

ELLORA'S CAVE **AEON**



Divided
LOYALTIES
MARILYN LEE

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Divided Loyalties

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DIVIDED LOYALTIES

Marilyn Lee

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BMW: Bayerische Motoren Werke Aktiengesellschaft

Chapter One

Jemi stood staring into the forest long after the big, sleek body of her lover Hunter had disappeared into the surrounding foliage. She breathed in deeply as she considered her surroundings. As far as she could see, the verdant forest extended in all directions. Although she listened intently, she could detect no sound of Hunter's passage along the trails. It was amazing that his big body, as tall as a horse, could traverse the woodlands so silently.

But then he wouldn't be much of a carnivore if he went crashing around the forest passages, scaring off his prey. He must be very hungry after spending nearly the entire day making love to her. She shivered with remembered pleasure and a fair amount of discomfort. Although the body she "shared" had a vagina that could contract or expand to accommodate penises of various sizes, Hunter's eighteen-inch cock brought both pleasure and pain.

She smiled slightly, recalling their first mating earlier that morning when he had slowly impaled her on his long, thick, throbbing dick. Her pussy twitched and filled with moisture. Lord, she had nearly died from the pleasure-pain. Although sorer than she'd ever been in her life, she was already anticipating his return later that night. She definitely didn't plan to let him fuck her pussy again; she was looking forward to feeling and tasting his big cock. She would show Hunter just why Cody had always been so fond of her mouth.

The picture her thoughts conjured up gave her momentary pause. She, who'd only had two lovers before Cody, was actually looking forward to blowing Hunter and allowing another man, Dioni to dive-bomb her behind. She shook her head in dismay.

Five long, lonely years after Cody's death, so much had changed for her in such a short time. Not long ago, she had just been getting her life back on track. After

returning to college to finish her degree, she had become the very well paid executive assistant to a telecommunications multimillionaire. She had lived in an upscale apartment complex and drove a custom outfitted BMW. She hadn't been happy, but she'd been working on being content with her life...then the letters from Cody began arriving.

Cody had always believed in life after death. When he knew he would not recover from the injuries he suffered in a police pursuit gone dreadfully wrong, he had promised her that they would be together again. When the first letter arrived three months earlier, she had been both shocked and afraid. Others had followed, always telling her he loved her still. His last letter had sent her to a small, abandoned mining town. Once there she had encountered a huge, bronze catlike creature who had lain on her and somehow brought her to this alien world where she shared a body with Jeroni, the only child of one of the two rulers of the lands called Volter and Terra. Since her arrival, she had quickly fallen in love and mated with the big bronze carnivore she shared a psychic link with.

Now she stood outside of the small, rustic, two-room building where she had first regained consciousness just three days earlier. She had learned much of the history and customs of the land that was her new home, Volter. One of the most painful and frightening lessons had been the power of Tioni, the Seer. Tioni, like Hunter, was from Tern Terra, a land beyond the mountains that the Great Carnivores called home.

Although from the same land, unlike Hunter, Tioni was bipedal and had the ability to communicate verbally. Jemi had no doubt that now Hunter was gone, Tioni would communicate her displeasure with her and Hunter having become lovers against her wishes and warnings.

Well, if she was in for a tongue-lashing, she might as well get it over with. Squaring her shoulders, she walked into the hut stop.

Tioni turned from the fire alcove to look at her, and Jemi was struck anew by how very stunning the Seer was. A dark brown pelt covered her tall, slender body. Her

breasts, small and firm, were bare, revealing small, pink nipples. Her only covering was the thong over her crotch area. Her green slanted eyes reminded Jemi of Hunter's eyes, which were also slanted and varied by small degrees in just how green they were.

Jemi marveled that Hunter had never wanted to mate with the Seer. She frowned. Perhaps it had been forbidden, like so many other things in Volter.

"Where is Hunter?" Tioni asked.

"He's gone to hunt."

Tioni turned back to the fire alcove and filled a bowl from the contents of a big kettle. "You must be hungry." She set the bowl and a thick slice of bread on the small table in the middle of the room.

Jemi smiled. "You have no idea." She went to wash her hands in a basin on another table then sat down in front of the bowl with the heavenly aroma. She thought she heard a thud and a faint noise from the bedroom and looked around. "Did you hear something?"

"No."

"Where's Dioni?" she asked of Jeroni's personal bodyguard and favorite lover. She hid a small smile. Earlier that morning, the handsome warrior had become her lover as well.

"He is in the forest hunting. How is your stew?"

Jemi slowly lifted a hearty spoonful of soup to her mouth. The meat was tender and well seasoned and the vegetables strange yet tasty. After spending nearly all day making love with Hunter, she was ravenous. "It's delicious. You'll have to give me the recipe."

Tioni's dark green eyes looked puzzled. "Recipe? What is a recipe?"

"Just the ingredients in the stew. You know...how you made it. I'd like to make some for Dioni."

"Lady Liege Jeroni has no need for recipes. She does not cook."

"Maybe not, but I'm not Jeroni and I love to cook for the males in my life." She thought of Hunter and grinned. "Well, the ones who eat their meat cooked."

Tioni's eyes narrowed. "You are in her body. You must conduct yourself as she is expected to."

Jemi sighed. It was difficult to miss the censure in Tioni's voice. She knew the other female was still smarting from the fact that Jemi and Hunter had become lovers against her wishes. She shrugged. Tioni would just have to learn to deal with it. Now that she'd become Hunter's woman, there was no way she could say no to him. She didn't want to say no to him. Just thinking about his huge, hot, eighteen-inch cock sliding into her body made her pussy wet and her heart thump with desire.

She frowned. Not that the body she currently inhabited was actually hers. Although similar to her own thirty-six year-old body, it was much younger, firmer, and had a unique vagina that could expand to accommodate Hunter's huge dick.

She knew from her previous conversations that Jeroni was destined to lifemate with Tuteri, the heir to the throne of neighboring Terra.

She broke off a piece of bread and had it with another spoonful of soup. She swallowed and looked up, offering Tioni a tentative smile.

Her smile faltered at the accusing look in Tioni's dark eyes. She shook her head. It seemed she and Tioni would not be friends for the remaining few hours she would be in Volter. When Hunter returned he would have his cub Slayer with him. Along with Dioni they would leave for Tern Terra. Before Jeroni was forced to go to Terra to lifemate with Tuteri.

Thinking of Tioni's irate reaction when she learned they had fled, she shuddered. "I am not Jeroni," she said quietly. "I broke no confidences or rules by making love with Hunter."

"You are in her body. That body has been promised to Lord Tuteri. By mating with Hunter, you have deprived Tuteri of his lawful mate. By your own word, the body you inhabit is not your own. You had no right to make such an important decision that will

impact all those in Volter and Terra. You have no idea of the problems you have caused. Such disrespect for Jeroni's oath cannot go unpunished."

Jemi shivered and sucked in a deep, shuddering breath. However much she hated the idea, Tioni was right. She had no right to engage in an act that would impact so many people while inhabiting a body that was not hers. Still, she couldn't undo what was done. Besides, if Jeroni had disapproved, she could have stopped her. She hadn't. "It's done," she said coolly. "If you're threatening me, you should know Hunter will not approve."

"It is not my place to threaten the one Hunter has chosen as his lifemate. However unwise his choice."

"And just what is that supposed to mean?"

"He is the elder offspring of Seeker, Sire of all of Tern Terra. When Seeker departs on his eternal quest in the misty place, Hunter will be Sire of all of Tern Terra. His mate should be one of regal blood, not some off-worlder who supposedly came here to mate with another off-worlder who is even now off in the misty place with Jeroni."

Tioni's reference to Jemi's husband Cody and Jeroni angered her. She tossed her hair, her eyes narrowing. Tioni was beginning to piss her off. Clearly, the other female didn't think she was good enough for Hunter. "Sorry you don't approve of his choice, but he has chosen me, Tioni. Why don't you learn to cope with that reality?"

The Seer shook her head and turned away. "Eat. So much mating in one day builds up a need for food."

Blushing, Jemi picked up her spoon and began eating in silence. She closed her eyes briefly. The sooner Hunter returned, the better she'd like it. She was beginning to feel very uncomfortable with Tioni. She had nearly finished the soup when she realized how very tired she was. Her eyelids drooped and the spoon in her hand was becoming increasingly heavy. It clattered to the table, and she blinked rapidly and looked at Tioni, who now seemed to be wavering before her eyes.

"Tioni, I don't feel very...well," she said.

"You are not of Volter. The Gods of the Mountains did not intend for one of your kind to mate with one of the majestic Great Carnivores of regal Tern Terra. Mating so many times with Hunter in one day was ill-advised in more ways than one." The Seer crossed the room and helped her to her feet. "You must rest. When you wake, all will be as it should be."

To Jemi's surprise, Tioni lifted her in her arms and carried her through the curtain to the bedchamber in the adjoining room. She was only marginally aware of being laid on the bed and covered with the skins of animals that served as bed covering.

Tioni stroked her hair. "Sleep now, Jemi. When you awake, all will be as it should be."

Somehow, both Tioni's touch and her words failed to reassure Jemi. She struggled to sit up and to hold on to consciousness, but found both goals beyond her grasp. Tioni was still talking. Although she heard the words, her mind refused to process them. With consciousness fading fast, Jemi reached out to the one person in this strange land she knew would never let her down. *Hunter! Hunt...*

* * * * *

Hunter rested near the water hole where his cub Slayer, and Slayer's mother Meka hunted. He'd made a kill and fed. Now he lay with his eyes closed, thinking of Jemi, the off-worlder he had fallen in love with. Falling in love was a strange term, but it seemed appropriate. When he thought of Jemi Hunter of the strange world called Earth and how she made him feel, he had a sensation of falling. Once he found the path to Tern Terra, she, he and Slayer would live life as it was meant to be for a Tern Terrian carnivore and his pride.

Hunter! Hunt...

He opened his eyes and lifted his head. Had he *felt* Jemi calling to him? He wasn't sure. His ability to communicate effectively through the physic link with Jeroni had always required the two of them be in fairly close proximity. He reached out to Jeroni or

Cody. When neither responded, he closed his eyes again and entered the misty place where he'd first encountered Cody's spirit. It took him a while to locate Jeroni and Cody.

They lay together on a big white bed, mating. Jeroni lay on her stomach with Cody's big, dark body draped over her, pushing his cock slowly but steadily into her pussy from behind. In the past when he'd seen Jeroni mating, he'd experienced a sense of jealousy he found hard to control. Now he just felt impatient that he'd had to come looking for them.

Besides, although the female body was strangely familiar, it wasn't Jeroni's body. This body had smaller breasts and a bigger rear end. The hair wasn't as long or as dark as Jeroni's. He realized suddenly that although the thoughts of the female were Jeroni's that the body was Jemi's. Once he realized that, he felt an undeniable sense of jealousy rising in him as he watched Cody slamming his dark cock between the pale cheeks of the body of the female he had come to think of as his own. Just that morning, he and Jemi had mated for the first time. He had experienced the incredible delight of conquering her half-human, half-Volterian pussy.

He recalled her helpless response to him. Her whispered words of what she and Cody called love. Cody might have her body. He had her luscious pussy and her warm and loving heart. He intended to keep both.

Jeroni? Where is Jemi?

Cody lifted his head and the top of his body from Jeroni's and turned to look at him. *We left her with you. She's not here.*

I can't feel her. Jeroni, where is she?

Jeroni lifted her head and looked at him, eyes glazed with passion. *I can't feel her either.* She frowned. *Cody! I can't feel my body. Something is wrong.*

Jemi must be in trouble. Hunter broke off the physic link they were sharing and quickly sprang away. Out of the mist, he bounded to his feet and began running through the forest, his paws barely touching the ground. He'd covered less than a mile

before he realized that Slayer was running behind him. He wheeled, intending to send him back to his mother, but Slayer shook his head. *Slayer, elder offspring of Hunter, elder offspring of Seeker, Sire of Tern Terra will go with you.*

He hesitated briefly at the invocation of his sire's name. Then anxious to see Jemi again, he turned and continued running. He outdistanced Slayer quickly, but made a conscious effort not to go so fast that Slayer lost sight and scent of him. He came to a sudden stop at the edge of the forest. Slayer came up beside him.

He reached out to Jemi, but he couldn't feel her. *Guard*, he told Slayer and approached the hut stop from the side. He looked into the window of the mating chamber, hoping to find Jemi asleep there. What he saw was Dioni, lying tied and gagged on the floor.

Tioni, he called.

There was no answer. He listened and sniffed the air for some evidence of Jemi or Tioni, but the only familiar scent he detected belonged to Dioni. Growling softly, he leapt through the window. He used his teeth to tear at the restraints on Dioni's wrists.

Leaving Dioni to free his feet, he made a quick tour of the hut. No one else was inside. He trotted back to the bedroom in time to see Dioni rise to his feet and remove the gag from his mouth. He was unsteady and had to lean against the bed.

Where is Jemi?

"My lady Jeroni. Where is she?" Dioni asked.

Jeroni is fine, he told him. *Where is Jemi?*

"My lady Jeroni. Where is she?" Dioni asked, sounding frantic.

I am here, Dioni. Fear not, Jeroni said.

He can't hear you, Jeroni. He reached out to Cody. *I can't make him understand*, he said, feeling frustrated and angry. Someone had incapacitated and tied up Dioni and taken Jemi and Tioni captive.

He had to find a way to communicate with Dioni to find out what he knew. Closing his eyes, he reached out to the racial memories that had started to surface after he had mated with Jemi. He had a vision of his father shapeshifting into a tall humanoid form and mating with his mother for their special occasion.

That's when he realized who the strange warriors were, who had come down from the mountains to war with both Volter and Terra. Why he never realized it before mystified him. Now was not the time for revelations that would be of no use to him.

He held on to the memory of his father shapeshifting, closed his eyes and slowly formed a mental picture of Cody. Then slowly he began to force his body to change shape. After many false attempts and a lot of pain, his form settled into that of a humanoid. Feeling a little dizzy, he slowly rose to stand on his hind paws. Unused to balancing on two paws, he stumbled and fell. It took several attempts before he could stand without falling.

You did it, Hunter. You did it. This is me. This is my body! Cody told him, his voice trembling with his excitement.

Hunter turned to Dioni, who stared at him with a look of dismay on his face. He opened his mouth to speak, but was only able to produce a series of soft, incomprehensible growlings.

You're trying too hard. Relax, Cody told him. *Your vocal chords are so taut they're about to snap. Relax. Breathe deeply and speak slowly.*

He let loose an angry roar in response that clearly startled Dioni.

Yeah, well, that might have felt good, but it's not what I had in mind, Cody said. *Relax and speak slowly.*

It took countless attempts before his vocal efforts produced anything other than an angry, frustrated growl.

"What did you say?" Dioni asked, eagerly. "Where are my ladies? Are they in need of assistance?"

"What happened? Where is Jemi?" His voice came out in a low whisper that even he had a hard time hearing. His throat muscles hurt. He cleared his throat and tried again. It took several attempts before he managed to make himself understood. "Where is Jemi?"

"I...I do not know. I left my lady with you just after sun rising. I have not seen her since."

"We came back here and I left her here before I went hunting. Where is Tioni?"

"I do not know."

"Who tied you up?"

Dioni slowly shook his head. "I do not know. The last thing I remember is coming back toward the hut stop to be here in case I could be of assistance to either of my ladies."

"What happened after you arrived?"

"I do not know. I cannot remember arriving."

"Who has taken Jemi and Tioni?"

"I do not know, my lord."

He growled in frustration. Whoever had taken Jemi and Tioni had done so after he was well away from the hut stop and would thus not be able to render them assistance for some time. Since no one in Volter would dare lay hands on Jeroni, her abductors must be Terrian.

But how could Terrians have penetrated this far into Volter without encountering Volterian Warriors? Jeroni asked.

"I do not know," he said slowly. "But it will take them seven sunrises to reach Terra. I will see that they do not make it." He turned towards the door. *Slayer.*

His elder offspring bounded in through the window and came to an abrupt stop, sniffing and looking around. He could feel his cub's confusion. *Sire? Where are you? I can smell you but I cannot see you.*

I am here, Slayer. Sniff my paw. He extended his hand and slowly approached his cub. "Here I am," he said, stroking a hand over his cub's mane.

Slayer stared up at him. *Sire? You have shapeshifted?*

"Yes. Jemi has been taken to Terra against her will. I am going after her."

I will accompany you, Sire.

No. I want you to stay here and wait for me. I would not wish you hurt.

Sire, I will accompany you to rescue your mate.

He shook his head. He didn't know what type of opposition he would meet, but he would not risk his surviving offspring's life. "No. You stay here and be ready to head for Tern Terra when I return with Jemi."

He felt Slayer's resistance. *I will accompany you, Sire.*

"You will not! Slayer, offspring of Hunter, offspring of Seeker, Sire of Tern Terra, will do as he is instructed."

Slayer bowed his head. *Sire.*

He looked at Dioni. "Return to Volter Lodge and report to Liege Lord Donoun."

Dioni shook his head and rose. "No. I will accompany you to rescue my lady Jemi."

"You have no obligation to her," he pointed out.

"She is inhabiting the body of my lady Jeroni and I have pledged my allegiance to her. I will accompany you."

"There is no need. Jeroni is not in trouble. She is here with me and Cody."

"I am most grateful to the Gods of the Mountains that my lady Jeroni is well, but heartsick that my lady Jemi is not. I will accompany you."

He heard the steel in Dioni's voice and knew his resolve matched his own. "You should know that when I find Jemi's abductors, they are all going to be dispatched to the misty place."

Dioni pulled his sword from his scabbard. "And anyone else who stands between us and Lady Jemi."

We'll all go, Cody said.

He felt Jeroni brush against his mind. *Fear not, Hunter, she added. We will rescue your chosen mate.*

I do not mean to injure you, but I love her, he told Jeroni, sensing a measure of pain in her voice.

I know. I think I have known all along that the Gods of the Mountains did not intend us to be any more than bond mates. I will always cherish our time together, Hunter.

As will I.

Then we're in agreement, Cody said suddenly, sounding relieved. *Jemi is yours and Jeroni is mine.*

"Let's go get her."

Right, but first, you'll need a weapon and some clothes, Cody told him.

