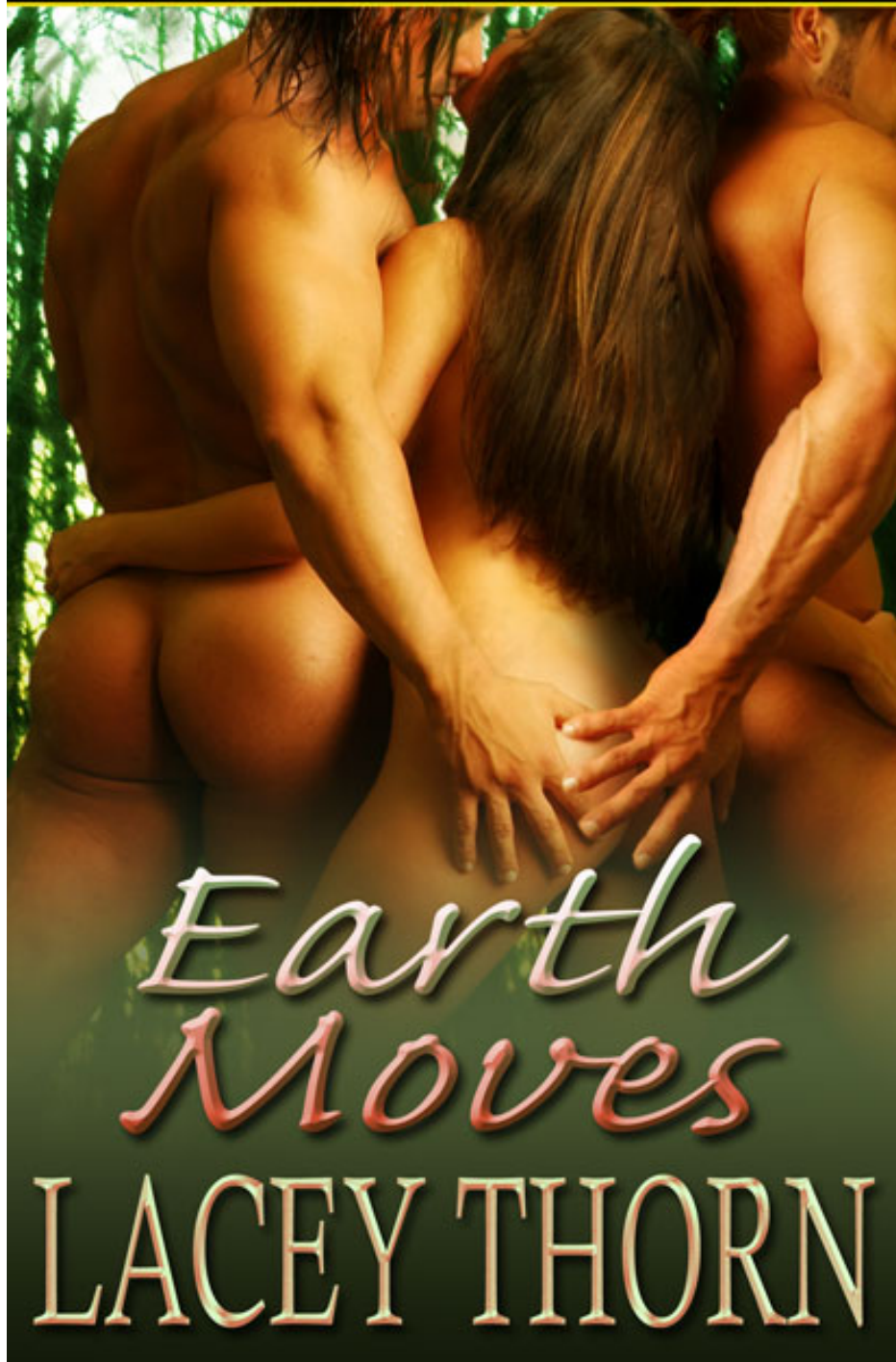


ELLORA'S CAVE PRESENTS



*Earth
Moves*
LACEY THORN

An Ellora's Cave Romantica Publication



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Earth Moves

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EARTH MOVES

Lacey Thorn

This book is dedicated to the following people:

To my grandmother who taught me that the greatest adventures in life can be as easy to find as opening the cover of a book. I owe my love of reading to you and without that I would never have even thought of writing. I love you!

As always to my best friend and often coconspirator Shelly. We club girls have to stick together!

Prologue

So it begins

"You will come to regret this decision one day, my warrior prince." The priestess threw her hands into the air as the warrior led his men into the Temple of the Goddess.

"We will not harm you, Priestess. We seek only to know the number of the women that you harbor in your temple."

"'Tis the Temple of the Goddess that you desecrate with your presence. Never has a man stepped foot into this sanctuary. These women that you seek for your pleasure serve the goddess. Leave now before you unleash consequences that you will soon regret."

"You dare to threaten me, old hag. We will take what we came for and you will do nothing to stop us." The warrior glanced up as the first of the women was pulled kicking and screaming into the room. They were lovely indeed. All dressed in the sheer veils that were allowed women of the temple. Two veils were tied together around each woman's neck then pulled apart to each cup a breast before being pulled around and tied together again at her back. The skirt consisted of black veils that had been sewn together, attached to a hip-hugging band of lace; the veils then fell to the women's ankles which were adorned with black sandals. Each woman's top was in the color of her caste within the temple. Those who saw to the temple fires wore red, those who took care of the temple grounds wore green, those who watched over the flowing waters of the temple wore blue, those who worked with the sick and the animals wore black and then there were others that wore white. The warrior prince was unsure of what these women in white actually did. He knew that they were all beautiful in their own ways. They would serve well to aid him and his fellow warriors in ensuring the continuation of their race.

They had searched long and hard for another island that could be inhabited by his people and had only hoped to find women that they would be able to breed with. Disease had swept through most of their planet, killing off women and girl children as well as destroying most of the food and water supply. Left with no other option they had searched for another island that could accommodate their clan of warriors. They had lucked upon this one, the Isle of Altair, an island made up of mostly women. They had easily defeated the few men and staked their ownership. With the shortest of the warriors standing at over six feet, six inches of bulging muscle it was not difficult to wrest control.

The warriors wore brown pants that molded to the length of their muscular thighs and calves, boots and belts that held an assortment of weapons that the island natives had never seen. They had taken control of the villages and now marched on the temple as well. The villages held only old women and very young girls.

All women were sent to the temple to pay tribute to the goddess upon their twelfth birthday. They stayed in service until they reached their fiftieth year. It was the way of their people to serve the goddess. Women were allowed to mate when they reached their twenty-first year if they wished to bear a child. Each woman was allowed only one child. This was the decree of the goddess. It was the way that they made sure that there would be abundant resources for the next generation and so on.

Now these warriors were here in the temple demanding that all of the women be brought before them. They were planning to select all of the women who were still capable of childbearing and take them back to the villages. They were throwing out the old laws, the laws of the goddess and instilling Warrior Law. According to Warrior Law all women who had reached their twenty-first year were claimable. Any warrior who wanted to would be given a chance to claim the woman he wanted as long as his brother also wished to claim her. For warriors were always born as twins with the occasional arrival of triplets. Because of the vast number of warriors each group of warrior brothers, be they a duo or a trio, would only be allowed to mate with one

woman. Once a woman was chosen she would be claimed by the placing of the husbands' clan upon her lower right abdomen just above her skirt. The brand would only be removed if the woman were widowed by all of her husbands while she was still of a childbearing age. This was now the law.

"These women must give service to the goddess!" The old priestess yelled above the noise of the unwilling captives. "If you do this know that a curse will be placed upon you."

"Cease your nonsense, hag. This is the law. These women are now claimable by Warrior Law which is now the only law of which you need concern yourself." The warrior prince looked to his brother. "Have them taken out to be seen by the warriors. Keep back only the one that we have chosen for ourselves."

The women were forced from the building to be greeted by the roars of the warriors awaiting them. At last there were only the warrior prince and his brother left in the temple with the old priestess and a beautiful young woman of about twenty-four years. The young woman had shown no fear when the warriors ordered her to the chapel, instead walking with her head high. She wore a black top that held her firm young breasts high upon her chest, giving tempting glimpses of her dusky nipples as the light hit the sheer material. She had thick black hair that hug to her hips in cascading waves. Her eyes were an aqua blue that shot fire at the warrior prince now as she went to stand by the old priestess.

"This is the woman that you have chosen as your own, Prince?" the priestess questioned.

"Yes, this one shall serve my brother and me. We will make her a princess. She will want for nothing."

The old woman threw her head back in laughter at the prince's words. "She is already a princess. She needs no help from you for that honor." She walked to the altar at the front of the chapel before turning to the prince again. "I will give you one more chance to give up this madness. Leave now or know the vengeance of the goddess."

"Your words will scare no one, Priestess," the warrior prince said with much contempt. "We seek only that which we need to survive. If not us then others will come."

"Then know this, Warrior.

"Because you take instead of seek, because you cause the goddess to weep. In this take heed my words to hear, for a time of reckoning soon will near. In five times five the Guardians will arise, five women marked by the goddess's eyes. Of fire, earth, water and air, four will become the Guardians of Altair. The fifth shall ply the mystic realms and draw them together in the valley of Elms. When the five are united in this mystic place, only then will the curse be lifted I place. Cursed to battle to hold what you take, this is the hand dealt you by fate. Warriors, fierce with muscles and brawn, shall pray for the day of the Guardians to dawn. For only through them will peace come at last. The Guardians united shall atone for your past. So protect and serve when once they appear, or be cursed to live forever in fear."

"What foolishness is this? A warrior knows no fear. Be gone, old woman." The warrior prince walked to where his brother stood by their chosen mate.

The priestess held up a dagger and sliced her palm so that her blood dripped upon the altar. "Marked with blood to seal the curse. You have sealed your own fate and that of all of your warriors, Prince. You will know no peace until they come. Remember my words and guard them well. For if one shall die all will be lost." She looked to the woman they held between them and spoke with words they could not understand. At the woman's nod the priestess turned and left the room.

The prince grabbed the woman by the shoulders and pulled her to him. "What is your name, woman?"

"I am called Asme."

"What did the old woman say to you?"

"She told me to remember the curse and prepare the way for the Guardians."

The prince threw his head back and laughed. "You will disregard that old woman's words. There will be no curse."

The woman just looked at him and said nothing. Grabbing her hand, he pulled her out of the Temple of the Goddess and stood her between him and his brother to address the other women who were already being held by the warriors who had claimed them. Taking in the chaos of the courtyard, Asme called out in foreign words to the women. The prince watched as her words seemed to calm the women who now had stopped fighting and stood docilely by their warrior mates.

"What did you say to them?"

Asme looked at the prince with fire in her eyes before answering. "That we live by Warrior Law now."

He didn't believe that was what she had said but chose not to challenge her now. "Warriors! You may now mark your chosen mate." With those words the prince turned to Asme and knelt before her. His brother moved behind her and held her back to his chest, taking her hands in his and crossing their arms over her chest. Asme stood tall and kept her eyes on the women in the courtyard, sharing her strength with them. The prince took a cylindrical weapon from his belt and placed it on her lower right abdomen. She felt a multitude of tiny stings where the laser marked her and then numbness took over. The mark was black against her pale flesh. "Women! You now bear the mark of your mates. You no longer serve the goddess. From this day forth you shall see to the needs of your warriors."

A cry went up from all the warriors but the women remained quiet. For Asme had spoke to them of the curse and the coming of the Guardians. She would share with them in detail the words of the old priestess, the words of her own mother. They would serve their warriors. But more importantly they would prepare the way for the Guardians. Each woman would watch for the signs and prepare the way for those chosen. That was the command of the goddess. As the last direct descendant of the goddess it was up to Asme now to make sure that all was not lost.

Chapter One

Erika hid in the trees and watched her fathers' warriors fight. For as long as Erika could remember she had followed her fathers to the practice field and hidden just on the other side of the trees of the forest and watched as they practiced with their men. War was a constant for her people. Her fathers warned her of the foreign warriors who sought to take her and her mother and any women that they could from them.

Her mother told her of when her fathers had come and taken over the Isle of Altair that they lived on. Many years ago disease had swept through their planet, killing off most of the women and female children and making most places unlivable. The goddess had protected them and their island though. It was pure luck that had brought her fathers' people here to them. A storm had landed their ships on the shore of the island and that was how they had been discovered. Erika's mom believed that the goddess must have her own agenda to have allowed them to stay and eventually overtake them. Erika knew all about the curse that the old priestess of her mother's people had placed before she disappeared almost twenty-five years ago. Goddess Law had been replaced with Warrior Law and her mother and the other women of the temple had been claimed by sets of warrior siblings. With the curse in place the goddess's protection had been removed from the island and now they were constantly under threat by other survivors. The women had been treated surprisingly well by their warrior captors and most were lucky enough to find love and happiness.

When the prince had stormed the Temple of the Goddess and removed all of the women considered to be able to still bear children the priestess had become enraged. No man had ever stepped foot in the temple and now it seemed overrun with warriors. The priestess had warned the prince to take heed of what he was doing, but in his pride he had stuck by his actions. Thus the curse had begun. The priestess had cursed them

all to war and strife until the Guardians appeared. Sadly, had the prince only asked for women to volunteer to be mates for his men everything would have been the same only different. Men were scarce on Altair, most choosing to leave the safety of an island faithful to a female and because of this, women were only allowed to mate once a year as long as they were able to conceive and once conception occurred they were no longer allowed to seek a man. Each woman could have one child and that was it. If the prince had asked the women would have been eager to comply and mate with his warriors who were all prime examples of male flesh. But they had taken instead and now everyone paid the price.

Erika looked again at the warriors in the field. In only three more days she would reach her twenty-first birthday and become claimable by Warrior Law. That law meant that any group of warrior siblings could petition her fathers for the right to claim her. Her mother had told her just this morning that the Savari brothers had approached her fathers last night and had claimed their right as the first to woo her. If she succumbed to them in the next three days she would belong to them. There were other warrior pairs that were interested in her as well but the Savaris had been given first right.

She looked now at where Galen and Arik fought among the other warriors. They were both huge men at six feet eight, each with bulging muscles covering their bodies. Galen had long black hair that hung to the middle of his back. Two braids hung beside his face to keep the hair out of his way while he battled. He had fierce blue eyes that had always seemed to freeze her. She had seen him kill before. She had wandered in the forest one day and almost been taken by another group of warriors. It was Galen who had come to her rescue. She had only been ten at the time and Galen, at twenty-four, had already been a warrior. He had killed both of the other warriors and carried her back home to her parents' home. She remembered him shaking her until she felt like her neck was going to snap off. He had yelled at her about how stupid she was and told her in too much detail just how the other warriors would have violated her, forcing their great swords deep inside her. She had been afraid of him ever since. She could feel his

eyes on her every time he was near. The thought of belonging to him scared her more than anything else in the world.

His brother Arik was his opposite. He kept his golden brown hair clubbed back and his brown eyes were always laughing. She had always felt safe and comfortable around Arik. He seemed so much younger than his brother although they were twins and thus the same age. She had run to Arik often when she had been a child. He had often bandaged her scraped knees and elbows before sending her back home to her mother. The last time he had come upon her in the forest had been different. She had been seventeen at the time and swimming in the lake. Arik had come upon her and she had thought nothing of leaving the water to embrace her friend. But he had been different that day. He had stared at her body as she left the water. When she had went to hug him he had taken her arms and held her away from him. He had given her a blanket he kept on the back of his *shebana*, a brawny four-legged creature with long mane and tail that the warriors rode about the island, and wrapped her in it before putting her on his beast and taking her home.

Galen had been there when they arrived. He had taken her from Arik's *shebana* beast and set her on her feet beside him while he looked at his brother. Her fathers had been there as well. Arik had dismounted and spoke into his brother's ear. Galen's eyes had darkened in anger as she had watched. Before she knew it the blanket was ripped from her and she was left standing in front of them all in her wet veils. All four men had stared at her, her fathers in shock and the Savari brothers with fire in their eyes. Her mother had stepped out then and seeing her had whisked her into the house and away from the men. She had received a lecture then that she would have to curb her wild ways and realize that she was a woman. Her mother had turned her to the polished mirror and shown her how her breasts showed through the wet material clearly and how the wet veils of her skirt revealed the hidden curls of her sex. Her mother had then tried to explain what such a sight could bring about in a young and virile warrior.

Erika had been stunned to see herself that way. She never looked in the mirror. She didn't care for her appearance. She wore what her mother told her to but spent most of her time in the forest. That day she had been shocked to realize just how much her body had truly changed. Her breasts were full and firm with rosy pink nipples. Her hips had spread, giving her a lush full look to match her breasts. Her brown hair, released from its braid, hung to her hips in thick waves as it dried. Her green eyes grew ever bigger as her mother told her that she would need to begin learning things in preparation for her claiming in four years.

That night her fathers had grounded her to the house and grounds around it. She was no longer to be allowed to run in the forest by herself. She heard them talking to her mother later and had been shocked to hear them say that Galen was right. They had let her run too wild for too long and now she had to be disciplined. It was all Galen's fault. Galen was the one trying to keep her away from her beloved trees. She had hated him since that day. In fact she had refused to speak to either him or Arik since then unless she had been forced to by her parents.

Now she was to belong to them. She didn't think so. She would allow just about anyone else to claim her before letting either of them touch her. She had been lucky to sneak away this morning. It had been hard in the last four years but she had managed to sneak away often enough to soothe her soul, with a little help from her mother, of course. She felt completely at peace among the trees. She had a birthmark on her right buttock in the shape of a tree. Besides, she was more than able to take care of herself. Her powers had begun developing when she was thirteen. She could make the earth tremble, make the trees bend and shake. She could move rocks and small boulders with a flick of her hand. She had the power of the earth hidden deep inside her and she could feel it growing stronger every day. She would need no warrior to protect her.

With one last glance to where Galen and Arik practiced with the other warriors she turned and headed deeper into the forest. She could feel the earth calling to her, a whisper in the trees drawing her deeper to where the pond awaited. She would take a

cool and refreshing dip in the water there. She could already feel it lapping at her naked flesh. Yes, she had learned her lesson well from Galen and Arik. Now she stripped her clothes from her body before stepping into the pond. She would allow for a few minutes when she was done for her skin to dry before redressing. Then no one was the wiser to her swims. The pond was the closest thing to heaven she had ever felt. The feel of all that water lapping at her body, licking at her nipples, teasing between her thighs was sheer heaven. She had even less use for a warrior than she thought. Smiling in anticipation of what awaited her, she never even noticed the shadows that followed her.

Chapter Two

Galen caught the movement out of the corner of his eyes and felt his anger mount when he realized what—or more accurately, who—it was. The minx was defying them yet again. Oh, he knew that she snuck away often in the last few years but he or his brother had always been somewhere nearby or at least close enough to hear her if she yelled for help. She had been promised to them since he had rescued her when she was ten. Her fathers had offered her to him then and he had accepted on behalf of himself and his brother. He had thought she would grow to be a beauty and he had been right. She was all that and more with her long brown hair and her big green eyes. Her breasts were lush and full and her hips were made for a warrior. He and his brother had helped to watch over her since the day of her rescue.

Then Arik had come upon her in the pond when she was seventeen. She had been soaking wet and her clinging clothes had revealed all of her body's delights for anyone who came upon her. Galen had been grateful that Arik was the one to find her as another warrior may not have controlled himself as well. Arik though had held on to his control by the skin of his teeth and brought her to her parents' home. When Arik had explained to Galen that she had run to him with her body revealed in her wet clothing Galen had saw red. He had ripped the blanket from her shoulders and saw for himself the fullness of her breasts, the lushness of her hips, the glimpse of curls on her woman's mound. Lust had lit a fire in his body that left his cock swelling huge inside his pants. His brother had suffered the same.

Erika's mother had appeared then and, seeing the display before her, had rushed her daughter into the house and away from the eyes of too many warriors. Galen had been furious and laid down the law then. If Erika was not properly chaperoned and watched then she would be removed to the protection of the Savari household until she

reached her twenty-first year and was claimable. As they were from a different caste that would mean that not only would she suffer removal from her parents' home but from their part of the village as well. Her fathers had agreed and Erika was restricted to the house and immediate area around it for the last four years. And she had been cold to Galen and Arik ever since. She refused to speak to them unless one of her fathers or her mother made her. She no longer sought out Arik for comfort or just to talk, a fact that damn near broke his brother's heart. She was punishing them for what she saw as interference.

So he had waited anxiously for the time when he would be able to take her in hand himself. That day was finally here. She had belonged to him and Arik for almost eleven years and now with three days 'til her twenty-first year, she was finally within his grasp. Although they could not make her lie with them before then they could seduce her into wanting them, into allowing them to consummate their claim. If she invited them between her thighs then they could take her. And once they had mated with her she was completely theirs from that day on. He had waited long enough. Today he and Arik would claim her.

He felt his brother's eyes on him and turned to look at Arik. Arik had seen Erika too. He saw that Arik had reached the same decision that he had. Nodding at each other, they both moved away from the practice field and headed toward the trees. They would find her and make her theirs today. The time had come for them to make her aware that she belonged to them and only them. Today she would know what it was to be mated to a Savari warrior.

* * * * *

Erika untied the green veils from behind her back and slipped them over her head. She dropped her skirt to rest on top of her sandals and headed naked toward the pond. She walked out until the water lapped at her hips and then dove under. She loved the feel of the water on her bare skin. She swam for a few minutes and then relaxed and floated atop the pond's surface. The water lapped at her skin like the tongues of greedy

lovers. She loved it here. The pond was surrounded on three sides by trees and where she had entered there was a clearing filled with flowers and grass. She took a deep breath and flipped over to swim toward the shore. She couldn't stay long today. She was watched more and more closely as the day of her birthday drew nearer. She was sure that Galen had something to do with it.

She walked from the water and pulled her braided hair over her shoulder, squeezing the water from it. The braid designated that she was as yet unclaimable. On the day that marked her twenty-first summer her hair would be left unbound with only the sides pulled back from her face with a yellow sash. The sash would remain until she was claimed at which time her hair would never be bound again. She pushed it back behind her shoulders and stretched her arms high above her head. She heard a deep groan and jerked around, looking into the trees beside the lake. Arik stepped out from the edge of the trees and began walking toward her across the clearing. Erika gasped at the lust in his eyes. She couldn't help but notice the thick bulge in his pants that seemed to be growing ever bigger. She backed away from him, aiming for the spot where she had left her clothing, and hit a solid wall of muscle. She knew exactly who was behind her without looking. It was Galen.

