



A SLAVE'S WAY OUT

by

C. A. Salo

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WHAT THEY ARE SAYING ABOUT *A SLAVE'S WAY OUT*

"C. A. Salo has brought us to glorious worlds where men and woman play games of love, bondage, domination, and submission, but who are also able to learn that the games can be just that, GAMES. Through his learning experiences in trial and error with Catrin, Niko is forced to learn she is his equal in many ways, and to his chagrin, superior in some, his compliment in others. For Catrin she also learns that submission does not mean she is Niko's doormat, but it can be a rewarding exchange of power for power, and a strong expression of trust. That does seem to be the main issue between them, but then Niko doesn't know and cannot understand what she has been through, where she has come from, and the independence and training she has fought so hard to maintain in this strange new world she had been thrust into.

"*A Slave's Way Out* is filled with passion, unbridled fun and excitement as Ms. Salo takes the reader on a sensual trip of discovery right along with her handsome hero, and his strong and sensual heroine. The destination is love, the trip is extraordinary, and the ending is quite satisfactory, but also promising of much more to come. *A Slave's Way Out* by C. A. Salo is coming soon and will be available from Whiskey Creek Press' Torrid imprint. If you wish to follow a very strong-willed and sensual Catrin through her trials and tribulations with the hard-headed, dominant, but totally sexy Niko, then keep a watchful eye out for this wonderfully erotic romp come September. Torrid has a new crop ripening then, and this is definitely one plum you don't want to miss!"

Rose

romanceatheart.com

"I've read a lot of books over the years, but *A Slave's Way Out* is one of the hottest I've read in a long time. It isn't just the chemistry between Catrin and Niko, which

explodes off the pages, or the dynamics of the secondary characters. It's that C. A. Salo shows a woman can be not only outstanding in her job that she fights for but also that she can be dominated by her lover and not look weak. When the reader first starts reading this book they are sucked into a different time and space right off the bat and aren't let go of until the last word is read. They realize the voyage is over. I hope C. A. Salo writes more about these characters as the world she's created is one you'll want to visit over and over again to see how each one is doing. This is definitely going on my keeper shelf and I am looking for more of her stories."

Donna

Fallen Angels Review

Dedication

For Quentin:

Thanks for giving me a little time every day
to follow my dream.

I love ya, kid!!!!

Chapter 1

Catrin worked her way through the crowded bar. Using the mirrors lining the walls, she glanced behind her to see the guards enter where she had just come from and her heartbeat quickened as they spotted her. She had to find a way out. If only she could get to the other side, she thought as she pushed past a couple kissing passionately. She snorted softly but continued to walk briskly; she knew that was nothing new. The people of this planet lived and breathed a BDSM lifestyle, with men the dominant sex. So if a 'Master' wanted to do something, he did it. She'd seen a lot of things since being plunged into this part of the universe, so nothing shocked her anymore.

The bar was full tonight, lots of different races, from humanoids to those looking something straight out of *Star Wars*, intermingling and drinking. The bar was in the shipping bay quadrant, where every race came to sell merchandise or goods, trade or buy or to just sit and drink while their starship was refueled. It was a place where one could get lost, and that had been what she was hoping for.

Glancing to the right she saw a game of Potash going on. It was a gambling nightmare, but these aliens loved it, especially if they won. The loser, however, was indentured for a year of their life to whatever the winner chose, be it

house slave or sex slave. As she moved past another couple, the lights dimmed, and her foot caught on something and sent her falling into the person in front of her. "Sorry," she mumbled, her gaze still intent on the escape path as she righted herself. She was almost to the door when she heard the guards call for her to stop and two more guards entered the door she'd been heading toward.

Oh shit. She hesitated briefly, quickly scanning the interior. There wasn't another way out.

Glancing over she met the green eyes of a man sitting with several men at a table close to the door. Her lips parted on a gasp as a vision overtook her. Her brain went numb with a sudden flashing image of him smiling at her...naked. "Christ," she mumbled as she headed right over to him. He was not the man she would have chosen for this. He didn't look the type to let her control the situation or to give her his help and then allow her to run like hell, but she had learned to trust her visions. At least he had one hell of a body, muscled out with what looked like waist-length black hair, pulled back on top with braids hanging on either side of his rough masculine face.

Catrin made it to the man and kneeled at his feet just as one of the guards touched her shoulder. "Forgive me, Master, I could not find what you requested," she said breathlessly, hoping like hell he'd just go along with her and not want too much for repayment in the process—namely her. But then again, she did just have a vision of him naked, and past occurrences have shown her that her visions always came true. With a mental sigh, she knelt there quietly, waiting to see what he would do.

Niko arched a brow as she glanced up at him under lowered lashes. "Why not?" he growled, figuring he'd play along and see where this led.

"She belongs to you?" the guard asked as his grip tightened on her shoulder.

Niko gave her a feral grin. "Apparently."

"*What the hell are you doing?*" Daniel barked over their internal communication units, staring at Niko from across the table.

"Getting myself a free slave."

"Do you think that's a good idea?"

"She started it."

"*Well, what the hell, a free slave, why not?*" he asked with laughter.

"My thoughts exactly," Niko replied as his grin grew.

Niko and Daniel watched the woman narrow her eyes with a glaring look of intent. "*Ooh, look at that, she has attitude.*" Daniel chuckled.

"Sir," the guard gritted out with agitation as he squeezed her shoulder with more force.

Niko watched the woman wince slightly from the guard's pressure and lifted his gaze to the man. Niko used that same low tone as he had with the woman kneeling by his feet. "Remove your hands from her."

"She doesn't have a collar on," the guard replied as he removed his hand and took a step back.

"We're not from here." Taking hold of her arms, Niko lifted the woman to sit on his lap with her back facing the guard, liking the way her short skirt slid up toned thighs.

"Then follow our rules, unless you want her claimed by another."

Niko's brow lifted at the tone in his voice. "Do you perceive to order me?"

"No, no, Lord Arrian, he does not." Lar, Grand Marshal of the Hasian Republic, rushed to them.

Catrin tilted her head slightly watching as the guard's eyes went wide from the grand marshal's mere mention of this man's name. Lowering her own eyes, she wondered why the two men would fear him so much, especially the grand marshal. True, the man was a simpering idiot, but he also held a position of power and didn't rush to soothe anyone but the chancellor. *Why was this rough man with the green eyes so different?* Tilting her head a bit more, she kept her eyes lowered as she listened in on their conversation.

* * * *

"It's just that slaves are collared here so there are no misunderstandings, my lord," Lar gushed.

Niko listened half-heartedly to the grand marshal blabber on and on, moving his fingers over the woman's thigh in a caress. He liked the feel and shape of her warm skin, and would soon be getting some straight answers as to why she was running from the Hasian guards.

"House slaves are different from sex slaves and so forth. What collar will you need for yours while you are here?" Lar finished quickly, his large cheeks flushed.

Niko watched as her eyes zoomed right to his and smiled as he announced, "Why, sex slave, of course." He listened to Daniel's mental laughter at the angry look on his new slave's face. "Isn't that right, slave?" he asked as he moved his hand up to cup her breast. His body reacted to the feel of hers as his cock stirred.

"Yes, Master," Catrin replied softly as she shot daggers at him.

"Remind me to punish you for not finding what I sent you out for."

Catrin's jaw was so tense she thought it would crack. "Yes, Master," she answered through clenched teeth, glad her back was to the Hasian guards or else they'd know not only she was lying through her teeth, but the man was as well.

Niko squeezed her breast as his thumb made a pass over her nipple, coming back to tease the tight peak when he felt its erection. Her nostrils flared, with either anger or pain he wasn't sure, seeing how her jaw had already been clenched so tightly. But her body heat wasn't cooling, so she was obviously enjoying his attentions. Whoever she was, she hadn't been trained properly as a sexual submissive, that much was for sure. And he knew by looking at her that there was no way in hell she was a house slave, especially if she was from Hasian.

Niko growled as he shifted slightly, watching the widening of her eyes as she became aware of his upstanding predicament.

"But you have to admit, my lord, she does resemble the escaped Earthling the Ligers are looking for," Lar replied shakily.

Niko moved his eyes back to the marshal. "The what?" he asked, watching as the guard handed him a hand-manifesto. Removing his hand from her breast, Niko palmed the small computer, touching the screen with his thumb and watched as her image and personal information

appeared. "Why do they want her back so much, besides the fact that she escaped from them?"

"She's said to have some special gift and they want to harness it," the guard replied.

"Those are the only kind of Earthlings the Ligers take." Niko gave the guard a sarcastic smile as he glanced over at his first-in-command, watching as Daniel's grin grew, his own thoughts along the same line about how they were a dumb, boring bunch here.

"She's scared," Daniel commed.

"I know, her heart's pounding and her adrenaline levels are up," Niko replied.

"And yet she's sitting there looking entirely calm... Hmmm, makes you wonder what she did on Earth, doesn't it?"

Niko glanced up at his new playmate and saw her eyes moving slowly as though taking note of every detail and planning for an escape, but she did it with such calm he could almost believe she was one of his people. He looked back as Lar and the guard finished their ramblings.

"That's why they grabbed her in the first place," the guard finished, flustered as he looked over at Niko when he realized he had just said the same thing as an Arius.

"And then she escaped," Niko said out loud. "Interesting." He glanced down at her name and stats on the handheld computer, and smiled as he lifted his eyes, waiting until Miss Catrin Munro moved her gaze to his. They were the most intense blue he'd ever seen. "Wouldn't you say, my little submissive?"

Catrin held her tongue on that one. "Yes, Master," she replied softly.

Niko smiled as he kept her gaze. She had to be quite the little Earthling to have evaded the Ligers' clutches for over a year.

"I want to see if she has the Liger mark," the guard sputtered, nervously moving his eyes from one mercenary to the other.

Niko moved his gaze to the guard and narrowed his eyes. "Are you questioning my ownership of this slave?"

"No, no he is not," Lar said quickly. "He would never disrespect you, my lord... Would you, Corporal?" he asked as he glared at him in warning.

"No, sir, but I still want proof. She looks too much like the escapee to just let it go."

Lar sighed as he glanced over at Niko. "He does have a point there, my lord," he said weakly.

Niko knew he didn't have to give them shit, that all he had to say was he'd take it up with the chancellor and be done with it. But he wanted to see how far this Earth woman would go to escape the Hasian Guard. Besides, his mother had sent him here with very strict instructions on when to arrive and where to sit. At first he hadn't understood why, but he always trusted his mother's visions, and now he knew. It was to find this woman and make her his.

"You have the audacity to question me about my ownership of this slave?" Niko growled again, for they were starting to wear on his nerves. Scanning his memory quickly, he hit on her dislikes from the manifesto. Lifting his eyes to the woman on his lap, he felt her body tense as the unknown fear of what he was going to do hit her. "This once I will let it slip, Grand Marshal, and prove she's mine,

but only because it will see to my pleasure. Get on the floor and suck my cock, wench," he ordered, watching as her eyes went wide, her body losing some of its fear as disbelief flashed across her features.

"Master, I...it's so public," Catrin said softly.

Niko's eyes widened at her defiance as Daniel and his other two crew members chuckled softly. "You will be punished for that tonight as well. Now get on the floor so I can fuck your mouth."

Catrin watched Lord Arrian anxiously, wondering why he asked that of her, and started berating herself about how stupid she'd been to put herself in this position. If only she'd listened to her inner voice and stayed put an hour ago, the Hasian Guards never would have spotted her. But no, she'd gone against all training she had and blown her cover.

Catrin closed her eyes for a moment. She knew he could have let them check for the mark, and she also realized that if she refused to do what he asked, she would make him look bad for lying on her behalf. And even if the guards didn't get her, she was sure *he* would, and then she'd be in a worse place when he handed her over to the Ligers. After he was done with her, of course. Why he was helping her besides the fact that he thought he'd be keeping her, she wasn't sure.

Sliding off his muscular thighs, she went right between his legs when he opened them. If there was one thing she hated, it was giving a blow job. Not that she minded kissing cock or sucking it a bit, but when it got rammed down her throat, she'd start gagging and then when men came... She almost gagged at the thought. The last time she'd given a

blow job the bastard had forced his cock into her throat and she'd ended up puking all over him when he blew his load.

Catrin moved her eyes, watching as Mister Green Eyes pulled his well-endowed, already hard cock out of his tight black pants. It was certainly the biggest cock she'd ever seen in person. She moved to her knees. It had to be at least ten inches long and thick... Christ, her mouth was drooling at just one look. "May I touch you, Master?" she asked without looking up at him.

"Yes," he answered, moving her long brown hair off to the side as she lowered her mouth. Nudging under her chin, he watched as her eyes came up to meet his. "I know you're shy and prefer one-on-one, but I want you to do this. It will please me greatly," he said softly as he leaned down and brushed his lips quickly across hers before sitting back again.

Catrin held his gaze for a moment, loving the green hue, before her brain caught up with her. *Ah, shit, what the hell would a sub say to her master?* "It pleases me to see to your pleasures, Master," she whispered back, knowing she answered somewhat correctly when he smiled down at her.

When her tongue darted out across the head of his cock, Catrin watched his lips curl up as he held back a groan, anticipation hitting her system like fire, his cock twitching as her small, warm hand circled his base as the other cupped his large balls. She smiled as she heard him moan in delight when her hot mouth settled over his throbbing head.

For some odd reason Catrin didn't mind taking his cock into her mouth. He didn't have that gross body odor some of the men she'd been with had, and even though he

was holding on to her head, he wasn't forcing her. He was gripping her hair in a way that was actually turning her on, and he was letting her have control over her movements.

Catrin moaned in pleasure, her eyes dazed with concentration as she sucked him halfway into her mouth, her tongue flicking his cock as her pussy became creamy with her own excitement. She didn't care how many watched because for the first time she didn't mind loving a man like this and had the first taste of him as pre-cum appeared on the top of his head and she quickly swiped it away with her tongue, craving more.

Glancing up she watched ecstasy flash over his features as she took him an inch deeper into her hot mouth, his hand gripped her hair tightly as he arched his hips up off the chair with short quick thrusts.

Catrin lowered her eyes when his cock started throbbing. She could feel the veins pulsating as they pushed his cum up and instead of getting the gagging reflex, she actually wanted it. For the first time in her life, she wanted to please a man this way, but not just any man, no, never. It was this man. Tightening her grip on his cock, she squeezed his balls, feeling them tauten as his face hardened in an almost painful look before his lips parted with a groan. Instead of gagging when she felt his juices shooting out against the back of her tongue, she swallowed it, liking the taste of it a lot better than the men from her past, and wondered what the hell was happening with her.

"All of it. Swallow all of it," Niko groaned as he pumped the last drop into her mouth, and a small ribbon made its way over her luscious bottom lip to her chin as she tried to take all he had to give.

Niko opened his eyes as she moved her mouth off him, licking here and there as she cleaned him off. She couldn't believe she had taken as much of him as she had into her mouth.

His chest rose as he breathed deeply, his brilliant green eyes moving to meet hers, and she felt the intense connection happening between them. *Yes, this was the man.* Heaven and all above had best help her with this one, because she was as stubborn as ten people and could tell that he was worse than she.

Putting his still-hard cock back in his pants, Niko grabbed her by the arms and lifted her up to sit on his lap. Leaning in he kissed her softly as his large hands came up to caress the sides of her face and he tasted the remnants of his orgasm on her lips. "You have pleased me greatly, wench. Mayhap I'll forgive your earlier lapse if you continue to do so."

"Thank you, Master," Catrin breathed warmly against his lips as he applied light pressure, kissing and nipping her bottom lip, her pussy clenched with the thought of that hard cock under her, wanting it inside her.

"I'm satisfied," Lar replied as he turned to look at the guard. "The Earth woman hates performing fellatio."

Niko arched his eyebrow with a smile as he met her eyes. "Too bad."

How do they know that? Catrin watched the guard leave the sitting area.

"Lord Arrian, the chancellor is awaiting you in the chancellery."

"Is it that time already?" Niko asked without taking his eyes off Catrin.

"Yes, sir."

"Too bad, my slave's pussy is dripping and ready for a good fuck."

And how does he know that? Catrin held his gaze and then started when she felt something go around her neck.

* * * *

Niko watched as she looked at the black matte metal collar that had been retrieved from his chambers before glancing back at him. It looked more like a wide necklace but its significance was clear enough to anyone. She was his, and he could tell she knew it from the look in her eyes.

"I'm sure, my lord, but the meeting time is almost here."

"So it is," he replied as he rose, grasping Catrin's hand as he headed for the door. "Let's go," he ordered his men, listening as they fell into step behind him.

"You're not going to bring your slave into the meeting, are you?" Lar quibbled as he tried to keep up to the long-legged mercenaries.

"If I had such a thought then I would grand marshal, but no. I have a crew member who will be meeting us there to assist her back to the warship." He called for his security officer over his internal comm unit.

"My lord, if I may, why did you take her off your ship in the first place?" Lar asked.

Niko stopped dead in his tracks, pulling Catrin to the side so she didn't bump him. He stared down the overweight grand marshal and enjoyed watching the man twitch with fear as his crew stood there with smiles on their faces. They all knew how well he liked to be questioned, especially when it was by someone he deemed unworthy.

"The 'why' of why I do anything is not for your knowledge, Grand Marshal... I suggest you remember that," he replied in a low, deadly tone.

Catrin's eyebrows arched at his tone as she watched the grand marshal's face flush with embarrassment and he started with a whining apology. Lord Arrian turned, ignoring the man's efforts, and dismissed him. He gripped Catrin's hand, twining his fingers around hers as he continued down the hallway without another word.

As they approached the end, Catrin saw another huge man standing by a set of closed double doors. What was it with these guys being so buff, she had no idea. Now, it wasn't like she'd never seen bulked up men or worked with them, but but these guys reminded her of old warriors, ones who were large and brawny from the battles they'd been in. Not from hanging out in a gym for two hours a day.

"Go with Gage and do not give him any problems," Niko ordered as he turned to look at her.

"Master, I..."

Niko smiled as he reached around to grab her ass, dragging her up against him with little effort. "You just love questioning me, don't you? She does it so she'll get the ass fucking of her life," he said as he grabbed her ass hard before pushing her toward his security officer with a hard slap on her butt cheek.

Catrin yelped from the sting, looking up at the huge man in front of her and smiled as she rubbed her sore butt. "Hello," she said as she turned her head to watch her aggressive he-man step through a doorway, disappearing with two of his men and the grand marshal.

"Let's go," the officer boomed with his deep voice.

"Um..." she said as he grabbed her arm, forcing her to go with him. "This is really just a cover. He just helped me, that's all."

"I have orders to bring you back to the ship."

"No, no, I can't," she said as she started to squirm. "I have to find someone."

"I have my orders," Gage growled as he stopped to look down at her. "And permission to do what's needed to get you there, if I have to."

Catrin's eyes widened. "No need for that, I mean after all, can't we be friends?" she asked with a nervous smile as she wetted her lips, knowing full well that no matter how well she was trained, there was no way she'd be able to bring this guy down without getting knocked out.

"Sure..." he said slowly as he gave her a menacing look.

