

Tattooed 351

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"I was but I forgot to come here and get the stuff I need to finished the Halloween party. So, I decided to just finish working here today." "That actually works out. We were about finished with my stuff. Alec will be over in about an hour or so to question the girls. I was going to go pick you up but since you are here.." "I thought that was on the agenda for tomorrow?" "One of them has something to say apparently." "Well, I suggest you go shower and be down here when Alec gets here." I said without looking up at him. "Can't question them like this?" Colt held out his arms. Looking up, he was smirking at me. "No." I said deadly serious. "Are you getting jealous?" Colt kneeled down and turned my chair to look at him. "No. Would you like me to wear low cut shirts and show off just how much my boobs have grown?" I threw it back at him. "I would tie you to the bed." Colt narrowed his eyes.

"That's an interesting idea." Leaning forward, my fingers traced down. his cheek to his chest. Little bumps followed my finger as I traced his muscles. "However, you need to go shower." Giving him a soft kiss, I turned back around. "Not going to jump me?" Colt asked, almost disappointed. "Nope. We have people coming over, I am actually feeling rather comfortable and I'll save it for later when your not so sweaty. I would prefer if we got sweaty together." Colt move behind me and put his head just behind mine. His hot breath tickled my ear. "You're lucky your pregnant and I don't want to make you uncomfortable or I'd bend you over this desk and f uck you." His voice has a deep edge to it that made me close my legs. A sudden desire shot through me and almost won but Colt leaned up and walked to the door. I was still

struggling with calming myself down when he smirked at me and left. I couldn't stand up quick enough and walk over to the wall to turn the fan on. I was hot and needed the air. Going back to my desk, it was all I could do to focus on these are invitations. After labeling and putting stamps on them, I set them in the outgoing pickup for tomorrow. There was a knock on the office door just as I was about to sit down. My mind started wondering, hoping it was Colt standing here, naked but I was greeted by Alec. "Hey." Turning around, I let him see himself in. Pretty much ignoring him, I went back to my desk and sat down. "How's it going?" Alec asked as he awkwardly walked over. "Good. Just finished with your invitations." I nodded to them. He followed my movements and saw them. "Thank you for doing that." "Anything to help out." Pulling out the Halloween stuff, Alec looked at a few pictures I had printed. "This is..." "Too scary for you?" I gave him a look. He was actually looking at one of my gross displays. It was a skeleton with pastrami as skin. The body had pastrami on the bones and the rest was a massive skeleton charcuterie board. "No. I just won't be able to look at you the same way." "What? Why?" I asked, slightly hurt. "I assumed you were more of the cute Halloween theme person. In reality, you are the dark side. "I love my horror shows. Maybe I'll be cute next year." I said and laughed. Colt walked in and spotted us. "How's it going?" They shook hands before giving a hug. "Good. Looking at her inspiration pictures." Alec help up his scary skeleton. "That will definitely make a statement." Colt raised his eyebrows at it. "You boys have no vision!" I growled and ripped the paper out of Alec's hand.

"Eleanor is coming up." Colt said quickly. Together, they walked to Colt's side.

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"What did she want to say?" Alec asked. "No idea. Just that she wanted to talk and she wanted to talk to Penny." "To me?" I asked as I got up and walked over to them. Colt was sitting in his chair but got up and allowed me to sit down. "Yeah. Personally I think it is because they still see you as their Alpha." Colt shrugged. "Or because you are a girl, Helps you have a reputation for being soft and caring." Alec chummed in. "Soft?" It didn't sit right. "Are you going to pinch some to put them in their place?" Alec asked, "I could." Crossing my arms, I knew I sounded like a baby but I didn't care. "Okay." Alec was saved by a knock on the door. After opening it, he stepped to the side and allowed Eleanor to be brought in.. "Thank you for seeing me." She looked better as she was cleaned up and has eaten. "Of course. How are you feeling?" I asked. "Getting there." She looked down at her hands. She was picking at her

nails, like she was nervous. "What did you want to discuss?" I had to asked awhile a moment of silence. "I-I..." Eleanor struggled to get her words out. "I am willing to discuss will you, li momdomy unijnjy." "What do you think will help us?" I asked. The guys moved around to the back so it was more of a conversation and not an interrogation. "I'm not sure by you can ask me anything and I'll try to help and remember. I was drugged a lot so my memory is not the best. I just know Vin needs to die so I'm willing to do whatever."

