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*Ménage ÀmouR*



# Our Sexy Tiger

JOYEE FLYNN  
PURRFECT MATES 3

### Purrfect Mates 3

## Our Sexy Tiger

After his loser boyfriend pushes him too far, Kody Donovan decides that he wants more than just someone to warm his bed at night. When he meets Conley Norton, vampire and leader of the west coast covens, not to mention walking sex dream, Kody couldn't be happier. Especially when Kody finds his other mate, the equally hot and sexy vampire, Marc Rindge, hours later.

Kody thinks that life couldn't be more perfect than it is in that moment, despite the danger being the mate of such a powerful man entails. Unfortunately life is rarely perfect, as Kody soon discovers. Marc and Conley have a history together and it's not one that ended happily.

When the two men are faced with having to share the mate or spend eternity alone, they try to be civil. But can Conley overcome his past relationship's mistakes, or will he repeat history with Kody?

**Genre:** Alternative (M/M or F/F), Ménage a Trois/Quatre, Shape-shifters

**Length:** 36,086 words

# **OUR SEXY TIGER**

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**Joyce Flynn**

**MENAGE AMOUR**



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## **DEDICATION**

To Alana: You are a great friend and wonderful woman. I haven't a friggin clue how I'd ever get through the day without your help and constant guidance. I hope you see yourself as I do, an amazing chica who deserves the best life has to give.

# OUR SEXY TIGER

*Purrfect Mates 3*

**JOYEE FLYNN**

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## Chapter 1

I sat in my boyfriend's apartment watching him and his friends play some stupid interactive game on yet another Saturday night. Taking a pull on my beer, I just thought to myself. *Why am I with this douche? Oh, that's right, he's better than being all alone.*

Though I was starting to rethink that idea as I watched Steve pound fists with Sam because they just scored some triple point bonus. I'd been there over an hour and not gotten more than a grunt from Steve. It's not like I expected dinner and a movie each time we went out, but fuck, we'd never done that. And while there wasn't much to do in Sheridan, Wyoming, there were a few restaurants and bars to hang out at.

"Babe, get me another beer." Steve basically ordered me, finally acknowledging my presence.

"I'm not your bitch, Steve," I hissed, feeling my tiger want out at the lack of manners.

"No, you're a cat, not a dog shifter," Sam snickered, reminding me why I stayed away from werewolves as often as possible. He pushed me even farther with his baby talk. "Awww, the wittle kitty is sad because he's being ignored. Would you wike some cream, wittle kitty?"



"I'm so done with this shit, and you, Steve," I snarled as I got out of my chair and walked right in front of their game. "Don't fucking call me again, douche bag. This isn't worth the once in a while sex when you're not too drunk to get it up."

"Kody!" he exclaimed, jumping to his feet as I stormed out, not bothering to give him a second look. I'd wasted a year of my life with him, and I didn't even love the dick. I was just so tired of going home to an empty apartment every night with no one to even hang out with.

I jogged down the stairs as I heard growling and lots of swearing. Well, shit, guess he was going to react badly to the news of getting dumped. What had me moving faster is I heard more than just him, and he did have three friends over. As much as I knew I could take on four humans without blinking an eye, I didn't really want to fuck with four werewolves.

"Kody, I'm talking to you," Steve yelled as he got closer. I just reached my car when the four of them were on me, and Steve yanking me by the arm. "You do not get to dump me, cat!"

"Fuck you, you loser," I snarled, shaking with the urge to shift. "You should have treated me better. I'm not your goddamn doormat."

"You leave when I say you do." He growled in my face. That was it. My control snapped and, damn, was he in for a shock since I'd never shifted in front of him before. I let the change flow over me, tearing my clothes to shreds as I turned into an almost five hundred pound saber-tooth tiger.

"Fuck, he really is a huge ass tiger." Sam gasped, and I roared loudly in his direction. They started to back away slowly and then seemed to think better about it.

"No one dumps me," Steve growled as he shifted into his half wolf, half man form. Now I was a little screwed. I had the advantage over four wolves while in tiger form, but not over four half form werewolves. As if following some type of signal, they all shifted and jumped me.

I swatted one off of me before turning to claw most of Sam's chest with one swipe. He screamed as Steve bit my shoulder hard, leaving me unable to shake him off as he wrapped his arms around me. Taking the chance, I shifted into my half and half form and was able to pry them loose.

"Mine!" I heard an unfamiliar voice snarl as Steve was lifted off of me. Holy mother of vampire! The man was gorgeous and moved faster than I could possibly ever follow. I mean, I was fast, being a shifter and all, but before I could even finish blinking, all four werewolves were off of me and sprawled all over the parking lot. And they seemed to be frozen.

"Who are you?" I whispered as I got into a defensive crouch. He hadn't threatened me, but after the way tonight was going, I wasn't willing to take any chances.

"Do you not smell me, tiger?" He asked in a smooth as silk voice that made me start to get hard. I took a long sniff and realized exactly who he was, one of my mates.

"How did you do that? I mean, I knew vampires were faster than we are," I rambled as I shifted back to human form. He gasped as he eyed me over, taking a step back when I walked toward him. "Why are you backing away?"

"Because your blood is calling to me, my mate," he answered as his eyes went wide. "I want you so badly it's not even funny."

"Will it hurt?"

"No, there's a moment's pain and then indescribable bliss. I promise you," he said, looking me over cautiously.

"Then do it," I said, tilting my neck to give him better access. "I have forty-eight hours to claim my mate after smelling them before I get sick. I understand the immediate need after meeting your mate."

"Your name, tiger?"

"Kody Donovan," I answered as he came closer and I got a better look at him. He was tall, really tall.

“Conley Norton,” Conley replied as he reached out and cupped my cheek. I couldn’t hold back my loud purr. “This is not where I want to mate with you, Kody, but I have to taste you and get some of the need handled.”

“I understand, Conley. I give myself to you freely,” I said, staring up into his big silver eyes. They were so gorgeous and sparkled that there was no way his eyes would ever pass for human. Conley leaned down and gave me a soft kiss that electrified my entire body. In a flash, I was up in his arms, completely wrapped around him. And the kicker was I had no clue if he’d lifted me up or I’d jumped him.

“Thank the heavens,” Conley whispered before sinking his fangs into my neck. And he was right. It was an instant sharp pain before so much pleasure overwhelmed my body I was hard as nails and came seconds later. I cried out in his arms, completely unaware of the fact that I was naked in his arms in the middle of Steve’s apartment complex parking lot where anyone could pass us.

“Conley?” I gasped, scared when my orgasm kept going in waves so strong my body started to go limp. His arms tightened around me, holding me to him when I would have let go. I had an errant thought of guilt that I was coming all over his nice suit, but it left as fast as it entered my brain.

“I will love and cherish you forever, Kody,” he whispered as he pulled back and started licking my neck. I shivered at the feeling, my body still wracked with aftershocks of my climax. He moved his arms to swing me up into his arms as if I weighed nothing instead of the one sixty I am. And I wasn’t as short as my brothers, coming in about five ten, but Conley had to be at least six seven, so maybe to him I was short.

“I–I can’t, like, move,” I stuttered, realizing it was more than just being tired.

“It will wear off in a few moments, and you’ll never have that effect after we mate, my tiger,” Conley explained as he lifted me

higher and licked my cum off my stomach. “Oh, sweet heavens, it’s ambrosia.”

“Never had it called that before,” I snickered, feeling a little drunk. I heard a groan near us and remembered where we were. “We might want to be leaving, Conley.”

“Of course, my tiger,” he said as he moved faster than I could track. In seconds, he’d somehow retrieved my dropped keys, opened the car up, had me in the passenger’s seat with his jacket over me, and started the car.

“Holy shit,” I gasped as he backed out of the parking spot. I was also glad that I was still sated from the orgasm, but I was starting to feel my limbs again. “How did you get here? Why are you here? What the hell just happened with them? Why did I have trouble moving?”

“Slow down, my sexy tiger,” he chuckled as he grabbed my hand and raised it to his lips. They were cooler. Since vampires didn’t produce their own blood, their bodies didn’t get as hot from not having to work that process. “I was driving from my home to meet with a small coven in Casper that requires my aid. We do not have the sense of smell that you do as a shifter, but the blood of our mate calls to us when we are close like a homing beacon.”

“So you could sense I was close?”

“Yes, exactly,” Conley answered as he leered over my still naked body. “We need to get you packed and moved immediately. I refuse to be without you at my side now that I’ve found you, my sexy tiger.”

“Wait, who says I’m moving?” I gasped, forgetting the rest of my questions for the moment. “Why don’t you move here?”

“You do not know who I am?” he asked, tilting his neck as his eyebrows scrunched together in a sexy move I was trying to ignore. “I apologize then, Kody. Might we speak at your house after I retrieve my car? I will let the Casper coven know that I’ve been delayed.”

“Yeah, we can do that,” I answered as he pulled up alongside an SUV that was parked about a mile away from Steve’s apartment. He

handed me my phone and wallet that he'd retrieved while I'd been frozen and swimming in my post-orgasmic bliss.

We both got out of the car and I felt his eyes on me as we walked toward the front of my G6. As soon as we were close enough, I was in Conley's arms again, his lips on mine. I melted into the kiss, opening up for him as I felt the urge to mate swarm me.

"We need to stop before I claim you over the hood of my car," I panted as I broke the kiss.

"Yes, that would not be dignified for a man of my stature," he chuckled and walked away to his SUV. "I will follow you, my sexy tiger."

"Okay," I mumbled as I got into my car and threw it in drive. What the fuck did that mean? A man of his stature? Who the hell was I mated to? Not knowing what else to do, I pulled my cell out and called one of my dads, Martin. "Hey, Dad, were you up?"

"Kody? Is everything okay?"

"Um, I think so," I answered slowly, trying to get my thoughts and limbs working fully. "Do you know someone by the name of Conley Norton?"

"Yes, he's the leader of the west coast covens. Why?" My dad asked dryly as if he knew what was coming.

"He's my mate and we just met."

"Have you mated yet?" My dad gasped, and I didn't like that reaction. "Has he bitten you during, you know, um, sex?"

"No, but he drank from me," I replied, not liking this conversation at all. Why wasn't my dad happy for me? "What's going on, Dad?"

"Shit, shit, shit!" my father yelled into the phone. "If he's drank from you he can find you anywhere, Kody. Do you know what that means? You cannot hide from him or get away now!"

"Why would I want to hide from my mate, Dad?"

"He's a vampire, for one," my dad grumbled and then called out for my other dad and mom to pick up the phone. "Look, being mated to a vampire is not like another shifter. And they are very possessive,

Kody. He might not ever let you find or be with your other mate. Plus, he's high up the food chain for vampires. There are lots of people who'd love to see him dead."

"Not to mention the fact that you will become immortal like him." My mom sniffled into the phone, letting me know she was on the line. "Kody, you'd become immortal and watch us all die one day. I mean, I know we age slowly and can live for centuries, but he's truly immortal, my son."

"Well, shit, this is just great!" I swore, wanting to bang my head on the steering wheel. "So what do I do now? We just met, I let him drink from me, and now he's following me back to my apartment so we can talk. I called because he immediately said I'd be moving with him, and I got upset. Then he seemed confused I didn't know who he was and asked if we could talk at my place."

"Well, at least he's polite," my mom said, and I could picture her shrugging over the phone. My mom, Ashley, was all about manners. "Look, there are issues with any mating, Kody. Your father is just not a fan of vampires after a few run-ins we've had with them when we were looking for Avery."

"I'd just say to make sure to talk about the fact that you will have another mate upfront," my dad Beck added. "That, and your safety with him being important in that world. Also, ask about the immortality thing. Other than that, you know what happens if you don't mate with him, Kody. I think you're just going to have to make the best of it."

"Yeah, okay, thanks," I whispered, feeling tears burn at the idea of outliving all my family and having to grieve for them through eternity. "I love you all, and I'll call you soon."

"We love you too, Kody," they all answered as we hung up. I parked in front of my shitty apartment and just stared up at it. While I hated it, my job, and lots about my life, I just didn't know if I was ready for what came next. A knock on the window made me jump as I saw Conley standing outside of my car looking confused.

## **Chapter 2**

“Will I really become immortal?” I asked as I got out of the car, trying to keep my tears at bay. “Will I watch my family all die one day and have centuries to deal with that grief?”

“Yes,” he answered gently as he reached out for me. I pulled away as I let his words sink in, closing the car door and hitting the key fob. He followed me quietly as I hurried, still naked, up to my apartment and let us in. Once the door was closed behind us, I leaned my back against it as he stared at me. “Who were you talking to on the phone, my tiger?”

“My parents,” I whispered as I felt the tears screaming for release. “They told me who you are and what will happen to me, Conley. I don’t really care that you’re all important and people could want you or me dead because of some bullshit power play. I do care that I’d have to watch them all die one day. And it’s not like it’s really an option on whether to mate or not. Because I don’t know what you know about tiger shifters, but we die if we don’t claim our mates when we meet them, and I have two mates, and you’re....”

“Shh, please, my tiger, you’re breaking my heart.” Conley soothed me as he broke off my ramble by pulling me into his arms. I broke then, letting the tears fall. I’d waited so fucking long to find my mate and be happy that I never saw these potential issues. “I know you will have two mates, my tiger, and I will do my best to deal with that, Kody. We can keep your family alive as long as you want, okay? It’s a vampire secret, but if that’s what it takes to make you happy and keep you in my life, I’ll do it.”

“What do you mean?” I sniffled as I stared up at him. He kissed me softly as he wiped away my tears with one hand as the other ran down my back.

“You don’t have to be mated to a vampire for the immortality, simply have had vampire blood,” he answered. “They won’t turn into one, or become my mate, but if they have some of my blood they will become immortal as well. Would that ease your mind on this issue, my tiger?”

“What if they don’t want it?”

“Then you’d have to let nature take its course as if I’d never entered your life, Kody,” Conley said gently as he guided me over to the sofa. “You’d have to watch some of your family die over your life no matter what, my tiger. It’s just the way things are.”

“I know that, I do. It’s just to be so blatantly slapped in the face with it,” I replied as he sat down next to me and put his arm around my shoulder. “It’s just something I’ll need to mull over, you know?”

“Yes, my tiger, I do understand,” he whispered as he started to move away. But that’s not what I wanted. I needed time to think, not away from him. Moving fast, I turned and straddled his lap as I took his face in my hands.

“I’ll need to think about it how to handle this, but it doesn’t change things between us, Conley,” I said gently as I leaned in to rub my cheek against his, marking him with my scent. “There are so many things we need to talk about, being different species of mates. I mean, what do you know about saber tooth tiger shifters?”

“That you have two mates,” he groaned as I kept rubbing my scent over his face, along his neck, and shoulders. “That you need two mates, though I’ve never learned why that is, but if that is what my fated mate needs, my tiger, I will learn to deal with it and share you.”

“They will be your mate too, Conley,” I whispered in his ear as I traced it with my tongue. “And I need two mates because cat shifters go into heat during the lunar cycle after we mate. I will need to suck, lick, touch, kiss, and fuck constantly for three days every month. Is



that something you can live with, my tall vampire? Will you be able to help me when I'm physically in such need for your body it hurts to not have you inside of me?"

"Will you promise to purr for me, my tiger?" He panted as I felt him get rock hard under me. "Can I trust that you will give me your heart along with your glorious body?"

"I'll purr anytime you touch me, Conley." I purred, demonstrating my point as his hands gently cupped my ass. "And yes, I promise to give you my heart as long as you keep it safe and give me yours in return."

"You already have it, Kody," Conley said as he wrapped his arms around me tightly. "I have waited centuries to find you, my sexy tiger. I give you everything I am, all of me, if you want me."

"When do you have to be in Casper?"

"As soon as possible. There are major issues there," he answered, pulling back and staring into my eyes. "What does that have to do with whether you could ever love me or our mating?"

"After we mate, I go into what's affectionately known as honeymoon heat," I said, feeling my skin heating up with need. My hips started to move on their own as I rubbed his groin against my ass, silently begging for what I wanted. "If I claim you now, it will be days of me being in heat and constantly needing your attention, Conley."

"And you have forty-eight hours for me to claim you?" Conley asked, and I could almost see the wheels turning in his head. "Will you trust me, my sexy tiger? I know we have much to discuss, but this is a frightfully short timetable with everything going on and the need we both feel."

"I'm scared, Conley," I whispered, realizing that's how I felt at the idea of trusting him completely and giving him my heart. "I've seen mates not put each other first. Hell, my brother's own mate took months to pull his head out of his ass and it almost crushed Trey to the point of no return."

“I understand that, my tiger,” he replied with a nod. “And time will be the only thing that will prove that I am worthy of your trust and my devotion to you. But I am asking you to trust me now to understand all the pieces and make these decisions for us. I will not ask this of you always, only this time when there isn’t room for delay and explanations.”

I eyed him over several moments, digesting what he said. It didn’t seem as if he had some ulterior motive than to give me what I needed along with his prior commitments. And if I said no now, that would not only be a shitty way to start a mating, but something we might not ever be able to come back from.

“Yes,” I said after a few minutes and was rewarded with the most brilliant smile. Without even meaning to, I started purring on his lap in happiness at the smile directed at me.

“Damn, you’re going to have me wrapped around your little finger with that purring, my sexy tiger.”

“I love your smile, Conley,” I said softly as I traced his lips with my finger. “You’re so beautiful, and I can almost see sunshine in your eyes when you smile.”

“Then, for you, I will smile more often,” he replied before mashing his lips down to mine. I moaned as his tongue immediately thrust into my mouth, savoring the passionate kiss, loving his need for me. Damn, could my man kiss! He’d get me to stay in tiger form and lead me around on a leash if I just got kisses from him. “We must go. We are on a deadline, Kody.”

“Uh-huh,” I said as I pulled him back down to my mouth.

“No, really, my tiger,” Conley chuckled as he broke the kiss again. “Please go pack a bag and, as much as I hate to say it, get dressed as well. Bring whatever you must have for the next week or so while I have people come pack up your apartment. Is there a job you should be giving notice to?”

“Yeah, I can shoot them an e-mail. I hate that job anyways,” I said, coming back to reality. “But I do help my parents out often on their farm. Where do you live?”

“About an hour away from Helena, in a town called Cardwell,” he answered as he stood with me still wrapped around him. “I will figure out a way to fix this, my tiger. But I hope you understand why I cannot move here even if I wanted. I have people who depend on me, Kody.”

“No, I understand,” I replied as he gently set me down on my feet in the bedroom. “But we can visit my parents still, right? And two of my brothers live here and two are in Billings. I just need to make sure that being with you doesn’t cut me off from everyone I already love, Conley.”

“I would never ask that of you, Kody,” Conley said as he ran his hands down my back, getting a shiver from me in response. “I will do everything in my power to give you what you want and need, my mate. We can visit often, and you can visit if I am unable, provided you have security with you, of course.”

“How come you didn’t have security with you now?”

“Because no one knows I have left my home,” he answered as I handed him a bag to pack as I started pulling clothes out. “I received a distress message from the coven in Casper, and they think they are being watched, so I thought it best to come in secret. Normally I do not leave without my security detail, but—no offense to you, Kody--but you also saw how fast vampires can move even compared to shifters. I would never feel comfortable about your safety if you were alone. My enemies are not shifters, Kody, but other vampires.”

