked the test up and laid it beside the sink. I then washed my hands and then went back into the bedroom shutting the door behind me. Alena was sitting at the little table sipping on a cup of tea. I went to bed and picked my phone up. Then I sat

down at the table. “I need to FaceTime my Nonna. She can’t be here with me so I at least need her on a video call with us.” “Ok, do you want me to leave?” Alena asked me. “No, please stay with me,” I said. She nodded her head and I let out a breath. Just to follow it up with taking a deep breath again.

I let it out and hit the video call button beside Nonna’s name. It rang a few times before she picked it up. “Amorina, I miss you already. I got your text that you made it ok. How are you doing?” She asked me. “Hi Nonna, Yeah we made it here around five last night and after a shower and food, I was out. I miss you too so much. Are you at home or work?” I asked her. “I’m at home right now, why is everything ok?” “Yeah it’s fine, can you go into a room by yourself though? I need to talk to you and I don’t need ears hearing our conversation. You can go to my room if you have to” I said.

“Ok, just give me a minute.” After waiting for a few minutes I could hear Nonna excusing herself and then walking away. A few seconds later she came back onto the phone. “Ok, I’m back Amorina, What going on?” “First I want to introduce you to someone. You’ve probably met each other before but Nonna this is Alena, Alena this is my Nonna” I said as I moved the camera so that they could see each other. After saying hi to each other I took a breath and then said “Nonna I called because I woke up sick this morning and last night I realized that I’m late on my period. Alena had a test and I took it I’m just waiting on the results. I couldn’t look at it without you at least being on a video call with me.”

“Oh Amorina, It was the guys wasn’t it?” She asked me. I explained as much as I could without going into too much detail that It was just with Zeus. And I don’t even know if the others know because they broke up with me right after. And that if I am pregnant I will tell them all when I make it back home. It wasn’t something that I wanted to do over the phone and at almost six thousand miles away. She agreed that I needed to wait until I was back to tell them.

When the time was up I took a deep breath and let it out. I handed Alena my phone and then I slowly walked into the bathroom alone. I was so nervous that I was shaking. What would I do if I was pregnant? Could I deal with being a single mom and going to school full-time? How could I raise a baby after the shit that I went through as a kid? Could I love the baby and treat it right? My biggest fear was turning into Loretta, I don’t ever want to treat my kids like she did. With that thought in my head, I decided that no matter what I would be the best damn mom that I could be. And I would do it on my own. I took another deep breath and looked down at the test. I picked the test up and read what it said. I took a deep breath and let it out trying to keep from crying. I was shocked by what it said.

Chapter 75 – Their Beautiful Strong Queen

That afternoon Alena was able to get me in to see her doctor. When we got to his office, he took us straight back to be seen. I was so nervous on top of being sick. All I was able to keep down today was tea and toast. On the way back to the room, the nurse had me pee in a cup. That was hard to do because they didn’t want me to empty my bladder. Then she

took my temperature and blood pressure and measured my weight and height. When that was done, she had me go into a room and sit on the bed.

While I'm sitting here waiting for a doctor, let me fill you in. The pregnancy test that I took this morning came back positive and said that I was between six and eight weeks pregnant. So, after talking to Nonna and Alena, we decided to try to get me in to be seen. I was worried because of everything that had happened. I have been super stressed out lately. I'm hoping that the baby is OK though.

It was still hard to believe that I was going to be a mom. I was actually growing a little human inside of me. Nonna was excited and already talking about the nursery and baby shower. And Alena said that when I went back home she'd be coming and was going to stay in their house with whatever boys were going back. She's excited because this will be her first grandbaby. She can't wait to be a Babushka and wants to be there with me through it all. She even said that she would stay and help me so that I could finish school.

She may not be my biological mom, but she's been more of a mother to me in the day that I've known her. Way more than Loretta ever was to me. She even came to my doctor's appointment with me today. The guys just think that I'm getting checked for a cold. I want to let Zeus know that I'm pregnant before anyone else knows. But for that to happen, I'll have to tell him over video call. I'm not going to be able to keep this from the guys though. Especially if I keep getting sick like this.

Finally, the doctor came into the room. "Hello Mrs. Smirnov, How are you today? I hear that you brought your daughter in for a pregnancy test and scan today?" He said as he was looking down at the chart in his hand. He looked up with a confused look on his face and said "Mrs. Smirnov, since when do you have a daughter? I remember you having eight sons but no daughters. Did I miss a pregnancy?" He had a puzzled look on his face as he reached up and scratched his head.

Alena just chuckled and said "No, Dr. Volkov, you didn't miss a pregnancy with me. I only have eight boys biologically. River is my stepdaughter, she's Mr. Smirnov's biological daughter. But she is my daughter now as well. And she took a pregnancy test this morning, and it came back positive and said that she's between six and eight weeks." "OK, have you had any symptoms at all yet? When was your last period? Can you remember?" He asked me.

"Yeah, my last period was about two months ago. And I was fine until this morning when I woke up and got sick. I just kept getting sick and puking this morning. I've had some cravings also, but from what I've read, those are not supposed to start until later on in the pregnancy. But like last night, I wanted tacos and had a really bad craving for them. And today, although all I can keep down is toast and tea. I'm craving chicken strips, french fries, and pickles. Normally, I don't eat pickles on anything except hamburgers," I said.

As I was talking, he was making notes on my chart. Finally, he said "The pregnancy test that we took showed that you are pregnant. We also tested some other stuff by dipping a

test strip into your urine. It shows us a number of things that could be wrong. Everything looked good with yours, but we'll check it every time just to make sure. Now I'm going to have you take your pants and underwear off, and cover yourself up with a blanket. The first ultrasound is a vaginal one. The technician will be in soon to do the ultrasound. It shouldn't take her long to come in. I'll be back in after it's over to make sure everything is OK." With that, he stepped out the door after giving me a blanket to cover up with.

After he was out of the room, I took my yoga pants and thong off and folded them up. Alena sat them in the chair beside her, while I covered up with the blanket. I was twisting my hands together and biting my lip. She stood beside me and put her hand on top of mine. "It will all be OK, I promise. You will not be left alone, we will all be here with you every step of the way." "I know you will be, and I appreciate that so much. It means so much that you're even going back home with me to help. When the boys asked me to come stay with them for a little bit, I wasn't sure how you would be toward me. Honestly, from everything that I've seen of Stepmoms, they don't get along with the other woman's kid. But you already love me like your own, and I've only known you for a day. I'm just nervous about seeing the baby, it's like once I see the baby it will be real."

"I had no right to judge your dad for having a kid out of wedlock. Hell, we separated for a little over five years. I was with another guy for five years. I got pregnant and had Ivan while I was gone. I came back to your dad when Ivan was only a year old. The guy that I was with couldn't handle having a kid. Rodion has always treated him like he was his son. It's a long story to tell for now, but the gist of it is that we were fighting all the time. He was stressed because of work and I ended up leaving after a bad fight. In that time he went to America and ended up meeting your mom. He wasn't with her long, but it was long enough for her to get pregnant. Of course, he didn't learn that she had his child until years later. And when he found out, he confronted her about it for her to tell him that she had a boy and your Nonno killed him. And I think that you know the rest," she said.

