



Zenina
Masters
EVAN AND
GET ME

Kalli Next runs Hell, a bar and cafe on a new colony jungle world. One night she uses her psi talents to stop a bar fight and the next thing she knows, she is staring at three new lawmen that she knows in her bones. *Hers*. When she is released the next morning, she has only one comment to make to the stunned men who know that she is their fourth—come and get me.

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**CUM AND GET ME
FOUR EVER MORE BOOK 3**

BY

ZENINA MASTERS

CHAPTER ONE

The moment that Kalli saw Terrance skitter into her bar, she knew trouble was not far behind. "Terrance, what did you do?"

The madman cackled as he approached the bar where she held court. "It was beautiful, Kalli. All the lights and sounds."

She groaned and rubbed her eyes with one hand. "You set off your decorative explosives near the base again, didn't you?"

"It was beautiful." He repeated with awe in his tone.

Kalli straightened. "Ladies and gentlemen, brace for MP's!"

With the wilderness of Hakur on all sides, the base was the only flat surface from which to watch the explosions. Terrance's insistence on lighting his creations near the base so he could watch them soar was a constant source of irritation to the military. It didn't do wonders for Kalli's nerves either.

Shaking her head, she flicked a switch to store the more expensive liquors that she kept on hand.

No sense losing her inventory.

The locals loosened up in preparation. They were standing and facing the door when it flew back on its hinges and slammed into the wall. Six angry men in uniform came forward and their captain demanded, "Where is he?"

"What are you men doing off base? We don't have any of your personnel in here tonight." She spoke in a light tone that managed to cut through the air.

"One of these men set off explosives near our base. We want him brought to justice."

Kalli smiled. "You must be new here."

"Just assigned, ma'am. But he will come with us."

"You are missing one main point, new man. As you have just said, he set off explosives *near* your base. Not on it. You have no jurisdiction over the population of the town."

The captain looked angry and his men squared their shoulders. "There was some ordinance left on our base."

Closing her eyes and then re-opening them, Kalli looked to Terrance. "Did you leave anything behind?"

"Not on the base, Kalli. I can't help it that the wind kicked up and blew the embers toward them."

Raising an eyebrow she asked the captain, "You are here to arrest him for littering?"

"No, for terrorist actions."

The crowd in the bar muttered ominously.

"Turn around and leave now, captain. Your commanding officer can file a complaint with the town and Terrance will be handled by the local constables."

The man snorted rudely, "Blenders."

The crowd went wild and both sides collided in a heated battle that threatened Kalli's furniture.

That was it. Taking a deep breath, she centred herself and sent out a blast to every person in the room. Like dolls that had been dropped, they hit the floor in a tangled pile. She groaned and sorted through the detritus of the bar, searching for the pyro, Terrance.

She had just grabbed his legs and was hauling him out of the bar when the door opened with a bang and the three newest constables strode through to find her with Terrance's feet under her arms, her back to them.

"What has happened here?" The low harsh tone sent a tremor through her, waking her hormones in a rush of bad timing.

"There was a bar fight, this man was the cause and I am trying to get him out of here before the captain and his buddies regain consciousness."

One of the new constables elbowed her aside and heaved Terrance over his shoulder. "Where does he live?"

"The house on Nekkar Street with the blue

door." She wanted to follow, but was stopped by the hand on her arm.

"What happened to everyone?"

"I had to use a pacifier on them." She looked up at the scowling man in the dim light of the bar and fought the shiver that ran through her. Oh hell. He was one of hers. She wasn't ready.

"Pacifiers are restricted in this portion of space. You are under arrest."

She blinked and before she could say anything else, her hands were cuffed behind her and he was hauling her into the night.

"What about my customers? The morons from the base?" She didn't struggle. She had dealt with the other set of blenders in town before, they were ridiculously strong.

"Asher will wake them. You had better hope that none of them suffer ill effects from that restricted tech. Where did you get it by the way?"

She tried not to snicker and merely managed to smirk. "I came by it honestly. It keeps me from replacing the furniture every few months."

He didn't think she was funny and hauled her a little faster down the street. A few passing locals called out a greeting and she called back, much to her escort's disgust. "Do you know everyone here?"

"Almost. They keep replacing the base personnel. Once they get used to the place though, they find their way through my doors."

"You seem horribly chipper for someone facing jail time."

"I have a good outlook on life." She grinned up at him and his scarred face twitched in surprise. Dark hair, darker eyes, he looked like he had seen a lot of action, most of it bloody. She could have felt pity, but instead she felt pride that her men had made it through hell and out the other side.

She kept quiet until he placed her in the observation cell that was situated in the front of the constabulary. He uncuffed her and she went without protest into the cell, turning to face him with a chipper grin. "Thanks for the night off. I will see you in the morning."

Kalli snuggled down on the hard bunk and closed her eyes. She felt the gaze of the new constable on her for long minutes and when he moved away and sat at his desk, she felt the occasional flicks of his attention.

The man identified as Asher returned, "They are fine, no residual effects from whatever she used. I couldn't find any tech of that nature in there by the way."

Kalli scooted up against the wall in a semi-reclining position. She smiled beatifically.

The third man returned from tucking Terrance in.

He looked over at her, turned away and then looked back in surprise. "You arrested her?"

"She used forbidden technology. We will

discuss it with the day shift." The scarred man was terse.

The other two kept looking at her as they filled out reports. They were definitely a by-the-book sort of group. This was going to be harder than she thought.

Kalli kept an eye on them, sizing them up and comparing them to men she had known in the past. She wasn't too free with her affections, but on a developing world, men came and went, some literally. She got lonely.

Looking at them, she was fairly sure they could handle her physical needs, but were they a good match for her emotionally was the greater issue.

With her gaze fixed on them one at a time, she let her mind wander. Eventually, she slept.

The banging on the bars and a familiar face on the other side made her groan. "Greetings of the day to you, Kalli. What did you do last night?"

"Drank some of Terrance's mop water?" *Mop water* was a euphemism for the most hostile alcohol she had ever consumed. Of course, she didn't serve it at the bar, but occasionally she had a sip, just to be polite.

"Seriously, Kal, why would they haul you in here?" The concern on August's face was genuine. The first of the Amber Gem set was like a brother to her.

"She used a pacifier on citizens." The scarred

clone was scowling but standing at attention.

August smiled and gestured for the new constables to gather around the cell. "Gentlemen of the Golden Rose, I would like to introduce you to Kalli Next. Kalli is our local barkeep, makes a mean sandwich and has a psychic talent that stuns her prey in a twenty-five foot radius. She is also a clone and has the tattoo and missing navel to prove it."

Kalli rose to her feet and bowed gracefully. It hadn't sunk in, she could see it in their faces.

"She is a psychic? Why didn't she tell us?"

"Possibly because she was sizing you up and didn't want to shout it in front of everyone. Kalli, show them." August jerked his head to her shirt.

"Not unless they ask nicely, and introduce themselves, I don't flash to strangers. Well, not when I am sober." She crossed her arms, glared at the one who was looking her like she was some kind of weird alien and smiled at Asher who had a growing interest in his eyes.

Asher bent and bowed. "Asher Golden, constable of Hakur."

The curious one bent at the waist. "Ecan Golden, constable of Hakur."

Mr. Scowling Scarface nodded, "Shen Golden, constable of Hakur."

"Now, you have to ask nicely."

Asher's blue eyes were twinkling, "Kalli Next, will you please show us your marking?"

Ecan caught on. "Please show us."

It took Asher and Ecan both to elbow Shen and he finally barked out, "Please."

"I'll take it." She whipped her shirt off and then shook her hair forward to cover her breasts. "So, does your mark look like this?"

They probably didn't notice her breasts at all, they were focused on the large blooming rose between her breasts, the petals gently caressing the mounds of flesh on either side. "Okay, show is over. Let me out of the cell." She pulled her shirt back on and tucked it into her trousers.

Even with her shirt on they were still staring at her as if she was topless.

August smiled and nodded, but Shen held up his hand. "She interfered with an ongoing investigation. I have to file a report."

August looked as if he wanted to comment, but he held his tongue. "She is your collar, but have her gone by lunch or they will come looking for her."

"They? Who is they?"

"Everyone who eats at Hell for lunch. She has some of the best food if not the best food in town. They will come looking for her and you can either have half the town in here, or you can let her go. Don't worry, she won't get far." He laughed at his own joke.

"Thanks for that, brother." She glared at the man that she had come to think of as a wonderful

and caring friend.

“No problem, sister.”

She looked to Shen, “You don’t trust anyone other than your set, do you?”

He blinked, startled by her insight. In silence, he opened the cell door and let her go.