Catrin smiled at him and then felt it, the onslaught of a massive vision coming and gripped his arm as she felt her eyes glaze over, losing focus, her lips parting with a gasp as it hit. It always felt like someone was hitting her head from the inside out. Flashing images of what was to come went by quickly like an old-fashioned hand-cranked movie roll, where the faster one cranked it, the faster it went. She felt her face scrunch up with pain as images of Niko in danger hit her, causing her other senses to spike up in defense, and then it was gone, her chest rising rapidly as her lungs tried to take in the necessary oxygen.

"Are you all right?" Gage asked as he held her.

"Yes," she said softly.

"What the hell happened?"

"Um..." Lifting a shaking hand, she brushed some hair off of her face. "Just something that does... I need to sit down," she whispered, drained from having two visions in one day.

"I need to get you to the ship." Lifting her up into his arms, he carried her through the chancellor's home to port, and to Niko's chambers on board the warship *Catalyst*.

* * * *

"For the love of the gods, how much longer can he drone on?" Daniel sighed, and then received the communication from Gage, informing him of what had taken place with the captain's woman.

"Chancellor," Niko interrupted sharply. "That is all very interesting, but my crew is on a tight schedule and I need to know what it is that you want of us."

"I need you to bring this urn to our sister planet of Onc."

Niko's eyebrows shot up. While this planet was ruled by men, Onc was ruled by women. "Chancellor, we are mercenaries. We kill, we maim, we fight, we do not provide an escort service, especially for an urn," he replied with irritation as he turned on his heel, ignoring the smile on Daniel's face. While both he and Daniel knew they would play escort if the price was right, the chancellor did not.

"Please, Lord Arrian, it is highly important and I will pay you well," the chancellor sputtered hastily as he came up out of his seat.

Niko stopped in his tracks as his eyebrow went up. "How well?" he asked as he turned his head to look at the overweight ruler.

Chapter 2

"I can't believe we're taking this to Onc," Daniel grouched as they rode the shuttle back to the warship.

"Five hundred thousand dolcels should make you believe well enough," Niko replied as he looked at the urn.

"Can't they just bury their dead on their own planet?" Daniel asked with disgust.

"To each his own, and besides, we just made an incredible profit above our normal escort rates."

"I love the crisp sound of currency in our pockets." Daniel chuckled.

"I wonder how my little *slave* is?"

"Gage contacted me in the middle of negotiations... She had a spell outside the doors and he had to carry her to the ship."

Niko's crew knew better than to bother him during negotiations. That was a strict policy of his that was enforced to the fullest. That was why he required Daniel in the room with him; if there was a problem, Daniel would handle it. Mentally turning on his internal comm unit, he contacted Gage. "*Was it a ploy to get away from you?*"

"*I don't think so, sir. She became very weak and is still sleeping in your chambers,*" Gage answered.

"*We'll be there shortly.*"

"That look doesn't bode well," Daniel commented at his friend's frown.

"All he knows is that she had an episode of some kind, leaving her shaken and weak."

"What?" he asked as he sat up straight. "Was it some kind of trick?"

"Gage doesn't think so, said it was like all her energy just left, vanished and she is still sleeping. He had the medics take a look at her and they told him to leave her be, that all her body signs were normal for an Earthling."

Contacting his information officer, Niko directed her to get all the information she could on one Catrin Munro, Earth escapee from the Ligers. He'd already touched base with the Congregation of Galactic Authorities before he left port, letting them know that he had found, and was keeping, Catrin Munro. Because she'd been on the run for over a year since the warrant was posted, she was now considered open property. Anyone who brought her in legally had a right to own her, as the Ligers' claim was now invalid. That was why they'd posted a very large, very juicy bounty on her, to try and lure whoever caught her to turn her into them so they could finish the testing they'd started.

"What has you thinking so hard?" Daniel asked.

"What it is the Ligers want from her," Niko answered as he readied the shuttle for landing.

* * * *

Catrin rolled over, cuddling into the soft covers with a sigh. That was the first time she had slept so deeply since she'd been stolen to this part of the universe.

"How are you?" Niko asked as he sat beside her on the bed.

She rolled over to look at him for a moment before answering. "All right...and apparently naked," she replied as she pulled the covers around her more securely.

"You slept for twelve hours straight. I was going to wake you but the medic said you just needed rest."

"Smart person."

Niko smiled down at her. "So tell me, Catrin Munro, how have you eluded the Ligers for over a year?"

Catrin studied him for a moment before answering. "Better yet, Captain Arrian, how about you take this off," she suggested as she fingered the collar.

"I don't think so." Reaching out he ran his finger over the collar. "It looks good on you."

"I am not a slave."

"Then you should not have pretended otherwise," he replied as he met her gaze and then smiled. "Oh, I'm sorry, didn't I tell you? I contacted the Ligers." He watched as her eyes went wide. "You now belong to me by right of capture."

"But you didn't capture me," she said anxiously.

"Yeah." His grin widened. "But they and the CGA don't know that."

"You have no right." Angrily she rose up on the bed, taking the sheet with her and headed for the door. She yelped, from surprise mostly, when the collar sent a pulse of electricity straight to her brain.

"What the hell was that?" Turning, she saw him lounging on the bed.

"That, sweet, was a cranial shock."

"Cranial...like brain?"

"And they say Earthlings are stupid." He smiled up at her and patted the mattress. "Now as to my question, how did you elude the Ligers for over a year?"

She stared at him and stomped her foot. "Because I'm fucking smart, now take this off." She winced as another shock went through her.

"Hmm." He stood and strode over to her, lifting his hands to the back of her neck. Gripping her hair in a tight fist, he yanked her head back and forced her gaze to his. "Let's get something straight, sweet. I'm the dominant one. I give the orders and I am the master."

Catrin gasped when he lowered his mouth to hers hungrily, one hand remaining at the back of her head as the other lowered, ripping the sheet from her before lifting her and tossing her across the room to land on the bed.

Grinning, Niko jumped on top of her, grabbed one hand and lifted it as he pulled the manacle down from the headboard before she knew what was going on.

"What are you doing? Stop it." She tried getting the other away from him, to no avail.

Niko smiled as he straddled her. "Like I said, kitty, I'm dominant, it means—"

"I know what it means!" she yelled, pulling on the ties as another shock hit.

"Good, then you know to be submissive."

"The hell I am, you son of a bitch."

Arching an eyebrow his eyes slid down to a lovely beige-colored nipple, already standing at attention. He smiled as it hardened further under his gaze. "Your body says otherwise," he replied as he ran his thumb and finger along her nipple before squeezing and tweaking it.

Goddamn him, but he was right. She couldn't stop the gasp from leaving her parted lips as her traitorous body reacted to his touch. "Stop it," she whispered. Her eyes fluttered as a quick flash vision appeared before her closed eyes, of him lying beside her, holding her gently, and knew that for what ever reason fate wanted, he was supposed to be hers just like the massive vision the other day showed her.

Niko heard the steam come out of her plea and his sensors picked up the increase in her body's temperature, telling him that she liked it. "Hmm."

Catrin breathed in sharply when he lowered his hot mouth over her nipple, sucking, raking and torturing. "Oh, gods," she groaned, arching her hips when his silken hair fell over the sensitive peak his fingers were playing with.

"Did you like sucking my cock, Catrin?" he asked as his mouth worked up to her neck.

"Yes."

"You were so wet, your pussy was begging for my big cock, wasn't it?"

Catrin moaned as his hand caressed down, the muscles of her abdomen jumping with anticipation as he continued, applying pressure to her clit with the palm of his hand. "Yes," she moaned. "Now, cut it out, so we can talk."

"Hmm," he mumbled as he slipped his finger into her warm wet pussy, her juices covering him instantly as his cock jumped with eagerness to be in her tight little canal.

Catrin arched upward when he eased another into her. "Stop, Niko, stop, please," she panted.

"Am I hurting you?" he asked as he lifted his gaze to her face.

"No." She sighed.

"Then why should I stop?" He rubbed her clit with his thumb.

Moaning, Catrin turned her head to the side, her lips parted as she breathed hotly against her arm. "Because I'm not a... I-I haven't been with anyone in three years," she cried as his teeth raked across her nipple. Christ, she knew she should kick him the hell off her, but it felt good to feel lust cascading through her for a man again.

"Then the pleasures shall flow." Smiling, Niko moved his mouth to hers. "I won't hurt you, Catrin. I'll make sure you're wet enough for me." He moved off the bed, watching her dazed eyes open as he started undressing. Her eyes followed his tight pants as they slid down; his massive cock standing straight and thick. "You know what a dominant is; tell me what I want to hear, slave."

"Just because I know what it is doesn't mean I've ever participated." Her breath was aflutter at the sight of his well-muscled chest and incredible six-pack as he took his shirt off. "And you won't hear anything if you call me slave again."

"You don't think so?" he asked with a cocky smile as he crawled on top of her. "We'll see." Using a muscled thigh, he spread her legs open. "Now, slave, let's see just how wet and creamy you are."

"I don't like that word."

Niko's sensors picked up her body cooling slightly. "It's sex, sweetheart."

"Maybe when I'm on top."

Niko smiled as she met his eyes. "We'll see about that. Sub, then?"

"Better."

"I'm still your master."

Catrin watched as his smile turned wicked, but could still see the tenderness in his eyes. "Yes, Master."

"In the bed and out," he murmured, easing a finger inside her wet heat. Her body trembled with unreleased desire as his thumb slid over her engorged clit.

Oh, why the hell not. She'd never felt this worked up before and damned if she was going to stop it, especially with her visions lighting up neon signs pointing straight at him. "Yes, Master." She arched her back and groaned when he trailed his tongue down the middle of her breasts, her stomach muscles jumping. "Oh yes, Master." His mouth settled over her pussy, and she pulled on her restraints as his tongue made a slow maddening swipe from between her sensitive folds up to her clit.

Niko sensed her body heat spiking as he licked and suckled her. After reaching down he brought up the nipple clamps and watched her hiss with painful pleasure at the slight stinging sensation as he placed one on. A glazed, lust-filled look entered her eyes as her mouth parted. "Don't come yet," he ordered and lifted his head, placing the other clamp on her already hard nipple. His fingers found her swollen nub, and he watched as her eyes closed and lips parted on a silent gasp.

"I can't stop it," she cried. "I just... I can't... Oh, oh gods, oh yes, oh yes."

Jumping up at her orgasmic cries, Niko positioned himself and thrust his engorged cock deep into her creamy pussy with a groan. He heard her cries as she arched up toward him and started thrusting fast and deep. Gods, one

inch inside this woman was ready to make him spurt. What the hell was it about her that pushed him to the edge?

Catrin cried out as his hugeness stretched her rarely used pussy, but instead of pain all she felt was an enormous rush of pleasure as the best orgasm she'd ever had engulfed her. His large cock thrust in and out of her relentlessly, his hair falling around them as her body convulsed.

Niko breathed heavily as her tight sheath convulsed around him, trying to milk his cock of its seed. "By the gods, you feel great," he growled, and with a roar tossed his head back as he thrust into her, burying himself inside her as his cum shot hot and violently into her wet warmth.

Catrin felt his warm breath against her neck as he lay alongside her, his incredible body sweaty against hers and his hardness still settled deep within her. She moaned when he kissed under her chin softly. "Niko?"

"Hmm?"

"I'm hungry."

Niko smiled as he lifted his head. "Then I guess I better feed you."

* * * *

Catrin took note of the crew glancing their way as she and Niko stepped into a crowded room, and noticed the man who had been with Niko on the planet smiling at them. Niko had her sit at a table right next to the man and brought up the other side, effectively placing her between them.

"Well, look who's awake," the man said with a smile. "You, sweet, sleep way too much."

"Catrin, my first officer and good friend, Daniel Hedden," Niko introduced.

"What do I call you?" she asked as she looked at Daniel.

"Anything you want, sweet cheeks," Daniel answered.

Catrin smiled at him. "You're flirty."

He laughed heartily. "So I am, and you look like you've been a good little sex slave by the satisfaction on my friend's face."

Catrin's smile fell as she met his gaze. "I'm not a sex slave."

"She prefers the term 'sub'," Niko tossed in before he ordered them two Red Ales and dinner.

"That was just sex talk," she said softly.

"No, sweet, that's what you are," he replied as he turned to look at her fully.

"Didn't you two get this straightened out?" Daniel asked.

"Apparently not."

Niko's eyebrow arched as she kept his gaze. "Don't talk about what happens in the bedroom," she stated angrily.

"If I know you, Niko, and I do, I know you fucked her good, so what's the problem?" Daniel asked.

"You're damn vulgar," Catrin hissed as she turned to look at Daniel, watching his eyebrows shoot up in surprise as a shock hit her brain. "Stop that," she growled as she grabbed the sides of her head.

"It's the collar; it knows you're not being submissive," Niko explained.

"Take it off."

"No."

Catrin lifted her eyes to his. "You take it off," she snarled through clenched teeth, then stopped as pain flooded her head. "Before I...*whimper*...overload it...*whimper*..."

Chapter 3

“You can’t overload it, now stop,” Niko ordered with an authoritative tone.

“By the gods, I’ve never seen anyone fight the collar for that long,” Daniel said as he watched with interest.

“Captain,” a med tech said as she walked up with Gage. “We don’t know how the technology will react with her Earth brain if she continues.”

Niko didn’t like where this was going. He wanted her to know her place as his submissive, but didn’t want her brain dead in the process. “Catrin, stop it!”

“Off!” Catrin yelled back before letting out a scream as a vision decided to pop up.

“That’s the look I was telling you about earlier,” Gage said.

Niko watched as her head came up, eyes out of focus and lips parted. The collar stopped the shocking as soon as she lifted her head. Lifting a hand he stopped the med tech when she went to touch Catrin. “Not yet,” he said softly, wanting to know what in the hell was going on. Gage had spoken with him at length about her ‘episode’, and now that he’d seen the process with his own eyes, he was very interested in what was happening though he had a pretty good idea. Catrin gasped, her eyes fluttering as they tried to

focus again. His arms caught her when she slumped forward. "Lea, get me a reading of her neurological waves from the collar's base."

"Yes, sir," she said and took off.

"Catrin," he whispered as he patted her cheek softly. "Are you all right?" He watched as she tried to clear the fog from her brain.

She moaned softly and mumbled, "I'm hungry."

Niko smiled as her stomach growled loudly. Lifting his hand, he motioned for his crew to back off while he tended to his woman.

* * * *

"Just when was the last time you ate?" Niko asked half an hour later, his eyebrow arching as she finished off her third plate of food.

"Um...a day before I found you," Catrin answered as she chewed. "Are you going to eat that?" Niko smiled as she grabbed a piece of green fruit off of Daniel's plate.

"Damn, I don't think I've ever seen a woman eat so fast." Daniel chuckled. "Or so much."

"In training, you only have ten minutes to eat and one meal all day. Besides the more food I eat helps when the..."

"The what?" Niko asked, knowing she didn't trust him enough to tell him what had happened to her. His head tilted as he watched her closely.

"That funny thing," she said as she grabbed her drink.

"Just what is that funny thing?"

"I don't know." She hissed when a shock hit her.

Niko smiled as her eyes squinted. "Lying is not allowed either."

"Fine... I'm not telling you," she mumbled as she stuffed her mouth.

"I'm your master."

She sent him a nasty look. "We'll see about that," she said after swallowing.

He arched a brow and smiled. "We'll see about that now." He grabbed her, yanking her out of the booth. Gods, he loved a challenge, and this woman wasn't going to let him down.

Catrin growled as she struggled with him. "Let me go, damn it."

"I don't think so."

"I said cut the shit out!" she yelled.

Niko's grip on her arm tightened. "You will watch how you speak to me. You're finished, we're leaving now."

"Son of a bitch, I said let me the fuck go!"

Niko's lip curled up with excitement as Catrin fought him. Dragging her to him, he didn't see her balled up fist until it hit him right on the jaw.

Niko moved his jaw and saw Daniel's surprised expression. The normal noise in the mess hall was nonexistent. "That was the wrong thing to do," he muttered as he met her gaze with cold green eyes.

"Don't you touch me," she warned.

"Oh, I'm going to touch you," he growled, gripping her arms tightly as he hauled her up to him. He twisted her arm behind her back, holding onto her as she fought with him. "And you're going to learn just who your master is." He put her in front of him as he strode toward the door.

* * * *

Catrin caught herself when he shoved her toward the bed and rolled onto her back ready to jump up at him. She wondered why his head hadn't even gone back when she hit him. She knew she had a hell of a right hook, but it had been like a mosquito bite to him.

"Stay down," Niko ordered roughly.

Catrin lowered herself back to the bed as he strode to the computerized unit imbedded on the wall.

"Hoar frost pack, small."

Her eyes followed his hand as he picked up the chilled pack, his chest rising as he took a deep breath before turning to her and carrying it over to where she sat on the bed.

He was pissed. She knew that as captain no one on board this ship questioned him about a damn thing, and she had fought with and hit him, in front of his crew.

He started, "The worst thing to do..."

Catrin watched as he lifted her hand to his knee as he knelt in front of her and wondered why he was being so...gentle with her.

"...is to think you can beat me, and if you ever hit me again, especially in front of my men, you cannot even begin to fathom the punishment I will dole out to you."

Catrin hissed when he placed the cold pack on her throbbing knuckles. She was glad that he hadn't started smacking her around because she knew she'd have to kill him in order to protect herself. And there was no way in hell she'd be able to bring him down without some sort of injury giving her the leg-up. His long hair moved over his shoulders as he lifted his head to look at her. "It didn't even faze you."

"I'm an Arius, darling, not a lot does."

"I don't know what that means."

"It means that I am from the planet Neris, as is everyone else about this ship."

"I don't know where Neris is."

"And you've been on the run from the Ligers for a year?" he asked with a smile as he glanced up at her.

"Staying away from them was my top priority."

Niko lifted the pack, turned her hand over and set it at the curl of her fingers. "It means I'm a mercenary, every naturally born Arius is. When a male child is born on my planet they are integrated with Zymotic technology. The nanotechnology just starting on Earth is nothing. This is way beyond your scientists' capacities."

"So...what you're saying is that you're some sort of...cyborg?" she asked as he rolled her hand over again, settling the pack on her knuckles, and was glad to see that no skin had been broken.

"I'm flesh and blood just like you, except the Zymots attach themselves to every nerve, muscle and molecule in our bodies, making us stronger and more...durable if you will," he answered as he looked up at her.

Catrin finally understood what he was saying. She remembered hearing talk of the mercenaries who were stronger than the normal humanoid but had never seen one before. "So you could kill me at any time?"

"I could, but I much prefer you a submissive little wench waiting naked in my bed."

Catrin saw his very male smile, and as he glanced up she narrowed her eyes at him. "I'll wench your ass," she

retorted, closing her eyes at the now familiar shocking feeling that pulsed through her brain.

Niko chuckled. "It'll be your ass getting a wenching, sweet."

"All right," Catrin panted, taking a deep breath as the pain passed. "While wench doesn't bother me that much, I don't like slave. Submissive isn't bad during that kind of sex, but must you throw those names at me in front of people? And if you think you're going to do any kind of ass wenching on me, you better damn well make sure you know what the hell you're doing."