Clothes? He'd never needed any before but he supposed that he couldn't go around in a human body without some covering. He nodded and looked down at himself. The small size of the cock hanging between his legs stunned him. While bigger than Dioni's, it was pitifully small in comparison with his own rather impressive one.

Hey, I'll have you know where I come from I'm considered very large, Cody said.

"Must be a strange place," he quipped then thought of Jemi and the call that had awakened him. He closed his eyes and reached out to her. He couldn't feel or sense her and he knew a sense of loss and despair he'd never experienced. She had to be all right. Having found her, he could not now have lost her. Even if he couldn't feel her, maybe she could hear him. *Jemi. Jemi. I am coming. I am coming, Jemi.*

Chapter Two

Jemi smiled with a mixture of nervousness and anticipation. After weeks of making psychic love to her in a series of dreams that had left her longing for the real thing, Hunter was about to make her fantasies a reality as only he could. She stood in front of him naked, her pussy moist and ready for him.

He padded toward her, his big cock visible between his legs. He extended his head and she slipped her arms around his neck, stroking her fingers through his beautiful mane. His tongue, wet and rough touched her mouth. Sighing, she parted her lips and surrendered to her passion for him. The kiss went on and on and led into countless others, until her passage was hot and creamy and he was making soft, purring sounds deep in his throat.

Through their shared bond, she could feel the sweet, intoxicating buildup of his need for her. The depth of his lust overwhelmed and thrilled her. No other male had ever wanted her with such a consuming passion. Not even Cody. Moreover, she wanted him inside her with a need that made rational thought impossible.

Still growling softly, he drew away from her and began lapping at her cunt with long, greedy strokes. She moaned and balled her hands into fists at her sides as he slid his long tongue into her pussy. It only took a few expert thrusts to send her convulsing into one of the hottest orgasms of her life.

When he withdrew his tongue from her, her knees buckled and she collapsed onto the ground, against the tree where he'd told her his great grandsire had first mated with his human mate.

Following in a long tradition of the ruling carnivores of Tern Terra, Hunter, elder offspring of Seeker, Sire of Tern Terra, was about to mate with the human he had chosen as his lifemate.

Now we fuck, my Jemi.

Yes! Finally, she was going to feel his cock in her pussy. She nodded quickly, rose to her feet and eagerly parted her thighs.

He approached her on his hind legs. She sucked in a breath as her gaze was drawn to his cock. Like the rest of his big, bronze body, his cock was incredibly beautiful. Her already damp passage filled with yet more moisture.

She felt the big pink head of his hot dick bump against her pussy and experienced a tiny explosion deep in the depths of her cunt. She moaned and closed her eyes. Lord, it was finally going to happen. He was about to fill and stretch her cunt in unimaginable ways.

Making small, whimpering sounds of pleasure, she reached forward to hold him in her hands. He felt hot, hard and heavy against her palms. The thought of what was about to happen set her pussy on fire. She bent and kissed the hard knobby head of his dick. Finding the taste and smell of him strange yet intoxicating, she parted her lips and gently sucked him. He growled and immediately ejaculated a small stream of his seed against her tongue.

She swallowed quickly and leaned forward, accepting another few inches of hot cock between her lips. Gently raking her fingers along the underside of his exposed length, she began sucking his dick like a straw. Growling, he pushed his hips slowly forward and her mouth was filled. Then she felt him sliding down her throat.

With her mouth stuffed so full of cock, she couldn't breathe. She was going to die, but she would do so happily. His shaft swelled and jerked in her and then she felt wave after wave of his seed blast down her throat.

Hunter...Hunter, I can't breath.

Breath through your nose, my Jemi, he pleaded, still pumping his dick down her throat. *I'm almost finished. Here it is...here is the last bit. Aaahhh!* His whole body shuddered and he propelled a last spurt of seed into her before slowly withdrawing his long and still-hard dick from between her stretched lips.

With her pussy flooded with moisture, she shuddered and closed her eyes, gasping in deep, gulping breaths.

She felt the rough edge of his tongue brush against her clit and her pussy flamed with need. Grasping his cock, she pressed it against her cunt. Her lips parted in a silent, wordless cry of pleasure as Hunter pressed forward against her, sinking a third of his eighteen inches into her.

More. More. Give me more, she demanded, pushing her hips forward.

He responded by propelling another third into her. With twelve inches of hot carnivore cock in her pussy, the sparking embers in her cunt burst into flames and she came on his motionless cock.

He purred slowly and remained still while she moaned and thrust at his cock in an effort to put out the fire in her pussy. Then without warning, he discharged a load of seed deep in her pussy. She went wild, writhing in bliss as her orgasm overtook her.

The clenching and convulsing of her pussy was too much for him to withstand. He growled and thrust his powerful hips forward, sending the rest of his shaft into her climaxing pussy. Then he fucked her quickly and rather roughly.

She clutched at his flanks and slowly lost her mind, as her pussy was overcome by orgasms too delicious and numerous for comprehension. Still he fucked into her, growling and thrusting his big, thick cock into depths no other male had ever explored or known.

My pussy, he told her. *Hunter's pussy. Hunter's pussy to eat and fuck as often as he likes.*

Yessss! She screamed silently, along their bond. *Yessss! Oh, Gods of the Mountains yes! Fuck me hard, Hunter. Fuck me until it hurts.*

Keeping his cock buried deep in her body, he somehow managed to lower them to the ground. With her on her back, with her legs around his flanks, he fucked his cock ever deeper into her pussy. Although he braced the majority of his weight on his forelegs, his hindquarters were lower, allowing him to achieve incredible penetration of her drenched and hot passage.

The muscles in her stomach clenched uncontrollably, her legs around his flanks trembled wildly, her heart nearly stopped beating, and she began ejaculating against his cock.

He growled and slammed his cock back into her with such force that the resultant sensation of pleasure nearly made her pass out. Totally sated and fatigued, she went limp under him. Her legs fell away from him and she lay on the ground like a rag doll as he came in her, filling her pussy with his seed.

You are mine and this is my pussy, he growled, and slowly, painfully began to withdraw his still swollen shaft.

She moaned helplessly. *Yes, Hunter.*

He moved over her with his cock extended above her head. She knew what he wanted. Although exhausted, the desire to suck his cock again was great. She cupped him between her palms, closed her eyes and parted her lips.

Just as his warm, moist head touched her mouth, he turned into a mist and vanished, leaving her alone and frightened.

Jemi came awake abruptly. Her head ached, she was strangely afraid and her bed, which should have been stationary, moved under her. Worst yet, he who should have been with her, wasn't. She lay with her eyes closed, her head thumping, confused. Her bed in the hut stop didn't move. And she couldn't "feel" Hunter, Cody or even Jeroni. How could Jeroni, with whom she shared a body, be gone? Her body felt "different". Oh Lord, was she dead for real now?

The last thing she remembered was Tioni putting her to bed in the hut stop. She opened her eyes and slowly sat up. She was surrounded by darkness. Although she couldn't see to determine the size of her surroundings, she sensed they were small. And she knew she was in trouble. Wherever she was, she was there against her will, which made her a prisoner.

She closed her eyes and strained to make some contact with Hunter, Cody or Jeroni. Nothing. She forced back a sob of panic at the realization that she had no idea where

Hunter was or even if he was all right. She was afraid for him. There was no way he would have allowed anyone to hurt or abduct her while he was alive. She bit her lip. What was she saying? Of course, he was alive. He had to be. She had never felt about any male as she felt about Hunter. He had to be alive. He had to be.

She couldn't panic. She had to remain calm and find out where she was so she could determine how she could make her way back to him. Because nothing and no one was going to keep her from him.

She became aware of quiet voices that seem to come from ahead of her in the darkness. She pushed the skins covering her aside and cautiously stood up. Her head hit a low ceiling and she gasped and collapsed to her knees. She caught her breath and began crawling on her hands and knees toward the voices.

"It is late. We should find a spot to bed until sunrising."

"No. We should keep moving. We must reach Terra before we are intercepted. If the Tern Terrian was not dispatched, he will come after us."

Jemi froze, her heart thumping with fear. Hunter was the only male Tern Terrian in all of Volter and Terra. These two men had plotted with someone to kill him. She remembered someone saying that it would take seven days to reach Terra. Although she was uncertain how long she had been unconscious, she assumed it couldn't be very long because she didn't feel hungry. Her captors would have to stop sometime before reaching Terra. When that happened, she would use whatever opportunity presented itself, either for escape or to avenge Hunter. Until then she would bide her time and pretend to be unconscious.

She closed her eyes and uttered a silent prayer. *Oh Lord, please let him be all right.*

Keeping her eyes closed, she reached out and tried to make contact with him.

Hunter...Hunter...Hunter, please. Be careful. Be careful.

* * * * *

Hunter moved awkwardly along the trail Slayer had identified as having been taken by the strangers who had left their scent spoors in the hut stop. Far ahead of him, Slayer and Dioni moved rapidly and almost silently. He let out a low, angry roar of frustration and pain. Maintaining the unfamiliar shape was taking an incredible toll on his strength. Dropping to his knees, he convulsed his body. He relaxed the tremendous control he had exerted over himself. The scanty attire covering his lower body tore apart and he felt the familiar contours of his carnivore form returning. Exhausted, he laid his head on his front paws, panting. Unable to hold on to consciousness, he slipped into the misty place where he could hear Jemi calling to him.

Hunter...Hunter.

He reached out to her. *Jemi...Jemi... Help me...tell me where you are.*

He thought he detected a faint response. *Hunter...? Hunter is that you?*

He growled softly. *Jemi...where are you?*

Hunter...Hunter...be careful.

Sire. Sire. Do you require assistance?

The fragile link he had established with Jemi was severed by the intrusion. Ignoring his natural inclination to strike out, Hunter opened his eyes.

Slayer stood over him, his ears back, his eyes alert, his tail stiff. *Sire?*

Maintaining the human form is taxing.

Hunter heard swift movement along the trail toward them. He tensed, ready to push his aching body to all fours to face the unknown enemy. He sniffed the air and relaxed. The scent was familiar.

Dioni came to a stop at his side, his head bowed. "My lord, you've resumed your natural form. Should I continue on while the trail is still fresh?"

He inclined his head, hoping Dioni would understand. He looked at Slayer. *Accompany him.*

No, Sire. I will stay with you until you have recovered your strength.

He tossed his head angrily. Lately Slayer seemed to challenge every decision he made. *Do as you are told, Slayer. Accompany Dioni.*

Slayer shook his head. *I will not leave until you are on your feet, Sire.*

Channeling all his strength, he rose. He approached Slayer and head butted him. *I will stand no disrespect from you, Slayer. Do as you are told. Now.*

You are sufficient, Sire?

The concern in Slayer's question softened him. *I am well, Slayer. Accompany Dioni. I will follow.*

As you wish, Sire.

Slayer turned and bounded away with Dioni trotting at his heels. Within moments, they were both lost to sight.

Hunter stood silent, his eyes closed. *Fear not, my Jemi. I am coming.*

She will be all right, Hunter, Jeroni told him.

She had better be or all who harmed her will know the wrath of a son of Tern Terra. Ignoring the fatigue he felt, he loped after Slayer and Dioni.

A mile along the trail, he encountered Slayer trotting back toward him. *Sire! Come quickly.*

He could sense his cub's excitement. *What is it? What have you found?*

Dioni is waiting along the trail with her. She is badly hurt, but she lives.

Hunter panted. *Jemi. You've found Jemi!* He bounded past Slayer and charged along the trail.

Slayer ran along side him. *My apologies, Sire. Not Jemi.*

He stopped and turned to face Slayer. *Who have you found?*

The Seer.

Hunter struggled to control his disappointment. *Show me where she is. With her help, we will find Jemi sooner.*

She is gravely injured, Sire.

She is of Tern Terra. She will survive, even if it's but in the misty place.

A mile along the road, they came to a clearing. Dioni knelt near a small fire, along side which Tioni's still form rested. Hunter saw dried blood on the back of her head where she had apparently been struck.

Dioni looked up at him, his dark eyes full of frustration. "She must surely know what happened to my lady Jemi, but she is badly injured, my lord. I know not how to rouse her without hurting her more."

He knew a way. He approached slowly. He sank down on his hindquarters, closed his eyes and reached out to Tioni. *Tioni, it is I, Hunter, elder offspring of Seeker. Hear me, daughter of Tern Terra. Hear me and tell me what has become of Jemi Hunter of Earth.*

He frowned. Although unconscious, he felt an unmistakable resistance from Tioni to his probe.

Hear and obey me, daughter of Tern Terra. What has become of Jemi Hunter of Earth?

I...I know not, my lord.

He roared angrily. *That answer is unacceptable! I command you to tell me what has become of her.*

He sensed a fear in Tioni he had never felt. *I...I know not, my lord.*

You are not speaking the truth, Seer. I feel your deception. I will not tolerate your deceit. He closed his mouth over her throat, allowing his teeth to lightly pierce the skin. *Tell me now or I will kill you now!*

Hunter! What are you doing? Jeroni demanded. Take your teeth away from her neck! I will not have her hurt!

I will not be lied to! I can feel her deception. She knows where Jemi is. She can tell me now or I will rip out her throat, sending her to the misty place before her appointed time. I will pursue her there and force the information from her!

What do you think you're doing? Who do you think you are? You release her now, Hunter.

I am Hunter, elder offspring of Seeker, Sire of Tern Terra and I will not be denied! he snapped, keeping his grip on Tioni's throat.

This is not Tern Terra, Hunter. This is Volter, my father's domain, not Seeker's. I give the orders here. Release her.

Not until she tells me where Jemi is.

How can she know? Do you not see the injury to her head?

I see it, but she is of Tern Terra, a subject of my sire's domain. It is her duty and obligation to assist me in any way I so desire. I desire her to tell me what she knows of Jemi's abduction.

Release her now, Hunter, or by my father's blood, I promise you will regret it.

His relationship with Jeroni had always been important to him. So important that he had given up trying to find his way back to Tern Terra because he could not bear to leave her. He wished he could do as she demanded, but he could not. Jemi was alone and defenseless and he felt certain Tioni had knowledge that would help find her.

I cannot, he said. Ignoring Jeroni's attempts to argue with him, he concentrated on Tioni. Tell what you know, Seer, or die.

If it pleases you to do so, kill me, my lord, but I know not where Jemi Hunter of Earth is, Tioni said weakly.

To his dismay, Hunter could detect no deception in her as she uttered the statement. Was it possible that she did not know Jemi's whereabouts?

There. Are you satisfied? Jeroni demanded. Would you kill the one who has been like a mother to me so easily? Must I pay because you've lost your precious Jemi? Or do you think I had something to do with her abduction as well, elder offspring of Seeker? Harm her, Hunter, and I will never forgive you.

Go easy on him, Jeroni, Cody said suddenly. You don't know how it feels to lose the person you consider your lifemate.

I lost my mother, but I did not strike out at people close to him, Cody! I will not have Tioni hurt. Hunter! Release her now or know the wrath of Jeroni Teyer, sole offspring of Donoun, Liege of all of Volter.

Hunter hesitated. What if Jeroni was right? What if Tioni was truly innocent and he was allowing his grief and rage to blind him to the truth? After all, what had Tioni ever done that he should suspect her of such treachery based solely on his belief that she was attempting to keep something from him?

If nothing else, Seeker had always insisted he and Stalker conduct themselves in a manner that befitted offspring of the royal house of Tern Terra. *My cubs, you must take care to always afford every carnivore of the land the utmost respect. As cubs of the royal House of Seeker, elder offspring of Searcher, you must above all be fair and reasonable in your dealings with others.*

By that standard, he had no right to condemn Tioni. He released his grip on her neck and backed slowly away, growling softly.

With Dioni's assistance, Tioni struggled to sit up. She turned to look at him, her green eyes dark. "I feel your pain, my lord. I will help you find the one who means so much to you. Just give me a little time to regain some of my strength, my lord."

How long will you require?

"I will be able to travel with sun rising, my lord."

That is unacceptable.

She needs rest, Hunter! How can you care so little for a fellow Tern Terrian? Jeroni demanded. *Give her the time she needs.*

Hunter growled softly. He sensed a bitterness in Jeroni he'd never expected to have directed at him. He knew that the idyllic relationship he and she had shared for so many seasons was in danger of being destroyed forever – unless he backed off.

He glanced at Tioni. Whoever had overcome her would be a formidable adversary. He would need all of his strength for the coming confrontation. After having spent several hours in humanoid form, he was not at his best. It would be just as well for him to rest until sun rising.

As you wish, Jeroni, he said quietly.

Thank you, Hunter.

With Slayer at his side, he moved off several hundred feet to rest.

Sire? Who is Stalker?

He blinked, and then realized he had not attempted to shield his thoughts from Slayer. *Stalker is an offspring of Seeker, born two seasons after me.*

Why did he not come to search for you, Sire?

It had been a long time since Hunter had seen Stalker, but his memories of his sibling were powerful and warm. *I am sure he wanted to, but our mother would not have allowed it.*

Slayer tossed his head. *Had any of my siblings survived and were missing, I would have gone to search for them. Meka would not have been able to hinder me.*

He sighed. Slayer was no longer a cub. Somehow, while he had frolicked with Jeroni, longing for a love that was not meant to be, his only offspring had grown up without his guidance. As a young cub growing up in Tern Terra, his own sire had always been there for him and Stalker, offering instruction and guidance.

He had failed his only surviving offspring. *Our mother is human, but she has lived all of her adult life in Tern Terra. I am sure Stalker wanted to come, but our mother has ways of enforcing her wishes even on a carnivore born and bred in Tern Terra.*

Sire? I do not believe the Seer spoke the truth, Slayer said.

He tensed. *Why not?*

I do not know why not. I know only that I do not believe her. We should not wait until sun rising. We should continue now.

He shook his head. *No. It will take several sun risings to reach Terra. Whoever attacked Tioni is a powerful enemy. It would be foolhardy to face such an adversary before I regain my strength.*

Sire? You are sufficient. Are you not?

He felt the concern and fear for him in Slayer's voice. *I am, but I require rest. At sun rising, I will be ready to continue the search.*

Slayer rose to his feet. *Sire, have I your leave to go hunting?*

He looked up at his cub and felt shame. He had given Slayer very little consideration. All his concern had been for Jemi's welfare. Though he cherished her, it could not be at the expense of his only offspring, the future ruler of Tern Terra.

