

Ascension of a Gamma by C. C. Chapter 61

Chapter 61 Rose Thorns

-Anna

My heart skipped a beat as he came closer, stepping into the moonlight coming from the glass wall behind the wide stairs.

How did he get in?

His eyes fixated on me, a slight pull on the corner of his lips. I opened my mouth to utter his name, but his lips suddenly crashed onto mine as his hand went to the back of my head, and his other arm wrapped around my waist, pulling me close to him. His tongue licked my lips, asking for entrance, and a soft grip on my side made me gasp, giving him what he asked for

My lips parted for him and he plunged his tongue inside, dominating me as he always did. Hungry and urgent, his kiss sparked a fire in me that could only be extinguished by his touch. I cupped both sides of his face to bring him closer, to close the gap between us, for it wasn't enough – I needed him like he was the blood coursing through my veins – my

source of life. A groan escaped his lips, muffled by my mouth, and I responded with a muffled moan.

With a sharp inhale of breath to make it last longer, I kissed him like it was the last until he pulled away for air, leaving us both panting. He met my forehead with his, eyes closed, minty breath fanning my face. Why did I ever leave? Would a man kiss me the way he did when his heart wasn't mine?

He pecked my lips once, twice, biting and tugging on my lower lip for a kiss wasn't enough. I needed more, and so did he.

"Liam," I whispered, now breathing heavily for my heart raced in my chest. His response was one I hadn't expected.

"I love you," he breathed.

The only three words that I wanted to hear from him.

"I love you," he repeated, taking my lips again on another kiss, this time slow, passionate, and I knew those words were meant only for me as they had always been.

"I love you, too," I replied, looking him in the eyes.

Lustful, loving, and gentle gorgeous brown eyes saw right through the façade I put up. I was defenseless in front of him as was he the man without a shell in front of me.

Grabbing my wrist, he pulled me into the shadows. "Come with me," he said urgently. I woke from the daze I was in and halted.

"I can't," I replied, "I have to talk to father."

"We don't have much time. We have to go now," he said, turning to face me. "You're not safe here. Sooner or later, this pack will be overrun by rogues. I can't lose you, Anna."

"Alpha Liam," he exclaimed. "I see you've come to take my daughter away."

Cane tapping on the tiles, he made his way over to us with a grin.

Liam's face hardened, his grip tightened,

and a dangerous growl made Father stop.

"I've been meaning to talk to Bella's mate," he continued. "If you could both follow me in my office."

Liam looked at me expecting an answer. I shook my head slowly. I didn't know, too. Was he planning to talk to Liam all this

time?

Father had already gone ahead. The two of us could escape. He made no move to pull me, instead, he let go of my wrist.

"He's my father," I said, and he nodded, stealing a quick kiss.

Does he know? Is Alpha Fraser home?

"Do you think he'll approve?" he asked with a grin.

Why isn't he nervous about this!

I smiled up at him. "He'll love you," I replied, taking his hand, and following Father.

We entered his office hand in hand. He was seated on his leather chair behind a wooden desk free of anything. This was the first time I'd been here.

"Sit," he said casually, motioning to the two seats in front of him.

My palms felt sweaty. Introducing my mate to Father felt weird... like I did something I wasn't supposed to, and it was embarrassing. It wasn't like he had any choice – we already marked each other.

Liam smiled at him and boldly followed, repositioning one of the chairs right in front of Father so they were face to face, then pulling me down to sit sideways on his lap. I glared up at him, my fingers clutching onto the soft fabric of my dress as my cheeks heated up. He ignored me by looking straight ahead.

I could feel Father's gaze on me. I kept my head down, too embarrassed to look at him.

"I'll get straight to the point," said Father in an imposing tone. "I don't like you Roses."

I shot him a surprised look. He was telling me to talk to my mate a few days ago, why was he taking it back now?

"With all due respect, Sir, I'm not here to

impress you," Liam replied in the same manner.

What are you doing?

I pinched his hand, but he didn't flinch. Instead, his gaze shifted to me, eye color shifting from brown to black.

