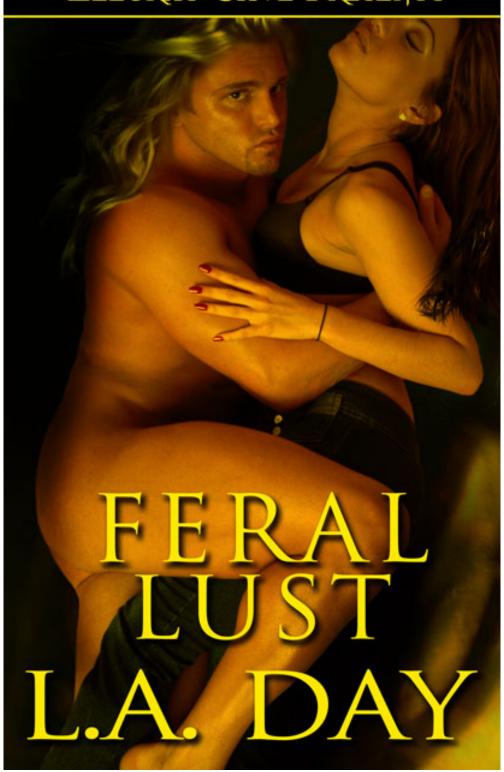
Ellora's Cave Presents



An Ellora's Cave Romantica Publication



Feral Lust

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Edited by Pamela Campbell. Photography and cover art by Les Byerley.

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FERAL LUST

L.A. Day

Chapter One

Riza Valde stood at the window of the library overlooking the courtyard brimming with guests. She had come up here to get away, to have a moment to collect her thoughts. The last few months had been a whirl of activity leading up to the joining ceremony between her brother Gio and his chosen mate Jenna. The ceremony would bring together two species of shapeshifters. Gio was alpha male of the Valde lupine pack and Jenna was the sister of Leon Muldrew, the alpha of the feline pride. Of course, her birth was proof of the fact that the breeds had come together before. She was a half-breed but it wasn't something she discussed. It was hard growing up as a half-breed in an orphanage. It would be different for Gio's children—they would be accepted and loved.

She huffed as she scanned the crowd below looking for Leon. The big feline was the reason was hiding in the library. Since she'd first seen him, he'd been on her mind and in her dreams. He disturbed her in a way no other male had ever managed. It wasn't purely physical, though tall, muscular blonds were on her to-do list, or would be, if she had a to-do list. No, it was something else, something primal, elemental that drew her to the feline. Breeds believed that the first time you scented your mate, you knew them for what they were. While the thought crossed her mind when Leon was near, she knew it couldn't be. Even though Leon liked her and appeared to be attracted to her, he didn't react as if he thought she was his mate.

No, Leon was a player and he treated her like any other available bitch. She needed to get a grip on her wayward hormones. Leon was a sexy, attractive male and she was just reacting to him as any normal unmated female would. Lusting after him was as far as she could allow it to go. It wouldn't do to have an affair with Jenna's brother. It might make things uncomfortable. Besides, Gio would go through the roof if he found

out. He expected her to be a virgin for her mate. If that was going to happen, she needed to find a mate and quickly. It was getting harder and harder to seek her solitary bed. Especially when she knew what was going on most nights in the community hall. The sounds and scents of the couplings nearly drove her up the wall. More than once she'd considered joining the fun. If she did, she'd be marked for life and considered a pack bitch, fucked by one and all.

At twenty-one, she wasn't over the hill but most lupines her age had a mate to ease the ache of a heat cycle. She was tired of being alone but, with her heat cycle drawing near, she thought it best if she steered clear of Leon, at least for now.

As if her thoughts had conjured him, Leon appeared. As it was to the lion within him, stealth was part and parcel to his nature and he'd entered the room without a sound. He had a natural athleticism and grace, no matter what he wore. Today, he was dressed for the occasion and his elegantly tailored clothes emphasized his broad shoulders and lean hips. His sheer presence stole her breath. His size overshadowed everything. "Hiding, Riza?" he purred as he stalked across the room.

"No. Just taking a break." She smiled hesitantly, the hair on the back of her neck bristled in awareness. "What are you doing up here?"

"Looking for you." The whiskey-rough timbre of his voice shivered along her spine, settling in a quake between her thighs.

Riza laughed, knowing better than to take Leon seriously. Her brother had already warned her about the "randy feline", as he called him. Gio had sensed her interest in the other male and told her that he liked and respected Leon. He was, after all, Jenna's brother and they had been friends for years but... Riza shivered as she remembered what Gio had said about Leon. Leon's a great guy but he has a way with the ladies, if you know what I mean. There's always one around and sometimes two or three. He wouldn't set out to hurt you, but he would.

Leon's quick stride carried him around the big oak desk to within inches of her. His warm, musky scent hung in the air. A predatory air followed him, his deep-set eyes and

high cheekbones reminded her of his feral nature. "Are you going to rejoin the party or do you want to stay here?" His hand trailed a heated path across her cheek into her hair. "Personally I'm all for staying right here," he murmured as he tilted her head and poised his lips just over hers. His breath, with just a trace of bourbon, fanned her face. Her senses reeled at his proximity. She needed to remember not to take him seriously. Her pulse pounded and she was sure he could feel it—feel the way his potent, masculine air stirred her blood.

A wayward moan escaped her lips. Leon didn't need any more encouragement and his lips brushed hers in a whispery caress. Gleaming golden eyes watched her reaction from beneath thick, blond lashes.

As much as she wanted to, she couldn't let this get out of control. "Leon I..."

His tongue glided over her bottom lip—the raspy caress of a feline tongue. In her adult life, she'd kissed only one male and it was nothing compared to this. She didn't know if it was the difference in texture or the difference in the male but this kiss was spine tingling. She could only imagine what that coarse tongue was capable of on other, more tender parts of her anatomy. Her pussy slicked with lust. It was best she not imagine it.

"Riza, open your lips for me, baby. Let me come inside." That voice, those words... If he only knew what he was doing to her. Ahh but it was Leon, he probably already knew. Hell, the lust was so thick in the room even a human could scent it.

Of their own volition, her lips parted and waited to be penetrated. Their tongues met—his rough, hers smooth—and they danced to the music that floated up from below. Now she knew what Gio meant when he said an experienced male could bypass her defenses in no time.

She had to grasp his shoulders as her legs weakened. Riza prided herself on always standing on her own two feet. She might be small in statue but she made up for it in might. She trained with the Valde guard but just now, she felt weak as a babe.

The strong band of Leon's arms gathered her close and lifted her up to snuggle against the brute strength of his chest. She felt secure and protected. She didn't want to enjoy it but she did.

When he changed tactics and began to lick the inside of her mouth, she wiggled, trying to alleviate the growing ache burning low in her belly. A large hand settled on her ass, binding her tightly and she felt his thick erection straining against her thigh.

Heart-pounding, thigh-quivering arousal surged through Riza and she knew it was time to stop. "Leon," she gasped as she pulled her lips from his.

Their eyes met and he appeared as dazed with arousal as she felt.

"Riza," his tone coaxed as he lowered his head, trying to recapture her lips.

A well-placed shove to his chest took him by surprise and she was able to regain her feet.

"What's wrong?" Leon questioned. He knew she was as into the kiss as he had been. Even though his usually keen senses were off, he knew she was far from immune to his touch. He had felt her heart pound and the tips of her breasts harden as she turned to liquid in his arms. He only wished he could have smelled her arousal as well. A nagging sinus infection had eliminated his sense of smell and to a feline that was similar to losing sight. As alpha of his pride, it was important not to show any weakness, so he hadn't told anyone of his condition. If he didn't recover soon, he would have to seek medical advice.

"Nothing's wrong. I just don't think this is the time or the place." Her hand nervously brushed back an errant curl that had come loose from her elegant coiffure. The silky texture had felt wonderful and he longed to unwind the stylish twist and allow her long, dark hair to swing freely down her back. He imagined wrapping his hands in it as she knelt before him accepting his cock into her mouth. Damn, just the thought alone made him ache.

He cleared his throat. "You're probably right about that but you could come home with me." Emerald eyes flared with wary need as she took a step back. "Or we could take a run tomorrow," he amended.

"Look, Leon, I like you but I don't want to be another conquest in a long line of conquests. So thanks, but no thanks."

He blinked rapidly, startled by the quick and total blow-off. He was used to getting his way and refusal didn't sit well. "Riza, it's not like that."

"No. What's it like?" Her flippant tone grated his nerves.

"I like you too."

"You like all women. Gio warned me."

His hands drew into fists, his nails extending just enough to dig into his palms. "Gio warned you about me? He fucked my sister the first chance he got and he warned you about me?"

"Hey, Gio loves Jenna, they joined today," Riza reminded him in a chiding tone.

"I helped him with Jenna." Anger burned that Gionne would betray him.

"So? Does that mean he's supposed to sacrifice me? You get to trade sisters, except you just want me temporarily?"

"Damn it! You aren't giving me a chance," he snarled his displeasure, though he wasn't sure he could deny her words.

"A chance to what? You've already fucked your way through the feline females. I guess now you want to start on the lupine females. Can't have enough bitches spreading their thighs for you."

Taken aback at the acid-toned tirade, his eyes narrowed. "I thought you might be different, but obviously, I was wrong." Leon stormed across the room. "Don't worry, you're safe from me." He slammed the heavy wooden door behind him. He had to get out of there. It wouldn't do to run into Gio and Jenna while in such a mood, but soon he'd have a word with his new brother-in-law.

Frustrated, Riza slammed her hand on the desk, and with an angry swipe, sent papers flying. Why did she have to act like a shrewish bitch? Gio had mentioned Leon's reputation but he hadn't painted the picture as dark as she'd suggested. The truth was simple. She was scared. She wasn't used to losing control and she didn't like it, so she'd pushed him away. She worked hard to be in control of her life. She didn't want to lose it but did she want to lose him? Was that what she wanted? If he left now, she might not see him for a long time. He could find someone else—then where would she be? She didn't expect anything permanent with the big feline but she wanted a chance. She'd never know unless she tried. From the first moment she'd seen him, she'd known he was different. She would go after him. As angry as he was, he'd leave a scent trail a mile wide. He shouldn't be too hard to find.

As Riza stepped onto the patio, the party was winding down. There were very few felines left and Leon was nowhere in the vicinity. Gionne and Jenna were saying their goodbyes to a few guests. Thankful they were distracted, Riza took the opportunity to sneak away. Circling the perimeter of the property, she found Leon's trail. He'd left alone, in feral form, his discarded silk shirt left on the ground. She picked it up, inhaling the scent of musky male with just a trace of bourbon, and her pussy dampened. His scent acted as an aphrodisiac and her spine tingled in want of the change. Pulling off her gown, she rolled it up with his shirt. Shifting to lupine form with her gown and his shirt in her mouth, she started after him.

It was a cool evening, great for a run in the woods. His trail followed the stream and about a mile down, she found him. He had shifted back to human form and was bathing in a pooled area. The deep water hid his form from her eyes.

In wolf form, she curled up in the brush and watched the male. Leon's long hair was unbound and streamed across his shoulders in wet, rebellious waves. It was spring in the Faldron Mountains and there was a little ice left at the edge of the stream. The cold didn't seem to faze him. In fact, he still looked angry and she was surprised steam didn't rise from the frigid water.

The evening breeze carried his scent to her and her eyes landed on his pants. He'd discarded them at the edge of the water. With inborn stealth, she edged forward and grabbed the material and pulled it back into the brush. His scent was heavy on the cloth and she had to squelch her urge to roll on the material.

She peeked from cover as she waited for him to emerge. She might be in wolf form but she still had her mischievous, playful feline side.

Changing into human form, she donned her slightly wrinkled gown. She wanted to apologize and she couldn't do that while in feral form. A splash drew her gaze as he turned toward shore. Shaking his head, his wild golden mane fell about his shoulders. Her head spun.

A tawny, muscular chest with just a smattering of hair was first to come into view above the water. His next step revealed rippling abs with a trail of hair leading downward. The next step revealed his crowning glory hanging long and thick down his thigh. If the frigid water had any effect on his cock, it was hard to tell.

Riza swallowed nervously at the sight. Her hands trembled as she wiped their dampness on her gown. What was she thinking? She should leave before it was too late. Her eyes darted up to his face, met his glowing golden eyes, and she realized the time to run had passed.

She held his gaze, refusing to cower before him, as he sauntered closer, unconcerned with his nakedness.

Don't look down. Don't look down. Her gaze flickered briefly. "Oh my god." Her hand flew to cover her mouth, to stop the flow of words, but nothing could stop the imprint of his perfect body in her mind. His image was engraved forever on her eyelids and her thighs quivered. She locked her knees to stay upright.

"I wanted to apologize for earlier," she said quickly as he approached.

"Is this the traditional lupine way of apologizing?" His gaze lowered to his clothes in a crumpled pile of leaves under her feet. "If it is, take off your gown and I'll apologize to you." Dark humor laced his words but his eyes were serious.

She glanced down but her eyes lost their way as they encountered his considerable erection, now fully jutting from a nest of golden hair. Nervously, she shuffled and squatted to pick up his clothes. Finding herself on eye level with his groin, she froze. The long, thick, vein-riddled length jerked beneath her gaze.

A gentle hand closed around her jaw, shutting her mouth and tilting her face to meet humor-filled eyes. "You shouldn't leave your mouth hanging open like that or I might think you're waiting for me to fill it."

Riza shut her eyes as heat bloomed across her checks. She had never been in such a predicament.

Leon lightly grasped her upper arms and guided her to her feet. "You are an innocent."

His words fueled the blush that spread across her face and chest but she didn't reply.

"Why didn't you just tell me earlier that I was moving too fast for you?"

"I don't know," she whispered.

"I should have known except..." He hesitated. "I guess you throw me off-kilter."

She tried to smile and a nervous laugh escaped her lips. She didn't know where to look. She couldn't meet his eyes and she wasn't about to look below his waist again so she settled on his chest. It was a nice chest—heavily muscled, tight dusky male nipples, lightly furred.

"Contrary to what you were told, I was raised to respect innocence. And for your information, we don't have pack bitches. Not to say there aren't available females in my pack," he said matter-of-factly. She supposed he saw nothing wrong with it. As an alpha male it was his right to mount the willing females. By nature, males were dominant. It was a lesson she'd learned early in life.

"So, now you won't try to seduce me." It wasn't a question.

Leon laughed. "I didn't say that but I won't rush you into anything you don't want."

"If I do want it?" Her eyes fluttered up to meet his ardent stare.

"Oh, baby, don't say that right now. You don't realize how dangerous those words are." He pulled her closer as his hands slid down her arms to loop around her waist. She could feel the heat radiating off his body.

"I don't understand," she muttered, her mind in turmoil.

"I know. Give it time. There's no hurry."

"Okay." She swallowed nervously. She should be happy for the reprieve. Happy he seemed willing to wait, but deep inside she wasn't. A part of her wanted the dominant male to pursue her ardently. She wanted him to bend her to his will—to take her, mount her and mate her. A low moan escaped her lips.

The sound seemed to rouse Leon and he released her. "If you're done with your anatomy lesson, I should probably get dressed."

"Leon," she reproached as her eyes took another quick jaunt over naked flesh.

He inched closer. "Unless you want to take your gown off so I can show you how we are meant to fit together."