He rose slowly. *You are hungry? I will come with you.*

No, Sire. Slayer used his head to butt his shoulder. *Rest. I will hunt alone.*

No! It is too dangerous.

Slayer looked at him with his ears flattened against his head. *I have been hunting alone for many sun risings now, Sire.*

He looked down into his cub's eyes and saw confidence and assurance. He sank back to his haunches, filled with new regrets that he had not been a more attentive sire to Slayer. *If you need me, Slayer...*

Slayer butted his head gently. *I will call out to you, Sire.*

I will come immediately, my cub.

As I will come should you need me, Sire.

He found it difficult not to issue instructions on where to hunt and how to proceed. He watched Slayer disappear with a heavy heart. He had missed so much with him. After they rescued Jemi and found the path to Tern Terra, he would take Slayer to see all his cubhood trails. He would finally bond with his cub, as his sire had bonded with his cubs.

Chapter Three

Once he was sure his scent would not be carried back to his sire, Slayer made a wide arc around the spot where Hunter rested. Sniffing the air frequently, he set off at a trot in the direction of the faint tracks of the wheels of the wagon he and Dioni had tracked from the hut stop.

He would track Jemi Hunter of Earth and bring her back to his sire, whose grief Slayer found impossible to bear. He thought briefly of another female he longed to track. But *she* was not in danger while Jemi Hunter of Earth was. He knew she couldn't feel his thoughts; still he reached out to her. *Jemi Hunter of Earth. Have no fear. I am coming.*

* * * * *

Have no fear. I am coming.

Jemi frowned into the darkness. The thoughts had not come from Hunter, Cody or Jeroni. Who else would have the power to send her psychic messages?

She closed her eyes and attempted to reach out to the sender. *Who are you?*

There was no response and she sighed and slumped back against the skins that served as her bed. Several hours had now passed since she had awakened. One of her captives had crawled into the interior to check on her several miles back, but she had pretended to be unconscious.

Now she could hear them speaking in soft voices again. "The Tern Terrian will have to rest. So should we."

Sometime later, the wagon rolled to a stop. Jemi tensed. She didn't know what she'd been given or how long she could reasonably pretend to still be unconscious. She frowned. Where was Tioni? Try as she might, she could recall nothing of what had

happened after Tioni had put her to bed. Had her captors somehow overpowered and injured the Seer? If they had, they were much more dangerous than they looked and Hunter would need to exercise great care.

Long after the wagon stopped moving, there was a soft-voiced conversation. The sound of a quiet passage through the forest reached her strained ears. Then she heard the curtain shielding the interior being drawn back.

"Are you awake, my lady?"

She remained silent and still. A hand moved under the skins and settled on her thigh. She bit back the cry of outrage that trembled on her lips and concentrated on breathing slow and evenly. Maybe if he thought she was unconsciousness, he would leave her alone.

The hand moved under her short skirt. She sucked in a breath of dismay as a finger stabbed into her pussy.

"Ah, so you are awake," the voice said, and suddenly she was pinned to the floor of the wagon by the man's heavy, sweaty body. "While Pini is out on watch, you and I can mate, my lady."

She stiffened her body. "How dare you lay your foul hands on me?!" she demanded, trying to put as much outrage in her voice as Jeroni would have. "I am Jeroni Teyer, sole offspring of Donoun, Lord of Terra, promise mate of Tuteri, sole heir to Siano, Lord of your land. Remove your hands at once or suffer the wrath of both Lords of the land!"

"No one need know of our mating, my lady," the man said as he forced her legs apart. "It is said that you have already mated with the Tern Terrian known as Hunter. I do my Lord Tuteri no disservice." He brushed against her and she felt his small, damp cock against the entrance of her pussy.

"No!" she screamed at him, and attempted to push him off her.

Although his cock was small and insignificant, the rest of his body was big and firm. She couldn't budge him. He tore at her top and then she felt his lips greedily sucking at her right breast as he sank his cock into her unaroused pussy.

Although she could barely feel him inside her, a rage and anger knotted in her stomach and quickly spread through her. How dare he lay his hands on her?

Closing her eyes, she channeled her rage and shoved her right hand out at him in a futile attempt to stop his assault. To her utter amazement, she felt something akin to an electrical discharge flash down her arm and out her fingertips. What happened next stunned her. The man thrusting his cock into her unresponsive pussy made a strangled sound and fell away from her.

She listened to him gasping for air for several moments before she realized that she had somehow incapacitated him. Instinct took over. She snatched the knife from her right boot and plunged it into the man's shoulder, hopefully far from his heart. With his scream of rage and pain sounding in her ears, she scrambled to make her way to the front of the wagon.

She pushed through the curtain and leapt off the side of the wagon. It was much higher than she'd anticipated and her legs jammed under her as she hit the ground. Ignoring the pain shooting through her legs, she forced herself to her feet and made a wild dash through the forest to the right of the wagon.

The sounds of the night forest, so lovely and intriguing the evening before in Hunter's company, were now terrifying. Her legs ached and her lungs burned, but she ran blindly on. She knew she had to get as much distance between her and her captives as possible. She could rest later...after she was reunited with Hunter.

She had no concept of how much distance she put between herself and those who would pursue her. Thoughts that each yard covered might bring her closer to Hunter kept her moving when every muscle in her body screamed for rest. A low, rumbling roar close by brought her up short. She looked around wildly and her heart leapt with joy as a huge bronze cat appeared on the path in front of her.

"Hunter! Oh, I knew you would find me!"

She had nearly reached him before she realized with frightening clarity that although the cat padding slowly toward her was undeniably one of the Great Carnivores, he was not Hunter. His mane was nearly black and the slanted eyes were gold instead of green. More importantly, she didn't *feel* anything from him but menace.

I am not Hunter, but I have indeed found you. Like my sire and the sires before him, I desire a human mate.

The thought, projected directly into her mind, startled her. She had not been able to communicate with Slayer. How was this male able to communicate with her? She had only been able to communicate directly with Hunter without Jeroni's presence *after* he had performed oral sex on her.

Heart pumping, she recalled Hunter's arrogance and decided to borrow some of it. "I am Jemi Hunter of Earth, chosen mate of Hunter, elder offspring of Seeker, Sire of Tern Terra. I demand that you allow me to pass."

Ah, so you are the female Hunter has chosen. It is of no consequence. He is not here to protect you. I desire to sample the pussy that Hunter has chosen. I will have you, Jemi Hunter of Earth.

As she watched, the big head of his cock appeared from the confines of his sheath. A combination of fear and a horror gripped her. She was about to be raped by a carnivore—who, while he resembled the male she loved, was completely alien and terrifying to her.

Hunter! Hunter! Where are you?

I will mate with you. Should I find your pussy as pleasing as your outer appearance, I will take you as my mate.

"I belong to Hunter. He will kill you if you dare touch me."

Hunter will kill no one. He will be too busy trying to preserve his own life. Now I will sample your pussy.

She thrust out her right hand. Although she felt the same electrical discharge flash down her arm and out her fingertips as before, it had no effect on the carnivore menacing her.

He made a low growling sound and charged toward her.

She froze. Her heart thumped and her legs buckled. Then she screamed.

She heard a low, rumbling roar to her right. Out of the corner of her eye, she saw a dark blur. The carnivore charging toward her was hit in the flank with enough force from another cat to knock him away from her. This cat, although not as big as the one about to attack her, was too large to be anything other than one of the Great Carnivores of Tern Terra.

She turned and started to run as the two cats clashed with each other, roaring and growling. She made it as far as the edge of the clearing before her knees buckled again and her legs gave out. Angry tears filled her eyes. She attempted to drag herself to the tree. Once there, she sat, sobbing to await her fate. Thoughts of the size of larger cat's cock sent shudders through her. If she were lucky, the smaller carnivore would be victorious. Hopefully, he would not want to rape her.

The two cats broke apart and she saw that the smaller one's left flank oozed blood. The two circled each other, still growling. Although injured, the smaller cat showed no inclination to break off the challenge and flee to possible safety.

Watching them, Jemi was struck by how alike the two were. Both had sleek, tan coats with beautiful, luxurious dark manes. The only discernible difference between the two was their size and eye color. The smaller cat had what appeared to be green eyes. The larger of the cats tossed his mane and made a low rumbling in his throat. The other cat rumbled in response. Although she couldn't understand them, through the bond she shared with Hunter she knew enough to know the two carnivores were communicating with each other.

She tensed, waiting for the battle to be rejoined where she feared the smaller cat would sustain more injuries. To her amazement, the larger of the carnivores growled out a roar before spinning around and disappearing into the surrounding forest.

The smaller cat tossed his dark mane. He stood with his head up and his ears back against his head, apparently listening for sounds of the passage of the other carnivore. When he was satisfied, he growled softly and padded toward her.

She shrank back against the trunk of the tree at her back and screamed. The cat stopped several feet from her, tilted his head to one side and looked at her.

She gulped back a second scream and looked into the slanted eyes, which seemed familiar. Her gaze swept over the cat again. The sleek tan coat and dark mane were familiar.

She caught her breath and stared into the carnivore's eyes...his green eyes...hunter green eyes. She extended a hand. "Slayer? Gods of the Mountains. Slayer, is that you?" she whispered. Although he couldn't speak, she knew he would understand her.

The big head dipped slightly and tears of relief rolled down her cheeks.

He approached her slowly and lay at her side with his head on her lap. *I am Slayer, elder offspring of Hunter. You must not fear me.*

"Slayer! It is you!" She stroked a hand along his side. "You're hurt."

It is not a serious injury. I am glad to find you. You are sufficient, Jemi Hunter of Earth?

"Yes. What of Hunter? Is he...the men who were holding me said someone was trying to kill him. Is he all right?"

My sire is sufficient.

Then why had... "If he's all right, where is he? Why didn't he come for me?"

He is coming. When he returned to the hut stop, he found Dioni bound and restrained. He could not communicate with Dioni to learn your fate so he changed to a humanoid form. He maintained that form for many hours as we set out to find you, but he does not yet possess the

skill of his sire for form changing and it greatly weakened him. By the time we found the Seer injured on the trail, he could not go on without resting.

She stroked a hand along his flank. It still oozed blood and looked very painful.
"Slayer, are you sure you are all right?"

I am...sufficient.

"Why did your father...your sire let you come after me alone?"

He did not. He would not. I did not believe the Seer, so I told him I was going hunting and I came after you instead.

She stroked his mane. "Thank you. You saved me, Slayer."

You are Jemi Hunter of Earth, my sire's chosen mate. I will always save you, he responded gallantly. Now if you are well, we should leave and rejoin my sire and Dioni.

"Slayer, who was the other carnivore?"

He would not say, but he is of Tern Terra, as is my sire. When I challenged him as the elder offspring of Hunter, he said he did not wish to harm me. But he said you would be his, so he will be back. We must leave.

She attempted to rise but found her legs would no longer accommodate her. She collapsed back to the ground.

You are injured!

"When I jumped off the wagon where they were holding me, my legs jammed."

You cannot walk. I will carry you.

"Slayer! You can't carry me!" Although he was the size of a pony, she wasn't sure he could bear her weight.

I am Slayer. We must go. I can carry you. Get on my back.

She smiled at his haughty tone. He was Hunter's cub all right. "Are you sure?" She felt a lot heavier than she had the day before, and he was injured.

Get on my back. We must leave. I cannot kill those who pursue you until I have taken you to my sire, who will protect you.

She paused. She prayed that the man she'd stabbed wasn't dead. "Kill? You're going to kill them?"

Yes. All who would dare endanger the chosen mate of the future Sire of Tern Terra must pay with their lives. I will kill the two who held you and I will kill the carnivore who dared think he could take what belongs to my sire.

The venom in his voice left very little room for argument. Besides, there wasn't time to argue. Fearful of hurting him, she gingerly put her leg over his flank and settled on his back.

He thrust his body up and rose slowly. She instinctively linked her arms around his neck. He stood still for several moments, breathing deeply.

"Slayer, are you all right? Maybe I should get down and walk."

No. You cannot walk. I have never had anyone on my back before. I will carry you. I will protect you. You must not fear while you are with me.

Her eyes filled with tears. "I don't," she assured him. "I know I'm as safe with you as I would be with your sire."

You humble and honor me comparing me to my sire, Jemi Hunter of Earth.

She leaned forward and pressed her face against his mane. "I love you."

Is that a good thing? he asked, much as Hunter had when she'd told him the same thing.

"It's a very good thing. It means I feel a warmth and affection and care for you."

As I do for you, Jemi Hunter of Earth.

He took several steps. He wavered before he steadied himself.

She nearly held her breath and bit back the urge to ask if she should dismount.

The muscles in his flank tensed and relaxed under her thighs. Then he moved slowly. After a few minutes, his pace increased. She began to breathe normally when he started trotting along the trail with no apparent effort. God willing, they would make it

to Hunter and Dioni. With three strong males surrounding her, she knew she would be safe.

Just as she thought they would make a clean get away, she felt Slayer's flanks tense under her. "What is it?"

The Tern Terrian is returning. He stopped near a huge tree with low-hanging branches. Dismount and climb the tree. You will be safe in the upper branches. He is too heavy to be able to reach you. I will kill him.

"No, Slayer. Keep moving. You can't face him again. He's too big."

If I do not, he will take you.

The thought of having her pussy invaded by the strange carnivore's cock was not as frightening as the thought of watching Slayer mauled to death trying to protect her. She knew Hunter's grief would be beyond bearing should Slayer die. Hunter would come for her sooner or later. Until then, she could survive being raped if it kept Slayer alive and safe.

"Let me down and then leave, Slayer. I will stay with him."

He will mate with you, Slayer protested.

"I know. I don't want that, but it's better than having you hurt further. Let me down and leave."

No. I cannot allow him to mate with you. You are my sire's mate. Anyone who dares touch you must die.

"Slayer! He's stronger and bigger than you are. He will kill you!"

I am Slayer, elder and only surviving offspring of Hunter, future ruler of Tern Terra. I will not allow another to mate with you. He may send me to the misty place, but I will return and prevent him from mating with you.

Her eyes filled with tears and she pressed her cheek against his mane. "Your sire loves you. Your death would devastate him. Please. Don't try to fight him again. I will willingly go with him, but I need you to be safe. Please. Let me go with him."

I cannot.

She tried one last line of reasoning. "Your sire would not wish you dead, Slayer, for any reason, even to save me."

Your loss would also devastate him. You are his chosen lifemate. I am but his elder offspring. If I am dispatched to the misty place, there will be another elder offspring brought forth from you. But there will never be another chosen lifemate for him.

"Oh Slayer, please! I do not wish you dead! I carry the memories of your sire's warm wishes and feelings for you in my heart. I cannot bear the thought of your dying."

Then I will take care not to die, Jemi Hunter of Earth.

There was a sense of finality in his tone. He kneeled and she dismounted and scrambled up the tree through a mist of tears.

As she settled in the upper branches of the tree, Slayer wheeled, his ears back against his head. Jemi sucked in a breath and felt despair seize her as the huge, black-maned carnivore emerged from the trees.

There was a nonverbal exchange between the two carnivores. The larger cat growled low in his throat, tossed his head and charged toward Slayer. Jemi bit her lip until she felt blood trickle down her chin. She didn't dare scream for fear of distracting Slayer, thus giving the other carnivore an added advantage.

There was only one soul who could help them now. If he didn't come, they would both be doomed because she suddenly knew there was no way she could sit safely in the tree while Slayer was killed. She looked around and saw one of the branches to her left had nearly broken off and hung loose. It was rather thick. It probably wouldn't make as satisfying a weapon as a good old-fashioned baseball bat, but it would do in a pinch.

She closed her eyes and reached out with her mind. *Hunter. Hunter, please. Wherever you are, you must hear me and come. Slayer needs you. Please come now.*

She looked down and saw the larger carnivore sink his teeth into Slayer's injured left flank. Slayer roared in pain and she screamed in fear and outrage. "No! No! Don't hurt him! Please! I'll come down and go with you! Just don't hurt him!"

It is too late. I will regretfully dispatch him, the carnivore told her.

"The hell you will!" she screamed. "You hurt him and I will kill you!"

Do not interfere, Jemi Hunter of Earth, Slayer ordered. *I am...sufficient.*

But she felt the pain in his tone and knew he was far from sufficient. She broke off the branch, clutched it under one arm, and quickly descended the tree. "Hold on, Slayer, I'm coming."

Chapter Four

Hunter paced back and forth in front of the large tree under which he had been resting. Slayer should have returned by now from his hunt. He had been foolish to allow him to go alone. Even if Slayer had been hunting on his own, he had been doing it near his home range, where all knew he was elder offspring of Hunter. Where none would dare harm him. Here in this enclave that had always seemed so secure, were outsiders who had attacked and injured Tioni and taken Jemi hostage. Such outsiders surely would not hesitate to harm or kill his only surviving cub.

He glanced across the clearing to where Dioni stood guard over Tioni, who lay as if asleep. However, he knew she didn't sleep. He could feel her turmoil. He quickly closed the distance and stood over her. About to reach out to tell her of his decision, he paused. Although no longer certain she had been deceptive, it was wise to pursue the cautious course.

Closing his eyes, he channeled his energies and focused his thoughts onto the appearance of Cody's body. This time the shapeshifting didn't bring as much pain as before. When the process was over, he quickly rose to face Dioni. "Slayer has been gone too long. I have to find him."

"What should I do, my lord?"

"If I am not back at sunrise, you and Tioni must proceed along the trail to rescue Jemi."

"Without you, my lord?"

Hunter nodded slowly. "Yes. The path Slayer took is opposite that of the one taken by Jemi's abductors. My...first obligation must be to the future sire of all Tern Terra." He paused, his chest feeling tight, his heart aching. "I must find Slayer. I will entrust

Jemi Hunter's rescue to you. Find her. Protect her and you will have the gratitude of all Tern Terra."

"I seek no gratitude, my lord. I live to serve her, even as I do my lady Jeroni."

He nodded. He could entrust Jemi's safety to Dioni, who had risked his life to save Jeroni. "I will join you as soon as I can. Tell her I...love her, but I must not fail Slayer again."

"I understand, my lord." Dioni drew his sword. "I will find her and die protecting her if necessary."

"Do your best to live. Both Jeroni and Jemi value you and prefer you alive. As do I."

