

## His Beta 368

### Chapter 368

Lanie

“Why wouldn’t I like it?” I asked as calmly as I could.

Stella shrugged. “If I made you say something silly, then Izzy and Allie would laugh at you. You wouldn’t

like them to laugh at you, would you, Mother?”

“If I said something funny, I guess I wouldn’t mind.” I took in a deep breath, mentally preparing for

words I didn’t mean to say to tumble out of my mouth.

Stella’s brows drew close together. Her expression screwed up in concentration. I braced myself.

“Abba!” Stella cried and got up from the couch to run to Mason.

I was now “Mother,” but he was still Abba. That made me smile. Stella was a little girl with three fathers,

but Mason was the one she’d known first. There was more than a biological tie between them. He

swung her

up in the air and then down with a small groan.

“Won’t be able to do that much longer,” he said to me as I also got up to greet him.

I wasn't sure if he wanted to kiss me, or honestly, if I wanted to kiss him, but when he pulled me against him, sweet relief flooded me. I closed my eyes and let him hold me close. His lips brushed my temple.

Oh, how I loved this man.

And he loved me, too. I could see that in his eyes when he pulled away to quickly kiss my lips. He mouthed "later" and added a wiggle of his eyebrows that made me laugh.

Mason turned to the twins and the melting cartons of ice cream. "What's this? None saved for wow, you two must've been eating a lot of ice cream. Look how big you got."

He shot a look at me over his shoulder and his eyebrows raised. It was kind of startling to see he they were changing.

"They've almost caught up to you, Stella my star," Mason said. "How was school today?"

For a moment, I tensed. Mason loved our daughter. I would never doubt that. But I knew he was

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worried

after what I'd done with Greyson. I didn't want him getting upset about Stella. I needed more

information first

Stella looked at me. Then she smiled brightly. "It was great, Abba. Miss Janice let me go into the

reading

group. Do you want to listen to me read?"

can't

Mason gave me a startled look. "Reading? Already?"

I shrugged and tossed up my hands. "Apparently so."

"We'll go in my room and do it," Stella said, lowering her voice. "So the twins don't feel bad, since they  
t read yet. They're still in the baby group"

"Right of course" Mason met my puas ansin as we channad silent communication

"When did she start reading?" He thought to me.

"As far as I know, this morning," I replied through the mind link

"Abba," Stella said impatiently, tugging his hand.

"Did you see Xander and Zane?" I asked as he let our daughter lead him away.

"Yes. We're good," Mason thought back, although his attention was fixed on Stella and her description

of something she'd read in the encyclopedia.

Through the open door, I could hear her reading to him. I helped the twins get cleaned up, just finishing as the door opened again to reveal Zane and Xander. Both of them were laughing, arms slung over each others shoulders. Relief swept over me. They obviously weren't fighting anymore,

"Papa!"

"Daddy!"

The twins ran to their fathers. Zane scooped up Isaac, and Xander tossed Alaina high into air, catching her easily as she shrieked with laughter. He snuggled close to her.

"Hello, love," he thought to me. "About earlier..."

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I cut him off with my reply through the link. "Never mind. I'm just glad you're all back home. We're all together.

"Daddy, play with us!" Alaina shouted, squealing with delight as her father tossed her again.

Xander caught her in one arm, cradling her against his broad chest. "As you wish. What do you want to

play?”

Isaac squirmed to get down from Zane’s arms and ran to the bookcases along the wall. Whoever had supplied these rooms for us had been thoughtful enough to provide a bunch of kid-friendly board games. Isaac picked out Weasels and Swings, an old favorite I hadn’t played in ages.

“Stellie! Come play! Abba! Come play!” Alaina shouted as Xander put her down.

I was reminded again of Stella playing Hide and Seek Of my sister, of my childhood. But for now, I was present here, with my children and my mates. Instead of letting myself be haunted, I chose to focus on the blessings the Moon Goddess had bestowed upon us all.

I was going to be grateful for this peace as long as I could...because I knew it couldn’t last forever.