Nervously, she scooped up his clothes and threw them at him. "It's a shame to cover such perfection," she muttered as her fascinated eyes were drawn to his hair. She'd never seen it loose before. As it dried, it lay in waves around his shoulders. It reminded her of the beast she knew lurked within him.

"Thank you."

"What?"

"I said, thank you," Leon purred as he stepped into his pants, pulling them over his sinewy thighs. Her lashes fluttered as she watched him stuff his erection beneath the cloth and force the zipper closed.

"Please tell me I didn't say that out loud?" She shut her eyes to stem her humiliation and even the coolness of the breeze could not stop the heat on her cheeks.

"That I was perfect. Yeah, you did."

"How embarrassing." She turned away as he finished dressing. She should just leave. She'd embarrassed herself enough for one night.

"Don't be embarrassed. I think you're perfect and it doesn't embarrass me to say so." His arms came around her, holding her tightly. Her head fell back against his chest and his lowered his head as he brushed a kiss against her temple. "Thanks for bringing my shirt."

"You're welcome."

"It's getting late. I should walk you home," Leon said but made no move to release her. The musk of male lust saturated the air and her pussy grew slick in reaction.

"I know the way." Riza didn't attempt to move out of his arms. Instead, she sighed as she leaned against the big male. The press of his erection against her ass roused her inner beast and she longed to turn in his arms. To taste and touch every inch of the skin her eyes had so recently discovered.

"I'll walk you just the same." It was several minutes before either of them moved.

* * * * *

The compound was quiet as Riza hurried through the dim halls. Even the community hall was empty as she crept by. The door stood open and only a trace of stale lust remained. She was sure Gionne and Jenna had long retired as had most of the pack. It had been a long day of celebrating and imbibing of spirits. She should probably check with Dirk to see if he needed an extra guard for tonight. She wouldn't sleep anyway.

Entering her room, she tugged her gown over her head and flopped on her bed. Her velveteen comforter rasped her swollen nipples. Rolling to the side, she covered a tight-tipped breast with her hand. It was obvious she was going into heat and Dirk wouldn't

let her work guard duty in her condition. You'd think it was a disease and the males were afraid to catch it. It was rather amusing to watch them scurry away from a bitch in heat. As much as the scent drew them, it scared them away. They all were afraid of *the trap*. As if she'd want to trap any of them.

She huffed and rolled over on the bed, staring at the pink canopy hanging overhead. She needed to redecorate. This was the room of a girl, not a woman. No wonder no one took her seriously. It'd be a waste of her time to report for guard duty. She barely guarded anything in the best of times. Gionne and Dirk insisted on treating her like a defenseless girl. Standing in the middle of her bed, she ripped the pink material from the rails. She'd never been overly fond of the canopy anyway. Gionne'd had the room decorated for his little sister, when he'd found her at the orphanage. It had been a thoughtful gesture and at the time, she had loved it just because it had shown he cared. At eighteen, pink lace hadn't been her style but she hadn't complained. Anything was better than the off-white linens of the orphanage. Now though, it was time for a change. It was time Gionne acknowledged she was an adult and a guard.

She wasn't defenseless. "Too bad we're not alone or I might teach you a new trick or two." Her cheeks still heated as she remembered her humiliation at Leon's hands. She had pulled a dart gun on him when he had accused her of being unable to defend Jenna. It had only taken him a moment to disarm her and pin her beneath him. The most humiliating part was how her body had responded to him lying upon her. That was when she'd first known he was different. Much different from any other male she'd met.

Unfortunately, he probably saw her as just another female. He wanted her. That was a fact. But Leon liked females—all females. At least they were on speaking terms and she'd had her anatomy lesson. And what a lesson. Just the sight of him set her senses ablaze. She could only imagine touching and tasting such forbidden delights. Even the scent of lust from the community hall wouldn't tempt her tonight. No, there was nothing in there half as tempting as what she'd glimpsed today.

A smile curled her lip at the thought of his goodbye kiss. Since discovering her innocence, he'd been a perfect gentleman. He had insisted on walking her home but had stopped at the courtyard, declining to come farther. The kiss had been gentle, born of tenderness and caring, not of passion and desire as the earlier ones.

Leon had left with a promise to see her very soon. Gionne wouldn't like it but it was time he let her grow up. Her eyes closed, Leon's name on her lips.

* * * * *

A nearly full moon lit Leon's way to his stronghold and his steps were lighter than they had been in years. Jenna was finally settled and happy with her mate and his future seemed brighter. The merger of the Muldrew and Valde families was a positive step. The lupines were powerful allies in a sometimes uncertain world.

The mountain was flourishing from the spring rains and game was once again plentiful. It was the time of the seed moon—the time for planting—and his people busily worked their fields. If the coyote band would just stay on their lands, everything would be perfect.

As he neared his home, the call of a female seeking a mate filled the air. His ears pricked. At one time, he would have stopped and serviced the female but tonight he had no interest. Entering his stronghold through a side door, he hoped to reach the peacefulness of his rooms undisturbed.

"Leon." He turned to find Tomas, the head of his guard, awaiting him.

"Hello, Tomas."

"It was a good day. Your sister seemed quite happy."

"Yes, it was a good day," Leon agreed.

"The lupines will be fine allies."

"I've known Gio for years. I trust him."

"I was thinking there might be more joinings between the felines and the lupines."

Leon wondered at his suggestion—did he know about Riza? He didn't think any of his pride saw them together but he could be wrong. He wasn't ready to discuss his feelings for the little lupine. "I suppose it's possible," he replied. "It's been a long day. If you don't need me, I think I'll retire for the night.

"Of course, don't let me detain you."

Closing the door behind him, he stripped off his shirt and stretched. It *had* been a long day and his tense muscles ached. A long soak in the hot tub would be just the cure. Unfortunately, it wouldn't alleviate the dull ache that had filled his balls since he'd had to leave the innocent Riza. He wasn't used to innocent females or denying himself.

Steam rose around him as he relaxed back in the hot water and his mind turned to thoughts of Riza. He inhaled the heated vapor, hoping to clear his sinuses. Until his sense of smell returned, he couldn't enjoy the full flavor of Riza. The sense of smell was a powerful aphrodisiac. The scent of a hot female sent his lust into overdrive, and a female in heat... He avoided those. Their scent could drive an unmated male crazy but it was a trap. Fucking a female in heat was a sure way to find yourself committed, with a bunch of kids.

The click of a door drew his attention. Jaylyn, a sometimes bedmate, sauntered into the room. Her choice of clothes revealed her intent. A gown—the hem cut high, revealing lots of thigh, the neckline low, showing off bountiful breasts—graced her curves. Ordinarily, he would have risen to the occasion but he found himself curiously unaffected by her overt display.

"Hey, lover, do you want your back scrubbed?" Jaylyn purred while leaning over the tub. Her breasts nearly fell out of their miniscule covering. He could see the edges of her brown puckered nipples. But all he could think of was smaller, firmer breasts that had never been touched or suckled. His lip curled at the thought. He wondered what color Riza's nipples would be, a variation of brown or pink. Soon, he intended to find out.

A splash of water brought him back to the present. "No, thanks."

"What did you say?" Jaylyn blinked. She sounded incredulous at his refusal.

"Not tonight." He had never turned her away before. Hell, he'd never turned any female away until recently, but tonight she left him cold. The ache in his balls was not one she could alleviate. Not one he wanted to alleviate with her.

"You're refusing me? Are you feeling okay or...?"

Leon pursed his lips. He wanted to be honest. It was time he became more than just a playboy. He might not be ready for happily-ever-after but he was beginning to think it might have some merit. "There's someone else."

"That's never stopped you before. Maybe she'd want to join us?" Jaylyn's hand dipped under the water and brushed against his flaccid cock.

"This time it's different." The words surprised him almost as much as his hand wrapping around her wrist, stopping her exploration.

"Different?" Her brow arched. "Okay. Well, I'll be around when you get tired of having just one female." Jaylyn flounced out of the room. If she'd been in feline form, he was sure her tail would have been twitching in annoyance. His lip curled as he wondered which male of his pack would benefit from the rejection.

With a sigh, he sank back into the water. Thoughts of a little lupine filled his mind. She was ripe and ready for the taking. Her innocence surprised him. His taste didn't usually run to virgins but Riza was different. His lips curled upward as he imagined splitting open her tight, virgin cunt. Teaching her to suck his cock and enjoy his thick shaft dominating her ass were experiences he hoped to enjoy soon. He wasn't sure where they were headed but he was sure he would make her his...at least for a little while.

Chapter Two

"I didn't expect to see you so early on the day after your joining," Riza said as Jenna took a seat across from her at the breakfast table.

"Gionne has some business to attend to. Besides, I'm hungry. Eating for two you know." Jenna rubbed her round stomach and smiled happily. "So, tell me what were you talking about with Leon yesterday?"

Riza choked on her sip of coffee. "The ceremony, the weather and such."

"I guess there wasn't a lot of time to talk."

"No." Riza shook her head and busied herself filling her plate. The smell of crisp bacon and scrambled eggs had her stomach growling. She hadn't eaten much yesterday with all the excitement.

"It's hard to talk and kiss at the same time."

"What?" Riza's fork clattered to the table.

"I came upstairs to freshen up and heard voices. I just peeked. You looked cozy." Jenna grinned around a piece of toast.

"It was just a kiss."

"It's never just a kiss with Leon."

"What do you mean?" Riza asked. Jenna was Leon's sister. She knew him better than anyone. Riza wanted to question her but was leery of revealing too much in the process.

"Nothing. I just don't want you to get hurt. I would be ecstatic if you two joined but I know Leon. When he falls, he'll fall like a ton of bricks and no other female will stand a chance. I don't want you crushed."

"There's no need to worry. I can handle Leon." Riza tried to portray a confidence she didn't feel.

"That's what I told Gionne."

"You told Gionne." Riza sighed and closed her eyes. "Did you have to tell him?"

"He is my mate and your brother. He only wants what's best for you."

"He's already warned me about Leon." Riza stared into her coffee. "The last thing I need is another lecture."

"We care about you, Riza."

"I know. I have to get to the training field." She shoved back her chair and turned from the table, leaving her full plate untouched. She guessed she should thank her lucky star they didn't know she'd left the compound to go after Leon last night. She could only imagine the lecture she'd get for that.

Riza landed on her ass with a heavy thud. A grimace contorted her face as she raised her head to glare at her blond sparing partner.

"Where's your head today?" Dirk asked.

"Where's your head, asshole?" She rubbed a hand over her bruised derriere. Not only was her ass bruised but her favorite pair of jeans was ruined.

"Testy." He smirked.

"Shut up and practice." Riza gained her feet and poised to attack. If she wanted to be taken seriously, she needed to be serious.

"Not in the mood to talk. What's wrong, cat got your tongue?"

"What the fuck do you mean by that?" Riza charged, sending a flying kick at Dirk's head that nearly connected. At the last minute, his arm blocked the blow, knocking her away but she landed on her feet.

"It means yesterday your tongue was down Leon's throat and I wondered if you got it back."

"What are you, a Peeping Tom? You have to get your kicks watching others now that Gionne won't let you fuck his mate anymore." Delivering a verbal blow that was sure to sting, she spun around and kicked out. This time, her kick landed in the middle of his chest but he managed to catch her foot, shoving her backward to land on her sore ass again.

"Who I fuck isn't any of your business," Dirk growled, standing over her with his hands planted on his hips.

"And who I fuck isn't yours." Riza stomped off the training ground, struggling not to limp. Did everyone know about her and Leon? Maybe it was on the bulletin board.

Chapter Three

"Leon, I didn't expect to see you today. Is everything all right at the stronghold?" Jenna asked her brother.

"Hey, Sis." Leon leaned down to place a kiss on Jenna's cheek and a pat on her rounded, obviously pregnant stomach. "Everything's good. Actually, I stopped by to see Riza." He flopped into a chair across from his sister and eyed the ball of yarn she was using to knit.

"Riza. Hmm, I wondered how long that would take."

"What?" Leon asked, spreading his hands and grinning.

"For you to come sniffing around."

"Jenna!" he tried to sound shocked.

"Look, Leon, don't play games with me or with Riza. She's my sister-in-law now and I like her. I don't want you breaking her heart." Jenna injected a serious tone into the conversation.

"Do you think I could?" he questioned, hoping he didn't sound like an anxious adolescent.

"I don't know. Do you care?" Jenna drilled him with a direct gaze that made him want to squirm. Jenna had long been after him about his playboy ways. She thought it was his duty to settle down and produce an heir. He intended to someday. He was just waiting to find the right woman. He was beginning to think he'd found her.

"Maybe. What'd she say about me?"

"Suspiciously, very little, and usually when Riza's quiet it means trouble."

"I'm just here to join her on an afternoon run."

"Gio won't like it."

"Why?" Leon could understand Gio's defensive attitude but he didn't like it.

"Gio's protective of Riza. She grew up in an orphanage and in some ways, she's street smart, strong and savvy, but she's still an innocent. He won't want her used and discarded."

"I know. I don't intend to use her. We're friends and we'll see from there." Leon lowered his voice. "Just don't warn her away from me." He was not used to asking for favors. He didn't want to plead but this was important to him. His relationship with Riza was on shaky ground at best and any interference from Jenna could tumble it before he had a chance to cement the union.

Jenna cocked her head and narrowed her eyes. "Okay, but don't make me sorry."

His eyes darted around. Several females were tending a flowerbed. A blonde tossed him a come-hither look over her shoulder but he felt no interest in the shapely female. "So, where is Riza, or Gionne, for that matter?"

"Riza's on the training grounds and Gionne's in his office, I believe. I just came out for some fresh air. It's good for the babe." She rubbed her stomach.

"Don't you think Riza's a little small to train with the guard? I don't want her hurt." He didn't like the picture in his mind of Riza wrestling with a male. He was the only male she should wrestle.

"She's fine. It's good exercise and Gionne won't let her do anything really dangerous."

"I still don't like it," Leon grumbled.

"You do care." Jenna patted his cheek. "I knew there was a heart in there somewhere."

"I love you, Jenna." He grinned.

"I know. I love you too, brother. Now let's go find Riza for you."

* * * * *

Riza trotted to keep up with Leon as he hiked up North Trail Peak. She hadn't traveled this trail since the recent forest fires had claimed much of the woods. She was glad to see the land recovering. Scurrying over the remains of a burnt tree, she asked for the second time, "How much farther?" It wasn't that she was tired, though her ass was still a little sore. She was in great shape. She trained hard almost every day but Leon said he had a surprise for her and she was curious.

"We're almost there." Leo stopped in front of her. "Shut your eyes and give me your hand."

Without her eyes, her other senses compensated and she detected a sweet aroma. Leon hesitated in front of her and she stumbled into him. His woodsy scent filled her lungs.

"Be careful here, the ground's not level and there are some sharp stones," Leon told her as he led her around an outcrop of rocks. Her feet were bare—like most breeds, she rarely wore shoes.

"Are you ready?" Leon asked, his breath a whisper at her ear.

"Yes," she replied, suddenly breathless with excitement. No one had ever surprised her like this.

"Open your eyes."

"Leon," Riza gasped as her eyes settled on a large blanket spread in the middle of the clearing. "A picnic." A basket sat on one corner of the blanket but what truly amazed her were the flowers. Aromatic, cut flowers littered the clearing. She turned, grabbed his hand and squeezed. "Where did you get all the flowers?" She saw roses, daisies, daffodils and many others she didn't recognize.