"She's my rose among a bed of roses and I, the thorn that pricks any who dares pluck her. She's the soft petals that capture the morning dew, sparkling as the first rays of the morning sun bless her, gracing those who see her with a desire to own her but never will for I am present still. She's the wondrous bloom underneath the moonshine, with a fragrance so divine it soothes the weariest of souls." He placed a soft kiss on the back of my hand, eyes never leaving mine.

I forgot to breathe. I didn't think he was a romantic

He pierced his gaze to my Father, and I found myself wishing he hadn't.

"Your daughter is a Rose now, Alpha Emery Black. She is ours and always will be, with or without your blessing."

"Is it true, Bella?" he asked.

I could feel them waiting for me to answer.

Am I a Rose? Am I his?

I met Liam's gaze. Those gorgeous brown eyes were my undoing.

"He's my mate, he's my Alpha. He's the thoughts that run in my mind from the second I wake to the last second before I sleep. He's the beating of my heart, untamed in his presence, the rush in my veins."

I didn't know I had it in me. 1

I got up from his lap and went beside father. He turned to his side to face me and I got down on one knee before him.

"I love him, Father, but I love you as well. I cannot force you to accept him, but I ask you to please give him – us- a chance to prove to you that this is real, just like you and Mother."

His eyes softened. "You don't understand, Bella. His father took you both from me. Then, because of him, I lost many from the pack."

"My family never took anything from you," said Liam icily. "If you're talking about the lands, I saw the papers. They were all legally transferred, or are you saying the signatures were forged?"

Father scowled at him. "Your treacherous father promised to protect my pack from rogues in exchange for our lands!" he spat, standing up. "The transfer was made; the papers were signed. I watched my own pack die from one rogue attack after another because you Rose – "he pointed at Liam, then added, "- betrayed me for the second time! I shouldn't have trusted you. Now, you want to take my daughter away too?"

"An Alpha should protect his pack," said Liam, standing up, too. "You were too weak that you blame it on my predecessor. I'm taking Anna with me one way or another."

"Your predecessor and his treacherous friends broke the alliance and attacked our pack! Over what? An unjustified reason... a hearsay... What makes you think I'll let you take more from me?" said father, growling. He snapped his

fast for me to follow.

A gunshot rang, echoing in the small space, ringing in my ears. Liam's eyes widened, then his gaze fell to the wetness spreading on his chest. He coughed up blood, then meeting my eyes, he fell backwards to the floor.

I screamed.

"Liam!"

Scrambling to my feet, I rounded the desk to go to him, but Father wrapped his arms around my waist and held me tight.

He was bleeding...

"Liam!"

I thrashed in Father's arms, but he wouldn't let me go

"No! No! Liam! Liam!"

Tears began to cloud my vision.

Who...what... who shot him?

Beta David showed himself from behind the door, a gun in his hand.

I slowly shook my head in disbelief, my

voice cracking. I could feel his pain...

"No...no..."

"How could you!" I screamed, pushing at the arms that trapped me. If looks could kill, I would've killed Beta David then.

In my frustration, I elbowed Father in the face, hard. He groaned as he let me go instantly and I went to Liam, slapping at his cheeks to get a response from him.

"Liam! Liam, please... wake up," I begged.

Don't do this to me again.

"Liam! Liam!"

Don't close your eyes again.

Wait...

His lashes... moved?

"Liam!" I screamed as I gave him a sharp slap.

His eyes opened, a hand instinctively going to his cheek as he groaned while sitting up. I couldn't help but smile in relief.

"Babe, I'm hurt," he whined.

I rolled my eyes at him and slapped his arm repeatedly. "You scared me; you

jerk!

"Why won't you just die," said a voice from behind us

My blood ran cold.

"Ah!" A dart hit Liam's neck. He took it out then dropped it on the floor.

"Liam?" I asked as he swayed to one side.

"What did you do!" I shrieked. He began to close his eyes...