"Yeah, I know some of it." "No matter how your dad would've treated Ivan, I still would treat you like my own. I always wanted a daughter, I just didn't get lucky enough to have one biologically. Now I know why that was. I was meant to be your mom, and it is a role that I'd love to have if you'd let me." "I'd like that," I said, as there was a knock on the door.

The ultrasound tech knocked on the door and then came in, pulling the machine behind her. "Hello, I'm Rose, and I'm your ultrasound tech today. Let's take a look at that little jellybean." She got the machine set up and entered my information into it and then took out this long wand-looking thing. She put a condom on it and then had me lay back with my legs up in stirrups. "This may be a little bit uncomfortable," she said.

She slid it into me easily and then started to move it around. I had hold of Alena's hand, and we were both looking at the screen. I couldn't tell what the fuck I was supposed to be looking at. It just looked like a staticky TV screen. I watched as she moved it around and then finally she pointed and said there's your baby." She keeps pushing buttons and moving the wand around. Finally, she stopped it over what looked like the heart and

pushed another button. We could hear the most magical noise ever, the sound of my baby's heartbeat. Alena got her phone out and recorded it for me.

"That right there is your jellybean's heartbeat. It's good and strong. Right now your baby is a tadpole and is only the size of a pea or lentil. So it's only about six millimeters long. It's curved and has a tail. Your next ultrasound should be at twelve weeks, and you'll be able to see it better. By then they are usually the size of a plum. I was told that you're not from here, just visiting. So when you get back home, set up an appointment with your doctor. I'm sure that Dr. Volkov, will you give copies of your chart from today's visit. I'm just going to take a few pictures, and then you'll be done. Do you have any questions?" She asked me.

"Yeah, my little alien there is OK, right? I've been under a lot of stress the past few weeks and I just need to know that it's OK." "Yeah, everything seems perfect with the baby. It's where it needs to be for the size and the heart's good. I don't see anything wrong, and Dr. Volkov is going to look at the pictures as well. He'll tell you if he sees anything that I don't, but I think that the jellybean is OK." "OK, thank you." "You are welcome. Here are the ultrasound pictures. He'll ask to see those when he comes back in. I'm all done now. After I leave you can put your pants and stuff back on," She said as she finished up what she was doing. When she was done, she unplugged the machine and stood up.

"OK, I'm all done, he'll be in soon to see you. Good luck and congratulations." After she left the room, I handed Alena the pictures, and she handed me my clothes. She turned around, and I put my thong and yoga pants back on. I slipped my shoes back on as well and when I was done Alena turned back around. She handed me the pictures and I looked down at them. "It looks like a little alien baby. That has to come from Zeus because I was freaking adorable as a baby", I said with a cheesy smile.

Alena laughed and said "I know that you were. Your Nonna emailed me some pictures of you from when you were a kid. She thought that your dad and I would like to have them. I plan to print them out and add them to the family pictures. I'd also like to get a family picture done while you're here if you don't mind. That way I have a new one for the living room and foyer." "We can do that, I'd like to have one as well."

Before we could say anything else, Dr. Volkov walked back into the room. "OK, let's see the little bean." I handed him the pictures, and he looked at them all. "Everything looks good and Rosa said that the heartbeat sounded good. You're good to go, but I'm going to send you home with a couple of prescriptions. I'm going to give you a nausea medicine and a vitamin that you need to take. They will last you a month, and I'm going to put one refill on them both. If you end up being here longer, let me know so that we can see you again. You will be fine flying until you're in your eighth month. After that, I wouldn't advise it. Here are your scripts and if you need anything else let me know. The girls out front will give you a copy of your chart for today so that you have it when you go back home. I'll see you ladies later, have a good day."

He left the room and I grabbed my purse and we followed. After checking out, we left and went to get my medicine filled. While it was being filled, we ran to a Burger King to get

food. I was starving, so I ordered a double Whopper meal that came with fries and a drink, three four-piece nuggets, mozzarella sticks, and Hershey pie. I knew that whatever I didn't eat now, I would eat later. Alena said that she had the guys go buy a little fridge to put in my room. That way I would have cold bottles of water, sprite, and ginger ale. She had to order it from home and have the pop sent here. Since they don't sell it.

She also had Maria fill a stand that she ordered with snacks and crackers. She was making sure that I would be comfortable and have anything that I would need. After we got our food, we picked my scripts up and then headed back home. My stomach seemed to be settled some because the smell of the food wasn't making me sick. So I nibbled on my chicken nuggets as we made our way back to the house. I couldn't believe that I was growing a little alien. But I would do whatever I needed to, to make sure that my child knew that they were loved. I just found out about my little nugget, and already I loved them more than anything. To Pluto and back.

Chapter 76 – Their Beautiful Strong Queen

When we got back to the house, none of the guys were around. Dad had texted Alena and told her that they had to go to work to deal with a problem. After I took my purse and medicine up to my room, I headed back downstairs. Then we went down to the basement where the theater was and put Supernatural on. She was a big fan of the show. She even had some throw blankets with Sam and Dean on them. I loved it. We split our food up, put the blankets on us, and curled up to start watching from the first episode. We laughed and talked while we ate.

When we were done with eating Alena through our trash, away. I put my recliner back and curled up and was watching the hunky Dean on the big screen. At some point, I must have fallen asleep because when I woke up, the room was dark and the TV was paused. I sat up and looked around but didn't see Alena. I sat there for a few minutes trying to decide if I should call Zeus or not. I finally gave in and called because Dad and the boys were going to find out about the baby. I couldn't hide it for that long, especially with the way that I was sick this morning.

I grabbed my phone and pulled up Zeus' contact information. And seeing that it was five o'clock here, it would be one in the morning back in Texas. I decided to wait until the morning to call him. I was trying to decide what to do because I knew that I would end up being sick again in the morning. I decided to send him a text so that he knew that I needed to talk to him tomorrow.

Me- Hey Zeus, it's me. I know that it's probably around one in the morning there. But I wanted to let you know that I need to talk to you. I'm in Russia right now getting to know my family. But I have something that I need to tell you, something important. So please don't ignore me when I call in the morning. I'll try to call around five your time. It'll be nine my time. I know that you guys don't want me anymore, but this is something that YOU NEED to know. I'll talk to you later. R.

After I sent the text, I headed upstairs. I stopped and used the bathroom and then went in search of everyone. I finally found them in the living room. “Hey sweetheart, how are you feeling?” Alena asked me. “I feel OK, I still feel tired, but I am hungry now,” I said. “I’m glad that you feel better. Dinner will be done soon, they are just finishing up” Alena said. “Are you OK, Printsessa?” Dad asked me. “Yeah, I’m alright,” I said as I bit my lip trying to decide what to do. Finally, I took a deep breath and said “I wanted to wait to tell you guys, but since I can’t get a hold of Zeus, I’m just going to tell you. What I say doesn’t leave this room, it stays between us, please.”