"You keep saying Vin. What about Gunther?" I asked. "He's not a good man but he never visited me." "Tell me what your life was like." I asked "Well, my story is different than most. Usually, from ages birth to five, they went to a very structured daycare. Everyone had to attend, no questions. From five to fourteen, they do all the. Cleaning, cooking or any chores given to them. Once they hit puberty, they started being used to produce more kids. Boys got out into training camp and girls were assigned a room. Once you turned eighteen, you were forced to reject your mate." da "Did you ever walk or overhear any conversations when you were cleaning?" I asked. "I did, a few times. Vin was taught to fight but didn't have a head on his shoulders. More than once I would overhear him talk about going to a secret building or hideout. It would talk about it being in the woods." "Do you know where?" I asked "No, just at it was th "Who was the gam ma? I know Steven was the Beta." "Cash was the Beta." "Do you know if he is still alive?" I asked. "No. He died before I got sold." Ignoring that for now, "What was Gunther's role in the pack?" "Just a warrior. He didn't have one but then again, something might have changed since I was sold." "Why were you so shy when Sherry saw you?" I asked. "I didn't know if she blamed me or not." "For what?" I asked, confused. "I killed her mate. That is why I was sold. He was killed him. So, Alpha Rip sold me as punishment.

"She has a mate here..." I said in a whisper. — you know and I "It would have to be a second chance mate. She might be too embarrassed to tell people that. I would be. Her mate was not a nice person." "Who was her mate?" I asked. "Cash." "You killed Cash?" I asked, shocked. "Well, halfway. Gunther did the heavy lifting, I just finished it." She looked at me so matter-of-factly. "What was Gunther in it for?"

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“He always said women were too far below him. “As cruel as he could be, he never really liked abuse for the fun of it. Cash was... well Gunther walked in and saw. He had Cash by the neck. Cash was getting ready to gut Gunther so I took a knife that was on the floor and sliced Cash’s neck. Gunther said he would take care of it. Next thing I knew, I was being sold.” “Did Sherry ever say anything to you about it?” I asked, still wrapping my head around it. “No. First time I saw her was when you were there.” “Have you spoken to her here?” I clarified. “Oh, no. She just asked if I was okay!” Eleanor looked down at her hands. The office went quiet for awhile, absorbing what she just said. “Should we confront Sherry?” I asked Colt in the mind link. “They are on their way.” Colt said, immediately. “Did you ever hear about Vin wanting to take over?” “Not particularly. He wanted to be the top dog. He probably left the building, hoping they all died so he could take over. He would say, “if I was alpha’ and try to throw his weight around.” There was a knock on the door that made Eleanor jump clear out of her skin. “It’s okay.” I said as Colt opened the door. Jacob and Sherry walked in. I couldn’t help but see anxiety spread across Sherry’s face.

“Sherry, please have a seat.” Colt said. “Jacob, you stay over here.” “What’s going on?” Sherry’s voice shook as she talked. “Sherry. I need to ask you some questions. We are trying to gather voice. “O-okay?” round, mummy my Lunu “Please tell us your life before finding Jacob.” I asked.

“I-I was a slave. Mainly cooking and cleaning until I was sold to those guys that Colt and Alec killed.” “Why were you sold?” I pushed. “I wasn’t useful anymore so they got rid of me.” Sherry kept dancing around the subject. “It wasn’t because your mate died?” I asked. Sherry looked at Eleanor like she betrayed her. “WHAT?” Jacob asked. He tried to take a few steps forward but Colt and Alec stopped him. “Why does it matter?” Sherry looked at me angrily. This was a very different then the shy Sherry. “Because omitting is still lying. You know more than you originally told us.” I kept my voice and face passive. “Women were nothing. I was kept in our room until she killed him. Then I was useless and I was sold. Before I was at least only abused by one man and because of her, I was given to more men.” Eleanor jumped up and backed away. “He was torturing me!” Tears threatened to fall. Still, her face held strong. “You and everyone else. He was still my mate. At least I responded to him. After awhile, he wasn’t that bad. He-he even was nice sometimes.” Sherry pleaded. I’ve heard of Stockholm syndrome but I hadn’t actually seen it till now. Her eyes looked at me, hoping I would understand. “Who the fuck were you mated to?” Jacob asked, clearly mad. “Cash.” Sherry looked at him. “Cash... as in ga mma Cash that we met in Kristen’s shop?” Jacob looked at Colt. “Yes.” Jacob looked at Sherry like she betrayed him. I felt horrible, knowing their relationship was going to be on the line. More than once, he opened his mouth and closed it again before storming out of the office. Colt followed him. Alec stood by the door. Keeping the link open between Colt and I so he could hear, I continued. “Did Vin ever come to talk to Cash?” I continued.