"Take him," ordered Alpha Myron. A couple of men barged in and ripped him from my arms.

"Liam!"

"Bella, no," said my Father, grabbing my

arm.

"Let me go!" I screamed. He tightened his hold on me to the point that it hurt. The two men dragged Liam out the door.

"Liam!"

Al- Myron smirked at me.

"Let him go," I said sternly.

He didn't scare me. What kind of father would use his own daughter? He was a manipulative, power-hungry psycho who

didn't deserve to be Alpha.

"Bella, stop it." Father reprimanded.

I glared at him.

"You put me through a lot of trouble, young lady," said the Alpha wannabe.

"You're nothing but a coward," I spat. He planned it all. I was sure of it.

He laughed aloud, amused. "Call me what you want," he said, walking to me. "It took longer than expected, but... I win."

Father pulled me to the side. "We held our end of the deal. Now leave!"

"Of course. There's nothing to gain from this pack of yours," he replied smoothly then turned on his heels.

"Come back here! I'm not done with you!" I screamed. I struggled to get out of his grip until he finally let go.

"What did he promise you?"

"What did he promise you?"

His eyes hardened. "The pack has grown weak, Bella. If I didn't give him Liam, they would've attacked us."

I narrowed my eyes at him, not knowing what to say. He knew Liam would come for me. Was he searching for me?

He... he was waiting for my mate to come to rescue me. I... I was... bait.

"He's my mate! How could you hand him, my mate?"

"I'm sorry, Bella," he said, placing his hands on my shoulders. "When you become Alpha, you will understand. I have to ensure the survival of our pack."

I backed away from him, irked by his touch. "No. You did this because of what his father did. I don't care if it's a lie or truth. You told me that children shouldn't bear the burden. I trusted you!"

"Bella, listen to me _

"Don't touch me!" I shouted, putting up a finger. "I left my room to tell you I wanted to work this out. That I'd try to forgive you... How could I not?" My voice

began to crack. "You're my father."

He took a step towards me and I stepped back while shaking my head. I clutched at the vial that hung on my chest. "I'm getting my mate back. Don't try to stop me... Emery."

Pain flashed in his eyes at the mention of his name while I felt a twang of guilt.

I thought we can fix this. Maybe some things are simply damaged beyond repair.

Beta David blocked my way. "I can't let you do that, Bella."

Fa- Emery shook his head and he reluctantly lowered his arm. My eyes were on the gun in his hand.

Why did we have to fight? A seemingly never-ending cycle of killing and abuse, grudges that ran deep, vengeance and hatred. Why did we have to suffer from the decisions of our predecessors? Why did we have to train children to kill?

I choose a different path. A future surrounded with people I love... a future where children don't know what it's like to hide in fear, to cower in their mother's

arms as their fathers and brothers and sisters fight rogues and enemy packs with their lives on the line.

"Luna," said a voice from the shadows. Three familiar people showed themselves – the Delta Unit. They knelt on one knee simultaneously. "Your orders."

"Why didn't you stop them?" I questioned.

"The Alpha gave an Order. We are to protect you at all costs, and in the event, he is incapacitated to issue orders, we are under your command, Luna," answered T

You jerk! Why can't you think of yourself for once!

I headed for the door. "Get up. We're rescuing the Alpha," I said sternly.

"On our honor," they replied.

"Bella, wait!" Father called behind me. Beta David shuffled behind him. I ignored him and continued out the door, the Delta Unit following

A black van came over and parked in front. Reese was on the driver's seat,

smiling brightly. Ethan slid the door and stepped out.

"It's a relief to find you well, Luna," he said as he bowed slightly.

"Let's get our Alpha back," I said, smirking

Sabri went ahead of me, Nalia to my right and Ethan to my left. Ty got our backs covered, also serving as the wall between Father and me.

No sooner was I on the other side did Ty suddenly lift me off the ground and throw me harshly to the side.