After everyone agreed with me that they wouldn’t say anything, I took another deep breath and let it out. Then I said, “I wanted to tell him first but because of the way that I was sick this morning. I’m sure that I’ll be sick like that again in the morning. I took a test, and then we went to go see Dr. Volkov. He did another test and an ultrasound.” I could tell that Dad understood where I was going with this, but the boys were all clueless. “I’m pregnant! I’m about six weeks along and the little nugget is doing good.” I pulled the ultrasound pictures out of my pocket and the guys all passed them around.

When Dad got hold of them he said “I can’t believe that I’m going to be a dedushka (grandpa).” He had tears in his eyes when he said it. The boys were all excited and talking about being Dyadya (uncle). They were all talking about what the baby was going to be and hoping for a little girl. Dad shook his head and said “We will love the baby no matter what it is. I can’t believe my little Printsessa is going to be a mamochka (mommy). We’ll be with you every step of the way. Alena said when you went home she was going with you but wouldn’t tell me why. I’m going to guess that this is the reason?” He asked her.

“Yeah, it is, I’m going to be there with her for it all. This is my first grandchild and I want to be able to help her with the little nugget. And a few of the boys said that they would go back with her and that they would trade off. That way, part of the boys are here to help with business and the others are over there helping with it. And they’ll be there for their sister.” We kept talking about it and talking about my little nugget up until dinner. When it was time to eat, I was excited.

When we got into the dining room, we all went to our seats and sat down. The chef had made them all some beef stroganoff. For me, he made chicken strips and french fries. I was happy because I could keep it down. Maria brought me a cup of peppermint tea. It helped to calm my stomach down and keep me from getting sick. When we were done with dinner, we all headed in different directions. I still had tea, because Maria had fixed me another cup.

I went up to my room, and after putting the ultrasound pictures on the table. I went straight into the bathroom. I started the tub running with warm water. It was kind of on the hot side but not too hot. I sat my cup and phone on the little table beside the tub and walked back into the bedroom. I turned the TV on, put on a classical music channel, and turned it up just enough so that I could hear it in the bathroom. Then I locked my door and went back into the bathroom. I got undressed and then sank down into the tub.

I had been relaxing in the tub for about ten minutes when my phone went off. I picked it up and looked at it and was amazed to see that it was a video call from Zeus. So I picked it up and made sure that I couldn't see anything but my head. The tub had a little tub pillow and I had it behind my head so you could see it as well. I answered my phone and said, "Hey, I didn't think that I'd hear from you until tomorrow." "Yeah, sorry I would've called back earlier, but I just now saw your message. I was at the clubhouse and my phone ended up on silent somehow. I'd say that you should've just called, but I wouldn't have gotten it. What's going on? What did you need to talk to me about?" He asked me.

"Do you remember our last morning together and what we did?" I asked him. He was quiet for a few minutes and then said "Yeah, I remember it. It was one of the best mornings of my life. I got to be with the woman that I'm in love with. Before my life got ripped apart." "Yeah, well I woke up this morning and was sick. I also realized that I was late. I took a test and then went to the doctor", I said. "Wow! What did he say? Are you pregnant?" he asked me. "I am, I'm about six weeks pregnant with my little nugget. He did an ultrasound and I have pictures there in my room."

"Where are you at right now? I'm not disturbing you, am I?" "No, you're fine. We had dinner and I went up to my room to soak in the tub before bed. I just got in right before you called. When I get out, I plan to head straight to bed. I'm exhausted and, from what I've read, it's to be expected. Not only that, but the morning sickness took it out of me this morning. Thankfully, my new mom was there and helped me through it. She even had a test that I could take and when it showed that I was pregnant and an estimate of six to eight weeks. She got me into the doctor this afternoon. She's even coming back home when I do and is going to stay to help me. She and Nonna both said that they'd be with me every step of the way. I was on the fence about telling you at first. But I couldn't keep our baby away from you. I don't know why you all did what you did to me. But you and I have to at least get along so that you can see the baby. After it's born we can talk about visitation. But the baby won't be staying overnight anywhere until they are not breastfeeding anymore. We can talk more about it all later though. We have time to figure it all out."

"Yeah, but hopefully we can figure shit out before then because I want my ring on your finger and my last name attached to yours before our kid is born. I don't want a baby born out of wedlock. Fuck, I have to tell the guys, and they are going to be pissed at me. None of them know that we made love before shit flipped upside down. Please don't give up on us. Just know that there is a reason for what we did, and we're trying to get it all fixed. Hopefully, we'll have it all taken care of soon, but I'm not holding my breath. Just know that I love you, we all do, and we are just trying to protect you", Zeus said.

"Honestly, right now, I'm still way too hurt to ever see myself with you guys again. But we have to get along for the little nugget. My water is getting cold. I'm going to lay the phone down for a minute to get out of the tub. And then I'll show you the pictures of the baby." I laid the phone face down on the little table, pulled the plug, and then got out. I wrapped a towel around me and tucked it in. I picked up my phone and cup of tea and walked into the bedroom. "Give me just a second, and I'll be right back," I said.

I put my cup on the nightstand and my phone on the bed. I walked into my closet and put on a thong, shorts, and a tank top. I grabbed a pair of fuzzy socks and walked back out into my room. I grabbed my ultrasound pictures on the way to my bed. I picked my phone up and pulled the covers down. After I sat down, I said “OK, I’m back, just have to put my socks on. Here are the pictures of the baby” I said as I held them up so that he could see them. After I showed him them all, he said “Wow, it looks like a little alien right now or a tadpole. I can’t believe that we made a baby. We are going to be parents. Other than being sick this morning, how are you feeling?” He asked.

“I feel OK, when we got here yesterday I was craving tacos. So Dad had the chef make some for dinner. And then, with me being sick this morning, I wasn’t able to keep anything but toast and tea down for most of the day. After seeing the doctor, I was able to get chicken nuggets, a burger, fries, and cheese sticks down. And then the chef made me chicken nuggets and fries for dinner. I’m tired, but that’s to be expected. I wanted to tell you before I told my dad and brothers. But I didn’t think that I would hear from you until tomorrow. I told them tonight because I figured that they would ask questions if I got sick again in the morning. Which is a major possibility.”

“I’m not mad baby, you need to tell them. They need to know so that they can take care of you when you’re sick. I’m the one that fucked up, and I have to pay for it. I’d like to be the first one who knows what we’re having though. When it comes time for that appointment, I’d like to go with you” he said. We talked for a while longer before he had to go get some sleep. Zeus promised to check in to see how I was going and how the little nugget was doing. I really hope that we can at least get along and be civil for the baby. I miss him so much and hearing his voice tonight made me realize how much I missed him. I don’t know what’s going on, but maybe one day we can sit down and talk. For now, my little nugget and I need sleep. Good night all, sweet dreams and I’ll see you tomorrow.

Chapter 77 – Their Beautiful Strong Queen

The next few days I spent just lying around. The morning sickness went from morning to pretty much all day. At least two of the boys would stay home with me, and we would spend the day hanging out together and getting to know each other better. I really enjoyed getting to know my family better. It was nice to have a Mom, Dad, and brothers who loved and cared about me. They were also excited about the baby and were trying to figure out a schedule to switch back and forth. Half of them would stay with me for a month and then switch. Except for Alena and she planned to stay the whole time.

