



Kate
Hill

ALEXI'S
SECRET

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ALEXI'S SECRET

By KATE HILL

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Usually after a battle Alexi felt tired and reflective, but as he made his way down the long tunnel toward home, energy coursed through him. He hadn't lost the battle high yet and if Lourdes hadn't stopped him, he'd have chased the retreating smoke warriors all the way back to their mountain realm.

At the moment he was ready to explode from sheer excitement, but apparently he was the only one who felt that way. Beside him, Lourdes walked slowly, her head bowed. Her long, dark hair partially concealed her face and he could almost feel her weariness.

Behind them plodded their winged horses, Cloud Singer and Cloud Chanter. The fighting had taken its toll on them as well.

At least they were almost home. The portal to Earth loomed ahead and as they reached the double doors that led to the basement of their mansion, Lourdes sighed deeply.

"You're sure you weren't hurt?" Alexi asked.

"Yes, I'm sure. " She lifted her gaze to his and added,

"You're the one who took that sword swipe. How do you feel?"

She rested a hand on his arm. Beneath his bloodstained sleeve, his wound was dressed in magical silk bandages that enhanced healing.

"I'm fine," he said, opening the doors. All four strode into the spacious training room. Their boots and the horses' hooves clicked on the polished wooden floor.

On the walls hung a variety of weapons--swords, staves, daggers, bows and arrows. Across the room stood a glass case, the shelves half filled with tiny gemstone warriors that could change into any shape their master commanded. They always joined Alexi and Lourdes in battle. Even now some of the gemstone warriors remained behind to ensure the smoke creatures didn't turn back.

On a table across from the glass case sat a large crystal dragon. It looked like an ordinary figurine at the moment, but should friend or foe approach the portal, it would warn Alexi.

He and Lourdes removed their horses' tack and the magical beasts expressed their appreciation through the telepathic connection they shared with their two-legged companions.

"Go to the stable and we'll be there soon to give you a rubdown," Alexi said.

The horses turned and exited through the swinging double doors that led down another underground corridor to the barn. Once they'd gone, Alexi turned to Lourdes who had started to remove her lightweight silvery armor. He licked his lips at the sight of her full breasts straining against the thin cotton shirt beneath. It was damp with sweat and clung to her like second skin, outlining the shape of her breasts. Her beautiful nipples shone pink beneath the white material and he couldn't resist reaching out and caressing them with his thumbs.

Lourdes' eyes closed and the faintest smile touched her lips. She leaned into his stroking hands and he gently kneaded her breasts.

"Do my back," she said, turning around and sweeping her hair over her shoulder.

He tugged off his gloves, tossed them aside, and gently cupped her neck, using his thumbs to knead the back of it. Then he massaged her shoulders.

"That feels so good," she whispered.

Still buzzing from the battle and thoroughly aroused by his beautiful woman, Alexi needed some kind of release for his energy. He stepped closer to her, wrapped his arms around her and nuzzled her neck.

"Alexi," she murmured, leaning against him and caressing his forearms that rested just beneath her full

breasts. He loved the weight of them and the feel of her warm, sexy body so close to his.

"You're beautiful, Lourdes," he whispered in her ear. He loved the scent of her perfume mingling with her natural musk. His cock ached with need and he guided her against the wall.

Alexi tore off his helmet and dropped it on the floor. The cool air in the training room fanned his sweat-dampened hair and neck. It felt good to be free of the damn helmet. It was the piece of armor he hated the most and sometimes he even refused to wear it while fighting.

Growling softly, he pressed Lourdes closer to the wall and nuzzled her neck. His hand dipped between her legs and cupped her soft mound.

"Damn, you're full of energy today," she breathed, threading her fingers through his hair.

He lifted his head to meet her gaze and smiled faintly. "I don't know what it is, but I feel like I could fight another battle right now. Or spend a few hours training. Or maybe just fuck my beautiful wife until we're too weak to stand."