“Okay, that makes sense,” I replied after listening to his explanation. Then I saw how we’d worked on packing a bag for me without even discussing it. He met my gaze as the same notion seemed to strike him. “I guess that proves we can work well together.”

“Kody, I know you will have to make changes and sometimes sacrifices to be with me,” Conley said gently as he pulled me against his firm body. “But I swear to you on my own life the good will outweigh the bad, and I will do everything to make you happy always.”

“I believe you, Conley,” I whispered as I saw the truth burning in his eyes. I gave him a quick kiss before moving out of his arms to start getting dressed. “Good thing I amuse easily, huh? I’m kind of low maintenance. Hell, you should have seen the shit I put up with from my last boyfriend for almost a year.”

“I am not just some fucking boyfriend, Kody,” Conley snarled, grabbing my arm roughly. “And there will be no others!”

“Conley.” I gasped in shock at his reaction and appearance. His hands had shifted into claws, his fangs were down, and I swear he was taller and wider in the shoulders. “You’re hurting me.”

“I am so sorry,” he panted as he closed his eyes, shifted back, and loosened his hold on my arm. “Vampires are incredibly possessive, especially before we claim our mate. The need to make you mine is so strong it’s almost like a fog that’s choking me, Kody. I did not mean to hurt you, and I would never intentionally hurt you.”

“Okay,” I said as I pulled away from him, not really sure I believed him. To be honest, I was scared of him. He was quiet as I finished dressing, then I got my things together and grabbed my laptop. Ten minutes later I was done, but I no longer wanted to leave with him. I wanted to cry at the roller coaster ride I was on since I’d met him.

“Are you ready, my sexy tiger?” Conley asked as he reached for one of my bags and went to touch me with his other arm. I let him have the bag as I opened the front door, making sure to step away from him. My dad’s words were coming back to haunt me then—about not being able to run from Conley now that he’d had my blood.

“Yes, let’s go,” I answered, not feeling it but trying not to let him see it. He eyed me over for a moment and then walked out of the

apartment with my bags. I stared at the door I was holding open, with my keys in the lock, and started to shake. Seriously contemplating going back in and locking the door to keep Conley out was not how I planned to ever feel about my mate.

"I don't know what to say or do to make you not scared of me anymore," he whispered from about ten feet away, but I could still hear him with my increased shifter senses. "I can sense your fear of me, Kody. I know you are sad and don't want to come with me anymore, but I don't know how to fix it. Would begging help? I'm not above that where you are concerned. Tell me what to do, and I will fix this."

"I'm not sure you can," I said after several moments. Conley did get points for knowing I was afraid and not pushing me while I got ready. He'd also given me space but said something when he realized I wanted to run. All pointed to a loving, considerate mate that I would want. "You scared me and hurt me, Conley."

"I am sorry for that, Kody," he replied, slowly walking toward me. "I've never felt jealousy like I did when you mentioned your previous boyfriend. I was not ready for that response and that was stupid of me since I've not claimed you yet. I cannot say that I won't ever react like that again because I refuse to lie to you. But I swear on my life that I didn't realize I was hurting you."

"Okay," I said softly as I closed the door to my apartment and locked it. Turning around, we stared at each other for several moments before I moved toward him. "I'm going to trust you and believe you this time, Conley. But don't you ever think that you can touch me in anger just because you're bigger and stronger than me. Are we clear?"

"Yes, we are," he answered with a nod, and I saw the tears gathering in his eyes. "I would give my life freely to keep you safe, my mate. Hurting you is so far from what I ever want for us that I cannot put it into words. I beg your forgiveness."

“You have it,” I replied as I brushed away a single tear that escaped. “I believe you, Conley. Let’s just put it behind us and be careful of our words and actions until we’ve mated so there’s no more misunderstandings, okay?”

“Thank you, my sexy tiger,” he whispered against my lips before giving me a soft kiss. I took his free hand as he led me to out of the building and to his SUV. He smiled as he opened the door for me like a gentleman, making sure I was inside before closing it and walking around to his side. As soon as he pulled away from the curb, Conley reached out and took my hand in his. I gave it a soft squeeze as we made our way to Casper. Together.

## **Chapter 3**

I must have dozed off somewhere in the couple hours drive to Casper. Waking up suddenly, my body felt as if it was on fire. I opened my eyes and started pulling off my shirt. At the same time, I hit the button for the window to let the cold November Wyoming air in.

“Kody, what’s wrong?” Conley asked, fear in his voice.

“I’m on fire,” I gasped as I took off my seat belt and yanked open my jeans. “My body’s overheating with need. I—I can’t control it, Conley.”

“Okay, my tiger, let me pull over so I can help you,” he said firmly as he switched lanes and pulled off on the shoulder. As soon as we were stopped, I had my jeans and shoes off. I unbuckled his belt as I leapt into his lap, mashing my mouth down to his.

“Please, please, I need, my mate,” I whimpered as I ground my erection against his stomach. “Fuck me, please, touch me, stroke me, suck me, bite me. I don’t fucking care, just help me!”

“Will that take the edge off?” He moaned as I tore his shirt open to get access to more of his skin. His hands felt wonderful as he ran them down my back and then squeezed my ass. “What do you want me to do short of letting you claim me, my tiger?”

“I don’t know,” I cried out, unsnapping his suit pants to get at his cock. “I just know I need so bad, Conley, it hurts.”

“Okay, Kody,” he said as he reached down and ran his fingers over my leaking cock. I hissed as I leaned back so my shoulders were on the steering wheel as he lowered the seat back. “Is this better?”

“Yes, god, yes, please,” I begged as he stroked my cock. “Oh fuck, yes, Conley, I need you.”

“I’m right here, my mate,” Conley said as flipped me over and pulled me back against his chest. I rubbed my head against his shoulder, trying to mark him with my scent as he touched me. His right hand was jacking off my cock hard and fast as his left hand traced the muscles in my chest, stopping to pinch my nipples. “I’m going to drink from you so you come faster, Kody. You’re going to feel that numbness again, but I don’t know what else to do.”

“Shove your cock in my ass,” I growled as he kissed my neck.

“I won’t take my mate the first time on the side of the road,” he said firmly. Before I could even reply that I didn’t care, he sunk his fangs in my neck as his thumb ran over the slit of my cock. I screamed as he set off my climax with the force of a tidal wave. Reaching back with one hand, I held his head to my neck as I thrust my hips up.

“Yes, fuck, yeah. That’s so good,” I screamed as I rode out my orgasm. I came so hard that I saw lights flash behind my eyes. It was good the first time he drank from me, but now that he was touching me at the same time it was unbelievable. I cried out as each new wave of bliss hit me until I couldn’t do anything but lie there limp in his lap.

“You are so amazing, my sexy tiger,” he whispered after he’d stopped drinking from me and licked the bite close. “I’m going to have so much fun pleasing you for centuries.”

“Why do I go numb from your bite?” I panted trying to regain my composure as the burning need subsided.

“There’s a chemical that’s released from our fangs when we bite someone. It’s almost like a neurotoxin that numbs our prey. That’s how I was able to take out all of your attackers so fast. All I had to do was bite them. I’ve been meaning to ask why those men were attacking you, my tiger.”



“Will you stay calm if I bring someone up again?” I asked, trying to be subtle instead of blurting out that I was about to talk about my ex-boyfriend.

“He was hurting you?” Conley gasped, and then hugged me tightly. “No wonder you got so afraid when I grabbed you like that.”

“No, he’s never been violent with me before that. I hit my limit of his shit, I dumped him in front of his friends and stormed out. In hindsight that might not have been my smartest moment, but I’d just had it, you know? He was pissed that I dare break up with him and that I didn’t leave until he said so or some bullshit.”

“So you were single for minutes before you met me?” Conley asked, going stiff under me. “That doesn’t bear well for our mating, my tiger.”

“I didn’t even like him, Conley,” I admitted, shame washing over me as I tried to move. “I was lonely and so tired of having no one. I’m not even sure you could call what we did dating or that he was my boyfriend. It was more like I’d hang out with him and his friends even though they basically ignored me the whole time and then sometimes we’d have sex after they left. Not for the past month or so, because I wasn’t into it.”

“He did not treat you well?” he asked as he leaned over and pulled out some wipes from the glove box and then cleaned me up as I purred. “His loss is my gain, though I would have found you either way and hopefully convinced you to choose me.”

“There wouldn’t have been a choice,” I whispered as he moved me enough that I could turn my face into his neck. “He’s nothing compared to you already, Conley. I want you, and not just because of the pull to mate. It’s more than that, it isn’t just physical for me. I want to know you.”

“I feel the same way, my tiger,” Conley replied as he kissed me gently. He moved me over to the other seat and redressed me as I leaned against the window like a wet noodle.

“What about you?” I asked, forcing myself to move and touch his cheek. “It’s not fair to leave you hanging like this.”

“Your blood actually helps quell my own need to mate. I still want you and am hard, but I want to get to Casper so we are not out in the open like this.”

“How dangerous is the situation we’re walking into, Conley?” I asked as he finished dressing me, turning me in the chair, and buckling me in. “And will I always go numb like this?”

“No, after we mate you will become immune to the chemical,” he answered with a wink as he pulled back onto the highway. “And I’m not sure how dangerous it is. I was needed, so I came, not planning on having found you along the way, of course. It seemed to me they called before things got out of hand instead of waiting for everything to go to hell.”

“Well, that’s smart at least.” I chuckled as I saw the sign saying Casper was in five miles. “At least I had a meltdown before we were in their coven. I’m not thinking you’d like the idea of me getting naked and jumping you in front of everyone.”

“As a rule, no, I wouldn’t,” he said as he took my hand. “But this isn’t normal circumstances, my tiger. If you needed me like that, I would understand and drop everything to tend to you.”

“Good to know, because I hear that’s kind of how we are when we’re in heat,” I snickered. He exited then, and I saw we were driving away from town instead of toward it. Minutes later we pulled up into the long driveway of a large house—not a mansion, just a big plantation house almost. I couldn’t see too much since it was dark and the only light was the headlights from his SUV.

“Just follow my lead, my tiger,” Conley said as he parked the car and then we got out. “And if you start having that need again let me know as soon as it starts so we can get away without drawing attention to the fact I’ve not claimed you yet.”

“Okay, I’ll try to behave,” I snickered, fully able to move again as we walked to the main doors. They opened immediately as a vampire about Conley’s height, but with more muscles, greeted us.

“Conley, I appreciate you coming so soon. I’m Michael,” he said as he shook hands with my mate. “And this must be your mate, Kody.”

“Yes, it was a shock to sense him on the way here, but I hope you can understand why I’d like all this handled as soon as possible so that we may enjoy our mating,” Conley informed Michael as we shook hands.

“Of course, please follow me,” he said as he let go of my hand and turned to lead the way up the flight of stairs. “I called the head of the Wyoming and Dakota covens when this situation arose, but I sensed he was all too eager to take over their charge. We’ve had scouts in the area, but I can’t be sure if it’s the hunters after the shifters or his men. Again, I’m not trying to start trouble, Conley. Most of this is just gut instinct.”

“I understand, and I’m glad you contacted me,” Conley answered as he reached for my hand. I saw then that he was missing a few buttons from when I ripped his shirt earlier and the idea started to get me going again. I dropped his hand and shook my head when he looked at me in question. It seemed he understood because he gave me a nod and let it go.

We followed Michael into a large dining room, and I immediately smelled other cats. On instinct, my hands shifted into claws as I moved in front of my mate and snarled.

“Cheetahs,” I said by way of explanation when Conley touched my shoulder. “Why are there cheetahs in a vampire coven?”

“I’m sorry. I thought it would be better to tell you in here with them so I know that no one’s listening.”

“Not a problem. Just start talking,” I replied as I tried to calm down. Looking over at the ten cheetah shifters, they didn’t appear to be any threat. They looked more scared of us than aggressive.

“One of our coven members found them on the run,” Michael said as he gestured one of them to come forward. “This is Cassiel Cowell, the eldest of the Cowell brothers. They’ve been on the run from hunters.”

“Yes, they killed our parents and wanted two litters of cheetah shifters,” Cassiel stated as we all shook hands. I’d made sure to have shifted completely back first as to not show aggression as we all sat down. “We ran with the clothes on our back and all fit into one SUV. We got as far as Casper before we broke down and ran out of cash. It seemed best to not leave a credit card trail or access our bank accounts.”

“No, of course, that was very wise,” Conley said gently as he leaned over to take the man’s hand. I was growling before I’d even realized it, blushing with embarrassment as Conley smiled widely. “We just found each other, so we’re still working on our natural tendencies.”

“Of course, I understand completely,” Cassiel replied as he gave me a wink. “I have no sights on your man, Kody. I promise you.”

“Sorry, you understand the first week being a cat shifter,” I said trying to imply my meaning. His eyes went wide for an instant before he caught himself and hid his reaction.

“Yes, we’re under the same constraints,” he smiled gently. “None of us have found our mates yet. My litter of five is twenty-three, while my younger brothers are twenty. So, yeah, a little early to really get out in the world and look for our mates, but we know how it goes.”

“What do you need from me here, Michael?” Conley asked, leading the conversation away from our covert conversation of that we hadn’t really mated yet. “Are you requiring more protection? A safe place for the cheetahs?”

“Honestly, I don’t know, Conley,” he sighed, rubbing his hands over his face. “We’re not a big enough coven to protect them from hunters, and if the head of the local covens wants them for whatever reason, we really can’t help them. But then if you take them and keep

them safe, we're still a target. I called you because I know this isn't something I know how to handle."

"I understand," my mate replied as he leaned back in his chair. I purred as he scrunched his eyebrows together, that brain of his thinking in that sexy, pensive look he had I was starting to love. He looked at me with a smirk, his eyes filling with lust as he realized I was turned on. "No purring right now, my sexy tiger."

"You plot to save the world while I go meet my brother cat shifters," I chuckled as I stood up with Cassiel and gestured for him to lead the way. When we were far enough away from Conley and Michael, but not close enough for his brothers to hear, I leaned in and whispered to Cassiel. "He's a big shot, and it could be bad if the other vamps knew we've not mated yet."

"I understand, no worries from us." Cassiel winked at me as we reached his brothers. "These four are of my litter—Raguel, Rashnu, Raziel, and Cameal. Yes, our parents had a thing for angel names and no, we don't use our full names ever. Most people call me Cass."

"I'm really just Kody," I shrugged, understanding with names that were such a mouthful. "And the other litter?"

"In order is Hameal, Hael, Sariel, Samandiriel, and Shemael," Cass said as he pointed them out in turn. "We also have three sisters that are studying overseas, and we have yet to contact them."

"I am very sorry for your loss," I replied when a few of them looked down, realizing why they'd have to contact their sisters. "My younger brother was held in captivity for almost thirty years by hunters, performing at some freak show circus."

"Why a freak show one? Why not a real circus?" Heal asked, his voice soft as he stood partially behind an older brother.

"I'm a saber tooth tiger, not a regular one." I explained, knowing shifters couldn't smell the difference normally since we were so rare. "There's no way he wouldn't have made national news in a real circus, but in a freak show one, most people assumed his teeth were glued on or something."

“Fair enough,” Cass said as they all sat back down on that end of the table, most holding hands or touching in some way. It was a cat shifter thing to want to be touched by people who care when in distress. I was distracted when a sweet scent hit my nose.

“Mine,” I growled as I turned and raced over to where Conley was talking with Michael and a few other vampires. He opened his arms for me, but instead I jumped the man next to him. Leaping into his arms, he caught me easily against his larger body. He mashed his lips down onto mine as I wrapped my body around his.

“What the fuck,” Conley yelled, pulling me back to reality. “I’m your mate, Kody.”

“Y—you both are,” I whispered as I immediately tried to get down off the other vampire. “I—I’m s—sorry, Conley. I smelled him, I-I didn’t mean to upset you. I wasn’t thinking.”

“What do you mean we *both* are?” The man holding me snarled as he stared at Conley. “I’m not sharing my mate!”

“Cat shifters get two mates,” I replied, trying to untangle myself from him. “Please, let me go and we can talk.”

“No, you’re mine.” He gasped, pain written all over his gorgeous face. He had the darkest blue eyes that looked almost black and dark blond hair. “Why do you want away from me?”

“Because you’re upset, and Conley’s mad,” I answered, feeling his anger without even looking at him. He glanced over at the other vampire as I did and, sure enough, Conley was seething, already having shifted. My other mate let me down as he pushed me behind him.

“He says he’s both our mate and you will not hurt him, Conley,” he snarled as I wanted to curl up in a ball. I couldn’t help what happened next if I’d wanted to. The amount of stress, fear, confusion, and grief swarmed me as I shifted into my full tiger form. “Holy shit, he’s not one of the cheetahs?”

“No, he’s my sexy tiger, Marc,” Conley snapped at my other mate before turning to me. At least I knew my other mate’s name was Marc

now. “Kody, will you please shift back so we can talk? I’ll try to keep calm, okay?”

“He’s not *your* tiger, Conley. He’s our tiger,” Marc yelled as he pushed Conley, ignoring what he’d just said about keeping calm. Instead of watching anymore of this, I roared loudly, getting everyone’s attention. Both men looked at me with sad eyes, and I couldn’t take it. I turned and leapt at the doors, breaking them open as I fled.

“Kody, wait!” Conley shouted after me as I raced down the stairs past a few wide-eyed vampires. Someone saw me coming and opened the main door before I broke it down like the other ones. Once I was outside, I just ran. I didn’t know what else to do as my emotions swirled and swarmed over me. I knew I’d have to go back eventually. I had less than two days to claim them.

For now I ran, needing the freedom and lack of confinement as I sorted through things. I’m not sure how long I ran, knowing full well Conley would find me since he’d had my blood. But I ran and ran until my legs started to buckle from exhaustion. Next thing I knew, I was finding a spot to lie down and rest. It was a stupid move considering there were hunters that were looking for the cheetahs, but right then, I didn’t give a fuck.

## Chapter 4

“I found him.” I heard someone call out, waking me from my fitful dreams. I was shivering as I lay naked in the snow, having shifted back in my sleep. “I’ve got him, Conley.”

“Kody, are you okay, my mate?” Conley asked as Marc lifted me into his arms. He tucked me into his jacket against his chest as Conley covered me with his coat. It was big enough to be a full size blanket that I snuggled into, pulling it over my face. “Hey, it’s okay now, my tiger, you’re safe.”

“N–no more fighting,” I chattered out from under his coat. I realized how large Marc was then. I mean, I knew he was almost as tall as Conley, right around six six, but he was probably about fifty pounds heavier. And the weight was pure muscle. Both men were gorgeous. Conley had that slimmer, taller look, while Marc was tall and ripped.

“We talked a bit while we were looking for you, baby,” Marc said as he pulled down the coat enough to see my face. Again, I was lost in his deep, dark blue eyes. “We can’t promise never to fight again, Kody. But we are going to try and be civil with each other, and this has nothing to even do with you. Yes, neither of us is a fan of the idea of sharing our mate.”

“But Marc and I have a history,” Conley yelled over the loud blowing sound. Glancing in the direction we were walking I saw that they were taking me to a helicopter. “We dated a long time ago, and it didn’t work out. That doesn’t mean it can’t now, but neither of us is willing to give you up.”



