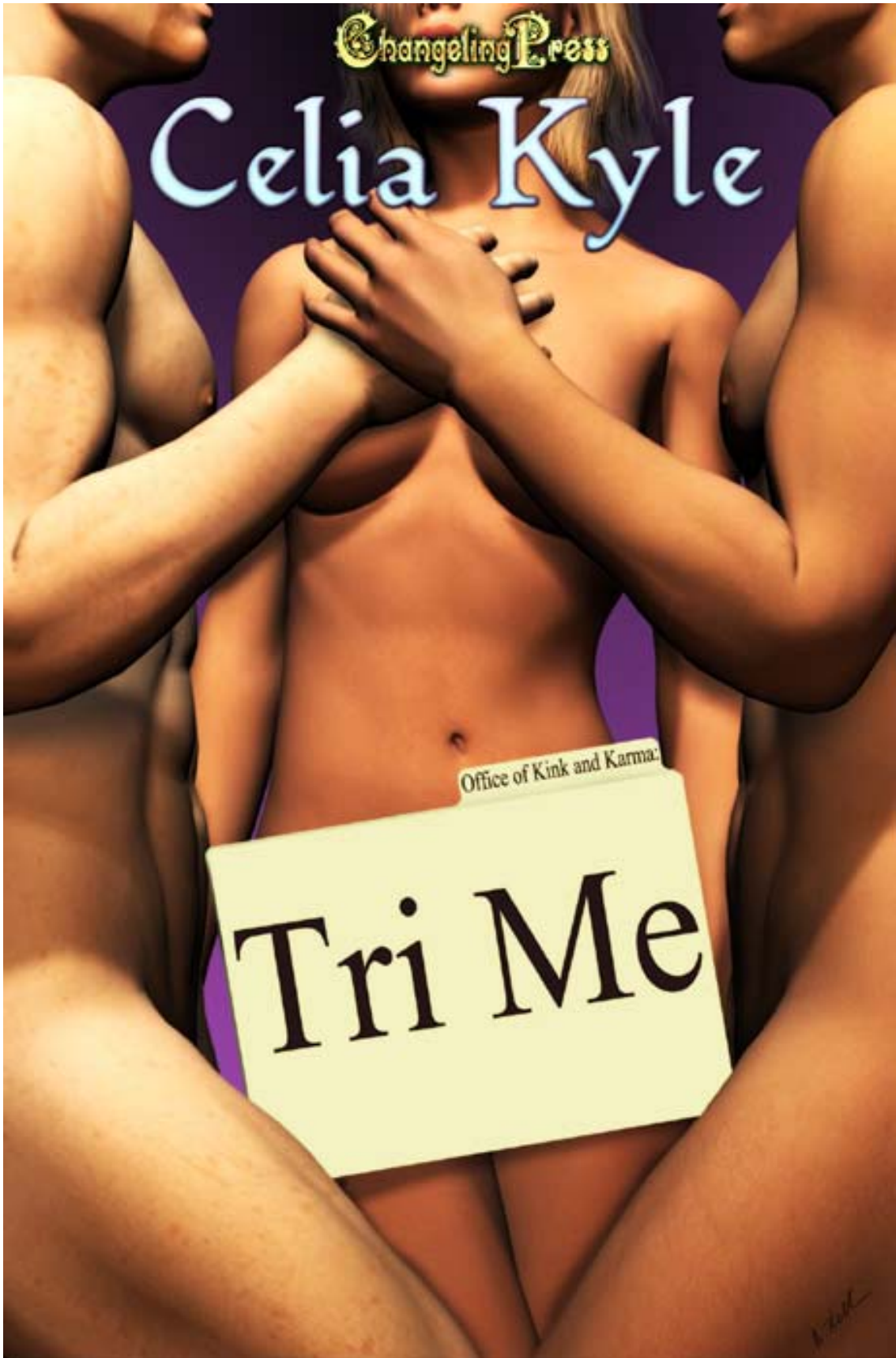


Changeling Press

Celia Kyle

Office of Kink and Karma:

Tri Me



# Office of Kink and Karma: Tri Me

## Celia Kyle

All rights reserved.  
Copyright ©2007 Celia Kyle

**Warning: The unauthorized reproduction or distribution of this copyrighted work is illegal. Criminal copyright infringement, including infringement without monetary gain, is investigated by the FBI and is punishable by up to 5 years in federal prison and a fine of \$250,000.**

ISBN: 978-1-59596-828-9  
Formats Available:  
HTML, Adobe PDF,  
MobiPocket, Microsoft Reader

Publisher:  
Changeling Press LLC  
PO Box 1046  
Martinsburg, WV 25402-1046  
[www.ChangelingPress.com](http://www.ChangelingPress.com)

Editor: Chrissie Henderson  
Cover Artist: Bryan Keller

**This e-book file contains sexually explicit scenes and adult language which some may find offensive and which is not appropriate for a young audience. Changeling Press E-Books are for sale to adults, only, as defined by the laws of the country in which you made your purchase. Please store your files wisely, where they cannot be accessed by under-aged readers.**

## **Office of Kink and Karma: Tri Me**

### **Celia Kyle**

Eric D'Amore is back and still struggling to pair Extraordinaries and Normals together. Good thing his next trio already shares a bit of history, otherwise his job would be nearly impossible.

Two men, one woman and some yummy man loving... What more could a woman ask for?

Lara Kinley is a schoolteacher by day and a waitress at TJ's, the local Animali Extraordinary bar, by night. Everyone has to make sacrifices to get what they want, but will Lara's sacrifices result in her dreams coming true and her wildest fantasies fulfilled?

Theo and Jackson are partners in love and life, but both of them feel something is missing. It takes the prodding of Eric D'Amore and an order from the Office of Kink and Karma for them to admit their desire for a woman in their lives to each other. Once they understand and accept the other's needs, they embark on seducing and capturing Lara as their own. But can she open her heart to these two men and allow their love for her to solve all her problems?

## Chapter One

A slim, cool hand slid around Eric's cock, pulling him awake with its slow, even strokes. His voice, gravelly from sleep, called out the owner's name. "Melani."

She melded to him, pressing her breasts into his side, resting her head on his shoulder as her fingers worked their magic. Propping his arms behind his head, he relaxed under her touch. Sure, they'd decided to end their relationship for their own reasons, but damn, she knew which places to stroke.

"Eric, I've missed you."

Her voice, a seductive purr, shot straight to his cock. She began snaking down his abdomen, skin slithering against skin, but he grabbed her shoulders, stopping her descent. "Not this time, Lani. We'll both get our pleasure."

Smiling and with a grace born of her years spent dancing, she climbed atop him, settling her moist, hot core over his cock. Her lithe, lean form, with its trim hips and deeply tanned skin, rose above him. Her dark brown hair cascaded around her shoulders in large curls.

Sliding his hands along her outer thighs, he squeezed and kneaded the firm flesh. Melani kept herself fit and trim; tight muscle covered every inch of her from head to toe and not a bit of fat or flab could be seen. She truly was the ideal woman for anyone but him. But here she was, in his house and in his bed, ready and willing.

Melani's bare pussy slid along his cock, spreading her cream all over him as she moved. The warm, wet heat teased him, but he needed more. Grasping her hips, he controlled her motions. Back and forth, back and forth, over and over he moved her as he desired. She moaned her appreciation of his control. Each time the head of his cock slid near her opening, he barely resisted the urge to plunge into her depths. Each time he nudged her clit, she cried out in pleasure.

Melani pressed her hips down on his, slowing his movements, but increasing the friction. Having had enough of teasing her, he raised her hips up, poising his cock at her entrance and pressing into her slightly.

“Yes, oh God, yes!”

In one forceful thrust, Eric embedded his cock deep within Melani’s heat until her smooth, cream-slicked skin pressed against his groin. They lay joined, their breathing heavy as seconds ticked by, Eric giving her pussy a chance to adjust to his size. It had been a long time since they’d fucked.

Her tight, scorching cunt hugged him like a glove. Digging his fingers into her hips, he willed himself not to move, to give Melani a moment. But when she began rocking on him, shifting and rubbing against his groin, he lost his tenuous control.

Holding her steady above him, he began pounding her with rapid drives, withdrawing and thrusting into her snug pussy. His gaze met hers and held, watching her face as he fucked her. Melani’s eyes widened at first at the sudden change, but she adapted quickly, holding her hips steady as his assault continued.

His cock thrust in and out of her cunt, the wet sounds of flesh meeting flesh filling the room, mingling with the sounds of their breath. Melani toyed with her nipples, tugging and pinching the erect nubs as he kept his pace.

In. Out. In. Out. Over and over again. Fuck, he was going to come soon. His orgasm was within reach, a few more thrusts and it would be upon him. But he wanted Melani to come at the same time. Holding her body steady with one hand he moved the other so he could reach her clit. Pressing down hard, he moved his thumb in tiny, tight circles over the nub of flesh.

“Fuck! Yes! Eric, fuck me harder!”

Eric was happy to oblige. He picked up his pace, his thrusts becoming short, fast and hard as he fucked the fair Melani. Her pussy contracted around him in a vise-like grip, which drew his orgasm ever nearer. Starting at the base of his skull, it traveled down his spine, sending flicks of electricity along every nerve ending until it settled in his lower back.

In. Out. In. Out. Melani's cunt gripped him tighter and she screamed as her orgasm began, triggering his own. He arched, pressing his cock into her, burying it as deep as it could go before his orgasm burst through the dam and washed over him. Seed spewed from his cock, filling her spasming cunt with the heated fluid. He continued to thrust, carrying them both through their orgasms until the feelings began to ebb.

Breathing returning to normal, he relaxed into the bed, still joined with Melani.

"Mm. That was wonderful, Eric." Her fingers trailed over his chest and down his abdomen, her nails scratching and teasing his skin.

"Yes, it was." As he slid to his side, his cock pulled free of her snug heat and he groaned. She snuggled back into place beside him. Pressing a kiss to Melani's temple, he glanced at the clock. Fuck! His next Office of Kink and Karma appointment would be at his home any minute. "I admit I'm surprised to see you here, Lani. What's going on?"

Her fingers traced circles on his chest and he thought she wasn't going to respond. "I missed you. You fuck me so well and my new boyfr..."

"You've got a boyfriend?" Eric rolled away from her. Yeah, he'd use a woman as long as they both knew the score, but he never fucked a woman who was taken. "Damn it, Melani!" Snatching his robe off a nearby chair, he covered himself.

"Eric, I don't see what the big deal is."

"That's just it, Melani, you never do. I can't believe you came here while you've got another man at home." Running a hand through his hair, he turned to stare at her. Still naked, she lay on the bed, smiling. Smiling! Yet another reason they'd ended their relationship. Her cold-hearted ways were going to bite her in the ass someday. "I think it's time for you to leave. I've got someone coming by..."

"Oh! So you fuck me and kick me out?"

"Lani, you came here for a fuck when you've got someone at home and I've got an appointment."

"Fine. You've got more of your little 'freaks' you're trying to help coming by, is that it?"

“They’re not ‘freaks,’ Lani. Unless that’s what you think of me now. And if that’s the case, you were enjoying some freak cock just a few moments ago. Maybe you should remember that.”

“Fine.” She jumped from the bed and pulled on her clothes. “Are you still helping them for *free*? Finding them their soul mates and all that bullshit?”

Listening to her, you’d never know she spent years in finishing school. “Yes, I’m still helping Extraordinaries and Normals find love for free.” Stepping into her heels, she moved to stomp past Eric as he stood by the bedroom door, but he stopped her. “Hand over the card, Lani.”

“What?”

“The card. Hand it over or I’ll just have to change it. Either way, the doorman will never let you in here unannounced again.”

Grumbling, she pulled the business card from her purse and gave it to him. At least now he wouldn’t be surprised by her visits.



## Chapter Two

"But... but we're gay. As in, tab A does not go into slot B, gay." Theo nudged Jackson's shoulder. "Jackson, tell him we're gay."

Jackson, still trying to understand what the director had told them, ignored his partner. He cleared his throat and addressed Eric D'Amore. "Sir, let me get this straight."

Theo interrupted him. "That's what *we're* not."

Jackson glared at Theo until his lover tossed his hands up in surrender. While Jackson didn't like any of what he'd heard so far, he wanted to understand what was going on. "As I was saying, what exactly is it your office requires of us?"

Eric straightened a few files on his desk before answering. "We at the Office of Kink and Karma are dedicated to rewarding those Normals in the population who have done their best to promote equality between Normals and Extraordinaries. The young lady we have chosen for you and your partner was selected due to her compatibility with you both. Her personality and physical attributes proved her to be your match, as well as, shall we say, her kink."

"*Her* kink?" This had to be a mistake. Jackson couldn't imagine the Council being involved in something like this.

A light blush tinged Eric's cheeks and he stared at his desk, almost as if the conversation embarrassed him. "Yes, her kink. After the last operation lasted longer than intended, the Council decided to obtain all of the necessary information about the target before sending operatives into the field, which included finding out the target's ultimate sexual fantasy or kink. Your target's kink is to..." He shuffled pieces of paper and files until he found the one he searched for. "Ah, yes. Her desire is to engage in sexual intercourse with two men who also engage in sexual contact with each other."

Eric tugged at his tie and his blush deepened. "Your partner has already professed your *enjoyment* of contact between each other. You have two choices. Facilitate the realization of her fantasy, or participate in it yourselves."

Eric rose from behind the desk, coming around to lean against its front, a few feet from them. Jackson had to admit something about the big blond Adonis-like man attracted him. Not in a "I want to fuck you" sort of way, of course. The attraction was more of a simple acknowledgement of someone else's beauty.

Jackson had all he could ever want in the man sitting next to him. But a woman? The two of them had participated in threesomes in their past. In the early stages of their relationship, women had come and gone. Operative word being *gone*. It had been a phase for the two of them. Or was it? It didn't matter, the Council was forcing it back into their relationship whether they liked it or not.

Theo stood and stomped toward Eric until they were toe-to-toe. Jackson bit the inside of his cheek to hold back his laughter as Theo straightened to his full height of five feet seven inches. Eric towered over him, easily twice as wide as Theo's lithe frame, but being smaller than Eric didn't stop the man from saying his piece. "Three letters, one syllable, buster. Gay. Is that a difficult concept to wrap your tiny little brain around?"

Eric's muscles tensed and flexed underneath his snug button-down shirt and for a split second, Jackson wondered if he'd have to step in and save Theo from himself. Eric arched a blond, trimmed brow. "You're gay?"

"Finally, the big blond gets it!" Theo turned toward Jackson, but his eyes widened in shock when Eric spun him around.

"If you're gay, then tell me why I've got a list of no less than ten women you've welcomed into your bed. I'll admit none of them have occurred recently, but they've shared your bed." Eric cupped Theo's cheek and Jackson felt his wolf protest. He couldn't handle someone touching what belonged to him. "Why don't you admit that maybe, just maybe, the two of you haven't found the *right* woman for you."