Lourdes smiled tiredly and closed her eyes. "I'm sorry, Alexi, but I'm really beat. I have such a headache."

A headache.

Wasn't that an excuse humans used when they grew tired of their partners?

No. That was a crazy thought. They'd just spent the past hour defending the portal against another attack by Queen Wera's army. Of course she was tired and probably did have a headache. Usually Alexi felt exactly the same way after a battle.

"Go have a hot bath and a rest," Alexi said. "I'll rubdown the horses."

"Oh, Alexi. I love you." She smiled and slipped her arms around his neck. Her lush curves pressed against him and he resisted the urge to groan. Holding her tightly, he tried to ignore the way his cock throbbed and ached.

What was it about her that made him as lustful as a boy with his first woman? One would think a man who was several thousand years old couldn't feel that way, but he'd already learned that with Lourdes anything was possible.

After a moment she kissed him and walked across the room. She paused before leaving and smiled lovingly at him.

Once she'd gone, Alexi removed the rest of his armor and the bloody, sweat-drenched shirt beneath. He glanced at his injured arm, noting that the silk was doing its work well. Already the wound had stopped hurting and was probably almost healed.

He went to the stable and gave the horses their promised rubdowns, then returned to the mansion. In their

room, Lourdes was asleep on the bed.

Alexi watched her silently for a few moments, thinking how adorable she looked when she was sleeping. She hadn't bothered wearing clothes and the sheet draped her buttocks and waist, exposing her long, sleek legs and her gorgeous breasts. He clenched his fists to keep from touching her and disturbing her rest. Instead he walked to the bathroom and took a cool shower, hoping it would help him control his desire.

It didn't work.

He stepped out, still tingling with energy and his cock straining. Curling his fist around it, he pumped it slowly. His breathing deepened and his muscles tensed. He was so aroused that he needed to do something. More than anything he wanted to thrust his cock deeply into Lourdes' hot, slick body, but he wasn't selfish enough to bother her when she was clearly in need of rest.

Then an idea struck him.

It was something he hadn't done since they first met, when he'd longed for her but she hadn't yet belonged to him. Back then his craving for her had been almost painful and he'd sated his desire in the only way he could.

But he couldn't do that again. It wouldn't be right.

Yet it wouldn't be wrong, either.

Yes it was. Actually, the way he felt was entirely

wrong. His battle lust and his insatiable appetite that surfaced every now and then were part of his smoky side. They gave him the strength he'd needed to defend the portal for so long, but they also disturbed him. Usually Lourdes soothed the rage in him. He clung to her when his wildness overtook him and she not only accepted it, but enjoyed it. She reminded him that despite his origins, despite ages of rejection and loneliness, he could still feel.

Alexi would die before hurting Lourdes.

He approached the bed and gazed at her, almost tempted beyond reason by her gorgeous curves.

No. He couldn't wake her to satisfy his craving, no matter how great. Nor would he use the gemstone warriors.

He'd have a workout instead. That would burn his excess energy.

Alexi pulled on loose black pants and lightweight exercise shoes, then he jogged to the training room.

After an intense two-hour workout with his favorite swords, he sat on the floor and leaned his back against the wall. He closed his eyes for a moment, feeling sweat dripping down his face, chest and back and waiting for his breathing to return to normal. After the battle and the exercise session, he should have felt too tired for anything else, but his smoky side was in overdrive today. His thoughts drifted to his beautiful wife sleeping naked in their

bed and his cock stiffened with desire. Lourdes understood the drives of his smoky nature--the lust he'd inherited from his father's bloodline. If she had any idea how much he needed her right now, she would not deny him, but he would not disturb her. Still, he needed to do something before his passion consumed him.

He walked to the glass case filled with the tiny gemstone warriors. The magical warriors were supplied by his grandfather, King Alban of the cloud dwellers, to help defend the portal and, in those dismal, lonely years before Lourdes, to satisfy Alexi's primal needs. Since they had become lovers, he hadn't thought about using the warriors for anything other than battle. Lourdes fulfilled all his needs, even ones he hadn't realized he had.