“G—good because I’ll die if I don’t claim you both now that I’ve smelled you,” I answered, the coldness in my bones easing. Marc nodded as he climbed into the chopper with me in his arms. Conley sat down next to us before closing the door. “I’ve never been in a helicopter before.”

“I called for extra protection for the Casper coven,” Conley explained as we took off. “The cheetahs will be much safer at my compound, but if the hunters come looking for them, I don’t want to leave my people in danger.”

“I agreed, especially since I’m leaving that coven to come live with my mate,” Marc said, giving me a wink. That one sexy gesture and I wasn’t cold anymore, quite the opposite, I was burning up. I turned in his embrace, straddling his lap as I threw my arms around him.

“I need,” I purred as I licked along his neck to his ear. “I’m overheating again, Conley.”

“What does that mean?” Marc moaned as I moved my hands to run them up and under his sweater. “Shit, that purring is hot, baby.”

“It means I need my mates to fuck me and let me claim them,” I whispered in his ear as I ground my erection against his. “It means I get like this for three days after we mate and three days every month around the lunar cycle. I need two mates just to keep me sexually satisfied.”

“Oh, sweet mercy, the mouth on you, my sexy tiger,” Conley groaned as he leaned over and licked my neck where he’d bitten me earlier. My hips started thrusting faster against Marc’s as Conley ran his hands over my ass. “We’ll be home soon, Kody. It shouldn’t take more than half an hour by chopper.”

“Too long. That’s too long, Conley,” I panted, glancing between the two of them, begging them with my eyes. “It gets stronger every second I’m near either of you, but with both of you here, looking so tasty, I’m almost in pain. My cat smells you and is dying to get out and claim you.”

“You claim us in tiger form?” Conley asked, his eyes going wide. “H–how does that work?”

“No, I shift into my half and half form that you saw when we met,” I answered with a whimper. “Please, take care of your mate!”

And they did. Marc moved me to lie on the seat between them and gave me a world-class blow job as Conley kissed me and tortured my nipples. They left me panting and sated as the chopper landed. The moment it touched down, Conley wrapped my naked body in his coat and carried me out of the helicopter.

“Hang on, my sexy tiger, I’m needing you now,” he said as he raced from the chopper and into a huge mansion I barely got a chance to see. Seconds later we were in what I guessed was his room as I landed on the bed with him following me down. I didn’t even hold back anymore, shredding his clothes with my claws as he kissed me. “It’s going to take a while to stretch me out. I don’t normally bottom.”

“I remember a time you loved to bottom.” Marc snickered as he got undressed. He shrugged when we both shot him a dirty look, but we kept quiet. “What can I do to help?”

“Get yourself ready.” I growled as a now naked Conley reached over to the night stand. He chuckled as the remains of his shirt sleeves slid down his arms and off his hands. “Sorry, I won’t always be this bad.”

“I love that you want me this badly, my tiger,” he replied, staring at me with lust as he squirted lube on his fingers. He sat back on his ass as he reached for his hole while passing the lube to a very naked Marc. Both of watched me as they got themselves stretched out for me. I couldn’t hold back the change as I moved to the head of the bed to get a better view of them.

“I can’t fucking believe you’re both my mates,” I purred as I stroked myself. They both eyed my larger cock that came with my bigger half and half form. It was leaking copious amounts of pre-cum as I watched the bounty before me. I mean, how many men were ever

lucky enough to have two gorgeous, model-quality hot men stretching themselves staring at me with lust. I was like a kid in a candy store.

"I was thinking the same thing about you, baby," Marc said as he pushed in a third finger. "And this honeymoon heat lasts for days, does it?"

"Yep, but I'll let you get naps in." I purred, taking the time to lick my lips so they got a good look at my large tiger tongue. "And I'll make sure to eat out both your hot asses so you can feel the fun of being mated to a tiger."

"Okay, I'm ready, my tiger," Conley moaned as he pulled his fingers from his ass and got on all fours. I growled my approval as he leaned down and presented his ass to me. "Claim me, my mate."

"Gladly," I snarled, crawling toward him as I stalked my prey. I leaned over to lick his sac a few times, loving that he shivered and groaned under my attention. Then I knelt behind him and lined up my cock with his pretty pink hole. "Are you ready for me, Conley?"

"Yes, Kody. I give myself willingly to you, my mate."

"As I do you," I replied as I entered him slowly. He had been telling the truth when he'd said it had been a long time since he'd bottomed. I heard him gasp in pain as I pushed past the first ring of the muscles in his ass. "Let me know when I can move, Conley."

"Oh, he likes the pain and burning, don't you?" Marc said to our mate as he kept playing with his ass. "Unless that's changed?"

"No, I love it. You don't have to wait, Kody."

I did as he asked, pulling back enough to thrust forward again. He moaned and pushed back against me as I worked my cock into his tight grip. When I was finally seated all the way in him, I took a moment to savor the feeling of being inside my mate for the first time.

"Oh, shit, I thought I'd be dying of jealousy, but it's just too hot to watch you guys together." Marc moaned as he started to stroke his dick with his other hand. "I so get to join in next time, right?"

"Yes," I hissed as I started moving in and out of Conley. "Rise up on all fours, my big vampire."

“Okay,” he panted, doing as I asked. “Please, my sexy tiger, give it to me. I need you so badly.”

“Fuck, you’re so tight, Conley,” I groaned as I started thrusting into him harder. His hips met mine hard as I picked up the pace, our balls smacking against each other so firmly it sent chills up my spine. “I’m not going to last long.”

“Take what you need,” Conley said as he tilted his neck to the side, baring himself to me. I leaned over and licked that spot where his shoulder met his neck before sinking my teeth into him. He cried out under me, shooting his load all over the bed as his ass clamped down on my cock. Three more hard thrusts into him and I was roaring out my release as well.

“You’re mine now,” I cried out as another wave of my orgasm washed over me. Just as it started to ebb, the mating knot on my cock extended and latched onto his prostate. Conley yelled out my name as he came all over again. “That happens with true mates when I’m in this form.”

“It’s magical,” he hissed before collapsing under me. I held him up as I rotated my hips so he didn’t land in his own spunk.

“What happens?” Marc asked as he got into position, waiting for me to claim him.

“You’ll see.” I purred as the knot receded. Pulling out of my mate, I gently laid him on his side before moving over to Marc.

“You’re still hard, baby,” he whispered as he glanced at me over his shoulder.

“My body knows I have another mate waiting for me to claim.”

“I’m ready for you. Fuck me into passing out like you did Conley.”

“It’s not a contest, Marc,” I said gently as I lined up my dick with his hole. “I can care for you equally and differently at the same time.”

“I know, baby,” he replied as he pushed back against my cock. I wasn’t ready to claim him until this got resolved. “I just want the same experience with my mate as you guys had.”

That was enough for me to understand that it wasn't jealousy motivating him. I pushed forward inside of him and claimed my mate hard and fast. Biting him when we were both close, Marc learned firsthand how wonderful the mating knot could be.

When it was over, he'd passed out as well. I took care of my mates before curling up in between them to nap before the next round started. From that point on, I'd probably go back to being the bottom as I preferred since I'd already claimed them. I smiled as sleep swarmed me, feeling whole for the first time in my life now that I'd found my mates and made them mine.

\* \* \* \*

Toward the middle of the third day, Marc was fucking me like a man possessed as I lay with my back on the bed and my legs spread in the air. I knew I'd be aching for days after the sex-a-thon we'd had, but I would relish in every sore muscle that reminded me of the fun we'd had.

"Well, this is quite a sight to come back to," Conley said as he entered our room.

"No matter how often we fuck him, he's still so damn tight," Marc grunted out in between thrusts as Conley got naked. "His ass is like heaven, and he's into every kink we love."

"Harder, Marc," I whimpered, needing more to push me over the edge. "I want to come without touching my cock."

"I know what my tiger needs," Conley said as he moved over to the bed. My head was hanging off the side, perfectly aligned to swallow his cock when he leaned over me. Taking his lead, I licked the head of his dick as Marc fucked me harder. "Oh, yeah, Kody, that's what I wanted to come home to."

"Do you want to finish in my mouth or fuck me next?" I asked, staring up at him with a smile.

"Both?"

“Works for me,” I answered, swallowing down as much of him as I could. Just the taste of him drove me nuts as Marc lifted my hips up, hitting my sweet spot on each thrust. I cried out around the dick in my mouth moments later when I came, shooting my seed all over my stomach and chest.

“Yes,” Marc hissed as he went stiff before roaring out his release, shooting stream after stream of cum inside of me. I loved the feeling of my mates filling me up, sucking harder on Conley. As soon as Marc was spent, he pulled out of me with a groan as I tried to take more of our mate in my mouth.

“I want that sweet ass, my sexy tiger,” Conley said as way of an explanation as he pulled out of my mouth. I rolled over panting, still feeling a little limp from my last orgasm. I watched as my gorgeous mate pulled me onto his lap as he scooted up toward the headboard.

“Want me to ride you?” I asked as he stopped moving, sitting up. I’d found it was one of Conley’s favorite positions. He smiled and nodded as he held his cock for me to climb on. I did what he wanted, still in honeymoon heat but so tired it was hard for me to keep going. I wasn’t sure which need I had was stronger right then. The one my heat gave me for my mates, or the rest of my body screaming for rest.

“You do feel like heaven, my mate,” Conley whispered in my ear after I took his cock all the way inside of me. “I don’t have much time before my next meeting, my tiger. We’re going to have to make this quick.”

“I love how you say that to me every time we fuck,” I grumbled as I lifted my hips and slammed back down. Not wanting to fight, even though I knew what I said would probably start trouble, I licked around Conley’s ear, knowing it drove him wild with desire. It worked, because he started thrusting up as hard as I came down on him.

“I can’t ignore everything else in my life, Kody,” he grunted as he tightened his hold on my hips. I knew it was true, but that didn’t mean I always wanted to feel rushed when I was being intimate with my

mate. Instead of answering, I moved faster as he helped me ride him like a bucking bronco. "May I, my tiger?"

"Yes," I hissed, knowing he was asking to drink from me. I was honestly surprised I had any blood left in me the way they were both drinking from me. Shifters healed and recovered faster than humans, but they normally bit me during sex, and after almost three straight days of it I figured that was part of why I was so tired.

"Thank you, Kody," he whispered, kissing my neck before sinking his fangs into me. I screamed as I held onto his shoulders tighter, riding him hard. We came together, both crying out the other's name as I filled the space between us with my seed. His cock exploded in my ass, and with the cum already inside of me from Marc, Conley filled me up until it ran right back out of me.

"Don't leave just yet," I panted as I enjoyed our post orgasmic glow, wrapped around him as he started to move. "I need you, Conley."

"You just had me, my tiger," he chuckled as he rolled me gently onto my back. I stared into his eyes as he pulled out of me, moved off me, and climbed off the bed. He leaned back down to give me a quick kiss, and I doubted he even noticed that I didn't kiss him back. I felt as if I was being childish, but I couldn't help the way I felt.

"Needing you is about more than just fucking me," I whispered after he went into the bathroom to get cleaned up. Marc moved on the bed and spooned along my back. "I'm sorry. You shouldn't have to deal with me like this when you weren't the one to cause it."

"Your pain is my pain, baby," he said gently as he pulled the covers over us. I snuggled back against him as I thought about what he said. The two and a half days of my honeymoon heat and Marc had barely left my side. I think the only time he did was to go get us more food and drink while Conley took his turn.

Conley, on the other hand, arrived like he just had, fucked me and left again. I knew he was a very busy man, but I couldn't help feeling cheap and somewhat used. His mate was in heat, and he acted as if he

had a hooker waiting to constantly please him. Conley had yet to just hold me afterwards or even partake in much foreplay. And wasn't that half the fun? Taking the time to learn every inch of your mate's body instead of just their favorite position.

"I wish I could play in bed with you guys all day." Conley chuckled as he came out of the bathroom with a towel around his waist. He had another one in his hand as he dried his shoulder length, dark brown hair. "What a life it must be to lie around and have sex whenever you want."

I stared after him in shock as he moved into the huge walk-in closet to change. Did he really just think that's all there was to me? Just some nympho that lounged around waiting for his next sex fix? I pulled away from Marc, needing some space as I crawled out of the bed.

"He doesn't speak for both of us, Kody," Marc said gently but firmly as he held onto my hand. "However you want to handle it I'll back you, okay? I'm not trying to start shit between you two, but I want you to know that I'm here for you, baby."

"Glad one of my mates sees me as more than just his waiting whore to entertain him," I whispered as the tears started to burn in my eyes. Without waiting for Marc's response, I left the bedroom and went into the bathroom. I closed the door behind me for some privacy, not that there was ever much to be had with all of our heightened hearing.

This wasn't the first time I'd retreated to the shower to cry. I turned it on and stepped in, letting my head fall back on my shoulders as the water ran down my used body. And that's how I felt with Conley... used.

I knew it was still early in our mating and that things could change, but in my heart I knew the truth. Conley didn't respect me. And he still hadn't done anything about Marc being his mate as well. Oh, he had no problem sharing me with our mate, but Conley didn't ever touch Marc, always making sure I was there to be the buffer.



And things couldn't go on like this. But was it too soon to say something?

Then I wondered if it was even my place to say anything about their relationship. Though it all seemed to tie in to the same fact that Conley didn't treat us as equals. And then I went back to the fact I was so tired and had barely slept the past couple of days. Maybe I just needed some sleep to get perspective? Running with that idea as I cleaned up, I made up my mind to give everyone more time before deciding if there was a problem or not.

## Chapter 5

Two weeks later, it was obvious that time wouldn't change a damn thing with the way Conley treated us. He was completely civil to Marc, talking as if they were old friends sharing a toy instead of mates. And me... me he treated like a possession he could play with when the mood struck him.

It got worse, much worse, as time went on. I almost went ballistic when he had someone summon me to his office only to find out Conley was in the mood for a blow job. He hadn't even tried to play it off in front of a few of his advisors. Instead, he announced that he needed alone time with me because he wanted to indulge in my tiger tongue. Not wanting to start shit, I did as he asked and left.

Over the two weeks, since my honeymoon heat was completed, I'd finally gotten the chance to leave the bedroom and explore. Conley made a few comments that he was glad I'd decided to stop lounging around all day. And it hurt that my mate saw me that way. But how could I complain if that was the way he felt? I mean, no matter what I said I couldn't change how he saw me.

I'd been editing some of my brothers' books on the side when they needed the extra help. But now that I had nothing but time and couldn't just leave to go to a normal job given who I was mated to, I started doing it full-time. I also picked up other authors' books from their publishers and found I loved the job.

I learned a lot about Marc as well, though I spent a lot of time feeling guilty for the short end of the stick he kept getting. Not only was Conley not respecting him as a mate, Marc ended up holding me when our mate had hurt my feelings. Or talking to me about how I

saw the situation. Basically, he cleaned up Conley's mess half the time. And I didn't think that was right for him to have to deal with.

It ended up that Marc had been head of security for the Casper coven, but not had a role in this new place. We ended up finding him some side work since he was a computer genius. He worked on my brothers' websites to promote their books and handled updates, etc. I liked the idea of both of us helping my already stressed-out brothers, but it also brought in some money. Not that we needed it with who our mate was, but it helped fill the hours.

Life with Marc was comfortable, and I was completely in love with him. The only thing that really kept our life together from being happy was Conley. He was demanding, inattentive, demeaning at times, and really didn't seem to give a rat's ass about either of us. Sure, he loved fucking me in every position possible, but again, you could hire people for that. It wasn't what mating was all about.

"I have time for our afternoon tryst, my sexy tiger," Conley announced as he walked into the sitting room of our suite. I was working on my brother Quinn's latest book and, really, I wasn't at a stopping point. "Do you have your plug in?"

"Of course," I answered, trying to keep my emotions under control. That was one of the areas Conley was demanding. He'd decided I should always be wearing a butt plug so he didn't have to be bothered with taking the time to stretch me out. And, yeah, that's really how he'd put it. "I'm working though, Conley. I really don't have time to play."

"Kody, your brothers pay you to read their books. That's a hobby, not a job." He chuckled, looking at me as if I was a child he had to placate. "I mean, I know you leave notes and whatnot, so it's not like they give you money for nothing. But it's not important and it can wait."

"Is that how you really feel about what I do?" I asked as I looked up at him slowly, shocked at how blunt he was being. The kicker was he didn't seem to get how mean he was being to me.

“How should I feel?” Conley replied, raising an eyebrow at me as he started to get undressed. “Come on, my sexy tiger, your mate needs you.”

“Of course,” I whispered as I closed my laptop. When he put it that way, I knew I’d put his desire to fuck over my own not to. Conley motioned for me to hurry up as I stood up and got undressed. I faced away from him as I stripped so he wouldn’t see the tears, but then again, maybe that’s exactly what he needed to see.

“I missed my mate laying all over me this morning,” he said as he molded his naked body against mine. I’d been purposely laying on the outside of the bed with Marc in the middle, knowing Conley would sleep on the other side of him instead of trying to move in between us. “Maybe I should start spanking my sexy tiger? Is that something that would make you purr, Kody? I’ve missed your purring.”

*Give me reason to purr and I will*, I thought as he kissed along my neck. He pushed me over the arm of the couch as he ran his hands down my back and to my ass. I groaned as he pulled out the plug, unable to keep it inside as it scraped over my prostate.

“I’ll make this good for you, my tiger,” Conley said as he started to push inside of me. I braced my hands on the couch cushions as he thrust the rest of the way in. Part of keeping my mouth shut was the fact I was too tired to start any drama or fight with anyone. Conley was still drinking from me each time we had sex, which was at least three times a day. And it was taking a toll on me.

*He never even kissed me*. I realized like a ton of bricks. Oh, he’d kissed along my neck, but he never even kissed my lips or bothered to pretend to give me any foreplay. Hell, he didn’t even notice that I wasn’t hard as he started pounding into me. That’s all it took to push me into a deep pit of despair. I started crying, biting my lip to keep quiet as he fucked me.

“I love being with you, Kody,” he grunted as he thrust harder.

*You love fucking me, but you don’t love me*. I sobbed wordlessly as the tears fell rapidly now. My mate was taking me like a prostitute

as I cried the entire time, and he never even fucking noticed. I really wondered if he'd leave money on the nightstand after he was done with me.

"That's enough, Conley," Marc yelled as he stormed over to us. I hadn't even seen him enter the room, but there he was staring at me, and I knew he saw everything.

"What are you talking about?" Conley asked as he never slowed his pace. "We're just playing in between my meetings."

"Kody's sobbing, you selfish prick," Marc screamed as he pulled his arm back and punched our mate.

Conley stumbled back, slipping out of my ass as Marc pulled off his shirt. He turned me toward him and pulled it over my naked body as he kissed my forehead. I couldn't be quiet or hold it in anymore, collapsing against him as I sobbed.

"He wasn't even hard, Conley. How could you not see that your mate wasn't excited or into the fucking you were giving him? Not to mention he was crying. What is wrong with you? And you wonder why the fuck we broke up and I've not tried to get back with you since we learned we were both mated to Kody?"