Jackson leaned forward in his chair. His wolf wanted him to pounce and rip his competition to shreds, but he held it in check, barely. As if Eric could sense his agitation, he removed his hand from Theo's face.

Theo backed away from Eric until his knees hit the back of the chair he'd so recently vacated. As he slumped into the seat, Jackson was surprised to see that his normally pale lover looked white as a sheet. Eric forgotten, Jackson focused on Theo. "Thee, baby?" He reached out and cold fingers twined with his.

Theo managed a small smile. "I'm fine. Let's... let's just grab the file and talk about this at home, okay?"

Something had scared Theo and Jackson didn't want to bother with figuring out what it was. His wolf snarled and tore at him to get Theo out of the office and home as quickly as possible. A smug Eric held the file in question out to Jackson as he rose from his chair. Snatching it, he slid an arm around Theo's waist, leading him from the room. Jackson hoped a little talking and some tender loving care would help him get to the bottom of Theo's sudden change of heart.

\* \* \*

Theo peeled off his shirt before Jackson could close the apartment door. His pants disappeared before the deadbolt slid home and he'd begun wiggling out of his boxer briefs when Jackson wrapped his arms around his waist. That's what Theo needed. Right now, more than anything, he needed Jackson's reassurance.

"You gonna tell me what's going on, Thee? Or are we just going straight to fucking?" Jackson pressed a kiss to the back of Theo's neck. "I can't dip into people's minds like you, Thee. So what's spinning through your head?"

He leaned back onto Jackson, resting his head on his lover's shoulder and letting the warmth of his embrace seep into his skin. So close, their breathing matched and Theo knew with one conscious thought he could dive into his lover's mind, but didn't. He'd learned long ago that people's minds were their own and if they wanted to tell you what they were feeling or thinking, they would. Jackson's hands roamed and stroked his stomach before settling over his heart. "Just need you right now, Jackson."

He turned in Jackson's arms and pressed his face to his neck, inhaling his scent. "Need you and then we'll talk."

"Oh, baby, don't you know you've always got me?" Jackson said on a sigh. Strong warm hands wandered across Theo's back, stroking and petting his tense muscles. "Why don't we go into the bedroom?"

Theo nodded into Jackson's shoulder. Grabbing his wrist, Jackson led him to the bedroom. The moment they crossed the threshold, Jackson's intent changed. Gone was the sweet sensitive man from the living room, in his place, the wolf in man's form. The sweet lust in Jackson's eyes gave way to a primal hunger. This is what Theo needed, to know he belonged to Jackson wholly and without any doubt.

Pulled hard against a wide chest covered in layers of muscle and peppered with silky hair, Theo let his hands travel over his mate's chest, remembering every dip and curve of carved muscle.

Jackson's mouth sought out his mark on Theo's shoulder, nibbling and biting the bit of flesh he had claimed as his own so many years ago. The tender caress of Jackson's tongue on Theo's skin brought his cock to attention. He rubbed his hips against his lover's, searching for the friction he craved.

Large rough hands settled on his waist, holding him steady as Jackson thrust his hardened cock against him, causing him to moan. With a jerk, their hips were pulled closer together as Jackson bit his shoulder, and then licked away the pain. "Mine."

"Yours. Always yours," Theo whispered on a sigh.

Jackson walked them toward the bed, pushing Theo down as the back of his knees made contact with the mattress. His boxers were gone in an instant and he locked eyes with his lover. Still clothed, Jackson stared at him, eyes caressing.

Theo's cock grew, painting his abs in pre-come. Whimpering, he begged for his lover. "Please." Jackson sank to his knees, and keeping his gaze on Theo, swallowed his cock. Hot, wet heat surrounded him. Teeth scraped, lips nibbled and Jackson's tongue flicked along Theo's shaft, causing him to shudder. Jackson always knew just what his lover needed.

Jackson arranged Theo as he desired, ass near the edge of the bed, legs propped over his shoulders, while continuing to suck. The sounds of Jackson's mouth moving over his lover's shaft as he sucked, and Theo's moans, filled the room.

Head tossed back, Theo shouted his pleasure when one of his mate's canines extended and scraped his cock. "Fuck! Yes!"

Theo's hips moved of their own volition, thrusting his shaft in and out of his lover's mouth, finding the perfect rhythm. Electric tingles raced down his spine, traveled around his waist and centered on his erection. Still his lover sucked and licked.

Jackson flicked his tongue, pressing into the slit in the head of Theo's penis before tracing the vein of his shaft down to its base. Theo thrust harder as he felt the muscles of his lover's throat ripple and contract around his cock, massaging and begging for his release.

One tender hand rolled and tugged on his balls, just the way he liked. Theo tried to hold back his orgasm, loving the feelings Jackson managed to pull from him, but it was no use. When his lover scraped his nails across the skin behind his balls while sucking and swallowing his cock, Theo lost the battle. Eyes closed so tight he saw stars, his muscles tensed and jerked as he released his seed deep within his mate's throat. Back arched, he cried out as he came. "God, yes!"

Jackson continued to lick and suck his shaft as the high from coming left him. His lover released his deflated cock with one final lick and joined him on the bed, licking that sensitive spot on his shoulder. "Mine."

Theo had trouble thinking, but the response to his mate's statement didn't take much thought. "Yours."

They lay together for a few moments, until finally, Jackson spoke. "Will you tell me what's wrong now?"

Theo nuzzled his shoulder and took a deep breath before answering. "I'm scared." He listened to Jackson's steady heartbeat. "Scared you'll let me go when I tell you I've been craving a woman in our bed." His lover's heartbeat sped up ever so slightly.

"What if I told you my wolf's been craving the same thing? Would you let me go?"

"Never." Theo dug his nails into Jackson's chest, afraid that he'd leave at any moment. "Never."

"And neither would I. It seems we haven't been as open as we should be. We used to have women in our lives, but it didn't work. Are you saying you'd like to try looking for someone to join us?"

Was that what he wanted? His heart wanted, more than anything, a soothing feminine presence, the soft gentle touches and loving nature only a woman could give.

"Yes. And you... want the same thing?"

"My wolf wants... more. It wants something you can't give, my love."

"It wants?" He hated the anger and jealousy lacing his voice, but hearing his lover craved something he couldn't give, hurt.

With soothing motions, Jackson stroked his back. "Children."

"It wants puppies? Puppies? Forget a woman. We can get puppies from the pet store!"

Jackson growled, a low reverberating sound Theo felt in his bones, causing him to laugh. Jumping from the bed, he held out a hand to his mate. "Come on, tough guy. Let's go see who the Council picked for us."

Hand in hand, they padded through the apartment. Theo snatched up the file and opened it. After one quick look at the picture held inside, he dropped the file back to the table. "Fuck me. It's Lara."

## Chapter Three

*Freakin' men with their freakin' "I got what you need" attitudes. I just wish like hell an eighteen-wheeler would come through here and demolish the whole place. Take all the damn horn dogs straight to Hell.*

If Lara had to endure one more wily hand snaking up her skirt, ass pinch, or dropped beer bottle, she'd scream. Or kick the guy in the balls. She hated her job at TJ's, but it paid on time and some would consider it paid well. The job just happened to come with customers who felt they could use the staff as their play toys. Pervs.

TJ's catered to AEs, Animali Extraordinaries, which meant when she referred to her customers as dogs, nine times out of ten they were -- in some form or another. Occasionally they would get other Animali breeds, but generally they were filled with wolves and coyotes.

Some nights a girl couldn't walk through the room without one of them wanting to sniff her ass. Lara didn't have a problem with Extraordinaries, but she did have a problem with men who thought they were God's gift to women. Unfortunately, TJ's seemed to be a beacon for those types of men.

Straightening her top and pulling down her skirt for what must have been the hundredth time, she picked up her tray of drinks and started across the room, filled from front to back with tables, chairs and people. She had to stay alert and tiptoe around the different groups. One wrong nudge could sometimes start a fight only the police could break up.

After delivering her drinks and collecting on a few tabs, Lara brushed a stray hair out of her face. She *really* needed to get another job. After tending bar at her friend's wedding, she'd started to think that maybe opening her own business and providing private bartending service might be a good idea. Being a people person, she

always seemed to be able to coax a smile out of the grumpiest of patrons and ensure the liquor flowed freely. Maybe she'd give Teddy a call. See if he had any ideas on how to start a business.

Tucking her tray under her arm, she made the harrowing trek back toward the bar. She did not feel like being involved in a fight at the moment. Her feet hurt, and her head ached from all of the noise. She just wanted to go home. Glancing at her watch, she felt the pain behind her eyes increase. *Two more hours to go before closing time.* Then she had to stick around to help clean and close up shop.

Halfway across the room, her world tilted as she got yanked onto a hard lap. Without a second thought, she grabbed a nearby beer bottle, broke the end off by smashing it on the table and held it to her assailant's throat. She'd had *enough*.

"Who the *fuck* do you think you are?" she ground out. Fear, panic and anger warred for top position within her, but she tried to remain calm. The arms holding her in place loosened their hold, but didn't budge. She pressed the broken glass into the offender's neck. "I asked you a question, jackass."

"Lara? It's me, Lar."

Her vision cleared and refocused on the face of the man holding her and she dropped her broken bottle instantly. She threw her arms around the man's neck. "Teddy bear!" Pulling back, she looked at his neck to survey the damage and noticed a thin trail of blood. "Oh, Teddy. I'm so sorry." Looking around, she took an offered napkin and dabbed at the small scratches along his neck. "Theo, God, I'm sorry."

Theo clasped her hands in his, stilling her movements. "No, I'm sorry, Lara. I didn't mean to scare you. I forget how on edge you are when you're here."

He pressed a soft kiss on her cheek and it took every ounce of restraint she possessed not to turn her head and capture his lips. Theo was every girl's wet dream, with short-cropped blond hair, sky-blue eyes, and a lean build. Lara couldn't look at him without wanting to strip him down and fuck him cross-eyed. Too bad he'd never given her any inkling that he wanted the same.



A gruff grating voice from behind her brought her back to her senses. "Have you lost your mind? You injured a customer!" her boss TJ raged. "That's it, Lara! You're out of here. Pack your shit and get the fuck out. I don't need you causing anymore problems." He spun on his heel and stalked toward the bar.

Tears burned her eyes, but she blinked them away. Losing it in the middle of the bar was not a good idea. No matter how much she hated this job, she needed it desperately. Laughing self-consciously, she slid from Theo's lap. "Um, sorry again, Teddy bear. I guess I'll see you around. You heard the man." She tried to laugh, but it came out as a strangled cough. "I'll catch you later."

"Lara. Wait." His fingers entwined with hers and he pulled her back to face him. That's when she caught sight of the man with Theo. Tall, dark, and deadly were the first words that popped into her mind, followed closely by doable. While she always thought of Theo as tall because he towered over her five-foot frame, this man made her feel tiny. Hell, he even made Theo look short.

Dark brown, almost black hair framed his face. A five o'clock shadow dirtied his cheeks and a pair of midnight black eyes stared at her as if he could see every thought that passed through her mind. This man came with one label; dangerous with a capital D. His broad shoulders and muscular arms made her think that he could kill whoever got in his way and not even break a sweat. The thought terrified and aroused her at the same time. Her body reacted predictably; her nipples tightened and pussy wept at having these two men so close. A shiver raced down her spine.

Theo pulled her close, folding her in his arms, and whispered in her ear, "Yeah, I reacted the same way when I first saw him." She pulled away and looked into his eyes. "Don't act so surprised, babes." He waggled his eyebrows. "You know I've got an eye for the men."

A throat cleared behind her and a deep voice responded to Theo's statement. "Had."

Mysterious triple D man had moved to stand behind her and she could feel the heat radiating from him. Sandwiched between the two men, she felt comfortable. With

Theo as her anchor, she felt at ease with the man at her back. She could sense a relationship of some sort between the two of them. Lara could hear the unmistakable possessive tone in the stranger's voice and could definitely see how Theo would be attracted to him.

"You're right. Had. Lara, this is my partner Jackson. Jackson, this is Lara."

Introductions made, Lara gave Jackson a small smile. While normally she'd love to sit and chat with both men, she wanted nothing more than to grab her few possessions from the back employee area and go home.

Pulling out of Theo's embrace, she shook hands with Jackson, ignoring the zing of electricity shooting straight to her pussy when they touched. "Nice to meet you, Jackson, but you heard the man. I've got to pack my stuff and get out of here. It was good to see you, Teddy. Give me a call and we'll get together." She needed to get out of here before her threatening tears started. Becoming a sniveling, snot-filled mess in the middle of TJ's would be like blood in the water to sharks. Guys saw a woman in distress as an easy lay, which she was not.

After collecting her meager belongings and changing into jeans and a T-shirt, she was shocked to see Theo and Jackson waiting by her car. "What are you guys doing here?"

Theo, bursting with energy, came forward and threw an arm across her shoulders. "Kidnapping you, with the intent of ravaging you in your sleep. Interested?"

Oh, they looked serious enough, but she wasn't falling for it. Jackson seemed ready to pounce and she couldn't figure out if he wanted to pounce on her or Theo for suggesting such a thing. Gay men in general were gay for a reason. Women just didn't do it for them.

Pulling away and searching for her keys, she answered him. "Hardy har. Very funny, Theo. Thanks, guys, for making sure I got out of there okay, but I'm going to head home and take a hot shower before snuggling into bed. You two have a good night."

Lara walked right into a solid chest, one far too wide to belong to Theo. Jackson's hands were fisted at his sides, as if restraining himself from doing something. "Lara." That deep voice of his made her knees weak. "Come back to the house with us. If not to soak in our Jacuzzi tub, then at least come to save me from a night of his pouting."

Ooh, that sounded tempting. Lara had been on the receiving end of numerous descriptions of the new Jacuzzi tub, and had practically followed Theo home after Josh's wedding. A nice long soak in her friends' tub sounded like a perfect end to one hellacious evening. And maybe she'd get a glimpse of one of them half naked while walking around the house. Gay or not, that alone would make the trip worthwhile.

"Yeah, Lara, please? It'll be a big slumber party!"

She looked over her shoulder at Theo. "A slumber party? You're what, almost thirty? Teddy, aren't you getting a little old for slumber parties?"

He clutched his chest, pretending to be wounded. "I'm hurt. Fine. You've discovered my ulterior motive. We're going to seduce you and convince you to live with us forever with promises of worshipping the very ground you walk on. Better?"

She couldn't help but laugh at Theo's humor. "Much. Lead the way, guys. I get first dibs on the tub though."

"Whatever you want, baby," answered Jackson.