Before she had a chance to struggle Galen had her turned and pressed firmly against his bare chest. The feel of his chest hair against her nipples made her gasp in surprise. Her nipples, already hard, become tighter with each rub against his flesh. It felt so good that she lay against him perfectly docile for a moment. Galen took advantage of that moment and, bending to her, touched his mouth to hers and thrust his tongue between her open lips. He licked into her mouth, learning its contours and tasting her unique flavor of mint and woman. He felt the tentative stroke of Erika's tongue against his and groaned and pulled her more firmly against him.

Erika couldn't believe the feelings rushing through her body. Her breasts felt swollen and tender against Galen's chest. She couldn't believe that he had his tongue in her mouth. He had fisted one hand in her hair and turned her head to deepen the kiss.

She moaned. She could feel him hard against her belly just shy of where her own body was aching and couldn't seem to stop from rubbing against him wantonly, doing all she could to alleviate that ache.

She felt hands on her hips and felt the firm pressure of another hard body against her back. She knew it was Arik. She felt his cock against the small of her back so hard and thick. She felt his hands reach around between her and Galen to cup her breasts. He palmed and lifted them before feathering his fingers up and over her engorged nipples. Arik took both nipples between his fingers and began pinching and tugging them. Erika pulled away from Galen's kiss and cried out at the sensations this action caused to course through her body.

She knew what they were doing to her. Her body was awake with desire and need. She had to remember who they were, the Savari brothers, and the danger they represented to her. If they could persuade her to mate with them then she would belong to them and only them from this day forth. She would be stuck with them for the rest of her life. She would never know the freedom of the forest while under their care. They would see to it that she had little time to herself. She would be removed from her own caste and placed in the care and company of their caste. The mere thought filled her with fear. She was of the earth more so than any other member of that caste and the Savari were of the healing caste. Their women worked with the sick and the animals of all the different castes. She would be way out of her element there.

She turned to look at Arik. He had always been the easier one to talk to, the one that she could turn to for help or comfort. "Please..." Erika whimpered but she could see that he would be of no help to her this time.

"You have nothing to fear, my heart," Arik replied. "We only seek to bring you pleasure. Let us show you the joys of being with a chosen mate."

"But I have not chosen any mate," Erika tried to insist but neither man seemed to be listening.

Arik bent his mouth down to where her head rested against his shoulder and kissed her softly. He nibbled on her bottom lip and then let his tongue soothe the slight wound. He continued to massage her nipples and breasts. Fire shot a path from her breasts down her stomach to intensify the fire in her woman's place. She gasped as she felt the first swipe of Galen's tongue along the lips of her sex. Arik took full possession of her mouth then, thrusting his tongue in and out of her mouth.

Galen had dropped to his knees before her. The folds of her sex glistened with her juices and he could smell the sweet musky scent of her. He couldn't stop himself from licking those plump lips and tasting her. The first taste made him shudder. She was hot and sweet and he had to have more. He lifted one of her legs and placed her foot on his shoulder, opening her more fully to him. He lapped eagerly at her sex before spreading her sweet lips with his fingers and licking into her core. He lapped gently at her sweet spot, watching until her clit grew big with need. He latched on and began to suck her flesh as he worked a finger into her tight sheath. He groaned at the tight clasp of her muscles around his finger. She would need to be stretched well before she could handle his warrior cock.

Erika cried out at the feel of Galen licking and sucking on the flesh between her thighs. She felt a coil deep in her womb twisting tighter and tighter inside her. Arik continued to manipulate her nipples, pinching and squeezing the tips almost in an exact rhythm with Galen's tongue. She clutched at Galen's head, desperate in her need for something, something! She turned her head and bit down on the muscle where Arik's throat and shoulder met, trying to stop the tumbled words from escaping her lips. She was begging, screaming for a release that she demanded, feared and dreaded all in equal parts. Finally the coil snapped and she felt pleasure so intense that it was almost pain, that it stole the very breath from her lungs and left her panting. She felt her juices pouring from her only to be lapped up by Galen's tongue. Her nipples swelled further and stabbed at Arik who held them in a tight pinch that brought just the edge of pain.

Both men groaned as they felt Erika shake and shudder with her release, reveling in the gift she had given them. With that release she had accepted with her body their right to her.

Gently they lowered her to the grass. When she came back to herself they were lying one on either side of her, stroking her and soothing her with kisses to her shoulders and neck. As sanity returned she realized exactly what she had allowed to happen. She had put up no protest to stop them. She had allowed them full access to her body and they had pleased her well. She had allowed them to bring her to orgasm and by doing so had given them her permission and blessing to claim her by Warrior Law. The only thing that could save her now would be to somehow keep them from fully consummating their suit. She had already proven to herself and to them that she had no control over her body when they touched her. If they decided to mention this to her fathers she would be given to them with no contest. Everyone knew that once a woman was brought to pleasure by a warrior she would belong to them. Sometimes there were instances where this did not occur but those women were not her and Erika knew well that her fathers would love nothing more than to see her joined with the Savari warriors.

She looked at the warmth in Arik's eyes as he began to stroke the side of her breast. He leaned down and kissed her softly on the lips. When he lifted away again she looked over to her other side where Galen had begun to stroke his fingers in lazy circles on her stomach. His eyes were dark with passion and lust and determination. She felt fear trickle down her spine. He would never let her walk away from him now. How the hell was she going to get out of this?

"Are you ready to submit to us, Erika? Are you ready to admit that you belong to Arik and me?" Galen pressed his hard-on against her naked hip. "Because you do now. From the moment you allowed us to touch your body, to taste your sweet pussy, you sealed your fate. I will never let you go now."

“Nor I.” Arik bent to lick her nipple. “You have always been meant for us. Now you will belong to us for all time.”

She watched as they both reached for the laces that held their pants together and caught her breath. What did she do now? If she did not stop this there would be no means of turning back. With the final act of consummation they would own her in ways that she wasn’t even clear about. She knew they were good men who would never hurt her physically, but emotionally she would be devastated. She was not sure what they would think of her powers and if she was mated with them there would be no way of hiding those powers from them.

Digging her hands deep into the earth on either side of where she lay, she summoned all the power that she dared and set about making things difficult.

Chapter Three

Erika lay in bed that night with a thousand thoughts floating through her head. She still couldn't believe that she had caused the earth to shake so fiercely. It had felt as if the very earth itself would open up at any moment and swallow them whole. The trees had shaken as if manipulated by some unseen hand. Waves had crashed all around the pond, pounding against the land around it. Arik and Galen had immediately jumped to their feet, pulling her with them. Galen had thrown her over his shoulder and Arik had grabbed her clothes. They had run as fast as they could to the safety of her home in the village.

Erika had been mortified when Galen had set her down naked on the steps of her own home right in front of her fathers and some of the other warriors from their village. At the intense look of lust in the other warriors' eyes Arik and Galen had hid her behind their big bodies and given her back her clothes with orders to "cover yourself". She fumed as she dressed, listening to the words spoken between her fathers and the Savari brothers.

"You have breached her?"

"Not yet," Galen admitted. "But we have given her a woman's pleasure."

"Yes, your face still glistens with her joy." Her fathers laughed with the other warriors and Galen and Arik couldn't stop from grinning. "Why did you not finish?"

"We were interrupted," Arik explained.

"Did you spot other warriors? Is there danger near?"

At this Erika had shoved her way through Arik and Galen and headed toward the door to her home. Galen stopped her with a firm grasp on her wrist.

"Not yet, little one, we have not finished," Galen whispered as he pulled her back to his side. "There were no other warriors that we saw," he said in answer to her fathers' questions.

"It was the very earth itself. It trembled so violently that it seemed that it would open up and swallow us all. We worried for her safety and for that of the villagers. Did you not feel it here?"

"No, we felt nothing unusual." One of her fathers answered at the same time that they heard a gasp from the doorway behind them.

Erika's mother stood there. Erin quickly stepped through and went to her daughter's side. "I have been looking for you. I have need of your assistance." The look she sent Erika emphasized the importance of not arguing with her mother.

Erika tried to step toward her mother, tugging at the wrist held by Galen, but he would not release her. "I must go now. My mother has need of me. Please release me."

"I have an even greater need for you as we have not finished what we began. So you will wait, little one."

"I am finished."

"You will finish many more times before we are through," Galen stated boldly, bringing chuckles from her fathers and the other warriors still present.

Erika blushed crimson in embarrassment as well as anger. "I do not wish this. I will not join with you and Arik. *I...am...finished!*"

Galen's eyes took on the sheen of steel and his grip tightened on her wrist. "Did you not flower in our arms? Did we not give you pleasure?"

Erika just looked at him, refusing to speak.

"Answer him, daughter!" one of her fathers ordered. "Did the Savari bring you to pleasure?"

Erika wanted to lie so badly. She knew that her admission would allow them to claim her. So she kept her mouth shut and said nothing. Arik bent close to her ear and

murmured just loud enough for those closest to her to hear, "If you do not answer your fathers' question then you will leave us with no choice but to strip you and bring you to pleasure again. Here, in front of all of these witnesses. Is that what you want us to do, my heart?"

Erika's eyes flew to Arik's and then to Galen's and she knew that they would do just what Arik had said. She looked to her fathers for help, knowing that they had heard every word Arik spoke as well. There would be no help from them either. When she still didn't respond her fathers nodded wearily to the Savari brothers.

Before she could register the significance of that nod Galen had her against his chest again. He bent to her head and took her mouth in a demanding kiss, thrusting his tongue in and out. She felt Arik against her back again and then his hands were on her breasts. He plucked her nipples and placed kisses along the back of her neck and shoulder. She couldn't hold back the moan of pleasure. Pulling away from Galen's mouth, she shuddered, gulping air. Just when she thought that she could breathe again Galen latched onto one of her nipples and sucked it hard into his mouth. He was angry and in his anger he was rougher than he was before. At the first nip of his teeth, Erika cried out. At the second, she bucked against him.

She felt Arik's hands on the ties to her shirt and looked back at him with eyes filled with tears. "Please," she whispered. "Please, not like this. Not here."

Galen must have heard her as well for he released her nipple with an audible pop. He turned her face to his. "Do you consent to our suit? Do you admit that we give you pleasure?"

"Yes," Erika whispered.

"Louder, little one. You must speak so that all may hear."

"Yes!" Erika yelled when Arik pinched her nipple that was still sore from Galen's teeth. "Yes, you gave me pleasure."

Silence fell around them. Erika closed her eyes in shame and acceptance.

"Daughter, you understand what this means?"

"Yes," she whispered again to her fathers. "I understand."

"Our daughter has consented to a union between her and the Savari warriors, Galen and Arik." One of her fathers boomed the words out so that all could hear and know. "She will be formally joined with them in two days. The ceremony will take place the eve before her twenty-first year." Nodding to Galen and Arik, he continued as the brothers removed the cord from her hair and unwound her braid. "As of today, our daughter, Erika, is claimed. None other may touch her or try to pledge suit. As of today she belongs to the Savari warriors."

A cry rose up from the people around them. Galen could see the misery in Erika's face and it hurt him. He didn't understand her reluctance. He knew that he and his brother were considered a good match. Many had wanted to bond their daughters with the Savari warriors, but they had waited for Erika. And the wait had been well worth it. Erika was more beautiful than he had ever imagined. His body ached with need of her. Shaking his head, Galen knelt before her and glanced up to his brother. Arik took Erika's hands in his and crossed their arms over her chest, holding her tightly against his own body.

Galen removed his *sha* stick from his belt and placed it on Erika's lower right abdomen just above her skirt. She felt a stinging pain and then blessed numbness. Galen stood with a yell that was returned by all present. Erika glanced down and saw the falcon on her abdomen, the mark of the Savari clan. She was theirs now. The official ceremony was just for her parents and his to bless their union.

Erika felt the darkness surround her and gladly surrendered to it. Without a sound she fainted against Arik.

* * * * *

Now she lay awake on her girlhood bed. She knew not when they would come for her. Sometime soon she would be taken to the home that Galen and Arik had built. She glanced again at the falcon on her belly and shuddered. She would never be allowed

her freedom again. Galen would keep her confined to their home, she was sure. She knew that his family still clung rigidly to the old warrior code that stated their women should be bound to hearth and home. Tears filled her eyes again. How would she survive without her trees and flowers, without cooling dips in the pond?

She quickly closed her eyes as the curtain covering her door was pulled back. She felt someone sit beside her on the bed and then her mother spoke. "I know that you are awake, Erika. So please sit up and talk to me. We have much to discuss and little time to achieve it."

Erika sat up quickly and fell into her mother's open arms with great sobs. "What am I to do, Mama? What am I to do?"

"Hush, child, there is nothing that I can do. You are the Savari warriors' now. If you had only come to me sooner... But enough. Wipe your eyes and focus. I must know about the quaking of the earth. Did you cause this to occur?"

Erika looked up at her mother with wide eyes and nodded her head yes.

"How long have you known that you had this gift to move the earth, Erika?"

"Since I was thirteen."

"Oh, Erika, why did you never tell me of this? Why did I never see the signs?"

"I was afraid. It was all so new and frightening. I didn't want to scare you or make you think that there was something wrong with me."

"I would never feel that way about you, my love. You are flesh of my flesh, blood of my blood and favored above others by the goddess herself. Tell me, Erika, what are you able to control and do with your abilities?"

"I can move rocks and boulders with a thought and a wave of my hand. I can make plants grow and bloom by wishing it so while waving my hand over them. The trees will bend down for me if I command." Erika looked her mother straight in the eye when she revealed her last gift. "And I can make the very earth tremble and shake by placing my hands upon it."

Erin couldn't contain her laughter at her daughter's confession. "So that is how you managed to prevent the breaching." Erika flushed at her mother's words. "You will not be able to prevent it that way now, Erika."

"What do you mean? Of course, I can."

"No, Erika. You are unable to use your powers against your protectors, which Arik and Galen now are." Erin pointed to the symbol of the falcon that rested on her daughter's abdomen. "When they placed their mark upon you they took that option away from you. You will have to submit to them. No longer will you be able to use your powers to prevent them from anything."

"I don't want to join with them, Mama. I am frightened by the thought of what they will do to me."

"Yet your body desires their touch." Erika flushed crimson but remained silent as her mother continued to speak. "I saw the demonstration as well, Erika. You brought it on yourself when you refused to admit what had happened in privacy. I will tell you now what I have not spoken before. You have been promised to the Savari brothers since you were ten and Galen rescued you. Galen accepted your fathers' gratitude and he and Arik have waited patiently for you to grow and become claimable. I know that Galen frightens you, but you must see that Galen has always looked upon you as his from that day forward. He wanted only to protect you. He was your protector while Arik became your friend and confidant, listening to your girlhood banter and dreams. It was not easy for either of them, but those were the roles that you allowed, the roles that you cast them in. No matter what acts of kindness Galen bestowed on you, you never treated him as you did Arik. Just the same, when you were in need of a protector from your fathers or from others it was always Galen you sought out, never Arik. So now, daughter, you must deal with what you have set in motion."

"What will I do, Mama? Galen will seek to keep me bound to their home. He will not let me go to the forest or work in the gardens. I will die if I am kept away from all that I hold dear."

"That you must learn on your own. You must keep your head. A woman's body is a place of great pleasure for a man. When he is anxious he will agree with much. When he is sated he will listen softer. You must tell them how you feel and pray to the goddess for guidance."

"When will they come for me?"

"They will not come until the morrow. You will spend this last night in your girlhood bed. That was all that I could persuade them to allow, one night for me to speak with you of what to expect."

"I am afraid."

"They will not hurt you more than they have to. There will be pain when you are first breached, but I know that they love you dearly. You felt pleasure with them already. They will see to it that you feel it again before they lay claim. A warrior's sword is mighty but it can bring a woman great pleasure."

"They do not love me. How could they when they know so little of me?"

"They know more than you think and less than they think. Trust them to show you how they feel. Words are not easy for a warrior. Their actions speak for them instead. Listen with your heart to all they say with words and actions and you will know where their truth lies. But now I must take time to speak to you of your abilities. Do you understand what this means? Do you understand the enormity of this gift?"

"I...I'm not sure what you mean. I know that what I can do with my mind and my hands are a special gift."

"You, Erika, bear the gift of earth, blessed by the goddess herself. It has been twenty-five years since the curse was laid upon this land. 'In five times five the Guardians will rise, five women marked through the goddess's eyes. Of fire, earth, water and air, four will become the Guardians of Altair. The fifth shall ply the mystic realms and draw them together in the valley of Elms.'"

"What are you saying, Mama?"

"You are a Guardian of Altair, Erika. You have been granted power over the very earth that we walk upon."

Erika's eyes were huge. "What will I do? Where do I go? When do I leave? How will I leave?"

"You will know when the time is right. You will receive the call and be guided by the Mystic where to go. For now, we must work on honing your skills. We will eventually have to let your fathers and husbands know what you are."

"No! You know that they do not believe in the curse. They find other explanations for the war that constantly surrounds us. They will not believe us."

"Then we will show them what you can do. They do not believe because they have not seen and seeing will definitely mean believing."

"But I cannot use my powers against them anymore."

"You cannot use them against Galen or Arik, but you can use them against anyone else. Your mates are the only family that your powers will know now. It is the way that it was written. They will protect you and you will protect them as well."

"How do you know this?"

"There was more to the curse than what was told to the warriors. A task set to the women to prepare the way for the Guardians. I would have told you once you were claimed as is every woman. Now I know that I have spent these years preparing the way for you, my very own daughter. All of the women in the village have. We will all stand behind you on this."

"What if he will not allow it?"

Erin knew that she spoke of Galen. "Then you must persuade him differently. Speak with love, not anger and your words will be heard."

"I do not love them. I'll never love them."

"All will be made clear soon. Rest now, my love. The morrow comes soon enough. I will speak with your fathers only when you are comfortable with it and perhaps we will

“speak with your mates at the bonding ceremony. If a demonstration is required then you will put on a hell of a show. Now rest, Erika. The morrow brings much for you to deal with.”

“Yes, Mama.”

“Know that I will always be here for you, my love. I will stand beside you come what may.”

“Thank you, Mama.”

Erin left the room and Erika curled into a ball. She still feared what the Savari would do to her tomorrow. She remembered well how Galen had told her at the age of ten how a warrior’s sword would spear deep inside her, ripping her asunder. She feared the breaching more than anything else.

Chapter Four

Erika rose as early as she could and quickly left the house of her childhood for the forest. The morning air was cool against her skin. The dawn was one of her most favorite times of the day. When she could she would sneak to the pond and watch the animals come for their morning drinks. It was quiet then. There was no ringing of swords or other warrior weapons until later in the morning when meals were finished.

She leaned against a tree and nibbled at the *palona* fruit. Although many removed the greenish-brown skin before tasting its pink fruit, Erika loved the salty taste of the skin mixed with the sweetness of the fruit inside. Waving her hand over the earth next to the tree, she watched as the flowers she wanted shot up and bloomed. Their sweet scent filled the air and brought a smile to her lips. She closed her eyes and leaned back against the trunk of the tree. With the smile still upon her lips she brought the fruit back to her mouth for another nibble and lost herself in the small noises of the forest coming awake around her. She must have dozed because the next thing she knew he was there.

“Care to share your morning bounty?” Galen’s voice whispered in her ear.

Startled, Erika jerked away from the trunk only to be pulled onto Galen’s lap. She had not heard him at all. Yet, somehow he was now seated beside her near the trunk of the tree. “What are you doing here?”

“Somehow I knew that this is where I would find you. So here is where I am.” Galen bent his head and licked the juice of the *palona* from her lips. “Sweet.”

She didn’t know if he spoke of her or the fruit. Galen bent to her again and nipped at her bottom lip with his teeth. Her lips parted on a gasp and Galen thrust his tongue into her mouth. He ravaged her mouth, licking everywhere that his tongue could reach. She was so lost in his kiss that she was flat on her back before she realized it with Galen lying between her now-spread thighs. Erika was only five feet eight so both Galen and

Arik were a foot taller than her. Still she could feel the heat of his stomach against her mound. He continued to lick and suck at her mouth. When she tentatively moved her tongue into Galen's mouth, he groaned and suckled at her. She felt his hand at her breast, softly plucking at her nipple. She moaned and arched her throat back. Galen followed the smooth arch of her throat down over her shoulder and to her other nipple. He gently licked it through the thin material of her top.

She felt a tug at her neck where his other hand was and then the nearly transparent material was pulled from her breasts, leaving her exposed to Galen's lust-filled eyes. Before she could protest he was kissing her again and she didn't even feel him untie the material behind her back and remove her top completely.

With this accomplished, Galen moved his mouth back to Erika's bountiful breasts and began licking and sucking at her flesh. She groaned and thrust her breasts against his mouth in mindless need. Galen smiled against her and slowly began working his hand under the waistband of her skirt. As his hand reached the smooth crease where thigh began he couldn't stop the need to gently nip and bite at her nipples.

Erika cried out at the feel of Galen's sharp teeth tugging and nipping at her breasts. The slight pain seemed to bring her back to herself and she became aware of his hand moving back to the curls on her mound. When his fingers parted the lips of her pussy and began to pluck at her pleasure pearl she couldn't stop the moan even as her hands tried to push him away. "Please, Galen. Please."

"Yes, little one." Galen groaned as he thrust a finger into her tight sheath.

Erika cried out in fright more than pain at the feel of Galen's finger inside her. She pushed harder against him, crying out at the same time. "Stop! Please, Galen, stop!"

Finally realizing what Erika was saying, Galen tried to shake off his lust as he looked down into her tear-streaked face. "What is wrong, little one? I only seek to give you pleasure." He moved his finger in and out of her moist pussy. "You are already wet for me. I know that my finger does not hurt you, so what is wrong?"

"Please, Galen, I don't want this."

Galen's face seemed to turn to stone. "And if I was Arik would you still tell me stop?"

Erika looked startled at his question. "Yes, of course I would. I do not want to mate with anyone."

"But why, little one? It is natural for a woman to cradle a warrior between her thighs. 'Twill only hurt the first time and even then I will do all that I can to ensure you feel your pleasure."

"I have felt you against me, Galen. You are too big. I will be torn asunder."

Galen smiled down at her as he realized where her true fear lay, not in him but in the breaching. "You were made for me, little one." He began moving his finger in and out of her again. "I will prepare you until you drip with sweet cream. Only then will I breach you."

"I have not forgotten what you told me that day that you saved me, Galen. I know that I can be torn and hurt."

"At the age of ten, Erika, not now. Now you are able to take me deep inside and feel pleasure more than any you have ever known."

Erika bit her teeth against the moans building in her at what his finger was doing. "But even your finger feels large. I cannot do it, Galen. You will kill me."

He smiled at her innocence. "Only pleasure for now, little one, only pleasure." With that he began to suckle her breasts again while still moving his finger in and out. He used his other hand to gently pull her skirt down over her hips and thighs until it was pooled around her feet. He licked his way over her tummy while pushing her skirt clear of her and tossing it aside. He moved so that he lay between her thighs once again, gently spreading her with his body. When his mouth reached her curl-covered mound he inhaled deeply, loving her sweet musky smell.