"What is the meaning of this, Kody?" Conley growled as he came closer to us. In a flash, Marc pushed me behind him as he confronted our mate.

"You're a selfish bastard who treats us like second-class citizens," Marc sneered.

"I'm asking my mate what's going on, Marc," he replied, his expression hard until he glanced at me. Conley did a double take when he saw the tears still pouring down my cheeks as I held onto Marc's hips to keep me standing. His face softened as he went to take a step toward me, and I flinched. "Kody? What's going on, my tiger?"

"I'm not your tiger, not really," I whispered, not having the energy to even talk at normal volume. The need to sleep was getting worse each day. Hell, half the time I stood up I needed to sit right

back down. And I'd been standing for several minutes since Conley came in to fuck me.

"What does that mean?" Conley snarled, his upper lip pulling back over his teeth. "You're my mate, Kody."

"Then start treating him like a mate should be treated," Marc shouted as he moved us over to one of the chairs. He sat me down in it and knelt in front of me as he cupped my cheek with his hand. "What do you need, baby? How about some juice? Did he drink from you again already?"

"No, we'd just started when you came in," I answered, leaning heavily against his hand. "I guess it is lunchtime. I wasn't paying attention to the clock. I was trying to get Quinn's new book done. It's just been taking me longer to focus."

"I know, Kody," he said gently as he kissed my cheek. "I'm sorry for all of this, baby. But I can't stand by anymore and watch this. You'd give yourself to the point of death to please him, and I won't lose you because he's a bastard."

"Excuse me?" Conley roared from behind Marc, but I was too tired to care. I kissed my mate's palm and leaned against the side extension on the back of the chair.

"I trust you to do what you think is best, Marc," I replied as what I'd realized during sex with Conley had been the last straw. "We can leave if you think that's what we need, I just don't care anymore. I want to be happy with you, my mate."

"What the fuck is going on here?" Conley yelled, pulling on Marc's shoulder. In a flash, they were across the room where Marc had Conley pinned against the wall. Conley struggled in vain as Marc held him easily.

"You are killing our mate, and he's cared about you too much to tell you." Marc growled, and Conley stopped fighting.

"What?"

"You drink from him three times a day, Conley," Marc said firmly as if trying to smack him upside the head. "That's what, at least four

pints of blood? There's no way his body can reproduce that every day. You're slowly killing him. You pick on him for lounging around and sleeping while you run around and conquer the world. Hell, I've heard you talk about how being mated has given you so much more energy. Who do you think you're getting that energy from?"

"I-I didn't realize," Conley stuttered, glancing between me and Marc. "Why didn't you tell me, my tiger?"

"Just stop fucking calling me that," I said as new tears started to fall. "You don't care about me. I'm just a toy to you. Your afternoon delight and live-in whore that you don't even kiss anymore."

"Kody, no," he gasped, his eyes going wide. "I-I love you."

"Bullshit!" I screamed, jumping to my feet. As soon as I did, I wished I hadn't, as the edges of my vision went fuzzy. I flopped right back in the chair and Marc was at my side. Conley had moved to me as well, but Marc pushed him away and pointed to the sofa.

"You stay over there, I'm done letting you hurt him, Conley."

"I'd never hurt Kody. I didn't realize about the blood," he said as he sat down and rubbed his hands over his face. "I wasn't paying attention like I should have."

"Because you don't care about me," I replied as I stared at him, no longer afraid of pissing him off. "You get so angry with me if I dare question something you say or ask for something. Hell, you make me wear a butt plug so you won't have to be bothered to stretch me out for sex. I'm just your goddamn whore, my *mate*."

Conley flinched as I said the word with such venom as if I'd slapped him across the face. But I was far from done.

"You came in here wanting your afternoon sex, and I said I was working. Oh, but that's not a job, right? I just read books for a living. Which is really more a hobby my brothers pay me for some comments."

"He said that?" Marc snarled at Conley as he stood and got in our mate's face. "And you wonder why I left you all those years ago. The

worst part is you're treating Kody worse than you ever did me, and he's your fucking mate."

"I didn't mean it like that," Conley said as he looked at me, but even to me his words sounded hollow. "I mean, I did, but I didn't realize how bad it sounded. Or that you were so sensitive about your work."

"You think calling my job a joke is being sensitive?" I laughed, and not in a happy kind of way. "Are you just ever wrong, Conley?"

"What do you mean?" He asked, tilting his head to the side in confusion.

"You were upset that I wasn't laying all over you last night. Did you think that I didn't want to, or that I just wasn't paying attention? You make comments about wanting me to purr but never stopped to ask why I wasn't. Fuck, you didn't even realize I wasn't hard as you slammed your cock into me until Marc said something. You act like a dick about my job and then give some half-assed attempt at an apology by calling me sensitive."

"You've been intentionally not lying by me at night?" Conley asked, the glint of anger back in his eyes. "Is this because Marc has all the time in the world to give you attention and I'm busy?"

"No, it's the same reason that I wasn't hard during sex just now," I answered, shaking my head in grief at our relationship dying before my eyes. "It's because I've started wondering how much you're going to leave me on the nightstand after you're done shoving your cock in my ass."

"Now wait just a minute," Conley growled, but Marc interrupted him by pushing him back against the couch.

"You will listen to him, Conley, or we walk out those doors for good," Marc said firmly. Conley looked from him to me, and I nodded in agreement.

"It's been days since you've kissed me, Conley. I mean, really kissed me," I whispered as tears started to burn in my eyes again. "I'm not talking about kissing my body when you're about to fuck me



or during. I mean just kissing your mate. You've never held me after sex. We've never had any foreplay really unless you've walked in on me and Marc already going at it. Hell, you've never even taken the time to stretch me out for sex or clean me up afterwards."

"I'm busy, Kody," Conley sighed.

"I'm worth taking the time to treat right," I replied slowly to make my point. "Otherwise I'm just your whore and not your mate."

"I don't see it that way," he said, shaking his head. "I love you, and that's all that should matter."

"I'm done," I whispered, looking at Marc. "Talking to him is pointless. I want to leave, Marc."

"You're not leaving me," Conley growled.

"And what are you going to do, Conley? Beat me up like Steve tried to do when we met? Is that how you want to keep your mate when he wants to leave? I can find you a nice hooker to replace me who won't expect affection or tenderness from you like a mate would."

"Kody, I wouldn't ever hurt you—"

"You already have," I interrupted him. "You have been since you brought me here after we mated. That's all you've been doing, Conley. Hurting me isn't just about physically beating me. It can be emotional and mental too. If you don't believe me, think about how I wasn't hard and sobbing as you fucked me and you never even saw it."

"I'll pack a few bags," Marc said as he walked into the bedroom. I wanted to get up and help, but I was just so tired I thought I could fall asleep right then.

"You can say the words all you want, Conley. But none of your actions say you love me. That you love my body and to fuck me, yes, but not that you love me, Kody the man. And nothing will ever change until you realize that, no matter if I talk until I'm blue in the face."

“We can work this out, Kody,” he said gently as he moved off the couch to kneel in front of me.

“Can we?” I asked, searching his face for some sign that I could believe him. “What about Marc? I told you from the start that my other mate would be your mate too. You treat him like an old friend sometimes and other times like your servant that should take care of your mate after you’re done using me.”

“It’s not like that,” Conley said firmly as he reached out to take my hand. Without even thinking about it, I flinched, freezing his motion. “You hate me so much that the idea of me touching you repulses you?”

“I don’t hate you yet, Conley,” I answered, shaking my head. “I’m just not sticking around to wait until it gets that bad.”

“I’ve got the basics for now, baby,” Marc said as he came back out of the bedroom with three big bags packed up and clothes for me. “Don’t forget your laptop.”

“You should have told me all this before it got to this point, Kody,” Conley whispered as tears formed in his eyes. “I can’t fix this if you leave.”

“You can’t fix it because you’re not even listening to him, Conley,” Marc replied softly as he handed me my clothes. “You don’t listen to anyone. You didn’t before when we were together, you didn’t now when I’ve tried to tell you, and I know Kody’s tried to tell you.”

“Even if you think I’m being sensitive, start with this,” I said, pulling on my clothes as I took a deep breath. “You made me a promise to put my wants and needs first, Conley. Just go back and think of how many things I’ve really asked for since we met and how many you given me.

“Also, look at how much Marc and I have given up to be here with you. I’ve not seen my family, and you never figured out a way to help them out like I used to as you promised me you would. I gave up my job, my apartment, same with Marc... And what have you given up, sacrificed, or even compromised on to have us here?”

“I shouldn’t have to give anything up to be with you, Kody,” Conley said firmly as I finished dressing and went to Marc. He picked up all of our bags as I grabbed my laptop and case.

“And that is exactly why we’re leaving, Conley,” I replied as we headed to the door. “You think we should sacrifice everything to be with you, and you don’t even think you should compromise to make this work.”

Marc took my hand as we walked out of Conley’s suite before he could even respond. I was ready to face the rest of my life with the man I loved, leaving the mate behind who didn’t love me at all. Or at least, didn’t know how to act like he did.

## Chapter 6

“You okay, baby?” Marc asked as we drove down to Sheridan. We’d decided to finally go introduce Marc to my parents before taking up temporary residence with the Casper coven until we could find a place of our own.

“I don’t want to lie to you, and I don’t think you’d believe me if I said yes anyways,” I answered quietly, reaching over to take his hand. “But I think what we did is best and that we’ll be okay.”

“We will. I know it, Kody,” he replied as he lifted my hand to his lips. “You know I love you, right? I know I’ve only said it during sex, which makes me an ass, but I wanted you to know I really mean it.”

“I love you, too, Marc,” I said, giving his hand a firm squeeze. “No matter how everything went down, I’m really glad we found each other.”

“Me, too, baby.”

We drove for another couple of hours, shooting the breeze and planning about what kind of house we wanted. Marc was adamant that we find a place in Sheridan so that I was close to my parents. His family had died a long time ago, and it made me sad to realize how alone in the world he was.

Marc followed my directions and took the third exit for Sheridan, turning toward the outskirts of town. It only took a few minutes for us to reach my parents’ farm. He gasped when he looked around and took it all in.

“Yeah, we need to be close to here,” Marc said as he put his truck into park. “This is amazing, and I think it will be fun to help out when we can.”

“You sure?” I asked as we climbed out of the vehicle. Before he could even answer, my mom was racing out the front door with my dads, Beck and Martin, right behind her.

“Kody!” She cried out as she wrapped her arms around me. “What a surprise! I’m so glad you’re here, we’ve missed you.”

“Missed you too, Ma,” I whispered as tears burned in my eyes. I buried my face into her neck, her familiar perfume assaulting my senses with comfort. Not meaning to be a baby, I tried to keep the tears at bay, but I was just so fucking tired. And it wasn’t just physically. It was emotional and mental as well. I just couldn’t get over everything that had happened in three short weeks.

“Kody, what’s wrong, son?” my dad Martin asked as he wrapped his arms around both of us. That’s all it took. I broke, shaking in their arms like a traumatized man.

“What did you do to him?” Beck, my other dad growled at Marc.

“It’s not him,” I choked out as I lifted my head. “Marc’s been great, it’s Conley. We’ve left him.”

“Okay, let’s go inside and talk,” Ma said as she gently led me toward the house. “Come on, I’ll make some tea, and I have a fresh batch of your favorite blueberry scones.”

“I didn’t mean to break down and give you more to do, Ma.”

“I know, sweetheart,” she replied gently, and I knew she meant it. We all walked into the house and made our way to the kitchen before I realized I’d still not introduced my mate.

“Sorry, Marc,” I said as I stood on my toes to give him a kiss. “This is my mate, Marc Rindge. Marc, these are my parents, Beck, Martin, and Ashley Donovan.”

“It’s nice to meet you all. I’m sorry we’ve not gotten the chance to stop by before.” Marc smiled as he shook their hands while wrapping an arm around my shoulders. My mom smiled widely as we all took a seat at the kitchen table after she put the tea water on.

“So you left Conley?” my mom asked, always jumping in head first to anything.

“He wasn’t being a good mate,” I answered softly, glancing at Marc to see how he was feeling about this conversation.

“Don’t worry about me, baby,” he smiled as he read the expression on my face. “You tell your parents whatever you want. I’m fine with whatever you need, okay?”

I eyed him over for a few moments, but he just gave me a nod and took my hand. He really was the perfect mate. So I listened to Marc and told my parents everything, leaving out some of the more graphic details I never wanted them to hear about my sex life. About halfway through I started to shake with conflicting emotions as I watched my dads get pissed.

In a flash, I was on Marc’s lap, his arms wrapped around me as I continued. Ma’s eyes filled with tears as did mine as I finished up explaining how Marc and I left our mate.

“That man has been nothing but an asshole to this family,” Martin exclaimed as he jumped up from his seat and went to shut off the whistling kettle.

“What?” Marc and I asked in surprise. What didn’t we know here?

“Remember when I told you that your dads didn’t like vampires because we’d had problems with one when we were looking for Avery?” my ma asked, and I slowly nodded, feeling a pit in my stomach forming. “Conley was the vampire we were talking about.”

“That doesn’t make sense,” Marc said slowly, and I felt him go rigid under me.

“Of course you would defend one of your own,” Beck growled, narrowing his eyes at Marc.

“It doesn’t though,” I replied as I glanced between my parents. “He sucks as a mate, but he’s a good ruler. Right after we met he went to the Casper coven to help keep a couple of litters of cheetah shifters safe. Why wouldn’t he have helped with finding Avery?”

"I don't know. The bastard never even took our calls," Martin sneered as he started passing out tea. "We only talked to one of his lackeys. The man didn't even have the decency to talk to us."

"I'm not saying that's not what happened," Marc said, holding up his hands in surrender. "But I've known Conley a long time, and he's a good leader. He doesn't have a problem with any other supernatural species and helps out when he can. I'm just wondering if this lackey ever gave him the message."

"I-I guess that's possible," Ma replied, glancing at both of my dads. "I mean, for all we know he never did receive it."

"Yeah, that is a good point." Beck sighed as he pushed the plate of scones closer to me with a wink. "You need to eat, you look like ass warmed over."

"Thanks, Dad," I snickered but grabbed one and started eating.

"I was wondering if you knew of any houses for sale in the area?" Marc asked, and I tilted my neck to look at him. We'd talked about finding a place, but I assumed we were talking about one to rent.

"I don't have money to buy a house," I said, slowly scrunching my eyebrows together. "I thought we were talking about renting."

"Baby, I'm centuries old. I have quite a nest egg," he chuckled and hugged me tighter. "It's just easier for us to live with a coven when we're unmated. I mean, there's the social aspect, safety, and access to blood."

"Makes sense." I shrugged, not really knowing how vampires lived. Cats were more solitary creatures, only living with family normally.

"Well, we can ask around," Martin replied, smiling at the idea. I knew my parents liked having us close and not just because we helped out around the farm.

"How about you take a nap, baby? I'll let your dads show me around the farm and grill me like I know they're dying to," Marc said, giving me a quick kiss on the neck. "You need to get some more rest and recoup."

“Good idea.” My dad Beck smirked.

“Run, run now,” I whispered to Marc, knowing my parents could hear. “You’re faster than we are. You can get away before they get to your truck.”

“I’ll be just fine,” he chuckled as he stood with me in his arms. My mom pointed him in the direction of the living room and Marc got me all snuggled in on the couch. “I’ll take whatever grilling they can dish out to be with you, Kody. You’re worth it to me.”

“I’m glad,” I replied, melting into the passionate kiss he gave me before heading toward the front door where my dads were waiting. Snuggling in the covers, I found it easier than I thought to fall asleep.

I woke up to Marc’s lips on me again. Purring loudly, I threw my arms around his neck and pulled him down on top of me.

“Behave, baby, we’re at your parents’ house,” he snickered. I glanced past him to see my parents all intently looking at their feet.

“Oh, yeah, right,” I blushed as we sat up. “Good to know you’re still alive though.”

“We like him,” my dad Beck admitted. “He’s a good mate to you, son. It’s the other one we want to string up by his balls.”

“Ouch, glad I passed,” Marc chuckled as we got to our feet.

Everyone shared a laugh as we said our good-byes. My ma had packed up a bunch of scones, which Marc had fallen in love with as well. He promised to slave away to help on the farm if she kept feeding him blueberry scones.

We drove the couple of hours to Casper and headed to Marc’s old room. He’d called ahead before we’d even reached my parents’ house to make sure it was okay for us to crash there for a while. Michael had been confused as to why we needed a place to stay but welcomed us with open arms.

“Are you feeling rested, baby?” Marc asked with lust in his eyes as he gently pushed me down on the bed.

“Why?” I panted as I toed off my shoes. The look he was giving me was intense, as if he planned on eating me up.



“Just wondering if you’re in the mood to play with your mate?”

“I could be easily convinced given the right idea of play,” I answered with a purr as he started to undress me. “What does my mate have planned for me?”

“Well, I thought we could try letting you be the submissive like we’d talked about.”

“Yeah, I’m up for playing,” I said, gesturing to my cock that was now standing at attention after he removed my jeans. Marc and I had had a long talk about different fantasies we wanted to try out. Mine was being tied down and blindfolded, playing the submissive to his Dom and letting him do whatever he wanted to me. “Do you have handcuffs?”

“I do,” he growled as he reached into one of his bags and pulled them out. I felt my dick start leaking pre-cum as he also pulled out leg restraints, a blindfold, and a big bottle of slick. “I want to tie my baby down and please him for the next twenty-four hours. I’ll let you up to shower, use the washroom, and eat, but that’s it.”

“Okay,” I panted as I stared at him with wide eyes as I scooted up toward the head of the bed. Marc quickly undressed and climbed onto the bed with the fur lined handcuffs. He secured my wrists to the wrought iron headboard before moving down to secure my legs to the foot of the bed. It was like nothing I’d ever experienced before. I was completely giving everything up to the man I loved, and it got me hot.

“Anything too tight?” he asked as he let my spread legs have a little give so I could bend my knees halfway. I shook my head as he came back to me and put the blindfold on me. “No spanking or floggers this time, but if it gets to be too much at anytime, you tell me. I love you, Kody.”

“I love you too, Marc,” I replied as he ran his lips down my neck. I tilted my neck, giving him more room to play as his hands moved over my body. Purring like mad, I moaned as he sucked on one nipple as he fondled my sac. Then he went to torture the other nipple as his slicked-up fingers rubbed my hole.

It was amazing to me how I'd missed that he'd lubed up his hand already. But given that I was blindfolded, it made sense. I relished in the feeling of his loving on my body, completely unaware of what was to come next.

"Marc, this is like nothing I've ever done before," I groaned as he pushed two fingers in me to start with. And Marc had some big fingers. There was the slight burning that radiated out of my ass and to my cock as he started to move them. "It's like I want to know what you're going to do next, but since I can't see, I'm left to trust you."

"That's the point," he growled in my ear as his fingers fucked me harder. "You're completely helpless, Kody. You have to trust that I'll take good care of you as you're left exposed to my every whim."

"I trust you, my mate," I replied then cried out loudly as his fingers turned and grazed my sweet spot. He added a third finger and moved them hard and fast to get me ready. Next thing I knew he was lifting my hips and putting a few pillows under them. I wasn't sure what was coming since we'd never used pillows in sex before.