She sashayed out with a sway to her hips that taunted them. She knew that they were hers, they just had to come and get her.

CHAPTER TWO

Asher was laughing like a loon. “Let me get this straight, we look for years for our fourth, finally get to a planet where she happens to be, and you arrest her? Holy hells, Shen. That took nerve.”

Ecan had a worried expression on his face, “Do you think she will reject us?”

Shen burned with shame. He had been so stunned by the vibrancy of her eyes, the curves of her body in the dim light, that when he caught her looking at his scars, he reverted to keeping to the business of a constable arresting a troublemaker with illegal tech. Frankly, even if she had told him that she was the psychic responsible for the bodies on the floor, he would have found an excuse to take her into the constabulary so he could stare at her sparkling self.

Knowing as he now did that she was their fourth, he felt marginally better at his attraction to a lawbreaker. He felt even better now that her illegal tech was instead the product of her own talents.

Asher laughed. "She wants us to go after her. August, do you have any tips for us?"

August lifted his head from his terminal as if he hadn't listened to their every word. "In what regard?"

"Wooing our woman. You knew for a week that she was ours and you didn't say a word." Shen couldn't stop his growl.

"Hell and Kalli have a lot of interaction with us. There are smaller fights that need our interruption, she also knows everything about everyone here. If you need to question someone, she knows exactly when they are going to stumble across her threshold."

"And..."

August laughed. "And, ask her to go for a picnic on her day off. She loves the falls, but few men are willing to hike for an hour through the jungle just to entertain her."

Shen didn't like the sound of that. "She has had a lot of men?"

August smiled. "How many women have you had?"

He blinked and backed up mentally. Women had never been in short supply, even after his face was damaged. "Never mind."

Rory and Stil entered the constabulary, ready for the day shift. "Would you believe that Kalli is just getting to Hell? She promised to deliver breakfast as soon as it was ready."

"She was detained by our new brethren last night." An idea came to him and Shen knew he wouldn't like it. "It would be an excellent gesture if you went to Hell and assisted her in preparing for the day so that she can get her business back in line."

Shen tilted his head, "Does she always make breakfast?"

The other clones laughed, smiling at the new arrivals. Stil informed him, "Only for us, Shen. We call her sister and she calls us brothers. We can't cook, so she does it for us."

Ecan called them on that one. "Cooking is part of our basic training, of course you can cook."

"We can't cook as good as she can, so as far as she is concerned, we can't cook." Rory snickered.

"Shift change is completed, off you go." August waved them out of the facility.

Shen smiled slightly. "You heard the man. We have interfered with her business. Let's go put things to rights."

Asher and Ecan grinned in response. They were going to be near their fourth. Any excuse would do.

The trip back to the bar in the daylight was different from that in the evening. No one waved or called out to Shen as they walked, a few stopped and whispered. The looks were not unkind, but rather amused, as if they were in on a joke that no one had spoken out loud.

Shen shook his head ruefully and just hoped the punch line wasn't physical. Kelli looked like she could get mean when provoked.

Looking at the innocuous bar in the daylight, he smiled at the sign on the side of the building. Kalli's was the original title, but some enterprising person mutated the K into an H, the *a* into an *e* and struck out the *i*'s. Kalli's was now Hell.

Asher and Ecan waited for Shen to open the door. If she was going to shoot them, Shen had to take the bullet.

He glared at them, but pushed into the surprisingly bright interior. Skylight shutters had been rolled back and the interior of the bar now looked like a simple casual restaurant.

"What do you want, Constable Shen? Am I making too much noise?" Kalli was scrubbing tables clean and they could hear a dishwasher running in the background.

"We have come to help you get prepped for your day's work for the time I took from you last night." He put himself forward.

She tilted her head, considering. "Fine, Shen, you to the tables, Asher can work the floors and Ecan will help me in the kitchen." She dropped the cloth and walked away as if she expected her wishes to be carried out.

Shen watched the sway of her hips until she disappeared around a corner. The pulsing in his cock wasn't his imagination. It was hard to move

forward with the pressure being put on the fabric. If this was what happened when he just looked at her, he was doomed if he was able to touch her.

"I guess our fourth has spoken." Asher found the broom and started working on the detritus of the previous evening.

Shen nodded and took up the rag and got to work.

* * * *

She couldn't believe it, but they were helping her. Ecan stood near her and she could feel him sniffing at her. "Ecan, have you worked with a lot of food before?"

"No, just simple meals for three. How did you know I was the cook?"

"You have that curious look on your face. Come on, I will show you how to get the vegetables ready for this afternoon. While you are doing that, I will put the bread that has risen into the oven."

She saw his eyebrows rise at that. "I use a master dough that I always keep on hand. It only has to warm up and it is ready to bake."

He nodded.

She showed him how to peel the tubers and how to use the slicer that could make the rest of the chopping take seconds instead of minutes. "Leave them in the bowl of water, it takes away the extra starch."

Now came the salad prep. She prepared salad for nine species on this world, and three of them had different food requirements.

A knock at her door made her breathe in with relief.

"Sorn, I was afraid you wouldn't make it this morning."

"Well, I woke up with Nor's face in my crotch so, it was quite the evening, I am guessing."

"I had to use the pacifier."

He shrugged, "That explains the lack of hangover. Anyway, I have some fowl, some cow and nine fish." He lifted a box to her for examination.

"I will take the fowl and the meat. Those fish ain't fresh." She shook her head and pulled out her selections. "See you at dinner."

Four large jungle birds would make a fantastic stew for lunch if she started right away. With practiced moves, she gutted the birds, removed leftover feathers and dropped the cleaned and washed carcasses into a vat of water. She darted around Ecan, gathering aromatics and threw them into the vat with the birds and a handful of salt. Water on high, she waited for them to boil.

"What are you making for lunch?"

"Fresh bread and fowl stew."

With the fowl started, she took a slab of meat that she had selected and rubbed it down with herbs. A large pan was selected and she placed a

rack in the bottom of it before laying down the meat.

“And that will be?”

“Tonight’s special. Sliced beef sandwiches.” She smiled at his hungry look. “You are welcome to call in an order. I will have someone bring it to you.”

“I wasn’t thinking about food.” He continued to look at her as if he was starving and she quickly put the meat in the oven on low with water just below the rack. She blushed as she realized he had a direct view of her ass.

“Well, get back to the food. I have to chop the vegetables for the interior of the stew and make the thickening agent.” Kalli took a deep breath and focused on her slicing instead of the man in uniform just a few feet away.

She was halfway done when it was time to remove the bread from the oven and put in the next batch. A small pan was filled with spiced sweet buns and she smiled as she quickly glazed them and put them in a basket.

“Those smell wonderful.”

“They are for the brothers. They have a fetish for sweets.” She grinned at his crestfallen look. “There is another batch in the oven for you and your set. I am not that cruel.”

She loaded some bread into the basket and with moves that blurred even to her own eyes, whipped nine eggs into a froth and fried them in a mass on

the grill.

Another container was filled with the scrambled eggs and she topped it off with a small tub of butter before hoisting the basket.

Asher stood in the doorway, "Can I help?"

"Sure, I am taking the delivery to my brothers. You can carry it."

Asher raised his brows, but took the basket with a grunt.

"Don't dawdle, I need to be back here in ten minutes." She grinned at him and hauled him along with her, his free hand clutched in hers.

"Are you always this intense?"

"I am when I miss eight hours of prep work."

"When do you sleep?"

"After I make the food for lunch, I catch a few hours."

He nodded. "Do you ever take a day off?"

"Sure. Restday, like most folks. It's illegal to open the bar on Restday, so I sell cold food to folks the night before. That way they won't go without before I open again."

"They depend on you that much?"

"Few members of the town cook. They were brought here for their operational skills and frankly, their unsuitability for any other colony assignments. Hakor is the melting pot of the colonies." She sighed as she realized she hadn't answered his question, "No they can't cook."

He grinned and they nodded to Shen as they

moved quickly out the door.

Kalli waved at the locals who were out and about in the morning. She knew them all, every one of them. When new personnel were assigned, Hell was the first place the locals took them.

The three hungry officers waited and leapt to their feet when Kalli entered, holding the door open for Asher.

August grabbed a sweet bun and bit into it with a groan of satisfaction. "What took you so long?"

"I had to set them to work first, Shen is still trying to scrape the tables clean." She waved and turned her back, leaving the basket in the feeding frenzy. "Come along, Asher. They would bite you if you tried to dive in."

Laughing, she hauled her companion back to Hell.

Asher asked, "You feed them every day?"

Kalli snickered. "I make them work for it just like you will."

CHAPTER THREE

They were all seated around large work table, sampling the fruits of their labours.

Shen was eating as if he had never consumed anything before and was just discovering life.