It was a few days later when I woke up and felt OK, that we decided to go sightseeing. We went to the capital city and saw Red Square with the Spasskaya Tower, Saint Basil’s Cathedral, and the Ostankino Tower. We also saw the Cathedral of Christ the Savior and Nonna would have loved to see it. I made sure to take my camera with me and took lots of pictures. We also went to Gorky Park, Bolshoi Theater, and checked out the view of the Moskva River, and the Kremlin. Everything was beautiful and I took so many pictures.

We plan to check out the museums over the next couple of days. I love to go through museums and learn about the history of different places and things. I could get lost in history. We were also going to check out the art museums as well on those days. Alena also wanted to take me to a few performing arts shows while I'm here if I fill up for it. Did you know that Moscow is the heart of Russian performing arts? And that includes ballet and film. They have 68 museums, 132 cinemas, 103 theaters, and 24 concert halls, as well as two large circuses.

We stopped for lunch at a place at a place on Tverkaya Street. Alena said that it was one of the busiest shopping streets. I tried a Pelmeni, which is the Russian version of boiled dumplings. It's made from dough, ground meat, onion, garlic, pepper and spices. It was good, and I also got a Pirozhki, which is a stuffed bun. After we had dinner, we decided to do some shopping. We went into a few different places and I found souvenirs for everyone back home. I also found a few unisex baby outfits. By the time that we were done for the day, I was exhausted. We made it back to the vehicles and loaded up. When we were on our way back home, I got a text from Nonna.

Nonna- Hey Amorina, how are you feeling?

Me- Hey Nonna, I feel better today. We got out and went sightseeing and did some shopping. It's really beautiful over here. How is everything back at home?

Nonna- That's good. I'm glad that you were feeling well enough to get out of the house. Things here are OK, your Nonno and I are doing well and so is everyone else. I have some news and it's not good news. Are you sitting down?

Me- Yeah I'm in the car on the way back to the house. If it's not good news, why didn't you call me?

Nonna- Because there are a lot of people here, and I wouldn't be able to hear you. I'll call you in a little bit though so that you know I'm OK. I know that you are worried about me and I promise that it is me, slushy.

Me- OK, I believe you, now what's going on?

Nonna- Somehow Loretta and Anthony got out of jail. Once they were out, they bailed the kids out. There is a restraining order on them all to keep them away from you, but no one knows who bailed them out or where they are. You need to make sure that you are never alone. I doubt that they could get to you right now, but at the same time, I have no idea as to who helped them. Sal, Zain, Nicco, and Luciano are all looking into things. Hopefully, they figure it all out before you make it home. But if they don't, then I'll meet you at the airport, and we will go on our vacation to the Bahamas together. We don't want you here in their path right now. The guys don't want to take a chance of them hurting you.

Me- Just freaking great, those vultures won't ever leave me alone. They have so many creepy-assed friends. It was probably one of them that got them out. It's hard to tell what

they promised them to get out. I'll stay here for two weeks like I had planned. When it's time to go home, if they are still after me, then we'll go on vacation. I'm not really packed for it, but I'll make do. I don't want anything to happen to my little nugget.

Nonna- Don't worry, we'll keep you both safe. I was pretty sure that Sal and Luciano were going to get ahold of Rodion to let him know what was going on. If I find out anything else, I'll fill you in. Be safe, be careful and I'll text you later. I love you.

Me- I will be Nonna and I love you too.

By the time I was done texting with Nonna, we had pulled back into the house. I knew that it was her because slushy was our safe word to let us know that the other was OK if something like this were to happen. We came up with it when I was little. We got out, and the guys grabbed our stuff, and we headed into the house. Not long after we got home, Dad and the boys came through the door. I went up to my room and put my stuff away and changed into comfy clothes. I had just curled up on the couch with the TV on when they came running into the living room.

"I take it that you talked to my Nonno and know what's going on back at home?" I asked Dad. "Yeah, he filled me in and said that your Nonna was texting you about it. As of right now, they don't have eyes on any of them yet. They haven't been to their house or any of their usual places. As far as we know, they also don't know that we know the truth about you or your parentage. They probably think that we're still in the dark. Only close family knows what happened and they wouldn't say anything. Even the guards that were with you or me know the truth. All they knew was that there was a family feud. The ones that happened to be in the building when you confronted me are Nonno's people, and he's already confronted them. They are loyal to your family, and they all hate Loretta. Sal and Luciano have some of their people searching for them. And I sent out a few of mine as well. I have a few that have contact with unsavory people and can get information faster. Now what they didn't want to tell you over the phone is that the warden's for both jails said that they were all running their mouths about getting even with an Ursula. That she was at fault for everything that's happened to them, from the time that she was born until now. The woman that was in with Loretta got put in the hole for beating the hell out of Loretta. She was running her mouth about...." He stopped and clenched his fists together and was grinding his teeth.

"What Dad, what was Loretta running her mouth about?" I asked him. He cleared his throat, took a deep breath and let it out. "She was running her mouth about the fact that she should've sold you as a sex slave to the man who wanted you when you were five. But after your sisters tried to kill you, she knew that she'd never get you back from Rosa. After she lost you in court and Rosa adopted you, she tried to kidnap you a few times or have other people try. But you were always with Sal or Rosa and surrounded by guards. Apparently by telling me that Sal killed my son that she supposedly had. She thought that I would kill Sal, and she could get her hands on you finally. But after Sal supposedly died, when she tried again, you had Chris and Ren with you a lot. She finally gave up because she realized that she wasn't going to be able to get close to you. Them coming to the diner and starting shit was supposed to be a way for them to kidnap you and sell you then. But

you put a stop to that and Marcello was right there watching, so that plan fell through. Especially after they all ended up in jail. Now they're all a bunch of loose cannons and no one knows what's going to happen."

When Dad finished talking, I sat there for a few minutes and processed what he told me. I was trying to figure out who they would've been trying to sell me to. Most of the time, I was kept in the basement when they had people over. Except for the day that the plastic bitches tried to kill me. There was a guy who kept watching me and commenting on how I looked. It creeped me out. I could also picture his face clearly still. I jumped up and ran out of the room and upstairs. When I got to my room, I grabbed a sketchpad, colored pencils, and regular pencils. Then I went back downstairs to the living room.

I sat down and opened up the sketch pad. I started to sketch him from my memory. "What are you doing sissy?" Leo asked me. "I remember this guy from the last party that they had. Usually, they kept me locked in the basement, but that day I was given a pretty dress and allowed a bath. I was told that I had to be at that party because someone special would be there to see me. This one guy kept watching me and telling Loretta and Anthony how pretty I was. It really creeped me out the way that he was looking at me. I'm trying to sketch what he looked like from memory. But I was five, so that may be wrong. Give me a minute" I said.

I went back to working on drawing his face. Once I had the basic outline done, I fixed things like his eye shape, nose, mouth, and even how long his hair was. When I had his face just right, I took the colored pencils and colored everything how I remember it. His eyes and hair were both brown and I only know that because of how close he got to me that night. When I was done, and it looked right, I had a memory of that night. "This is it" I said as I turned the picture around. "I also remember them calling him Mr. Corbin. And he said that he would personally pay and wouldn't even involve the boss. I don't remember what they were talking about, but I do remember them looking at me. Later that night when Nonna took me out of there, Loretta said something about me being of no use now that I was all cute up."