Growling with frustration, he opened the case and removed two pink warriors. Holding them in his palm, he said, "Pleasure me in Lourdes' form."

They leapt out of his hand and as they landed on the floor, they changed shape. Both looked exactly like his wife, except for their pink gemstone eyes. Lifeless eyes. These warriors had been created by the advanced technology of his world and empowered by the magic of the cloud dwellers. They weren't alive. When he caressed their breasts, their nipples stiffened, mimicking a mortal woman, but no heart pumped beneath their soft flesh. They felt no

emotions. No pain. No love. Nothing.

One warrior slipped her arms around his neck and offered her lips to him, but he refused to kiss her. Kisses were for Lourdes alone. There was no pleasure in the cool kiss of a gemstone soldier.

She sank to her knees in front of him, tugged down his trousers and clasped his cock in her hands. The other Lourdes stepped behind him and knelt, nipping and kneading his ass.

Alexi's muscles tensed and his heartbeat quickened. His body responded, but all he could think about was his wife. She was warm and when he caressed her she moaned with desire.

Passion shot through him just from thinking about her. The first warrior's tongue rolled over his cock head and the second warrior's tongue dipped between the indentation of his ass.

Alexi growled, an animalistic sound of primal desire. This wasn't lovemaking. It lacked the emotional connection he shared with Lourdes. He grasped the shoulders of the warrior in front of him and was about to push her away when Lourdes' voice made his heart skip a beat.

"Alexi! What the hell are you doing?"

He drew a sharp breath, partly from surprise and partly because the gemstone warrior had just sucked his cock

deeply into her mouth. He pulled away and turned toward his wife who stood in the doorway, her arms folded beneath her bare breasts. She wore nothing but pale pink satin panties trimmed with lace. Just looking at her turned him on even more than the gemstone warriors' touches.

Lourdes' dark eyes blazed, her expression one of combined anger and arousal.

"Lourdes. . .I. . .can explain."

She lifted a sleek eyebrow and lowered her gaze to his rock-hard cock.

"So go ahead. Explain."

"You had a headache."

Damn. How dumb did that sound?

Staring at him with a look that made him want to crawl under the floorboards but also made him want to fuck her until they couldn't walk, she stepped toward him. Alexi pulled up his trousers.

"How often do you do this? Use the warriors as sex toys?"

"This is the only time I've done it since we first met."

She blinked, then wrinkled her nose. "You mean before we met you used to fuck these things regularly?"

"You know my duty demands that I remain here to guard the portal. Before you, I didn't care how or with whom I sated my lust. I didn't require an emotional

attachment. You know that. Don't look at me like that."

"Like what?" The faintest smile touched her lips and the look in her eyes had changed from angry to aroused.

She moistened her lips with the tip of her tongue and he followed the motion with his gaze. Another bolt of desire shot through him. She placed a hand to his chest and caressed lightly, then trailed her fingertip down his stomach. His abdominal muscles tightened reflexively beneath her gentle yet incredibly arousing exploration.

"You did this before? Made the warriors look like me?" she continued, her voice soft and seductive.

"I did a few times before we became lovers," he admitted, his pulse quickening. Whenever she looked at him like this he wanted to throw her down and cover her with kisses. "I wanted you from the first moment we met and back then it was the only way I could have you."

Her smile broadened. "Wow. That's flattering. Why didn't you ever tell me?"

"You think this is the sort of thing a man talks about? Would you tell me if you used the warriors in my image?"

Color rose in her cheeks and she averted her gaze.

Alexi stared at her in surprise, then he grinned. "You've done it, haven't you?"

"Of course not!" She turned away from him, but he caught her arm and tugged her close. Taking her chin in his

hand, he tilted her face toward his and gazed into her eyes.

"Don't lie to me," he said, the smile still playing around his mouth.

"All right. I did it once."