"Shen, slow down. There is plenty more."

"This is fantastic." He paused and ripped his way through a freshly baked roll.

Ecan smiled. "Pardon him. We have been on rations most of our active lives. This food is wonderful. Who taught you to cook?"

"My father. He and my mother are retired and on the nearest moon, Taf." She finished her own portion and loaded the dishes into the washer, checking on the vats of stew that were gently bubbling away. They had put quite a dent in the first of three pots.

"When did they leave you?" Asher was cleaning his bowl with chunks of bread.

"Last year. They are on enforced retirement with the pharmaceutical concern that is doing research here. The amount of begging to have them

close almost lost me my voice, but it was worth it. In the end, the locals banded behind me and the Next's had a nice new house that I can visit when I have a Restday to myself."

Shen looked up. "Do you go often?"

"No, mostly we just talk on the vid screens. I catch them up on my daily work and anything odd that happens in Hell." Kalli smirked. "You three will be featuring prominently in tonight's chat."

"How long have you known we were out there?" Asher seemed curious.

"About ten years now. Since I was fifteen and showing a marked interest in boys. Mom was too embarrassed to have *the chat* so Dad had to do it."

Ecan laughed. "I can imagine it is bad enough for breeding parents, let alone the parents of a clone."

"When he got to the three part, he turned purple. I was nineteen when he tried again and we had to go to stick figure drawings."

Shen laughed, it was enough to startle his set into staring. "What was your opinion?"

"I told him I wouldn't try it without the appropriate safety measures in place. Possibly some kind of helmet. I was just lucky he didn't break out the sock puppets."

Their howls of laughter distracted them just long enough for her to whisk away the plates and send them through the washer. Her lunch help was about to arrive and she liked to give them a

clean start.

"All right, I have accepted your penance and the courtship has begun. You lot go home and I have more work to do. You have an evening shift tonight and I expect a request for my culinary services." She shooed them away.

Shen took the initiative and stood in front of her. "We will go on one condition."

She looked up at him, his fierce dark eyes and the comb of his dark hair. The last time they had been this close he had cuffed her. She crossed her arms over her breasts. "What?"

"One kiss for each of us."

Ecan and Asher looked as if they were in on the plan. "You two agree?"

Ecan laughed. "It would be a nice start."

Shen leaned down and she leaned up, bracing her hands on his shoulders. Her lips parted an instant before his touched down. For such a rough looking man, his kiss was surprisingly gentle. It was a smooth exploration and nothing more. He drew back with a pleased expression.

Ecan gestured for her to approach him.

"I thought I was supposed to give you a kiss. Not deliver it."

"Quit whining and come here, Kalli." He leaned back against the counter and crossed his arms, waiting until she stood in front of him.

She tried to reach him on tiptoes, but he wouldn't bend. With a sigh, she climbed onto the

counter, used his shoulders for balance and leaned around him, bringing his mouth to hers. His kiss was an exercise in control and she smiled, giving him a small kiss as she drew back.

“Stay on the counter.” Asher turned her sideways, laying her back on the counter and he leaned in to receive her kiss. She tangled her hand in his hair and stroked the strands lightly as their kiss went on long enough for a pulse to start low in her belly and throb with the motion of his tongue.

When he drew back, she was ready for a nap, or a marathon. He was smiling down at her.

She had only one thing to say, “Wow. That was quite the kiss.” She trailed her fingers down his jaw and ran them down his neck to the opening of his shirt, touching the tip of his tattoo.

The clearing of Shen’s throat broke their eye contact.

Sheepishly, she looked around Asher’s shoulder and smiled. “Okay. You have to get your rest. Shoo.”

They nodded and one by one, left her alone and aching in the kitchen. She hoped to hell this was a fast courtship because she was desperate for an in depth exploration of their tattoos. If they were anything like hers, they were an amazing erogenous zone.

She really looked forward to finding out.

* * * *

"I can't believe she didn't bust our balls more than she did." Asher was smiling as they rounded the lane that would take them to their assigned home.

The generic military grade house was suitable for their needs, but if Kalli was to join them as their mate, they would need better accommodations.

"Do you think she forgives us for Shen's exuberance?"

"I do. I also think she has looked forward to having us here. She has been just as alone as we have, Ecan."

Shen scowled, a usual look for him.

"Relax, Shen. She will be ours, we even have a date for the next Restday. We are joining her on a hike to a waterfall. Try and get into a better mood by then." Asher slapped him on his shoulder.

Shen grunted and led the way into the dim interior of their home.

With their time spent on the night shift, arriving at dawn usually provided them with enough light. Today they were full, it was midmorning, and there were no messages on their private coms. After the wildness of the last few hours, the silence was peculiar.

Asher had to admit that though he and his set had been friends for years, now that they had experienced the wild whirlwind that was Kalli, they would not be content without her...and she had a truly spectacular set of breasts guarding

their marking.

He grinned as he imagined her face if he informed her of it.

“What are you smiling about?” Ecan’s curiosity was unstoppable.

“Thinking about our fourth and consequences for honesty.”

Shen’s rough voice broke his happy thoughts. “We can’t bring our woman back here. This is unsuitable for a family home. What do we do?”

Ecan smiled shyly. “We ask to see her house. She was raised here after all. The set completion bonus that we will receive will be more than enough to retrofit a house here on Hakur.”

Shen started to smile, Asher was so stunned that he could only grin in return. “Look up stats for her house online and then we need to get to bed. We have a late shift and she is determined to feed us. I think we should oblige.”

* * * *

Kalli woke from her nap in the back room and shoved herself into the tiny shower. A few minutes of cramped rotation and she was ready to get to work in the kitchen.

She pulled a clean uniform out from a pack under the bed and dressed in her normal t-shirt and trousers. She slid her feet into her sneakers and was ready to go.

The muted clangs of pots and pans reassured her. Something was happening in the kitchen and that was a good thing. Kalli took a look around the front of house and when everything was clean and in order, she returned to take possession of her domain.

"Saf, Metri, thank goodness you are here. I was arrested last night and am a little behind."

Her assistants looked up and smiled at her. "Not to worry, Kalli. You got us off to a good start. Go home and get some sleep, you look like hell."

"Thanks, Saf." She yawned and her jaw cracked. "Okay, fine. I am a little sleepy. Send a pulse to my house before dinner service. I think I got enough started for lunch."

"Go. Sleep off your night in the custody of the new lawmen. If such as they had me confined, I would be tired, too." Metri winked at her, her blue eyes dancing.

"We didn't...I put them to work. They will have to court me before I fall into bed with them." She grinned and grabbed her personal pouch as well as a light jacket. Her body told her that there was a storm coming. "Well, they will have to court me a little. It has been a long dry spell."

Her workers laughed and waved her off. They knew she was a blender, a clone. The people here on Hakur banded around her when derision flew toward her from newcomers. They were rapidly informed of Kalli's status and the pride of the

community in her accomplishments. Those who remained contemptuous never entered Hell again. Hakur was a lonely place with only one good pub, and Hell was it.

The military types loved to eat there, but they had the good sense to keep their comments about blenders to themselves.

She groaned. That reminded her. She needed to contact base command about the new captain trying to capture Terrance. They had no rights over the civilians who worked for the pharmaceutical corporation. It seemed the captain needed reminding.

"Ms. Next. I believe we met last evening."

Think of the devil and it showed up, her mother used to say. The captain was moving to intercept her path down the street.

"We did. You incited a riot and I used a pacifier to save my building from wear and tear." She kept her path straight and grimaced when he fell into step with her.

"I am new here."

"I noticed."

"I was wondering if I could take you out on a date some time."

Kalli froze. "Are you joking?"

He smiled and tried to look charming. "There are few acceptable women here. You seem polite and well-bred. I have heard of your charity to the blenders and it does you credit."

Any swelling of a smile froze on her face. "Your use of the term blenders is offensive. The lawmen are respectable men who do a job few want nowadays."

"They were designed in a lab. They aren't even human."

She paused near a food stall and held up a hand. "Stop right there. I am *not* a well-bred woman. I am a designed woman. I am a blender the same as the lawmen. You obviously don't want anything to do with one so low, so I will appreciate if you keep yourself and your men from my establishment while on duty. Don't worry, they all know. You won't surprise them with this revelation."

He looked her up and down, a peculiar expression running across his features. "The blenders are all men."

She lifted her t-shirt and exposed her lack of navel. "See?" She turned and left him confused and angry on the street. She paused for juice at another food cart.

"You were hard on him. He just wanted a date."

"He wanted a date and he hates blenders. Not much of a chance for some nookie there. The new lawmen are from my set, I will soon have more interaction than I can handle."

