

The Luxy Lady



Emma Ray Garrett



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Kai and Lucas Woods are taking a much needed vacation to the hottest destination on Earth: Los Regalos. Although they've been married for ten years, their demanding jobs have often kept them apart. But it isn't just work. Each has a secret neither knows how to reveal without destroying the love they still share.

The Luxy Lady's owner, Adyan Regillus, has been around. One thing he hasn't tried his hand at is marriage counseling. So, when an old friend asks for his help, Adyan agrees. Now, all he can hope is that his curiosity doesn't get the better of him...

Chapter 1

"Good morning."

"Morning. Is the coffee ready?"

"Yeah. My flight leaves at eleven. I'll be back Thursday, late."

"I won't be here. I have dinner with Olson and Jacobs Thursday night."

"That's right. Well, see you Friday then."

"Yeah, Friday."

Kai Woods looked at her husband of ten years and realized this was what their life together had become. A series of brief, detached conversations. Amazing sexual chemistry kept them connected in the bedroom, but the pressures of running two separate and successful companies made even sex a rare thing.

"Have a good flight, Lucas. Oh, and don't forget, we leave for Los Regalos a week from Thursday." She smiled softly at him.

"I won't. I sure hope this place is as fantastic as Pam said it is. I'd hate to spend that kind of money on a crappy imitation of Vegas."

"She's been our travel agent for ages, Lucas. Has she ever been wrong?"

"No." He grinned at her and Kai sighed as she handed him his mug from the table. "Thanks, babe." Lucas grabbed his briefcase with his free hand and circled the kitchen island, bussing a quick kiss against her cheek. "Love you."

"I love you too," Kai replied automatically and wondered, not for the first time, when she'd be able to tell him she loved someone else as well.

With briefcase in one hand and coffee mug in the other, Kai rushed out the door. As she started her car, she felt a momentary melancholy that this would be one of the last times she headed into the main office for Kafé à Kai.

Jeff Olson and Ted Jacobs hadn't balked at the terms she'd asked, but her partners had been sad to see her go. The shop had been her idea and she'd opened the first store on her own. Jeff and Ted had been the first managers and then her partners. She knew the business would only continue to flourish with them at the helm. But as she'd told her friends, she was tired of all the rigmarole. Kai wanted to pursue other interests, not the least of which was discovering if she and Lucas should stay married.

Today's venture to the office was merely a formality, the signing of papers, emptying her suite, tying up any loose ends. Tomorrow the staff was throwing her a party. That was the end. By the time she left for Los Regalos, Kai would have nothing left tying her to the city other than her husband. No matter how things with her and Lucas turned out, Kai was determined to enjoy Los Regalos every moment she was there. And if things went badly, well, she'd have nine figures in her account to start anew.

Chapter 2

Adyan Curius Regillus, born of an Egyptian mother and Roman father long before the time of Christ, looked down at the woman between his legs and smiled. Life was so good at this moment that Adyan couldn't believe he'd been thinking about renouncing his gifts earlier.

As the brunette swallowed his cock, he sighed with pleasure. She gave fantastic head. Her full lips were soft and lush against his skin and her talented tongue swirled and danced all over his prick, making his hips lift and his balls tighten. And the things she did with her throat, taking his cock deep, deep down then swallowing around it. Oh man, he was gonna come if she kept that up.

"Oh, baby, that's it." He tightened his fist in her short hair, guiding her head up and down. He felt the telltale zing of energy from his balls to his brain and back. "Swallow?" Adyan couldn't put together more words, his release so close it stole his ability to speak.

She moaned loudly around his cock, the sound vibrating her throat and his shaft and Adyan grunted loudly. His balls throbbed and he emptied himself into her throat, moving from a grunt to a harsh groan as she swallowed convulsively around him.

"Oh, yeah!" He thrust gently and blew one last load into the brunette's mouth. She released his cock slowly, rolling her tongue around him the entire time.

"Did you like it?" Her cheeks warmed and Adyan found the response charming.

"Most definitely. Now it's your turn." He took her small, delicate hands in his and lifted her from her knees. She didn't need any coaxing to climb astride his lap, pressing her slick pussy to his still-hard cock.

Adyan leaned forward to take a small, tight nipple into his mouth. He flicked his tongue over the distended tip, making nonsensical sounds of lust as she used the head

of his cock to tease her swollen clit as he nipped and sucked at her breasts. He smoothed his hands over her sides and down to her narrow waist, until his palms cupped her slim hips. With gentle guiding pressure, he lifted and shifted his playmate until the hot, wet lips of her sex teased the crown of his cock. With slow pressure, he pressed her down against his groin, growling softly as the tight mouth of her pussy widened to allow him entry.

Adyan slipped the first two inches of his cock in, then pulled out. The ridge around the head of his cock caught erotically against the silken, slippery opening of her pussy, making them both moan. She grew wetter and wetter with each teasing thrust, her hips jerking in his grasp as she struggled to take more of his cock. Adyan tightened his grip, keeping his motions controlled and steady, waiting for the telltale fluttering of her stomach muscles and quick rush of juices from her cunt before slamming himself deep into her molten sex.

"Oooh. Oh, God." Her voice trilled the way a woman's will when the pleasure is so tight, so intense her body can't hold it in. Adyan smiled darkly to himself when the muscles of her abdomen quivered beneath his thumbs. He looked up at her, taking in the dark brown hair, her heavy lidded eyes, and the dark coral color of her hard nipples. With a grunt, he lifted his hips at the same time he slammed hers downward.

"Ay!" She screamed and came apart in his arms, her pussy clutching spastically and her hips jerking wildly. The woman's release drenched them, spilling over his rock hard cock to slowly trickle south to his balls.

Adyan loved the feel of a woman's come as it seeped over his flesh. The wetter she got, the hotter he got. Just the sound of balls slapping against slick flesh was enough to make him hard as a rail spike. He lifted her up and forced her down again, harder this time, gaining another scream and rush of come. His balls tightened, his body unbelievably nearing another orgasm.

Adyan leaned forward to again lave a nipple with his tongue when the phone on his desk gave a loud, jarring tone.

"Adyan, they need you in the whale room." His secretary's voice was brusque. Obviously, Amy didn't approve of his current activities.

Adyan released the nipple he held between his teeth and groaned. The woman in his lap was delirious with pleasure, her body limp, sated. With a growled sigh, he eased her off his cock and stood. "Tell them I'm on my way."

"Yes, sir." The intercom clicked off.

"Don't go. We aren't done yet." The woman in his arms lifted heavy lids and smiled beguilingly. Adyan gave her a small grin in return.

"Sorry, babe. Thanks for a lovely afternoon." He strode across the large office, headed for the divan that sat near the small fireplace in the far corner. He laid her down, turning to grab a light blanket from the back of the matching chair opposite the couch. "Amy will be in shortly to escort you back to the floor."

"What? That's it?" The woman sat up and gave him a look he'd seen many times before.

"I really am sorry. I'd love to play all day, but I have a casino to run. I hope you enjoy the rest of your stay." Adyan walked back to the desk to retrieve his pants, turning his back to the woman to pull them on and slip his feet into shoes.

"I paid good money to come here. I'm not finished with you." The woman's voice went from soft and husky to hard and cold.

Adyan clenched his teeth and turned back to the brunette. "Despite what you may believe, not everyone in Los Regalos is here to service you." She gasped in shock and Adyan took his opportunity to leave while she gaped like a fish.

Shutting the door to his office with a soft snick, he glanced at Amy. Her mouth thinned with irritation. "Another bitch?"

"It seems they all are these days." Adyan ran his hands over his fashionably spiked hair. "I don't know what the agents are telling these people, but lately our visitors seem to have the idea we're all whores."

"You aren't the only one who's voiced concerns about some of the guests. Customers come first, but Da Boss knows he can't run Regalos without staff."

“Still, I probably should have been nicer about leaving her. Da Boss...”

Amy interrupted him, tapping one long fingernail against the top of her desk. “He doesn’t put up with that shit either, Adyan.”

“Doesn’t matter. Los Regalos has a reputation for accommodation. I should see to her before I leave.”

“Fifty years of service and ownership of this establishment mean you’ve earned the right to be less accommodating. Stop worrying over Regalos or Da Boss. Go deal with the whale and I’ll take care of your guest.” She jerked her thumb toward the office door and gave him a warm smile, her brown eyes twinkling.

“Thanks, Amy. I owe you.” He ran his hands through his hair and headed for the private elevator from his office to the casino floors.

As the doors to the lift closed behind him, Amy smiled. “Yes you do, Adyan. And one of these days, I’m going to collect my due.”

Chapter 3

The delicious aroma of hot food greeted Lucas as he entered the front door. If there was one thing Kai did well, it was cook. His stomach rumbled at the savory smells wafting from the kitchen. With a grin, he headed straight for the room, stopping only briefly to shuck his jacket and tie.

"Hey, Kai. Damn, it smells great in here." Sliding behind his wife, Lucas kissed her softly on the neck before heading toward the fridge for a soda.

"Thanks. I made a beef roast with carrots and potatoes and some fresh rolls and butter."

"There are times when I'm very glad we're rich. I still remember the first hamburger I ate. Man, it was delicious."

"Sometimes I think the government has taken its role as protector of the public too far. I never have liked the taste of tofu."

"Me either. How long will it be until it's ready?"

"Soon. I'm just about to put the rolls in. Oh, I stopped by Pam's today and wrapped up everything for Thursday. She'll be meeting us at the airport to make sure we get to the plane. I brought home a list of stuff we can't take. And, Lucas." Kai turned away from the sink full of dishes, pinning him with her expressive eyes. "Follow the list to a tee. If you try and sneak something on, she assured me they'll find it and then we'll be out the hundred thousand credits and possibly banned from ever going to Los Regalos."

"Fine, fine. Still, it pisses me off that I can't bring my laptop, cell, or digi-cam. I mean what the hell kind of resort doesn't allow pictures?"

"It's not a resort. It's an all-inclusive vacation destination. It's an entire city, not just one hotel or resort. I already told you Pam said they provide things like that, but

this place is beyond exclusive. They don't take chances with security or anything else. Los Regalos guarantees its guests anonymity."

Lucas grumbled beneath his breath, but didn't say a word clearly. Kai was determined to go on this vacation and he wouldn't ruin it for her. He had doubts about the trip, about many things in fact, but one thing he didn't question was how much he loved Kai and didn't want to hurt her.

He stared at the woman he'd shared his life with for more than a decade and felt the knot in his gut tighten. She was still the most beautiful creature he'd ever seen. Her Polynesian heritage showed in the long, ebony locks cascading freely down her back and in the exotic tilt of her large, brown eyes. Her mother's Nordic genes gave her amazingly long legs and ample breasts. Her striking features had drawn him like a magnet.

He was tall at six feet four, but Kai was barely six inches shorter. She had full lips and high cheekbones complemented by her light caramel skin tone and intelligent eyes. The first touch of her hand had short circuited his brain and blinded him to any other woman. He'd wanted her desperately from the start and his hunger for her hadn't waned over the years. In fact, it had grown stronger and that was part of the problem.

Lucas had needs and desires he didn't know how to share with his wife. Interests he thought he'd long ago quashed were awakening and becoming hard to ignore. Though their sex life was still immensely satisfying, he found himself discontent. Moreover, as they'd both gone forward with plans for their businesses, Kai selling her shares and he appointing a Chief Operating Officer, Lucas realized that outside of the bedroom, he hadn't connected with Kai in a while.

He knew that she felt the same and that the trip to Los Regalos was about them. He loved her with all his heart, but he feared she might no longer share those feelings. And considering the urges he fought every day, he worried that perhaps loving her wouldn't be enough to overcome the things he wanted her to know, but couldn't bring himself to tell her.

"Dinner's ready." Her voice pulled Lucas from his thoughts.

“Coming.”

They enjoyed a wonderful meal and with full bellies, retired to their separate offices. Once he was alone in his sanctuary, Lucas activated the console on his desk, initiating the holo-portal. As he waited for the projectors and connections to boot, he felt a tinge of longing for the days of the hard-wired computer. Not that he missed replacing monitors and keyboards, but speaking out loud to compose letters and projects wasn't nearly as satisfying as pounding the keys. Or as private.

When the system was live, Lucas took care of the few work related items in his inbox. Then he did what he'd been doing every day for the last six months and had been thinking about for several months before that, since “the dinner,” as he called it.

Lucas got up from the desk and locked the door, ran the privacy protocols, and logged into his favorite chat account. Within moments, a box enlarged on the holo-screen.

“I thought you'd be too busy to log in tonight.” The soft blue words floated in mid air, almost glaring at Lucas. The slightly rough voice speaking them was definitely irritated.

“I don't want to have this conversation. That isn't why I got on.” Lucas kept his voice low, just above a whisper despite the fact that there was no way Kai could overhear him.

“Why did you connect, then? I didn't know you were into torture.”

“Fuck it. This isn't going to work.” Lucas tightened his fingers around the arms of his chair. It wasn't that he didn't understand the other chatter's frustration. He did, very well. He simply didn't want to deal with it right now.

“You have no idea if it will work because you refuse to talk to Kai. I know her, Lucas, as well as you do. She isn't going to react the way you think she will.”

“I said I don't want to talk about it.” Lucas gritted his teeth, a low growl of warning rumbling from his chest.

“Fine.”

Lucas and his guest were silent for a few minutes. Just as he was about to log out, the phantom voice spoke again, the words springing to holographic life in front of Lucas. "So, where are you going on vacation?"

"Los Regalos."

"No shit." The gruff voice chuckled darkly.

"It really isn't funny, Derek."

"The hell it isn't, Lucas. I fulfilled my contract last year and I left."

"I know. And there are times I wish you hadn't. If you hadn't come to dinner that night, I wouldn't be as tied up as I am." Lucas couldn't help the accusatory tone in his voice.

"You don't think I'm just as fucked up? It was bound to happen sometime, Lucas. And personally, I'm glad it's now."

"I don't want her to know about Regalos."

"I've told you that Kai can't hear anything about Los Regalos from me. I signed a gag clause and the penalty for breaking the contract is death. The only way I could spill the beans is if you said something first, but since anytime I think about mentioning Regalos to Kai I get an awful cold chill and stomach cramps, I know you haven't said anything."

"Of course I didn't! And you know damn good and well why I haven't."

"No, not really. I can't figure out why you didn't tell her when you realized who she was. So no, explain to me why don't you tell her now?"

"It's too late now. If I say something now, the minute we get there and she sees what it's all about, she'll think I purposely didn't say anything earlier because I was hiding something."

"Lucas, you're an asshat. You are hiding something. We both are."

"Drop it. Look, I have to go. I've got a full day at the office tomorrow and I still need to pack. We leave Thursday."

"Tell her, Lucas. Tell her everything. Trust that she loves you as much as you love her." Derek paused and Lucas held his breath for a moment. Then Derek's voice filled the room again. "Everything else will sort itself out."

"Sure. I'll talk to you when I get back."

"Not unless Kai is sitting there with you, Lucas. I mean it." The chat box disappeared in a blink, the conversation ended without so much as a good-bye. Lucas curled his right hand into a fist and smashed it against the chair arm.

"Tell her everything. Yeah, right. You don't know what you're asking." In frustration, Lucas surged from his chair and began to pace.

Lucas couldn't wrap his head around "everything," but Derek couldn't understand that. The other man thought it was so simple. It wasn't.

How could Lucas explain that five years before he'd met Kai, he'd had an explosive one-night stand with her best friend? Considering that best friend was a man, Kai might freak out. Even if she took it well, was accepting, which Lucas felt she would be, how did he tell her that Derek had started a bonding process that in the end would tie the two men closer than blood and make Lucas a Leonid, a lion shapeshifter?

"I'm so fucked up." And he was. Lucas remembered the eve of his wedding, the night his connection to Derek had exploded in his face, with vivid detail. He stopped pacing to lean against the front of his desk. Resting his chin on a palm, he let himself relive the memories yet again.

Lucas had managed to corner Derek after the rehearsal dinner. He'd bombarded the other man with questions. Was Kai the woman Derek had told him about that night so many years ago, were his feelings for her his own or some kind of magic spell, what did marrying Kai mean for Lucas and Derek? So many questions, so much fear and doubt, he'd almost called the whole thing off.

Derek's sucker punch to the gut had stopped the questions and Lucas's ability to breathe. The other man had grabbed Lucas by the hair and lifted his face; wild black eyes had bored into his own. "What you feel for her is all you. Our partial Priding means nothing to you, obviously."

"What's that supposed to mean?"