"Hey, I've heard of this guy. One of our guys back in America said that they had been hearing talk on the street that this guy was supposed to be back. That he had come back for something that belonged to him, and he was going to get it this time. He was recruiting people to help him search the city for a little girl from the sea. But because River doesn't go by Ursula, they've not been able to find her. Derek was just telling me this morning when he called to check in," Leandro said.

I handed Dad the picture and he and the boys went to send it to their guys and my Nonno so that they could all have a copy of it. With them all knowing what he looked like, they'd have a better chance of finding him. I was tired and figured that I'd lie down and take a nap. I went to my room and had just curled up on the bed when my phone went off with a text message. I just couldn't catch a break today. What more would go wrong? I rolled over and grabbed it and saw that it was Zeus.

Zeus – Hey baby how are you and our little nugget doing? I told the guys about the baby. They are pissed at me but happy as well. They wanted me to fill you in on things, especially now. Sal called and filled us in on what was going on with Loretta and that fucked up bunch. I'm afraid that I have more bad news. I wish I could call, and I would, but I can't at the moment. Stay alert and keep guards and your brothers close. That crazy bunch isn't the only one after you. That guy from the coffee shop is looking for you, and he recruited that bitch that we threw out of the club your first time here. They threatened us and followed up by kidnapping one of the club girls. We're trying to protect you. Just remember that we love you. I'll call you in a little bit and fill you in more. Stay safe and stay protected. I love you.

Well, isn't that just fucking peachy? I've got a bunch of psycho mother fuckers after me. When will I catch a break? Just when I thought that my life was going to be nice and quiet, nope. Life had to throw a curveball at me and send a bunch of people to give me hell. Ugh, I hope that they catch them all soon so that I can go home and have my baby in peace. Looks like I had better contact the school about doing classes online this year. It doesn't look like I'll be going home anytime soon. I have a baby to protect. Wish me luck, because the little nugget and I are going to need it.

Chapter 78 – Their Beautiful Strong Queen

These last couple of weeks have been not only the best of my life, but also the worst as well. We had our women and got our men back. Things would've been great had Dom not been a dick. I thought that I had known what his problem was. But it turns out that I was wrong. Oh, that toxic cum dumpster had something to do with him not wanting to be with River on our first day back. But it wasn't how we thought it was, it wasn't because he was still hung up on what she did to him back then.

No, this had to do with what she did to him while he was gone. Apparently, that bitch had emailed him and sent a text message explaining in great detail what she would have done to River if he didn't leave her and us. She was being a major cunt about shit. She was pissed off because her new boyfriend had been arrested, and she wanted Dom back. I think she's trying to get him arrested to get her boyfriend out. But she's messing with the wrong people when she pulls our girlfriend into her shit.

But that's not all, that stupid clubwhore Beckie is starting shit as well. She teamed up with an asshole that'd been stocking River, Peter. His Dad owns that coffee shop that River used to go to. He's in with a bad gang of people on the other side of town. From what I've been hearing, they've started to kidnap girls off the street, and they're into trafficking and the sex trade. We've been looking into it to put a stop to it. Now Beckie and this dumb fuck Peter are sending threatening messages at our gate and pictures of River to go along with it.

So, in order to keep our future wife safe, we decided to distance ourselves. We didn't want to and didn't want to hurt her, but with us getting hit by both sides, we needed to.

Especially with all the players sending us messages about what fun it would be to watch River get gang-rapped and abused in so many disgusting ways. I know that she can fight and protect herself. But trying to fight off a lot of guys that are trying to harm her at once is another story. So she may hate us for a while, but we'll do whatever we must to protect her.

Since we dumped her and have stayed away from her, we have done everything that we could to try to find all the players in this game. We took members of the little gang off the street and tortured them for information. But none of them know anything about River or the trafficking ring. I just got word that Venom and Red managed to grab one of the higher-ups and are on their way back here to extract information from them.

We need to get this shit figured out before River comes back from Russia. I want her back here with us as soon as possible. I miss her like crazy and hated that I missed her art show. She sent an invitation to my mom and Ivy, and they took our Dads with them. I got pictures of how beautiful she looked that night. Mom said that her pictures did so well that they ended up making copies of the pictures for people to buy as well. The top bid got the main picture, with the twenty after that getting copies. Mom and Dad bid on a few different ones. I'm so proud of how well she did. She's incredible.

I was currently sitting in my office waiting for Venom and Red to get there when my door opened up and Zeus walked in. Followed shortly after that by Dom and Marcello. By the look on Zeus' face, he has something to tell us, and it's not going to make us happy about it. "What's up? Why do you look like you need your ass spanked? What did you do?" I asked him. He took a deep breath, let it out and then said "I have something to tell you guys, and you're probably going to be happy, just not happy with me. Actually, you'll be completely pissed at me."

Dom pinched the bridge of his nose and then said "Aries is right, you need your ass spanked for something. What did you do to piss us off but yet make us happy?" "IsleptwithRiverandnowshespregnant" he said real fast and all in one breath. "I'm sorry I didn't catch that slow it down and repeat that again," Aries said. He took a breath and let it out. Then he looked down and said "Our last morning with River. It was just her and me in bed together. What started as an innocent kiss turned into more. I slept with her that morning. She lost her virginity to me. It was mutual between us both, so don't think that it wasn't. It was amazing, and I couldn't wait until it was all of us with her. I can just picture it. Dom in her ass, me in her pussy, Marcello in my ass, and Aries in his. The instant that I was inside her, that picture popped up, and it made me so fucking hard. That was probably the biggest orgasm that I've ever had before. She's definitely the best woman that I've ever slept with hands down. I didn't tell you guys because I knew that you would be pissed at me. She texted me last night and when I got it I called her back."

He took a breath and let it out as he messed with his phone, he pulled up a picture and then slid it across my desk. "She's pregnant with my baby. She's six weeks along and both she and the baby are doing well. She woke up sick this morning and realized that she was late for her period. The last one that she had was before she came to stay with us two months ago. She took a pregnancy test that her stepmom had and it came back positive. It

said between six and eight weeks on it. So, Alena, her stepmother, took her to the doctor. They did a test, and it was positive, and they also did an ultrasound. We're going to be parents in about seven and a half months. Can you imagine a little River running around? A beautiful little girl, she'll be beautiful just like her mom."

We were shocked, all three of us were. We looked between the phone and Zeus back and forth, letting it sink in. Marcello looked at Zeus and said "You lucky bastard, I wish I would've stayed in bed that morning now. I can't wait to be balls deep inside of her. I call it dips. The next pregnancy that she had was mine. I bet she'll look beautiful pregnant. And I agree, I can't wait to see what a miniature little River looks like."