“Yes. None of that matters now. Cash is dead.” Sherry got comfortable in the chair and put her face in her hands.

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“What did they talk about?” “I don’t know. Mostly about some place in the woods they did things at.” “What did they do at this place?” I pushed. “I don’t know. I just heard them schedule meeting times.” Sherry shrugged. “Did it ever occur to you that Vin was going to continue his plans even with Cash gone?” I asked. “I don’t even know their plans were. For all I know, they were to just planning what girls to hurt. Vin was going to hurt people, with or without Cash and regardless of what I knew or didn’t know wasn’t going to change that.” “Alec and Colt can go look for that house. It could have saved lives. There could have been information there!” I was getting annoyed at her lack of awareness. “When I found Jacob, I promised myself that the past is the past. I wasn’t going to go down that road and wonder what could have been. Jacob has provided me a future to be proud of.”

“You are confined to your bedroom until Colt or I tell you otherwise. You are prohibited from doing any Beta activities also.” I said. “Seriously?” Sherry looked shocked. “Until this mess is situated and the house has been found, yes. You should be more worried about your relationship with Jacob.” Sherry stood up and gave me one last look before walking out. Alec “I’m sorry, I didn’t mean to cause any drama.” Eleanor said. “You didn’t. You just helped uncover the truth. Can you think of anything else that might help?” I asked. “Not right now. I’ll keep thinking.” She looked nervously at the door. “What is it?” I asked.

“I know she is in her room but I’m afraid about what will happen if she sees me in the hall.” “You can go to Alec’s pack.” I said as I looked at him. He nodded as she looked at him. “His mate and mine are twins. I can assure you, you will be very safe there.” “Can I still volunteer at your school programs? Eleanor asked with worry in her voice. “Of course you can. A bus travels from his pack to school and you can ride that.” Giving her a sweet smile, she nodded in response. “If I may be excused, I’ll pack a bag.” Eleanor went to stand but stopped herself. “Of course. If you think of anything else, you can tell Alec or Kris. Here is my card and you are always welcome to call me.” Eleanor stood up and took the card. “Thank you.” She bowed before timidly walking past Alec. “You can bring Jacob back.” I told Colt in the mind-link. He didn’t respond but I knew he heard me. “I think you handled that good.” Alec said after a moment. My eyes met his. After failing to find some falseness, I allowed that to sink into my bones. “Good, thank you.” I said as Colt pushed Jacob “The fuck, man?” Jacob jerked away from Colt as he was fuming. “I’m sorry, Jacob. I wasn’t going to keep that from you. You had a right to know. If Sherry was going to tell you that, she would have done so in private.” I said to him. Jacob snapped his head over me to. His eyes were black. Colt moved to stand behind me. “You think I am going to hurt my Luna? A pregnant one at that?” Jacob looked hurt. “No. I think you are feeling very emotional right now and sometimes our actions aren’t ours.” Colt said as he motioned to a chair. “What am I suppose to do now?” Jacob ignored Colt and started pacing. “I don’t think she meant to hurt you. She was embarrassed. She has Stockholm syndrome, Jacob. You have shown her what a healthy relationship

looks like. She is going to need time and therapy but I think she is coming around.... Or will." I tried to sound calm in hopes. he would match my energy.