Erika gasped when she felt Galen's nose nudging at her folds. He continued thrusting his finger even as he began lapping at the juices that spilled around it. She moaned and arched closer to his face. She remembered well the pleasure that his mouth

could bring. She felt the same tightening in her stomach and couldn't seem to prevent her hips from thrusting at his mouth.

Galen continued to lap softly at her pussy. He kept his finger moving in and out of her tight clasp. He knew what she needed even if she didn't. She wasn't there yet though. He would wait for the right time and he would make her wait as well.

Erika couldn't stop herself. She was wound so tight that she was afraid that she would splinter into several pieces. Without thinking she moved her hands to his thick black hair and tried to move his mouth where she wanted it. "Please! Galen, please!"

Galen had meant to hold her back longer but when she clenched her hands tightly in his hair and pumped her hips again, he gave in with a low groan. Latching his lips around her engorged clit, he sucked greedily at it while increasing the thrusting of his finger.

Erika threw her head back and screamed as the tension that held her body so taut splintered and broke. She felt her nipples elongate and thrust up into the air. She felt the flush on her cheeks and chest. Most importantly she felt Galen's mouth sucking at her pussy, his tongue lapping at her juices before thrusting into her tight hole to urge more from her. As he continued to work her pussy she felt her body tighten again. He forced her higher and higher before he allowed her to crest over the top. She shrieked her pleasure to the treetops as he continued to suck and lick at her pussy. Still he forced her up again.

Erika began to beg Galen to stop. "Please, Galen," she moaned. "I can't take any more. Please."

But Galen forced her to pleasure for a third time. It was so intense when it hit that she almost passed out. Her vision went black around the edges as her pussy continued to clench and gush around his finger and tongue.

Taking advantage of Erika's boneless sprawl, Galen moved up to his knees between her thighs. He released the laces of his pants and pushed them down far enough for his swollen cock to surge free. It bobbed up to the bottom of his belly button, the purple

head glistening with his cum. Leaning forward, he braced one arm by her shoulder while using the other hand to guide the thick head of his cock to the sopping-wet hole of Erika's pussy. She was still tight and he had to push hard to get the head inside.

Erika began to come out of her stupor when she felt the pressure of something hard and way too large being pushed into her pussy. She started to tense even as she shook her head to clear it.

Galen, sensing Erika's renewed awareness, surged inside her before she could tense up completely. He slammed through her virginal barrier until he was seated fully inside her, his balls flush against her. He heard Erika's cry of pain and tried to soothe her thrashing beneath him. "Be still, little one. Let your body grow accustomed to me." When she continued to move Galen leaned down so that she was forced to look at him. "If you do not lie still, Erika, I will not be able to stop myself from taking you hard and fast."

Erika stilled instantly. The pressure was huge inside her but if she was honest the pain was already fading. She didn't feel torn asunder. The fit was extremely tight but fit he did. She couldn't stop her pussy from squeezing around his buried flesh.

Galen moaned and moved his head to nuzzle at her breasts. When he began to nibble and suck at her nipples he heard Erika moan. Gently he moved his cock out of her pussy until only the head remained inside. Then just as gently he thrust back until he was fully seated again. They both groaned at how good this felt.

As Galen began moving his huge warrior's cock in and out of her Erika felt that delicious tension begin building inside her again that she knew would lead her to bursting pleasure. She clasped her knees tightly against his hips and began moving her hips up to meet each downward thrust he made. His strokes grew faster with her response. She could hear the sucking noises her pussy made with each of his outward pulls.

Galen was pumping fast now. Erika was surging up to meet him. He could feel her fingers digging into his triceps as he rode her. She was using her knees to clasp his

thighs, unknowingly opening her sweet pussy wider for his cock. He could feel the swelling of his seed in his balls. He wouldn't last much longer. He reached down between their bodies with one hand and rubbed his thumb in circles over Erika's pearl, milking it with each stroke as he continued to pump in and out of her tight pussy.

Erika broke with a scream and Galen threw his head back and roared as his own orgasm ripped through him. She felt the hot jets of his seed deep in her womb. She would swear that she could feel the head of his cock at the mouth of her womb when he roared his pleasure. Each spurt sent another shock wave through her, drawing her orgasm out until she thought that she might die. Galen collapsed against her. She could feel his mouth in the groove between her shoulder and neck gasping for air. His chest was heaving and his cock, though not as big now, still snuggled in her pussy. Maybe she would enjoy this mating business after all.

With a contented sigh Erika closed her eyes and went to sleep beneath her big warrior.

Chapter Five

Erika awoke to feel the gentle lapping of water against her skin. She was held against the naked chest of her warrior. She moaned and stretched in his arms, only when she opened them it wasn't Galen that held her but Arik. She glanced around but couldn't see Galen anywhere.

"He is gone," Arik told her. "He had his time with you. Now it is my turn."

Erika looked up at Arik with wide eyes. Would she feel the same intensity with him as with Galen? She felt a little weird going from one to the other and wondered if it would always be that way. She hadn't voiced her question out loud but Arik seemed to know what she was thinking and answered her unspoken query.

"Occasionally we will take you separately when the other is busy or gone elsewhere. We will all three spend our nights together though as often as it's possible. We have a big bed that we will take turns loving you in. It will be like it was the first time we were all together, both of us bringing your body to pleasure, only you will take us inside you and give us pleasure as well."

"So you will take turns enjoying my pussy."

If Arik was shocked at her use of a warrior's term he quickly hid it. "For now, yes." Then with twinkling eyes, "And where did you hear such a word, my heart?"

She grinned at him. "Warriors often speak without checking who is nearby. I have heard many times of how a warrior will stroke his cock in and out of a tight pussy to find his pleasure." She laughed at the shocked look on his face. "It is too late to save me, Arik. Besides, Galen has already shown me that it is not only a warrior who finds pleasure with the thrust of his cock into a pussy."

At her words Arik's face tightened and he began carrying her toward the shore. "When I am through you will not even remember my brother's name."

He laid her upon a blanket that he must have spread out before taking her into the water. He reclined beside her and began kissing her tenderly while he stroked his hand along her body. She felt her body grow warm beneath his hand and began to arch into his stroking fingers. His kisses grew deeper and his hands began to pluck and pull at her nipples. She could feel her pussy grow moist and she moaned in pleasure.

Arik kissed his way down to her nipples and began sucking them into his mouth. Erika's breasts were large and firm and he couldn't get enough of them. He kept going from nipple to nipple until he pushed her breasts together and sucked both into his mouth at the same time. Erika cried out in pleasure and thrust them more fully into his mouth. He could feel her fingers pulling at his hair. He sucked harder at her nipples, scraping them with his teeth.

Erika cried out and climaxed beneath him. Arik pulled away as he felt her body shudder in release. She seemed just as dazed as he was.

"You made me come with only your mouth on my breasts. I...I... Oh."

Arik couldn't stop his grin. It stretched from ear to ear. So he had managed to do something that his dear brother had not. He smiled all the way down to her dripping pussy. He lapped greedily at her cream and thrust his tongue inside her. Using only his mouth, he brought her to peak again, stroking his tongue inside her pulsing pussy, scraping her tender flesh with his teeth. Erika cried out her pleasure and he felt the greedy clasp of her pussy against his tongue. He moved back up her body and thrust his tongue in her mouth much the same as he had just been thrusting it in her pussy.

Erika tasted herself on his lips and tongue. The taste of her mixed with his own delicious taste was intoxicating and she sucked greedily at his tongue. Arik moaned and pulled her up to sit on his lap. She felt his cock beneath her bottom. He wasn't quite as thick and long as Galen but his cock still felt good.

Reaching down, she took him in her hands and pulled him up so that she could see him. "You're curved," she whispered to him like he didn't already know. "Will you go in like that?"

Arik smiled at her naïve question. "I will most definitely go in like that. And you will soon feel how that curve will give you great pleasure. More than you know."

With that he lifted her until she was poised over the cock in her hand. "Guide me into you," Arik moaned.

She placed the head of his cock at her opening. Once the head was in she moved her hands to his shoulders and groaned. He eased her down his shaft until he was buried fully in her pussy.

"Ride me," Arik whispered to her. "Ride me." Using his hands on her hips, he helped her find the rhythm they both needed. Soon she was surging up and down on his shaft with her head thrown back in ecstasy. She could feel the pull of his engorged cock head against her sensitive nerves with every stroke. The curve kept that head where it would bring her the most pleasure.

Erika gasped when she felt Arik suck her nipple into his mouth. She increased her pace until she was slamming up and down as fast as she could. She screamed in pleasure as her orgasm broke.

Rolling over until Erika was on her back, Arik fucked her pussy hard and fast until he felt his own orgasm burst. He threw his head back and roared his own pleasure to the heavens. He rolled to his back, bringing Erika with him.

"Did Galen pleasure you so well, my heart?" Arik softly asked her.

"Who?" Erika murmured, still lost in the moment.

Smiling, Arik held her tight against his chest until she fell back asleep. He couldn't wait to tell his brother what she had said.

Chapter Six

Erika was furious. After being so well loved by her warriors Arik had brought her back to their home and left her with his mother and sister to spend the rest of the day learning the ways of “a warrior’s woman”. He had even told her that she was not allowed to leave the residence today. She was to do what his mother told her and be there waiting when he and Galen returned home.

She had tried to be nice to their mother but her anger had continued to grow through out the day. Finally she had pleaded a headache and sought the solace of her room. She was not allowed her own room though. She was shown to the room that she would share with Arik and Galen. The room was beautifully decorated in earth tones. The walls and floors were a pale cream while the bed was a brilliant green. Her clothes had already been placed in the long closet between those of the two warriors.

She had heard the words their sister Tamya had spoken to their mother when she left the room. She thought Erika selfish and disrespectful. Tamya couldn’t understand why her brothers, such wonderful warriors, had chosen such a woman as their mate. It seemed that she had wanted them to choose her friend instead.

Their mother, Katya, had refrained from saying anything bad at least. Her only response was that Erika would only learn what was expected of her if they taught her. Katya and Tamya were part of the group of women who wore black. They took care of the animals for the entire keep and saw to the needs of the sick and injured as well. It seemed that they expected Erika to forgo her own green caste and join them. They would soon learn better though. All of her green tops were gone from her wardrobe and replaced with black ones.

She refused to give up her green caste. She couldn’t do it even if she wanted to. She was more a part of the earth than anyone, other than her mother, even suspected. She

was a Guardian. The goddess had marked her as her own and gifted her with power over the very earth itself.

She had just finished her bath and one of the women had removed her clothes while she was bathing, leaving the black top with her black skirt. She refused to wear it. She was seething, she was so angry. First she was forced to spend the entire afternoon inside their home, learning how to please her warriors by keeping their home tidy. Then she was forced to work, learning how the women tended the animals of the keep. She had worked in the stables, cleaning stalls and grooming. She had not been allowed to speak to her own mother or join her in the gardens. She only learned that her mother had stopped by when one of the other women slipped in front of her. They had sent her mother from what was suppose to be Erika's home. She was not going to tolerate much more. Her mother should always be welcome in her home.

Erika placed the skirt low on her hips so that the falcon could be easily seen and then sat to put her sandals on her feet. She then brushed her hair out until it crackled in thick curvy brown waves to her hips. She could hear people in the other room and knew that people were arriving for the feast that would take place in the square tonight. The official ceremony would take place tomorrow.

Taking a deep breath, Erika pulled her hair forward to cover her lack of a top and exited the bedroom. It was time to make her first stand. She would be given her green tops back or she would go topless from now on. She would see how her warriors dealt with that.

* * * * *

Erika noticed Galen and Arik when she stepped out of the room. They must have cleaned up in another room. They were dressed in the brown pants of a warrior with the belt of weapons around their waists. They were so masculine and sexy to her now. She knew both of their bodies intimately, had felt such pleasure in their touch. But they had used her and left her and she was angry with them so she turned from them.

She moved toward their mother Katya on the other side of the room. Their mother was busy placing dishes of food on a table that was already weighted down with dishes of food. Unfortunately Tamya was just a few steps away.

"Erika, dear, I hope that you are feeling better now. How is your head?" Katya asked.

Erika took a deep breath before responding. "My head is just fine now, Katya, thank you so much for asking. I do seem to have another problem though."

"And what problem is that, little one?" Galen asked from just behind her. He and Arik had followed her from across the room.

"It seems that all of my tops are missing." Erika turned to where they both stood behind her blocking her from the rest of the room and moved her hair behind her back so that they could see her bare breasts. "Is it your intention that I go without?"

Katya and Tamya both gasped behind her. Arik coughed to hide what she was sure from the humor sparkling in his eyes was a laugh. But Galen looked furious as he jerked her against his chest, hiding her bare breasts. He looked to his mother and demanded, "What is the meaning of this?"

"I do not know, Galen. There should have been tops for her in the closet. I'm sure that I placed them there."

Galen looked down at Erika. "Are there no tops there?"

"None that I can wear."

"What do you mean, little one? You will wear what you're given."

"Are you too good to wear the black of our caste?" Tamya sneered at Erika. "I knew that you would be nothing but trouble."

"I will wear the green of my caste. I want my shirts back."

"You will go to the bedroom and put one of the black tops on now!" Galen roared.

Erika glared furiously up at him. "I will wear my own green or I will wear nothing."

Galen gripped Erika tightly to him. "You will do as you are told or you will discover what happens to a disobedient warrior's woman. Now go."

"No." Erika glared back at Galen with all of her anger reflected in her eyes. "I may be your woman, but you do not own me, Galen. You and Arik used me and then discarded me here in your home with strangers. You didn't even bother to come with me and introduce me to your mother and sister. You used me for your pleasure and then you patted me on the head and told me to be a good girl. Then you left me. You have more than shown me where I stand with you, what it is I mean to you. I am of the earth caste. I will not change that for anyone."

Arik stepped forward then and pulled her into his chest. The sight of the tears in her eyes had nearly destroyed him. "Erika, I'm so sorry. I didn't think. I shouldn't have left you alone like that."

Erika pushed away from him and faced them both. "No, you shouldn't have. But don't worry, if Galen had really cared then he would have been there to make sure that I was happy as well. Neither of you were though. I am more than a warm body to find your ease with. I am more than what you seek to make me. I am a woman of the earth. I will not be hidden away in your home or barns while you are gone all day. I will not tolerate having my mother turned away from what is supposed to be my home."

"What is this? Who turned your mother away?" Arik spoke softly.

"I did." Tamya spoke again. "I thought it best that she become used to her new way of life without interference from her old caste."

"There is no old caste for me. I cannot change what I have always been for anyone. I am of the earth," Erika returned and then added softly under her breath, "more so than you can even imagine."

"You will learn to do the work that the women in this caste provide for our people. This is your home now. You will accept this. Now go cover yourself." Galen refused to back down on this point. He must make her accept that she belonged to them. That meant that she must let go of the past.

"Can you not try this for us, my heart?" Arik tried to soothe the hurt he saw in Erika's eyes.

"No, I cannot, but not for the reasons that you think."

"She thinks that she is too good for us, Galen." Tamya sought to cause more trouble for the woman that she didn't like. "She doesn't belong here. Renounce her. Send her back to where she so obviously wants to be."

Everything around them quieted and Tamya's words seemed to echo in the room. Just then three figures seemed to part the crowd as they headed to Erika.

"What is this? You accept our gift of daughter only to renounce her later. Is this what your word means?" Her fathers were furious and Erin made her way quickly to her daughter's side.

Erika clung to her mother. "What is this about renouncing? Haven't you both already lain with our daughter? Would you treat her this way?"

For the first time Erika saw an angry Arik. It stunned her. "There will be no renouncing, not now, not ever." He turned his furious gaze on Tamya, causing her to back up toward their mother. "You overstep yourself, sister. You take much upon yourself that is none of your concern. Long have we let you hold your independence, hoping that you would come to accept one of the warrior pairs presented to you. But you choose to stay here instead. I know that you wished for us to bond with Livya. But there was no chance of that ever happening. It has always been Erika for us. There has never been another even considered."

"But, Arik," she turned to her other brother, "Galen?" Tamya quieted at the look of pure anger Galen gave her.

"Enough is enough, Tamya. You have been granted too much time to make a decision. You will have until the celebration tomorrow night to decide who you will accept as mates or we will decide for you," Galen stated. "That should keep you busy enough to leave Erika alone. Now go back to the home that you share with our mother. You are not welcome here."

Tamya looked to her mother and was stunned by the acceptance she saw there. Katya would not help her now. Defeated, she turned to Erika to vent her rage. "You will pay for this. Someday I will see you pay."

"Leave! Now!" Arik thundered, sending Tamya scurrying from the room.

Erika was stunned by the scene that had unfolded in front of her. Where did all the hate come from? Why was Tamya so against her? What had she done other than refuse to deny who she was? What would she do now? And just who was this Livya that Tamya had wanted to join with Arik and Galen?

"You will go to our room, little one, until you decide to put on your top."

"I will gladly put on my green," Erika insisted and then softened her tone as she looked imploringly up at Galen. "Please, Galen, let me wear my own colors."

"No! You belong to this clan now. You will wear our colors and do the work expected of our women."

"But she cannot!" Erin spoke aloud. She knew all too well that to do so would be to deny who Erika was, a Guardian. If she did this then she would anger the goddess and lose her gift. This must not be allowed to happen.

Galen was furious. "She can and she will. To do otherwise is to deny us."

Erika stepped forward and hugged herself against Galen's chest. "Galen, I do not deny that I belong to you and Arik. You both made me very happy today before you left me." She couldn't prevent the blush that lit her face. "I'm only asking that you accept me as I am. That you allow me to remain who I have always been."

"Erika, it is custom for the woman to leave her clan and join that of her husbands. That entails your learning our ways, wearing our colors."

"Please, Galen. You and Arik could let me if you wanted to." She let her hand fall between their bodies and gently squeezed his engorged cock, making him gasp. "It would make me so happy, Galen." She kissed his chest and let her nipples rub against his flesh.

Galen looked at her with eyes now full of lust. "Perhaps we should go discuss this in private, little one."

"If you wish, Galen. Just the two of us?"

"No, the three of us will discuss this in private." Arik grabbed her hand and began leading her toward their bedroom. "We will return shortly. Mother will see to your needs," he told the crowd avidly watching and listening.

Arik was still angry but no less turned on than Galen who was following them to the bedroom. Arik pulled her into the room and tossed her on the bed as Galen entered and closed the door behind them. It infuriated him that Erika thought that all she had to do was persuade Galen to her way of thinking and all would be well.

"You wish to bargain with us, Erika," Arik said with enough emphasis on *us* to hopefully get his point across. "What is it you will give us that we cannot just take from you anyway?"

Erika swallowed as she was now faced with her two warriors, angry and filled with lust. They were both already removing their belts and boots and she knew that their pants would be next. What was she going to do now?

Chapter Seven

Erika struggled to remember her mother's words. "When he is anxious he will agree with much. When he is sated he will listen softer." She wasn't exactly sure what that meant but she was willing to try. She must speak to them about what she wanted before they made love to her. They may listen softer when they were sated but that didn't mean that they would agree to let her do what she must. But just how much did she tell them now and how much should she hold back?

She snapped out of her thoughts when she felt the bed dip as Galen sat beside her. Arik stood at the foot of the bed, stroking his cock in long slow glides. They were both naked now and she was still only half dressed.

Galen pushed her to her back and removed her shoes before stripping off her skirt.

"Please, Galen, wait. I want to talk to you, to explain."

Arik had moved to the other side of the bed while Galen undressed her and now she found her naked body trapped to the bed by their strong hands. Arik plucked at her nipples, rubbing and pinching lightly while Galen ran his hands up and down her thighs.

"What is it you need to explain, little one?"

"The need for me to remain in my own colors. I must remain with the earth."

"Why is this so important to you? Surely you would not dishonor us by not joining our mother and her caste. That is what is expected of a daughter."

"Please, Arik, it would mean so much to me and so little to you and your household for me to remain what I have always been."

"It is new to you and we understand your fear for new things, little one." It was Galen who answered her. "But you must accept your new place in our keep. You are our woman now and you must do as is expected of you."

"But why, Galen? When it is in your power to make me happy, why would you do just the opposite? Why would you intentionally seek to hurt me?"

"You will be happy when you learn to accept where you are now."

"No, I won't. If you confine me to your home and your ways, I will die."

"You'll live through it, my heart. I promise you." Arik was stroking his hand over her cheek now.

"Physically, yes, I will. But emotionally and spiritually, it will destroy something inside me. I thought that you wanted me because of who I was, who I am. Yet, already you seek to change me and conform me to what you want. Am I not enough? Am I so awful as I am?"

Galen felt his heart stop as the tears fell from Erika's eyes and streaked down her cheeks. "Is it so important to you, little one?"

"Yes, Galen. It is very important to me."

"There will be conditions to your being allowed to wear the green and to spend time with your mother and work with her," Galen stated after thinking for a moment.

Erika sat up quickly and hugged Galen tightly. "Anything, Galen. I will do whatever you ask."

"You will spend the morning with our mother. You will continue to learn from her about the care of the animals of the keep. Then you can spend your afternoons with your mother," he stated before looking to his brother. "Do you agree to this, Arik?"

Erika felt Arik behind her and she leaned her head back onto his shoulder, feeling his nod before he spoke, adding his own conditions. "We will have arguments among us, but you will never bring them to bed with us. In this bed you belong to us and you will do as we tell you."

"Yes, Arik."

"We will bring you great pleasure, little one." Galen demanded her attention again. "In this relationship you will submit to all of our sexual needs and desires. You may argue about anything else but in this you will bow to our needs."

Erika swallowed hard at the look of lust in Galen's eyes. She could easily feel the swollen length of Arik's cock against her back. "What if I am afraid?"

"You must learn to trust us."

"Surely we have demonstrated today that your pleasure is our pleasure, little one. Did we hurt you?"

"No, you didn't hurt me physically." She couldn't stop the blush that flushed her cheeks and face.

"We did not mean to hurt you at all, my heart. I am sorry that I left you here on your own today. Will you forgive me?"

"Yes, Arik. I will forgive you." She turned to look back at Galen but somehow she knew that his pride would not allow him to admit wrong or ask for forgiveness.

"Do you agree to these terms then, little one? Will you submit to our needs?"

"Yes, Galen." Erika looked him in the eye before turning her eyes behind her to look at Arik. "Yes, Arik, I will do as you wish. Thank you for listening to me and not just brushing me aside."

"Now, my heart," Arik pushed her back down on the bed and began placing kisses on her shoulders and up her neck. "We will see just how well you will keep your promise."