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Chapter 62 Grandly Fucked

-Rigel

"You stink," said Andrix as he covered his nose with a hand. He'd been constantly complaining about my scent that I was entertaining the thought of going ahead

of him or using him as bait. The latter sounded more reasonable if I didn't need him to get in.

"Did you take at least take a shower?" he asked, making a gagging sound.

I spun around and gave him a death glare. I couldn't smell myself. I knew going rogue would make me stink, but he didn't have to rub it in my face! I didn't need a constant reminder that I was now alone.

He put his arms up in surrender and grinned. "I'll stop."

"How do we get in?" I asked, resuming my pace.

The Blue Moon Pack was located at the most advantageous vantage point – from all directions, the surrounding areas were visible for at least a kilometer. The woods hid most of it, but at least half a

kilometer from their pack was a clearing,

Rogues stayed away from their pack, and the few dumb enough to breach their territory, well... they got what they asked for, or so the rumors say.

It was what I needed Andrix for. He knew another way in, a safer alternative from alerting every warrior of the pack miles away. I must've been insane to agree with Alpha Emery without proof of this secret entrance – maybe I wasn't – desperate sounded more appropriate. After years, it was the closest shot I got to get my revenge. I could've talked Salina into helping me, but my guts told me she was a part of the whole thing, and my instincts had never proved me wrong.

Right now, it was telling me to turn back. I'd follow it, but this could be my only chance. I wasn't about to turn back now that I was this close.

"Let's see...," he said, looking around.

"We're almost at their borders. We can't let any of their patrols see us."

There was something wrong here. He seemed too... relaxed. On the way here, he purposefully slowed down his pace and we kept stopping as he tried to remember where to go. I wasn't told everything.

"Rain."

"I'm here," he replied.

In case Andrix pulled something off, we'd be ready to take him on. His Alpha wanted Myron dead and he, himself had a good reason too. All I had to do for them was to find a way to get Anna to leave the pack so they could get her back.

Myron's men almost killed Carson. If I wasn't mistaken, the Black Mist Pack had betrayed Myron then. I doubt Andrix was oblivious. There must be a reason he hadn't made a move to off me just yet. When I lost consciousness from breaking the links, he could've killed me then but didn't.

I smiled inwardly. What did it matter? If I die tonight, at least I'd be with Maya.

And my pack wouldn't be involved in any of these. My actions were my own.

"This way," he said, going to the left." The Blue Moon Pack don't have patrols.

Not tonight."

I raised a brow

"How do you know?

I slowed down to maintain a few meters from him.

They're expecting a guest. Alpha told me while you were getting your beauty sleep."

He turned another left, and now we were getting even closer to the border. "I don't know who it is."

Andrix stopped just before the clearing that surrounded their base. It was a straight path to death. "It should be... right around here."

"There's nothing here," I said, growling,

Trees then a clearing. No secret entrance in sight.

"That's what they want you to think."

There were two trees in front of him, their tops arching to meet at the center, branches intertwined. He raised a hand between their trunks, and my eyes went wide as his hand was suddenly gone. He

pulled back his arm and there it was

again.

"What is that?" I asked.

"A portal of some sort?" he replied." Alpha warned of a witch. We can't be sure this leads to inside, so if you want to back out, this is a good time."

"What about you?"

He grinned, easing his right arm between the trees, into what seemed like an invisible door, up to the elbow.

"Magic...," he said, voicing my thoughts.

I had an idea as to who it might be – the same witch who poisoned Liam. Myron had the guts to dishonor an Alpha Duel. He didn't deserve any respect for his name. I'd dealt with a witch before by smacking him in the head.

How should I deal with this bitch?

"What do we do about the witch?" I asked casually

He pulled his arm back then shrugged. "I don't know. I don't have experience with witches. Do you?"

I sighed

"Guess we'll just have to wing it."

"Are you fucking with me?"

He grinned. "You and I both know the chances of getting out of here alive. I warned you, didn't I?"

Right. If I wasn't ready for this, I wouldn't have left everything behind me. It was all in or nothing and I made my choice.

"You don't have to tell me twice."