Something cold and slicked up pushed against my hole, and I knew it wasn't my mate's cock. Marc worked it into me slowly, teasing me as I tried to figure out exactly what he was putting into my ass.

"Oh, my baby likes to play." Marc grunted as he pushed into me farther. "Your cock is so hard it looks like it's going to explode, Kody."

"It will soon," I panted, screaming a moment later when the thing in my ass started to vibrate. "What the fuck is that?"

"A very large vibrator," Marc growled. "It's awful pretty inside your tight little ass, baby. I wish I had a camera so I could take pictures of how beautiful you look all full of lust and laid out for me."

"Use your phone," I gasped as the vibrations got more intense. If Marc wanted pictures to get him wound up about how I looked right then, I was fine with him taking them. Anything he wanted that would get him horny and wanting me.

“Are you serious?”

“Yeah, I know you’re not going to post them on the Internet.” I smiled at him, knowing he was smiling back even though I couldn’t see him. He moved off the bed and a few seconds later I heard several clicks as he took pics with his phone.

“God, you’re so fucking hot, baby,” he groaned as I felt his arm on my thigh. Marc started to pull the vibrator out of me as I heard more clicks. Then he pushed it back in, all the while taking pictures. “I finally found a reason to buy a video camera.”

“Fine with me as long as you don’t torture me forever and let me come soon,” I said with a whimper. All his attention and words were driving me insane as I started to shake with the need to finish. “Please, Marc, I need.”

“I know you do, my mate,” he whispered as I felt both of his hands on me. One was on my thigh while the other was working the vibrator into me hard and fast. I guessed he’d stopped with taking pictures when I’d started begging. Hey, I wasn’t above begging to get what I wanted.

“Marc!” I cried out as he started pushing the toy in at a different angle so it hit my prostate. The vibrations hitting it, plus the size of the toy, plus the restraints, plus the inability to see left me with only the sense of touch. And I felt it all. I screamed out in pleasure as my cock erupted.

I was pretty sure I’d never come so hard in my life before and felt the need to pass out as lights flashed behind my eyes as I got disoriented with all the sensations. My nerve endings were on overload, and my orgasm was kicked into high gear when Marc squeezed my sac while still playing with the toy. It felt like hours that my climax lasted when it was probably less than five minutes in reality.

“You are so fucking hot, baby,” he whispered in my ear, and I jumped, not having realized he was spread out along me. “God, I want

to shove my cock into you so hard and make you come all over again.”

“Okay,” I gasped, desperately trying to get enough air in my lungs and calm down.

“I’m going to let you rest, all tied down and waiting for me,” Marc growled as he pulled the vibrator out of me. He didn’t do anything else, just took it out and shut off the toy before giving me a quick kiss. “I need to get some blood and my baby some food. But it gets me hot that you’ll be all restrained and waiting for me. Is that okay with you, Kody?”

“Yeah, I couldn’t move right now if I wanted to,” I panted, starting to calm back down. Marc chuckled as he gave me a quick kiss before hopping off the bed. I heard the door open and then close again as I lie there and started to relax. Not being able to keep the goofy smile off my face, I thought about how my mate had just given me such pleasure and now was going to get food for me. I was one spoiled tiger where Marc was concerned.

The door opened several minutes later, but I didn’t smell Marc. It was weird, but I figured the overwhelming scent of sex in the air was covering his scent. “Marc?”

“Oh, look, he’s already all tied up for us.” A man chuckled, definitely not Marc. I froze. When the mattress dipped from someone’s weight, I snapped out of it and screamed while trying to struggle. “Shut the fuck up, cat.”

Before I could reply or get much of a scream out, something was stuffed in my mouth. I went to spit it back out as hands grabbed my naked body. The serious problem here wasn’t necessarily that I was tied down, but it was that if I shifted with the handcuffs on, fur lined or not, I’d break both wrists. And that would pretty much make me useless when I’d need to fight.

I started to try and partially shift so at least my teeth were huge tiger teeth. It took a lot of concentration because, normally, when I did a partial shift it was teeth and claws. Before I could accomplish

my goal, someone punched me hard in the face. I still had the blindfold on, so it wasn't like I could see the light anyway. But after a shot like that, I was dizzy for a moment before blacking out.

## Chapter 7

I woke up in some dungeon type cell, still naked on a foul-smelling cot. Glancing around, I couldn't figure out if this was a nightmare or if places like this really existed. It was an eight by eight cell, with water dripping off the ceiling as if we were underground. Realizing I wasn't tied down anymore, I got up and grabbed the blanket that was at the foot of the bed. I wrapped it around me since I was freezing.

"Look, the cat's awake," a man said, coming up to the bars, and I recognized his voice as the one who'd come into Marc's room. "Shame you felt the need to cover up that firm little body."

"Why am I here?" I chattered out, partly from the cold but mostly from the idea of having been passed out naked around him with the way he was looking at me.

"Conley will do anything to get his mate back." He leered at me. "But until he does, I have some fun planned for you, cat."

"Yeah, right, like Conley would even give a shit you have me," I snickered before I realized what had come out of my mouth. It didn't seem I was in the mood to keep quiet because I kept going on. "I'm sure he's long replaced me with a hooker that won't expect affection from him. If you're planning on using me as some bargaining chip with him, you've picked the wrong thing."

"Then maybe we should just kill you now." He sneered at me, and my shaking turned from fear to anger. I dropped the blanket and shifted into my full five hundred pound tiger. His eyes went wide as I roared loudly, baring my razor sharp teeth. "Impressive, but you're in there, cat. I didn't know you were a saber tooth tiger shifter... so if

Conley doesn't come through we can always sell you to hunters. They love rare animal shifters."

Then I started to shake again with fear as I tried to hide it by snarling at the vampire. My younger brother had been held by hunters for almost thirty years, and I knew the horrors they did to him. I wouldn't let my fear win out because there was no way I'd be going to the hunters. I'd rather die.

And then I realized something that had me go cold as I started to panic. I shifted back and wrapped the blanket around me as he raised an eyebrow and stared at me.

"The full moon is in a few days," I said quietly knowing that they didn't need to do anything to torture me. Going into heat for days without either of my mates around could kill me. "I could die before Conley gives you what you want."

"We know." He smiled widely at me, and I saw the evil shining in his eyes. "And your mate will know the damage it can do to you."

"No, no he doesn't," I whispered shaking my head. We'd never had that conversation as to what could happen to a cat shifter when they went into heat without their mate.

"I'll tend to your needs, cat."

"It will get worse if anyone but my mates touch me," I replied, still shaking my head in disbelief as to the mess I was in. "Their scent and touch is what helps the heat. I'm genetically made for them. If it's someone else, it will be like stabbing me over and over again."

"Well, that might be fun too," he said, seeming to seriously consider causing me that type of pain. "Fucking you sounded like fun before, but to know how badly it would hurt you just makes my day. We'll get to give Conley back his broken, pathetic mate when we're done. Or just your dead body. Either way works for me."

"What do you want from him?"

"For starters, the cheetah shifters he's got locked up in his mansion," the man said, smiling widely. "My men like how flexible

cat shifters are. Plus your blood gives us way more power and strength than a human blood diet.”

“He’ll never trade me for another person,” I replied narrowing my eyes at him. And then it hit me, this man knew that. “You’re never letting me out of here anyways. You just want to report to Conley how I suffered and died for revenge. This isn’t about demands.”

“Smart cat,” he nodded before putting on that lecherous grin. Then he pointed over to a corner in the ceiling and I glanced over. “That camera will catch every agonizing moment of your demise for him. We can put a pretty bow on the DVD we plan on making.”

“So what, you think he cares and will fall apart after I’m gone?”

“Exactly right, cat,” he answered, rubbing his hands together in glee. “The death of a mate to vampires can be catastrophic. Most die within the year. When Conley’s gone I’m next in line.”

“You couldn’t get to him so in some convoluted plan you’re going to kill me to hope that it kills him.”

“Yup! Enjoy your stay, cat.” He chuckled as he walked away. It turned into a menacing full-body laugh as he walked down the hall.

Well, fuck me! Nice jam I was in. The only hope I had was Marc. He’d had my blood and could find me through that. But then again the vampires had to have thought of that. So was there like a distance range that it worked in? I wasn’t sure about much right then, but at least it was a small sliver of hope to hang onto.

I was still freezing my nuts off. Wherever we were, I knew it was underground and fucking cold. It was the last week of November, so I had two days until the start of the lunar cycle and my going into heat. Realizing I would be warmer with fur, I let the change swarm over me as I shifted to my half and half form.

Clinging to the small ass blanket, I laid back down on the bed. I pulled it over me as I curled into a ball while I thought of what to do. It didn’t seem the most productive thing to do, but I was still weak and tired from all the blood Conley had taken from me. If I could at least rest as I plotted, it might help me when the time came.



Of course it took me a while to fall asleep, having all sorts of wonderful nightmares. It started out with the discomfort and need that I had when I went into heat. Then it turned into such pain I wanted to claw my own skin off. And for the finale, faceless men were raping me while I was in heat, and I just wanted to die from the pain.

I awoke with a start when I heard a noise. I knew it was the next day because I could see a sliver of sunlight down the hall. Maybe I wasn't underground or only partially? I didn't have long to ponder it as three very large vampires walked up to the door of my cell, all smiling.

This can't be good, I thought and instinctively shifted to my half and half form. We shift back to human form when we sleep, so I'd done that sometime during the night. As soon as they unlocked the door, I leapt over to the back corner that had walls on either side of me.

Normally, you don't want to be backed in a corner during a fight. When you're about to fight three vampires and trapped in a cell you do though. None of them could surprise me from behind, and it forced them to face me one at a time.

"Time to play, cat." One chuckled as he walked into my cell. Another one followed him as the last one stood by the door. There was no way I could get by them in time. I'd seen firsthand how fast vampires were.

"If you want to play, get a toy," I snarled, realizing that they thought I was the toy, of course. Okay, no one ever said I was the best at witty comebacks.

"You *are* the toy." The second one laughed and again I wanted to smack my forehead at how I'd walked right into that one. "Our own personal shifter sex toy."

"I'll shred your nuts before you ever fuck me," I said firmly as they approached. They got close enough to me that I could attack without having to leave my corner. I refused to stand there and wait

for them to make their move. Instead I darted out and clawed the first one's face quickly before they'd gotten into fighting stances.

He screamed as the second one jumped my other side and sunk his fangs into me. Yeah, they could drink me into submission, but I was immune to the numbing chemicals in their bite. I dug my claws into him firmly and yanked him off of me, throwing him across the room I winced at the pain. Pulling him off of me tore open part of my throat. I couldn't think about that right now. If I survived this I'd worry about it later.

The first one tried to get me again, but, like in baseball, it was all about the timing. I had to move up my reaction time and swipe at them sooner than I normally would since they were so fast. My paw caught him on the other side of the face as he flipped around from the force of it and landed in a heap.

"Told ya he'd be harder to fuck than you'd thought." The third guy laughed from the doorway. He caught my glance for just a second, and I was shocked to see a glimpse of something before he schooled his features. Pity. He felt bad for me. If that was true, why was he with these assholes?

"Then why did you let him out of the handcuffs?" The first guy growled as they retreated.

"He won't go into heat and suffer if he can't shift," the third guy shrugged, not meeting my eyes. That wasn't the truth. What was this guy playing at? He tossed a bag over on the cot as the other two left my cell. "There you go, cat. Brought you some food since we can't have you dying just yet."

"Fuck him, let's go," the second guy said as they locked the doors behind them. "Why are you feeding him? We want him to suffer."

"Yeah, but not until Harold gets a crack at him and he goes through his lunar heat," the third guy answered. That was the last I heard, the big metal door at the end of the hall closing and keeping their voices too muffled for me to make anything out.

While that wasn't a comforting idea, to make sure I stay alive until Harold could rape me, I was glad for food. I stayed in half and half form to keep warm and walked back to the bed. Sitting down as I picked up the bag, I realized there was more than just food in there. I glanced around to make sure no one was around before I pulled out the note and read it, hiding it from the camera.

*Sent message to Conley where you are, think he should get it. I can't do much more than that without risking getting caught. Sorry, but I won't do either of us any good if I'm dead. I never signed up for kidnapping and torture. I'll do my best to keep these guys away from you and sneak you food. If I can't get you anymore, I'd hide the extra bars and water. Hang on, Kody, help should be coming.*

*-Curtis*

Well, that wasn't one I was expecting either. I guess the third guy was Curtis. Looking in the bag, I saw there were four bottles of water and several Power Bars. I stuffed those in the corner under the mattress just in case someone came back to visit me again.

The rest of the day went as smoothly as possible considering where I was. I slept as much as I could given the freezing conditions and tried to rebuild my strength. The sandwiches, water, and energy bars Curtis had given me went a long way in helping.

It wasn't until the next day that my own living hell started. I'm not sure when I woke up, but it was sunlight out. But it wasn't like I had a watch on or my cell with me, though that would have been nice. I sat up in the cot as my body was hot with need and fever. After thinking for a few moments and trying to shake off the rest of my slumber, I dropped down to the floor.

I know it wasn't what I needed or what my body craved, but the cold, stone floor did help. The time ticked by so slowly it was as if the hours became days as every imaginary insect in the world crawled

along my skin. I'd never let it get this bad before and by midday, I was having trouble gauging reality.

I crawled over to the bed, stuffed one of the bars in my mouth, and downed one of the bottles of water. Then I shifted into half and half form without even meaning to. My body needed to claim my mates and was getting ready for that coupling. But they weren't there.

Harold came into my cell at some point in the night. He didn't stay long, simply watching me writhe in pain at first before moving toward me. On instinct I clawed out at him, not sure if I hit him or what parts I hit. I heard him yelp in the distance of my fuzzy brain, so I knew I'd gotten him somewhere.

I realized a little while later he was gone, though I wasn't really sure at what point and time he left. Crying out in pain, it felt like someone was hammering huge metal spikes in my head as my body seemed to go into overload. It lasted for a while, how long I'm not really sure.

By nightfall, my cock was so hard I was worried it would break off. I tried to relieve the pressure build up myself, but every time I touched myself it felt like a knife was searing through it. And at some point in time I made the mistake of rolling over in agony, and I swear I thought I broke my dick off.

The pain was never ending and every time I thought it couldn't get any worse, I was wrong. On the second day I just wanted to die. I started hallucinating that Marc was there, and I kept telling him good-bye. He didn't answer me back or come to me, so I knew he wasn't really there because my Marc would have helped me.

I screamed out for help, but all that did was hurt my head even worse. Curling into a ball, I whimpered in pain and waited for death to end my agony.

## Chapter 8

### *Marc's Perspective*

“We’ve verified the IP address where the message was sent from,” Conley called out as he burst into the guest room I was staying in. It was five days since the man I loved had been taken, and I swear I was losing my mind. “It came from the same location that it says Kody’s at. We’re going in heavy. You ready?”

“Fuck yeah,” I growled, racing after him. Seconds later we were in the back yard of Conley’s compound where there were a few choppers waiting to go. We loaded up fast, and I counted at least thirty vampires that were with us. There was no way whoever had taken Kody had more than that.

It seemed like hours that we were in the air, but I knew it was closer to an hour before we landed somewhere in North Dakota. The instant we landed, the doors were thrown open, and we were on the move. The building was a dilapidated pre-Civil War stone building that had really seen better days. It was one story, but we knew from the message sent that it had a basement where Kody was being held.

“Take everyone alive that you can,” Conley ordered as we moved into position to break down the front door. “And we’re looking for a Curtis along with Kody. He isn’t the bad guy, he sent the message.”

“Got it,” we answered as one of the biggest guys used a metal tube with handles to destroy the door. Half of us swarmed the first floor while I led another group that went for the stairs. As soon as we were down them, there were five vamps waiting for us. I clawed up one right away and tossed him to a few of the other guys to restrain.

"I don't know how to help Kody," one guy said as he held up his hands in surrender and backed away.

"Curtis?" I asked with a snarl as I threw a second guy to the men behind me. It took us only moments to subdue the four vamps.

"Yes, I'm so sorry," Curtis answered shaking his head. "I never thought things would go this far or turn out like this. And I don't know how to help Kody. He's been screaming for days."

My steps faltered when he said that. What had they been doing to Kody that he was screaming? I couldn't think about it just then as I took a set of keys from Curtis. He led me over to a locked cell, and I froze in fear at what I saw.

"Ahhhhhh," Kody shouted, his voice hoarse with use as he rolled back and forth on the floor in pain. It was the third day of his lunar heat, and I could see the puddle of sweat all around him. Holy fuck! Was his going into heat such a big deal without his mates around?

"Baby, it's Marc," I said loudly as I snapped out of it and opened the cell door. I raced to his side and dropped to my knees next to him. Kody snarled loudly and swiped at me with his paw. He was in his half and half form, and I was so surprised that he was being violent toward me that I didn't move in time. Pain ran up my arm but I ignored it and reached out to him.

"Don't touch me!" Kody screamed, trying to move away from me.

"Kody, it's Marc," I cried out, tears streaming down my face. "We're here to take you home, baby."

"No, you're not real! Just let me die," he shouted, dragging himself along the ground away from me.

"No! I will never let you die. Don't give up on me, baby," I replied as I reached for him again. He screamed louder this time at the contact my hand made with his skin. I sat back on my heels and held up my hand to stop everyone else we'd brought from helping me. Not knowing what else to do, I pulled out my cell phone and called his parents.

"Did you find him?" Beck asked into the phone after the first ring.

“Yes, but he screams when I touch him,” I cried out, having to raise my voice over my mates constant yelling. “What could they have done to him to have him acting like this?”

“Nothing. He’s suffering because he went into heat,” Beck said firmly. “His body has short circuited, Marc. Pretend it’s like opposite day. Your touch normally soothes him, but now it’s painful to Kody. Get someone who touch won’t register as good or bad with him, someone neutral. He’s gay, so a woman would be best. A woman picking him up shouldn’t set him off.”

“You, pick him up,” I ordered, pointing to one of the female vampires who worked security for Conley. Her eyes went wide for a moment as she pointed to herself as well to check if I really meant her. I nodded that I really intended her and in flash she was there, gently lifting Kody into her arms. He didn’t lash out or scream, almost as if he didn’t even notice what was going on. “Okay, now what?”

“Get him home and into a cool bath,” Beck said, his voice wavering. “Tell Conley to figure out a way to get his brothers from Billings. All five are waiting at Avery’s house for Kody to be found. They are the only ones that can help him now, Marc.”

“Can we land a chopper there?” I asked, gesturing everyone to follow me as we raced out of the cell and up the stairs.

“Yes, they own a large ranch,” Beck answered. “We’re heading to you in a few minutes, but we can’t even help him. This is important, Marc. He’s not out of danger yet. If you or Conley touch him it could fry his brain or kill him. His brothers will know what to do.”

“Okay, I trust you,” I replied before we said our good-byes and hung up. I met Conley’s gaze as he rushed over to us and went for Kody. “No, Conley! You can’t touch him, neither of us can. His body freaked out when he went into heat without us around.”

“This is just from him going into heat?” Conley asked, his eyes wide as we walked toward the chopper. “I had no idea.”

