



USA Today Bestselling Author
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Alpha's Rise

Bloodmoon Pack

By Reana Malori

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Alpha's Rise

Summary

The Alpha Triad bond is unshakeable and unbreakable.

As the son of the current Alpha, Tobias knows his role and what is expected of him. His life has been planned since the day he was born. You might say his future doesn't belong to him but to his family's legacy. When his fated mate shows up on his lands, searching for her family, he knows that his time has come. Her arrival is the beginning of his ascension to his role of Alpha of the Bloodmoon Pack. But his mate has secrets of her own and it could bring danger to his lands, his pack, and his family.

Nathan is destined to rule by Tobias' side. The only problem is, he refuses to be second to anyone. It didn't matter what fate had planned; he had no intention of sharing his mate with someone else. In a last-ditch effort to forge his own path, he left and never looked back. Yet when the Goddess whispers in his ear that their mate has arrived, there was no other choice but to answer the call.

Tobias, Romi, and Nathan will challenge the notion of what an Alpha Triad should be. Once mated, their Triad will change the world—and with danger lurking, they must trust each other to protect the Bloodmoon Pack.

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One

Past

Romi Sutton was stunned by what was in front of her. Her eyes were wide as she watched a man she'd known for over three years turn into something she never thought was possible. His pale skin disappeared under coarse dark hair. Human teeth elongated into sharp fangs, long enough to tear through skin and flesh.

“What the fuck?” The whispered words sounded loud to her ears.

Just a few moments earlier, a deafening crash to her left caused her to turn and look in that direction. The air was filled with the familiar smells of their camp: sweat, old food, and dirt. Only now, there was something else. The scent of iron filled her nostrils, but underneath the coppery smell, she could sense something darker, more sinister.

“Sutton! Get the fuck outta here!”

Someone was pulling on her arm, struggling to pull her away from the large, misshapen bodies clashing and fighting. Her body wouldn't move. Watching the scene in front of her, she froze in place. It felt like her feet were glued to the ground, and no matter how much she tried to walk away, she couldn't move from where she stood.

Her eyes shifted from side to side as her brain tried to process what she was seeing. How in the hell was this even possible? This had to be a hallucination. She pinched herself on one arm to make sure this wasn't a dream. Pain traveled through her body as her nails dug into her skin, proving that she was wide fucking awake.

She watched the battle as it played out, but still did not know where the other guy had come from—if he could even be called that.

Moments before all hell broke loose, she had been standing around, getting some fresh air, talking with her friend, Butler. In the flash of a second, someone or something, came flying through the air. It tackled Butler and began swiping at him with long claws that tipped its fingers. For a few seconds, Romi had no idea what the fuck was happening and froze in shock. The snarls coming from Butler and that... thing growling and barking were loud and horrific.

She felt the anticipation bubble under her skin as she itched to jump into the fray and help her friend fight the animal attacking him. There was something about a good fight that got her juices flowing. She knew there was no chance in hell she'd be able to do any damage to either of them, but that didn't mean she didn't want to join and get in a few licks. After all, something attacked her friend, and that shit didn't fly.

Unable to tear her eyes away, Romi turned her head slightly to look around. Was anyone else as shocked as she was? Catching the eye of the guy who'd tried to pull her away from the area earlier, she noticed the smirk covering his face.

Just as Romi was about to ask him what the fuck his problem was, the air shifted.

It became heavier as electricity seemed to fill the atmosphere around her. Romi felt the change along her skin, goose bumps rising along her arms, and her breathing stopped. In slow motion, Romi turned back to the fight and had the shock of her life.

Just as she pulled out her 9mm, Butler pushed the large animal off him before standing. Right in front of her eyes, something began to happen. Butler's face morphed into something else. His jaw lengthened, his teeth grew, and his body became something she'd never thought to see.

Hair sprouted all over him. His clothes ripped at the seams, falling to the ground. Still not sure what she was expecting to see, she was shocked to see an animal was standing in place of her friend.

A group of men with rifles came running in their direction, yelling out indecipherable words. A few of them began ripping off their clothes, their faces morphing into something inhuman. Her head felt like it was going to explode.

Watching the two... things... animals... monsters clawing at each other's skin and teeth biting into the hair-covered flesh, she opened her mouth to scream. This was the type of horror show bullshit that only happened in nightmares, right? She backed away slowly. The weapon was outstretched in front of her, just in case one of them decided she was their next target.

What had Butler turned into? How was it even possible?

A dog?

No, a wolf.

Wait? A fucking wolf?

“Smitty? What the fuck am I seeing? Are you seeing this?” As the silence stretched on, Romi turned her head. Still holding her gun out in front of her, she shifted her body and aimed, intending to kill whatever the fuck was standing next to her. Because it sure as shit wasn’t her friend Smitty.

Smitty growled in her direction, “I told you to leave.” His voice was thick, gritty, and hard to understand because of the large teeth protruding from his mouth,

“What the fuck are you?” Backing away from him, Romi once again glanced toward the two large gray wolves fighting to the death. At least, that’s how it appeared. Large swipes from their enormous claws, and bites caused by their sharp teeth, left deep, angry wounds on their bodies. Butler, or the wolf formerly known as Butler, got the best of the other wolf. His large mouth was wrapped around the animal’s neck.

“Kill him,” she whispered. As Romi heard the two words escape her mouth, she wanted to call them back. Romi knew this most recent assignment with her team had changed her. This had been a tough deployment. It had started to change her perception of good and evil. Some of the things that happened couldn’t be ignored. The killing. The hatred from her own people against other human beings. It was a lot to deal with. But seeing what she could only describe as otherworldly happening in front of her, brought something dark and dangerous out of her.

Thinking about it again, she didn't regret the words she'd said. That thing had entered their camp and attacked Butler. It tried to kill one of her friends. For that alone, it needed to die.

"Kill him," she repeated.

Smitty turned to her, his lips pulled back in a snarl, and she heard him make a sound like a chuckle. "I always knew you were more like us." Glancing away for a second, he turned his dark eyes back to her. "You shouldn't be here. If the boss finds out you saw this, there's going to be hell to pay."

"You still haven't answered my question. What the fuck are you?" She looked him up and down but didn't step any closer. She was brave, but she wasn't stupid. "Anyway, I'm not the only one watching."

Smitty raised his nose to sniff the air. "No, you're not, but you're the only human."

Romi wanted to question him even more because that statement shook her to the core. Of course, she knew there were things in the world she did not understand, but looking around at the people surrounding her, she felt chills run along her skin. She was surrounded by people who weren't really human.

How did she not notice that they were different? That they could turn into animals? And why the fuck wasn't she passed out on the damned ground in shock and fear?

As she watched the wolf version of Butler sink his teeth into the neck of the outsider wolf, she couldn't help but give an internal cheer. *Son of a bitch won't mess with anybody else.*

That's what he gets for talking shit. If he dies, he dies. A smile came over her face at the thought. *Honestly, that sounds like some fucked up shit my best friend Layla would say.* Romi couldn't help but chuckle at the thought.

A loud howl filled the air as wolf-Butler bested his opponent. The men... beasts... other beings from around their circle joined in, while those she couldn't see roared like lions. It was then that Romi fully understood what Smitty's words meant.

It looked like she was the only one who had not transformed. Slowly backing up from the group, she felt it was time for her to get the hell out of dodge.

As quietly as she could, Romi took two steps away from the larger group of men. Maybe it was best that she try to forget she'd ever seen this.

“Going somewhere, Sutton?”

Romi almost jumped out of her skin as the Master Sergeant spoke behind her.

Freezing in place, she dropped her head and briefly closed her eyes. Damn. She'd almost gotten free. The Master Sergeant was not the type of man to mess with on a good day, but after what she witnessed, Romi was almost afraid to turn around.

What if he was a ten-foot bear or some shit? He might use those big bear claws to rip out her entrails. Was that even a thing? Did bears disembowel humans just for the fun of it? Yup, Romi was quietly losing her shit.

“I asked you a question,” the Master Sergeant spoke again.

The crowd standing around the camp had gone eerily silent. She lifted her gaze to look at the man who called her name. The feral howls and roars had ceased, and the men around the camp had returned to their human forms.

Mouth dropping open in a gasp, she noticed Butler was bare-assed naked, with his large dick swinging in the breeze. *Well, shit.* One of her eyebrows lifted as she took him in.

Of course, the motherfucker had to have a big dick to go along with that big ass ego. Butler was fine as hell under his uniform, but who knew he was packing something so mouth-wateringly good? Romi could almost admit that she now regretted not shooting her shot with him because that beast between his legs would have had her begging for more.

“Sergeant Sutton! Quit staring at Butler’s dick like you wanna eat it. Turn the fuck around.” She had forgotten that the Master Sergeant was still waiting.

Romi was almost offended by his words, but she took a deep breath before facing him. Once she noticed the look in his eyes, she subconsciously took a step back. It wasn’t that she was afraid of him, but his eyes... his eyes were a bright yellow. “Fuck! You’re one of ‘em, too?”

“Sutton, you weren’t supposed to see this. Smitty was supposed to get you the hell out of here before anything went down.”

Smitty broke into the conversation. “You know how fucking stubborn she is. I tried everything I could without

knocking her ass out and carrying her out over my shoulder.”

Romi glanced at him. “Smitty, you know I would have shot you in your left ass cheek if you tried to force me. If I were you, I’d keep those big ass paws to yourself. And how come you’re still fully clothed and shit? If I’m going to have eye-candy roaming around,” she paused before glancing at Butler again, who winked at her, “then I want my fill.” Romi smirked at him as she perused his form before turning back to Smitty with raised eyebrows. Now she was wondering if all these dudes had big ass dicks.

Smitty looked at the Master Sergeant. “See? What’d the fuck I tell you? Stubborn as fuck. I’m glad she’s aware of what’s going on around here because now she can do what’s needed to stay safe.”

“Hell, I still don’t know what the fuck I saw,” Romi spat out at them. “But if this isn’t some lucid dream, I would sure as shit like someone to tell me what the fuck is happening.”

“Walk with me. I have a story to tell and an offer to make,” Master Sergeant said. It wasn’t a request. The man never really asked for anything. He made statements and people did what he expected.

Before Romi took another step, she half-turned and pointed behind them. “Does it involve turning into one of those big ass wolves that rips out throats?” Although she tried to play tough, inside she was shaking like a leaf, and she had no doubt they all knew the fear was taking over.

Layla had been right all along. Romi should have kept her ass at home instead of trying to prove to everybody that she was a badass. If she had just listened to her friend all those

years ago, she would be home right now, hanging with Layla and her son, Christopher, having a good life.

Yet Romi had to be stubborn and do the one thing her best friend begged her not to do—join the fucking Army.

The Master Sergeant laughed at her question. Okay, it wasn't a laugh, but his lips lifted in a half-smile. That counted, right?

“Sutton, it involves so much more than that. And if you're interested, you could be so much more than these guys. It's all up to you and what you want to do with your future.”

Confused by his cryptic words and what he was trying to say, she paused before glancing over her shoulder. Romi's eyes continued to take in the men in the camp as she and the Master Sergeant walked. “More than what they are? How's that even possible?”

As they continued walking, the Master Sergeant looked down at her with a slight smile.

“Romi, you have a power inside you. Something so strong that I could feel it coming off you in waves the first time we met. With a little enhancement, you could be the first woman to join our elite team of soldiers. Faster. Stronger. Less prone to injury, with the ability to heal yourself and others.”

The quiet overtook them as she thought about what he'd just said. “Do I have to do anything today?”

“No, but the longer you wait, the more likely the decision will be taken from you.”

She knew what he said was the truth. Plus, she was no fool. Now that she was aware of the big secret, higher-ups

would be told. They would decide for her. Regardless of her feelings about it, something told her that this was the journey she needed to go on. Yes, she was hesitant, but anyone in their right mind would feel this way.

Romi did not know what would happen at the end of this. No matter which decision she made, her life would change in ways she never imagined. Was she ready to sprout hair and grow fangs? Was there any other decision for her to make? Taking a deep breath, she nodded.

“Okay, I’m in. Let’s talk.”

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Two

Present Day

Desperation kept her going. Her time was running out. Romi had finally ditched her car a few days ago and began hiking through the woods, following the trail that Layla and her godson Christopher had taken.

When Layla showed up at Romi's doorstep a few weeks ago and told her what she'd seen, time seemed to stop. After her time in the military, Romi knew all about the evil lurking in the world. She felt it was her duty to protect Layla and Christopher. They were more than just people she knew, or friends she'd connected with. They were her family. Layla was her sister, and that meant Romi would do whatever it took to protect her.

Layla wasn't ready for the things lurking in the dark, and little Christopher was so innocent. They had no clue what type of creatures and other beings walked around on two legs. The monsters hid in plain sight, and from the moment Romi had accepted the Master Sergeant's offer, it had opened her eyes to the dark underbelly of the world.

That was also the moment she'd made the commitment to protecting Layla and Christopher, even if they didn't realize it. Nothing was going to harm them on Romi's watch. Even if she had to show her true nature and risk losing the only people she cared about in this world. No matter what she came up

against, nothing would stop Romi from doing whatever it took to make sure they were safe.

Just thinking about everything she'd witnessed all those years ago, Romi couldn't help but shake her head. Not with regret, but with some level of shock and amazement.

Humans who could shift into animals.

Humans who could shift into... other things.

An entire military unit full of bloodthirsty shifters willing to topple governments for the good of their country. That shit was unlike anything she could have dreamed of, and her imagination was damn wild.

Looking around, she noticed the sun had gone down. Romi had been walking for hours, but she wasn't tired in the traditional sense. Yes, she still needed the rest, but it was different for her now. With her eyes and ears focused on the trees and other foliage surrounding her, Romi decided now was a good time to take a break.

At that exact moment, her stomach grumbled with hunger. She dropped the heavy backpack on the ground and bent over to pull out the dried food stored inside. It wasn't the best tasting, but it would serve its purpose for the night.

Pulling out a thin blanket, Romi spread it out on the rough ground before sitting down. She knew this situation wasn't common, but it was the only option she had right now. When she finally caught up with Layla and Christopher, Romi would first make sure they were safe and sound. Then she was going to sleep for two days.

Thinking back over this journey, she felt the darkness chasing her, riding on her back like an albatross. Although Layla and Christopher had a few days' head start, she knew there was a shadow closing in on them. She could feel it in her bones. Her friend... her sister, was in danger.

Romi knew she had to go faster. She had to stay in front of the evil chasing them. Layla and Christopher were family. If something happened to them, she'd lose her shit, and that's not something the world was ready for.

The military had recreated her into something unique, a weapon that they did not know how to control. To save Layla and Christopher, she would unleash everything inside of her and kill anyone who hurt them.

Those two meant everything to her. From the first moment Romi met Layla, they had been the best of friends. She recalled the memories of them as children, and she could admit that between the two of them, she had been the wild child. Layla was the more reserved of the two, but no matter how different they were, they still clicked right away. No one expected them to grow so close, but they defied the odds.

Eating some of the jerky to fight off the hunger pains, Romi put the rest away to save for the morning. "I'm coming, Layla. Just hold on."

When Romi called Layla a few days ago with the code for 'The shit's hit the fan. Take cover. Run. Hide,' it took everything inside to not run to Layla and Christopher as fast as she could. When she and Christopher went on the run a few weeks, we needed a way to communicate quickly if danger was near.

She had to make sure she didn't lead the people in their direction. They'd done everything possible to keep Layla off the grid, but when Romi got home after being out for a few hours, she knew they'd discovered the connection between them. Romi's house was trashed. Drawers were pulled out, and her clothes were all over the place. Personal pictures of her, Layla and little Christopher were torn out of their frames and thrown over the floor.

They'd been looking for any information they could find about where Layla may have gone. Didn't they fucking know she had her small son by her side? Did they even care? Just for that, Romi wanted to rip their fucking throats out. Yet the more reasonable side of her knew the best thing to do was get to Layla as quickly as possible, so that's what the hell she was going to do.

Romi focused on thinking about Layla's face so she could reconnect with her path. She was close. Romi could feel her, even if the connection was a bit wobbly. That simply meant she still had some miles to go.

Romi pulled out a rolled-up shirt to place under her head after putting the food and other loose things back in her pack. Satisfied, she laid down on the forest ground with her eyes closed and tried to get a few hours of sleep.

The next morning, she rose as soon as the first rays of sun came across the horizon. Sleeping on the ground should have been uncomfortable, but it wasn't. Not for Romi. After

her time in the military, she became used to not feeling much pain—at least not like a normal person. The pebbles and rocks on the ground did nothing to her. She was able to sleep like a baby the entire night.

Well, except for the visions of the dark-haired man with golden eyes. Who was he, and why the fuck had he shown up in her dreams last night? If she was being honest with herself, they weren't just any dreams. No, she dreamt about riding his ass like a bucking bronco. Romi had never seen the man before, but the vision of him was now burned into her brain. Tall, at least six feet, three inches, with long, lean muscles, dark hair, a firm jaw, and a big dick that her dream self couldn't stop riding. When he looked at Romi in her dream state, his golden-hued gaze held her hostage. Even asleep, his presence struck her. Now that she was awake and getting ready to start her day, she couldn't stop thinking about him.

Something else about the dream kept pushing at her memory, another dark figure in the room. She didn't see the face, but the feeling coming from him differed from the golden-eyed stranger. Anger. Jealousy. Desire.

The only thing was, she didn't know if the feelings were directed at her or the sexy man who she couldn't stop thinking about. Either way, her body was still tingling from being so deliciously handled. Too bad she couldn't fall back asleep and capture it again.

Once she stood up and stretched, Romi took the time to briefly look around. She was fully awake and ready to get moving. It was time to get on the road again, and there was no time to waste. Romi had a mission to complete, and nothing

was going to stop her. Save Layla and Christopher. That was all that mattered. After taking a few minutes to complete her morning ritual, Romi gathered her belongings, erasing any sign that she'd been in the area.

Continuing along the path she knew Layla would have taken, Romi traversed through the trees and shrubbery and eventually made her way to the mountains. Even though she was no longer in the military, and hadn't been for a few years now, she couldn't help but miss the years spent hunting the bad guys.

Sometimes the bad guys were more than human. That knowledge still shocked her to this day. The secrets held by the United States military and its covert counterparts would give most people nightmares. Her unit may have been full of otherworldly beings who could rip a man's throat out with their teeth, but they were also some of the most honorable men she had ever worked with.

Not everyone was like that. And this time, she was mainly talking about humans.

When she had first gotten out, Romi was unsure about what to do with her life. It wasn't like she could put on her resume that some of her best skills involved turning into a literal storm with lightning shooting from her eyes. Yeah, that wasn't really an option. So, she tried to focus her life on doing other things that mattered.

Before she was... changed, Romi trained as a cyber analyst for the US military. The original plan was to work for herself and become a contractor for companies in the DC metro area. It had been a good plan. She knew with her skills,

she would make a very good salary and live a stable, normal life.

Sitting at a desk.

Looking at a computer all day.

Hunting the bad guys with a keyboard.

Fuck.

That would have been boring as hell.

While she would never want Layla and Christopher in danger, she could also admit how glad she was to be the one searching for them. She could protect them better than anyone else. That's why she had to get them as far away from the city as possible.

At this point, her only thought was putting one foot in front of the other. There was nothing else for her to do until she found them—nothing else to focus on but getting to her family.

Although she wasn't impacted by the weather like most humans were, it was still cold as hell and that made the ground hard, and difficult to navigate. She fucking hated the cold. Honestly, if she could live anywhere, it would be someplace warm; the Caribbean, Bermuda, or Barbados. Any of those would be perfect. She would sit on her porch drinking margaritas all day. Ice cold temperatures and snow were all great for a short winter vacation, but she hated living in this shit.

Hoisting the heavy rucksack higher on her shoulders, Romi couldn't help but think about a different life for herself and for Layla. She felt they both needed a damn break because

life kept giving them sour ass lemons. Then again, she needed to be more positive.

Okay, so maybe she would take those sour lemons, but then add some sugar and vodka. That's exactly what she needed. It would be the perfect combination of ingredients for her to make her grandmomma's special adult lemonade beverage recipe.

Just the thought brought a smile to her lips. It wasn't that she didn't appreciate the life she'd created for herself, because she did. But, sometimes shit just got hard. Did it matter if things didn't always go the way she wanted? Should it disappoint her that she spent her early adult years learning how to be someone else? Something else? Hell, she even understood the reasons why she had to keep her secret from Layla. She got it. She accepted it. This was the journey Romi chose, and she knew Layla would understand in the end.

Now, little Christopher was something else altogether.

That little dude held her whole heart. When he was born, he looked up at her with those beautiful brown eyes, and she melted into a pile of mush. He wasn't her child, but Romi loved him as if he were. She wasn't expecting to have the life others did, with a husband, kids, and a dog. As a result, she lived through Layla and took every moment to give Christopher all the love she could, as his eccentric, badass aunt.

The first time he looked at her and called out the word Sparkle, Romi was floored. No matter how much she tried to dismiss his words as those of a small child who didn't know any better, she couldn't. No matter what she did, Romi could

not escape him. From that moment forward, he called her Auntie Sparkle. The little scamp.

Romi didn't think Layla had a clue where the name came from, and Romi sure as hell wasn't going to tell her. At least not yet. Layla knew about the men Romi had served with, to a degree. But there was no way she could know the full truth. And Romi sure as shit wasn't ready to tell her what she'd become during her time in the military. That was a secret for another day. If Layla *never* found out what she was, Romi would be okay with that.

Still smiling at the memory of her special little guy trying to out her to his momma, Romi focused again on where she was going. Just as she was about to stop for water and relieve herself, she heard a sound. Stopping in her tracks, Romi crouched close to one of the trees and slowed her breathing. She closed her eyes and focused on the movement of the trees surrounding her.

There! Her ears perked up at the sound.

Based on the breathing patterns and the sound of their feet hitting the ground, she knew they were of the four-legged variety. Not big like bears, but also not small like a cougar or bobcat. Then the scent hit her nose, and she couldn't help the sigh that escaped.

Fuck! The last thing she needed was to have a tête-à-tête with wolves. Especially now. She really didn't want any trouble. She just wanted to find her family. Careful not to make any sound, she moved into a more comfortable position and prepared to wait them out.

A few more minutes passed before she felt a change in the air. A change that she remembered well. Her eyes went wide, and she dropped her head in exasperation. Romi knew exactly what was happening around her.

This was not turning out to be a good day.

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Three

A gruff voice called out to her. “We already know you’re there. Come out while you can. You’re trespassing on private land.”

Since she wasn’t sure who was talking, Romi still wasn’t willing to take any chances. She decided staying hidden was her best bet. It was just her damn luck to run into a group of shifters in the middle of the fucking forest.

Yeah, those lemons keep on piling up. One day she would get the vodka and sugar she kept thinking about and make a big ass drink to enjoy.

She heard them moving below her and remained silent. Maybe, just maybe, they’d keep talking and give away their end game.

Considering she was in the mountains surrounded by trees, rocks, and other debris, how were they able to find her? Did they come across her by accident, or had they been hunting her this entire time? Now she had more questions than answers, and with the situation she was dealing with, that wasn’t a very good place to be.

If they’d been tracking her this entire time, then she was definitely losing her touch. How the fuck did she not realize they were around her this whole time? Her training and instincts should have kicked in the moment they got within a hundred feet.

She couldn't help but blame the lapse in judgment on being a civilian for too damn long. Then again, her mind was so focused on Layla and Christopher that she had overlooked their presence. That was a mistake. One she would never make again.

Whoever this group was, she had no beef with them. If she played her cards right, she would be out of here in the next ten minutes, but they'd need to cooperate first. Plus, they were stopping her from getting to Layla and Christopher. That's the one thing she could not allow. They needed to get the fuck out of her way.

The same guy spoke again. "I can smell you. I don't know what you are, but this is Bloodmoon Pack land, and you're trespassing."

Fuck! A whole damn pack?

Romi questioned why he admitted that they were part of a pack. Could they tell that she was... other?

Romi knew she needed to get her head out of the fucking clouds. She focused on keeping a steady heartbeat and leveled breathing. Her mind swirled with thoughts, scenarios, and escape routes. Then again, maybe if she asked nicely, they'd let her pass without too much fuss.

Yeah, right.

"You've got five seconds to come out before we come in to get you. If we have to pull you out, you won't like it."

Shit. The big lug standing in the front started making those damn demands again.

This isn't what she needs right now. Sure, she could fight her way through them, but that would just put more heat on her when she couldn't afford it. If she killed an entire group of enforcers from the same shifter pack in one fell swoop, someone would start asking questions.

But what other choice did she have? They were blocking her way forward, and if she tried to turn and run, there was no doubt they'd give chase.

Making a quick decision, Romi stood from her hiding spot and slowly showed her face. At first glance, she almost changed her mind. Hell, at this point, she wanted to turn and run the other way. There weren't just one or two men standing in front of her. There were five, at least the ones she could see. They were all massively built, and none looked happy to see her.

That wasn't her problem. She hadn't been bothering them, so Romi wasn't sure why they were bothering her. They could have kept on going about their business, but no, they had to get all up in her grill.

"Listen. I don't want any trouble." Romi lifted her hands to show that she wasn't carrying a weapon. Then again, if they were shifters and could tell who and what she really was, they also knew empty hands didn't mean shit if things popped off.

Another one spoke up. "Why are you on our land? Do you know where the hell you are?"

Romi shrugged. Where she was, or whose land she was on, didn't matter to her in the end. "No, but I don't care. I'm only passing through on my way to someplace else. No need for all the theatrics and drama." She motioned with one hand

towards the shifters, all of whom were naked. “You can just let me go on my way, and we can forget this whole thing ever happened.”

One of them stepped forward. “Not gonna happen. Based on pack law, you cannot pass through our lands without permission from the Alpha Supreme. Come with us, and there won’t be any trouble.”

Alpha Supreme? She was tempted to ask but decided to let it go since she wouldn’t be here long enough to find out.

Romi shifted her body, placing one hand on a curvy hip. “Are you out of your mind? I don’t know you. You think I’m really going to just walk off with five naked, big ass men into the woods?” She shook her head at the stupidity of that request. “Nope. Not happening, Giant McShifty. Just point me toward the closest exit from your land, and that’s where I’ll be heading.”

“She thinks we’re good looking,” a younger looking shifter said with a smile.

“Who the fuck is Giant McShifty?” the one who’d made the demand called out.

Romi rolled her eyes at the younger one’s comment. A smile tried to break free, but she kept her expression neutral. Men. Clueless. Clearly, none of them had an ounce of humor.

One of the others jabbed him in the ribs. “Stop being stupid. Either way, it doesn’t matter. We have rules.” He turned back to Romi. “Listen, we know you’re *something*, we just don’t know what. If you want to make sure you have safe

passage on our lands, I suggest you come to the compound. Maybe we can help.”

Romi got annoyed at the offer. She didn't need their damn help. This conversation was over. It hadn't been her intent to intrude on their land, but they were wasting her time with idle chit-chat. “Listen, guys. I understand rules, but I'm not in the mood to play your games right now. I have somewhere to be. Either let me pass, or I'll force my way through. Your choice.”

This isn't the first time a man, or shifter, had disregarded her because she was a woman. Add to that, she wasn't very intimidating from the outside looking in. For a woman, standing 5'8” was above average, but when surrounded by men who could tower her, she couldn't blame them for not being afraid.

That was their mistake.

Their shifter instincts should have told them differently. If they landed on their ass, embarrassed, with a few broken bones, it would be their own fault.

They'd wasted enough of her time. Romi's right foot came forward with the heel tilted up. Romi didn't want to make any sudden movements that would cause them to feel she was a threat. Of course, she absolutely was, but they didn't really know the full extent of who she was or what she was capable of. With just the slightest effort, she could rain hellfire down on their heads, but she didn't want them to have any time to respond.

“Let me pass,” She warned as her voice had deepened. The sound echoed all around them as the wind shifted and

moved the leaves on the trees. From the look on their faces, they finally realized something was happening. Their eyes began glowing as long claws extended from their hands and hair sprouted from their skin.

“Witch!”

“Demon!”

“What the fuck are you?”

“Call for the Alpha.”

Romi could understand their fear. When she first realized what happened to her all those years ago, she couldn't believe it either, even though she had seen with her own eyes that men could literally turn into large wolves. Why would them seeing her change for the first time be any different?

Still, she wasn't a wolf. She was so much more than that.

Yes, Romi hated to use her power this way, but what other choice did she have? They weren't letting her through so she could continue on her way. If she showed her full power to them, Romi was positive they would try to keep her there. There was no way she could allow that to happen.

“I didn't want any trouble. I just wanted to be on my way,” she said out loud, trying to get them to back off.

One of the big, hairy ass motherfuckers laughed. The sound was rough and raw from his transformed throat. “That's not how it looks to us. Tell us what you are.”

Fuck them. They didn't make demands of her. “No.”

Truthfully, if she was forced to explain what she was, she wasn't sure where to even start. All she understood about the changes she'd gone through was that her powers were unlike any other. The military scientists had been trying to give her added speed and greater strength, knowing she would fight alongside otherworldly beings. Somewhere along the line, their experiments sped up her regenerative abilities; she could heal faster and last longer in battle against their enemies. That's what they wanted for her. That's what Romi agreed to.

The military would have preferred to keep her in, but she wanted out. Romi knew if she stayed, they'd send her on more dangerous missions despite not knowing if anything could actually hurt her. They took her through so many tests. Poked and prodded her with needles daily. Hell, they even put her in a windowless room against some men from another unit who could shift into large animals.

She tried to never think about what happened in that room.

Yes, she was trained to kill, protect, and fight for her country, but she wasn't invincible, and what they expected her to do to those other soldiers made her sick to her stomach. Just thinking about what happened in that room that day, by her own hands, made her hate herself all over again.