"Good," he said, disappearing into the portal

I gulped a lump in my throat before touching where it should be. Wet and squishy – it felt disgusting. I watched as my arm got into the other side until my

shoulder, then took a look around me before joining him.

I pushed through something like cold slime. It covered me from head to toe and for a split second, I couldn't breathe. Then I found myself standing on the other side with Andrix looking at me with an amused face.

"You took your sweet time," he commented

"Scared to die alone?" I replied and he chuckled

The glass walls showed a wide lawn, the sprinklers on

"Where are we?"

"I'm guessing... his house," he said, opening his arms wide as if welcoming me into it.

The lights were on. We stood in the middle of a living room or maybe a reception area? It had nothing but a potted plant on a corner and a round sofa.

This was far from what I expected. Something was off here. There were no guards, and the house felt empty. Adrenaline coursed through my veins and I could feel the small hairs at the back of my neck stand. We were being watched. I couldn't point out which direction, but it was there – that weird eerie feeling.

"You thinking what I'm thinking?" asked Andrix as he went behind me, our backs to each other.

It suddenly occurred to me that I didn't bother to ask a very important question.

"How'd you know about the portal?"

"Ugh..." He groaned then he fell on the ground, a dart on his neck.

Shit!

Before I could react, I felt a prick on my neck. I pulled it out and my feet swayed as my surroundings spun. Lightheaded, with sleep pulling me, I laid face flat on the hardwood floor.

"Hello, couz," said a voice that accompanied a pair of red heels that came into view. I tried to speak but it was like I lost the ability to move a single muscle.

"Sleep. Your brothers will join you soon," she said, a hint of excitement in her voice.

No... what... they..

"It'll be a family reunion!"

She kept talking but I couldn't hear her. With thoughts of my brothers getting captured, I closed my eyes.

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Chapter 63 Blind Rescue

-Gale

"I'm sleepy," said Jaymer as he let out a loud yawn, the sleeve of his robe pulling back as he brought up a hand in the air." Why do you need me, again?

I rolled my eyes before answering, "We're rescuing our brother. We need you, Jaymer."

Waking him up was difficult enough with the additional traps he set this time around that we almost lost one of ours from a blast of fire. Dealing with his attitude was more of a pain. We were almost close to the borders of the Blue Moon Pack and we needed him to focus.

"He's rogue...", he whined.

"He's still our brother. Now shut up and follow along," I replied, getting annoyed.

For a witch who lived across centuries, he was more of a child. Since the Red Point Unit didn't exactly specialize in covert operations, Jaymer and I, along with Flynn and a handful of his men, took on

this mission. His warriors, as well as ours, were positioned about a mile away just in case we blow this up. Alpha always had a Plan B.

Speaking of the Alpha, he was trying to connect. I lowered the barrier, which I raised so I could best concentrate on the task.

"How did it go?" I asked, hoping to hear good news from their side.

"Change of plans," he replied, the link weakening, and I knew something was up. "Delta to Luna. Target on his way." He ended it with that, then I couldn't link with him anymore.

Delta to Luna. They received an Order to protect Anna which meant something went wrong and he was in danger.

Target on his way. Myron wasn't in his pack. If I put two and two together, he was in the Black Mist Pack and was involved in the whole thing.

What were the new plans? We couldn't go back now. My brothers were in danger. My mate was in danger. We weren't exactly safe here either. If the three of us were

together, we might have a fighting chance. Also, Jaymer was helping us out.

This changes nothing – the mission had to go on, only this time, we had to rescue Liam too. Knowing Rigel, he'd already gotten himself into deep shit by now.

How long before Liam gets here? We have to act fast and be in position...

I abruptly stopped and faced the party." Alpha Liam's been captured. He's being transported here as we speak, with Myron."

"And what of Anna?" Alpha Flynn asked immediately.

"She's with our Delta Unit," I replied, giving him a slight nod. "She's safe with them."

Jaymer narrowed his eyes at me. "Alpha Liam has the Delta Unit. How can he get captured when he's with them?" he asked.