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"You want me to go up there and lay next to the women that has lied to me for weeks?" Jacob looked at me like I was stupid. "When did I say that? Stop being stupid Jacob. You and I both know you can stay in another room. You can reject her or just get space. Believe it or not, you are not the most important piece of information we got. Your relationship isn't even on my radar. Sherry and Eleanor told us about a house in the woods. One that Cash and Vin would visit. She didn't know for what but if there is information that could have saved Kristen or let us know what is going on now, she will be held responsible." "This went to shit, fast." Jacob put his hands on his head and kept pacing. "Don't do anything yet. Why don't you pack a bag and stay in another room. Let's find that house and figure out if it even means anything. Take a day or two and wrap your head around this." Colt said simply. "Fine." Jacob put his arms down and looked at Colt. "This was fucked up to tell me like this." "Would you have reacted differently had I told you in private? Or would you have stormed away from me and threaten Sherry to tell you the truth? That would have made you the bad guy in this situation. If Sherry was going to tell you, she would have. We had to force her to tell the truth and you say for yourself she still tried to lie." Colt sighed.

"Going to get a bag." Jacob walked away from us. Alec allowed him to pass. Jacob shut the door, maybe a little too hard. "I confined Sherry to her room." I told Colt. "Okay but I would rather you not work here till this gets figured out. Between Zac and Sherry, it would be better if you worked from home." "We don't have a guard there. How am I safer there than here?" "She can work at my place." Alec said.

"Um, school starts soon. I have too much stuff to do to be spending time in another pack. I need to make sure they are staffed and have the supplies they need. I'll be in and out for the next two weeks." "Jasper just had a baby..." Colt said. "I'll stay behind and guard her. Jacob will need you to control him plus you know everything. That way, I am here for when you get back." Alec volunteered. "You sure?" Colt asked "Yeah. Kristen might even tag along." He looked like it was no big deal. "Great, you have guard duty when there isn't even a threat on my life. Wear tennis shoes." Alec raised the corner of his lip. Was he trying to smile, if he was, this was very rare. "Yes, ma'am." "Great. That's settled." Colt sighed. "I'm going to head home. Eleanor is coming with me. She doesn't want to be around Sherry." "Can't blame her." Colt gave him a look. "Thanks, man." "Anytime." Alec said as he walked out. "I know this isn't ideal but it would give me piece of mind. No one is more dangerous than someone that feels cornered. Truth is, we don't know what she is capable of." "It's fine. It's not going to stop these project from happening." I said, stubbornly. "I would imagine not." Colt laughed. "I have a surprise for you." Colt said. "Oh, what's that?" I asked, curious. "I got a call and Cassie's house is ready."

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Colt POV "You look like you haven't slept these last two days." Just looking at Jacob, his eyes were sunken, he was quick to anger and he was even fidgety. "I think you mean three days." Jacob rolled his eyes at me. It was in fact Thursday. The last three days have been a bust. There was no direction to go on so we have been mapping out sections and going through them with a fine tooth comb. My warriors were searching as well but still, we have come up short Ice's luna ceremony was in two days, so Penny has been working around the clock to make sure everything is perfect for her. This was a different view on things. Growing up, I knew Ice had assistants and I saw how much she worked to get things done. However, I never once thought about all the work Penny put into it. Now, the front row seat to her craziness has shown me exactly how hard she truly works. Never once does Penny complain. Exactly the opposite, she does it without even thinking about it. She never is tired or complained once. Lately, I've struggled with the idea of wanting her to slow down and relax more but she seems to enjoy this. On minimal, I will have a talk with Ice about doing the same for Penny's ceremony. "I'm surprised you even knew the difference." I tried joking with him. Jacob just looked at me like I was stupid.

"What do you want me to say?" Jacob sighed and faced the woods but I don't think he saw anything. "The truth. How are you handling things? I know that was a blow but like Penny said, we don't think it was meant to hurt you." We both truly believed that. Did she omit things... yes. Did she lie to us and because she is hiding something to help them... no. "I don't know. Like, I knew she wasn't a virgin and it honestly took me a long time to get her to relax around me. Even to comfortably hold my hand was a struggle. I completely understood and never once did I push it. We both had to learn to adapt to what the other person needed but I thought she told me