She felt Galen placing kisses across her stomach while his hand stroked along her thighs. Arik had told her that they would take her together often just like the first time by the pond. Arik's kisses were leading up to her face and mouth while Galen's were leading down to her wet pussy. She wondered what Galen would do if she asked him to lick her pussy. Would he be shocked by her words or would he find them exciting

coming from her? She remembered Arik's hidden surprise when she had used the words cock and pussy. She was too eager for this to still the words that wanted to spew from her lips.

She moaned as Arik began licking and sucking at her neck just behind her ear, nipping the lobe as well. Galen was licking everywhere but where she burned the most. "Galen, stop teasing me," she moaned. "Lick my pussy."

Galen and Arik both stilled for a short moment before they both shuddered and attacked. Galen pushed her thighs wide, opening her sex to his swiping tongue. Arik swallowed her cries of pleasure with his kisses. With one hand she grasped Arik's hair, holding him to her mouth where he continued to devour her. With the other she held Galen's head to her pussy. She bucked against his stroking tongue, seeking the orgasm that remained just out of reach.

Arik pulled away from her mouth and moved quickly to her engorged nipples biting and sucking them 'til she screamed. Galen took that as the cue to thrust his finger deep into her dripping channel while latching his lips around her clit and sucking it greedily into his mouth.

Erika exploded, her body convulsing in wave after wave of pleasure. She felt their hands on her, turning her to her stomach and then pulling her until she was braced up on her hands and knees. Galen was still behind her. She felt him push on her lower back, making her arch her ass up to him, giving him a clear view of her wet pussy. He groaned and moved to cover her, placing his cock at her sopping pussy and slowly, so slowly, pushing his way in. They both groaned at the pleasure.

She felt a tug on her hair and looked up to see Arik's hard cock bobbing in her face. He moved until the swollen head pressed against her lips. "Open up, my heart. I want to feel your sweet lips and tongue on my cock."

She opened on a moan as Galen surged deep again and Arik slipped his cock inside, stretching her with his girth. She licked tentatively at him, tasting the fluid that

seeped from the slit into her mouth. He tasted so good. Like a *palona* fruit, salty and sweet at the same time.

“Suck it, my heart. Suck my cock as deep as you can.”

Arik wrapped his fists in her hair and held her head still while he began to stroke in and out of her suckling mouth. With each stroke he seemed to go a little deeper into her mouth until she felt the pulsing head of his cock at her throat. She looked up at him with wide unsure eyes.

“It’s all right, my heart. You can take it. Just relax your throat and you can take it all the way to the back.”

On his next stroke he pushed into her throat and she couldn’t stop herself from gagging and choking on his cock. The gag reflex caused her pussy to clamp hard on Galen’s cock at the same time that her throat tightened on Arik’s. Both men groaned in pleasure. Arik pulled back and resumed shallower strokes before surging to the back of her throat again. Every time he did she would clamp down again and Galen and Arik would express their pleasure.

Galen was still fucking her with slow, penetrating strokes of his cock. She wanted him to move faster, harder but with her mouth full of Arik’s cock she couldn’t tell him. She could feel the delicious tightening of her body that indicated her orgasm was near. If he would only take her a little harder she would explode. Then she felt something different. Something wet and oily feeling was being rubbed against the tight pucker of her anus. She tensed with surprise just seconds before Galen pushed his finger deep into her ass. She cried out around Arik’s cock and bucked against Galen. Galen let go of his control and began pumping his cock hard and fast in her tight pussy while fucking her ass with one finger and then two fingers. He worked her ass with his fingers, spreading and stretching her while he pummeled her with his cock. Arik seemed transfixed on where Galen’s fingers fucked in and out of her sweet ass. As he watched he groaned and increased his own rhythm in and out of her mouth.

She felt him swell just before he burst in her mouth, spurting hot jets of his seed down the back of her throat, choking her as she tried to swallow it all down. It was his words that shocked her though. "I can't wait to replace his fingers with my cock. I'll fill your ass up while Galen fucks that tight little pussy again, Erika. That's how we'll take you next. My cock buried deep in your ass and Galen working his cock up into your tight little pussy."

Arik's words sent Galen spiraling over the cliff which triggered her own orgasm. She felt the hot jets of cum deep in her spasming pussy as Galen thrust home one final time before collapsing against her back. She shuddered with her climax but also with the fear that Arik's words brought her. Surely he was joking. There was no way that he would fit there. She had never heard of such a thing happening between couples.

Then Galen leaned forward and whispered in her ear. "Then I'll fill that tight little ass with my big cock, little one, while Arik works that sweet pussy."

Erika shuddered again and lowered her body to the bed, praying to faint.

While Erika lay on her stomach on the bed trying to recover her breath, she felt Arik and Galen stroking her body with their hands. Galen lifted her over his knees and she felt more of the oil being poured over her anus. Galen held her to him while Arik began working his finger in and out of her small pink hole. Every few strokes he worked more oil into her. The more oil he worked in the hotter it felt. Finally when she could stand it no more she began moaning and thrashing on Galen's lap.

Arik had three fingers working in and out of her now, stretching her ass wide open with every thrust and retreat.

"You have used enough fire oil," Galen told his brother. "You probably used too much of it, Arik."

Erika's ass was burning now. Every thrust of Arik's fingers brought the flames higher until she thought she would explode, but she couldn't quite make it over. "What is fire oil? What have you done to me?" she moaned.

"I've made this perfect little ass of yours burn for possession. The oil is a natural stimulant. The more that is soaked into your flesh the more intense your need. I like seeing you this way, my heart, your face flushed with your desire and your ass wide open for me, fucking back against my fingers. You'll burn higher before we're through." With that Arik removed his fingers from her well oiled ass.

"No! Don't stop! Please, Arik, don't stop!" Erika cried out at the loss. She turned to look at Galen, "Please, Galen, don't let him stop."

Galen smiled as he lay back on the bed, pulling her body around until she straddled his hips with her knees bent up. He pulled her forward until she rested against his chest, her head on his shoulder. "Be calm, little one, he only seeks to replace his fingers with something that will give you more pleasure. Just hold on to me while he works his way in. I promise that it will be more pleasurable than you could ever imagine."

Galen spread his legs, moving hers wider apart and allowing Arik to kneel between them behind her. She could feel how wide open her ass was to him. She could feel Galen's cock so hard against her belly and she couldn't prevent herself from rubbing against it. Galen groaned and pulled her closer for a kiss. He devoured her mouth, fucking his tongue in and out, scraping her lips with his teeth before sucking her tongue into his mouth.

She felt Arik behind her, lifting her up higher on her knees. Galen's cock followed her body up until it was nudging at her lower belly. She felt Arik's fingers separating the cheeks of her ass and then his cock was there, pressing against her anus, demanding entrance. The pressure was intense. She swore that he would rip her open. Then she gasped as she felt the head of his cock pass through and lodge just behind the ring of muscles at her opening. She could feel the sweat dripping from him onto her back. He moaned in pure ecstasy as he began working his rod slowly deeper.

Erika was panting as well. The pressure was extreme. She felt like she was in flames. The deeper his cock worked into her ass the hotter she burned. Her nerves were screaming but whether it was with pain or pleasure she couldn't be sure. Unable to take

his slow progress any longer Erika lunged back, impaling Arik's curved cock inside her ass. They both cried out but Arik grabbed her hips and held her still before she could do anything more.

Looking at his brother, Arik gasped for breath. "Hurry, Galen. I will not be able to hold out for long. 'Tis a hot grip on my cock and tighter than even the sweet clasp of her pussy."

Galen took his cock in hand and moved it to the small hole of her pussy. He knew that she would be even tighter with her ass filled with Arik's cock. Tightening his thighs, he pushed until the head was inside. Erika cried out and ground her ass tighter against Arik, bringing a cry to his lips as well. Galen began rocking his cock in and out of her pussy, filling her a little more with every small thrust. Arik was having trouble holding Erika still as she fought to buck the invasion of Galen's hard cock. She was so fucking tight that he didn't know if he would be able to get it all the way in. Sweat was dripping from all of their bodies.

He was only halfway in when Erika leaned down to him and snarled. "Either fuck my pussy or get out of the way and let Arik fuck me alone. I need it now, Galen. Please! I'm on fire!"

Galen tightened his muscles further before pulling back until only the head of his cock remained in her ultra-tight channel. Then with one fierce thrust he plunged to the hilt in her pussy, ripping through her tight fist of muscles, making her buck and scream.

Her scream seemed to release them all. There was no holding back now. Arik and Galen worked in a rhythm alternately filling her pussy and then her ass with hard cock. Erika was screaming and rocking her body against whichever cock sought to fill her at the time until finally they were both filling her at once. She bucked at the double invasion but two sets of hands held her in place as her warriors continued to fuck her senseless.

Her orgasm overtook her. Lights seemed to explode in her head as she tightened further on the cocks inside her. She vaguely felt each cock swelling, heard the joint cries

of pleasure and then felt the explosion of hot jets of cum filling her ass and pussy. She shuddered as her orgasm renewed, took her higher, held her there, until she burst again before collapsing against Galen's chest.

Arik collapsed against her back and both cocks remained seated inside her as they all three struggled to recover. Erika wiggled her hips, causing both men to groan again. She smiled and licked lazily at Galen's chest before saying softly, "So when do we do that again?"

Chapter Eight

Erika awoke to an empty bed the next morning. She had never slept so deeply or peacefully before. She stretched and delighted in the aches and pains that she felt. Her body had been well loved the previous night and she gloried in it. Sex with her warriors was incredible.

She still remembered their groans when she had asked for more last night. She had felt energized after the intense sensations of having both of them inside her body, feeling their hot jets of cum fill her so completely. Galen and Arik had been exhausted though. They had promised her more today and finally, after hours of listening to their even breathing she had been able to fall asleep. Now they were gone and she would probably not see them until tonight.

She stretched again and rose from the bed. Lying on the chair in the corner were her green tops. She dressed quickly and headed out to find her new mother and sister so that she could fulfill her end of the bargain and be able to spend the afternoon working with her mother.

She found Tamya and Katya out in the buildings that housed the injured and sick animals. Tamya glared at her but said nothing. Katya greeted her with a kiss to her cheek and a quick hug.

“Good morn to you, daughter. How do you feel this morning?”

“I feel wonderful, Mama Katya. What can I do to help?”

Tamya turned then with hatred burning from her eyes. “You can leave! Look at you in your green tops. Was it worth playing the whore to get what you wanted?”

Katya gasped and Erika felt the flash of her own temper. The earth seemed to give a tiny tremble before she had herself under control again.

"I am who I am, Tamyra. I am your brothers' woman now, not their whore. I hope that you can accept that someday. What is between Arik, Galen and me is private and personal. They both care for me enough to try to understand what caring for the earth means to me. I'm sorry that you don't."

"Oh, I understand that you think that you are better than the women here. You should be no different from any other woman who has joined us."

"I understand that, Tamyra, but I refuse to deny who I am for anyone. To do so would be to deny the goddess herself." Erika smiled sadly. "Someday you will understand."

"I—" Tamyra started to reply before she was stopped by Katya.

"Enough! Perhaps you should spend the morning thinking on what set of warriors you will choose to join with this very eve, Tamyra. There are two sets of warriors who have made offers for you and another set came forward last night. You will choose between the two sets offered from within our own clan or the Donan clan that offered last night."

Tamyra gasped at the thought of the three Donan warriors. "But they are three and members of the fire caste. They rarely take women from without."

Erika smiled then. "You are an exceptionally lovely woman, Tamyra. Any group of warriors would be lucky to have you."

Tamyra turned to her but her eyes now shone with a fear that Erika understood only too well. Before she could say anything though Tamyra had turned and left in a hurry.

"She is afraid of the mating," Erika stated.

"Yes, she fears it greatly." Katya sighed and turned to tend to a pregnant *shebana* beast. "You remember the girl that was taken a few months ago?" At Erika's nod she continued. "Tamyra was there in the glen when the other men appeared. She had just enough time to hide before they were upon the other girl. There were four men and they each took the girl many times."

"Oh my goddess. Tamya saw the whole thing?" Erika asked with horror.

"Yes, she was trapped there for hours while they raped the girl. When they finally left it was too late to help the girl. She was slung over the shoulder of one of the men and carried away with them. Tamya held as still as she could until she thought it was safe to leave and return here."

"But surely you have told her that it is not like that between a woman and her warriors? That there is beauty and pleasure when it is a mating between a woman and those she has chosen."

Katya gave a small smile. "Did you not fight my sons when they sought to claim you? Did you not fear the joining as well, Erika? There are some things that a woman must learn for herself. I have tried to ease her but her fear is too great. I only hope that Arik and Galen see fit to tell those who join with her of her fears and the reasons for them."

Erika hugged Katya to her. "I know that they will see to it, Katya. I am sure that is why they have been so patient thus far. Tamya has been twenty-one for several months now and they have not allowed any of the warriors to touch or try to claim her. I know that they will continue to make sure that she is well."

Katya smiled at Erika and then turned back to the *shebana* lying before them. The beast lay on its side, its belly quivering with the contractions that would bring a baby into the world. Erika knelt and stroked the long mane of the animal that their warriors rode everywhere. It seemed that today she would learn about birth by helping Katya with the birth of a new little *shebana* colt.

* * * * *

By the time Erika arrived at her mother's house it was midafternoon. The birth of the new colt had taken longer than expected and she didn't want to leave. The colt had been stuck in the birth canal and had to be manually pulled from its mother. She had done everything that Katya and the other women who had arrived had instructed her

to. It had been well worth the wait when the colt had arrived. She had felt her heart swell when she looked upon the black *shebana* colt. She had to force herself to go in and clean up before eating and heading to her mother.

Erin was in the front yard when she arrived. She took in the green top that Erika wore and the huge smile and jumped up and hugged her daughter close. "I see that you have managed to get what you wanted, daughter."

Erika blushed at her mother's knowing look. "I struck a bargain with Arik and Galen that I would spend the mornings with Mama Katya learning from her and they gave me their blessing to spend my afternoons here with you."

"Somehow I think that there is more to it than that." Erin laughed. "However, I am just happy that you are here. Let us go quickly to the garden in back so I may see what you have managed to learn on your own. We don't have much of the afternoon left."

"I helped with the birth of a new *shebana* this morn. It was a glorious thing to witness, Mama."

"I'm sure it was, Erika," Erin agreed as she led her daughter behind the house to the private gardens that her own warriors had built for her. It was surrounded by trees and flowers bloomed everywhere.

Erika spent the next few hours showing her mother how she could make the flowers grow, how she could cause the trees to bend and shake and how she could make the earth tremble. Erin had her learning to move the rocks and throwing them with her mind and a flick of her wrist.

"When should I tell Arik and Galen, Mama?"

"Soon, Erika, very soon, but only them. We cannot let anyone else know." At Erika's confused look, Erin sighed. "I have given this much thought before coming to this decision. It is for your own safety, Erika. The fewer people who know that you are a Guardian the easier it will be to keep you safe. *For if one shall die all will be lost,*" Erin stated. "Your secret must be guarded until you are called by the Mystic."

“And until then, Mama? How do I hide such a big part of me?” Erika was so frustrated. “Only this morning I made the earth tremble slightly when I was angered.”

“You will learn to control it, Erika. And with that control you will learn the true depths of your powers. There is much more that you can do. You have just barely tapped into the power that you wield.”

Erika sighed wearily and began following her mother’s instructions again. She worked with her mother as long as she dared, keeping in mind that tonight was her joining ceremony. She wanted to be back at home in time to bathe and prepare herself mentally for what lay ahead of her. Her mother had promised to come back with her so that they could discuss the ceremony and all that would be expected of her. By the time they were done practicing for the day she could lift large rocks and throw them through the air and still Erin told her that she had much to learn.

The official ceremony was set to begin in minutes. The elders were gathered with Arik and Galen and their mother Katya. Their fathers were still gone fighting for the warrior prince as were Erika’s brothers. Erin and her own fathers waited with her for the ceremony to officially begin. Then they would escort a naked Erika to her warriors. Once there the elders would watch as Arik and Galen claimed to her. First they would each cup a breast and claim the fruit and nectar of their mate for themselves and for any children born from their union. Then they would place their hands on her stomach and lay claim to the womb that lay beneath, declaring it a haven for their seed. Finally they would each place a kiss on her lips to show her that she was theirs to cherish and protect.

Then it would be time for Erika’s part of the ceremony. She had never seen a ceremony as only the elders and parents of those joining were allowed to witness it. She was still not happy about what her mother had told her she was to do. After both Arik and Galen had kissed her she was to turn and face them and then kneel at their feet. She

was then to kiss each of their boots to show her respect for them as well as her willing obedience.

However, it was the next part that she found most daunting. She was then to rise to her knees again and one at a time suck Arik's and Galen's cocks in her mouth, bringing them each to pleasure and swallowing their release. This was supposed to convey her desire and willingness to keep her warriors satisfied. She didn't mind that but she wasn't thrilled that her fathers and both her mother and theirs would be watching while she did it.

Erin had tried to assure her that it was only so that their mother was assured of Erika's loyalty to her sons and so that Erin and Erika's fathers were assured of their daughter's willingness to agree to the joining. It still embarrassed Erika. It was bad enough that she had to be naked during the entire ceremony. At a signal from the elders Erika was jolted from her worries when she was guided forward to Arik and Galen.

She barely listened to what they said and before she knew it they had both kissed her. Then Galen had surprised her by cupping her cheek and stating for all to hear, "What we claim, we claim with love."

Erika had gasped, seeing that emotion reflected in the glittering depths of Galen's deep blue eyes. Then Arik had cupped her cheek and spoken.

"The bond we form is tied by love." And his brown eyes glowed just as brightly as his brother's.

Erika felt her nerves fade away. She turned to face her warriors, forgetting that anyone else existed but them. She knelt before them and they stepped closer together, closing in the space where she had stood only moments before. She slowly lowered her head and placed soft kisses on their boots. She stroked her hands up their thighs as she slowly came back up onto her knees.

Looking at both of her warriors, she used one hand on each of them, taking her time releasing the ties on their pants and releasing their swollen cocks. They both groaned as she took a cock in each hand and squeezed. Erika leaned toward Galen's cock and

licked the fluid that leaked from it before moving to Arik's and doing the same. Back and forth she went, bringing each to the brink before moving to the other.

After doing this for the second time she was not surprised when Galen clenched his hand into her hair and held her mouth to him while he thrust in and out of her. She released her hold on Arik's cock and sucked fiercely on Galen. She took him to the back of her throat while using her hands to play with the swollen globes tightly lifted underneath. When she knew that he was close she swallowed his cock deep into the back of her throat, knowing that the feel of her throat contracting on him would bring him to release. Galen threw his head back and bellowed her name while she swallowed each hot jet of cum that shot from his cock. She slowly released him from her throat and out of her mouth. She used her hand to hold him while she tongued his slit and sucked on it to make sure she got all of his seed before placing a kiss on it. She tucked him into his pants and laced them before turning to Arik.

Arik was so tight and swollen that she knew he had to be desperate for release. Quickly she took him into her mouth and sucked greedily on him. Within seconds his cock was bursting in her mouth, filling it with the delicious and unique taste of his own seed. She drank greedily from him, sucking him dry before placing a kiss on him as well. She put him gently back in his pants and closed them up.

Erika looked at both of her warriors and the satisfied expressions on their faces. It was then that she realized that she loved them as well and she wanted everyone present to know it, most especially her warriors.

"What I give, I give out of love, taking joy in their satisfaction," Erika said, still kneeling at their feet.

Arik and Galen pulled Erika to her feet before them and hugged her close to them.

"What is joined in love forms an unbreakable bond. May the goddess bless and keep you." The eldest woman stepped to them, taking a hand from Arik and placing it on her breast and taking a hand from Galen and placing it on Erika's stomach. "May

your union bear the fruit of your love.” She then stepped away, taking the others with her, leaving Arik, Galen and Erika alone in the front room of their house.

Arik lifted her into his arms and carried her to their bedroom with Galen right on their heels. She could tell by the look on her warriors’ faces that for them the night had only just begun. Arik kissed her intensely while laying her on the bed. When he stepped back to remove his clothes, Galen was there, already naked.

He lay beside her, kissing her softly about her face and stroking his hands over her breasts. She felt Arik join them on the bed. He kissed along her stomach, leisurely making his way down to her pulsing pussy. Galen thrust his tongue into her mouth at the same moment that Arik thrust his inside her pussy. They all three groaned in pleasure.

Galen moved down to suck greedily on her nipples while Arik continued tormenting her pussy. Galen was relentless in his torture of her breasts. He sucked and licked and bit at one nipple before moving to the other. Arik moved his mouth up to her clit and used his teeth and tongue to make it pearl and shudder with need. He thrust a finger inside her wet channel, fucking her pussy roughly. They brought her close to orgasm only to back off and start again. She knew that they were paying her back for her earlier torture. Finally when she couldn’t handle any more she begged them.

“Please! Don’t stop! Please let me come!” Erika screamed.

Galen and Arik both chuckled against her flesh. Galen moved down her body to join Arik at her dripping pussy. They both stroked their tongues through her juices, driving her closer and closer to the edge with each pass along her clit and shallow thrust into her pussy. Just when she thought she would die Galen latched onto her pleasure pearl, lashing it with his tongue while he sucked it hungrily into his mouth. At the same time Arik plunged his tongue deep into her pussy, fucking her hard and fast with it.

Erika felt her orgasm rip through her body. She could feel her juices soaking Arik and Galen but they continued lapping greedily from her. Arik had worked a finger up

into her anus using her own juices as lubricant and now he fucked her ass with it. They used their tongues to lick up all of her juices before moving to sit up beside her.

Galen reached for the bottle that she knew contained the fire oil while Arik lay on his back beside her. She could see both of their cocks hard and eager for her. Arik pulled her body on top of his and stroked his cock inside her with one thrust. They both moaned their joy and Arik couldn't prevent himself from giving small thrusts, reaching into her core. Each one placed his curved cock on the one spot deep inside that seemed to trigger her orgasm. She cried out at the sweet joy and felt Galen move behind her. He thrust his coated fingers violently into her ass, stroking the nerves there into frantic need.

"Hard and quick, Galen," Arik muttered. "I will not last long enough for anything less."

"Yes!" Erika agreed. "Hard and fast, Galen. I need to feel you and Arik pounding into me, fucking me!"

Galen and Arik both groaned. Removing his fingers, Galen placed the head of his cock at her reddened anus before gripping her hips and plunging violently inside. Erika screamed with pleasure, with pain, as her warriors began thrusting in tandem, ravishing her with every stroke of their swollen shafts.

Galen was so big and thick that he stretched her ass with each thrust, causing it to burn with pleasure as he thrust as hard and deep as he could. Each plunge of Arik's curved cock hit her pleasure spot, sending her higher and higher. She felt Galen swell bigger in her ass and knew that he was about to come. Crying out her pleasure, she squeezed tightly, using her muscles to clamp down on their surging cocks. They all came together, crying out their love as the Savari warriors filled her full to overflowing with hot jets of their seed.