She could still see their faces, the fear in their eyes as their blood seeped onto the floor. Those men had been on the brink of death because of Romi's actions that day, but the military doctors managed to save their lives. No matter how well they healed, she knew they'd never be the same.

Romi had done that to them. All because of her fear.

In that room, she'd been afraid for her life. Her abilities and power had turned on like a switch. Things happened that day that she still didn't understand, and she wasn't sure if she ever would. Knowing what she was capable of was the only good that came out of the experience.

She never told them she had held herself back that day. In that room, she felt the power pulsing under her skin as if her body were overheating. It filled her head with blood-red images, carnage, destruction, and death. It took everything she had not to kill every single person. In her head, she could see them screaming in terror as they realized what was happening to them. Their eyes filled with fear and confusion. Their screams of agony cutting off as they died where they stood.

That's when she made the decision to leave. Romi saw the writing on the wall and refused to be used as anyone's weapon of mass destruction.

But she can't say all of that right now. She needed these fuckers to be afraid of her because she wanted them to get out of her fucking way.

"I guess we'll have to do this the hard way," the one in front huffed.

A smile lifted Romi's lips. She felt that familiar surge in her body. She hadn't had a good fight in a long time, and she was itching to have some fun. Yes, this would delay her a bit longer, but since the doggies wanted to play, she would accommodate them.

She instinctively shifted her feet, stretched her muscles and got into a fighting stance. "Fuck you. Come any closer and I'll separate your ugly head from your body."

Now those words, she meant with everything inside her. Blood rushed through her veins, her eyes clouded over, and the wind started blowing her hair back.

This is a feeling she hadn't let loose in a while, and it felt damn good. Romi made note of the five beings standing before her as she lifted her arms out to the side and spoke, "Let's dance, motherfuckers."

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Four

The scent hit Tobias as he was walking to meet with his father, who was also the current Alpha Supreme, his mother, and their mate, Brayden. As soon as the scent hit his nostrils, it stopped him in his tracks.

Mango.

The sweet smell was all around him, but that was impossible. Tobias noticed everyone else going about their business. No one else seemed to be affected by the amazing smell wafting around him. The scent was taking over his senses. He could almost taste it on his tongue. There was a need increasing inside him. Something, or someone, was calling to him. Beckoning him.

The wolf inside him clawed at his skin. He wanted out.

His eyes began staring at every face around him. His nose tracked the scent, trying to understand where it was coming from. Tobias began walking in the direction where it was the strongest.

Then, without thinking, he started running. In his human form, he could only go so fast and the need bubbling up inside forced him to change. Long claws grew from his fingers as he shifted into his other form. The clothes covering his body ripped at the seams, becoming too small for him in his Biped form. Nothing could stop him. There was only one thing he needed right now.

Mate.

The voice was clear in his head. No matter how much he wanted to deny the feeling coursing through his mind and body, the scent calling to him said otherwise. The heat coursing through his body sent an obvious message that his time had come.

Tobias did not know what he was running into or who he was running toward, but it didn't matter. His mate had finally arrived. The Goddess was making her demand of him clear. The time had come for him to take over from his father and become Alpha Supreme. Which also meant... it was time for Nathan to return home.

Fuck. Tobias couldn't think about that right now. If he knew nothing else, he knew with Nathan's arrival, there would be another fight.

He shook his head to clear those negative thoughts and kept running, focused only on getting to his mate. The closer Tobias got to his destination, the more he smelled other shifters. Wolves. Pack.

What the fuck?

He ran faster. Confusion and need ripped through him. Tobias couldn't help but question why his pack would be surrounding his mate. Unless...

No. He wasn't going there. He just needed to go faster. If his mate was in danger, Tobias knew he would rip out the throat of anyone who threatened her. Pack or not. The mate of the Alpha Supreme was to be protected at all costs.

Mate. His wolf growled the word again—louder this time.

As Tobias came upon the scene, he leaped in the air, his body twisting and flipping as it shifted back to his human form.

He Landed directly between the brown-skinned woman and one of the pack guards. The woman, unfazed by his entrance, stood in front of his pack with a smile on her face. But there was something else. It was like she was looking through him. Her gaze focused on the members of the security team, but even with the oddness of the standoff they were in, Tobias could do nothing but stare at her.

Beautiful. It was the only word he could use to describe her, and he knew she would be his soon enough.

Mate, his wolf, growled again, the voice clear and strong. Almost as if he were taunting Tobias.'

The scent of mango was all over the woman. Tobias' mouth salivated as his cock hardened. Finally, his presence caught her attention, and her gaze slowly left his men as she turned to him. She glanced down at his naked form, her eyes resting on his thickening length for an extra moment before she continued her perusal. Tobias heard the hitch in her voice as she looked at him, but he knew at once that something was off.

She wasn't a wolf.

She was... something else.

He did not know who she was, but it didn't matter. Tobias was determined to make her his because his wolf knew

her as his mate. That was all he needed to stake his claim.

“Who the fuck are you?” She snapped at him, her hands curling into fists by her side.

Her voice was husky, smooth like the whiskey he pretended to like. Tobias still had no fucking clue why human men drank that shit, but if it tasted anything like her voice sounded, he'd be willing to drink a gallon every day. Shifter metabolism wouldn't allow them to get drunk, but they usually drank for show. It was expected of them in the human world. The woman's voice reminded Tobias of the smoky taste of the liquor. Smooth. Dark. Rough. He wanted to hear her speak some more.

Tobias sniffed the air for the familiar scent of sweet mango. There was also a scent of ash, which meant she was angry. What he didn't smell was fear. The smile that came over his face couldn't be helped.

Six large, naked men surrounding her in the woods. Yet, this woman stood here challenging them all, as if she didn't have a care in the world.

He glanced over his shoulder at the security team and gave a slight shake of his head before turning back to the gorgeous woman. Finally deciding to answer her question, he smiled. “The better question is, why are you on our lands?”

She rolled her eyes before gesturing to the team of men standing behind him. “As I was telling Thing 1 and Thing 2, I never meant to intrude on your land. I'm making my way somewhere else. I'm looking for someone, and this was the easiest way to get there.” She sighed before looking back at

Tobias, her brown eyes staring at him as if he were the interloper, not her.

“Why don’t you put that away before you put someone’s eye out,” she motioned to the flesh hanging between his legs, “and let me be on my way.”

Yeah, that shit was not happening. Tobias knew she was meant to be exactly where she was. With him.

Yes, he and his men probably looked like hillbilly psychos running around naked in the woods, but they were so much more than that. Although Tobias wasn’t sure who she was, he wasn’t overly worried about that. What he knew was that she belonged to him. Whether she liked it or not.

“Alph-I mean Tobias,” one of his men spoke up, “we should head back to the compound. I think it may be best that we get out of these woods. I mean, I’m all about being natural, but I still don’t want to be here with my ass hanging out.”

There was nothing Tobias could do but shake his head at his pack mate’s antics. He knew Juno was fucking with him and busting his balls, which were still hanging free. Leave it to that jackass to say something that would break the tension in the air. Although Tobias would be the next Alpha Supreme since he was the oldest male child of the current ruling family, they’d grown up together all their lives. Juno had been by his side, and Nathan’s, from the time he could walk.

At that moment, Tobias felt a stirring in his mind. A whisper of something, or someone, trying to connect. He knew exactly who it was and rejected the link. He was still angry at Nathan for leaving, and the rage still festered inside him. Since

Tobias knew the woman standing before him was his mate, then Nathan damn well knew it too.

Turning back to the conversation at hand, Tobias turned to look at Juno and gave him the finger. “Fuck you, Juno. Plus, we’ve all seen your ass more times than we wanted to over the years. Now, I suggest you all back away so that my... the lady doesn’t have to see you all standing here naked.” He left the other words unsaid, but his men understood the meaning. The glow in his eyes left no doubt.

Yes, he was still standing in front of her, naked as the day he was born, but it was different for him. She was his mate, and he could do what he damn well pleased. She was the only woman who would see him like this from this point forward, which was just fine with him.

Fuck... just as that thought entered his mind, he couldn’t help but think about the other requirement. For a moment, he had forgotten about the extra factor in this whole damn situation. Finding his mate was a two-part process, and if Tobias was honest with himself, he wasn’t looking forward to the missing piece.

As soon as his wolf recognized her scent, he knew Nathan felt it as well. Even if Tobias wanted to do something different, have a different life, it wasn’t how he was made. To take his rightful place, he would have no choice. Yes, she would be the only woman to see him like this, but as fate would have it, he would not be the only man to see her naked. To become Alpha Supreme, not only does he need a female mate to bear his children, but they would need to take a third.

Their fated mate is the one who would complete their bond and form the Alpha Triad.

Tobias took a moment to take her in as they stared at each other. If she were here, that meant the last piece of the puzzle would need to be put in place. Not right now, though. Nathan would show up soon enough, and then they'd have it out once and for all before taking their rightful places.

Fulfilling his destiny wasn't something he'd ever been concerned about. His father was still in charge of the pack, and there was no urgency to push things beyond the point of what was comfortable for everyone.

But she was here now, and she was standing in front of him without a fucking care in the world. His Mate. Which meant the Goddess was tired of waiting for Tobias and Nathan to get their shit together and had intervened.

"Listen, dude," his mate started speaking, "I don't need to see anyone's hang down. Even yours. No matter how pretty it is."

Tobias couldn't help the smile that spread over his face. "Oh, so you think he's pretty? Well, trust me when I say that I'm sure he wants to get better acquainted with you, too." Tobias could hear the laughter from his men. His wolf returned a growl in a tone that only his pack could hear, which quickly silenced them.

She rolled her eyes at him. "Stop all that damn growling," he heard her grumble under her breath.

Tobias froze in shock and surprise at her words. His men stilled as well, going on alert. How the fuck had she heard

him?

“Excuse me? What did you say?” There was no way in hell she should have been able to hear that, especially if she wasn’t a wolf or a shifter.

She shook her head before reaching down for the rucksack at her feet and lifting it over her shoulder. “I said stop all that damn growling,” she repeated in a louder voice. “You don’t have to threaten your men on my behalf. As I said, I’m just making my way through to find some family. If you want to make sure I leave your land, the best thing you can do is get out of my way... Wolf.”

Silence greeted her words.

“Are you a witch?” His tone was sharp, but he was shocked at what was happening.

She shook her head, “No.”

Tobias stepped closer. “What are you?”

“None of your business,” she said to him, her lip curled in anger.

He could choose to be offended, but what was the use? He was having too much fun. “Why do you call me wolf?”

“Because that’s what you are. Now, I need to get going. Um... thank you for not attacking me, especially when I trespassed without knowledge.”

“Yeah, well, you seemed like you were ready to come at us just a few minutes ago. What was up with that anyway?” Juno asked.

Tobias glanced back at the younger wolf with a raised eyebrow. “Explain,” he growled.

Instead of Juno answering, the woman spoke up instead. “A woman has a right to defend herself.”

“Did one of my men touch you?” Tobias demanded to know, and his wolf was right there with him, ready to come out and teach these young pups a lesson. If one of them laid a hand on her, there would be hell to pay.

She shook her head. “Hell no. They wouldn’t still be standing there if they had.” She glanced around before dropping her gaze down to the watch on her wrist. “Now that we’ve gotten that out of the way, why don’t you... gentlemen, let me be on my way?”

Tobias didn’t move one damn inch. She belonged with him, so there was no way in hell he was just going to let her walk away. “Hold on a second. If you know what I am...” he swept his hand toward his men, “...what we are, why are you not afraid?”

She stepped closer to him, and it almost broke his resolve. It took great restraint not to reach out and grab her close. Even with space between them, Tobias couldn’t help but inhale her beguiling scent. It was driving him mad and making his cock even harder.

“Maybe the question you should think about is why would I, a woman alone in the woods, carrying nothing more than this bag over my shoulder, be so comfortable surrounded by large, naked men who could turn into wolves?”

“What the fuck? Who are you?” Tobias could feel his wolf pacing. Even he was uncertain about their mate. Something wasn’t adding up.

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Five

Romi stared at him. Watching. Waiting. For what, he wasn't sure.

Finally, she answered. "I'm someone who's looking for my family," she said with a smile on her plush lips. "No more. No less. And you're stopping me from doing that."

Tobias knew he had to think of a way to keep her with him. "Let me help you. Let my pack help you."

She shook her head and tried to walk around him. "I don't think you can help me." As she walked away from him, he grabbed her wrist to stop her.

"My name is Tobias Murray of the Bloodmoon Pack. Let us help you find who you're looking for. If someone crossed our lands, we'd know. I can help you find your family."

The beautiful woman paused, looking down at the fingers wrapped around her wrist. She inhaled before looking up at him. "Let me go," she demanded.

"Not yet. Just tell me your name first."

After a few moments, she exhaled before speaking one word. "Romi." She wasn't willing to give him her last name just yet.

Releasing her wrist, Tobias positioned his body to block the view of his men. He crossed his arms over his chest, not

bothering to hide his naked form from her gaze. “Who exactly are you looking for, Romi? I know you don’t have a husband.”

“How do you know that?”

“Because I would smell him all over you, then I’d probably have to kill him.” She’d learn soon enough that he meant every single word.

Her eyes narrowed, and she shifted her feet. He could smell her essence and knew his words had turned her on. Good.

“A little sure of yourself, aren’t you?” Romi didn’t want to be attracted to this man, but something about him made her want to trust him. And since she wasn’t someone who trusted easily, she found it alarming.

“Because I know who I am, and soon enough, so will you,” he said, smiling.

Romi rolled her eyes at him, but it didn’t hold any animosity. “I’m still not sure I can trust you. I mean, how do I know what you say is true? I don’t know you. Plus, you seem a little crazy. And honestly, why don’t you people have on any clothes?” Her voice raised during the last bit, almost like a yell. He could tell their nakedness was agitating her and almost smiled at her response.

“We have clothes, but if you know anything about us, you also know that clothes are expendable.”

She laughed low under her breath. “Yeah, I know all about how that works.”

“I can help you find your family,” Tobias offered again.

There was a hint of sadness in her eyes as she responded to him. “And what if you can’t? Listen, I know you may want to help, but my family is the most important thing to me. Even standing here talking to you and your men feels like I’ve lost traction. I need to find them, and you’re hindering me. I cannot have that.”

She closed her eyes for a second, which surprised Tobias even more. She had no fear of them whatsoever. That’s not something he’d ever experienced before. When she opened her eyes, he released a sigh of relief—until she spoke.

“Listen, if you can’t help me, tell me now. If I go with you and waste even more time, I will kill you and everyone around you. I don’t give a fuck who you are or what you can turn into. I’ll kill you if you stop me from getting to my family.”

Her words froze Tobias in his tracks. Hell, even his wolf stopped pacing and tilted his head as if it were trying to figure out what to do. Of course, she didn’t know who Tobias was. He was very purposeful not to mention who he was to the pack. Then again, she was a smart woman. She must have noticed the others deferring to him. “You can’t just threaten to kill someone you just met.”

“Yes, I can. And I would. You have one day before I head back out on my own. Come through on your word, or I’ll slit your throat.” She stepped back and motioned with her arm. “Lead the way.”

For a moment, Tobias stood there in awe of her. Fuck yes. There was no doubt she was his mate. No one else in the world would dare speak to him this way, yet she did it with a

fucking smile. He had a good feeling about her and what they could do in the future.

Tobias couldn't wait to fuck her into submission. His mouth watered at the thought of having her underneath him, accepting his mate mark, and bearing his pups. Now all he had to do was help her find this elusive family of hers and convince her to never leave.

Tobias accepted her terms. "You know, it might surprise you at just how helpful I can be to you."

A small smile came over her face. "Men and their big... egos."

As they walked back to the compound, which was more like a hidden city, Tobias thought about how this would all go down. His mate wasn't a shifter, but she also wasn't human. The pack members who wanted to stick with the pack laws would have a fucking conniption.

Tobias always thought he would go along with what the others wanted for his life. Do what was expected of him as heir to his father's throne. Now he knew that the old way of thinking was bullshit. He didn't care if no one agreed with his decision, even though there was a slight chance that his mate might just be a witch. Then again, he was the future Alpha Supreme. Who was gonna check him? No fucking body, that's who.

They were making good time back to the town, so he sent one of the younger guards ahead to prepare. There was a gathering happening tonight, and his people wouldn't exactly be receptive to a strange woman hanging around. While he

took measures to keep his mate hidden, he figured he needed to talk with his best friend and trusted advisor, Odin Jakobson.

His mate was also a Black female who had a small son. Odin found them a few weeks ago and had been hiding them away from some men tracking them. While he didn't think Layla, Odin's mate, was the woman his mate was looking for, it was worth asking the question.

Romi, as far as he could tell, looked nothing like Layla. Still, Layla had said she was also looking for family. Could they be connected somehow? Only one way to find out. "Tell me more about who you're searching for."

She shook her head without looking at him. "How about we wait until we get back to your people? I don't want to repeat myself if you can't get me the help I need. I want the information relayed once, so there's no confusion and my words can have maximum impact. When we get to your place," she waved her hand in the direction they were walking, "I want to have all the people who might be able to help me together at once. No bullshit."

"Romi. Romi," Tobias tried to soften his tone but wasn't sure it worked. "You're making demands, and we haven't even gotten to where we're going. Why can't we have a conversation without all the demands and snap?"

She shook her head again. "Whatever, man. Again, I don't know you." She turned and looked him up and down. "And as soon as we get where we're going, I need you to put on some damn clothes. How about that?" She huffed at him, giving Tobias a look that told him exactly what she thought about him. It almost jolted him in his tracks. They always said

there was a thin line between love and hate, which meant he had some work to do to claim her as his own.

As she stormed off ahead of him, Tobias couldn't help but laugh. This woman was going to be the death of him, and he couldn't wait to see what happened next.

* * *

Nathan Baldwin was at his home in Pennsylvania when an overwhelming feeling came over him. He was in his backyard, fixing the fence, trying to keep his mind focused on anything other than this burning need to return home. When he left at twenty years old, he swore he would never return.

From the time he met the young Alpha heir, Tobias, their connection was undeniable. The elders called his parents to a meeting that very night with the Alpha Triad. Fate had decided he would be a bonded mate to the Alpha.

At the time, he was too young to understand what that meant. All he knew was that he had a new best friend. Nathan was never alone from that day forward. They moved his parents into a better house and had their every need taken care of. Nathan and Tobias had gone to school together, played sports together, trained together, and learned how to be leaders together.

It was only when Nathan began going through puberty that he realized he was no Beta, and that was what he needed to be as a third in an Alpha Triad. Fate had decided that he would be fully committed to Tobias, the future Alpha Supreme

and their Luna, the female Alpha Queen. There was no other choice for him. Yet, everyone expected that he would simply accept what was happening.

No matter how often he tried to deny who and what he was, everyone else viewed him as nothing more than an extension of Tobias. And that shit was not okay with him.

Nathan knew he was no one's Beta and figured the Goddess had made a mistake. Once he realized that, he resented the role fate had decided for him. Why would the Goddess force him to serve in that way? Fuck that. He was no bitch, and he sure as hell would not play second fiddle. He knew once the Triad bonded, he would never have a future of his own making.

His current pack Alpha, and his true mates made things work for them. Nathan saw how they interacted and knew the Goddess had designed them for each other. Their personalities meshed, and when Alpha Tomas and Luna Maria were ready to go to war, their third, Brayden, was always there to calm their heated tempers. Their love and care for each other was real. Brayden seemed happy in his role, never being put in front, never being the focus, always serving in the background. For him, that worked just fine.

But for Nathan, it would never work. When he was a child, he did not know what they expected of him. He didn't realize what being the third in the Alpha Triad meant for his future. As he got older, he knew it meant never being his own man. Never having a mate that belonged to only him—always having to share his life mate with Tobias.

How could the Goddess expect him to do this? Even his parents didn't understand. They tried to tell him how much of an honor it was to be chosen. That he and Tobias, and their mate, would rule the pack for years to come, and their children would carry on the legacy of the Bloodmoon Pack.

He understood all that, but that didn't mean he was going to roll over and just take it. He had a choice in his life. When he became an adult, he left his home, his pack, and fate behind.

He had a detailed plan to hideout in Pennsylvania, buying a little cabin in the woods, and living out his days as far away from the Virginia pack lands as he could. He was stupid enough to think that if he simply put distance between them, the Goddess would find someone else to complete the Triad. Tobias and his mate deserved a third who would be there for them the way they needed. That wasn't Nathan. At least, he didn't think it was.

That plan had worked for all these years, until about two weeks ago. His wolf grumbled and howled, showing its displeasure at their life and being away from the pack. That's when the whispers began, and the Goddess started speaking to him through his dreams, telling him it was time to go home. The time had come to accept his place. No matter how much he fought against her words, she pushed even harder.

He'd lost sleep, and his wolf was prowling in his head, uneasy with the situation. Something was coming. Things were about to change. He just didn't know what it was.

His gut clenched. His wolf stood up and howled, clawing to get out as the connection between him and Tobias

lit up like a Christmas Tree.

Mate.

The hammer dropped from his hand. Nathan's heart rate sped up. He heard the word in Tobias's voice, sharp with a hint of awe. It was so loud and clear that he could swear his packmate and future Alpha was standing next to him. No! This couldn't be happening. He thought he'd escaped. He thought being away had saved him from this fate.

"Goddess, no! Why are you doing this to me?" Anger filled him as he realized what was happening. Their mate had appeared. Tobias had found her and was calling him home.

His wolf was whining and clawing at his skin to be let free. Even as Nathan tried to deny the truth, his wolf had no such qualms. His wolf wanted to return to their mate. It would never give Nathan a moment of peace if they didn't return home. He weighed his options, knowing that a wolf who denied its fated mate was destined for madness.

Dropping his head in defeat, he took a deep breath before roaring his displeasure into the open space. His anguish reverberated through the trees as every forest creature ceased and listened to the cry. Whether you were human or a four-legged animal, there was no mistaking the sorrow in Nathan's voice.

He never wanted to return to his pack like this, but it seemed he had no choice. It was time to go home and meet his mate.

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Six

“Son, I hear we have a guest in the house.” The Bloodmoon Pack Alpha Supreme, who was also Tobias’s father, called out to him as he walked down the stairs of the family estate.

Tobias could have moved out of the main house into his own place on the compound, but chose not to. This place was enormous enough to hold over thirty people comfortably. The wing Tobias lived in was secluded and secure enough that he never had to worry about someone intruding in his space, so he stayed. Once his Triad bonded, he would need to decide about whether to stay in the main house until his parents retired or move into a temporary home for a short time. Decisions. Decisions.

“Father,” he greeted, tilting his neck slightly in greeting. Rubbing a hand down his face, Tobias briefly closed his eyes before looking at the man walking over to him. Even at his advanced age, his father looked to be in his prime. That’s one reason he didn’t know why his mate had been brought to him now. His father was still leading their pack with strength and power. It made no sense to him, but he also knew time would reveal its reasons. “Well, I don’t know if she’d consider herself a guest. But, if nothing else, she’s secure.”

For now, anyway. How long she’d stay where she was put was a very different question. When she kept asking about pulling the team together to help search for her family, he’d

lied to her. Something told him that he was going to regret that.

His father stared into his eyes. “That’s not what I asked. You know the drill, Tobias. You know how important it is that we stay safe.”

Nodding, he followed his father down the stairs and into the large family room. There was a ton of activity going on around the house as the staff prepared everything for the night. There were visitors coming, including Odin, Layla, and their son, Christopher. The Alpha Triad also had other distinguished guests coming, but they weren’t coming here for Tobias specifically, so he didn’t really give a shit.

All he wanted to do was spend more time getting to know Romi and understanding who she was looking for. Later tonight, he would pull Odin aside as soon as he and his family arrived to see what thoughts he may have.

“Tobias? Who is this woman you have brought into our home?” This was the third time his father asked. There wouldn’t be a fourth.

Tobias was quiet for a few moments as he tried to figure out how to answer his father’s question. Then again, his father already knew more than he was giving away. He wasn’t Alpha Supreme based on his good looks, and Tobias was his son. He could feel the heightened emotions running through his son’s body, even when he tried to hide them. Tobias took a deep breath as he watched his father—his Alpha—continue to look at the activity in front of them.

“My mate.”

Silence was the only response to his words, so he took a chance and looked over at his father. He had a smile on his face.

“Finally,” he said, patting Tobias on the back with a heavy hand. Father and son stood almost the exact height, with the Alpha being just one inch shorter than his son. As Tobias looked into his father’s eyes, he could see that he was happy to hear this news.

The Alpha Triad had been waiting for this day since he grew into adulthood. According to Tobias’s mother, they had been waiting far too long for him to give her some grandpups.

“Father, she doesn’t know. Not yet anyway. And no, I don’t want you, Mother, or Brayden doing anything that’s going to force my hand.”

Just his damn luck, Tobias’s mother and their Triad third, Brayden, would say something to Romi just to start some shit. Brayden was supposed to be the one meant to calm and balance out the two Alpha’s, but he was a shit-starter of the first order. They’d been a triad for so many years, they’d all taken on pieces of each other’s personalities. Brayden was as bad as the Alpha Supreme with his demands and don’t give a fuck attitude.

Tobias’s father threw a look in his direction. “Don’t be disrespectful. You know you’re just as much his son as you are mine. Plus, we’re getting old, Tobias. Your mother wants little ones of her own that she can dote on. And me and Brayden need a little damn peace. It would be nice to take a step back and just live our lives.”

Glancing over at him, Tobias really looked hard at his dad. Yes, he was still the strongest motherfucker he had ever known and would probably always be that way. There had been battles over the years, skirmishes really, because no one who went up against the Alpha Supreme could ever compare. The man standing in front of Tobias was still his hero, and always would be, but the longer he truly looked at him, the more he could see the strain of age around his eyes. There was even some gray in the hair at his temple.

Tobias took a different approach. “Dad, she’s my mate. But she’s not like us. I need you, mom, and Brayden to let me do this on my own schedule.”

After a moment, his father nodded. “Your mother’s going to be so happy, son. Now, just make sure you don’t fuck this up.” He laughed before walking away.

For any other man, Tobias would have a whole fucking problem with them talking to him like that. But this was his dad, and his Alpha. He was crazy, but he sure as fuck wasn’t stupid.

The phone in his pocket rang as he turned to go check on Romi. Looking down at the name that popped up on the screen, he sighed. Although Tobias knew it was coming, he still wasn’t prepared.

“Yeah, Tobias here,” he barked into the phone.

“Tobias. He’s on the move. Been agitated all morning until about two hours ago when he came back from working on the yard. Now he’s packing his bags in his truck. Looks like he’s headed somewhere.”

Of course, he was going somewhere. He was headed back to where he belonged. To his home. The place he'd left so many years ago. He was a runner.

When Nathan had packed his shit and left all those years ago, he swore he'd never come back, no matter what happened. Everyone had known it was a lie. Once their mate was discovered, both he and Nathan knew that Nathan would have no other choice.

"I know where he's headed," Tobias spoke into the phone.

There was a brief pause. "Should I follow him?"

"No need. He's headed back here. You can come on home."

Hanging up the phone, Tobias continued on his way to check-in on Romi.

Thinking about how she responded as they lead her into the large room she'd be staying in, Tobias was worried about how calm she'd been. Something about her response wasn't sitting right with him. There was no yelling or screaming or angry words, which made no sense considering how she behaved when they first met.

Making his way to her room, Tobias nodded to the pack members guarding the door. Removing the key from his pocket, he unlocked the door and walked inside.

Inside the room was a large, king-sized bed, a couch and love seat, a small table with two chairs, and a large television mounted on the wall. But what he didn't see was his mate.

“Romi? Where the fuck are you?” If she escaped, someone’s head was gonna roll.

“Where the fuck do you think I am?” he heard her voice call out from the open door of the ensuite bathroom.

Since he now knew she hadn’t left the compound, Tobias moved to the settee at the end of the bed and sat down, waiting for her to show her face.

Over five minutes later, he was still waiting for her to come out and face me. Leaning over, his elbows rested on top of his thighs, and he closed his eyes. Tobias needed to explain things to Romi before all hell broke loose. Not that he wouldn’t enjoy getting into it with her, because his mate turned him the fuck on every single time she challenged him. But now was not the time to fuck her senseless. Tobias knew he could take her right now, claim her as his own, and fill her with my pups. Then again, no claiming could happen until his asshole packmate and their third arrived.

“Why are you still here?” She walked into the room wearing only a pair of leggings and a tank top.

“Because I live here.” Tobias’s wolf was awake and paying attention. He wanted to show himself to their mate so he could see her response to his form. They were behind closed doors with a bed, a couch, and walls, and no one would see what happened.

She stopped in front of Tobias and leaned against the wall in front of him. “So, care to explain why I’m stuck behind a locked door? Because this shit right here was not part of the deal. I agreed to come back here because you promised to help

me find my family. This,” she eyed the room and twirled one finger around in a circle, “was not part of the agreement.”

Eyeing her lean, but deliciously curvy body, Tobias couldn't help but lick his lips in desire and want. “Come on now, Romi. How smart would it be for us to allow you to roam around our cozy town without knowing who you really are?”

“Hmph. Whatever. Just to be clear, you're still on a clock. You're down to,” she paused, looking down at the watch on her wrist, “twenty-two hours to help me find my family.” Leaning up from the wall, she took one step toward him. “It would be wise of you not to underestimate me. If you don't help me or you brought me here under false pretenses, I will not allow you or this town or the people inside of it to go unscathed.”

This woman was something else. “Why are you so violent?”

“Why are you fucking with me?” She snapped. “And who the hell are you? You people have me in this fancy ass house, all locked up nice and tight, but here you come waltzing inside as comfy as you please.”