Derek had shaken his head, a glimmer of agony in his eyes. "I'm telling you, I don't care how tied we are, if you break her heart, I'll kill you."

"Why Kai? You should have told me who she was!"

"You weren't listening to anything I said that night. And it's her because I love her, I always have."

Lucas had jerked away, angrily shoving Derek. "I thought you said if we stayed away from each other this shit would fade."

"What I said was you'd be able to go on with your life. Priding isn't something that can be undone. It isn't magic, it's evolution. Lions need prides to survive and so do Leonids."

"I don't want to be a Leonid!" Lucas had curled his hand into a fist, needing to strike out at the man who'd turned his life upside down.

"That's a lie and we both know it. What you don't want is to be in a permanent ménage a trois with another man. How would that look? The powerful and wealthy Lucas Woods taking it up the ass."

Lucas had punched Derek then, knocking the other man flat on the floor. He felt horrible immediately, but was too hurt, too scared, to apologize.

Derek had pressed a hand to his bleeding lip. "Exactly. Look, I'm sorry, Lucas. If I'd had any inkling you were a potential Prided, I'd never have shared that woman with you in Los Regalos. I'd have saved us both the pain and trouble. I was young. I didn't want to be what I was, so I ignored the signs that were probably there. It's no excuse, it's the way it is."

"What have you done to me, Derek? What happens now?"

"The Priding isn't complete. You aren't anything but human. No super powers, no extended life, nothing. As to what happens next, well, you go on a fabulous honeymoon then you share your life with a magnificent woman. For me, I can only hope you'll decide to finish what we started in Los Regalos five years ago." Derek had

stood, dusted himself off, then turned and walked away without a backward glance. They'd carefully avoided each other throughout the rest of the festivities.

For the last ten years, Lucas made damn sure he was never home when Derek came to visit Kai and he never went with Kai to visit her family because there was always a chance Derek would be home visiting his. Lucas refused to chance running into the other man, especially since the Marshalls still lived next door to Kai's parents. But a few months ago, he'd run into Derek in a chat room and Lucas simply hadn't had the energy to run away.

So, they'd been talking, really talking, getting to know each other. They'd never met outside the chats, though Lucas had been tempted so many times. The more time he spent with Derek, the more he wanted him. Just the sound of Derek's voice was enough to get Lucas achingly aroused, but part of his heart felt he should suffer. It was his insecurities that kept the three of them from finding out if the Priding would work. He hurt because he knew he was keeping not only himself and Derek apart, but also Kai and the Leonid apart as well.

Digging his hands into his hair, Lucas growled his frustration and pain. He had to tell her, he had to, he just didn't know how. It looked like he wasn't going to have a choice though, because without the constant pressure of running his company, his secrets were overwhelming him, threatening to swallow him down. If he didn't say something to Kai, he wouldn't get a chance to. No, the next time Derek was here, he wouldn't be able to make an excuse and the whole thing would blow up in his face.

Chapter 4

"It's a damn good thing you forgot that digi-cam in the hovertran. I told you not to bring anything, Lucas."

"Stop bitching about it already. We're on the plane, aren't we?" Lucas grumbled under his breath and latched his lap belt. Flying was something he never got used to, no matter how often he'd done it.

"Fine."

Kai fell silent next to him and Lucas sighed. He hadn't meant to hurt her feelings. "I'm sorry. I've been an ass lately." He reached over and took her hand in his.

"Yes, you have. Lucas, what's wrong? I know it's hard to adjust to being less hands on at the company, but you've been so touchy lately."

Lucas tightened his grip for a moment. She gave him the perfect opportunity to spill his guts, but the words wouldn't come. "I... I... maybe it's harder than I thought it would be."

"You trust John. I know you do. Believe me, I empathize with what you're going through, but, honey, John won't let Woods Technologies down. He won't let you down."

Lucas brought her knuckles to his lips, pressing a soft kiss to her softer skin. "I know. So, what all do you have planned for our trip?"

"Nothing," Kai laughed. "Not a damn thing. There are five anchor casinos in Los Regalos and tons of shopping, shows, and entertainment. I thought we'd just fly by the seat of our pants and enjoy ourselves without any preordained stops or appointments."

She slipped her hand from his to dig through her small purse. A glossy brochure appeared from the bag and she handed it to him. "Here, this covers a lot of what Los

Regalos has to offer. Plus, it's all-inclusive, so our food is covered. We're staying at The Luxy Lady and they also include a five hundred credit per day gambling allowance."

"That's cool. What'd you say the name of it was?" Lucas flipped through the brochure, pausing at the picture of a cat-headed statue.

"That's it. The Luxy Lady."

Great, he thought to himself. More reminders of what I should be doing while we're there. Smothering another sigh, Lucas finished looking through the brochure. Toward the end, his interest caught on the name *Madame Deveaux's*. It was a wax museum. "We should hit this. I've always wanted to visit one of these places."

Kai looked away from the window and down at the page. "That would be fun!" She smiled brightly. She'd worried Lucas wouldn't really get into the trip, but if a visit to Madame Deveaux's Menagerie had caught his eye, maybe he was more interested than she'd thought.

Despite his interest, Kai knew he'd lied to her. It wasn't the company worrying him. Whatever was bothering him, he didn't want to share with her. It hurt, but she couldn't really fault him. They hadn't shared much of their lives, no matter that they lived together. But she loved him, she really did. And Kai supposed she had her own secrets she didn't want to reveal. She smiled to herself. She was going to kiss Pam no matter how their trip turned out. Kai was determined to have fun.

Kai looked over at her husband and her smile grew. He was a beautiful man by any standard. Muscular without being obnoxious, Lucas kept his warm, blond hair neatly trimmed and his strong jaw cleanly shaved. His lips were a little on the thin side, but he kissed like an incubus, stealing will and inflaming passion. His hands were large and slightly rough, though his nails were always clean and smoothed. Lucas wasn't vain at all. He didn't primp or get manicures. He simply took care of himself.

He must have felt her gaze. His light green eyes lifted to meet hers, a grin tugging at the corner of his mouth. "What?"

"Can't a wife admire her husband?" She ran her tongue across her lower lip before catching a bit of the plump flesh between her teeth.

"Tease." Lucas's pupils expanded as he laid his hand on her thigh.

"Wanna join the mile high club?" Kai pitched her voice low. Though they were in first class, there were several passengers around them.

"Hmm, a cramped bathroom isn't what I call pleasant. However..." His voice trailed off as he raised his hand to catch the attendant's notice.

"Yes, Mr. Woods?" The young woman smiled pleasantly.

"Could I have a blanket, please?"

"Certainly." The woman left for a moment, returning with a soft cover. "Is there anything else I can get you?"

"No, thank you."

Kai giggled self-consciously as Lucas spread the blanket over their laps and legs. With their movements hidden from view, he didn't waste any time. Guiding her fingers to his zipper, he undid his trousers and freed his semi-erect cock.

"Work your magic, love." He wiggled his eyebrows at her and Kai felt a blush creep up her neck to stain her cheeks.

It'd been a long time since they'd engaged in anything so clandestine. Kai's heart sped from the slow, hard pound of soft arousal to the fast, syncopated rhythm of exhibitionism. A slow swipe of her tongue over her parted lips and she leaned into Lucas, looking for all like a sleepy woman resting against her partner. Kai encircled his cock with her hand and began a slow, twisting massage.

Sensitive skin gliding over sensitized skin, Kai sighed softly as she drew her palm and fingertips up and over, then back down. Slipping lower, she took the twin ovals of his balls into her grasp, fluttering her fingertips against them. Lucas groaned and she smiled. Every small tap, though not hard, sent a zing of pain just sharp enough to still his breath.

"Stop." His hips lifted from the seat. "I'll go too soon if you don't stop."

"Shh." Kai moved closer, though she was already nearly on top of him. "If you talk too much, you'll draw attention to us." After several more raps of her fingers, Kai released his balls and went back to his cock, pleasing him with firm, sure strokes.

Pre-come wept from the tiny slit in the head and she used it to ease her movements as she increased speed. She rubbed his cock all the way to the base before pulling her palm back up and over, around, the head, pointedly massaging the most deliciously silken spot of skin just below the crown. It didn't take long before Lucas's body moved with her hand, thrusting into her grip.

Kai wanted to suck the hot, swollen length of him into her mouth, to taste the salty, bitter flavor of his come. But after a quick look around, she decided there were too many people near them for that to happen. Instead, she pressed her mouth to his ear. "Oh, God, Lucas. I want to suck your cock. I want you to come in my mouth, so bad."

His breathing sped up as one of his hands wrapped around a seat arm, knuckles white with his hold. His other arm slid over her shoulder and down her arm to her waist, so his fingers could dig into her hip. Kai licked his ear, bit it, her own desire becoming impossible to ignore.

"If only we were alone. I'd take off my panties and play with my clit. I'm so wet right now. Your cock would slip right in, so deep, if I were riding you. I'd take anything right now. Just telling you what I want makes my pussy flutter and my clit ache. God, just one good stroke, while I play with my clit, and I'd come."

Her grip tightened, and he deepened the thrusts of his pelvis against her stroking hand. His movements grew tighter, shorter. He was close. Kai spread her fingers apart around his cock, laying her pinky against his balls. Then she went for the kill.

"Fuck, Lucas. I think the flight attendant is watching. Do you think she'd stop me if I ripped my soaked panties off and fucked your hard, thick cock right now? I'd love to watch her finger fuck herself while she watched --"

A hard throb against her finger gave Kai a moment to prepare. She tightened her hold and stroked very hard, very fast. Not even a second after the pulse of his balls, hot come exploded from the head of his cock, coating her hand and the underside of the blanket.

Lucas went slack against her as the last drops of come wept from his body. He sighed deeply and hugged her close. "Damn, woman. You know just what to do. Magic."

Kai kissed his neck as she cleaned her hand. "I know. Now, you owe me." When he reached toward her thigh, she swatted his hand. "Not here. I want you to surprise me."

Lucas looked over at her, a sensual glint in his gaze. "I love surprising you."

The captain's voice came over the loudspeaker, informing them they were preparing to land in Los Regalos. Kai sat up in her seat as Lucas fixed his clothes, thankful he wore heavy, gray trousers. Hand jobs were terrific, but hiding the evidence wasn't.

"It's beautiful." Kai looked out the window and down onto the city. It was a shining, sparkling thing from this high up, but its star shape was distinctive. She tapped the window as she looked at Lucas. "And such an interesting shape. Wow, it's wild."

Lucas didn't look. Instead, he tugged his jacket from the back of his chair. "You have no idea."

"What?" Kai was so fascinated with the city, she didn't think she'd heard him right.

"I said, 'Yeah, wild.' It better be, for the cost."

She smacked his leg. "Shut up. Don't ruin it already."

Lucas looked over, chagrined at himself. "Sorry." He gave her a quick kiss before leaning back in his seat. "Get ready, we'll be on the ground in no time."

Kai tightened her seat belt, then turned back to the window. Watching the magnificent city as it grew larger and larger, excitement about her vacation obliterating all bad feelings. Determined to enjoy herself, no matter what.

Chapter 5

The cramped bus ride from the airport to the hotel was hot, but Kai didn't care. Her lusty exchange on the plane invigorated her. A sigh only a woman can make, when she knows the man in her life is ever susceptible to her ministrations, escaped her lips. She couldn't wait to call Derek and tell him how well the trip started off. And to thank him.

He hadn't actually suggested the place, but when Kai had mentioned Los Regalos, Derek had been full of gossip information about the hot spot. Anticipation zipped through her body, keeping her good mood from the plane buoyed. Thank God, Derek hadn't let her cancel the trip when she'd thought Lucas would never agree. No, her lifelong friend had told her Los Regalos would be the perfect getaway. His encouragement cut both ways, since he was part of why she needed to get away.

Since Derek had come back from working abroad, wealthy beyond imagining and as charming as ever, he'd never been far from her mind. It was after his first visit nearly a year ago when Kai had realized, seeing the two men who meant the most to her in the same room, she wasn't going to be able to ignore how much she wanted them both any longer.

Derek had been her first crush, after all, her first kiss, and nearly her first lover. They'd been close as two peas in a pod, that's what his mother always said. But Derek had been a confused and angry young man, partly because he'd been adopted and partly because he was Leonid. The Marshalls loved him unconditionally, and he loved them just as fiercely, but Derek had needed to find himself. So, he'd left as soon as he was eighteen, to make a man of himself. He'd broken her heart, but Kai had forgiven him and moved on.

At least, she'd believed she had. When she met Lucas, it was as if something clicked inside her. They'd fallen passionately in love, and Kai had been deliriously happy when he'd asked her for her hand. But her love and hunger for Derek had come rushing back when he'd arrived at the wedding. Kai realized she wanted, loved, them both. But she couldn't imagine telling Lucas. She could only picture what he'd think of her, or worse of himself, that she'd only chosen him as a sad second, a poor copy, of her first love. And that wasn't the case at all.

Instead, Kai had put on her happy face, spent every moment with Derek she could, being ever so careful to keep things warm but in a strict "between friends" vein. Of course, it was easy then to hide her feelings. Derek worked long hours far away from his family and Kai, and he rarely took vacation. So, when she had seen him, she'd been overjoyed to be with him, and her dark fantasies took a back burner. But that wasn't the case anymore.

The night Derek had come for dinner, everything had started fine, but as the evening wore on, Kai began to have intense, sexual thoughts. Fantasies of her sweat slick body pressed between Derek and Lucas, of watching them kiss and caress not just her, but each other. Her body had been hot, unbearably sensitive, and she was sure her obvious arousal had become uncomfortable for Derek and Lucas to deal with, because both men had agreed to end the night early.

The door had barely closed behind Derek when she and Lucas had gone at each other like wild, hormone-drugged beasts. The amazing sex had gone until the late hours of the next morning. They'd both called off work the next day to continue frolicking. It was the only time they'd ever missed work to play hooky with each other.

Even while she'd been in the throes of some of the hottest sex she'd shared with Lucas, Derek hadn't been far from her mind. She felt so guilty afterward, as if her thoughts were the same as cheating. She'd been able to assuage the shame only by telling herself what she felt was just fantasy, and understandable.

In the months since, when she and Derek spent time together, there was a renewed awareness, a sexual tension, she couldn't ignore anymore. And she sensed

Derek wanted to be a bigger part of her life now. What had her feeling so guilty was she wanted the same thing.

“Hey, we’re here.” Lucas nudged her shoulder as he stood.

“Damn,” she muttered. Her thoughts had blinded her and she’d missed looking at the city. She’d been intrigued by the pentagram shape of Los Regalos and its twinkling lights in the plane. Her thoughts consumed her, ruining her chance to get a good look as they came into town. Oh well, there was always the ride out at the end of their trip.

As she exited the bus, Kai shaded her eyes to take in the surroundings. A huge statue of the cat-goddess, Bast, Kai thought, loomed at least a hundred feet into the air. The sculpture’s beauty awed her. The body appeared carved from obsidian and all of her jewelry, the thick gold necklace and headdress, were clearly true gold and not paint.

Rushing water churned nearby, piquing Kai’s interest. After a quick glance around, she saw the river winding around the front of The Luxy Lady, only to disappear inside the arched entrance.

“Wow. This place is spectacular.” Lucas stood next to her, his arms full of their luggage. In the next moment, a porter approached with a trolley and took the suitcases from him.

“It’s breathtaking.” Kai smiled at the young man when he motioned them to follow.

As she walked through the threshold to The Luxy Lady, Kai gasped. The inside was awesome, and not in a slangy sense. The décor was tastefully done, and though understated, the Lady’s beauty was mind-boggling.

Gold, marble, and jade accented the lounging area that flanked the river, which ran, as far as Kai could tell, all the way through the hotel and casino. Exquisitely detailed hieroglyphic murals decorated the walls and ceiling, again with gold accents along the borders. Tall date palms dotted the interior, their massive canopies thrusting through the ceiling, letting in just the right amount of sunlight to brighten the entrance without being garish.

"Wow," Lucas murmured.

"Definitely wow."

They followed the porter to the front desk and checked in. The attendant was a lovely woman with short red hair, whose welcoming smile solidified Kai's impression that The Luxy Lady was the perfect hotel for this vacation.

"If you'll follow Jimmy, he'll get you all settled. You're in room 311, which offers an exceptional view of the strip. Please, let us know if there is anything we can do to make your stay outstanding." Kai grinned at the woman, who returned her smile with one Kai was certain held interest.

"I think she liked you." Lucas wrapped his arm around her waist, humor in his tone.

"She isn't my type."