"A friend of mine has a hothouse. I had to promise to bring him a fresh kill once a week for a month. I didn't know your favorite flower."

"So you brought them all." She blinked rapidly, refusing to cry. "They're beautiful." "You're worth it. Wait until you see what's in the basket."

Giggling, she dropped to her knees and flipped open the lid, inhaling deeply. "It smells delicious." Leon pulled out a bottle of wine and an insulated container.

"Seasoned rib tips, baked potatoes, fresh bread and wine." Riza's stomach growled and they both laughed.

"I guess you're hungry. If you want to fill our plates, I'll pour us some wine."

"Okay." Riza filled plates for each of them and settled cross-legged in the middle of the blanket. "Mmm, this is delicious." Riza closed her eyes, savoring the rich flavor of the rib tips.

"Have some wine." Leon handed her a wine goblet, the red liquid swirling in the crystal.

Tentatively, Riza took a sip. She wasn't used to drinking. The wine was sweet with just a little bite to it. Licking her lips, she lifted the glass to her mouth again. "This is good."

By the time she'd finished eating, she'd polished off her third glass of wine. "I'm stuffed." She laughed, rolling over on the blanket and patting her flat stomach. "My jeans are too tight."

"Take 'em off." Leon flashed a feral grin. "If it'd make you feel better, I'll take mine off too."

"Ha, real funny." Scooping up a handful of cut flowers, she buried her heated cheeks in the array, sniffing the fragrant blossoms.

"Don't you trust me?" Leon purred.

"Maybe I don't trust myself." Her eyes fluttered up to meet his lust-filled gaze.

Leon's grin vanished as he silently watched her. Golden eyes gleamed as he rolled to her side. "Leon," she gasped breathlessly. His nearness played havoc with her nerves.

"Shh, I won't do anything you don't want." Thick fingers rubbed her belly in slow but tight circles. "But..."

"Riza, I know you're innocent. Trust me."

Biting her bottom lip, she studied him. He hovered over her, the feral predator waiting to pounce. An involuntary shiver rocked her frame. Her pussy quivered from just the brush of his big body as he settled close to her and she clenched her damp thighs together. Her arousal fragranced the air and she knew he could smell her ripe scent. The scent that proclaimed she was nearing her heat cycle. Honorable males didn't dally with females in heat unless they had serious intentions and she held that thought dearly as she made her decision. Throwing caution to the wind, she nodded. "Okay."

A grin split his handsome face and her heart turned over. *Oh lord, she would probably regret this.*

His head lowered until his lips brushed her cheek. "Your skin is so soft," he whispered at her ear. "I want to taste you." His tongue dipped into her ear and she gasped as tingling sensations rode her spine.

"Leon."

"Relax," he purred, his hand sliding from her hip to just below her left breast. "I won't take you but I need to touch you, taste you. I need to see if you're real, if what I feel is real." His ardent plea stirred her deeply.

His tongue parted her lips at the same time his hand closed on a cotton-covered breast. Riza whimpered, arched and then shuddered as delicious sensations unfurled low in her belly. Her hands fluttered, unsure what to do. They landed on his shoulders—his warm, heavily muscled shoulders. The silk shirt slid easy across his skin as she learned the contours of his back. Long, golden hair bound at his neck drew her fingers and they tangled in the silken strands before tugging loose the tie. A curtain of hair fell around them, enveloping them in his musky, male scent.

He growled low in his throat as she writhed beneath him. Petite in stature, she truly felt diminutive as he blanketed her body. His mouth devoured hers as his tongue thrust repetitively between her lips. With every breath, she inhaled his scent, his musk. She breathed him, tasted him and absorbed him into her pores. Her heart pounded and her senses tingled as her pussy ached with need. She arched upward as her hands tore at his shirt. Her inner beast surged to life and his shirt ripped beneath her extending nails as she fought to hold off the shift to feral form.

"Riza," he growled, as their lips broke apart. "Breathe." His own voice was breathless as he gently stroked her body.

"Help me, Leon." She felt tears pool in her eyes. She hated feeling helpless and out of control. Never before had the beast within tried to wrench control from her.

"It'll be okay, baby. It's my fault. I took you too far too fast. I didn't expect you to react with such need."

"I'm sorry." Tears began to roll and she sniffled. She'd done nothing but embarrass herself since their first meeting. It was a wonder he wanted anything to do with her.

"Sorry! Don't be sorry. Riza, you were burning me alive. It's never been this good. When we make love, we'll set the world on fire." His arms wrapped around her, holding her tight, rocking her in his arms.

Harshly, she inhaled as her body trembled, still trying to come down from such dizzying heights. "Leon, I can't..."

"I know. Let me make it better for you." His warm hand slid under her T-shirt raising it over her chest. Her stomach muscles twitched as he exposed her unbound breasts. "I'll bring you down nice and easy. Next time you won't be so overwhelmed."

Riza whimpered under his knowing touch. She should stop him before she lost control again.

"Close your eyes and breathe." His big warm hand palmed her breast and a thumb gently strummed her nipple. "Relax and concentrate on my touch."

Her nipples tingled and little jolts of energy shot straight to her clit. She licked her lips and sighed. Heat filled her veins and bloomed on her skin.

"Do you feel good?" Leon purred, his lips brushing her ear.

Riza nodded. Good didn't begin to describe the way he made her feel.

"This is going to feel even better." His warm breath fluttered across her chest. Startled, her eyes popped open and watched as his mouth closed over one tight-tipped breast. Her breath lodged in her throat. His mouth was hot, wet as he suckled gently and light exploded behind her eyes. His raspy tongue flicked her nipple and something burst. She groaned and arched upward. "Leon."

"That's right, baby. Enjoy it, revel in it."

She mewled unintelligibly as he rolled her nipple between thumb and finger. All these years she'd been exposed to the scents and sounds of mating but she'd never realized the true joy of it.

"What are you feeling?"

"I don't know. I tingle and I ache," her voice vibrated with need. She had no words to describe the sensations.

"Here?" he asked laying his hand low on her belly. At her nod, he slid his hand lower until his fingers cupped her denim-covered mound. She gasped and arched up as white-hot sensation burned. His fingers pressed down tightly over her aching center.

"Leon." Oh lord, she should stop this.

"You need this, baby. You're so hot and wet. I can feel it through your jeans. You need to come."

He began working her jeans over her hips and she panicked, grabbing at his hands, but he refused to give way. "No..."

"It's okay. I'm just going to touch you." She didn't protest further as he striped her pants down her legs. Cool air settled over her heated flesh and she shivered.

Lying nearly naked next to him, a blush heated her skin and she clenched her thighs together.

"Relax," he purred as he stroked her thighs. She unclenched her legs and one hand dipped between them. His fingers parted her slit, finding her clit and she lost her will to

protest. "That's it, bend your knees." Her thighs trembled and she tried to press them back together. "No. I want you open." His breath fanned her tender folds. "You look so delicious drenched with sweet cream." The words had no more than left his lips when the heat of his wicked tongue flicked her nub.

"You shouldn't...you shouldn't," she pleaded as her back arched and she writhed beneath his touch.

His raspy tongue took one slow lick through her folds. "Ahh, fuck." Her heels slammed the ground as she bucked against him. "No...no," she begged. The sensations he ignited frightened her.

His thumb worked her clit as his tongue dragged a merciless path along her pussy lips. Her body vibrated, her heart pounded and she couldn't breathe. The sensations built and tormented but release lurked just out of reach. "Leon, please..."

"Okay, baby, come for me." He pinched her clit as his tongue scrapped her folds and something—a finger?—thrust into her pussy. In and out, it drove deep and that was all it took for the sensations to boil and burst. She screamed as her hands wrapped in his hair. Her legs closed on his head as she rocked and groaned. Her pussy clenched and pulsed as he continued to lap up the cream that poured from her body.

Leon's mind spun dizzily as he slurped the most delicious cream he'd ever tasted. He hadn't tasted a virgin's cream in years but he didn't think that was the difference. No, it was something else. He had his suspicions but...he wasn't ready to jump to conclusions. If only he had all his senses functioning properly.

Lifting his head, he met misty green eyes. "Riza." She looked like a well-loved woman. Tousled hair, flushed cheeks and swollen lips drew a grin to his face. "It's okay." He stretched to lie alongside her. "Damn, that was sweet." He licked his lips, savoring her taste as he willed the ache in his cock to subside. He wanted her but he wanted it to be right for her. She wasn't ready for him to take her, not yet. His cock throbbed as he thought of burrowing into her virgin flesh. Sweat dotted his brow as he

thought of parting her. He wanted to break her open and be her first—her only man. Closing his eyes, he shook his head, trying to clear his thoughts.

"Is everything okay?" she asked.

Her voice drew his gaze. A rosy blush feathered her cheeks and her eyes darted away. "There's no need to be shy," he assured her.

"I never..."

"I know and that makes it all the sweeter." She was tight on his finger. He could only imagine what it would feel like to fill her with his cock. *Shit!* He couldn't think of *that*. Not now.

"I guess I'm a novelty." She tugged her shirt down covering her small, beautiful, upturned breasts.

"Hey. You're more than that. Much more." He tilted her chin up to mesh their gazes. "I told you I've never felt anything like what I feel with you."

"I thought..."

"You thought it was just a line so I could get in your pants? I don't lie, Riza. I admit I've had my share of conquests but I don't seduce virgins. The females I'm with know the score." That was true, usually Leon plied his charms on the experienced females who knew what to expect and enjoyed a good fuck with their alpha male.

"Oh. So, what are you saying?" Wide, misty eyes watched him and his chest swelled.

"I don't know. I've never... Hell, Riza I'm out of my depths but I know what we have is special." He hesitated, wishing, not for the first time, that he had all his senses so he could be sure of what his heart and body were telling him. "I know when I see you, I ache. I kiss you and my heart pounds. I touch you and I'm instantly hard."

"Leon..."

"Why try to hide it? You've seen it and felt it." He shifted against her, letting her feel how hard he was for her right now. "Baby, I see you and I want to carry you off to the nearest bed." He grinned and rubbed his cheek to hers. "Or, blanket."

"Leon, I feel funny when I'm with you too. It's just lust though, that's why I tried to avoid you." Her shy confession hurt. Leon was surprised to feel a pang in his chest at her words—*just lust*. There was certainly lust involved but just lust? He wasn't sure.

"Avoiding me didn't work, did it?"

"No."

"It only made you want me more—made me want you more." He shifted his hips against her, emphasizing the point.

"Yes but I don't want to be just another on a long list of conquests."

"You could never be just another anything. Not to me. We'd better get you dressed before I do something we'll regret."

"But you didn't..." Her eyes lowered and he felt his cock grow impossibly longer behind the tight denim.

"That's okay. I'll manage." He'd take her home and then find a secluded place and yank until he went blind.

"I could..." She gulped and her eyes fluttered nervously.

His heart pounded at just the thought of her touching him intimately. "That's probably not a good idea." His engorged cock throbbed angrily, reminding him that he didn't have to be noble. She had offered.

"But Leon I don't want..." She met his gaze, her eyes overly bright. "I don't want another woman to..."

"Riza, I won't."

Her small hands settled on his zipper. "Let me, please."

"Fuck, Riza." His cock pressed against the denim from the inside, helping her to lower the zipper.

"I can touch you and kiss you." She parted his pants and his eager cock sprang free into the warmth of her hands.

"Riza, I won't last long. Baby, I'm too hot. You're not ready for this," his mouth muttered protests as his cock stretched in her warm grasp. It was too late to stop now.

"I am." Her determined eyes met his and she licked her lips. "I am."

Her hand was small but strong as she gripped his shaft and his hips bucked. He clenched his jaw. He didn't want to embarrass himself. Known for control and stamina, in her hands he melted. "Take it slow."

"Show me. Teach me," she begged and his will to resist crumbled.

A growl escaped his lips as he enclosed her hand. Her fingers didn't reach all the way around his girth but he settled her fingertips along the vein on the underneath side of his cock. Shuffling her hand up and down, he taught her the rhythm that was sure to send him over the edge. "I'm close," he panted, "but I don't want it to end." Blistering heat suffused his cock and he gritted his teeth as he held his release at bay.

"I want to taste you."

"Oh shit." He'd never survive sliding through her luscious lips.

Her lips hovered over his cock and he was positive his shaft stretched another inch. He strained toward her mouth. "Lick me," he gasped, his hand tangling in her dark, silky hair. "Riza, suck it."

Her hot little tongue darted out, flicking the head of his cock and pre-cum trailed in its wake. "Damn, that's sweet." He fought to control his lust, his desire to thrust deep.

Her lips stretched around his cock head as she lowered her mouth. He sucked in a strangled breath as she took him deep. Her teeth lightly scraped his rigid flesh as she drew back. He panted. She was a fuckin' natural at sucking cock.

She circled his cock head and slammed down his length and he nearly lost it as most of his shaft disappeared into her mouth and throat. "Fuck." He grasped her head, wrapping his fingers in her luxurious hair and holding it back as he began to pump his hips. There was no way he was going to spill on the ground after being that far down her throat.

"Suck it—use your tongue," he encouraged as he thrust deeper into her warm, welcoming mouth. His sac tightened as lust rode him hard. She looked so hot with her mouth stretched wide for his cock. He gritted his teeth but he couldn't hold back any longer. His release surged up his shaft.

"I'm coming," he warned as he pumped faster. His balls burned with release. He held her head still as his seed washed down her throat. Slowly he pumped the last of his cum into her mouth and collapsed back on the blanket.

If he hadn't been so replete, he would have laughed at the look on her face. "Did you get a little more than you bargained for?"

She smacked her lips. "I...mmm." She ran the back of her hand across her swollen lips. "I think I liked it." She grinned and light danced in her emerald eyes.

His heart thumped. What more could he ask for. "Wait until I stretch your tight little cunt with my cock."

"Leon, I never..."

"You want it. You want my cock filling your pussy...filling your ass. You want to be my bitch," Leon purred. Adrenaline surged as he watched her eyes flare with hot, aching need. "I can't wait to part your virgin cunt."

Riza's eyes widened and she swallowed deeply.

"I want you to hunt with me tomorrow," he whispered.

"What? Hunt?" Her brows drew together as if she wondered if she'd heard him correctly.

"Yeah, we owe my friend a fresh kill as payment for our feast."

"Is that all you want—to hunt?" Riza stuttered over the words, bringing a smile to his face.

"No. I want you spread eagle and willing beneath me. I want your ass tipped up in the air begging for my cock but tomorrow we hunt."

"Only hunting?" she asked in a breathy voice as her eyes lowered to his semi-erect cock.

"I won't take your virginity—not yet. But I won't promise not to taste you again. I won't promise not to strip you down and lick you from head to toe." He felt his cock harden. If he wanted to keep his control, he had to get them out of this situation.

"Oh my god."

Chapter Four

Riza couldn't help but grin as she looked at one of the three beautiful bouquets she'd made with the flowers Leon had given her. She'd heard Gionne's comment to Jenna about the flowers. Leon's in hot pursuit. I'd better remind him Riza is innocent and had better stay that way.

She could only imagine Leon's reaction to that. She wasn't as innocent as she had been and who knew what tomorrow would bring. She only hoped Gionne didn't interfere with their relationship. She was twenty-one, old enough to know her mind and take a mate or lover if she chose.