“Does it matter who I am?”

Stepping to the side, she walked around the room, touching different pieces of furniture. Something so innocuous, but his dick still hardened in his pants as he watched her.

“It might,” she paused, looking at him over her shoulder. “You made me a promise, Tobias. I'm not expecting more than

what we agreed to. I gave you twenty-four hours, and that's what you'll get, but only that."

Standing, Tobias walked over to her, placing his body within inches of hers. "How do you know what I am?" She was smaller than him in every way, but her hard gaze was unwavering.

"I could smell you, and your lackeys, from a mile away."

Lifting one hand, Tobias trailed a finger down one cheek. The intake of her breath and the quickening of her heartbeat told him exactly what he wanted to know. She may not realize she was his true mate, but she wasn't immune to him. She felt something, even if she couldn't describe what it was.

Tobias couldn't resist asking one more time. "What are you?"

A smirk came over her lips and she stepped back from him, breaking the connection. "I'm a fucking Goddess."

"Yes, sweetheart. You sure as fuck are."

"Now, since you've placed me in this cushy ass prison, why don't you have someone bring me some food? And while you're at it, pull your men together so we can get this show on the road. The clock's ticking and I'm not a very patient woman."

Even if he hadn't told her who he was, she had to realize the power within him. Tobias couldn't wait to tame her and claim her as his. *As theirs*. "This whole bossing me around shit is getting really old," he snapped at her. The need to wrap his

hand around her throat as she screamed his name washed over him.

Laughter burst from her lips, and to be honest, it turned him the fuck on. Just a bit longer until their time would come.

She glanced at him with a smile still hovering on her lips. “Well, when you keep your word, then I’ll stop demanding you do what the fuck you said.”

“Keep on talking shit, Romi.” Tobias couldn’t help but get riled up. It was all her doing with that sassy tone and smart-ass comebacks. Everything about her was sexy and whatever she was, it caused her to have a soft, radiant glow. When they were outside, Tobias hadn’t noticed it, but here inside the room, with the muted sunlight coming through the windows, it was so clear. “Fuck, baby. Do you know who you are to me? Can you tell what you do to me?”

She stared at him for a moment before slowly shaking her head. “Should I care who I am to you?”

“Yes. Yes, the fuck you should.” If only she knew what her presence here meant to him, and to his pack, she’d understand the control he was exerting right now.

A knock sounded on the door, interrupting the moment.

“I think you’re being summoned,” she said with a head nod toward the door.

If only he could ignore whoever was waiting for him on the other side. Tobias knew whatever they were coming to him about wasn’t something he wanted to deal with right now. “I don’t care.”

All he cared about was getting to know Romi. Tasting her lips. Showing her his wolf. Then again, it was too early for that. Once the time came for him to reveal himself to her, she would be ready to accept her role in his life and her future role within the pack.

As he watched her raise her hands and place them on his chest, Tobias couldn't help but feel the frisson of electricity shoot through his body. She jumped at the contact, which meant she felt it too. Placing her arms back down, she tilted her head towards the door again. "Yeah, this is no good. You need to go."

"I'll be back."

She nodded. "I'm sure you will."

"I'm locking the door when I leave. We can't have you roaming around, especially when you won't share what you are."

"Lock the door all you want. I've already said that I'll stay here for the agreed upon time. I'm good for now, but I'm hungry."

"I'll have some food brought up for you," he tossed over his shoulder as he walked to the door.

"I'll be here waiting."

"You will." Exiting the room, Tobias locked the door before he made his way downstairs. His mother, the pack Luna, was waiting for him at the bottom of the stairs.

"Is it true? Have you found your true mate? Tell me now, or I'll go in that room myself," she demanded in a tone

befitting the Alpha Bitch of the largest, most powerful pack east of the Mississippi.

Save him from bossy women who hated to stay within the boundaries set for them. Then again, Romi and his mother had more in common than they thought. If they weren't careful, the two women would probably get together and take over.

He put his hand up in front of her. "Stop, Mother. Don't you do anything but stay down here. Actually, where's Dad? I'm sure Brayden is around here somewhere looking for you. Don't you have some stuff to do to keep our people safe?" Tobias tried to keep walking around her, but no matter how much he tried to avoid this conversation, she was still fast on her feet. Plus, he would never forcefully move her out of the way. She was his mother, after all.

"Tobias Murray. You are my firstborn son, and I love you, but I will get my way. I know she's your mate. You and I both know what that means. Stop running from your future."

"I'm not doing this with you, Mom. I have to get ready for tonight as well. I still need to meet with the guards. We need to get ready for all the guests coming into the compound. There's still too much to do for me to stand here talking." If he could escape this impromptu interrogation, Tobias knew there would be at least a few hours of freedom. And no matter how much his mother liked to interfere, she would not enter his wing or any of the rooms on his side of the estate without permission.

"You can't avoid this conversation forever," she said, a look of glee in her eyes.

Hugging her around the shoulders, Tobias turned his mother around, back toward the main room. “I don’t plan to, but now is not the time. Someone is missing and you know better than anyone how important that is. I promise, I will tell you everything you need to know when it’s time.”

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Seven

Romi fumed as she sat in the spacious, decked out room they'd locked her in. She should have known they'd try some bullshit to keep her here with them. The leader, Tobias, never intended to help her find Layla and Christopher. Sighing deeply, she focused on her surroundings. When they brought her into the large house, she noticed there were guards all around the house, looking all intimidating and shit.

Walking into an enormous pack of wolf-shifters was not something she had on her Bingo card for the day. Glancing down at her watch, she noticed the time. Grunting in frustration, she paced the room, trying to not let her emotions overcome her. She was scared for her friend and wanted to get this party on the road. That she was being held up for reasons she didn't understand had her feeling some type of way.

Then there was Tobias. Whoever the fuck he was.

When he'd shown up in the woods, along with his men, the breath left her lungs. Not only was he fine as hell with a big ass... ego, but when she looked into his eyes, it was difficult for her to look away. It took everything inside of her not to walk over and climb on top of him right in front of his men. Pack. Whatever the hell they were.

Romi didn't like the feeling of being trapped. When she felt the walls closing in on her, it made her skin itch with the need to escape. To run away as fast as she could. Memories from her childhood would try to break free in her mind.

Growing up in foster care had never been ideal, and most people were only out for themselves. The money. The cruelty. The power. She was who she was because of the experiences she had living in those houses.

Only her friendship with Layla saved her. Stopped her from completely going down the road of self-hate and destruction. They become best friends and ultimately sisters by choice. That she was stuck here in this gilded cage, when she should be out there searching for her family, was pissing her off.

Looking at her watch again, she grimaced when she saw that only fifteen minutes had passed.

“This will never work,” she said aloud. Walking over to the door, she placed her hand on the knob to exit the room. It was funny that he thought he could keep her locked behind a flimsy door. Little did he know, she could have exited this room any time she wanted. Romi was only staying here within these four walls because she allowed it to happen.

Sighing, she released the doorknob and went back to pacing. Although she'd given Tobias twenty-four hours, Romi still felt it was taking too long. A whole lot of shit could happen in that time. What if they were being hurt? What if they were dead?

Briefly closing her eyes, Romi tried to rid herself of that thought. If Layla or Christopher had been harmed, she would feel it. Because even though they weren't connected by blood, they were the closest thing to a family she had.

Having an entire pack of strong ass shifters could help in her search. They had super strong scent receptors. If she

needed to hunt down the motherfuckers who dared put fear in her friend, then she was probably in the best spot.

Romi took a deep breath and told herself not to panic just yet. She had to give Tobias the time she'd promised.

But, if he failed to do what he said, then she would have no qualms with showing him exactly who and what she was.

Determined to calm her need to fuck some shit up, Romi sat in one of the large wing-backed chairs near the small table in the room. If she wasn't so agitated, she could appreciate the space she was in. The king-sized bed, the large ensuite bathroom, the view of the forest from the large window, and the beautiful mahogany furniture. It was the perfect room.

Even when growing up, she didn't like the pink and purple girl colors so many people tried to force on her. Wearing a skirt or dress was only done under duress. And she'd rather work on an engine than play barbie dolls. Other kids thought she was weird, but it didn't matter. Romi had always played by her own rules. If other people didn't understand it, that was their problem, not hers.

Taking a deep breath, she leaned her head back and closed her eyes. Might as well get some rest while she waited for Tobias to come through. Plus, if he didn't follow-through on his word, by this time tomorrow, the entire town would be razed to the ground.

That evening, guests were arriving. As family and friends descended on the town, Tobias felt uneasy. He didn't know why he was feeling this way, but he knew something

was about to happen. Glancing around at his family and some of the others arriving, he tried to see if there was anyone or anything that caught his eye. Was anyone out of place? Did anyone look as if there were up to no good?

Because his parents were the Alpha Triad, he had to always be on point when it came to their safety. Yes, he was the heir, and his job was to survive to take over for his father. Yes, there were guards all around the family. His parents would say it was their job to protect him, but Tobias felt the very opposite. He was the first line of defense, and nothing would try to harm his parents without going through him first.

“Tobias, why the look on your face?” His second father, Brayden, approached him as Tobias stared at the people.

“Father,” he greeted. Tobias looked around the room, staring into everyone’s faces. “I have a feeling.”

Stopping next to him, Brayden looked around the room as well, eyeing the guest arriving. “Do you think someone is trying to harm your parents?”

Glancing at the older man, Tobias shook his head. “No one will harm any of my parents. All three of them.” Sometimes, he had to make it clear to Brayden that even if he was not his biological son, without Brayden, he would not be here. Tomas and Maria would not have been able to come together and create Tobias without Brayden being their third. Brayden would never have a biological child of his own, at least not with his true mate. The Goddess had deemed that only the Alpha could produce a child with the Luna. Their Beta, or third, was the conduit to making that happen. Tobias

knew and accepted that he had two fathers, even if one of them had no blood ties to him.

Brayden looked at him with eyes filled with emotion. “Thank you for the reminder. Sometimes my words are spoken without thought.” The two men stood in silence for a few moments as they both let the words sink in.

Tobias was the first to speak. He was positive that all three of his parents were aware of the woman locked away in his wing of the house. That’s why Brayden had come to him. “He’s on his way here.”

“Yes, I know.”

“When he left all those years ago, I didn’t care if he ever returned.”

“Why?”

Trying to control his emotions, Tobias focused his eyes on a group of people talking to the Alpha Supreme and Luna. “No matter what we may have wanted for our lives, our paths were chosen for us by the Goddess. He had no right to reject her blessing for us. A part of me wishes he would never return. That way, I can have my mate to myself and not have to share her with someone who is not worthy.”

His sharp words seemed loud in the room, even though only he and Brayden could hear them. As soon as he finished speaking, Tobias looked into the eyes of the man who helped him raise him into the Alpha he was today, and he almost felt ashamed for his words.

“Brayden. Father. I am not commenting on your role with my mother and the Alpha. What you three have is

different.” Silence met his words as the surrounding air became uncomfortable and stifling.

“Walk with me,” Brayden said as he began walking away.

Tobias didn't want to leave, but he knew his father was not asking. No matter that Brayden wasn't Alpha, he was still his father. Catching the eyes of one of his personal guards, he nodded to show that he was stepping out. Cutting his eyes to his two parents across the room, he made sure the guard knew he was to stay and watch out for them. Only once he got a nod in response did he move to walk with Brayden.

After they left the main room, the two men stepped into the study used by all three parents. It held three large mahogany wood desks, situated with the Alpha's desk in the middle and the other two desks to the side, facing in, making a triangle shape. Whenever they needed to speak with him privately, this was the place they took him. Tobias closed the door behind him before leaning against the hard barrier, waiting for his father's next words.

Across the room, Brayden leaned against his desk. “When I realized I was to be our Alpha's third for his Triad, I wasn't happy. At the time I found out, I was older than you and Nathan. I was already in middle school and thought I was a normal teenage wolf. Then your father and I crossed paths at the market one day and that was the beginning of a whole new life for me.” Brayden paused as if lost in a memory before shaking his head and glancing over at Tobias. “As soon as he saw me, he knew. We hated each other on sight. It's one thing to be told you'll have to share your mate with another man. It's

something else altogether when you meet your second mate for the first time. Especially when neither of you were expecting it. That's when things get real. The fates don't let you escape, even if you want to."

"I never said I wanted to escape." Tobias couldn't help but respond to the unspoken accusation. "That was all him. Nathan."

Ignoring the jibe, Brayden continued. "Your dad made my life hell. We fought every single week from that day. I am not the Alpha of this pack, but I am a shifter, so each battle was bloody. A few times," he paused and sighed. "A few times I almost died. Our hate for each other was so strong, the elders considered breaking the bond between us. There was concern that your dad would never accept his Luna taking me as her second true mate. They feared he would one day kill me. I felt the same. Everything inside me wanted to leave my land, my pack. I was tired of fighting for my rightful place. I didn't ask to be part of the Triad, but I sure as hell wasn't going to let him kill me to get his way. So, every time we saw each other, one of us attacked the other."

Shock flowed through Tobias. He'd never heard this story before. From the time he was born, all anyone said about his parents was that they were blessed by the Goddess. Brayden was the only one who could stop the Alpha from losing his shit. Tomas relied on both his mate's counsel for ruling the pack. Their happiness was the only thing he'd experienced in his entire life. In the privacy of their home, his father treated Brayden as his equal. "I've never heard any of this."

“There was no reason for you to know. Not until now.”

Pushing from the door, Tobias stepped over to the window and looked out at the vast lands spread out against the backdrop of his family’s home. He couldn’t help but think about the days in his youth when he and Nathan had been best friends, exploring the lands together. It didn’t matter that Tobias would one day become Alpha Supreme. Everyone knew when the time came and they found their mate, Nathan would become the third person in the most powerful Alpha Triad in the United States. They had been friends.

Brayden spoke behind him. “Before Nathan left, he came to speak with me.”

Spinning around, Tobias stared in shock as Brayden kept speaking.

“He shared with me that he did not want the role the Goddess had placed him in. He wanted to live his own life on his own terms. He felt burdened that he would need to share his mate for the rest of his life. He was your friend, yes, but he wanted a different future for himself.”

Words left Tobias for a moment. Why couldn’t Nathan have shared this with him? No, he left instead. Like a coward. A moment of sadness filled him, then he... and his wolf... got pissed. “He doesn’t have a fucking choice!”

His father nodded. “Yes, he knew that as well.”

“Then what the fuck did he expect?”

“I think he hoped your mate would never show up.”

As the words came out, he knew they were true. “This cannot be true. Without a Triad, our pack is vulnerable. The

Triad protects us because of the bond through our Luna. Our Queen is the tie. Why would he wish that on us?"

"Son," Brayden started, "that, I do not know. What I know is that your mate has arrived. Which means, Nathan will have no choice but to come back. He cannot resist the pull of his mate. Does she know who you are? What she is to you?"

Tobias shook his head. "Not yet."

"You must tell her soon. There is too much riding on her acceptance of her role in our pack and as your mate, and Nathan's. Your mother is pack and knew the ways of our world from the time she was a young girl. The woman upstairs is human," when Tobias threw him a look, he smiled. "Well, she's not shifter."

"This is going to be a fucking mess," Tobias couldn't help but mutter.

"In the most glorious way. Now, let's get back out there and greet our guests. Your mother wants to go visit her friend Irene. Young Odin and his mate are bringing his cub to see her."

Just as they opened the door, they were greeted with guards running out of the house. "Prince Tobias," one guard came up to him. "She escaped."

Stopping in his tracks, he turned to the man. "Who escaped?"

"The woman. The men heard a crash in your room. When they breached the door, one of the windows was broken from the inside. The woman was gone."

"What the fuck? Don't just stand here. Go find her."

“Is she a danger, Son?”

He shook his head, wondering why she chose this moment to leave. She’d been here for hours without saying a peep. “I don’t think so.” Grabbing another guard who was about to leave the house. “Where are you going?”

“Our Queen is at the Jakobson home. We must retrieve her.”

“Fine. Go.” As he turned to his father, a thought flashed through his mind. “We need to get to the Jakobson house right now. I have a bad feeling about all this.”

Eight

Something woke Romi up from her nap. Sounds. People. Music. Then it hit her. Christopher.

From the time he was born, she was bonded to her godson. Whenever he was within fifty feet of her, she would feel his presence. If she tried to explain it, she couldn't. He was here. Close by.

Tobias had lied.

He knew where her family was and intentionally kept her from them. That he had the fucking gall to lock her away in this room when she could have been with her family caused her emotions to rise and her powers to manifest. How dare he? She wanted her family right fucking now and someone was going to give her some answers.

Romi's eyes turned white, and sparks began shooting from her fingers. If Layla or Christopher were hurt in any way, people were going to die. Closing her eyes for a moment, she focused on Christopher. Her godson was an incredibly special little boy. More than people would realize until it was too late. She had spoken with her old Commander about him, to try and understand what he was, and how he'd gotten that way.

There was no explanation. He told her that sometimes young children were born with extraordinary gifts. Based on what she'd told him about Christopher, he said he'd only heard of a handful of people who could do what her godson did. They could literally snatch the soul from a person's body.

They could see the essence of a person, to know if they were good or evil. If they wanted to, they could take on the characteristics of the person they killed. Some used their power for good, others for more selfish reasons.

She couldn't tell Layla what was going on with Christopher, because then she'd have to explain how she knew. And that would cause more questions that Romi wasn't prepared to answer.

As she stood in the middle of the room, her body glowing like an LED light, she focused on Christopher and then... there he was. He seemed surrounded by other people. But where was Layla? Could this mean they were in danger? Fuck waiting one more second for Tobias. Time for her to make a grand entrance. She knew there were guards at the front door, but her godson wasn't in that direction. She backed up to the furthest wall, clenched her fists, and ran toward the largest window. A few feet before she crashed into the glass, she placed her arms in front of her, palms up, white lightning flew from the tips of her fingers as she crashed through.

Once her body was clear of the house, she flipped in the air before landing on the hard ground with one knee and one hand touching the grass. Looking over her shoulder, she got up and ran in the direction her instincts told her to go. She was going to get her godson and his mother, and they were getting the hell out of here.

Coming up to a house, she saw cars in the driveway. What the fuck was this? Why was Christopher in a house filled with so many people. Her brain immediately went to the

worst-case scenario and her anger flared even more. Maybe someone had found out what Christopher was?

Entering the back door, she watched the comings and goings of the people in the house. She sniffed the air and could smell shifters, but also, human. Then she heard his voice. Tobias. He was here with Christopher. Wait? What? How could that be?

Fuck it. No more trying to figure this shit out. It was time to fuck some people up. Sneakily walking up behind Tobias and his bitch ass team, she smiled.

“Yo’, bitches. I told you about trying to keep me locked up. Cages are for dogs, and I’ve never barked in my damn life.”

Tobias turned to look at her, but instead of being annoyed, he looked proud. Everyone else in the room looked at her with wide, uncertain eyes. Then the most miraculous thing happened. Romi saw Layla standing across the room. Her friend jerked away from the man holding on to her, some tall ass, silver haired drink of cold milk. If Romi wasn’t about to kill everyone up in this motherfucker, she might have taken a moment to enjoy the view.

“Romi?”

A smile came over Romi’s face. “Layla! Merry Christmas, Bitch! Now, where’s my godson? We’re busting out of crazy town, so grab your Glock, get our little Prince, and let’s go.” Romi’s face was covered with dirt and grime, her hair was pulled back into a ponytail, and her clothes were ripped in certain areas.

“What did they do to you?” Layla asked, walking over to her.

“Nothing I can’t handle.” Romi saw Layla look over at Tobias and his guards. Not that they could do anything to stop her, but Layla didn’t yet know that. Plus, there was a bigger issue at hand. “Where’s Christopher?”

Layla turned to the man she’d jerked away from earlier. “Do something,” she snarled at him.

Layla almost couldn’t believe it when he shook his head. “Nope. Tobias has this under control.”

Romi smirked. “No, he doesn’t.”

Layla turned to the man and snapped at him. “Are you serious? Odin, I’ve told you how Romi feels about Christopher. Don’t let your family hurt my friend.”

The guy, Odin, looked at Romi and tilted his head as he stared at her. Yep, just like a dog, Romi thought with a smirk.

Odin then turned to look at Layla with a soft look on his face. “Sweetheart, I don’t think that’s going to be a problem. Just wait a moment. Trust me.”

Romi almost laughed at his words. She didn’t know any of these people, but if Layla wanted to trust the hottie, that was her choice.

Layla looked around before taking a step closer to Romi. As she went to move again, the air around her changed and she stopped cold. Growls could be heard from all angles and the hair on the back of Layla’s neck raised. Her heartrate sped up as she froze in place. Looking at her friend standing on the other side of the room, Layla just wanted to get closer to her.

Oh, fuck. What was happening? Layla knew this entire situation was about to go left.

Romi rolled her neck. “If one more of you motherfucker’s growls at me or Layla again, I’ll put a bullet in your forehead before your inside dog can come out to play. Now, I’m here for my sister and her son. It’s time for you to move out of my way before I level this house and everyone in it.”

When they didn’t move fast enough, Romi reached her limit. Her eyes turned pure white, the glow reflecting around the entire room. Her voice deepened and echoed as she spoke. “Get the fuck out of my way or I’ll drop you where you stand.”

“Mine. Mate,” another deep voice joined the growing hum of voices in the room. At the sound, Romi turned to see that the owner of the voice was none other than Tobias himself. His eyes were glowing as his chest rose and fell from the deep breaths he took.

“Fuck you, wolf. I’m not yours and I’m sure as hell not your mate. You kept my family from me. You promised you would help me find them. You lied. You hid my godson away from me. I told you what would happen if you fucked with me.”

“Romi. No! Please. Christopher is behind you,” Layla called out to her friend. Tears glistened in her eyes as she stared at the scene playing out in front of her. “Please, Romi, it’s okay. Don’t hurt them.”

Lifting one finger, Romi pointed at Tobias who stood staring at her. “You lied.”

“No!” He yelled back at her. “They were not here. I did not know they were your family. Layla and Christopher belong to Odin Jakobson, one of our pack members. They do not live here in the city.”

Romi looked at Layla who tilted her head to the side, looking at someone. When she turned in that direction, she saw Christopher cradled in the arms of an older woman. As soon as their eyes met, he held his arms out, a huge smile on his face.

“Auntie Sparkles!” he yelled out to her, scrambling to get down.

Emotion flowed through Romi like a tornado. Relief that Christopher and Layla were okay. Then she laughed when she realized that her godson had given away their secret. “Hey, little man.”

Layla’s voice was loud in the quiet room. “Oh shit. Christopher knew about you the entire time?” Layla accused with a furrowed brow. “How come no one tells me shit around here?”

In the span of a moment, Romi’s anger disappeared. Christopher was here. Her eyes went back to their normal color and her glow receded. The wind whipping around the room ceased and everyone gave a collective sigh of relief.

She walked over to the woman holding Christopher and pulled her godson from the woman’s arms. “Christopher. You’re okay.” Hugging him tightly, she felt the sting of tears in her eyes. When she looked up, she caught Layla’s eyes and still saw the shock of truth reflected. “I’m sorry I couldn’t tell you.”

As the seconds passed and Layla didn't move, all Romi's fears resurfaced. This was the main reason she hadn't told Layla about her powers. She had been afraid that Layla would reject her. They were the only genuine family she had, and not having them in her life would have killed her. As she stood there with her heart breaking, Layla seemed to have broken free from whatever state she was in and ran over to them.

Romi opened her arms and the three of them hugged tightly, as if it had been years rather than weeks since they had last seen each other. Tears flowing down their faces as Christopher looked around the room before his eyes landed on Odin's, who gave him a smile.

"Well, what do we have here? Clearly, I missed all the fun. Guess I made it home just in time for the party."

As the unfamiliar voice entered the discussion, Tobias growled loudly. Turning swiftly, he punched the new arrival in the face, who took the powerful hit with only a turn of his head.

"Get out," Tobias growled.

The man looked at him for a few seconds before leaning over to stare at Romi, Layla, and Christopher. Shaking his head, Nathan looked at Odin. "The woman and child belong to you. I can scent you all over them. Congratulations, Cousin."

Odin stared at him before nodding. "Cousin. It's good to see you. Finally ready to take your place?"

Turning to look at the two women and child again, Nathan shook his head. "I'm not sure if I'm ready for anything

right now.”

Odin’s eyes turned hard as he continued to shift his gaze between his cousin, the man who would become the Alpha Supreme, and the woman who was clearly here to change their lives. “Cousin, you cannot run from your fate.”

Eyeing him, Nathan smiled before glancing back at Layla and Christopher still in the arms of the woman he knew was his fated mate. “You did. Or are you taking over as Alpha Supreme of this pack?”

The entire pack knew that Odin could have challenged for pack leader and Alpha Supreme but chose not to. He’d purposely chosen to serve Tobias as one of his most trusted advisors and pack enforcer when needed.

When his parents questioned him about this, he admitted that he had no desire to be responsible for their entire pack. He felt Tobias, Maria, and Brayden had been good for the pack and led with strength and honor. Plus, since he was such good friends with Tobias, he knew the pack would be safe when his friend ascended to the throne. For Odin, that was enough.

Looking over at his cousin, Odin’s lips tilted in a slight smile before he shook his head. “No, I’m happy with what the Goddess has blessed me with. As for how? Well, I simply had the option to choose a different fate. The Goddess blessed me with a mate and a strong son, and I’m happy with that.”

“That’s all I’ve ever wanted. The option to choose differently.” Everyone knew the situation for Tobias and Nathan was different. Once a Triad was selected, there was no changing the future. Not unless one of them died.

Before Odin could respond, Tobias interjected, his anger on full display. “You don’t get that option, motherfucker. But since you’re so intent on rejecting your future, you and I both knew the only way out of this is by your death. Since your time away didn’t take you from this earth, then you know what’s needed of you. You’re here now and there’s no going back.” Walking up to him and getting in his face, Tobias growled. “But make no mistake, if you fuck this up, I will kill you myself.”

“Fuck you, Tobias.”

“Don’t make me kick your ass in front of our... family.” Nathan knew Tobias had changed the word from mate to family at the last moment.

“You can try,” Nathan said in return.

They stood nose to nose, fire shooting from their eyes and their wolves fighting to come out to answer the challenge. The two men were almost evenly matched in both height and physical body type. Tobias may have been the Alpha Prince, but Nathan was a strong wolf in his own right. If they fought now, there was no doubt damage would be done.

After a few more moments, Nathan spoke again. “Make no mistake about it, I’m only here because my wolf compelled me to come back. You and I both know, there was no other choice.” Nathan turned to look at Romi and a half-smile lifted his lips. “She’s beautiful,” he whispered.

“She’s mine,” Tobias growled.

When Nathan turned to look at him, his eyes glowed yellow. His voice deepened, the rawness coming through when

he spoke. “No. No. No. Brother, that’s the whole point of my return. She’s not yours. She’s ours.”

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Nine

Nathan lounged on the couch at the main house the next morning. Thinking back on all the trouble he'd gotten into within these walls brought a smile to his face. In his childhood, he had spent more time here than almost any place else. To him, this was his second home.

Knowing the hand fate dealt him, he had always known this day would come. Eventually, this place would be his full-time home. Even still, that didn't mean he had to accept it without a fight.

Then his thoughts turned back to the woman his wolf recognized as their mate as soon as he saw her. The glow of her skin, her soft, kissable lips, and her womanly hips were begging for him to claim her. In his mind, he could almost envision himself sinking inside her body, stroking her to completion as she moaned and writhed beneath him. She'd be riding his dick, taking him to heaven with her tight pulses around his cock.

She was made for him. And for Tobias.

Running did nothing but prolong the inevitable. He was right back here where everyone expected him to be.

"I'm surprised you came back so easily." Tobias walked into the room and spoiled the moment.

"Did I have a choice?" Everyone knew he didn't. Once their mate was recognized by Tobias's wolf, it was almost

instantaneous that Nathan's wolf would feel the connection. That's how it had been since they were young. Their wolves were inseparable, which made his running almost meaningless.

Tobias stared at him for a minute before shaking his head. "Why do you fight this so much? This is who we are. What we've always meant to be. We're the next Alpha Triad and we're going to rule this pack, just as my parents did." He walked over to the window and looked out at the moon in the sky. "The Goddess must have a sense of humor. She's given us a mate who is unlike anyone I've met before."

Nathan laughed under his breath. "Our mate is special."

Tobias joined in. "She's a damn menace. Did you hear her threaten to kill everyone, with our Luna in the room? How she and Layla can be friends is beyond me. Odin's mate seems sweet and docile. Somehow, I doubt she gives Odin this type of trouble."

"Do you really think a woman can be docile and sweet and have a mate like Odin? My cousin is not the nicest of people and that's on a good day. And what's up with his son, Christopher? There seems to be something about him, but I can't figure it out."

When Romi and Layla were holding Christopher and crying all over each other, the little boy had lifted his eyes to Nathan. The intensity of the stare was surprising. It was as if the young one could see inside of his soul. He wasn't sure if he was pleased with what he saw because Romi had pulled him in closer to place a kiss on his forehead.

"Now that is a long story. Just know that having Layla, Christopher, and now Romi in our family has changed things

for us. Christopher has a power that he was born with, but Odin can explain it better. They're staying over at his parents for the weekend, and we can talk with him tomorrow. Now that you're back, and she's arrived, I think we need to stick close to each other for the time being."

Nathan growled. "I don't need you to hover over me when I talk to my family."