Jimmy let them into their room and flirted shamelessly with Kai. When he handed her two free-play cards, which held the five hundred credits the casino offered guests each day of their stay, his fingers tightened on hers and he leaned close. "The Luxy Lady offers its guests every amenity imaginable, Mrs. Woods. Please, don't hesitate to ring for me if you want anything." The heat in his eyes was unmistakable and Kai felt her blood warm.

"Thank you, Jimmy. I'll keep that in mind." She tipped him fifty credits and saw him out of the room.

"I think he liked you too." Lucas pressed his body against her, his broad chest supporting her head as his arms slipped around her waist.

"Pam said this was a place of fantasies, but I'm getting the distinct impression she meant sexual ones."

"Honey, that's what Los Regalos is all about."

"Sex?"

"Not necessarily, but living out your fantasies without worrying about an awkward morning after. Weren't you paying attention on the bus?"

"Not really." She turned in his arms, lifting her palms to rest against his chest.

"As soon as we were all loaded on, the driver made sure all of our paperwork was in order and then he explained the Anonymity Spell that is in effect over the city. When we leave Los Regalos, we'll be able to remember everything we've done together or with any of the paranormal employees, but anything we do with other humans will be a shadowy memory."

"What does that mean?"

"It means that if you fuck some hot, human studmuffin, you'd remember you had a great time, but you won't remember his name or his face. That way, if you run into him outside of Los Regalos, there's no chance of an uncomfortable reunion."

"Ah, I see. So, visitors can cut loose and not worry about being blackmailed too."

"There is that."

His laughter vibrated against her breasts, making her nipples tingle and harden. "So, do you want to wander around?" Kai licked her lips suggestively.

"I think we should freshen up first, don't you?" Lucas's voice deepened, gaining a rough quality, and his cock hardened against her belly.

"Absolutely." Rising onto her tiptoes, Kai brushed her lips against his, back and forth, until he opened his mouth. She slipped her tongue inside, loving the taste of him, the feel of his mouth beneath hers.

She broke away, nipping his lower lip. Stepping from his arms, Kai began undoing her top. She slipped out of her clothes slowly, tantalizingly. Lucas grinned as she played peek-a-boo with her top, flashing a bit of her lace covered breasts, holding the blouse in front of her as she popped the front clasp of her bra and slipped the straps from her shoulders.

With a grin, Kai turned around and dropped her top to the floor. She slowly trailed her fingers down her sides and around her back to the fastening of her pants. A quick flick of her fingers and the slacks began to slide over her silk panties and down her legs. Kai stepped out of them, keeping her back to Lucas, and made her way to the bathroom.

White and black marble tile covered the floor and countertops. Kai was impressed, but she'd ooh over it later. Knowing her husband had followed, she wrapped her hands around her knees, splaying her fingers, gliding them down over her calves to her ankles. She drew her hands back up, then leaned with one hand on the edge of the huge tub and reached for the taps with the other.

She fiddled with the knobs until she got the temperature right, then she stood up and hooked her index fingers in the sides of her panties. She bent over again, spreading her legs slightly, exposing her excited sex to Lucas. The warmth from the water running into the tub teased her skin, the sensation heightened by the cooler air in the rest of the bathroom.

When she'd guided the damp cotton to her feet, Kai stood and stepped free of the last tiny scrap of clothing. With a glance over her shoulder at Lucas, she pressed the button to engage the shower and stepped in, drawing the curtain closed behind her.

Warm, pounding water met her skin and she sighed. Conservation meant most of her showers were quick. Lucas had suggested they get a sonic refresher, but Kai refused to give up good, old H₂O. She slicked her hair back and waited for Lucas to join her.

He didn't waste time. The curtain opened briefly as he stepped inside. Kai opened her eyes, smiling when she saw the bottle in his hand. He'd grabbed her bottle of scented oil. She looked up at him and he wiggled his brows at her before popping off the top of the soap and drizzling a small amount into his palm.

She watched, entranced, as he slicked the oil over his jutting cock. When the swollen flesh gleamed, he set the bottle down and approached. "I'd love to dawdle, but after your stunt on the plane, I can't wait."

She grinned, then turned her back to him. "Good. Fuck me, hard." Kai bit her lip and looked over her shoulder, swinging her hips back and forth in an age old gesture of come and get it.

Lucas grinned and moved into the spray to grab her hips. He pulled Kai's lower body toward him, lifting her slightly as he bent his knees. When his cock bumped

against the pink opening of her pussy, he tightened his grip and thrust home. "God, you feel so good."

Kai hummed in response, rocking back on her heels, taking him deep. No matter how often they had sex, no matter how many times he'd been inside her, his cock always stretched her. She shivered hard as her body truly awoke, her desire growing to a gnawing hunger that demanded satisfaction.

When his hands slid from her hips, up over her gently rounded belly, on to cup her breasts, Kai moaned and thrust back at him. She loved to have his hands pulling at her nipples while his cock plowed into her sex. And Lucas knew it, knew she'd come soon if he continued his ministrations.

"Fuck my cock, Kai." He pinched her nipples, twisted them, and her ass bounced back against his pelvis. "That's right, baby. Take my cock deep."

A hard shudder wracked her body, her pussy fluttering, then clenching, around the thick shaft filling her. Using her feet and arms, Kai impaled herself on Lucas, slowly. Her body creamed as his cock slipped deep and then retreated. But he twisted her nipples, then flicked them, and any thoughts of slow evaporated. "Pull them, Lucas. Pull on my nipples."

He grunted behind her and complied. Kai cried out, her hands slipping down the wall. She braced her feet when her body was nearly perpendicular to his so her backward thrusts gave her the best penetration, the best sensation, each movement running his wide cock over her hot spot. Her legs shook and Lucas tweaked her nipples one last time, before his hands returned to her hips.

"Hold on, babe." He stepped into her, forcing her body against the wall of the tub. Lifting her feet off the ground, Lucas pounded his cock in and out.

"Oh, fuck. Oh, fuck." Kai fisted her hands against the still cool marble, chanting words as need tightened in her belly. Her blood ran like lava, hot and fiery. She tightened secret muscles, gripping the cock between her legs, trying to keep him deep, yet urging him to move faster.

Lucas banded an arm around her body and then slipped two fingers between the lips of her sex, searching for and finding her aching, tingling clit. He bracketed the sensitive nerve bundle and Kai tensed, knowing what was next, ready to scream for it.

He pressed tight, pinching her clitoris, and she exploded with a scream and a rush of orgasmic juices. Lucas held her tight, funneling his cock in rapid, jackhammer strokes until he moaned and pulsed his own release deep into Kai's shuddering, satisfied body. The feel of her come and his coating their lower bodies had him thrusting deep one last time. God, his wife never ceased to excite him and not for the first time did he wish to be multi-orgasmic.

With a sigh and a kiss to her neck, Lucas withdrew from her and guided Kai from the shower spray. She braced herself against the wall, legs still unsteady, and smiled sleepily at him.

"I could use a nap now." She leaned down for the bottle of soap and handed it to him.

"I think that can be arranged. In fact, I think I'll take one with you." Lucas finished with the bottle and handed it back, stepping from the water so Kai could clean up.

When they were both clean and their skin waterlogged, he turned off the shower and stepped out. Neither of them had thought to grab towels, but thankfully, they were on a nearby rod. Nothing like slipping on wet marble and breaking a leg to ruin a vacation. "Here, babe."

Kai took the towel and dried her hair. She wrapped the damp cloth around her and stepped out.

As he watched her walk to the bedroom, his cock twitched. Lucas looked down at it with a grin, then back up at her retreating form. "How tired are you?"

Chapter 6

"Finally." Adyan slumped into the chair opposite Amy's desk.

"I take it you resolved the issue with the Russian?"

"Yes. He wasn't truly unhappy to begin with. He just wanted some special attention."

"Oh, well, I'm guessing by your tone that he won't be needing any more attention."

Adyan glared at Amy. The redhead didn't even bother to hide her smart-ass grin. "No, he won't. I introduced him to Vince." Vincent was one of many employees who enjoyed catering to male or female visitors, preferably one of each at the same time. And being a vampire meant he was never lacking for bedmates.

"Yeah, the whale will definitely be happy now."

The way Amy said the words "definitely" and "happy" gave Adyan a strange twist in his gut. "Whatever. It took some convincing. He didn't want to settle, but I talked him into it."

Amy gave him an odd look a moment before her wide, full mouth burst open with guffaws. "I'm sure you'd have made him happier, Boss."

Adyan frowned, grumbling as he rose from the chair. With Amy still chuckling behind him, he made his way into his office, closing the door with a firm shove.

He'd barely settled himself at the desk when the tiny beeper on his waistband sounded. With a loud sigh, he unclipped it and looked at the display. It blinked Bloody Coup and Adyan's sigh changed to a grin.

When Derek Marshall had first told him about his botched Priding some years ago, Adyan had been sympathetic. Though he hadn't ever wanted to permanently attach himself to another person, he certainly wouldn't have wanted to find that special

someone, only to have him or her freak out and run away. And later, when Derek had explained that both of his potential mates had married each other, well, Adyan had been a good friend and lover when Derek needed both.

Even after they'd stopped fucking, Adyan and Derek remained good friends. When Derek fulfilled his contract and left Los Regalos, determined to find a way to resolve his personal dilemma, they'd remained in touch. About a month ago, Derek had called and asked a favor. Adyan hadn't hesitated to agree. He was more than happy to help, especially since seducing the man and his wife was part of the plan. Derek said if Lucas could see that Kai wouldn't think less of him for being bisexual, things might go much smoother.

If his Goddess could see him now, she'd probably purr with delight. Though he hadn't felt her in many, many centuries, Bast had gifted him with his immortality and abilities as a reward for protecting his people and dedicating himself to her as a young man.

Through the passing of time, her names and powers had changed, but she was still the fierce protector of Lower Egypt in his mind. Bast, patron of cats, motherhood, and family, would most definitely approve of what Adyan was planning to do: bring a Leonid into unity with his Pride. He hadn't tried anything remotely like it before and Adyan admitted, at least to himself, that he was excited about trying his hand at marriage, for lack of a better term, counseling.

Feeling much less stressed than he had when he'd entered his office, Adyan stood up and stretched his long limbs. He checked his watch and decided it was time to get something to eat. And it wouldn't hurt to meet the Woods.

"Hey, Amy!"

The door to his office opened. "Yeah, boss?"

"Wanna get a bite?"

"Are you teasing me?" Amy quirked a delicate brow and flashed him a little fang.

"Not me. I thought we'd go over to the Bloody Coup. I'm in the mood for a side of beef." Adyan showed her his own fangs and Amy rolled her eyes.

"All right." She sighed dramatically, as if she were so put upon by the request, but the glint in her eyes ruined the effect.

As they left the office, Adyan couldn't help but appreciate Amy's backside. He'd always been a sucker for women with ample asses, most especially of the vampire persuasion. With a sigh, Adyan tamped down his masculine appreciation of Amy's attributes.

She'd been his assistant for as long as he'd owned The Luxy Lady and though he'd been tempted in the last half-century to seduce her, he wasn't sure he'd survive if things went bad. Better to look and not touch, than to touch and get screwed, that was his motto.

"Whatcha thinkin'?"

"Just enjoying the view." He flashed her his most charming smile and she shook her head.

"The view isn't half as good as the experience." She flicked her tongue over the tip of one sharp canine and Adyan realized the elevator wasn't as big as he thought.

His pulse sped. Her eyes were dark, a twinkling like stars sparkling inside her large pupils. He knew that look and about a second later, her pheromones hit him with the force of a tidal wave. The leopard in him awoke in a rush, the smell of ripe female calling to the beast as the cries of a wounded animal rouses the predator.

"Thanks for sending that party in 311 the invite to dinner." Adyan struggled to voice his gratitude, his tone more the grate of sandpaper on wood than actual sound.

Amy sighed and looked away for a moment. When her eyes met his again, the starlight was gone. In their place, her lovely dark-chocolate irises reflected his image. "Yeah. Are you sure you want to get involved in this? I know you and Derek were close, but this could get sticky."

"I'm sure. You know, immortality can be a real bore. For the first time in a long time, I'm excited about an endeavor." Adyan regretted his comment when he saw a

flash of pain in Amy's eyes. Feeling the need to clarify, he hurried on, "I don't mean there isn't excitement in my life. I just mean I want to try new things."

She pursed her lips and turned away from him. "I do know what you mean." When she looked over her shoulder at him, she was once again his normal Amy, grinning obnoxiously. "I guess we'll see if old dogs, or rather cats, can learn new tricks, eh? What do you think of Dr. Regillus, sex therapist?"

The elevator doors opened and Adyan waved her out, following behind. "I think I don't keep you busy enough." When Amy's chiming laughter sounded, Adyan felt a wave of relief. Grinning broadly, he nudged her shoulder as they headed out into Los Regalos.

Chapter 7

"Let's go to Madame Deveau's after dinner."

"Okay." Kai looked up from the menu. So far, this vacation was going so much better than she'd hoped. Sure, they'd had a lot of sex, but when they weren't, the easy comfort and camaraderie they'd had when they first fell in love was still there. She felt light and happy, her worries having faded away. "What are you gonna have?"

"I don't know, everything sounds so good. Damn, rack of barbeque spare ribs. I've never had that."

"Me either, but I think I'm going to get the lobster linguine Alfredo." Kai smiled and folded her menu. They sat in companionable silence for a few more minutes before the waiter arrived with their drinks and to take their orders.

Looking around the room, Kai couldn't help but notice the attractiveness of the staff, both here and at the hotel. A people watcher by nature, she enjoyed trying to guess what type of creatures called Los Regalos home. A dark-haired man tended the raised bar and Kai wondered if he was a vampire. The way he was serving what looked like Bloody Marys, with an intense look, made her think he was.

"You like him?" Lucas's voice interrupted her musings.

"I was wondering if he was a vampire. What do you think?" She carefully avoided his question. Yes, she liked the look of him, but he wasn't tripping her trigger.

"That's Joe, and yes, he is."

Kai turned her head and looked up. The man attached to the dark, sultry voice, she definitely liked. Her body sat up, took notice, and shivered with anticipation. He was tall, broad, and very charming. His hair was medium length, though the trendy spikes made it look shorter. He grinned at her, his amazing amber and gold eyes

sparkling, and Kai knew she stared. Hoping to cover her adolescent reaction, she cleared her throat. "He is what?"

"A vampire, of course." The man looked away from her, to Lucas, and Kai followed his gaze. She was a little surprised by the look of appreciation in her husband's eyes.

"Of course." Lucas smiled at the man as he lifted his hand. "Lucas Woods and this is my wife, Kai."

"Adyan Regillus." The two men shook hands and Kai actually felt the electricity arc between them.

When they let go of each other, Adyan held his hand out to her. She gave him her hand, expected him to shake it, but instead he lightly gripped her fingers and brushed a kiss across the back. The moment his skin moved over hers, Kai knew she was going to have this man. His touch lit her up, synapses and nerves firing wildly with anticipation and attraction.

She didn't know what made her do it, but her lips were moving before her mind caught up. "Would you care to join us?"

"I'd love to, but I'm here with a friend. Would you mind adding her?"

"No, please, you're both welcome."

Lucas spoke and drew Adyan's attention, which was a good thing. The spurt of jealousy Kai felt when he'd said his friend was female would surely have shown on her face if Adyan had looked.

The darkly handsome man motioned to an equally lovely woman. Their new guest smiled brightly and held out her hand. "Hi. I'm Amy. Are you sure you don't mind me crashing the party?"

Kai knew immediately Amy had a thing for Adyan. Call it a gift of womanhood, but females understood each other without all the strutting and flair men seemed to need. Regardless, Amy's beautiful eyes held no malice and Kai forgot her own momentary jealousy. She could befriend this woman. Kai took Amy's hand and clasped it warmly. "Not at all, Amy. Please, have a seat."

The waiter hurried over to take care of the new arrivals and in short order everyone had an enormous plate of food in front of them and cold drinks refilled. Kai and Lucas dug into their meals with gusto. Being wealthy did have its rewards; however, even they couldn't really afford to eat red meat or seafood on a regular basis.

"It looks like our friends haven't had a good meal in a while." Adyan chuckled at Lucas's barbeque-sauced chin and cheeks.

Lucas gave him a sheepish grin as he wiped his face. "Kai is an excellent cook, so we've had plenty of good meals, hell, great ones. Just nothing quite so decadent."

Kai twirled pasta around her fork and raised it to her mouth. The rich, heady flavors of real cream, garlic, and butter exploded across her taste buds, and she moaned at the delicious sensations such extravagance imparted. She enjoyed food, enjoyed the differences in texture and flavor, in contrasting smells and colors. But Kai honestly didn't know if she'd ever relished a meal quite so much in her life.