Niko gave her a very male grin. "I do, and you are a slave."

"No, I am not," she said angrily, moaning when another shock hit her. "I'm from Earth and I want to go home." She groaned, watching through heavy-lidded eyes as Niko sighed, his smile disappearing from his rugged features and knew she liked it a lot better when the man did smile.

"And who is waiting there for you?"

"What?"

"Who is waiting there for you?" he asked.

Lifting her eyes to his, she saw his head tilt slightly as his green gaze watched her closely. "I..." she croaked as she shook her head.

"No one, right?"

Catrin just sat there staring at him, wondering how he could know that.

"The Ligers don't take Earthlings unless they're orphaned, no parents, no siblings, no close relatives. That way no one will go looking for them."

Her big blue eyes stayed on his and for the first time in a long time, started tearing up. "I just want to go home," she whispered. "That's all I've been trying to do."

* * * *

"Cap, you still busy?" Daniel asked mentally.

"Why?" Niko asked as he watched her. Damn, he didn't mean to hurt her, but he knew he had to be blunt with her to make her understand her new living arrangements, and the teary eyes, he had a feeling, didn't happen very often.

"I'll take that as a no. We have a Liger ship off port and four on the bridge to see you and the little kitty, if you've trimmed her claws."

Niko heard the laughter in his tone. "*Be right there.*" Out loud, he said, "I understand that, Cat, but you have to live with what's happening now, and at the moment we have Ligers on my bridge waiting for us."

Her eyes widened. "Why?"

"To take their mark off of you," he answered as he stood. "I suggest you get rid of that stubborn Earth streak, and, Cat," he paused, "just because I didn't toss you on the bed, tie you up, slap your pretty ass red and fuck you senseless, doesn't mean I've forgotten about what happened in the mess hall." Watching her nod silently, he took her hand and led her up to the bridge.

He felt her tense up and drag her heels when she saw the Ligers turn to look at them. He squeezed her hand, knowing she wasn't a chicken, hell anything but, but these bastards probably freaked her out, and she knew when to fight and when to play it safe. Kind of what she was doing by putting him between those brain suckers and herself, something he was not going to complain about, especially if

it earned her trust in him. Besides, he wasn't too enamored with the Ligers anyways, especially after they'd attacked his home world, trying to steal his mother. He'd rather shoot every one of the leaching bastards than look at them.

"Captain Arrian, I am Tulk of the Ligers. We are most curious as to how you caught this one."

Niko growled, showing his displeasure. He was not about to get in to a conversation with this parasitical being. "She fell in my lap. I assume you're here to take the mark off her."

"Yes, yes, but we want to complete the testing we started before she escaped us."

"Not possible," Niko said as he glared at the Liger in warning. He knew how destructive their testing could be and the fact that she escaped them before they could really have a go at her must have irked the hell out of them.

"We have the right to finish it."

"You have no rights. I caught her and followed procedure. I notified the CGA and you. I have a receipt that says I paid her warrant. The CGA has taken her warrant down, so therefore she is mine, and I prefer my property unharmed."

"We are offering a substantial reward for this one."

"No."

"It will only damage her slightly; she'll still be able to perform whatever act you want of her."

"I said no," he growled, his jaw clenching as he fought the frustration of not being able to pound this being to hell...yet.

"We want to know how such a primitive brain as hers has such power."

Niko kept his face schooled at that information. "Remove your tag and get off my ship."

"Captain."

"Enough!" Niko bellowed as he drew his gun, watching as his crewmembers did the same. "I will be monitoring you. If you attempt to test her in any way—I'll kill you," he snarled.

"You have no idea what you have here."

"Oh, I'm pretty sure I do." After putting his gun away, he brought a silent Catrin with him over to his chair. Sitting down he had her straddle his lap, sitting chest to chest with him as she wrapped her arms around him and the chair, holding the back of it with her hands as her face settled in the crook of his neck.

"Daniel, watch them good."

"Planned on it, Cap," Daniel answered.

"It'll hurt like hell, sweet, I won't lie to you about that," he whispered in her ear, moving her hair aside as the Liger came forward with the removal device. "But I won't let them do anything else but remove it, Cat, trust me." He wanted her trust. He couldn't say why this woman was so important to him, but she was. Niko aimed his sensors on every part of her, monitoring her body's responses as the Liger's finger touched the base of her skull. Her mouth opened on a silent gasp against his neck, her fingers tightening on the back of the chair, her chest pressed against his as the metal prongs were taken out of her, centimeter by painful centimeter.

Niko registered the pain going through her and he tightened his hold on her. He had to give her credit, she didn't cry out when he'd seen grown men balling like

newborn babes, and felt admiration for this little Earth woman grow, his little Earth woman.

Catrin breathed deeply when the last prongs were removed. Although Niko's sensors displayed that she was so weak she couldn't even lift her head, her breaths were stable, still in sync with his as they had been during the entire procedure.

"Catrin, are you well?" Niko asked as he tried to look at her.

"Weel veak," she answered softly.

Niko's eyes shot to the Liger at her slurred words.

"It's a reaction to the removal procedure, it will pass," the Liger stated quickly.

"It better or I'll be hunting you down," he replied coldly as he rose up with her in his arms. "Now get off my ship."

Chapter 4

Catrin was at that place of lethargy as she slowly woke, conscious that Niko was lying beside her. Rolling over against him in a full-body cuddle, her nose nuzzled his neck, and she sighed when his fingers lightly stroked down her spine. He'd stayed with her yesterday until the side effects had passed, then made her stay in bed, and had a medic tend to her until he'd retired for the evening. When he'd come to bed last night, he'd slid in behind her, wrapped his arms around her and held her close in a protective embrace. No man had ever cared enough to bring her a flower, never mind care about her well-being before their own, and then there was Niko, and she liked it.

"Someone's docile this morn," he murmured huskily.

Catrin loved this feeling of being wrapped under the warm covers of a bed next to a hot man. She placed a feather-light kiss against his throat, sliding her hand from his lower abdomen to the middle of his chest. Her leg moved across his thighs and she smiled at his groan when she grazed his erection.

"Vixen."

Letting out the most feminine chuckle she'd ever heard come out of her mouth, she lifted her head, staring into his eyes as she slid her entire body right on top of his. She

spread her legs to straddle him, then lowered her eyelids, watching as he stared at her bare chest in rapt fascination. When he went to grab a breast she grasped his hand and lifted it above his head. "If you take the collar off, I'll try to be the submissive you want."

"Try?" His brow arched and cream slipped from her pussy. There was something about a man arching one brow that always sent her pussy clenching. Breathing deeply she watched his eyes twinkle and the ghost of a smile appeared on his sweet mouth as he looked up at her. Damn him, it wasn't fair that he knew every response her body made. Then again, it wasn't hard to tell he was excited, not with his rock-hard cock lying beneath her.

"I've never done it, so I can't say for sure if I'll like it...but I know I like it when you touch me, and I'd rather do it of my own free will than because I have to. The idea of being a slave and having to take orders like one makes everything in me rebel."

"You do realize that you're still mine even without the collar?"

Catrin straightened up, her eyes on his chest and knew from her visions how true that statement was. "Yes, I am yours, but I have a proposition for you," she said.

His brows shot straight up. "Which is?"

Taking a deep breath she spilled before she lost her nerve. "Free me and I'll stay with you."

"Why would I bargain when you're already mine, to which you've just admitted?" he asked.

Catrin watched as he moved his hands to caress her naked thighs before lifting her eyes to his. "Have you ever been taken from your home and forced to do something?

I've been with you several days now, and know that you're as stubborn as I am, if not more so. The easiest way to get me to listen to you is not by force. I have a big attitude when something's forced on me."

"Then you have to learn to stop, and yes, I am more stubborn than you." He grinned.

Catrin leaned down coming nose to nose with him. "I am a lieutenant with the United States Naval Force. I don't take orders—I give them." She winced as the shock inducers did their job.

"You had to take orders from someone, Lieutenant," Niko replied. He took a breath to let his words sink in before continuing. "I am now that person. Besides, if I do remove the collar, what's to stop you from running if you find a way home?" he asked as he instructed the shocks to stop with his internal comm unit.

Catrin snorted as she straightened. She leaned up on her elbows, but left her chest touching his. Being near this man seemed to calm her. The man liked to tie her up and dominate her, yet she felt comfortable with him. *Boy, talk about ironic.* "Are you kidding?" She sighed heavily and met his eyes again. "They'd probably put me in a psycho ward the minute I showed up out of the blue. You don't just disappear in an F-14, show up over a year later and pretend nothing happened."

Her gaze touched the ceiling, knowing everything she had just said was true, that if she tried to live on Earth again, she'd be locked away, even if she cried amnesia. "I want to go home, I really do," she whispered as she lowered her gaze to his. "But I don't think I could live there, knowing that if I slipped and told someone about Ligers and

Ariuses and planets with all the different kinds of life forms I've seen and some of the ships I've flown, that I'd end up in an institution or worse. A government testing toy, and with my gifts, I just can't let that happen." She lay down, her nose nuzzling his chest. "I have nowhere to go; I don't belong anywhere and I'm so tired of running... I don't want to run anymore, Niko." Her voice cracked and she felt his arms wrap around her.

"You don't have to run anymore, Cat," he whispered. He flipped them over until he lay on top of her, wrapping his body protectively around her.

Even though she'd only known him for a few days, she felt entirely safe and loved within his arms. "I want to stay with you. I want to see where this goes. I've never had a man make me feel like this."

"Captive?" he asked with a smile.

Catrin poked his shoulder. "Safe."

"That's just because I didn't let the Ligers fry your brain." He grinned, kissing her quickly on the lips then switched the subject. "But now the huge horny captain wants a little bondage and domination, preferably with you being dominated, some spankings and a hell of a fuck."

Catrin lifted her head to look at him. "Are you always horny?"

"Hell, yeah. Besides, we still have the punishment for the mess hall I get to administer." Smirking, he gripped the back of her head and lowered his mouth roughly to hers, taking her hungrily, his tongue aggressive as it attacked hers. With one last thrust and nip to her bottom lip, he lifted his head. "Your call off word is...bunker. If you need to stop, call it, or else I won't stop."

"Bunker?"

"Bunker," he repeated as he lifted her up off of the bed to stand in the middle of the room.

"Bunker," she yelped, watching as his eyebrow arched. "I have to pee." Her eyes fluttered shut as she buried her nose against his chest, breathing deeply of the pure masculine smell of him until she felt a swat on her bottom and moved back.

Niko shook his head as he let her go and watched as she ran to the privy. "Ceiling restraints," he ordered as soon as she stepped out of the privy, and manacles dropped from the ceiling.

"Just how many of those do you have?"

Niko grinned as he winked at her. "Wait until we arrive home." Lifting her arm, he tied her wrist to the restraint until her arm was completely extended in the air. After securing her other arm, he strode over to his cabinet. Opening a drawer within he pulled a variety of toys out, including nipple clamps, a butt plug, a jar of warming sex cream and a little something he had picked up on the planet of Barrius Three. He put the toys on a side table as he moved in front of her. "Are you okay with this?" he asked, knowing it was her first time with this type of play.

"I think so."

"See anything you like?" He grinned when he noticed she was looking at his engorged cock.

"Your dick."

"You have a mouth on you."

"You asked."

"And you always tell your master what he wants to hear, right?" He stepped right up to her, his erection

bumping against her stomach. When she just looked at him silently, he lifted his hands and removed the collar then tossed it to the floor.

“Yes, Master,” she purred in a low seductive voice.

Niko gave her a masculine grin as he knelt in front of her.

Catrin gripped the cables to the manacles as her head went back, pleasure shooting through her as he aroused her with his mouth and hands, her own hair softly teasing her backside as it swayed with her movements, moaning loudly when she felt her pussy getting wetter.

Niko made a nice slow sweep of his tongue from her pussy to her clit watching as she trembled in front of him. “Whose pussy?” he asked, listening to her moan. “Whose pussy?” he repeated.

“You...your pussy,” she breathed heavily.

“Your pussy what?” He removed all stimulation from her.

“Your pussy, Master,” she cried, arching her hips toward him.

Niko spread her labia with his fingers, glad that she kept herself nice and trim, and watched as her swollen pink pussy arched up to him. “My pussy,” he rumbled huskily.

“Yes, your pussy, Master, your pussy.”

Smiling he reached over and grabbed one of the clamps off the table. He rose, watching her face as he put it on her nipple. “Do you like that, Catrin?” he asked as he twisted it slightly, listening to her moan of pleasure.

“Yes,” she groaned. The clamps weren’t like those of Earth. These were a small tubular shape with a soft center. The person placing one on a nipple could adjust the

tightness and the center would act almost like a suctioning device as it drew the nipple out and applied the exact amount of pressure it was adjusted for.

Moving his other hand, Niko caressed her clit, watching her body jerk as he placed the other clamp on her nipple. "You like your titties tortured, baby?"

"Yesss," she moaned as he twisted them, released them and snapped them back on, the slight stinging sensation of pain and pleasure driving her crazy. "Oh gods, yes."

"Oh gods, yes, what?" he growled as he bit her bottom lip sharply.

"Master, oh gods, yes, Master!" she cried as he cupped both breasts and squeezed them, sending blood straight to her clamped nipples, the incredible sensations driving her crazy as she cried out again.

"That's better, my little submissive." He removed a clamp, leaning down to suck her nipple into his mouth.

"Ummm, yes, your submissive. I'm your submissive, Master."

"That's right." He breathed hotly as he lifted his head, placing open-mouthed kisses on her soft flesh as he knelt in front of her. "My submissive. My titties. My pussy." Lowering his head Niko went right for her swollen clit, sucking deeply, causing her to cry out with pleasure, her orgasm so strong he had to lift his hands to her hips to hold them still.

* * * *

Catrin was losing her fucking mind. He'd given her one orgasm, and brought her to the edge twice more without letting her go over, and still he hadn't fucked her yet.

Licking dry lips she opened heavy eyes to see him stroke his huge cock as he watched her.

"Your cream is dripping down your leg," he murmured as he stared at her swollen pussy, the tight little hairs matted with her essence.

"Fuck me."

"Oh, I will, but now for your punishment," he said with a smile, his cock growing harder at the thought of what he was going to do next. He'd figured he'd give her a little taste of what was to come, so her punishment would be that much more agonizing. Walking around her, he let his cock go as he lifted his hand bringing it down in a whack right on her ass cheek, smiling when she yelped more out of surprise than anything and whacked her again. He was careful not to bruise her as he hit her again, watching as her ivory skin started to pinken.

"Niko," she cried out when he kept whacking her.

"Who, wench?" he growled as he slapped her a bit harder.

"Master!" she screeched when his hand came down on her again.

Niko grabbed her cheek hard as he came right up against her back, his hand coming around to tweak her nipple. "Hmmm, such a pretty pink color," he said as he moved his hand to the open cream jar, dipping three fingers in, and listened to her gasp as he stroked her anus, feeling the cream starting to warm. "Have you ever had a cock in your ass, Cat?"

"Yes," she breathed heavily.

"But he didn't do it right, did he?" He applied more pressure to her little pucker.

Catrin shook her head, her lips parting as he worked his finger into her. The warming cream was something she'd never felt before. It had been cool, room temperature until he started rubbing it. The warming sensation had started slowly and built. The more he rubbed, the hotter it became and she gasped as a tingling sensation began.

"How does that feel?" Niko asked as he slid a finger in and out of her slowly. "Do you like that, my little kitty?" He eased another finger in, watching her closely for any sign of distress.

Catrin never thought she'd love getting finger-fucked up the ass, but then again, she never thought she'd like being dominated either. There was just something about the way he handled her that made her yearn for him and anything he wanted to do to her. "Yes, Master," she panted.

Niko closed his eyes at the feeling of her tight ass clutching his fingers. He couldn't wait to shove his cock in her and fuck her ass hard. His cock jumped at the thought. He also knew that she'd need to be stretched a bit more first, a few more times with the butt plug, which had bulbs increasing in size with small shaft-like sections in between to condition her anus. Opening his eyes he removed his fingers from her ass as he reached for the butt plug, smiling at her whimper of protest, and he greased the bulbous item. "Don't worry, baby, your ass will be full in a minute."

"Fuck me," Catrin groaned as his fingers went back to her tight hole, arching it toward him for the taking.

"Oh, I will," he said as he screwed the first small bulb into her tight pucker. "After I stretch you enough."

Catrin moaned as he screwed another bulb in, this one slightly bigger, and she felt the warm tingly sensations from the lube.

Niko's cock grew harder with every bulb he screwed into her ass. Her moans were driving him crazy as he pushed the last one in a bit roughly, almost blowing his load when she screamed in pleasure. His back was damp with sweat from holding back, and he could see her hairline was wet as well. He moved to her front, placing the clamps back on her nipples as she looked up at him, dazed with lust. He released the manacles and sent them back to the ceiling as he caught her, rubbing her muscles to work out the soreness before helping her to the floor. "Put your hands behind your back and suck my cock," he ordered, watching as she obeyed instantly, her mouth going around the tip of his penis as she slid to the floor.

"Rock back and forth. Grind your pussy against your ankles and feel the plug fucking your ass." He palmed her long wavy hair, listening to her moan as she did what he told her, his sensors picking up the heat of her arousal as it intensified. "I love fucking your mouth, Cat," he moaned. "Your hot mouth surrounding and sucking me." His entire body trembled as his balls started to tighten. He pulled out of her mouth, then helped her up to lie on the bed.

Catrin moaned at the feeling of the plug moving within her as Niko moved between her legs.

"Tell me what you want, Catrin." He breathed heavily as he positioned his cock at her opening.

"I want you to fuck me...Master."

Niko grinned as she tossed that in. "Yes, my little sub, I'm going to fuck you." He slid his cock into her, her cream

covering him deliciously as they both moaned at the sensation. She was so tight around him, he knew he stretched her. Easing out slowly, he moved back in with the same slowness giving her tight sheath a chance to become used to him.

Catrin lifted her arms to his head as he settled deeply within her. "Gods, I love your thick cock." She groaned and pulled his mouth down to hers, plunging her tongue into his mouth when he started thrusting within her.

Niko groaned as he took over the kiss before lifting his mouth. "How does it feel, kitty, being fucked in both holes? I know the plug is fucking your sweet ass with every thrust." He panted, knowing this was the only way she'd have both fucked at the same time, because even though he'd done three, there was no way in hell he was sharing her—ever.

"Good, it feels good," she groaned as her fingers tightened in his hair. "Oh gods, Niko, it feels so good," she cried, moving her hands down to grasp his muscled biceps as her orgasm started. "I'm coming, oh gods, oh gods!"

Niko lowered his mouth to the side of her neck and bit her as her orgasm hit, thrusting faster, deeper, giving her everything he had as he lost control. Roaring with his release, he shot his hot stream deep into her writhing warmth and then collapsed on top of her, breathing as heavily as she was beneath him.

"Someone needs to remember to call out master," Niko grunted as he lifted his head with a smile. His eyes followed her hands as she lifted them, brushing his hair back from his face, and he met her gaze.

"I lost my head, Master Niko."