Riza twirled about the room to imaginary music as she inhaled the scent of a deepred rose. Tomorrow, she would hunt with Leon in feral form. She'd get to see him as a powerful, predatory lion. She couldn't wait. She tried to picture him with a tawny mane and rippling muscles under golden fur. The fur kept melting away and she saw him as he looked stepping from the water. His bare rippling muscles covered with a smattering of hair.

Riza stumbled and fanned herself with her hand. It was getting hot! She was getting hot as her heat cycle came upon her.

Her lip curled as she wondered what the lion's reaction would be to a wolf in heat. A picture of a lion mounting a wolf flashed in her mind. It would be dangerous to go to him in her condition but she did not intend to stay away.

* * * * *

Riza reclined in the lounge chair on her balcony. The cloud-laden sky was dark without a trace of the seed moon. Only an odd star or two twinkled here and there, reminding her of the wink of Leon's golden eyes. The sounds of feral mating had long

since died off and only an occasional howl filled the cool night air. Her eyes had yet to close as she waited for dawn to light the eastern sky. At sunrise, she was going on a hunt with Leon and she couldn't wait. The taste of paradise he'd given her only made her hungry for more. His talk of possessing her pussy and her ass was scary, exciting. Growing up in an orphanage, she'd seen it all. She'd never participated but she'd witnessed females being taken in a multitude of ways by one, sometimes two or three, males.

She remembered one hot day when she'd been sneaking back from a dip in the pond and had stumbled across a young couple. Shocked and yet aroused, she'd stopped and watched. Jake, an older boy from the orphanage, knelt behind Ella, his hips furiously thrusting as he fucked her. Wet skin-slapping sounds filled Riza's ears. Riza remembered gasping, and Jake's eyes had risen, meeting hers. He'd smiled ferally as he'd withdrawn from Ella's cunt. He'd wanted Riza to see his long, wet cock. With their eyes still locked, he'd thrust forward and Ella had screamed as he'd breeched her ass. Riza had broken eye contact as he worked more and more of his cock into Ella's body. She could still hear Ella's cries of tormented bliss as the large cock had taken her ass.

Holly, Riza's roommate at the orphanage, had told her that males fucked their female's asses as a way of dominating them. It was total submission to offer your man your ass. She'd said ass-fucking hurt in a good way and that once taken that way she would crave it. Riza had always thought Holly was crazy to think such a thing.

Riza stretched her tense muscles. Now she was beginning to understand. She certainly craved the feel of his tongue. Her pussy quivered just thinking about stretching for his thick cock. Her stomach fluttered and her ass puckered as she thought of Leon breeching her sphincter. Oh lord, she was in trouble. Her heat cycle was nearly upon her and she ached to have him possess her in every way possible. The roar of a powerful animal filled the air and her ears pricked. Was it Leon? Her body hummed as she stared into the darkness. She was barely able to contain the urge to change under the darkened sky.

* * * * *

Long before the sun was up Leon arrived at their agreed upon meeting place. It was a small meadow not far from the lupine stronghold. He didn't want Riza traveling far without him. Riza might think of herself as a guard but to him she was a female and he would treat her as such. He'd wanted to meet her at the stronghold but Riza had refused. She feared Gionne would not allow her to leave with him. Soon, he would have to speak with Gionne about Riza but today was for them alone.

Leon scouted the area and saw nothing amiss but he did spot a herd of does bedded down with their young. Fawns were a tasty treat but he had no heart for killing them. He preferred a buck or a doe without offspring. They could scout some more when Riza arrived.

Striping off his shirt, Leon recited a prayer for the hunt. A prayer for safety and one of thanks for the animal that would give up its life to them. A slight sound alerted him to a presence moving closer. He knew it was Riza. He could sense her nearness. His spine tingled as she neared.

* * * * *

Riza had left the stronghold as the sun was rising. She couldn't risk coming across Gionne. He would immediately realize how close she was to the full bloom of heat and he would forbid her to leave the safety of pack. He would forbid her to see Leon. As her alpha and brother, he had the right.

The brisk morning air invigorated her step as she neared the clearing. Surprisingly, Leon was already at the pre-arraigned meeting spot and Riza's heart thumped at her first sight of him in the morning light. She stopped, not wanting to interrupt as he stood stripped to the waist, his arms raised in what she knew was a prayer. The muscles in his back and shoulders flexed as he lowered his arms and her heat burned feverishly.

Without turning, he called her name. "Riza." She stepped over a fallen log and into the filtered light of the clearing. "I was praying for a safe and successful hunt."

"I saw." The smile on her lips trembled as he turned and reached for the snap on his jeans. They'd agreed to hunt in feral form and Riza avidly watched as Leon began to disrobe.

"I've never seen you in feral form. Jenna said you morph into a lion." Riza nervously licked her lips.

"Does that scare you?" His thumb rode the thick ridge visible beneath the denim.

"No, w-why would it?" The stutter of her words belied her denial.

"It shouldn't. I just know your experience with felines is limited. I've seen you at a distance. The day you held the dart gun on me."

Riza arched a brow. She wouldn't say her experience with felines was limited. She had assumed Leon knew she was half-feline. Jenna had scented it immediately. She started to tell him and then stopped. It might be fun to keep her secret for a little while. "Hey, don't remind me of that day."

"Why? I rather enjoyed taking you down. Having you beneath me, except for that horrible cologne you bathed in." He flashed a cocky grin in her direction.

"That wasn't my cologne. Emil used it to cover his scent when he was trying to get rid of Jenna. I was trying to save your sister."

"I know. Thank you. Not many females would risk their lives that way. Now I'm thinking I don't want you doing it again," he purred as he lowered his zipper.

"I can handle myself. Next time, it won't be so easy to take me d-down." She stuttered and blinked rapidly as his cock sprang free.

Leon's golden gaze trailed over her. "You think so? I bet I could take you down."

"You're b-bigger."

"Yeah." His fingers caressed the length of his cock and her eyes followed in fascination. "I am bigger."

She licked her lips. Her pussy quaked as she watched his hand. She remembered the feel of his distended flesh and her fingers itched to reach for him.

"Do you want to take me down? I might let you if you promise to get on top," Leon teased as his hand caressed the burgeoning flesh.

"I..."

"You need to undress before you change." Leon took a step closer.

"I know." Nervously, she twisted her hands.

"You shouldn't be shy. I've seen and touched every inch of you. You've seen, touched and sucked several inches of me too."

"Leon..." She took a step backward.

A feral grin split his face and she knew she was in trouble. *Oh lord. This was a bad idea.* "Leon, I've never changed in front of anyone."

"Change in the privacy of the woods if that makes you more comfortable."

She nodded her head but her feet refused to budge. Leon's pants dropped. "Okay." She darted for cover.

"When you return, I'll be in feral form. Don't be afraid, I won't hurt you," he called to her retreating form.

* * * * *

The lion stalked the clearing waiting for the lupine female to join him. The sinus infection affected him even in feline form and he could barely scent his little lupine but he heard the rustle of leaves as she approached. The hair on his neck rose as she neared. The small dark wolf stopped at the tree line and a growl rumbled low in his chest as he licked his lips.

The lupine approached, head up, ears twitching. She was sleek, shiny, beautiful, and he wanted her. She stopped in front of him and her emerald eyes met his. He shook his mane, fluffing his hair as he padded in a tight circle around her. He was over twice her size. Her tail twitched nervously and he buried his nose in her backside, trying to get as much of her scent as possible.

She trembled but her tail rose slightly, granting him access. She was wet and he licked at the building moisture. Her sweet, ripe taste fired his blood. His cock was heavy and dripping with pre-cum. The beast was ready to take her—to make her his bitch.

The lupine whimpered as he lapped at her backside and a part of him knew he was too large and too heavy to take her but another part didn't care. Lust rode the lion hard and he growled. With a roar, he postured and his chest pumped out. His tail twitched as he prepared to mount his bitch.

The lupine shivered and he hesitated. Turning his head to one side, he blinked rapidly. The female was scared. He could sense her fear. With a growl, he shook his mane and stretched as he morphed back into human form. Kneeling at her side, he stroked the lupine and she turned wary eyes his way.

"Riza, transform for me."

The lupine tossed her head as her nostrils flared. Her back arched as transformation began.

"Leon." Riza curled her legs up and covered her breasts with her hands. Wide, dazed eyes stared at him as her skin flushed. He knew she was aghast to have changed forms under his eyes.

Lifting her, he sat her on his lap and rocked her back and forth. "I'm sorry, babe. I thought I could handle it. I've never had trouble controlling my instincts like that. I would have hurt you if I'd taken you for the first time in feral form. Fuck! It's hard enough to keep my hands off you as it is. The beast in me only knows how much I want you."

"I don't think I would have minded." Her face nuzzled his neck, burrowing beneath his unbound hair.

"You would have minded when I tried to force my cock into your virgin cunt." He could imagine the lupine scream of horror as his feral half mercilessly breeched her tight canal.

"Leon!" She shifted on his lap and her small, hard-tipped breasts scraped his chest.

"It's true, as a lion I'm even bigger." Wide eyes lowered to the erect cock straining between their bodies. "And rougher. I wouldn't want to hurt you but in the grip of such powerful lust I would have mounted you with little care."

"Oh."

His hand glided along her thigh and hip. "But as a man, I'll take all the time in the world preparing you. I'll stretch you, so there'll be little pain when I penetrate you." His fingers parted her slit, finding her wet and needy center. Gathering moisture, he worked a finger into her tight canal. A gasp escaped her lips and her eyes rolled back as she arched, offering her peaked breasts up for his mouth. It was an offer he couldn't refuse and his mouth engulfed the pebbled tip. The touch, the taste of her filled his mind and senses. If he could scent her, the moment would be perfect.

She writhed as his finger worked deeper into her soft, wet heat. "I want you so much," he whispered against her soft skin. "I'm starving for you, hungrier than I've ever been." Pressing her clit with his thumb, his finger butted against her maidenhead and stopped.

"Don't stop." She twisted on his lap as her hip rode his aching erection.

"Settle down, you'll push me too far." His finger pumped slowly in and out of her tight depths.

"I need you." Her hands buried in his hair and lifted his head to meet her mouth.

"Riza. I want you...need you too." Their lips brushed and his tongue slid along her full bottom lip. "You're so wet...so tight...and the heat..." He inserted another finger in her scorching canal. She would burn him alive.

Riza accepted his tongue, welcomed it in a suckling caress. Heat-driven lust urged her on. She'd been unsure of mating with Leon until he had acknowledged her condition. There was no doubt he knew she was in heat. He knew if they mated, she'd

most likely conceive his child. If he was willing, she was too. She wanted him and his child.

Another thick finger joined the first, stretching her tight confines and she gasped. Panting for breath, she rode his fingers.

"Riza, are you sure? Once I start...I don't know... It's never been like this." Leon's voice quaked with need and fired her lust.

"Yes, Leon. I don't want to stop. It feels too good." She ached for him. His fingers weren't enough. She wanted more. She wanted all of him buried deep inside her body. She needed his cock to stretch her and fill her with his cum. It was the time of the seed moon. The time for planting and she wanted his seed. She wanted it to take root in her body.

Rolling, he stretched her out, pining her beneath him and she didn't even notice the coolness of the ground. "I'm going to make this so good for you...so good for us." His hands gathered her breasts to his mouth as his leg parted her thighs. She bucked against his thickly muscled leg. Her hands glided down his smooth back, finding and squeezing his tight backside. Liquid heat pooled low in her belly as she ached for his total possession. She arched up. His hands, mouth and thigh weren't enough. She needed more.

"Leon, please." Her drenched pussy pulsed. The rich, thick aroma of her cream scented the air.

"I know, baby." His lips trailed a scorching path down her stomach and her belly trembled. "I want to taste you, drink your cream as you come for me." His head dipped and her insides twisted as his rough tongue lapped her clit.

"Oh sweet heavens," Riza cried at the heady torment of his feline tongue on her tender flesh. "I can't..." her words lodged in her throat when his thumb pierced the tight hole of her pussy, pushing deep.

"Leon!"

"Come for me," he purred against her quivering pussy. "Feed me your cream."

Sharply, he nipped her clit and purred as her pussy pulsed. Thigh-quaking pleasure let loose and she cried out as liquid heat poured from her body. Growling, he fed voraciously between her thighs.

Feral lust gleamed in his eyes as he raised his head. "Mine."

Blind lust tore through his body. His cock throbbed in want of his little lupine. The taste of her rich cream ignited his blood and he sucked in a deep breath and tried to control his desire. His need to possess her ravaged his mind. He wanted to part her thighs and thrust deep into her virgin cunt but he didn't want to hurry Riza. This was an experience to enjoy. It was a time to treasure together.

His eyes traveled from her breasts, across her small waist to the splay of her thighs. Damp curls covered her mound, obscuring his view of swollen pussy lips. He inhaled deeply, bemoaning the loss of his sense of smell. He knew her scent would be ripe with arousal as she lay spread and waiting for him.

"Riza, I'm going to prepare you for my cock." His hand shook with the force of his control as his fingers found her slick folds.

She nodded as her eyes widened and she gulped. She was so beautiful, innocent and trusting and he was about to make her his. His spine arched as he fought his inner beast.

With their eyes locked, he inserted his finger into her tight depths and enjoyed the flare of the flames in her eyes. Adding two more cream-covered fingers, he parted tight inner flesh and stretched her slick canal. She gasped. Gleaming teeth worried her bottom lip and he hesitated.

"Are you okay?" Slowly, he worked his fingers deeper.

She nodded her dark head. "Yes." Her breath hissed out.

"There will be some pain." He wished he didn't have to hurt her but there was no other way to make her his.

"I know."

"After the pain, I'll give you ecstasy," Leon promised.

Riza bit her lip nervously as she watched the looming male. The call of her heat was building again but a nagging voice warned of wrongdoing. No words of joining or love had passed his lips and she feared mentioning them. Leon was a player. A seducer, and unless she stopped him, he would take her innocence. She licked her lips, the words stuck in her throat.

"Riza, you're so beautiful, this is so beautiful. Together, we will find paradise." A fingertip circled an especially sensitive spot deep inside her, bringing a howl to her lips. "That's it, baby. Relax, accept me."

He adjusted his position and his thick shaft brushed her folds. The blunt tip prodded her clit and she whimpered at the budding sensations.

"Tell me you want me." His deep baritone shivered her spine.

"Leon."

The thick head of his cock lodged in her opening. "You're so hot. You're killing me. Are you ready? Can you take me?" Leon's husky voice tore her last defense.

She nodded. "Take me, love me," she gasped as the primal urge to mate filled her.

"God, yes," he groaned. Grasping her hips, he held her steady as he leaned forward. His cock burrowed deep and she struggled to breathe but the sensations of fullness, rightness, continued to build. Wrapping her legs around his waist, she urged him deeper.

Tugging at his hair, she pulled him down and met his mouth, biting his full lower lip. Leon roared and thrust deeper piercing what was left of her hymen. Pain tore through her but it only fired her lust—her heat—and she clawed at his back. Growling into his open mouth her beast surged to life.

"Riza," he gasped as his hips fired in rapid succession.

"Harder, Leon. Oh my god." She tasted blood on her lips but it didn't faze her as heat spiraled from her belly outward. She gasped for breath as her extremities trembled. "Now," she begged as color exploded behind her eyes.