"The linguine is my favorite too, Kai. Gregory definitely knows his way around garlic and cream." Amy stuck her fork in Kai's plate to steal a bite.

Kai giggled, though she tried to look stern. "Hey, get your own."

Amy gave her a repentant look a moment before she stuck her fork between her lips. "As good as always. Here, try some of my filet and shrimp." She cut a generous slice of medium rare beef, and then skewered one of her spicy grilled shrimps, lifting the whole mouthful to Kai.

Heat and exotic flavors engulfed her senses. The meat was succulent, the shrimp firm and zesty, without overpowering the beef. "That's fantastic!" Kai coughed and reached for her wine. "And hot."

Curious, Kai swiped another shrimp and dragged it through the heavy sauce on her plate. Sure enough, it was excellent. Without verbal communication, the women moved closer together to get at each other's plates, humming and murmuring their pleasure at sharing such a simple, yet immensely satisfying, thing. They hadn't realized how into each other and food they'd become until dual sounds of masculine groaning interrupted their delight.

Both women looked up. Adyan and Lucas watched them intently, desire plain on their faces and burning in their eyes. Kai swallowed loudly before turning to look at Amy, who seemed equally surprised.

"They look a little hungry." Amy managed to keep her face completely innocent -- for about two seconds before she and Kai dissolved into loud laughter.

"It really isn't funny." Adyan cleared his throat and looked at Lucas.

"No, it isn't. I'll embarrass myself if I stand up right now."

Adyan lifted one eyebrow. "Really? How embarrassed would you be?"

The stunned look on Lucas's face was priceless. She glanced at Amy and saw her lift a hand to her face, stifling a snort.

Kai didn't know what possessed her, but she said, "He'd be very embarrassed."

Amy did snort, and then she choked. Kai looked away from both men to help her new friend. Despite changing her focus, the look on Adyan's face burned in her mind. It brought her earlier arousal roaring back to life. Lucas's face flashed in her head, his surprised expression amplifying her desire. As she patted Amy's back and offered her a napkin, Kai pressed her thighs together, heightening her need, teasing herself.

"And I thought I was bad." Amy wiped her mouth and gave her a grin full of mischievousness.

"It must be Los Regalos. I thought I gave up 'bad' a long time ago." Kai sighed softly. Her momentary melancholy lifted when Amy grabbed her fingers and gave them a squeeze.

"Honey, you can hide it, but once a bad girl, always a bad girl." Amy swiveled her head to look at Adyan. "If you guys don't mind, Kai and I are going to go to the ladies room."

In a show of chivalrous manners, both men rose as the women did. Lucas held his napkin over the front of his slacks, though Adyan didn't bother to hide the tenting of his lightweight pants. They watched the ladies until the fine pair of backsides disappeared from view before returning to their seats.

"I didn't mean to make you uncomfortable, Lucas."

"It's no big deal. I wasn't expecting you to make a pass at me, that's all." Lucas finished off his ribs, stuffing his mouth to prevent it from saying something his brain didn't want to share.

"You're in Los Regalos for the week, right?" Adyan drank the last of his water, then wiped his mouth and pushed his empty platter back.

"Mmhmm." With the last bit of meat devoured and only the shell of a baked potato on the plate, Lucas sat back with a sigh. His belly was full, but his cock remained hungry. The damn thing hadn't softened in the least, despite the lack of lusty women eating from each other's fingers.

"Then you'll be here long enough to understand what I'm saying. The staff of Los Regalos is here to make your stay as memorable, within the spell, and rewarding as possible. And many here aren't quite so selective as humans when it comes to sexual play."

Chapter 8

Lucas looked into Adyan's eyes, unsure how to respond to the other man's comments. Of course, he knew how things worked in Los Regalos. For most of his one previous visit, he'd enjoyed the staff's dedication to customer satisfaction.

For a moment, Lucas almost told the other man he'd been to Regalos once before. But as he opened his mouth to comment, a chill of apprehension danced down his spine. If he started talking about his last visit, Lucas had little doubt he'd spill everything, and he wasn't ready to share that with anyone, let alone a man he'd just met.

"What?" Adyan gave Lucas a curious gaze.

"Huh? Oh, nothing." They needed a change of subject, quick. "Would you like to join us this evening?" Lucas realized he needed a qualifier. "I mean, do you want to come with Kai and I?" A hot flush rushed up his neck. His brain and tongue were conspiring against him!

Adyan's lips curved upward in a knowing smile, but he took pity on Lucas. Laughing lightly, he patted Lucas's shoulder. "Where are you going next?"

Lucas swallowed a sigh of relief. "Madame Deveaux's."

"Fantastic place. Really, an excellent choice. Quite an erotic experience. I believe the Madame has the largest collection of sexually aroused statues anywhere on earth."

"What?" Lucas nearly swallowed his tongue.

"You didn't know that? Don't let it stop you from checking the museum out. There's more than naked men to see."

"Great." His earlier enthusiasm waning, Lucas grabbed his glass from the table, swallowing the last of his drink.

"You know, rumor has it the Madame is a witch of significant power. Supposedly, she turned several of her less than satisfactory lovers into wax statues."

"Whatever for?"

"As wax statues, they are forever erect and able to please her, yet they can't ever come. At least, that's what the rumors say."

Lucas laughed, probably harder than he should have. "I guess I'll have to steer clear of her then."

"The Madame rarely entertains. I doubt you'd need to worry in any case." Adyan's brilliant eyes, dark amber ringed with gold, glanced down at Lucas's lap.

Lucas squirmed, something he hadn't done since he'd fallen into lust with Kai. His cock throbbed and he swallowed a groan. "You *are* trying to torment me." Anger took root in his belly and he frowned at Adyan. "For all you know, I'm not into men."

"Dear boy, I do know, which seems to be part of your problem." When Lucas's jaw tightened, Adyan sighed. "Relax. I'm not going to bend you over the table. How about you stop fighting so hard and enjoy whatever comes from our meeting? Enjoy everything Los Regalos offers you, Lucas. It's what you're paying for."

Adyan turned away from Lucas then. "Our beautiful companions are closing in. Let's meet them halfway and head to the Madame's. It's one of Amy's favorite places in town."

Lucas watched the other man rise and glide with powerful, masculine grace toward Kai and Amy. Adyan was right. His problem had more to do with his inability to conceal his interest than that it existed in the first place. Lucas only caused himself more problems by trying to hide his bisexuality than he might suffer by being honest.

He might suffer a backlash, mostly from his business associates. Thirty or forty years ago, being gay could kill a man's career. Now, homosexuality wasn't a big deal, at least not in most places. Polyamory was another story.

Though many groups strove to change the attitudes of the masses, progress was slow. As it had been for same-sex couples a half-century ago, as it had been for mixed

race couples long before that. None of that mattered, not really. The one person who mattered most might not want to share him. And losing Kai simply wasn't an option.

"Lucas, come on!"

He looked up and caught her irritated stare. Planting a repentant smile on his mouth, Lucas headed for his party. He spent plenty of time worrying about the mess he'd made of his personal life. He wasn't going to ruin the evening doing it as well.

"Sorry. Someone knows where we're headed, right?"

"Oh, yeah. I love Madame Deveaux's." Amy giggled as she threaded her arm through Kai's elbow. The two women twittered and whispered like schoolgirls as they left the Bloody Coup.

"I think Amy told your wife the rumors." Adyan fell into step beside Lucas, purposefully walking close enough that their arms periodically brushed. He suppressed a smile when the other man didn't move away.

"I don't think I've seen her this relaxed in a long time."

Adyan knew from talking with Derek that Kai and Lucas had high-stress jobs. He couldn't exactly reveal that to Lucas, though. Instead, he asked, "Why not?"

"Kai owns, well, used to own, a chain of coffee shops. She built the company from the ground up. The job took nearly all of her time and energy."

"So she's a self-made woman? I like that." Adyan ignored Lucas's frown.

"I guess. She's strong, independent, all that, but she's also very warm, compassionate, supportive."

"It's obvious you love her very much. Do you think she doubts it?"

Lucas stopped walking to meet Adyan's gaze. How in the hell had the conversation gotten here? "No." Lucas looked away and sighed. "Maybe."

"And you think part of her tension has to do with that?"

"Dude, you're starting to get on my nerves. Anyone ever tell you that you're nosy?" Lucas turned and started forward again.

"I apologize, Lucas. I don't socialize, not in a chatty way, very often."

The cocky look Adyan shot his way made Lucas grin. "All right. How about we enjoy the museum and leave the analyzing for another time?"

"Good plan."

Once again, the two men focused on their companions. Neither woman noticed they'd been lagging behind. Instead, they were enjoying the lifelike statues displayed in large glass cases on either side of the entrance to Madame Deveaux's Wax Museum.

Kai's jubilant laughter stirred Lucas's blood. He loved to hear her laugh. "What's so funny?" He looped his hands around her waist and pressed a kiss to her neck.

"I swear I just saw --"

"The Hillbilly Cat. I told her Los Regalos has a lot in common with Vegas." Amy smiled broadly, eyes twinkling with good humor.

Adyan bumped her shoulder. "More than most know."

Adyan and Amy burst into belly laughs, leaving Kai and Lucas wondering what they'd missed.

"Ah, let's go in before the crowd gets too thick. I don't want to be rushed through." Amy grabbed a door handle and headed inside.

"You just told me you've been here a million times." Kai pulled away from Lucas to walk alongside the other woman.

"Doesn't matter. Trust me."

They passed through a rather plain vestibule and down a short hallway to another set of doors. Adyan excused himself, reaching over the women and giving one door two hard raps.

"Why are you knocking?" Lucas hadn't seen a sign saying the place was closed.

"Courtesy. When one Los Regalos proprietor visits another, we customarily make certain to personally say hello. Since I knocked, the Madame will know we aren't just tourists and she'll give us the ten-dollar tour."

"Oh." Lucas understood business formality.

The doors creaked open, surprising him. He hadn't thought they looked so heavy. A petite woman greeted them, dressed in a peasant blouse and long, patchwork

skirt. She had long, dark, curly hair pulled away from her face with a brilliant, red scarf. Her full breasts nearly spilled from her top, but the flash of large, golden hoops in the lobes of her ears pulled Lucas's gaze from the woman's ample wares.

"Amy! Adyan! It is good of you to visit."

Amy closed the distance between herself and the woman, hugging her close and pressing a kiss to each cheek. "Madame Deveaux, I'd like you to meet Kai and Lucas Woods. They're here for the week."

"A pleasure."

Madame extended her hand to Lucas, who raised it to his lips. He caught a nod of approval from Adyan. "Hello."

She smiled brightly as she slipped her hand away. "Such manners are rarely seen. You must be Kai."

As if they were old friends, she embraced Kai warmly, pressing kisses to both cheeks before spinning away in a swirl of colorful fabric. "Welcome to my museum."

Beyond the doorway existed another realm. Kai looked around, awed by the meticulous detail, the realism of Madame Deveaux's displays. "My God, Madame, this is amazing."

The foyer was decorated like an early twentieth-century speakeasy. Wax statues of Flapper women, with their short, sleek hair, flat chests, and long cigarette holders, draped over handsomely dressed men, in their tight, tapered trousers, Fedoras cocked at jaunty angles. Kai felt as if she'd just walked in on a party, the faces and eyes on the room's occupants were so real and lifelike.

The other woman gave a small bow. "Thank you, Kai. I do try." Lucas tried to hand her a hundred credits, the cost of admission for two, but she waved him off. "Any friend of Adyan is a friend of mine."

"Thank you." Lucas pocketed the credit notes.

"Now, you'll find more than twelve rooms in the museum, each decorated for a specific period in history. Keep in mind, if you should stray off the path and into any

exhibit, that my creations have minds of their own. Don't get too lost in the... beauty. Amy, why don't you lead Kai and Lucas into the Grecian room?"

Amy smiled wickedly. "Of course." She grabbed Kai's hand and motioned Lucas to follow them.

"This should cover it." Adyan gave Madame five hundred-credit notes when the others were out of sight and hearing range. "You must have a tour coming later." He gestured to her dress.

"Sometimes we Rom must play up our history for those paying to see it."

"You look divine, though surely you know that." Adyan bowed to her.

"Always the charmer. The tour will be here in about ninety minutes."

"Plenty of time. I appreciate your accommodations."

Madame Deveau laughed warmly. "Adyan, the only time you visit here is when you want to play. It's good for my collection, though. They hardly ever get to join in anymore." She started to turn away, and then lifted her finger. "And, Adyan, don't break any of them this time. You know how long it takes to create new ones."

"I'll be especially careful, Madame. Good evening."

"Certainly for you, dear boy."

Chapter 9

"Stop fondling the displays."

Adyan chuckled softly at the chastising tone of Lucas's voice. The trio had moved through the South American and Grecian rooms, and into the Medieval area. Adyan was glad, since the figure he'd destroyed had been one of the Jaguar Men of South America. Honestly, Madame couldn't blame him. The damn thing had started it, spitting and growling when he'd attempted to fuck one of the lusty, brown-skinned women in the display.

"Are you enjoying the museum?" Adyan moved behind Lucas, making certain the other man felt his presence, though they didn't touch.

"I am." Kai grinned. "I don't think Lucas is though."

"Why not?"

"I thought I saw one of those statues in the Ancient Greece room move. And I feel like someone is watching me. It's creepy."

"Really? Well, it wouldn't be the first time one of the figures misbehaved." Adyan brushed past Lucas to join the women, biting his lip as the slighter man's hip rubbed against his semi-hard cock.

"What? I thought you said it was a rumor that these things are real." Lucas's skin flushed, but otherwise he didn't react to the caress of Adyan's body against his.

"Well, who knows if any of them were really Madame's lovers."

Amy took one look at Lucas and giggled. "Lucas, this is Los Regalos. It's magical, didn't you know?"

"Oh, stop teasing him. I'm surprised too." Kai gave Amy a playful push. "How come I haven't seen anything move?" She peered more closely at the half-dressed serving man in front of her.

Madame had divided the scene into two different medieval situations. The section that caught Kai's interest was the stable. There were five massive horses, three of them black and two a pure, snowy white. When she passed her hands over the equine flesh, she could almost feel their warmth.

Five equally impressive men, all of them very large and broad, with thick musculature, tended the steeds. None of them had on shirts, and whether from the light or Madame's precise eye for detail, Kai was amazed at the appearance of sweat on the bodies.

"Have you asked them to move?"

Adyan's question startled her from her staring. "No."

"Perhaps you should."

"Adyan." Amy shot him an odd look, then shifted her focus to Kai. "There are some rules to playing in Madame Deveaux's domain. Number one, be clear on what you want. Number two, don't forget, what's real inside the museum isn't necessarily real outside. Number three..."

"Don't break anything." Adyan grinned at Amy as they spoke simultaneously. He winked at Lucas and Kai. "It takes Madame a long time to create each figure."

"I think I can handle that." Kai looked at Lucas, who'd been silent. "What do you think, Lucas? Should I make him come to life?"

"Please, they're just messing with you. Wax statues can't come to life."

He gave her a look that said he thought the whole thing was ridiculous. It irked her. "We'll see." To the inanimate man bent over in front of her, cleaning the hoof of a white horse, she said, "Stand up and turn around."

For Adyan and Amy, who'd enjoyed the museum more than once, what happened next was no surprise. Kai and Lucas, however, jumped when the figure she'd addressed stood and stretched with a loud groan. The man turned around to face them and Kai gave a small squeak. Lucas gasped a curse, pulling his wife close.

The man's accent was harsh and guttural, much thicker than any Kai had ever heard. She looked at her companions for a translation. "What did he say?"

Amy snickered. "He said he wasn't comfortable bent over. And he thanked you."

"Ah, you're welcome." Kai turned back to the man who continued to work the kinks out of his body. "Fascinating. Are you truly wax?"

Adyan laughed outright, but she ignored him, waiting for the man to answer her. He looked at her oddly, as if he couldn't understand her either. When he failed to answer her, Kai motioned for Amy. "Can you talk to him?"

"What do you want to talk to him for?" Amy met the man's stare and licked her lips, taking in his bulging muscles with appreciation.

"Amy." Kai didn't exactly whine, but it was close.

"All right." With a dramatic sigh, Amy repeated Kai's question to the man in the same hard to comprehend dialect. The man spoke again, grinning broadly.

"He said he may be made of wax, but the Madame has made him strong and sturdy. So don't worry. He won't break."