Good point. Unfortunately...

"I don't know," I muttered under my breath. "I can't reach him now, so they must've knocked him out."

If I had to guess, he did it for Anna.

"What do we do now?" asked Alpha Flynn as he scratched his chin. "If we stay here, we're as good as dead. If we continue, there's no guarantee your brother and his friend will help us save him. We have an army behind us, but truth be told –" he looked into my eyes sternly, then added, "– I'd rather avoid a full-blown war between packs."

I nodded in understanding. A war would weaken his pack. Our pack was still recovering. With the alliance, we had a chance of taking down the Blue Moon Pack, but neither of us wanted to pay the price. The aftermath was just as problematic. A short-term win was nothing if rogues or enemy packs, whichever succeeded first, took over soon after.

"My brother will help us out. Also, Jaymer here may not look like it, but he's more powerful than any witch Myron has," I said, glancing at Jaymer.

"And if we fail?"

I clenched my jaw.

It's not an option."

Alpha Flynn held my gaze for a few seconds

"You're either very brave or very stupid," he said, sounding amused.

I smiled.

"Neither," I replied. "But I know someone who is."

I inhaled deeply to pick up his scent once more. It was all over the place like he'd been walking in circles as if he knew I'd be tracking him. I wasn't the best tracker,

but with our warriors divided, the trackers occupied in investigations, I'd offered to do it myself. There was no one more suited than me. I could accurately track him down because of the unique scent that only I could smell. They didn't have to know

It calmed me down, but my wolf was getting restless. If we didn't find my mate soon who should be with my brother turned rogue, Gil would start pushing back. Relenting control to him was the last thing I needed right now. Unlike Rigel, I had more sense than

barging into the Blue Moon Pack from the front door.

"Are you sure we're going in the right direction?" asked Alpha Flynn, raising a brow at me.

We were now heading southwest, which was to our left, instead of going straight ahead. It led us to an obviously unexplored section of the land. It raised my suspicions, but the scent was our best bet.

He reminded me of Christmas, a human tradition. The aroma of a steaming cup of hot chocolate both intoxicating and undoubtedly delicious.

Quit it.

Gil was trying every method to manipulate my thoughts.

The scent grew stronger, and I could tell we were close. Anxiety grew in my chest at the thought of seeing him again, unbound. I liked him the way he was for months – chained, sedated, roughed up. Next time we meet, he was in full control and while I didn't like it one bit, it was exciting. How would he react – would he

show fury and unleash it all on me, or maybe aim to kill me? It'd be entertaining, taunting him until he decided. My wolf wagged his tail at the idea of us in a "normal setting".

We continued our path until the scent suddenly ended. I inhaled deeply, trying to pick up where it continued but it ended in the middle of nowhere.

A wild goose chase?

Impossible. I followed the scent perfectly and there was nothing in sight that might have led us here.

"Why are we stopping?" Alpha Flynn asked, now beside me. His men tensed and encircled him, drawing out their weapons while half-drawing their wolves.

I sighed. "The scent stops here."

I paced around for a little, but it wasn't in any direction. It ended here.

"If we wanted you dead, Jaymer could've easily done it since I introduced him to you."

The Alphas had a temporary truce set up.

Killing or much less, threatening the Beta of the Red Claw Pack and Jaymer would end up in their deaths and they knew it. No one challenged our pack, and the stupid ones – I'd forgotten their names, I sighed as his men gave Jaymer death glares as well.

"I sense magic," said Jaymer. "It's... close."

What Jaymer can do – nobody knew but himself. I doubted he knew everything too. He walked past me then stared into... nothing. Between two young trees that were close to each other, his passive face beamed as if he could see something we couldn't.

"I haven't seen this for a long time," he commented

"Trees?" one of Alpha Flynn's men asked, earning him a nudge from his companion.

Jaymer looked behind him, grinning. "An easier term would be 'portals', I guess, or 'teleportation tunnel' or something like that. They're not exactly that but the end result is just the same."