"Are you two completely fucking insane? You slept with her, without the rest of us, and now she's pregnant. She said that she wanted to wait to have kids, you dumb fuck. I can't believe how irresponsible you are," Dom yelled at them. "Hey, she's on birth control, it's not my fault if they failed. And she's excited about the baby. She can't wait for it, and I've already told her that I'd be there for her. I don't care if I have to leave the club to protect her until this bullshit is over. I can't wait to be a dad. It's not my fault that you're pissed off that you didn't join us that night."

"That's enough, you both need to stop before you say shit that you're not going to mean. Yes, you should've waited to sleep with her. But given the chance, any of the rest of us would've done the same thing if we were in Zeus' shoes. She's already pregnant, so there's nothing that we can do now. Not that I would want to. I'm looking forward to being a dad myself. Now we need to get this shit with these fucks dealt with and soon" I said. No sooner had I said that than my phone beeped from a text message.

Venom - Hey we got this guy, we're out in the shed.

Me- We'll be right there.

"We have to go, Venom just texted me. They got that guy back in the shed ready to torture him. Let's go see what he has to say." The four of us jumped into my truck and took off to the back of the property. If you didn't know it was there, then you wouldn't know what to look for. There is a gate back between my dad's house and Zeus' dad's house. It's covered in vines and blends in with the scenery. It's also electronic, so all I have to do is press a button on my keys and it opens up.

It opened up, and we drove through the gate and parked beside the SUV that was there. We all got out of the truck and headed inside. The shed is Venom's playground. That is where he extracts information from people. We walked in, and he already had the guy stripped naked and hanging from the rafters by his hands with just his toes barely touching the floor. He was already starting on him. There were pieces of the guy's skin missing as well as a couple of fingers also. We stood back and watched and listened.

He had been at it for a while when my phone rang. I looked down and saw that Sal was calling me. "I'll be right back, Sal's calling," I said as I stepped outside. "Hey Sal, what's

going on?” I asked him. We have problems, major problems. I’ve already called and filled Rodion and the boys in so that they can protect our girl. Rosa also texted River and filled her in so that she knew what was going on. Somehow, my daughter and that good-for-nothing waste of fuckin space that she married got out of jail. They also got the kids bailed out as well. We don’t know how they got out yet, but we’re looking into it. I figured that it had to be one of their friends that finally got them out. And that means that they most likely promised them something. They wouldn’t use those fucking plastic Botox twins, as River says. Heaven forbid anything to happen to their precious little cum gutter sluts.”

When Sal came off with that, it took everything I had not to lose it. That was funny as fuck. “We don’t need this now, we have got so much to deal with already. Between the club slut, the coffee shop slash gang guy, and then Dom’s ex-traitorous bitch. We have so much on our plate already with people wanting her to harm her. She needs to stay in Russia for the time being. At least with her being over there, they have less of a chance of finding her. If they somehow do, then we move her somewhere else. But she doesn’t need to come back here until we get them all rounded up. I won’t take that risk with her, especially now” I said.

“So I take it that you now know about the baby?” He asked me. “Yeah, she texted Zeus last night, he called her back, and then he let us know this morning. They even showed us the ultrasound pictures of the baby. I wasn’t happy that he slept with her when we all agreed to wait. But I’m excited that we’re all going to have a baby. And I won’t let anything happen to her or our child. I’ll protect them at all costs” I said.

“Agreed, I have to go, but as soon as I know something I’ll update you and keep you posted from my end. You do the same on your end.” “I will as soon as I figure anything out.” We ended the call, and then I walked back in and filled the guys in on what was going on. I knew that she had her family with her, but I didn’t like that one of us wasn’t with her for extra protection. Maybe we should have Marcello go stay with her. He’s the only one that doesn’t have someone after him. It wouldn’t be noticed if he just disappeared. No matter what, we have to protect her and our baby. I can’t believe that we’re going to be dads.

Chapter 79 – Their Beautiful Strong Queen

Everything from the past few months has made my head and my heart a complete mess. Just when I thought that my men and I had finally found the woman that we were going to spend our lives with. These crazy money-hungry, revenge-driven, cum-guzzling gutter sluts had to pop up and ruin shit. The last girlfriend that I had was years ago, and after she died in a car accident I never thought that I would find another girl that I would want to be with again.

But when River came into my life, from that very first moment, I laid my eyes on her. I couldn’t keep my eyes off of her. Even when she was calling me a meathead and Dom an overgrown fucking tree. It took all I had not to laugh at this little bitty pixie of a woman

driving a tiny car and yelling at two guys who were both over six-foot-five. That's when I knew that I wanted to meet this woman again and Dom felt the same way. We were both reserved when it came to women though. Me because of my girlfriend being killed in a car accident and Dom because of his bitch of an ex using him to get information for the police.

But that day he saved her from the dickhead that works at the coffee shop, and then we followed her to college. We both got pissed off when we saw her hug all of those guys. And we thought that she already had a boyfriend when the one guy had his arm wrapped around her, and she smirked at us. I was ready to unalive the little punk right then for having his arms around her. Thankfully, we got to get together with her family for dinner that week.

We learned that she was single and the granddaughter of a close friend of Dom's parents. So that gave us our way to get closer to her. Especially when what we thought was her sperm donor hit her. I wanted to kill that bastard that night when he hit her and knocked her down. Especially when I saw that she was bleeding. But I was so fucking proud when she came up out of there and, with one punch and a kick to his balls, knocked his ass out. It was beautiful to watch and if it wasn't for so many witnesses to what happened I would've dealt with his ass and been done with him.

Thankfully, when we got the lead on Sal still being alive, River came and saved us. And we find out that Rodion Smirnov is actually her biological dad. He's a dick as well, but he would never, and I mean never raise his hand to his wife or his daughter. He would protect them with his life and so wouldn't his sons. So when we heard that she left after her art show and went to Russia, I knew that she'd be safe with them all. This shit with us not being with her because of Dom's ex and Aries and Zeus' club whore pissed me off. I have to stay away from the love of my life because of these bitches.

When Aries and Dom went to tell River that we couldn't be with her right now, I was pissed, and I couldn't be there when they told her. I would've left Dom on his own and left with her. And right now he needs me to protect him more than ever from the crazy bitch. Now we find out that Zeus slept with our girl that morning and the lucky mother fucker didn't call me to join in with them. I wish that I could've gotten to do more than lick that kitty, but as soon as I'm with her again. You can garendamntee that I will be with her.

Right now, we were in the shed watching Venom and Red in what they call their playground. They were extracting information from a guy that's higher up in the gang that's after River. We're hoping that he has information that will help us, since the lower rank guys haven't had anything. So far, they have him hanging from the rafters with his toes barely touching the floor. And they've stripped him naked. They ask him questions and when he doesn't answer the way that they want, they either strip pieces of skin off of him or cut his fingers off. I was leaning back against the wall watching them.

I wanted nothing more than to get rid of every one of those motherfuckers. Any man who deals in trafficking or the sex trade industry is not a real man in my eyes. And every one of them needs to be taken out for it. We as men are supposed to protect women and children not harm them or see harm come to them. "Tell me what the fuck your no good

band of thugs is doing in our city. I'm pretty sure that you all know that you're not supposed to be here. We have all given you warnings. This is not only Reapers Warriors territory, but it's also Lombardi, Russo, and Smirnov Mafia territory. In case you didn't catch that, that's two Italian Mafias and a Russian one. You're all royally screwed. Now tell me what the fuck you're doing here and why you are after the Italian and Russian princess and the Italian Queen?"