The low whistle from her friend of fifteen years made her smile.

"Don't sound so impressed, Veel. They arrested me last night. Disturbing the peace or something."

"That sounds like lawmen. Wow, Kalli, are you sure that they are the ones? They are awfully cute."

"I know. And yes they are the ones. Our markings match and mine get all hot when they are near." Kalli took the blended veg and fruit smoothy Veel handed her. "Thanks. I will see you later?"

"Are you waiting until your boys get on shift?"

"I will sleep until Saf and Merki call me. It will be nice to get almost a full night's sleep."

"A full day's."

"Whatever. See you later, Veel." She walked off, sipping the juice and heading for her parent's place.

The house was huge, sprawling, and her occasional visits to it were few and far between. She preferred to sleep in the tiny cot near people. It was hard to admit, she was uncomfortable being alone.

She assessed her home as she approached it. There was room for more occupants. Her parents were constantly boarding newbies to Hakor. Extra bedrooms were in good shape. They merely needed fresh bedding. She set the bedding to wash and lay down in her bedroom. She left the master bedroom alone, it seemed wrong to use all that space only for her.

If her luck held, loneliness would not be her problem much longer. She would have three men in her bed, or she would go insane trying.

CHAPTER FOUR

Hell was having a good night. Food was flying and liquor was flowing. The locals were impressed with their dubious triumph over the military police. They woke on the floor and not on the base, and that was enough of a victory to them.

"To our fearless leader!" Terrance raised his glass and the rest of the occupants followed suit.

"Our fearless leader!"

Kalli blushed as she connected the term with herself. It wasn't a natural leap. With a tray full of empties, she curtsied her thanks.

When the com rang, she answered it, "Welcome to Hell, Kalli speaking."

"Hello, our fourth. We were ordered to ask you for dinner." Asher's cheer came through the com and made her smile.

"What can I get for you?"

"Whatever is hot for dinner that you can carry. Enough for three please. Shen has been waxing poetic about breakfast all day, and you can imagine how difficult it is to impress him."

Kalli's chuckle came to her unbidden. "You will

have your meal in less than half an hour or you can take it out of my hide."

"Delay you. Got it." The rich laugh acted on her like a hand stroking her spine. "See you soon, Kalli."

She still had a silly smile on her face when she turned and the entire contents of the bar were staring at her in shock. Terrance was the first to come out of it and started to applaud slowly. The rest followed his lead, even Saf and Metri joined in. "About time, Kalli."

"Yeah, yeah. Stow it, all of you."

Still grinning, she turned and prepared the order for the lawmen. Kalli took the order out through the front door to the hoots and yelps of the audience.

The streets of the town were empty as she walked with her steady stride. The weight of the basket was heavy, but evening was still in early stages. She paused outside the door to the law offices and checked her chronometer. Two minutes to spare. Too bad.

She pushed at the door and it wouldn't open. Ecan was leaning against the door, she could see him through the window.

"Open the door, ass hat!"

He raised his eyebrows at her language, but kept his weight on the door. He kept her waiting for two minutes. At exactly the two minute mark, he lifted his weight from the door and opened it

for her.

"Nice. Charming."

Ecan took her basket from her and handed it to Asher. "Shen, what is the charge for swearing at a lawman in pursuit of his duty?"

"Some form of confinement, I would imagine." Shen had a serious face, but a distinctly amused glint to his eyes.

"Excellent."

Before Kalli could blink, Ecan had her up against the bars of the cell she had been in only that morning. A set of restraint cuffs held one wrist above her head and he gestured to Shen for a second pair. She was now up against the bars with her wrists manacled about two inches above her head.

"Very funny, guys, I have to be getting back to the bar."

"Well, you did say that we could take it out of your hide. You are a woman of your word, are you not?"

She tugged futilely at the cuffs. "I am, but restraints are not necessary."

Shen smiled. "They will remind us to use it."

"Use what?"

He stood and came forward until his body warmed hers. He reached up, gripped the bars above her head and lowered his lips for a kiss. "Restraint."

Kalli went up on her toes to meet him halfway

and he ignored her parted lips in favour of a slow exploratory kiss that left her shaking. Her nipples were taut and she wanted to rub against him in the worst way, he carefully held himself away from her.

When he pulled back, she glared at him, "Tease."

"Oh, I haven't even started."

Asher and Ecan were dividing the contents of the basket, leaving her and Shen alone for the most part.

Shen knelt in front of her and pressed his forehead between her breasts. The indirect pressure on her tattoo made her moan softly. His hands worked at her waistband and soon she felt cooler air caressing the flesh of her belly as he raised her shirt.

He bent and his lips trailed over the curve of her waist, across her ribs and to the underside of her breasts. Her nipples ached and when he took one into his mouth, she hissed and arched into him. Fire and light ran through her nerves as his tongue caressed and the graze of his teeth hovered on the edge of pain.

Shen moved from right to left and back again, her body wound tighter and tighter. He thrust his arm between her knees and gripped the cell bar for leverage. In an instant, she was riding his forearm and she heard the broken cries from her throat as she came, her weight bearing her onto her clit.

He kept his arm between her thighs, but suddenly her arms were loose. She clutched his shoulders and lowered her head to his for a kiss that was a little on the brutal side. She hoped he would forgive her, but round one always made her crave round two.

A cleared throat next to her ear made her jump. Shen's eyes were glazed with lust and she was quite sure that that same expression was on her own face.

Ecan was smiling, but there was a strained look in his eyes. "I think that is enough out of your hide for the day. Shen is going to be distracted all night as it is."

She shook her head and swallowed heavily. Her lips were swollen and it was her own fault for mauling her lawman.

Asher lifted her away from Shen while Ecan held him back.

"I have never seen him so rattled." Asher murmured in her ear as he smoothed her shirt back into place. "Creative bugger though. I would never have thought it possible to bring you off like that with all your clothes on, but he said it could be done. I suppose Shen proved it right."

"Bully for him. I need to get back to the bar now."

"Well, considering that I have already eaten, I suppose I should escort you back. No telling what Shen would do if I sent you back with him.

Probably cart you into the jungle before we knew what was what."

"He would bring me back." She fought back a smile.

"Yeah, but in exceptionally satisfied condition. Where would Ecan and I be then?" Asher smiled and held the door open for her as they walked into the night.

"Probably waiting for your own turn."

They laughed together as they walked down the street. They were still half a block from Hell when Asher whirled to face their stalker.

"Blender. Has she already fucked you, is that why you are laughing?" The captain was back and he was drunk in uniform.

"Captain Nerothan, I hardly think it is any of your business."

Asher was trying to be polite, but he was shaking with irritation. Kalli noted that he moved between her and the other man with a move so subtle she doubted the captain noticed. She was braced for the sudden rush that the Captain engaged in, but so was Asher.

He sidestepped the rush with a graceful move, keeping Kalli behind him. "Return to the base, Captain. I don't want to have to call the other MP's."

"Of course you don't. They would never believe a blender over one of their own." Nerothan lifted a blade and came forward, slashing. Asher stepped

aside, but this time Kalli was in the way. She did what she did best, when the captain came for her, she went up and over.

The flip surprised both men, but Kalli was now separated from her mate by a span of fifteen feet.

The captain whirled on the weaker target, and ended up eating pavement. Kalli had acted as her brothers had taught her and brought him down as fast as she could. Asher took care of the rest, knocking him out in time for the other two of their set to come running around the corner.

"Kalli, are you all right?" Ecan ran his hands over her in an effort to find any sore spots, that or he was just up for a cheap grope.

"I am fine. Let's get him up and into the bar. I will call the military from there."

"No, we will take him to our offices." Shen looked as if a little lawman brutality was on his mind.

"Asher's mind called you?" Kalli should have known.

"Of course. We have a high level of communication between us. We were an effective battle team because of it." Ecan was glaring down at the captain on the ground. "Men like this make our life fairly awkward."

"Send the MP's to me for a statement. We have the entire contents of Hell as witnesses to his comments about blenders last night." She crossed her arms and shivered.

Shen finished cuffing the captain and hauled him to his feet. "This one will not be going anywhere soon. What did you hit him with, Asher?"

Asher cleared his throat. "A little me, a little talent. He went after Kalli with a knife."

"You could have torn his head off."

"I pulled it at the last minute. No harm done." He looked down at the smashed and bleeding face of the captain. "Well, nothing that can't be surgically fixed."

"I am going back to work. Make sure to call the watch when you get him behind bars. I will be notifying them myself in case you decide to vent a little." Kalli walked swiftly away from her men, her body shaking from a combination of their nearness and the short fight.