She plastered on a smile and gave a small wave to both men before turning back to her car. The enormity of losing her job and what it would mean to her plans was slowly creeping in. She picked up her pace, not wanting to break down in front of Theo and Jackson.

## Chapter Four

Jackson had a hard time letting Lara walk away. Deep down, he knew she would be following them, but his wolf wasn't as understanding. A one-word mantra played through his head while he walked back to the car. *Mine*. It repeated with every step he took away from her and every breath that wasn't suffused with her scent. *Mine. Mine. Mine.*

Settling behind the wheel of his car, he waited impatiently for Theo to join him. Thumbs drumming a rapid beat in time with his heart, his beast screamed to dash across the parking lot and claim his other mate. Lara's trim waist, which led to her rounded hips and pert ass, beckoned him, teasing him with every sway.

A smiling Theo hopped into his seat, clicking the seat belt in place. "So, what did you think of our 'target'?"

His grip on the wheel tightened. "Mine." Slender, cool fingers stroked the back of his neck and Jackson leaned into the touch. Theo always knew exactly how to calm him. Words weren't always needed between the two of them, a simple touch could be all it took.

"Ours. Gotta go slow, though. She's being a trouper, but any minute she's going to burst into tears."

"No." Theo's palm stroked the back of his neck and across his shoulders. He knew he'd regressed to a Neanderthal, but his wolf was on a mission now.

Theo chuckled. "No to what, Jackson?"

"No tears. She's ours now and she'll always be happy."

A sigh escaped his lover and he leaned over to rest his head on Jackson's shoulder. "It's not that simple. Do you really think Lara belonged in that place?"

Jackson thought about it for a moment and had to agree that she didn't fit there. Other than being beautiful, she showed herself to be strong and quick thinking, and smart enough to know how to defend herself. She didn't belong in some primarily AE bar where she'd be pawed every day. "No. But we'll take care of her now. It doesn't matter," he declared with a wave.

Theo squeezed his shoulder and leaned across to press a kiss to his cheek. "I love you, Jackson, but the big bad wolf needs to let my man speak for a few minutes."

Jackson knew Theo was right. He needed to get a handle on his animal's drives and urges before they got back to the house. Otherwise, he'd take Lara on the front lawn for the entire neighborhood to see and be proud of himself for claiming her with so many witnesses. Taking a deep breath, rolling his shoulders and neck, he nodded to Theo. "Okay. Why is she going to burst into tears any second?"

He could feel Theo watching him, and he hated it. His lover seemed to be able to read his mind with ease. Was that because of their love or Theo's abilities as a Psi?

"Her best friend..."

"I thought you were her best friend."

"Her best *girl* friend."

"Oh. And why is this the first time I'm meeting Lara? You've talked about her before, but she's never come over..."

Theo removed his hand and slumped into his seat. It was a sure sign his lover was getting ready for a confession of some sort. "Because I love Lara, and I was afraid you'd see through my 'friend' act. Afraid I'd lose you because I cared for someone else and you'd see my true feelings and get angry and..."

"And it doesn't matter anymore." His turn to soothe. Placing a hand high on Theo's thigh, he squeezed. "You love her. My wolf recognizes her as a mate and is *dying* to claim her. I'm sure we'll work it out, Thee. Now, why don't you tell me why our girl is about to burst into tears?"

Theo looked at him out of the corner of his eye, but didn't say anything for a few seconds. Time ticked by as the drive toward the house continued and Jackson could almost hear the gears turning in Theo's head.

For a moment, he didn't think Theo would answer him, but he finally explained. "Lara's best friend Jessica was in a car accident about six months ago. She... died."

Jackson remembered that time. Theo had spent a lot of time over at Lara's, comforting her. He wanted to be with both of them, but it felt awkward to go to a stranger's house to offer comfort, so he hadn't.

"Jessica had just given birth, a single mother with no will or relatives. Her daughter Chrissy went into foster care."

Theo remained quiet for several minutes, staring out the window. "Lara has been saving money and working to adopt Chrissy. The courts wouldn't give the baby to her and she's been working her ass off to pay lawyers to fight for the baby. Working at TJ's was her second job. During the day she teaches, and at night she worked there."

Okay, he understood her need to adopt her friend's baby, and possibly why losing her job could upset her, but... "Why is it such a big fight and costing her so much to adopt a baby? She works as a teacher. Obviously someone thought it would be okay for her to be around kids. What, she can teach them, but not adopt one? That's a load of..."

"Lara's a Normal. The baby is a leopard AE."

"And Normals can't adopt Extraordinaries. Fucking politics!" Jackson finished, slamming his palm on the steering wheel. A law as old and antiquated as time itself still existed decreeing that Normals couldn't adopt and raise Extraordinary children and vice versa.

A small part of Jackson balked at his soon-to-be mate's desire to adopt a feline AE, but the larger part of his heart yearned to do what he could to make her happy. Even if it meant bringing a cat into the family. Felines and canines could get along, right?

\* \* \*

Sometimes, like now, Jackson hated his wolf's hearing. He hated being able to hear Lara's every sigh as if her lips were against his ear and feel each of her moans through his entire body. And all she was doing was taking a bath on the other side of the house.

After arriving at their home, Theo showed Lara into the guest suite, complete with Jacuzzi tub, and left her to bathe. She'd flashed a blinding smile as she hugged Theo, and Jackson felt a twinge of unnecessary jealousy deep in his gut. Theo was his mate, just as Lara would soon be.

Pushing those feelings aside, the two men had crawled into bed as they always did. Spooning Theo, he prayed for sleep, but then the sounds had started.

The soft sighs, moans and groans called to him, but Jackson resisted. Instead, he resorted to counting the tiny freckles on the back of Theo's neck. His lover was so fair he tended to burn and peel, revealing new freckles instead of tanning. Of course, counting the freckles on his neck led Jackson to thinking about the freckles on other parts of Theo's body. Those thoughts caused Jackson's cock to harden further. There was no way he'd ever get any sleep.

When Lara's moans and sighs died down and the house became quiet, Jackson finally relaxed. Maybe the gods were smiling down on him this night and he'd actually get some rest. Theo remained dead to the world as he pulled his lover closer. Flinging a protective arm around Theo's waist, he finally fell into a sweet sleep.

Seconds, minutes, possibly hours later he woke with a start. He searched for what woke him.

Then he heard it. The quietest of sounds echoed through the house to be picked up by his wolf's hearing. Soft, muffled sobs made their way to his ears and he knew without question his Lara was crying.

Extricating himself from Theo's embrace, he slid from their bed without a sound. He padded through the house, eyes and ears in tune with his surroundings. As he grew closer, he could almost feel Lara's pain in the air. His wolf wanted to join her and howl,

but he remained in control. Instead, he opened the guest suite door and found her easily.

Curled in a ball in the center of the king-size bed, she appeared tiny and fragile. She looked nothing like the fierce woman that had nearly slit Theo's throat earlier in the evening.

Jackson stood paralyzed for a moment. His wolf pushed, pulled and tried to cajole him into sweeping Lara into his arms, while the other half of him realized that essentially they were strangers. True, she was sleeping in his house, but she was only there because of Theo. He knew to the core of his being that Lara was his mate, just like Theo. But being a Normal she couldn't feel the same way, at least not after such a brief meeting.

Jackson followed his wolf's instincts in the end and slid into bed next to Lara, thankful he'd taken Theo's advice and worn silk pajama bottoms to bed. While Lara would possibly be alarmed at finding a near stranger in bed with her, she'd go ballistic at finding a *naked* near stranger in her bed. What woman wouldn't?

The moment he made contact with the mattress, Jackson pulled Lara into his arms. He didn't meet with any resistance. She curled against him, laying her head on his shoulder as sobs continued to course through her.

Eventually she must have realized he'd crawled into bed with her. Her head shot up and he got a chance to look into her bloodshot blue eyes. "What?"

"You were crying. Thee warned me you would be upset about TJ's and when I heard you crying... I had to come." He wished he had a better answer, but that was all he could come up with. His other option was, "You're my mate. Now flip over and we'll make it official." He didn't think that would go over too well, so he kept his mouth shut for now.

"Oh. Yeah. Did he..."

"He told me everything." Jackson cupped her cheek, amazed at how tiny Lara seemed compared to him.



“Oh.” She laid her head back onto his shoulder. “Thank you. I know you don’t know me, but thank you anyway.”

Stroking her arm, he twined their fingers together while the other hand rubbed soothing circles on her back. “Shhh. You’re very special to Theo and me. We hate seeing you upset. Rest now and we’ll all talk about it in the morning.”

## Chapter Five

Lara lazed happily between sleep and full wakefulness. Something warm nestled against her back and she wiggled, pressing closer to the heat. With a sigh, she stretched her back and relaxed as she reached for sleep once again.

Something hot gripping her waist pulled Lara from half-sleep to fully awake. Opening her eyes, she looked down her abdomen to the large arm flung around her waist. Memories of the previous night flooded back and she realized Jackson had been keeping her warm. She tried to extract herself from his grasp, but he pulled her back to him with a grumbled "Mine." The entire situation made her want to laugh, but she stifled her giggles. There was nothing funny about the erection poking her backside. *Too bad he's gay. Between him and Theo, they make the perfect man.*

Smiling, she closed her eyes and tried to grab a few more winks. If Jackson wasn't going to let her go anywhere, she'd enjoy his embrace while it lasted.

It didn't last very long though. A barely awake, rumped Theo shuffled into the bedroom and crawled into bed on the other side of her with a snuffle. "Stole my boyfriend. Need snuggles."

"Sorry, Teddy. Want him back? I can mo..."

Another grumbled "Mine" sounded from behind her and Jackson's arm tightened around her waist. His palm slid up her stomach and settled just beneath her breast.

Theo moved closer, adjusting pillows and blankets until his chest, hips and thighs pressed against her front. His morning erection felt as impressive as his lover's, making her jealous of what the two men shared. "Greedy man." He stuck out his lower lip. "Want snuggles from Lara."

She knew this side of Theo well. On the nights he would stay at her apartment after an evening of partying on the town, she'd often find him in bed with her. He'd be dead to the world, but always needed a warm body next to his. Lara draped her arm over Theo and tried to fall back asleep. A very difficult task considering the two *very* pronounced erections poking her. Resigned to never being the beneficiary of their arousal, she closed her eyes and willed herself to sleep.

Too bad her pussy had other ideas. Awake and hot with two men pressed against her, Lara opened her eyes and looked right into Theo's. "Morning." He leaned forward and brushed his lips across hers. *That's new.*

"Doing okay this morning?" he whispered, probably in an effort to not wake Jackson.

She nodded, knowing his kiss had been merely an act of kindness. Too bad.

Theo's hand moved over her hip, up her waist and then transferred to Jackson's arm. She almost whimpered at the loss of his touch. Lara had been secretly in love with Theo for so long that friendship with him had become painful. Part of the reason she always made excuses and didn't push to meet Jackson was because she didn't think she'd be able to stand watching them interact.

Added to the fear of her reaction to Theo's lover, the knowledge that Theo could read her mind if he wanted to made staying away from Jackson sound like a good idea. Theo had reassured her more than once that he never used his Psi Extraordinary abilities because a person's thoughts should be their own. She hoped his opinion still held true. Because now she found herself in bed with both of them, their hard cocks straining to reach each other, and she was their living, breathing barrier. "What time is it?" she whispered, closing her eyes so she didn't have to watch him touch Jackson.

"Why?" He laughed, his breath caressing her skin. "It's Saturday. Do you have somewhere to be?"

She didn't know if Jackson was really awake, but he pulled her closer, rubbing his cock on her ass. She half expected him to growl "Mine" again, but he didn't. Lara bit

her lower lip to stifle the building groan and answered Theo. "Yeah. Going to see Chrissy today."

Theo's lips brushed her forehead, pressed against each of her eyelids and finally against her lips before he responded. "Let's get you up and out of bed then. Jackson, baby, quit humping Lara and let's get up."

Jackson's response was predictable at this point. Except this time, his palm engulfed her breast as he pulled her closer, rubbing his cock between the cheeks of her panty-clad ass. Lara had gone to bed in only her bra and panties, thinking she'd be adequately covered to sleep, but now she felt a bit underdressed.

Theo, with a strained smile, poked at Jackson's arm, earning him a snarl in return. "Wolfboy. Let Lara go." He focused his eyes on her. "Sorry, Lara. Sometimes the wolf takes hold and is a smidge reluctant to let go. Think of it this way... he likes you."

She had to laugh at the situation then. A gay wolf AE liked her. "Ya think? Well, as nice as that is, I'd rather not be in the middle of a fight between you two."

"Aw. Lara, don't you know? You'll always be in the middle, but fighting will be the last thing on our minds. Then again, if there is a fight, it's only because the wolf has the teensiest problem with sharing."

\* \* \*

Lara had begged, groveled, and was close to committing murder to keep them at home, but they wouldn't budge. They wanted to meet Chrissy. She'd spoken to Theo once before about him and Jackson being Chrissy's godfathers, but the poor little thing wasn't even officially hers yet. Introducing someone else who might not be around forever into the child's life didn't seem fair to Chrissy.

After an hour of arguing with Theo through the door, Jackson stuck his head into the bathroom and decreed they were going. Two hours later and here they were, walking up the path to Penney's house. The courts had placed Chrissy in foster care with Penney, but the woman always welcomed Lara with a warm smile and open arms. Lara hoped today would be no different.

When they didn't get an answer at the front door, Lara motioned for the men to follow her and they walked around the house. Chrissy loved being outside and more than likely they would find her playing in the backyard.

She called out as they rounded the corner. "Penney? Chrissy? Lara's here, honey!"

Lara saw the bushes to her left move and prepared herself. Muscles tensed as she watched the movement pause and then begin again. Suddenly, a forty-pound leopard leapt from the foliage and pounced on her, sending them both crashing to the ground.

Laughing, and focused on Chrissy's antics, Lara didn't notice the men approaching until the little girl announced their presence with a roar. Even at six months old, she was a big cat to be reckoned with.

Lara stroked her back. She loved the feel of Chrissy's fur, but wished the little girl would shift to her human form. "Chrissy, shhh. This is Theo and Jackson. You remember me telling you about them? It's okay, little one."

"You okay, Lara?" asked Theo, concern etched on every line of his face.

Chrissy's appearance had been the one thing she hadn't warned them about. She had hoped they would stay in the car and waited for her. "Of course I am." She continued to stroke Chrissy's back, still lying on the ground with the little girl on her chest. Lara didn't mind. She enjoyed having Chrissy so near for a change. "This is a game we play every time I come, isn't it, Chrissy?"

Chrissy nudged Lara's hand, rubbing her teeth over her fingers. Jackson appeared just as concerned, but he remained silent. She hoped this first meeting would go well, despite Jackson being a canine AE and Chrissy a feline. Only time would tell if they could get along.