A loud bang reverberated in the room as Tobias slammed his hand against the wall. "That's not what I'm saying, and you know it. We should know everything the other one knows. We must be knowledgeable about all things. Together. What helps our pack. What hurts our pack. No matter what, we are connected until we both leave this earth. Whether you want it to be that way or not. My family will be yours and your family will be mine. Plus, Romi feels so close to Layla, she calls her sister and Christopher is her godson. You know that means if something happens to Odin and Layla, Christopher will become ours. So quit the bullshit bellyaching and fucking deal with the new reality."

Although Nathan knew everything Tobias said was correct, it still didn't sit right with him. He was no fucking Beta and once he'd gotten old enough to understand that truth, this entire situation felt wrong. All his life, he'd been expected to play second fiddle to someone and that wasn't who he was. He wanted his own mate, but fate was not allowing him to choose.

"Am I interrupting?" Romi walked into the room like she owned the place. Her head was held high and a smirk covered her lips. She could feel the tension between the two

men. It hovered in the air like a thick cloud of smoke. She almost wanted to turn around and leave them to it but didn't want to behave like a coward. She needed answers and these two... men, were going to give them to her.

Tobias was the first one to respond. "No, you're not interrupting. Welcome to the conversation."

Taking a deep breath, Romi stepped closer into the room. "Listen, I know I threatened to kill everyone tonight, but that's just because I thought y'all had Christopher. Fear is a great motivator and when I thought he was in danger, all bets were off." Glancing from Tobias to the other man in the room, she felt her insides turn to mush at the look he gave her. His eyes were traversing her body as he bit his lip.

Tobias spoke up. "Now that you've found Layla and Christopher, are you happy?"

Nodding, she looked at him with a smirk. "I'm content. They were my mission and the only thing that mattered to me. They were the entire reason I was out here in the first place. Now that I've found them," she paused and briefly closed her eyes, "it seems they have been taken care of quite well. I spent some time speaking with Odin and know that their problem has been handled, so I'm good with that." Romi looked at him before tilting her head. "I have a question for you, Tobias."

"Yes."

"Did you know they were who I was looking for?"

Tobias shook his head. "No. I had my suspicions, but the two of you don't look alike. And, because the people who'd come searching for her before had to be neutralized, I didn't

want to introduce you to them in case your intention was to hurt them. They are family. Pack. I had to keep them safe, even if they were the ones you were looking for.”

Romi stepped further into the room. “Is that why I’m still staying here with you rather than with Layla and Christopher. Because you still think I may be a danger to them?”

Nathan and Tobias looked at each other. Each of them trying to send a message to the other. Nathan shook his head, telling Tobias to keep quiet. Too bad Tobias didn’t give a shit about what Nathan wanted.

“No. You’re here because this is where I want you to be.” If she were too far away from him, his wolf would become restless. They had not yet fully mated, but that didn’t mean his wolf would allow their mate to run around without them close by. “You may try to deny that you feel it, but when you look at me... and Nathan... you know this is where you belong.”

Her eyes flashed white, warning him that he was going too far. His words were too cryptic and as she glanced at the other man, she noted he simply sat there with a neutral look on his face. Not giving away anything related to his thoughts.

“Who are you?” She pointed at Nathan sitting on the couch.

“Nathan Baldwin,” he answered with a smirk and two fingers to his brow in a mock salute.

“Why did this one,” she tilted her head at Tobias, “punch you? He didn’t seem very happy to see you, but now here you

sit in this...”

“Mansion?” Nathan asked as he too looked around the house that had been his second home. “Yes, I know it seems ostentatious, but it’s a great place to raise your children. I think you’ll come to enjoy living here.”

“Why the fuck would I care about that? I’m not planning on living here. I’m going home as soon as I spend some time with Layla, Christopher, and Odin. He is my new brother-in-law after all.”

Nathan turned his head to look at Tobias. “Come on, man. Are you fucking kidding me? Really?”

“I haven’t had the time, so stop with the bullshit theatrics. You know what’s at stake and you weren’t around to finish the circle.” Tobias glared at Nathan.

Romi interjected. “Haven’t had time for what?”

“We don’t need to talk about that right now,” Tobias mumbled.

“There’s something important we need to tell you,” Nathan said at the same time.

Walking over to the bar, Romi poured herself a drink before turning around to lean up against the bar. Glass in hand, she eyed both men. “Let’s try this again. Why the fuck am I here instead of with my family? And what exactly do you need to tell me that’s important, but you don’t want to talk about?”

Tobias stalked over to her, stopping only when he was inches away. He didn’t want to introduce this now but with Nathan glaring at him from across the room, he knew they wouldn’t be able to hold off for long. What if she didn’t

understand and tried to run? It didn't matter, because wherever she ran to, he and Nathan would follow. Glancing at Nathan, sitting there with a smirk on his face, he wanted to punch him until it was gone.

"You may want to sit down for this," he tried to convince Romi.

"I'm good standing," she returned.

Tobias smiled, nodded, and began. "My family is very important to our people. My mother and father, they're two-thirds of the ruling body of our pack."

Confused, but interested, Romi continued to stare at him as she took another sip of her drink as her eyes traveled between Tobias and Nathan. "Two-thirds? So, who's the other person? What does that mean?"

Nathan interjected. "All in due time, beautiful Romi."

She rolled her eyes at Nathan. "Don't try to sweet talk me, Slick," she spat at him. Turning back to Tobias, she nodded. "Continue. I'm listening."

Tobias took a step closer to her. "My second father, Brayden, is the third member. He serves as Beta to my father and mother. Together, they form the Alpha Triad and are the rulers of the Bloodmoon Pack."

Romi was silent for a moment as his words sunk in. "So, that makes you the heir to the throne, so to speak."

"Yes, it does." He remained where he was, just inches away, but her scent was beginning to drive his wolf to the edge. She wasn't even trying to entice him but everything in him wanted to rub his body against hers. His mouth wanted to

lick and suck every inch of her beautiful brown skin. Inhaling deeply, he wanted to know what her essence would taste like on his tongue.

“Why do I feel like there’s more to this?” Something about this situation was rubbing her the wrong way. Tobias wasn’t telling her everything.

Now Nathan spoke up. “Because there is more. I need you to listen to him, Romi.”

Her eyes snapped to him. “Who the hell are you again?”

Nathan rose from the couch and walked over to where her and Tobias stood. Although the room was lit quite well, he was almost positive the glow in his eyes could be seen. “Who do you want me to be?”

She looked back and forth between the two of them before downing the rest of her drink in one swallow. “Looks like the two of you are playing some type of game and I’m not interested. I appreciate your hospitality, but if I’m going to be forced to stay here for the night, I think it’s time for me to head to bed.” She moved to walk around them, but Tobias shifted to block her exit.

“Sweetheart, why don’t you tell us who you are? Or should I say, *what* you are?”

“Tobias, you’ve asked me that already.” Romi wasn’t ready to explain herself just yet, but she could feel the pull toward both men. Just being around them made her feel different. For so long, she’d expected to live out her life alone. As the eccentric aunt to her beloved Christopher. But the way

both men were looking at her, and the way she felt in their presence, was making her nervous.

Tobias looked over her shoulder to see that Nathan had moved in a little closer. “And you didn’t answer my question then either. You already know what we are, and you didn’t even blink an eye. You’re surrounded by my entire pack, but you walk around here as if you’re having a day at the park. I want to know what you are, Romi.”

“Are you a threat to our pack?” Nathan whispered the question in her ear, his breath fanning over Romi’s skin as he spoke.

Romi jumped when she realized how close he was. Glancing over her shoulder, Romi came face-to-face with Nathan. His gaze captured hers as he waited on her response. It was something about these two men that caused her to become hyper aware. Although she’d only met Nathan a few minutes ago, he looked at her the same way Tobias did, as if he wanted to devour her. She picked up the sound of sniffing and knew it was Tobias inhaling.

Her stomach tightened and she could feel her channel slicken at the thought of being surrounded by these two sexy ass men.

Tobias stepped closer before lifting one hand to her face and trailing a finger down her cheek. “You smell delicious.”

“Good enough to eat,” Nathan added in a muffled voice.

Don’t get it twisted, Romi was a strong, independent black woman who didn’t need no man, but got-damn if their words didn’t loosen something inside of her. No one had ever

told her she smelled delicious. She moaned low before one word escaped her mouth. “Fuck.”

Tobias smirked. “Yes, very soon.”

Nathan laughed. “We can’t wait.”

Those two phrases said together seemed to stop time in its tracks. “What do you mean ‘we’ can’t wait. I mean, I’m into some kinky shit in the bedroom and have hella fun with it too, but y’all are confusing the hell outta me.”

To be clear, Romi would have no problem having both men in her bed, but an opportunity like that didn’t happen to girls like her. Her prickly nature and don’t give a fuck attitude tended to repel men, rather than draw them to her.

But she’d known these two men... wolves, for less than a full day and they both seemed determined to make her lose her damn mind and drop her panties.

“It means, you’re here for a reason, Romi Sutton. As the son of the Alpha Triad and the Alpha Prince of the Bloodmoon Pack, to take over from my parents, I must also find a mate for me and my... third.”

Nathan almost smiled when Tobias refused to say the word Beta.

“Having this special mate bond is the only way I can rule. With my true mate and our third.” As he waited for her to catch up, he looked at Nathan who seemed on the verge of snatching her up and fucking her where she stood. “As our mate, you would help us rule as the new Alpha Triad. You would be bonded to both of us, and we would each serve as your mates in every way.”

Romi kept looking between the two men. Mates. Alpha Triad. Bonded. “Wait. Are you telling me that you both want to fuck me?”

Nathan stepped closer, but still didn’t touch her. He knew if he did, he would lose all control. “Fucking would definitely be in the cards, but as our mate, we also would cherish you, love you unconditionally, and protect you with our lives.”

Disbelief shown in her eyes as she glanced at the two men, both of whom were eyeing her like a juicy steak they wanted to devour. “Damn. I knew following behind Layla would get me into some shit I wasn’t ready for.”

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Ten

Waking up the next morning, Romi lay in bed with her eyes on the ceiling. Last night was surprising, to say the least. After they announced that both of them wanted to fuck her, or mate with her, or whatever gibberish they said, she had to get the hell away from them.

Not that she wouldn't have let them do everything they wanted to her, but she wasn't there yet. There was too much to be sorted through and at this moment, she wasn't ready to give them what they were so blatantly asking for.

What they were saying was insane, right? Well, not the part about them being shifters. No, she'd gotten used to that over the years from her time in the military and even her own powers.

The part Romi was having a problem with was their complete belief that she was their mate. Both of them. Mate to not just one fine ass wolf, but two of them.

Was she really expected to become some Queen Bitch and rule by their side? That made no sense to her. But the way her body reacted to them, was giving her a different message. Then again, what if what they were saying was true? Could she really deal with having two men in her bed every night? As soon as the thought entered her head, she smiled. Oh yes, she most definitely could.

Romi couldn't help but wonder what it would feel like to have their hands roaming her body as they catered to her every

need. Her own hands trailed along her skin as she visualized both Tobias and Nathan hovering above her, placing kisses along her naked flesh. A moan released from her lips as she could practically feel the erotic sensations coursing through her. Spreading her legs, she allowed one hand to move down her bare stomach and hover just above her mound. Just as her fingers were about to dip into her channel, she heard footsteps outside her door.

“I’ll break down this fucking door if you keep it up, Romi. You’re scent is like the sweetest mango. You’re teasing us on purpose.” Nathan’s voice came through the door loud and clear.

“Damn it, Nathan. What the hell? Get the fuck away from my door.” Throwing her head back on her pillow, she huffed out a loud breath.

“Your scent is floating in the fucking air and making me hard as a rock. Do you not realize you’re in a house full of shifters?”

“Does she know we can smell her?” Tobias joined in the conversation outside her door.

“Yes, but does she fucking care that she’s driving us crazy?”

Romi had heard enough. “Both of you need to fucking leave.”

“We’re coming in,” Tobias said.

“Wait,” she yelled. Scrambling to jump out of bed and cover herself, Romi’s feet got caught in the sheet and she fell

on the floor. “Oomph. Ouch. Fuck.” As she stood, she heard Nathan speak again.

“What was that? Fuck it.” The crashing of the door was the next sound she heard. If she hadn’t seen it with her own eyes, she would have never believed it. There they stood, heaving chest and golden eyes, both staring at her naked body.

“I didn’t tell you to come in.” She grabbed a robe that had been left for her, wrapping her body in the soft material.

“What happened? Why did you fall on the floor?”

“Nothing’s wrong, Tobias. I just had a bit of trouble getting out of the bed.”

He looked over at Nathan and shrugged before glancing back at Romi. “We can make it so that you don’t need to leave your bed for the next few weeks. Just say the word.”

Smirking at them, she walked into the bathroom and did her business before washing her hands and brushing her teeth. When she walked out to see them still standing there, she stopped. “Why are you still here?”

“Waiting for you,” Tobias responded as he stood in front of the now fixed window that had been broken last night in in her escape attempt.

“Why?”

Nathan leaned up against the large fireplace along one wall. “Because we want to be here.”

Now she was getting frustrated. “But why do you want to be here with me?”

Romi had a feeling she knew what they were going to say, but still wanted to hear them say the words. Looking at the two men, she couldn't help but admire just how drop-dead sexy they both were. Being with the two of them would not be a hardship. If she gave herself permission to enjoy them both, she knew the experience would be life-altering. In more ways than one if what they said about her being their true mate was true.

Tobias turned to her, his lips tilting up in a smile. "We know what we said may be a lot to take in. I..." he glanced at Nathan before speaking again, "We... think it would be a good idea for the three of us to explore the city a bit more. Give you a chance to get to know us and let you ask as many questions as you want."

Glancing between the two of them, Romi was tempted to take them up on their offer. But if she went out with them, what else would they expect from her? "First, why do you think I'm your mate?"

"Because our wolves recognized you," Tobias said. "When I came upon you and my men in the forest, I'd already known who you were. My wolf recognized you and drew me to you."

Nathan interjected. "I was in Pennsylvania when my wolf woke up. There was no other choice but for me to come home."

Romi had no response to that. What was there to say? Nothing. These two strong, sexy men believed she was meant for them. It was still difficult for her to believe because she had never been meant for anyone. Even growing up, she was

not the girl all the kids flocked to. She was never the girl that all the boys wanted. She was too rough around the edges. Her mouth got her in trouble daily and she'd never been considered one of the good girls.

All her life she fought for her place and that had never changed. Even in the military, she had to prove every day that she was as good as, or better than, the men. That she could hold her own in a world full of men. It became even more necessary when she understood that the men surrounding her every day could shift into large ass bears, wolves, and lions.

If the rest of the world knew what was happening around them, the shit would hit the fan. Looking at the two men standing in front of her, she knew they believed what they said. While she was not quite there with them just yet, she was willing to take a leap of faith.

“What does it mean for me to be your mate?” Walking over to the bed, she went to sit down when a low growl stopped her motion. “Which one of you is growling at me? Cut that shit out right now.”

Tobias moved his body and shook his head as if clearing his thoughts. “Sweetheart, unless you're ready to take us both on that bed, then I'd suggest you sit someplace else. I'm already hanging on by a thread from your scent alone...”

“Especially considering you were about to play with your pussy when we arrived at your door,” Nathan added.

“We're trying to do the right thing and give you at least a day or two to recognize exactly what you mean to us, but I would suggest you not push us.”

Romi glared at Tobias as he finished speaking. She wanted to challenge his words. She was grown and could sit wherever she wanted. This was her room, at least for the time being, and who were they to tell her what she could do? Just as she went to open her mouth and tell Tobias to go take a long walk off a short pier, she glanced at Nathan and her snappy response disappeared.

The look of heat in his eyes as he stared at her caused her core to clench in response. Nathan's nostrils flared and his eyes began to lighten. His hands gripped the arms of the chair he was sitting in, as if preparing to lift his body. "Stop."

Now standing, Romi's body froze. "What do you mean, stop? I'm not doing anything."

"You smell delicious," Tobias spoke in her ear, making her jump.

"How did you sneak up on me?" She hadn't heard him move from the other side of the room. Her attention had been so focused on Nathan, she did not notice Tobias walking over next to her. Tobias bent his head near the crease of her neck and shoulder before inhaling deeply.

"Mmmmmm. Mango."

She tried to turn her head to look at him, but he grabbed her by the waist, holding her still.

"No. Don't move. Just let me enjoy this moment."

The touch of his hands on her waist was causing a rippling feeling in her body. Nipples tightening and core clenching, she tried to fight what she was feeling. She had never responded to a man's touch this way before. Romi

opened her mouth to speak, but no words came out. She felt trapped, but in a good way, because while a part of her resisted the idea of being anyone's fated mate, she also wanted to know what it felt like to be desired so fully.

“Look at me, sweetheart.”

When Nathan called out to her, Romi lifted her gaze to him. Her breath caught in her throat at the look of desire on his face. At the whisper of Tobias's breath on her skin and Nathan watching the two of them together, Romi let out a moan.

“How does it feel knowing that we both want you so much?”

She was almost afraid to answer. If she admitted the truth of how she was feeling, what would that say about her. Having only one man desire her was one thing. But, having two men who claimed to need and want her as their mate, was something else.

The grip around her waist tightened before Tobias pulled her back toward him. His thickness pressed against her back and her legs almost gave out. She wondered how that thing was going to fit inside of her.

“Oooooohhh,” she couldn't help the sound from releasing.

“No matter how much you want to deny it, you know that you want this as well,” Tobias said from behind her.

Nathan stood and began making his way over to her and Tobias. Predator. That was the only word to describe him. She wanted to move away from them, to run and hide in the bathroom. To put some space between the three of them. They

were overwhelming her senses, awakening her to things she never thought were possible. Her nipples pebbled as frissons of electricity coursed through her body.

“What are you doing to me?” Romi finally found her voice.

Tobias turned her body around so that she was facing him, with Nathan now at her back. He took a step forward, which caused her to take a step back. Once her back was pressed up against Nathan’s front, Tobias pressed closer. Although she was considered a tall woman, standing between these two, she felt ridiculously small and dainty. Then again, any woman would feel that way.

Looking down at her, Tobias grinned. “We’re just letting you know that we meant every word we said. We already know that you’re meant for us. But we also want you know that we’re meant for you. You want to know what it means to be our mate?”

“It’s a natural question,” she countered.

Nodding, Tobias continued. “As I already said, the Goddess has blessed us. You are my true mate and the only woman who can bear my pups. Now that I’ve found you, no other woman will do for me. As my wife and mate, I will be devoted to you and your happiness. Your happiness and pleasure will be my focus. Giving you the life you deserve is my goal. When the time comes, we will rule our pack. I will protect you with my life. My devotion will be to only you. That’s just the beginning.”

Romi was almost hyperventilating her breath was coming out so fast. His words were honestly everything she

wanted to hear. But was he telling her the truth? Could she believe what he was saying to her or was he only giving lip service? The tightening of Nathan's arms around her waist took her attention away from Tobias and placed it squarely on the man standing behind her.

“What about Nathan? I thought you said this would be a Triad? You only speak of yourself, but not him.” Maybe this was the moment she would blow-up this entire farce. Tobias wasn't speaking as if there would be three people in this relationship. He spoke as if he were the only one she would be with.

“Tobias cannot speak for my relationship with you,” Nathan said in her ear. She never removed her eyes from the man in front of her, which somehow made the words Nathan said in her ear even sexier. “You would be my mate. My wife. The Goddess has deemed us worthy of ruling the pack together. You will be my Queen, my Luna, and I will be devoted to you only. I will give my life to protect you and any pups created because of our mating. You will never be alone because I will always be by your side. You will never have to question if I want you. Because, sweetheart, I will always want you. I will always worship you. Until the day I die.”

Tears prickled her eyes as they both committed to her. This wasn't a marriage ceremony, but their words, spoken in the confines of her room, meant more to her than she expected. Could she commit to loving two men? How would she make sure that both men received what they needed from her?

“You both just met me. Less than a day ago, I had no idea you existed. This is a bit overwhelming and I'm just not

sure how to handle all this. Can you give me some time?”

Silence filled the room for a few seconds. Tobias and Nathan looked at each other over her shoulder, each giving the other a look that spoke volumes. They knew there was a lot to overcome for Romi. She showed up on their lands searching for her family and in less than a full day, had already been claimed for marriage and mating.

Not that he would let her go. That was a huge hell no. He'd finally found the woman meant for him and Nathan. Nothing on this earth would make him give her up. They would just need to convince her that this is where she belonged.

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Eleven

Spoiled was too soft of a word to explain the way Tobias and Nathan treated Romi. Since that morning in her room, they'd spent every moment they could with her. When Tobias wasn't with his father understanding about pack politics and learning the ways he had to be a diplomatic representative for the Bloodmoon Pack, he was with the pack guards training.

Which is where Nathan spent most of his time as well. Except when he was with Brayden trying to understand the role he would play in this Triad relationship. What he had learned during those discussions had surprised him. Brayden was more than just a third person in the Triad. Publicly, they all had to play a role. Privately, it was a different story. From his perspective, he didn't know if Tobias was open to the type of balanced relationship the current Alpha Triad had. Just thinking about the fight in front of him made Nathan's stomach churn with regret for what he would be up against to hold onto his mate.

Romi, determined to make her own way in this new world, spent time on video chat with Layla and Christopher and training on her own. Just because the two men felt they wanted to protect her, it didn't mean she couldn't do the same in return. Fighting was what she did. Regardless of her powers, she was a warrior. A Soldier.

Even as they tried to shield her behind the walls of their mansion, Romi knew that she needed to make her own way.

Over the past week, she'd observed Tobias's mother, Maria, in action. The woman seemed soft and loving even though Romi believed she had a strength inside her that she hid away. To be the Queen, she had to be tough, right?

One day, Romi followed behind, watching her moves as she ran errands. Every time she encountered one of the pack members, be they men, women, or children, they'd bend their heads slightly and show their necks to her. When Romi, Tobias, and Nathan sat down for dinner that night, as they always did at the end of each day, she asked about it.

"That's how our people show respect to the Queen. You'll see them do it to our Alpha and their third as well."

"Why do you call Brayden their third all the time? Is he not an Alpha like your father? He doesn't seem to be subservient to them." She glanced at Nathan. "How do you feel about that? Being referred to as the third?"

Unknowingly, Romi had stepped on a landmine. Over the past few days, Nathan had tried to overcome his frustration about the situation. Of knowing that he would always be considered second choice in his own mating. Of course, he and Tobias had agreed to see this through. Again, what choice did he have. But he also didn't really want to deal with it in front of Romi.

Taking a sip of his scotch, he took a few seconds to answer the question. His eyes caught Tobias and he could see the warning reflected. Who cares? Tobias thought he could control the situation. He couldn't. Nathan was still his own wolf. He could handle the situation without anyone looking over his shoulder.

“In an Alpha Triad, there is the Alpha, the Luna, and the Beta. Sometimes there is an Omega if the Goddess considers it necessary. The Alpha and Luna are the primary pairing. Any pups from their mating will become the heir apparent. The Beta,” even saying the words left a sour taste in his mouth, “completes the bond. He, or she, is their third. There is no changing what has been ordained by fate.”

Romi’s eyes were wide as she listened to his explanation. He could see her gaze shifting from him to Tobias and knew she would have more questions.

“But that’s not what I asked you. My question was do you mind being referred to as the third in a relationship. It seems to me that you would want to make your own choice and not be tied to a woman, or a relationship” she said, with a look towards Tobias, “that wasn’t of your own choosing. How do I know that one day, you won’t change your mind and want someone else?”

He shook his head. “My wolf would never want someone else. You’re my mate.”

“Our wolves know our mates as soon as we meet them. There is no question about that. Not once has the Goddess been wrong,” Tobias interjected. “Once known, there is nothing that can come between us. If our fated mate rejects our wolf or dies, our lifespan is shortened. If we deny our mate, we will slowly go crazy. No wolf wants that future. You are a gift to us, and our wolves recognize this. Even if we tried to deny our need for you, our souls know that we are tied together for life.”

Shaking her head, Romi tried to ignore the words, but couldn't. No matter how many times she challenged them, questioned their faith in the Goddess for choosing a non-shifter as their mate, or told them that she was not ready for this, they countered every argument. "Nathan, you mentioned that any children... um, pups, from the marriage would be chosen as the heir to take over. So, they would have to be in a similar relationship? What if we have multiple children? Does it matter if the children are from either of you?" Maybe she was ready to accept this relationship more than she thought, especially if she were already talking about children.

Reaching over to grab her hand in his, Tobias answered. "Only our first-born son would become the heir. Any other pups, or children as you call them, could choose to have only one mate. They are not always called to have a Triad."

There was so much going on in her head, but as she sat between the two men, she also could admit that she felt more comfortable than she had in years. Just wait until she talked to Layla about this. Maybe her friend could give her some insight into the pack before Romi jumped in with both feet. True to their word, they had given her some space and time to deal with everything happening, but with every brush of a hand against her waist, or press of a body against hers, she knew they wanted so much more.

"Will it matter if the child is yours or Nathan's?" The look they gave each other made her pause. She placed the forkful of food she was about to place in her mouth back on the plate in front of her. "What? Why are you looking at each other like that? Am I missing something?"

Nathan shifted, pushed his chair back, and stood from the table.

“Nathan,” she heard Tobias call out to his friend in a voice full of warning.

“What’s wrong?” Now Romi was getting nervous. “One of you needs to tell me what’s wrong.”

Nathan walked across the room and stood in front of the large window overlooking the back of the house. He could see guards walking the perimeter, other household workers walking around the grounds. Everyone had their purpose in life, especially in a pack as large as theirs. There was a hierarchy that had been in place since the dawn of time. Alpha Triad’s worked a certain way because that’s what worked. The Alpha, Luna, and Beta served their people. Not once had a Triad ever not fulfilled their destiny.

As Nathan thought about Romi’s question, he couldn’t help but think about just how selfish he was being. His mate had been delivered to him and she was everything he wanted. Glancing over his shoulder at her, he thanked the Goddess for sending him and Tobias a woman who they would love, protect, and worship for the rest of their days. His wolf was pleased and had finally quieted his whining and howling that they were so far away from home.

He couldn’t wait for the day when he would be mated to her. When he could sink his thick member inside her body and feel her flesh wrapped around him. Just the thought of his mate-mark tattooed on her brown skin, tying them together, made him harden in his pants. Knowing that being with her will make him happier than he ever could be, Nathan also

knew there was one aspect of this relationship that he was having difficulty accepting.

“Any pups created from our mating will only be sired by me,” Tobias said. His fingers rubbed along her skin. He knew his statement would rub more salt in his friend’s already open wound. It wasn’t his choice. That was how the Goddess had deemed it would be. No matter how many times their third... Nathan, would finish inside Romi, no child would take. Just as Brayden had raised Tobias as his own son, Nathan would be asked to take on that same responsibility for any children created from their Triad. That had been part of the reason Nathan left. Tobias knew it, Nathan knew it, and there was no denying it.

“But why,” she asked, her gaze swinging to Nathan standing off by himself.

“That is just how it is. We can have as many pups as you want, they will all be mine by blood, but both Nathan and I will be their fathers.” This was said more for Nathan’s sake. For anyone else, he wouldn’t give a shit, but he knew his friend was different. He now understood more than anything how special the relationship was between his two fathers and his mother.

They made a way for their relationship, their Triad, to work. They formed a bond that was stronger than any traditional marriage. He could see the love his mother had for both his fathers, and he’d never doubted that they loved her in return.

Brayden was his father in every way, just as Tomas was his blood sire. But he could recall moments when Brayden had

looked at him with sadness in his eyes. At the time, he had no clue what the look was. But now, he believes he understands. No matter how much he may have wanted it, Brayden would never sire a child with his mate. For a wolf, that was a difficult pill to swallow.

Turning his head to look at Nathan, he finally understood why his friend resisted this situation so much. For a moment, a pang of sadness came over him at the thought of what Nathan was going through. All this time, Tobias had only looked at this situation from his own perspective. It was his duty to find his mate. It was his responsibility to have a mate, form a strong Alpha Triad, have a houseful of pups, and rule his pack honorably. That was always the plan. Everything and everyone else be damned. When Nathan left, he'd cursed his name every single day. Called him a coward for running away from fate. Said he was unworthy of standing by his side as they created their way as the new generation of pack leaders.

“Nathan?”

Romi stood and walked over to him, which caused Tobias's wolf to stand up and pay attention. Did she want Nathan's pups and not his? Had he not shown her how much he wanted her?

“I'm fine,” he responded to her. Turning to face Romi as she walked over to him, he captured her face in his palms. “Watching you grow with a child created from our bond is enough for me. Just because the child will not be my blood, I will be their father. I will raise them beside you, and Tobias. My role will be to show them how to navigate the world and train them to be a warrior wolf.”

For the first time, Romi walked into his arms and hugged him tight. It wasn't that she was showing favoritism to one over the other, but at this moment, Nathan needed her more than Tobias. If they were going to do this, it had to be an equal partnership. By virtue of his role, Tobias would always take precedence over Nathan and even herself, when it came to hierarchy. Even the children... pups, created in their marriage would be from Tobias. If she wanted to give Nathan something extra to let him know she understood. That she could feel his hurt. That she wanted him to lean on her, that was her prerogative and her right. They kept telling her that she would be mated to the two of them for life. Tobias would simply have to deal with it. "I won't say I'm sorry, but I want you to know that I understand."

His hold tightened and he inhaled her scent. "Sweetheart, having you in my arms means more to me than you know. And with Tobias over there itching to join, it makes me even happier."

"He can wait a bit longer. It's only right that I have time with each of you separate from the other. Actually," she lifted her head and caught his gaze, "does that extend to the bedroom also? Can I be with each of you separately or do we always have to be together?" Now she was being bold, but she didn't care. She was curious about how the bedroom arrangements would happen. Being wrapped up in Nathan's arms felt nice. Romi's mind couldn't help but conjure up how it would feel to have him on top of her, plunging inside her body. Then it flipped and it was Tobias who was above her. His golden eyes shining bright as he stroked his thickness inside her slick channel.