Erika collapsed against Arik's chest. She murmured her love as she felt her body relax into sleep. Arik and Galen had worn her out this time and she had never felt happier.

Chapter Nine

Tamya had run off in the middle of the night. Erika awoke to chaos. Arik and Galen were already gone out looking for Tamya along with some of the other warriors of their caste. Katya was beside herself with worry for her daughter. Only the Donan clan had kept their suit of Tamya, the two sets of warriors from within their own caste deciding against her when it was discovered that she ran. The Donan warriors were all out looking for her as well. Erika wished them all well.

Tamya remained gone though and the next two weeks passed rather quickly for Erika. Her days were filled with helping Katya in the mornings and spending the afternoons working with her mother. At this point Erika could move large boulders through the air with no problems. She could make the vines of flowers and plants grow and wrap themselves around whatever she wanted them to. She had bound her mother many times already and then released her with a wave of her hand and a thought.

Her mother had her working on trees now. She could bend them, make them grow taller or shrink smaller but still her mother insisted that she could do more. Her mother wanted her to rip the trees from the very earth itself and throw them as she did the boulders. They had been trying to accomplish this for the last few days with no such luck and Erika was hot and tired and ready to call it quits.

"Enough for today, Mama. I need to get back home before Arik and Galen get there. They spend so little time at home anymore. I will have only hours with them before they head out to search for Tamya some more."

"Yes, Erika. But tomorrow you will see this through. I know that you can do this, you have only to concentrate harder."

"I'll try, Mama, I promise. I need to tell Arik and Galen soon though. I can't stand keeping this from them."

"You can tell them whenever you want to, Erika. Just make sure that you are alone and that no one else can overhear you. You must protect yourself."

"I'd like to tell Mama Katya, also."

"I guess that will be all right, Erika, but the fewer people who know that you are a Guardian the safer you will be."

"I will be careful, Mama. I promise you."

Erin hugged her daughter close to her chest and closed her eyes. Her daughter was all grown up now but she could still see Erika as she had been as a child. Erika had always been into something and trouble seemed to follow her everywhere. She only prayed that Erika would remain safe as she learned her power. They would all be lost if something should happen to her.

"Go home, daughter. I will see you tomorrow."

"Bye, Mama, I love you."

With that Erika hurried home to wait for her warriors to show up. With all the time that they spent out looking for Tamya she had far too little time with them lately.

* * * * *

Arik walked into their bedroom and came to a complete stop, causing Galen to walk into his back. They had both been so absorbed with looking for their sister Tamya that it seemed they had been neglecting Erika. When Galen nudged him Arik stepped aside so that his brother could see what was taking place on their bed.

Erika lay on the bed completely naked, legs spread wide. She was working her fingers in and out of her dripping pussy and then moving to play with her clit before thrusting inside again. Her other hand was busy twisting and pinching her nipples. Her head was thrown back in bliss and from her expression she was close to reaching her pleasure without them.

They both stepped into the room and began shedding their clothes. Erika looked up and gasped as she was suddenly confronted with two very large, aroused warriors.

Galen and Arik both stood at the foot of the bed. Erika flipped to her hands and knees and crawled down the bed to them. She closed her eyes when she got there and inhaled deeply of their combined musk. She went to Arik first and licked his balls and all over his cock before taking its curved length in her mouth for a moment. She released him with a loud pop before turning to Galen.

She knew that Galen would not allow her to tease him like Arik did so she immediately wrapped her lips around the bulbous head of his cock and sucked him into the back of her throat. When she would have pulled back he cupped the back of her head and held her in place.

“You will finish what you started, little one.”

She felt the dip in the bed and knew that Arik was moving behind her. She spread her knees as wide as she could and was rewarded with Arik’s deep groan and the hot swipe of his tongue along her glistening folds. She moaned around Galen’s cock. When she would have moved her mouth on him again she found that he had fisted both hands in her hair, preventing her from moving her head.

“Just keep sucking, little one, while I fuck your beautiful mouth. I love watching your lips stretch around my cock.”

She groaned again at the sound of Galen’s words. When he started working his cock in and out of her mouth it was incredible. She kept her eyes on his face, seeing how much he was enjoying what he was doing. She could feel her orgasm building higher and higher from Arik’s mouth on her pussy. He was using his tongue and teeth in the most wonderful ways. Just when she thought that she would burst he pulled away. Erika thrust her ass back at him, begging without words for him to pleasure her. She heard the husky laugh and then cried out at the feel of a stinging slap to her ass.

“You will not find your pleasure without one of us present again. Your mouth, your pussy, your ass,” each word was followed by another sharp smack on the cheeks of her ass, “every part of you belongs to us. Ours to give pleasure to and take pleasure from. Do you understand that, my heart?”

Erika nodded vigorously around the large stalk in her mouth and pushed her ass back at him for more. Arik palmed her ass and grunted once before slamming his erection roughly into her sopping pussy. Erika cried out as both of her warriors set about fucking her deep and hard and fast. Arik was pummeling his curved cock in and out of her, bringing her to orgasm after orgasm while Galen stroked repeatedly into the back of her throat. Just when she was sure that she couldn't take any more she felt the hard spurts of Arik deep in her pussy and tasted Galen's release on her tongue and down the back of her throat.

Galen pulled his cock from her mouth and Erika collapsed on the bed. Arik pulled out of her and tugged her into his arms, turning so that they both lay on the bed. Galen walked around and climbed up beside them. He gently pushed her hair out of her face and forced her to look up at him while Arik stroked up and down her side.

"If you are feeling neglected, little one, you will come to one of us and we will see to your needs. Although the sight of you pleasuring yourself was most enjoyable, you will only do it when you are with one of us and we give you permission."

Erika looked at him in surprise then in stunned disbelief when she saw that he was completely serious. "And what about when you two are gone fighting? I am just to do nothing?" When they only nodded she sat up and turned to face them both. "And what about you? Will you also remain untouched? Will you go without like you expect me too?"

Galen looked at her and shook his head. "It is different for a warrior. It is not good for us to be frustrated."

Erika looked at him with fire shooting from her eyes. "If I ever catch either one of you with another woman I will kill you." At the sight of their grins, she went to leave the bed, but Arik grabbed her and pulled her to his lap.

"You have nothing to fear in that regard. Galen and I would never be with another woman. We can't."

"What do you mean that you can't?"

Galen turned her to face him. "Do you remember in the ceremony when you drank from both of us?" Erika blushed but nodded. "We were tied to you then. When you took our fluids into your mouth in front of all present you made it so that we could never be with another woman. You marked us as yours. For us there will be no other."

"I thought that was to show my willingness to serve you, you know, sexually?"

Galen laughed and Arik grinned. "That is what warriors tell their women, my heart, but it is actually more than that. Before the ceremony, before you come to us we are prepared for the joining as well. The *sha* stick is used on us so that the next time we are taken we are marked by you. The binding ceremony then makes it so that once taken into your mouth and fluids are released we will not respond to any other woman. It becomes a spiritual connection that supersedes anything physical. When you release your pheromones through your saliva we are locked onto your own unique scent."

Erika's eyes grew wide at this disclosure. "You mean that you can't get like that," she said, pointing to the rigid cocks that they both now sported, "with anyone other than me?"

"No, little one, we are only for you for the rest of our life."

"Oh. I had no idea."

Galen grabbed her and flipped her facedown over his lap. "That doesn't mean that you can do whatever you like. You will only be with us forever. You will not seek self-pleasure again." He gave her a stinging slap on her ass and followed it with a glide of his fingers through the slick lips of her pussy. Erika moaned her delight and Galen gave her another whack. "You belong to us just as we belong to you. Don't deny us the right to your pleasure."

"I'm sorry. I didn't know how important it was to you both. I won't do it again. I promise."

"Good. Now bring that pretty little mouth over her and suck my cock." Arik pulled her face over his lap and nudged her mouth with his cock. Galen had her arms held

behind her so she had to depend on Arik's guidance to get him in her mouth. She worked her mouth up and down, licking and sucking at his rigid flesh.

Galen was slowly working his finger in and out of her ass. She knew that he was preparing her for his cock and her pussy was gushing with her excitement. She loved the feel of his huge cock buried inside her ass. There was just something about being completely under his control in that position that excited her.

Galen moved her to her knees, spreading her wide and using his free hand to guide his cock to her sweet back hole. Arik held her head in place while he continued thrusting his cock slowly in and out of her mouth. She could taste herself on his cock and it was incredibly arousing. No matter how vigorously she sucked at his flesh, Arik continued his slow steady thrusting. Without her hands, which Galen still held captive at the small of her back, she was at Arik's mercy.

Galen was pushing slowly into her ass, his cock pushing steadily into her flesh until he was fully inside her. She groaned around Arik's cock as Galen began a slow deep rhythm in and out of her ass. They were driving her crazy. She felt like she was coiling tighter and tighter, being forced higher and higher with no relief in sight. No matter what she did she couldn't get them to increase their leisurely pace. She couldn't get them to fuck her in the way that she needed them to.

Finally in a fit of passion Erika bit down on Arik's cock just hard enough to get his full attention while she clamped down on her muscles to give Galen a hard squeeze on his outward stroke. Both men groaned. Arik grabbed her hair tighter in his fist and forced her to look him in the eye.

"You want me to fuck this pretty mouth, my heart? Is that what you need?" He began stroking faster, harder, deeper. Erika moaned her pleasure as she sucked more vigorously at his flesh.

Galen smacked her ass just before he slammed his cock hard into her ass. "You want me to fuck your ass harder, little one?" She groaned again as he picked up his own rhythm and began pummeling in and out of her ass. She was screaming "yes!" around

Arik's cock and slamming her hips back against Galen. Her orgasm came with a burst of colors and stars that seemed to blind her to anything else. She vaguely felt the jets of fluid in her ass and swallowed what washed over her tongue and throat.

With one final suck to the flesh in her mouth, Erika collapsed on the bed, closed her eyes and drifted quickly off to sleep oblivious to the contented sighs of her warriors.

She was alone again in the morning. She vaguely remembered her warriors kissing her goodbye. They were to spend the day with the Donan warriors searching once again for Tamyra. Once found Tamyra would be claimed by the three brothers and taken to live with them. Erika prayed that they found her soon.

She hurried to dress and meet Katya for the morning meal. This morning was to be spent taking care of the new *shebana* colt. The colt was frisky and mischievous. He was already running around and getting into everything. Today she would learn how to groom the colt, to braid the mane and tail. She would be his keeper until one of her warriors decided he was old enough to break in. Galen had even told her that she could name the colt for them.

Katya was already gone when Erika arrived so she grabbed a *palona* fruit and headed out to the stables. She leaned against the fence where the colt frolicked and played and laughed at his antics. Seeming to hear her, the colt ran to the fence and appeared to stare down his nose at her.

"Good morn to you too, Your Highness." Erika bowed to the colt. "I'm sorry to intrude on your play."

The colt stared at her for a moment longer and then seemed to nod his head at her as if to say she was forgiven. Erika laughed again.

"Very regal and demanding of you, Your Highness. You'll fit right in with your owners. They're quite full of themselves as well."

"Their fathers are the same way." Erika jolted when Katya spoke from behind her. She hadn't seen anyone around and she had felt free to converse with the colt. Now she just felt silly.

Katya laughed at the embarrassment that shown on Erika's face. "I talk to them myself as well. And my sons are your mates now. You may say what you like. Trust the insight of an old mated woman, it won't always be good things you say. I will not judge you, Erika. I see that you make my sons happy and that is all that I could wish for them."

"Thank you, Mama Katya. How are you doing this morning?"

"I'm doing as well as I can. I worry for Tamya. She has been gone too long now and I worry that she has been taken by others."

"Do you know of any place that she would go to hide away? Some place that maybe she would feel safe or even someone who she would feel would protect her?"

"I will have to think on this. I will ask her friends if they know of someplace. If anyone knows anything it will be Livya." Katya looked apologetic when she stated the other girl's name.

Erika just smiled and took Katya's hand. "I know that she had a crush on Arik and Galen. I cannot fault her for that. They are both very desirable and I am very lucky to have them. I know that she still resents my presence here, but I am not going anywhere. She will have to accept this, the same as Tamya will when she is returned."

"She means well, Erika. Honestly I don't know if her anger is her own or has to do with something else entirely. I do know that my sons never looked at Livya as anything other than perhaps another little sister. They were often amused by her, sometimes annoyed, but never did they desire her as they do you. You have owned their hearts since Galen saved you when you were just a young girl."

"How long have they known Livya? How long have she and Tamya been such good friends?"

"Let me think for a moment," Katya said with a faraway look in her eyes. "Livya showed up here when she was seventeen. She came to stay with her aunt when her mother passed on. Tamyra befriended her and after that it seemed like they were always together. Galen and Arik tolerated her puppy love but that is all they ever saw it as. By that point both of my sons were so in love with you that nothing would or could turn their heads elsewhere."

"I know that. I think that I have always felt more for them as well. It was always to one of them that I ran to when I was in trouble. And they were always there for me. I love both Arik and Galen very much, Mama Katya, and I will do all in my power to make them happy."

"I know that you will, daughter. You bring joy to them with only your presence. They are so alive around you. Now are you ready to learn how to groom the young *shebana*? They are not as docile as the adults are."

Erika nodded and followed Katya into the barns to learn all there was to know about the grooming and care of a newborn *shebana* colt.

* * * * *

She spent another afternoon with her mother working on trees. She still could not figure out how to do what her mother wanted her to. She could not uproot a full grown tree and throw it like her mother wanted her to. Erin kept insisting that she could do it but try as she may she just couldn't.

She had made the earth tremble many times when she felt her anger build and she had to concentrate hard at relaxing to make it stop. Her mother had told her that she would have to be extra careful when she was angry now. By working on her powers in a more uniform manner she was becoming more powerful and there was no telling what she could do if she lost control. Above all else this is what she must do, maintain control over her emotions.

They worked for the entire afternoon with little break. They knew not when the Mystic would call and Erin wanted to make sure that Erika was ready when the call came. Erika was still unsure on how she would know that the Mystic was calling to her or where she would be called to. Erin just smiled and said that when the time was right, Erika would just know.

Finally Erika sat down on a bench. "Enough for today, Mama. I need a break."

Erin sighed loudly, understanding the tension in her daughter but unsure of how to soothe it. She sat down gingerly next to Erika on the bench before reminding her daughter in a soft voice. "We must keep working hard every day. I only want to make sure that you are as well trained as you can be."

"I know that, Mama, and I appreciate the help. It is just that there is so much else going on right now. Tamya is still missing and Arik and Galen are getting more worried every day. Katya is hanging in there, but I know that she feels lost without her daughter. Plus Livya has been causing problems since Tamya ran away."

"What kind of problems is she causing?"

"She still fancies herself in love with my mates and refuses to believe that I have not put some sort of spell over them. Plus she is doing her best to convince everyone that I am to blame for Tamya running away. She says that I was mean to Tamya and even turned Arik and Galen against her."

"Surely no one would believe this."

"Many were present at the dinner when there was the scene between us all. It is not so hard for them to believe that I am what Tamya accused me of being. I do still wear the green of the earth caste instead of black like they do."

"But you cannot wear anything else, Erika. To do so would be to deny the very gift that the goddess gave you."

"I know that and you know that, but no one else knows that, Mama. To them I am just a spoiled little girl who thinks that I am too good for them."

"Oh, my sweet love, I am so sorry. What do Arik and Galen say about this?"

"I don't think that they know about it. They are gone so often looking for Tamya that I don't think they have heard anything. I have not said anything to them. They have enough to worry about. I will not add to their burdens."

"And what of Katya? Does she believe this of you?"

"She says that she understands and that she believes that I do truly love Arik and Galen. But I know that she hears what the others say and that it hurts her. Part of her must feel that I am rejecting her and her way of life. How could she possibly think anything differently?"

"Then we will tell her sooner of your reasons for what you must do."

"What are you saying?"

"Tomorrow you will bring her with you and we will tell her that you are a Guardian. She is your Mama now too. She will watch over you when I cannot. We will tell her so that she is not hurt."

Erika leaned into her mother and hugged her close. "Thank you, Mama. Thank you so much."

It was a much happier Erika that headed home.

Chapter Ten

Erika spent the long night alone. Arik and Galen had expanded their search for Tamya and would be gone for a few nights. She missed them more than she would have ever thought. It wasn't just the sex either. She missed the warmth and security of cuddling between her two strong warriors and falling asleep. She prayed to the goddess that they would be safe and return to her soon.

She spent the morning helping Katya in the barns. She was learning quickly and enjoyed seeing to the care of the *shebana* colt that she had named Highness. Katya was quiet and seemed to be lost in thought most of the morning. Erika knew that she worried for Arik and Galen now as she worried for Tamya. Plus her husbands were still gone fighting in the never-ending battles that abounded on their home. She felt for Katya, but she knew that Katya's husbands would only return when the prince decided that they could.

Finally as the morning drew to a close Erika spoke to Katya about coming with her for the afternoon.

"I cannot, Erika. There is much that needs to be done," Katya replied.

"Please, Mama Katya, there is something important that I would like to share with you," Erika insisted. "I know what is said about me. I know that it must hurt you to hear it and that you might even find yourself believing it."

Katya flushed with guilt. "I know that you love my sons. I do not question your love of them."

"But you question my loyalty to their clan. You question my reasons for maintaining my hold on the earth. I would show you my reasons this afternoon. I love you as well, Mama Katya. I would only seek to dispel any doubt that you would have

of me. Please come with me. Give me the chance to show you exactly who and what I am, a part of me that I share with no one."

Katya looked at the sincerity and need in Erika's eyes and decided to go with her. "I will go with you today. There is no one here to need me anyway. But I can only give you today, Erika."

Erika hugged her close and whispered in her ear. "Thank you, Mama Katya. I promise that you will not regret this. Before the day is over you will understand all."

With those words Erika hurried them through the midday meal so they could go to her mother's home. Erin greeted them at the door and escorted them through the house to the secluded back gardens. Katya remarked on the beauty when Erin seated her on a bench before sitting beside her.

"You must agree to secrecy before we begin, Katya."

"It is so important?"

"It could mean Erika's life."

Katya looked up at Erika in surprise. "Do Arik and Galen know of this secret, a secret so great that it might cost them the life of what they hold so dear?"

Erika hurried over and knelt between her mother and Katya. "Not yet, Mama Katya. I will tell them as soon as I am able." This was said with a look at her mother, Erin.

"You will understand the need for secrecy soon, Katya. The fewer people who know the safer Erika will be. We only share this with you because Erika needs your support and understanding in her new home. You will watch over her while I cannot. You will protect her from those who would see her come to harm for a slight that they only imagine."

"Perhaps you should just tell me what this is all about, Erin."

"Erika will show you instead. But first your word that what you see here will not be spoken of with anyone."

"You have my word."

Erin nodded to Erika and she stood and walked to the middle of the path. She closed her eyes and took a deep breath. Her eyes flashed open and she waved her hands over the ground. When she lifted them flowers burst from the earth and stopped at waist level. Katya gasped.

Erin moved toward her daughter and Erika waved her hands again. Vines shot from the earth and wrapped around Erin's wrists and ankles, lifting her from the ground. With another wave of her hand the vines released Erin and she moved back to the bench. She took Katya's hands in hers and gave them a squeeze before whispering to her, "Erika is a Guardian. The goddess has blessed her with power over the earth. She does not deny you or your caste. She just cannot deny who she is, a woman of the earth. To do so would be to deny the goddess herself. Can you understand now, Katya? Will you help me to protect her and keep her safe?"

"If one should die, all shall fail," Katya murmured as she watched Erika lifting boulders with a wave of her hand and throwing them across the hidden garden. "I will protect her with my very life, Erin. This I swear by the blood of the goddess."

"Thank you, Katya. I knew from how Erika spoke of you that we could trust you. Erika wishes to tell her warriors, but it is too soon for that. The more people who know, the more at risk her life is."

"I understand." Katya could not take her eyes from the sight of Erika using her hands to command the earth to do her bidding. Her new daughter, the mate of her sons, a Guardian. It was a huge responsibility and one that she gladly accepted. The goddess had bestowed a blessing on her and her family when she had placed Erika into their caste and care. Katya would not fail. She would guard and protect this daughter like she hadn't been able to protect her own.

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Katya and Erika ate quietly at the table. Arik and Galen were still gone and they had received no messages from them today. Erika didn't think that they would be back this evening. This would be yet another night that they would be absent. She missed them and hoped they would return soon.

This brought her thoughts to Tamya. She understood that the girl had run away out of fear. It must have been pure terror to watch another woman be raped by four men before they took the girl back to their camp to be shared by others. Erika had only heard the words of what could happen from Galen when he had rescued her so long ago and it had caused her own fears. She couldn't fathom what Tamya's fear would be like. Still it seemed odd that she had managed to stay gone for so long.

"Do you think that Tamya has had contact or help since she has been gone?" Erika asked Katya when she couldn't stop certain thoughts from taking hold of her. "I mean, she would have to have some kind of help with food and supplies to be able to stay gone this long."

"Perhaps, unless she is not staying away on her own." Katya looked so afraid when she expressed her deepest fears.

Erika knelt before her and took both of her hands in her own. "Mama Katya, you know that we would know if she was taken. They always make sure that we are aware when they attack and take hostages. We have heard nothing to indicate that this is the way of it."

"Yet there are always a few women who disappear every year. These that we have no idea what happened to and could be captured or dead. Plus we have not heard from Galen and Arik. What if they have discovered that this is what has happened?"

"Then they would have sent word. If there were other warriors in the area, they would do all in their power to ensure the safety of every other woman present. You know this."

"But what if my sons are hurt and unable to send word?"

Erika smiled and squeezed Katya's hands. "I would know if they were hurt. They are my very soul, Mama Katya. I must believe that I would feel it if they were hurt."

Katya looked deep into Erika's eyes and seemed reassured by whatever she saw there. "I will leave you now, daughter. You must rest and I will see you in the morning."

"You rest as well, Mama Katya. We will do all that we can when we know more. Perhaps we should look to Tamya's friends more closely for answers though."

"Yes, I fear that you are right, Erika. Tomorrow we will speak with Livya about Tamya."

"Yes, tomorrow." Erika just smiled and bade Katya good night. As soon as she was alone in the house she slipped out into the night and headed to where she knew Livya lived. If she was right then Livya had to be sneaking supplies to Tamya and what better time to do this than when everyone else was sleeping.

It didn't take long to see Livya slip from her house into the surrounding darkness and head toward the woods. She traveled deeper and deeper into the interior, stopping occasionally to glance behind to make sure that no one was following her. Finally she reached a hidden tunnel and, moving the shrubs and bushes aside, entered. She followed the passageway to where it opened up to a large room. There were furs in one corner and a deep pool of water in the other. There was a pile of food near the pool and a girl just stepping in from the back corridor.