"Jackson, Theo, this is my little one, Chrissy. Chrissy, this guy right here," she reached for Theo's hand and brought it to Chrissy's nose, letting her acquire his scent, "is Theo. He's a very good guy. And this other guy is Jackson." She motioned for him to come closer. He moved toward her with small measured steps with a look bordering on panic. Lara hoped Chrissy would behave herself.

Pulling Jackson's hand closer to Chrissy's nose, she was surprised to see the little girl rub her face over his palm. In seconds, Chrissy rose from Lara's chest and padded over to rub on Jackson.

"I think she likes him," Theo murmured.

She watched, speechless, as Chrissy rubbed and pushed her weight against Jackson until the large man sat in the grass. The moment he settled himself on the ground, Chrissy crawled into his lap and rested her head on his shoulder. "Yeah, I think she does."

Tears burned Lara's eyes. She'd never seen Chrissy attach herself to anyone with such affection. A glimmer of hope blossomed in her heart; perhaps someday she'd see the human side of Chrissy. After her mother's death, the little girl had reverted to her leopard form, and to anyone's knowledge hadn't shifted back to human since. It had been six long months and still Lara visited a baby leopard instead of a newborn child.

Lara crawled to where Jackson and Chrissy were seated and stroked the little girl's head. Bright blue eyes looked at her before the little girl closed them, purring in contentment. A sandpapery tongue snaked out and licked her fingers as she continued to pet and fawn over the child. Theo sat on the other side of Jackson and the three of them embraced the little girl in one of those perfect moments a person remembers forever.

Lara prayed it wouldn't be their last.

## Chapter Six

Something settled over Jackson he'd never felt before. His wolf wasn't howling, whining, or clawing for something and he couldn't remember the last time it had been quiet. He felt... content. His wolf's mantra had turned into a breezy sigh through his mind as he embraced Chrissy.

*Mine.*

He didn't question his wolf's desire to claim a leopard AE. Somewhere, deep in his heart, the four of them felt perfect. It just felt right. As if they had always been a family. With that realization, he vowed he would do whatever it took to bring them together, permanently.

First on his list was to claim Lara as his. *No, ours. Can't forget Thee.* Once they had their trio, he would fight to adopt Chrissy. Considering his status as an AE, the courts wouldn't find much fault with him as a parent. But he still hadn't figured out how to approach Lara and bring her into his and Theo's relationship. Theirs would be an uncommon union, but an inevitable one as far as he was concerned.

Chrissy stiffened in his lap, her claws digging into his leg. He looked up to see a plump, smiling woman approach from the house. He scented the air and identified her as a feline AE, but couldn't discern the species. The little girl whined and became restless in his lap.

Jackson slid his arms around her in a protective gesture and whispered in her ear. "It's okay, little one. Shhh." Stroking her forehead, he paid special attention to the spot just in front of her ears.

"Hi!" The woman waved and Lara returned the greeting. "I see you've found Miss Chrissy." She extended a hand and he shook it in greeting. "I'm Penney."

"I'm Jackson Hughe." It was now or never. "Lara's fiancé."

The bodies on either side of him stiffened at his statement, but neither of them said a word to contradict his declaration. At least he could count on them to follow his lead.

Penney squealed and clapped. "Oh, Lara! Why didn't you call to tell me? You know this changes everything. The moment the two of you marry, the courts are sure to give you custody of Chrissy."

Penney grabbed Lara and pulled her into a hug, twirling the two of them around. When they stopped spinning, Lara shot him a "you're in for it" look over Penney's shoulder. He couldn't hold back his smile and blew her a kiss. Lara was a woman who wouldn't back down and he couldn't wait to be alone with her and Theo.

While the women were occupied with each other, he leaned his head toward Theo. "You okay with this?" Jackson spared a look at Theo and saw his lover's eyes filled with tears. His man was such a girl sometimes.

Theo sniffled, and nodded. Knowing Theo, it would be a few minutes before he'd be able to speak. Theo acted as if the whole thing had been planned and would actually happen. Gods willing, it would. Jackson couldn't let Lara go now.

With sniffles and tears, Theo jumped up to embrace the rapidly talking Penney and Lara, leaving him alone with a content Chrissy in his arms. "So, what do you think about all this, little one?" Chrissy made a small sniffing noise as she blew a breath out of her mouth and continued purring. "Yeah, I'm pretty happy about it, too."

Jackson just wished Lara looked more pleased. Of course she put on a blinding smile for Penney, but she shot daggers at him with her eyes every chance she got.

He was left relaxing in the grass with a sleeping Chrissy while Lara, Penney, and Theo went into the house; an animated group of gesturing hands, smiles, and laughter. Jackson hoped the laughter and happiness would rub off on Lara and she wouldn't be too hard on him during the drive home.

\* \* \*



Not a single word, or a sigh. Not a sound escaped Lara's lips during the drive from Penney's. Part of him half hoped her silence was due to the tearful goodbye he'd witnessed, but he knew in his heart that anger kept her silent.

The drive back to their house was shrouded in tension. It slithered around Jackson's chest, constricting his breathing like a steel band. He glanced in the rearview mirror and saw Theo's normally smiling face tight with lines around his eyes and mouth. Theo stared out the window with a blank expression, his previous exuberance gone.

Jackson didn't dare to look at the woman next to him. He had known she'd be a little upset, perhaps even a tiny bit angry, but he wasn't expecting the cold shoulder he'd received. It was his fault, of course, and now he needed to figure out how to fix it.

When he pulled into their driveway, Lara shot from the car before it had fully stopped. He fought with his seatbelt, trying to follow her, but she jumped into her car and sped away before he even got out.

"Lara! Lara, wait!" he yelled. His wolf wanted to chase her and return her forcibly to its den if need be. But his human instincts won out. Instead, he accepted Theo's embrace when he came around the car. "I fucked up, huh, Thee?"

"Yeah, baby, you did. But we'll make it all better. I know Lara. She's upset over yesterday and scared and confused as hell about what you said today. We'll give her a day or two and then go after our girl."

"Mine," Jackson growled.

Theo chuckled, rubbing his cheek on Jackson's shoulder. "Yeah, yeah, big bad wolf. She's yours and I'm yours. Let's get rid of some of this tension. Why don't you drag me inside and show me I'm yours. I may have forgotten..."

Theo laughed as Jackson threw him over his shoulder and carried him into the house.

\* \* \*

Theo landed on the bed with a thud and a bounce, but he didn't care. His lover was getting ready to release his wolf on him and Theo couldn't wait. There were so

many times Theo craved the wolf side of Jackson, but Jackson always seemed reluctant to let his wolf run free during their lovemaking. Because no matter how frenzied, fast and hard their sex might be, it was always lovemaking to Theo.

“Clothes,” Jackson growled and Theo’s cock sprung to attention. The deep, dark, animalistic quality to Jackson’s voice enveloped his cock, the rumble sending his nerves into overdrive. Theo loved it when Jackson was reduced to one-word orders. It showed him just how much he turned on his lover.

Theo moved to follow Jackson’s order, first flinging off his shirt before working on his shoes, socks, and finally slacks. When he’d stripped down to his boxer briefs, Jackson lunged for him, roughly pulling at the fabric covering his erection. Cock freed, Jackson’s touch gentled. The large, warm fingers that moments ago had clawed at him now stroked and caressed the soft skin of Theo’s cock and all Theo could do was groan. Jackson’s touch sent a shudder through him. Being around Lara had him hot and ready. It wouldn’t take much from Jackson to make Theo spill his seed.

Jackson must have sensed how close Theo was, because he immediately backed off. Stepping away from the bed, he removed his own clothing and stood still for a moment, as if giving Theo a chance to look his fill. Jackson knew him too well. Theo never could get enough of his broad shouldered lover. The sprinkling of hair that surrounded Jackson’s nipples teased Theo mercilessly. He craved taking those nubs in his mouth, but held his ground. Jackson had thrown him on the bed for a reason.

Skin rippled over chiseled muscles as Jackson moved to the bedside table. Theo waited anxiously to see what his lover would pull out. Were they going to have some fun with toys? Or was fucking on Jackson’s mind? When he caught sight of the tube of lube, Theo’s cock pulsed and released a drop of pre-come.

*Fucking it is.*

Theo barely resisted the urge to shout with glee. Of all the things he and Jackson did together, fucking happened to be at the top of Theo’s “favorite things” list -- with gold stars and exclamation points.

His lover poured the lube on two fingers, and rubbing them together he warmed the liquid. With Jackson's higher than average body temperature from his wolf, it didn't take long. Theo widened his legs, planting his feet on the bed. Jackson's slick fingers skimmed his back entrance, lightly at first, rubbing and stroking that puckered hole, circling round and round without giving him what he craved. Theo was going crazy with want.

"Please." Theo couldn't help it, he wasn't above begging. "Please."

Theo didn't need much preparation, but the teasing was always his favorite part of their lovemaking. Jackson gave him the tip of one finger, sliding in and out of his dark hole -- stimulating and arousing him further, but not giving him what he needed. Theo's hips rose and moved in counterpoint to Jackson's strokes, trying his best to get more from his lover.

Jackson continued, adding another finger, thrusting the two of them in and out of his hole. Pre-come painted Theo's abdomen, but he couldn't care less. He ached to stroke himself in time with Jackson's thrust, but he didn't dare. He'd never come if he didn't go along with Jackson's plans, and the man always had a plan.

One second two thick fingers were plundering his hole and the next, his lover's heated cock was poised at his entrance. Eyes staring into his, Jackson growled. "Mine."

"Yours."

It was all Jackson needed to hear. He pushed his cock into Theo's ass in one slow movement, not stopping until Theo had accepted all of him. Jackson stilled for a moment, gazing at Theo with eyes filled with love. His hands brushed over Theo's body, touching and feeling those intimate places that only the two of them knew about. Theo wrapped his legs around his lover, pulling Jackson farther into his ass with a groan.

Jackson stroked Theo's cock, pausing at the tip. Capturing a drop of pre-come on his finger, he brought it to his mouth and licked his finger clean. "Mine."

Grasping Theo's hips, Jackson held his lover still as he began thrusting into his hole. Jackson's thick cock filled him completely, almost to the point of pain, but damn, it was a good pain. Tight and hot, he fit inside Theo as if they were made for each other.

Fingers dug into Theo's hips with a bruising grip as Jackson stroked in and out of his back passage, his cock hitting that sweet spot within. With every entry, Theo saw stars. His muscles reacted, tightening and tensing with every advance and relaxing with every retreat. It wouldn't be long before he came.

Jackson increased his tempo, pounding and pulling on Theo's shaft as his own orgasm approached. Theo knew those sounds, the mewling animalistic sounds that accompanied Jackson's release. Theo's orgasm was almost upon him. His breath bellowed in and out of his chest, in time with his lover's thrusts, dragging him to the edge. But he didn't want to go alone.

"Please." Theo whimpered. With a plea in his eyes, he looked to his lover. *So close, so fucking close to coming.*

Jackson lifted Theo's ass, changing the angle of penetration as he fucked him without mercy. The sounds of flesh slapping against flesh filled the room as they fucked. Theo couldn't stand it anymore, he stroked his cock in time with Jackson's thrusts. Dragging himself to the edge with every squeeze and rub, he waited for his lover to join him.

Jackson leaned over him, continuing to fuck his ass as he sought his mark on Theo's shoulder. Theo squeezed and pumped his cock as he raised his hips to meet Jackson's thrusts. Jackson found his mark, growling his predictable "Mine" as he bit down, renewing his claim.

Theo came with a shout, the mixture of ecstasy and pain causing him to shudder and shake. His ass flexed around Jackson's cock as his muscles tensed with his release. He heard and felt Jackson's release, the burning seed of his lover filling his ass as Jackson groaned into his shoulder, arms shaking, trying to hold himself aloft.

Coming down from his high, Jackson licked and tended the renewed bruise on Theo's shoulder, giving him the tender care he needed. Hands and lips roamed as Theo recovered from his orgasm, seeking tenderness after such rough lovemaking.

"Whose are you?"

"Yours. Always yours."

## Chapter Seven

*Stupid men with their stupid ideas and their stupid big mouths fucking everything up!*  
*Damn it!*

Lara broke her tenth piece of chalk as she wrote on the blackboard. Her students sat quietly behind her. They had all been so good and she wondered if they sensed her stress and bad mood. Of course they did. Her students were alive, weren't they? How could anyone not see she walked on the edge? Her mind teetered between sanity and going completely homicidal on the object of her rage.

Men. One man. Stupid, stupid, overbearing, demanding, controlling, hot hunk of *gay* man. If only God would grant her prayers and let the man materialize before her so she could get all of her anger out in one shot. Preferably at his head.

The school bell rang as Lara broke her eleventh piece of chalk. Cursing herself, she slumped into her chair as the children filed out. All of them called their goodbyes as they rushed out the door. She thanked God the day was at an end. After suffering through the rest of the weekend with her emotions all over the place, she hadn't looked forward to coming into work today. She normally hated Mondays, but today had been extraordinarily hard. All because of one Extraordinary in particular. *Damn Jackson!*

When he'd told Penney he was her fiancé, she'd expected him to start laughing at his own joke. But seconds and minutes ticked by and instead of refuting his claim, he'd smiled and laughed at Penney's congratulations. Hours later, as they left Penney's house with her normal torrent of tears, he still hadn't said anything to contradict his announcement.

After her tears dried, her confusion had turned into outright rage. An anger she didn't think she'd ever be able to feel boiled and churned in her stomach the closer his car got to their house. By the time Jackson pulled into the driveway, she'd been ready to

kill him. Instead, she'd left, the only thing she could do. Until she'd calmed down a little, talking was out of the question.

It had been two days and she still wished for his death. Not because of the cruel trick they'd played on her, but because his joke affected the emotions of so many others. Most of all, it affected little Chrissy. Just as soon as she didn't feel like killing him, she would have a talk with Jackson to figure out how to unravel the tangle he'd created. Two little words had brought her world crashing down and she'd be damned if she'd rebuild it by herself.

A noise in the room brought her out of her thoughts. She raised her head to see Theo standing in the room's doorway. Lara narrowed her eyes at her kinda-sorta-ex-best-friend. Okay, maybe he wasn't her ex-best friend, but he definitely topped her shit list. "What do you want, Theo?" Lara didn't even bother hiding the anger and hurt in her voice.

He swallowed hard, glancing at the floor before looking at her. "To talk, Lara, just to talk."

*Talk? Yeah, right.* "I think Jackson did enough talking on Saturday, don't you?" Lara rose from her seat and began packing her bag. She didn't want to have this conversation here. Hell, she wasn't sure she wanted to have the conversation at all. Her feelings were so jumbled now. One second she felt content to be friends with the two gorgeous men and the next her heart was breaking because they *were* just friends. Sometimes, she wanted more, even if she knew it could never happen.