Fuck. Now she was getting all riled up.

Nathan looked down at her and laughed. “Oh, baby. What are you doing to us?”

Tobias growled before standing up and walking over to them. Pressing up against her back, his thickness pushed against her, his hands roaming over her waist and stomach. “Is that what’s on your mind, sweetheart? Do you want to know how each of us feels when we’re inside you? Do you want to know how it’ll feel when I take you from the back and Nathan is underneath you? If you knew what I was feeling for you right now, you would be running in the other direction. The time is coming for you to be ours.” He nipped her ear, causing her head to fall back in submission.

“Tobias.”

“That’s it, baby. Let us know you’re ready,” he said, licking the skin along her neck.

Nathan dipped down, his large bulge catching at the vee of her thighs and notching against her clit. “Oh, fuck. Nathan.”

“Again. Say our names. Let us know how much you need this,” Tobias whispered.

“Tobias. Nathan.” She could feel her body giving in to them. The walls she had up were crumbling. Every doubt she had about them was floating away in a cloud of dust. Just as she was about to say the words, I’m yours, fully giving herself over to them, a knock sounded on her door.

“Fuck,” Tobias hissed.

“Shit,” Nathan said at the same time.

“Whew,” Romi whispered. She’d been saved by the proverbial bell.

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Twelve

With Tobias and Nathan off doing pack business thanks to being beckoned by the Alpha Supreme, Romi left the house. She needed some fresh air and space. Those two were suffocating. It wasn't that she didn't enjoy the attention, because she did. Who wouldn't want two sexy ass men drooling over them? Just the memory of them both pressing up against her, their thickness heating her skin through their clothes. What kind of heat would they generate naked? Just the thought of it made her body shiver with need.

Fuck. She needed a cold shower.

The sounds of the town were all around her. Kids playing. Adults sitting outside at café tables eating and drinking. Just life. If she had no idea about the secrets that lie just under the surface, this would look like any other city in America. People simply enjoying the day. If she took a few minutes to enjoy the view in front of her, it truly was an incredibly beautiful sight. Nestled within the mountains of West Virginia, it was a nice slice of heaven. Romi was so used to the hustle of the city, it took a moment for her to get used to being in a place like this.

She wondered how Layla got used to this so quickly. Then again, she and Odin didn't even live in the heart of the city with the other pack members. Who did Christopher play with? Where would he go to school? Thinking of Christopher also brought her own situation to the forefront. Would she be

expected to have more than one child with Tobias and Nathan if she agreed to their plan.

Mate to two wolf-shifters.

Queen to their pack of thousands.

Just the thought of it made her shiver with a bit of fear and trepidation. It didn't mean that she was against it being with them and living a completely different life, but there was a lot for her to think about.

Then again, was saying 'no' to this life even a possibility for her? If she had been selected to become their fated mate, who was she to refuse?

But, before she agreed to this whole triad thinga-ma-jig, she needed to understand how Nathan felt about it. Yes, she would absolutely be down to fuck one or both of them. She was grown, they knew the deal, and no one would question her taking them both into her bed. But these two wanted much more than one night. They wanted forever.

Was she even ready for all that?

Mindlessly, she walked through town, stopping here and there to window shop or watch young kids playing. Or at least she thought they were kids. What did Tobias call them? Oh, right... pups.

Romi never thought she would be the type of person to have a bunch of kids... would they be called a litter? Wait? Would she have more than one child at a time? Just as she began to hyperventilate, she remembered that Tobias was the only child of the current Alpha. Nathan hadn't said much at

all, but she got the feeling he was also an only child. Or just a single birth.

That was part of the problem also. They hadn't told her anything about themselves, or who they were, or what they expected.

They were both all "me wolf", "you mate". Like seriously, what kind of shit was that?

They both had to understand she needed more than just their words of ownership to feel comfortable with this situation. Would she be expected to give up her life in Richmond to stay here with them? Then again, what kind of life did she really have waiting for her back there?

She lived alone. Her only true family lived a mile away from where she was standing. Although Tobias and Nathan, her two guys, had no idea what she truly was, she no longer had to hide herself away. She was surrounded by supernatural beings. If anything, they'd better be grateful that she was on their side. Maybe it wouldn't be so bad living here with them. She'd get to see her godson grow up. Have a few kids of her own. Be worshipped nightly by two sexy ass man.

Now she was getting herself all hot and bothered. She stomped over leaves and fauna as she crossed over into the tree line surrounding the town. Her confusion and ire at the whole situation caused her to become reckless in her haste.

"Fuck!" she yelled out. "Why am I even considering this? Everything about this is crazy as hell. I don't even care that they're wolves. It's the sharing part. It's the becoming a Queen part." She gave a small laugh. "Actually, I could get used to that part because I'm already a damn Queen."

Sighing, she looked around to see where she was and realized just how far she'd gone. Turning around, she began to make her way back to town. She had a lot more to think about because there were some questions she still needed answered.

Just as she broke through the clearing from the woods and stepped foot on the street, Tobias and Nathan came running up to her.

"Where the hell have you been?" Nathan yelled out as they approached.

"Excuse you? I don't answer to you." And she didn't. He had another think coming if he thought she was going to be some simpering woman that cowered at the sound of her man's voice. He had the wrong bitch for that. "You got the wrong one, Nathan, so you better check your tone."

"Romi!" Tobias interjected. "We asked you a question. Lose the fucking attitude and answer when we call. Our scouts have found some strangers on our lands. We couldn't find you. We don't know where they came from, but they seem to be going towards Odin's place."

She turned to him, ready to bite his head off when he made his last statement. Everything in her froze. "Odin's place? What the fuck? What about Layla and Christopher?"

Nathan grabbed her arm before getting in her face. "That's where we were headed when we started looking for you. We wasted precious time because you decided to go on a fucking field trip."

"Fuck you," she spat, wrenching her arm from his grasp. Turning to Tobias, she snapped. "Control your lackey before I

do something he regrets. I don't give a fuck who you both think you are, but I'm not the one to fuck with. Now, where does Odin live? I need to go get my family."

Romi stepped to the side and began walking away from them. She didn't want them to see her upset, even though they could probably sense it. If her family was in danger, there was no way in hell she was going to sit here arguing when she could be doing something to keep them safe. Yes, Odin was probably some big bad wolf that could rip out a throat or two, but he wasn't her. He couldn't protect them the way she could. And if anything happened to her best friend and her son, she would flatten this entire forest and everyone in it.

She stopped in the middle of the road and closed her eyes. She had no idea where Odin lived, but if she concentrated, she would be able to get a location on Christopher. That little boy's special power called to her for some reason and while she didn't usually use it for her benefit, today was different. Wherever Christopher was, she was positive his mother would be close-by.

In her mind, she focused on his round face, his chubby cheeks, and his beautiful smile. *Come on, Christopher. Let Auntie Romi know where you are, baby.*

Auntie Sparkles...

There he was. Just a whisper, but she knew he was calling out to her. Her godson was the smartest kid she knew. "Come on, Christopher. One more time for me. Where are you, little one?" she said in a low whisper.

TT Sparkles...

That Christopher used his special word for her told Romi something was wrong. Layla always called her Auntie Romi around him, but Christopher was too small to say the word, so he would always shorten it to TT.

TT Sparkles...hurry.

Come... Oda Doggie... fighting. Momma scared. TT Romi... RUN!!

Snapping out of her trance-like state, Romi gasped in shock at how loud Christopher's voice was in her head. Without telling Tobias and Nathan anything, she began to run. Her feet moved faster than ever before, but this was a matter of life and death. Her family was at risk. The guys could either stay behind or catch up with her. Right now, she didn't care. She wasn't looking back, and she wouldn't slow down.

Nothing else mattered to her as she ran in the direction she was called. The bond between her and Christopher was growing the closer she got. It was like a rope that was building with every step she took.

I'm coming, Christopher. TT is on her way.

She prayed her words would get to him through their connection.

For long seconds she heard nothing but silence. Her feet practically flew over the ground. Her eyes were white with power. Fear propelled her.

A feeling overwhelmed her. Romi's heart seemed to swell as her stomach clenched. Danger. Something was happening. She wanted to stop the intense pressure flowing through her body, but she didn't know how. Nothing else

mattered but getting to Layla and Christopher. She was only minutes away from them.

Just a bit more...

Just then, a force hit her full-on, stopping her in her tracks as if she'd been hit by a freight train. Her body bent, her arms and feet flew out in front of her as she was flung back almost thirty feet before hitting her back against a large tree.

The pain filling her body wasn't something she'd felt for years, not since before the change. It took her a few moments to get her bearings. The copper scent of her blood filled the air. Lifting one hand, she noticed three of her fingers had been horribly broken. Wincing at the pain coming from inside her body, she knew she had a few broken ribs. Glancing down, she could see that one of her legs was bent in an awkward position. "Fuck. I don't have time for this," she hissed.

As she looked at her broken body, her fingers and leg began to heal. The pressure from her broken ribs went away. If there was one thing about her new powers that she considered a blessing in disguise, it was this. Never before had it been so important. Using one hand to wipe away the blood on her face from the impact with the tree, she knew something was out there waiting for her.

Not only could she feel their presence, but there was almost nothing in this world that could stop her when she was in her berserker stage. Once she transitioned to her storm phase, no earthly power could get in her way. So, whoever, whatever it was, had to be powerful.

Then she heard a voice call out. "You're being lazy, Sutton. Get up and take this ass-whooping like a man. Okay,

fine. Take it like a woman.”

Fuck, she hissed internally. That voice was one Romi hadn't heard since she'd gotten out of the military. He was one of the reasons she left her unit to return home. Not only was this motherfucker responsible for killing innocent civilians, but he also had a crew of assholes who followed his every order. Even if that order was illegal.

Climbing to her feet, Romi cracked her neck and stretched her back, all while facing away from the man... thing... waiting for her to acknowledge him.

“Face me so I can kill you. You know,” he laughed maniacally, “I've been hunting you for a while now. Then a little birdie told me that your best friend had gone on the run. From everything you'd said about them, I knew if I found them, I'd find you close by.” When Romi still didn't look at him, he lost it. “Turn around and look at me, you bitch.” His loud voice reverberated in the open area, echoing off the trees.

Romi really didn't want to deal with this bullshit today. Was he the one sneaking on pack land causing all this ruckus? The unknown threat that the pack was worried about. The ones going towards Odin's place? She was positive he had a few of his dirtbag friends with him, because he could never go anywhere on his own. If she had him alone, she'd end his life in seconds, but she knew there were others. He had always been a bitch-made motherfucker, which is one of the reasons why he was out here doing this incognito shit.

Finally turning around, she looked at him in the eyes and smirked. This was the motherfucker that attacked Butler in camp all those years ago. He'd gotten his ass handed to him

that day, almost died when Butler tore into his neck. Instead, they did some shit to bring him back to life. The procedure was like what they did to her. But since he was already a wolf-shifter, it enhanced his already warped mind. Made him extra aggressive and ruthless. He'd been a highly trained military killing machine before the additional change. Once that happened, he became a one-man war machine. While the military loved the results they got from him, the bodies of the innocent began piling up. The old, young, innocent, women, and children. He didn't care who was killed in the name of completing the mission.

The last time she saw him before the shit hit the fan, they'd been in a town in the middle of the desert in a place she wasn't allowed to discuss to this day. The man they were going after wasn't there, but no matter how much the civilians in the town denied any knowledge of their target's location, Jones didn't believe them. Even his own unit had searched and couldn't find a trace of the man. Nothing would placate him. No words could convince him they had the wrong location and needed to pull back and regroup.

He'd gotten so angry, he grabbed the first person within reach—a young woman—unleashed his claws and ripped their throat out. At the outcry from the people, he moved like a tornado, cutting down everyone in his sight. It took only seconds.

When Romi turned around and realized what was happening, she quickly shifted into her new form. Her Storm Phase is what the military scientists called it. Power surged through her hands, crackling as it wrapped around Jones, preventing him from killing anyone else. His roars and growls

were loud enough to raise the dead. No matter how much he tried to break free, he couldn't. Yes, he was powerful, but in this form, Romi was the ultimate force. Knowing that she had to contain him enough to get him back to the medical unit so they could find out what the fuck was happening to him, she surged enough electricity into his body to knock him out.

In the end, he'd killed more than seventeen people in less than fifteen seconds.

After that, things for Romi took a turn. Knowing that beings like him existed, that they were used by the military as high-powered weapons to hunt and kill targets was more than Romi wanted to deal with. Enough was enough. She put in her papers a week later to exit.

Last she heard, they were going to try a new method of stripping the powers away from Jones. The gift he'd been given had turned into a curse. He was found unworthy to wield that kind of power. Seeing him standing in front of her now, she wondered what happened.

Staring at the man in front of her, she couldn't help smirk. "Well, damn. Look at what the cat dragged in. Did you miss me, Jones?" If this fucker wanted to tango, they could. He'd caught her unawares the first time, but it wouldn't happen again. He knew it just as well as she did. Looking around the clearing, she looked at the breaks in the trees to try and catch a glimpse of who he had with him. "How many did you bring to take me down?"

He whistled and three other men stepped out. "Enough to make you pay. I've already found your friend and her brat."

With that, two other man carried Layla and Christopher out. Layla was passed out, while Christopher was struggling.

“TT! Help Oda doggie!” His little voice was filled with fear. Tears ran down his face.

“Shut that kid up. What the fuck is he blathering on about?”

“My Oda doggie is gonna get you.” Christopher suddenly stopped squirming and crying. His face was calm. Tilting his head, he stared off as if listening to something and Romi knew he was communicating with someone. Suddenly his eyes cleared, and Christopher smiled, turning his head to look at all the men standing around, his little voice was strong and clear. “You’re in trouble. You took me and my mommy, and hurt my Auntie Romi. You’re all gonna die.”

And that’s why she loved her godson to the moon and back. Just as she moved to activate her change, she heard loud growls coming from all around them.

“Shut the fuck up, kid,” Jones yelled.

Loud crashes could be heard through the trees. Romi smiled because she knew exactly who it was. “Time to finally pay the piper, Jones.”

A large black wolf came flying into the clearing and leaped onto one of the men, the wolf’s jaws clamping down on his throat.

Two other wolves joined the fray. One large gray wolf and another with pure white fur. For the first time since this shitstorm began, a true smile came over Romi’s face. Her eyes went white, her hair lifted, floating around the air, shots of

electricity came out of her fingers. “Time to play, motherfuckers.”

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Thirteen

When Romi took off, Nathan and Tobias were caught off guard. They'd never seen her move so fast.

"What the fuck was that?" Tobias called over to Nathan as they both began running after her.

"No fucking clue. Let's go." No more needed to be said. She took off after they told her the people might be headed over to Odin's place. Romi was determined to do things her own way, no matter how many times they tried to stop her.

Being her mate was going to be hell on wheels, but Tobias knew it was going to be one hell of a ride.

As they ran, their bodies reshaped and formed into their wolf forms. Powerful. Larger than the average wolf. One of them alone could take on a small pack of wolves and come out victorious. The two of them together were almost unstoppable.

Worry and fear coursed through every fiber of their beings as they ran behind Romi. Both were amazed at just how fast she moved. They could only see the path she went because of the movement of the branches and trees. It was as if she were flying.

Tobias was one part worried as hell about her. The other part of him knew Romi would be pissed as hell if she knew he didn't trust her to take care of herself. She was a fucking Goddess. He knew this. Didn't mean he wouldn't still worry about her. His job was to protect her. To love her. To make

sure no harm came her way. How could he do this if every time danger was near, she ran off without thinking?

Need to get to Romi. Must protect our mate.

Nathan's thoughts wouldn't stop recycling the same phrase over and over again. Romi was in danger. He knew it. He could feel her pain. Her anger. Run faster. He just needed to run faster. What if they were too late? What if they didn't get to her in time? The thought spurred him on, making him run faster and faster.

He spoke to Tobias through their bond link. *She's in pain.*

Tobias didn't acknowledge his words for a few seconds before answering. *I will kill anything that tries to harm my mate.*

Nathan growled. *Our mate. She's. Our. Mate.*

He was tired of Tobias and his bullshit claim on Romi, as if she didn't belong to both of them. He may not have found her first, but he was here now.

The faster they ran, the stronger they felt Romi's anger. Her scent hit their nostrils like a wall of bitter almonds. They heard little Christopher speak out, calling for Romi to help Odin.

They caught another scent on the wind and knew Odin was on his way also. His anger and fear coming from him in waves. His thoughts so loud, they could both hear him.

Save my wife. My son.

The words repeatedly played over and over. Nathan and Tobias knew their cousin and best friend was losing his shit at the thought of his family coming to harm. But they also knew, with the three of them together, whoever had brought danger to their lands was about to die.

Little Christopher's voice called out again to the people holding him. "You're in trouble. You took me and hurt my Auntie Romi. You're all gonna die." They weren't sure how they could hear him so clearly, but they had a feeling it was because of how special Christopher was. Even though he wasn't their pup, his words made them both proud.

Arriving at the clearing, Tobias leaped through the air and latched on the throat of the man closest to him. Without hesitating, he ripped into the man's throat, Tobias's strong teeth pulling at the flesh and bone, twisting his head and pulling away. Blood flew and spread over his maws. Not wanting any part of this asshole in his body, he spit out the chunks of flesh and turned back to the shifter bleeding out in front of him. Lifting his front legs, he brought one foot down on the man's head, the other on his chest before pulling. Only when the head was fully separated from the body did he stop. One of the other interlopers came running, trying to shift midair. Tobias had already changed over to his human form, but he was still powerful. As the man began to shift, Tobias ran over to him, only partially shifting one hand, his claws long and deadly. Dropping into a crouch, he raised his arm and sliced through the shifter from stem to stern. Blood dripped over his naked form as the being crashed to the ground. Standing, he looked around to see if there was any other danger. At the sight in front of him, he smiled.

When Tobias went after the first guy, Nathan also launched into the air, claws unsheathed, and teeth bared. When the shifter turned and saw him, he yelled out, just before Nathan's claws ripped into his chest. Their bodies crashed onto the ground. Some would say it was an unfair fight, with Nathan in his wolf form and the other shifter unable to turn.

Fuck anyone who didn't understand that nothing about this situation was normal. Not only had these fuckers come on their pack lands without permission, but they also threatened his cousin's mate and child. They all needed to die, by any means necessary. Nathan realized his claws had never stopped slashing and digging. Entrails and blood covered the ground beneath the interloper. Through his blood haze, he could see the shifter's body trying to heal itself. Not today, motherfucker. Bending his head, Nathan's large mouth ripped through the neck flesh and in one motion almost separated the head from the body.

Meanwhile, Odin had also come into the clearing, but he'd shifted into his biped form. Coming up behind the man who held Layla, Odin grabbed his head and twisted, ripping it off. As the man dropped, Odin caught Layla in his arms before gently laying her down on the ground. In the blink of an eye, he stood in front of the man holding Christopher. Just as his son's face lit up in relief, Odin grabbed him from the man's arms, tucking him under one arm. His other arm shot out, breaching the man's chest all the way through his back. When he pulled his arm out, he held the shifter's beating heart in his hand. Dropping the organ to the ground, he took the same hand and slashed it across the man's neck, almost slicing his head off.

“Oda doggie,” his son cried. “I knew you’d save us.”

“What the fuck,” Jones yelled as he watched the last of his men be cut down. He began shifting when Romi called out to him.

“You came after me. Threatened my family. Do you really think you’re going to get a chance to live? You should have stayed in your hole because you made the wrong fucking choice.” Before she could say another word, both Nathan and Tobias were in front of Jones.

Without a word, they began slashing and tearing at his biped form. Jones was a special breed and in any other situation, he would have bested two lesser wolves. But this was two-thirds of the Alpha Triad of the Bloodmoon Pack. Nathan and Tobias were not normal wolves. They didn’t need special enhancements to be powerful. It was already inside of them. Their power and strength were natural born and Goddess granted. Romi stood watching as her men tore through Jones body with every swiped. Blood and sinew flew around the clearing, landing on both of them.

Staring at them, she thought they’d never looked sexier. Yes, it may seem odd for her to think that way, but it was the truth. Glancing around the area, taking in the carnage, she noticed Odin standing off to the side, watching the situation play out. His eyes glanced around looking for any other danger to come their way. Layla was leaned up against a tree behind him and Christopher was standing next to Odin, his little arms crossed. Even though the macabre scene was playing out in front of her, she couldn’t help but give her godson a little wink. When he returned the gesture, she almost laughed.

No one would deny they were a fucked-up group of individuals, but that was okay. At the end of the day, her family would always be safe. Turning back to her men, she heard Nathan growl loud as he took both hands and dug them into the middle of Jones's body. Tobias grasped Jones's head in his hands and twisted. One second later, the man who'd come to hunt her down and kill her was in multiple pieces on the ground.

Nathan and Tobias stood there breathing loudly, their chests rising and falling from exertion.

"Auntie Sparkles," Christopher called out to her, causing Romi to turn to him. He was running over to her, his little feet avoiding all the puddles of blood. Jumping, his tiny arms wrapped around her neck, hugging her tight. "I knew you could hear me. I knew you would come. They took my mommy and tried to fight my daddy. But then they took me, and I knew you could find me. My daddy was so mad, his doggie came out." He stopped talking and looked over at Nathan and Tobias standing there covered in blood. "That's my daddy's friend. He's strong, but not as strong as my Oda doggie. But the other one," Christopher squinted his eyes before gasping, "he looks like my daddy. My Oda doggie. How?" His young face was scrunched in confusion.

"He's your daddy's cousin, sweetheart. They're wolves are related," Romi told him.

Staring at Nathan, Christopher tilted his head and continued to take in the shifter in front of him. "His doggie is like my Oda doggie, but not quite. I like him, Auntie Romi. He's good."

Wrapping her arms around the child, Romi rocked from side to side. “Yes, sweetheart, he sure is good.” Looking at her two men standing naked, she knew there were no more doubts about their commitment to her. Their need to protect her. Yes, she’d had reservations about her role in their life and what she truly meant to them. But no more. That doubt was now gone. Glancing over at Layla who was now up and making her way over to Romi and Christopher, she smiled. “Let’s make sure your mom is okay.”

Walking over to her friend, Romi handed Christopher to his mother. “You okay, Layla?”

“I’m fine. Those fuckers got us while Odin was out on a run. I was outside walking with Christopher when they showed up. He was too far away to get back to us before they took us. I just worry that he’ll never want to leave the house again. He worries about us so much after everything that happened when we first arrived. Now this.” Layla glanced over to find Odin standing with Nathan and Tobias, but his gaze was firmly on her.

“He loves you, Layla. Of course, he worries.”

“I’ve thought about asking him to change me, so that I can defend myself and Christopher. Well,” she laughed into Christopher’s hair, “I think this little man can take care of himself if push came to shove. Me on the other hand... that’s a different story.”

“Momma, let me down. I want to go be with Daddy.” Layla placed him on the ground and watched as he ran over to the three men.

“When did he start calling Odin his dad?”

Glancing over at her son and husband, Layla took a few seconds to respond. “About two weeks ago. It started slow, like it was a reflex. Odin would put him down for bed and he’d say goodnight daddy, as if it were the most normal thing. It shocked me, but it damn near floored Odin. He stayed up the entire night sitting by Christopher’s bed just staring at him.”

“He’s a good man, Layla. I’m glad you found him. Plus, that man is fine as hell.”

“Quit looking at my man’s dick, Romi.” They both laughed.

“But Layla... would you look at it? It’s just all out there and shit. Whew!” Romi fanned herself with one hand.

“Girl, you have two fine, glorious men of your own who are looking at you like you’re a raw filet mignon and they haven’t eaten in days. Plus, I mean, if we’re talking about being all out there and hanging free... I mean, damn. Odin is all that and a bag of chips, but you have two sizeable platters just waiting for you.”

“Shit, now I’m hungry,” Romi said with a laugh.

Odin walked over to them, holding Christopher in his arms, and not even trying to hide his nakedness. Then again, for shifters, their natural state of being bare-assed naked was normal to them. There was nothing for them to be ashamed of and they had no qualms walking around with their dicks swinging. Wearing clothes was a purely human trait that they’d adopted as a way to fit into the world around them.

“Layla,” Odin called out. “Let’s go home and get cleaned up. We will come back to the main house tonight if

you want. Or tomorrow.” From the look in his eyes, Layla also knew this meant Odin needed some quiet time with her. Any threat to his family was not something he took lightly or kindly. Then again, she needed him also. Today had been a lot for all of them.

“Yes, I’m ready. Let’s go.” She gave Romi a long hug. “Thank you for coming when he called.”

“I will always come when he calls, or when you need me. You are my family.”

Layla pulled back and Romi saw tears welling in her friend’s eyes. “Layla, you are my sister. No matter where I am, know that I will always come for you.”

“Bitch, don’t make me cry,” Layla joked.

Romi laughed. “Go home and put some loving on your man. Come back later.”

“Well, I think you need to do something with those two men of yours. Put them out of their misery, Romi. I’ve discovered something about men like them. Once they claim you as theirs, nothing will stop them. Odin told me that you’re their fated mate.” When Romi started to interject, Layla stopped her. “No, Romi. Stop fighting it. It’s time for you to stop running.”

After Odin, Layla, and Christopher left the clearing, Romi stood staring at Tobias and Nathan. Yes, she wanted them, but there were things they still needed to work out. Her attraction to both men was undeniable. Her need for both men was at war with her common sense. If she took both men to her bed and formally mated to them, would one feel left out?

Could she give herself to both men equally? Would one of them feel less love than the other? The questions were never ending, but they didn't need to be answered today.

“Thank you for coming, but you know I could have handled those men myself. I didn't need the two of you to come to my rescue. I'm not your damsel in distress.” Walking over to them, Romi stood in front of both men, staring into their eyes. One pair hazel. One pair green. The desire reflected at her from both pair of eyes, made her breath falter.

Tobias was the first one to speak. “You are our mate, Romi. We will also come for you. Yes, you're strong and powerful, but you are the other part of our soul. If anything happened to you...”

“We would kill everyone involved. We belong together, Romi.”

She nodded before looking around at the carnage surrounding them. “Let's leave them for the animals. They'll have a feast for days.” She began walking away. “Let's go home. I'm hungry and it's time we three finally had that talk.” Talking was definitely on the menu, but there were other things Romi had on her mind as well. It was time to claim her men and take her place.

Fourteen

Nathan sat on the couch watching Romi as she stood in front of the mirror brushing her hair. Tobias was in the shower, washing off the blood from the interlopers. As he watched Romi, he couldn't help but think about how this would all work. He wasn't the Alpha. He would be expected to always be second to not only Tobias but to Romi. Could he truly do that? Watch his mate with another man day in and day out? See him touch her, kiss her...fuck her.

“Why are you staring at me like that?”

Blinking, he stood and walked over to her. “Because you are so fucking beautiful.”

“You always tell me that,” Romi said with a smile. Her eyes caught his in the mirror and he couldn't help but press his body against hers. She'd already taken her shower and her natural scent beckoned him. Nathan knew he should wait for Tobias. Knew that the first time they were together, it should be the three of them at once. But just because he was aware of what should happen didn't mean his wolf wasn't clawing at his skin to claim her. To claim their mate before Tobias could. If she gave herself to him freely, then she would have made her choice. His hands rubbed along the bare skin of her arm. Luckily for him, she wore a simple dress. Easy access.

“I never thought we'd find you,” he whispered. Tobias was still in the shower and although the water was loud, Nathan still spoke low.

Romi leaned her head back against his chest. “I never knew that I was lost.”

“To me, you were. Then you show up one day when we least expect it.” Leaning his head down, he sniffed her neck, taking in more of her scent. She would be imprinted on his soul until the day he died.

“Nathan, is this something we can do? Be together as equals? Can I be a good mate to you and Tobias at the same time?”

He lifted his head. Anger and hurt filled him at her words. Even while alone with him, she still had Tobias on her mind. Was he not enough for her? Moving one hand, he wrapped it around her throat before pressing the side of his face against hers.

“Is that what you want? To be a good mate to Tobias? To fuck Tobias while I sit here with my dick in my hands wishing it were me?” His other hand was lifting the material of her dress, his fingers grazing the bare flesh of her leg.

“Nathan,” she whimpered.

He nipped the lobe of her ear. “You belong to me, just as much as him. You are my mate as much as you’re his. I will not allow you to push me aside. You will never put me away in some box while he fucks you freely, worships you freely, and breeds you with his pups.”

Her eyes went wide at his words. “I’m sorry.” They both knew exactly what she was apologizing for. No matter how much he may want to change the situation, he would never get her pregnant. That was a truth they would all have to face.

Unless there was a miracle granted to them by the Goddess, her only children would be from Tobias. “I don’t want to hurt you.”

Nathan knew it wasn’t her fault. This was his world and yet he wanted to be angry with her for something she could not control. He’d waited so long to find his mate, and even though he knew she would belong to both him and Tobias, for some reason the reality hurt more. To have her in his arms, to smell her scent, to touch her skin, made his place in this throuple even more clear. He hated it. He hated Tobias. He hated Romi.

But then his fingers touched her bare mound, and all logic flew from his mind.

Mate.

Ours.

Romi squeaked as his fingers began sliding through her plump lower lips. “Nathan,” she moaned.