"I want to touch him." Kai looked away from Amy and at the man. Amy repeated what she'd said and the man's grin turned darkly sexual.

"He said please do, and his name is Geoffrey."

Kai lifted her hand to the man's biceps. It was warm, firm, but with an odd smoothness real skin lacked. She trailed her fingers from his upper arm to his hand, tracing every bump and ridge. Her blood heated, her breath coming in shorter, shallower puffs.

Kai jerked her hand away. The man reached for her, but Amy said something and he dropped his hand. Kai looked into his dark, shining eyes. The fire burning there connected with the ball of need in her belly like lightning to a metal rod. Her body melted, the lips of her sex swelling, her nipples tightening.

"Don't stop now, Kai. You've woken him, stirred him. It would be cruel to leave him like this."

Adyan's voice whispered close to her ear, sending a hot shiver down her spine. "What should I do?" Her dry throat worked to swallow.

"I think you should open your top. Let him play with your hard nipples." Lucas's growled directions set her knees to shaking. "Here, let me help you."

The strong arms of her husband surrounded her, his deft fingers pulling her shirt from her skirt and opening the buttons swiftly. Geoffrey's eyes widened with approval, his tongue swiping across his full bottom lip. He pulled his gaze from her chest, looking past her face and into Lucas's.

"Taste her." Lucas spoke softly, but clearly. The other man grinned and dropped to his knees.

Kai held her breath, unsure if she wanted to go through with this. Her body tensed as Geoffrey lifted his hands to her skirt, pushing the fabric up, balling it out of the way at her waist. He smiled happily up at her when the tiny scarlet bit of lace covering her sex was revealed. His large hands came to rest against her thighs, surprising Kai with their warmth and real feel.

"Go on. Eat her pussy." Lucas's voice was rougher, harsher than Kai could remember hearing.

When Geoffrey slipped his thumbs beneath the sides of her panties, she jerked back, and the impatient, granite length of Lucas's cock burned against her ass. "Lucas."

He laughed and brought his palms up to cover her breasts. His long fingers teased her flesh, circling her taut nipples, rolling lazily over the begging tips, until Kai wanted to scream at him to really touch her.

She opened her mouth to say something, but Geoffrey chose to break the skimpy binding of her panties and bury his head between her legs. A loud moan issued from her mouth as his fingers parted her slick labia and his hot tongue danced over her clit. Geoffrey knew what he was doing. When Kai tried to reach for his head, Lucas grabbed her arms, pinning them behind her back with one of his.

"I can't watch with your hands in the way." His hot breath teased the hair around her ear and she shivered.

The man looked up at Lucas, as if waiting for direction. "Grab her ass and lift her pussy higher. I want to see your tongue on her clit."

Kai keened as Geoffrey complied, lifting her feet from the ground and burrowing his mouth and tongue tighter against her body. Her belly and thighs clenched with sexual tension. She opened her eyes to watch, gasping at the vision of glistening pink flesh teasing the tight, hard nub of her clit.

"More. I need more." She thrust her chest forward, the aching tips of her nipples jutting forward.

"Let me help." Adyan's voice came moments before a new set of hands cupped her breasts. With sure, knowing motions, he circled the hot points, then flicked them rapidly with hard, firm passes of his fingers.

"Oh, God." Kai struggled against Lucas. He tightened his hold, making sure she couldn't get loose as Adyan approached.

"Pinch them harder, Adyan. She loves it."

"Mmm."

Geoffrey sped the movements of his lips and tongue, adding teeth as he nipped the delicate lips of her sex. Kai fought to keep her eyes open under the onslaught of pleasure tearing through her, determined to watch Geoffrey please her. He spread her thighs wider, bracing them on his shoulders, and plunged two fingers into her pussy.

Her back bowed, mouth open in a silent scream. Adyan pulled her nipples, hard, pain blossoming from the tips, spreading through her body in a wave of pleasure. She tightened her body around the invading fingers, moments from release. Lucas whispered hot words against her skin. "That's it, Kai, ride his hand."

Madame Deveau's creation curved his fingers inside Kai, moving them in a rapid come hither gesture right against her G-spot. When his mouth closed over her clit, sucking and licking, the ball of need between her legs tightened and began to collapse. One more flick of tongue, finger, or nipple and she'd come. Kai dug her fingers into her palms, making them sting.

Lucas's lips caressed her ear. "Come, Kai. Come all over his face."

Adyan pressed in from the right side, releasing her nipple from his fingers and sucking it deep into his hot mouth. She screamed.

“Ah!” Her hips pumped on Geoffrey’s hand, mouth, and he hummed appreciatively with each jerk of her body, each hard clasp of her sex.

The orgasm was too much, tearing through her, sending her body into convulsive shudders. She hung, suspended between the men, trapped in a vortex of delicious ecstasy. Lucas pressed his magnificent arousal against her grasping hands, moaning in her ear when she gripped his cock through his slacks. Adyan eased the pressure of his mouth, biting at her nipple as he pulled away, licking and kissing his way to her mouth.

Kai opened her eyes to look at the man who’d fired her libido from the moment they met. Adyan’s full lips drew her gaze, making her wet her own in anticipation. His large gold and honey eyes burned into hers, arousal and appreciation blatant in them. His broad shoulders blocked her view. She wanted to taste him. His beautiful mouth lifted at one corner a moment before he took her lips with his. Her body continued to move as orgasmic shivers danced over her skin. Kai opened her mouth beneath his and thrust her tongue inside.

He tasted dark, like shadows and hidden things. Though she made the first foray, Adyan quickly took control of the kiss, his mastery overwhelming. He teased the roof of her mouth, tangled his tongue with hers, pulled back to caress her lips. She moaned into him as the fire so recently put out flared to life again.

From the other side of the room, Amy’s voice rang clear, breaking into Kai’s renewed passion. “Uh, excuse me, Geoffrey? How about a little action my way.”

Adyan broke the kiss, turning to look at Amy. A strange expression flashed over his features and Kai was sure he intended to go to the other woman. But when the animated statue released his grip on Kai and strode toward Amy, Adyan faced Kai again and smiled.

“Okay, you can go at it again.” Amy sighed, lying back on the workbench behind her as she waited for Geoffrey’s approach.

Kai’s legs were unsteady, but she locked her knees and pulled away from Lucas. Remnants of ecstasy made her muscles shake. “You can let go, Lucas.”

“Not yet. Brace yourself against the horse.”

Kai turned around on uneasy legs. When her hands connected with the equine, it dropped its foot, muscles jumping as life swept over the silky coat and through the massive beast. “Whoa!” Kai stumbled. “I didn’t tell it to wake up.”

Adyan laughed and moved to calm the horse. “Easy, boy. Stay still.”

The horse snorted in response and stilled, becoming an unmovable force as Kai braced against it. The distinct sounds of slacks being pulled off sent a tingle up her spine. She turned her head, looking back at Lucas, her body quivering when she saw his thick cock jutting between his legs.

His eyes burned with hunger as he tangled his fists in her rucked-up skirt. Lucas kicked her feet wider apart and Kai gasped, turning her face toward the horse once more. The large head of his cock teased her clit, slipping through her slick folds until it came to rest at the mouth of her pussy.

Chapter 10

With a grunt, Lucas plunged inside, hissing as she tightened around him. His eyes half closed, he watched Adyan move away from the horse, dropping one hand to Kai's back, trailing his fingers down her spine, dipping into the seam of her bottom. When Adyan's finger touched Lucas's cock where it filled Kai, he bit his lip to stop from moaning.

"I'm going to kiss you, Lucas." Adyan withdrew his finger from between the couple to flatten his palm against the other man's tight, muscled abs. He dragged his hand up the hard body, stopping to tease small, hard nipples through the other man's shirt before cupping Lucas's jaw.

"Yes." Lucas swallowed hard, forcing the word past dry lips. Kai shook in his grip, a rush of juice bathing his cock as she responded to his agreement.

Adyan didn't smile, his eyes darkening as he lowered his head. Lucas tried to keep his eyes open, but the feel of Kai's pussy clutching at his cock and the anticipation of the kiss had him reeling. A strong arm came around his back, nails lightly scraping skin all the way down. Lucas thrust hard into Kai when Adyan's fingers dug into his ass and the hand at his jaw slipped around to palm his nape, pulling Lucas closer.

Unsure what to expect, Lucas met the full, masculine lips with a closed mouth. Adyan bit him hard enough to make him gasp, then thrust his tongue inside. The hand on his neck tightened as he took the kiss deeper, hotter, more aggressively. Lucas groaned, his hips moving without his direction, his mind falling into Adyan's talent.

The soft scrape of short whiskers burned Lucas's jaw and chin as he and Adyan broke apart, only to come back together with an animalistic intensity. He let go of Kai's waist to bind Adyan's body to his side, burying one hand in the other man's hair even as Adyan gripped his ass harder, pressing his own thick, hot cock to Lucas's side.

Adyan stepped back. Hair mussed, lips swollen from the kiss, he pressed his palm to the small of Lucas's back. "Bring her to the wall. Take her against it."

Amy's passionate cries provided a backdrop as Lucas eased from Kai's body. She shivered, lost in a haze of desire, whimpering at his withdrawal.

Lucas picked her up, kissing her parted lips, his own legs weak from need, and moved past the horse to the wall of the room. When they reached the wall, he pressed her back against it, guiding her knees to either side of his hips. Beneath his touch, he felt her heart pounding. Her ragged breathing was loud in his ears, echoing his own.

The taste of her mouth held traces of Adyan, churning Lucas's gut. She moaned, the sound tickling his lips, as he deepened their kiss. When he knew she was focused completely on him, Lucas dipped the head of his cock into her pussy again, filling her slowly, shifting her ever so slightly until his entire prick, every throbbing inch, was surrounded by Kai's hot, wet, grasping flesh.

"That's it, baby. Just like that." He kissed her hard as he jammed his pelvis against hers.

"Lucas," she whispered, her eyes closing as pleasure took over.

He shifted his feet, planting them farther apart to give each thrust maximum penetration. When large, hot hands traced over his shoulders, Lucas let his head fall back against Adyan's powerful chest. The other man traced all of his body within reach. Down over biceps and triceps flexing with each movement, went those hands. Under his shirt, smoothing over his stomach and up, finding his flat nipples, pinching and scraping nails over the nubs until Lucas felt his balls tighten.

"Stop. I can't keep this up if you don't stop."

Adyan chuckled near his ear. "Lucas, I've barely started." But he moved his hands, resting them just beneath Kai's knees on his hips.

Soft lips touched the middle of his shoulders and Lucas growled. Mouth, tongue, and teeth made their way over his back and down his spine, closing the distance to the one spot Lucas knew would send him over the brink.

"Spread your legs. That's it." Adyan's rough command made it hard for Lucas to keep thrusting into Kai. The hard clench of her body around him suggested she was just as affected by Adyan's request as Lucas was.

He complied, Kai's legs tightening around him. The first touch of Adyan's tongue against his balls nearly ended it, but Kai chose that moment to lean forward and sink her teeth into his shoulder. The real pain pushed back the need to come, clearing Lucas's head.

Until Adyan's palms spread his ass cheeks and his long tongue began a dance around the tight opening.

"Sweet God!" Lucas gasped, his back arching away even as he pressed his ass back toward the pleasure.

"You like that." Adyan's deep, husky voice washed over Lucas.

Lucas couldn't respond, but his hips continued to move erratically back and forth, rubbing his cock against the walls of Kai's sex. Adyan sighed and simply pushed harder against his buttocks, opening Lucas fully to the dark pleasures of his mouth. Soon, the tip of his tongue pierced Lucas's ass, dipping inside just enough to bring him to the razor's edge of orgasm without pushing him over.

Just when he thought he'd lose it for sure, Adyan pulled back to flick his tongue, fast and sharp, over the sensitive ring of skin. He felt the other man stand behind him, moving to his side, and Lucas tensed at what was coming even while his cock grew harder, thicker, threatening to explode.

"Relax." Adyan stepped into Lucas, rubbing his long, engorged cock against Lucas's hard, muscled ass. He wanted to fuck Lucas, badly, but Amy's moans distracted him. He couldn't have both and though insane, he wanted his assistant more, even now.

Still, he had to take the sweet ass in front of him. So, he sucked his middle finger into his mouth, knowing Lucas's ass was already well lubed from the rimming. He teased the man's asshole for only a moment, until a hard shiver raced down his back and he pressed up and back toward Adyan. Tightening his hold on one hip, Adyan thrust his finger in and rubbed his cock hard against Lucas.

The almond shape of the male G-spot was easy to find. Adyan circled Lucas's prostate a few times, before rubbing the organ as best he could. The other man's ass was tight, but from the cries ringing out from Lucas's mouth, he wasn't hurting him at all. Adyan took the earlobe closest to him between his teeth, biting softly as he began a short in and out motion with his hand. "Fuck her, Lucas. Take her while I take you."

He watched as Lucas held Kai's hips still and began a punishing, pounding, primal rhythm between her legs. The smell of her need was strong. Adyan's cock wept pre-come against the firm muscle of Lucas's ass. He shoved his finger deeper, harder, struggling to keep up with the almost bestial ferocity into which Lucas had dissolved.

Kai screamed again, louder this time, her legs a vise around Lucas's hips. The first hard spasm of her pussy made Lucas gasp, tightening his ass around Adyan's finger. After a moment, Lucas exploded into motion, a hammering, rutting violence gripping him. Adyan added a second finger to the first, putting agonizing pressure against his prostate. Lucas let go with a wild roar.

"Fuck, fuck, fuck, ah!" Adyan pumped his fingers in and out of Lucas's ass, every stroke detonating another hard explosion from Lucas's balls to his cock. He'd never come so hard in his life, not even with Derek. His lips went numb, his knees almost gave out.

"Oh, God." Kai whimpered, her body shuddering with aftershocks, her sex so wet, so slick and swollen, each touch of flesh became near pain. She held on to Lucas as tight as she could as they slowly slid down the wall to the floor.

Adyan pressed a kiss to her forehead, and she opened her eyes. He winked at her before doing the same to Lucas. Her husband's breath remained ragged, his chest heaving, his cock twitching where he was still buried inside her.

"Come on, Geoffrey, fuck me!"

Kai recognized Amy's voice, husky with need. Adyan grinned at her before moving away toward the other woman. Replete, beyond satisfied, Kai watched with an odd detachment as Adyan approached Amy. The other woman looked up at him, her

mouth open wide on a soundless scream as the statue slammed deep into her body again and again. Adyan took advantage, guiding his massive cock between her lips.

Kai almost expected Amy to bite Adyan. Instead, she arched her back and took him deep into her throat. Her body fairly vibrated with sexual tension as she sucked the thick cock in her mouth and rode the one between her thighs. Geoffrey lifted her hips from the table, almost frantically shoving his cock in and out of Amy's glistening sex.

Adyan burrowed a hand in her hair, looking as if he wanted her to release him. He motioned something to Geoffrey, but Amy twisted her torso to face him, grabbing his tight, hard ass in her hands. Adyan threw his head back, a look of absolute abandon on his features, and seemed to forget about anything but the hot, wet talent of the lips and tongue fellating him.

He thrust his hips at Amy's face, a muffled scream coming from the woman's mouth. Kai watched Amy ease her hold on his ass with one hand, dropping it down to reach between his legs to play with his balls. Geoffrey pulled Amy tighter to him, one hand moving between her legs, playing with her clit Kai was sure.

The trio came within moments of each other. After a few quick flicks of Geoffrey's wrist, Amy's body drew tight as a bowstring, muscles standing out beneath her skin, shaking, flexing. Adyan tightened his grip in her hair, his ass cheeks tightening, his hips pounding against her chin in short, rapid-fire strokes, her name echoing from his lips and around the room. Geoffrey followed, with harsh, shallow grunts as he came, emptying his cock into Amy.

When the three fell apart, Kai saw bleeding half moon marks on Adyan's ass, where Amy had held tight during her orgasm. Geoffrey staggered backward, giving the other couple a silly grin and salute when Adyan directed him back to sleep. Kai shivered, her body finally feeling chilled. Lucas hugged her tight.

"Maybe we should think about getting dressed." He laughed against her neck.

"I don't know if I can even stand."

Amy offered her two cents. "Me either, but who cares?"

Chapter 11

After they found a bathroom to freshen up in, the two couples finished the tour. The rest of the museum was less exciting than the Medieval section, but no less interesting. Madame Deveaux gave them a knowing smile as they left, despite the fact the tension between the quartet was obvious. Lucas was shaken by the mini orgy. It turned his thoughts to Derek. What would it be like to share Kai with him? Would it be more amazing, or a sad imitation, of what he'd just enjoyed?