Leon's sweat-covered body blanketed hers as he unlocked her legs. Pushing her thighs to her chest, his cock burrowed deep and hard. He threw back his head and roared as he released his seed. A wild mane framed feral eyes and a blood-smeared chin. He looked more beast than man.

"Riza," his voice rasped as he tried to speak. Drawing back, his semi-erect cock slid from her ravaged body. Pain tore at his heart to see the traces of blood mixed with their joint release. "Are you okay?"

Over-bright eyes met his and she nodded as he lowered her legs. He gathered her close as she trembled with aftershock. "Baby, I didn't mean to be so rough." He picked pieces of leaves from her hair. He'd taken her like an animal in rut. She deserved better. She deserved silk sheets and tender loving.

"I'm okay."

"You're bleeding." His thumb rode her bottom lip, wiping away a smear of blood.

"I think that's your blood."

Raising fingers to his lip, he grinned. For a wolf, she certainly was a wild cat. "Nevertheless, I should have been gentler."

"I didn't want gentle. I wanted you."

"You had me and now you're mine," Leon proclaimed. He wasn't about to let his little lupine get away. He shouldn't have taken her innocence, not in a rush on the forest floor, but he couldn't resist her. Even now, he was ready to take her again.

"Are you sore?"

"I don't think so. Why?"

He moved against her, allowing her to fill his burgeoning cock. "I want you again. This time I'll take you slow and easy." His hand lowered to her slit, finding her clit. He worked the little nub in slow circles. She clenched her thighs around his hand as she panted for breath.

"What about the hunt?"

"I caught my prey and now I'm going to heat it up and eat it."

A strangled gasp escaped her throat. "I think it's already hot."

"It's going to get hotter and wetter." He reached for his discarded clothes, pulling them under her. This time he would give her a cushion between her and the cold, hard ground.

Meshing their lips, he stretched out next to her. Groaning as she suckled his tender lower lip. Riza was passionate, fiery and he liked it. His lips trailed down her jaw and neck to her breasts and he dragged his tongue across tight-tipped peaks.

Her hot little tongue trailed his shoulder and neck. Sharp teeth scraped his skin then began to suckle. He shuddered with need. He hadn't had a love mark on his neck in years but he would allow her to mark him. He'd marked her with his scent. Marked her as his woman.

Leon's taste filled her mouth and nose as she suckled his flesh. She longed to suckle him deep into her mouth. Her blood simmered as his mouth and hands devoured her flesh.

Adjusting her legs, she pressed them together, trying to ease the ache. "Leon." She parted her thighs, begging for his touch. Leon grasped her hand and brought her fingers between her damp thighs.

"Touch yourself. Feel how hot you are." Lacing their fingers, he slid them through her folds. "Feel this tiny nub." He pressed her fingertips to her clit and she gasped at the sensation. It felt nothing like the times she'd touched herself. "Have you ever masturbated?"

Riza coughed as she tried to swallow. She couldn't talk to him about that.

"Don't be embarrassed. It's okay to touch yourself." He tipped her chin up. "Let me see your eyes as we pleasure you."

"Leon, I can't..."

"I let you watch me stroke my cock earlier. You liked it, didn't you? You were jealous. You wanted to touch me...suck me." A spark flared in his eyes as he spoke and she wondered if he could read her mind.

"God, yes." She wanted to touch him, stroke him, suck him and devour him.

"Let me see you make yourself come," Leon urged.

She shook her head. "I've never... I tried but it didn't work. I don't know how." She was embarrassed to admit she'd never brought herself to climax.

"I'll help you. I'll teach you. Don't you have any toys?"

Riza snorted. "I can just imagine. Gionne would kill me."

"He's such a prude when it comes to you. I'll get you toys and teach you to use them." He thrust two of their joined fingers into her pussy and she sucked in a deep breath. "You need a plug to stretch your ass."

"Leon."

"You know you want me to take it. You want me to dominate you. You want my cock to own your ass." His fingers left her pussy to rim her anal hole. "This bud wants to be stretched, to know the pleasure of my finger, my tongue and my cock.

"I don't..." She shook her head. She didn't think she was ready for that.

"Someday you'll beg me to fuck your ass."

She moaned, "Right now, I need..."

"You need more than your fingers in this hungry little cunt." He spread her knees wide as his eyes lowered. Raising her hand, he sucked each of her cream-covered

fingers. "You taste so delicious. I want more of your sweetness before I give you my cock."

His head lowered and he lapped her already-sensitized skin. The first swipe of his tongue nearly put her over the edge and she arched up, meeting his mouth. "You are hungry," he murmured against her folds. "So am I." His tongue dipped into her vagina and licked the inside of her canal. She screamed.

"Fuck me, Leon." Her hips arched and bucked under his mouth as she sought a deeper, fuller penetration. His thumb buffeted her clit as his tongue burrowed deeper and she climaxed hard. Her pussy pulsed around his tongue. His vibrating purr as he feasted set off another minor quake.

"Damn it. I wanted to take you slow and easy but you're killing me." Wrapping his fingers around the base of his cock and squeezing, he stemmed the flow of release. He was ready to erupt just from watching and tasting her. The pressure pulled him back from the edge as he sprawled between her thighs.

"Fuck me, Leon. I don't care about slow and easy."

"I want you on your hands and knees."

"What?"

"I want you doggie style, my little lupine."

With a whimper, Riza swung her leg around so she could do his bidding. She presented him with a beautiful picture of her ass. Firm, lean thighs supported two rounded cheeks and he resisted the urge to bite her tender flesh.

"I only wish I had something to tie your hands. I'd like to have you completely helpless and at my mercy. Would you like being helpless? I could force you to suck my cock or I could fuck your pussy. I could even fuck that virgin ass and you couldn't do a thing about it."

"Leon!" She gasped in horror. A flush colored her body as she shifted restlessly. He suspected that secretly the thought appealed to her.

His fingers found her wet, aching center. "It makes you hot doesn't it? The thought of being mastered and dominated? Does it make you want to come?" He shoved three fingers deep into her pussy.

"Yes," the word hissed from her lips as she thrust back against his hand.

"I'll remember that. Sometime, when you're being pissy and don't want to spread like a good female, I'll tie you up. First, I'll spank this nice, rounded ass." His hand squeezed her right cheek. "Then, I'll fuck your pussy long and hard. When I'm coated with your cream, I'll make you suck me clean and swallow my cum."

"Leon, please...I need you." The words engorged his cock even further.

"You belong to me." His cock brushed her folds as he slid his fingers free. "I'm going to ride you hard, baby." His blunt head pierced her pussy and pushed deep. "So wet...so hot, you make me want to spill my seed like a boy mounting his first girl."

He pulled back and thrust deep, pushing the breath from her body. Her inner muscles rippled, trying to hold him in place as he slowly withdrew again. He spread her legs wider as he thrust forward. Her head came up as she arched into the exquisite sensation.

Cream soaked fingers circled her anal opening. "I'm going to pierce you with my finger while you take my cock."

A startled cry passed her lips as the blunt tip of his finger rimmed her ass. His cock slid back and his finger slid forward. Her head turned to the side and he watched her bite down on her lip as he stretched her sphincter muscle.

"Relax, I'm in now." Once he'd cleared the opening, his finger slid smoothly into her hole. He thrust his cock forward and the penetration was even tighter than before. "Now it's going to get real interesting."

Riza cried out as he set a fast-paced rhythm with his finger and cock. Her back arched and her skin rippled. "Leon, I'm going to change," she panted as a fierce spasm squeezed his cock.

"Go ahead but I won't stop."

Her teeth gnashed and little tufts of fur sprouted. Her claws began to extend and she shook, fighting the change to feral form.

Leon reached down with his free hand and pinched her clit. "Don't fight it. Let me fuck you."

Her spine contorted as her tail began to sprout. "Leon," she growled as her jaw extended. He continued to thrust relentlessly as she threw back her head with a howling shudder. She climaxed, her cunt rippled around his cock and the change stopped. She reverted to full human form. If he hadn't been holding her hips, she would have collapsed. Leon shouted as he paused, allowing her inner muscles to milk the seed from his shaft.

"Fuck, Riza." His finger pulled from her ass as his head hung and his hair brushed her back. "Baby, I'll never get enough of you.

Chapter Five

Riza tossed as an onslaught of thoughts filled her mind. *I'm not a virgin anymore*. He didn't ask me to join with him. Gionne will kill me. He'll kill Leon. What if I'm pregnant? What have I done?

She shifted her legs. Her muscles ached. Sliding a hand between her thighs her fingers slid between slick folds. The damp flesh was tender, sensitive. Her clit was swollen and achy. Circling the nub, she shuddered at the burst of sensation. Her pussy and sphincter clenched. A moan escaped her lips and her fingers explored her flesh as never before. Now that she knew the glory of climaxing, she wanted it. Confidently, she touched herself as hunger burned in her belly. She was in heat and she needed a mate. She needed Leon. Pinching her clit, she rolled to her side, arching under the intense torment. Thrusting two fingers deep into her pussy, she cried out as pleasure descended.

Panting, she stretched on her bed. Temporarily sated, her mind turned back to her worries. Throwing the covers off, her feet hit the cool tile floor. There was only one thing to do. She had to confront Leon before Gionne discovered her secret.

* * * * *

Leon was up early for a meeting with his guard. He intended to see Riza and Gionne that afternoon. He planned to ask Riza to join with him today. His chest expanded with warmth at the thought. He should have asked her yesterday. He hoped she knew how much she meant to him. He couldn't imagine a life without her in it. His eyes flickered to his bed. Soon, she would share it with him nightly. He would fill her with his seed and his child. He pictured her with a swollen stomach and smiled. Turning, he headed for his bath.

Whistling, Leon stepped out of the shower, his mind on his earlier meeting with Tomas. They had discussed an upcoming meeting with the new alpha of the coyote band. So far, the coyotes had respected the boundaries but it appeared a few of the young pups were pushing the bounds. Leon planned to discuss the meeting with Gionne and to ask him to join him and present a united front. It was the second thing he would speak to Gionne about. The first was Riza. He intended to ask her to join with him and he would honor Gionne by asking him for his sister's hand.

Entering his room, he stopped. A small, black leopard lounged on his bed. It wasn't very surprising to find a female waiting in his bed. Lately, he'd turned several away. What was surprising was the fact that he didn't recognize her. By sight, she was no one he knew. His senses were beginning to return and, though there was something familiar about her, he couldn't determine her identity. It didn't matter. He would ask her to leave.

Leon cleared his throat and the leopard raised its head. Emerald eyes gleamed as they trailed his naked form. The cat arched lazily, stretching its back and raising its hips. Leon found himself in the uncomfortable position of growing rapidly hard while standing nude in front of an unknown female. Usually, it wouldn't have bothered him in the least. Today, it made him uncomfortable.

Fuck! He hadn't grown hard for a woman other than Riza since getting to know her. He thought his desire for other females had vanished. He was ready to settle down and make a commitment to Riza. She deserved it.

The feline leapt from the bed and stalked closer. Circling, she brushed against his legs and the breath hissed from his body. Clenching his fists, he drew a shaky breath. Her shiny coat was soft against his naked flesh. His spine began to tingle and he clenched his jaw. He couldn't change, not now. The beast within would be more susceptible to the lusty feline.

The leopard nuzzled his backside and a rough tongue licked a torrid path down his cheek. He found himself involuntarily spreading his thighs. The scorch of her tongue contacted his sac and he roared. Hunching forward, hair began to sprout and he knew it was too late to stop the beast within him. Dropping to the floor, his feral side emerged.

The lion circled the willing feline and her tail rose temptingly. Burying his nose between her legs, he sniffed. She was wet and his returning sense of smell gauged her as ripe and ready. Using a paw, he pressed her shoulders down and her hips arched. The lion mounted the feline, forcefully taking possession.

The feline whimpered at the tight, powerful possession but she submitted to the lion. Her thighs trembled but she accommodated the larger male, accepting his domination. With a shriek, the feline found release. The male roared as he spilled his seed.

In human form, Leon silently cursed himself as he stretched on the bed next to the feline. *Damn it, he'd fucked up*. He couldn't blame the feline or even the beast within. He should have demanded she leave before the beast had a chance to respond. As soon as he saw her, he should have escorted her out of his room. He didn't know why he hadn't. There was no excuse for his actions. Recently, he'd gotten good at refusing sexual favors. There was something about the feline lying next to him that had gotten beneath his defenses. Now he needed to find out who she was. It was imperative Riza never discover this transgression. It would never happen again.

The sated feline opened drowsy, emerald eyes as he scratched her head. "Hey, why don't you change so we can talk?"

The feline rolled over, exposing her belly, an obvious submissive move. Her scent wafted to his nostrils and his eyes narrowed. It couldn't be! He closed his eyes. His senses weren't back to normal and he had to be mistaken. She couldn't be in heat.

His heart hurt as if a hand wrapped around it and squeezed. If she was in heat, she was fertile and he might have gotten her pregnant. *Riza*, his heart cried out. He broke out in a cold sweat. His heart pounding as he struggled to breathe. The future he hadn't known he wanted until recently suddenly seemed out of reach.

"Change for me, now. I need to know who you are." He didn't try to sound civil. He couldn't lay all the blame at her feet but, potentially, they had just ruined his life. He couldn't loose Riza now. If he'd impregnated the feline, he'd acknowledge the child but he wouldn't join with her. He might lose Riza anyway but he'd never give up trying to get her back.

The feline arched away. Emerald eyes flared with shock and anger as he spoke. She hissed and bared her fangs. With an angry swipe, she filleted his thigh with two deep gorges.

"Fuck!" Leon roared, grasping his thigh, stemming the flow of blood.

The leopard sprang from his bed to the windowsill and with a raged-filled glance in his direction disappeared. Unfortunately, he doubted it was the last he'd see of her.

He lay back, his head throbbing and his leg pouring blood onto his silken sheets. He had to think. His future depended on it. All of his adult life he'd played the field but he'd always been careful of the trap. As much as he was tempted, he'd always drawn away from a female in heat. Even the beast had warily avoided entrapment. Why was this female different? Was it because of his decreased sense of smell? He'd thought the scent of a female in heat was what drew him. With his senses still off slightly, the lion within had not realized she was in heat. So why had he responded as he had? He had to admit he had enjoyed mounting the feline but not at the cost of losing Riza. Nothing was worth that price.

He had to find out who she was! Her eyes had seemed familiar. And her scent... It lingered in the air. There was something about it. He wondered what had enraged the female to the point of attack. He probed his injured thigh with his fingers. The bleeding had slowed.

She must have thought he knew who he was fucking. Therefore, they must have met before. She wasn't of his pride. He was sure of that. He didn't know of anyone visiting from another.

Those emerald eyes, they reminded him of Riza but she wasn't feline. He sniffed the fragrant air. Aroused female in heat with a hint of... Leon shot straight up in the bed. "Oh fuck!" The scent had a trace of lupine. What had he done? Why hadn't he paid more attention when Jenna had chatted to him? She had mentioned something about Gionne's sister being a half-breed. Was she half-feline? At the time she'd told him he hadn't known Riza, so it hadn't mattered to him. A feeling of doom settled over him.