It was a relief to be inside the dim expanse of the bar, filled with friends. She nodded grimly to a few faces as she passed until she got to the office in the back. She punched in the code for the command centre at the base and made her request, "General Shoffin, please. Tell him it's Kalli Next."

The voice on the com went from indifferent to cheerful in a matter of seconds. As late as it was, the General always took her calls.

"Kalli? What can I do for you?"

"Well, General, your newest Captain is currently in the custody of the lawmen for attempted murder of two blenders. Myself and

Lawman Asher."

"I don't believe it. Nerothan? He is such a straight arrow."

"Well, last night he used blender as an epithet when he came in to try and arrest Terrance, and tonight he came after me and Asher with a knife. I don't think he is Hakor material."

The General's voice grew concerned. "Are you all right?"

"I am fine, but Nerothan won't be if the locals find out he is gunning for me and the Lawmen. You know how protective they can be if provoked."

He sighed. "I am sorry. There was nothing in his profile that indicated that he would not be a suitable enforcement agent."

"He probably hasn't worked around many, if any, clones." Kalli rubbed her forehead. "You know how some folks react to them...us."

"Did he know you were..."

"Yes. I told him this afternoon when he hit on me. It seemed the best way to dissuade him. He reacted as expected."

The general swore for a moment. "On a more pleasant note, are they yours?"

She smiled into the com. "Yes, they are."

"Congratulations. Now you can stop decimating my ranks and breaking hearts."

"Aw, Uncle Mors, you know that I didn't break anything. I just bruised a few when they realized I

wasn't going to change my mind about waiting for my men. That, and the stamina problem."

He cleared his throat. "Be that as it may, they did declare their love for you and you could not reciprocate, Kal. It hasn't done morale much good to have to transfer them out when you bruise them."

"Well, that is no longer even a remote possibility. No matter what I do to these three, they are going to stick with me, and me with them." She didn't know why she was so sure, but she just knew it.

"I will start on the transfer orders for Nerothan as soon as I disconnect, now call your mother. She's worried."

The General was literally her uncle, and his defence of his niece and sister always warmed her heart. She had been adopted by a large and extended family. Her father had seven brothers and sisters, her mother, six.

"I promise to call Mom."

"Goodnight, and make sure that those men treat you well or I will have to step in to have a word with them." He may be nearing retirement, but General Shoffin was still an impressive specimen of a man.

"Oh, I will. Night, Uncle." She disconnected the call and smiled for a moment. She took a deep settling breath and started punching in her mother's code. This was going to be one long call.

CHAPTER FIVE

Kalli had talked to her mother long into the night and it was only when Ecan arrived to escort her home that she realized the time. He quizzed her on her accommodations and she answered honestly. "Plenty of room for all of us."

His eyes had gleamed in the dim light as he quickly kissed her goodbye before leaving her in her front room, aching and alone. The urge to jump him had been overwhelming, but he had kept his hands firmly on her shoulders and pushed her away. Bugger.

The next day was blissfully uneventful. Kalli woke late, made breakfast for the brothers, got the lunch of soup and sandwiches set up, then started work on the take home packs for the evening rush. Tomorrow was Restday and she was looking forward to it with an eagerness that brought a blush to her cheeks.

She set aside her own provisions for Restday and let the rest of the day handle itself.

Asher came to retrieve the basket with a wink

and a slow pat on her ass. It was the highlight of her evening.

Shen escorted her home after the long evening and gave her a kiss to scorch her toes after he had checked her home for intruders. Kalli had her nails dug into his shoulders, but he wasn't giving an inch. He pulled her hands away, kissed each palm and left her in her home.

There was no way she was going to get any sleep before they went on their journey through the jungle, so she did the books for the company and placed supply orders for the off world equipment she needed.

Kalli worked until she started yawning, then crawled to bed and got three hours of sleep before her alarm started its cadence.

Drums were her favourite way to wake, there was no sleeping through them.

She stumbled into a brisk shower, towelled off and slipped into a loose jumpsuit. Her damp hair was restrained into a tight ponytail and she was out the door before she could change her mind and hide inside.

She tripped over Shen's legs on her front steps and went flying into Ecan's arms. She yelped in surprise. "I thought you were still on duty."

"Your brothers relieved us early so that we could spend a complete day with you. We have already been to your bar and Saf gave us the food you set aside yesterday." Shen stood and nodded

to three jungle skimmers in her yard. "Shall we?"

She shook her head and looked at them with suspicion. "We seem to be missing a skimmer."

"No, you will ride with one of us out, and one back. You will have to lead since we have no idea where we are going." Asher smiled. "I claim you for the ride out."

"Since Ecan already has me, I will ride with him on the way to the pool. Or he will ride with me, since I know where I am going and he doesn't."

The other two merely shrugged.

Ecan grinned down at her and set her on her feet. "Lead the way, mistress."

She settled onto the first skimmer and scooted forward as Ecan took his position behind her. When his arms wrapped around her waist, she closed her eyes for a moment before powering up the skimmer. It felt too good for her peace of mind.

With Asher and Shen on their skimmers and ready to follow, she throttled up and they turned for the jungle. The path was almost invisible, but she found it with the ease of practice. It grew in every time she visited, the green of the jungle healing all divots and scars that her feet or skimmer left behind.

The green blurred as she accelerated in the growth. It would be a solid forty-five minutes of flying to reach the pool, but with Ecan's arms around her, it felt like an eternity.

He started to explore her body, shifting his grip

so that one hand was on her breast, the other crept over her belly to rest between her thighs, pressing gently. The heat of his hand over her clit warmed her blood and she caught her breath as her focus shifted and she almost treed them.

“Knock it off, Ecan. We want to arrive alive.”

“I have every confidence in your abilities, Kalli. We all do.” His fingers curled and pressed against her in a slow beat while the hand on her breast kneaded gently.

By the time she parked the skimmer on the rocks overlooking the shallow waterfall that led to the deep pool, she was shaking with eagerness. The moment that the skimmer went silent, she turned in Ecan’s arms, straddled him on the seat of the skimmer and pulled his lips to hers in a savage claiming that left him shaking and her panting and rocking against him. His erection called to her and she wanted to answer in the worst way when hands pulled her from her target.

“Not just yet, Kalli. There is an order to these things.” Asher was pulling her from Ecan, but it was Shen’s heated look that snapped her control.

“Fine. Whichever one of you decides that he wants me,” she kicked off her boots and opened her jumpsuit. The jumpsuit hit the ground and she kicked it aside. “Come and get me.” With an arcing leap, she flung herself into the water and surfaced to watch them while treading water.

The feeling of being completely nude outdoors

always heightened her senses, but hearing a splash next to her and feeling hands on her ankles pulling her under sparked all kinds of adrenaline.

Shen's face was clear under the water, and when he took her lips in a kiss, she groaned into his mouth. Her legs wrapped around his and soon she felt the heat of his erection nudging at her for entrance. She needed air and he brought her to the surface in a rush of water and heated skin.

Kalli gasped for air, Shen's mouth trailed hotly against her throat. He kicked them through the water until he could stand on the bottom of the pool comfortably and then he was pressing into her in earnest.

She was tight, it had been a while, but he forged through the resistance of her passage and his heat joined her own. His hands under her hips lifted and dropped her in a slow beat, each strike caused a wave to emerge from their coupling until the water was foaming around them.

Kalli could feel the power coming off Shen and the water was helping to disburse it, but there were still shockwaves starting inside her with every thrust and building her tension to the screaming point. Her body held on through every stroke, her nails digging into his shoulders as she started gasping and groaning with her imminent climax. Shen moved harder, and when he ground his hips against her on the inward slide, she screamed, frightening the birds from the trees.

Shen groaned, the veins in his neck bulged and she felt a pulse deep within her as he swelled and ejaculated in a harsh jerk that kept her hips tight to his.

Gasping, he staggered back with a splash and took her with him into the icy coolness of the pond. Warm hands pulled her away from him and hauled her to the surface. Ecan waded out of the water and wrapped her in a towel that Asher held out.

She coughed and swallowed. "I guess Shen is our first?"

Ecan laughed. "Yes, and I am the second. Asher is our third. He got more personality to make up for his place in the pecking order."

Kalli blushed, "I think pecker order would be more accurate."

Asher grinned. "Crude but concise. How long did it take your father to explain that one?"

"You don't really want to be talking about my father, do you?" She winked and reached up to stroke Ecan's face. "You don't like the water?"

"Asher and I are willing to share if you are. What we want isn't practical under water. We need you wet, and we need to know you want us. That is easier seen to on land."

Shen walked out of the water, a sea god rising from the depths. Water gleamed on his shoulders and Kalli wet her lips, looking up at Ecan with lust that transferred from one of her set to the other.

She wanted them all, one by one, together, any way they would come to her.