Tears formed in her eyes at the thought of staying friends with the two of them. She'd been in love with Theo for longer than she cared to admit and meeting Jackson made her heart ache even more. She knew, with one look, that she could fall in love with Jackson in a heartbeat.

Pale fingers captured her wrist as she shoved another book in her shoulder bag. "Lara."

She looked up into pale blue eyes filled with tears that matched her own. Theo pulled her into his arms, not giving her a chance to protest. The dam broke and her

tears flowed down her cheeks, soaking Theo's shirt. She struck his back with tight fists. Angry for all of the feelings he and his partner had dragged from her heart. Angry for the pain she'd endured over the last two days.

Theo's arms tightened around her and he laid his head on hers, letting her vent and rage on his back until she became exhausted and empty of her anger. One slender hand cupped her cheek and raised her head.

He lowered his mouth until he could brush their lips together. She didn't question his actions or motives; she needed his touch more than she needed to rationalize what they were doing. Sliding her arms around his neck, she pulled him down to her when he would have ended their kiss.

Her lips pressed to his, a first tentative touch to see if her affection would be returned. Theo groaned low in his throat and tightened his arms, molding their pelvises together. Lara could feel his erection pressing into her stomach, but became distracted by his kiss.

Warm, openmouthed kisses rained on her lips. His tongue snaked out to lick along the seam of her mouth and she opened for him gladly. Theo's tongue stroked and caressed hers. He licked and explored every inch of her mouth, all the while skimming her back and arms, eventually finding her ass. He squeezed and kneaded her butt as he pressed and rubbed his hips against hers. Their kiss was out of control.

Passion flared and burned through her. She could feel Theo's kisses race along her nerves and pull at her pussy. Her lower lips swelled in arousal and her panties dampened as his kisses continued.

Theo gripped the cheeks of her ass and lifted her against his groin. When he settled his hard cock at the juncture of her thighs, she cried out with the pleasure, her gasp swallowed by his mouth. He released her mouth to stare into her eyes. He pulled and forced her cloth covered pussy to rub his hard ridge and her eyelids fluttered closed, her body shuddered and she moaned.



Theo repositioned his hands, bending down to place them behind her legs. When she felt her feet lift from the floor, her mind collided with reality with a thud. She pushed at Theo's shoulders, trying to get him to release her. "Waitwaitwaitwait, wait!"

He lowered her to the floor, but when she pushed at his shoulders to be released, he wouldn't budge. Her breathing heavy, she stared at his chest as she waited for the lust to clear.

*What the fuck just happened? One minute I'm crying and the next Theo's trying to fuck me on my desk.*

"Lara?"

"What. The. Fuck?"

Theo didn't answer at first and Lara could feel the tremors through his body. The damn man had the nerve to laugh. At her! "That's where I was headed, baby."

"Don't you 'baby' me. You know what I mean, Theo. We've been friends for... and you're... and now..." She dropped her head, resting her forehead on his chest. "What is this, Teddy? With Jackson lying to Penney, and now you, I feel like my heart has been ripped to shreds. No more games, no teasing." She looked into his eyes and didn't care that tears were forming again. "I just need to know what's going on."

Theo's tender fingers cupped her chin, a thumb stroking her lower lip. "Do you trust me, Lara? Do you trust I would never, *ever*, do anything to hurt you?"

"You know I do."

"Then let's go. We've got some talking to do and I'd rather not do it here."

She nodded in agreement. Whatever was on Theo's mind, she didn't want to discuss it where others could overhear.

\* \* \*

The drive to Theo and Jackson's house was quiet and quick. Not a word was spoken. Lara had too many questions whirling in her mind to bother with keeping up a conversation. The good thing about Theo; he could read her moods easily and didn't push.

Arriving at his home, Theo let her take the lead. He looked so forlorn. Hands shoved in his pockets, he followed with shuffled steps and eyes trained on the ground. The part of her that loved him wanted to assure him everything would be okay. But the pissed and confused part of her wouldn't let that happen.

A somber looking Jackson opened the front door, gaze traveling from Lara to Theo standing behind her. Emotions flew across his face so fast, unless she had been watching she would have missed them. Happiness, followed by regret, and something between anger and jealousy flashed in quick succession.

She didn't want to address the anger and jealousy she saw. It wasn't his place to be angry. She moved to walk through the open door, but got caught by a thick arm around her waist. Jackson hauled her against him. He bent and wrapped both arms around her, burying his face in her hair as he released a low growl followed by a whimper. "Sorry. So sorry."

Lara draped her arms around him and stroked the back of his neck. "It's okay. We'll figure it all out." Somehow she'd shifted into the role of consoler to this one hundred percent alpha wolf. What had happened between the three of them over the weekend had to have affected him deeply for him to display emotion so readily.

Theo embraced the two of them from behind and she relaxed into their touch. She felt protected and loved for once in her life. Her worries melted away for a moment as they stood in the doorway. In seconds, the moment had been lost and she moved out of their hug. As much as she loved Theo and was growing to care for Jackson, they still had quite a few issues to work out.

Mainly, how did they fix the problem of her and Jackson's recent engagement? True, a marriage, even if in name only, would solve her problem with the courts and adopting Chrissy. But what about Theo and Jackson's relationship? If some sort of convoluted marriage worked, what kind of living arrangement could they have? Lara needed to banish her fantasies of a relationship with Theo. Regardless of what they just shared in her classroom, he loved Jackson. Period.

Walking through the house, she shuffled into the living room and flopped onto the couch, emotionally drained. The guys joined her, sitting on a nearby loveseat. For minutes, no one said anything.

Finally, Lara spoke up. "So, what are we gonna do?" Running her hands through her hair, she pressed her fingers into the muscles of her shoulders, doing her best to knead away the tension. Lara observed the two men from beneath her lashes. Theo squeezed Jackson's thigh and tilted his head toward her.

*Looks like the big guy is up first.*

## Chapter Eight

*In through the nose, out through the mouth. Deep breaths. Fuck! Bad idea. All I can smell is her arousal and Theo all over her. Fucker!*

Jackson rose from the loveseat and closed the distance between him and Lara. He still hadn't figured out what he would say. Rather than sit next to her, he dropped to his knees, gathering her hands in his. *That's it. Assume the submissive position.* His wolf balked at being submissive to anyone, but human actions overrode his wolf's instincts.

Jackson marveled at their difference in size. Her hands were easily half the size of his. The delicacy of Lara hit him like a punch to the gut at that moment. She wasn't a wolf or a man. She was a woman who deserved and needed every ounce of tenderness he possessed.

He swallowed hard. His tongue seemed to be stuck to the roof of his mouth and he wished he had a glass of water. The words were there, he just had trouble saying them. When he'd claimed Theo, it had been a mutual drive of lust and love. With Lara, he hoped the lust was there and love would come over time. "I'm sorry."

"Good. You should be."

*Damn. She's not going to give me an inch.* "I'm sorry about the way I told Penney, but I'm not sorry for the announcement." He couldn't hold back the growl in his voice.

Lara snatched her hands out of his; he let her go. Jackson had only said a few words and already he'd fucked up. Jackson always had been the bull in the china shop when it came to speaking, which is why Theo had gone looking for Lara.

"Move. I'm leaving." She pointed at Theo. "I told you no more games."

Jackson gripped her thighs, holding her in place while Theo sat next to her, draping his arms around her shoulders. "No games, Lara. Just listen to what Jackson and I have to say. If you still want to leave when we're done, you can."

Lara nodded in agreement, still tense and strung like a bow.

"You know what I am." A statement, not a question. Theo teased him mercilessly about being "wolfboy" -- the fact he was a wolf AE shouldn't be a surprise to her.

She nodded again. "You're a wolf Animali Extraordinary. Theo told me before."

"Good. So you know that being a wolf, I'm able to identify my mate with just a hint of their scent."

Lara glanced at Theo, her eyebrows drawn together. "Yeah, I'm assuming that's how you and Theo ended up together."

"Yeah. Sometimes though, a wolf can have more than one mate. It craves too much or too many different things and it isn't happy until it finds everything it needs in a mate. Be that one mate or..." He reached for Lara and Theo's hands, enveloping them in his. "Two."

Her mouth dropped open and she tried to snatch her hand away. This time Jackson was ready for her and wouldn't release his grip. "You're telling me that I'm your mate?"

"Yes."

"No."

"Yes."

"But Theo's your mate. Are you forgetting about him? And now what? I'm supposed to just bend over and say 'claim me, baby'?" She pulled again, trying to free herself from his grasp. "Give me back my hands so I can slap you."

Theo finally spoke up. "Don't want to do that, doll, it just excites him. Our Jackson loves nothing more than a good tumble."

It seemed Lara suddenly remembered Theo sat next to her. "What do you think of all this? Now he decides that you're not enough and he needs me too."

"Ah, doll, it's not that way at all. I'm thrilled that his wolf sees you as its mate. Because, well, I love you."

Theo's confession seemed to take the wind out of her sails. When she tugged at one of her hands, Jackson released it. One of her hands remained held in his, while the

other cupped Theo's cheek. "I love you, too, Teddy. But what does that have to do with all of this?"

"Nope, you don't understand, doll. What happened earlier..."

"About that," Jackson growled. They had agreed that neither of them would touch her until they'd all sat down and talked. He could smell Theo all over her. Obviously he hadn't abided by their agreement.

Theo pressed a finger against Jackson's lips. "Shush, BBW, it's my turn." Big Bad Wolf, he hated when Theo called him that, but he closed his mouth and let his lover continue. "Jackson and I discussed adding a woman to our relationship. We both realized there was something missing and what's missing isn't something we can provide to each other. For our own individual reasons, we wanted to search out a woman to make our lives whole. My first thought was you."

"Me?"

Jealousy shot through him when Theo reached out to stroke Lara's cheek. "You. Don't you know I've loved you, been in love with you, since the moment we met?"

"But you've got Jackson."

"And now we want you. I love you, just as I love Jackson. Jackson recognizes you as his mate. The question is whether this is something you're open to."

Jackson knew she was open to a three-way relationship if the Council's file on Lara was correct, but he didn't want to become too confident. Even the Council could be wrong.

"You. Both of you? I... I don't know. I need to think." Lara pulled free of Jackson's grasp and moved to stand.

*Enough of this.* Jackson shoved her back onto the couch, crowding her with his body and imprisoning her with his arms on either side of her hips. "You are not running again. Understood?"

"You bast --"

"You're right, I am. But it doesn't change the fact that I'm going to get my way. I won't sit here and let you hurt my mate again. You can be frightened of what we're

offering, but you won't hurt him. I know you love him." He scented the air, smelling her arousal, the scent growing heavier by the second. Not only had Theo turned her on before, but she enjoyed this as well. "And I know you understand what my claim means. This isn't a game, Lara. We're offering you the opportunity to share your life with two men; one who already loves you and one who recognizes you as his mate."

She swallowed and looked at her lap, not meeting Jackson's eyes. "I... This is just new and sudden."

"Tell me what you're thinking, Lara." She seemed to calm a little and Jackson resumed his kneeling position on the floor. He had needed to show his power, but now it looked like she needed space.

"I understand what you're saying about me being your mate. It scares me a little, but nature does its thing and I can't do anything about that."

Jackson smiled; he couldn't help it. They had won one small battle if she at least accepted his claim.

She pointed a finger at him and doused a bit of his glee though. "Don't get all happy there, bucko. Just because I understand it does not mean I'll be letting you mark me any time soon. You two are asking a lot. If you think I'll just roll over, you've got another think coming."

His tongue snaked out and he sucked on her extended finger, growing hard in his jeans when a new wave of her arousal washed over him.

"Stop that." She snatched her finger away and faced Theo. His poor lover had a look on his face that hovered somewhere between hopeful and crestfallen. This time, Lara stroked Theo's cheek. "What am I gonna do with you, Teddy?"

Theo gave one of his classic sad smiles. "Love me?"

Jackson heard the question in Theo's statement and he prayed Lara did too.

"You know it."

"Love love?" His mate was such a girl.

Lara laughed and leaned forward, giving Theo a small kiss. "Love love." Jackson growled low in his throat. He couldn't help it. Theo was kissing his soon-to-be mate...

again. Tilting her head toward him, she questioned Theo. "Is he always going to do that?"

Theo nodded his head, a bright smile in place. "Yeah, at least until he's marked you. The BBW doesn't like others horning in on its territory. Even if it's me."

Lara's other hand came up to stroke Jackson's cheek and he felt his wolf calm. She leaned forward and he closed the distance between them, rubbing his lips against hers. She pulled away before he was ready to end their kiss and he fought the urge to pull her close and finish what they'd started.

Jackson managed to resist sweeping her into his arms and carrying her off to the bedroom where they could ravish her -- barely. For now, he'd settle for sweet kisses and her not running screaming from their house.



## Chapter Nine

Oh, it had sounded like a good plan in the beginning. Lara had fretted about it for two whole days before announcing her plans to the guys. Unfortunately, even the best-laid plans could go awry. Seriously, how bad could dinner and a movie be? The answer: Horrible. No, horrible wasn't a strong enough word. Fucking horrible. Or utterly dreadful. Shit, she needed a built-in thesaurus.

They were on their first official date and things had gone smoothly, until they arrived at the theater. Jackson and Theo had picked her up at her apartment promptly at six, which left them plenty of time to arrive for the seven o'clock movie. Lara sat in the front seat, naturally, while Jackson drove. The three of them chatted about her class, Jackson's work as a lawyer and Theo's burgeoning interior decorating business. They had an easy flow of energy and conversation. Of course, that had all ended after they entered the theater.

Jackson escorted her to her seat. Her seat being next to him, and nowhere near Theo. This would not do. In turn, she smiled sweetly and under the guise of going to the restroom, got Theo to stand long enough for her to steal his seat. That move situated her between her two men and she sat back happily. Theo did a wonderful impression of a fish out of water for a moment before plopping down into the seat next to her. Lara really did think it would end there. Crisis averted and all parties happy, right?

The calm lasted until the lights in the theater dimmed, announcing the beginning of the movie. Lara relaxed into her seat and leaned her head back, ready to enjoy the show. Since she held their bucket of popcorn in her lap, she expected the guys to lean close every now and again. But fifteen minutes into the movie, Theo leaned in close, real close. Pretending to grab a handful of popcorn, he pressed his lips against her neck, giving her a sweet soft kiss. Instinctively, she tilted her head to the side, giving him a

little more room to work with. His lips gliding over her skin with heated kisses and nibbles were heaven on earth.

That was until a low, menacing growl reverberated through the theater. Lara didn't have to look around to locate the source of the sound. As soon as it reached Theo's ears, he jumped away from her as if she were diseased. *This will not do.*

Jackson's growls stopped the moment Theo's lips left her neck. Lara leaned close to Jackson and whispered in his ear, "Problem, dear?"