"Is my lady Jeroni still here?"

"No." Neither Jeroni nor Cody could seem to stay out of the misty place. He now feared that both had been infected with the insidious power of the mist and had been irrevocably changed by their continued exposure to it outside the presence of one of Tern Terrian birth.

"In case I do not return, will you tell my lady Jeroni that I died devoted to her?"

"I will." He glanced at Tioni and drew Dioni several feet away. "Trust no one, including the Seer. Kill anyone who stands between you and Jemi."

"I will let no one stand between me and my lady Jemi, not even the Seer."

"If you find you must...challenge her, stand to her left and attack from there. Give no quarter and show no mercy."

Dioni bowed his head. "I understand, my lord. I will do what I must...kill who I must to protect my lady Jemi."

"Then I will leave you to it. Travel at first sunrise and find her."

He lay on the ground and convulsed his body. The moment his normal form was resumed, he wheeled and sprinted along the path Slayer had taken several hours earlier. He was torn and tormented by his inability to be in two places at once. Part of

his heart longed to go after Jemi, but another part knew he had to find and safeguard Slayer first.

He moved swiftly along the trail, making no efforts to conceal his passage. He hunted not for food but his only offspring, whom he could not bear to lose. The possible loss of Jemi ate at him, but he continued on the path. He uttered a silent prayer to the Gods of the Mountains. *Protect and preserve her. Please.*

He had covered many miles when a roar of pain reached his ears and sent a chill along his spine. He knew that tone. Slayer! His cub was in trouble. He let out an angry, ferocious roar of warning that reverberated through the trees and for miles around. *Hear me, intruders! I am Hunter, future sovereign of all Tern Terra. Stand down immediately. Any and all who harm my cub will know the full wrath of a carnivore born and bred of Tern Terra. Hear me and obey. Do not harm my cub any further or I will rip you apart piece by piece!*

Then he reached out to his cub. *Slayer! You are of Tern Terra. Hold on! I am coming!*

Sire. Slayer responded. *Jemi Hunter of Earth is with me. I am injured and she insists on coming to my aide. I cannot protect her for much longer. I regret to say I require assistance.*

Hunter couldn't explain his feelings on learning that the two who meant the most to him, Slayer and Jemi, were alive. *I am coming, my cub.*

Harm either of them and I will spend an entire night slowly killing you, he warned their unknown attacker.

Sire. He is of Tern Terra. Be on guard.

There is no one born and bred on Tern Terra who can hope to defeat a son of the royal House of Seeker! Fear not, my cub.

I fear no one, Sire. I will die to protect your chosen mate.

No! I do not wish you dead! Retreat!

If I retreat, the Tern Terraian will mate with Jemi Hunter of Earth.

He pushed himself, increasing his speed. He had to reach Slayer and Jemi before it was too late. *Retreat!*

I cannot, Sire. He will defile your mate!

I will not have you dispatched to the misty place before your time. Retreat, Slayer!

I cannot.

Hear me, Tern Terrian! I, Hunter, elder offspring of Seeker, your sovereign, command you to stand down. Harm my cub or my mate at your peril.

The sounds of angry growls and roars of pain and rage reached Hunter's ears, spurring him on. Then he heard a cry of pain that he knew had come from Jemi and his heart thundered in his chest.

He crashed through the forest and bounded into a clearing in time to see a quick flash as a huge carnivore broke off from a struggle with Slayer and disappeared among the trees on the other side of the clearing.

Slayer, swaying from side to side, positioned himself over a crumpled form that Hunter slowly realized was not Jeroni, but his Jemi. Ignoring the need to charge after the carnivore and rip his throat out, Hunter let out an angry roar. *There will be an accounting for what you have done here, Tern Terrian*, he warned.

Slayer looked up at him and Hunter's heart ached as he saw the many bleeding wounds on his cub's flanks.

Sire. Slayer said his name and collapsed near Jemi's body.

Realizing the aid he could render Slayer and Jemi in his natural form was limited, Hunter closed his eyes and forced the contours of his body to assume a humanoid shape.

He rushed over to the two crumpled forms. He glanced at Jemi. Her chest rose and fell steadily. She lived. The Gods of the Mountains be praised. He knelt at Slayer's side and placed a...hand on his flank. For a moment, he found no signs of life and rage and pain overwhelmed him.

Sire. Slayer's tone was weak, but when he opened his eyes, they were dark and fearless.

Hunter leaned down and pressed his...cheek against Slayer's mane. *I am here, my cub.*

Sire. I did not allow the interloper to defile your mate, but I regret that I could not stop her from attacking him with the tree branch. When she did, he butted her with his head and she was knocked down. She is sufficient?

She lives. She breathes easily, although she is unconscious. My concern now is for you, my cub. You are gravely injured. It pained Hunter to note the many wounds on Slayer's flank.

I am...sufficient, Sire.

He knew Slayer needed attention. The Seer would know how to speed his healing process, but he dared not leave Slayer long enough to go back to where he'd left Dioni and the Seer. If the intruder came back, he would undoubtedly kill Slayer if he found him unprotected.

He closed his eyes and reached out with his mind. *Meka. Our cub has been gravely injured. You must come to us at once. There is danger. Bring the pride with you.*

He felt a faint, distant acknowledgement and knew Meka had heard his call for help. He stroked Slayer's flank. *Meka is coming.*

Sire, you should not have called her. It was difficult for her to let me go and now she will have to do it all over again. I have no wish to see her sad.

I have no such wish either, but your wounds need tending to.

I am of Tern Terra. My wounds will heal.

You are indeed of Tern Terra, my cub. My sire would be honored to have his lineage passed on through you. It would pain him to see you thus injured, as it does me. I need to leave you with someone I know will die to protect you while I go get the Seer.

Jemi Hunter of Earth would do that.

Hunter nodded. *She has the will, but not the strength. Your mother's pride can protect you, even from a rogue carnivore. Now rest, my cub.*

He gently stroked Slayer's mane then slid over to Jemi. She lay with one cheek pressed against the ground, her hands lying limp near her body. To the right of her right arm lay the splintered remains of a tree branch.

He searched the remnants of Cody's memory then leaned over and gently kissed her cheek. He straightened and ran his fingers through her hair. *Jemi.*

She murmured and opened her eyes. She turned her head and stared up at him with a mixture of surprised delight and wonder on her face. "Hunter! Hunter is that really you?"

It is, my Jemi.

She reached out and clutched his hand and he felt a strange feeling radiate all through him. "Oh Hunter! I knew you would come!" Her smile vanished and she bolted into a sitting position. "Slayer! Oh God, Hunter, he's hurt bad!"

"I know."

"I tried to get him to leave, but he wouldn't. He was so brave and..." She crawled on her knees over to Slayer and laid her face against his mane. "Slayer? Oh my brave, brave Slayer. Why didn't you leave me?"

I could not leave my sire's chosen mate to be defiled. My sire has...love for you...as do I.

"I love you too, Slayer, and I didn't want you hurt."

I am...injured, Jemi Hunter of Earth, but I am not yet ready to go to the misty place.

Tears streamed down her cheeks and she kissed his mane. "It's just as well because I have no intentions of letting you go there. You mean too much to your sire and me." She looked away from Slayer and at him. "We need something to clean his wounds with." She raked a hand through her hair. "If only I had some cloth."

Since there was nothing handy, Hunter knelt by Slayer's side and began licking at his wounds. Although Slayer made no sound, he could feel his body shuddering with pain. Hunter contained his rage as best he could, secure in the knowledge that the time

would come when there would be a reckoning with the infidel who coveted his woman and had gravely injured his only surviving cub.

* * * * *

It hurt Jemi to watch Hunter's obvious pain as he lay panting at his cub's side. He had resumed his natural form and kept an almost unblinking stare trained on Slayer, as though he were afraid Slayer would stop breathing if he looked away for even a fraction of a second.

He'd told her that he had called for Meka, but she and her pride would not arrive until well after sunrising, which was still a few hours away. The thought of meeting Slayer's mother and Hunter's recent lover up close and personal was more than a little frightening.

She moved her body so that she lay with her front along Hunter's back. "Is he going to be all right?"

His tail whipped out and circled her waist. *Yes, but it pains me to see him injured. I have not been a good sire. I have never been there for him when he needed me most. Now he is injured because I would not follow his advice to continue tracking you. If I had done what I needed to, he would not have continued alone. I would have been with him when he encountered the treacherous infidel. I would have dispatched the cowardly full-grown who attacked my cub. My only surviving cub! I will dismember him with my teeth and claws.*

Jemi shivered and sighed. She knew nothing she could say would dissuade Hunter, just as nothing she'd said had been sufficiently persuasive to get Slayer to leave her to the mercy of the other carnivore.

The pain and reproach in Hunter's tone felt like bile rising in her throat to choke her. "I don't know what kind of sire you've been to Slayer, Hunter, but I do know that he is brave, strong and honorable. He loves and adores you. He does not think that you've been a bad sire."

He is too much like my sire Seeker to show me anything except the loyalty he thinks I deserve. That does not negate the fact that I have failed him yet again.

You have never failed me, Sire. Slayer's tone was low but stronger than it had been an hour earlier. I am humbled to be your elder offspring. I have lacked nothing as your cub. Do not reproach yourself on my behalf, Sire. Your despair distresses me. Fear not for me. I am and will be sufficient. Take comfort with your mate. It will please me to watch you mate with her.

She calls it fucking, he informed Slayer.

Does fucking feel as good as mating?

It feels better. You have had your first mating?

Yes, sire. I have mated with several forest cats and a human female since two sun risings.

Jemi blinked. He was definitely Hunter's son if he'd mated so frequently in such a short period.

How did you find the forest cats' pussies compared to the human female?

I like forest cat pussy, but the human female...Sire, she made me feel so...sufficient. She has very good pussy and she is soft and brown and warm and she wiggles and clings to me when we mate. I like her lips and feeling her breasts against me. When it is time for me to choose my mate, I think I will choose her.

Are you sure? There are not many human females in Tern Terra, but the she-vores there have excellent pussy.

Jemi Hunter of Earth has good pussy, Sire?

She has very good pussy...excellent...exquisite pussy. I have never had any better.

Jemi flushed. "Hey, you two want to stop talking about me as if I weren't here?" she demanded. She ached and she was afraid, but their casual talk of pussies and fucking was making her wet.

Mate with her, Sire. It will ease me to watch you mate with your chosen one as it did when you mated with Meka.

She felt Hunter's tail tighten around her and sucked in a breath. *I know what you're thinking and you can forget it, buddy*, she told him. *There is no way I am going to fuck you in front of your son.*

Why not?

Jemi blinked as Hunter and Slayer asked the question at the same time. *Why not? He's your son! Your cub!*

He is used to watching me mate with his mother and others, as Stalker and I were used to watching our sire mate. Watching my sire mate always soothed me. Mating now will soothe Slayer.

She felt her heart thump at the thought of fucking while Slayer listened and watched. *I don't think I can*, she began.

Hunter's tail uncurled from her waist and began stroking along her inner thighs. *I will fuck you now to soothe Slayer.*

She bit her lip as Hunter slowly rose to his feet. When she looked up, she saw the tip of his cock protruding from its sheath. A pool of moisture filled her pussy. Oh Lord, his cock looked good. Still, even thinking about having sex in the presence of his injured cub should have been out of the question. Her need for the pleasure and comfort of having his cock buried in her body again shamed her. However, it did nothing to dampen her desire. She could feel a knot of heat and lust building in her.

She reasoned that it had been a long, frightening night. She didn't know what lay ahead of them. She had no idea how the tangled mess they were involved in would all end. All she knew was that she and Hunter were together...for now. In a few hours, that might all change. She might never see him again.

Pushing the remnants of shame to the back of her mind, she removed her short skirt and top, rolled onto her back and parted her legs. Hunter approached slowly, purring softly, he began to gently lap at her pussy.

Lord, that felt so good. She closed her eyes and surrendered to the delight washing over her. No one had ever made oral love to her quite like Hunter. His tongue was long,

thick, moist and rough. Shivers of bliss radiated from her cunt and all through her extremities as he leisurely alternately licked at the outside of her pussy and torpedoed his tongue deep inside her.

Wave after wave of pleasure washed over her. He nipped lightly at her clit, setting off a delicious mini explosion in her pussy. *Hmm. Oooh*, she moaned and clutched his mane to encourage him not to stop. *Hunter...Hunter...oh Lord, Hunter!!*

Does this please you, my Jemi?

Oh yes! Oh yes! Ooooh God, Yes! She gasped and ejaculated into his devouring mouth.

While she trembled with the aftermath of pleasure, he gently lapped at her dripping pussy. *Good. Good pussy. Wonderful pussy! Excellent pussy*, he sent the words of praise along the psychic bond they shared.

Oh Hunter. She stroked her hands along his flanks. *I need some cock*, she whispered in a small, shamed voice. *Please. Fuck me.*

It will be my pleasure to fuck you, Jemi darling. He rolled over onto his back.

A fresh rush of moisture filled her aching cunt as she looked at the huge, thick cock protruding from his underside. Oh Lord, no male had ever had such a lovely dick. Afraid to trust her legs, she crawled over to him and slowly lowered herself onto him. She bit her lip and moaned in anticipation as the big head of his monster cock parted her outer lips and filled her tunnel entrance.

Closing her eyes, she gradually pushed her hips down, allowing more of his hot, thick shaft to cleave through her sensitive pussy tissues and up into her core. Although he had begun to growl softly and his tail twitched wildly, he remained still, allowing her to control how much cock she took into her cunt. Finally, unable to control her lust for him, she sucked in a breath and shoved her hips downward. Nearly all of his dick shot up into her pussy, setting it on fire. She rotated her hips and tried to push her body down farther, but she couldn't manage to get the last few inches of his cock up into her pussy. No matter. What was there was more than enough.

Oh God, Hunter! Your cock is so good.

Hunter has the best cock is the land, he told her with an arrogance that only increased her lust for him.

Yes! The best ever! She laid her body over his underbelly and began thrusting her stuffed pussy on his huge shaft. She gasped and kissed his underbelly and wildly fucked herself on his cock.

Still growling, he lay still, allowing her to ram her slick pussy down onto his dick over and over. Although they had spent most of the previous day fucking, Jemi couldn't seem to get enough of his cock. She rocked and rotated her hips, licking his underside as she fucked herself almost senseless.

Oh God. Oh God! It's so good...so good...I love you...I love you...oh God, Hunter, please! Fuck me back! Fuck your cock into me. Please. My pussy is on fire to be fucked by you! Oh God, fuck me!

He let out a roar of pure lust and began shoving his swollen dick up into her as she slammed her hips down. A combination of pleasure and pain filled her cunt. His cock was too long and thick not to bring pain when it was propelled into her with complete abandonment.

He wrapped his tail around her waist. Lord, she loved when he did that. She always felt as if he were staking a claim to her when he did.

Fuck me, she begged shamelessly. *Fuck me*.

As you wish, my darling Jemi. He fucked her hard and fast, sending his huge rod plowing deep into her body. She dug her fingers into his flanks, gasping to keep from sobbing. Now his pummeling cock brought mostly pain but, Lord, she wouldn't trade the sweet, intoxicating pain for anything.

Aaahhh! Aaaahhh! Oh! Oh! Fuck me harder!

Roaring, he shoved his dick deep into her pussy, rolled them over so that she lay on her back and he was above her. Although he was now resting most of his considerable weight on his forepaws, she felt his crushing weight on her lower body.

His cock shot into her now sore pussy with enough force to make her whole body shudder with pain. His big, warm balls slapping against her began to sting. Her pussy began to sizzle with a low, volatile heat.

She turned her head and buried her teeth in one of his thick legs. The pain now was exquisite. She felt the fire in her cunt begin to radiate out. Even biting into his leg couldn't silence her moans.

Fuck her pussy, Sire! Fuck her! Fuck your mate! Fuck the pussy the interloper coveted. Show the land that her pussy belongs only to you! Fuck your mate, Sire!

With the small part of her brain that could function, she knew having Slayer there talking dirty was a turn-on for Hunter. He was now growling and roaring out with total bliss as he slammed his cock deep in her. She could feel his passion building. His balls felt heavier and his cock had swollen to an almost pussy-busting thickness. He was close to coming. And when he did, Lord, it was going to be beyond good.

Fuck her, Sire! Fuck her harder, Sire! Fuck her pussy! I can hear the sound of your cock slamming into her pussy! It is making my cock hard! Fuck her! Sire! I am going to come!

The sounds of Slayer's tone, encouraging Hunter to fuck her harder set them both off. The fire in her cunt detonated. She wailed and came, creaming his cock. He slammed his dick up into her and began blasting her pussy full of his warm, creamy seed.

Still moaning, she clung to his legs and lay under him like a limp doll as he put out the smoldering embers in her pussy with his seed.

Long after he stopped coming, he kept his dick buried in her pussy. She could feel their combined juices trickling down the side of one leg. Lord, between the two of them they must have released quite a load of juice in her now raw pussy.

She lay close to him, feeling his cock gently pulsing inside for some time before her pussy began burning in an uncomfortable fashion. She kissed his leg. *Hunter, I love you so much.*

I love you too, Jemi, darling.

Will you do something for me?

Anything, my Jemi, he promised, giving a lazy shove of his hips.

She gasped in pain. Hunter, I need you to take your cock out of me, now. My pussy is sore as hell.

She could feel his disappointment as he gingerly withdrew his dick. Although he tried to be gentle, it hurt and tears welled in her eyes. She turned her head quickly, but it was now dawn and he saw her tears.

Jemi? Have I hurt you again?

The previous evening, just before she was abducted, he had pushed her against the hut stop and began fucking her without giving her time to become aroused. After a day of having her pussy fucked raw, it had been extremely painful. She had borne it for a minute or so before the pain had brought tears to her eyes. He had immediately withdrawn from her and had promised not to hurt her again.

Now she heard the self-recrimination in his tone. *It's not like that*, she assured him quickly. *These are happy tears*. Okay, so it was a lie, but he had enough to worry about without wondering if he had hurt her again.

You are sure?

She forced a smile and touched his face. "I'm very sure. Okay?"

I would not wish to hurt you again, my Jemi.

You haven't. Don't worry.

Chapter Five

She slipped her skirt and top on and rose slowly. Her legs were sore, but she was pleased her knees didn't buckle. She went over to Slayer and felt her face flush with heat as she noted the come splashed on his underbelly.