everything. I thought she spilled all her secrets to me in private." "Jacob, have you even spilled all your secrets to her?" I gave him a look. I was ready to call bulls hit on anything but no. "That's not the same. I never had a mate before her." Jacob bent down and picked up what looked like a T.V. remote but it was covered in mud. "She couldn't help what the Moon Goddess gave her. Probably why she was so scared when she found you at the party and Darin came out. He knew she was once mated to his gamma and then she got another gamma at his rival. He would have never allowed her to be given to us if she knew anything." Trying to reason with him might be futile but I was going to try. "Or he thought she would never say anything because of fear." "Regardless, you can't live on what if. Has she started therapy?" I didn't want to push but I needed my beta back. "I made her start the next day. They have had two, two hour sessions." Jacob nodded his head as he kicked around some leaves. "ALPHA!" I heard one of my warriors yell out from my right. "Come on." Slapping him on the chest, we jogged over to where my warrior was standing. He was looking at an old Victorian style home. Wooden boards covered the windows, paint was almost completely gone and the entire house looked like it was leaning, slightly to the "Everyone stay here. It looks unstable." I commanded as Jacob and I walked up to his. First, we walked around the entire house. A basement window was broke but I doubt even Penny could fit through it. Inanimate objects were scattered around the yard to the point it could pass for an actual junk yard but with trash. A chair here and a broken bedframe there. Everything had a covering of vines that told me it had been awhile. since anything here was placed.

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The back door squeaked as Jacob slowly opened it. "S HIT!" Jacob yelled and jumped back as a racoon ran through the door, between his legs and into the woods. "Little jumpy?" I couldn't hide my smile but I did have to bite the inside of my cheek to avoid laughing. "F uck off." Jacob said as he walked inside. Walking inside, we were in a little nook off the kitchen. There must have been a table here at one point but now there was chains attached to the wall. They were high enough that my over six foot frame had to stand on my tip toes just to reach them. Jacob kept going as he walked into what looked like a living space to the left. There wasn't a T.V. but a fireplace that sat against the far wall. Two couches faced each other with huge coffee table in the middle. Each couch had a stained white sheet over them but pressed down like they have been sat on. Brown smear marks confetti the sheets. Someone either had residual blood on them or they were bleeding themselves. The layer of dust that coated everything. However, looking down, there was some footsteps imprints that made me believe someone

has been here recently. "Look." I said to Jacob and pointed down. Our eyes followed them to the next room. You could either take a left or so straight into a spiral staircase. "I'll go up, you look down here." "Okay." Jacob turned and kept going as I went up the stairs. Each step creaked like I was going to find out what was under these stairs at any moment. So when I reached the top, a breath I didn't realize I was holding came out. Ubor in the tiniest landing. Other than a dead flower in a pot, a window over looked the front yard. My warriors were standing around, just looking for threats. Some were talking quietly but most kept looking behind them. Never once did my alpha sense go off that something wasn't right, so opening the door, I looked inside. This must have been a bedroom but it was converted into an office. A single desk stood in the middle

of the room. The desk itself was not impressive. It looked like a fancy four person table that they just moved from the nook to up here. A lamp with a red shade was in the corner of the desk with papers scattered around the desk and the floor. There was a couch against the wall but this one didn't have a sheet. What it did have was a women's clothing and only one shoe. Not wanting to focus on that, I went over to the desk. Shifting things around, there was a little black box. Holding it up, it looked like a device you can use to make copies of keys. Blueprints were on the bottom. Pulling those out, it looked like the building that Ice was taken to. Alec and I blew that f ucker up so that didn't seem important anymore. Still, I was a little irked we didn't have this before. This could have saved us so much. There was a hand sketched blueprint of my pack and Alec's. It showed where the tunnels were and the time line from when they were working on it. All stuff I should have had before. Now it just seemed useless. Still, maybe Ice would see something I didn't. She usually did. Gathering everything into a pile, I kept looking around to make sure nothing was missed. Right as I was about to leave, a picture caught my eye. It was leaning against the wall, on the floor. The picture looked like it was hand sketched with charcoal. The paper looked worn and brownish but it was of the wolf that really caught my attention. It wasn't exactly a match to the one in my office but it was similar. Not sure why my heart started racing but as I picked the picture up, my eyes went to the lower right corner. The signature, Adalynn was finely written in elegant cursive. This was one of my mother's drawings.

