

## The Triplet Warriors And Their Pup Mate Chapter 15 - Tips

~Hunter's Point of View~

I took the stairs two at a time and bolted to Ellie's room. She was staying in River's old room since it had its own bathroom. Skyler and I had to share one growing up and we always hated it.

I knocked, "Ellie it's Hunter, can I come in?"

The door opened instantly, and my poor little mate stood there with puffy eyes.

"I'm ... I'm sorry," she said, looking ashamed.

I moved past the door and couldn't help myself, I wrapped her in my arms. She rested her head on my chest and my wolf purred. I felt so awful that she was upset, but I also felt so content.

Before I even registered what I was doing I sniffed her hair, I could never get enough of it ... of her. These past ten days away from her was torture. Mom absolutely insisted we give her time to adjust and learn about being a woman, well a she-wolf essentially.

This sweet, sweet mate of mine, How could I possibly let her go? She made my stomach flutter, she made my heart race and she didn't even have to try.

"I don't really know why, but I don't want to let you go," she said with a snuffle that tugged at my heart.

I don't ever want you to let me go, I thought. I'll always be here for you, no matter what. It broke my heart to do it, but I pulled back. I led her to the edge of the bed and we sat down.

"Ellie ... my brothers and I just ... we get upset. We get upset about Gunner ... we've been after him for a long time and he's hurt so many. But we've never had to like ... actively face someone he's hurt. He hurt you so bad, for so long. You're just a pup, you did nothing to deserve the life he forced on you, and that's hard for us," I said.

I wasn't lying, I just wasn't being totally honest with her either. I really worried that one day when she found out we were her mates that she'd hate us. Damn, I was terrified of that.

"I never had anyone to really care like you guys seem to. It's hard for me to understand if you're just being polite, if it's just your job. I don't know how to..."

She trailed off. Damn it, we were confusing her so bad. Even if she couldn't smell us, there were still so many other things. There was no way Godfrey could understand the mate bond. It's everything ... her voice, her movement, her heartbeat, it's just all of her. So I knew she felt that way about us. How long could we keep up this lie? Also, the fact that she seemed to sense so much about us, had me really questioning whether or not she should have her wolf by now.

"We know that you're safe now, but we still just don't understand why he wanted you so bad. He never said anything, like why they chose you," I asked.

She shook her head.

"It's really something I've always wondered. I mean they made it out like in exchange for taking me in, that was ... my payment? I guess you'd call it. They took me in so I owed them," she said.

I suppressed a growl, fighting with Buck, my wolf. He demanded I hold her, I mark her, that would keep her safe. Tyson wouldn't want her if she was marked.

"I want to be extremely clear so you understand this. You do not owe him ... a damn thing. Gunner or Tyson. If they wanted to do the right thing, it would have been to find some of your family to take you in, or take you to a neighboring pack. The council would never allow an eight year old to be beholden to a blood pact," I said, rubbing her shoulders.

She relaxed and quickly took one of my hands and put it to her cheek.

"I know I smelled you that night, and I smelled you on the shirt you gave me. I still have it, I sleep with it, it ... gives me so much comfort. Why can't I smell you anymore, please tell me, am I crazy," she said.

“No, no sweetie,” I said, trying to think quickly.

“We’re warriors and we often mask our scents. If we’re in battle or around an enemy, we hide our scent so that they can’t track us later, they can’t remember it,” I said, hoping like hell she bought that.

“Ohh, ohh! That makes sense I guess,” she said, looking like she was processing what I said. She looked relieved and I was glad for that.

There was a knock at the door and I knew it was Skyler, he’d been pacing in the hallway. Ellie got up to answer it and the back of her dress stuck to her leg, showing me a bit of her a.ss. Buck howled and demanded to see more. I licked my lips, knowing what she had under there.

As if she heard my thoughts she quickly fixed her dress before opening the door. Skyler popped in and looked around, sniffing the air. Probably checking to make sure she wasn’t aroused.

\*Yes, Mr. Nosey, how can I help you\* I said over mind-link.

~Skyler’s Point of View~

I was sitting in the game room listening to Meadow go on and on about a camping trip she was going to take. I was about ready to bash my head in the wall when I suddenly realized I could just go eavesdrop on Hunter.

I left without drawing attention to myself and wandered upstairs. I heard Hunter trying to explain to her why she couldn’t smell us. This is why he was the smart one, he could always think of stuff on the fly and have it make sense. I never would have thought of that.

I needed to see my mate before we left and we had to get back soon, River was on night patrol and I was supposed to be helping Angel prepare to interview some new recruits. It was literally years of training and preparation to become a Shadow. We had luckily bypassed a lot of the traditional crap since it was in our DNA and our family had been training us since birth essentially. As soon as we had our first shift we joined the ranks.

I knocked on the door and my little minx of a mate answered.

“Ellie I didn’t get a chance to tell you how beautiful you look, new dress,” I asked.

She blushed and I felt my d!ck twitch. My wolf demanded to feel her, to smell her hair. It was k!lling me to be so close to her after not being able to see her for so long.

“Yes, Sunny has taken me shopping many times, it is exhausting,” she said.

I saw Hunter sitting on her bed and I didn’t like that at all. I would need to put myself around her bed as well. I went around to the side of her bed and threw myself down, crossing my ankles.

“It’s been a long time since I was in River’s old room,” I said.

Ellie came to my side and looked down at me.

“When do you think you guys might come back? I want to find a totally new dish I can make, maybe your mom could help me make something you all like,” she said.

I didn’t want her to feel like she had to keep cooking for us, or trying to impress us. Her being here, standing before me was heaven, all I needed.

“I really like pizza,” River said from the door.

“Pizza!! Ohh we had that a couple times when we were out! I really loved it too! Is it easy to make,” she asked, running over to River.

“It’s not too bad, maybe we could make it together,” River said.

That little sh!t, trying to steal my mate’s attention. I got right up and grabbed her hand.

“Next time we come, we’ll bring everything, we’ll show you how to make pizza,” I said, demanding her eyes look at me.

\*She doesn’t want frozen pizza, loser,\* River mind-linked to Hunter and I.

\*Fvck off,\* I said back.

“That would be great, I’d love it,” Ellie smiled.

Before I knew it, Ellie got on her tip-toes and wrapped her arms around me. I quickly hugged her back, sniffing her hair and holding her. I stuck my tongue out at River.

\*So childish,\* River said.

\*Jealous and you know it,\* I said back.

“Well Ellie I have patrol tonight so we really have to get back but dinner was so great, thank you so much,” River said.

She pulled away from me and I felt pathetic at how badly I missed her already.

“I made SO many cookies, come on, I’ll bag some up for you,” she said, grabbing River’s hand and running out.

\*You don’t even fvcking\*g cook,\* Hunter said in a mind-link.

\*I will damn well learn, smart a.ss,\* I said back.