“Better, woman,” he grunted as he leaned down to kiss her softly. “When you’re naked and I’m giving orders, if you do not refer to me as master, I will swat your pretty ass. Is that understood?” He smiled when she moaned as he moved inside her.

“Yes and hmm, you’re still hard.”

“Yes, I am, now let’s go clean off so I can fuck you again.” He withdrew from her, rose off the bed and lifted her up into his arms.

“’Kay, but this butt plug is starting to sting.”

“It did get a workout, didn’t it?” he asked with a smile as he stepped into the sonar shower.

Catrin cuddled against him as he removed the nipple clamps and butt plug with the most care any man had ever taken with her. Sighing, she stood there loving the feel of his gentle hands moving over her as he cleaned her.

Chapter 5

"You took the fucking collar off?" Daniel commed as soon as Niko strode into the mess hall.

"Yes," Niko answered, tightening his hold on Catrin's hand as he led her over to the table.

"Did you have a brain fart or did she fuck them out?"

"I fucked hers out," he answered with a wicked smile.

"Aren't you afraid she'll take off?"

Niko glanced over at Catrin as they sat at the table. She looked up at the menu that appeared before her and her clean shiny hair slid over her shoulder. *"I guess we'll see."*

"She was that good then?"

"She may have the attitude of an Arius, but she's a sweet little sub under me."

"By the gods, man, now I'm boning."

Catrin glanced over at Daniel when he groaned. "Are you all right?"

"Just enduring a little sweet torture here, sexy," Daniel mumbled as he sat back in the booth.

Niko grinned when she gave his friend an odd look. "Right," she said slowly as she turned back to the menu. "What's a Jangler Poin?"

"It's a drink, too strong for you," Niko answered.

"Why?"

"It's a euphoric aphrodisiac."

"Really?" she asked, interested. Niko saw the sinful smile as she turned her body. Leaning over, she placed her hand on his chest as he met her eyes. "Then maybe you'll have to get me one when you want to fuck this sweet ass," she whispered in his ear.

Niko's pupils grew wide with his lust and he growled low in his throat. "When I do fuck this sweet ass," he whispered back as he grabbed her ass cheek giving it a hard squeeze, "you won't be under any drug." She smiled naughtily at him as she leaned forward, pressing her lush lips to his with a soft sweet kiss and the promise of more before going back to the menu.

"*Gods' armpits, she was ready to fuck you right here,*" Daniel commed.

"*Yeah, but her ass fucking is going to be done in private,*" Niko stated, his gaze whipping over to Daniel as he spat out his drink across the table, causing Catrin to look at him oddly. Daniel stood up quickly. "Where are you going?" Niko laughed.

"To whack off, you bastard."

"What the hell is going on?" Catrin asked as she turned to Niko.

"Just a mental conversation." He smiled as he lifted his drink. "Come here, baby, and sit on my lap," he said as he settled her on top of his muscled thighs. He saw her eyeing several crewmembers under her lashes as they glanced their way.

"Should you be doing this here?"

"Why wouldn't I?"

"You're the captain and..." she started.

Niko grinned when she 'oohed' as his cock jumped against her swollen pussy through their clothes. "And they know I'm a dominant horny bastard," he said as he handed her his drink. "They also know you're no longer my slave." Her lips settled on the rim of the glass and took a sip of the red ale. His dick throbbed as her blue eyes moved to his.

"So what am I exactly?"

"My lover." Smiling he lifted his hand, captured her chin softly between his fingers and brought her mouth down to his. "My sexy, beautiful bedmate," he said, his voice low, husky with passion before kissing her softly, savoring the kiss. As his lips left hers, her eyes flew open.

"Oh gods," she breathed heavily. "We didn't use anything."

"Anything what?" he asked slightly confused, for he thought they'd used a good portion of his pleasure toys.

"Birth control."

"If the gods will it, then a child will be made." He sounded almost cavalier.

"It doesn't happen that way, Niko."

"I know how it happens, woman, and if it's meant to be, then you'll birth me a child."

"But what..." Taking a deep breath, she met his eyes. "If it happens, you won't leave me, will you?"

"No," he answered, frowning when he saw the fear in her eyes. "No worries, Cat," he whispered as he tightened his hold on her.

"What about...you don't have any funky space disease, do you?" she asked as she lay against his chest.

Niko chuckled as he ran his hand down her hair. "No, sweet, I'm clean as are you." When she glanced up at him

he clarified, "The medics gave you a thorough exam when you were first brought on board."

Catrin sighed as she leaned up to kiss him, thankful that he was as healthy as he looked, because if he hadn't been and ended up giving her some weird alien disease, she'd have to hurt him.

* * * *

Niko gripped Catrin's hand, pulling her behind him as he strode on to the bridge. He sat on his chair, his eyebrow lifting in surprise when instead of remaining next to him, she chose to stand behind him. She raised her hands to the backrest, her fingers moving through his hair to the back of his neck, massaging gently as he commanded his crew with precise instruction.

"She seems submissive enough," Daniel commed from his station in back of them.

"I think she held a position with lots of control on Earth," Niko replied.

"So, she doesn't have to anymore. She can let you take the dominant role, which we all know you love, and be as much a sub as she wants."

"Exactly," he stated and then listened as his information officer asked Catrin what she did on Earth.

"Why?" Catrin asked as she turned to the woman.

"It wasn't in the files downloaded from the Ligers."

"I was a lieutenant with the United States Naval Force," she said. Several of the crewmembers turned to look at her as the woman typed the information into the computer. "I was a fighter pilot."

"You've got to be shitting me." Daniel laughed out loud.

"Why would I do that?" Catrin asked with a frown as she turned to face him, missing Niko's smile as he turned his chair to watch the exchange.

"Not that women can't fight," Daniel said as he smiled at the women on the bridge. "But I've never met one yet who has mastered a fighter."

Catrin put her hands on hips as she narrowed her eyes at him. "My call sign wasn't Dragoness for nothing."

"Yeah, okay," he replied sarcastically.

Now he was pissing her off. Niko's brow arched as Daniel rolled his eyes at Catrin.

Catrin scowled. "You listen to me, you overgrown pretty boy—"

"She thinks I'm pretty." He laughed.

"You get me a fighter and I'll wipe your sorry ass all over the bow of this ship."

"Doesn't seem too submissive to me."

Niko grinned. There was nothing like a good fight to get one's blood pumped. But when Catrin fisted her hand and snarled, "Why you," her body tensed to rush Daniel, Niko clamped his arm around her waist before she could attack Daniel and dragged her down onto his lap and against his chest. "That's enough, you two." Niko chuckled.

"He thinks I can't kick his ass."

"Sweet, you can't. He's an Arius."

"Yeah, well," she said, watching as Daniel gave her a cocky male grin and pointed her finger at him. "You piss me off and I'll get you."

"How?" Daniel snorted.

"You just wait and see. Don't you ever think that because of what Niko and I do in private that I'm like that all the time, because I'm not."

"Okay that's enough," Niko said sternly, his sensors picking up the reduction of her anger as his arms tightened around her. He moved the chair to face the front and saw the planet they were headed toward.

"Is that where we're going?"

"Yes."

"It's not much to look at, is it?" she asked as she looked at the dull gray covering the entire surface.

"It's actually a moon, but they like to call it a planet."

"So it's like an artificial living environment?" she remarked.

Niko sat back against his chair, moving one of her legs over his and the other settled between them as he drew her back against his chest. He nuzzled his nose in her hair, breathing in her clean womanly scent. His fingers moved her hair aside, and he lightly pressed his lips against her neck, smiling at the shiver that ran over her body. "On parts of it, yes," he answered. "There are also several habitable environments but they are too small at the moment to support a large number of people. This moon's progression is a slow one; it will take another two hundred years before the air is breathing quality... Why?"

"It's just so...blah."

When her body tensed unnaturally, Niko's gut clenched with trepidation and he leaned forward. Her pupils had enlarged, engulfing almost her entire eye and her eyes held no focus. Tightening his arms around her to keep her safe, he worried as he watched her.

Lifting his hand, Niko stopped his second-in-command when Daniel stepped toward them. He had a good idea what was happening to her. He'd seen it occasionally with his mother, but it had never been this intense, and that troubled him. He didn't know how to deal with the aftereffects of something so forceful within the brain. When he felt her body relaxing, he made sure she wouldn't slip out of his embrace.

Her eyes fluttered. "Damn it," she breathed. "I um...I have to go onto that planet."

"I don't think so," Niko replied, watching as her weary eyes turned to his.

"You don't understand. I have to go."

"You don't understand, I said *no*," he growled, glaring at her with warning of the punishment he would dole out if she dared to argue with him in front of his crew. When her nose flared with an indrawn breath as she snuggled against his chest, he knew she was thinking of a way to get down to the planet. She wasn't the type to give up on something so easily, especially if she wanted it, no matter what he did to her in the bedchamber. He could find out what she was thinking, but he hated that, and just hoped like hell she didn't try to sneak on to the shuttle. Although, if she did, he'd have to punish her, and grinned wickedly at that thought.

Niko rose and gripped her hand as he led her off the bridge. She was unnaturally quiet as they walked down the corridor, and he knew his mission crew noticed it also as they cast covert glances her way. When they arrived at the elevators he felt her tug on his hand and let her lead him off to the side, away from the others going down to the planet.

"I need to go," she whispered.

"Why?" he asked as she lowered her eyes.

"There's someone there I need to see."

"Who?"

"I don't know her name, only what she looks like."

"For what reason?" Frustration bubbled up within him as she remained silent. "You can't tell me why, but you want me to trust you not to take off on me?"

"I won't. I won't run on you, I promise." Her eyes lifted to his.

"What happens when your eyes lose focus?"

Catrin sighed heavily. "I can't tell you."

"Again, you want me to trust you?" Shaking his head, he stepped away from her. "Go to my chambers," he ordered roughly.

Catrin saw her chances going down the drain. "If I don't go, you could die," she blurted out, watching as he stopped. His mission team stared at her as Niko finally turned to look at her. "Please, you have to trust me. I'll tell you how I know when we return, but I need to be there with you," she pleaded. Catrin hadn't pleaded for anything since she was a child, but this was too important for him not to listen.

Niko's sensors registered her body waves as his eyes met hers, and he knew she wasn't lying. "Fine, let's get you in uniform."

"Like hers?" Catrin asked as she looked at one of his security detail.

"Yes."

"Are you sure I can pull that off... I mean, her breasts are a lot bigger than mine," she said as he took her elbow.

"Not that they don't look good," she said with a smile as Trea grinned at her.

Niko shook his head and led her away. "Your breasts are fine." Pulling her into a summit chamber, he ordered a uniform as he moved Catrin in front of the computer. The computers sensors took her measurements, before opening a wall-slide to produce one.

Niko watched as she undressed in front of him. She wasn't muscular like most of the women on his ship, but she was toned. His gaze slipped from her hard nipples to her long legs, as she pulled the tight black Cerian pants on. "The pants are damn near indestructible. They, like the bodice, will protect you against most hits," he commented as he stepped forward, taking a hard little nipple between his fingers. "By the gods, I love how they're always perky." His lips curled with his desire to be inside her as his hand cupped her breast in his palm.

Catrin smiled as she straightened. "They love being perky for you," she said as she leaned forward, placing a sucking kiss right under his Adam's apple, smiling when she heard his groan. "I think I'll use those manacles on you when we get back." She ran her fingers up under the hem of his Cerian shirt, loving how his muscles rippled at her touch. "Let me have my way with you," she moaned as her tongue ran up his neck. "We both know you could break the restraints at anytime."

"Damn right," he grunted huskily, forcing her hands behind her back as he lowered his mouth to hers hungrily.

"Cap, is she dressed yet?" Daniel commed.

The only thing Niko commed back was a wicked chuckle as he whipped Catrin's pants down, lifted her up onto his desk as his freed cock plunged into her warmth.

* * * *

"Nice," Daniel commented as Niko and Catrin finally boarded the shuttle, his eyes on Catrin's chest and the Cerian bustier on it.

Catrin narrowed her eyes at him as she strapped herself into her seat.

"Stop looking at her tits," Niko replied as he took his seat. "And go find your own. All right, here we go." Taking the controls, he moved them from the decking unit to the launch bay. "Baby, I hope you don't lose your lunch."

"Don't worry about me, hotshot." Catrin grinned, holding on as the shuttle shot out of the launch bay. She would never get over the feeling of the G-Forces pulling her back, pushing her into the seat and smiled, totally loving it.

"And here I thought he was talking to me." Daniel chuckled.

"You're such an ass, Hedden," she shot back, content with Niko's chuckle.

Her eyes moved to the shuttle window. The lights from the launch tube flew by with incredible speed as the engines thrust them out of the ship. Her chest lifted as she breathed deeply, the stars now going by at a passable rate to where they looked like they did driving her car back on Earth. The smell of space was a funny one. *Yes, space did have a smell.* She smiled, knowing her friends on Earth would call her an idiot, but it did. The closest odor she could compare it to was sulfur. Her eyes moved from the

side window to the huge front one and the back of Niko's head, her pussy clenching with want when he leaned over to hit a button as they came up quickly upon the planet.

"Get ready for planetary entry," Niko called back.

Catrin gripped the seat arms as the G-forces pushed her back into her seat, the shuttle's shield tampering down the effects of going through a planet's atmosphere, but still her stomach felt like it was floating and then rushing down, sort of like being at the peak of a huge roller coaster and the twinge of weightlessness as it makes that first plunge downward. Her eyes stayed on the front of the shuttle as Niko piloted them to a docking bay with absolute precision.

Chapter 6

After docking, Catrin held Niko's hand as she followed him through the port. She was surprised at the array of colors touching every corner, such a different contrast from the way the moon looked. They even had a faux sky on the roof of the biodome. Her eyes moved to the different races walking past them. It didn't really surprise her anymore to see something out of *Planet of the Apes* or *Star Wars* walking by her. There were the Marillians, an aquatic-oriented race who needed breathers to walk on land. The people of Onc were human, like herself and Niko, although here the women ran the show. They were the Mistresses, the ones who kept house and sex slaves. *Damn, maybe I should have come here instead.* A smile formed on her face.

The hairs on the back of her neck suddenly rose at the sensation of being watched. Lifting her free hand she touched Niko's back as she stopped, her gaze moving around the huge chamber and people within until she saw the old woman staring right at her. She held the woman's gaze for a moment, knowing the old woman was one of the reasons she was here. "I'll be right back," she said softly. Her eyes lifted to his when he gripped her hand. "I'll be right back, I promise." Her hand slid out of his as she stepped away from Niko and the others. She could feel the

power radiating off the woman as she strode toward her. "I was shown you could help me," she said softly as the old woman eyed her shrewdly.

The old woman smiled at her. "Follow him." Catrin followed her gnarled finger, and saw it pointing straight at Niko. "He will bring you to the path you seek, but mayhap it's not the one you think... Hmmm..."

When Catrin turned to question her, she was gone. She knew Niko was her path, she'd seen that in a vision. Why another sent her in search of the old woman was a mystery to her, unless it was to reinforce what she'd already been shown. Well, that was confusing, but she smiled. She knew he was hers.

* * * *

"Who was that?" Niko asked as he stepped up to her.

"The woman I needed to find."

"And?"

"Lord Arrian," came an authoritative female voice behind him. "I am Grand Marshal Yarner."

Niko turned around to see the woman, and his brow arched at the sight of her and the two females standing behind her. Their hair was drawn back so tightly it looked as though they'd have a permanent headache from the strain. And they were muscled. Now, he'd seen muscular women before, but the women of Onc took the cake. "So you are."

"*Gods, now she scares me,*" Daniel commed.

"*Yeah, right, you'd love to tie her up and show her who's boss. You're as Alpha as I am.*"

"*Don't you know it.*" He chuckled.

"Why was your seer talking to the oracle?" The grand marshal's gaze went to Catrin, as Daniel handed the urn over to her.

"Oracle?" Niko questioned.

"Seer?" Daniel asked as his eyes went to Catrin.

"Yes, the woman who was just here only talks to others of her kind, unless it is in temple."

Niko moved his gaze to Catrin who deftly ducked behind him with her head lowered. "That would be between them, I suppose."

"If your seer would care to join us, we will have a drink to her arrival."

"Very well then, but she does not go out of my sight."

"Understood," Grand Marshal Yarner replied as she glanced at Daniel quickly.

"*Hmmm, she wants me,*" Daniel commed with a sadistic leer to his tone.

"*Probably.*" Niko turned and took hold of Catrin's hand. His gaze rose quickly to hers when he heard her gasp. He saw the fear on her face and turned his head just in time to see the blade coming at him.

"Men do not touch seers!" Yarner bellowed as her sword came down.

"No!" Catrin cried.

Niko and the rest of his crew watched in amazement as Catrin lifted her hand and without touching the grand marshal, pushed the woman back with her mind. The grand marshal flew back with such force she knocked down her patrol and three bystanders on her way to the floor.

"Holy shit!" Daniel barked with wide eyes.

"You will not touch him." Catrin breathed heavily. She moved her arm sending the woman sliding across the floor. "No one touches him!" she bellowed.

He heard the deepening of her voice as her powers kicked in, and when realization skittered across her face at what she had just done and where, she closed her hand quickly, hunching over as he stepped toward her. He knew the limits it took to rein in such power, and kept his eyes on her as she brought the power within her under control.

"Do not touch me," she breathed. "I'm too sensitive to everything right now."

Niko moved around her. Her face scrunched up, her fists tightened, and her nostrils flared with the effort it was taking her to calm down. "It's all right, baby," he crooned softly. "Take deep breaths and come down slowly, you'll be fine, and I'll be here for you when you need me." It was killing him not being able to grab her and hold her to him, but he knew the sensitivity of draining psychic energies.

"I'm sorry," she whispered with sob. "I'm so sorry."

"You have nothing to be sorry for, Seer, it is I who stepped out of bounds," the grand marshal stated as she walked over to them. "Your customs are different than ours. I await your punishment."

Niko's eyes moved from Catrin to where Daniel was standing, remembering their earlier conversation and commed him. "*Do you want her?*"

Daniel glanced over at Niko out of the corner of his eye. "*Sure, why not?*"

"*Good, get her out of here while I tend to Catrin.*"

"*No problem, Captain.*" A feral smile lined his lips.

"He wants to punish you," Niko whispered, mindful of Catrin's sensitivities. "He wants to tie you up and show you who's in charge... If that's agreeable with you, then go with him." His ears perked at the almost inaudible gasp leaving Trea's lips behind him and wondered about it as his eyes scanned the area. If there was a problem and she saw it, she'd let them know immediately.

"Yes, sir," the grand marshal said softly as she turned to Daniel. "Shall we?"

"Hell, yeah. Be ready to lose that bun, sweet cheeks," he said as he stepped up. "Thanks, Captain."

"You owe me one, pretty boy." Niko grinned, but his gaze quickly went back to Catrin as her eyes fluttered open with a deep shuttering breath.

Catrin lifted heavy eyes to his. "It just takes a bit for me to get my strength back, Niko. Could you help me, please?"

Niko heard the exhaustion in her words. "Let's go to the bar and get a drink." He touched her elbow lightly and led her toward the docking area bar.