She looked away from the evidence of his sexual pleasure. "How are you feeling?"

I ache, he told her, his voice plaintive.

She bit her lip and gently stroked his mane. Although he was big and had already mated for the first time, in some ways he was still a cub. "Your mother is coming," she said softly.

I will feel more sufficient when she is here, he admitted.

She sighed. She hoped Hunter didn't feel the same way. She bent and kissed Slayer's mane before moving back to Hunter, who was now on his feet. How did he feel about Meka? Did he still want to fuck her? The thought sent a jealous jolt through her, but she shook her head. How could she complain if he did when she still wanted to fuck Dioni?

I want only you, Jemi darling.

She started and stared at him. She had not intended for him to know she was jealous. Still, now that he did... *Meka is beautiful.*

Yes and she has good pussy and likes to fuck. I used to fuck her from sunrise until sunset.

Great. And she got sore after a few hard fucks. She held up a hand. "Okay, buddy, we've just crossed the 'too much information' line. If you intend to fuck her, I don't want to know about it."

I do not intend to fuck her. I want only you.

“Are you sure, Hunter? I can’t fuck you like that. At least not yet.”

“You will learn in time...until then, the next time we fuck, I will shapeshift into a humanoid body that does not have such a large cock.”

“That’s very considerate of you, Hunter and I love you all the more for it. But are you really sure you don’t still want Meka? She gave you an absolutely beautiful son.”

Slayer is an offspring worthy of Seeker of Tern Terra, he said, pride in his tone. I have...affection for Meka and because she bore Slayer, I would die to protect her, but I love only you, Jemi Hunter of Earth.

She felt a wide, foolish grin spread across her face. Hot damn! She linked her arms around his neck and they shared several long, moist, heated kisses. *Fear not, Jemi, you too will give me cubs, who I will love as I do Slayer.*

The thought of birthing a litter of carnivores for Hunter sent a lecherous thrill through her. *Yes. Yes, Hunter, I will. I will fuck you senseless and happily become the mother of your second litter of cubs. I am looking forward to fucking Cody’s body again.*

Then you will be disappointed!

His tone was sharp and she drew back to look at him. “Why? Wouldn’t you be shifting into his body?”

“No. Not anymore.”

Her heart thumped. For the first time in hours, she gave Jeroni and Cody a second thought. “Hunter? Is Cody...all right? Where are he and Jeroni?”

They are where they always are – in the misty place fucking.

What motivated the hint of annoyance she sensed in his tone? “Are you...jealous?”

Of what? She sensed his surprise. I have my cub and I have you. What more could I ask of the Gods of the Mountains except help in finding the path home?

“Then what’s wrong? Why aren’t they here?”

They are fucking in the misty place. They care very little for what is going on in the real world anymore.

“What has that got to do with your shifting into Cody’s body?”

That is no longer possible. I will shift into another body of your choice. I can be someone different every time we fuck. I will be whatever you want me to be, my Jemi.

“That’s easy. I want you to be you. I love you just as you are, Hunter. I don’t need you to shapeshift to please me.”

Maybe not, but it will be easier on your pussy if the cock thrusting into you is not quite as long and thick as mine.

Although she loved his cock, she couldn’t deny that. “Okay, but mind you, I like big cocks. Don’t you go shifting into a body with a skinny, short dick,” she warned.

He tossed back his head and she heard the low, rumbling noise deep in his chest that signaled his laughter. She smiled. She loved the sound.

I will endeavor to ensure my shifted cock is sufficiently large to please you, my lovely Jemi.

Damn he was smooth. He said all the right things, pushed all the right buttons, and made her fall ever deeper in love and in lust with him.

A sudden series of roars shattered the stillness of the morning and made Jemi jump.

Both Hunter and Slayer roared in response. She shivered. That could only mean one thing.

Meka is nearly here, Hunter told her. She has her pride and Berka’s pride with her.

“Berka?”

Berka is Meka’s sibling...she has good pussy.

She swung around to face him. “Hunter! What did you do? Fuck every female in both prides?”

No.

“Well, that’s a relief.”

I fucked all the full-grown. Not the cubs, but Meka was my favorite.

She stared at him, realizing he was serious. “Don’t you ever get enough fucking?”

She sensed his confusion. *I like to fuck. I thought you did too.*

"I do, Hunter, but I don't know if I'll be able to...keep up with you...to keep you satisfied."

I only want you now...when you are not ready...I will wait until you are. I will not seek out other pussy. You are my chosen mate. I will be satisfied with you. Do not fear other pussies, my Jemi.

Before she could respond, several large lionesses appeared at the edge of the clearing and fanned out. Jemi pressed her lips together to silence a scream of fear and shrank back against Hunter.

Slayer lifted his head and let out a plaintive wail.

The largest lioness, with a beautiful brown coat, roared in response and trotted toward them.

Sensing her fear, Hunter moved his big body so that she was shielded from the approaching lioness. Still, Jemi trembled with terror when the lioness snarled at her.

Hunter tossed his head and let loose an angry roar. *Come no closer, Meka. She is my chosen mate and I will not have her hurt or frightened.*

Slayer wailed again and Jemi watched an amazing transformation. The lioness's ears sprang back to their normal position, and Jemi could almost feel the maternal affection emanating from the feline as she gently approached her injured cub. She wailed in what could only have been pain and rage as she lay near him and began to lick at his wounds, much as Hunter had done.

Aware of the other lionesses circling the clearing, Jemi stood pressed against Hunter, her heart thumping with fear. If they decided to charge and attack her, how could Hunter protect her? she wondered.

They will not harm you, Jemi, Hunter told her quietly. *I have told them all you are my chosen mate and I will not have you harmed or frightened. Fear them not.*

"That's easy for you to say," she muttered, her gaze following the movements of the circling carnivores.

Now that Meka is here, we will go and bring Tioni back to help Slayer's healing. Then I will dispatch those who abducted you and the rogue carnivore. They will all die.

To her surprise, Hunter sat down.

She looked wildly around. "What are you doing?" she hissed. "Now they can see me!"

She found his rumbling laughter very annoying. *They could see you before. Get on my back. Slayer said your legs were injured. I will carry my Jemi.*

"Oh." She settled on his back and linked her arms around his neck as he effortlessly rose to his feet.

He padded over to Slayer and Meka. *Guard him, well, Meka. And to Slayer, I will return with the Seer, my cub.*

I do not trust her, Sire. She sought to keep us from finding Jemi Hunter of Earth.

She can help you heal faster. We need trust her no further than that.

As you wish, Sire.

Hunter wheeled and trotted forward. The lionesses circling parted to make way for him, and he loped into the forest. Several hundred yards along the trail, they encountered more lionesses.

"How many felines did Meka bring?"

Her pride is twenty-five strong, Berka has twenty. They will ensure that no further harm comes to Slayer.

"Hunter, I am so sorry he's hurt. I tried to get him to leave, but he wouldn't."

Do not reproach yourself, Jemi. I too tried to get him to retreat, but he would not.

She blinked. "You...you wanted him to leave me to be...raped?"

I did not wish you raped, but you could survive it. Slayer would not have survived being dispatched.

Her eyes welled with tears. How could he speak so casually of her being raped?

You are angry.

"Hurt that you wanted him to leave me defenseless."

Why? You tried to send him away too knowing that if he went you would be raped. Did you wish him to stay and die?

"You know that's not what I wanted," she said angrily. She could sense his confusion and shook her head. He was right. She had tried to send Slayer away and she could hardly begrudge him trying to save his cub's life. She just wished he hadn't told her about it.

It was the truth. You prefer I not tell you the truth?

"I don't want to be lied to, Hunter. It's just that sometimes, it's easier on a woman's feelings if you keep certain things to yourself. I didn't really need to hear you tried to get him to leave me alone."

He is my only surviving offspring. I cannot bear to lose him.

She sighed and leaned forward to press a kiss against his head. "I know. You're right. I'm sorry. I want you to tell me the truth. I don't want you to start thinking before you speak to me. I guess I just wanted to think I was the most important person to you."

He didn't respond and she sighed. She knew what his silence meant. Slayer was first and she was second. *I understand*, she told him. *He has to come first. I'm okay with that.*

It does not mean I do not love you.

I know that. I love him too. I was prepared to be raped to ensure his survival. So we're on the same page.

The same page?

It means we wanted the same thing, for him to survive at any cost. He is very brave and strong and you must be very proud of him.

He is my cub and worthy of my sire.

She leaned forward and stroked her hands along his flanks. "He's worthy of you too, Hunter."

I will slaughter the interloper who injured him.

Why would another Tern Terrian hurt him?

I do not know. It is forbidden for one of Tern Terrian blood to harm a member of the royal house of the ruling carnivore. Once Slayer identified himself, the other carnivore was required to stand down. He did not. For that he will die a slow, painful death.

Hunter, something strange happened to me when I was with the men who abducted me. I put out my right hand and I felt some type of...discharge from it and...the man fell away in pain. What was it?

A quiet sense of pleasure radiated from him. It is my gift to you.

Your gift to me?

As an offspring of the royal House of Tern Terra, I have an inborn ability to gift my chosen lifemate with the ability to protect herself in the event she should need it. You are my chosen lifemate, but I did not expect you to have received the gift so soon. As our bond grows stronger, so will your ability to protect yourself by channeling your energy through your right hand.

You mean in time I might have been able to take on the carnivore who attacked us?

No. Even at your strongest, you will not be able to harm a full-grown carnivore. It will, however, be most effective against humans and some animals. Let my gift to you develop slowly and naturally. Don't try to rush it or you risk losing it completely.

As you wish, my lord, she teased.

You may call me Hunter, he told her, clearly amused.

After stopping long enough for her to pick fruit and nuts for breakfast, they proceeded.

Several miles along the trail, Hunter came to a stop and sniffed the air. He lowered his head and let out a low rumble. He stood still, listening. An answering rumble rang out among the trees.

"What is it?"

Dioni and Tioni are coming along the trail. We will await them here. He kneeled and she slipped off his back. He didn't rise immediately. She linked her arms around his neck and kissed him, loving the way his whiskers tickled her nose.

Moments later, Dioni and Tioni appeared on the other side of the trail.

As her gaze met Tioni's, a chill ran along her spine. A faint, disturbing remembrance teased at her memory before quickly dancing away. She frowned. Tioni had said something to frighten her as she had fallen asleep, but she couldn't recall what.

"Jemi Hunter of Earth. I am pleased to see you well."

She noted the injury to Tioni's head and felt bad at her momentary mistrust of the Seer. "How are you?"

"I am...sufficient."

She turned to smile at Dioni. "Dioni!"

Dioni frowned. "My...lady?"

"Yes. It's me, Dioni. Jemi."

After a brief pause, he approached and dropped to one knee, bowing his head. "My lady Jemi...forgive my failure to protect you earlier."

"Don't reproach yourself. I know that if you had been there, you would have protected me. You couldn't be in two places at the same time." She stroked her hand over his dark, silky hair. "Now rise. Please."

He rose, but kept his head bowed. "You are well, my lady?"

"Yes. I am." She glanced over her shoulder to see Hunter and Tioni standing together. She looked up at Dioni. "Why did you look so surprised when you saw me?"

"I've never seen you before, my lady."

Her mouth formed a small "O". "What? Of course you've seen me before."

"No, my lady, I have not. Before you were in my lady Jeroni's body. Now you are not."

“What? What are you talking about?” She put her hands on her breasts and realized that they were no longer full and firm. They were smaller. She felt her bottom and found it well padded and a little flabby. She didn’t need to touch her hair to realize that she was now in her own body. That explained why Hunter’s cock had brought more pain than she had expected. He had actually been fucking her pussy and not Jeroni’s.

She glanced at Hunter. Why hadn’t he commented on her changed appearance? More to the point, why had she not noticed the change?

Hunter approached her. *The Seer and I will return to help Slayer. Will you follow with Dioni?*

She shook her head. “No. We’ll come with you.”

He paused before continuing. She stifled a sigh. He was choosing his words. *We can travel faster alone. Do you understand?*

She nodded.

Dioni needs rest; stay with him until next sunrising. Mate with him.

You...you want me to mate with him? Why?

He is a faithful warrior and deserves his pleasure. You are his only source of pleasure.

It won’t bother you knowing we’ll be fucking?

No.

Why? She swallowed slowly. *Will you be...fucking Meka?*

No. I have already told you that I will not mate with her or anyone else again. You are my chosen mate. I will mate with no other. Do you not believe me?

There was no doubting the sincerity in his tone. Besides, she didn’t think he lied. She linked her arms around his neck and kissed him briefly. *I believe you and I love you for being so unselfish.* She paused, bit her lip then spoke quickly. *What if I get...pregnant by him?*

I have chosen you as my mate and filled you with my seed. No other male can impregnate you while I live.

Good. Then she could enjoy herself without worrying about Dioni pulling out of her before he came. She frowned suddenly. Wait a minute. I thought I wouldn't be able to mate with Dioni after you and I had mated.

You wouldn't...if you were Volterian, but you are not. And not everything that Tioni told us is correct.

Oh. Good.

Then Tioni and I will leave.

She cast an uneasy glance at Tioni. Take care, Hunter.

You do not trust the Seer?

I know Jeroni does, but I don't know if I do. Before I lost consciousness at the hut stop, she whispered something to me that frightened me, but I can't remember what it was. Just be safe.

And you, my Jemi.

After Hunter and Tioni left, Jemi and Dioni proceed more slowly. She quickly saw that Hunter was right about Dioni needing rest. Although he made no complaint, she saw weariness in his eyes.

"Dioni, I need a break," she said. "Is there somewhere we can go to rest?" She didn't much care for the idea of sleeping outside without Hunter there to protect her.

"Yes, my lady. There is a small hut stop a few miles to the east of here."

"Is there a bed there?"

She saw a flash of desire move across his face before he quickly averted his gaze. "Yes, my lady."

"Then we'll spend the night there and rejoin Hunter and the others in the morning at sunrise."

"As you wish, my lady."

She hesitated, aware that now that she had mated with Hunter, Dioni would no longer find pleasure making love to her. But there was always her behind.

"Will you do something for me, Dioni?"

"Anything, my lady."

She slipped her arm through his and looked up into his dark eyes. "Stop calling me my lady. I am not Jeroni."

"No, but I have pledged my life in your service as well."

She smiled and stroked a hand down his strong muscled arm. "Do you know what I want from you today?"

"No, my lady."

But she saw the hopeful look in his eyes and knew he wanted to fuck her. "I want you to call me Jemi and tonight, after we've both rested, I want you to hold me in your arms and fuck me."

"My la—"

She leaned against him and pressed her mouth against his. "Jemi," she whispered. She eagerly licked at his warm, sweet lips. "Jemi."

"Jemi," he gasped, trembling against her. She slipped her arms around him and felt his cock hardening against her. His dick wasn't as big as Cody's ten-incher, but it was thick, hard and at least a very pussy-pleasing seven inches. Or in this case, an ass-pleasing length. She reached under his loincloth and gently fondled his warm cock and balls.

"Nice," she whispered. "Very nice." She was definitely looking forward to feeling him drive his hot flesh up her ass. Her pussy convulsed at the mere thought.

"Tonight, we fuck," she promised.

"Yes, my lady!" he groaned, and ground his mouth against hers. His arms enclosed her in a warm, tight embrace and she lost herself in the sweet wonder of his voracious kisses. As they ground against each other, she continued to fondle and cup his dick and nuts. She delighted in feeling the change in them and knowing he was about to come.

When they finally broke apart, several minutes later, he had come on her fingers. Feeling wicked and uninhibited, she looked into his eyes and slowly licked her fingers

and palm clean. "Delicious," she told him, a lecherous smile on her face. "I'm looking forward to feeling your thick dick in my body."

His eyes shone with the unmistakable gleam of lust and desire and her heart thumped. Although she'd rather be spending the night with Hunter's huge cock stuffed in her pussy, Dioni was a sweet, wonderful lover. She was going to enjoy giving him the pleasure he so richly deserved.

Chapter Six

Hunter watched carefully as Tioni finished soothing Slayer's many wounds. He kept his senses alert for any evidence of deception from her. Although he detected none, he was not comforted. The wary look Jemi had given her when they'd met on the trail had only served to solidify his suspicions.

She gently stroked Slayer's flank and rose. "There. You will feel sufficient with the sunrising, my lord."

Slayer, still lying on his uninjured side, lifted his head. *I am grateful.*

"There is no need for gratitude, my lord. It is my duty and pleasure to render assistance and aid to all of the royal house of our sovereign Seeker."

Hunter approached Slayer and gently butted his head. *You will feel sufficient soon, my cub. I am going to leave now.*

Where are you bound, Sire?

I am going to seek out those who abducted Jemi and the rogue who dared injure you.

He felt Slayer's alarm. *Be vigilant, Sire. The rogue is strong and has no regard for the royal House of Seeker. You will take some of Meka's pride with you, Sire?*

The question surprised him. *You are certain the rogue was of Tern Terra?*

I am, Sire.

Then this is a Tern Terrian matter. Meka and the prides will guard you until you are sufficient.

Then I will join you to kill our enemies.

No. When you are sufficient, I want you to join Dioni and help him protect Jemi.

As you wish, Sire.

Even as Slayer agreed, Hunter feared he would not keep his word. To ensure his cub did not suffer further injury trying to assist him, he would need to find and dispatch the rogue quickly. He butted Slayer's head and called Meka aside. *Do not allow him to follow me.*

I will try, but he has already left the pride and is determined to follow you. He even intends to take a human mate.

He detected what Cody would call bitterness in her. *We are both of Tern Terra*, he said gently. *Tern Terrian carnivores have always had human mates.*

It was not a human mate who gave you your elder offspring! She gave a low, agitated roar and stalked away.

He had no wish to have her angry with him, but she had always known his lifemate would be human. He had never deceived her. She would have to learn to adapt.

Eager to pick up the rogue's trail, he turned and bolted from the clearing and into the forest. He thought briefly of Jemi and longed to spend the night with his cock buried in her warm, welcoming pussy. But he had to call to account the rogue before he could enjoy the pleasure and warmth of his mate's tight pussy. Tonight, another would know the joy of mating with her. He tossed his head at the thought and picked up his pace. Dioni deserved his pleasure and no one could give a male pleasure quite like his Jemi.