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“Colt, you should come see this!” Jacob yelled from down the stairs. “Coming.” I said back. Tucking the picture under my arm, I gave this room one last glance before heading down the stairs. “Most of the house is bare. There is evidence someone has been here but nothing much. There is empty toilet paper rolls, cigarette buds that seem fresh with a new pack beside it and clothes that don’t have any dust on them. Blood but not dust.” “What do I need to see though?” I asked. Surely, he didn’t call me down for clothes. “Over here.” He walked around the corner and there was a staircase leading down. Why is it always the basement? No idea but Jacob walked down into the basement like it was nothing important.

“Is there a light?” I asked as I followed him down. The stairs, themselves were wooden ones with no back. My love for horror movies was not helping as I just pictures someone reaching threw them and grabbing my ankle, or taking a knife and cutting my Achilles tendon. “Yeah, over here but you need to stand right here to get the full affect.” Jacob moved me just to the right of the stairs before walking into the darkness. “Ready?” “Obviously.” I said, clearly unamused. Jacob flicked the lights on. My breath was caught in my throat as the realization of what I was looking at absorbed in my brain. Three different cubbies were open with only a mattress and a chain sticking out from the wall. At the end of each chain was a metal dog collar. Needles lined the walls with blacken spoons, lighters and other drug “I think this house was used as a location to sell the girls. We would have to ask Eleanor but look, there is no way out. Other than those tiny windows, the only way out of here is up the stairs. Over here, there is holding cells.” Jacob walked around and pulled back a sheet. There was a massive cage with benches against the walls. Similar to what you would see in a police station. In the middle was a

shower head, pointed straight down. Water suddenly came out of it. Looking over, Jacob had turned a knob so water came out and turned it back to shut the water off. “So they placed all the girls in there. Either showered them all or one of them at a time to their demand and then moved them to these viewing centers. I would guess they either tried their product out or just went off looks.” “That is my guess.” Jacob just looked at the fresh water on the floor. “There is an office up stairs that had a couch. I would guess that they would test out the girls to see if they would be good to be sold or if it was best to kill them. I would put money that if we searched the ground, we will find multiple bodies.” Looking around, this looked to be a secret place to do business that was not in their pack grounds. “Why not do it at their packhouse?” Jacob seemed to be following my thoughts. “Vin and Cash might have been doing this on the side.” I guessed. “Or we are missing something entirely.” Jacob frowned and looked around. “I hate to say it but maybe we need Ice to put her brain to the test.” Last thing I wanted to do was bring my sister out here but if we were missing something, we should know about it. “Did you find any surveillance?” Jacob asked me.

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"No. I didn't." It felt strange but I knew when to call it. Pulling out my phone, I hit Alec's number. "Yeah?" Alec answered after the first ring. "We found the house but I need Ice to look at it." There was a loud silence on the other end before some murmuring. "Hello?" Ice's voice came on the phone. "Hey, sis. I found the house but something just isn't adding up. Can you come look at it?" "I'm in my sweats and have a bowl of ice cream." She sounded unimpressed. "Please?" "Umm..." "Fine, what will it cost me?" I asked. Sometimes having a sister is exhausting, even if we are twins. "A homemade meal made by you." "You're pushing it."

"I'm hanging up now." She balled my bluff. "Fine. Just get out here." Hanging up on her I air dropped my location. before sliding it into my pocket. "I take it she is coming." Jacob didn't even look at me. "Yeah, she is." "Alpha! Look at this." A warrior called from the other side of the There was a group of three men standing around, looking at the ground. Walking up, there was a man's face sticking out of the ground. "He wasn't buried deep. I tripped over his face." A warrior said. "Uncover him." He wasn't even that bad looking. I would say probably has been dead for maybe five days. The more they uncovered him, the more I didn't like what I saw. His chest was bare but the words' Alpha Colt of Midnight' and very cruelly. I had to turn my head a little to even read it. Maggots had started eating away at his stomach.