"That was something to see," Trea commented.

"My gifts have grown since I was taken," Catrin whispered.

Niko wrapped his arm around Catrin's waist, holding her close to his side when her body waves spiked again. They walked into the dim interior of the bar and headed over to a table in a dark corner. Out of the corner of his eye, Niko noticed that Trea kept glancing back at Daniel until she couldn't see him anymore.

"Hey, baby." A bar patron leered at Trea, his eyes on her as they came close to his table.

"Don't mess with them, they're Ariuses," his buddy whispered as he slapped his friend.

Niko lifted his lip in a snarl at the two men, watching as they rushed away, Trea kicked one in the leg as she went to order their drinks. Stopping in front of a corner table, he chose a chair that would keep his back to the wall.

"A seer?" Niko asked once he was seated with Catrin on his lap, her eyes lifting to his.

"I'm not a seer, I just get visions sometimes."

"Sweet, that's called a seer."

"With ass-kicking powers," Trea said as she set their drinks down in front of them.

"That only happens when my emotions mix with adrenaline," Catrin explained.

"So I guess that means you like me?" he asked with a cocky smile. The corners of her luscious lips lifted with a sleepy smile as she laid her head on his shoulder. Lifting his arms, he wrapped them around her, holding her to him as her soft body sagged against him.

"Yeah, just a bit," she whispered. "I had another vision. I'm so weak, Niko. I just need to rest for a while."

"I know, baby," Niko murmured as he pressed his lips to the top of her head, his arms tightening around her as she cuddled into him, her breaths even and shallow. His eyes lifted to Trea's, wondering how much longer Catrin would like him, for everyone on the ship knew that there was a gate on Neris—a gate that could take Catrin home. "You can take off if you want, Trea. I'm going to sit here and let her sleep. Hedden will be a while."

"I'm fine, sir," Trea replied softly, and he thought he glimpsed hurt in her eyes as she lowered them.

Niko watched as she sipped her pyrenean ale, her eyes still downcast, and his eyebrows shot up and a smile touched his lips as he realized that Trea was attracted to Daniel. “*Hey, Hedden?*” he called on their internal comm.

“*Busy,*” came Daniel’s reply through hard breathing.

“*Yeah, no shit. Thought you should know, Trea has a thing for you,*” he said, listening as all sounds softened.

“*What? Are you sure?*”

Niko heard the surprise and interest in his friend’s voice and glanced over at Trea and the crestfallen expression she was trying like hell to hide. “*Most definitely.*”

“*Gods, then what the hell am I doing here?*” Daniel groaned his release, unstoppable at that point, but wished like hell it had been Trea under him.

* * * *

Catrin smiled as she walked around Niko. She had him buck naked and attached to the ceiling restraints like he’d had her. The only exception was that with his strength, he could easily break free if he wanted.

After the visions and her powers draining her, all she’d wanted to do was sleep. She remembered falling asleep with Niko at the bar, feeling warm and protected wrapped up next to his body with his strong arms embracing her, and had woken up with him in his bed, but had no recollection of getting there. But she’d woken up with a voracious hunger, and it wasn’t for food.

“Well, well, well,” she said seductively as she ran a fingernail over a well-toned buttock, smiling as his muscles jumped. “Hmmm, what a nice piece of ass.” She lifted her hand, and a slap rang loud through the chamber.

“Sweet, that didn’t hurt.”

"Would you like it to?" she asked, her mouth close to his ear as she took his lobe between her lips, biting down until he groaned. "Indulge me, Captain," she purred as she spread one hand over his chest roughly, her body sliding right up against his back as her other reached around, grabbed his thick cock and stroked. "That's what I like to hear," Catrin crooned when he moaned. Lifting her hand, she ran her fingertips over him as she stepped around, until she stood in front of him. She could feel the cream between her thighs as she admired him. "You are so hot."

"You're not bad yourself," he said with a cocky grin. "Is my kitty going to stand there all night or get on with the eroticism?"

The tips of her nipples barely touched his chest, making them ache painfully for his touch. "Your kitty wants you so hot, that when I let you down..." Her mouth moved across his chest, her nose flaring at his masculine scent. Her teeth nipped him lightly as her pussy clenched. "...all you can think about is how much harder you can fuck me." She took his mouth hungrily, moaning at the force of erotic waves that swept through her. Gods, this man could send her body into turmoil without even touching her.

Breathing heavily she moved downward, placing an open-mouthed kiss right under his Adam's apple, sucking him gently as her fingers slid down his side. Making a path with her mouth, she shifted to his right side, her tongue caressing his inner upper arm. His moan encouraged her as she traveled down, taking a male nipple into her mouth and sucking hard. Her hands reached around, grasped his buttocks, kneading them as she raked her teeth over his turgid nipple.

"By the gods, Cat," Niko groaned as she moved to his other nipple. He had to hand it to her; she knew how to arouse him to the brink of orgasm. Her hands ran over him roughly, his sensors honed in on her body waves as well as his own and knew if she kept this up, he wouldn't last long at all.

She ran the tip of her tongue over the line of his pecs. "I love how muscular you are," she whispered. "Your entire body makes me cream my jeans every time I see you." Kneeling down, she breathed hotly on his thick erection as she came face to face with it. She moaned and took him in her mouth, sucking the head ruthlessly as her hands moved along the back of his thighs.

Niko gripped the cables with a moan, and had to admit that it wasn't too bad being tied up by her. "Cat, not that I'm complaining—and trust me I'm not—but if you keep it up...I'll lose my seed."

Taking her mouth from him, she looked up. "Sorry, I couldn't help myself," she said with a grin as she went back down again. "I just love your cock," she whispered excitedly. Placing her hands along his sides, she kissed right above his belly button, her nostrils flaring. She just loved his masculine scent, especially mixed with his arousal. With a slightly firmer touch, her hands applied slight pressure as she slid them up to his armpits and then back down to his hips. When she came back down she lowered her mouth again, placing open-mouthed kisses down the line of dark hair that led right to his cock. Pausing, she moved her mouth to the side, a kiss on his pelvic bone, making him anticipate her mouth on his cock again, knowing it was working when he thrust his hips at her with a growl. With a

moan she slid her tongue up to his navel, leaving a damp trail on his heated flesh.

She stood and started all over again, but this time from behind. Cradling his ass roughly in her hands, she kneaded him as her lips slid over him, from his shoulder down to the indentation of his tailbone. "I could suck your cock all night, Niko," she said as her hands ran over his heated flesh and rose, her fingers passing over and scraping the tip of his cock gently as she went.

"I'm going to fuck you so hard, you're going to scream for mercy," he growled, his cock twitching. He had never felt so huge in his life, and every touch of her mouth and fingers made him grow harder, if that was even possible.

"Hmmm, maybe," she purred as she came around to his front and unlatched the cables. "I'm not done with you yet. On the bed for your mistress," she ordered as she pushed him to the bed, watching as he arched an eyebrow and he lay down on his back. She climbed up over him and took his bottom lip between her teeth. Sucking it into her mouth she kissed him quickly before rising to her knees and turning so her ass was facing him. Leaning down on all fours Catrin lifted her leg to straddle his chest and placed her pussy an inch over his mouth. "Love your pussy."

Niko growled as his hands clamped onto her hips, pulling her wet mound right to him, listening to her gasp as he put his entire mouth over her, his tongue lapping the cream off her swollen lips and clit.

"Oh yes, just like that," she cried as he centered on her clit.

Niko sucked and teased her until he'd had enough and lifted her up, rolled her over onto her back, gripped her arms, and dragged her to him as she opened her thighs.

Catrin was breathless at the feel of his throbbing head at her pussy, and her fingers moved into his hair and gripped it hard near the base of his skull. "Fuck me," she breathed, her lips parted on a soundless moan when he thrust into her deeply, the sound of her cream squishing, turning her on even more. "Oh, yes, Niko, fuck me, fuck your pussy hard." She cried out as he did exactly what she said.

Niko never thought fucking a woman could be so damn arousing until he'd fucked Cat, and now he never wanted to stop. Every time they went at it, it got better. "What do you want, Cat?" he panted. "Tell me how hard you want me to fuck my pussy."

"Hard, baby." She breathed raggedly as she moved her legs up so her knees were even with his shoulders, allowing him more room for deeper thrusts. His hips plunged and he thrust into her again and again, driving her crazy as his pubic hair hit her swollen clit, his pelvis grinding against hers. She moaned loudly and gripped his hair and Catrin forced his head down to her neck, baring it for him. "Yes, Niko, oh gods, yes."

Niko's jaw clenched against the wonderful sensations of her inside warmth convulsing and clamping around his cock, but he wanted her to finish before he blew his load. "That's it, my kitty, come as I fuck you hard," he breathed. He lowered his mouth to her bared neck, his teeth nipping her as his lips sucked along the muscle at the crook, doing it harder when she cried out with her release. Pounding her

pussy with unrelenting deep possessive strokes, he moved his mouth off her as she came down off her orgasm and his balls tightened, preparing for release. "You're mine, Cat," he growled into her ear. "Mine...now and forever. Say it."

"I'm yours!" she cried as her hands gripped his biceps. "I'm yours, Niko." She whimpered as her body tensed with another orgasm.

Niko roared his climax, sending his hot stream into her as he thrust deep within her before collapsing on top of her, panting.

Cat slid her arm over him. "How is it that even when I'm in control, it's still your pussy?" she asked, smirking when he turned his head with a very male smile on his face.

Chapter 7

"*She seems happy enough,*" Daniel commed as they sat in the mess hall.

"I'm bored," Catrin muttered as she sipped her drink.

"*Okay, I spoke too fast.*"

"I thought I gave you enough not to be bored this past week," Niko said as he turned to look at her.

"You did," she replied with a saucy smile. "But you can't make love to me twenty-four/seven."

"The hell I can't." He snorted.

"Not with your duties." She smiled, stroking his ego. "So I was wondering if you had a job for me."

Daniel laughed and she shot him a nasty look.

"You have it. You're my lover."

"I'm not just good for the bed, Niko. I have other abilities and bedding you is not a damn job."

"Yeah, you're our seer." Daniel chuckled.

"Would you shut up or go away?" Catrin barked. Turning back to Niko, she smiled. "I want to fly with your fighters."

"Like hell," Niko spat as he sat forward. "There's no way in hell I'm putting you in a fighter."

Catrin frowned. "I'm good at it."

"I said no."

"Niko."

"No!" he bellowed as he met her eyes.

Catrin held his gaze in silence for what seemed like minutes though seconds was more accurate, aware that the other crew members in the hall were watching them. "Fine," she said in a low voice. "Then that's your answer when you want to screw me."

"What?" he asked, his eyes wide with surprise as she rose up.

Catrin leaned down so she was nose to nose with him. "When you want to fuck me—it's no," she whispered before straightening up and heading for the exit.

"Can she do that?" Daniel asked in astonishment.

"She might think she can," he answered with narrowed eyes as he watched her ass exiting the mess hall.

* * * *

"*By the gods, she's still denying you?*" Daniel commed when he saw the harsh expression on his friend's face two days later, and then burst into laughter when Niko shot him a dirty look.

"*Shut the fuck up, you bastard,*" Niko growled as he plopped down in his chair on the bridge.

"*Maybe she wants it rough and nasty,*" he joked. "*And by denying you she's putting you in that frame of mind.*"

"*Yeah, that's why when I walked into my quarters last night she was pleasuring herself with a dildo.*"

"*You've got to be shitting me?*" He laughed.

"Do I look like I'm shitting you?" he growled out loud, watching as Daniel bent over in uncontrollable laughter. Turning around he frowned at the crew members who were smiling at him before quickly returning to their posts.

"She got pissed at me because I wouldn't leave and she couldn't bring herself to climax."

"By the gods, this is great," he belted out, going into an even greater peal when Catrin walked onto the bridge.

"Shut up, jerk." Catrin scowled, her eyes casting daggers at him as he fell to his knees in laughter. "I need to talk to you, *Captain*."

Niko turned to her. "Feeling's mutual, *wench*," Niko growled with narrowed eyes as he rose.

"I'll wench you," she said as she lifted her fist and shook it at him.

"I'll be the one wenching you, sweet cheeks, right between them," he said when he was close enough, for only her to hear, until he heard Daniel's peal of laughter. "Get up and assume command if you can," he snarled at Daniel as he gripped Catrin by the elbow.

* * * *

Catrin ripped her elbow away from him once they were inside the elevator, watching as he turned to look at her and ended up in a staring war. Nostrils flared, eyes narrowed, and then he was on her, pinning her to the wall as he took her mouth savagely, her moan filling his mouth with the pent-up sexual frustration flooding her body as she kissed him back just as hard. Her hands came up to grasp the top of his head as he pushed her pants down before lifting her. Her legs encircled his lean waist.

Niko mentally stopped the elevator, ensuring that no one could walk in on them when he finally had her where he wanted her. He opened his ties, pushing them down just enough to plunge up into her tight sheath. He caught her moan at his entry and began taking her with forceful

thrusts. No words were spoken as they let their passion take over.

* * * *

Gage smiled as he looked over at Daniel. "Sir, elevator number two has stopped."

"Has it now?" He chuckled as he walked over to look at the monitor. "All right, pay up, you losers," he said as he held his hand out. He'd placed the bet that Niko and Catrin would go at it before they hit his quarters. He purred as Trea looked over at him. "You know what you lost, baby." His voice was husky as his eyes pinned her with a heated stare.

* * * *

Niko rolled over in bed pinning Catrin beneath him. "If you ever deny me again, I'll put you over my knee and paddle your ass until you're screaming the safe word."

"You do that anyway," she said with a smile.

"That's pleasure, sweet, this would be punishment, and trust me—you will know the difference."

"I don't like arguing with you." She closed her eyes as his mouth lowered to her neck.

"Same here, I'm glad you see things my way."

"Your way?" Her eyes popped open.

"Hmm."

"I still want to fly the fighter."

Niko stopped lavng her neck, took a moment and then lifted his head to look at her. "No, you don't."

"Yes, I do. I've been training really hard in the simulator, Niko," she said as she put her hands on his shoulders.

"You surrendered to me."

"I was horny!" she cried out.

"If you didn't want to see it my way, then you shouldn't have surrendered," he repeated with the same frustrated tone.

"I was horny, damn it. You wouldn't let me come last night."

"Why should you when I haven't?" he growled as he pushed himself up.

Catrin closed her eyes, taking deep breaths to try and calm down as she felt her gifts stirring. "Can I ask why you are so dead set against it?" she asked softly.

Niko stared at her for a moment before answering. "I don't want anything to happen to you," he whispered and for the first time in his life felt more than a passing gentleness for his bedmate as he watched her eyes open—her bright blue beautiful eyes. "I'm falling for you, Cat; you're not just a good lay or someone I know I'm going to kick out of my bed in three months. I've never felt in my life what I feel for you and truthfully, it scares the hell out of me." Her eyes softened and her bottom lip trembled. He leaned down, covering her body gently as his hands went to the back of her head. "I don't want to let you go. I don't want anything to happen to you."

"I don't want you to," she whispered as she hugged him to her. "But I'm not some fragile little thing that's going to break either."

"Yes, you are." Lifting his head, he kissed her softly. "You're not like us, Cat. You are fragile, and even with the Cerian clothing protecting you, you're vulnerable."

"You are, too. Something could happen to you just the same as me."

"And I've trained for it. This is my life, what I was born into."

"I was trained in combat also, Niko. You can't keep me locked up in some china cabinet like I'm a porcelain doll."

"No, but I can keep you out of danger." He lifted his head and kissed her again. "Marry me."

"What?" She moved her head to look at him.

"Marry me."

"But...we haven't known each other that long." Gazing into his green eyes, she remembered what the visions had shown her, but still, she needed to find out for herself, hear it for herself, in his words, his voice, out of his mouth. "Will you ever cheat on me?"

"No."

"Beat or hit me?" she asked as his brow went up. "In anger...bedroom play is different."

"No."

Her eyes on his, Catrin saw that what he'd said earlier about falling for her was true. He was finally letting his emotions show, letting them soften his eyes, and knew at that moment how true her visions really were. That her heart, without a doubt, belonged to him. "Will you continue to fuck me senseless for hours on end until we're so old it takes all day just to get aroused?"

"Hell, yes." Grinning, he lowered his mouth to hers, smothering her moan. "Does this mean yes?"

"Yes. But, I am my own person, Niko, you have to remember that," she replied as she rolled him over, straddling him. "Now, my big, sexy mercenary..." Flicking his nipple with her fingers she watched as it hardened immediately. "Why don't we see," she said with a smile as

she ground her hips against his hard-on, “just how many,” she slid up until his cock parted her labia, “hours,” her arms shook when she rubbed her clit hard against him, “we can,” she moved back down until his thick head was slipped just inside her pussy. “fuck?” she moaned as she lowered herself onto his hardness.

* * * *

“By the gods, they live!” Daniel shouted with laughter when Niko and Catrin walked into the mess hall two days later.

Niko grinned as Catrin blushed. “We have an announcement,” Niko bellowed.

“What, she’s bowlegged now?” Daniel laughed as the others chuckled and tossed out their comments.

“We...are getting married,” he announced, watching as his crew shouted with joy. “And yeah, she’s slightly bowlegged.” Chuckling when Catrin swatted his arm, Niko brought her to him for a crushing kiss.

Niko knew Daniel wanted to question him, but was glad that he waited until they left the semi-party in the mess hall and were alone.

“Are you going to tell her about the gate?” Daniel asked as he walked beside Niko on the way to the bridge.

“Must I?” Niko groaned as he glanced over at Daniel.

“Yes.” He smiled at Niko’s wince. “Don’t want to lose the paradise so soon after getting it back, huh?”

“You said it, my friend.”

* * * *

Catrin watched as Niko paced before her. He’d brought the ceiling restraints down and even had her ankles attached to ones that came up out of the floor, and then

he'd just started pacing the length of the cabin with an intense look on his face. "Niko," she said, watching as he just kept pacing. "Niko," she said a bit louder watching as he stopped, turning to look at her this time. "What's wrong?"

"Nothing."

Catrin smirked. Now she knew something was up; when they were in session he was Master and smacked her ass if she forgot. "You are such a bad liar, Captain."

Niko frowned. "Why?"

Catrin shook her head with a smile. He hadn't defended himself against being called a liar, he just wanted to know why he was doing it so poorly. "If something wasn't eating away at you, your cock would be hard and fuckable, and you'd already be behind me making my ass pink for not calling you Master after you put the clamps on my nipples," she said, lifting her eyebrows at him. "Yet you restrain me, and then pace the entire cabin, ignoring me as if I'm not even here."

"No, sweet, it's not that."

"Then what is it?"

Sighing heavily, he walked over to stand in front of her. "There's something you need to know before we get married."

Oh, gods. At least he still wanted to marry her and wasn't getting cold feet, she sighed inwardly. "You don't like men, do you?"

"What...by the gods, no, what are you thinking, woman?" he exclaimed with a frown.

"Well, then I think I can handle it."

Niko looked her straight in the eye. "I've known of a way to get you home from the moment I found out who you were."