He had to trail the feline and see where she went. Shifting forms, he scooped up his pants and jumped from the second story window to land on the frost-covered ground below. With his nose to the ground, he managed to pick up her scent. Her trail was easy enough to follow and dread filled his heart as he neared the lupine stronghold. Part of him was glad. He hadn't cheated on Riza. The reason the feline had affected him was because it was she. Riza was his true mate and he desired no other. Unfortunately, she now realized he hadn't known her identity when he mounted her. She would think he was still fucking every willing female. Would she forgive him for what she would see as a transgression on his part? He dreaded the confrontation but there was no avoiding it. Riza most likely carried his offspring. That thought brought a smile to his lips. She wouldn't be able to deny him when she was heavy with his child. If need be, he would pressure Gionne to force her hand.

* * * * *

The feline stopped in the woods where she'd left her clothes and shifted to human form. Her hands trembled as she tugged on her jeans. She had to get herself under control. She needed to get to her room and shower Leon's scent off her body. What had she done? Single-handedly, she was going to destroy the peace between the lupines and the felines. Gionne would to be furious. Jenna would be caught in the middle. She was Leon's sister. Jenna was pregnant with Gionne's offspring and Riza didn't want her upset. If Jenna and Gionne found out Leon had used her, they'd be furious. She couldn't let them know. Her hand lowered to her flat stomach. She had wanted Leon's child. Truth be known, she still did but what would she do if she were pregnant. She wouldn't

Feral Lust

tell Leon. She wouldn't join with him out of duty. She wouldn't be the mate of a male who'd fuck any available woman.

Entering the stronghold from the less-traveled east path, she flipped a wave at the guard on duty as she hurried past. Sneaking through the private courtyard, she hastily skirted the opening to the main patio. Hearing approaching footfalls, she ducked behind a stand of pine trees and held her breath, waiting for the steps to fade.

She didn't hear a sound and dared to peek around the heavy brush. She came face to face with Dirk. Damn it, she had all the luck.

"What are you doing?"

"Trying to avoid you, obviously." Riza tried to skirt him.

"Why?" Dirk moved closer blocking her exit.

"It doesn't matter. I have to go."

"Not yet. Why have you been crying?" His eyes narrowed on her face.

"You're mistaken." Riza lowered her head, allowing her hair to fall forward.

Dirk grabbed her arm as she attempted to scoot by. "No, I'm not." He shook his head, his nostrils flaring. "You didn't listen did you? His scent is all over you and you're in heat."

"It's none of your business," Riza hissed.

"It's my business when your mistake is going to destroy this pack." The words angrily burst from his lips.

"Don't exaggerate." She'd thought the same thing earlier but she wasn't up to discussing it with Dirk. She needed time to think before she talked to anyone.

"Gionne will fight Leon. One of them could die and where will that leave Jenna?"

A sob escaped Riza's lips. "I thought he loved me but I was wrong. I don't know what to do." Her mind whirled. Her thoughts were chaotic.

"Are you pregnant?"

"I don't know...probably," she sniffed.

L.A. Day

"I can help you." Dirk's voice was calm, resolved.

"How?" How could anyone help her now?

"Join with me. I'll raise your child as mine."

"Why? You don't love me." Riza raised her eyes to meet his.

"I care about you. I care about our pack and I could come to love you. You're beautiful...desirable." His hand brushed her cheek. His touch was warm, soothing.

"Gionne wouldn't have to know, would he?" she asked.

"No, but I would have to mate you. You'd have to carry my scent."

She knew that was the only way to convince Gionne that Dirk was her mate. Nervously, Riza stroked her arms as goose bumps riddled her flesh. She'd never thought of Dirk that way. He was attractive, considerate, a good friend but he wasn't Leon. She wouldn't lose herself in him the way she did with Leon but that might be a good thing. The heartwrenching desire she had for Leon was wonderful but what was passion without love? In time, her yearning for the alpha feline would fade. Her affection for Dirk would grow. "Okay." She nodded her head.

"Do you want to shower first?" Dirk asked.

Oh god, he wanted to do it immediately. "Do you want me to?" He probably didn't want to touch her with the scent of another male so heavy upon her.

"It doesn't matter."

"I don't want to get cold feet." If she went to her room, she was afraid she'd chicken out. She'd start thinking about Leon. She'd want to give him another chance. No, she wouldn't grovel for the alpha male's attention.

"If I take you, Riza, there's no going back. It's a commitment. I could get you pregnant." Dirk's voice was serious as he regarded her with a steady gaze.

"I know." She nodded her head.

His fingers brushed her cheek. "Okay."

His head lowered and his lips parted over hers. He tasted of coffee and she sighed as his tongue gently stroked hers. His hands trailed down over her ass, lifting her to his hard frame. She could feel the thickness of his arousal even through their clothes. His kiss and touch were pleasant but not earth shattering.

"Your scent is killing me." He ground her against his erection. She was in heat and she knew a female in heat stirred the blood of any male.

He carried her to a lounge and sat down straddling her across his lap. "You're hot and wet." His fingers snapped open his jeans. "I'm going to give you a nice long fuck to ease that heat. Then we'll go back to my room and clean up. I want to see those lips wrapped around my cock." Dirk lifted her chin to meet his lust-filled gaze. "This is how it's going to be. I won't have a cold, unfeeling mate. Can you accept and return my passion?"

Riza whimpered. Her heat was heavy upon her and his touch was obviously skilled. She needed a male but she wanted Leon. After everything, she still wanted him but she would accept Dirk for the sake of her pack. Dirk did not make her blood sing but his touch was arousing. She closed her eyes, silently calling Leon's name. She nodded her head in acceptance and she felt Dirk's hand on her inner thigh.

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"What the fuck is going on here?" Leon roared when he saw Riza straddling Dirk's lap. "Get your hands off my woman."

Riza scrambled from Dirk's lap as he stood. "She's not your woman. She just agreed to join with me."

Leon glared at Riza. "Is that true? Just because we had a misunderstanding you agreed to join with him." Leon jerked his thumb in Dirk's direction. "You were going to fuck him?"

"Why not! You fuck any female you come across." Her emerald eyes flashed fire. He didn't know how he couldn't have recognized her. "It wasn't like that and you know it."

"Do I? All I know is that I thought we had something special but you can't even recognize me. But hey, that didn't matter. You gave me a good fuck anyway."

"We do have something special." Leon sighed. He knew it was going to be difficult but he hadn't expected this. "I have a sinus infection. It's been throwing my senses off and you never bothered to tell me you were half-feline." Leon tried to explain. He should have told her of his condition sooner.

"That doesn't explain why you'd fuck someone else." Hurt-filled eyes shimmered with unshed tears. "It all comes down to I'm not a purebred feline. You can't accept I'm half-lupine."

"What? Where is that coming from? I admit what I did was wrong but I didn't cheat. It was you. I think some part of me knew it was you."

"Which part was that—your cock? Does it recognize every cunt it enters? That cock head must have one hell of a memory, much better than the one on your shoulders."

"Calm down. We need to talk." Leon threw a glance in Dirk's direction to find him curiously watching them but seemingly unruffled. "In private."

"I don't think I want to talk to you," Riza huffed with a toss of her head.

"At least I didn't cold-bloodedly fuck someone else."

"I didn't fuck him...yet," she threw the words back in his face.

Grabbing her arm, Leon hauled her to him. "You're not going to fuck him. You're mine. You're in heat, which means you're probably expecting my offspring." His lip curled up. "You'll have to join with me."

"I won't join with you just because I might be expecting. You don't really want me. You want the child. You want a good relationship with Gionne. You don't want a half-breed."

"I had a good relationship with Gionne but I threw it away for you."

"Dirk asked me to join with him. He'll accept any child I carry as his."

Leon growled, "He won't raise my child and he won't have you." He snarled at the other male.

"I will if Riza chooses me," Dirk challenged.

A muscle in Leon's cheek twitched as he gritted his teeth, holding off the beast that wanted to roar to life inside him. His beast had claimed its mate and he wouldn't let her go. Unfortunately, ripping one of her pack members to shreds probably wouldn't endear him to her pack. "She won't choose you. She already chose me when she gave me her virginity and I planted my seed."

Dirk shrugged his shoulders and replied calmly, "And yet, she was just straddling my lap. If you'd been a few minutes later I'd have my cock in her right now."

Leon's mind reeled at the thought. "In my pride, fucking someone's mate is punishable by banishment."

"She's not your mate."

Leon's lip curled as he snarled, "Yet."

"That's enough you two." Riza stepped between them. "Leon, you should leave."

"Not without you." There was no way he'd leave her behind with this male. Obviously, Dirk had tried to guilt her into accepting him for the sake of the pack.

"I'm not going anywhere with you."

"You have to let me explain." Leon pulled her close.

"I don't have to do anything."

Leon lowered his head as he whispered, "It's not like you think. I don't want other females. I only want you and not just for the sake of the child." He didn't want to do this here with an audience but he couldn't take the chance on waiting. His voice broke as he continued. "I love you, Riza."

She sucked in a startled breath and raised her eyes to meet his. Her lips trembled as she started to speak.

"Leon, Dirk, what's going on?" The hair on the nape of Leon's neck bristled at Gionne's untimely interruption.

Leon turned to meet Gionne's dark gaze and he noticed the other male's nose flare with anger as he scented his sister. "You have something to tell me, I presume?"

"I asked your sister to join with me."

"Before or after you fucked her?"

Chapter Six

Leon lifted the mug of ale to his lips. How had everything gone so wrong? In one moment, he'd had it all and he'd thrown it away. What if Riza didn't forgive him? What if she chose Dirk? Jealousy was a foreign emotion but it burned deeply in his gut. Because of his foolishness, she'd agreed to join with Dirk. His scent had been all over her and seeing her spread across his lap had infuriated him. Would Dirk convince her to join with him? Were they right now making love? He felt ill.

"Enjoying the show?" Gionne asked as he settled into a seat next to him.

Leon's gaze flickered to his brother-in-law, then back to the room at large. The activities in the room could best be described as an orgy. Men and women came together in couples and groups. Some in human form and some in feral form. The scene was enough to make a dead man come but Leon's cock didn't even twitch. He shrugged his shoulders in answer to Gionne's question. "When can I talk to Riza?"

"When she's ready."

"When will that be? I can't wait much longer."

"No. You're not very good at waiting." Leon understood the sarcasm in Gionne's tone. He knew he should have joined with Riza before he mated her. He had intended to but in the heat of the moment things had gotten out of hand and now look where he was.

Gionne could not say much though, since he had mated Jenna without benefit of a ceremony. "Neither were you if I remember correctly."

Gionne raised his glass. "Touché."

"What's Riza doing? Who's she with?" If Gionne said Dirk, he would lose his mind.

"She's with Jenna."

"Oh." That was good, he hoped. Jenna would try to calm Riza and plead his case. Wouldn't she?

"Can I talk to Jenna?" Leon asked.

"I don't think you'd want to at the moment."

"She's angry." He knew his sister. She was probably furious right now but if he talked to her, he could calm her down.

"She's a pregnant, hormonal female trying to calm another hormonal female and they're both considering neutering you."

Gionne's words didn't paint a pretty picture and Leon grimaced. "You've calmed down."

"The way I see it, I either get you or Dirk for a brother-in-law. Either way, I'm okay with it," Gionne replied.

"Riza wouldn't be happy with Dirk. She doesn't love him. If she's pregnant, it's my child." If need be he would plead his case to Gionne.

"Would she be happy with you? Could she trust you?"

"You've known me most of my life. You know what I was like but I have changed. I haven't been with another female. I won't lie. I didn't consciously know the feline was Riza but I think a part of me did. The beast within knew. You're a male. Certainly, you understand where I'm coming from. My senses were off but somehow I knew it was Riza. I reacted to her, not a nameless female," Leon exclaimed. Damn it, he was getting choked up. It wasn't like him to show emotion, especially in front of another male.

Gionne nodded his head. "That's what I told her."

"You defended me?" Leon was shocked. His friendship with Gionne was longstanding but he'd thought that, if given a choice, Gionne would prefer Riza to mate with Dirk. To stay within his pack.

"You helped me with Jenna. I owed you but if I didn't see the change in you and if I didn't believe you were right for Riza, I wouldn't help you.

"Thank you." Gionne's words rang true. He only hoped Riza had listened to him.

Gionne inclined his head in acknowledgment and Leon turned his gaze away. His heart stuttered as his eyes encountered Dirk at a far table. The other male leaned back in a chair with a look of contentment on his face. A female knelt between his legs, obviously servicing his cock. Leon could see little of the female, only her hair—her dark hair. His blood ran cold, then hot.

Gionne grasped his arm. "Don't do anything stupid."

He yanked his arm from Gionne's grasp, all thoughts of friendship and brotherhood past. If killing Dirk declared war between the breeds, then so be it, but Riza was his. He wouldn't allow another male to claim her.

"Leon, that's not Riza."

"What!" Leon snarled.

"The bitch with Dirk isn't Riza," Gionne told him.

"Are you sure?"

"Yeah, Riza just walked in the door."

Leon's head whipped to the side and his breath left his body. Riza sauntered toward him wrapped in a traditional feline offering robe. She stopped a foot from him with her head held high. She unwrapped the blanket, letting it fall to her feet. She posed nude for all to see. Leon resisted the urge to cover her and shield her from the admiring male gazes. He reminded himself she was a mixed breed and if she could accept the feline customs, he would accept the lupine ones as well.

"I accept your offer and offer my complete submission." Turning she knelt in front of him, her head lowered and her ass tilted upward. Offering her ass for his domination, he could take it and claim her in the most primal of ways. If he refused her publicly, other males would take her and mark her as a pack bitch.

A low growl rumbled in his chest. His cock, which had refused to acknowledge the carnal show still playing out around them suddenly surged to full length. Ripping his shirt open, he reached for the fastening of his jeans. In seconds, he was fully unclothed and kneeling behind his mate. There was no thought of refusal. No other male would touch her.

Parting her cheeks, the tight rosebud winked at him and he licked the full length of her crack. Her heat fired his senses. Finally, he was able to appreciate the full flavor of his mate. Her aromatic scent overwhelmed him. He knew the other males in the room scented her heat and hungered for her, but she was his.

His fingers dove into the liquid heat of her pussy. It was going to be a rough ride but he would prepare her as much as possible. He tongued her hole as he stroked his cock, covering it with her cream. He wished he could stretch her but she'd offered total submission of her virgin ass and he would take it. He remembered how tight she'd been on his finger. His cock was much larger and he didn't want to cause her pain but he couldn't refuse her offer. His cock would be the first—the only—to pierce her rectum. It would be painful at first but she must know that.

The head of his cock perched at her opening. "I accept your offer and claim you as my mate," he growled as he forced his cock head through the rim of her sphincter. Her back arched and her breath left her body in a hiss but she didn't scream.

Grasping her hips, he surged deeper. Her ass parted, swallowing his cock as he forced more of his length into the hot, virgin canal. He growled as his spine tingled. The beast wanted out, wanted to possess his mate. He ground his teeth, holding it at bay. He wouldn't do that to Riza. Mounting her virgin ass in front of half her pack was one thing. To shift to feral form and fuck her ass was another.

"You're killing me," he gasped as he eased back.

She released a strangled groan that was probably meant as an agreement. Part of him wanted to stop, to accept breeching her ass as summation of claiming her but another part urged him on and he pressed farther.

Withdrawing, he plunged his cock, parting the tight, virgin territory. He growled as her wet heat surrounded him. His muscles vibrated with restraint as he held still within her depths. Lifting his head, his eyes met Dirk's across the room. The other male watched with an unreadable expression on his face. Leon snarled and his incisors elongated. Hair prickled along his flesh. The lupine male inclined his head in acknowledgement and Leon roared. His hips bucking as he drove home to complete possession.