"I was worried that you wouldn't make it tonight," Tamya said to her friend as she entered and went to embrace Livya.

"I told you that I would come when I could. Besides, you still seem to have plenty of supplies." Livya quickly moved over to add more food to the pile.

"I know. I don't seem to have much of an appetite. I can't believe that no one is even looking for me, that no one cares that I am gone."

"Erika has turned them all against you. Arik and Galen are so completely under her spell that they can hear nothing but her lies."

"I hate that whore. I'm so glad that you told me what she really is. I can't believe that my brothers were so easily put under her spell. I don't know what would happen without your help, Livya. If you had not told me about seeing her naked in the glen with those other warriors I might have even fallen under her spell myself. It shames me to know that I might have befriended such a witch had you not seen."

Livya turned her face to hide her smile at poor innocent Tamya's gullibility. If Tamya only knew who Livya really was. But Tamya was easily led and had no idea what Livya was really capable of. Soon she would though. Soon dear little Tamya would know more than she ever wanted to. Controlling her mirth she turned back to Tamya.

"Erika is a powerful witch. If I hadn't removed you, who knows what she would have done to you. You have no idea what she is capable of. I worry so about your mother. She seems to be falling under a spell as well. Why it breaks my heart to hear her call Erika daughter while she cares so little about your absence. And Arik and Galen hardly leave her side. She is the one who persuaded the Donan clan to come for you. She convinced your brothers that it would take that many men to watch over you. She says that you are pure trouble."

Tamya hung her head and tried to control her tears. How could her family cast her aside so easily and replace her with Erika? Was it so hard to love her? Did they really think that she was too much trouble for them?

Livya moved forward and hugged Tamya close to her once again. "I'm so sorry, Tamya. I just want you to know that I am always here for you. I promise that I will take care of you."

Tamya couldn't see the evil smile on Livya's lips. Livya was to have a meeting tomorrow night with her lovers. She would take care of Tamya by giving her to them as a gift for the camp. The other warriors would be very grateful for Livya's help in obtaining yet another woman for them. She had begun helping them a few years ago. When she was able she brought women here to this cavern to hide. Then she would

wait for the monthly meeting with the warriors. No one as yet knew her part in the kidnappings and she didn't think that they ever would.

It would be extra sweet to see Tamya's face when she figured out what was going to happen to her. She had watched from a perfect hiding place while the last girl, Omella, had been taken. She had been unable to get Omella to the cavern and had taken her to a spot deep in the woods instead. Livya had left the girl there while she "went to collect wood for a fire". She had gone a little way and hidden. It was just luck that she had seen Tamya walk by. She had thought that her warriors would be really happy with her if Tamya stumbled into the trap as well. But Tamya must have heard them moving because she stopped suddenly and hid behind some bushes.

Livya had been presented with a perfect view of both Tamya's face and the warriors with the girl. It always excited her to watch the men strip and rape the girl she had given them. This time had been even better because she had watched the fear in Tamya's face as Tamya had watched the warriors mount the girl. There had been four of them that day and they had each taken turns spending their lust in her pussy and ass before they had picked her up and carried her back to their camp for the others to enjoy.

Tamya had seen it all. She had listened to the girl's screams turn to moans of pain and then cease altogether. Livya had gotten herself off by watching Tamya's face. It had been one of the best orgasms she had ever had. She planned to join in on the initiation of little Tamya.

She stroked her hand up and down Tamya's back and thought of her on her hands and knees taking cock after cock while Livya looked on, fingering her pussy. Livya had to bite back her moan as she tried to control her thoughts. Tomorrow couldn't come soon enough for her.

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Erika watched everything from a split in the cavern wall. She felt enraged by the lies that Livya had told Tamya. How in the world could Tamya believe that Arik and

Galen would not search for her, that Katya would not be worried sick that she was gone? How had Livya convinced Tamya to believe all these lies? How could she believe that Erika was a witch, that she had placed people under a spell? Did Tamya really think that Arik or Galen could even be placed under a spell?

Erika wanted to step out of her hiding place and confront Livya, but didn't think it would do any good. She would wait and follow Livya back. She would try to get a message to Arik and Galen and if they didn't show up then she would talk Katya into coming with her to get Tamya. She was certain that Tamya would not believe anything that she tried to tell her. She would never be able to convince Tamya on her own, not with all the lies that Livya had filled her head with. If anything Tamya would be afraid that Erika would place a spell on her and how ridiculous was that! Katya was Tamya's mother though and Erika had to believe that Tamya would trust in her mother.

Livya's expression worried her though. There was something in her eyes that struck fear in Erika's heart. She didn't know why Livya was so determined to keep Tamya away but it couldn't be for any good reason. No matter what Livya said, Erika was convinced that she did not have Tamya's best interests in mind.

Erika crept silently back into the house. She had followed Livya all the way back to the houses. Livya had snuck back into her own house and was probably sleeping peacefully by now. Erika was still seething with anger over what she had seen and heard. Tomorrow seemed a very long time away for her to wait to confront Tamya with the truth.

She paced around the house. She kept hoping that Arik and Galen would be home but as the night wore on it didn't look good. When the sun finally began to make its way into the sky Erika was standing in the window watching it. She had spent the entire evening pacing and thinking. She would send a message with one of the younger warriors today and pray to the goddess that it would reach them. Her warriors had to be told what was going on so that they could help her stop whatever Livya was

planning because Erika was convinced now more than ever that there was more to Livya than met the eye.

Chapter Eleven

The day was still early when she realized that she was no longer alone in the house. She turned when she heard Katya enter through the back entrance. She headed back to meet her, trying to think of when and how to tell Katya that she knew where Tamya was. How long should she wait to share this news with Mama Katya? Should she make her own mother aware as well? Maybe the three of them should go together. Wasn't there power in numbers?

First thing to do was to get the note that she had written to Arik and Galen. She would have to move quickly to catch one of the young warriors of this clan. The note would give them exact directions to the cave where Tamya was in hiding. She would give them until the early afternoon to get word back to her and then she would handle things as she saw fit. Basically she would persuade her mother and Katya and have them go with her to bring Tamya home.

Excusing herself, Erika left to find one of the sets of younger warriors that were known to carry messages back and forth between the warriors and their families.

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The morning seemed to drag on and on. Erika had trouble concentrating. Katya kept nudging her to remind her to do the chores that had become second nature to Erika over the last few weeks. Every time that she heard footsteps she hoped that it was Arik or Galen or someone bringing a message from them. The two warriors that she had sent the message with were a set of thirteen-year-old twins. They had promised her that they would get the message to the Savari warriors no matter what it took. She trusted them.

Katya nudged her again to get her attention. "Where are you this morning, daughter? I know that you miss my sons but really they have not been gone for too many nights. They will be back soon, hopefully with good news for us."

"I know, Mama Katya. My mind is racing this morning. I hope that you are still planning to come with me this afternoon to my mother's. There are some things that I would like to discuss with both of you."

"Sure, dear, I would love to go with you. That is as long as we get everything done this morning that we need to."

Erika laughed taking Katya's none-too-subtle hint for her to get busy and quit spacing out. Doing her best to concentrate, she managed to get things done in time and she and Katya ate a quick noon meal before heading over to Erin's.

Erika still had not heard anything back from Arik and Galen and she was not exactly sure what to do. Erin and Katya were sitting on the bench in Erin's garden talking while Erika was supposed to be practicing with trees again. Instead she was pacing back and forth, trying to work things out in her mind. She had to make a decision fast before it was too late. If she was going to talk her mother and Katya into going with her back to the cavern then they needed to go soon.

It took a moment longer before Erika realized that Erin and Katya were no longer sitting on the bench but standing in front of her.

Erin stroked her hand down Erika's cheek. "What is it, Erika? Katya says that you have been this way all morning. Is there anything that we can do to help you?"

"You said that there were things that you needed to share with us when we spoke earlier." Katya spoke up. "What is bothering you, Erika?"

"I need both of you to help me. I followed Livya last night. She led me right to where Tamya has been hiding."

"Sweet goddess!" Katya exclaimed. "You have found Tamya. Is she all right? Is she coming home? Should we go get her?"

"It is all a little complicated, Mama Katya. Tamya believes that I have set everyone against her. She believes that Arik and Galen are not even looking for her and that you are not worried or even missing her."

"Why would she believe such nonsense? Why would she think such awful things?"

"It seems that Livya has been telling her these things since she has been gone."

"Why would Livya say such things?"

"Well, she has made it no secret how she feels about me and the fact that I have mated with Arik and Galen. Perhaps it is simple jealousy and spite."

"Then let us go now. We will confront her and go get Tamya and bring her home."

"I'm not sure that is such a good idea. There was something in Livya's eyes when she was speaking to Tamya that made me uneasy. I can't shake the feeling that there is more to this than there appears. I have sent a message to Arik and Galen. I have been waiting all day to hear back from them."

"What more could there possibly be?"

"I don't know, Mama Katya. I just don't know."

Erin spoke up for the first time. "If Erika senses something more, then there is probably good reason to be careful. Might I suggest that you wait until morning to see if you hear back from Galen and Arik? Then if not we can all go together to the cavern with my mates as added protection. We can meet you at Erika's first thing in the morning."

"I'm not sure that it is a good idea to wait, Mama. What if something happens to her in the meantime?"

"No, Erika, your mother is right. We must wait to hear from Arik and Galen, at least until morning. Then regardless we will head to this cavern and bring Tamya home."

"We will wait. We must meet early in the morn and go to the cavern."

"Now that this business is settled perhaps you should begin to practice," Erin told her daughter. "You still have skills to learn before you are called."

"Yes, Mama, I will work now. I will start with the vines and work up to the trees." Erika watched as her mother and Katya moved off to the bench and sat down again. She still could not shake the feeling that tomorrow might be too late.

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Livya snuck away to meet with the men deep in the woods only about half a mile from the cavern where she had Tamya hidden. She knew what the first order of business would be when she got there and she was looking forward to it. It had been too long since their last meeting.

She slid between the trees and was grabbed and pulled roughly between two warriors. She could feel the hard press of their stiff cocks against her pussy and ass. She moaned and rubbed against them. The two men laughed at her blatant display. Her skirt was shoved off and she was lifted and slammed down on the cock of the warrior in front of her. She cried out at the stretching of her inner muscles by his forceful entry.

She could feel her buttocks being spread and the first probing of the other warrior before he shoved deep into her ass. There was no lubrication to make it easier, just the violent thrust tearing through her rectum until he was seated fully inside her ass. They fucked her ruthlessly, sating their cocks thoroughly before pulling out and placing her aside while they righted their clothing.

She reveled in the brutality of the act. She thrived on the pain. The rougher the sex the more she enjoyed it. For her there was nothing better than the slamming of a thick male cock anywhere in her body. She especially enjoyed the burning sensation of having her ass fucked hard and deep. She enjoyed it almost as much as she enjoyed watching another woman being taken in such a manner.

"So what have you got for us this time, Livya?" The warriors were sated for now and ready to talk business.

"I have the prize that you have been waiting for, Abran. Do you remember the girl who witnessed the last transaction? The one you saw after the others had taken the girl and left?"

"The one you called Tamya? I remember her vividly. I have a great hunger for her sweet flesh."

"Tonight you shall be well fed then. I have her in the cavern nearby. She is in hiding from her family. She will be surprised to see you come for her."

"You have done well this time, Livya. My brother and I will use her well before she is passed on to others. You will need to bring another one soon so that we can give the others another breeder. The women wear out so quickly from the constant attention of so many warriors. It is a pity that you cannot find someone with more of your own hunger. We need those that can stand all the vigorous fucking our warriors need."

"I will do my best, Abran. Perhaps you will just have to hold back for a while until I can find someone else."

Abran jerked her to him by her hair. "Tamya will suffice for now but I would look quickly for another. Or perhaps we should just take you with us for the others' amusement."

"But then how would you get more women later?" Livya smiled smugly.

"There are other ways, Livya. Remember that. Now let us head to the cavern." He rubbed his hardening cock through his pants. "I would like to be thoroughly acquainted with the woman before the night ends."

Livya smiled and led the way to where Tamya was hidden. She was just as eager as the warriors for the night's festivities to begin.

"I will go in first without you. Stay in the corridor and watch for my signal. I will prepare her for you."

With that she headed in to where Tamya was hidden. Tamya greeted her with warm surprise. "I wasn't expecting you again so soon, Livya. Is everything all right?"

“Everything is wonderful, Tamya. I just missed you so much that I couldn’t stay away a moment longer.”

Tamya moved toward her and hugged her tight. “I have missed you as well. When you left last night without saying goodbye, I thought maybe you were mad at me over something.” Tamya was still shy of her friendship with Livya.

Livya pulled her face close and kissed her softly on the cheek. “I could never be mad at you. Now, let’s undress and bathe in the pool. I have a surprise for you.”

Tamya smiled at Livya with all the naïve love of the young woman that she was. She hurried to undress and get in the pool with Livya. She was the only true friend that Tamya had, the only person who still cared about her and she didn’t want to lose her. When they were both naked in the pool Livya handed her the soap and turned her back so that Tamya could wash her. Then Livya took the soap from Tamya and turned the girl so that she faced where Livya knew the warriors were watching and waiting. “Have you ever touched yourself for pleasure?” Livya asked her while she imagined Abran palmed his hardened cock and gave it a squeeze. Turning Tamya back to face her, Livya demonstrated for Tamya what to do, distracting the young virgin so the warriors could move from cover. Livya moaned and groaned in pleasure, touching her wet folds with urgent fingers, encouraging Tamya to pleasure herself the same way, covering any noise that Abran might make as he approached where they were still in the pond. She watched as the other warriors shed their clothes and then she smiled. “Feels good, yes? It will feel better soon. Open your eyes, Tamya, and see what I have brought for you.”

Tamya opened her eyes slowly, slumberously, turning around with a smile on her lips until she took in the vision of the naked man beside the pond in front of her. Her eyes flew open then and she tried to scramble back out of his reach but it was no use. There were three more behind him and Livya would not let her move back. She could hear Livya laughing behind her, laughing as the man grabbed her and yanked her from the pool then spread her legs and knelt between them. Laughing as someone pinned her

hands above her head. Laughing as the first man violated her in a way that only a man can. Laughing as one after the other they used her, abused her. Laughing as she screamed and begged and finally by the grace of the goddess passed out.

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Erika tossed and turned but could not seem to fall asleep. She couldn't shake the feeling that she had to get to Tamya right now. It was like a constant hammering in her brain. Throwing the covers back, she quickly moved to put her clothes on when she felt hands grab her.

Before the scream could leave her mouth a hand slapped over it and she heard a voice at her ear.

"Quiet down, my heart. It has been a long few nights and I would rather spend what remains of this one with you."

"Arik, you scared me to death! How long have you been here? Where is Galen? Did you get the message that I sent to you?"

"Slow down with the questions, Erika. Give me a moment to catch my breath." Arik turned her in his arms and kissed her deeply, thrusting his tongue in and out of her mouth while his hands played with the rest of her. "I have truly missed you, my heart."

Erika groaned and put her own hands to use removing Arik's clothes. "I have missed you too, my love. Tell me, will Galen be joining us?"

"Not tonight. We received your message late this afternoon. Galen went with the Donan clan to find the cavern where you found Tamya. I returned with the young ones to speak with Livya in the morn."

"You know that she will not admit to anything, Arik. It will be my word against hers until they return with Tamya."

"Then we will just let it be known that Galen and the Donans have gone to get Tamya and see how Livya reacts. Do not worry about this now." Arik gently pushed

her onto her back on the bed. "I'd prefer that right now you concentrate on showing me just how much you have missed me."

Erika's giggle turned to a moan when Arik hooked her knees with his elbows and spread her wide before leaning down and latching onto her pussy with his mouth. "Oh, goddess, have I missed you!" she cried out.

Arik grinned against her glistening folds. Erika thrust her hips against his mouth and he delved inside her tight pussy with his tongue again. Her juices were gushing from her sweet little pussy and he couldn't lick them up fast enough. He heard her keening moans and felt the telltale quiver of her pussy that always preceded her orgasm. He latched his mouth to her pulsing clit and sucked hard while he thrust two fingers in and out of her.

Erika exploded around and on him. Before she could catch her breath he was thrusting hard and deep between her drenched folds. He shoved her knees up over his shoulders, lifting her high into his thrusts. He was wild for her, thrusting hard inside her sweet flesh with a pounding rhythm that was fast and furious. She met him thrust for thrust, reveling in his need for her.

He came with a hoarse shout of her name on his lips, hot spurts of cum filling her deeply while he ground his pelvic bone against her, bringing her to orgasm yet again. Arik gently eased her legs down to the bed. When he would have pulled out and moved off her, Erika clasped him tightly and refused to let go.

He managed to roll over so that she was lying on top of him while they both did their best to catch their breath and slow their heart rates back to normal. Arik stroked his hands up and down her spine and kissed the top of her head.

"I'm sorry that I was so rough with you, my heart. I lost control." When Erika didn't respond he squeezed her tightly to him. "I promise that I won't be so rough again."

"Ummm... That's too bad, Arik. I was hoping that you could lose control again here really soon." Erika grinned into his shocked face. "In case you didn't notice, I was right

there with you every step of the way, Arik. I love you. You could never hurt me with your passion."

Arik hugged her tightly to his chest so that she wouldn't see the sheen of moisture in his big brown eyes. "I love you as well." He moved just enough so that she was aware of his burgeoning erection before whispering to her. "Just how soon is really soon?"

Erika grinned at him before pushing up so that she sat astride him with his cock buried firmly inside her. "Now is perfect," she groaned as she began to slowly move up and down on his hard staff. She spent the rest of the night showing him just how perfect it was, how perfect he was.

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Erika awoke to the feel of hands behind her stroking over her hips and buttocks. Since she was cuddled up against Arik's chest she knew he wasn't behind her. Struggling to get her eyes open, she felt herself turned to her back and her legs spread wide. Her eyes flew open with the first pinch to her clit. She saw Galen's sweet face and felt the juices flow from her pussy.

"I've missed you, little one. Did Arik wear you out? Or is there a chance that I can persuade you into a little morning playtime?" Galen smiled down at her while he continued working her pussy with his fingers. His other hand was busy playing with her nipples.

"Oh, goddess, I missed you so much, Galen." She spread her legs wider for him. "Please don't make me wait. I need to feel you inside me. Please, Galen!"

Galen covered her with a deep groan. His thrust was firm and rough, his cock filling her pussy to overflowing. She cried out with pleasure as he rode her hard and fast. His fist contracted in her hair pulling her head just where he wanted it so that he could feed off her luscious lips. His tongue thrust as violently as his cock and she felt

overwhelmed by the sheer presence of him. His chest rubbed against her engorged nipples while his hips continued a pounding rhythm between her thighs.

She felt her orgasm explode just as he threw his head back and came with a roar. He was buried so completely inside her that it sent her over a higher crest and she thought she might have passed out for a minute. When she came to she was draped over Galen's chest. His cock was still hard or hard again, depending on how long she had been out. Arik was awake and behind her. She could feel his slick hands preparing her anus for his cock.

She managed to get her knees under her beside Galen's hips and pushed back against Arik's fingers.

"I see that you're back with us, little one. Are you up to this?" Galen gently stroked her hair behind her ear and out of her face.

"Oh, yes, please don't stop now." Erika pushed her hips forward just enough to shove his cock deeper and gave him a squeeze with her inner muscles. Galen groaned and reached around to take her ass in his hands. He pulled her cheeks apart for his brother and Erika moaned when she felt the solid pressure of Arik's cock against her anus. She pushed back into him and with a groan of his own he drove into her.

They all three held still for a moment, enjoying the feel of being together again. It was a wonderful moment in Erika's life. They started moving in and out of her in an easy rhythm that had first Galen filling her pussy with his engorged cock and then Arik impaling her ass with his curved sword. It was slow and gentle, filled with lots of hands stroking over her body and mouths kissing and sucking at her willing flesh.

Her first orgasm was like a gentle wave washing over her and through her. She could feel it all the way to her toes. The second one lifted her a little higher, tossing her so that she could feel tingles all over her body. She cried out with ecstasy and tensed her muscles squeezing tightly. With a gasp Arik and Galen began to fill her together. Each pulsing cock thrusting into her soaking flesh at the same time. She could feel them

rubbing against each other inside her and wondered if it felt as good to them as it did to her.

They came at the same time, filling her pussy and ass with hot, pulsing jets of cum. She felt another orgasm spiraling through her, taking her so high that she could feel lights exploding inside her and within her womb she felt a tiny tingle and wondered if she had just conceived a baby. She fell to Galen's chest with a contented sigh, dropping almost instantly asleep. She was just awake enough to know that Galen had turned to his side so that she could stay between him and Arik without anyone being uncomfortable and neither of her warriors seemed willing to pull out of her flesh.

Erika awoke with a delicious stretch that made her all too aware of what had led to her going back to sleep. She could tell that it was late in the day. Arik and Galen were both gone and she had no idea where they were. With that on her mind she jumped from the bed and hurried to get dressed. She had just bent over to pick her skirt up off the floor when she heard a comment from the door that made her shriek and turn around.

"Now that is a sight to make a man want to crawl back in bed and never get out," Galen stated as he took in Erika bent over in all her naked glory. She was exquisite.

"By the goddess, Galen, you scared me to death. I was afraid that you and Arik were gone again. I want to know where you have been. Did you bring Tamya back with you? I bet that your mother is just as happy as can be. I'm so glad that you're back."

"Whoa, whoa, little one. I missed you too. But I'm afraid that we'll be gone again in another day."

"Why? What's going on, Galen?"

"Tamya wasn't there."

"But I saw her there. Livya went to see her there."

"Livya denies that she was ever there. She says that you must have known where Tamya was because you kept her there. She's doing her best now to convince anyone who will listen that you must have held Tamya against her will."

"And I'm sure that there are plenty who will choose to listen to her lies." Erika didn't even try to hide the disgust in her voice.

"It is even worse than that. When the Donans and I made it to the cavern there were signs that she had been there. There were also signs that she had been taken."

"Oh, goddess, no! Please tell me that you don't think that she was taken by other warriors." She cried out at his affirmative nod. She ran to his side and clung to him. "Please tell me that you don't believe the lies that Livya is saying! Please tell me that you don't think that of me!"

Galen lifted her into his arms and carried her back to the bed. "I could never think such a thing about the woman that I love." He pushed her back so that he could look into her eyes. "Why didn't you tell us what you have been going through here? Why didn't you come to one of us with what Livya has been saying about you? I know that you don't always confide in me, but you've always been able to talk to Arik. Why keep this from us?" Erika was startled by the pain in his eyes, pain for her.