“Neither did I,” I replied, shaking my head as the tears formed again. “You need to coordinate with Avery and send a chopper to his ranch. Kody’s dad said that his brothers can help but no one else can touch him.”

“Why is she holding him then?”

“Because he won’t register a woman’s touch as good or bad,” I answered as we got on the helicopter. “I’m just doing what his dad says, okay? I’m as clueless as you are right now.”

“Okay,” Conley said with a nod before racing over to one of the other choppers. I watched as one empty one set off, hoping it was going for Kody’s brothers. Then I saw other vampires we’d come with dragging the captives with them to the vehicles at the building. Next a few more loaded up with us before Conley jumped in and ordered us to take off.

Neither of us seemed to be able to take our eyes off of our mate, who was still writhing in agony. My heart broke for Kody and not just that he was in that kind of pain. His little body had short circuited because we hadn’t been there for him. Did he know we were trying everything to find him? Had he known help was coming and we’d never give up?

Those were just a few of the questions that swirled around in my mind as we flew back to Conley’s compound. The more I witnessed firsthand what Kody was going through, the more I wanted to get my hands on Harold. Martha, I think the woman’s name was, kept trying to cover Kody up, seemingly uncomfortable that her boss’ naked mate was squirming on her lap.

“Stop, just leave him be,” I finally yelled over. “He cries out every time you try to cover him up, his skin is too sensitive.”

“Right, yeah, sorry,” she replied, not meeting my gaze. If I had enough brainpower extra right then, I might have felt bad about putting her in the middle of all of this. But I just didn’t care about anything besides Kody.



We landed several minutes later and got out of the chopper. Next we headed up into Conley's room, and I raced right for the bathroom to fill up the tub. Martha followed me in, gently lowering Kody into the tub as he started to scream and thrash. Once he was in and she stopped touching him, he seemed to calm back down again.

His eyes opened then as his gaze darted around the room. I moved closer to him but then froze as Beck's words hit me again. Kody shifted into full tiger as he leapt out of the tub and raced by us. Conley and I followed him into the other room and watched as he retreated to the far wall by the windows.

"Kody, can you hear me, baby?" I asked gently as I knelt several feet in front of him, tears streaming down my cheeks. The tears started falling faster as my mate stared at me without recognition. Just as I was resigned to the fact there was nothing I could do to help my mate, I thought about calling Beck again. But my desire for help came in another form.

"Fuck, this can't be good," a man shorter than Kody said as nine men entered Conley's bedroom. "I'm Avery."

"I'm Trey," Kody's eldest brother Trey said as they started getting undressed. I raised an eyebrow before glancing over at Conley. Why the fuck were they getting naked? "These are my mates, Addison and Jasper. The other two there are Avery's mates, Ty and Cord, and, of course, our other brothers, Quinn, Jace, and Sasha."

"Thank you for coming," replied as I got to my feet, trying not to blatantly stare at them as they finished stripping. "Can I ask why you're getting naked?"

"A litter of saber tooth tiger shifters have the ability to communicate telepathically," Trey explained as a few of them started shifting into full tigers. "It's almost like a hive mind when we're shifted and near each other. That's why we all know what happened to Avery. He never even had to tell us. Once we shift and are near each other, all he had to do was think about what happened."

“Same with Kody,” Avery said as he gestured to my mate. “He’s not all there right now, but we’ll be able to see what happened and hopefully guide him back. Words are useless right now, but we can talk to him in other ways. Plus, the part of him that’s tiger will see who we are and know we’re not a threat. He’s on high alert status, if you will, but he needs to know that he’s safe.”

“Thank you for doing this,” I replied, stepping back to give them room. Trey and Avery gave me a nod before shifting and moving with the others to surround Kody. It was a trip to see six large tigers pile all over each other.

“You should see them play football like this if you really want to visit the Twilight Zone,” Avery’s mate said as he came over to me. “I’m Cord Hartwell, and this is Tyson Fitzgerald.”

“Nice to meet you both, and thanks for coming,” I replied as I shook both their hands. “Wait, did you say football? How the hell do they play as huge tigers?”

“Popping a lot of footballs,” Tyson chuckled as he motioned to the pile of tigers. “If anyone can help Kody, they can. I don’t know how being in heat without his mate affects him exactly, but his brothers will do everything they can to fix it.”

“I couldn’t help him,” I whispered, trying to keep it together. “I couldn’t even touch him when we found him. He screamed and clawed me.”

“You healed already?” Tyson asked, eyeing me over. “Oh, wait, you’re a vampire, right? I think I heard Avery say you guys were vamps.”

“Yeah, we heal as fast as they do,” I nodded, my eyes going wide as a few of the tigers snarled quietly. Well, shit, that can’t be good. I glanced over at Conley who was across the room with a reserved look on his face, but his arms crossed over his chest. I’d known him long enough that I wasn’t shocked that his emotions were under wraps, but his arms being like that spoke volumes as to his lack of belief this would work.

“Is there something we should be doing while they help Kody?” Jasper asked as he and Addison joined us.

“I’m completely in the dark here,” I answered, freezing when all the tigers besides Kody turned as one and looked at Conley. If tigers could frown, I’m sure that’s what they’d be doing. But it was obvious they weren’t happy with him and I wondered exactly how much they’d seen in our mate’s head. “This can’t be good.”

“Yeah, I’ve only seen Avery’s fur up like that when he’s about to attack,” Cord said, glancing between the tigers and Conley. We watched as they all moved away from Kody and advanced on Conley. The tension in the room was intense and just when I thought Conley might break instead of simply staring back at them, they all roared loudly.

That got a reaction from Conley. For the first time in all the centuries I’ve known him, Conley actually looked scared. If the situation hadn’t been so dire, I might have laughed, but right then, I was just confused. They kept moving in on him as he took several steps back until he bumped the wall. He glanced over at me then, maybe looking for help. I just shrugged my shoulders as if to say that he was on his own.

“Why are you doing this? Shouldn’t you be helping Kody?” Conley asked, switching from fear to anger. I saw his hands shift into claws as his fangs came down and his body grew in size. “I didn’t do this to him!”

“No, but you’re the reason he was taken,” Trey said after he shifted to his half and half form. “We saw how you’ve been treating out brother, Conley. You don’t deserve him or any mate. And so help me god, if you don’t pull your head out of your ass, we’ll break the bond ourselves.”

“Break the bond...” Conley started to say before growling. It hit me the same time as it did him, the only way to break the bond was death. “You will not come into my home and threaten me, I don’t give a fuck who—”

“Yes, we will,” Avery snarled, having shifted as well. He pointed over to Kody, who was still in tiger form and shaking. “You have *no idea* the damage you’ve done to him! If he’d just been taken and gone into heat without you, he’d be okay. Well, not okay, but nothing like the state he’s in now. *You* did this to him with the way you’ve treated him, making him feel like a cheap whore and someone unworthy of having his mate love him.”

“I do love him,” Conley replied, shaking his head as he shifted back. “He’s being unreasonable, demanding, and you’re his brothers. Of course, you side with him.”

“We don’t see what happens as if he’s telling us,” Trey said firmly, looking as if he was ready to kill Conley. “It’s not a biased opinion, Conley. It’s like a movie. We see what he saw without his feelings making an impression on us. We saw *everything* from the moment you met. And the first thing that went through all of our minds is we should kill you. So you may think it’s Kody, but he’s upset and we’re ready to end you. Do you really think it’s still all his fault?”

“And I feel the same way, Conley.” I added as I moved by the tigers. “I saw it all firsthand and what it did to Kody. I agree with them, and if I didn’t think it would crush Kody, I’d kill you myself. But part of me still remembers the young vampire who didn’t want to lead and was a decent guy. I just don’t know if he’s in there anymore, but that was the man I loved once.”

“Is that why you left?” Conley asked, his face going pale. “You stopped loving me?”

“Yeah, Conley, you changed when you took over,” I answered none too gently. “And not for the better. You got a big head and stopped listening to anyone, especially me. I couldn’t stand there and let you look down your nose at me as if I wasn’t up to the level of man you deserved. And that’s exactly how you’ve treated Kody. Like he’s not worth your time or to be treated as your equal. As if he’s simply here to warm your bed and give everything he is to you.”

“I never meant to make Kody feel that way. It’s just when you left...” he whispered, his voice shaking. Conley wiped away a tear as he took a deep breath. “When you left without a reason why, I shut down. I didn’t want to feel the pain so I stopped feeling anything. That wasn’t fair to Kody, but I swear I didn’t realize I was doing it.”

“I told you why I was leaving, Conley,” I replied as I took a few steps toward him and around the tigers. “You just didn’t listen to me. You were so fucking busy being the man in charge you stopped being the man I loved. I left before I hated you, the same reason Kody left. You still think it’s us?”

“No, no, I see that now,” Conley answered, shaking his head. “I’ll be better, do better. There’s a lot of shit I need to work through though, okay?”

“Fine, but we’re not giving you long,” Trey said as if the question had been directed at him. “You have until the next lunar cycle to get your shit together, Conley. After that, we act and you won’t like what we do. Hell, we could be really mean and send our ma here.”

“I’m not afraid of your mother,” Conley scoffed.

“Yeah, you’re a prick,” Cord chuckled, getting everyone’s attention and a growl from Conley. The man simply shrugged under the scrutiny. “You don’t even know Ashley and you’re making judgments. Shit, I’m afraid of being on her bad side ever and she likes me. If you were smart, you’d see the threat in having her here.”

“What do you mean?” Conley asked, tilting his head to the side in confusion.

“They are scary when they all snarled and advanced on you,” Cord replied as he gestured to the five tigers. “But Ashley Donovan would already have eaten your nuts while beating you to the point of curling in a ball and crying in the corner. Kody and his brothers are her babies, and she doesn’t fuck around when it comes to protecting them. I’d rather take on five huge tigers than that woman.”

“Yeah, me too,” Addison chuckled as he glanced between the two men. “And I have for my past crimes, it’s not pretty.”

“She likes you now,” Trey smiled at his mate. “Once you started behaving, Ma liked you just fine. She doesn’t hold a grudge.”

“Maybe I should let her smack some sense into me,” Conley mumbled. His eyes went wide as he realized he’d said it aloud.

“Where is he?” Beck snarled as he, Martin, and Ashley raced into the room. Before anyone could respond or greet them, he stormed over to Conley and punched him right in the face. “You son of a bitch! You should die for what happened to our son.”

“This isn’t helping,” I yelled as chaos erupted. Everyone was shouting, mostly at Conley, as Kody’s brothers were trying to calm people down. Trey and Avery’s mates stood in front of them as if waiting for a response or threat against the men they loved.

“Enough!” Conley roared so loudly the windows shook. Instantly everyone got quiet, and I turned slowly to look at him. His chest heaved as he glanced around the room before whispering. “Enough.”

“Conley?” I asked, stepping toward him. But he wouldn’t look at me as he shook his head and started at the floor.

“I’m sorry, okay? I screwed up, and I never meant to hurt Kody. I certainly never wanted this,” he said softly as he pointed to our mate still cowering in the corner in tiger form. “I do the best I can. I didn’t see what was going on, and for that I am sorry.”

“You remember the young man who didn’t want to rule,” Conley whispered as he met my eyes. “I never wanted any of this. I never wanted to take over or be in charge, but I am. I didn’t have a choice, and I never had any guidance. My parents died when I was a baby, and I was raised by strangers then sent off to boarding schools. I never had any friends because of who I was that just liked me for me. They always wanted something from me. Everyone wants something from me.”

“Everyone judges me constantly,” he continued, looking at the others in the room one at a time. “It’s always what I’ve done or what I should do for everyone. People expect me to have the answers. I’m never just Conley, the man. It’s all about my position and what I can

do for people. You have no idea what that does to someone after centuries of dealing with that pressure. So you may hate me, you may want me dead, and I won't say you're wrong for that. But I do the best I can, and I know no other way to be."

"I never cared about your position," I said gently after a few minutes as I stepped toward him. "I loved Conley Norton, the man you were. Kody doesn't care that you're in charge or even really get vampire politics. He wanted to love you for you, Conley. And we were the two people you treated worst and pushed away."

"Because you both scare the living shit out of me," Conley whispered as tears ran down his cheeks. "I've never had anyone to love before, no family to care about. You were the first. And all I ever wanted to do was make you proud and instead you left. Then centuries later I meet Kody, and he's so different from everyone around here. He's loving and giving and sweet, and I don't know how to give him what he wants."

Everyone was silent as we stared at him. I wanted to say something... anything. But I had no clue what to say that would help him or the situation we were in. I'd never head Conley be so honest and open with anyone, and I froze. Ashley was the only one to react. She walked right up to Conley and wrapped her arms around him. He went stiff for a moment before breaking down in her embrace.

"I don't want to lose him," Conley sobbed, gesturing to Kody. "I would have done anything to keep him from this. I didn't mean for it to happen!"

"Boys, help your brother," Ashley said softly as she led Conley out of the bedroom and into the sitting room. She met my glance on the way and nodded for me to join them. I followed them and sat on the other side of Conley as we both held onto him as he let out centuries of built-up stress.

"We can figure it out, Conley," I whispered into his hair as I kissed the top of his head. He was shaking so violently that I looked across him to Ashley, who gave me a nod. I took that as her way of

telling me that I was doing the right thing and continued. It was a long time that we sat there as Conley let it all out as we comforted him.

“Do you believe that fate gives us the perfect mates for a reason?” Ashley asked when Conley calmed back down.

“Yes,” he answered as he wiped his eyes, face scrunched in confusion.

“Then you trust Kody and Marc and listen to them from now on,” she said firmly. “Your way of handling things hasn’t been working, son. You almost lost both your mates, right? It’s time to trust them and let them in.”

“I can promise to listen and try to let them in,” Conley replied after a few minutes, glancing over at me. “I can’t promise I won’t screw up again.”

“None of us can,” Ashley snickered. “My mates still mess up now and again. It’s part of being a person instead of a machine. But it’s time for you to stop being alone and carrying the world on your shoulders. You have two wonderful men that want to love you, and you need to let them.”

“Let us help you, Conley,” I said, knowing that I was partially begging for him to let me back in to his heart.

“Okay,” he whispered as he leaned over and kissed my cheek. It was the simplest of gestures, but said much more than words ever could. I felt my heart start to mend from all the pain and regret I’d felt over the centuries over having once lost him. It wasn’t going to be an easy road, but I truly believed his eyes were finally wide open.



## Chapter 9

### *Kody's Perspective*

I snapped out of my haze sometime later that week. It hadn't been easy. All I knew is slowly I could see that my brothers were there and I was safe. Then I started to get images that filled me in on what I had missed and got caught up. Basically they had been rotating with me in tiger form. It wasn't normal that I stayed in tiger form the entire time since we usually shifted back to human form when we fell asleep.

"Marc?" I asked, looking at my mate after I had shifted back. My brain was still having some problems associating images and thoughts, like waking from a fog when you're sick.

"Oh, baby, I missed you," he gasped as he raced over and knelt in front of me. "Can I touch you?"

"I love you," I answered as I crawled onto him, pushing him back onto his ass so I could sit in his lap. "I thought I'd never see you again."

"I'm so sorry, Kody," Marc cried as he held me tightly. "I should never have left you alone like that."

"It's not your fault. You didn't know there were traitors in the coven."

"I should have known, I should have protected you," he whispered in my hair. "Can you ever forgive me, my sexy tiger?"

"Nothing to forgive," I purred as I wrapped myself tighter around him. "Everyone else needs to leave. I want my mate in ways my family can't see."

“All right, everyone out,” my ma said, giving me a wink. I smiled at my family over Marc’s shoulder.

“Just don’t leave yet,” I replied as Marc stood with me wrapped around him like a monkey. “I want to visit with you guys later now that I’m in my right head again.”

“Of course, you spend time with your mate and get some rest,” she said with a smile as she ran her hand over my cheek. Then they all left and Marc laid us down on the bed.

“I guess that means me, too,” Conley whispered as he stared into my eyes. “I am sorry, Kody. I never wanted any of this for you or for us.”

“You don’t have to leave, it’s your house,” I said as I pulled off Marc’s shirt. I know it was mean, but right then I was angry with him and part of me wanted him to suffer. Even though I knew it wasn’t his fault I was taken, it was because of who he was, and if he hadn’t been a dick it would have never have happened. “You just can’t join in, Conley.”

“Baby, be nice.” Marc admonished as he helped me get him naked. “Conley talked with everyone and realized some things. We need to give him a second chance.”

“I’m not saying I won’t let him back in, just not yet.”

“I’ll leave,” Conley said, his head hanging down.

“No, actually, I want you to stay,” I replied as Marc reached over and grabbed the lube. Conley stared at me with his mouth hanging open as Marc moved back in between my legs and slicked up his fingers. “I know what’s happened when I was out of it from my brothers. But I’ve heard promises from you before, Conley. I think it’s time you saw how things should be and where things have gone wrong.”

“You want him to watch us make love?” Marc asked, his eyebrows shooting up in surprise. “Isn’t that kind of mean, Kody?”

“Probably,” I shrugged and then started purring as Marc rubbed his fingers over my hole. “But he’s seen us together before and joined

in the middle of it. I think he needs to see what making love really is all about. The way you prepare me and don't just use my hole for your pleasure, and how you take care of me and love me afterwards. I've tried to explain it but let him see it with his own eyes. Maybe then he'll get the difference."

"Will you believe me that I really am trying if I stay and watch?" Conley asked after a few moments as Marc pushed a finger in me. "Or are you just trying to punish me for what I've done?"

"Probably a little punishment," I moaned as Marc opened me up as fast as possible. "But more what I said before. Actions speak louder than words, Conley. And if you're finally open to change and how a real mating should be, you need to see it."

"I get the logic, Kody," Marc whispered pushing in another finger. "It just seems really mean to make him watch when he's been hurting too."

"I know, but I really feel that seeing is believing in this case," I replied as I brushed my fingers over his cheek. "It's the only way I can think of to show him the difference between how we are versus how he and I were."

"Okay," Conley whispered as he moved to sit in one of the chairs by the windows. "If this is what you need for me to do so that we can work on our relationship, then I will do it. You say this is more than just being about punishing me, and I'll trust you."

"It's more than that, I promise," I replied, giving him a quick nod. "I think part of me wants to see how serious you are about making things better. If you're really willing to sit there and try to understand even though it might hurt for you to do it, that tells me you're serious."

"I am, Kody," he said as tears gathered in his eyes. I looked away then, even if I knew it made me chicken shit. I really did believe in my logic, but this was about me needing to feel Marc and our love, not Conley's pain.

“I need you now, Marc,” I gasped as he pushed in a third finger. Staring up into his eyes I started to tear up myself. “I really thought I’d never be with you again. I kept hallucinating you were there and tried to say good-bye to you.”

“You can’t ever leave me, Kody,” Marc strangled out, swallowing loudly. “I’m sorry I’m not giving you enough time after it’s been almost two weeks since we’ve been together.”

“I don’t care,” I panted as he pulled out his fingers. “I have to feel you, be with you, more than I need to be stretched.”

“You are my entire world, baby,” he whispered as he lifted my legs over his arms and slowly pushed into me. There was a slight bite of pain, but it was well worth it to feel this closeness with the man I loved. Marc stared into my eyes the entire time he worked more of his dick into me. “You’re my soul, my life, my heart, and everything I’ve ever dreamed of in a mate.”