Catrin looked at him with shock, her mouth opening and closing several times, not really sure of what to say. "Why didn't you tell me before?"

"Because I didn't want to let you go."

"That's not letting me go, Niko, that's lying to me!"

"I never lied."

"You never told me," she said through clenched teeth, the burn of tears on her eyes as she held them back.

"But I did not lie."

Catrin's nostrils flared. "No, but you put a slave collar on me. Treated me like one, so I had to barter with you for my freedom, and you talk to me of *trust* when you don't. You're a damn hypocrite!" she yelled, yanking angrily on her restraints.

"I never treated you like a slave," he ground out, his voice raspy and expression hard, his fists clenched by his sides as he stared at her. "If I had, you would have known it well and good, woman, and if you truly think you had to barter for your freedom, then maybe I shouldn't have taken the collar off at all!"

"Maybe you shouldn't have!" she shouted back, their gazes glued to one another's, the silence only broken by their heavy breathing. "Let me down," she rasped as she pulled on the restraints with her hands.

"No, and no, I didn't trust you. All you've been doing is searching for a way home," he said as he turned, grabbed his pants and put them on. "You don't think I know why

you went to see the oracle on Onc? I'll send Trea in to let you down."

"The hell you will," Catrin growled as he picked up his boots and shirt.

"Well, I'm sure as hell not sending Daniel!" he growled.

"No shit, Sherlock. Just let me down, Niko."

"You're too mad."

"Hell, yes I'm mad," she said, raising her voice as he headed toward the door. "If you can't let me down, then don't you send anyone, do you hear me?" She yelled the last as he went out of view, the door sliding shut behind him. "Niko, get back here!" She pulled on the restraints. "Niko!"

Niko leaned against the wall just outside his quarters listening to her yell for him until her anger was used up and silence reigned. Breathing deeply he wondered if she was sleeping as he commed for Trea to come meet him.

"Captain?" Trea asked as she arrived with Daniel by her side.

"I told her about the gate... Go in and release her, please," he ordered in a soft tone as he stepped away with Daniel at his side, pinching the top of his nose with his thumb and forefinger.

"How pissed was she?" Daniel asked.

"Pissed enough that I'm surprised she didn't use her gifts to break free and strangle the shit out of me."

Daniel winced. "Hoo, that's bad. How long did it take for her to settle down?"

"About an hour." Damn, he felt like shit for leaving her in there calling out for him. He'd never leave her alone bound like that for any significant amount of time, but she

didn't know that and that bothered him. "I love her, Daniel."

"I know, my friend, I know," he replied as he slapped the back of his shoulder.

Chapter 8

Catrin was silent as Trea released her, her throat raw from yelling and calling out for Niko. She knew Trea wanted to talk, but at this moment she wasn't in the mood. Rubbing her sore shoulders as she stepped over to the bed, she flopped down, crawled under the covers and inhaled his scent as her eyes fluttered. Needing just a bit of time to think things over before she went looking for Niko.

"So everyone knew about this gate but me?" Catrin asked a few hours later as she and Trea walked down a corridor.

"Yes, it's common knowledge."

"But yet no one told me?"

Trea glanced at her out of the corner of her eye before stopping, and waited until Catrin stopped to look at her. "It's common knowledge for those of Neris. We don't go making it everyone else's business. May I ask what you would have done with the information?" she asked as she placed her hands on her hips. "Would you have left him the moment we set foot on Neris?"

"I don't know, but that would have been my decision to make and live with."

"Are you going to now?"

Catrin took a deep breath. "It is my decision to go home if I want...but it's also my decision to stay with the man I love. He should have trusted me."

"I'm not saying holding that information from you after he proposed was the brightest move Captain Arrian has made, but what would you have done if your positions were reversed?"

"I don't know," she said softly. "The same, most likely." Catrin sighed and leaned against the wall of the hallway they were in. She now knew that Niko had not left her yelling for him and taken off. Trea had told her that he'd waited outside the door to make sure she came to no harm as she settled down, before calling for assistance to help her down. "Gods, Trea."

"Have you talked to him about it?"

"No...we didn't even talk during sex. He came in and we just—went at it."

"How can you do that?" Trea asked with a frown. "I know how, but no talking, at all?"

"It's not easy." Cat sighed heavily and looked up at her new friend. "I do love him, Trea. I just don't know how to handle him sometimes."

"Arius males are an arrogant bunch." Trea smirked. "Controlling, egotistical, superior species that think they know everything."

"So, in other words, just like the men from my planet?" Catrin asked with a smile, and both chuckled until Trea received a comm from the bridge.

"We have a problem," Trea breathed as she took off running with Catrin at her heels.

Catrin watched as the bridge members were all at their stations, calling out information. "What's happening?" she asked, looking up at the huge screen that reminded her of the one on the bridge of the *Enterprise* from *Star Trek*, showing them the six unknown fighter ships attacking a shuttle.

"Our shuttle's under attack," Gage answered as he sent a shot across the shuttle's bow.

"Christ, don't do that, the repercussions will knock the shuttle out," she yelled as the shuttle went sideways. She finally realized that Niko wasn't in the chair she stood behind or on the bridge. "Where the hell's Niko? Who's on the shuttle?" she questioned, turning to look at Gage when no one answered.

"Captain Arrian and First Officer Hedden are on board the shuttle," Gage replied.

Catrin felt her stomach drop and a fear she never experienced before rushed through her. Turning back she watched as a fighter took another shot at the shuttle as the leader in her surged. "Where's communications with the shuttle?" she barked.

"It's out."

"Get it back!" she yelled. "I want all reports now and deploy the fighters. Get those bastards off our men."

"The fighters are two minutes out from takeoff."

"Make it thirty seconds!" She watched the screen, listening to Trea rattle off the shuttle's downed systems. "Do we have any kind of shield we can extend to them?"

"They're too far off."

"Well, goddamn it, get us closer!"

"The shuttle is just beginning to enter the planet's orbit. If we go to them, we could push it either way, sending them colliding into the atmosphere or out to space," Gage replied.

Catrin took the headset Trea handed her and listened as the deck crew deployed two fighters. "Send more than two. We have six fighters on our shuttle."

"We can't and who the hell is this?" said someone on the other end of the headset.

"This is Lieutenant Munro, I have control of the bridge and I want more fighters out there now," she ordered.

"We have no more pilots, we lost one in battle a month ago and the other is ill."

Catrin stood there, hands braced behind her back as she watched the fighters getting ready to engage. "Catalyst fighters, this is the bridge. You have six incoming, three heavily armed. The shuttle's shields are failing and their guns are down. You have the go to fire at will."

"Roger that, bridge."

"They're outnumbered." Looking up at Gage, she breathed deeply, letting it exhale slowly, and knew what she had to do. "You have command, whatever assistance you can give, do it." She headed for the elevator.

"Ma'am?" Gage questioned.

"Deck Officer, get me a flight suit and have a fighter ready to go as soon as I get down there."

"The captain's not going to like this..."

"You let me deal with the captain, because I plan on bringing him back alive," she said, meeting Trea's gaze as the doors closed.

* * * *

"Gods, listen to her go," Daniel said.

Niko listened to Catrin order the *Catalyst's* crew. They could receive communications, they just couldn't send and held on when the shuttle took another hit. "Shut up and get our guns back." He swore as he worked on keeping the shields up, pissed at himself that he hadn't shielded the shuttle the minute they'd refused to issue their call signs. He'd thought they were with the consular sent to negotiate the price of a mission Niko's crew was being hired for, until they opened fire on the consular craft, and then on the shuttle. He glanced up from his place underneath the foot area behind the passenger seats as a fighter went across their bow, the supersonic waves rocking them. The radio still overrun with static, he was barely able to make out the transactions between his fighters and the *Catalyst*.

"*Catalyst*, this is *Fighter One*, we can't hold them, there're too many of them."

"Hold out, fighters, backup is on the way," Gage answered.

Niko's gaze whipped up to Daniel, who'd spun around wide-eyed as they reestablished communications and heard Gage's instructions. They both knew they were the only two people who could pilot a fighter, except for... Niko was about to call the bridge when he heard a noise and jumped up to look out the cockpit window as one of his fighters came right over its bow, firing on a craft in position to attack him. His heart raced, pounding against his chest with dread for the first time in his life.

* * * *

"Dragoness entering fight," Catrin radioed with excitement in her voice as she engaged the fighters, hitting

the firing trigger as she came across the shuttle's bow. "Get off him, you son of a bitch!" she barked, pulling up as the fighter in front of her blew apart. She pulled hers up in an inverted pattern and saw Niko's face as she went back over him upside down. "Hey, baby," she said with a smile as she turned back into the fight, going after the one on Guen's tail. "Guen, pull up hard right."

"Can't do it, the engines will go."

"Do it now, soldier, that's an order!" she yelled, watching as he followed her orders and took her shot on the enemy in front of her pulling away hard left when it blew. "Ha, I love these fighters."

* * * *

"Holy shit, she really is good," Daniel said.

"Yeah," Niko muttered, his tone low. His eyes followed her as she stopped the fighter and shot straight up before coming back down in a nosedive, guns going, in pursuit of the attacking fighter until it blew apart.

* * * *

When all fighters were destroyed, Catrin moved hers so she could pull up alongside the shuttle. "Bridge, those fighters had to come from somewhere. What do the sensors say?"

"No signs of a battle cruiser or warship in the area and they didn't come from the surface. They could have jumped in," Gage answered.

"From where?"

"Not known."

"Well, damn it, know! I want to know how those fighters carried out a sneak attack on our shuttle, getting close enough to knock out her systems. I suggest you get

your asses searching every damn system within jumping range," she ordered. "Have the shuttle's communications come back on line yet?"

"Yes, they have," Niko answered. "We have no power and need a tow."

"*Catalyst*, you heard the captain." She pulled away along with the other two fighters. "Fighters, keep your eyes open in case we get some more jumpers," she ordered as she circled the ship, watching as a cable and magnetic claw was sent out to the shuttle. She'd only seen this done once since she'd been taken. The magnetism would clamp onto the outer hull without disrupting the controls or comms, unless it was for capture, and then an electrical unit was sent through for just that purpose.

"Roger that, Dragoness," Guen radioed.

The fighters flew in different directions. "If we do get more jumpers...do not let them jump back out."

"Understood."

Catrin sighed as she flew right above the *Catalyst*, then remained there. She'd heard the tone in Niko's voice. He wasn't happy. She knew she'd taken a chance jumping in the fighter, but she couldn't just stand there and do nothing.

* * * *

Niko stormed onto the bridge, the elevator doors closing behind him as he scanned his crew with narrowed, anger-filled eyes. "Did no one think to stop her?" he growled.

"Captain, permission to speak freely?" Trea asked. Niko nodded. "Do you really think we had a chance in hell

of stopping her when she found out we only had two fighters, sir?"

"Not really," he grumbled. He knew his woman and it pissed him off that she'd jumped in a fighter, but he also realized Trea was right—he was the only one who would go up against her in pissed-off mode. And he had to say, he was impressed not only with her fighting skills but her command skills as well, especially when she'd informed the fighters to take out anyone coming near them.

"Catrin, this is the bridge," Niko said as he sat on his seat. He knew she was hovering above his ship.

"Go, bridge," Catrin answered.

"The other fighters have boarded, you have clearance."

"Roger that, bridge," she replied and turned right to come around to the back of the warship. "Deck Officer, this is Dragoness."

"Dragoness, you are cleared for landing," he returned.

"Yeah, about that..." Taking a deep breath, she blurted out her question, "How exactly do you land one of these?"

"By the gods!" Niko exploded as he jumped up, running off the bridge for the ship's fighter deck, arriving just in time to watch his deck officer talk her in.

"Bring her in nice and easy, throttle down, engines off. Pull the lever to your bottom right marked landing gear," the deck officer instructed. "Nose up three clicks, you'll be touching in three, two, one. Engage the brakes, yellow lever to your right. Nice job," he said with a smile as the fighter came to a perfect stop and lost it when he saw Niko's face. "Captain on deck!" he yelled as he went straight to attention.

Niko stood there, hands behind his back, watching Catrin take her helmet off as the cockpit opened. His nostrils flared with anger, enticing the deck crew to disappear when he knew they really wanted to congratulate her, because she had, and he even had to admit it, done one hell of a job. His eyes followed her every step as she came closer to him.

"Hi," Catrin said softly, watching as his anger-filled eyes came down to meet hers.

"You went against my orders," he growled with a low tone.

"What orders?" Catrin frowned as she watched his pupils enlarge with anger, and rage it was because it was rolling off of him in waves.

"That you were not to set foot in a fighter."

Catrin's eyes narrowed as his did. "That was never an order."

"It was."

"No, it was not. You didn't want me to fly, and we never settled it, if you'll remember correctly, because you changed the subject," she said frustrated. "And I wouldn't have listened to you anyway, because it would have been a stupid order," she responded sharply.

"Whether you thought it was stupid or not, it was an order!"

"The hell it was!" They stepped toe to toe with each other, and she craned her neck back so she could meet his eyes.

"Who the hell do you think you are?" he yelled.

"The person who just saved your ass!"

"Who could have gotten hers killed!"

"And who would have wanted to die if I couldn't save you!" she shouted, her chest heaving, knowing that what she'd just said was true. "I'm better than that, why can't you trust me?"

"I do!" he growled, yanking her against him and attacking her mouth roughly with his own. Knowing they'd just reached a profound turning point in their relationship, he gripped the back of her head to hold her to him, to never let her go.

"Clear the deck!" the deck officer yelled, watching as everyone scrambled away with smiles.

* * * *

Catrin straddled Niko's lap later that night as they lay on his huge bed. "You have to admit, I know how to handle a fighter."

"Uh huh," he mumbled as his hands came up to caress her breasts.

"Don't 'uh huh' me, Niko Arrian. Don't treat me like a damn bed toy and that's all I can do."

Niko lifted his gaze to hers. "I like it when you're my bed toy." He smiled.

"Smart ass." She chuckled as she leaned down to kiss him.

Niko turned, rolling her under him and then put her on her stomach as his hands caressed her butt cheeks. "I think I want this ass," he said as he leaned over her, breathing heavily in her ear.

"Do you now?" she asked as anticipation crested within her.

"My cock's bigger than the plug," he warned he pulled the plug out.

"I know," she whispered, her eyes fluttering at the wonderful sensations the plug caused as it caressed the sensitive tissues of her rectum on its way out.

"Hmmm." He kissed her shoulder, his sensors picking up her body heating with excitement. "How do you want it?"

"Dominate me." She moved her head so she could look at him, liking the fact he asked her. It was one thing to have anal sex, but it changed the subtleties when the woman voluntarily offered herself to it and, being a man, he was all for it.

Niko smiled as he grabbed two pillows, stuffing them under her belly to bring her ass right up in the air and the perfect level for him. "Hmmm, my sexy little sub wants to be dominated," he said as he slapped her ass cheek, then grabbed it roughly in his hand, messaging it as his hand sought her out, his fingers dipping into her creamy slit.

Catrin gasped, her body trembling as his fingers stroked her tight pussy until they were drenched with her juices, then brought them to her tight little pucker, rubbing them around her anus. She moaned when he increased the pressure, his fingers just inside her tender flesh. Her senses whirled at the sensations he was causing within her. He moved his other hand and leaned over her, grabbed the vibrating dildo he'd used earlier then worked it up into her wet pussy. He turned it on and the vibrations reverberated through her.

"Oh gods," she gasped, her body shaking slightly as it tried to embrace all the sensory perceptions running through her.

"Do you like that, baby?" he asked as he slipped a finger into her tight anus, moaning as her muscles tightened around it, stroking in and out of her several times before inserting another.

Catrin groaned as spikes of pleasure shot through her. "Do me right, Niko," she panted as he stroked her ass.

"Niko, Niko who?" He inserted a third finger.

"Master Niko," she cried with pleasure.

"That's right, baby, who's your master?"

"You are."

"Hmm," he replied as he removed his fingers, watching her ass move and slapped her. "Don't move." He picked up the jar of warming sex cream and spread it over her anus and then his cock. Satisfied he was lubed enough, he set the cream jar aside before positioning himself between her legs.

Catrin groaned when she felt the tip of his cock at her ass.

"Ready?" Niko smiled at the contrast in size, his cock was huge and thick and it was going up her tight little rosette.

"Yes," she breathed, her mouth parting on a silent gasp as he applied pressure.

"Bear down toward me, sweet."

Catrin did as he instructed but it still sent fiery little spikes along her asshole. "Slowly," she gasped. She turned her head, her dazed eyes meeting his over her shoulder. Taking deep breaths to relax herself, her muscles started to allow him in.

Niko listened to her gasps as he passed the first ring. "That's it, baby, relax for me." Running his fingers down her spine, he kept a close watch on her with his sensors and

slowly moved further an inch at a time, going nice and slow. The pulsations from the vibrator hummed against the tip of his cock as her fingers held the dildo deep within her. "You're gorgeous, Cat, your ass is so tight I want to come in you right now."

Catrin whimpered at the feeling of his engorged cock sliding deeper and deeper, the pressure increasing... Pleasure and pain sensations rocked through her. "Oh gods, Niko," she cried as her hands clenched the bed sheets.

"Yeah, baby?"

"You're so big," she whimpered. "My gods, you're huge."

"You know the stop word," he ground out, his hands clenching her hips tightly and ready to withdraw from her if she used it.

"Oh gods," she whimpered and lowered her forehead to the mattress, causing her ass to go a bit higher and the pleasure-pain feeling making her entire body tremble.

"It feels good, doesn't it?" he asked as he picked up her body heat on his sensors.

"Yes," she cried. "Oh, it does feel good." Her anal muscles clenched around his thick cock as he slid in a bit more. "It does."

"Almost there, baby, relax a bit more for me." He slid past the next ring all the way in until his balls rested against her and took a deep breath. "Gods, Cat, you're so tight."

"I lied before," she panted.

"About?"

"Having a cock up my ass... I wanted you to think I was more experienced."

Niko leaned over her back, his face coming close to the side of hers. "Baby...I'm glad I didn't just shove my cock in. I could have hurt you."

"I knew you wouldn't; I knew you'd never hurt me," she breathed heavily.

"True," he said before he nipped her shoulder. "Now, I'm going to fuck your tight ass—your tight little virgin ass." Her body jolted with anticipation. "Hard, for your punishment." He nipped her again before backing up, lifted a hand and smacked her hard on her ass cheek.

Belying his words, Niko moved slowly, pulling out an inch at a time then gradually pushing back in. She was right, he'd never hurt her viciously and even though he'd conditioned her and she was taking him well, he continued at his slow pace until he knew she was ready for more.

Catrin felt his hard cock sliding out of her and the intense pressure it brought as his hand reached around to play with her nipple, his fingers tweaking it. She cried out as his other hand went to her swollen clit, tossing her into a chasm of pleasure the likes of which she'd never experienced before. His cock was almost out of her and then thrust into her causing her to cry out with the most fascinating combination of pleasure and pain she'd ever felt.

"Oh yeah, baby, that's it," he groaned as he thrust into her hard and deep.