“Yes, baby. Those are my fingers touching you. No, don’t turn away. Look at us, Romi.” Eyes wide, she stared at the two of them. His hand was still wrapped around her throat, but not as tight. Nathan’s thumb rubbed along her jawline. He bent his head and kissed her lightly on the cheek. “You look so beautiful. I could fuck you all day. Don’t you want that baby? Don’t you want to feel my dick sliding inside your beautiful pussy? I want to spread you wide and eat your pretty pussy for hours, drinking your juices as they flow from your body.”

Romi’s body began to undulate and move in time with the stroke of his fingers. “Nathan.”

Two of his fingers penetrated her body, the slickness of her channel making it easier for him to slide in. “Agggghh! There it is. Just imagine if this was my dick. I want to fuck you, Romi. I want to claim you. I want to make you mine.”

Slick sounds could be heard in between his words. Wetness flowed from her as his fingers continued to thrust inside, his thumb rubbing her clit. It felt so fucking good. Her mouth opened in ecstasy as he picked up the pace, thrusting faster and faster. Even though it was only his fingers, she felt so full. Fuller than she’d felt in years, with any other man.

“Every night, you would be loved and worshipped. My only focus would be to bring you pleasure, to make you scream my name.” He knew he was being selfish, but Nathan didn’t care. All he wanted was for Romi to be his. Earlier today, he’d been so afraid of losing her, he’d promised the Goddess that he would give over everything he was if only Romi was safe and sound. As long as they could bring her home with them, nothing else mattered. Now that she was here, all he wanted to do was fuck her. He wanted her crazy with lust over him the same way he was about her. He wanted her to crave him just as much as he obsessed over her.

Nathan felt her channel began to pulse and knew her release was upon her. This moment would be his. Tobias may be the primary in their relationship, but Nathan would always be the one who made her cum first. “Yes, sweetheart. Just like that. Let me feel you gush all over my fingers. Let me know how much you want this.” The faster his fingers moved, the louder she moaned. He knew Tobias could hear them but didn’t give a shit at the moment. Nathan needed this.

“Oh. Oh. Oh. Nathan!” Her body seized as her orgasm rushed over her. Nathan felt his fingers covered in wetness. Looking in the mirror, he caught the gaze of Tobias standing in the bathroom door. His arms crossed and his eyes glowing yellow. As Romi came down, he released his fingers from her body and brought them to his mouth. Licking her juices from his fingers, he savored the taste of his mate. Fuck Tobias. At this moment, Nathan didn’t care that he’d breached protocol. If Tobias felt betrayed enough, he could challenge Nathan. Something told him that wouldn’t happen though.

Finishing sucking Romi’s slickness from his fingers, he glanced at her in the mirror and noticed she was sex drunk. Her eyes were half-closed and her mouth slack.

Lifting her in his arms, he placed her on the bed. Leaning over, he kissed her lips softly. “Thank you for giving that to me. I will never forget how beautiful you looked breaking apart in my arms or the taste of your essence.”

“Mmmmm hmmm,” she moaned as she stared at him.

Nathan stood from the bed and took a step back. Tobias walked over to stand next to him.

Looking down at Romi, he smirked. “Did you enjoy your little interlude with Nathan?” There was heat in his eyes a bit of snap in his tone.

The haze of lust left her eyes as she looked at the man standing in front of her. “Tobias. Um... it just happened.”

“I didn’t ask you about how it happened. I asked you if you enjoyed it.”

Glancing over at Nathan, he gave her no sign of what he wanted her to say. So, she just told the truth. “I did.”

Tobias looked at Nathan. “Are you finally on board with what needs to be done? Because if not, and you touched my mate, not only will I kill you, but I’ll kill your whole family.”

Nathan smiled. “As I’ve told you before, she’s *our* mate. Keep leaving me out and we’re going to have a problem.”

“Then it’s time you start acting the part. You claimed something that wasn’t yours. Don’t think I don’t know why you did it. I know what you’re feeling inside because we’re connected Nathan. I knew the moment you touched her, even though you tried to be sneaky about it. The moment you wrapped your hands around her neck, I could feel the need rushing through you. And when you fucked her with your fingers, I knew how much you wanted to fuck her for real. But you and I both know, you can’t. Whether you like it or not, you cannot fuck our mate for the first time without me. I have never denied your right to have our mate or your role in our lives. You’re the one who’s been fighting it this entire time. You’re the one who ran away like a coward. Do you really think I didn’t know what the fuck was happening in this bedroom with my own mate? THE FUCK YOU THINK THIS IS?”

If Nathan was a lesser man, he would be cowering in fear. If he were a true Beta, he never would have had the balls to do what he did in the first place. Looking at Romi, he smiled, “I think I wanted a taste of our mate.” He went to turn away when Tobias punched him in the jaw. Stars burst behind his eyes, and he stumbled backwards against the wall. He

quickly got his bearings and unsheathed his claws. He'd been waiting for this moment for years. It was time to finally decide who was Alpha Supreme in this bitch.

Tobias snarled at Nathan, his teeth dropping and his voice deepening into a growl. "You feeling froggy? Then jump your Beta ass over here and get dropped." Unsheathing his own claws, Tobias was ready for whatever happened next. Calling Nathan a Beta would piss him off, which is exactly why Tobias did it. Plus, he's been itching for this fight for years. He knew Nathan was upset about how things had to be, but Tobias didn't make the fucking rules. Fate had decided. Tobias knew Nathan was an Alpha. Had felt it from the first time they met as kids. That's why they fought so much. Neither was willing to give into the other. Tobias would never bow down to another wolf, other than his own father.

"Stop. Both of you. Why are you fighting each other?" Romi stood from the bed and came in between them. "Didn't you say I belonged to both of you? I'm pretty fucking positive you told me that I was the mate for both of you. That this Alpha Triad only worked if we were together. Was that all a lie?" She was looking at Tobias as she spoke, because he was the one who she felt thought he'd been wronged. Maybe he had. "Tobias. Look at me. You told me that being with both of you is what fate had decided. That we had all been blessed to rule your pack together. I'm sorry if Nathan and I did something we shouldn't have."

He finally glanced down at the woman standing in between them. His hazel eyes still bright but not glowing like they were before. He raised his hand and trailed his fingers down her face. "You are everything to me." He glanced up at

Nathan before speaking again. “You’re everything to us. Making you happy is all I want. Coming out of the bathroom and seeing you with Nathan...” he sighed before stepping closer and wrapping his arms around her waist. “You are his mate also, Romi. It pleases me that he can make you happy. Because I want you to be happy here with us. Having you by my side is all I need. Nathan has been a part of that picture for so long and we’ve hated each other for it all these years.”

“I never hated you, Tobias. I just... this wasn’t the life I thought I would have.” Nathan knew he and Tobias had to put the bullshit behind them if they would have a successful reign.

“Nathan. Brother. You and I both know how much you hate that you’re my second. You begrudge your role in this relationship. You always have. Even before our mate arrived, so you can’t use her presence as an excuse.” Never letting go of Romi, Tobias continued speaking. “You may want her for yourself, but it can never be. Not unless you plan to kill me.”

Tobias glared at Nathan. He knew something inside his friend wanted to harm him and claim their mate as his own, without Tobias being in the picture. While he would do almost anything for his friend, that was one thing he would never allow. Not being with Romi was not an option for Tobias. Nathan may want to live a different life, and he was free to do that, but it would be without Romi.

Looking down at Romi clinging to his arm, he smiled at her. Using one hand, he lifted her face to his. Against his better judgment, he leaned down and captured her lips in a soft kiss. Turning his face away from Nathan wasn’t the smartest thing to do, but he also counted on the fact that Nathan wasn’t a

coward. That he wouldn't attack him while his head was turned away. Just the feel of Romi's soft lips made his cock thicken. Claiming her as his mate wasn't something he could wait for much longer. As he looked down into her face, he tilted his lips in an attempt at a smile. "It'll be fine. Just trust me."

Turning back to Nathan, Tobias pushed Romi behind him. It would piss her off that he was placing her behind him, but she'd get over it. The look on his friend's face hinted at his feelings. Good thing looks couldn't kill.

"Listen, Brother. We can all be happy with our Triad. We can come up with a situation that works for all of us, so you and I can both be happy. But know this. I will never take a step back for you. I will never stop being who I am," he growled. "I am blessed by the Goddess to be Alpha Supreme of this pack. That is my goddamned destiny, and no one will take that from me. You have been given the blessing of being part of the most powerful Alpha Triad in North America. You will never stop being who you are. My friend. My partner. My Advisor. The question is, are you willing to accept that our fates are intertwined, and our destinies are linked? Or will we have this fight every fucking day until you get it through your thick fucking head. I don't want to fight with you, but for my mate, I will rip your fucking throat out and feed it to you if you can't get the fuck over yourself."

Fifteen

Romi stepped in front of Tobias because she had a feeling the shit was about to hit the fan. “Stop. Tobias, no fighting in the bedroom. And no threatening to rip out anyone’s throat.” Using one hand to motion at Nathan, she snapped. “And you, stop this bullshit. Don’t you think it’s time to stop fighting this? I mean, hasn’t this animosity gone on for too damn long. You both know your roles in this situation. I’m the one who should be freaking the fuck out, but I’m not.”

Nathan said nothing. He stared at Tobias with fury reflected in his eyes. Everything in him wanted to rebel at his words. Was it selfish of him to want Romi all to himself? Yes. But it didn’t stop him from feeling this way.

“Nathan, please. Can we all just take a moment to calm down?” She felt Tobias pull her body close to his. His chest was pressed up against her back, his thick cock lay soft against her ass. “Today has been difficult, plus, we had to murder-death-kill a whole bunch of fools who trespassed on your land and kidnapped my godson. I mean, they were so stupid, right?” Making a joke seemed like a clever idea, but when she was met with dead silence, Romi shrugged her shoulders. “Well, I thought it was funny.”

“Next time you threaten me, you better be ready to back up your bullshit words. I’m not a sixteen-year-old pup anymore.”

Tobias laughed, but it wasn't a 'ha-ha, that's so funny' laugh, it was a 'fuck you, keep trying me laugh'. Romi knew the sound because she had done it a few times herself when people kept trying her. It was right before she split their bodies in half.

"Nathan," she said, looking at him with a shake of her head, as if telling him to cut it out.

Then she turned, glancing up at Tobias. "You know you deserved that. Please stop antagonizing your friend and threatening to kill him. I think for this to work, we need both of you alive and kicking."

Suddenly feeling the need to touch both men, she grabbed Tobias's arm and wrapped it around her waist. Reaching out her hand to Nathan, she curved her fingers in a come-hither motion. When his hand met hers, she felt a calmness overcome her. This felt right. Each of them separately called to her. The attraction and need for both Tobias and Nathan got stronger every day. But when they both touched her like this, something unlocked inside her body. Her soul stilled. Her heart slowed down, as if searching for a new pace until it locked in on what it wanted. She gasped in surprise when she felt the three of them get into sync. Is this what it felt like to have mates? To have two men who were made just for her? Mind-blowing.

She'd gone her whole life thinking she was 'too much' for a man to love and want the way she needed. But standing here, between these two men, the feeling was indescribable. She felt as if she'd finally come home. Against her will, water filled the well of her eyes, not quite tipping over, but she knew

it was noticed by her men. Tobias's grip on her waist tightened, while Nathan stepped closer.

"Sweetheart," Nathan whispered.

"Babygirl. It's going to be okay," Tobias said before placing a kiss on her temple.

Nodding in response to their words, Romi continued to hold on to both men. Not sure she was ready to describe what just happened, she focused on calming things between the two wolves. "Just for tonight, can we call a truce? I know there's still a lot to work through. I'm not saying this isn't important, but we can't solve all the problems in one night. Especially when you still need to wash that blood off," she said to Nathan.

His head tilted to look at his ruined clothes and his blood-stained fingers. "Yeah, I'll be back." Leaning in for a kiss, he pressed his lips to hers for only a quick second before leaning back. Glaring at Tobias, he released Romi's hand before stepping away and turning to walk towards the bathroom. "Don't do anything I wouldn't."

"Fuck you," Tobias called out.

Before she knew it, Romi's body had been turned around so that her chest was pressed against Tobias's. "Babygirl, want to explain why I come out of the shower and find another man's hands touching my pussy?"

Romi pulled back, shock covered her face as she stared at him. "First of all, this is my pussy. I belong to no man."

"No, sweetheart, you got it all wrong. From the moment you barreled into my life with your demands, your cutting

words, and your sweet smell of mango, you've belonged to me."

Choosing to ignore his words, even though they made her clit pulse and her channel clench, Romi continued. "Second of all, as you and Nathan keep reminding me, I belong to both of you. If he wants to touch me, he has every right to? Or are you telling me that it doesn't work that way, because if you are, then I'm not okay with that. Shouldn't he have just as many rights as you. He can't get me pregnant, which still sucks and I'm not sure he's okay with that..."

Tightening his arms around her waist, he pressed his forehead against hers. "He has no choice but to accept it. There has only even been one Alpha Triad that had children born from each male wolf. Unless the Goddess blesses him with that gift, it won't happen. Continuing to wish the situation would change, doesn't do a damn thing. We must take our blessings as they come. You will be blessed with children. They will be loved and raised by all three of us. That they will be of my blood should not matter."

Finally releasing her, he took a step back. He couldn't believe how beautiful she was. He wanted to run his fingers through her hair while he fucked his babies into her body. His gums itched to release his canines so he could give her his mate bite. Before she came into his life, he never would have believed just how much he needed her near him. When she was too far away, his wolf paced, uneasy with her presence so far away. If he had his way, he'd wrap her in his arms, place her in their bed, and never let her go.

Romi shook her head at him, “No, it will not matter if they are your children,”

“Pups.”

Laughing at his interruption, she turned toward the bed and sat down. He remained standing but was now facing her. “Fine, pups. But since I’m not yet pregnant, I think it’s okay if I call them whatever I want.”

“You must learn these things, Romi. You will be our Queen, our Luna. Human terms may not work anymore for certain things.”

“Tobias, I will learn all the things you need me to. If I need to take classes or get Layla to help me study, then I will.”

He went down on one knee, so they were eye-to-eye. “You’ve finally accepted that you’re my mate...our mate?”

Romi nodded as Tobias lifted one hand to her face. His thumb rubbed along her jawline.

Not sure when it happened, but yes, she was ready to accept them both, and her role in their lives. Somewhere in between coming to this large ass castle... mansion... house... whatever it was, and going on a killing spree getting rid of Jones and his lackeys, Romi had come to the tough realization that this is where she was meant to be.

With Tobias.

With Nathan.

How she would stop these two stubborn ass wolves from killing each other, she had no idea.

“You know, I’m a pretty confident woman.”

“Yes, I’ve come to know that about you in our brief time together.”

“I have to admit, I’m not sure how to do this.”

Rising from the floor, he sat on the bed next to her before wrapping one arm around her and pulling her body close. “Babygirl, we’re all going to learn how to do this together. Yes, there are protocols and rules, but we can do things our own way.”

“What if you get tired of all my demands. You may not have noticed this, but I can be stubborn.” Was she trying to convince him to not marry her? “Wait, do we actually get married? Like in a church?”

Adjusting his arms, he lifted her from the bed and had her sit on his lap. Being this close to Tobias scrambled her mind. All she could focus on was how good it felt to be this close to him. His scent was intoxicating. The shape of his lips called her closer, as if begging her to kiss him. Those beautiful hazel eyes seemed to stare into her soul as she got her fill.

“Why can’t I stop looking at you?” Those weren’t the words she meant to say, but she also couldn’t stop them from coming out. It was a real question.

“Because you want me just as much as I want you. Even though you fought me every step of the way, you’ve always known you belonged with me. That you would have never left me.”

Lifting her hand, she ran her fingers through his dark hair. “I would have tried. I’m a fighter and I don’t like taking orders.”

The more she touched him, the more aroused she became. One of his hands skimmed along her leg, lifting her dress from her bare leg. With the way she was sitting, her body was in the perfect position for Tobias to touch and tease her however he wanted. As he got closer to the top of her thigh, she wanted to swat his hand away, but knew she wouldn't.

Not only because she had allowed Nathan to touch her so intimately, but because she wanted Tobias to do the same. She wanted to feel his hands on her body as she came apart.

“If you tried to leave, I would have come after you. I will always come after you. You are my mate. I will never let you go.” Cradling her face in one palm, he pulled her down to him so he could kiss her. It wasn't soft and easy. It was hard and bruising. His lips crushed hers. His tongue entered her mouth, tasting her. There was nothing tame about what was happening. If there was any doubt in her mind that she was his, he was erasing that doubt right now.

Her mind filled with images of the two of them writhing together on the bed, their naked bodies flushed from exertion, with sweat glistening on their skin. He nudged her waist, twisting her so that she straddled his lap. Romi's dress rode up on her hips as she pressed her mound to his burgeoning cock. Rocking back and forth, she tried to capture the feeling that was just out of reach.

His mouth devoured hers. One hand kneaded the soft flesh of her breast. The other hand grabbed at the flesh of her ample ass. His wolf prowled under the surface, anxious for Tobias to finally claim Romi as his. Lifting from the bed, he turned and placed her down on the mattress. Looking down

into her face, he couldn't help but smirk at the look on her face. "Baby, don't tempt me. I want to fuck you so bad right now. My wolf is itching and my cock is begging for me to sink inside your body." He stopped and scented the air. "You smell so fucking delicious."

Lifting his upper body, he was on his knees as he moved her dress to rest along her waist. That she wasn't wearing any panties made his mouth water. This was going to be so much better than he thought. Taking a moment to enjoy the view in front of him, Tobias used one hand to skim along her upper thigh. He rubbed along the soft flesh of her stomach that would one day hold his pups. The thought of her growing big with his seed brought a smile to his face. Even her toes were cute, the red paint contrasted so beautifully with her brown skin.

"I want to taste you."

Romi nodded her head so fast, she thought it would fall off her neck. "Yes. Please."

"Hold on tight, Babygirl."

Sliding down, Tobias adjusted his hardened length to the side as he lay on his stomach. Grabbing both of her legs with his large hands, he pressed the limbs back so that Romi was spread wide open for him. Taking a moment, he gave thanks to the Goddess for the meal he was about to receive. Then he inhaled deeply, causing saliva to pool in his mouth as he savored her scent.

"Tobias, is everyth—?"

Before she could finish, he latched onto her bare mound. His tongue began to swipe and lick at her flesh. Taste burst on his tongue. Mango. His favorite flavor. His grip tightened on her thighs as he held her body right where he wanted her. Tobias had never tasted anything so fucking delicious. If he could, he'd stay right here forever, sucking and licking his mate until he drove her absolutely out of her mind.

“Oh. Fuck. That feels so good.”

Romi's high-pitched voice belted out into the room. Tobias's hearing picked up that Nathan had just turned off the shower. Not sure if he was actually finished or if he could smell their mate's essence permeating throughout the room. If he were a betting man, it was because he could scent her. Nathan knew that Tobias was giving her pleasure and there was nothing he could do to stop it. For the moment, Romi was all his and Tobias had every right to take whatever she was willing to give.

Grasping her tighter, he used his tongue to rapidly enter her pulsating sheath. Oh, fuck, he wished it was his dick. He wasn't worried though, that would come later. Glancing up from the sumptuous treat in front of him, he saw Romi's head thrown back, her hands tangled in the mattress cover, her mouth open in a silent scream. He needed more from her. Wanted to know that she would never forget who brought her pleasure. Yes, she belonged to both him and Nathan, but right now, she was all his. His mouth. His tongue. Her essence coated his tongue as he feasted on her.

“Oh, Tobias,” she moaned. “Yes. Oh, shit. Feels so good. Yes,” her words ended on a high note as her body seized in

pleasure. The flow of liquid increased, and he swallowed her flavor as if it were the sweetest ambrosia.

Removing his mouth from her swollen mound, he leaned his body up to stare down at her. His cock was thick and pulsating, and he wanted nothing more than to slide inside her body and claim her. All he had to do was thrust forward and he could slide inside.

“If you claim her without me, I’m outta here. I won’t return. Ever. And I wouldn’t give a shit about what happens afterwards. This Triad will cease to exist.” Nathan’s harsh voice called out into the silence.

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Sixteen

Tobias glanced back down at Romi. For one moment, he was tempted to say fuck it all and take her right now. Nathan could join in, or he could fuck off. Either way, Tobias would get what he wanted.

“Don’t be an idiot,” Nathan growled. “I already know what you’re thinking. How? Because I felt the same.” Stepping close to the bed, he stared at Romi lying on the bed.

Tobias was staring at his friend closely, waiting for him to make the wrong move. His body was tense as he stared at Nathan standing next to the bed. Which is no doubt why he noticed the change that came over Nathan’s face for just a millisecond.

Longing.

Need.

Regret.

Turning away, Nathan walked over to the table and sat down. “I came back to fulfill my destiny. Now that I’m here, I’m not giving her up. If the price of having Romi means that I must share her with you for life, then so be it.”

Rustling on the bed let Tobias know that Romi was moving, sitting up. Moving back, he grabbed her ankles and helped her get more comfortable. She remained seated on the bed as she turned her body to Nathan. Reaching out her hand to Tobias, she looked between the two of them. Her eyes held

a hint of sadness and confusion. He knew it was because both him and Nathan continuously fought over her like a dog with a bone. Not that he knew what she was feeling, but he could feel her regret wafting off her body with an acidic scent.

“Nathan. What are you saying? You must make it plain to both of us.” If this was Nathan accepting his fate, Tobias needed to hear the words. It was important that Nathan say it out loud. If he didn’t, there would always be a kernel of doubt that he truly wanted this life. Earlier, he was on the verge of losing his shit and ripping out his friend’s throat, but Tobias knew that his ascension to the throne would not be the same without Nathan as his second, and Romi as their pack Luna. Their Queen.

A long sigh escaped Nathan’s lips before he glanced over at Romi. She sat on the bed with her hair mussed and her eyes glazed over from lust and desire. With both making her orgasm, Tobias knew she was feeling overwhelmed. It was natural. Now it was their job to make sure she calmed. Plus, her taste was still on his tongue and by the Goddess, he wanted to taste her again.

“Stop staring at our mate and answer me.”

Lifting his gaze from Romi, Nathan turned to Tobias and smirked. “Are you always going to be this fucking insufferable? Because if I have to live the rest of my years listening to your demands and growls, I’m not sure I can take it.”

Soft laughter came from Romi as she scooted closer to the edge of the bed. “Does this mean what I think it does?”

Even now, his stubborn ass friend/brother couldn't just give them what they needed. If he thought he could get away with it, Tobias would break his neck and bury him in the woods. But he knew Romi would be sad if Nathan disappeared without a trace. Okay, fine. He wouldn't kill him. Today.

Tomorrow, however, was a different story.

"It means," Nathan said, turning to look in Romi's eyes, "that I know how important a strong Triad is to the future of our pack. From the moment you burst into my life, I've known you were the other half of my soul. Nothing will make me turn away from you or leave your side. Even if that means I have to be bound to that asshole," he motioned to Tobias with a head tilt, "for the rest of my life." Fully turning to Tobias, he leaned back in the chair. "Does that answer your question?"

"Fuck you," Tobias growled. Fine, so maybe he wasn't as good with the flowery words as Nathan. Words weren't the only way he could express his feelings for his mate. So what if he was more a man of action. Romi had to know that he wanted her just as much as Nathan, if not more so. His pups could only be carried by his true mate. His life was tied to hers until the day he was taken from this earth. Everything he is and everything he would be, was tied to the beautiful woman in front of him.

"Tobias," Romi said in a low tone, reaching out to touch his arm. "Please be nice. If we're doing this, I want peace. I can't have you two at each other's throats for the rest of our lives. I mean, how does your mother deal... Oh, that's it." Hopping up from the bed, she began to adjust her clothing.

Running over to the mirror, she used her hands to fix her hair.
“I have to go speak with your mother.”

“My mother?” Nathan asked.

“No. The Queen. Maria. His mother,” she said in a rush to the door.

“My mother?” Tobias looked at her with a furrowed brow. “Right now? Why?”

Romi huffed and stared at him as if his IQ was in the low double-digits. “Because she’s done this before. She’s lived with your bio-dad and bonus dad for your entire life. They seem happy and the two of them aren’t always sniping at each other like two other people I know,” she glanced between the two of them. “I need to find out her secret. Understand how in the hell we can make this work. Because I will not have an unhappy home or relationship with the two of you. And if I end up hurting one of you because you can’t get along, then your parents will be upset with me. So, while I’m gone, I need the two of you to figure this shit out between you. All the snapping at each other needs to stop. I’ll do my part, but you need to do yours also. Both of you will be my husband. Both of you,” she stressed. With a wave of her hand, she opened the door. “Don’t look for me. I’ll find you when I’m done.”

Once she’d exited the space, Tobias and Nathan stared at the door for a few seconds, before Nathan spoke. “Well, this is going to be interesting. I give it two-months before all the guards are afraid of her and she makes them piss their pants when she walks by.”

Laughter bubbled up as Tobias stood frozen in place. Did his mate just tell him to ‘Stay’ so she could traipse around

his home... her future home... without a care in the world? Did they not just go through a traumatic experience together? Glancing over at Nathan, he saw his friend's face held a smile as well. One thing for sure, there would never be a dull moment with Romi by their side.

“Hell, I give it thirty-days. That woman is going to be the death of me.”

Standing, Nathan walked over to him. “But it'll be a good death with our mate by our side.” He went quiet for a moment as they both languished in their own thoughts. “I never thought we'd find her. When I left, it felt final. But now that I'm returned, I know this is where I belong. With her.”

“This is a package deal Nathan. We are both connected to her. Where she goes, I go. Where I go, she will be by my side.” Tobias sighed as he turned to his friend. “But that goes for you as well. Once we're bonded, she will never be able to leave your side, and the same goes for you. Can you handle that? I don't want to fight with you every day. What is that saying? Oh, happy wife, happy life. Romi is my mate, our mate, and she needs us to make her happy. Now that I've found her, I want to make her happy. I don't know what the ramifications would be, or if there's someone else who could complete the Triad.”

Fists clenched and nostrils flaring, Nathan took a step forward. “There is no one else. If someone else tries to replace me, I will kill them. Keep that in mind. You asked me to accept this, and I will. That doesn't fucking mean that I'm going to change my way of thinking overnight. Give me a fucking minute.”

“You’ve had years. A minute more is too damn long. Your anger at our situation isn’t becoming. I’m tired of playing these games with you. You’ve made your concerns known, but that you’re still questioning how this will work is getting old as fuck. I’m done. I’m tired. And now, I have business to handle. Take the next few hours to get the fuck over yourself. If you want our mate, then you need to start acting like her mate and not a fucking idiot who can’t control his emotions.”

“You don’t understand,” Nathan said, his chest heaving.

Looking closely at his friend, Tobias reined in his own anger. “That’s where you’re wrong, because I do. Our lives have been mapped out for us since the moment we were born. I know no other way but to be who I am, but my path has been clear for me. As my second to Romi, I know what that means for you. For your future. I get it, Brother. But the Goddess has plans for us. She knows your heart and soul better than you do. She would not ask this of you without knowing the sacrifice you will need to make. I know what tears you up inside, but I cannot change it. Only the Goddess can bless your union with Romi to make her quicken with your pups.”

Taking a step back, Nathan dropped his head and ran a hand along his eyes. When he raised his gaze back to Tobias, there was acceptance, but also hurt. “I asked Brayden how he did it all these years. How he was able to step back and raise you as his own son, while not having any pups of his own.”

Hearing that Nathan had outright asked Brayden about this took him by surprise. It wasn’t that he ever felt alone or that Brayden didn’t love him or care for him, because Tobias knew that he did. As a child, when he came home to proudly

share whatever accomplishment he'd made at school or with the other pack children, Brayden was right there with his mom and dad, celebrating him. Telling him how proud he was. Growing up, he never questioned his role as the favored child, the heir-apparent, the only child of the most powerful Alpha Triad on the US Continent.

What he now realizes he never did, was take note of how Brayden felt. Tobias had always known who his biological father was, and he'd always felt lucky to have his bonus dad. But what did Brayden feel? Did he ever resent his role as second mate to the Queen? Were there private moments between his father and Brayden where they fought and resented each other for both loving Maria so fiercely?

Coming back to the conversation with Nathan, Tobias tried not to show his eagerness to hear what Nathan had to say. "So, what did Brayden tell you? Any words of wisdom?"

Nathan was silent for a moment, as if trying to gather his thoughts. "Only that in public, the Triad must show a united front. That he and your parents had to work out their own dynamic in private. Honestly, I don't want to think about what that means. But they've been happy for more than forty years. They found a balance." Lifting one hand, he ran his fingers through his hair. "If they found a way, so can we."

Releasing the breath he hadn't realized he was holding inside, Tobias nodded. "Yeah, we can." Walking to the door, he stopped at the threshold. "Seems like you have a lot to think about. Whatever your decision, know that you need to make peace with yourself. You've been burdened under the expectations that you thought you had to live up to. It's time to

stop living in the past of ‘what if’ and live in the here and now. I hate to say it, but you and I both know that you belong here. We’re meant to rule our pack together. Don’t fuck up and think you know better than the Goddess.”

With those last words, Tobias exited the room, leaving Nathan with a lot on his mind and some life lessons to consider. Romi’s forgiveness for the way he’d acted had to be somewhere down the road. Maybe not today or even tomorrow, but he knew that it was time he put the anger behind him.

Romi walked quickly as she searched out Tobias’s mother. “This fricking place is huge. How in the hell can I find anyone in this maze? Fuck.” Right as she was on the verge of yelling out the woman’s name, she appeared from around a corner.

Dressed fashionably in a pair of black leather pants, black leather boots with a four-inch heel, and a red silk blouse, the pack Luna was beautiful. No wonder both of her husbands were completely smitten with her.

“Excuse me, your highness,” Romi began.