"Thanks for a lovely evening," Kai hugged Amy tight before stepping into the elevator. "I'll definitely remember it."

"You and me both. Hey, I hope you won't get all freaked out about it later. I really like you."

Kai searched her feelings for a moment. Certainly, having had extremely hard sex in front of another person might make one embarrassed. However, Kai didn't feel that way with Amy. "Nope. I like you too. Hey, call me in the morning and let's get together, all right?"

Amy beamed. "Absolutely."

Lucas and Adyan didn't say anything to each other or the women. Kai frowned at her husband when he simply waved to the other couple and boarded the elevator. She shook her head before turning back to Amy. "See you tomorrow!" The door closed and she leaned into Lucas.

"I think I could sleep for the rest of the vacation." His voice was raspy, like he hadn't used it for days.

"Me too."

Kai didn't say much else. She and Lucas half staggered into the suite. Lucas followed her directly to the bathroom. He didn't say anything as they showered, but he

didn't feel like she needed him to do so. Pajamas would have been too much work, so Lucas didn't bother, instead falling on the bed and rolling to spoon Kai. Sleep came swiftly.

* * *

The elevator doors closed, taking the Woods up to their room. Adyan hated to send them off without knowing they weren't regretting the night. But he was pondering his own experience so deeply, he barely registered they'd gone.

Yes, he'd wanted Amy for a very long time, but he'd made the choice not to sleep with her, he thought, in everyone's best interest. Her little display at Madame's, however, had him thinking that perhaps he'd been wrong.

It wasn't just the blowjob. He'd had countless numbers of those, and while Amy's was certainly the most memorable, unbelievable really, it was still a blowjob. No, the joy mixed with sadness he'd seen in her eyes had the wheels in his mind spinning out of control. As if she'd decided if she couldn't have him all, she'd take that small bit, but only on her terms.

Adyan glanced at her as they entered the service elevator and headed toward the top floor. He wanted to ask her why she'd refused to be with him, he wanted to tell her there was no way he could leave what was done alone now, but his tongue and lips refused to move. He couldn't speak.

Amy, however, didn't seem to be suffering the same problem. "So, are things in the office going to get all weird now?"

"Uh..." Adyan trailed off, but Amy didn't really notice. She continued without facing him.

"I mean really, I've been working for you for ages. Do you know how strange it is that we haven't fucked before? We have to be the only boss/employee that haven't in Regalos."

"Amy, I... I..." Yet again, his mouth refused to cooperate.

"Seriously, it's no big deal. It's not like we're all of a sudden a couple or anything. Sheesh, it was just a blowjob."

"Amy, shut up." Eureka! Finally, something coherent came of the sounds he was making.

"Excuse me?" She turned, at last, to look at him.

"Shut up. I have no idea what just happened, but I will tell you the only *weird* thing that's going to happen is we're going to my suite and I'm going to finish what you started."

"Huh?" Now, Amy was having trouble communicating.

"We'll figure out tomorrow, tomorrow. Now, come here." He reached out, taking her shoulders in his grip and pulling her body hard to his. Sifting his fingers through the lush strands of her hair, Adyan cupped the back of Amy's head, tilting her face up to meet his mouth.

She tasted faintly of blood, as if she'd been chewing her lip. The tangy, metallic flavor teased his senses, rousing the beast within, making his cock thicken with such speed Adyan felt a wave of dizziness.

Amy jerked away from him, swiping the back of her hand across her mouth. "We ain't gonna make it to the top." She moved to the control panel, hitting the emergency stop. She turned to look over her shoulder at him before lifting her index finger to the small security cam in the corner. He felt the hair lift on his body a moment before she sent a zing of electricity at the spying eye, killing the feed.

Adyan raised his eyebrow. "Impressive."

She shrugged. "Everyone has their talents."

Neither of them moved for a few seconds, as if weighing the potential outcomes. They both decided what might happen was worth it, reaching for each other at the same time.

Amy fisted her hands in Adyan's hair, pulling his mouth to hers. His hands slid up her back to her shoulders, pressing them tightly together. The first kiss, the first meeting of mouths, wasn't as wild as their earlier joining. Adyan took her mouth slowly, memorizing every inch of the lips and tongue that tormented him daily.

She tasted sweet and fiery, just as he expected. Adyan backed her into the corner of the elevator, picking her up off the floor. She growled into his mouth, tugging hard on his hair.

“What? Do you want me to stop?”

“Hell, no. But you’re pinching my thigh.”

Adyan looked down to see his zipper pressing hard against her inner thigh. He backed up a bit, trying to balance her and release his cock at the same time.

“Let me.” Amy’s hands tangled with his until he moved them beneath her thighs. She undid his slacks and pushed them out of the way. Her hands shook a little as she touched his cock, guiding him to her.

Adyan leaned in to kiss her as he eased inside the tight grip of her body. Goddess, she felt magnificent, as if she were made for him. Amy moaned, pulling away to drop her head back, her chest heaving.

“You feel so good. Perfect.” The whispered words struck a chord in Adyan, mirroring his thoughts.

He rotated his hips, rewarded for his movements by a rush of liquid desire from Amy. Her pussy tightened around his cock, and she began to pant. “Please, fuck me. Hard, Adyan.” She lifted her head, her irises nearly blotted out by her enlarged pupils. One lock of her red hair fell over her shoulder, twining around the tight nipple beneath her top.

When Adyan didn’t respond, she shifted in his grasp. Adyan tried to think of something to say, but that lock of hair ensnared him, switching something in his mind. He looked into her face again, and felt something he hadn’t in a very long time.

“What?”

“I’d like to take you to a proper bed, Amy. But I think the office couch is as far as I can go.”

“Then hurry.”

Adyan hit the stop button, starting the elevator up again. The ding of the elevator doors made her jump, but Adyan tightened his hold. He wasn't letting her go for anything now.

He carried her from the elevator, slipping from her body for safety and sanity. Charging through the doors of his office, he took her to the couch and laid her down.

While she looked up at him, Adyan stripped off his clothes before dropping down beside her to remove hers as well. When she was completely nude, he took a deep breath, getting the beast inside under control.

"Are we going to do this?"

"Amy, I'm... just give me a minute."

She must have known what was going on because she sat up on the couch. "I'm a vampire. I can handle it." Then she surprised him by jumping off the furniture and onto him, knocking him to the floor.

"And I'm not waiting any longer." She wrapped her hand around the base of his cock, positioning him against the slick opening of her sex. She looked into his eyes as she plunged downward, taking him all, taking him deep.

He grunted, curling his fingers into the plush carpet beneath his back. A roar sounded in his head, the leopard asserting its power. Somewhere between kissing her and feeling the first grip of her body, Adyan's cat had noticed Amy. And the cat hadn't wanted anything to do with his sexual partners in a very long time. With his other side pushing him to mark her, make her his, Adyan didn't have a chance.

Especially when she raked her nails down his chest hard enough to sting. He bucked his hips and grabbed her waist, rolling them over. Frantically, he slid his hands to her knees, pushing her legs back and open. Then he let go.

"Yes!" Amy cried out at his savagery.

Adyan looked down at her, saw her fangs descend from her gums, felt his own lengthen in response. His cock swelled, and the leopard took over. Studs, hard and raised, took shape along his shaft as he slammed himself into her harder and faster.

Amy grabbed his forearms, digging her nails in deep and he hissed. The rounded barbs on his cock made out strokes immensely pleasurable, but as she tightened her pussy around him, it also made it more difficult. He bit his lip, drawing blood, as he struggled to move inside her.

"Amy." He growled and spread her knees farther apart. Her body relaxed around his and he dropped his chin to his chest. "Amy."

Her head lolled to one side, then the other, as he increased his pace again. The leopard rolled under his skin, spurring him faster, deeper. His balls drew up, tight, and he crammed his cock as deep as he could into her slick, wet grasp.

"Adyan!" She didn't hold back anything when she came, her hips lifting into him, her sex undulating around his length.

The barbs stiffened, blood swelling his cock, lodging it inside her convulsing body. He roared, wild, intense sensation taking away all humanity as he came. Hot spurt after hot spurt of come exploded from his balls, up through the tip of his cock, filling Amy. He couldn't pull out, didn't have the strength to anyway, so Adyan collapsed atop her.

Amy grunted and pushed at his shoulder. He sighed and rolled, taking her with him.

Chapter 12

The ringing phone roused Kai from slumber. "Hello?"

"Did I wake you?"

Amy's dulcet tones brought Kai to full wakefulness. "Yeah, but that's okay."

Lucas tugged at the blanket and she swatted at his hand.

"I took the day off from the office. I thought you might like to go shopping with me."

"I don't know. Hang on." Kai pressed the phone to her chest. "Amy invited me shopping. Do you think you can keep yourself busy if I go?"

"I'm a big boy. Go, have a good time." Lucas kissed her shoulder before throwing back the covers and heading for the bathroom.

Kai put the phone back to her ear. "Amy?"

"Still here."

"I'd love to go shopping. When do you want to leave?"

"Is an hour long enough for you to get ready?"

Kai laughed as she sat up in bed. "More than ample. See you in a bit." She hung up the phone and stretched. Tempted for a moment to head into the bathroom with Lucas and waste some of her hour with pleasurable distractions, Kai headed to the closet instead to pick out an outfit.

Lucas emerged from the bathroom, a towel slung low on his hips. He slipped up behind her, hugging her waist and kissing her neck. "When do you think you'll be back?"

"I don't know. Before dinner, certainly."

"I think I'll go to the gym. Work off some of last night's meal." Lucas let her go. He dropped his towel and dug through his bags, coming up with a lightweight shirt and shorts.

She took a cotton, sleeveless blouse and matching tennis skirt from the closet. As she laid them on the bed, she felt a giggle bubble up from her belly.

"What?" Lucas slipped his shorts on and grabbed the shirt.

"I think you worked it off just fine at the museum."

He blushed, then frowned and turned away. Kai hadn't meant to upset him. "Lucas, I was teasing you. I had a fantastic --"

"I know. So did I." Lucas kept his back to her. The perfect opportunity to tell her about Derek had presented itself, but he hesitated.

"What's the matter?" He felt her close the distance between them. Though he was ready to tell her his secret, a knot formed in his belly.

"About last night..." He turned around.

"I'm not jealous, Lucas. Really, what happened between you and Adyan only aroused me more. It was very erotic." She grinned wickedly, and the ball of nerves in his belly grew.

"I know. Listen, sit down." He gently pressed her back toward the bed.

Suddenly, all the worries she'd kissed goodbye days ago came rushing back. She didn't know how he'd figured it out, but somehow she must have let him know about Derek and her growing desire to be with them both.

"Lucas..." Kai hesitated, unsure what to say.

"Wait, Kai. Just let me get this out." He scrubbed a palm over his jaw.

Fear made her sick, but she nodded. It was past time to bring this out in the open.

"I've been to Los Regalos before."

"Huh?" Kai couldn't help the dumbfounded comment. He hadn't said what she'd thought he would, didn't even seem to be heading in that direction.

"I've been here before. At The Luxy Lady, in fact, a little more than fifteen years ago."

"So? That was before we even met." Confusion calmed the churning in her belly, but now her head was starting to pound as she tried to figure out what he was struggling to say.

"I know. I met someone here, a man. At first, we just hit it off. Hung out, had a great time. You know, that sort of thing. But one night, while we were sharing a woman, something happened."

"Lucas, are you trying to tell me you're bisexual?" She smiled broadly. "Honey, I just told you I love that about you. I'm not upset."

"No, Kai. I mean, yes, I am, but that's not it. The man I met wasn't human. He's Leonid. And we started something he called Priding that night. It's some kind of evolutionary thing. It bonds Leonids and their mates into a pack, a pride. It's closer than blood and it's unbreakable."

Kai sat up straighter on the bed. "Wait a minute. Are you telling me you're, what, married to another man?"

Lucas sighed and looked away from her. "Not exactly. He, we, didn't finish the thing. I didn't change, or whatever. It's complicated."

"Who is he? I mean, do I know him, have I met him? Lucas, why haven't you told me this? Does it hurt you, him?"

He held up his hand. "Wait, please."

She crossed her arms over her chest. "Fine, go on."

"Yes, you know him. Yes, you've met him. It's Derek. Derek is the man I was with that night."

"What?" Kai nearly fell off the bed. Shock didn't even come close to what she felt. This was crazy!

"I'm not finished."

"There's more!" She jumped up from the bed and grabbed her clothes. She couldn't sit still a second longer.

"Derek told me, that night, that all prides needed a female. That he knew who his female Prided was, but that she'd been too young. He said as soon as he fulfilled his contract, he was going home to claim her."

Her hands began to tremble. She went to the closet and pulled out a pair of strappy sandals, slipping them on. The fear flooded back and she struggled to get back to the bed and sit. "Please don't tell me there's another woman."

"No. You are the woman."

Relief surged through her, but it lasted only a second. Ire, hot and wild, roared in her ears. She whipped her head around to look at him. "Are you telling me that not only are you and Derek sort of tied to each other, but that this Priding has something to do with me? Involves me? And neither of you, in the last ten years, has seen fit to tell me?"

"Kai, I know --"

"The hell you do!" Strength born of anger fortified her weak limbs and she stood. "Do you know how much agony I've been putting myself through for the last year?"

"What are you talking about?"

"Derek. You. I was so in love with him when I was young. Even though I understood why he left, I cried for months after he left home. But I grew up. And I met you. Fell in love with you. Then I married you. Seeing him at the wedding was hard. I realized I still loved him, but I accepted that he and I couldn't be together."

Lucas didn't say anything. He waited for her to go on.

"Do you remember that dinner a year ago? When he came over?"

"I can't forget it."

"Neither can I. Ever since, this attraction, my desire for Derek, to be with you and Derek has become an obsession. At first, I thought it was because you and I hardly spent any time together. But every day it grew stronger until it became an ache. I've been tearing myself up trying to find a way to tell you about it, and here you sit telling me that all of this agony has been for nothing. That you could have stopped it?"

"Kai, I'm sorry. I never wanted to hurt you." He made to touch her, but Kai jerked away.

"I don't --" A loud knock at the door interrupted her.

"Ignore it. We need to finish this."

"No. I'm going shopping, Lucas. I'll see you later." She left the bedroom and headed into the sitting room of the suite.

Lucas heard her greet Amy, and then he heard the door close loudly. He'd fucked up. She'd never forgive him and he couldn't blame her.

"I take it things haven't gone well this morning."

Lucas looked up to see Adyan leaning relaxed against the doorjamb. "Not exactly." He rubbed his palms over his eyes, fighting the prickling he felt behind them.

"I've seen a lot in my time, Lucas. I'm a good listener."

Lucas chuckled, but it held no mirth. "I don't think you want to hear the mess I'm in."

"I like you, Lucas. I like Kai too. I hate to see such a well matched pair unhappy." Adyan waited for Lucas to say something. "All right then. If you want to talk, I'm here."

Adyan turned to leave. It was crazy, but Lucas needed someone to talk to, even a relative stranger. "Wait."

* * *

Kai tried to work up some enthusiasm for shopping. After two hours wandering around one of Los Regalos's poshest centers of commerce, she felt less and less inclined to spend money and more interested in crying.

"All right, party pooper. Enough of this. What's wrong?" Amy grabbed her arm, turning Kai around and looking into her face.

"I'm sorry, I'm not much company. I don't really want to talk about it."

"Bullshit. I may be a vampire, but I'm still a woman. And women always need to talk. C'mon, we'll go back to the Luxy and get some coffee sent up to my suite."

Kai truly wasn't interested in spilling to Amy, but the idea of wandering around the glitz and glam of Regalos right now appealed even less. "Fine."

Back at the hotel, Kai kicked off her sandals and flopped on the loveseat in Amy's sitting room while the other woman called downstairs for refreshments.

The knock on the door sounded less than two minutes after Amy hung up the phone. For a moment, Kai tensed, fearing Lucas or Adyan was on the other side. But the warm smell of java and fresh pastries eased her tension.

Amy pushed a small trolley into the room and poured two cups of hot brew. She handed one to Kai, along with a small plate holding a cruller, then sat down next to her. "Spill."

"Really, Amy, I appreciate your concern. We don't know each other that well, though, and I'm not comfortable sharing my situation with you."

Amy gave her an understanding look. She took a sip from her cup, a bite of sweet, fried dough, then set everything back on the cart.

Then she started to laugh. It wasn't a harsh, insincere tone, but a real, full belly sound of enjoyment. "Kai, hon, I watched you have sex with two men. I think we're past mere acquaintance."