Catrin whimpered, moaning as he took her fast and hard. Her body was shaking as goose bumps appeared on her flesh with the tingly feeling they always brought with them as the pleasure built. "Oh gods," she cried, the vibrations from the dildo reverberating against her engorged clit as it rubbed against the pillows, sending

shards of pleasure surging through her, his hips moving like a fast piston as he slammed in and out of her tight ass. "Gods, yes, Niko."

"Are you coming, baby?" he panted, wincing with the strength as he held back his orgasm.

"Yes," she yelped.

"Come while I'm fucking your ass," he ground out, never stopping his thrusting as her body bucked under him, her orgasm taking over as she cried out.

Catrin cried out with the longest orgasm she'd ever had in her life, the dildo still vibrating, his huge cock still pumping into her as she whimpered with her finish, slumping slightly back toward him.

"That's it, Cat," he mumbled as he leaned over her back again. "By the gods, baby, you're such a tight little fuck."

His chest was damp against her back. Catrin heard the hoarseness of his voice and decided if dirty talk helped get her off then maybe it would do the same to him. "Fuck my tight ass, Niko," she breathed heavily. "My cum's running down my pussy... I love your thick cock slamming in and out of me."

Niko growled as he felt his balls tighten up. "You like that, Cat?"

"Gods, yes," she breathed as he plunged into her harder and faster. "Show my ass who's master. Fuck me hard, Niko, fuck my ass hard and come in me, come in my ass." She cried out as she felt the veins in his cock thicken. "I can feel your cock throbbing, your cum getting ready to explode," she panted as he thrust into her. "Oh gods, Niko, come inside me," she gasped, listening to his loud groan as

she felt his seed shooting out of his erection. "Yes, Niko, yes!" she screamed as another orgasm rocked through her.

Niko groaned, his nose twitching with the scents of sweaty bodies mixed with sex as he dropped onto her back, breathing heavily with his cock still buried deep within her. "You're mine, Cat, do you hear me?"

Cat smiled as she pushed her ass down taking him deeper into her as he moaned. "No, Niko, you're mine," she said as she did it again, listening to his chuckle as he nipped her shoulder.

Niko waited until his shaft softened and slid almost completely out of her on its own. "How are you feeling?" he asked as he removed the head of his cock from her.

"Truly and well fucked." She smiled as she opened her eyes.

"Any unusual pains?" he asked as he slipped the dildo out of her and shut it off.

"You mean besides my ass being tender from having a thick, hard cock slammed into it? No, I'm set."

"Keep it up, smart ass, and I'll take you again," he warned as he sat back on his heels.

"Promises, promises." Rolling over she moved the pillows as she spread her legs, looking up at him.

"So sweet," he said as he leaned down, licking some of her juices off the pink, swollen lips between her thighs.

"I love you, Niko." She breathed heavily, watching as his eyes met hers when he lifted his head. "I know it may be too early and I know that we need to work on getting along on some things but—"

"I love you, too," he said, his voice gravelly as he moved up her body to kiss her softly on her lips. Never had

he imagined saying those words to a woman—until now. “You do realize that once we marry it’s for life, right?” He straightened up. “We don’t believe in divorce like Earthlings do.”

“I don’t either, that’s why I never married. I didn’t find anyone I wanted to be with for the rest of my life.”

“You sound like my mother,” he said with a smile as he jumped up off of the bed. “By the way,” he replied as he picked her up. “She’s from Earth, too.”

“You ass.” She couldn’t help but smile as he grinned wickedly. “When were you going to share this with me?”

“I just did, sweet, I just did,” he said, lowering his mouth to hers then stepping into the shower. “Now hush and let me make sure you’re not injured.”

Catrin stood there while he checked her physically and then had the computerized med unit run a quick check before showering with her and then carrying her to bed. “If you keep treating me like a princess, you’re going to spoil me,” she whispered as she cuddled up against him.

Niko smiled as he ran his fingers lightly down her back. “You are my princess.”

Chapter 9

Catrin sat on Niko's lap as his planet came into view on the big screen. It was lush with greenery and blue with water. "It's beautiful," she whispered.

"You'll love it." He smiled near her ear and he kissed her before taking command, bringing the warship down to the planet and into port before giving the all clear for his crew.

"Do you always bring the ship down?" she asked as they followed the bridge crew to the cargo deck.

"Not always, but we've been gone for six months, and she needs to be checked out and unloaded."

Catrin's eyes flew to the windows of the huge port, watching as fighters flew right by. "Oh gods."

"Yes?" He chuckled, watching her reaction as she looked around as they walked past smiling port workers. He arrogantly nodded his head to them as they acknowledged him.

Catrin smiled up at him. "Don't be vain, Captain."

"That's Master Captain to you, sweet cheeks."

"Vain and still horny, what am I going to do with you?" she asked as they joined Daniel and Trea on a land shuttle.

Niko grinned as he landed a hard slap on her bottom before she sat down. "I'm sure I'll think of something," he replied as he pulled her onto his lap.

Cat wrapped her arm around his shoulder as the shuttle took off and smiled as she caught Trea sneaking glimpses of Daniel. The soft hum of the shuttle's movement had her laying her cheek against Niko's chest, her gaze moving to the window, and she watched as the green lushness of land sped by as his arms wrapped around her.

Catrin glanced around as they walked from the shuttle up the wide steps of a white stone mansion. She watched as two men opened the huge double doors for them and Niko walked in like he was the king of this castle.

A well-dressed woman walked toward them, the gray in her hair the only sign of her age. The woman grinned as she met Niko's eyes, then came to stop in front of them and looked at Catrin. "Hello, Catrin, I'm Helen, Niko's mother."

Catrin smiled. "Helen, it's nice to meet you."

Niko stepped forward so his mother could hug him. "She's from Earth, like you."

"Yes, I know," Helen replied with a smile as she pulled back. "Come, I'm sure you're hungry. Let's go eat and get to know one another." She took them both by the hands and led them into a huge hall.

Catrin grinned when Niko smiled over at her. She could see the resemblance between mother and son and was glad that she'd have something in common with her new mother-in-law. As soon as they entered the huge chamber both Niko and Helen were pulled away to separate areas of

the room. Catrin stood there alone, feeling like the outsider she was.

"There's one thing you have to get used to, Catrin," Helen said as she came up to her with a drink and a smile. "Arius males rarely show soft emotions for non-Ariuses in front of others. It's like some warrior thing they have going on."

"So, he won't hold my hand or kiss me in front of anyone?" she asked as she sipped the drink.

"I'm afraid not. Well, not after he kisses you in front of everyone to officially declare you his."

"That's bullshit. He paid attention to me on ship."

"When did you marry?"

"Ah, a couple days ago."

Helen sighed, hating to hurt the young woman. "To an Arius, a bed toy and a wife are in two different categories."

"That's just stupid." Frowning, Catrin lifted the glass to her lips. She didn't like that at all. It's not like she expected him to fawn all over her, but she'd like a little attention. What they did on board the *Catalyst* was fine; the attraction between them was seen was but not overly sickening to look at.

"Don't worry, if he's anything like his father, he'll make up for it in the bedroom."

"Yeah, the bedroom." Catrin held her drink up in a toast. "Salute." Helen smiled and took a sip of her drink. "And I have to say...he sure as hell knows what he's doing."

"And Earth men think they're the bomb." Helen snorted.

"Hey, sweet, need another drink?" Daniel asked as he came to stand next to the women.

"We eat!" came a booming voice.

Catrin jumped and her hand went to her heart. "Oh, Christ."

"That, Cat, is your new father-in-law, Lord Sym." Daniel chuckled as he stepped up to take his seat at the long table.

"Every night." Helen sighed as she showed Catrin to her seat. "My husband likes to roar."

Cat watched as Niko's father took his seat at the head of the table. He was huge, as big as Niko, and she could tell they were related, as his gaze came to hers. *Yes, they had the same green eyes.*

"My son has finally taken a wife!" Sym bellowed as Niko stepped up on the platform to take his seat, listening as his gathered warriors banged and shouted their acceptance. "Stand, woman, and let my son's men see who will carry the future heir."

Catrin's brows shot up at his chauvinistic attitude, more than annoyed that her new father-in-law thought nothing more of her than as the carrier of Niko's child. Her fists clenched, but she kept her mouth shut.

"Go on." Helen encouraged Catrin with a smile.

Catrin looked down when she felt hands on her waist and saw a smiling Niko as he lifted her to stand on the table. She was actually a bit uncomfortable as the men yelled cheers and jeers at her until his crew from the *Catalyst* started chanting, "*Dragoness, Dragoness.*" And at the third one and a large smile on her face, she curtsied in front of the entire hall as their shouts of acceptance grew.

Chuckling Niko jumped up, caught her around the waist and turned her, bending her over his arm as he planted a long, thorough kiss on her.

She smiled as Niko lifted his head with a grin before he jumped down, helping her down next to him, and thought that maybe Helen was mistaken. That he'd show her the attention he had on board his warship. He did love her, he'd told her he did, and she felt it in the way he touched her, so why wouldn't he want to show it in front of others?

* * * *

Catrin looked at Niko as he walked right by her after the meal, not even bothering to look at her, and raised both brows. "I don't think so," she mumbled as she followed him to a group of men. "Niko," she said as she came up to his back, her fingers lightly touching him, hoping Helen was wrong and he'd introduce her to his friends, especially when during dinner he kept his hand on her knee or leg at all times. She felt that hope dissolving as she watched him turn to look at her with an arched eyebrow and a look that made her feel like a kid being given the look at the candy counter. "I need to talk to you."

"Later," he replied before turning back around.

Catrin pursed her lips as her eyes narrowed. She didn't give a damn who he was; he was not going to pull this shit with her. "Niko," she said again, seething as several of his buddies looked at her with amusement and leered at her figure freely.

Cat's lip lifted with a snarl as she eyed his friends, aware that Niko's shoulders had tensed. It was slight but it was there, and she moved her eyes back to him. She got the feeling he wanted to answer her but remembered what

Helen had said. His leering friends waited to see him follow those traditions as they checked her out, making her want to punch each of their faces.

"Later," he ordered again without turning to look at her.

Catrin really didn't like his tone. Lips pursing until she made a sucking sound, she said, "Uh huh." With her hands on her hips, she leaned forward. "So, you're going to ignore me, are you, as you let your friends get an eyeful? Maybe I should take my top off and really give them something to look at. Remember, no is what you get when you want a screw," she snarled, her hot breath hitting the shell of his ear. "Have fun with your hand, *Master*, because that's the only thing you're going to be the master of." She pulled back quickly and strode away, missing as he turned to look at her over his shoulder.

"I told you," Helen said as Catrin stepped up to her. "They ignore us until it suits them. We weren't born on Neris, so this is how it is."

"Yeah, well, that's just plain asinine." She snorted, her eyes lowered for a moment. "So, it's not that he won't show emotion to me because of some warrior's thing. I'm being discriminated against because I wasn't born here, and I'm being ignored because I wasn't born here. So in other words, I'm only noticed when he wants to fuck me?"

"Don't make it sound so drastic. It's not all that bad, and he will make it up to you in chambers."

"Drastic?" she asked as she looked at the other woman, taking a step back. "I'm more than a fuck toy. I'm not being drastic." Her voice rose as she continued. "This is being drastic." And with long strides she headed right back to

where Niko was, feeling her gifts flowing throughout her veins with every step she took.

"Oh Gods, stop her," Helen called out to Daniel, pointing to Catrin in panic.

Catrin watched as Daniel took a step toward her, narrowing her eyes as she lifted her index finger, she waved it back and forth in a 'no, no' statement, satisfied as he involuntarily jerked to a stop.

Niko turned when he heard his mother yelling and saw Catrin heading right to him.

"I'm good enough to fuck but not good enough to be seen with in public?" she asked with a raised voice, her chest aching painfully as the hurt and anger welled within. Her hands clenched, tingling with her powers as guards moved in front of him and the hall quieted. She could feel it welling up inside her and damned if she was going to force it back this time. He was supposed to love her. He said he loved her. *You don't treat someone you love like this.*

Cat knew she was letting her anger control her, but didn't give a damn. She was human, damn it, and she had feelings, ones that felt stomped on and crushed at this moment and now, now she was fighting back. Let him ignore her now.

Lifting her hands, she put them out in front of her, tears burning the backs of her eyes as she moved her arms to the side, watching as the guards went flying. "You are a discriminating, self-serving, son of a bitch!" Moving her hands, she tossed several other guards back as they came at her. "I am supposed to be your wife, not a damn fuck toy only good enough for the bedroom! I will not be considered second-rate in this marriage!" she yelled and with the last of

her strength, she moved her hands in a circular motion and with a scream sent her energies up, blasting through the roof. "If you want a fight, *husband*, then I'll give you one, or have you forgotten just who in the hell I am?" she snarled. Taking a deep breath, she felt herself stumble as he stepped toward her. "Don't you touch me," she rasped as she staggered to the door, watching as people made way for her. "Jerk."

Chapter 10

“Well, that was a show if I ever saw one,” Helen said with a smile as she walked up to Catrin, who was sitting outside on the huge palace steps.

“He pissed me off.”

“Simple and to the point.”

“That’s it,” Catrin replied. She really wasn’t up to talking; in fact, it was taking everything she had to stay sitting up and talk. That had been the largest release of energies she’d ever done and it was taking its toll on her.

“You know,” Helen said as she sat down. “The crew of the *Catalyst* is in there bragging about your fighter skills.”

“Oh yeah?”

“And the way you took over command of the *Catalyst* when the shuttle was attacked.”

“Imagine that.”

“I bet you wish you had a cigarette right about now, don’t you?”

“How’d you know?” Catrin asked as she finally turned to look at her.

“We all have our special gifts,” she replied with a wink as she rose up. “Now, I believe you should rejoin the party.”

“I’m too weak, Helen.”

Helen watched as the young woman before her slumped. "Niko's asking how you are," she whispered as Catrin went to lie back on the steps. "*I'll take care of her, Niko,*" she said telepathically to her son when he bothered her again.

"I don't even think I can get to my bedroom."

"Can't you?" she asked as she lowered her hand to Catrin's shoulder.

Cat looked up at her as she felt the energy streaming into her body. "Oh gods, you're a healer."

Helen just smiled at her as she rose and headed back inside. "As well as a telepath. Now you know why the Ligers took me. Your husband is extremely worried about you. Come back to the party, Catrin."

* * * *

Niko's head went up the moment she stepped foot back inside the hall.

"So!" Sym bellowed, causing everyone to quiet down as he looked at Catrin. "Lieutenant Catrin Munro...why in the hell did you choose the Earth's Navy, in two words?"

Catrin watched as his lips went up at the corners in a small smile, and she pursed hers out as she thought about it for a moment. She found Niko's smiling eyes as she spoke in a loud, clear voice. "Fast and furious."

Niko stepped over to her as the hall erupted in excitement and took her into his arms. "I'm sorry. I love you, and I see now that trying to follow the old traditions is not something that will suit our marriage," he said as he leaned down to kiss her.

"You must be. I've never heard you apologize before."

"I never have," he replied before he deepened the kiss.

His warm breath fanned her damp lips as he lifted his. "You're not going to get in trouble, are you, for paying attention to me?"

"No, my generation hasn't been too thrilled with having to keep their hands off their life mate in public, so that's one custom that has been changing slowly." He smiled. "And my people like you."

"Even after blowing a new sunroof in their hall?"

Niko chuckled as he met her gaze. "Even after blowing a sunroof in the hall." Lowering his mouth, he kissed her hungrily again before they were both pulled away into the festivities of the party.

* * * *

Later on that night, Catrin she rode Niko's cock.

"What are you smiling at?" he asked as he played with her clit.

"Besides the obvious?" she asked breathlessly. "That this is the kind of...party I like."

Niko took his thumb away from her clit, watching as she opened her eyes to look at him. "Does my baby want to come?" he asked with a wicked smile, growling when she picked up her pace.

"Play with my clit again." She breathed heavily as she rode him hard.

"I think I want to extend this little fuck session."

"Niko," she cried, feeling her orgasm right there on the edge, but couldn't get there. "Please, I'm so close."

Niko wrapped his arm around her waist and rolled over until she was under him.

"Gods, what are you doing? Don't stop!" she cried, her body arching up as he licked her nipple. "Niko!"

"Niko what?" He grinned.

"Oh gods, fuck me!" she panted as her entire body trembled with unreleased pleasure.

Niko chuckled as he moved lower, his tongue swiping her clit. He moved back when she cried out and arched up toward him then grabbed her hand when she went to rub her clit. "None of that."

Catrin looked at him with frustration. "Goddamn it, fuck me!"

"Fuck you where?"

"I don't care!"

Niko pulled her to the end of the bed by her ankles and reached over to his nightstand. He dipped two fingers in a jar and brought them back to her, smearing her puckered anus before rubbing it on his cock. "Anywhere I want, my little sub?"

"Oh gods, yes," she cried as she writhed around on the bed, feeling his thumb stretch her tight muscles, the warming feeling of the sex cream bringing her up higher as Niko pushed a pillow under her ass and brought her legs up over his shoulders. Opening her eyes she met his as he pushed the head of his cock against her sphincter. Her mouth opened on a silent gasp, pressure mixing with intense pleasure as he slowly pushed his way into her. "I'm going to come."

"Not yet, hold it." He groaned as he moved slowly.

"Oh fuck no!" she shouted as she moved her hips toward him, his cock slamming deep within as her ass muscles gripped the thick shaft.

"Damn, baby," Niko grunted as his hands tightened on her hips. Thrusting into her he watched her face scrunch up

with her pleasure, her lips parting with the sexiest little noises and he loved it. He knew she was really ready to orgasm when her face flushed, and moving his hand from her hip he found her clit and rubbed it frantically as he thrust into her ass. "That's it, baby, come for me."

"Oh gods, I'm coming!" she panted as she felt the numbness in her brain. Crying out his name as her body bucked against him, she could feel her ass muscles tightening around his thick cock and then he was slamming three fingers into her pussy. "Oh gods, Niko!" she screamed as her orgasm went on and on, until she felt entirely spent.

She opened her eyes in time to see his face harden up as his eyes closed and lips part. "Come for me, Niko," she gasped breathlessly as she moved her weak legs from his shoulders to his hips, tightening them around him as she squeezed her anal muscles around his cock.

"Little witch," he breathed as he opened his eyes to look at her, shouting as his cock throbbed and he let go, thrusting into her hard as her ass muscles milked him further.

Catrin wrapped her arms around him as he lay down on top of her. "Yeah, but I'm your little witch," she said with a tired, satisfied smile.

"You sure as hell are, baby," he rasped against her throat as he placed a kiss there. "You sure as hell are."

* * * *

Catrin smiled at Niko three days later when she passed him as he discussed business with his father. He raised his gaze to hers, smiling at her. Lifting her hand to her mouth to hide her smirk and giggle when Sym knocked him in the arm to bring him back to attention, Cat moved quickly

before she caused more trouble. She stopped suddenly when she felt the onslaught of a vision, her fingers grazing the wall as she stumbled back through the doorway.

Niko glanced up again when he saw her out of the corner of his eye. He knew something was wrong and he lost his smile. He turned and jumped down off the platform, rushing to her. "Cat?"