“Hello, Romi. Just call me Maria. From what I understand, you’ll be part of the family soon. I refuse to have my daughter-in-law use such a formal title.”

“Yes... Maria. Well, what do the other people, um, pack members call you?” Now she was curious and getting off track, but she still wanted to know.

“Queen or Luna, which means the same thing. Tomas is all about formality, especially when we’re out of the house. I don’t care either way. But since I’ve had the title for most of my life, I’m used to it at this point.”

Listening intently, Romi held the other woman’s gaze. “I’m not sure I’ll ever get used to it. I’m just plain old Romi Sutton. Sister to Layla, eccentric aunt and godmother to Christopher. Oh, and I can control electricity, shoot fire from my fingertips, and have very powerful telekinesis. You know, I’m just a simple girl.” Romi held a straight face until Maria burst out laughing.

“Yeah, there’s nothing simple about you Ms. Romi Sutton. Especially now that you’re the future Luna of our pack and mate to the Alpha Prince and his Beta.”

The reminder of why she was looking to speak with Maria sobered up Romi quickly. “That’s... well, that’s why I was coming to find you. Do you have a few minutes to talk with me about Tobias and Nathan? They’ve tried to explain to me how this all works, but I still have questions. Normally, I’d go to Layla, but I think this may be a bit out of her area of expertise.” Romi was trying to do this the right way. She wanted to be a good Luna, but she wanted to be an even better mate to Nathan and Tobias. Shy of smacking them both in the back of the head, she needed to find a more ‘beneficial’ way to get her mates to cooperate with each other.

“Sure, dear. Let’s go into my sitting room.” Maria began walking and Romi took up next to her. “So, what is it that I can help you with?”

Now that the moment was here, Romi was having second thoughts about coming to Tobias's mother. She should try to figure this out on her own.

"Romi? Did you have a specific question that you needed to ask me." They arrived at Maria's sitting room and the older woman walked over to the bar on the other side of the room. Romi's hands were sweating from nerves, which never happened to her. Then again, this was a unique situation.

"Yes, I want to know how to be... um... intimate with both Tobias and Nathan so that they both feel they're getting equal time. I don't want either of them left out and since Tobias will always be the Alpha, he may want to take priority and make it all about him. If I'm going to be a true mate to both of them, how do I make them both see that. I don't want them fighting for my time and attention. And since none of my children will be Nathan's I want to find a way to give something back to him, something that's only his. I know in public, there's a hierarchy, and I'm okay with that. But... well, I want to be happy. They both make me feel things. I'm drawn to each of them in a way that I can't explain." Romi gave an awkward laugh. "I'm not sure why I'm telling you this. It's just that, you're already in a Triad with Tomas and Brayden. I want to know how it works."

Maria eyes were wide, but she didn't look upset as Romi vomited words from her mouth. Taking a sip of the wine she'd poured for herself, she stared at Romi for a few more seconds. "Well, that was a mouthful. I'm glad you came to me." Walking over to the couch, she sat down before patting the space next to her. "Come. Sit. Let's talk. Because I'm going to tell you a secret."

Romi sat down, eager to hear what the other woman had to say.

“First thing you need to know is, an Alpha can only rise to the throne once he has fully embraced his destiny. Your bond with Tobias is what will allow him to ascend. Your bond with Nathan is what will create the Alpha Triad. You three need each other more than you think. The unified front you show to the world will strengthen our pack and keep our enemies far away. Your connection with your two men behind closed doors... well, that my dear is where the real magic happens.”

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Seventeen

After her talk with Maria, Romi knew that she had some work to do. For so long, she'd only had to worry about herself, her feelings, her wants and needs. If she was going to fully jump into this new world, she had to change her entire perspective. That wasn't going to be easy. In the past, she'd always been a take charge type of person. If someone didn't like what she was doing or the life she was living, fuck 'em. That motto had served her for years.

Walking along the sidewalk in the heart of the city, she tried to envision herself being here for the rest of her life. The main town had just over five-thousand residents. For any other town, that would be small. But when you added in that every person who lived here was a wolf-shifter. More powerful than the average human being, which added an extra special layer to things.

"Afternoon, Ms. Romi." Following the voice, she noticed a beautiful little girl of about five years old waving at her with one hand, while an older woman, maybe her mother, had hold of the other one.

"Hi, sweetheart. Are you having a good day?" Slowing to a stop, Romi crouched down to put herself at eye level with the child.

"Yes, ma'am. My mom said I should leave you alone, but I like you."

Glancing at the woman holding the little girl's hand, Romi laughed when red bloomed on her cheeks. "It's okay. My godson, Christopher, likes to say whatever his mind conjures up. It can be... embarrassing."

"My apologies, Lady Romi. She heard about what happened the other night and now she's obsessed with learning everything about you. It's not enough for her that she has her own powers, but now she wants to sparkle and shoot lightning from her fingertips." At the look on Romi's face, the woman began to back pedal. "I'm so sorry. I shouldn't have brought that up. We-We should get going. Come on, Brittany. Let's leave Lady Romi alone."

It wasn't that Romi was concerned that the little girl wanted to know more about Romi's powers, it was the name the woman called her. Romi stood and reached out a hand toward the woman and child. "Wait. No need to leave. What's your name?"

"Beth. Beth Myers. This is my daughter Brittany. She's four."

"But I'll be five in two months," the little girl interjected.

Romi smiled down at her. "Well, you're definitely a big girl. Five is such an awesome age." Looking back at Beth, she tried to soften her features. "It's okay that your daughter wants to get to know me. Curiosity is a good thing for small children. Plus, I recognize that my situation is a little unique, so I'll be careful with my words."

"Thank you. I know we shouldn't approach you this way. You know, with you being who you are and everything."

Romi smiled softly. “What do you mean, who I am? And you called me Lady Romi. I’m a bit confused by that.”

The woman looked around again before facing Romi. “You’re our future Luna.”

Okay, so clearly, Tobias has been talking. Romi didn’t mind it so much, but with everything up in the air with her feelings for him and Nathan, she wasn’t sure if he should be advertising her status. She turned her attention back to Beth as the woman continued talking.

“Tobias has made it known that you are his mate. His true mate and future Queen. We’ve known since they were young that Nathan would be part of the Alpha Triad with Tobias. When you showed up and Nathan was drawn back home at the same time, word began to spread that something was happening. That your arrival meant a change for us.”

Glancing down at little Brittany, Romi smiled. She knew that little kids picked up everything they heard and carried those messages around, even if they weren’t sure of the message. “Beth, does anyone find it odd how the Alpha Triad happens? The current Alpha and his two mates, Maria and Brayden, seem loved and respected. No one... um... questions how three people can be...” Suddenly at a loss for words, Romi paused. Not only were little ears around, but it wasn’t right to be asking a member of the pack how they felt about the ruling family.

A smile came over Beth’s face. “Our Alpha loves his Luna. Our Luna loves her second husband. Our Alpha Supreme is stronger because of his Triad mates. Together, they keep us safe. They rule fairly. They have raised the next Alpha

for our pack. To be part of the Alpha Triad is a blessing from the Goddess. Plus, when fate and destiny give us our mate, our true mate, that's not something we take for granted. Some are blessed with just one mate. Others," she smiled wider motioning to Romi, "are blessed with two."

"I see." And, she really did. The questions rolling around in her head, preventing her from jumping in with both feet, were focused on what others expected. Would they be looked at oddly? Did the members of the pack resent them? As the woman in the middle of a sexy man sandwich, would others judge her for loving two men? Based on what Beth was saying, that answer would be no.

"Good afternoon, Tobias." Beth's demeanor changed as soon as she greeted the Alpha Prince. She averted her gaze down, as did little Brittany. "Afternoon, Nathan."

Romi was surprised she hadn't felt them approaching. Then again, she'd been so focused on the thoughts running around in her head, she wasn't paying attention to the things happening around her. That also wasn't good, but she wasn't overly concerned. Not with being inside one of the most protected cities. Plus, no one here could hurt her. She was too powerful, even if she didn't show it.

"Beth. Little Brittany. Good afternoon." Tobias greeted as he walked up on her right side.

"Hey Beth." Nathan called out as he stood on the other side. "Hi Brittany. I like your dress," he said with a smile at the little girl.

"Hi Nathan. Hi Prince Tobias. It's new. Look at what happens when I do this." Pulling away from her mother's

hand, Brittany twirled, showing how her dress billowed out.

“Well, that’s real nice. Brittany. When I have a little girl, I’ll make sure she gets a dress just like that.” Once he spoke the words, the adults all froze, even Beth. It was well known that as the second husband, he would never have children of his own. There’d only been one situation in known pack history where a child was born from the second husband. It hadn’t happened again in more than one-hundred years.

“Um... well, I’d better get her back home for her nap. It was nice speaking with you, Lady Romi. Alpha. Nathan.” She nodded her head to both men before turning to walk away.

“Bye, Ms. Romi!” Brittany waved as her mother pulled her away.

Looking over at Nathan, she watched him clench his jaw. His gaze was focused on a faraway spot.

“Nathan?” Grabbing his hand, she tried getting his attention. “Hey, look at me.”

It took a few moments, but he turned his eyes to her face. “Don’t, Romi. It’s fine.”

She glanced at Tobias. “Fix this,” she demanded.

The look he threw back at her would have made a lesser woman step back. “I thought I did. Nathan and I have come to an agreement and an understanding.”

Thinking back on her conversation with Maria earlier today, Romi knew that it was up to her to bridge the relationship between Tobias and Nathan. As their mate, neither of them would be willing to walk away. And when she thought

about it, she wasn't willing to give them up either. She wanted both of them and she was determined to have them.

Noticing that the three of them were gathering a crowd, she began walking back in the direction of their home. As the thought entered her mind, she had to smile. Yes, it was their home. She knew the decision had been made to stay with them, to mate with them, and to love them. Now she just needed them to put aside their animosity to come together. Not only for their Triad, but for the pack.

It may have taken her a moment to get here, but now that she'd gotten to this point, there was no going back.

She continued walking down the sidewalk as she waved and said hello to the women and children who greeted her. Although she couldn't hear their footsteps, she knew Tobias and Nathan were following behind. Some of the people who passed them, gave the trio funny looks. Romi simply smiled at them and kept it moving. Glancing over her shoulder, she noticed her two men were no more than two feet behind her. Tobias looked smug. Nathan looked annoyed.

She had a surefire way to put a smile on their face and she was ready to get down to the benefits of their relationship. Romi couldn't help but think about Nathan's fingers plunging inside her body, making her channel slicken with need. Then the feel of Tobias licking and eating her pussy made her catch her breath. The memory of how they made her feel earlier was enough to make her pick up the pace. Her desire for them was increasing. It was becoming uncomfortable to walk as her clit hardened and her nipples pebbled.

“Smell that, Nathan? Our mate is eager for us. The scent of her is making me hard as a rock.” Romi heard Tobias speak in a low tone and couldn’t help the smile that came over her face. “Mate, if you don’t hurry up and get to our home, I will fuck you where you stand, in front of the good wolves of our community. I know you don’t want that. Or do you?”

Of course, she didn’t want that. But if she didn’t, why did the thought of being watched as Tobias fucked her into oblivion seem so fucking sexy? Maybe it wasn’t the people in town who she wanted to watch them. There was only one other person who could make her feel this heat coursing through her body.

“Romi, if you want us to take you right here, keep walking slow. But know that when we start, we’re not going to stop. You’re teasing us and I’m just about at my limit. It would be smart for you to heed our words.”

Picking up the pace, Romi was slow jogging her way to their home. She wasn’t going to break out into a full sprint, but a bitch could power-walk. As they continued speaking, her body became more aroused. They were wolves. Shifters. Of course, they could smell her desire for them. Smirking, Romi knew this was a much better way to get them on the same page. Claiming their woman.

Tobias spoke up again. “Fuck it. You have ten seconds to get home, or I’m going to do something we’ll both regret.”

When he finished, Nathan spoke. “Ten.”

Romi paused and turned to them both. “What? Really?”

“Nine.”

“Guys. Wait. I need more time.”

“Eight.”

Realizing they were dead serious, a broad smile came over her face. “Okay, you’re on.” She began running as fast as she could. With her speed, she could have made it there within just a few seconds, but she wanted to make things fun. Being caught was going to be her reward. She’d fought this thing called fate for too long. This was going to be her future. Her home. Tobias. Nathan. Her Alpha and her Second.

As she ran past the people hanging around on the street and going in and out of stores, she smiled. The three of them were going to be the talk of the town and at every dinner table tonight. She didn’t care. Nothing mattered but getting to their room at the mansion. The pounding of feet behind her caused her smile to widen. Her men were no longer trying to be stealthy. They wanted her to know she was being chased. Hunted. She was their prey, and they were the predators.

Bursting through the front doors, she gave a quick wave to the three shocked faces coming out of the study. If she were paying attention, she would have noticed that Tomas, Maria, and Brayden all looked a bit... disheveled. But she wasn’t paying attention and gave a quick greeting as she ran up the stairs that led to Tobias’s wing.

“Alpha. Luna. Brayden.” The quick greeting left her lips as she went past them.

The crash through the door told her Tobias and Nathan were hot on her heels.

“Romi,” Tobias bellowed out as he ran in front of Nathan.

“Catch me if you can,” Romi teased.

“You won’t leave the bedroom for days,” Nathan called out.

Finally making it to the bedroom, she rushed inside and stood at the foot of the bed. Tobias and Nathan came in no less than a second behind her. The door slammed behind both men as they stood their looking at her. Chest’s heaving. Eyes glowing. Fists clenched. Dicks hard.

“I won.” She teased.

“Clothes. Off. Now.” Tobias’s voice was harsh. Raw. Rough. Needy.

She could continue to try and fight them. Tell them they didn’t own her body. Challenge them. Deny that she wanted to be with them as much as they wanted her. But why? There was no need to keep running. Grabbing her shirt, she removed it from her body. Just because she was following orders, it didn’t mean she couldn’t tease them a little.

“Am I the only one getting naked?” Within seconds, both men had stripped down and were standing naked in front of her. Romi’s mouth went dry as she saw them in their full glory.

Thick muscled chests. Tobias had a smattering of smooth, dark hair covering his chest. Nathan’s chest was covered in brown hair with red highlights. Their thick members stood straight out.

Tobias was thick, veiny, and long. He looked delicious.

Nathan was smooth, a bit shorter, and curved. Luscious.

She wanted them both inside her.

“Romi, you’re trying my patience,” Nathan growled.

Without saying another word, she stripped off the rest of her clothes. When she peeled her panties away from her soaking wet mound, twin groans released from Nathan and Tobias. Each of them scented the air, inhaling deeply as they pulled her scent into their bodies.

“Fuck, baby. I need to be inside you. You are so beautiful,” Tobias whispered.

Nathan fisted his cock. “Romi, sweetheart. You’re killing me over here.”

Kicking her clothes to the side, she climbed on the bed and lay back. “I belong to both of you. Equally. Without reservation, I know that being with both of you is what I need. What I want. I accept your claim on me. My heart. My body. My soul. I will bear any children made from our union. I will help you rule. I will serve as your Luna. Your Queen. Now it’s your time to claim what’s yours.”

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Eighteen

Tobias stared at the woman lying on the bed in front of him and knew no one would ever hold his heart the way she did. He would love her, worship her, and protect her until he no longer existed on this earth. For so long, he doubted his true mate would arrive. He felt he was destined to be alone due to the circumstances with his second, Nathan.

He should have known better than to question the Goddess. She always gave what was needed, even if it were unexpected.

“Romi, there is no going back. You are ours.”

A soft smile lit up her face. “I’m not going anywhere.”

“Open for me, baby.”

Staring at Tobias, she did what he asked. He crawled between her legs, leaned his head down, and placed a light kiss on her bare mound. “You are my deepest craving and my greatest desire.” Positioning his naked body so that he rested half-on and half-off the bed, Tobias used his fingers to spread her lower lips, bringing her wet, glistening pussy to his view. His mouth began watering at the vision in front of him.

“Fuck.”

“Tobias,” she called his name in a pleading tone.

Dipping his head, he took a swipe of her pussy, gathering up the juices waiting for him to taste. This was the

tastiest treat he'd ever had. If given the chance, he would gladly enjoy it every day for the rest of his blessed life.

Romi's loud moans filled the room. Along with the sounds of Tobias slurping and licking. If anyone were listening, there was no way they could pretend to misunderstand exactly what was happening.

Nathan waited until Tobias began his ministrations before choosing to move. Yes, he fought against the expectations of his role, but now that he was here, nothing would stop him from claiming his mate. Walking up to the head of the bed, he ran his thumb along her bottom lip, getting her attention. "Open up, sweetheart."

When she smiled up at him, his heart clenched. There was nothing in this world that would pull him away from her. Even the thought of leaving her caused a rush of hurt to enter his body. He was, without a doubt, in love with the woman in front of him. On this one thing, if nothing else, he and his wolf agreed. Guiding his thick member to her mouth, he pressed the tip to her soft lips. "Take me in."

Romi opened wide and swallowed the tip. The feel of her tongue against the velvety steel of his cock caused a rush of sensation to course through him. With every moan she made as Tobias feasted on her, Nathan benefited as her lips were wrapped around his cock.

"Yes, baby. Just like that. Suck me in."

Toes curling, Nathan began to thrust deeper, hitting the back of her throat. Head thrown back, he used both hands to grab her face and control her movements. Slow. Fast. Hold. "Yeah, that's it. No other mouth will ever touch me this way."

Romi was becoming overwhelmed with sensation. Every lick and flick of Tobias's tongue against her clit electrified her body. She wanted more. Needed more. She'd never been this sensitive to touch before. Her orgasm was overwhelming every nerve in her body. Hips thrusting harder, pushing her pussy closer to Tobias's mouth, she wanted him to devour her. Break her apart and put her back together again. How could one man be so good with his mouth. His teeth nipped her clit and she screamed around the thick cock in her mouth.

One hand was wrapped around the strands of Tobias's thick hair. Her entire lower body raised from the bed. Even though her legs were draped over Tobias's shoulders, the strength of her thighs forced him to adjust his position. His mouth never leaving her, he continued to nibble, suck, and bite her flesh as if it were his last meal. One thick finger slid inside her body and Romi broke apart.

Her orgasm felt like a waterfall rushing over her, with the power of a freight train. Her mouth opened wide. Romi gave a guttural yell as she convulsed in explosive release. Removing his digit from her channel, Tobias used both hands to grasp her ass, holding her in place as he drank down her essence. She could feel him taking gulps, his mouth opening and closing as liquid flowed from her.

Above her, Nathan could no longer hold himself in. The vibrations of her moans and silent yells took him over the edge. "Romi. Yes, baby. That's it. I'm coming. Swallow it all, sweetheart. Drink me down." Through the haze of ecstasy, Romi managed to open her eyes and nod at Nathan. He grabbed her hair, twisting the thick strands around his fingers and began rapidly thrusting. "Fuck!" When he released inside

her mouth, that set off Romi. She orgasmed again, overcome from the sensation, the forming of their bond electrifying her skin.

Sweat covered all three of them as Nathan removed himself from her mouth. Tobias unlatched his mouth from her mound. Looking down at him, she could see his lower face glistening and shiny.

“Damn, baby. You taste good.”

All she could do was nod in response. Glancing between the two men, she became emotional. “I need you. Both of you.”

“We need you too. Don’t ever forget it,” Tobias whispered against her thigh. Tobias shifted his body and rose from between her legs. Kissing along her naked flesh, he stopped briefly to place soft kisses on her stomach, then he moved up further to kiss and suckle each of her breasts.

Climbing up on the bed, he draped his strong form over hers. Adjusting her legs to accommodate him, she allowed her body to be shifted on the bed, pulling them closer to the headboard. Her top leg was lifted, and Tobias gave her one more chance to walk away. The tip of his penis bumped against her opening. “Let me in, baby. I need to be inside of you, Tobias groaned.

With a small whimper, Romi opened her legs wider. Tobias grabbed his shaft and notched inside her slick channel. Leaning down, he kissed her softly on the lips and she tasted her essence, turning her on even more. Pressing inside slowly so she could get used to his size, Tobias used one hand and moved her hair out of her face. “You’re so tight. You fit me so

perfectly.” Pressing his forehead to hers, he continued to push forward until he hit her cervix. While he still had a few inches to go, he paused. “Breathe, baby. It’s okay.”

Romi felt full, but it was the most amazing feeling she’d ever felt. Being connected to Tobias this way unlocked something inside her. The emptiness in her heart began filling. The feelings of sadness and loneliness she had for so long was fading away. She wanted him to move but was just as happy to enjoy the feeling of him being inside of her. Just then, he pulled his hips back and pushed forward slightly. She gasped as electricity seemed to sizzle through her entire body. “Oh, fuck. Yes.”

“You were meant for us, Romi. We won’t be able to let you go.” He gave her a few seconds to respond or protest his words. When she didn’t protest—actually, she pressed closer to him—he began to glide in and out of her slick channel. His thick cock stretching the walls of her pussy and causing a moan of ecstasy to fall from her lips. Inch by inch, he claimed her body until he was balls deep inside, pressed fully to the hilt.

It felt so good. She could almost weep from the sensation. Romi could feel her inner walls gripping Tobias as he stroked and thrust deeper. She wanted him to go faster, harder. She just needed more. Something was missing. As soon as the thought entered her mind, she opened her eyes to stare into Tobias’s golden gaze. “I need…”

“Oh, sweetheart, I know. You can feel it. Your body wants both of us to fuck you hard. But your soul… yeah, your soul knows that you aren’t complete until we’re both inside of

you. So, don't worry, sweetheart, it's not over yet". With a smile on his face, he leaned down to kiss her, his tongue delving into her mouth as she grabbed him tight around his wide shoulders. With a quick motion, her body was flipped over so that she was now on top of Tobias and Nathan was now standing behind them, at the end of the bed.

Lifting her head and glancing over her shoulder, she smiled at Nathan. Watching him climb on the bed, she felt a shiver pass through her. Although she'd experienced backdoor sex before, she knew this would be so much more. For one, Nathan and Tobias were bigger than any man from her past. Either this was going to hurt so much she passed out, or it was going to feel so damn good, her addiction to these men would know no bounds.

Turning back to look at Tobias underneath her, she tilted her head as she stared down at him. Lips lifting at the corners, she made sure her words were clear. "I belong to you, just as much as you belong to me."

"Yes," he agreed.

Romi felt something cold press against her and knew Nathan must be using some lube that he'd gathered for this moment. He pressed a finger, then two, inside to prepare her body for him. A low moan escaped as she felt her body adjust to the feeling of being penetrated in both holes at the same time. "Oh, fuck. Nathan." He removed his fingers and leaned over to lightly bite at her ass. Romi squeaked in surprise and delight. It tickled, but it also caused her pussy to become even wetter. She clenched around Tobias and twirled her hips. Nathan was taking too long. Romi wanted to rush him, make

him move faster so that the pain would cease. But her body and mind were confused, seeking pleasure from her men in ways she couldn't explain.

“Look at me, sweetheart,” Tobias called out beneath her. “Because he’s your mate, your body won’t know how to reject him. It’ll be okay. He’ll make you feel as good as I am. Just breathe.” He then placed a few kisses on her face and neck as he cradled her in his arms.

Romi trusted Tobias’s words. This moment was too important for the three of them. Her pleasure was important to this process. If she rejected them out of fear and pain, then what would that do to their bonding. Inhaling deeply, she spread her legs wider as she settled into her place on top of Tobias. His strong hands clasped her hips as he shifted slightly, causing little shock waves of ecstasy to flow through her.

She then felt Nathan press his thick shaft inside her. He spread her cheeks wide as he began the slow process of entering her from behind. “Breathe for me, baby. Open for me,” Nathan ordered as he pushed inside. It took a few minutes, but the pain she expected never materialized.

Once he was fully inside, she squeezed to test how it felt. Good Lord! That felt fucking amazing, she sighed in relief. Romi almost came right then and there. She felt a fullness unlike anything she had experienced before. Her mouth opened on a gasp as she allowed the sensations to overtake her. She looked down at Tobias underneath her and leaned down to kiss him, then over her shoulder at Nathan, giving him a soft smile.

Nathan leaned down and captured her mouth in a sensuous kiss before leaning up and grabbing her around the waist. Tobias's hands were on the side, pulling her ass apart as if making it easier for Nathan to thrust inside her.

Tobias whispered to her. "Open your eyes, Romi." She hadn't realized she'd closed them. "This is all for you. You are the bond that will make us strong. You are the only one who will ever have us this way. Say you understand. Tell us that you're ready to accept life as our mate."

Nodding, Romi knew there was no other answer. All her life she had to fight for her place in this world. Other than Layla and Christopher, no one had made her feel as if she was home, except these two men. "Yes, I'm ready. I accept both of you."

That response set off something within both Tobias and Nathan. They both started to move in a rhythm that seemed well rehearsed. Tobias entered her while Nathan withdrew. Nathan kissed her neck while Tobias sucked her bottom lip. One strong hand roamed over her breast while another kneaded the soft flesh of her ass. They were both insatiable. She was floating on a cloud of ecstasy and lust, and she never wanted it to stop. This is what she had been waiting for. This is all she needed. There was nothing else like the feeling of having both of her men inside her. Giving pleasure. Taking pleasure.

"So... good... need... more," she moaned.

Lifting her upper body, she placed her hands on Tobias's chest and felt his muscles flex with every thrust of his cock. He held her still as Nathan moved in time with him, his

motions slower, smoother, but no less exhilarating. Neither of them disconnected from her or missed a beat as they continued to drive their cocks into her wet passages. Her loud pleas for them to never stop...for more...for them never to leave... could probably be heard throughout the mansion, but she didn't care. Nothing else mattered at this moment but the three of them together. Damn, she never wanted to give this up, or them, and if this Goddess they swore by was any good, she would never have to. Fated mates. Forever. Right about now, that was all she wanted.

Their dual movements became more erratic. Their pace grew faster as they continued whispering words of love to her. Did she care that it seemed too soon for those types of declarations? In another world, maybe. At this moment, in this time, none of that mattered. All that mattered was this bubble they'd created. Their world. Their love. Their bond.

They told her with their lips how beautiful she was. The sweat from their bodies relayed their desire for her love. Their soft kisses on her soft, brown skin communicated just how much they never wanted to let her go.

A guttural scream released from Romi as her body exploded from the inside out. Nathan stiffened above her, while Tobias gripped her hips from below and his body tightened as if on a coil. With her name a whisper on their lips, both Tobias and Nathan released inside her at the same time.

Closing her eyes, Romi knew what was going to happen next. Her eyes rolled back in her head, her fingers and toes began to tingle, her body seized up as her orgasm crashed and soared through her. The first bite was made her core tighten

and she screamed in release as another orgasm came over her. Eyes opening, she saw Tobias's head next to hers. His semi-transformed jaw clasped onto her shoulder, marking her as his. The next bite from Nathan on her other shoulder caused her to gasp as her nipples hardened and fluids gushed from her pulsating channel. Her hands clawed at Tobias's chest, causing his skin to redden and raise where she scratched.

“Yours,” she whispered before everything faded to black.

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Nineteen

Eyes opening, Romi stretched her sore body. It felt like she'd been hung out to dry and smacked with a paddle. Reaching up, she touched her shoulders where her men had marked her. Claimed her as theirs.

No blood.

No open wounds.

Just some ridges where they'd bitten her, but it felt as if the wounds had healed over. Lying back in bed, Romi thought about everything that happened over the past two weeks. Searching for Layla and Christopher. Finding Tobias and his pack. Nathan coming into the mix as a bonus. Finding out she was their fated mate. All of it was so overwhelming.

Shit. She was going to be a fucking Queen.

Wait until she talked with Layla about all this. Everything happened so fast. It was a whirlwind of activity, almost too much to bear. Although she was amazed that she'd gotten to this point in such a short time, there was no way she could deny the truth.

She was in serious like and lust with both Tobias and Nathan. Since she wasn't a wolf-shifter, there was no life-altering need to be with them. At least not before last night. She wanted them in her bed. She wanted to be by their sides. Even before they came together, she knew it would be difficult to leave them. But now, everything had changed.

Glancing at the clock, she noticed it was just after twelve noon. She'd been in and out of sleep all night and morning. It was to be expected though, because her men did not know the meaning of take things slow. Not that she was complaining, but her body was feeling every bit of their nocturnal and early morning activities.

After they came together that first time, both her men became unstoppable. They both took her repeatedly, until at some point in the middle of the night, she begged them to let her rest. If she wasn't pregnant already, then she soon would be, which may not be a bad thing.

Just thinking about what she'd gone through last night and earlier this morning brought a smile to her face.

Turns out, Nathan was very much a man in charge when in the bedroom. The way he controlled her pleasure, her orgasms, and her screams made her want to cry happy tears. Nothing had prepared her for just how dominant Nathan was, but damn, she was incredibly happy about it.

Surprisingly, Tobias allowed Nathan to take control when needed.

She'd just come from the shower when Nathan told her to climb on the bed and get on her knees. While a part of her wanted to tell him to leave her the hell alone, another part of her, the needy wench that she was, got her ass on the bed and spread her legs. There was no doubt that Nathan would make her feel good and she was more than ready. Glancing over at Tobias, she smiled at him. By the look on his face, he was

enjoying the vision in front of him. Puckering her lips, she blew him a kiss. Might as well give her man a show.

“Get on your knees,” Nathan growled.

“Please, Nathan. I’m tired.”

His large hand grabbed her around the neck, not strong enough to hurt, but just enough to add pressure and let her know he was quite serious. “I need you again. Give me what I need, Mate.”