As he moved along the trail, his thoughts inexplicably turned toward his family. Many seasons had passed since he had seen his parents and his sibling. In particular, thoughts of Stalker haunted him. He tossed his head again. Remembrances of Stalker could wait for another time. Such thoughts were interfering with his ability to track the rogue. He almost imaged he could smell Stalker's scent along the trail.

It would be good to go home and see his family again. Particularly Stalker, whose scent seemed to linger in his memory so strongly it overpowered the scent of the rogue.

* * * * *

Conscious of a hard cock pressed against her naked rear end, Jemi slowly opened her eyes. She lay on her side on the small bed in the main room of the strange hut stop she and Dioni had arrived at several hours earlier. The sun had set and the only light in the room was provided by the moonlight streaming in through the low, wide window opposite the bed.

Now that she was rested, she wanted some of the hot cock throbbing against her ass cheeks. Pushing the skin covering their nude bodies away, Jemi turned and pressed her breasts against Dioni's hard chest. He shuddered and made a small, helpless sound.

She palmed his dick. It was hard, thick and ready for action. She pushed him onto his back and rose above him. His dark eyes shone with unmitigated lust as he looked up at her.

Smiling, she settled herself between his hard thighs so her pussy brushed against his dick. She lowered her body until her breasts touched his chest and slowly began to lightly pepper his mouth with soft kisses.

He sighed softly and cupped her ass in his big palms as he returned her kisses. His hands felt good on her butt. His dick against the entrance of her pussy made her slick with need. She lifted her hips and then ground her groin against his. His hands on her tightened and he rotated his powerful hips.

"Hmm." She clung to his shoulders and licked the side of his neck. "Your cock feels so damn good, Dioni."

"As does your pussy, my lady."

"Jemi," she reminded him, and shuddered as a pleasant bolt of lust shot through her cunt. God she wanted his cock inside her pussy.

"Jemi." His hands slid up to her waist and she felt the tip of one of his fingers gently rub her asshole. Oh yeah, that felt good. His dick was going to feel great slipping up and into her behind.

They clung to each other, caressing, kissing and grinding wildly. He thrust his hips up and she rotated hers and his dick flicked against her clit. Pure need sizzled through

her cunt. She moaned and shoved down. His cock slipped into her pussy. She sighed with regret and prepared to lift her hips so he could remove his cock and enter her rear. To her complete amazement, as he clutched her against him and pressed a series of hot, demanding kisses against her mouth, her pussy convulsed and contracted until it fit like a glove around his dick.

She gasped and they stared into each other's eyes with shock. This wasn't supposed to be possible after she'd mated with Hunter.

"My la...Jemi...?"

"We can ask questions later. Right now, I just want to be fucked," she told him, and thrust her cunt down the entire length of his hard flesh. "Fuck me, my handsome, faithful Dioni. Fuck your hot cock deep into my pussy."

He tangled a hand in her hair and took her lips in a long, sweet kiss as he began to gently fuck his dick in and out of her pussy. His cock rubbed against her clit each time he pushed up into her slick tunnel. Oh, his shaft felt good inside her! His lips were warm and insistent, his hands tender and soft as they fondled her ass.

After being fucked by an eighteen-inch cock, she didn't really expect to come with Dioni. But to her delight, she felt the telltale beginning of heat filling her cunt and tightening her stomach. When he suddenly rolled them over, pushed her legs apart and began fucking her hard and fast, the floodgates of her passion burst open and she came.

Clutching her behind in his hands, he thrust deep and hard into her pussy, prolonging and intensifying her orgasm. She moaned and clamped her convulsing cunt around his cock. She felt it swell and harden in her and then he began blasting her full of his warm, sticky seed.

He collapsed on top of her, murmuring against her ear.

She stroked her hands against his damp hair and shoulders. She continued to contract her cunt tightly around his cock to keep it buried deep in her. "What did you say?"

"I would die for you, my lady."

She giggled and gave his cock a playful squeeze. "I'd rather have you alive with your dick spewing come in my pussy." She kissed his shoulders. "Did I please you, my handsome Dioni?"

He lifted his head and gazed down into her eyes. "Yes, my lady! This time more than ever."

"That's because you've just had your first piece of Earth pussy. Like it, did you?"

"Yes. Oh yes."

There was a warmth and affection in his gaze that hinted at something more than lust or passion. She stroked her hand along his cheek. "Dioni...are you in love with Jeroni?"

He averted his head. "I am not permitted to love my lady. I am her servant."

"Well, I'm not Jeroni and you're not my servant. How do you feel about me?"

He slowly turned back to look down at her. "You are my lady as well."

"I am your lover, Dioni. There's a difference. And I...love Hunter like I never thought I could love anyone...but I think I...I love you too."

His eyes glistened with a combination of passion and something stronger than affection. "I...you humble and honor me, my lady Jemi. I have no right to speak words of love to you."

"Is that a no?"

"No. I...I...do...love you, my lady Jemi."

She smiled and stroked her fingers through his hair. "Prove it to me, my handsome Dioni. Give me some more of your hard, swollen dick. Fuck me, my Dioni."

"My Jemi! I love you! I could never say it to my lady Jeroni, but I never felt quite like this with her. I love you, my lady!" He shuddered and pushed his hips forward, driving his dick deep in her. He took the tip of one of her already hardened nipples in his mouth and began to suck her. She sighed with pleasure, linked her legs under his

clenching buns and lay back to enjoy a sweet fuck with one of the two males she'd fallen in love with.

They spent a long night fucking and whispering words of love and devotion to each other. Several hours later, she curled into Dioni's arms, her body sated, his warm seed slowly seeping out of her satisfied pussy. Just before sleep overtook her, her thoughts turned to the big male who had so unexpectedly captured her heart. *Hunter. Hunter. My love. Thank you for this lovely night with Dioni. I love you, Hunter.*

* * * * *

Hunter padded along the moonlight trail. He had been tracking the rogue for many hours. Although weary, he dared not stop to rest. He thought of Jemi and felt his cock tingle. How he longed for her slick, tight pussy and her soft, strange lips kissing him and whispering still-alien words of lust and love that heightened his passion.

When they were reunited, he would spend an entire evening thrusting his aching cock deep into her human pussy. And when she could take no more, he would eat her sweet, fragrant cunt and perhaps, she would suck his dick. Or let him bottom mate with her. No. She would call it fucking her ass.

Now that she exhibited the body of the woman he had fallen in love with, he was eager to shapeshift so he could fondle her ass. It was bigger than Jeroni's. Although her breasts were smaller than Jeroni's, Cody was fond of saying that anything more than a mouthful was a waste. Once in humanoid form, he could endlessly thrust his cock into her tight pussy with little fear of hurting her. He would also delight in sucking her small breasts until they were both exhausted and unable to fuck anymore. Then they would rest and fuck yet again.

He felt a warm thought brush across his mind. *I love you, Hunter.*

And I love you, my darling, Jemi. Enjoy Dioni, but save some pussy for me.

All he felt in response was a contented silence. Dioni would keep his Jemi safe and satisfied while he did what must be done. He continued on, forcing himself to dismiss

thoughts of Jemi. Revenge and retribution first. Then sweet, warm pleasure with his lovely Jemi.

Sometime near sunrising, after a brief rest respite, he detected a familiar scent along his back trail. He wheeled quickly. *I know you are there.*

He sensed rather than heard a brief inhalation. He waited in silence his ears back against his head, his tail coiled.

Tioni, on all fours, emerged into the small clearing. She rose and bowed her head. "My lord."

Why have you followed me, Seer?

"I seek only to aide you, my lord."

He attempted to probe her thoughts. Before she erected a mind shield, he detected a quick thought. *He must not find out about Stalker.*

Stalker? A chill ran through him. If the Seer had injured or dispatched his younger sibling, he would kill her even more slowly than he already planned.

What about Stalker? Respond quickly before I dispatch you to the misty place, Seer.

"I know nothing of him since I left home many seasons past, my lord."

He felt his anger rising. *You are practicing deception, Seer.*

Shielding his own thoughts, he sprang at her. He pinned her to the ground and closed his teeth over her neck. *Tell me what you seek to hide or die now.*

Under her fear, he sensed a strong resolve to continue to deceive him. With the emergence of his racial memories, he knew Tioni had been deceiving him ever since she had appeared in Volter when he was still a cub. That a subject of his Sire's domain should dare conspire against him enraged him. There was only one penalty for such deceit. The Seer would pay with her life. He snapped his teeth shut on her throat.

"Hunter, elder offspring of Seeker. At last we find you."

Placing a paw on the Seer's chest to keep her immobilized, Hunter turned to see four tall, strangely clad warriors with feline features moving into the clearing toward

him. Quickly deciding that Tioni was the lesser of the evils facing him, he released her and wheeled to face the new threat.

* * * * *

Jemi woke to find Dioni watching her sleep. She smiled and moved against him. "Good morning."

"Good morning, my lady Jemi. You slept well? You are rested?"

She nodded, reaching a hand between his parted thighs. She sighed with lust when her eager fingers closed around his hard, warm flesh. "I'm hungry."

"I will go pick fruit for your breakfast."

He started to roll away, but she tightened her fingers around him, lay on her back and parted her legs. "I'm hungry for your cock," she whispered.

He rolled quickly on top of her, settling between her thighs. "My lady wants to fuck?" Without waiting for her response, he began kissing her. The fingers of one hand found their way into her pussy to finger-fuck her and stroke her clit. Thinking that soon she would be with Hunter again and the two males she loved would again fuck her in the same day, she quickly creamed around his hand.

He removed his fingers, lifted her hips and slowly speared her pussy with his dick. "Talk dirty to me," she whispered.

He looked down at her, clearly confused. "Dirty?"

"Yes. Tell me how much you like fucking my pussy. Tell me how it feels around your cock. Talk about how my body feels."

"You will tell me if I go too far?"

"Don't worry about going too far. Just talk dirty to me."

"Your pussy is the best I've ever fucked, my lovely Jemi. It squeezes and cradles my cock like no other woman's ever has. Your pussy is hot and tight and makes my cock burn, my balls full of seed. I love you, my lady. I love the way your ass feels in my

hands, I love the feel of the hair on your pussy brushing against my cock. I love fucking your sweet pussy. I want to fuck your ass, my lady."

"You will," she promised, shuddering with bliss at the very thought.

"I want to fuck every part of your beautiful body. You make my cock so hard. Please. Please. Let me fuck you." He pushed his hips against her, filling her with his thick shaft. "Part your legs and let me have all of your pussy."

"Fuck your hot cock deep in my pussy, Dioni." She undulated her body, thoroughly revving up their fuck. "Oh yes. That's it, lover. Just like that." She moaned and clung to his bucking hips. "Take my pussy. Take it all. Pound it, lover!"

They were both so hot that their fuck was quick, sweet and explosive. They came within minutes of his dick sliding into her pussy. Afterward, they washed, dressed, ate fruit and bread then set out to rendezvous with Hunter. They traveled without speaking much, but she was aware that Dioni, walking beside her, cast frequent looks her way. She could sense his desire for her and it made her feel sexy as hell and more than a little wicked. Less than a week earlier, she'd been involved in a satisfying, if somewhat predictable relationship with a rock-steady man. Now she was fucking and being fucked by a handsome warrior and a huge, magnetic carnivore with a foot-and-a-half-long cock. And loving every second of her new uninhibited lifestyle.

She frowned. At least she would love it once she, Hunter, Slayer and Dioni were safe in Tern Terra.

She and Dioni were within two miles of the campsite when a tall warrior with sun-bronzed skin appeared in their path. "Jemi Hunter of Earth, you must come with me."

Dioni immediately swept her behind him as he whipped out his sword. "Identify yourself and state your intentions."

"I have already done so. She must come with me."

"She will remain with me."

Jemi frowned, although she had never seen this man, she almost felt as if they'd encountered each other before.

The warrior moved toward them with an uneven gait, as if he were injured. "I will take her by force, if I must."

Feeling fear form in her gut, Jemi reached down and snatched the six-inch bladed knife she had found at the hut stop. She would not allow Dioni to face this threat alone.

Keeping his gaze on the other, taller warrior, Dioni twirled his sword with an impressive skill and speed before assuming a combat stance. "You will not take her."

"Stand aside Volterian or I *will* kill you."

"I am sworn to protect her. I will not stand aside."

She longed to be able to faint and wake up next to Hunter to find this was a bad dream.

You will be of no help to Dioni allowing such fear to overcome you. You must find your courage and do not distract him.

And just where the hell have you been? she screamed at Jeroni. *Oh, let me guess, you've been in the misty place fucking the hell out of Cody!*

You have Hunter and Dioni now, two of the most important males in my life. What have you to be bitter about? Be still and stand ready to help Dioni if the need arises.

Do not be so hard on her, Jeroni, Cody said. *She won't let Dioni down.*

Another country heard from, she thought bitterly. Where the hell had Cody been when she'd needed him? But she didn't have time for this. She bit her lip and kept her gaze on the warrior slowly advancing toward them.

"Step back and stay well behind me, my lady," Dioni said. "Once the battle is joined, climb up the nearest tree."

She did as he instructed, moving behind and slightly to his right, the knife extended. *Jeroni, I think you'd better take control. You can be more helpful to Dioni than I can.*

I will guide you, but I cannot assume control of your body.

Before she could decide what to make of Jeroni's unwillingness to help them, the warrior spoke again.

"I give you one last chance to surrender the woman without blood, Volterian."

"I have given you my answer."

"And if I tell you I am of the royal family of Seeker of Tern Terra? Will you then stand aside?"

"No. There is no name in all of Volter Terra or Tern Terra that will make me stand aside. You will take her only after I am dead."

"Then die, Volterian!"

"Up the tree, my lady."

Heart thumping, Jemi scrambled up the nearest tree where she watched the scene below her. To her horror, the warrior collapsed onto all fours and shifted into a large Tern Terrian carnivore. She bit her lip to silence a scream that might distract Dioni as she realized the carnivore charging Dioni had several wounds on his flank. This was the same rogue who had savaged and nearly killed Slayer. Now he was going to kill Dioni. Then she would attack him, probably forcing him to kill her. So be it.

She sent out a silent plea. *Hunter. Please. We need you. Please.*

Chapter Seven

Well before sunrising, Slayer woke feeling almost sufficient and in need of pussy. There were many lionesses surrounding the camp who would willingly give him pussy, but his thoughts turned toward the slim, dark human female he had mated with two sunrises earlier. Ayanni. Her pussy had cradled and massaged his cock, bringing him incredible pleasure.

He rose to his feet and was pleased to find his legs steady under him. He padded over to Meka in the darkness. *I am going to get some pussy*, he told her.

There is plenty of good pussy here, my cub.

He hesitated before speaking. *I will be leaving for Tern Terra soon. I would not wish to leave any of the felines from our pride to carry my cubs alone.*

He felt a sadness in Meka that made him ache.

You are so like your sire. He does not wish you to follow him.

I am going to get some pussy. Then I will join him.

I will gather Berka and the prides and we will follow. When you are in Tern Terra, do not forget me, my cub. I will have other cubs, but you will always be my oldest and dearest. We will see you safely to Tern Terra.

He gently butted his head against hers. *You are she who bore and nourished me. I will not forget you and I will return, Meka. I love you.*

He felt her confusion and quietly explained what love was.

I love you too, my cub. Of all the cubs that will come, I will always love you best.

Slayer felt torn as he trotted out of the camp, racing toward the special tree by the river where he had first seen Ayanni. She and her mother had been at the river, fishing. Slayer had been intrigued the moment he saw her. When she had left her mother to find

a quiet spot to swim, he had followed. He had watched as she pulled the dress over her head, revealing a dark, slim but shapely body with gently budding breasts, wide hips and a curly mat of dark hair covering her pussy.

Kneeling in the tall grass, he had watched her swimming, his cock throbbing. Although he had mated for the first time that morning with several felines, he wanted some human pussy. When she had emerged from her swim with water glistening on her sleek, beautiful dark body and her long, silky hair streaming down her back, he had never seen anything as glorious.

With his cock out of his sheath, he had followed her as she walked nude through the forest. She had stopped at the very tree with a low-standing bough where his sire had first mated with his Jemi.

Placing her dress on the branches, she had climbed into the tree, lay on her back and closed her eyes.

When he was certain she slept, he approached. The smell of her drew him to the tree. He extended his tongue and began lapping at her pussy as he had seen his sire do with his human mate. In a very short time, she cried out softly and came against his tongue. He licked at her juices, eager to consume every drop of her intoxicating moisture.

Just as he finished, she gasped, bolted into a sitting position and stared at him with wide, beautiful, dark eyes. "My lord, you are one of the carnivores from Tern Terra!"

I am Slayer, future sovereign of Tern Terra, he told her proudly. Descend from the tree. I wish to mate with you.

"My lord, I am Ayanni of Volter. I am promised to another."

I have tasted your pussy and find it pleasing. I wish to mate with you. Descend from the tree.

With her dark eyes shining, her slender body trembling, she had done as he bid. Using his head to position her against the tree, he lapped at her pussy until she was

again moist. As he had watched his sire do, he rose onto his hind legs and approached the human female with his carnivore cock fully extended.

Although she gasped at the sight of his thick length, he had been pleased at how eagerly she reached out to fondle him with her soft hands. His dick began to leak as she slowly rubbed the tip of him along her pussy. Unable to bear the pleasure filling his body, he wrapped his tail around her waist and thrust against her.

“Aaah....oooh....aaah.” She cried out and eagerly spread her slender legs for him.

Growling with pleasure, he slowly propelled his length into her tight, hot pussy. As he drove his cock into her and felt the quivering in her slick channel, he knew no other male had ever enjoyed this delight with her. Although she was not his first mating partner, none of the lionesses’ pussies he had fucked had felt quite this good and he found that he could not take her slowly, as he’d seen his sire do.

Holding her still with his tail around her waist, he repeatedly thrust into her moist, heated pussy, enjoying the way her inner muscles clung to and massaged his cock. Her slender thighs shook as he pounded her pussy. She moaned and cried out, raking her fingers along his flanks and burying her soft lips against his underbelly.

“My lord...my lord...oooh....oooh....”

Her sweet pussy convulsed around his cock and he knew a quiet satisfaction in the certainty that he had given her extreme satisfaction. Unable to keep his own pleasure at bay, he growled, rammed his dick deep up into her pussy and flooded her hot canal with his seed.