“I feel the same way,” I said gently as I pulled his head down to mine. The kiss was soft at first, tentative almost. Then, as he bottomed out inside of me, we both moaned loudly as we wrapped around each other tightly. “This is home to me, being with you like this.”

“It is,” Marc hissed in my ear as he started to pull back out and the muscles of my ass tightened around him. It seemed as if they wanted to keep him inside of me as much as I did. There really wasn’t anything else to be said after that. He loved me slowly as we both stared at each other and cried. And it wasn’t just tears at almost losing each other. It was more than that. It was that we were back together and the relief that the bad was over.

“Marc, I love you,” I yelled when he ran his fangs over my neck as I came. He didn’t bite me, even though I knew he wanted to, and probably needed to. That’s just the person Marc was always. He knew I was still healing and would wait as long as I needed before drinking from me. Seconds later he cried out my name as his dick exploded in me, filling me with his seed.

“You’re really here and safe,” he panted in between sobs as he was still having waves of his orgasm wash over him. I held him as tightly as he held me while we lay there experiencing the closeness two people who loved each other could.

“I understand now,” Conley whispered as he sat down on the edge of the bed. Part of me forgot he was even there I’d been so wrapped up in Marc. I hadn’t even seen him move from the chair. “It hurt to watch when I knew I wasn’t included, but I really do see what you were talking about now, Kody.”

“I’m glad,” I said as I reached for his hand while Marc snuggled next to me.

“May I clean you up? I mean, I figure you might want a nice hot shower,” he asked softly as he glanced between me and Marc.

“I think that’s a great idea,” Marc said as he moved away from me and crawled under the covers. “I’m exhausted, and I think a nice nap would help after you guys are done.”

“Thank you,” I whispered in Marc’s ear so only he could hear. He gave me a quick kiss before I turned to look at Conley. “I’d love for you to take care of me.”

“I might not have showed it the best way, but I do really love you, Kody.” Conley lifted me into his arms and carried me into the bathroom. I smiled at him as he set me down on the counter and started the shower.

“I want to believe you, Conley. I’m just not there yet.”

“That’s fair,” he replied with a nod as he quickly got undressed. When he was naked, he picked me back up and walked us into the shower. “I’m sorry it took everything that happened for me to finally take care of you the way I should after being intimate.”

“You’re doing it because you want to, right? I mean this isn’t because you think you have to, is it?” I asked as he started to lather up my hair.

“I want to take care of you, and I need to feel you too,” he answered after a moment as if he had to think about it before just

answering. “I know we’re not in the same spot as you and Marc are, but I have to know you’re okay as well. Does that make sense?”

“Yes, it does,” I purred as his fingers worked the shampoo into my scalp. “I wasn’t sure you’d come for me.”

“Your brothers told me you thought that when they saw everything that happened to you. I’m sorry that my actions and words had you believe I wouldn’t do everything in my power to rescue you.”

“I’m glad I was wrong,” I replied, hugging him as he rinsed off my hair. He was trying so hard, and I was willing to give him a little room even if I wasn’t sure I was ready for it. When I saw he was staring at my lips, I tilted my head up and whispered, “Kiss me, Conley.”

He gasped, his eyes darting up to meet mine before he gently brushed his lips over mine. We both moaned and took the kiss up a notch. When he licked my lips, asking for permission to push his tongue into my mouth, I hit my limit.

“I’m not ready for that yet,” I said as my body started to shake and I pulled away. His arms held me gently but firmly as he cupped my cheek.

“I didn’t mean to push, Kody,” Conley replied as his thumb stroked my cheek. “This was my fault, and I want you to take the time you need. I can wait as long as you want if I know you’re not closing me off, okay? I—I j—just need y—you to know—”

“Know what?” I asked after several moments as his lower lip trembled.

“I’ve only ever loved two people in my life, Kody,” he said softly as he reached for the soap. Conley wouldn’t look into my eyes as he cleaned me up. “You and Marc are the only people who’ve ever really cared about me for me, and I’m sorry I ruined that. I want to do better. I’m trying to learn how to really love someone, but I’ll need guidance. I promise to listen this time.”

“You’re doing it already, Conley,” I whispered as I leaned forward and kissed his cheek. “You’re here taking care of me, talking

with me as an equal. That's a huge step in the right direction, and I see that you truly are trying."

"So you won't leave again?"

"No, we're staying and working out our problems," I answered as we finished our shower. "As long as we're all in this together, we're not going anywhere. I do want us to be true mates, Conley."

"That's what I want too," he said as he lifted me into his arms. We started at each other and traded a few more soft kisses as he dried us off. Then he shocked me down to my core as he laid me down in the bed and climbed in with us. Marc was already asleep, and I curled up at his side as Conley spooned my back. "Is this okay?"

"It's perfect," I answered gently as I reached for his arm and pulled it over me. We locked our fingers together as our hands lay on Marc's chest. It was something we'd never done before. Conley had never wanted to touch Marc while we were in bed. I was surprised how something so small could make such a difference, but it did.

\* \* \* \*

Two days later, things were getting better. Conley and I were still in only the kissing stage of our relationship, but what surprised me most was Marc and Conley. It was hot to watch them kiss, and my body wanted to drag them both to bed and fuck like rabbits, but my heart needed more time.

I was on my way to the kitchen to get a mid morning snack since I had barely eaten when I was being held and the week after. I found my stomach was trying to make up for lost time. On the way I saw a couple of Conley's guards give me strange looks that I couldn't read.

"I wonder if Conley will share his tiger tongue?" one of them whispered after I'd passed them. It hit me like a ton of bricks. The man was talking about how Conley had summoned me to his office to give him a blow job. It wasn't just Conley that needed to realize how things were going to be, but his household as well.

It left me cold, and I realized what I needed to do to rectify the situation. Or at least show people that I wasn't just Conley's boy toy tiger. I changed directions and headed for his office instead of the kitchen. There was a meeting going on as I walked into the room. Everyone went quiet at my entrance, but I pretended they weren't even there.

"I have need of my mate's talented mouth," I said as I stared right into Conley's eyes. "I suggest you ask everyone else to leave if you don't want them to see your mate naked."

"We were in a meeting, Kody," Conley replied slowly, shock written all over his face.

"Are you saying this meeting is more important than taking care of your mate when he needs you?" I asked as I toed off my shoes and grabbed the hem of my shirt. "You've summoned me here when you've needed my attention. I figured the reverse was true when I need my mate."

"Of course it is," Conley answered, and I swear I saw the lightbulb go off over his head as he got my point. He turned to the other people in the room. "We will continue this tomorrow; my mate needs me right now."

The six vampires who were his advisors stood and walked out of the room, giving me a few strange looks as they left. I ignored them since I'd gotten my message across loud and clear. Once they were gone, I pulled off my shirt, jeans, and boxer briefs as Conley watched.

"I want you on your knees to pleasure me," I said, pointing to the ground in front of me. I knew it was cold and unloving, but I was doing exactly what he'd once done to me. He nodded as he stood and made his way to me. As soon as he was in front of me, he dropped to his knees and opened his mouth. His eyes never left mine as I guided my hard cock into his mouth.

He moaned as he swallowed me down while reaching behind me to massage the cheeks of my ass. I wanted to get into it. I really did. This was the first time Conley ever gave me oral sex, and my body



wanted to enjoy it. But my heart was crying, especially when I saw the sadness in his eyes that were staring up at me.

"I can't do this," I whispered, trying to keep my tears at bay as I took a step back. My now soft dick slid from his lips as he just watched me. I bent over to grab my pants. "I heard two guards talking about how they wondered if you'd share my tiger tongue with them. I—I needed to show the people here that I'm not just your toy, and I figured doing what you did to me before was the right way. But this isn't how I wanted to experience the first time you have your mouth on me."

"I'm so sorry, Kody," he replied as he grabbed my hand. "I never understood how wrong summoning you to my office to please me was until just now. The difference is your heart is too big to be an ass like I was. I do want to please you. I loved the feel of your gorgeous cock in my mouth finally. It was stupid of me to think that it was demeaning to give head to my partner."

"That's what you thought, but you still had me do it to you?"

"I wanted you to do it," Conley answered slowly, not letting my hand go when I tugged on it. "It wasn't like I looked down at you and thought you were a whore to please me, I swear. I enjoyed it so much I thought of doing it back to you, but then I got this idea in my head that a man of my stature doesn't get on his knees for anyone. It was stupid and selfish, and I'm ashamed I ever thought it. I love you, Kody. I'll get on my knees everyday and please you if that's what it takes to show that I feel we are equals."

"You showed it when you sent them away and gave me what I asked for," I replied as I knelt down in front of him. "I don't want this to be how I experience oral sex with you though, Conley. I want you to just do it because you want to, not because I was trying to prove a point to the people in this house."

"I *am* glad you proved it though," he whispered as he cradled my face in his hands. "I never thought anyone would look at you like that because of my actions, and I'm so fucking sorry, Kody. And I'm sorry

I treated you this way. I really do understand now why you thought I was treating you like a hooker, but that was never my intent. I guess I just didn't think it through all the way. I had had a rough day and I wanted my mate to comfort me. I should have handled it another way."

"Yes you should have, but you've realized the mistake now at least."

"I do still want to be intimate with you, Kody," Conley said against my lips before giving me a quick kiss. "I want nothing more than to carry you up to our bed and lick every inch of you."

"Okay," I panted, my cock got rock hard as my eyes went wide. He helped me to my feet before taking off his suit jacket. I wasn't sure what he was doing until he swooped me up into his arms and covered me with the jacket so no one would see my bits and pieces. We kissed the entire way up to our room, completely unaware if anyone else was even in the hallways as we went.

"Um, why is Kody naked?" Marc asked as Conley carried me through the sitting room where Marc was and into the bedroom.

"Because I'm about to lick every inch of *our* sexy tiger," Conley answered as he looked over at Marc. He glanced down at me for a second as if asking silently for permission to invite our mate. I smiled and nodded getting a kiss from Conley in return. "We'd love it if you would join us, our mate."

"Conley, are you—?" Marc asked, his eyes going wide. "Are you saying what I think you're saying?"

"Yes, I want to be a real mate to both of my mates if you'll have me," Conley answered softly as he lay me down on the bed. He held his hand out to Marc as he knelt on the bed. "Kody and I talked some more, and I realized how much I've not treated you both as equals. That stops now. I'd love nothing more than to please my mates if they'll let me."

"I don't understand," Marc whispered as he glanced between Conley and me. I quickly filled him in on what had happened in

Conley's office and how we ended up here. When I was done, Marc swallowed loudly and then nodded. "I'd like that very much, Conley."

"Then get nakie." I giggled, trying to lighten the mood. They glanced at each other for a second and then raced to yank off all their clothes as I lay on the bed watching them. When they were ready, they both moved to either side of me as two sets of hands touched me everywhere. I went nuts when they started using their mouths. They stopped and kissed every so often.

"May I?" Conley asked as he lowered his mouth toward my cock, not yet licking it.

"Yes, please, yes!" I begged, and he swallowed me down. Marc kissed me fiercely as he pinched my nipples. Then I felt Conley's hand massage my sac, and I couldn't take anymore. I cried out as I came down his throat. He never let up, sucking hard on me throughout my entire orgasm. I lay there like a spent wet noodle as both of my mates gave me a soft kiss.

"Your turn, Marc," Conley growled as he moved off of me and crawled over Marc. They ended up getting into the sixty-nine position with Conley on top, and I got a front row view of their attention on each other. It was fucking hot!

Several minutes later they were both spent, and I was hard again after having watched the show. They smiled at me as they moved me in between them and snuggled together in a pile of arms and legs. No one said anything as we just enjoyed the afterglow. And for the first time, I knew that everything really was going to be okay.

## Chapter 10

The next day we sat and ate breakfast in the sitting room while I was lost in thought. I wanted to ask what ever happened to Curtis, but part of me was scared of the answer. It wasn't like he had hurt me or really been involved, but he had worked for Harold, so he wasn't completely innocent. Deciding to bite the bullet, I took a deep breath and just asked.

"Where's Curtis?"

"In one of the guest rooms in the other wing," Conley answered his eyebrows shooting up in shock. "I'm sorry, Kody, I forgot we've not discussed this. I meant to bring it up to you, but with everything going on it must have slipped my mind."

"H—he's not hurt is he?" I asked as I twisted my hands together. "I know he was involved with Harold, but he did help me."

"Curtis is fine, my love," Conley said gently as he took my hand. "Harold was his older brother and the only family Curtis had. He didn't know what Harold was doing all of these years. Marc and I do not blame him for what happened or being loyal to family. He did help you. He got us the message that led to your rescue."

"What about Harold and his men?"

"They are to be executed as soon as we get the information we need from them," Marc answered sharing a glance with Conley. "It seems the reason Harold wanted the cheetah shifters was he's involved with the hunters that had Avery. We figured that out after Conley and I talked about what your parents told us. Conley never got the message, and the lackey who spoke to your parents at the time was Harold."

"I'm so sorry he betrayed you," I said to Conley, releasing his hands and hugging him. "I know how hard it is for you to trust people, and this can't have helped."

"No, it didn't, but something always seemed off with Harold," he admitted as he pulled me onto his lap. "I should have seen it. I should have known what he was involved with. I was his boss, and I never had a clue."

"You can't know everything always, Conley," Marc said, coming to sit next to him. "This isn't your fault no more than Kody's kidnapping is mine. It's Harold's fault, and he will pay for his crimes."

"What information are you trying to get out of Harold?" I asked, rubbing my face against Conley's shoulders in an attempt at comfort.

"We want the rest of the hunters and where the freak show circus Avery was being kept is. It moves around too often to draw much attention, but there are legitimate ones, so we need to know which it is. Then we're going to go in and free the shifters being held."

"Can I tell this to Avery? I think it would help give him some closure on that part of his life."

"Of course you may," Conley answered, giving me a kiss. "If he needs to be involved, he's more than welcome to be. He doesn't have to be, of course, but whatever he needs."

As if on cue, my phone rang, and I pulled it out of my pocket. I smiled when I saw it was my parents' number. Everyone had left the day after I snapped out of it, mostly because they had animals that needed tending to at their own ranches and had spent over a week at Conley's.

"Hello?"

"Kody? It's your mom," my ma said on the other end. I smiled how she always identified herself like that even though I knew her voice and had caller ID on my cell.

"Hey, Ma, we were just talking about my wonderful family." I chuckled into the phone. "Can you get my dads on the line as well?"

“Um, in a few minutes since they seem to be a little busy with the vampires that showed up at the farm.”

“What? Are you hiding? How do we get you help?” I squeaked out as I leapt off Conley’s lap. “I’ll have Conley to get the choppers—”

“No, they are nice vampires, Kody,” she interrupted me.

“Wait, what?” I asked, completely confused.

“There are a dozen vampires here to help us tend to the herd and horses in the snow,” my ma explained. “It seems the cold doesn’t affect vampires as it does shifters and they can move much faster than we can. I see Conley didn’t tell you about this either?”

“It was supposed to be a surprise,” Conley sighed, rubbing his hands over his face. “I now see how that could have startled everyone. I’m very sorry. I just wanted to do something nice for your family.”

“You did, Conley,” she replied, more than able to hear him when he was sitting next to me. All of us had amazing hearing, but I still put the phone on speaker as I set it on the table instead of being the go-between. “It was a lovely gesture, son. We were just a little confused as to why there were men moving faster than I had ever seen cleaning out the horse stalls and the holding pens for the cattle.”

“I promised Kody when we first mated that I would come up with a way to help your farm as he did before being with me made him have to move.”

“Oh, Kody never helped like this.” She giggled as I gave a snort and crossed my arms over my chest. “Stop pouting, Kody. You’ve always been a great help, but you know that you couldn’t do what a dozen vampires could.”

“How did she know you were pouting?” Marc asked with a smile.

“Because she’s my ma,” I answered as my mom said, “I’m his mother.”

We all had a good laugh over that, and then my dads came in and got on the line as well. They thanked Conley and said that this would help them get everything done they needed to in December before the

big snowstorms hit. Which, it turns out, was Conley's goal. He admitted he wanted them to have all the help they needed so that they might be able to come here to spend the holidays with us.

I smiled at him and snuggled at his side at the warm gesture. Marc and I had already talked about making sure Conley had a great Christmas this year, filled with love and family, since he'd really never had one. We had a few surprises in store for our mate that we hoped he loved.

Once everyone was done talking about the help Conley sent, he filled my parents in on what he'd told me about Harold. They discussed options but ultimately agreed that Avery had the right to know what was going on after what he'd gone through. After much debate, we all finally agreed that I should be the one to make the call. We said our good-byes, and I walked into the other room with my cell so Avery and I could talk without anyone listening.

"Hey, bro, what's up? You doing okay?" Avery asked immediately as he answered.

"Yeah, I'm good. How are you guys doing?"

"We want to have a baby," Avery announced, his excitement almost a tangible thing. "We've been bouncing the idea around and finally came to a decision that, yes, we want to be parents!"

"I think that's great, baby brother," I whispered as my eyes filled with tears of joy. He'd been through so much in his life, and if anyone deserved their happily ever after, it was Avery. "I think you and your mates will be excellent fathers."

"I think so, too, but Cord's scared. Don't tell him I said that though."

"Of course not." I snickered before getting serious. "Are they there, Avery? I need to talk to you about something, and you might want your mates around."

"Kody, are you okay?"

"I'm fine. This is about you and what you've been through."

“Oh, okay,” he replied softly. I heard a door open and he yelled for Ty and Cord. It took a few moments for them to join him from where ever they had been. “Okay, we’re ready.”

“The man who took me works with the hunters that held you captive,” I blurted out with absolutely no finesse. I rambled out everything that Conley and Marc had told me. Then I went a step further to tell them about our conversation with our parents. Avery, Cord, and Ty were silent the entire time, and I started to get nervous. “Avery, are you still there?”

“Yeah, we’re here,” he answered, and I heard him sniffle. “I—I’d prefer not to be involved unless my help is needed, Kody. I’m glad you told me, but I don’t think I can go back there, you know? We’re moving forward in our lives.”

“I understand completely,” I said with a sigh, glad he wanted to stay out of danger. “And, no. Conley’s men can handle this, but we thought it was best to keep you in the loop.”

“I appreciate that. You’ll let me know what happens, right?”

“Of course, little brother,” I answered firmly. We talked a bit about plans for the holidays and said our good-byes before hanging up. I stuffed my phone back in my jeans before walking back into the sitting room where Marc and Conley were waiting for me. “I want to speak to Curtis and then Harold.”

“Are you sure, baby?” Marc asked, his eyes going wide.

“Yeah, I am. If nothing else, I need to thank Curtis for his help,” I answered as I leaned over and gave them each a quick kiss. “And Harold...I think I need to just see that he’s really locked up before he’s executed.”

“Okay, we can do that,” Marc said as he and Conley stood. They led me out of our rooms and across the mansion over to another room, never leaving my side. With a nod from each of them, I reached out and knocked on the door. We didn’t have to wait long for Curtis to open the door.



“Kody, I’m so glad you’re okay,” Curtis whispered as he looked at his feet. “I’m so sorry for what happened.”