Still naked, Tobias sat on one of the chairs at the table. Drinking water from a glass, he stared at the two of them with a heated gaze. His legs were spread open, and his thick member was on full display. Just as she was about to ask him to step in, he quirked his eyebrow and shook his head. No, he would not be stepping in to help. Of course, he was enjoying the site of Nathan taking her. Shooting him a look of frustration, she couldn’t help but turn her attention back to Nathan when he leaned down and whispered in her ear.

“He will not help you. This is my time to have you on my own. We’ve taken you together, as dictated by the Goddess. You belong to us. Our mate. Our Queen. But at this moment, right now, I’m the one claiming you.” Nipping the flesh of her earlobe with his teeth, he continued. “Romi, give me what I need.”

How can such a simple turn of phrase make her heart hurt and her core ache for one man. She knew exactly what he meant. She’d seen him go through the pain of accepting that outside of this bedroom, and to the shifter world at large, he would always be second in their marriage. He would always be viewed as the third in their Alpha Triad. Tobias would

always take precedence, and for a man like Nathan that was a hard pill to swallow. She understood his pain. His words of need, of demand, spoke to her heart. He was hers. Her husband. Her mate. Her lover.

There would be no other man who could take the place of Nathan or Tobias in her life. Opening her eyes, she glanced at Tobias again. He nodded at her, giving his permission for whatever happened next.

The need to defer to Tobias was something that happened after they became mated last night. It was as if she'd been broken down and rebuilt in the way the Goddess intended. Tobias was her Alpha. She would bear his children. She would die for him, and he would die to protect her. Their bond was unbreakable.

Her heartrate increased as she finally understood what it felt like to be so wholly consumed by love for someone else. For two someone's. Romi didn't understand how this all worked, but it felt good. As she felt Nathan slide inside, she hissed at the combination of pleasure and pain. The burn and stretch of his thick cock entering her body after she'd been taken over and over again made her gasp.

As Tobias sat at the table across from the bed and watched his two mates together, he held no jealousy. Of course, he would always want to be inside his mate, but he knew Nathan needed this time with her. The two of them needed to forge their own bond as a couple. Plus, Tobias already took her on his own after they came together. Just thinking of the memory made him smile and his dick harden.

As Nathan lay beside them, Tobias had climbed between Romi's legs and fucked her long and strong. His tongue laved over their bite marks, speeding up the healing process and sealing their commitment to each other. Yes, he was the next pack Alpha by birthright, and he was imbued with special powers that he would need to strengthen his Triad. Nathan was not only his friend, his brother, but he was also the missing piece to Tobias's future. No other puzzle piece would fit with him and Romi so perfectly.

And as Tobias had fucked their mate as Nathan watched, he couldn't help but be at peace. With every moan he wrung from her, every time she whispered his name in awe, and as her channel clenched when she came all over his cock, he knew Nathan would eventually do the same later.

Behind closed doors, they would share Romi equally.

It was the only way this could work between the three of them.

Outside, beyond this space, they all knew Nathan's role would be different. There was no other choice for him but to serve as an Advisor to Tobias. His role was meant to calm the heated confrontations that would inevitably rise between Tobias and other pack leaders. But, with Romi by his side, Nathan's ability to calm their tempers would be greatly tested. Especially when he himself was a hothead.

If nothing else, their lives together would be interesting.

But Tobias could finally acknowledge that his friend was no Omega or Beta. He'd never been. Which is why they fought so hard. Each of them was intent on overtaking the

other. As young men, the matches were much more even. They hadn't fully come into their own strength and power.

As grown men, Tobias had no desire to go against his brother and pack mate. The real probability of Nathan being maimed or killed by Tobias's hand was a real possibility. Even the thought of it didn't sit well with him.

Finding a balance between the two of them, so they could live a good life, was the best way.

As he watched Nathan slide into Romi's quivering sheath as she moaned in pleasure, all Tobias could do was smile. This time alone, building their relationship as a Triad would bind them together stronger. This is what they needed. If they were blessed enough to come out of this week with a pup growing inside Romi's stomach, he would never question the Goddesses decisions again. He wanted her to quicken with his baby. It was time to build his family and settle both of his mates into their new lives.

Plus, Tobias's parents, all three of them, still had a lot of time to lead the pack. There was no rush for him to take the throne.

Sending a telepathic message to his father, he shared that they would need food sent up to his wing. At least four meals a day for the next week. With all the fucking they would be doing over the next few days, both he and Nathan would need to replenish their energy on a regular basis. And if he knew Romi, she would be right there with them.

There wasn't really a formal wedding that would take place. The mating was the most important part of the process. This next week would be their honeymoon period and he

wanted to take full advantage of it. Since this suite was a medium sized apartment by normal standards, they had everything they needed.

Him. Romi. Nathan.

Allowing Nathan to have this time with their mate was the least he could do. They had a lifetime together.

He settled in to enjoy the show and the sounds of Romi being pleased. No sweeter sound had been heard by him during his lifetime, and he didn't think anything would ever replace it.

The bathroom door opened, and Nathan stepped out, wearing only a towel. As Romi watched him stroll in the room, she became aroused at the sight of him. "Is this how it will always be with us. Every time one of you walks into a room, will I immediately want you inside me?" Nathan laughed and the sound went straight to her clit.

"Yes. But that's a good thing."

Romi twisted her legs to the side of the bed, intent on taking yet another shower. Hopefully, this town had an unlimited source of water. She looked around the room and noticed someone was missing. "Where's Tobias?"

"The Alpha called him down to talk. He'll be back as soon as he can."

"I'm hungry," Romi said as her stomach made an unpleasant gurgling sound.

Nathan nodded. “Figured you might be. Food’s on the table, under the silver dome. Take your shower and when you finish, we’ll get some food in you.”

Without warning, tears welled in her eyes. She had always been the one taking care of other people. Acts of Service was her love language. It was simply the way she was built. It was difficult for her to accept care from others because she never really expected it. She spent so much of her time being the badass woman everyone expected her to be, being vulnerable was something new for her. Clearing her throat, she stared at Nathan as he dropped the towel and pulled on a pair of basketball shorts. Damn, that man was fine as hell. How did she get lucky enough to have two exceptionally fine specimens as her husbands? Wait, were they married?

“Nathan. Is there a marriage ceremony that makes it official for the three of us?” Standing from the bed, she was tempted to grab the sheet to cover her naked body. After a second thought, she changed her mind. Her men had seen, touched, kissed, and licked every inch of her body. Inside and out. What reason did she have to be shy now? That train had sailed a long time ago.

“No. Our ceremony was last night. The only one that matters is between the three of us. When both Tobias and I marked you with our wolf’s bite, we were joined by the Goddess. These next few days are important for us to strengthen our bond. Once we’re ready, we’ll be presented as a new Alpha Triad.” Walking over to her, he grabbed Romi around the waist before leaning down for a kiss. “That’s where Tobias is now. Officially informing his parents. Once he returns, he won’t leave again until things are settled here.”

Pulling back, she stared up at him. “Settled? How are they not settled now?”

Just then, the door opened, and Tobias walked in. He sported a pair of jeans and a white t-shirt—a wrinkled one at that. He must have gotten dressed quickly. “Things aren’t settled until I say they are.”

And there he was again with that cocky ass attitude. “You know, you don’t always have to run things.”

He laughed before walking over to Nathan and Romi. Coming up behind her, Tobias pressed his front to her back before leaning down to kiss her shoulder, where the almost imperceptible scar was located. At the lightest touch, her knees went weak. “That’s what I’m looking for. We leave this room when there’s no doubt that we are stronger together than apart. When both Nathan and I have claimed you together every single day for seven days. Once I know that you carry our young inside your body, we leave.”

At his words, she tried to twist and look at him. “A baby? Do you mean, you want me to get pregnant this week? What if it doesn’t happen? Isn’t that a bit too soon? I’m not ready to be a mother just yet. Can we give it a bit before I start popping out the next heirs to the throne?” It wasn’t that she didn’t want children, because she did. But she was still getting used to this new life. Then again, having a child by Tobias brought a smile to her face. Would he look like him? Would Nathan love the child as strongly as both her and Tobias would? So many questions and not enough answers.

Looking over at Nathan to gauge his response to this whole conversation about her getting pregnant, she watched as

the two men held an entire conversation using just their eyes. “You’re right. We’ve just come together. It would be unfair of me to try and force a baby on you so early in our mating. If the Goddess blesses us with a miracle by the time this week is over, then we’ll take the gift. If she doesn’t, that means we just have to keep trying.”

As she stood between two giant men with big dicks, Romi liked the idea of practicing how to make a baby every day. “Not that I don’t want to have your babies one day soon. But I want to enjoy it being just the three of us for a while. Plus, you two need to make sure you can handle having a kid with me. I’m like a momma lion. How about we plan for Christopher to come spend the weekend with us in a couple of weeks?” At the look of horror that passed over their faces, she began to laugh. “What’s that for?”

Tobias stepped back and walked over to the couch situated against the wall. “If Christopher comes, there’s no way Odin’s not coming with him. That man acts like that little boy is his born-child.”

Of course. He’d fucking better act that way, Romi thought. “As he should. He chose to be Christopher’s dad, and that means protecting him with every breath in his body. I would expect no less from the man my sister chose as her husband and life-mate. So, then it’s a deal. In two weeks, my family comes to visit and stays with us?”

Nathan groaned and went over to the table and grabbed some water. “Will that make you happy?”

She nodded. “Yes.”

Nathan glanced at Tobias, who waved his hand at them. “Then we agree to those terms. Although, we cannot promise you that you won’t get pregnant this week. All we can promise you is that our goal will always be to bring you pleasure.”

Practically skipping to the bathroom, she paused at the door. “I think I’m going to enjoy being mated to you both.”

“Get in the shower before I come over there and fuck you up against the wall.” Tobias looked as if he were on the edge of doing just that.

“Such a sweet talker.” Romi laughed as she walked inside the bathroom and turned on the water.

Outside of the bathroom, Nathan went over to sit in the chair across from Tobias. “Do you want to tell her that she’s already pregnant or do you want to wait?”

“Yeah, I’m not touching that one with a ten-foot pole. You do remember that our woman can shoot electricity from her eyeballs, right? Let’s just enjoy this week before she tries to put us on our asses because the Goddess chose to bless our union.”

Tobias was almost worried about Romi finding out she was pregnant. He knew that when it was all said and done, any child born of their union would be special. With parents like the three of them, there was no other choice.

Epilogue

3 Years Later

“Come on, Jeremiah. I’ll help you.” Christopher held the hand of the little boy toddling next to him as they walked over to the ice cream cart. The younger child was a perfect mixture of his parents. Hazel eyes like Tobias. Skin a beautiful light cocoa, courtesy of his mother, Romi. And a stubborn attitude unlike anything seen before, courtesy of his second dad, Nathan. The only one who could get him to calm down was Christopher, his unofficial big brother and protector.

Today was a special day. Romi was pregnant with her second child, and they were all gathered for a celebration at the Alpha Supreme’s home. A few days ago, they’d found out they were having a little girl this time. Another blessing for Romi, Tobias, and Nathan. Many of the kids from town and their parents were gathered around. There was plenty of food for everyone. Music was playing and even a few brave souls had ventured onto a makeshift dance floor to show off their moves.

“Romi, our little guy is getting so big,” Layla said next to her before leaning in for a hug. “Jeremiah’s going to be a heartbreaker.”

“Yeah, he’s something else, alright. I thought having both Tobias and Nathan in his life would help balance our little guy. Two fathers to give double the discipline. Little did I

realize that instead of calming him, they would amplify him. He's the only son of the only son of the Alpha Supreme. It's like he knows how important he is to the pack. Everyone caters to him and his little attitude..." Romi was getting spun up.

"Girl, it's okay. You're gonna have to let that go. Let your little man live his best life. He's only two years old. You and I both know how those terrible two's can be." They both glanced over at Christopher. While he was the poster child for well-behaved and balanced children, he wasn't always like that. "Those weren't easy days, but he got through it. So will Jeremiah."

"With this little one coming in four months, I'm just worried that I won't have enough time to spend with my little guy. Tobias and Nathan do the best they can, but with more rogue shifters coming out of the woodworks and spreading across the US pack lands, it's becoming harder."

Layla nodded in agreement. "It's been tough. Odin says he usually stayed on his own unless Tobias truly needed him. Lately, that need has been happening more often. Although, I must admit, I feel safer knowing that Odin is with Tobias and Nathan when they're gone. The three of them together are a formidable trio."

Romi felt the exact same way. Lately, whenever they left, she became emotionally drained. If she weren't pregnant with little Jana, she would want to be out there with them. But her men were adamant that she stays at home and protect their pack. They weren't slick. She knew her powers became muted when pregnant, something she discovered when Jeremiah was

growing in her stomach. “I’m just glad they’re back for a while. If I had my wish, I would want them to not leave again until this little girl is born.”

“Does she talk to you? You know, like Jeremiah did?”

A huge smile came over Romi’s face. “She does, and girl, does she talk. I mean, anything and everything. From the food I eat to what her daddies are doing. She’s a very curious child, even though she’s not yet in this world.”

“Do you think she’ll be like Jeremiah? He’s already showing signs that he has shifter capabilities and his momma’s sparkle,” she said with a grin. “Christopher says his birth... and Jana’s birth will change the face of the pack forever.”

Romi wondered the same thing. Her babies were special. More than anyone expected. Along with their father’s shifter capabilities, she was sure that both her babies would inherit her power as well. What would that mean for the pack? What would that mean to their enemies.

And there was that other secret, she thought, placing her hand on her rounded stomach. *It’s okay, little princess. Your daddies will protect you.* She couldn’t help but send that silent message to her daughter.

“Well, our Christopher is probably right,” Romi admitted. “But thank goodness we don’t have to worry about it today. All I care about right now, is getting more of that red velvet cake. It’s been calling my name.”

Layla knew Romi had changed the subject, but she was okay with that. There was plenty of time to discuss the future of the pack. Today was a day for fun and celebration with

family and friends. “Well, rest your feet. I’ll grab it for you. I’ll also go check on the kids while I’m at it. Odin has our little girl in his arms somewhere. I think they’re over by the ponies. I swear, if that man tries to get her a horse, I’m going to go off,” she laughed.

Watching her friend walk away, Romi looked around at everyone gathered. Three years ago, she never would have expected to be here. Mated to two very protective men. Living close to Layla, Christopher, and Odin. Plus, Layla had a new little girl, Amber, who just turned one years old a few months ago.

Life was good for her, and her family was thriving. Romi wouldn’t trade it for anything.

Speaking of happiness, she watched Tobias and Nathan walk in her direction. The current Alpha Supreme was between them, so they must have been talking about pack business. As they approached, her father-in-law leaned down to kiss her on the forehead. It was such a dad move, but since she found it endearing, she didn’t put up a fuss about it.

“Daughter. How are you feeling today?”

“Hey Pops. I’m okay, just feeling a bit like a beached whale. Jana’s playing hopscotch on my kidneys, but so far so good.”

A smile lifted his lips. “If you need anything, don’t hesitate to let us know. I know we haven’t experienced this in a long time, but we managed to raise this one,” he tipped his head at Tobias, “and he turned out okay.”

“Yeah, I guess he’s alright,” Romi said with a laugh, before reaching her hand out to Tobias. “Thanks for the offer, Alpha. You, Maria, and Brayden have been amazing. Not only to me, but you’re also amazing grandparents. Thank you for everything.” She just hoped they felt that way once their secret was out.

He nodded, patting her on the shoulder. “Speaking of my mates, I don’t see them around. They probably snuck off to a quiet spot.”

“Dad. Nope,” Tobias interjected. “We don’t need to know all that.”

As he walked away laughing, Romi couldn’t believe one of the most deadly and powerful beings in the entire shifter world was her father-in-law, and grandfather to her babies. What a fucking whirlwind. *Sorry baby, you’ll have to forgive mamma’s language*, she smiled as she sent the message to her daughter nestled in her stomach.

“Hungry?” Nathan asked as he stood by her side.

“Layla’s getting me some cake.”

“Romi. You know that’s not good for you or the baby.” Tobias complained. “By the way, where’s our son?”

Pointing in the direction of the ice cream truck, she tilted head. “With Christopher.”

“I’m going over to get them,” Nathan said.

When he walked away, Romi looked at Tobias. “We need to tell your parents.”

“Sweetheart, do you think they don’t know already? We’re shifters. We know the scent of our young. From the moment that baby was planted in your womb, we knew. It’s going to be okay.”

Romi wanted to believe everything would be fine. She’d have to hold on to her faith in her husbands, but she had a feeling their daughter’s birth was about to turn their world upside down.

Later that night, as they entered their bedroom after putting Jeremiah down to sleep, Romi was still thinking about the situation. Nathan knelt in front of her, removing her shoes from her feet and gently massaging her toes. The three of them had made a good life with each other. Her love for her two men had grown stronger every day. Even when she found out later that she’d been impregnated that first night, it didn’t really bother her. Their child had been a blessing, even if his precocious nature exasperated her. If this is what it’s like to raise a future Alpha Supreme, Romi might need a little extra help.

Once both her feet were on the ground, she looked up and caught Nathan staring at her. Her heart hitched at the love she felt for him. Lifting her head, she saw Tobias standing over to the side. It’s funny. Her absolute, no-holds barred love for Tobias didn’t reduce her feelings for the man kneeling in front of her. Not one bit. As promised, they both cherished, worshipped, and protected her. And she did the same for them. She would kill anyone or anything that came on their lands and threatened her family.

“I love you, Tobias.”

“I love you, too, my Queen.”

“Nathan, I love you.”

“I love you right back, sweetheart.”

Glancing at Tobias, he nodded. It was time for them to talk about what was happening. “Our little girl, Jana. She’s yours Nathan.”

A few seconds of silence met her announcement. At first, she thought he was shocked, but when she glanced at his face, Nathan was smiling.

“I know.”

A breath released and her hands began shaking. “I don’t know how this happened. What does this mean?” Tobias stepped closer to them as Nathan stood.

“It means that we have been blessed by the Goddess in ways we never expected,” Tobias said, slapping Nathan on the back. “It means our Triad will bring about a special time for our pack. This is the first dual birth in more than one-hundred years. I spoke to my father already. The Eastern Pack Council is aware. They will keep it silent for as long as we need it to be, but they may want to meet you. There’s some thought that because of your powers, we were given a special gift.”

“Nathan, how do you feel about all this. When we came together, we thought any children would only be Tobias’s. A- Are you still happy with the three of us together. You could have made a different choice and not been tied to us.”

Sitting down next to Romi, Nathan grabbed her hand. “Sweetheart, next to having you as my mate and welcoming our son,” he paused when Romi looked up at him, “yes, our son into our lives, this is the next happiest moment of my life. I’m right where I belong. With you. I told you a long time ago, being with you was all I needed. Not only did I believe it as a man, but my wolf agreed. Jeremiah is not my blood, but he is my son. Jana is my daughter by blood and Tobias’s daughter because we have been chosen for something special. I know the Council is curious about what this means, but there’s excitement and curiosity about our family.” He glanced at Nathan before turning back to Romi. “Our daughter will be a princess within the Alpha Supreme’s household, just as her brother will be a prince. She will be raised by my beautiful mate, my best friend and brother, and myself. We’ve been in this together from the start. This changes nothing for us. How could I not be happy?”

Tears began to flow down Romi’s face as he spoke. She’d been so afraid. Why? She didn’t really know. All that mattered, was that both her men were happy.

“See, sweetheart. I told you there was nothing to worry about,” Tobias used one hand to lift her chin so that she was looking at him. “We’ve known since day one. We were just waiting for you to catch up to us. Once our little one began talking to you, we knew you’d find out eventually.”

Romi couldn’t help the laughter that flowed out of her. “So, you three have been plotting this entire time. You were keeping secrets?”

“Not just the three of us. Jeremiah knows also. He talks to his sister. Oh, and Christopher also knows. I still don’t know how that kid does it, but he’s something special. I may have to convince Odin to move his family closer to the city so we can make sure that little boy is protected.”

Nathan interrupted. “Well, don’t say it like that. Odin might get a tad offended if he thinks you’re saying he can’t protect his own family.”

“True,” Tobias nodded. “I’ll have to think of something else.”

As they were talking, Romi stood from the couch and walked over to their bed. Now that her secret—more like worst kept secret—was finally out, she felt a burden lift from her shoulders. She’d been stressed about this all day, only for it to turn out to be something so small in the end. Her men were fine. Their bonds were fine. They were having a little girl.

Would their children change the world? Probably.

Could she do anything about it tonight? No.

What she could do was show her men how happy she was to be their mate. How much she loved them. “Tobias. Nathan. I need you,” she whispered. Although her voice was low, it was like she spoke through a bullhorn. Both men turned to her, their eyes going wide as they noticed her standing there naked.

“Fuck, Romi,” Tobias hissed. “My love, you are so fucking beautiful.”

“Baby, you’re gorgeous,” Nathan added.

Closing the link with her daughter, she didn't want anything she said over the next few hours to be heard by little ears.

“Now, it's time for you to make me scream.”

Nathan smirked. “Your wish is my command.”

Tobias stalked up to her and grabbed a fistful of her hair. “You're fucking amazing. Now, climb on the bed and get on your knees.”

Almost giddy with excitement, Romi climbed on the bed and assumed the position. Life with both of her Alphas was never dull, and she couldn't wait until the next chapter.

~ FIN ~

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Odin's Honor

Summary

Being left alone was all he'd ever wanted. Too bad fate has other plans.

ODIN: All he needed was his cabin, his freedom, and his wolf. After all the pain and hurt he'd experienced, Odin Jakobson, was a broken man. Once a member of an elite special forces team that used wolf shifters to fulfill dangerous missions around the world, he now lived alone. Bitter and angry at the world. Little did he know, his world was about to turn upside-down.

LAYLA: To save her son, Layla will go to the ends of the earth and do whatever it takes to survive. Life hasn't always been easy, but her son Christopher was the blessing she needed. Hunted by those who believe she's seen too much, she has no choice but to run. Now she's stuck in a cabin with a man whose strength she comes to rely on, whose touch makes her feel whole again, and whose whispers demand her submission under the night sky.

Honor demands that he protect Layla and Christopher. His wolf demands he claim them both as his.

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CHAPTER 1

Layla pressed her ear to the wall. She knew it wasn't good to be so nosey, but she couldn't help it. The noises were too loud, and she couldn't sleep. Glancing over at the clock, she noticed the late hour. She's supposed to be on the road by eight in the morning to begin her drive home. For the last three days, she'd been at a conference in Richmond to learn more about a new procedure that would help patients heal faster after orthopedic surgery. As a nurse focused on orthopedic surgery, she did everything she could to stay on top of her field. This conference was the next step in getting a promotion. As a single mother of a small child, she would do whatever was necessary to take care of her family.

The voices on the other side of the wall became louder. It wasn't usually her style to eavesdrop, but they'd woken her up at two o'clock in the morning. Now she wanted to know what was so damn important.

"You haven't come through for us, John. That wasn't the deal. He's not going to be happy about this."

Layla almost wanted to laugh. They sounded like two-bit gangsters trying to be tough.

"I just need a little more time. You guys know how this looks. Those damn goody-two-shoes Democrats blocked the appropriations bill. The job was going to be funded through the state. He knows I keep my promises." The man whimpered

so loudly, Layla could practically visualize him on his knees as he begged.

Man up, dude. This is a bad look. Don't let them punk you like this. She knew this conversation wasn't meant to be heard by anyone outside the room next door. Oh well, this was some good shit, and she was going to listen for as long as she could.

“I told you guys all there is to know...”

To Layla, it seemed his voice had faded, but she could still hear the low and deep cadence of the men in the room with him. Turning, she stepped away from the connecting door. Looking around the room, she was glad she'd completed all her packing earlier that night. Whenever she stayed in a hotel, she liked to sleep in late to spoil herself a little. There would be none of that this time.

Her home was in Alexandria, Virginia, and it was only a ninety-minute drive from Richmond. Plus, the sooner she made her way north, the quicker she would get to see Christopher. He was the absolute love of her life. For just over two years, since the first moment she saw his beautiful face, she'd fallen head over heels in love.

Being away from him for three days was hard. She missed him so much. Although she tried to talk with him every day, it was just too difficult to not see him every night before bed. Glancing around the dreary hotel room, she came to a decision. Since she was already awake, she might as well get on the road a few hours early. She finished gathering her final belongings, completed her morning hygiene routine, and prepared to exit the room when the voices on the other side of

the wall caught her attention. Placing her items on a chair, she leaned in closer to hear the conversation, and then promptly wished she'd minded her own damn business.

“John. Your time has run out.”

“No. Wait. Just give me until next week. I can get the deal done. I'll make the governor agree to everything.”

“Too late. You know, I liked you, John. I really did. But I liked your pretty wife even more. Maybe I'll pay her a visit when this is all done.”

“No! Stay away from my—”

Pop! Pop! Pop!

Layla jumped at the sound. “Oh, shit,” she yelled, unable to keep the noise inside. Stepping away from the wall, she looked frantically around the room as if expecting the men to flash in front of her. She needed to get out of there. Grabbing up her bags, she slammed the door open and began to walk down the long hallway toward the elevator. Layla kept looking over her shoulder, praying they didn't hear her loud exclamation. Truth be told, she wasn't holding her breath that her luck would hold out. Arriving at the elevator door, she repeatedly pushed the button to go down. Looking down the hallway in the direction from where she came, she prayed the doors would open before anyone exited that room. She needed to get home to Christopher. She didn't know these people and wanted nothing to do with any of this.

The sound of a hotel room door opening caught her attention. Looking toward the sound, she saw two men step out of the room next to hers. One had dark brown hair that

hung down to his shoulders, while the other one was completely bald. They began walking in her direction, twin looks of determination on their faces.

Fear reverberated in her body as she saw her life flashed before her eyes. She began shaking as she looked for another way out. The elevator doors opened, caused her to scream out in shock. Quickly stepping inside, she began pressing the button to close the doors. As the heavy metal box began to descend, she pulled her cell phone out and almost press the button to call her friend Romi. She'd know what to do. They'd been friends since junior high. Both had grown up in neighborhoods that were situated somewhere in the middle of the lower class and the working middle class. They'd vowed to each other that they'd both get out one day. They'd go to college, moved to the suburbs, raised the families together, and leave all the other Bolshevik behind.

Some of their dreams had come true, others not so much. While Layla had gone to nursing school, Romi had found the military was her calling. When she'd come home after serving for eight years, her best friend had changed. Her time in the military had given Romi an edge. Although she protected Layla, and by extension Christopher, with her life, Layla still worried about the trauma Romi experienced while serving in the U.S. Army, but it wasn't something her friend spoke about in any detail. That also meant that Romi would know what to do about this situation exiting the elevator Layla committed to calling her best friend once she got on the road. Running out of the hotel as if the hounds of hell were nipping at her heels, which it seemed as if they were, she made it to her small SUV and climbed in. Turning over the ignition, her only focus was

getting the hell out of dodge. Tires squealing, she pulled out of the parking structure and immediately began to speed toward the on-ramp for I-95.

Glancing in the rearview mirror, her eyes widened at the sight greeting her. The two men stood at the entrance to the hotel, their gazes locked in on her vehicle. “Oh, fuck.” Pressing even harder on the gas pedal, she pushed the hands-free calling button and tried to calm her breathing. After a few rings, Romi picked up.

“This shit better be important, Layla. I was dreaming that I was in the middle of a man sandwich, and that shit was just getting good.”

Layla wanted to smile at her friend’s words, but the situation was too dangerous to joke about. “Romi,” she interrupted. “I need... Wait, no. We talked about this. Talked about what to say. Am... I need to disappear. I just witnessed something.”

“Wait, Layla. Stop talking.”

There was movement on the other side of the phone. Layla knew Romi had this phone masking whatchamacallit she used on occasion. She could hear her engaging that system before she spoke again.

“Are you safe?”

“I’m not sure. I think they saw me.”

“Okay. How long until you arrive?”

“Around ninety minutes,” her voice shook as she spoke. Scared didn’t even begin to describe how she felt. “I need to hide. I need to protect Christopher.”

“Don’t talk about it anymore. I closed the line but wait until you get home. Give me an idea of what we’re dealing with.”

Layla thought about the best way to communicate what she’d witnessed without giving away too much. “High profile 187 behind locked doors.”

Romi’s deep breathing was all Layla could hear for several seconds. “Fuck. I got you. Okay, you just watch your six and get your ass here as fast as you can. Don’t stop driving for any reason. If they saw you, and if you think they can find you, then I need to act fast.”

“Okay. I’ll be coming in hot.” She paused, taking a deep breath. “If something happens to me—”

“It won’t,” Romi interrupted. “You know I’ll take care of it. I’ll do everything I can to make sure nothing happens to you.”

“Yes, I know. But if it does, he’s yours. You have to protect him.”

“Stop that bullshit talk right now. I’m not going to let anything happen to you, or to my nephew. I already have a plan, but I need you to drive faster.”

Hanging up, Layla couldn’t help the smile that came over her face. Yeah, her best friend is bat shit crazy, but she’s also family. She was the only sister Layla ever had or would ever need. They’d find a way to keep her and Christopher safe. There was no other choice.

* * *

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About the Author

USA Today bestselling author Reana Malori pens gripping multicultural/interracial contemporary romance novels full of love, steam, and suspense that will pull you into her world. You'll want to run away with these smoking hot book boyfriends and find a happily ever after alongside heroines you'd love as a best friend. Grab a glass of wine and enjoy!

Reana began her writing journey in 2009, releasing her first novella, *To Love a Marine*. Since then, she has published more than 40 books, to include *Weekend Fling*, *Finding Faith*, *Odin's Honor*, and *Secret Devotion*. She currently resides in Montclair, Virginia with her husband and two sons who keep her busy laughing, having fun, and making sure she doesn't take herself too seriously.

Love and Hugs,
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