Asher had laid out a pallet for them, wide enough for three of them to lie side by side. Planning had gone into this.

Ecan positioned her on her knees, upright and facing him. He trailed his mouth from her neck to her shoulders and between her breasts, worshipping her tattoo, licking, sucking and gnawing gently at her flesh. He cupped her breasts in his hands, kneading them until they were taut and her nipples stood out hard and eager.

Behind her, Asher lifted her hair from her neck and pressed kisses down her spine. One by one, he traced her vertebrae beneath her skin, stroking her back, cupping her hips and ass as he moved.

The assault on her senses took her higher and higher as they worked tirelessly on her. Kalli heard her voice scale into raised octaves until Ecan slipped two fingers into her channel, and Asher followed suit with two slick fingers in her ass. The penetration gave her nerves conflicting signals that nevertheless sent her spinning over the edge of release.

A dark whisper in her ear filled her with dread and a searing anticipation. "Now, Kalli, that was foreplay."

Ecan slid to his back and pulled her over him, his cock arched high and proud with drops of slick dew on its head. He cupped her hips and slid her

on him until he was thoroughly wet with her juice and his own had mingled. With a groan that he couldn't disguise, he used his hands to rock her until she was completely on him and the soft curling hairs at the top of her sex brushed his.

She raised and lowered herself on him, enjoying the slide of his rod inside her. Kalli bit her lip and rocked harder, forgetting Asher until he pushed her forward on Ecan until her face was in his tattoo.

Asher slid two slick fingers against her until she raised her hips to meet them. When he parted her ass cheeks and replaced his fingers with his cock, she panted, but pushed back.

She licked softly at Ecan's tattoo as they started to move inside her, taking turns to press and withdraw until she almost blacked out from the rush of sensation they were forcing on her. Her pleasure started to burn, her flesh heated and power started to flow around the pool in rippling waves.

Her voice gave out when her body bucked and shuddered in their embrace, and Ecan's roar came a moment after. Asher pounded into her with abandon before she felt him swell and pulse inside her.

A trio of groans occurred when they separated, but Asher lifted her and walked with her into the pool. He simply dropped her into the chilled fluid and she squawked and fought her way to the

surface.

He and Ecan took quick scrubs, then fished her out and brought her to the pallet where Shen was now lounging, his erection renewed and throbbing under Kalli's gaze.

"Well, that took the edge off, didn't it, mate?" He reached out and cuddled her close. The skin that had cooled in the water rapidly heated as Shen and Asher stroked and explored her in a leisurely manner.

"It did. I think I am worn out."

"No, I don't think you are." Asher stroked his hand down her chest and lust flared as his fingers caressed the details of the tattoo. "Don't worry, Kalli. We can amuse ourselves."

Oh boy.

CHAPTER SIX

“What the hell was that?” Kalli groaned as she sat up after using her mouth on Shen. His orgasm had sent a pulse of talent out that reached Ecan, Asher and Kalli. They were all shaking in the aftermath.

A slow look at their surroundings showed a clearing that had not been there when they started now expanded in a circle from the point of their pile of limbs. “Wow.”

Shen cleared his throat and spoke after several attempts. “That has never happened before. I am sure I would have remembered a blast wave that removed trees.”

Kalli smiled at his astonishment. “I was referring to the cascading orgasm. We cleared the first stand of trees in the water. I have already figured out that your talents combine into a physical clearing to match my mental one.”

“Oh.” Shen blushed. An amazing feat considering their afternoon’s activities.

They had explored each other thoroughly. Each

tattoo now showed light bruising from mouths, fingers and teeth. The gold stood proudly on flushed skin, on all of them. The lunch stop had turned Kalli into the table and no hands were allowed once the food was placed.

Kalli was going to encourage family meals like that at every opportunity.

“So, that joining hasn’t happened before?”

They looked at each other and shook their heads. Ecan spoke. “No, I mean, when Shen played with you in the law offices, we felt something through our link, but nothing like that ever happened before.”

She smirked. “I am glad I was your first.”

They looked indignant for a moment before Asher reached out to swat her backside. “Very funny, Kalli. We should return to town. Sunset will be here before we know it.”

She nodded and groaned as she got to her feet. “One final dip in the pool. I need to work out some of these muscles before they lock up.” And she needed to wash off the semen that spotted her at random intervals, but she didn’t mention that. When her men came, they came hard. Kalli grinned as she waded into the pool, for that matter, so did she. Her body ached and would be sore for days, but she didn’t regret one moment.

The water seemed icy against the heat of her skin, but when she sat under the waterfall and let the pounding on her shoulders loosen her muscles,

she let the cold become part of her therapy.

Under the relentless force of the water, she watched Ecan, Asher and Shen approach her. She sighed happily, they were beautiful and they were hers. Each inch of flesh whether banded by muscle or twisted by scarring was perfect.

Ecan sat on her left, Asher her right and Shen took up a position on Asher's side. Together, they all shared the feeling of the water against them. Kalli felt her mind expand as she began to feel their bodies as her own. It was a bizarre moment. Their cocks were not sore, but there was an ache in their balls that echoed the twinge in her channel and ass.

When they started to look at her, she knew that they were feeling the aches and pains in her body. None of them spoke of it. When Kalli felt her lips turn blue, she went under the surface of the pool and swam until she could walk out onto the rocky surround.

Naked, Kalli wandered up to the point above the waterfall and shook out her suit and boots, making sure that there were no tiny critters in her shucked clothing. The air of the jungle was hot, moist and she simply tugged the suit on over damp skin.

She carried her boots down to their picnic area and watched her water warriors walk out of the pool one by one. The cold water had had little to no effect. She blushed at the enthusiasm of their erections, a surprising response given their last

four hours, but the memory of the feel and taste of them was enough to start a tiny flare of interest in her after no more than a look.

Kalli's boots went on with a little bit of effort while Ecan folded up their play area and Asher worked on the food hamper. Shen retrieved his own clothing and held out his hand to her.

With a soft sigh, she looked around at the open spot that was their first date. She imprinted the sights in her memory and then took Shen's hand to allow him to bring her to his skimmer.

Shen's skimmer took point and she led them back through the jungle in the fading light. As a first date, this one had been a doozy.

She was yawning by the time she pulled into her yard, parking the skimmer neatly next to the crushed gravel approach. She looked back at Shen, "I think I need a nap."

He grinned and jerked his head so that Ecan and Asher could see it. "Excellent idea. We will meet you inside."

She opened her mouth to tell him that he wasn't invited, but he immediately gave her a look that her mother as described as *puppy dog eyes*. Kalli had never seen a puppy, but if they looked anything like Shen, Ecan and Asher when they all took up the look en masse, she wanted a bunch of them in her house.

"Fine. Bring everything inside, I will wash the bedding that we did such a thorough job of

frolicking with."

"You will not. Today is your rest day. We will take care of everything." Shen gave her a sweet kiss on the forehead. "See you inside."

Bemused, she walked up the approach to her door and went inside. Ice water, frozen beverages and a small tray of snacks assembled under her hands. It was reflex. People were coming into her home, she had to feed them.

Her men came in almost silently. Only the earlier contact had attuned her to their presence. She felt them more than saw them.

Kalli finished her snack preparation and then nodded to her guests. "I am off for a nap."

She didn't need to ask to hear them follow her down the hall to the master bedroom. Studiously ignoring them, she stripped and crawled between the sheets on the large bed. One body slipped in beside her, another on the other side, and the third slept on the floor facing the door.

It was not the easiest assembly to get used to, but Kalli fell into darkness scented with men that were hers and hers alone.

Someone was in her kitchen. Kalli sat up, groaned and moved more slowly as she crawled out of bed. She wrapped a sheet around herself and followed her ears. There they were, trying to figure out how to work her antique ovens, muttering quietly and exchanging confused looks.

She laughed when a spark ignited a gas ball that stunned them. "I'll start it and then get dressed. Whatever you intend to create is your own business."

"We woke you." Shen looked upset.

"No. It was time for me to wake. There we go. Is that the element you wanted?"

Ecan stood by with a pot, ready to pounce. "Yes. That is fine, now off you go."

Asher was mixing something in a bowl and he smacked her hand with a spoon when she tried to taste. "No peeking. We are surprising you. Now, go and get dressed."

Rubbing her hand and scowling, she made her way back to her room. She slipped on some undergarments and a sundress. Her mother's shawl went around her shoulders and she slipped into some sandals for running around the house.

Content that they had enough time to do whatever it was that they were doing, she slipped back in to the corner of the kitchen to watch their progress. She scooted onto a tall stool in the breakfast nook and watched with curiosity.