"Mine," he snarled. "Mine!"

His balls tightened as release neared. His blood burned and he threw back his head and roared as his mate mewled in tormented bliss. Her tight canal rippled around him, milking his cock as she found release. Pulling free of her body, he gathered her in his arms. "You're mine now. Mine," he whispered as he brushed her sweat-dampened hair from her face. Lifting Riza, he wrapped her in her robe.

"I love you," she replied as he carried her from the room.

* * * * *

"Say it again," Leon, urged her as he placed her on her feet just inside her room.

Riza dropped the robe and stepped out of it. The heat of his gaze followed her. "Say what?"

Leon stalked closer and a sexy grin split his face. "You know what. Tell me you love me."

"I do."

"Say it," he demanded as he grasped her arm, dragging her to his side.

"I love you," Riza confessed.

"Thank god. I was terrified when I realized why I was attracted to that feline. I swear I haven't been with anyone else recently."

"I believe you."

"I knew how you felt though, when I saw you with Dirk." Leon shook his head and raised his face to meet her gaze. His golden eyes gleamed with powerful emotion. "I would have killed him to have you."

"Leon!" Riza huffed but secretly she was pleased his desire for her was so great.

"I love you." Leon chuckled. "I've never told another female that, except Jenna."

"I'll allow that one." Riza licked his chest, tasting his salty flesh. She shifted her breasts against his chest.

"I need to clean up, baby."

"Mmm, we can shower together."

She felt the rumble of a growl in his chest. "Lead the way."

Steam billowed from the tiled cubicle as they stepped in. "Nice. There's plenty of room in here."

"Room for what?" Riza panted breathlessly.

Leon chuckled. "I'm sure we can find a number of things to occupy our time in here." Soaping his hands Leon lathered her breasts.

"That feels good."

His hands moved lower over her abs, between her thighs. "Are you sore?"

Riza shuddered at his caressing touch. "No. I don't think so."

"I haven't forgotten about that plug. I'll get you one. I want you to stay ready for me."

"Leon."

"You're mine now. Your pussy and your ass." Two fingers entered her pussy. "It's all about pleasure. Yours and mine. You enjoy it and so do I." His fingers pumped deep and hard.

"Yes," she gasped leaning forward, resting her cheek against the cool tile.

"Nothing is taboo if we both enjoy it." Kneeling before her, he dipped his head, his tongue found her clit in a raspy caress.

Bending her knees she pumped against his fingers and his teeth latched on to her clit. "Oh lord." His fingers pumped hard enough to lift her to her toes. "Jesus," she gasped.

Pulling free, he slapped her bottom and ordered, "Sit on the bench." Her thighs quaked. Her knees were weak and she readily complied. Reaching for the liquid soap, Leon lathered his cock. Riza whimpered as he soaped his shaft and balls. "Are you hungry, baby?"

Riza nodded, unable to speak.

Turning into the stream of water, he rinsed. He stepped in front of her, his cock gleaming. "Open up and I'll feed that hunger."

Pushing her damp hair back, she licked her lips. The wide, fleshy tip looked delicious. Her lips parted and he thrust forward, filling her mouth. He tasted of vanilla soap.

"Suck it. Let me feel that tongue on my cock."

"Mmm," she moaned taking him deeper. With voracious hunger, she laved his cock. Nibbling the tip, she pumped her head. Pre-cum dotted the eye of his cock and she lapped the savory liquid. His taste fired her arousal and she growled with feral intensity. Reaching between his thighs, she grasped his balls and Leon's legs quaked.

"Enough," he gasped, ripping away from her grasp.

"But..."

He turned off the water and reached for her. "We have all night." He chuckled. "Hell, we have the rest of our lives."

* * * * *

"Morning, Leon."

"Hey, Sis. I swear you get rounder every time I see you."

Jenna glared at her brother. "I thought you were supposed to have a way with women."

"I think from now on I only have a way with one woman."

"Glad to hear it. I wouldn't advise you to mention Riza's roundness as she starts to show."

"She'll be beautifully round." Leon laughed.

"It's wonderful to see you so happy."

"It feels pretty good too."

"She gave you a great honor last night."

He couldn't hide the grin that split his face. "Yes, she did."

"Are you going to honor her the lupine way?"

His brow arched. "What do you mean?"

"Riza didn't tell you?" Leon knew his sister well. Right now, he knew she was struggling with telling him something she thought he should know. He had the feeling though, that he didn't want to hear what she had to say.

"No."

"Oh." She furrowed her brow and glanced away.

"What is it?"

"Maybe you should speak to Gionne."

"Gionne! Why?" If there was something he needed to know, he wanted Jenna to tell him.

"Did I hear my name?" Gionne appeared at his mate's side.

"Leon wanted to know how to honor Riza the lupine way." For a woman with a round stomach, Jenna gained her feet quickly and darted around the wall leading to the main terrace. Leon had an urge to follow her.

Turning his gaze back to his brother-in-law, he was surprised to find a guarded expression on Gionne's face. "I have a feeling I'm not going to like this."

Gionne explained to Leon the custom of providing your mate with a protector. It was the custom of all lupine males to provide their mate with another male who would

protect and provide for them if need be. It honored the female to know that her mate was willing to share her in order to keep her safe.

"You're kidding," Leon said.

"No."

Leon shook his head. He couldn't offer Riza to another. It was unthinkable. He had shared females before, but he did not want to share Riza. The thought chilled his blood.

"You... Jenna?"

Gionne inclined his head. "Yes, I honored Jenna by providing a protector for her."

"Who?" It was impossible to imagine Gionne sharing Jenna. He knew how possessive he was of his mate.

A grin tugged at Gionne's lip as he replied, "Dirk."

"That bastard...and Jenna." Fuck! That prick thought he was some kind of stud.

"He's not that bad. He was willing to protect Riza when he thought you had turned your back on her. He would have joined with her and raised your child."

"Seeing him touch her..." Leon shook his head. "I don't think I can do it." His blood still burned when he pictured Riza straddling Dirk's lap.

"You do not have to but Riza will have to live with the talk that you do not love her enough to protect her." Gionne chided him.

"It's not that...hell, I love her too much."

Gionne nodded. "I understand. It was very difficult but I put Jenna's wellbeing first."

"She didn't mind?" It was hard to picture Jenna willingly fucking another male.

Gionne grinned. "Although she would never admit it, I believe she enjoyed having two males. The trick is preparing them and controlling the other male. Vaginal penetration is not allowed."

A cold resolve settled in Leon's stomach.

Chapter Seven

Dinner was over and Riza reached for Leon's hand. "Let's go back to my room for dessert before we leave for your stronghold."

Leon fought the urge to agree and return with her to her room. Snagging her hand, he pulled her close. "I thought we'd stay here awhile."

"Oh...do you enjoy the floor show?" Riza raised her brows suggestively.

"I guess we'll see." His instincts told him to take her and leave. He was not obligated to share his mate. She knew he loved her. He'd told her that he didn't mind that she was a half-breed and he didn't. Actually, he was glad that she was half feline, though he did find her lupine form sexy too. He thought she believed him. Hell, he'd even agreed to let her train with his guard when she wasn't pregnant. Of course, he did not intend to allow her to do anything dangerous and he planned to keep her pregnant, nursing and caring for their young as much as possible.

"Are you expecting a repeat performance of the other night?"

A rumbling growl rose in his throat at the memory of her total submission. Pulling her onto his lap, his hand slid along her smooth thigh. "I thought we might try something different."

"Different?"

"Hmm."

"How different?" Riza asked as her gaze rested on a male in human form mounting a female wolf.

Leon laughed, "We'll try that later. The combinations, the pleasure are endless but tonight I plan to prove my love, my devotion and acceptance to you and to your pack."

"Leon." She swallowed nervously.

Feral Lust

"I love you," he reminded her. Everything he was about to do was to show her how much he loved her. That he accepted her as she was—a half-breed.

"I love you too."

"Then accept my offering as an honor to you." Leon nodded his head and Dirk stepped forward, followed by Cyrus. "I love you enough to share you not with one but two males. They will protect and honor you if ever I cannot."

"Leon, you don't have..."

"It is important that you know, that your pack knows that I place you first above all else—my woman, my mate...my life."

Riza sniffled, her eyes growing watery.

"Don't cry. Accept my love."

Slowly, Leon raised her gown over her head, revealing her gently rounded curves for all to see. Leon heard Dirk catch his breath at the sight she made. Leon had come to terms with Dirk. He knew that Dirk had done what was best for the pack. He had only wanted to protect Riza and her pack. That was why he chose to honor Dirk in this fashion. He knew Dirk would protect Riza with his life if it came to that. The other male, Cyrus, was quite a young man who Leon had befriended during his stay. He trusted that he would care for Riza as well.

"She is beautiful, is she not?"

"Very much so," Dirk spoke.

Leon glanced up at Dirk. "Do you want my female?"

Dirk licked his lips, his eyes never leaving Riza. "Yeah."

"On your hands and knees, Riza. You need to show these males what they are protecting."

"I...uh..."

"I'll be right here," Leon promised. "We will share this together."

She nodded as she dropped to her knees.

Dirk stepped forward his cock already dripping pre-cum. "Open those lips for me, Riza."

Leon clenched his jaw as Dirk slid his cock into Riza's mouth. He breathed deeply to control the beast rising within. His woman's mouth spread wide around Dirk's cock. Riza swallowed and her nose flared as she accepted more of Dirk's thick cock.

Dirk thrust and a strangled cry escaped his lips as Riza took most of his length. "Fuck," Dirk muttered as his hand wrapped in Riza's dark hair. Leon was proud his mate would bring this male to his knees. He remembered the first time she'd wrapped those lips around his cock.

Leon watched uncomfortably as Cyrus knelt behind Riza. Her back arched and a startled moan escaped around Dirk's cock as Cyrus licked her folds. Leon could hear Cyrus slurping Riza's sweet, heady cream and jealousy burned in his chest. Even hearing another male enjoy her cream was torture.

Leon had spoken with both males and prearranged this sharing. He had made it clear that Riza belonged to him. She was his mate but he would offer the sharing this one time only. They both knew and accepted that her cunt was not to be penetrated.

Cyrus leaned back, his face wet with Riza's dew and licked his lips. His gleaming eyes met Leon's as he parted Riza's cheeks. Cyrus worked a cream-covered finger into her ass and Leon nearly jumped to his feet. The beast within roared but the man controlled his rage. He shut his eyes but the sounds were worse. He could detect and identify every noise. Dirk released a rumbling growl as his cock pumped in and out of Riza's wet mouth. Riza puffed around the thick organ and sounds of Cyrus's finger stretching Riza's tight hole were too much.

Leon released an impatient roar and both males looked at him. He shook his head grumbling to himself. The scent of Riza's heat hung heavy in the air and it didn't appear either male was doing much to ease her suffering.

Pushing his chair to the side, Leon stood and began to disrobe. He didn't miss Riza's eyes darting in his direction. "My mate's pussy needs a good fucking."

Leon stretched out on the cool, tile floor. Understanding what he wanted, Dirk slid from her mouth and lowered Riza over his cock. He growled as her hot, wet heat engulfed him. Their eyes met and Riza's were over-bright and dilated. "Ride me, baby. You need to come."

Riza whimpered as he guided her up and down his length. "It's all right, babe. Come for me and we'll give you another treat."

Dirk knelt at their side, his mouth lowered to an upturned breast and his fingers parted Riza's slit. Riza threw back her head, her long hair whipping around her as she arched her back.

Cyrus slid between Leon's parted legs as he once again worked at stretching Riza's back entrance. Leon leaned Riza forward, allowing Cyrus more maneuverability.

"Leon," Riza cried out as her cunt tightened on his cock and her inner muscles milked his shaft as she began to cream. Leon received the shock of his life when Cyrus's tongue began to lap her cream from the length of his cock as he rolled Leon's balls in his hand. Leon tensed but was too far gone and couldn't stop his roar of release.

Cyrus sat up grinning like a Cheshire cat and Leon glared but didn't comment, not wanting to draw attention to the act. Dirk smirked and Leon had the feeling he knew exactly what Cyrus had been doing.

Riza stretched full length on top of Leon, relaxing tense muscles. She'd had no idea Leon even knew of the act of sharing. Therefore, he'd caught her totally off guard at the suggestion. As for his choice in males, she couldn't have been more surprised. After Leon's confrontation with Dirk, she wouldn't have thought he'd ever consider him. As far as Cyrus, she barely knew him. He was quiet, kept mostly to himself. She didn't think of him as much of a ladies man. In fact, she couldn't remember him ever being involved with anyone. Maybe, that was why Leon chose him. He didn't want competition but that wouldn't explain Dirk.

"Ready for round two?" Dirk purred close to her ear.

Riza groaned but her pussy clenched at the thought of two cocks penetrating her.

"You're penetrating her ass," Leon said to Dirk and she wondered about the strange look that passed between the two males. Cyrus quietly moved to the side and Riza wondered if he'd done something to upset Leon but her mind quickly wrenched from that thought to other matters.

Four male hands lifted her and positioned her over Leon's thick erection. She sighed as she straddled his cock once again. This time, she knew Dirk intended to mount her ass as she rode Leon's cock. Dirk's hot, hard body pressed close to her back and she struggled to breathe. Long ago, she'd forgotten they were in a room full of people and a howl from a nearby male as he found release startled her.

Her eyes widened as she took in the scene around them. For years, she had heard the sounds and smelled the scents of mating coming from this room but never had she imagined such a carnal scene. The other night she'd been too nervous and intent on Leon to give the others much thought. Several males stood around watching. As much as she enjoyed the adoring eyes upon her and the touch of ardent male hands, she enjoyed time alone with Leon more. Blinking, she furrowed her brow as she began to withdraw.

"Riza."

Her eyes flew to meet her mate's heated gaze.

"Don't worry about everyone else, concentrate on us."

Licking her lips, her eyes trailed over the male beneath her. He was perfection. He was hers and nothing else mattered.

"Are you ready for me?" Dirk asked as she felt his hands spreading the globes of her ass. "You're so tiny. I don't want to hurt you."

Riza smirked. "You never minded hurting my ass when you tossed me on it on the training field."

"If I'd known how sweet it was I'd never have bruised it." His hands squeezed as the head of his cock nudged her opening. She tensed, expecting pain.

"Relax, Riza. Accept him," Leon commanded.

Exhaling a deep breath, she arched her back, allowing Dirk better access to his target.

"That's right, babe. Enjoy what we're going to give you." Leon tugged her mouth to his, parting her lips and inserting his tongue as Dirk breeched her opening. Riza shuddered at the full sensation of two cocks filling her body.

Her eyes closed as the breath hissed from her body. Her fingers dug into Leon's muscled chest as they slowly began to move. Leon lifted her up his cock as Dirk slid deeper and as she lowered on Leon's shaft, Dirk withdrew. A slow agonizing process set her nerves on edge. She tried to push down and back but the male hands held her immobile.

"Please...harder, faster...something," Riza urged.

As if unspoken words passed between the males, they changed their rhythm. Dirk's hands slid from her hips to enclose her breasts as his cock lodged deep in her ass. Leon increased his pace, bucking fast and deep. Each time Leon's cock plunged into her alongside Dirk's it stole her breath. Her body trembled as her insides quaked.