"I'm not telling you mother fuckers jack shit" this mother fucker yelled. "Have it your way then" Venom said. He started to get really creative with the torture. He pulled his teeth and fingers and toenails out. And this bitch was still keeping quiet. At one point, Aries' phone rang, and he stepped outside because it was Sal. I was getting sick of this guy not fucking talking. I finally told Venom "If he doesn't fucking start talking soon, then I'm chopping his balls off, and I'll work my way to his dick. And it will also get chopped off. That's my woman, my future wife that you fuck wits are messing with and threatening. That shit doesn't go over with me. Either start talking or lose your manhood. Well, what little itty bitty little bit that you have. No wonder you have to try to kidnap and rape girls. You don't have enough dick to satisfy a woman. They probably point and laugh at you over it."

"Fuck you, you mother fucker" he yelled. "No, thanks, you don't have enough dick to satisfy me. I like my dicks at least ten inches long and longer. You know like what my men have. Their dicks can actually please not only me but our woman as well. I like long snakes, not little bitty fishing worms", I said with a smirk. I was riling him up, and he was getting pissed off and maybe just let something slip. Finally, after Venom grabbed his dick and Red put a band around his nuts. It was one of those that you usually castrate bulls with. When Red let it lose on his nuts he screamed bloody murder.

He was still screaming when Aries walked back inside. Finally, he calmed down and said "Alright, alright, I'll talk, just please take it off." "No, tell us what the fuck you know now", Dom demanded from him. "OK, OK, we were living in the next town over and staying under the radar from all of you. We got a call to come to town and hunt down a chick that our boss was supposed to buy years ago. Apparently, he bought her when she was five and was supposed to get her when she turned eighteen. At least that's what he told us at first, but that was a lie. He was going to buy her when she was five, but she was attacked by her sisters and then taken from her family by her grandma. He changed his mind because she was all cut up. I guess the parents showed him pictures of her all grown up, and you couldn't see the cuts on her. He decided that he still wanted to have her. He's a very dangerous man. When he showed us her picture, Peter said that he knew her. That she was always alone when she stopped at the coffee shop, and it would be easy to get ahold of her. But she wouldn't go out with him. Her mom and dad was supposed to kidnap her from the diner. But she wouldn't step outside with them, and he hit her, and she knocked his ass out. Because of that whole family ending up in jail, we were all tasked with getting her. Now he's bailing them all out so that he can get her. He thinks that she'll come running if she thinks that her family is in danger. After all, what daughter wouldn't jump to protect their family, right? I think he's fucking stupid because in her shoes I would let that fucking family rot. I'm only still there because, shit, fuck, balls, damn it. I've been undercover OK, and I'm trying to bring that fucking ring down."

“You’re a cop, really? Do you really expect us to believe that?” Dom asked him. “If you don’t believe me, then get ahold of Chief Roberts. He’s the one that has had me undercover. We learned about the trafficking and sex trade when they kidnapped my wife and shot me in the dick. It’s why it’s so fucking small now. I barely survived from it. They had to reconstruct it the best that they could. It happened in another part of the state with a smaller fraction of the gang. After I healed up, I grew a beard, changed my name and appearance, and went undercover to bring these bastards down. I’ve been telling Roberts everything that I’ve heard about River, but I can only check in every so often. And it’s been a while since I last checked in” he said.

“I’ll go call and find out from Chief Roberts for sure. I’ll be right back”, Aries said as he stepped outside. He walked outside, and he said “There are two girls who are also out for you all and this River girl. She needs to be protected at all costs. I’m sorry I didn’t talk before, but the gang is known to kidnap its own people and torture them to see if they talk or not. I couldn’t take the chance of my cover getting blown. I knew the instant that you mentioned the club and the mafias that this didn’t have to do with them. They are afraid of you all and if they knew who was protecting her they wouldn’t be after her. Anthony and Loretta just told us that her dad was dead, and her mom was a dinner manager. That no one would care or notice that River was missing.”

“That’s where they are both wrong. Loretta doesn’t know the real identity of her dad and mom. Not only that, but River has all of us behind her now as well. Not to mention her real dad, who is that Russian Mafia boss. This is one big crew of people that they don’t want to mess with” I said. Aries came back in and said “Chief Roberts confirmed that he is undercover and working for him. His story is good, get that castration shit off of him and get him to the infirmary in the clubhouse. We’ll get him healed up some and then get him back so he can stay undercover Venom.” “Yep, well do that. Sorry man, but we protect our family around here and River is our Queen and has been through enough hell. I won’t see her go through anymore.”

After we stepped outside, Aries filled us in on his conversation with Sal. After talking about it, it was decided that I would be the one to go protect her. Looks like I need to get home and get packed up. I’m taking a trip to Russia to protect my woman. Because Dom’s jet is probably being watched, I’ll be taking the Russos over for a private flight. I need to get home and get packed, I’ve got my woman and baby to protect, and I will protect them with my life or die trying. Hang on Amore, I’m coming, and I’ll see you soon.

Chapter 80 – Their Beautiful Strong Queen

Then the next day I managed to sleep in a little bit longer. That is until the morning sickness kicked in, and I got sick puking again. I was sick of always having my head hanging over the toilet. After I got sick this morning, I took a shower and got dressed. I headed down to find something for breakfast and was surprised to see my Dad still sitting in the dining room. “Good morning, I’m amazed that you’re still here. I figured that you’d be at work already”, I said.

“I had all of my meetings canceled and the ones that couldn’t be canceled I have coming here for them. I decided to work from home for the next few days. I want to make sure that you and my gandbaby are both safe. I sent that picture that you did to Sal and Luciano, and they are going to pass it around to all of their people. They’ll also make sure that your guys in the club get the picture. This morning, Sal called me and told me that your men have decided to send one of them to you for extra protection. I think his name is Marisol. No, that’s not it, Mario. No, that doesn’t sound right either”, he stopped to think for a minute.

I said, “Do you mean Marcello?” I asked him. “Yeah, that sounds about right. He’s already on your family jet and headed this way. He’s supposed to explain things to you himself when he gets here. He was the only one able to come because of some problems that the other guys were having. They explained it to me because that’s the only way that I would let him come here. But he asked to be the one to explain things to you. If you don’t want him here, you just say the word, and I’ll put his ass right back on the plane.”

“It’s fine Dad, he and I need to talk. Maybe he’ll explain why they did what they did. Not only that, but I am having their baby, so I have to be able to get along with them all. Even if we don’t ever get back together. I won’t keep them from our child, especially after you were kept from me” I said. “I can understand that, just know that we are behind you a hundred percent. Now I have a video meeting in about fifteen minutes. I’ll be working in my office today, so if you need me, just tap on the door and come in. Alena will be out for a while. She’s got some club thingy of hers today. Book club, crochet, or knitting club, hell I don’t know. She’s in so many different ones anymore. Anyway, she’ll be gone for most of the day. Urso and Prospero will both be here with me today, so I’m sure that they’ll take turns checking on you. What are your plans for the day?” Dad asked me.