He didn't respond, instead choosing to throw his arm around her shoulders and pull her toward him. Apparently he didn't care about the armrest digging into her side, or the pain he caused his *other* mate. Well, she accepted Jackson's claim, but her heart belonged to Theo, and Jackson's actions and behavior was hurting him. Glancing at her watch, she noticed the time, ten after seven. Just over an hour into the tri-date and it was headed to hell.

Wrenching out of Jackson's grasp, Lara picked up her purse and made her way to the end of their row, not looking back to see if the guys were following. She managed to make it all the way outside, and was on her cell calling a cab when the men found her.

Jackson plucked the phone away from her and closed it with a snap. "What are you doing out here? Why would you walk out on our date like that? What..." He snarled and growled, doing everything Lara wanted to do right now and she wasn't taking it from *him*.

Not a fear in the world, she stood toe-to-toe with Jackson as she *explained* her reasons for being in the parking lot. "*Our* date? Explain the word *our* to me. I'm not sure I understand the concept." Yep, sarcastic bitch had been released. Ironical, considering who she was arguing with. If they could get through these hurdles, she could one day actually *be* a bitch.

"Ours." Jackson stared at Lara, brow furrowed. "You, me, and Theo."

"Oh?" Lara snorted. "Theo is part of *our* date?" She waved toward the man in question. "Because when Theo tried to touch me, you got all growly and pulled me

away from him. Did you bother to look at Theo after you did that? Because I did and I didn't like it. Therefore, this *date*, as you call it, is over." She poked him in the chest. "You need to figure out what you want."

Lara could see her words sinking into Jackson. As he processed what she'd said, his color rose until he resembled the red of a fire engine. Well, too late to go back now.

Theo must have noticed it as well and tried to step in between them, pushing Jackson back and away from her. "Wolfy, no need to get your fur in a bunch. Lar-bear is just kidding. Why don't we all calm down and go to dinner? We've missed at least fifteen minutes of the movie anyway." He draped his arms around Jackson's neck and pressed a kiss to his chin.

Jackson dropped his head back and took a deep breath. Lara felt like she could use the same. She hadn't meant to go uber bitch on him, but right now, her heart belonged to Theo, not Jackson. She couldn't stand to see her big Teddy bear with a hurt look on his face like she'd seen in the theater. She just couldn't.

After taking another deep breath, Jackson looked at Theo and she could see the love shared between the two men. Maybe she shouldn't have gone so over the top. Their feelings for one another were real, evident in the way they embraced. Perhaps this relationship wouldn't be all puppy dogs and roses. She'd have to think of tonight as their first stumble.

"Yeah, I'd like that, baby. But our Lara wasn't kidding, she was right. I was being an ass." Jackson's thumb stroked Theo's lip. "Forgive me?"

"You know I do. Love you, big guy."

"Love you, too." The distance closed between them and they shared a soft, sweet kiss. When they pulled apart, she thought there might be a tear or two forming in the wolf's eyes. "What about you, Lara? Do you forgive me?"

Jackson held his arm out to her, silently asking her to join their embrace, and she did, gladly. A large warm arm slid around her shoulders, while Theo's slender arm encircled her waist. "Yeah, I suppose I do. I'm still going to call you to the carpet when you're an ass though."

“And I’ll tan your ass when you’re a bitch, baby.”

Theo stiffened and it took her a moment to register Jackson’s words. When she did, the façade of a lady fell away. She struggled and pulled, but Theo had somehow managed to restrain her arms. For such a little guy, he was strong. “Theo! Let me go! I’m gonna... I’m gonna rip his ba...”

“Now, doll, we both have use for those, think of something else to injure,” Theo whispered in her ear.

Jackson backed away laughing and disappeared amid the parked vehicles in the lot. When he strode out of sight, Theo released her.

“Why wouldn’t you let me get him? I just wanted to kick him a little. Evil bastard.”

Theo came up behind her and enveloped her in a hug. “Lara, you called him a son-of-a-bitch, didn’t you?” She nodded her head. “Well, now you two are even. And if he’s an evil bastard, he’s our evil bastard, right?”

She turned in Theo’s arms, searching his face for a clue to his feelings. “Yeah, he is. But what about you, Theo? Are you going to get even?”

He brushed a soft kiss on her lips and she could feel his arousal begin to grow and press into her stomach. “I will, but it will be in bed tonight.”

Jackson drove up at that moment. Theo gave her another kiss before pulling away and opening the door for her. Good thing Jackson had shown up. Theo had shocked her speechless.

## Chapter Ten

One disaster averted and Theo was ready to get to the restaurant. They served alcohol and liquor at restaurants, right? He really needed a drink. Not something fruity, frothy, or frozen, but a real honest-to-goodness drink. He wanted one of those ones that would nearly burn his throat going down and make him gasp for air once he'd swallowed it. Being a fan of the fruity and frothy drinks, he wasn't sure what to order, but he could just follow Jackson's lead. He needed something to get his nerves under control.

Theo's love and attraction to Lara had him near to bursting with emotion. He knew that due to the type of relationship they were asking her for, they had to take things slow. But every cell in Theo's body screamed and craved her touch. He'd been in love with her for so long and now she was within reach -- if only they managed not to fuck it all up.

When they pulled into the restaurant parking lot, Theo jumped from the car and opened Lara's door, thankful Jackson didn't try to do the same and instead gave them space. She alighted from the car like an angel swathed in black velvet. Once the door closed, she wrapped her arms around his neck and gave him a sensual kiss, running her tongue along the seam of his lips. God, that feeling rushed from his mouth straight to his cock. He cupped her cheek and looked into her soft brown eyes, wondering what brought on the show of affection. She must have seen the question in his eyes, because she answered it. "I'm sorry about earlier. I want this to be a new beginning for all of us. Forgive me?"

Theo closed the distance between their lips, this time touching his tongue to hers before pulling away. "Nothing to forgive, love."

Lara pulled away and walked the few steps to Jackson, repeating what she had just done to him. Theo's half erect cock hardened fully in his slacks at seeing the two people he loved embrace and kiss so tenderly. In that moment, he knew it would all be okay. Yes, they would have bumps along the way, but as long as they always communicated and accepted each other as they were, it would work out.

Their sweet kiss turned hot and Lara finally pulled away, panting. Damn, more than anything he wanted to beg his lover to drive them home. But tonight was about getting to know each other in a romantic sense, not about exploring their sexual attraction.

Jackson tucked Lara's hand into the crook of his arm and Lara turned around, beckoning Theo. He made his way around the car and twined her fingers with his.

As one, the three of them entered the restaurant and took their seats, amidst the watchful eyes of the other patrons. They were led to a cozy table in a candlelit corner of the room. Theo allowed Jackson to direct the seating, hoping his lover had learned his lesson at the theater and would situate Lara between them. He wasn't disappointed.

Settled at the table, the ordering of drinks and appetizers proceeded without incident and the tension in Theo rose with each passing minute. Part of him wanted to just get it over with. Yet the scared little boy still living in his heart begged him to wait, still afraid of rejection. Of course, she wouldn't just be rejecting him, but them. That fact didn't make him feel any better though. Jackson must have sensed Theo's unease. His calming, warm hand enveloped Theo's and he squeezed, giving Theo the strength he needed.

Theo cleared his throat and turned toward Lara. Somehow, what he was about to say seemed more important than their discussion of a few days ago. His tongue felt like it had swelled and stuck to the roof of his mouth.

"Theo?" Lara's brows drew together.

He fished in his pocket for the black velvet box. Finding it, he sat it in front of Lara with shaking fingers. She watched his every movement with a confused look, but

she wouldn't reach for the box. Didn't every woman dream of getting a little velvet box? Why wasn't she snatching it with glee? *Because I haven't said anything, idiot!*

"Um, that's for you." He indicated the box with a nod. His lover's hand squeezed his again and their gazes met. From the look on Jackson's face, Theo could tell he was fucking this whole thing up. But they had agreed that this gift, while it came from both of them, would be presented by Theo.

Taking a deep breath, he tried again. "Jackson and I bought that for you yesterday and I... *we* would be honored if you'd wear it as a representation of your commitment to us." Lara's gaze traveled from the box to Theo and finally to Jackson before resettling on the box.

Her steady hand reached out and moved the box to the middle of their table -- the box contrasting and standing out against the pristine white cloth. Lara didn't say anything for a moment, and as the seconds turned into a minute, Theo wondered if she would speak at all. His heart thundered in his chest and Theo expected it to burst at any moment.

Her gaze flicked between him and Jackson once again before she finally spoke. "What does it mean? I mean, I know what you said, but..." She looked down at the box and it wasn't until he ducked his head a little that he saw the tears brimming.

"Lar..."

He watched her chest rise and fall as she took a deep breath. "Where is this headed? Is that what I think it is?"

He took the chicken's way out. "Would you be happy if it was?"

"What do you think I think it is?"

"What do you think I think you think it is?"

Laughter shook her body and poured from her mouth, tears flowing freely now. Theo reached for the box, but her quick reflexes and nimble fingers got to it before he could. Holding it with two hands she looked at him, a smile tugging at her lips. "I think it's a ring but I'm wondering which finger it should be worn on. Jackson, Theo, do you have any idea where it might fit best?"

Grasping her delicate hand in his, Jackson rubbed and stroked the ring finger of her left hand. "I know where I'd like it to go, but only if you're ready, doll."



## Chapter Eleven

Lara checked her mascara for the fifth time in ten minutes as she waited nervously for Theo and Jackson to arrive. The ring on her finger caught the light of the bathroom and a rainbow of color covered her wall, drawing her attention. She held her hand out, admiring the newest addition to her jewelry collection -- the most important piece of jewelry she'd ever owned.

A beautiful, nearly perfect two-carat diamond ring adorned her left ring finger and for the first time in a month the butterflies wouldn't leave her stomach. Tonight was the night. She'd been wearing the ring since the night of their first "official" date and now she would give them the go-ahead to plan the wedding. After spending every waking moment together, she felt making their relationship a permanent trio was the right step. If only her nerves would settle and her hands stop shaking. Putting on lipstick would be so much easier if they would.

The doorbell ringing caught her attention. Hurrying, she applied her lipstick and dashed for the door. After slipping on her heels, she opened the front door to her men. Even after spending every day with them, they still took her breath away. Jackson's dark looks contrasted with Theo's light. Somehow the gods had blessed her with these two men and she wasn't going to push them off any longer. Tonight would be the beginning of the rest of their lives.

Lara flashed them a genuine smile. When Theo held his hand out to her, she grasped it gladly. Leaning forward, she brushed a quick kiss across his lips. Predictably, Jackson growled behind her.

Turning, she slid her arms around Jackson's neck, giving him a quick, chaste kiss. Pulling away, she laughed at his disgruntled look. "Jackson, we're going to have to do something about that growl of yours. It's just getting out of hand."

Theo pressed against her back and she laid her head on his shoulder. His lips brushed kisses along her neck before he whispered in her ear, "You know he won't stop until he makes you his. Tease."

Being between them made her hot. Two hard bodies sandwiching her, equipped with equally hard cocks, against her abdomen and ass. Part of her wanted to drag them into her bedroom and order them to fuck her, but she wanted the anticipation to build as the night wore on.

Sliding from between them, she took a few steps down the path toward the parking lot of her apartment complex. Halfway there, she stopped and turned around, looking for her men. Lara had swung around just in time to observe them sharing a kiss.

Jackson gripped Theo's hips and pulled them together close while Theo's arms draped around Jackson's neck. They really were the perfect pair. Theo moaned loud enough for even Lara to hear when his tongue slid into Jackson's mouth. Theo's arms tightened and he pressed his hips harder against Jackson, rubbing their pelvises together. Jackson's hands went around Theo's waist. Grasping a cheek in each hand, he squeezed and lifted Theo's hips to match his own.

Their kiss was getting out of hand, but she couldn't move to stop them. This showing of affection between the two of them had been part of what was missing from their relationship. Theo and Jackson had wasted no time in trying to become acquainted with her. They touched, stroked and teased her mercilessly, but she had yet to witness a real showing of affection between them. Until now, that is. Her pussy grew wet as she watched them, their bodies pushing and pulling as they tried to get closer. She half expected them to start tearing their clothes off in the middle of the parking lot at any moment.

When Jackson shoved a thigh between Theo's legs and Theo began riding him, her hand flew to her mouth to muffle a gasp. Theo rubbed his groin against his lover's leg and threw his head back with a moan. Jackson leaned forward and nibbled a path down Theo's neck. Jackson pulled the collar of Theo's shirt to the side, and Lara could

see Jackson's mark on Theo's shoulder. Jackson licked and nipped that spot before finally biting down on the bit of bruised flesh, causing Theo to moan.

"Beautiful." Lara hadn't realized she'd spoken the thought aloud until both men broke apart, blushing to the roots of their hair. She could see their impressive erections straining at their slacks, but neither man would look at her.

Finally, Jackson spoke up. "Sorry, Lara." Their previous blushing faces drained of all color as they strode toward her.

"Sorry? What for? That was... amazing. I had seriously started to doubt whether you two cared for each other at all."

At her statement, they stopped dead in their tracks. "You're okay with Theo and me being," he glanced at Theo, "intimate?"

Brow furrowed, she looked at her two men. "Well, duh. You *are* a couple, and..."

"Trio," Theo interrupted.

"Trio. Sorry. We are a trio. I just assumed you two would, and damn, that was amazing to watch. When can I get another show?" She winked at Jackson and blew Theo a kiss.

"Any time you want, doll." Theo gathered her in his arms and whirled her around as he kissed her. When her feet touched the ground, she felt the predictable growl reverberate through her. She had to admit, the feeling was quite nice as it moved along her nerves, but Jackson's possessiveness was getting old.

Jackson's arms wrapped around her from behind and he licked a path up her neck, nibbling just beneath her ear. "Mine."

Lara sighed. She never thought she could fall in love with such an overbearing possessive man in her life, but that's what she had done. "Yours." She echoed the reply she had heard Theo utter so many times. "*Both* of yours," Lara added, making sure the BBW understood she wasn't his alone. Her love for Theo had brought them together initially, and she didn't want to be pulled in one direction over another.

"Ours," the men said in unison.

Lara straightened and moved away. "Perfect! Now that we've got that straightened out, it's time for you two to feed me. I'm starved and tonight is going to be a long night."

"Any particular reason why?" Theo called to her as he jogged to catch up.

"Now, wouldn't you like to know?" she said, coy smile in place. Playing with them all night was going to be fun.

\* \* \*

They were going to be the death of her. The headline on tomorrow's paper would read "Death by Excessive Arousal." They acted as if her acceptance of their love was a free pass to be touchy feely between themselves and her.