Dirk's fingers tweaked her nipples as he began to move. His powerful thrusts pushed her up Leon's cock and as he withdrew, her wet canal would slide down Leon's shaft.

"You're so tight, I'm not going to last," Dirk's hoarse voice whispered.

A deep growl erupted from Leon. "I'm not going to last either if you keep riding her up and down my cock like that."

Riza tried to speak but only a strangled gasp emerged as her body began to vibrate uncontrollably. She panted and shrieked as the world tilted sideways on its axis and she toppled into an abyss. The joint sounds of roaring and howling roused her momentarily from the bed she'd found upon Leon's chest.

"Did I survive?" Riza muttered.

Dirk rolled to the side his eyes heavy lidded. "You're a lucky man," he told Leon.

"I know."

"If ever she needs me, I'll be there." Dirk held out his hand.

Leon grasped the other male's hand and shook vigorously. The evening was not one he was likely to repeat but he had found joy in it. It pleased him to give Riza such complete and utter bliss. It had not been as bad as he'd anticipated. Leon's gaze flickered to Cyrus. Parts of it had been better than other parts, he thought. He narrowed his eyes at the male.

Dirk stood and grabbed a blanket. Wrapping it around Riza, he lifted her. "Let me help you."

As Leon stood, Dirk placed the slight burden back in his arms. "Be good to her."

"I will," Leon promised. He turned his gaze to Cyrus. "Thank you. It was an experience," Leon narrowed his gaze on the other male, "I'm sure Riza will never forget."

Cyrus nodded, his lip curling upward at the corner. "If ever you need me, I will be there." With a nod of acknowledgement, Leon carried Riza from the room.

Placing a sleeping Riza on her bed, Leon stepped onto the balcony and uncovered the heated whirlpool tub. Steam rose into the night sky. He added a drop or two of lavender body oil as he adjusted the temperature. Riza would be sore unless he cleansed her now. If he was honest with himself, he knew he wanted to wash the scent of the other males off her.

A flash of Riza on her knees before Dirk filled his mind. Exhaling a harsh breath, Leon turned his face skyward. He wanted to prove his love to Riza and her pack. He had done that. Never again though, would another male touch his mate.

His mind turned to her gift to him, her total submission. He could still fill the tremble of her small, round hips as he'd parted her and claimed her as his mate. Even though he'd made a huge mistake, she'd forgiven him. To the point of humbling herself before him and her pack. It was far more than he deserved. Riza was far more than he deserved.

His heart ached as he glanced at his small mate dozing on the bed. Riza murmured sleepily and snuggled against his chest as he carried her to the tub. The cool night air roused her and as he stepped into the tub and lowered her into the water, she gasped.

"Leon."

"Shh, baby, I don't want you to be sore tomorrow."

"I bet." Riza chuckled and sharp teeth nipped at his nipple.

"Hey. Do that again and I'll do more than wash your luscious body."

"Promises, promises." Riza's head rolled back and she watched him from beneath heavy-lidded eyes.

"You're too tired."

A small hand slid down his chest and across his abs, wrapping around his cock, pinned between their bodies. His sac tightened. "I'm never too tired for you."

"You're too good to me." Trailing his lips along her neck, he promised, "I'll do all the work. You relax. I'll love you long and sweet and then you'll sleep like a baby."

Lowering his head, he suckled a nipple as his fingers found her pussy. Slowly sliding in and out, long and deep, his fingers pleasured her.

"Just a minute." Leon lowered her to a bench seat and hopped from the tub, grabbing the padded cushion from a lounge chair. Hopping back into the tub, he placed the padding at the edge and lifted her onto it.

Riza's nipples puckered tightly in the cool night air. "Is it too cold for you?"

Leon had placed her with her ass on the edge of the tub and her legs spread wide. She raised her head and her lip curled upward. "Somehow, I don't think I'll have a chance to get cold."

Leon growled at the feast spread before him. "Are you sore?"

He raked her folds with his raspy tongue and she bucked upward. "No, I...no," Riza answered shakily.

Chuckling, Leon lowered his head again and inhaled deeply. Her warm, womanly musk inflamed him. He couldn't get enough of her scent. Burying his face in her folds his tongue pierced her tight, wet hole. Her body went rigid and he had to hold her hips in place. Deeply, his tongue stroked her tasty confines and her inner walls quaked around it.

"Leon," Riza cried out as sweet cream poured onto his tongue and waiting mouth.

Laving her folds, he feasted on the tasty treat. "That's right, baby, feed me." He continued to stroke her long after the last tremor ceased to rock her body. Raising his head, he stroked her inner thighs as he met her heated gaze. His cock throbbed and arched up against his stomach but he wanted to make sure it wouldn't cause her discomfort. Slowly inserting three fingers into her tight wet hole, he watched her eyes explode in flames. "Are you sure there's no pain?"

Her pink tongue snaked out, licking her lips as she nodded and he growled in need. Sliding his fingers free, he grasped her hips, anchoring her in place for his cock. He wanted to explode just watching her part for his shaft. Pushing forward he heard a deep moan but wasn't sure if it was him or her.

"God, Riza," Leon panted. "It gets better every time." Gently, he pushed forward and back, his cock urged him to ride her hard but he wouldn't, not tonight.

"I love you," Riza gasped in a breathy voice and he had to struggle not to erupt.

Grabbing her up, he took a step back and sat down, settling her over him. Nuzzling her breasts to his face he whispered, "I love you too. You're my life...my everything. You bring color to my world." He rubbed his damp eyes against her chest as he struggled to breathe.

Her fingers tilted his chin up and their gazes met under the silvery glow of the moon. Watery, emerald eyes stared at him and her lips trembled as she spoke, "To have the love of a man such as you humbles me." Grasping his shoulders, she slid up his cock and dropped back down and his breath caught in his throat.

"It's my turn to show you my love and my total commitment," Riza whispered. As she leaned forward, her dark hair fell around him. A pert nipple brushed his cheek and he turned, latching on to the offering. Enclosing the rounded mounds of her ass, he guided her as her liquid heat rode his cock. Sucking fiercely on her nipple, he bucked his hips and she screamed.

"Leon!"

"Take me. Take all of me and give me all you have," Leon pleaded.

Her sharp nails dug into his shoulders and she ground against his cock. He had to grit his teeth to stop his beast from rising as exquisite pleasure shivered his spine and tightened his sac.

Throwing back her head, Riza howled as her inner muscles clamped and released his tortured shaft. "Yes. Yes," Leon shouted as he furiously pumped his hips, shooting his seed deep into her body.

She collapsed on him and their hearts pounded in frantic harmony. "My love, my mate," he murmured as he brushed her cheek with a kiss.

"Take me to bed," Riza demanded.

"Riza!"

She shifted against him, her hip brushing his semi-erect cock and miraculously he hardened again. "I know you're capable. Take me to bed and love me until neither of us can move."

"Fuck!"

She squealed as he threw her over his shoulder and hopped from the tub, streaming water in his wake. Throwing her into the middle of the bed, he landed next to her.

"You want me to fuck until I can't move. It might be tomorrow by the time I'm through." Her skin was pinkish from the warm water and he slapped her bottom and then rubbed the handprint.

Snarling, she allowed a little fang to show. "Do your best, almighty king of the beasts," Riza challenged.

"You'll be bowing and calling me master before I'm finished," Leon predicted smugly as he grasped her thigh and dragged her closer.

"You think so?" She arched a dark brow.

"I know so. When I've earned your complete submission and my cock is buried deep in your ass, you'll beg me to fuck you hard."

Riza's chest rose and fell rapidly as she panted for breath and his cock ached just watching his sexy mate. Shaking her head, her dark locks fell around her and she grinned wickedly. "Maybe I'll make you beg." Her voice was a husky purr.

His brow shot up as she licked her full, pouty lips. If she only knew how close he was to begging now. "Come on, make me beg."

With a growl, she pounced and he landed on his back in the middle of the satincovered bed. He shook his head. "Play with fire and you might get burned."

Riza ran her index finger from the middle of his chest across his abs. His stomach flinched. "Burn me."

Leon's heart pumped wildly as her sleekly muscled frame leaned over him. The muted light didn't dim her radiant beauty. Crawling up his body, she straddled his

lower stomach and wiggled as she settled over him. The full swell of the underside of her small breasts tipped her nipples up, as if they waited for his mouth. Her hands sifted through the hair on his chest, finding his erect male nipples. She grinned as she pinched the hardened tips. Leon's breath hissed from between his lips.

Riza stifled a moan as she gazed at her gorgeous mate. One muscled arm thrown over his head and his long blond mane spread across her black satin sheets. It was a good thing she'd redecorated, though he was masculine enough to look hot stretched out on pink lace.

Keeping their eyes locked, she leaned forward, meeting his lips. Tracing his full bottom lip, she nipped it before dipping into the moist cavern of his mouth. Their tongues swirled together. He tasted of an exotic musk that must be her own flavor. Wildly, she suckled his tongue and ravished his mouth. His cock pinned beneath her pussy, thumped against her aching core.

Ripping their lips apart she panted, "It's getting hotter by the minute."

"Ignite me."

She shifted on his thick length and knew her liquid heat bathed his groin. Writhing over him, she groaned. She'd never felt voracious longing. She was a glutton—the more he gave the more she wanted. Furiously, she lunged against him. "Leon, I..." She moaned as a shiver of heat ripped through her lower belly. "I need you. Deep, hard...now."

"Take me."

She rose up and his cock unerringly sought her entrance. She dropped over him. "Oh god." Strong hands grasped her hips, raising and lowering her at a thunderous pace.

"You're killing me."

Bucking his hips, he lowered her down his shaft until he filled her completely. She screamed as brutal elation washed over her. "Yes. Oh god, yes."

Leaning forward until her forehead rested against his chest, she gasped for breath. He was still buried deep and hard inside her. Lifting her head, she met his molten gaze. "You didn't?"

Lifting a sardonic brow he purred, "No. I didn't...not yet." He flexed inside her and she shivered. "Who's going to beg?"

"Leon."

"Who?"

She shook her head.

"Get on your hands and knees," Leon commanded in a darkly sensual voice.

"Leon," she pouted.

"Now."

Inner muscles contracted as she pulled away from his turgid flesh. Kneeling at his side, she hesitated and he said, "Hands and knees."

Bending forward, he rose behind her. Warm hands ran over her rounded cheeks. "Nice. Very nice." A finger dipped between her dripping folds then spread moisture up her crack. "Spread your thighs wider."

Her legs quaked as she complied. Nervous excitement bubbled in her stomach. Strong fingers grasped her neck and pushed her head to the bed. Gulping, she shivered as smooth satin brushed her cheek and silken steel prodded her pussy. Her breath burst from her body and he drove deep. His free hand dipped between her thighs. Finding her engorged clit, he pinched and she rocked forward.

"Hold still." He plunged and withdrew his cock. His fingers circled and prodded her clit before slipping away.

She shuddered as wet fingers pressed against her anal opening. Flinching, she tightened the hole.

"Relax. You know you want it. My finger and my cock deep inside you, dominating you."

His finger circled tighter and tighter before impaling her. Her back arched at the double penetration. "You're mine. Mine. Never again will I allow another male to touch you." His voice was husky and anguished.

With sudden clarity, Riza realized he was remembering the other males he'd allowed to touch her. He had honored her in the way of her pack but she knew it haunted him. For a feline, it was unheard of to share your mate. She had not expected him to honor the lupine custom. Never would she have asked it of him. The fact that he had shared her with not only one male but two was astonishing. No one would ever doubt his commitment to her and she didn't want him to ever doubt her love or commitment to him. "I'm yours. Only yours. Take me, Leon." She rocked with him, encouraging him. "Dominate me, make me yours."

A tortured groan escaped his lips as his finger and cock slid free. Taking a deep breath, she relaxed, knowing what was coming. His thick cock head lodged at her anal opening, spreading her wide.

"You're mine."

"Yes."

Still grasping her neck in a gentle but dominant hold, he drove deep. "So hot...so tight."

Riza was near exhaustion but her love for him drove her on. She clenched her buttock muscles and he growled. "I won't survive."

"Fuck me hard, Leon. I'm yours, only yours."

"Fuck!" he yelled releasing her neck. Grasping her hips, he heaved, impaling her hard and fast. He thrust repetitively and she gasped to draw breath.

"Now. Yes, now." She cried, as burning lava filled her veins, exploding in merciless bliss.

"Mine," he declared once more as hot fluid filled her canal.

Collapsing, they lay entwined and quivering with euphoric exaltation. Riza's heart pounded until she thought it would explode. His semi-erect cock slid from her body but still he held her close.

"I've never," he gasped, "never, felt like that."

"It was sublime."

He snuggled, kissing her neck. "It all started because I didn't want you to be sore."

"Humph. I'm sure I won't be sore now!"

"I'll clean us so we can sleep in peace."

"Mmm, just don't wake me." She yawned as her eyes drooped. "Love you." Her eyes closed.

* * * * *

The moon was full as the lion silently stalked his prey. Lifting his head, he sniffed the air, finding a familiar scent. His eyes glowed as he neared the waters edge. The dark-haired female splashed at the shallow water. Lunging, he grabbed her by the arm. His mouth closed tight enough to hold but not to damage the skin as he pulled her from the water.

The naked woman shrieked and trembled on the ground as he stood over her licking his chops. Lowering his snout to the female's mound, he inhaled her fragrant scent. Fear laced the woman's natural scent, giving her a heady flavor.

"Please don't hurt me. I'll do anything," the female begged.

His nose bumped her downy curls and she whimpered. His tongue darted out and lapped her heated folds. A startled gasp escaped her lips and he growled, pinning her with his heated gaze.

The lion's cock dripped with pre-cum as it extended long and heavy from his body. He took a step forward allowing the lubricant to drip onto her. He padded slowly up her body, his paws on each side of her, and his liquid streamed over her belly, her breasts... He stopped and watched the female, wondering if she'd really do anything.

Feral Lust

"Fuck," Leon gasped as a warm, wet mouth closed around his cock jerking him from his slumber. Riza looked up from her position between his thighs.

"It about time you woke up," Riza said, her hot breath blowing across his wet cock.

"Mmm, I was dreaming." He eyed his pretty little mate with her mouth stretched around his cock. This was even better than his dream.

His cock popped from her mouth. "About me?"

"Oh yeah and you were just about to suck my cock."

"That can be arranged." She nipped his fleshy cock head and he arched up to meet her mouth.

"Glad to hear it. It's about time we had a talk about how many different ways we can fit together."

"Oh really." Her dark brows arched. "I'm much better at action than talk." Riza shifted to feral form and a long tongue swiped his naked thigh.

"Fuck, this is definitely better than my dream."

About the Author

L.A. Day exists only in the mind of an ordinary wife and mother. An avid reader since early childhood, she began writing romance in her teens. Now, 20+ years later she's progressed to erotic romance. Supported by her husband of many years, she spends her evenings in front of the computer.

She now has a chance to bring her stories to life for everyone to enjoy. Her favorite genre is erotic romance with a paranormal twist. She feels that if you're going to create an alpha male character, why not make him bigger, stronger, more well endowed than any human man could ever be? It is fantasy, after all. Thanks to Ellora's Cave, L.A. Day can live her fantasy, making money for thinking about sex 24/7.

L.A. 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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