"Oh, Galen, it wasn't because I didn't trust you. I love you both so much. It's just that you both have so much going on with your search for Tamya that I didn't want to burden you more with Livya's little games. I'm a big girl. I can handle it. I know that you and Arik love me and that is enough for me. Besides, your mother stands beside me and that limits what is said, at least in my presence."

"We could have been beside you as well." Arik spoke from the doorway. "With us away it was easier for people to believe Livya's spew of lies. We could have been here with you if we had only known."

"I know that, Arik." She held her hand out to him so that he would move to the bed next to her. "I knew that if I told you then you would make an effort to stay with me instead of looking for Tamya. You needed to look for Tamya and not worry about me. I

knew that, Arik, Galen. I knew you would put me first and that and only that is why I didn't tell you anything."

"You are more than we deserve, my heart." Arik stroked her cheek with his finger before moving it down to her naked breasts and rubbing her nipples.

"Ummm..." Erika moaned. "I think that we definitely deserve each other. To be honest, the lies don't bother me because you both make me so happy that it is hard to care what others think. As long as I have your trust and love, I can handle anything else that comes my way."

"You will always have that. You make us happy as well, little one." Galen pushed her to her back on the bed. Arik immediately bent down and started sucking on one of her nipples while he used his fingers to manipulate the other one. "Let us show you just how happy we can make you." With that Galen moved between her thighs and used his mouth and hands to make her very happy indeed.

Chapter Twelve

There were whispered conversations everywhere that Erika went with Katya. People would stop talking and watch until they thought she was out of hearing. That was only the more considerate ones though. Some just waited until her back was to them before they would make a comment about her. It seemed that most of the members of her new caste were eager to believe the lies spread by Livya. Erika was the one held responsible for the assumed capture of Tamya. The Donans were still looking for her but most had given up hope.

They glanced in pity at Katya for the loss of her daughter. Some were angry even with Arik and Galen, seeing them as failures in protecting their family though none were brave enough to say it to their faces. Arik and Galen continued to help look for their sister but still made sure that at least one of them was home with Erika every night. They wouldn't come out and say it but she knew that they were worried for her.

Erika kept working with Katya every morning and then they both went to her mother's for the afternoon sessions. Erika had mastered most of her skills by this point and could do just about everything that her mother asked of her. She was fairly certain that she was pregnant but wouldn't know for sure for another week when her cycle was due.

She still hadn't shared with her warriors that she was a Guardian. She felt that they had too much on their minds right now to be burdened with her secrets as well. Her mother understood her desire to protect them from the inevitable stress of being married to a Guardian but Katya continued to encourage Erika to tell her sons. Erika struggled with whether to tell them or not every day.

She also continued to keep an eye on Livya. Livya had developed a new friendship with the young daughter of one of Katya's friends. The girl was just eighteen years old

but was beautiful with long golden blonde hair and big blue eyes. There were already many warrior brothers looking to her and waiting anxiously for her to reach the age of claiming. Erika thought that her name was Reanna. It worried her to see the young girl with Livya.

As the weeks continued to pass, Erika knew for sure that she was indeed carrying a child in her womb. She wanted to tell both of her warriors together but they never seemed to both be around at the same time. She also wanted to tell them about her growing concern for Reanna. It was another week before she got her wish, another week before everything came crashing down around her.

Erika and Katya were in the barn working with the *shebana* when there was a loud commotion from outside. Katya went to see what the noise was all about, leaving Erika in the cool interior of the barn. When Erika heard Katya yell she bolted to her feet and went running. It took all her strength not to pass out at the sight that greeted her eyes. Arik was being held between Galen and one of the Donan brothers. He was covered in blood, so much that she couldn't tell where he was injured.

Everyone was just standing and staring at them and Erika grew angry as she watched more of Arik's blood drip to the earth. She rushed forward and spoke with fire in her voice. "Get him into the house quickly. Mama Katya, go and get the elder medicine woman. Tell her that Arik has been injured and that I need a poultice from her." When Katya just stood there as if in a daze Erika stepped to her and shook her. "Go now, Katya, Arik's life could depend on this." She turned to the nearest youth and dispatched him to go and fetch her mother.

Katya took off without another word. Erika let her gaze encompass the crowd. "If any of you can help, then follow me. If not then get out of the way." With that she led the way into the bedroom she shared with her warriors and watched as they gingerly placed Arik on the bed. She took the bowl of water and cloths from the woman who had followed her, noticing vaguely that it was Reanna's mother. Erika sat beside Arik on the bed and gently ran a wet cloth over his chest, cleaning the blood away, looking

for the source of all that red. She finally found it. There was a deep gouge in his side where it appeared that a sword had tried to skewer him. She cleaned it as best she could and then held a cloth tightly to it, trying to staunch the flow of blood.

She could feel Galen pacing behind her and felt his pain too. She glanced up at him and asked gently, "What happened to him, Galen?"

Galen took a deep breath and ran his fingers over his face. They were covered with Arik's dried blood as were his chest and pants. "We were continuing our search for Tamya when we came upon their camp unexpectedly. There were only seven of us and at least twenty or more of them. We fought as best we could but Arik was hurt. He was trying to get to Tamya when he was struck from the side. He would have been killed if she hadn't stepped forward as well. She pushed Arik down and the blade slipped from him. The warrior's momentum sent him falling forward into Tamya." He shook his head and looked at her with sad eyes. "She was killed before we could do anything to help her."

There was a keening cry from behind them and they turned to see that Katya had entered the room with Erin. Katya collapsed on the floor and began moaning and crying her anguish over the death of her daughter. Erin hurried over to the bed to help Erika take care of Arik. Marcus Donan entered the room next. He and his brothers Alexi and Bannen had all been willing to take Tamya as their mate and there was fire in Marcus' eyes when he entered the room.

"I was able to speak with Tamya before she passed. She spoke to me of what happened. I would wish to deal with this Livya. Tamya was able to tell me what happened before she died." He cut a soft look to Erika. "She asked me to tell you how sorry she was. She believed the lies of that deceitful she-bitch. She believed them right up until the moment that Livya betrayed her."

Galen stepped forward. "I would like to know exactly what she told you, Marcus. As her family, we deserve to know the truth."

"I would ask that one of my brothers be sent to bring Livya here. I do not wish her to escape without punishment."

At Galen's nod of consent, Alexi left the room. Bannen had moved to Katya and lifted her gently to a chair that sat in the corner of the room. Finally with a weary nod, Marcus told them what Tamya had been able to share with him before she died. It was exactly as Erika had said. Livya had led Tamya away, filling her with lies that neither her brothers nor her mother cared that she was gone. She had been taken only mere hours before Galen and the Donans had arrived at the cavern. Livya had entered with a group of strange men and let them take Tamya away. Tamya hadn't said but they all had a very good idea of what she must have endured at the hands of the men who took her. And to know that Livya had instigated the entire thing was more than any of them could bear. It was enough to make Erika angrier than she had ever been.

She could feel it building inside her with every breath she took. She and Erin had managed to clean up Arik as best they could. They had packed a poultice onto the flesh that had been neatly sewn by Reanna's mother and wrapped it with cloths dipped in the cooling gel of one of the plants that were grown in her mother's garden. They both knew that the next few days would decide the life or death of Arik. It was pretty certain that fever would set in while his body tried to heal.

Erika walked from the bed and knelt at Katya's feet. Bannen was just there to the side of the chair trying as best he could to offer comfort to the grieving woman. Erika took Katya's hands in her own and squeezed them tightly. "Mama Katya, I am very sorry for your loss. I cannot even fathom what it would be like to lose a child but I need your help now. I need you to help me and my mother care for Arik or you will soon be grieving for the loss of another child." Katya's eyes cleared and she looked to the bed where Arik lay so still and quiet. "He is getting a fever even as I speak to you. We will need to keep him sponged down with cool water. I need you to pull yourself together and help me, Mama Katya. Can you do that for me?"

Katya squeezed Erika's hands tightly and nodded. "We will make sure that he is all right." With that she let Erika help her to her feet and she moved over to sit beside her son on the bed. "I will not lose my son."

Erika stood and walked through the door of the bedroom into the outer room. Galen and the remaining Donan brothers followed her. She turned and looked at Galen before going to him and wrapping her arms around him. "I am so glad that you are fine, Galen. I don't know what I would do if you were hurt as well." With no concern for the other men in the room she pulled his head down to her and kissed him with all the passion that she possessed. She couldn't keep her hands from running all over his chest to reassure herself that he was indeed unhurt.

Finally she stepped back and looked deeply into his eyes. "I love you with all I am, Galen. I would die if something happened to you."

Galen pulled her back into his arms. "I love you as well, little one. I will love you always."

Marcus and Bannen watched the two and couldn't help but wish that they had such a woman to come home to. They would have willingly taken Tamya and were sure that they would have grown to love her in time. Now that was not to be. It made them angry all over again.

Erika finally stepped away from Galen although his arm remained firmly around her shoulders. "I wish to express my sorrow for you as well. I know that you planned to make Tamya your own and I am sorry for your loss."

Marcus nodded at the beauty that stood before him, but before he could respond Alexi burst through the door, panting for breath.

"She is gone. She must have heard of our return and fled before we could get to her."

"Then we will go after her." Marcus looked Galen in the eye. "I will not stop until she is found and made to pay for what she has done."

Galen nodded his agreement. "I will go with you. We will see to it that justice is found for Tamya."

Erika looked up at Galen and knew that her world was falling down around her. Arik was gravely wounded and might not survive and Galen was ready to leave again. Then Erika wondered if Livya would be foolish enough to head back to the cavern, thinking that no one would look for her there now. She thought that Livya just might.

"I have an idea of where she might have gone. If we hurry maybe we can catch her there."

Galen grabbed her and pulled her to him. "There is no we in this, little one. You will tell us and we will go. You will stay here and see to Arik. He has great need of you."

"I wish to go with you, Galen," Erika pleaded. "I will not be in the way. My mother and Katya will see to Arik for now. Then we will be back before he wakes."

"No, Erika. You will stay here and that is the end of it. Now tell me where you think that she might have gone."

Erika bit her lip to keep from losing her temper with Galen. He was only trying to protect her. She would just have to wait until he left and then head out on her own. Perhaps it was better that way.

"I'm not really sure. There was a place in the trees that she seemed to be searching when I followed her to the cavern. I was just thinking that there might be something in the trees that I missed."

"We will look in the woods by the cavern then." Galen pulled her to him and kissed her brow. "I love you, little one. Take care of Arik while I am gone."

Erika clung to Galen. "Please be careful, Galen. I couldn't handle it if you were hurt as well. Promise me that you will be careful." She pleaded before turning to Marcus. "Promise me that you will watch out for him."

Marcus nodded to her. "We will watch out for each other. This is the word of the Donan brothers."

Galen pulled her to him and kissed her passionately before setting her aside and walking out with the Donan warriors.

It wasn't until she was almost ready to leave an hour later that it was discovered that Reanna was missing.

Erika checked on Arik one more time before she left. She rubbed his brow with her fingers and kissed his fevered cheek. She loved him and she would personally see that Livya paid dearly for all that she had set in motion. Livya had betrayed someone who trusted her and saw her as a friend. Tamya had paid for that trust in blood. Now Arik lay so pale and still on their bed his body already ravaged with a fever that would either be the beginning of healing or the beginning of his end. How would she and Galen ever be able to go on without him?

Erika leaned close to Arik and whispered in his ear. She prayed to the goddess that some part of him would hear her words and that those words would show him just how much he was needed. "It's me, Arik. I love you so much. Galen has gone to find Livya and I am going to help him. I don't want you to worry for me though. I've kept a secret from you for quite a while now. Actually I've kept two of them but the time has come to share the biggest one with you. I'm a Guardian, Arik. The goddess has blessed me with the very power to move the earth and all that grows from it. I can bend the trees, make flowers grow and, Arik, I can even make the very earth itself shake. I will be fine, so don't worry over me. I want you to focus on getting well so that I can share my other secret with you and Galen. Just know that I love you and I will be praying to the goddess that you heal and come back to me." With that she kissed his brow and looked up to see her mother Erin and Mama Katya standing in the doorway.

"You plan to go?" Erin asked her daughter.

"I must go, Mama. I think that I know where she has gone and I would see her pay for what she has done."

"But, Erika, you cannot risk yourself this way. You are destined for a greater battle than this one."

Erika's eyes flashed with anger. "There is no greater battle for me than that for the man I love. I would gladly die for Arik and Galen if the goddess asked it of me."

Katya felt the tears on her face but made no move to brush them away. "May the goddess follow you and guide your path, your hand and your heart."

Erika embraced her mother through bonding and asked of her, "Will you watch over him for me?"

"I will not leave his side."

"Thank you, Mama Katya." She looked once more at her mother and then headed out of the room.

Erin stopped her with a hand to her shoulder. "I understand why you are going, Erika. I would do the same in your place."

Erika turned and embraced her mother. Her mother may not like what she was planning but she understood and that was good enough for Erika. "Will you wait here until I return?"

"I will stay and help to watch over Arik for you."

"Thank you, Mama. I will be careful. I promise that I will not take any foolish chances."

Erin nodded at her daughter and watched as she left the house. She could only pray to the goddess that Erika would be safe and well and that if Galen caught her he wouldn't kill her.

Chapter Thirteen

Erika made her way as silently as she could through the woods. She paid close attention to the noises around her. It took her over an hour to make it back to the hidden cavern she had followed Livya to just a few nights ago. She entered as quietly as she could, straining to hear whatever she could. She stopped and hid in the same little break in the cave wall that she had the last time she was here, when Tamya still lived. She felt such shame then. She should have tried then to bring Tamya back with her to the village. She should have insisted that someone come sooner.

She stayed hidden for what felt like hours before she finally heard what she had been waiting for. Livya's voice came from the opening of the cavern. She pushed as far back against the cave wall as she could when she felt the two women pass her on their way to the more open room of the cavern. Reanna was indeed with her but it looked like she was here on her own. Erika would do everything that she could to protect the young girl.

"We should be safe here for a while," Livya stated as she entered the big chamber and moved to the pond. "There is still plenty of food here to last us for a while. The Donan warriors have already been here once with Galen Savari. They should not check again. Plus if Tamya was even really taken from here then it is unlikely that others will show up again."

"You're probably right, Livya," Reanna replied. "You should be safe here until everything is settled back at the village. I will do everything that I can to find out why they are trying to blame you for Tamya's capture and death."

"It is because of that girl, Erika. She's trying to turn everyone against me. She is jealous of the fact that the Savari asked me to bond with them first. I declined them of

course." Livya gave a remarkably realistic look of fear. "I'm too afraid to bond with anyone."

My, my, my, the little liar even managed to blink tears into her eyes.

Reanna hugged Livya close to her. "You poor thing. I'm so sorry that you have to go through this after everything else you've been through. I'll do my best to set everyone straight."

Erika could see the wicked gleam in Livya's eye now that she was not facing Reanna. "Would you stay with me for a little while before you leave? I'm so afraid to be alone."

"Of course I will, Livya. Why don't you just sit down and I'll take a look at what supplies you have here so I'll know what to bring you."

Livya crossed with her and sat down while Reanna started sorting through things, seeing what they had and what they might need. Erika watched as Livya halfheartedly picked up a rock and started idly tossing it back and forth between her hands. Reanna was still looking through supplies.

"Is this all of the stuff that is here, do you think?" Reanna asked.

"There might be some more back behind," Livya volunteered and when Reanna bent over to check she took the rock in her hand and hit Reanna hard in the back of the head, knocking her out. Then she threw her head back and laughed.

"Thank you so much for your faith, my dear, but I think that I'll use you as my safety net instead. Having you will ensure that the Donans don't kill me and it will keep Galen away as well. Plus I'm sure that I can barter your body to Abran for my own safety."

Erika stepped out from her hiding place. "But it won't stop me, Livya." She had already taken note of the lush plant life around the pond, the scattering of rocks around the cavern. She had plenty of weapons at her disposal and before she was through she would use them all.

"Well, my, my, my. Look what we have here. Poor little Erika ran away too. Why, she just couldn't stand the hurt she had caused by chasing Tamya to her death."

"What are talking about, Livya? Planning more lies?"

"Just telling you what the village will think when they know that you're gone. No one will miss you."

"That is where you are wrong. I am not some shy girl who you can turn with your lies. I know who I am and I know who loves me. I've decided to share that with you."

"Well, lucky me," Livya murmured as she stood and moved toward Erika with the stone still in her hand. "You'll bring me more as a prize than the beautiful Reanna will. You know I watched you and Galen in the woods. I watched the way he fucked you and then I watched you with Arik. You're a bad, bad girl, Erika. You love to fuck. The others will enjoy you. I wonder just how many cocks you can take at once." She was close now. So close that Erika could feel the air of Livya's breath on her cheek when Livya spoke. "I'll enjoy watching them fuck you even more than I did Tamya."

Erika's eyes flashed fire and Livya laughed. "I watched as they each took turns with Tamya. Her screams were like ambrosia. Yours will be better."

"Yours will be justice, Livya," Erika said as she lifted her hands into the air. "What kind of woman are you that you could derive such pleasure from the pain of others? Are you even human?"

When Livya went to swing her arm with the rock at Erika, Erika just held her hand out and the rock crumbled to dust. Livya looked startled and began backing to the pond where Reanna still lay. Erika knew that she meant to use the girl but she just followed after Livya, waiting for her to get where she wanted her.

With a flick of Erika's hands vines shot from the water and wrapped around Livya's arms and feet, pulling her wide. Livya screamed in shock and pain. The vines were like hands ripping her apart. Her legs were stretched as wide as they could go and her arms felt like they were being pulled from their sockets. She would snap in two at

any moment and then it stopped. She looked down at Erika with eyes wide with fear. "Who are you? What are you?"

Erika walked up until she could look straight into Livya's eyes. "I told you that I was not some easily manipulated girl, Livya. You picked the wrong woman this time." She flicked her wrists and the vines pulled again, making Livya scream. "I am more than you could ever imagine, Livya."

Erika heard a noise behind her and turned to see Galen and the Donan brothers in the entryway to the cavern. They would take this from her. They would deny her this justice and she would not allow it.

"No!" she yelled and threw her hands in their direction. Boulders and rocks fell, blocking the entrance so that they could not enter but leaving room at the top so that they would know that she was not trapped.

"Erika!" She could hear the fear in Galen's voice.

"I'm fine, Galen. I will take care of this." She turned back to the still-screaming Livya and did her best to ignore the irate warrior now behind her. She vaguely heard them trying to move the rocks out of the entrance. She wasn't worried though. By the time they broke through she would have taken care of Livya just as she wanted to.

"Who are you? What are you doing?" Livya screamed out in terror as the vines pulled harder before Erika finally stopped them again.

"Do you feel no remorse for what you have done, Livya? Do you care that Tamya is dead? That Arik lies now upon our bed close to death's door?" Erika yelled at her.

"Tamya was a fool, an easily manipulated girl." Livya threw Erika's earlier words back at her. "She was eager to please, following me around like a dog at my heels."

"She trusted you and you betrayed her," Erika cried out as she pulled the vines taut, once more making Livya scream.

"She got what she deserved!" Livya screamed as she thrashed in the air, fighting the vines with all she had. "She had everything and didn't even appreciate it, didn't even know it."

"Is that what this is about? Were you jealous of her?"

"She had everything! I had nothing! They all had everything while I struggled every day just to make sure my aunt and uncles didn't kick me out."

"They? How many women have you delivered to the others?" Erika was horrified as the truth hit her. "That's what you've been doing, isn't it? You've been taking women to them. May the goddess save us! What have you done?"

"I did what I could. I persuaded them not to take me when they caught me when I was coming to my aunt's. It took me weeks to persuade them to let me go, to make them see that I could help them by bringing them other women." Erika could see the insanity in Livya's eyes. "Do you have any idea what I went through? No, of course you don't. I was raped repeatedly. I was only seventeen. They threw me on the ground spread my legs and kept me that way for two weeks," she screamed. "Sometimes two of them would mount me at once, sometimes there would be three. If I didn't suck and swallow just the way they wanted me to then they wouldn't feed me. Two weeks I endured that hell and then I made a deal to set me free."

"You made a deal that ensured that other women would endure that same hell. Knowing what you went through, how could you do that to another woman?" Erika demanded.

"Better them than me! I would do it again in an instant. I would do whatever I had to in order to survive."

Erika shrieked her rage at the world out as she used her hands to make the vines pull Livya deep into the pond. She lifted her in and out of the water repeatedly as she yelled her frustration. It tore her up inside to feel even the tiniest bit of pity for a woman who was not strong enough to stand up for herself. She understood Livya making the deal but not her willingness to keep it. She raged for the women that Livya had

befriended and then betrayed in the most horrendous way imaginable. All those women whose only mistake was in picking the wrong friend.

She felt hands on her shoulders and snapped back into the moment.

Galen shook her. "Stop this, Erika. Stop this at once."

She looked up and saw that the Donans now had a hold of the vines and were trying to unwrap them from the unconscious Livya. Reanna was sitting against the wall, watching it all with wide eyes. She had no idea just how long she had been consumed with her rage, how long she had lifted and lowered Livya into the water of the pond, how long she had kept the girl submerged. With a wave of her hand Erika released the vines from Livya and watched as Alexi lowered her to the cavern floor.

"Is she alive?" she whispered. She shouldn't care but she did. She didn't want to have that woman's life on her hands.

Alexi looked up and nodded his head. "Yes. She still breathes."

They were all looking at her and she didn't know what to say, what to do. She turned to Galen and looked up at him with tears in her eyes. "I'm sorry. I'm so sorry. I couldn't let her get away. She had to pay for Arik."

Galen closed his eyes. "He's..."

Erika shook her head. "No. He still lives. But he would not be in our bed now fighting for his life if not for her."

Galen pulled her to him and hugged her tight. "How did you manage this, little one? It seems that you have something to tell me."

Erika let her gaze linger on all four of the other people in the room before she spoke. "I pray that when you hear what I have to say that you will all keep my secret."

"What secret is that, little one?" Galen asked her.

Erika took a deep breath. "I am a Guardian, Galen." She waited, expecting him to laugh as warriors were prone to do. It was no secret that they did not believe in the coming of the Guardians or even that there was really a curse on the Isle of Altair.

When he didn't she continued. "I have been gifted by the goddess with power to move the earth. I can make plants grow and do my bidding." She waved toward the vines that had been around the wrists and ankles of Livya. "I can move rocks and even crush them with my thoughts." She pointed to the now-clear entrance to the cavern. "I know that you may not believe me but I'm not lying to you, Galen. That is why I could not give up my green. To deny I am of the earth would be to deny and reject the gift that the goddess bestowed on me."

"And your afternoons with your mother?" Galen asked calmly.

"They were so that I could work on controlling my powers."

"So your mother knows. Who else knows, Erika?"