She moaned and went limp against him. He kept her on her feet with his tail wrapped around her waist as he leisurely pumped the last drops of his seed into her. Only then did he reluctantly withdraw his still-hard cock and allow her to slide down the trunk of the tree.

She had sat on the ground, staring up at him, her wide, dark eyes troubled and filled with tears, his seed slowly seeping from her pussy.

What troubles you, Ayanni? Did I not give you pleasure?

“Yes, my lord, a pleasure beyond anything I’d ever hoped to experience.”

Then what troubles you?

“It was not a pleasure I was at liberty to enjoy. I am promised to another.”

He leaned down to kiss her soft mouth, as he’d seen his sire do with his Jemi. Ayanni let out a small, startled sound before she closed her fingers in his mane, parted her warm lips and allowed him access to her tongue.

While they shared several kisses, his cock began to leak. He needed her again. *I will have you again*, he told her.

She drew her head back, a look of alarm in her dark eyes. “No, my lord! You must not put your cock in me again. It’s too good and I will grow to need it in me.”

I must have you at least once more, he told her, bowing his head to eat her still-convulsing pussy. *Once more then I will allow you to leave.*

Although she had protested, she had willingly parted her slender thighs for him and grunted softly with pleasure as she eagerly guided his cock into her pussy. He took her on the ground, lying on his back with her bouncing on top of him. The second time with her had been better than the first. They had thrust wildly at each other, her moaning and him growling at the sheer joy they received from his big cock plowing relentlessly into her fiery pussy.

Endless little rivers of hot pussy juice and cream coated him, making the passage of his dick into her easier and even more enjoyable for them both. Inside her warmth, Slayer felt a nameless feeling permeating him. He had been born to mate with this female and her delicious pussy. He instinctively knew no other female would ever give him this intense level of joy and sexual bliss as he felt with her.

“My lord, I had no idea mating would be so joyous,” she cried out, sinking her small teeth into his soft underbelly. He welcomed the pain and thrust ever deeper into her slick heat.

What he felt with her went beyond the physical pleasure and lust they were sharing. He felt a oneness with her, a need to make her happy and always protect her. He wanted her as his mate—for always.

As the thought formed in his mind, she came, bathing his shaft in a warm, creamy flood of moisture. Sinking his teeth lightly into her shoulder, he purred softly and shot a thick load of seed into her pussy.

“Oh my lord. My lord.” She chanted the words over and over as he lay still buried inside her.

I am called Slayer, he told her softly, pleased that she had enjoyed their mating so much.

“Elder offspring of Hunter, future ruler of fabled Tern Terra.” She giggled and rubbed her cheek against his underside. “I, of little means and prospects, have just given pleasure to the future sovereign of Tern Terra.”

Great pleasure and you will give me pleasure yet again and again, my pretty brown one.

“My lord finds me pleasing?” Still impaled on his dick, she wiggled her hips and gave his cock a teasing squeeze.

Unable to control himself, he rolled them over so that she lay on her back with her legs splayed open, still filled with his cock. Growling softly, he licked her mouth and face, kissed her full, sweet lips and took her twice more before he allowed her to climb off his cock. Although he wanted more pussy, he knew she needed a rest and had to leave.

I will wait here at this tree for you every day, he had told her.

She slipped her dress over her head and averted her gaze. “I cannot come, my lord. I am promised to another.”

I care nothing for promises made to some insignificant male who will not give you everything you want or deserve. I am heir to all the riches of Tern Terra. I can and will give you everything you want.

Her dark eyes gleamed as she looked at him. "I desire only you, my lord."

Slayer.

"Slayer," she repeated, her voice almost inaudible. "My lord Slayer."

Slayer. You need not call me lord. I will wait here for you, Ayanni. I will think of little except you and the pleasure we shared until I am again inside your pussy.

"I long for that too."

Then do not disappointment me. Come and we will mate and give each other great pleasure.

Although she hadn't responded, he had felt confident that she shared the certainty that they belonged to each other. Before he left her within sight of the small hut she lived in with her mother and siblings, they shared one last kiss. As they kissed, he allowed his tail to slither up her thigh, under her dress to brush against her pussy.

She shuddered and sucked hungrily at his tongue. *My lord, please. You'll make me want your cock in me again.*

Slayer. He had found himself unable to leave her without a quick last few laps at her warm cunt, which still seeped his seed.

With the taste of her lips and pussy still on his mouth, he reluctantly let her go.

Bringing his thoughts back to the present, he reached their tree just before sunrising and waited there until midday before he realized that she was not coming. He was torn between going to look for her and rushing to aid his sire. In the end, he realized that Ayanni had made her decision and had chosen the one to whom she was promised. And his sire might need him.

Feeling a heaviness in his chest that dismayed him, he started along his sire's trail. Thoughts of Ayanni and the pleasure they had shared haunted him. Once he left Volter, she would become another male's mate and he would never know her pussy again, even when he returned to Volter to visit Meka and the prides. He knew there could and would be other pussies, both human and feline, but none would bring him the same level of contentment he had found with sweet Ayanni.

But she had made her choice and he would learn to be sufficient without her warm lips kissing him and her soft hands feeding his eager cock into her wonderful human pussy.

He shook thoughts of her aside and galloped along the trail, aware that Meka and the prides moved behind him in the distance. Unlike Tern Terrian carnivores, Volterian cats did not have the stamina or the ability to sustain high speeds over great distances.

* * * * *

I am Hunter, elder offspring of Seeker, Sire of Tern Terra, Hunter told the warriors fanning out to surround him. He slowly circled to ensure their maneuver was not successful. Sons of Tern Terra, bow in the presence of your future sovereign.

Somewhat to his surprise, all four warriors went down on one knee and bowed their heads. "My lord," the four voices echoed as one.

Rise and identify yourselves. But he already knew these strange warriors, like the ones who had come down to wage war on Volter and Terra when he was but a cub, were from Tern Terra.

They rose. He watched as all four shifted into their natural forms and he found himself faced with four Tern Terrian carnivores with bowed heads. The biggest of the four, a huge, almost-black cat moved forward, keeping his head bowed.

My lord Hunter, I am Traveler, Master of the Royal Guard of the House of Seeker. I have been sent by his Royal Majesty to find you and escort you safely home. You must come immediately.

Hunter felt a knot of fear. *My mother...my sire...they are...sufficient?*

The royal family is as sufficient as it can be under the circumstances.

What circumstances? What has transpired?

You have been gone for too many seasons, my lord, and now distressing news of your sibling has reached his royal majesty.

He had no need to ask which sibling. He suddenly knew that he had not imagined Stalker's scent on the trail of the rogue. Stalker was in Volter. He felt fear from Tioni and turned to find her struggling to her feet. *Where is my sibling, Seer?*

"I know not, my lord," she said, backing away from him.

From the corner of his eye, Hunter saw a flash and then Traveler sprang upon Tioni and ripped her throat. When he bounded away from her, the Seer lay convulsing on the ground, her blood and life force rushing out from the gaping wound in her neck.

Noooooo! Noooooo! Hunter how could you allow this to happen?

Jeroni's scream of rage, pain and sorrow buffeted him like the bitter force of a tidal wave. *I will never forgive you for this, Hunter! Never!*

Jeroni, I did not intend –

Never!

He reached out to her, longing to comfort her and felt only emptiness where their bond, once so strong and satisfying, had been. Struggling to overcome a sense of loss, he reached out to Cody. *Comfort her and tell her I did not intend this to happen.*

I will, Cody promised. I will take care of her now. In a day or two, we will emerge from the misty place and go to Terra where she will fulfill her obligation to lifemate with Tuteri. Take care of Jemi and tell her I did once love her very much.

So he was losing not only Jeroni, but Cody as well. *I will.* He turned to face Traveler. *I did not authorize you to dispatch her. She had information I required.*

Traveler bowed his big head in submission. *By your leave, my lord, I required no such permission. As Master of the Royal Guard, it is my sworn duty to dispatch those who practice treachery against the royal family of Seeker.*

Angry at the loss of Jeroni and saddened at Tioni's demise, he head-butted the other carnivore. *Do not overstep your bounds, warrior! She was the only Tern Terrian Seer in the land who could help me.*

By your leave, my lord, I too am a Seer.

One of the smaller carnivores padded forward with her head bowed. *I am Sheela, my lord. You will not remember me but –*

An almost-forgotten memory of a young she-vore Hunter had mated with one night outside the royal palace surfaced. He remembered her telling him she had come to him because she had “seen” his need. She had been very small and her virgin cunt had been hot, tight and welcoming. He had spent the entire night rutting in her pussy in an ecstasy of pure lust. With the rising of the sun, she had uncoupled from him and left the royal grounds. He had never seen her again.

I remember, he said brusquely, dreading Jemi’s reaction when she met yet another of his former mating partners. What can you tell me, Seer?

The Seer was sent here many seasons past to find you.

She did, but once she had, she could not find the path home again, he said. If that’s all Sheela had to offer, she was not much of a Seer.

She knew the path home, my lord, for she returned many times. In Tern Terra, she always reported to his Royal Majesty that she had not located you. She would then spend several sunrisings with my lord Stalker before returning to continue the hunt for you – as she did just this past season.

Hunter felt a chill. *Are you saying that Stalker knew where I was and kept it from our sire?*

Her head dipped lower. I am, my lord.

Then why is he here now?

Traveler responded. *Ever since you left Tern Terra, my lord Stalker has been telling everyone you were dead and he was the rightful heir to our majesty’s title. When my lord Seeker informed him that as long as you lived, you were the rightful heir, my lord Stalker left Tern Terra. He came to Volter where he met with the Seer ten sunrises earlier.*

Are you telling me Stalker, my sibling, has come here to dispatch me?

I fear it is so, my lord Hunter. When Sheela saw the signs of treachery in Tioni and my lord Stalker, his Royal Majesty dispatched us to ensure your safe return home.

And what of Stalker?

Traveler prostrated himself completely. *The law is clear, my lord Hunter, anyone who plots the demise of the Sire or future Sire of Tern Terra warrants death.*

A rage of pain and anger filled Hunter's gut and rose like bile in his throat. He kept his claws sheathed as he delivered a powerful blow to Traveler's head that stunned the big carnivore. *You will not lay a paw on my sibling,* he roared angrily, and looked around at the other three carnivores. *None of you will touch him.*

He thought of what had been done to his only offspring, his brave, precious Slayer. Slayer, dearer to him than any other being, had nearly been killed by his younger sibling – whose memory Hunter had cherished the long seasons he had been away from home.

He could forgive Stalker for wanting the throne of Seeker, but he could not and would not forgive him for the vicious attack on Slayer. Had his cub been less valiant, he might even now be dead.

My lord, he cannot go unpunished, and we have his Royal Majesty's authority to do what we must to protect you.

Do not presume to think I will allow any of you to harm Stalker. He has severely injured my only surviving offspring, Slayer, and he will have to account for that. But you will not lay teeth or claw to him.

He felt a wave of excitement as the other carnivores rose to their feet. *My lord, there is another of the House of Seeker, another future sovereign?* Traveler inquired. *Her Highness will be inconsolable with joy.*

Hunter's chest swelled with pride. His parents would indeed be pleased and proud of his cub. *Yes, and he is worthy to join the House of Seeker and to one day rule Tern Terra.*

All four carnivores bowed their heads. *I look forward to meeting and serving my lord Slayer, my lord Hunter,* Traveler said quietly.

Traveler was a loyal warrior who did not deserve to be cuffed on the head and treated badly. Hunter bowed his head. *You will find that my cub has a much better*

disposition than I do, Traveler. He will not be prone to cuffing you on the head and treating you unjustly. I beg your indulgence and forgiveness, Traveler, Master of the Royal Guard of the House of Seeker.

I extend both willingly, my lord.

Hunter envied Traveler's graciousness. He would have to control his temper better in the future. Loyal warriors deserved the ultimate respect and consideration from those they were sworn to die protecting.

Jemi's urgent, terrified plea interrupted his thoughts. *Hunter. Hunter. We need you.*

He sprang around and charged through the forest, toward the trail where she and Dioni would be traveling to meet with him. Behind him, the four Terrians sworn to protect him, followed.

Jemi. Jemi, I am coming. I am coming, my love.

Then feeling desperate and afraid he wouldn't reach her in time, he reached out to Slayer. *Slayer. Hear me, my cub. The rogue is attacking Jemi and Dioni. Engage him, but use care. Kill him if you must, but do not allow him to dispatch you. If necessary, retreat, with or without Jemi. He will not harm her immediately, but he will kill you if given the chance.*

He will not get the chance. I will protect her and live. Fear not, Sire, came the distant response from his brave, loyal cub.

Chapter Eight

To Jemi's dismay, instead of retreating or taking a defensive stance, sword in hand, Dioni ran toward the charging carnivore. Halfway to the spot when their bodies would have slammed together, Dioni vaulted up and over the rogue's back. As he sailed through the air, he brought his sword down in a vicious arc, slicing into the muscle just below the rogue's right shoulder. He jerked his sword free and landed on the other side.

Roaring with rage, the cat swung around and snapped his tail out like a whip. Dioni danced backward, only just managing to avoid the tail. The carnivore circled slowly, blood oozing out of his wound.

Jemi clutched the knife in her hand, barely breathing. How long could Dioni possibly avoid the enraged cat's attack? The temptation to scramble down the tree and plunge her blade into the carnivore's back was hard to resist. Such an action would only endanger Dioni. She remained where she was, longing for Hunter or Slayer to appear and help Dioni.

I will kill you now, Volterian.

Dioni didn't respond but continued to circle. Without warning, the rogue wheeled and charged. Dioni danced back, keeping his gaze on the rogue. The heel of one of Dioni's feet slipped on a leaf and slid out from under him. Jemi screamed as Dioni slammed down on his back.

The rogue leaped on him. Squirming wildly on his back, Dioni tried unsuccessfully to regain his feet. When he couldn't, he brought his sword up and held it across his neck.

Jemi heard the rogue's teeth clink against the blade of Dioni's sword. Dioni was within moments of death. She scrambled down the tree and ran across the clearing. "Get away from him!" she screamed.

"No, my lady! Get back! Please!" Dioni begged, his voice rough with fear.

But she couldn't sit idly in the tree and watch him be slaughtered. "Let him live and I'll go with you!" she pleaded.

"No, my lady. I would rather die!"

"Well, I'd rather you live!"

"No, my lady!"

Silence, human, the rogue snarled, and slapped Dioni along the side of his head, knocking him unconscious. Dioni lost his grip on his sword and it fell to the ground, leaving his throat bare.

The rogue snarled and lowered his head toward Dioni's throat, his jaws open.

"Nooo! Don't you hurt him or I will kill you!" she screamed, and charged forward, the knife in her hand, her right hand extended.

She heard a deep sound in the rogue's chest, reminiscence of Hunter's laugh. *Your pitiful gift will not work on me, human.*

He laughed again. *You may watch while I dispatch this useless human.*

The bastard was going to enjoy killing Dioni. She was halfway to the spot where Dioni lay unconscious when she saw a tan flash streak past her. She sobbed in relief and collapsed to her knees as Slayer's big tan body slammed into the other cat, knocking him away from the unconscious Dioni.

Pulling herself together, Jemi raced across the distance, grabbed the bleeding Dioni under his shoulders and proceeded to drag him along the ground, toward the tree. He was heavy and she was afraid, but she had to get him as far away from the battling cats as she could.

I am Slayer, elder offspring of Hunter, future sovereign of Tern Terra, I command you to stand down, rogue.

And I am Stalker of the Royal House of Seeker. Stand down, cub and I will allow you to live. Defy me and I will dispatch you, the Volterian and your sire's mate – after I have mated with her

for many nights. Then I will return to Tern Terra and claim my place as elder surviving offspring of Seeker.

Jemi froze. Had she heard right? The carnivore threatening them was Hunter's brother?

I will not stand down. To spare my sire, I will dispatch you to the misty place in pieces, rogue. You are not worthy to bear the blood of Seeker or to be sibling to my noble sire.

Jemi crouched against the tree, cradling Dioni in her arms as the two cats clashed. Tears filled her eyes and her heart ached as she saw one of the wounds on Slayer's flank tear open and began to ooze blood. A feeling of rage washed over her. Dioni was bleeding heavily and barely breathing. Now this bastard was about to kill Slayer? Hell no!

She eased Dioni down to the ground and sprinted across the clearing to snatch up his sword. The first chance she got it was going to be buried to the hilt in the big cat's body. She moved back and waited for her chance to strike.

The two carnivores tore and clawed at each other, trying to get the upper hand. Jemi gasped in a ragged breath each time another of Slayer's barely healed wounds ripped open. Before long, both cats' flanks were covered with blood. Although smaller and lighter than the rogue, Slayer somehow managed to ward off each of the larger cat's attempts to rip at his throat.

Jemi heard a roar of pure rage fill the air then Hunter, flanked by four other carnivores, hurtled into the clearing. *Stalker! Traitor! Move away from my cub or die where you stand!*

The rogue carnivore released his hold on Slayer's bloody right shoulder and wheeled to face Hunter. Jemi dropped the sword she'd been holding and rushed back to Dioni.

Slayer, walking unsteadily, made his way to her and collapsed at her feet. She reached out a hand to feel his side. "Slayer!"

Fear not for me, Jemi Hunter of Earth. My sire is here and Meka approaches. I will be...sufficient...

Jemi tore off a piece of her top and held it to Dioni's head. The wound was large and frightening. She applied pressure and turned to look at Hunter. She felt his fury as he faced his brother. Tears welled in her eyes. She could feel his turmoil and pain beneath the fury. She knew he was going to kill his brother for what he had done to Slayer and she wished there was another way. She instinctively knew he would not allow the carnivores with him to dispatch Stalker.

As Hunter and Stalker faced each other, the four carnivores quietly circled them, cutting off any possible escape.

Why, Stalker? Why did you savage my cub?

I tried not to hurt him, but he would not stand down. He stood between me and what I wanted.

He is the future ruler of Tern Terra and my only surviving cub. How could you lay teeth and claw to him?

I too am of the Royal House of Seeker. He laid teeth and claw to me. I bleed too, elder sibling.