For the life of her, she could not figure out what they were doing. It smelled wonderful, but she had never seen anything like the stack of cakes that were piling up on the side of the oven.

A caress flowed through her mind and stroked across her breasts. It took all her control not to yelp, but she did jump a little in response. She

heard a chuckle and glared toward them, unable to tell which one of them it was.

When another phantom hand stroked the inside of her thigh, she looked down and then up, trying to find the culprit. This was a game she had never thought to play.

Concentrating, she imagined caressing Shen's tattoo with her fingers. When he jerked and the arm holding the pan made it clatter, she smiled.

Ecan and Asher got the same treatment, phantom fingers ran around the roses on their chests and traced every thorn.

"Stop that, Kalli, or you will ruin your surprise." Asher scowled at her playfully. Plates started to appear loaded with stacks of flat cakes covered in a sticky syrup and dotted with fruit.

She pivoted to the table and waited patiently. Dark was firmly established outside, the thick-paned glass of the window muffling all sound. The monstrous serving in front of her made her blink. "I am supposed to eat all of this?"

Ecan chuckled. "We have all seen you take more than that into your mouth today, Kalli."

Laughter erupted while she blushed. It may have been true, but it was still crass to mention it.

"What is this?"

Shen smiled. "Pancakes, syrup and spiced fruit. Hakor doesn't have apples, so we improvised."

"Where did you learn to do this?" She tried to pick one of the pancakes up, but it was far too large

and copied Ecan's manner of cutting off an edible piece. The stickiness was enticing and before she could convince herself that it was a bad idea, she stuffed the first mouthful in.

Her moan made her men grin. She quickly worked her way through the stack of three with forays into the spiced fruit. Leaning back, she waved off their offer to refill her plate. Licking her fork delicately, she smiled, "Three was just enough. I know some would have considered three too much for the first time, but it is just perfect."

They blushed, she grinned. "Now, do the dishes and you will be forever perfect in my eyes."

CHAPTER SEVEN

“So, how was your Restday?” August was grinning and Kalli wanted to slap him.

She dropped the breakfast basket on the table.

“It was fine.”

“Just fine? Your men looked exhausted.”

They had left her as soon as they finished the dishes for their evening shift as Lawmen. One kiss from each of them and she had been alone in her home once again. It had never felt so empty.

She had tried to sleep, but ended up at Hell after midnight, prepping for her day’s work. The labour was a bit of a strain for her muscles, but she had to tidy up after the previous day’s leftovers. She did small things like changing out the cash for a smaller float, creating more of the bread starter, prepping salads, scrubbing the floors and whatever else she could think of to distract her from the feeling of being alone.

Physically, she felt their separation, but mentally, they were there when she reached for them. She just missed them.

She blinked and returned to the conversation, "They got as much sleep as I did. It isn't my fault that men weren't built as tough as us ladies."

He opened and closed his mouth and swallowed. "What's for breakfast?"

"Big breakfast today, sausage, eggs, bread, fruit, nuts, rolls, anything else I could think of." Kalli shrugged as he hefted it. "Where are Rory and Stil?"

"Attending a small altercation on the south side. Fanith took Revil's fishing spot again. You know how well that goes over." He closed his eyes for a moment. "They are on their way back."

"Good. I would hate to have them miss their food while it's hot." Kalli yawned and covered her mouth. "Sorry, August. I am a little wiped out."

"Go back to Hell, attend to morning deliveries and then go home for the day. Your fans will thank you." August gave her a light hug and sent her on her way.

Yawning, she stumbled out of the Law Offices and was almost to her door when a tingle of foreboding ran through her. Not one to ignore her senses, she hit the deck. Something struck the bricks next to where she had been standing.

Her mind was screaming an alert, but she couldn't see the attacker. She rolled quickly and a burn ran down her arm.

Kalli, we are on our way, where is it coming from?
Shen's voice was clear in her mind

She sent him the image of her guess at the shooter's location.

Ecan sees him. It is that Captain. Move!

She rolled again, this time the crease struck her thigh. She hissed in response and got to her feet. She ran back to the Law Offices, even though it was a longer distance. The wind was blowing in her face as she ran and she was counting on it to screw up his aim. She slammed into the door to the offices just as a bolt struck her in the shoulder. Kalli hissed and stumbled forward. "August, I think I need a medic."

She saw the floor coming up to greet her and had the perverse urge to say hello.

"Kalli, how are you feeling?" Dr. Mehar of the Hakor base was looming over her, tentacles waving.

"Wonderful, Doc. How 'bout you?"

"I am not the one who was shot. Your men are outside and they are frantic. They feared for you as well as the child you started."

Kalli blinked in surprise. "What?"

"You are in the earliest stages of pregnancy. You are to be congratulated, many clone sets work at it for months." Dr. Mehar looked over her charts. "You seem healthy aside from the healing wounds, but I want to see you in 48 hours and again after that. You have been granted passes at the gate."

She smiled vaguely, she was sure. Pregnant so

soon. Her mother was going to kill her for going all the way on the first date, three times. Her smile turned into a grin as the door opened. She didn't even notice their looks of shock when the doctor spoke to them, but rather kept to the blooming joy in their minds. "Tell me I don't look that bad."

As one, they rushed and pressed kisses to her hands and forehead. "Kalli, are you all right?"

"Yes. A little sore and I will have some new scars, but I feel fine. The doctor confirms it." She paused. "I am guessing that the Captain is no longer amongst the living?"

Shen nodded grimly. "He stepped in the way of Ecan's blast. His sniper rifle was where you supposed it was. He was most upset by both your refusal of him, and of your status as a hated blender."

"And he tried to kill me for it?"

"He told Ecan that he would have taken you despite it, but you cleaved to us instead. He could not get to you separately and we always travel in a set. It disrupted his balance to not be able to catch us alone yesterday."

Kalli shifted. "I can only imagine what would happen if that was the case. He got chatty, did he?"

"Before he died, yes, he was quite the conversationalist." Ecan was grim.

A knock on the door announced the General. He looked relieved to see her up and around. "Kalli, your mother was frantic."

She closed her eyes and groaned. "You didn't...tell me you didn't."

"I am sorry. She requested and received special visitation along with your father. They are on a shuttle as we speak."

"Oh crap. Gentlemen, prepare for an invasion the likes of which years of battle have not prepared you."

Asher, Ecan and Shen raised their eyebrows.

"Prepare for the father and mother-in-law from hell."

The General cackled. "My sister is indeed a force to be reckoned with."

Kalli cocked her head, "Uncle, how did the Captain get away?"

The General scrubbed his face with a hand. "He persuaded his battle companions that he merely wanted to say goodbye to a woman in town. They let him out of the stockade with his promise to return in an hour. Instead, the bastard went to the armoury, injured two guards and stole the sniper's rifle. The rest you know."

Kalli shifted in the bed and Asher helped her sit up completely, holding her around her uninjured ribs. Her left arm and right leg bore a long stripe, her right shoulder had a hole in it. She grunted as she swung her legs out of the bed. "Take me home. I need to get ready for my parent's arrival."

"The doctor has ordered you off your feet for a few days. You will rest and the General has offered

staff to back up the law offices." Shen simply picked her up, his scars looking intimidating while he was laying down the law.

"That is all he mentioned?"

You mean the little arrival that has begun in your womb? We will discuss that in private. At length.

Kalli's mouth twitched. The images that flowed from all three of them into her mind centred on them worshipping her belly at length. She was in no shape for anything else, and she also felt their patience.

They were all brimming with joy and were having a hard time keeping it from the General's presence.

"How will you get her home? You are all riding skimmers." The General scowled at them.

Ecan smiled and gave a short bow. "You will offer to give your niece a ride to her home and we will follow."

"Cheeky. Very well, put her in my car and I will bring her home. After that it will be a short matter for me to pick up your parents from the port."

"Thank you, Uncle Mors, it is very kind of you." Kalli inclined her head and her uncle braved Shen's proximity to give her a kiss on the cheek.

"I am glad you are alive and well, it was a near miss that would have caused a riot in the town. You are very much loved, Kalli."

She looked around the room. "I know it, but am only now starting to believe it."

Being tucked into bed like an infant was an interesting sensation for her as when she was a child, she was being grown in a tank and educated via computer until she was ten. That was when the Nexts took custody of her and adopted her into their expansive clans. Her cousins, aunts and uncles all accepted her as the little lost lamb in their midst, spoiling her on their visits to Hakor.

She had at least fifteen years out in the worlds learning about friends and family, her men had gone simply from decanting to battle with nothing but minor training in between.

"We don't regret it." Asher brought her something to drink while Ecan checked her wounds.

Shen was out of the room doing something that he hadn't bothered sharing.