"Mama Katya and that is it except for everyone in this room now."

Galen looked hurt and Erika couldn't figure out why. "Do you think so little of me that you chose to keep this from me? Do I mean so little to you?"

"No! Never that! I love you more than anything in this world, Galen. You and Arik both mean the world to me. I only tried to protect you from this. I know that warriors don't believe in the Guardians and I wanted to spare you for as long as I could."

"I would have believed you, Erika. I love you. I would never betray your trust."

Erika hugged herself against Galen. "I know that. Galen, please don't be hurt by this."

"If one shall die, all will be lost," Reanna quoted from where she still sat by the wall. "They will have to protect you with their lives if need be. A Guardian must be protected at all costs." She stood and walked to where Erika had wrapped herself around Galen. Gently Reanna laid her hand over where Erika's rested on Galen's shoulder. "I pledge to you my faith and honor. I will guard your secret even with my life." Then she knelt at Erika's feet.

"I can see why you wouldn't want anyone to know," Galen said dryly.

"Please get up, Reanna. There is no need to kneel before me. I am still just Erika, bonded mate to Arik and Galen."

Marcus stepped forward and helped Reanna to her feet. "I may not have believed in the past but now I have seen firsthand that Guardians do walk among us. My brothers and I will guard your secret close to our hearts as well and with our lives if they are needed."

Galen clasped his arm to Marcus'. "Thank you, my friend. I pray for happiness for you and your brothers."

Erika turned in Galen's arms and pulled Marcus down so that she could place a chaste kiss on his surprised mouth. "May the goddess bless you and yours."

Marcus nodded and told them, "We will leave you to continue in private."

"You are welcome to stay in my home as long as you would like," Erika offered Galen's friend. Galen nodded his agreement.

Marcus smiled down at Erika and turned to join his brothers in taking Reanna and the unconscious Livya back to the village. He prayed for the goddess to bless him and his brothers as well.

Galen turned to Erika once they were alone in the cavern. "I too would give my life to protect you, little one. I know that I can speak for Arik as well."

Erika turned to him and stood on tiptoes to take his face in her hands and kiss him softly on the lips. "Don't you know that is why I could not find the strength to tell you of this? That is my greatest fear, Galen, that I would be the cause of death for you and Arik. Can't you see that it would kill me? I would not make it without you! You and Arik are my world, my life, my heart. If you are gone then what do I have?"

"You will always have us. We would never leave you unprotected, never would have if we had known in the beginning."

"But would you have bonded with me knowing who I am, what I am."

"You are Erika, the only woman that Arik and I have ever loved. Nothing would have stopped us from taking you as mate."

Galen tugged on Erika's hand and pulled her closer to the pond. When he thought they were far enough he tumbled her to the soft moss-covered ground and began to hurriedly undress her. He kissed her deeply, stroking his tongue over hers while his hands stroked her body. She felt his knees parting her legs and moved her hands to his pants before he could. She tugged on the laces until they parted for her eager hands. She tugged his pulsing cock into her hand and cupped her other hand around his heavy balls.

Galen threw his head back and moaned his pleasure as she began to stroke and squeeze up and down and around his shaft. "Erika, I need you right now. I won't last long with your hands on me."

Erika licked along his jaw, taking pleasure in nipping at him with her teeth while she used her hands to guide him to the slippery wetness of her pussy. It was her turn to cry out when he surged home with the first hard thrust. She wrapped her legs around his back and held on as he pumped fast and furious into her. She was content to give him what he needed but Galen wouldn't let her. He latched onto her nipple with his lips and sucked vigorously at it, using his tongue and teeth to give her pleasure.

She arched and moaned, letting him know just how much she was enjoying his love play. Then she felt his fingers between their bodies rubbing against her pleasure pearl, bringing her closer to the brink. Just when she didn't think she could take any more, Galen pinched her pulsing clit hard and she shattered around him. She heard his grunt of pleasure and felt the hot splash of his seed pulse inside as she crested higher and higher on a wave of pleasure that seemed never-ending. She kissed and licked the sweat from Galen's chest as he moved to lie beside her on the moss.

"I love you, Galen, always. My heart and soul are only whole when I am with you and Arik." She thought of Arik lying in their big bed at home fighting for his life. "We must get home to Arik."

Galen helped her rise and dress, taking time to tuck his sated cock back in his pants and do up the laces as well. "It will be a hard few weeks while Arik fights, little one, but know this. He will come back to us."

"How can you be so sure, Galen? It was a pretty nasty wound in his side."

Galen replied with a twinkle in his eyes. "It would take more than a little cut like that for him to leave you all to me."

Erika smiled just like he had meant her to do and together, hand in hand, they went back to the village, back home to Arik.

* * * * *

It was the longest week of Erika's life. Arik's temperature ran higher and higher. He was delirious with it. He seemed to relive parts of his childhood at times, but the worst was when he relived some battle that he had been involved in. Erika knew that war was a constant on their little island. She knew that there were others who sought to take control of the land and the women. She wasn't naïve. However, she did not realize the brutality of it all until she listened to the ravings of her fevered mate.

It broke her heart to listen to the things that he had seen and fought. The men did such a good job of protecting that so many probably didn't know the extent of the war. To now know what Arik and Galen faced every time that they left was almost more than Erika could bear. How would she ever let them walk away now?

When Galen entered the room Erika was lying beside Arik on the bed with her head resting on his shoulder. She was stroking him with a cool cloth while she spoke to him.

"I'm so sorry for all that you have seen, Arik. I would change it all if only I could. Someday soon hopefully I will get the call. Remember that I told you that I am a Guardian. I have been gifted by the goddess with the power to move the earth. I would not lay this burden on you if there was any other way. But I cannot change what I am and I wouldn't even if I could. And I will not give up my love for you. I am too selfish for that. I need you, Arik. I need you to help protect me and keep my secret safe. When I

am called forth by the Mystic, I need to know that you and Galen will be there with me every step of the way. Please don't leave me, Arik."

Galen moved to her side across the bed from where Arik lay so still and silent. "Mama said that his fever finally broke." He stroked his hand over her hair as much to soothe her as to calm him.

"Yes, very early this morning it finally broke. But he hasn't woken up yet."

"He will, little one. Have faith in that at least."

"I love you both so much, Galen. I can not bear it if anything happens to either of you. I...I..."

Erika sat up quickly between her two mates on the bed. She took Galen's hand in hers and with the other grasped Arik's. Gently she placed them over her stomach, linking their hands together so that the two men in her life had their fingers laced with both of her hands holding them to her.

"You must wake up soon, Arik. You see I have just realized that there is to be an addition to our family." She heard Galen gasp and felt his fingers tighten beneath hers. "We are going to have a baby soon. Perhaps it will be a perfect set of little boys who will require the attention of both their fathers. Or perhaps it will be a little girl. She will need you, Arik, just as I have always needed you, to kiss the bad things away. She will need your smile and laughter to brighten her day. There are things that only you will be able to share with our children, things that Galen and I will not be able to see." She looked at Galen and was startled by the tears on his face and in his eyes. "We need you, Arik. Please come back to us."

Erika leaned over to Galen and kissed the liquid from his beloved face before covering his mouth with hers. Galen kissed her back with a soft tenderness that still managed to take her breath away. They both felt the movement of Arik's hand and turned to look at his face. His beautiful brown eyes were open and twinkling.

"A baby, huh?" he barely whispered. "Well, I can't miss out on that now, can I?"

Erika burst into tears and clung to his chest. Galen let her cry her relief out while he went to get his brother something cool to drink. He looked at Arik and smiled happily, letting his brother see the tears that shimmered in his own eyes. "It is good to have you back, brother."

"It is good to be back." With that Arik closed his eyes and held his pregnant mate close to his chest. "It is truly wonderful to be back."

Chapter Fourteen

Erika spent the next few weeks catering to all of Arik's needs. She rarely left his side as he continued toward a speedy recovery. She fed him by hand, lying beside him on the bed. She massaged his muscles for hours while he lay there moaning in pleasure.

Then one day during his massage Arik let her know exactly how well healed he was. He waited until she had straddled his thighs and was bending over to reach his calves and feet. She felt Arik's hands moving up her legs, pushing her skirt up until it hung from her waist, exposing everything beneath. He pulled her back until her knees rested just above his shoulders on either side of his head. He nudged them a little wider and then lifted his head and inhaled her rich musky scent.

Erika moaned at the feel of his hot breath on her sex. It had been a little over a month since she and Arik had been together and she had missed him. She and Galen had tried to be discreet and not flaunt their continuing sexual exploits in front of him but they both knew that Arik was aware.

"I need you," Arik told her. "It has been far too long."

With that he dived in, licking and sucking at her folds, scraping them with his teeth. He latched onto her clit sucking it lightly before moving back down to plunge his tongue swiftly into her slick pussy. He continued to lap at her while he brought his fingers up and used them to draw her moisture back to her anus. When he had lubricated her enough he began working his finger into her ass, thrusting shallowly before withdrawing and seeking more of her sweet pussy juices to rewet his fingers. He continued this in a slow but thorough manner that made Erika feel like she would go insane.

She dropped her head flat against his lap and nudged his erection with her mouth. She tugged the cloth that he wore aside and wrapped her hands around him, pumping

up and down his swollen shaft. His cock was as hard as stone, the engorged head dark red and dripping cum from its tip. Erika groaned deep in her throat as Arik worked two fingers in and out of her tight ass while continuing to lick and suck at the folds of her pussy. She licked all around the bulbous head of his cock, sipping the cream from the tip before working it into her mouth and sucking it into the back of her throat.

It was Arik's turn to moan and he didn't disappoint her. "Sweet, your mouth is so sweet sucking my cock. But I need to fuck you, Erika. I need to fuck you so badly."

He helped her turn so that she was straddling his hips again, this time facing him. She took his cock in her hands and slowly slid her wet pussy down his length, encasing him in her tight hot depths. She was careful of his side where his wound was still sore, placing her knee a little wider. Slowly Erika slid up and down his shaft, making them both groan in pleasure. When they both couldn't take much more she increased her rhythm, rising and falling faster and faster, taking them both higher and higher. Erika could feel her orgasm building, could feel Arik's cock swelling as they both crested and broke. Arik ground his hips into hers and held her tightly to him, burying his spurting cock as far inside her as it would go. Erika threw her head back and screamed her release to the world. "I love you, Arik. I love you," she exclaimed before dropping to rest on his chest.

Arik patted her back and held her close, his cock still pulsing inside her. "I love you too, my heart. I love you too." He glanced over Erika's naked back sleek with the sweat from their lovemaking and saw his brother standing in the door with lust in his eyes. Arik smiled at Galen and began kneading and spreading the cheeks of Erika's ass, letting his brother get a good look at the tight little hole that was still red from Arik's fingers.

Erika felt Arik grow hard inside her and sighed. "Ready again so soon," she said as she wriggled her hips against him.

Arik groaned and bent his head to kiss Erika on the cheek. "We have company."

Erika glanced over her shoulder and took in the sight of Galen standing at the foot of the bed, his huge cock in hand, the purple head swollen and damp. She smiled slowly at him and licked her lips. "Are you just going to watch again or are you going to join in this time?" she asked him.

Galen groaned and moved between her and Arik's legs on the bed. "Can you handle this, little one? Can you take us both at once?"

"When have I ever not been able to?" Erika demanded of her mate.

Galen stroked a hand down her back to her firm ass and squeezed a cheek gently. "I do not want to hurt the babe that you carry."

Erika softened and smiled at him. "The babe is well protected. You need not worry about that. We can still enjoy sex together through out most of my pregnancy." At his questioning look she added, "I have already spoken with my mother. There will be no harm to the babe or babes. We may have to get a little creative with positions as my belly grows but other than that we should be fine."

That was all he needed to hear. With a groan he placed his hand on the small of her back, making her arch the way that he wanted her to. Arik used his hands to spread the cheeks of her ass, giving his brother unfettered access to the tiny hole that he wanted. Using his other hand Galen placed his engorged cock at the reddened hole and pushed against it until he was able to slide past that first tight ring of muscles. They all groaned as Galen slid fully inside. It had been too long since they had all been together and it was heaven.

Arik enjoyed the increased tightness of her wet pussy, Galen the snug depths of her small ass. Erika relished the feel of both of her warriors being one with her again. She loved it when they both took her at the same time. She cried out in ecstasy as Arik and Galen began a counter-rhythm that had them filling first her pussy then her ass with thick hard cock. Arik's curved cock brought pleasure with every stroke while Galen's huge cock tunneling in and out of her ass added just a small bite of erotic pain. Galen

was bigger, thicker than Arik and his cock still brought a slight burn to her sensitive ass with each stroke in and out.

“Harder,” she demanded, “faster.”

Her warriors were only too willing to comply. They began filling her as one, both cocks pushing inside her. She could feel them rubbing against each other through the small membrane that separated them. They plunged deep, hard, fast and still Erika begged for more. She could feel her orgasm building, taking her higher and higher. There were too many sensations bombarding her body, too many emotions flowing through her. Erika came with a scream, reveling in the hot jets of cum that filled her to overflowing when her warriors reached their pleasure as well.

Her warriors. Her mates. Her heart and her soul. They accepted that she was a Guardian, even knowing what that entailed. They accepted her and loved her and wouldn't change bonding with her despite the things that they now knew. She was so grateful that the goddess had blessed her with power over the earth that she, Erika, was one of the Guardians. It was a show of faith and trust from the goddess herself. But more than that, so much more, was the blessing of her warriors, of Galen and Arik Savari. She thanked the goddess most of all for bringing them into her life and keeping them there. She thanked her for blessing her with warriors who loved her, who cherished her as if she was the whole world to them. And she was! They showed her that every day. She thanked the goddess for the blessing of true friends. Reanna had spent many days at the house visiting with Erika while Arik slept. Reanna would keep Erika's secret and would be glad to help Erika with her training.

The Donan brothers, Marcus, Alexi and Bannen, were true friends as well. They had stayed for a few days after returning from the cavern. When they had finally left they had escorted Livya to the tribunal of elders that were meeting to decide her fate. They had sent word back that Livya was to be given the full punishment provided by the law. Livya would be branded a traitor, bearing the mark of the fallen on her right cheek. Erika wasn't sure exactly what this mark looked like or how big it was or really

anything about it and Arik and Galen would not tell her about it. Worse to Erika was the fact that Livya was then to be placed in a small boat and cast from the island.

It was a fate that none would wish for. As hard as the warriors fought to protect their island there were still warriors, others from their world, who sought to take and claim the Isle of Altair and the women on it. Erika shuddered to think of what fate awaited Livya out there. She should not feel pity for the woman but there was a part of her that did.

Erika thought of the child or possibly children growing in her womb and prayed to the goddess to watch over and protect them. The Mystic would call on Erika when the time was right and Erika would have to go. She could only pray that when that time came she would be ready and able to do as she was needed to. Until then she could only pray to the goddess to protect and bless them all.

Epilogue

A woman stood silently in the trees unprepared to disturb the threesome making love in the grass. There was a dark-haired man lying upon his back on the grass. The brown-haired woman was on top of him and there was a brown-haired man behind her kneeling between the legs of the other two. The figure in the trees, Farrah, could see the slide of cock in and out of the woman's pussy and ass. The woman seemed to revel in the feel of the two warriors taking her body at once. Farrah had traveled a long way to find this woman. At least she was fairly certain that this was the woman that her aunt, the Princess Asme, had spoken to her of. If Farrah was right then this woman was one of the Guardians just as Farrah was. This woman would be the one who would help Farrah to work out how to control her own powers.

She had not meant to come upon them while they were so busy together. She had hoped to find the woman alone and speak with her quietly with no one else aware that Farrah was even there. Farrah silently slipped back through the trees, thinking to hide until the threesome was through and approach them then. What she did was back into a very hard, very warm body. A hand was quickly clamped over her mouth and her hands were held tightly to her body. She could not work her magic without her hands. She knew that there was a way to do this, which was why she was here to see the other Guardian. What could she do now? She could do nothing as they moved with her deeper into the trees until finally coming to a stop only when they were far enough away that they could neither see nor hear the threesome at play.

Alexi held the squirming beauty close to his chest while Marcus stepped out in front of her. Bannen would be upset that he had missed this. Alexi and Marcus had come to congratulate the Savari warriors on the birth of their twins. The babes had been delivered hale and hearty just six weeks earlier. Instead they had stumbled upon this

beauty. The woman had a rope of reddish-gold hair that hung past her hips and her eyes were almost the exact same fiery green as Erika's. In fact except for the hair color they could have been twins. The face was the same shape, the skin the same shade and texture. Marcus didn't know what to make of it. The girl was not yet claimed. He could clearly see her unmarked flesh above the band of her skirt. More promising still was that she wore the red top of his own fire caste. He did not know her though. She was not from his village, which meant that she had traveled to get here. There were many small villages that lay within the interior of the island. He knew not from which one she came from and at the moment didn't really care. He had other things on his mind as he studied her from head to toe, taking in every tiny detail including the small red mole that lay on her neck, the only blemish he could see on her creamy skin.

He quickly looked around, searching for whoever had traveled with her, but could see no one. It was unheard of for a woman to travel unchaperoned, especially one who was as yet unclaimed as her braid and unmarked flesh proclaimed.

"Who are you?" he asked her. "Where are your travel companions?"

"I traveled with no one. I am by myself." Farrah tried to speak around the hand over her mouth.

"If my brother removes his hand do you promise not to yell?" He could clearly see the fear in her eyes. "We wouldn't want to see anyone get hurt." He nodded his head back the way they had come, indicating the glen where he knew she had to have seen the Savari warriors loving their woman Erika. This girl didn't know that he and his brothers were friends with the Savari warriors and that was fine with him. She seemed to want to protect the bonded Savari mates for some reason and that intrigued Marcus.

Farrah nodded her head in acceptance and Alexi slowly removed his hand. The Donan brothers all stood at six feet seven and this girl must stand at least five feet seven or eight, judging by where her head rested in the middle of Alexi's chest.

Marcus looked into her eyes. "I will ask you again. Who are you?"

"I am Farrah." When she refused to add more Marcus continued.

"Where do you come from?"

"I am of the fire caste." Marcus already knew that by the color of her top but once again she refused to add more. Marcus knew that she could not tell that he and his brother Alexi were also of the fire caste. Warriors did not wear caste colors as their women did. Marcus began bombarding her with questions faster than she could focus and answer them.

"Who are your people? Where did you travel from? Why are you here? Who do you seek? Why do you travel alone?"

Trying to catch her unguarded, Alexi quickly asked, "How old are you, Farrah?"

"I will pass my twenty-first summer in a few days."

Marcus passed his hand over her unmarked flesh. "You are not claimed and yet you travel without protection."

Her eyes widened as she realized what she had given away, but Marcus gave her no chance to speak. Moving quickly he pulled the cylindrical weapon from his belt and knelt before her. Alexi realized what his brother was preparing to do and quickly grasped her hands in his and crossed them over her chest. Marcus held the weapon against her lower right abdomen just above her skirt and used it to place the head of the wolf on her, marking her as the bonded mate of the Donan brothers from now on. They had played by the rules once before with Tamya, the sister of the Savari warriors, and in the end had lost her. This time he would claim first and worry about consequences later. Besides, if the girl was truly traveling alone then there would be no one to protest his action. Once she was marked and bedded there would be nothing to be done anyway.

"From this moment forward you will belong to us. You now bear the mark of the Donan clan," Marcus informed her. "From this moment on, Farrah, you are the bonded mate of the Donan warriors and none will dare to interfere with our claim."

Farrah looked from the mark on her abdomen to the fierce warrior in front of her and wondered how everything had gone so wrong. She had done everything just as her

aunt had told her. The warrior before her was huge with bulging muscles. Unlike other warriors his blond hair was cut short, just barely brushing his neck in back and shaggy over his ears on the side. He had gorgeous blue eyes that were filled with lust as he looked over her body. She could already feel the stiff erection of the warrior holding her against him. It was like a club pulsing on her back.

And now when she was so close to her goal she was taken. Now she belonged to these men. No one would do anything to help her now since these warriors had marked her here where no one else was present to challenge their right. It would be their word against hers and she could tell by the sensual passion she saw in the one before her and her own traitorous body's response to it that she wouldn't stand a chance against them.

All she could hope for was that she could still get to the other Guardian while she was so close. Without any further concern for interrupting the pleasure of the three people in the glen, Farrah opened her mouth and screamed at the top of her lungs.

Instead of looking angry, the warrior in front of her just grinned and she could feel the laughter rippling through the chest of the one behind her.

Marcus leaned down and spoke with his lips just inches from hers. "No one can save you from us now, little one. We will not let anyone take you from us. But if you require an audience for our first mating then far be it from me to deny you."

Farrah gasped in shock as she looked with dawning horror at the enormous bulge in the warrior's pants. They would kill her with their lust. She would never be able to survive a mating with such a man, never survive a mating like the one she had stumbled upon in the glen. And her death would be the end before there ever was a beginning. Faint with hunger and tired from her long arduous trip, Farrah gave in to the darkness that over took her, fainting dead away against Alexi's chest.

Alexi lifted the girl into his arms while Marcus called out to the Savari clan that they could hear rushing toward them from the glen. Marcus could only hope that Arik and Galen had been able to finish what they had started with Erika. He knew there would be time to learn more of their new mate, Farrah, when she awoke.

For now they would continue with their plans to visit with friends and celebrate the birth of such unique twins. Never before had a warriors' woman given birth to a set of twins that consisted of one boy and one girl. It marked a new change in the ways of old. It would be interesting to see what happened now for all around them.

First he would see that Bannen was sent a message of their new mate. He looked for his brother to arrive close after nightfall. Tonight they would all find pleasure in the woman Alexi held cradled so gently against his chest. Marcus grabbed the end of her braid and began undoing it while they waited for the arrival of the Savari warriors. He was eager to have their sweet beauty bedded and fully claimed. Tonight would have to be soon enough.

The old woman looked down upon them. She took in the sight of the Guardian of Earth. The girl was strong and bold. She was training stringently for the task that lay ahead. She let her gaze fall to the other girl cradled against the chest of a tall warrior. The Guardian of Fire would learn quickly. When the time came she would be ready as well. She watched as they all came together, watched as the warriors greeted each other with smiles and the clasping of arms and smiled. "So it begins."

About the Author

Lacey Thorn spends her days in small-town Indiana, the proud mother of three. When she is not busy with one of them she can be found typing away on her computer keyboard or burying her nose in a good book. Like every woman, she knows just how chaotic life can be and how appealing that great escape can look. So toss aside the stress and tension of the never ending “to do” list. For now sit back, relax, and enjoy the ride with Lacey as she helps you to unlace and unleash the woman inside.

Lacey welcomes comments from readers. You can find her website and email address on her author bio page at www.ellorascave.com.

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