Jackson kept his hands to himself as he drove them to dinner, keeping his eyes on the road. Lara could still see his erection straining against the material of his slacks and her mouth watered at the sight. She wished there was a nonchalant way to turn around and eye Theo's package as well. She must be on Santa's nice list this year to get two such hunky men who lived to love her and make her happy.

At the restaurant, Lara was seated between them in the booth. After they ordered their drinks and dinner, she relaxed into the seat and looked around the room. They were garnering a few sly looks from men and women, but after a month of dating the two men, she had become used to the attention the three of them attracted. Over the past four weeks she had endured looks which ranged from jealousy to disgust, but she didn't care. She'd come to love her two men and nothing anyone else said mattered.

Tonight would be the night she gave herself to them. She'd managed to hold Theo and Jackson at bay for this long, but the time was right. Lara had wanted their first time together to coincide with Jackson's claiming. Of course, she couldn't consent to being mated until she'd spent time with the two men and explored her feelings for them. Four weeks later, feelings explored, tonight would be the night they'd remember forever.

Their food arrived and they ate in companionable silence. Theo enjoyed his chicken, Jackson his *rare* steak, and she, her salmon filet. During their after dinner coffee things became interesting.

In tandem, two hands slid along her thighs, forcing them to part. Lara glanced at her two men before looking around the restaurant to see if they were being watched. The men didn't seem to care. She looked at her lap just in time to watch their hands, one light and one dark, disappear beneath her skirt.

Lara couldn't stop the tremors coursing through her body as she anticipated their touch. Fingers stroked and teased their way up her legs until she could feel them inches from her sex. She arched her back and shifted her hips forward, aching to feel their fingers on her. Their fingers continued their exploration of her legs, drawing them farther apart. Still, they didn't touch her throbbing sex.

Having Theo and Jackson stroking and teasing her caused her core to clench in need. She wanted something, anything in her pussy at that moment. The men seemed to sense her need, but instead of satisfying it, they decided to discuss it.

"Feel how hot she is, Thee?"

Theo responded by sliding his slim hand higher on her thigh, skimming the damp fabric of her panties. "God, yes. So hot. Want some."

"Yeah, I'm feeling awfully hungry for dessert myself. Should we prop her on the table and get to eating?"

Her pussy tightened in glee, until Jackson's words sank in. "What? No. Nononononono..." She flexed her muscles, trying to close her legs. A public display was *not* on the menu tonight. A little sex, a little claiming maybe, but not public carpet munching.

Theo came to her rescue with a soft chuckle in her ear. "You know he'd never allow that. Hell, I'm surprised he's doing so well now."

"He's right, baby. You're ours, all ours. Nobody gets to see our girl but us."

That was all fine and good, but Lara still hadn't gotten what she needed. Time to take the show on the road. Grasping their wrists, she removed their hands from her legs

and crossed them primly. If she wasn't going to get satisfaction in the damn restaurant, they weren't going to play anymore.

Looking from Theo to Jackson, she ended their night. "I'd like to go now if you two don't mind." She cringed at her tone, but her nipples were rock-hard and her pussy was weeping so much she'd leave a stain on the seat. She needed a good fucking from her two men. Now!

Strolling from the restaurant, she looked over her shoulder and felt giggles build in her chest. Lara tried her best to stifle them, but she couldn't help it. Theo and Jackson both had such long, disappointed faces. Deciding she wanted two "happy-to-be-going-home" men instead of two "I-want-to-crawl-under-a-rock" men, she clued them in on which home they were headed to.

"By the way, guys, I hope you both ate well this evening. It will be a long time before I let you out of bed once we get home." Lara swayed her hips with a little extra swing after she'd let them know what to expect and wasn't surprised when hurried footsteps approached her. Two masculine hands rubbed and caressed her ass as they walked to the car.

Theo's lips brushed along her neck while Jackson's teeth nibbled her shoulder. "Mine," Jackson growled, rubbing his thickening erection against her side.

"Ours," Theo countered.

They hadn't even gotten into the car and Lara could tell it would be a long night.

## Chapter Twelve

Theo's hands itched with the need to touch her, touch Jackson, touch *them*. His excitement could barely be contained. After her acceptance of the physical aspect of his and Jackson's relationship, he could barely resist the urge to fuck and get fucked with the two of them. From the moment he and Jackson had broken their kiss in the parking lot, he'd been hard as granite, and it didn't look like he'd get relief any time soon.

Jackson took his time driving home. Ever the alpha, he did things at his pace and wouldn't be rushed. His dark twinkling eyes met Theo's in the rearview mirror more than once, silently telling Theo he knew what was going through his mind. Damn, but Jackson knew him too well.

Lara too. She gave coy glances as she crossed and uncrossed her legs, showing more of her thigh with each movement. She unbuttoned her shirt, claiming she felt warm. Theo didn't bother to mention the existence of the air conditioner. He leaned forward, getting an eyeful of her creamy skin as he moved to change the radio station. Juvenile? Yes. Necessary? Absolutely.

In the driveway, Theo scrambled to open Lara's door -- anything to get close to her at this point. Jackson must have had the same idea. He moved around the car and took Lara's hand from his, escorting her to the house and leaving Theo to trail behind. *Greedy*. Then again, with Jackson leading the way, Theo had the opportunity to watch the two asses that belonged to him sway and move as they walked. Maybe Jackson wasn't being greedy for once.

Jackson leaned close to Lara and spoke into her ear. Theo wished he had the wolf's hearing for those few seconds that Jackson spoke. He would have given his life to know what Jackson said when the most gorgeous red blush crept up Lara's neck before she nodded, agreeing to whatever Jackson had asked of her.

Jackson opened the front door and said only one word as Theo passed. "Bedroom." He didn't have to be told twice.

Theo followed Lara through the house, cock aching and bobbing with every step. Stepping into the bedroom, Jackson began stroking him from behind, cupping his ass and roaming his back. Like always, Jackson's tongue found the sweet spot he'd claimed, giving it a lingering lick.

Jackson's arms slithered around his waist, skimming his hips; he cupped the bulge in the front of Theo's pants. He gripped, stroked and pulled on Theo's cloth covered cock. All Theo could do was press forward into his lover's palm as he lost himself to the pleasure.

Jackson nipped his earlobe, pulling the tiny piece of flesh into his mouth and then releasing it. "Giving our girl a show."

*Mmmm. My man.*

Theo loved Jackson unconditionally but sometimes he wanted to make love to the man and not the wolf. This time, at least so far, the man remained in control. Theo didn't doubt the wolf would take over if it got the chance to claim Lara, but that would be later.

The large hands left his cock and grabbed the bottom of Theo's shirt, tugging and pulling it over his head. Nimble fingers pinched and rolled his nipples, and he arched into the pain Jackson caused. One hand abandoned Theo's nipple and traveled south, petting the sprinkling of hair on his abdomen before tugging at the waistband of his slacks. "Get these off."

So forceful, in control. Theo's cock twitched with the order. He fumbled with his belt, button and zipper of his slacks, finally getting them undone. Theo didn't wait for Jackson's order this time. He pulled off his clothes. Shoes and socks were immediately followed by his slacks and boxer briefs, leaving him wearing nothing but his smile.

Jackson's hands were moving again, soft tender touches, followed by hard strokes and fingers pinching his hardened nipples. He kissed and stroked his mark, his tongue darting out and licking the bruised and battered piece of flesh. Fingers played



over his skin, moving from chest to waist, hips to ass, all the while avoiding the one spot Theo craved contact the most. Finally, *finally*, Jackson gave him what he needed.

His lover encircled his cock. Starting at the base, he squeezed and stroked Theo with an agonizing slowness that made him weak in the knees. He felt as if he would come from that alone.

"Look at our girl," Jackson growled.

God, Theo couldn't even think. His head lolled back, resting against Jackson's shoulder. Jackson stroked him, slow and even, squeezing and pulling at his erection, demanding his release.

When Theo didn't respond to his order, Jackson's movements stopped. "I *said*, look at our girl." Jackson's hand drifted back to Theo's hip, showing him what disobedience would bring.

With a whimper, Theo raised his head from Jackson's shoulder as he sought out Lara in the bedroom. His mate resumed his pumping of Theo's cock, a continuous dance of squeeze, slide, squeeze and rub up and down his shaft.

Theo located Lara reclined in a chair near the bed, eyes glazed with lust. One of her hands toyed with her breast while the other stroked and kneaded her hip, almost begging to touch her heat. God, he'd give almost anything to see her touch herself.

"I think our girl is wearing too many clothes, don't you?"

Yes, God, yes, he did, but Theo couldn't speak, only managing to nod in agreement. Jackson stroking and pulling his shaft made thinking and speaking impossible. It seemed as if Lara could still think, but she didn't have her soon-to-be mate pressing all of her buttons, did she?

Lara rose on shaky legs, and steadying herself on the chair made short work of removing her heels. In seconds she stood before them in nothing but the skimpiest of panties and bra. White creamy skin was revealed to them, covered only in pale lace, easily showing the curls at the apex of her thighs. Damn, but he wanted a taste. Theo didn't think he'd get one this first time, but he'd make sure he did eventually.

Jackson's hands still worked their magic. He paused, bringing his palm to Theo's mouth. "Lick."

Oh yeah, lubrication. Damn, and he almost came right there. Jackson's saliva-moistened hand resumed its fondling of Theo's cock, gliding over his skin, spreading the slick heat all over him. Pre-come leaked from the tip of his erection, but he didn't care. He felt his orgasm building and slithering along his spine. Jolts of electricity tingled all over, settling in his lower back. Theo's hips moved of their own volition, thrusting through Jackson's hand as he neared his peak.

Just before he reached the point of no return, Jackson's movements stopped and Theo's release receded. "No," Theo whimpered.

"Open your eyes." Theo hadn't even realized he'd closed them. Opening his eyes, he saw what Jackson saw. Lara stood a foot from them, eyes wanting, her tongue darting over her lower lip. "Get on the bed. We'll give our girl a taste, shall we?"

## Chapter Thirteen

A taste. That's what Lara wanted. She wanted a lot more, but for now, she'd settle for a taste of Theo's cock. She couldn't wait to nibble and suck on that pale skin as he writhed beneath her.

God, she hadn't realized being with these two would demolish her like this. When Jackson had whispered his decadent request, she'd easily agreed.

"We'll give you a show tonight. Give you a show and then we'll take you, make you ours." The memory of those husky words caused her pussy to clench, looking for something to fill it. Not just something, someone. Tonight, if all went as planned, that someone would be Jackson. She wanted Theo too, but Jackson would make love to her first, claim her.

Jackson led her best friend and soon-to-be lover to the bed. Pulling the covers off in one swift movement, he directed Theo to lie in the center. Theo lay out like a beautiful porcelain feast made especially for her. He was one big lithe carving of the most precious granites, sprinkled with pale brown hair that eventually surrounded his hard cock. Lara licked her lips in anticipation, looking him over from head to feet, unsure of where she wanted to start first. She wanted to taste all of him, every line, curve and crevice.

"Lara." A growl from Jackson. From Theo's description, it sounded as if his wolf wasn't far from the surface. She saw Jackson standing by the bed. His shirt had been discarded and now she got a full view of what it had hidden. Tanned, bulging muscles covered his arms, shoulders and torso -- not one inch of him hadn't been honed to masculine muscular perfection. Where Theo held a graceful strength, Jackson possessed a brutal power and she wanted to obey every word from his mouth. He stared at her,

taking several deep breaths before he held out a hand, silently asking her to come to him.

Walking on shaking legs, she managed to make it to his side. Sliding her hand in his, she waited for him to direct her. This was his night, their night, and she wanted it to be perfect for them all. She had a feeling Jackson knew just how the evening should progress.

"I think Lara's wearing a bit too much, don't you, Thee?"

Lara's gaze was drawn to Theo again. A slim hand encircled his erection as he tugged and stroked his cock. "Absolutely."

Jackson's heated fingers slid along her bra. Finding the clasp, he undid it in an instant and her breasts were freed. He encircled her waist before sliding his palms to her hips, dragging the thin material of her panties down her legs, and still she stared at Theo. She stepped out of her panties at Jackson's touch, leaving her naked to their gaze. With any other men, she would have cowered, but with these two, she stood proud. Her body was beautiful to them and she would never hide it again.

"So beautiful."

"Magnificent," Theo echoed.

Jackson stood at her side again, discarding her panties and bra which were no longer needed. "Go taste him, love. Let me see you two."

Yes, finally, yes. Lara would get what she wanted. Knee on the edge of the bed, she crawled until she lay centered between Theo's legs. She only had eyes for this man now. Jackson would come later.

Starting at Theo's ankles, Lara stroked up his legs, savoring the sparse hair and smooth skin beneath her fingertips. As she approached the apex of his thighs, she swooped her hands higher to skim his hips. She smiled when his back arched and he attempted to shift, begging her to touch where he needed the most. She wasn't going to give in just yet though.

Lara leaned over his groin as she traced his abdomen, counting out and tracing each of his muscles there. One, two, three, four, five, six... and those smooth carved

lines near his hipbones; she couldn't resist those. Leaning down, she traced one and then the other with her tongue, savoring Theo's salty flavor.

Theo tensed and groaned as her tongue skimmed and teased him, whimpering when she retreated. Lara looked at Theo and couldn't believe this man, the whole man, was hers to taste and tease as she wished. At Jackson's command, he became hers to enjoy. This wasn't the Theo who'd almost fucked her on the desk so many weeks ago. This was a different man completely. Eyes closed, head thrown back, his breathing labored while he waited for her next touch.

Lara decided to end his torment. Scooting closer to her target, she sat on her heels between Theo's spread thighs. Leaning forward she flicked the skin at the base of his cock with her tongue, giving him a taste of what was in store. Theo sucked in a harsh breath in response. She did it again, enjoying the salty tang of his skin as well as the reaction he had to her touch, finding it empowering.

High on the feeling of control, she licked him in one stroke from balls to tip. Savoring Theo's distinct taste, her tongue glided over his silken shaft. Reaching the crown of his cock, she flicked and sucked that tender spot, pulling another moan from her lover. Continuing her journey, she pressed her tongue into the slit at the very tip of his erection, causing him to shout. Oh, she liked that sound, liked it a lot.

Lara decided to quit her teasing. Opening her mouth wide, she engulfed his shaft, surrounding it with the wet heat of her mouth. Sliding up and down his erection, she made her own rhythm, one that complemented the subtle movements of Theo's hips. She ached for his release, every cell demanding his seed. The salty-sweet pre-come leaking from the tip of Theo's cock was just enough to whet her appetite and she wanted more. She wanted it all. Her mind centered on Theo and, giving him all of the pleasure she could, she didn't feel Jackson join them on the bed until he stroked her back.