“Well, I’m going to attempt to get some breakfast myself and hope and pray that it stays down. And then I’m going to go paint for a while, I think. Mom showed me the spot that she had fixed for me to be able to paint. She gave me a picture of you all, from your latest family pictures that she had taken. I’m going to use it to paint a picture of the family, but I’m going to add myself to the picture with you all. She was talking about getting new ones done so that I could be in them. As much as she has accepted me and already done to help me, I want to do this for her. I already have it sketched out in my sketchbook, I just need to transfer it to my canvas.”

“OK, just let me know when you walk past the office to head that way. So I know that’s where you’re at. I’ll see you in a little bit, Printsessa.” Dad headed to his office and I fixed myself a plate with some fried potatoes, bacon, and a biscuit. I didn’t think that I could handle eating the scrambled eggs, just the smell of them was turning my stomach. So I shoved them down the table. Maria came out to start cleaning off the table and saw me eating. “I go make you tea, no coffee” she said and then went back into the kitchen taking the eggs with her. Bless her for getting those nasty things away from me right now.

Now, don’t get me wrong, normally I love eggs, but if you’ve ever been pregnant, then you know that the smell of eggs will turn your stomach and make you sick. I continued to eat my food, and she brought me out a cup of peppermint tea with a little bit of honey in it

and a small peppermint candy cane. She said that the candy cane makes it taste better and after trying it, I think so as well. I finished my food and then helped to clear the table. When we were done, I took my cup of tea and headed to the sunroom where I was going to paint.

Before I could head to the sunroom, I had to run up to my room. I forgot to grab my phone and I needed my sketchbook also. After I grabbed them both, I headed back downstairs. I knocked on Dad's door as I went past and let him know that I was heading back to paint. When I got to the sunroom, I set my stuff down on a little table and then got my easel set up and put a large canvas on it. I got the paints and supplies that I would need to set up on a table beside my stool. Before I could get started though, I needed to check my texts. I saw that I had a couple that I missed.

Zeus – Hey baby, I miss you. How are you and the little nugget doing? The guys and I all talked and after Sal reached out to Aries to let him know about Loretta, we made a decision. Please don't be pissed at us, but Marcello is on his way to you. He's coming over to help protect you. I know, we all know, that your Dad and brothers can protect you. But you are pregnant with our baby and the only way that we can concentrate on eliminating the threats to you is by sending him. He got on Sal's jet at two am, our time this morning, so he should be to you at midnight I think. The time difference is confusing. We were trying to get shit here taken care of before you came home. We all love you and miss you. Take care of yourself and our little nugget.

Me- I miss you all as well, even though I'm pissed at you all. I know Dad said that he was coming and would put his ass back on the jet if I wanted him to. I'm going to let him stay though. Don't worry. The baby and I are fine and will be fine. Don't worry about us, just get this shit taken care of. I don't need the stress from worrying about it all right now. I'll make sure that Marcello lets you know when he gets here.

As much as I did love them all, I just can't say it back right now. They had a lot of explaining to do first as to why they hurt me. I answered a few other texts from my family and then started working on my picture. I put The HU on my music player to listen to while I was painting. I had been painting for a good while and had The HU's song Wolf Totem featuring Jacoby Shaddix on. I was really into the music and painting, so I didn't even hear Po knock on the door or come in.

He about scared the ever-loving hell out of me when he said "That looks amazing, sissy." I yelped and spun around, and he ended up with paint across his white shirt. "Oops, I'm sorry I didn't mean to do that, but you scared the shit out of me. I didn't hear you knock or come in. I tend to get lost in my music and my art when I'm painting", I said. "It's OK, it's just a shirt and I have plenty of them. I can go change it. You didn't come for lunch today and now its almost dinner time. Mom was going to come check on you, but Dad told her to stay away from here for now. He even put a guard in the hallway and one outside this room to keep her away. He told us that you were working on a surprise for her but didn't say what. This is beautiful and she'll love it. But for now, it can wait. You and my little nephew need to eat something", Po said.

“Yeah, she’s accepted me into the family without any problems. And on top of that, she helped me out with the pregnancy test and taking me to see a doctor. She even stayed with me. She’s been amazing, and I want to give her something to pay her back. And I did eat lunch today. Maria brought me a bowl of tomato soup, grilled cheese and a cup of tea. I was kind of queazy and didn’t think that I could handle the smells from lunch. Not only that, but Mom put a small fridge in here, and it’s full of snacks and drinks. Just give me a minute to clean up, and I’ll be ready to head to dinner.”

I cleaned up my brushes and paint and made sure that everything was put away. Once I had my stuff done, I grabbed my phone and cup and followed behind Po. We shut off the lights and headed down the hallway. I had scrubbed the paint off of my hands and arms, so we went into the dining room. When we walked in, almost everyone was already sitting at the table. “I’m sorry to keep everyone waiting. I just got lost in the painting that I was working on and lost track of time. And before you all say anything, I did eat lunch today. Maria brought lunch for me. Now I’m starving. What’s for dinner?”

We dug in and started eating, and I listened to the boys joke and laugh around. They were all picking on Po for having paint on his shirt, but he just ignored them. Mom talked about her club and the newest baby blanket that she started to crochet for my little nugget. When we were all done with dinner, I headed up to soak in the tub and wait for Marcello to get there. I’m not sure what is going on back home. But I hope that they get it taken care of soon. I want to be home when the baby gets here and not going back and forth everywhere.

After my bath, I put a tank top and shorts on and laid down to watch a movie. I must’ve fallen asleep because when I woke up it was morning and the sun was streaming through the window. I could hear the shower running in my bathroom and was confused at first. Until I realized that it was probably Marcello. As soon as I sat up I had to puke, and I ran for the bathroom. Thankfully, the door was cracked open, so I ran in and past the shower to drop to my knees beside the toilet. I was bent over losing my dinner from last night when I felt Marcello’s hands pulling my hair back.

“It’s OK baby, I’m here now, and I’ll help you as much as I can” he said. When I finally got done, I flushed the commode and put the seat down. I got off the floor and sat down on the toilet lid. He hunkered down in front of me and said “Hey baby, I missed you so much. I’d ask how our little one is doing, but I can tell that he’s giving you a hard time already this morning.” He put his hand on my stomach as I said “Yeah, it’s an every morning thing. I get sick throughout the day, but the worst of it is in the mornings. When did you get here?”

“Around one this morning. Your dad had one of the boys show me up here to your room. I grabbed a few hours of sleep and then got up to get a shower. I was going to wait for you to get up so that we could get breakfast. I’m starving. And then we need to talk about everything that’s going on back home. It’s time that you knew the truth about everything. It’s time that I told you why we did what we did when we didn’t want to. We all love you and hurting you was and is the last thing that any of us would ever want to do.”

After he finished talking, he left me to use the bathroom and then get ready for the day. He went to get dressed himself and when we were both ready we headed down to breakfast with my family. I wanted to get it over with so that I could finally find out why they hurt me the way that they did.