When she put it that way, Kai couldn't argue. A flush warmed her face. "You don't mince words."

"So Adyan tells me. Now, start talking, will you? I promise, I'll keep my commentary constructive."

Kai put her own cup and plate on the room service cart and pulled her feet onto the sofa. With a big sigh, she dove headfirst into the mess. "So, the short of it is that my husband and my best friend are sort of, I don't know, bound together. And whatever they are to each other, they need me to complete the circle."

"Okay."

"Thing is, neither of them thought to tell me about this Priding, or whatever the hell it's called. And I've been pretty much tearing myself apart for the last year because

my feelings for Derek just keep getting stronger and stronger. And my desire to have him, and Lucas, has become an obsession that's driving me mad."

"Derek, he's the other guy? A Leonid, right?"

"Yeah. He's my best friend." Kai rubbed her temples. "He was my first crush, my first love, my first kiss. He'd have been my first lover if he hadn't left home when I was fourteen."

"Ah. Well, it's funny how fate works, isn't it."

"What's that supposed to mean?"

"Listen, Kai. You had a very close relationship with Derek. Chances are, he knew you were potential Prided the first time you kissed." Amy had to tread carefully. She couldn't reveal that she already knew most of the story.

"You know about this Priding thing?"

"As much as any thousand-year-old vamp can know, I suppose."

"Explain it to me. Please."

"Priding isn't magic, at least not in a typical sense. It's instigated by an evolutionary need in lions, be they shapeshifter or true feline. The need to form a pride is a basic survival instinct for them. The biggest difference, as far as I understand, is that in shifters Priding isn't determined by the biggest, most dominant Leonid taking all the available females he can handle."

"You mean Leonids don't fight over females."

"Not usually, no. They have a special organ in the roof of their mouth that absorbs a small amount of their partners' DNA. Saliva, sweat, or sexual fluid, whatever. The organ processes the genetic code, searching for someone whose genes are excellent complements to the Leonids'. Those matches are potential Prided."

"Potential?"

"Well, this is why I said Priding isn't exactly magical. Just because a partner can become Pride doesn't mean they always do. Both partners have free will and the right to choose."

“Then how can Lucas and Derek be ‘sort of’ Prieded?” Kai quirked her fingers when she said “sort of,” as if to emphasize her confusion.

“I don’t know.” Amy laughed at Kai’s frustrated sigh. “I’m not Leonid.”

Chapter 13

"I'm not Leonid. None of this thing makes sense to me." Lucas lifted the weights over his head, breathing out as he fully extended his arms.

"You will be, if you Pride."

"How do you know so much about it?"

Adyan grinned at him from the leg press machine. "I'm Roman Egyptian, I grew up in Africa. When I was younger, there were plenty of Leonid women to frolic with."

"Figures."

"Lucas, the facts are simple. The longer you refuse to Pride, the more difficult it will become. I'm amazed Derek was able to stop it the first time."

"He said he did. I don't know if it's the truth."

"You wouldn't have gotten in to Regalos if you were anything but human."

"Oh, right. Well..." Lucas trailed off as he finished his reps.

Adyan had called the gym before they'd arrived to ensure they'd be alone. Lucas was grateful, he needed the exercise as a focus for his frustration. He sat up and grabbed the hand towel he'd tossed at the foot of the weight bench. With quick motions, he swabbed away the sweat from his forehead and neck while he watched Adyan's legs bunch and flex.

"What do you want to do now, Lucas?"

Carnal thoughts drifted through his brain, but Lucas forced them away. "I don't know. I guess Kai and Derek and me will have to get together when we get home and hash it out."

A flash of anger or irritation crossed Adyan's face. "You've spent the last fifteen years hashing. It's time to decide. I'm guessing Derek hasn't said so, but not being Prided, after all this time, is driving him slowly insane. So, unless you want to put him

out of his misery, the time for hashing is past." With an angry growl, Adyan got off the leg machine, weights banging at his sudden departure.

Lucas gaped at the other man as he disappeared from the workout room. Realizing Adyan wasn't coming back, Lucas jumped up and jogged after him. He barely made it into the hall before Adyan slipped into the elevator. He knew he'd never make it to the closing doors. Lucas started to head back to the gym, but he glanced at the lights above the elevator. They stopped at the top floor.

Lucas should have gone back to the gym. Instead, he waited for the elevator to return and hopped inside. He pressed the button for the top, but it wouldn't light up. In exasperation, he hit the next highest floor. He'd take the stairs the rest of the way.

There was a keypad next to the door to the stairwell, but it took Lucas no time to override it. After all, he'd built his technologies company from the ground up. If he couldn't crack a simple code panel, he'd start worrying about old age. Lucas took the stairs two at a time, coming out in a lushly decorated lobby.

He looked around, but didn't see Adyan anywhere. A large, heavy looking set of double doors faced the elevator. A small, tidy desk was positioned off to the left side. A flash of movement caught his eye to the right. Lucas moved further into the room, noting a nicely appointed sitting area. The furniture faced a large wall hanging featuring the Eye of Ra and a small, gold cat. The tapestry moved, and Lucas walked toward it.

Another door, smaller than the other, stood slightly ajar behind the fixture. Lucas wouldn't have noticed it if the hinges hadn't squeaked as he approached. Careful of the tapestry, he made his way inside and found himself in a dimly lit passage. Walking slowly, he ventured further, but didn't get far before coming to an intersection.

"Left or right?" As if in answer, the sound of running water echoed from the left.

Lucas hurried toward the noise, following it around a corner and into a bedroom. The water came from yet another door, though he had no doubt what was behind this one. Lucas stepped inside. Adyan stood beneath the running water, hand wrapped around his long, wide cock, glistening bubbles clinging to his fist.

Lucas growled with frustration. Did the man think of nothing but sex? Shaking his head, he stomped back out the way he came. He'd been hoping for advice, answers, something, but obviously Adyan didn't want to continue the conversation.

Adyan sighed and let go of his cock. He hadn't really wanted Lucas to jump in the shower with him, but he'd thought perhaps the temptation would move the other man past all of his ridiculous excuses as to why Kai, Derek, and Lucas needed to continue to suffer being apart.

Turning off the shower, Adyan jumped from the tub, forgoing a towel, to chase after Lucas. The human was halfway down the hall. "Lucas, wait."

"Fuck you, Adyan. Can't you just leave the shit alone?" Lucas's voice came from the end of the hall.

"No, I can't. Why do you have to make things so difficult? You seemed to have a good time sharing Kai with me the other night, why not with Derek?"

"God, I wish being with Derek could be as easy as that."

Adyan frowned. "It could be. You're the one who makes it complicated."

"You don't know what you're talking about." The door at the end of the hall slammed shut with finality.

Adyan shook his head and followed. "You can't run away from me."

Lucas stood in front of the elevator, obviously trying to decide whether or not to go back to his room.

Adyan opened the doors to his office, waving Lucas inside. The other man scowled, but went in. "Maybe you could put something on?"

"Shut up, Lucas. I doubt you'll care about my lack of clothes in a minute."

"Cocky much?" Lucas crossed his arms over his chest.

Adyan suppressed a sigh. "I own this hotel, Lucas. I have for more than fifty years."

The statement hung in the air between them for several minutes. "You know Derek." Lucas's voice was barely above a whisper.

"Of course. And I know about you."

Anger flushed Lucas's features. "Have you been messing with me the whole time?"

Adyan smiled. "Not how you think. I only wanted to see for myself if you were really as undecided as Derek thinks you are."

"This is totally fucked up." Lucas ground his teeth, unbelievably angry with Adyan.

"Humans. You are such a delightful group of pains in the ass." Adyan strode toward Lucas.

He empathized with Derek. Lucas Woods was the kind of man anyone would want: powerful, principled, and passionate. Having been witness to that passion, Adyan empathized with anyone wanting more.

"What are you doing?" Lucas watched with wary eyes as Adyan drew close.

"I want you to understand something. I care about Derek, but I've grown to care about you and Kai too. I want you to get a grip and stop worrying about what other people might think or say."

"You have no idea what it's like out there in the real world." Lucas's jaw tightened.

"Yes, I do." Adyan quirked a brow. "Never mind. You aren't going to listen to me. You're just going to continue to play the victim, the pouting boy, until all the people that care about you are as hurt and confused as you are." With a wave of his hand, Adyan turned away.

"I'm not a child!" Lucas grabbed his arm and spun Adyan around, balling his fist and throwing the punch in the same motion.

* * *

"Thanks, Amy." Sarcasm dripped from Kai's lips.

"Hey, I only know so much. And I understand why you're hurt, but can I ask you something?"

"Sure." Kai leaned over, nabbing her cup from the cart and swallowing the now lukewarm contents.

"Are you feeling better moping around here?"

"I have a right to be pissy, don't I?"

"You have a right to be hurt. Your fellas were keeping a pretty big secret. But it's also a huge relief. I know it and so do you."

"They lied to me." Kai set her cup down hard on the cart.

"Depends on how you look at it, I guess. It's not like you asked them if they knew each other. And you certainly didn't speak up when your feelings for Derek became impossible to ignore. In fact, I suspect both of them could be just as hurt that you've kept your feelings hidden, in effect leaving them, especially Lucas, anxious to tell you what happened. I mean, for all he knew, you might have freaked if he told you he was bi."

"So now it's my fault!" Kai kicked her feet out, off the couch, and stood up. Anger clenched her fists and she whirled on Amy, hands on hips.

"I didn't say that. What I'm saying is many things contributed to why neither Lucas nor Derek told you about what happened between them. What you need to decide is whether or not the errors of the past are worth being miserable for the rest of your life."

Kai's fists slipped from her hips. Suddenly cold, she folded her arms around her body. "I don't know."

"I'll tell you what I know. I love Adyan. I've been in love with him for a ridiculously long time. That said, if one day he told me he loved me, but that he'd never acted on his feelings because he was blood bound to another man, I wouldn't care. I'd be hurt, sure, that he hadn't told me, that he assumed I'd freak out. But I'd get over it." Amy's voice grew louder, irritation clear. "That's what love is, right? It's compromise, give and take. If you love these men as much as you say you do, then I'd think you'd forgive them and move forward."

Kai looked at the other woman. Amy hadn't been expounding on a hypothetical. Well, Kai didn't know if Adyan was bound to another man, but Amy's love for him shone in her eyes. And she was right. Not that Kai's anger or bruised feelings suddenly disappeared, but lashing out at Lucas and Derek wouldn't make her feel better, and it certainly wouldn't make her happy either.

Her mood lightened, Kai smiled at Amy. "You're something. C'mon, let's go find the boys."

Amy grinned, a naughty sparkle in her eyes. "I want to run by the office. It won't take but a minute." She hopped off the loveseat and headed for the door.

Sensing the other woman had something up her sleeve, but unable to decide what it might be, Kai shrugged. "Wait for me." She glanced at her bags, but when Amy went out the door without pause, Kai chose to leave them as she followed her friend.

Chapter 14

"Here we are."

"Why didn't you tell me Adyan owns The Luxy Lady?"

Amy rolled her eyes. "Hmm, when should I have worked that in? While you were bent over getting fucked by your husband or during our heart to heart downstairs?"

"Smart ass." Kai stuck her tongue out.

"You better believe it." Amy approached her desk, but something Kai didn't register caught the vampire's attention. A slow grin spread over her face. "Well, he sure made that easy."

"What?"

Amy didn't answer. Instead, she motioned Kai to follow her across the lobby to a beautiful Egyptian themed wall hanging. Amy lifted the cloth aside, exposing a door. She stood back, gesturing for Kai to go in first. The door opened onto a shadowy hallway, soft light spilling from small globes along its length.

"This way." Amy took a passage to the right and Kai followed.

They didn't walk for long. Amy stopped in front of a hinged panel. She turned to Kai and pressed a finger to her lips, signaling silence. Gently, she pressed against the panel, which swung open soundlessly. Kai moved closer to Amy, swallowing a gasp of surprise at the scene that greeted her on the other side of the portal.

Lucas had one hand wrapped around Adyan's forearm, the look on his face pure rage. His balled fist hurtled toward Adyan's face. All of a sudden, light flashed from nowhere and the air vibrated with accumulating power. Lucas released Adyan and fell back.

As the light in the room grew too bright, Kai watched as Lucas threw up his hands to shield his face. She squinted her own eyes, unable to tear her gaze away. A roar, predatory, dangerous, called out, fading to a low, rumbling warning as the mystical light dimmed and the air cooled. Kai shivered as the energy that had been a physical force swirled away.

“What a ham,” Amy whispered to a gaping Kai.

Where Adyan once stood, now a large, sleek leopard stretched its body and flexed its claws. The cat was easily twice the size of a normal leopard. With the same smooth, easy grace of its human form, the feline moved within easy reach of Lucas. Kai watched as Lucas tensed, baring his teeth. He hissed. The sound echoed loudly in the quiet room.

The leopard licked its lips, a long pink tongue slipping past massive canines. Baiting Lucas, Kai thought. When he didn’t react, the cat sat on its haunches and yawned. Without the flash bang of earlier, Adyan assumed human form once more. He shrugged his shoulders at Lucas. “Looks like you’ll be on the bottom then.”

“Oh no. It’s definitely your turn.”

What happened next transpired so fast. Lucas grabbed Adyan by the shoulders, while hooking his leg around the other man’s calf. With a jerk, Adyan tumbled backward, with Lucas following him, pressing the other man to the floor. Kai gaped as the two men grappled.

She shot a stunned look at Amy and found the other woman equally shocked. Lucas and Adyan rolled repeatedly, growls and hisses rising from the writhing knot of their bodies. She’d never seen Lucas fight, ever, and certainly not so viciously, so barbarically.

Kai stumbled backward when Adyan’s mouth opened, releasing a loud, deep roar. Lucas had sunk his teeth into the cat-man’s shoulder and blood welled around his white teeth. Adyan cuffed Lucas in the side of the head, freeing himself in the blink of an eye before he flipped her husband onto his belly, covering Lucas’s body with his own. Then Adyan hissed loudly and struck, sinking his large white chompers into the

back of Lucas's neck. Lucas went still, cussing and spitting mad, but completely motionless.

Chapter 15

"What the hell just happened?" Kai looked at the men, before turning her gaze to Amy.

"I have no fucking idea. But it was hot."

"Amy!" Kai threw her hands up in exasperation.

"What? Okay, okay. My guess is some sort of domination thing. Adyan pushed Lucas, antagonized him until Lucas lashed out. I have no idea what for, but I'm not complaining. All the hot blood in the air is making me a little dizzy." As if to emphasize her point, Amy swayed slightly on her feet.

"You're such a horn dog." Kai grinned, but it faded when she realized Amy really didn't look good. "Are you all right?"

Her loud exclamation drew the males' attention. Adyan let go of Lucas. "What's going on?"

"I haven't eaten today, that's all." Amy gave Kai a dark look. "Dang, Kai, now we won't get to watch them finish."

"Forget them! Christ, Amy, why didn't you grab a candy bar or something."

"Uh, Kai, I'm a vampire. A chocolate bar isn't going to cut it. Damn testosterone orgy has pushed me close to blood lust."

Amy headed for the divan. She didn't make it far, sinking into one of the chairs on the other side of the desk and slipping her head between her knees. Kai saw Adyan whisper something to Lucas. Her husband grunted as Adyan rose off him, moving quickly to Amy. Beautifully nude and unashamed, the powerful Egyptian dropped down in front of his friend and spoke low.

Feeling odd standing alone in front of the picture, Kai hurried around the desk, dropping down beside Lucas. She watched as Adyan touched Amy's chin, and she

lifted her face to his, looking wary. He brought one hand to the back of Amy's head and pulled her mouth toward the still seeping wound Lucas had made on his shoulder.

The very human, and slightly queasy, section of Kai's brain wanted her to look away. But the bliss on Amy's face, combined with the dark, hungry groan coming from Adyan, glued her to the scene. There was a feral quality to the exchange, hedonism in its most basic form that enthralled her with a fascination born of curiosity and eroticism.

Suddenly, Kai felt enormously embarrassed. She knew, in this moment, neither she nor Lucas existed for Adyan and Amy. Determined not to interrupt what she knew was an enormously important moment between the couple, Kai laid down beside Lucas, drawing his arm around her waist. The warmth of his skin surrounded her, his firm muscles bunching and flexing as he pulled her flush against him. His hard cock throbbed against her back and Kai instinctively rotated her hips. Her nipples beaded and her sex throbbed, arousal pouring hot and thick through her body.