"Get him back to our morgue. I want a full workup of him." I commanded. My men bent down and started working on getting the decaying man back to our morgue. "Where are you?" I heard my sister's shriek all the way over on the other side of the house. "I'm here." Jogging back around so she didn't see the dead man. As I came around, I saw all three of them. "I didn't realize everyone was coming." I said as I walked up. Bending down, I kissed Penny on the cheek. "You wanted me to watch Penny and I wasn't sending Kristen out here without someone so here we are." There was a gater parked just inside the treeline. Alec just shrugged and crossed his arms over his chest. "You drug me here. What do you want?" Ice was looking at me like she was bored. "What you are going to see in that house is not humane. You need to prepare yourself." Penny slipped under my arm as I looked Kristen in the eyes. I needed her to understand that this might be upsetting. W | "Your men are carrying a dead body..." She looked around me. had a feeling this wasn't going to be filled with unicorns and rainbows." She rolled her eyes at me and walked around me to the house. "You can stay out here if you need a break." I mumbled to Alec. He snorted and took off after her. I watched them walk around the house until they came back to the front and went inside. It annoyed me that my men didn't try to hide the body but I never did say to do that so I could exactly be mad at them.. "Are you okay?" Penny asked. Looking down, she was looking up at me with so much concern that my heart sank. "Yeah. That is like a house of horrors for women." Squeezing her tighter, she just wrapped both arms around me and buried her head in my chest. "Why did you send Kris in there, then?"

"She sees things that the average person cannot. I need to make sure I am seeing this location correctly. She might see something that I over looked."

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"I knew that. I mean, why did you send her in there to allow her to see how women were probably tortured and killed? Would you ask me to go in there?" "F uck no. You will never step foot in that house." I was aware of the double standard that was going on but I couldn't help it. My sister was not the same as my mate. Thankfully, Penny didn't question it further. Instead, we watched Kristen move from room to room by the windows. Eventually, we stopped seeing her and I knew she was down in the basement. Did I like having to send her in there? Not in the slightest but there was so much riding on this. My phone rang in my pocket. Without even looking at who it was, I answered it. "Alpha Colt." "I'll never get used to hearing that." My back instantly straightened as I stepped away from Penny. "Stay with Jacob, I need to take this." I whispered to her before

walking away. Kristen POV Colt wasn't lying. This house of horror was a woman's nightmare. Walking into the kitchen nook, I was instantly greeted with chains on the wall. By the little indents in the drywall, many women were kicking. My mind went into investigation mode and I never even allowed myself to feel. It was like a switch. Shutting down, I could compartmentalize what I was seeing and feeling. Alec absolutely hated when I did this because he couldn't feel my emotions. Without me redumy me. Which, as I went around, he stayed right behind me. Looking around some but mainly watching me. Fortunately, he stayed in the doorways so I could get some space to really learn. There was so much to this puzzle and the fact that Colt even asked me to do this was huge. The footsteps were two different sizes. Which mean, two different people. By the side of each foot, it was two men that had been here. At first glance, it looked like a basic house that was used to hide out.

in. Maybe bring the random girl to torture and eventually kill but I was wrong. As soon as we hit the basement, it made the whole upstairs change. The three rooms were perfectly placed so viewing would be possible. What I noticed more was the staining. Each mattress had sunken spots that really made me look at it. "What are you doing?" Alec asked and grabbed my arm. I had taken a few steps inside one of the rooms. "Stand right there." I pointed to an area just below the stairs. Carefully lowering myself on the mattress, I put my butt where the indent was. This position made it possible for the person on the mattress to lean up against the wall. Without laying down. "Come sit down here." I pointed to another sunken spot. Alec moved to the mattress. He had to reposition himself a few times. before he fit comfortably in the space. "Like this?" "With you in that position, it was almost like...." My voice trailed off as I looked around. There was so much drugs paraphernalia around the floor that most wouldn't even question these rooms. "What?" They spent some time in these positions. This would be the perfect position for you to shoot me up." Holding out my arm, Alec was able to grab it and act like he was inserting a needle. "This also allows someone to be watching." "Like they were training people on how to do it?" Alec asked. way over "Maybe like they were training people how to handle the women they buy?" Shaking my head, I wasn't sure but I was done sitting here." Help me up." Alec got up and took my hands. We made our way to the other side of the basement. The sheet was pulled back, exposing the holding cell. The floor was still wet so I assume Colt had found the switch. "What are you thinking?" Alec asked.