"He's working on getting a replacement for our shifts from the General, or the local populace. We are not leaving you alone again. From now on, one of us will always be with you."

"That isn't practical. You are Lawmen here on Hakor. You can't suddenly become barmen."

Asher smiled and held the cup for her to drink. She found she couldn't hold it on her own. "That is true, love. But we can do a shift of two with one on call. You know the regulations pertaining to our kind. We must be treated as one entity, and that includes shift times. We will rise and set with you

in our embrace, Kalli."

She used all of her effort to wipe the tears out of her eyes with her left hand. Her arm burned and Asher grabbed it to gently press it to the bedding. "The doctor would not give you anything that may harm the baby, even though it is only a speck. A more beloved speck there has never been."

"Speck. I think we will have to think a little bit on baby names, Asher."

Ecan snickered.

"Don't laugh too hard, Ecan. My mother will have a book of names brought the moment that she finds out I am carrying." A sudden worry gripped her. "Do you think I will carry it to term?"

"The clones have had amazing success, Kalli. Each matched quad that is on record has started families with little to no delay."

Kalli was going to ask how he knew that, but familiar footsteps approached. "Step away from my daughter and introduce yourself, Lawmen."

Tafina Next stood in the doorway and the rest of Kalli's day went to hell.

CHAPTER EIGHT

Tafina and Bish Next were beloved parents, but her mother drove Kalli up the wall. The men were not allowed near her until they were properly wed. In a desperate effort to move things along, the Goldens had pleaded with the local folk and a wedding was now in the offing.

"Mom, stop fussing. The gown is fine."

"Your wound is showing."

"Let it show. Everyone knows about it. And I am not far enough along for anything else to show either." She chuckled at her mother's scowl.

Bish merely stood by and watched her dress fitting with an indulgent eye. "You look lovely, my dear. Better than your mother did on our day."

"Quiet, Bish. It's your fault that we had to rush this. If you hadn't explained the mechanics to her..."

"Shen, Ecan and Asher would have. Or we would have tangled and they would have informed me of the reasons later." Kalli chuckled and gave her father a wink.

General Shoffin came in and hissed, "Are you ready? The locals are restless. They will come in after you if this isn't wrapped up soon."

"Ah. *Get on with it.* Words every bride wants to hear on her big day. Very well, let's get on with it." She straightened her shoulders and stepped forward, taking her father's hand while her mother took her uncle's and preceded them out the door and into the open square of the town.

Hakor had come to a halt this day. Military, scientist, researcher and support staff alike, everyone was at the wedding.

She walked with her father, head high, looking for the three in the crowd that she was waiting for. At the command of the official, everyone sat and there were her men, standing just off centre, August, Stil and Rory at their side. On her side, Saf, Metri and Veel were her representatives.

Bish led her to them and sat next to his wife in the first row.

The official led her through the vows specific to clone bondings including her promise to take her men in the order which would result in offspring. This caused a murmur in the crowd that rippled with amusement. The official was bright pink.

When it came time to join hands, the official was stymied, but with a smile, Kalli fixed it. She gestured for her men to surround her and she placed her hand, palm up in Shen's, placed Ecan's on top of her open palm, and placed Asher's over

her wrist.

"I hereby declare you, the Golden. May you prosper and enjoy your lives on Hakor." With the official's words, a cheer rose up from the crowd and soon they were receiving presents and good wishes in a landslide of good will.

When they were finally able to make their way from all of the partying going on, Kalli whispered to her husbands, "Kalli Golden. It sounds nice, doesn't it?"

Chuckling, they escorted her back to her home, now their home. Her parents were now staying with her uncle until they left the next day.

Inside her room, they peeled the gown off her by inches, kissing and sucking at the skin they exposed oh-so-slowly.

"How is this going to work, I don't think I am up for the same kind of interaction as the last time."

They chuckled. "Since we are not trying to get you pregnant, you may have one of us, or all of us as you will."

"Hmm. Perhaps I should work my way back through you in reverse order. It would be fair." She paused to give the matter some thought, and they kept going. Her thighs pressed tightly together as heat flowed through her body to produce moisture for their entrance. The gown was barely off her shoulders and she was wet for them.

Her hands sought their trousers blindly and she

massaged them in turn, using her dexterity to free them one after another from their confinement. Hot and silky, their skin called to her hands and she stroked and rubbed them until they were groaning along with her moans.

Kalli's breasts were finally bared to their mouths and she squealed when Asher fell to his knees and tongued her tattoo in a frenzy that buckled her knees. She released Ecan's cock from her grip as a maelstrom of an orgasm spun through her from the attentions to her most sensitive of areas.

Her gown was shoved off her hips and they sighed happily. She grinned and stepped out of their grips. "I am not going to be the only one naked here, lads." She backed up and knelt on her bed, the new mattress on the wider frame giving them plenty of play room.

With increasing speed, they stripped off their formal clothing, and with cocks bobbing, they joined her on the expanded bed.

Giggling, she tackled Asher back to the bedding and straddled him. With a grateful sigh, she pressed him into her channel as she drew her fingers down over his tattoo in a rhythm that caused his hips to arch into hers with every stroke. Shen nibbled his way down her spine while Ecan worked at her tattoo as she rode their third.

When Asher gasped and grabbed at her hips, Shen slid his hand around and rubbed her clit

where their bodies met. She screamed as a sudden storm of sensation lit her nerves, her body closing on Asher's to keep him tightly within.

With a groan, she dismounted and fell toward Ecan. He caught her with a chuckle and lay her on her side. He lifted her thigh and slipped into her before her body had cooled from her climax. Slow and even strokes of his rod inside her as he rocked into her over and over had her shivering and clutching at the bedding.

Shen settled in front of her as she became lost to sensation, kissing her lips in a savage claiming that acted as a heated counterpoint to Ecan's slow thrusts. Shen's hands cupped her breasts, his thumbs spreading across her tattoo to outline the dark leaves, sending shivers through her and racing into her belly.

Shen rocked against her, his cock pressing her clit as it folded upward against her lower belly. He moved in a matched time to Ecan, while the second nibbled at her shoulder, neck and spine.

They started moving faster and Kalli dug her nails into Shen's shoulders. They rode her harder, faster until Shen groaned and she felt the sticky result of his passion on her breasts and belly. Ecan was with him in a second, and when he realised that Kalli had not joined them, Ecan reached under her arm and drew his blunt nails down her tattoo, causing a riot of sensation that had her body shaking and spasming around him in seconds.

Asher brought water and they all cleaned up and rolled into the great bed together. "Thank you, dear husbands. That was certainly a wedding night to remember."

Ecan snicker and cuddled close. "Ah, Mrs. Golden. The night is yet young."

Kalli's laughter filled the room until a moan took its place. Throughout the next twelve hours, they proved Ecan right.

EPILOGUE

“**A**lyssa Speck Golden, get over here.” Kalli was in no mood to chase their daughter. She had her hands full with the new twins. Their three year old was far too fast.

Ecan smiled. “I’ll get her.”

“Before she falls in the pond again, please.”

Shen came forward and took Miksa, Asher took Solon. Kalli was given a moment to straighten her skirts before the family arrived on Hakor for the reunion and retirement party for General Shoffin.

Her uncle was taking a position as a Lawmen, and Kalli was relieved. Not only would she have more family on Hakor, but it meant that she had a babysitter for the little terrors when the Golden’s called a *family summit*.

The summits were always held naked and involved heated negotiations, but truces were often declared when the talented tongues of emissaries were found to be persuasive.

Tafina came up to her daughter and gave her an assessing look. “Why are you smiling?”

“Just enjoying the joys of family and friends, Mother. Something my kind has no right to.” Her smile was genuine, her words calm.

“You are a member of my family, the children are my grandchildren. I don’t ever want you to think you have no right to it. You know what I told you when you were first with us, all shy and big eyes.”

Kalli looked over at her men, each holding a small child. *“There are people in these worlds who will tell you that you have no right to happiness, that you aren’t even human. You have to push these people aside and claim what is yours. It is up to you to seek happiness. It won’t come to you, you have to go and get it.”*

Tafina smiled and put her arm around her taller daughter. “I am glad you paid attention, even if it makes your father change colour.”

Her heart swelled as she looked over all the members of her family arriving on this tiny world with its important population of her husbands and children. Four years and three children later and they just needed to look at her to give her shivers. “All I had to do was go and get it.”

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Zenina Masters was born in Canada and lives in Canada. She has a regular job and does nothing particularly exciting with her life. She enjoys fishing, silence and the ability to pick and choose friends she can trust. Life is too short to watch your back all the time.

Her writing life is a teeny bit of escapism, she would probably chicken out if confronted by three naked men and looks forward to one day finding out.