"Where was I?"

"Sleeping. It was late one night. I didn't want to wake you, so I wandered around the house and ended up here. I thought about how the warriors can become anything we tell them to and I decided to see if they could replicate the most gorgeous man in the universe."

"Mmm," he purred, pulling her even nearer and brushing the tip of his nose against hers. "Flattery will get you everything."

"Everything?" she whispered against his lips.

"Just tell me what you want."

Lourdes wrapped her arms around his neck. Her lush breasts pressed against his chest and he caressed her smooth back.

"I want you to make love to me," she said. "Right here. Right now."

"Just like the warriors, beautiful Lourdes, I'm yours to command."

She laughed. "Hardly! You're the most uncontrollable man I've ever met. You--"

He silenced her with a possessive kiss that sent their

hearts beating out of control.

Now this was lovemaking, having his beloved wife in his arms.

Alexi's tongue slid between her lips and she moaned, tightening her fingers in his hair. Her tongue met his with tender yet passionate caresses.

Lourdes' hands swept across his shoulders and down his back, then dipped into the waist of his trousers. She clutched his bare ass, squeezing lightly.

With a throaty chuckle, she tugged down his trousers while sinking to her knees in front of him.

"Is this what you wanted?" she said in a husky voice, her lips hovering so close to his cock that he felt her warm breath upon it.

He threaded his fingers through her hair and gazed into her eyes. Not only did she arouse him physically, but she had a hold over his heart. Before Lourdes, he hadn't been sure if he had a heart, at least one that was able to love.

"Is it?" she pressed, with a sexy, half-teasing smile.

"More than you know."

Alexi kicked his trousers aside and Lourdes settled to a more comfortable position in front of him. She stroked his thighs and trailed her fingertips up and down his shaft before grasping it in both hands and guiding the crown to her lips.

Drawing a deep breath, Alexi stared at her full, pink lips around his cock head. The sight of her sucking him aroused him almost as much as the heart-pounding sensations of her mouth upon him.

Lourdes lifted her gaze to his and smiled around his cock, then she lowered her lashes and concentrated fully on pleasuring him. Her tongue laved him and she grasped his balls with one hand and kneaded them.

Alexi closed his eyes, his pulse racing and his entire body burning with desire. This was exactly what he needed.

Lourdes sucked, licked and caressed him until he hovered on the edge of explosion.

Growling with desire, he pulled away from her, one hand clamped around the base of his swollen cock.

Lourdes stood, a lustful look in her eyes. She hooked her thumbs in the sides of her panties and slowly slid them off. She stepped out of them and kicked them aside.

Overcome by desire, Alexi reached for her. His hands splayed across her waist and his mouth descended on hers. She grasped his ass, her small, strong hands kneading it. Then she slid her palms up his back and pressed her full breasts against his chest. Her soft moans and gentle touches raised protective feelings within him.

Though he was grateful that she was willing to fight beside him, more often than not he wished she'd stay out of

the battles. He loved her more than his own life and wanted to keep her safe, yet no one told a woman like her what to do. She would no sooner leave his side in battle than he would leave hers.

"What's wrong?" she whispered against his lips. "You have that look in your eyes again."

"What look?"

"Like you're going to ask me to stay home and be the little wife. Well I don't want to talk about it."

"Lourdes--"

"There's only one way I'll be the little wife without argument, and that's when you fuck me until I can scarcely stand."

A smile tugged at his lips and he dropped to the floor, taking her with him. He gently pushed her onto her back and she raised her knees, spreading her legs for him.

He wanted nothing more than to cover her body with his and plunge his cock deep inside her, but he managed to keep hold of himself.

Settling between her legs, he grasped her buttocks and thrust his tongue into her, savoring her taste and her arousing scent.

"Alexi," Lourdes breathed, weaving her fingers through his hair. He groaned in reply and continued exploring her warm, damp flesh. Then he began lapping her clit.