Amy moaned. Adyan's body rippled as the sound traveled over him. His arms came around her, pulling her from the chair and into his lap. Amy's mouth never left his shoulder as she buried her long fingers in Adyan's thick hair and bent her legs so she sat astride him. She ground her pelvis against his, making them both shake with arousal.

Adyan said something in a language Kai didn't understand and Amy uttered a soft growl, which faded to a near purr. Her hands fisted against his scalp, briefly, and then she slowly released his shoulder. Amy sat back and looked at Adyan for a long time, a tiny smear of blood on her chin the only evidence of her hunger. Then, she dropped her hands from Adyan's hair to her own blouse, popping buttons as she bared her skin.

Kai covered her mouth to silence a gasp as she watched Amy's index finger become a long, deadly looking talon. The other woman didn't flinch as she drew the apparently sharp tip across the delicate skin just below her clavicle. Blood welled

instantly in a tiny, but long, red streak. Then her finger reverted to its normal shape and Amy dropped her hand. And waited.

"What's she doing?" Lucas's question came whisper soft but it startled Kai anyway.

She looked over her shoulder. Lucas supported his head in one hand on bent elbow, as transfixed as Kai by the scene unfolding before them. "I don't know, exactly, but I can almost feel what she does. Her need. Her hunger. Her love for him. I'd say whatever it is, things are changing between them."

"I don't think we should be here."

She could feel the flush spread over his body, knowing it bloomed on his cheeks. "We aren't going anywhere. Besides, I'm hooked. This is better than an ero-novel on a vid-screen."

When he made to rise, Kai didn't think. She rolled her body over his, covering Lucas. She grabbed his wrists, pressing them above his head. With a slow, deliberate swivel of her hips, she rubbed her lower body against his rock solid cock. He froze beneath her, his eyelids falling to half-mast, a soft moan escaping his lips.

"Watch them." She spoke directly against his mouth, swiping her tongue over his full lower lip before returning her gaze to Adyan and Amy.

The other woman held herself still, not even breath stirring her body. Time ticked by achingly slow and finally, a dull glaze crossed Amy's eyes. She shrank a little, her confidence leaking away. When she made to close the torn edges of her blouse, Adyan grabbed her hands.

"Don't. I've been a fool, but I'm not foolish enough to lose you." With those low, harshly uttered words, he leaned forward to swipe his tongue over the cut on Amy's chest. He released her hands to cup her jaw. "I won't lose you."

He tipped her head back and to the side, revealing the smooth, lovely line of her throat. Tracing one finger down her neck, Adyan pushed the blouse aside, baring Amy's shoulder. He wrapped his fingers around the back of her top, holding the fabric out of his way, and nuzzled the side of her neck.

When he reached the spot where collarbone and shoulder met, Adyan made a coughing sound. He parted his lips, revealing canines much too large and long for a human. He lowered his face to Amy's body with a softness made more intense by the force he'd used on Lucas. With reverence, he pierced her flesh.

"Adyan." Amy sighed and melted in his arms, her body going slack.

Electricity began to spark, like a million balloons rubbed over carpet. The first zap of energy made Kai do something completely spontaneous. She lowered her mouth to Lucas and bit him where his shoulder joined his neck. Each tiny zing that touched her tightened her teeth. Lucas, in turn, breathed harder, his skin growing hot beneath her. She heard her pulse pounding in her ears, felt his heart thundering against her chest. Whatever magic brewed between Amy and Adyan stirred their blood as well.

Kai pulled her mouth from Lucas's neck, unable to keep up the pressure and draw enough breath to keep from passing out. Her body felt like it was on fire, desire and energy pullulating through her blood until it fizzed and popped through every inch of flesh and bone, every cell.

Lucas shifted beneath her, rolling over and pulling her under him in one fluid movement. She looked up into his face and he knew she felt the same things he did. The connection, the bond Amy and Adyan were forming, was powerful, joyous. He couldn't ignore it any more than he could ignore the stinging at the back of his neck or the soft, warm contours of Kai's body.

"I need you." It wasn't just sex he was talking about. Lucas needed to be a part of her. It was fundamental that she be part of him, as well.

"Come inside me, Lucas. Make us one, now, with no more secrets." Kai spread her legs, closing her eyes as rabid hunger twisted in her belly at the press of his thick cock against the barrier of her skirt and panties.

They pulled her clothes off, then his, lost in each other, in the magic swirling around them. Lucas pressed his mouth to hers, pouring his soul into the kiss, moved beyond sound, beyond anything but emotion and the need to reconnect with her. Kai returned his osculation without reservation. She tangled her hands in his short hair,

holding him close, opening her mouth wide as if she hadn't tasted him in so long that she needed to memorize his flavor.

* * *

Adyan looked into her eyes and Amy fought not to look away. Magic, power swirled around them. He'd tasted her blood and she, his. Now, there was nowhere for her to hide. Whether he knew it or not, she'd given him access to her deepest secrets, to the hidden parts of herself. All she could hope was that he wouldn't break her heart.

"Love me," she whispered, unable to speak loudly, afraid he'd see how much she meant the words.

He smiled at her, lowering his body so his hips rested between her thighs and his powerful chest against her belly. "I wanted to taste these last time." He flicked a finger over one hard, pink nipple.

She moaned. She'd wanted it too. He slid upward, not far enough to press his cock against her, only to close the distance between his lips and her flesh. The caress of his rough tongue sent fire rushing through her blood. When he captured the tight bud between his lips, Amy surrendered to the pleasurable oblivion only Adyan could give her.

With care and focus, Adyan made love to her. Tasting every inch of her skin, his tongue and teeth bringing every nerve fiber to vibrant life. She shivered beneath him, moaning, twisting, wanting more and not wanting it to end. Her body was beyond slick, desire and love making her flesh hot and wet. He kissed the top of her mons and she shook with need.

"Shh, shh." Adyan slowly spread her labia, exposing the swollen, erect clit they'd hidden. He lapped softly at the sensitive nub, running his fingertips up and down the lips of her pussy, trailing his fingers through the ample fluid coming from her opening.

"Adyan." She was near the breaking point. Amy needed to feel him inside her.

Adyan stiffened his tongue and began rapidly flicking the hardened bud of her clit. He pressed her thighs down, holding her still, as he pushed her closer and closer to

orgasm. Amy grabbed his head, thrusting her hips up, until her body locked itself in a back bowing pose and she cried out her release. "Adyan!"

She couldn't get away from him, no matter how hard she tried. His mouth rode her clit through three more spine cracking releases until Amy sagged to the floor, unable to move, almost unable to breathe. When the last hard shudders left her body, Adyan eased back up and over her. She tasted herself on his lips, opening to his kiss as she wound her limbs around him.

"Amy. My sweet, fiery Amy."

She opened her eyes, fighting to keep back the joyful tears threatening. When he slid his hands beneath her hips, she rose with him, gasping softly as his cock slipped inside the sensitized flesh of her sex. She moved as one with him, moving up when he thrust down, accepting him, loving him.

Adyan started slow and Amy relished every drag and draw of his body in hers. Too soon, their passion truly ignited, and she turned to the forearm bracketing her head, sinking her teeth deep, spurring Adyan faster, harder. He growled above her, slamming his hips to hers, grinding his pelvis against her clit. She gasped, releasing his arm, as ecstasy pinged through her body with every deep, punishing thrust of his cock. Despite the fact that she'd just come three times, arousal and desire grew wild in her blood, enhanced by the taste of his on her tongue.

"I'm going to come." Adyan leaned back, pulling her off the floor and into his arms as he sat back on his heels. "Ride me, Amy. Take me over."

She wrapped her arms around his shoulders, burying her face in his neck. All the power, the magic that exchanging blood had borne, readied itself for this moment. She wouldn't bite him again, but she had to hide her face and the tears she could no longer hold back as magic burned through her blood, her heart. She lifted herself up, and glided back down, her love for Adyan, the power they'd wrought, filling her with such joy, such completion, not even her impending orgasm could compare.

“My Amy, yes.” He held her still against him, the telltale throb of his balls exciting her. When the first rush of his hot come hit the walls of her pussy, Amy squeezed her thighs tight around him and let go.

She came, a soft, all encompassing orgasm involving all of her, not just her sex. She knew he felt it too, he showed it in the soft nonsensical words he whispered against her hair, the way he slid his arms around her back to hold her close to his body.

As her heartbeat and breath slowed, she heard a feminine cry of release and smiled. Kai and Lucas had been swept away with them.

No one said anything, or moved for what seemed like hours, but was likely only minutes. Easing back from Adyan, Amy looked over at Lucas and Kai. They weren’t looking back, so she pitched her voice loud enough for them to hear. “I don’t know about you guys, but I’m all sticky. Who’s up for a shower?”

Chapter 16

Kai and Lucas spent the rest of their vacation almost exclusively with Amy and Adyan. The last night in Los Regalos, the group decided to hit one of the shows on the Strip. It was a magic act featuring the King of Illusion.

While in line waiting for drinks, Lucas stumbled into a fellow with a large hound dog. "Sorry." The other man said nothing. He looked down at his feet, then frowned at Lucas before moving off.

"Great, now I have to find new blue suede shoes. Nice job, buddy." A big, very thug-like man frowned hard at Lucas before following the other fellow out of sight.

He told Kai about the exchange when he returned to his seat.

"Well," Kai laughed, "those guys take impersonating seriously."

Amy and Adyan rolled their eyes. "Da Boss."

The show was spectacular, not that Kai or Lucas expected less. Afterward, they finally managed to do a little gambling at The Luxy. Back in their room, they talked about going home.

"We'll call Derek as soon as we get in." Lucas rubbed his palm over Kai's smooth, warm back.

She snuggled closer. "Hmm. I'm still mad, you know, but I forgive you."

"I know." He turned his head to press a kiss against her hair. "Are you sure you're okay with everything?"

"I don't care about the shapeshifting. Hell, it'll make some of the things on my 'to do' list a lot easier." She scraped her nails over his chest, chuckling when he moaned. "Yes, Lucas. I'm sure about all of it."

"I love you."

"I love you. Now stop talking and make love to me."

Lucas rolled to his side and looked down at his wife. "Whatever you want."

* * *

"When do I get to change the placard on your desk?" Amy looked up from her work as Adyan left his office.

"To what?"

"Dr. Regillus, marriage counselor."

"Amy, that isn't funny."

"Yes, it is. You haven't got a sense of humor, that's all."

He lifted a brow. "Did they leave?"

"Yep, headed home this morning. They both said to tell you good-bye and to keep in touch."

"Sorry I couldn't see them off. Look, Amy, about the other day. I meant what I said. I need you. But I think we should talk about where we're headed."

Amy gave him an odd look. "What do you mean?"

"I mean what do you want from this relationship?"

Amy shook her head. "You're a smart guy, Adyan. I think you can figure it out."

"I'm not a good guesser." He crossed his arms over his chest. This wasn't going the way he expected.

She looked at him, her expression hardening. She made a tscking sound, but otherwise didn't respond. Instead, Amy shut down her system, got up from her desk, and walked right past him to the elevator. Adyan watched her, confusion leaving him clueless as to what he should do.

"I won't go back to just being your assistant. I thought I could, but that was before I gave you my blood. I can't hide from you now, can't glamour my hurt away. If that doesn't clear up the picture, Adyan, nothing will. When you have a clue, you know where I'll be. Until then, consider me on vacation."

Amy stepped back into the elevator, her gaze holding his until the doors closed.

He stared at himself in the mirrored doors with absolute shock. She'd left. Raking his hands through his hair, Adyan cursed his stupidity. He'd botched the chat

with Amy this time, but he wasn't going to fail a second time. With strong, determined strides, he headed for the elevator.

The phone on Amy's desk chimed, stopping Adyan cold. That tone meant only one person could be on the other end. For a moment, he almost ignored it, but ignoring Da Boss wasn't a good idea.

"What else can go wrong today?"

Chapter 17

"It's good to be home." Kai dropped her luggage just inside the front door.

"Yeah, it is." Lucas followed her inside, kicking the door shut with his foot. He piled his suitcase atop Kai's, then took her in his arms. "But I wouldn't take back last week for anything."

"Me either." She pressed her body to his, wrapping her arms around his neck. "Kiss me." Lucas grinned and lowered his head to hers.

"You're early." That oh-so-familiar voice startled Kai so badly, she nearly fell to the floor.

Lucas tightened his grip, steadying her momentarily before releasing her. "Hello, Derek."

"Lucas."

Kai moved to Lucas's side, heart pounding as she took in Derek. He looked tired and a bit thinner, but mostly he looked perfect. His dark hair was short, his jaw covered in a two-day growth of hair. His eyes were a little bloodshot, as if he hadn't had much sleep, but she didn't care.

She looked up at Lucas to see his gaze roaming over Derek as hungrily as hers had. She stood still as a statue watching them while they watched each other. Then Derek took the four or five steps that separated them in a bound and wrapped his powerful arms around Lucas. Kai stumbled back into the wall at the powerfully wild coming together of her men.

Lucas seemed stunned initially, his arms and legs remaining stiff in Derek's hold. But the minute the Leonid took his mouth in a hard, demanding kiss, Lucas gave in. He grabbed Derek's shoulders in a white knuckled grip and kissed him back just as hard, just as passionately.

The two men groaned, and Kai felt like she'd been punched in the gut. Desire exploded through her blood so fast it brought tears to her eyes even as her body liquefied with hunger. Lucas released one of Derek's shoulders to fist one hand in the other man's hair. He pulled away, giving Derek a sharp nip on the lip before fully loosening his hold.

Kai watched them stare at each other, unwilling to do or say anything to ruin the moment. Finally, they both turned to her.

"Uh, I'm not sure what to say." Derek looked embarrassed, even ashamed. He tried to jerk free from Lucas, but her husband was having none of it.

"You don't have to say anything. Lucas told me about the two of you."

"He did?"

"Yes, he did. And after my initial anger, well... To be honest, I love you both so much, I've wanted you both for so long, I couldn't stay angry." The tears brought on by need slipped down her cheeks, overflowed by liquid happiness.

"Kai, my Kai." Derek moved toward her and Lucas let him go.

She looked at her husband and saw a sheen in his gaze as well. She smiled at him, just him, for a moment before shifting her focus to Derek.

Derek took Kai into his arms. "I've been dying to do this right since you were fourteen."

Kai lifted her arms and stepped into him. She dug her fingers into Derek's hair, pushing up on tiptoes to meet his mouth. Her arousal tripled at the taste of him. The hot, hungry plunge of his tongue into her mouth drew a moan from her chest. He slid his palms down her back, sinking his fingers into her ass, and lifting her from the ground without breaking the kiss. She tightened her hold, pulling away for a moment to suck in air before sealing his lips with hers once more.

It was like they'd never treated each other as "just friends." She fell into the kiss, into him, with all the pent up passion she had inside. When Lucas's hands spread over her back and around her body, sandwiching her between them, she nearly fainted from the emotions and sensations bombarding her mind and spirit.

Derek finally broke the kiss, looking over Kai's head, into Lucas's eyes. Derek shook himself. Could this really be happening? He grinned like a fool, but it faded fast when he remembered why he had come to Kai and Lucas's home.

"I want to finish this. You know I do. But I'm here on Corps business and Rubenesso will have my ass if I don't get you two to headquarters on the double."

"What Corps?" Lucas folded his arms over his chest.

"I'll explain when we get there." Derek released Kai and headed for the door. His fingers brushed the knob, but he couldn't open it.

"Where are we going?" Kai didn't sound frightened. She simply wanted to know where he was taking them.

"Should we take a bag or two?" Lucas wasn't wary either.

It hit Derek then, the fact that Kai and Lucas were really his. Turning around, he looked at the two people he wanted more than anything. "Forget Rubenesso. You weren't supposed to be back for a few hours yet."

"We took an earlier flight." Kai leaned her head back against Lucas's chest.

"Thank God." The relief in Derek's eyes pulled a giggle from Kai's lips.

"No, thank Adyan." Lucas wrapped his hand around the back of Derek's neck and pulled him in for another kiss.

Emma Ray Garrett

“...and I -- I took the road less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.”

-- *The Road Not Taken*, Robert Frost

The last line from award-winning author Emma Ray's favorite poem pretty much sums up her life. Her tendency to do her own thing is what her friends and family love best, and least, about her. Chaos is a constant in the Garrett home, which currently houses three intelligent, energetic children, a devoted husband, her grandmother, and a very large, very lazy, white tom-cat.

No matter how busy, Emma Ray writes every day. If she didn't, she says they'd put her in a white coat with buckles. Fans can contact her at emmaraygarrett@changelingpress.com or visit her website at <http://www.romance-the-night.com>.