He did not know who you were, but you knew who he was when you so gravely injured him. And now you have savaged him again. I can forgive you wanting the title of Seeker, but not for harming Slayer. There will be a reckoning, Stalker and it will be now.

You are my elder sibling. You will not dispatch me.

I warned you when you first attacked him to stand down or I would kill you.

You did not know it was I. You have lived among the humans too long. Your instincts are not as keen as are mine. Whatever I have done, I am your sibling and you will not harm me. Tell the warriors to step aside that I may pass.

Jemi felt Hunter's turmoil. Part of him longed to do as Stalker requested. But there was another, more primal part of him that hungered for bloody revenge in the form of Stalker's slow, painful death.

No. You must pay for what you have done.

You will not dispatch me.

It grieves me, but I am going to dispatch you. Because you are my sibling, I will make it quick and as painless as possible.

I am of the House of Seeker. She who bore me would not want this or forgive you for allowing this.

Jemi felt Hunter's turmoil increase as he thought of his mother's grief on learning of Stalker's death.

As Hunter hesitated, Meka and several lionesses bounded into the clearing. On seeing Slayer lying wounded on his side, she and the pride members filled the air with furious growls of fury. Then as one, the four felines sprang past Hunter and leapt at Stalker.

Growling and snarling, the pack dragged Stalker down. Jemi gasped in horror as the four lions tore into the injured carnivore. A sudden spurt of blood shot up in the air and she knew one of them had found a vital artery. Still snarling, the four lionesses continued to tear at the mortally wounded carnivore.

Stop! He is my sibling! I will not have him torn to pieces, Hunter roared, and crashed into the lionesses, scattering them from his sibling's body. He lay at Stalker's side and let out a low series of moans that hurt Jemi to hear. He panted and wailed and she knew he was crying for his lost brother.

Tears streaming down her cheeks, she gently laid Dioni on the ground and went to Hunter's side. She lay with her face against his flank and felt his heart fluttering with grief and despair. She caught snatches of memories of happy times spent with Stalker in Tern Terra.

There was nothing she could say to assuage his grief, so she just lay with him, stroking his flank. Slayer dragged himself close to them and lay at his father's feet. Meka lay next to Slayer and the four of them shared Hunter's grief.

Hunter. Cody and I share your pain and grief. Jeroni was suddenly there. Those seen and unseen surrounded Hunter with love, affection and warmth.

* * * * *

Four days later, sitting in the original hut stop, Jemi was stunned to see Cody and a young, beautiful woman she immediately recognized as Jeroni walk into the hut stop. Jeroni wore a beautiful royal purple outfit with a golden band circling her dark hair.

"Jeroni! You look beautiful," she said.

Jeroni gave her a regal smile. "I have come to say goodbye, Jemi Hunter. My father's caravan has arrived. It is time for me to depart for Terra."

Jemi still wasn't clear on quite how she and Jeroni now had their own bodies. When she asked Hunter the night before as they lay in the forest after a quick but sweet fuck, he simply said because he wished it. When she had pointed out that that didn't explain much, he had reminded her that he had wished her with him and now she was.

"So you're okay with the lifemating with Tuteri and his legendary small cock?" she asked.

"The size of his cock matters not because I will have the one true love of my life with me to keep me happy." She looked at Cody and smiled.

Jemi shook her head violently. "Ah...Jeroni, I hate to be a spoil sport, but I will be damned if I'm going to let you make off with Hunter. He is mine."

"And you are welcome to him," Jeroni said.

She sensed a trace of bitterness and knew Jeroni still blamed Hunter for allowing Tioni to be killed. She shared some of Jeroni's grief. Although the Seer had drugged her and delivered her to the Terrians to be taken to Volter in Jeroni's place, she had relented at the end. When she had followed to try to rescue Jemi, Stalker had intervened, attacked her and left her on the trail. None of what had transpired had been Hunter's fault or doing.

"I will miss you, Jemi. Have a happy life with Hunter in Tern Terra," Cody said.

She blinked at him. "With Hunter? Who are you?"

"Cody." He grinned at her and brushed his lips against her cheek. "Surely you remember me, we were once very happily married."

"I...I don't understand. I thought Hunter had shifted into your body."

"No, Jemi. I'm Cody, finally in my body again. How? I don't know. I know it's something to do with Hunter *willing* it and I have to spend most of my time in the misty place so Tuteri is unaware of my presence, but this is better than what I had." He tipped up her chin and brushed his lips against hers. "Take care of yourself, Jemi."

She felt a lump in her throat. So much had happened since she had come here to be with Cody and now he was leaving forever and she, along with Hunter, Slayer and Dioni would be going to Tern Terra where Hunter would one day reign as sovereign. They would never see each other again. "And you, Cody." She looked at Jeroni. "He's a good man. Be happy with him."

"I will. You be happy with Hunter and..." Her eyes misted. "Where are Dioni and Slayer? I need to say goodbye before we go."

"They're in the other room."

As Jeroni left the room, Cody took her hands in his and smiled down at her. They gazed in each other's eyes for several long, silent moments, remembering the many good times they'd shared as husband and wife in their other life. Now a new and exciting life awaited them both.

"How are Dioni and Slayer?" Cody asked.

"They'll both be ready to travel to Tern Terra in a few days. Cody, that must be some place. The Seer Sheela has not only pulled them both back from the brink of death but practically healed them in a manner of a few days."

"You've been through a lot since you arrived here. How are you?"

"Happy."

"Any regrets?"

She paused before speaking. "None that matter, except that you and I will never see each other again."

"I regret that too. We had a happy life together, now it's time to move on."

She nodded silently, swallowing a lump of emotion. She had once loved Cody with a consuming passion.

"And Hunter? How is he?"

She sighed. "Oh Cody. He's trying to be a trooper, but he aches. Despite everything, he loved Stalker dearly and he still cherishes his memories. And he dreads his mother's reaction when she finds out. He and Stalker were happy together as cubs. He's going to be hurting for a while."

"You'll help him forget. You'll be happy with him?"

She smiled. "Very happy."

He nodded and squeezed her hands as Jeroni emerged from the other room with tears streaming down her face.

After they left, she went into the bedroom of the hut stop. Slayer lay on his side with his eyes closed. Although he was nearly healed, she sensed a sadness that troubled her.

"How is my brave, valiant defender today?"

He opened his eyes and lifted his head. *I am...sufficient, Jemi Hunter.*

"Are you sure? You seem so...sad. Is it because of your uncle's death?"

No. The traitor's death meant nothing to me except that I grieve on my sire's behalf.

"Then it is because you think you won't see Meka again?"

No. Meka is she who bore me. I will return to see her often.

She stroked his flank. "Then what is, Slayer?"

There is a human female that I...desire as my sire does you. She belongs to another and does not want me.

"Not want you? Are you sure? Slayer, you are a handsome, brave, valiant cub of royal lineage. How could she not want you?"

She did not come to meet me as I instructed her. She is promised to another and I must learn to be sufficient without her.

She felt his pain and heartbreak. He had fallen in love. She knew how he must feel...as she had felt when Cody died. She wanted to tell him time would heal his heart and make him whole again but remained silent. She had found such advice hurtful and useless when given to her.

"I love you," she said softly instead.

And I you, Jemi Hunter.

She kissed his flank and walked over to check on Dioni. He lay on the bed. His face was no longer swollen but still badly bruised. Thanks to the miracle of Sheela's talents, his scarring would be minimal. She touched his shoulder. When he looked at her, she saw sadness in his gaze. "You're going to miss her."

"She was my lady and I lived to serve and protect her for many seasons."

"She'll miss you too." She stroked his shoulder. "I know it's selfish of me, but I'm glad you can't go with her. I would have hated losing you forever."

"You honor and humble me, my lady."

She pressed her fingers against his lips. "Jemi."

"You are the chosen lifemate of the future ruler of Tern Terra. It is not proper for me to address you so."

She leaned over and gently kissed his lips. "I will always be Jemi to those I love. You will always be among that number, Dioni."

He lifted her hand to his mouth and kissed it. "My lady."

She smiled and stroked her free hand down his chest and under the skin covering his naked lower body. She lightly fondled his cock and balls and felt them stir against her hand, the first time they had done that in days.

"How are you feeling?"

"May I speak frankly, my lady?"

"Please do."

"I feel the need for some pussy, my lady."

"Why don't you give him some?"

At the sound of the strange male voice behind her, Jemi swung around. A tall, bronzed man with blond hair and blue eyes stood in the doorway. The man was handsome, smiling, stark naked and fully aroused. A thick cock that must have been a good twelve inches or more hung between his hard-muscled thighs.

The muscles in Jemi's stomach contracted. She reached for her knife until she realized that although Slayer was on his feet, he made no move to confront the stranger.

"Who are you?" she demanded, allowing her hand to fall away from the knife.

The man entered the room and still Slayer stood silent. "The woman I love calls me Hunter." He smiled down at her.

"Oh my God!" She shot to her feet and began running her hands over the hard, muscled body. "Hunter! You've shifted."

He stroked her hair. "Yes, my Jemi. Do you approve or shall I try again?"

"No! You look...oh God, you're gorgeous. But why?"

He pulled her against him and the feel of the hard cock started her pussy tingling. "I want a long night of fucking and I know you are still not able to take too much of my natural cock without pain."

"But...you just told me to fuck Dioni," she said weakly.

He quickly undressed her and settled her on the big bed next to Dioni. He joined them and pressed against her. "Yes. He deserves his pleasure, but so do I. We will both fuck you."

"Both? At the same time? How?"

"You have two holes, my dense darling," he teased, slipping a finger into her pussy. He glanced over her shoulder at Dioni. "Her pussy is mine. You may fuck her ass."

"Hey!" She shoved against his shoulder. "And what if I don't want to be double fucked?" she demanded.

She felt Dioni sag back against the bed behind her and turned quickly to face him. "Just teasing, Dioni. I can't think of anything I'd like more than to be fucked at the same time by you two."

"You are sure, my lady? If you want to be alone with my lord, I can —"

"Oh Dioni, for God's sake don't keep calling him your lord. It's bad enough the Tern Terrians are practically kissing his big paws. His head is big enough as it is, and no, I don't want to be alone with his swollen headedness."

Hunter laughed, and to her delighted surprise, it sounded much as it did when he was in his natural form. He rubbed his hard cock against her ass. "Here's a swollen head you won't object to."

He swung her around onto her side and kissed her. It was strange feeling human lips against hers and knowing they belonged to the love of her life, her big, handsome carnivore.

As she and Hunter kissed and clung to each other, she thrilled to the feel of Dioni's hands fondling her ass. She moaned against Hunter's lips as something cool and slippery coating Dioni's fingers was gently pushed up her behind.

She wiggled her rear against the fingers pumping in her behind. "Hmm. Good," she murmured. "More...Dioni...give me the real thing. Slide your cock up my ass."

Hunter locked his mouth over hers and the tips of their tongues met, sending delight through them both. Dioni knelt behind her and began kissing her cheeks and licking her puckered hole. It felt good. Damn good.

"I want some cock up my ass," she told Dioni. "Now. Please."

"As you wish, my lady."

Dioni parted her cheeks and pressed the head of his cock against her ass. She sucked in a deep breath and bit into Hunter's shoulder as she felt Dioni's hard cock pierce her sphincter muscle and slowly slip halfway up into her rectum.

Hunter held her and rubbed his hard shaft against her stomach as Dioni gently fucked his cock up into her ass. Lord, it felt good. She moaned, and wanting his entire hot dick in her, she shoved her behind back against him and allowed her ass to swallow him to his warm balls.

Dioni held her hips as he fucked her ass for several minutes. Then Hunter lifted one of her legs and fed his cock into her soaked cunt. With half of Hunter's cock in her pussy and Dioni holding his still in her, she felt full of delicious dick.

"Oh Lord," she moaned. She reached out to put one hand on Hunter's hip and urged him closer. "Give me all of that big dick, Hunter. Oooh...put every inch of your hard dick in me."

Kissing her lips, he moved forward and the rest of his cock filled her. She'd often fantasized about being fucked by two men at once. Now feeling her body stuffed with two stiff dicks belonging to the two males she loved, was too much. She shuddered and came.

Both Hunter and Dioni paused, allowing her to enjoy her unexpected climax. Then Hunter gently stroked his cock into her pussy. He paused and Dioni stroked his shaft in her behind. He paused and Hunter moved. In a matter of moments, he and Dioni established a sweet rhythm. The two of them fucking her was one of the most incredible sensations of her life. She moaned. She shuddered. She floated on a cloud of bliss. She lost track of how many times she ejaculated against Hunter's sweet cock or how many times her lovers came within her.

They continued to fuck until the small room reeked of sex and bodily fluids. The smells and the sounds of the fucking bodies turned them all on and they fucked over and over again. Jemi experienced an ecstasy of delight. There was no greater joy than

being double fucked by two handsome, adoring males. Occasionally, they would pause and lay close together, all three of them still joined.

By the time Hunter and Dioni finally withdrew their cocks from Jemi's limp body several hours later, their seed seeped out of both her well-fucked holes. She turned to Dioni. They shared a brief hug and kiss.

"That was an incredible fucking you gave my ass, Dioni. I loved it and you," she whispered.

"You honor me, my lovely lady."

"Ah, I'll bet you say that to all the women who allow you to fuck their asses raw," she teased, and turned to cuddle against Hunter. It still felt strange to encounter a human body against hers when she turned to him. "And you...you are one hot, blond honey," she told him.

"You like this form, my Jemi?"

"Yes. Oh yes."

"And did the cock I shifted into please you?"

She shivered, recalling the thick twelve-inch cock, which had relentlessly pummeled her pussy. "Yes. Lord, yes. It wasn't as good as your cock but, Lord, it was good." She licked his nipples. "Now I want to go to sleep against the Hunter I fell in love with. I want to sleep with your tail wrapped around my waist and your belly under my cheek.

"The bed won't hold me in my natural form."

"Let's go to the forest." She turned and pressed a quick kiss against Dioni's lips. "Good night. I'll see you after sunrising."

"Good night, my lady."

As she and Hunter left the room, she realized Slayer was not in the hut stop. She and Hunter settled down under their favorite tree. *Hunter, where is Slayer?* She tried to keep her voice casual.

He is spending the night with Meka and her pride. They are loath to let him go.

I can imagine. He is so very brave and loyal.

He is my elder offspring, he said, as if that alone explained Slayer's bravery. My sire will not find him wanting.

No, he won't. He is a son any father would be very proud of. She snuggled against him and felt his cock stir in his sac. Smiling, she shifted her body until she could feel a bulge forming under his sheath.

You know something?

What?

I am madly in love with you, Hunter, elder offspring of Seeker.

And with Dioni?

She paused, trying to decide if she detected any jealousy or bitterness in him. I love him, she admitted, but not with the same level of devotion and need I feel for and with you. You are my one true love, Hunter. Still, when we reach Tern Terra, I will be sorry to lose Dioni to another woman.

You need not lose him, he said. Although you will have carnivore guards in Tern Terra, Dioni will continue to be your personal bodyguard. There is no reason why he should not continue as your lover if you like.

Are you...serious?

Yes, when I am away, he can keep you safe and satisfied.

Intrigued though she was by the thought, it raised an important question. Who will keep you satisfied when you're away?

I will shift into humanoid form and use my hand. He sounded surprised by the question.

Are you telling me I can have another lover, but you'll be satisfied with only me?

Yes, my Jemi. I need only you.

Yeah? Well, you know what? Just for that, you get another fucking. She reached down and fondled his sheath until his erect shaft popped out. She eagerly closed her fingers around his flesh. *This time I want your real cock.*

She sensed his rising excitement. *Are you sure?*

Yes, my love. I'm very sure. Just be gentle. She parted her legs and guided his huge dick to her entrance. *Now give me some of the cock I've gown to love.*

He pushed against her, slowly sinking as much of his shaft in her as he could get. They spent a few moments exchanging light kisses before they shared a tender, satisfying fuck. She wrapped her legs around his flanks and greedily enjoyed the soothing movements of his big dick in and out of her. Lord, there was nothing nearly as glorious as his natural cock. She kissed and licked his underside and came over his hot flesh. Afterward, sore but happy, she cuddled against him and closed her eyes.

Hot damn, but this land was some kind of place. Not only would she get to have a new lover every time Hunter shifted into another body, but she would get to keep Dioni too. She wasn't sure what the future held for them in Tern Terra, but a world that allowed her to have two lovers couldn't be all bad.

Drifting off to sleep, she said a silent prayer that somehow things would work out for Slayer as they had for her and Hunter and Jeroni and Cody. He had seen a lot of grief in the last few days. Like the brave Dioni, Slayer was a valiant warrior. He had risked his young life twice to save her. *Please, God. He deserves to find pleasure with the female of his choice. Please help him as you helped me.*

A warm feeling suffused her and she finally slept, certain that somehow Slayer would find the happiness he deserved.

Epilogue

As the sun set, Ayanni slid out of the tree she'd been in all day and started the walk home. Her throat ached with the need to cry, but she kept the tears at bay. She had incurred the wrath of her mother and the male she had been promised to by repeatedly spending endless sunrises waiting and hoping that Slayer would return to mate with and claim her.

That night when the hut was quiet, she lay on her small bed. She had nothing for which to grieve. She had been fortunate enough to catch the attention of one of the fabled carnivores of Tern Terra. He had given her her first taste of mating pleasure, but she had been foolish to hope for more. She had nothing of their fantasy afternoon together except memories and...

She stroked a hand down her gently swelling stomach as a single tear ran down her cheek.

About the Author

Marilyn Lee lives, works and writes on the East Coast. In addition to thoroughly enjoying writing erotic romances, she enjoys roller-skating, spending time with her large extended family and rooting for all her hometown sports teams. Her other interests include collecting Doc Savage pulp novels from the thirties and forties and collecting Marvel comics from the seventies and eighties (particularly *Thor* and *The Avengers*). Her favorite TV shows are forensic shows, westerns (*Gunsmoke* and *Have Gun, Will Travel* are particular favorites), and mysteries. She loves the old Charlie Chan mysteries. Her all-time favorite mystery movie is probably *Dead, Again*), and nearly every vampire movie or television show ever made (*Forever Knight* and *Count Yorga, Vampire* are favorites).

Marilyn welcomes comments from readers. You can find her website and e-mail address on her author bio page at www.ellorascave.com.

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