"Niko," she cried as she slipped to the floor, lying on her side, her head on her outstretched arm.

"Medic!" Sym yelled as he followed his son. "We need a medic!"

"No, don't touch her," Niko said as they knelt by her. Her eyes were wide and unfocused, the pupils so enlarged they almost completely took over her eyes. She breathed heavily, whimpers escaping her parted lips. "Cat?" he whispered when her eyes started returning to normal. "Sweet, can you hear me?"

"Niko," she said weakly.

"I'm right here, baby." He gently touched her shoulder.

"Niko, raise alarm, they're coming."

"Who?" he asked with a frown.

"L-ligers," she stuttered, the vision draining her more than she would have liked.

Sym scoffed. "They would never come here."

"They're coming."

"When?" Niko asked as he helped her sit up.

"Now," she said as she looked at him.

Sym looked up as the alarms from the spaceport sirens went off, sending out distress calls to every villa in the vicinity. "Let's go!" he yelled as he took off running.

"Go," Catrin said when she saw the conflict in Niko's eyes to go running into battle with his father or stay by his weakened wife's side. "Go. I'll be fine."

"Love you," he said before he kissed her quickly and then took off after his father.

Helen ran in, helping Catrin up and to a safe room. "I can't believe they're trying to attack us."

"Why?" she asked as she lifted her hand to her head and felt Helen empowering her again. "Why do you do that for me?"

"Because you need it, Catrin, and to answer your other question, they tried once before...the Ligers attacking Neris. They're stupid for coming back. Arius warriors aren't known for their mercy. Especially when they're the ones being attacked."

Catrin's strength had returned fully by the time they entered the safe room. Several guards monitored the controls, talking with ground support as monitors showed pictures of the village and surrounding area. "Do we have a headset so I can hear what's going on?"

"You're married," she said as she turned to look at Cat. "Once women marry, we don't fight anymore."

"Yeah, well..." she scoffed as she picked up an earpiece and tossed one to Trea who had just arrived. "If I can help save lives then I'm doing it."

"Niko won't like this."

"If I can bring him back alive then I'll take the punishment," she said as she listened to Sym yell out orders to ground troops. "Where's Niko?" she asked as she glanced over at Trea.

"He and the crew have headed for the *Catalyst*," Trea answered as she sat in front of one of the monitors to bring up Niko's transport. The monitor showed the shuttle speeding toward the spaceport where they had previously landed the *Catalyst*.

"Give me a rundown of what we can do from here," Catrin ordered, listening to Trea as she listed the abilities of the safe room's controls.

"Cat, we have four battleships that just came out of jump."

Catrin hit her earpiece. "Sym, four battleships just came out of jump and are in orbit."

"Who the hell is this?" Sym bellowed.

"That, Dad, is your daughter in-law," Niko radioed with a smile apparent in his voice.

"Girl, you're married. Get the hell off comm!"

"Two more just jumped in. They are deploying fighters," Catrin replied, ignoring him. "Captain Arrian, are you crewed up?"

"We're short fighters," Niko commented. "And no, you are not going up with us. That is an order, Lieutenant."

"Then you better come back or else I'll have to kick your mangled ass all over space...Captain," she said, her eyes going to Trea when a red light started going off.

"We have incoming, raise shields around the villa!" Trea barked. "Twenty fighters are coming aground, twenty more heading to the port."

Cat followed her as she moved around one of Helen's guards, hitting several keys on the control board to bring the spaceport up on a monitor and listened to the men there issuing commands. "Christ, it's like Pearl Harbor all over

again,” she swore as enemy fighters flooded the spaceport with firepower.

She heard Sym yell, “Port, get those guns up now!”

“They’ve been deactivated,” breathed the port’s captain.

“What the hell do you mean, deactivated?” Sym bellowed.

“Sabotage, my lord.”

Catrin stood there watching as they yelled for shields but those were down also and Sym yelled for ground fighters to get up. “Niko?”

“I’m on ship,” he replied.

“Niko,” she said more pointedly, waiting, tense while he was silent.

She heard Niko’s breathing a moment longer, then, “If you do, you better come back to me or else I’ll be kicking your mangled ass all over space...Dragoness.”

Catrin smiled. “Roger that, Captain.”

“You had better, Lieutenant. Trea, I know you’re standing right there, get her a flight suit.”

“Yes, sir,” Trea answered.

Catrin heard Sym yelling at Niko as she removed the headset, then Niko giving the command that the *Catalyst* was taking off. “Are you coming with me?” Catrin asked.

“I can’t,” Trea answered. “I don’t know how to fly a fighter.”

Catrin grabbed the flight suit on her way by and dressed as she went. “Make sure Helen stays safe.”

“I will,” she said as she introduced Catrin to the deck officer and the fighter she’d be going up with.

"Wish me luck," Catrin said as she jumped up on the ladder, climbing into the cockpit. After securing her helmet, she flipped the switches that really weren't that different from an F-14. "Dragoness ready for clearance," she breathed into the mask.

"Dragoness, you have clearance," the deck officer replied.

Catrin brought the fighter up and around, her wingman following her. She smiled as Sym looked up from the ground patrol's command sled as she flew overhead. "Hey, Daddy-in-law." She chuckled.

"He's going to have a fit," her wingman Ren replied.

"Probably." She smirked, the land below them flying by quickly with the supersonic thrusters of the fighter. They slowed down as they came upon the fighting, and she saw the *Catalyst's* thrusters as it shot up from port into the atmosphere, ready to fight the battleships there. Blinking rapidly to push the tears back, she wished her husband a good fight and a safe return. "Ready?"

"Ready," Ren called back and radioed, "Dragoness and Ren engaging fight."

Catrin didn't know how long they had been fighting when Ren commed her. "They're separating us from the rest."

"Yeah, noticed that," she said as she rolled to the right.

"No, I mean they're really separating us, Catrin."

"I know," she bit out as she watched ten fighters head after them, when most were either down or had fled. "This is Dragoness and Ren requesting assistance," she radioed, listening as Ren gave their coordinates.

"Fuck, I'm hit," Ren called as his wing started smoking from a pulsar blast.

"Back down," Catrin said as she watched him try to control his fighter.

"I won't leave you," he groaned as he tried with everything he had to keep his nose up.

"They're after *me*, Ren. Back down now."

"No way in hell, Catrin."

"Back down, damn it, so I can go at them. I can't do it if you're in the middle!"

"Niko will kill me if I leave you!"

"I'm pulling rank, now put that bird down!" she yelled as she cut hard to the right, glancing back and watching as he went down into the green fields below. The fighters went right over him, coming after her as he radioed his position. "You want me, you sons of bitches," she said as she clipped her oxygen mask in place and hit the breaks, before going straight up. "Then come and get me!" Turning her head, she watched as they attempted to follow her as her instruments started beeping at the strain she was putting on the fighter, telling her to bring it back to a normal flight pattern. Pulling back on the control stick, she rolled the jet into a back flip, inverting the fighter, guns firing as she came right at all of them, yelling.

"By the gods, she's crazy," Sym said when he saw her heading straight at the pack of them.

"Crazy, or an Arius at heart, and she's taking them down," Ren said as he pointed up to the falling fighters.

"And herself," he called out when smoke started pouring out of her fighter.

"Damn it," Catrin swore when she was hit and rolled, taking another one down as she tried to fall back. "Mayday, mayday," she said as she hit the tracker. "This is Dragoness requesting assistance. I have five fighters on my tail and my fighter is damaged," she said as she received nothing but static. "Mayday, mayday," she repeated. "Can anyone hear me, respond please," she radioed and heard Trea's voice breaking up. "Mayday, mayday, this is Dragoness requesting assistance," she said as her fighter went sideways from another hit. "Trea, can you hear me?" she asked. A ball of fear hit her stomach, and going into another roll, she headed back toward Ren. "Mayday, mayday, I can't keep my nose up much longer."

She breathed heavily with the strain of trying to keep her fighter in the air. It veered to the right as it was hit again. The beeps and warnings going off in the cockpit left her no choice but to bring the fighter down. "Mayday, this is Dragoness. I have to set my fighter down. I repeat, I'm grounding... Christ, is there anyone out there?"

* * * *

"Captain, we're getting a mayday from one of your father's fighters," Gage said.

Niko's blood froze when he heard Catrin's call over the intercom. "Get us down to the surface now," he ordered watching as his crew scrambled. "Put a link through."

"Her systems are breaking up," Daniel stated. "And her comm's being jammed."

Niko met his gaze for all of two seconds. Both men knew who was attacking her and why.

"Get me to my wife, Hedden," Niko replied with a low tone, and his best friend nodded as Niko's stomach

clenched with fear. "Open a channel to my father," he ordered. Sym's voice was a comfort to him, calming him, even though he was a grown man and hardened warrior. "Dad, where is she?"

"Her position is north of us. She was smoking bad, had five fighters on her tail."

"By the gods," he growled and started to doubt his decision to let her fly, especially when he heard one of his father's men yell that her fighter was now down. "Give me her location," Niko barked.

* * * *

Catrin winced at the pain in her shoulder as the warning sounds in the cockpit stopped. "Well, thank the gods," she breathed heavily.

"Proton leak," a computerized voice replied. "Destruction is imminent."

"Oh, that's fucking great," she mumbled as she scrambled to get her belts off. Reaching over she blew the cockpit's top off and tossed her helmet. "Mayday, fucking mayday!" she yelled as she rolled out of the fighter, hitting the ground with her feet running.

Her eyes widened as four enemy fighter jets came up in front of her. "Ah, shit," she breathed as she lifted her hands in surrender, listening to the ship behind her beep out a warning and three, two, one. She was down on the ground as it blew, covering her head as strong winds and pieces of the ship flew above and at her. She cried out for Niko in her mind.

* * * *

Niko heard her mental cry nano-seconds before Sym's shout of a proton blast over the comm line. "Emergency

planetary landing now!" he yelled as Daniel read her coordinates, gripping the arms of his chair so hard, his knuckles turned white.

* * * *

Groaning from the aches going through her body Catrin lifted her head to see that the fighters had scattered. Knowing it wouldn't last long, she scrambled up, wincing with the pain and only ran about forty feet when the fighters came back. She knew there was no way in hell she could get away now. She lifted her good hand to the back of her head as the other just hung limply at her side, and felt her gifts kicking up and the adrenaline starting, causing her fingers to tingle. She saw the cockpit's shield fade, making the hood transparent and showing the face of the Liger who had come on board the *Catalyst* to take her mark off.

"Christ," she snarled and then smiled when she saw the *Catalyst* appear right behind them and with a victorious look on her face, she moved her hand to the front and flipped off the fighters. "Fuck you!" she yelled, watching as the fighters tried to escape and went down as the *Catalyst* shot them. She fell to her knees and onto her stomach, breathing a sigh of relief that everything would be all right now.

She winced at Sym's loud voice as he asked if she was all right, but couldn't answer him.

"Cat!" Niko yelled.

Catrin rolled over coughing, eyes fluttering to see Niko running off the *Catalyst* toward her. "I'm all right," she coughed as he helped her sit up then knelt beside her. "Where the hell did you come from?"

"The fight was over in orbit when we heard your distress call."

"Ren?"

"He's fine, and for future reference, he outranks you."

"Maybe, but I'm a better pilot."

"Enough," Niko ordered. "Let's get you back to the villa; you're hurt." Lifting her up gently in his arms, he headed toward his father's war sled. "*Daniel, bring the Catalyst to port,*" he commed.

"*Is she all right?*" Daniel asked.

"*She is now,*" Niko replied before lowering his mouth to Catrin's.

Chapter 11

"My shoulder's fine," Catrin said later on that night as she straddled Niko's lap outside their rooms on a soft Flarillian chaise.

"You dislocated it." He ran his fingers over her sling-covered arm again.

"So that means we can't have sex?" she asked as she pulled his head to hers with her good hand.

"Well..."

"No 'wells', Captain," she said low and seductively.

"Cat." He groaned when she kissed right under his Adam's apple and started sucking lightly.

"Niko, my big, sexy merc," she said between kisses on his neck. "My husband, my sexy, sexy man."

Niko grinned as a chuckle escaped. "All right, what are you up to, woman?"

Catrin giggled against the hollow of his neck as she wrapped her arm around his neck, holding him tight. "You're not going to ban me from flying, are you?"

Niko sighed as he tightened his hold on her. "I should. You're married, damn it, and traditions says that married women are not allowed to fight." She lowered her eyes. "But you're too damn good of a pilot to keep grounded."

"Really?" she asked with a smile as she lifted her head to look at him.

"Yeah...but I expect some serious submission, because I am going to catch hell from not only my dad but every other male in the village."

Catrin looked at his all masculine grin. "Anything you want, baby," she said with a smile as she leaned in to kiss him.

"What do you want?" His hand caressed her back.

"Soft and easy."

"Only for you, you know."

"Yes," she said as he carried her to the bed, laying her down gently. "I know."

* * * *

"She's going to have a fit," Daniel smirked as he sat at the table talking to Sym and Niko.

"Tell me about it," Niko sighed.

"Where is she anyway?" Sym asked as he looked over at his wife.

"I don't know," Helen answered.

"I wouldn't want to be you when she finds out." Daniel chuckled.

"When who finds out what?" Catrin asked as she walked in, arching an eyebrow at all of them when they clammed up tight. "Okay..." she said slowly, now knowing there was something definitely going on.

"I'm leaving for an assignment," Niko blurted out, wanting to get it over and done with and figured that it would be better to tell her in front of others than alone.

"Oh, good," Cat said as she sat next to him. "When do we leave?"

Niko sighed as Daniel smirked at him. "That's it, sweet, we don't go anywhere. I do."

The fruit stopped halfway to her mouth. "You're going to leave me here?" Turning her head she watched as he nodded. "How long?"

"Six months, maybe."

"Oh, I don't think so," she said as she popped the fruit in her mouth.

"Cat, we're married, and married women do not go on missions."

"But you're letting me fly?"

"And you're taking advantage of the situation."

"Well, I'm sure as hell not staying here all by myself while you're gone for six months," she replied, irritated.

"You have no choice."

"The hell I don't," she said as she looked at him again.

"Do not argue with me. It's the way things are."

"Then change them."

"No."

"Yes."

"Do not argue with me on this, Catrin. I've already bent rules and traditions for you."

"I will argue with you on this, damn it," she said as she stood, watching as everyone looked at her. "Because the med tech said..." She trailed off as she stomped over to the door.

"Med tech?" Sitting up straight, he looked at her with wide eyes.

"That's right," she said as she turned to look at him. "My sexual hormones are raging because I'm pregnant, and I'll be damned if you leave me here alone for six months."

“Pregnant?” he yelled as he stood up.

Hand on her hip she watched as Niko’s face softened from frustration to surprise and softened her voice. “That’s right, pregnant. I’m going to have a baby.”

“Holy shit,” Daniel croaked.

“You—don’t piss me off, Hedden,” she said as she pointed her finger at him. “And you,” she said as she moved her pointer to Niko who just stood there like a deer in headlights. “You’re taking me with you or else...or else... Damn it, I can’t think of anything good right now, but I will so...so... Damn it. I’m going,” she said before storming away.

“I’m going to be a father,” Niko said with a smile as he took off after her.

Epilogue

Catrin lay on the lush green grass just outside their rooms, sighing as the warmth of the sun touched her as well as Niko.

"You like that, huh?" he asked with a smile when he came up from between her legs, looking at her over her large stomach.

"You know I do." Opening her eyes she shaded them from the sun's rays and watched him, feeling his fingers playing with her swollen clit. "It feels so good to just lay here in the sun after being on board the *Catalyst*."

"It sure does, baby." Kissing the inside of her thigh, he watched it shake. "Lie down and enjoy."

"I wish I could touch you," she whispered as she closed her eyes and let herself relax, crying out when he brought her to orgasm.

Niko smiled as he crawled up to lie next to her. "You're so beautiful." Laying his hand on her rounding stomach he caressed her softly, smiling when the baby moved. "He's going to be a strong little thing."

"It could be a girl," she said as she moved her hand to his rock-hard cock, rubbing him through his pants.

"It could," he replied as he met her eyes.

"Remove those pants and kneel above me."

"Do you want to suck my cock?" he asked with a smile and did as she requested.

"No, I want to suck my cock."

"Hmmm, someone's dominating today." He straddled her shoulders; her hands came up to caress his cock and sac.

"Blame the hormones," she muttered as she pulled him down to her, taking him deeply into her mouth.

"Gods, Cat," he moaned as he let her set the pace, bending over so his hands clenched in the soft grass.

Catrin put her hands at the back of his muscular thighs and held on as she loved him, listening to his groans and murmurings. Laying her head down again, she moved her hands to his ball sac, and it tightened up as she caressed his length. "You're so thick," she said huskily as she brought the tip of his penis down to lick. "Come for me, Niko," she groaned before taking him back into her mouth, sucking hard, and he did. He watched through his arms as she sucked him, making him lose his control, and he pumped into her mouth with short strokes, groaning her name as his balls tightened up and let loose in her mouth.

Niko shook when she gently removed his sensitive head from her mouth.

"Come here, lover, come lay by me."

Shaking with a groan, he moved his leg over her before crawling back to lie beside her, his arm resting right above her belly as his face nuzzled her neck. "I love you, Cat."

"As I love you, Niko, my big sexy mercenary," she said with a smile as she cuddled right back next to him.

Niko smiled as he snuggled his face right into her neck, feeling her soft breathing and heart beat as she slept

peacefully in the protective embrace of his arms. "I love you so much, my little slave."

"Uh huh," she whispered sleepily. "I found my way out."

Niko chuckled as he slipped a leg between hers to help support the weight off her back. "Did you?"

"Hmmm, from being on the run, to running right into your arms."

"Don't you mean kneeling at my feet?"

"Shut up, sexy, you're messing with my daydream."

Niko smiled as he snuggled his nose to her neck. "Well, we can't have that, now can we?"

"Hell, no."

"I love you, baby," he said as he gently caressed her lower back.

"I love you more than you'll ever know," she whispered as she fell asleep to his gentle caresses.

Niko smiled as he kissed her softly. "I know a lot, sweet, I know a lot," he whispered as he sent a thank you to his mother again for making him take that mission and going to the bar when she had told him to.

* * * *

With the back of her hand, Trea brushed the tears from her cheek and turned away from the love Niko and Catrin shared for one another. The hopelessness of her love for Daniel was eating away at her. Sure, he'd finally taken her to his bed, but there was no commitment, not even a hint of love. She might have to face the fact that they weren't meant to be, and start looking for the real "one".

Now was as good a time as any to begin the search.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

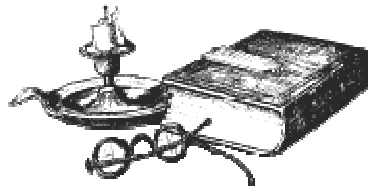
I'm a mom, writer, and sister, living off Florida's Gulf Coast with my son and several pets.

I like to write anything from sweet to *hot, hot, hot* with a happy ending.

When not writing, I tutor children with dyslexia, as well as home school. Exploring interesting ideas and places has become the norm for us.

Travel, reading, photography and wines are also a favorite for this diversified Gemini.

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