"Oh damn!" she cried, her grip tightening on his head, but he loved the sensation.

Alexi's smoky side craved intense lovemaking--the rougher the better. Lourdes usually enjoyed accommodating him.

The relentless stroking of his tongue over her ultra-sensitive flesh quickly drove her to ecstasy. She moaned and thrashed, but he held her gorgeous ass snugly and didn't stop devouring her until she lay motionless, save the rise and fall of her breasts as she caught her breath. Unable to resist, Alexi took one of her nipples into his mouth and sucked deeply. Lourdes gasped. She wove her fingers through his hair and murmured his name, her voice aching with desire.

Alexi's hand caressed her inner thighs, then he slid two fingers into her pussy. His eyes closed and his breathing deepened at the feel of her soft, wet flesh. Pleasuring her had aroused him so much that his cock felt ready to explode. His fingers slid out of her and he caressed her clit, not stopping until she moaned and pulsed in climax.

She was still throbbing in ecstasy when Alexi covered her body with his. Bracing his hands on either side of her head, he slowly filled her with his rock-hard cock. His neck arched back and his eyes closed. It felt so good to finally be inside her. He paused for a moment, enjoying her soft, wet

flesh around him.

One of her hands lightly stroked his throat, then she used both hands to caress his chest.

He opened his eyes and found her staring at him. The expression on her face made his belly tighten with love and desire. No one had ever looked at him like Lourdes did. No one had ever made him feel like this. He'd been cold before her. So alone.

"You changed my life," he said, brushing a kiss across her forehead.

"You gave me back mine," she replied, wrapping her arms and legs around him. "Take me, Alexi. Take me hard."

His heart pounded with excitement. She knew exactly what he needed and she had no fear of his dark side. Maybe that was why she was the only person who was truly safe from him. Alexi would cut off his own hand before ever harming her.

He began thrusting in a steady rhythm. Lourdes' slick flesh tightened around him and he nearly lost control. A tremor of raw passion coursed through him, but he didn't change his pace. He kept pumping while teasing her mouth with deep kisses.

Soon she was panting and trembling beneath him. Her pussy throbbed around his cock and again Alexi closed his eyes, trying to contain himself until she found bliss.

It didn't take much longer. A few more thrusts and Lourdes cried out softly and clung to him hard. Her nails bit into his back and he groaned, loving the sensation.

His self-control shattered and he pumped fast and hard, his hips grinding against her and his cock aching with pleasure-pain.

"Come on, Alexi," she panted. "That's what I want, baby. Don't hold back."

He couldn't hold back any longer even if he wanted to.

A savage growl erupted from his throat as he exploded inside her.

For several moments they lay on the wooden floor, their bodies entwined and their hearts beating to the same rhythm.

Finally he raised himself on his hands, giving her room to breathe.

Lourdes grinned and glanced across the room toward the two gemstone warriors who still wore her shape.

"I think it's time to put them away," she said.

He gave a little snort of laughter and motioned for the warriors to return to the case. Once they were back on their shelf, Alexi rose to his feet and closed the glass doors.

Lourdes joined him and he wrapped his arms around her from behind and nuzzled her neck.

"Let's go up to bed," she suggested.

"Good idea. Maybe I can finally get some sleep."

"Eventually," she said with a sexy little grin.

A fresh jolt of passion shot through Alexi. Growling softly, he swept her into his arms and headed out of the training room. The bedroom was a much better setting for the exercises they had in mind.

The End

About the Author

What do trips around the world, endless nights of breathtaking sex, and a muscular, 6-foot 3-inch, brown-haired, blue-eyed significant other have to do with Kate Hill? Absolutely nothing, but she can dream, can't she? In reality Kate is a single, thirty-something vegetarian New Englander who loves writing romantic fantasies. Visit her online at <http://www.kate-hill.com>, www.myspace.com/katehillromance, or join her newsgroup at groups.yahoo.com/group/katehill. Stop by Kate's Amazon blog at www.amazon.com.

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