## Chapter Fourteen

So sweet, so beautiful, his two mates loving one another. Jackson was almost content to watch them enjoy each other. Almost.

Jackson's teasing temptress made him sorry he'd allowed Theo to go first, but this was the right way. Even his wolf knew it. His wolf didn't like it, but it recognized the bond between its mates and wanted them to solidify their connection physically. It hurt to watch them together, but with any luck, Lara would join Theo as belonging to him before the night ended.

Muscles tensed as Lara's sweet mouth swallowed Theo's cock, Jackson could almost feel every flick of her tongue on his own shaft, her heat surrounding him and swallowing him whole. He'd watched for as long as he could, until he'd ventured to the edge of his control, before he reacted. Toeing off his shoes and unzipping his slacks, he stood beside the bed nude within moments, a hand instinctively encircling his pulsing cock.

Just the feel of his own hand on his skin nearly set him off, but he needed to save it for when he entered his love. Neither of his mates acknowledged his presence as he moved onto the bed, they were so enraptured with each other.

Jackson sat on his heels behind Lara, admiring the scene before him. Bent over Theo's cock, Lara's ass and pussy were spread open for him. Her tender pink folds and dark passage called to him, begging him to enter and conquer her. The muscles of her back and ass flexed as she moved and stroked Theo's shaft. He couldn't resist any longer. Extending one hand, he traced her spine from shoulders to the crease of her bottom, smiling as goose bumps emerged in the wake of his touch.

Lara didn't acknowledge him with words, but with actions. She spread her knees farther apart, showing Jackson more of what she offered, giving herself to him on a

silver platter. Jackson's canines extended at her display. His wolf growled and clawed, begging for permission to claim its mate. Taking deep breaths, he calmed himself. There was no reason to rush through things now, not when they had all night. Leaning forward, he pressed two whisper-soft kisses on the globes of her ass before licking the entryway to her back passage, which earned him a moan from Lara. Theo echoed her moan with a deep groan of his own. Oh, this was going to be fun.

Jackson continued his exploration of Lara, licking her nether lips before sucking them into his mouth. She pushed back against his tongue in response, never taking her mouth from Theo's cock. He parted her folds with his fingers and lapped at her pussy's sweet cream, urging her to give him more. He easily found her hidden nub, distended and filled with blood. He latched onto it with his lips, sucking, growling and nipping the tiny piece of nerve-filled flesh. Jackson savored each of her moans, moving his tongue and lips in response to her sounds. Her hips pressed back against his mouth demanding more from him, until finally, he couldn't hold his wolf back any longer.

Pulling away from Lara, he straightened and shifted so the head of his shaft aligned with her seeping core. He rubbed his cock through her folds, gathering her moisture to make his entrance smooth. Again her hips pressed back in response. Jackson didn't know how long he'd be able to make this last.

Jackson pressed forward, and had he not already been on his knees the first feeling of Lara enveloping him would have brought him down. *So hot. So wet. So tight.*

Being inside Lara would burn him alive. He inched into her cunt, advancing and retreating in the tiniest of increments, careful not to hurt his lover. He knew his cock was larger than average, his wolf AE traits guaranteed it.

Quiet mewls and moans could be heard from both Lara and Theo as he advanced, but still he continued. From what he could tell, they were sounds of pleasure and not pain. Jackson pushed forward until his cropped curls brushed the skin of Lara's ass. *Home at last.* In that instant, his wolf calmed. But only for a moment. It demanded that Jackson claim Lara immediately. They had never discussed claiming, just making love. He wouldn't betray Lara's trust, not now, not ever.

Lara pressed against him, shoving his cock farther into her wet heat, begging without words for him to move. He obliged her. Pulling back, he looked down to where his cock emerged from Lara's pussy, covered in her arousal, and fought the shudder traveling down his spine. *So good.* Jackson forced himself back into her tight hole, letting her cunt clasp around him again. He continued with a slow, precise rhythm as he learned what his lover liked.

In and out, he thrust and rubbed against her, alternating between fast, hard, slow and soft. Lara moaned and groaned each time his cock stroked her sweet spot and Theo responded in turn. His man would thrust into Lara's mouth, feeding her his long cock. Jackson knew exactly what Lara tasted, the sweet salty juice that always made his mouth water.

But tonight he wouldn't taste the essence of Theo. Tonight he'd be coming deep within Lara's pussy. He continued his varied advance and retreat into Lara's heat until she pulled her mouth from Theo's cock, panting and arching into Jackson's thrusts. Jackson leaned forward and licked the spot he'd decided to claim as his own when the time came. At the juncture of Lara's neck and shoulder, he gave her a lingering lick and nip. "Mine."

"Yours." Jackson thrust hard into her pussy in response to her answer, causing her to cry out in a mixture of pleasure and pain as his cock bumped her cervix. "Yours, Jackson. Make me yours. Claim me."

Jackson's wolf needed no further encouragement. He continued to thrust in and out of Lara's pussy, stroking the sweet spot that made her moan and her pussy clench around his cock. Lara continued to pump Theo's cock as she gasped for breath, taking all that Jackson could give. Jackson felt Theo's gaze on him, watching him as he fucked Lara and aroused her to a fever pitch. Her pussy gripped and pulled his cock as he pummeled her cunt, demanding her release.

As his own orgasm approached, Jackson leaned over Lara once again. Licking the spot he had chosen, his wolf waited for its moment, waited for her climax to



overtake her. It wanted her to always remember the pleasure and to forget the pain this initial claiming would bring.

Her cries grew louder as her orgasm approached, her cunt rippling and tightening around his cock. He knew it was close. As her cunt nearly strangled his cock, his wolf struck. Canines lengthening, he bit into Lara's shoulder, teeth sinking into the flesh as his come spewed from his cock and filled her from within. She screamed his name, whether in pleasure or pain, he didn't know. Warm fluid struck the side of his face as he rode out his orgasm. Looking up, he saw Theo in the midst of his own orgasm.

As the tremors subsided, his wolf released its hold on Lara's shoulder and he licked the damaged flesh, partially healing the wound with his saliva. The pain would fade almost instantly, but his mark would remain forever. It would show one and all that she was his. "Mine," Jackson growled.

"Ours." Theo's predictable response, and even his wolf seemed to agree with him now that the claiming was complete.

"Ours."

## Chapter Fifteen

Lara reclined on the blanket, enjoying the sun as Theo and Chrissy, still in her leopard form, tumbled and played in Penney's backyard. Since Jackson's claiming, she and Jackson had married in a quick ceremony performed by a local notary. She hadn't cared if they had a big "do" in front of friends. Ever since the three of them had joined as one so many nights ago, in her mind they were already a permanent trio. She didn't need some piece of paper declaring her as being married to anyone. In her heart she was already married to two beautiful men who loved her more than anything.

The only thing missing from their lives was Chrissy. But both Theo and Jackson assured her they were working furiously with lawyers to adopt the little girl. Weekly visits to Chrissy were becoming harder on all of them. Tears often flowed freely. Not just from Lara, but from Theo as well. Jackson, ever their rock, simply embraced them both as tears poured and sobs wracked them.

Lara still couldn't understand the court's hesitation at granting custody of Chrissy to her and Jackson. As far as the courts were concerned, Theo didn't exist. So what was the problem? While previously, Lara was deemed ineligible to adopt Chrissy because she was a Normal, she was now married to an Animal Extraordinary. Jackson would always be there to help Chrissy become accustomed to the dual parts of her nature as she grew. Yet still the courts hesitated, stating further observation would be needed before a decision could be made.

Penney had been assigned the task of observing their interactions with the little girl. It broke her friend's heart; Lara could see it as clear as day. Lines creased Penney's face and her quick smile had been replaced with a tiny imitation. She didn't blame Penney for the tenuous position the court placed her in. She just hoped her friend

would be in favor of the adoption and fight for her. Tears pricked Lara's eyes at the thought of not ever having Chrissy in her home.

Theo flopped onto the blanket beside her, panting for breath. He clicked his tongue as his fingers wiped her cheek. "None of that now. We've got her for the afternoon. She's damn near killed me with those claws, but I consider them marks of love. Want to have a tumble with her and give an old guy a break?"

He winked at her and she inventoried the numerous scratches and red welts covering his arms and the bottom half of his legs. Any part of him not protected by cloth had become Chrissy's scratching post and chew toy.

Laughing, she shook her head. "Hell no. I'm here for snuggling. You guys will have to take care of the rough and tumble part of our little girl." Lara looked around the backyard. Penney sat in the shade on the porch, but she couldn't see Jackson anywhere. "Why don't you hunt down our guy and get him to wrestle with her for a while. I doubt she gets to have this much fun on a normal basis."

Theo lay down using his arm for a pillow while stroking the small of her back. Chrissy romped and hopped all over the yard, entertaining herself with a bowling ball. "I'll hunt him down in a second. Heck, maybe she'll do it for us. You know she loves him to distraction."

True. Chrissy gave them all affection, but the little girl and Jackson seemed to have a different kind of connection. Lara assumed it stemmed from them both sharing their bodies with the spirit of an animal.

Chrissy stopped playing suddenly and lifted her nose into the air. "Uh-oh. Looks like she's just caught his scent. Our girl is on the hunt. Do you think we should save him, Thee, or let her get him?"

Theo squeezed her hip. "I think we should let the big guy get the wind knocked out of him first. Then we can come to the rescue."

Lara liked that idea. Sometimes Jackson's "in control" attitude needed a bit of an adjustment. A now sixty-pound leopard pouncing on his ass sounded like just the thing to get to him. She bit back a chuckle as she watched Chrissy dart for the bushes. Even

Penney noticed the change in her playing and smiled. The little one was going to get Jackson, but good. "Thee, you might want to watch this. Chrissy's getting ready to take our man out."

Theo sat up, throwing an arm around her shoulders, and she leaned into his embrace. "Where's he at?"

Chrissy had scented him, but not being AEs, Lara and Theo were at a disadvantage. She scanned the paths leading to Penney's backyard and the surrounding area. Penney's home had several acres of land surrounding it that belonged to her. Lara assumed their lover was playing a game with the little leopard.

A yip and bark captured Lara's attention. A sleek silver and gray wolf emerged from the bushes, yipping again to announce his presence. Chrissy crouched low in the grass, hind quarters flexing and rocking back and forth as she prepared to leap. Jackson assumed a similar position, tail wagging in the air as he and Chrissy prepared to tumble.

Out of the corner of her eye, Lara saw Penney leap to her feet, clapping and laughing. Her laughter was infectious and Lara couldn't stop herself from joining in. Even Theo chuckled as the two animals came together amidst playful growls and nipping teeth.

The two of them crashed together again and again. Fur flew as Chrissy's claws scratched at Jackson's wolven form, yet still they played. Jackson would take off at a run only to stop and spin suddenly, catching Chrissy by surprise. Then he'd initiate a chase, barking as he ran after the spotted cat. Hour after hour they played their own games, chasing and running through the wooded area of Penney's yard, their calls and animal teasing heard all around. In all of the months Lara had spent with the little girl, she'd never seen her have this much fun.

As darkness approached, the two of them slowly padded to Lara and Theo, Jackson flopping down on the blanket. Chrissy approached and began licking and cleaning Jackson's face, showing him affection the only way she could. Jackson pushed up to sit on his hind legs. Lara watched their interaction in stunned silence. He shifted

in their presence, muscles stretching, contracting, and bone cracking, realigning to form the man Lara loved.

Lara stared at Chrissy, trying to gauge the little girl's reaction. Golden leopard eyes widened and rounded as Jackson returned to his human form, almost as if the little girl was shocked to see Jackson the man. Chrissy's nose twitched as she sniffed and scented the now human Jackson, relearning the scent. Chrissy crawled into Jackson's lap amid muffled "ows." Naked, Jackson didn't have anything to defend his tender skin from the little girl's claws.

Suddenly, quiet cracks and a low mewl sounded from deep within Chrissy's chest and Lara couldn't believe her eyes. The little girl shifted, forcing her body to retake its human form. Jackson's transformation must have been all she needed to realize she could do it too. Where once a small leopard sat, a child now huddled in his arms.

Spotted fur gave way to platinum blonde locks and all the rest of her fur receded to reveal sun-kissed honey skin. The gold of her leopard's eyes remained, giving the little girl an exotic look. Tears poured from Lara's eyes as Theo enveloped her in a hug, her greatest wish granted.

Penney rushed across the lawn babbling and crying. The only thing Lara could discern was Penney telling them Chrissy was theirs now. Something about the courts not believing a wolf could care for a leopard, but Chrissy's transformation had proven that any AE could easily guide another through the change.

Chrissy was theirs forever. And she had her two men to thank for that. They had made all of her dreams come true.

## Epilogue

Eric flopped onto his bed, rubbing his temples as he stared at the ceiling. Doing his job had *never* been this hard. He thanked God his trio had managed to work themselves out on their own. He didn't have a moment to spare for them. Somehow they had overcome their obstacles together and seemed happy.

The last time he'd looked in on them, Lara was pregnant with pups and their little leopard was terrorizing the house. Now that she had learned how to shift between her human and animal counterpart, the child constantly shifted different parts of her body to frighten Lara. Seeing a little girl wandering around with a tail was enough to shock any Normal.

Pushing those thoughts away, he focused on his most recent couple. Maybe he needed to get checked out by an Extraordinary doctor. There had to be something wrong with his powers. Perhaps they were fading or malfunctioning as he aged.

Eric couldn't fathom a dominant female and dominant male forming a lasting partnership, but that's what his gut told him. Both halves of the couple enjoyed bondage and pain-inducing bedroom games, but only if they dished out the pain -- and definitely not if they were on the receiving end. How was he supposed to get these two to come together?

*Well, someone better hide the whips...*

## Celia Kyle

Celia would have loved to have written her own biography, but she just didn't know what to say. In a fit of desperation, she turned to me, her most trusted confidant and friend. I realize you're asking yourself, "Who is this?" I am Cali, her cat. I also go by a few other names, but those may be too strong for your delicate ears. Suffice it to say my mommy is very creative and not just with writing.

My mommy, Celia, began writing in August of 2006. I know this because it was around that time our meals started coming later and later in the day. As months passed, she spent more and more time in front of the boring screen. Though it was fun to chase the little arrow around every once in a while. You should hear her scream! But I digress.

She's worked hard to give readers sexy, quirky heroines they can relate to. And you better damn well appreciate it. All I got was late night feedings. And I didn't even make it into one of her books by name! That damn kitten, Katie O'Meghan, did. Bitch.

Well, enjoy her writings and if you want to praise her for her work... don't. I'd like to get fed at some point, people.

Fine. If you must contact her, her website is at [www.celiakyle.com](http://www.celiakyle.com) or you can send an email to [celia.kyle@gmail.com](mailto:celia.kyle@gmail.com). But when I go hungry, I'll blame you all!