Then in a low voice, as if fascinated, he said, "How many bodies did she use for this... ancient technique... dark magic..."

Before we could process what he just said, we heard claps from behind us followed by a hoarse voice that dripped with evil intentions.

"Well done, Phoenix. I expected nothing less."

Alpha Flynn's men directed their weapons at her – the witch who worked for Myron, the bitch who poisoned my brother.

Gil growled at her and so did Alpha Flynn's men. Liam warned that she was powerful, but also said she was easy picking for Jaymer.

Let's see what this sack of potatoes can do

"It's an honor to finally meet you, descendant of the First One," she said between creepy chuckles as she bowed to Jaymer.

He had a smug look on his face. That information was kept confidential within

high-ranking pack members. Banishing Myron had countless disadvantages.

Alpha Flynn and his men had disbelief written all over their faces. The First One was nothing but a scary story told to discipline children. And yet here was = the First One's flesh and blood, or perhaps Jaymer were the First One himself. We didn't really know – his past was his business, and he kept it private, if he even knew it himself.

"To whom do I owe the honor?" he asked with an almighty tone. He was enjoying this.

"Sister Katrina, previously of the Black Star Coven," she replied curtly.

"So, Sister Katrina, surely you wouldn't mind us using your little pocket here, do you?" he asked, raising his hands in front of his chest. Unlike typical witches, his fingers looked normal like he was a regular person. He was... a special case.

Her face was hidden by the shadow of her black robe's oversized hood, but I could sense the smirk that played on her lips. Jaymer gestured with his chin that we get

behind him?

Where – to the two trees behind him?

We could fight her together.

The witch opened her palms, flexing her fingers, ready to cast a spell.

"Do you see it?" asked Jaymer. "Right between them."

He moved to his side and the witch followed suit. I stared hard at the space between their trunks and then I saw it – a weird transparent-looking sheet that was easy to miss. It glistened at a certain angle and something about it made me sick.

"Where does it lead to?" Jaymer asked.

"Inside," she answered with a snigger.

This was why I hated witches. They had this gift of getting under one's skin, and this was coming from someone who managed the Fun House. Wherever this inside was sounded more inviting than staying here and dealing with her.

"What are you waiting for?"

He smiled playfully as he clasped and

unclasped his hands. Then, black began to color his fingers. It started from the tips of his fingernails all the way down to the base, levels lower than that of the bitch's.

“Cocky witch.”

I called Alpha Flynn and his men over. I pushed one of his men without warning and he passed through the weird film, suddenly disappearing. Without having to say another word, his companions followed suit. Alpha Flynn entered too.

A black cloud began to gather around Sister Katrina’s hands.

“Myron and Liam are already inside, aren’t they?”

She cackled. “Leave now, Beta!”

The cloud that gathered in her hand stretched out to me when she raised her hand, but it was immediately blown back by a gust of wind that she had to dodge, sliding to the side. Jaymer spun his pointer finger, creating a visible mini tornado from the motions.

“I’m giving her a handicap,” he said,

flicking the mini tornado to me. I didn’t expect it to have so much force that it practically blew me into the portal. It felt disgusting going through it. For a split second, I had the mental image of squirming under human skin. Well, now I know what that felt like. I might create a tool for it when we get back.

I got to the other side to find Alpha Flynn’s men lying on the floor unconscious in what appeared like a living room. He was the only one standing, staring at Salina. Both had surprised looks on their faces.

Alpha Flynn swallowed. His voice sounded dry.

“Mate,” they said at the same time.

For a second, I stood in silence processing their exchange before I turned my attention back to his men. A dart was on their necks. It looked familiar.

He took a step towards her and stopped when a dart hit his neck. In a split second, I received one too.

Salina watched with a frozen look of shock on her face. As much as this was

interesting, we fucking wandered into a trap!

My mind began to fog, and I was quickly losing consciousness.

I had to rescue my brothers. I had to see my mate.

“Red,” I said in a mind-link to the open channel before I gave in to the pull.