“You have nothing to be sorry for,” I replied taking his hand. He looked at where they were joined before glancing up at my eyes. I tried to swallow around the lump in my throat as conflicting emotions fought inside of me. “You saved me, Curtis. And I wanted to say thank you.”

“B—but he is, he’s my brother,” he stuttered out. “I need to see him and talk with him. I need to know why.”

“So do I,” I said, glancing over at Conley.

“Let’s go see Harold,” Conley sighed, making it clear he didn’t like the idea. I held Curtis’ hand still as we followed Conley and Marc down into the lower levels of the house. Dread filled me the closer we got, and I knew this wasn’t the best idea, to see the man who’d kidnapped me. It was just something I had to do.

“Well, this explains a lot,” Harold sneered from behind the bars of his cell as he stared at my hand in Curtis’. He stood from the cot he’d been lounging on and walked over to us. “You betrayed me for a piece of ass? I hope he was worth it.”

“That’s our mate you’re talking about,” Conley snarled as he went to reach for Harold. I let go of Curtis’ hand and moved over to my mate.

“His words don’t mean anything to me, Conley,” I said gently as I wrapped an arm around his waist. My touch seemed to calm him down slightly. After a few deep breaths, Conley had himself back under control.

“I never signed up for kidnapping and torture, brother,” Curtis stated as he ran his hands over his face. “I need to know why, Harold. Why hurt shifters and get into bed with the hunters? They’d want you dead as well. How could you betray secrets and help them like that?”

“Fuck the shifters. They mean nothing to vampires,” Harold answered with a dismissive wave of his hand. “They’re just as bad as humans. If the hunters want to play with them, no skin off my nose. I

just wanted the blood supply from the shifters. Let the hunters profit off of them.”

“They did more than profit off of the captive shifters,” I said firmly, stepping toward him. “But you don’t care about that either, do you? I know you wanted to rape me, so what does it matter if the shifters the hunters have are tortured, right?”

“Wow, aren’t you just up on your little high horse there, cat,” Harold replied as he rolled his eyes. “What do you want?”

“You know what we want,” Marc answered, stepping closer to Harold as he bared his fangs. “Just give us the names and locations, and we’ll make your death quick, Harold.”

“I won’t be here long enough to die,” Harold smirked. “But I would like another shot with the cat. I loved how flexible he was.”

“What?” Marc and Conley gasped as they looked between me and Harold. “Did he—?”

“No, he’s full of shit,” Curtis answered before Marc could really even ask. I’m glad one of us knew the answer. I didn’t think Harold had raped me, but to be honest I was so out of it I’m not sure I really would have known. “Harold’s always had a tell when he lies. He straightens his shoulders, don’t you brother?”

“Fucking traitor,” Harold growled as he narrowed his eyes at Curtis. “How can you live with yourself knowing you betrayed your own family?”

“Much easier than having to live with your sins if I didn’t put a stop to it,” he whispered as he glanced at me. “What you did was wrong, Harold. Help them save the others so you can die with a clear conscious.”

“You can’t keep me in here,” Harold smiled, and it wasn’t a pleasant one. I saw how dead his soul was with the lifeless look in his eyes.

“Oh? Do you mean that band of followers that tried to break in here?” Conley asked, tilting his neck in a condescending manner. “Please, they didn’t even make it five feet inside the perimeter before

my guards had them. No one is coming for you, Harold. You will die for your crimes.”

“I’m inclined to let Kody and his brothers in the cell to do it for us,” Marc snickered. I hid my response to the statement, knowing Marc was just pushing his buttons. “Avery would love a chance for some revenge. And the rest of his litter would join right in, slicing Harold up a little at a time.”

“They wouldn’t be able to hurt me,” Harold sneered.

“We’re all impervious to the neurotoxin in your bite, Harold,” I replied, my own evil smile crossing my face. It was a total lie. I was the only one who it wouldn’t affect, but Harold didn’t know that. “You couldn’t immobilize us. And you might be faster, but there’s six of us all in that little cell focused on nothing but hurting you.”

“I can still take on six tigers,” he said, although I didn’t think he even believed that.

“You can’t take me on, brother,” Curtis growled. “You know that. I could have you doing the jig within twenty minutes, and I will if it saves the other shifters. It might kill me inside to do it, but it would condemn my soul to not help them.”

“Fine,” Harold whispered as he looked away from us. “But I want a guarantee of a quick, painless death.”

“Done,” Conley said firmly as he led us away. When we were back on the first floor, something struck me as odd.

“That was easier than I would have thought.”

“Most bullies are the weakest people in the world,” Conley explained as Marc nodded in agreement. “They always have backup or people to do their dirty work. Harold’s finally looking at having to fight on his own. He probably weighed the odds of him getting out of this alive versus how painful we could make his death.”

“He opted for painless.” Marc snickered as he took my hand. Conley took my other hand as we headed back to our rooms. I saw Curtis staring at us out of the corner of my eye with a look of longing on his face. It broke my heart to see him so defeated, but none of this

was his fault. People can't choose who their family is, just do the best they can with who their given.

I was lucky to have a loving, supportive family. I knew that. And in the days ahead, I knew I would feel just as lucky to have the mates fate gave me. The holidays were right around the corner, and I could not wait to really celebrate everything I was grateful for.

## Chapter 11

Harold did end up spilling his guts on everything he knew. Conley's crew went in and saved as many shifters as they could as soon as they had the location. Unfortunately, there were quite a few that were already killed before they got there.

It seemed when Harold was taken some of the hunters panicked and wanted the shifters they'd held for a long time gone. Those shifters had been around a while and knew where other groups of hunters lived. The loss of those shifters was tragic, even more so because they could have helped Conley dismantle a good deal of the hunter's network. Though I knew my mate would keep after it. He was honorable like that.

We helped the shifters that were rescued assimilate to life outside of the freak show circus. Some had families to go back to. Others were left with nothing and chose to stay at Conley's mansion until they knew what their next step would be.

It was a couple of weeks later, and most of the shifters were doing quite well. I was bouncing with excitement for the surprise we had for Avery and his mates. It had been the hardest secret to keep, but I managed.

"Can we do it now?" I asked Conley Christmas Eve after we'd finished dinner and my entire family was lounging in one of the sitting rooms. "Please? I've kept it a secret this long, and I don't think I can wait anymore."

"Of course you can, my sexy tiger," he answered with a smile before giving me a quick kiss. In the weeks that had followed my kidnapping, Conley had done a one eighty in how he treated me and

Marc. We weren't yet to the point of having sex, but it was coming quickly. I was truly happy at the relationship that was growing with my mates.

"Thank you for this," I whispered, so full of love for my mate after what he'd done for the captured shifters. "You really are a great man."

"Only because I have such a wonderful mate," Conley replied and then gave my ass a light smack. "Go talk to your brother."

"Avery, are you, Cord, and Ty still wanting children?" I asked as I moved across the room to where they were sitting.

"Of course," Avery answered as everyone got quiet and stared at me.

"Would you ever consider adopting?"

"Yes, we've talked about that," Cord said slowly, exchanging a look with his mates. Both Ty and Avery nodded as they gazed at me as if I'd grown a second head.

"Do you remember John and Val?" I asked Avery, waiting for his nod as tears filled his eyes. John and Val had been lion shifters that were captives of the same hunters that held Avery. I knew my baby brother would mourn their loss deeply as they were two of the shifters that were murdered before Conley's men were able to rescue them. "They didn't make it, Avery. I'm truly sorry for that, I know you cared for them."

"I would have gone insane if they weren't there to help me when I needed it," he whispered as the first tear ran down his cheek. "I think I knew in my heart that they didn't make it, and I was scared to ask. It's even worse because Val was pregnant."

"She had the babies," Marc said gently as we both went to kneel in front of Avery. Cord and Ty both wrapped an arm around their mate in a gesture of comfort. "We were able to rescue them."

"They didn't have any other family, just each other," Avery replied, his eyes going wide as he figured out what we were saying. "You want us to adopt their cubs?"

“Yes, Avery,” Conley said as he moved to stand behind Marc and I. He placed a hand on each of our shoulders in a show of support. “We talked about it when they were rescued, and we couldn’t think of more loving mates to take care of the cubs. If this is what you and your mates want, they are yours to adopt. We’ve checked with all the lions in the joint council, they have no family or anyone who John and Val named as their guardians.”

“It’s up to you, baby,” Cord whispered in Avery’s ear, but we could still all hear him. “They were your friends, and we all agreed that adoption was something we’d be willing to do if we couldn’t find a surrogate. I think we could give your friends’ cubs a loving home.”

“My only concern is if you’d be sad about the loss of your friends every time you looked at their children?” Ty asked gently after a few moments of his mates staring at them. “I mean, I know they’d be our children after we adopt them and all, but we’d tell them one day about their parents, right?”

“I’ll grieve for John and Val. I really will,” Avery answered as he ran his hands over his face. “But they were good people. Their cubs deserve a loving home, and I knew them well. I think I’d be the best person to tell them one day how wonderful their parents were. If the position was reversed, I know they would treat my cubs as if they were their own. I’d love to do that for them. And we already said we wanted children, so my answer is yes.”

“I’m all for it. I just wanted to check how you felt,” Ty said as he leaned over and gave Avery a quick kiss before doing the same for Cord. Ty’s eyes went wide as his gaze then darted between me and my mates. “Wait, if they’re shifter cats, there’s a litter of them, right? How many babies did we just agree to adopt?”

“See for yourself.” Conley chuckled as he helped Marc and me to our feet. We led the way down the hall and up the stairs to the room we’d set up as a temporary nursery. Everyone followed, and I heard my mom gasp as she entered the room and saw the three cubs.

“They are breathtaking,” she whispered as she walked over to the first crib. “How old are they? Do you know their names?”

“They are two months old,” I answered quietly, not wanting to wake the girls. “One of the other shifters was there when Val gave birth, so they knew each of their names.”

“This one is Hayley,” Conley said, pointing to the baby closest to him that was awake and staring at everyone with big blue eyes. Her soft reddish orange curls were almost hanging in her forehead already. Avery walked over to her and gently lifted her into his arms before turning to his mates.

“They have no one but us,” Avery whispered, and I saw how he was begging his mates to say yes with his eyes.

“Then it’s a good thing we want them,” Cord said with a smile. He reached out and Hayley immediately wrapped her tiny fingers around one of his. “This is the best Christmas present ever.”

“Who’s this little one?” Ty asked as he picked up another of the cubs who woke up and was staring up at him.

“That is Alana,” I answered, moving to his side. I gestured to the last cub my mom had already lifted into her arms. “And that is Havan.”

“We can really adopt them?” Ty inquired of Conley. “This is acceptable in the shifter community?”

“Cats don’t have packs like wolves do,” Jasper answered as he smiled at Alana in Ty’s arms. “They have small packs of just immediate family. So if they have no family, then, yes, they are truly orphans.”

“Not anymore,” Avery said as he eyed over his mates. “They have three fathers now.”

“Thank you for this,” Cord whispered as his eyes filled with tears as he glanced from me to Conley. “We would love to adopt them.”

“Really? You’re both sure you’re ready for three daughters?” Avery asked, looking hesitantly at his mates.



“Yes,” they both answered, and then Ty continued. “These are your friends’ little girls, and though we will love them as if they were our own, I can’t think of a better way to become parents than to adopt cubs who need us.”

“I’m so glad,” I said as Marc and Conley wrapped their arms around me. “You have no idea how hard it was to keep this a secret!”

“We’re grandparents.” My mom, Ashley, sniffled as both my dads hugged her. “They are so darling. I’m going to start knitting them some blankies as soon as we get home. Every baby needs special blankets made by someone who loves them.”

“I agree,” Conley said so quietly that I tilted my head to glance up at him. He shrugged as he looked away from me. “I never had a mom to knit me anything. I think it’s a great idea and would make the cubs feel special when they’re old enough to realize what Ashley did.”

My mom moved out of my dad’s arms and walked over to my mate. She reached up and placed a hand on either side of his face, making him have to look at her. “I also don’t think you’re ever too old to have a special blanket made for you from someone who loves you.”

“No, I don’t think anyone’s ever too old for that,” Conley agreed, looking at her as if he was confused.

“I think it’s time to open presents then,” she replied with a wide smile. “Let’s bring the new additions to our family downstairs so they can celebrate their first Christmas.”

“Good, because we got them a *ton* of presents instead of throwing Avery, Cord, and Ty a baby shower,” I said as we all headed back downstairs. Marc and I had had so much fun the past week buying everything that we could think of that the cubs might need. Conley had been worried that we were getting so many things and Avery and his mates hadn’t even agreed yet.

“Seems you were right once again, baby,” Conley whispered in my ear as we sat down on the sofa opposite Avery and his mates. Each of them had one of the girls in their arms, smiling so widely I

was surprised their faces didn't hurt. "I was worried if they would want to adopt someone else's cubs, but you knew better."

"I just know Avery," I replied and then gave him a soft kiss. "Thank you for letting us give them this gift and all the presents we also purchased."

"I'm just glad it all worked out," Conley said before turning to look at my mom who was standing before him holding a large wrapped box. "For me?"

"Yes, son," she replied with a smile as he took it. "You've shown that you love my boy, and I want you to think of us as your parents as well."

"I'd be honored," Conley whispered. I nudged him with my shoulder, and after a moment he tore into the box. As my mom had hinted, there was a gorgeous afghan that she had knitted for him. It was exactly the same shade of silver-gray that Conley's eyes were. "Thank you so much, Ashley."

"You're—" my mom went to say, but Conley moved so fast off the couch and hugged her that she was interrupted. "You're very welcome. It's the least I could do after you rescued our boy."

"I love him," he said softly and gave her a quick kiss on the cheek. Conley glanced at me over his shoulder as he released my mom. "It was completely selfish on my part for wanting to get him back. I love Kody so much and need him with me always."

I glanced over to Marc to see if he'd heard what our mate had just said. The nod he gave me let me know that he had and that he was ready for the next step in our relationship. I knew that I was as well. I just hoped that Conley was truly ready to let himself go with us. This would only work if he was ready to give us every part of him.

\* \* \* \*

Later that night when our guests were all settled in their rooms for the night my mates and I retired to our bedroom. Marc and I walked

into our room and started getting undressed. Conley followed us, and I held up a hand to stop him as I pulled my jeans off.

“Let me,” I said as I moved over to him completely naked. He lowered his hands away from the buttons of his shirt as I pulled it out of his dress slacks. Marc moved behind him, reached around, and started taking off Conley’s shirt. “Are you ready to give us everything as a true mate should?”

“Yes, I love you both so much, and I’m sorry I ever betrayed that,” Conley whispered as tears gathered in his eyes.

“That doesn’t matter anymore, Conley,” Marc replied as he kissed our mate’s neck. “All that matters is we learned from it and what happens here on out. I love you too, my mate.”

“As do I,” I said as I worked on getting his pants off as Marc finished stripping his upper body. “It’s time for all three of us to be connected as we should.”

“Thank you,” Conley replied as we all moved onto the bed. I gazed over both my naked mates’ perfect bodies. Damn, my men were hot!

“Are you okay with being in the middle?” Marc asked as I lay back in the middle of the bed and pulled Conley over me.

“I’d love to,” Conley answered, glancing at him before mashing his lips down to mine. His tongue explored every inch of my mouth as I felt his now slicked-up fingers rub my hole. I wasn’t sure when the lube had been brought out, but I was distracted with the mouth latched onto mine. I moaned loudly as he pushed a finger into my ass, smiling as Conley groaned. Guess Marc was doing the same behind him. “More. I need more, Marc.”

“So do I,” I begged and was rewarded with a second finger. Even though we’d not been having sex with Conley, Marc and I still were. I was already mostly stretched out from our fun in the shower before my family came over earlier today. We progressed fast, weeks of pent-up sexual desire unraveling quickly. It didn’t take long for him to have three fingers moving inside of me.

“Are you ready for me, my sexy tiger?” Conley asked as he pulled out of me and moved to line up his gorgeous cock.

“Yes, take me, Conley,” I panted as the lust I saw in his eyes for me took my breath away. He smiled as he thrust forward and pushed half of his cock into me. I cried out at the sensations bursting inside of me as the nerve endings in my ass went wild. “Oh, fuck, so good.”

“Your turn, Marc,” Conley moaned as he bottomed out inside of me with one more push. He leaned forward and kissed me like a wild man, all tongue and teeth as he spread our legs wider for Marc. Conley groaned into my mouth, and I knew Marc was entering Conley’s ass as well.

“Shit, you’re just as tight as I remember,” Marc moaned as he ran his hands over both of us. We all stayed still for a few moments, relishing in the feeling of all three of us finally being together.

“Please, please, someone move,” I whimpered finally. And they did. Marc set a slow but hard pace that Conley followed with since he was in the middle. Being on the bottom, I basically just got to hold on for the ride and enjoy what they were doing to my body. I moved my legs up around Conley, reaching Marc’s hips as he moved.

“Oh, hell, I’ve never been with two men before,” Conley groaned as Marc picked up the pace. “Harder, Marc. Pound my ass.”

“So full,” I cried out as Conley’s cock started slamming into me. He moved his head and licked the side of my neck. “Yes, yes, bite me. Sink those fangs in me!”

“Marc, do the same,” Conley begged seconds before biting me. I yelled out as I came so hard my entire body shook. The space between us was filled with my cum as my cock exploded and lights flashed behind my eyes. In the middle of my orgasm, Conley lifted his head up from me and roared out his as my ass clamped down on his cock.

“Gorgeous,” I gasped as Marc did the same seconds later, and I had a front row view of both of my mates in the throes of passion. Both were never more beautiful than when they came, their faces full

of bliss. Conley kept shooting stream after stream of his seed into me, which I loved. It was one of the best parts of making love to my mates, knowing that a part of them was inside of me.

“Isn’t our sexy tiger hot?” Conley panted as he glanced over his shoulder at Marc.

“*Our* sexy tiger?”

“Kody’s both of our mate, just as we are his,” Conley answered him as they fell to either side of me. I was grateful even though I liked us all being connected. It seemed better that we move apart rather than being crushed by two large vampires.

“And I love you both,” I said as they both turned on their sides so that I was pushed up against them. “I have to admit it is the hottest nickname I’ve ever had.”

“Maybe we should have it tattooed on your ass then.” Marc snickered, but I felt both of them get hard after what he said.

“Oh, boy,” I groaned as they got wound up again. “Nice to know the idea of branding me as yours gets you both hard.”

“But you are ours,” Conley whispered in my ear as he sucked on my lobe. “All ours.”

“Our sexy tiger to please always,” Marc said as he did the same on my other side. And I liked the sound of that. No matter what had happened, we were going to be just fine. We all loved each other, and my mates had learned to share their tiger.

# THE END

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Joyee Flynn grew up in Chicago living in the same house all her life until she left for college. She loves to get lost in fantasy that only books could bring. She kept writing, short stories, romance, mystical, and of course adding in hot cowboys any chance she could. Her wide interest in reading was reflected in her writings. Currently Joyee lives with her dog, Marius, named after a vampire from Ann Rice's *Interview with the Vampire* series. She dreams of one day living out in Montana, enough land to have a few horses, and find a couple of cowboys of her own.

A lover of men, Joyee's all about them in any form in her books. Vampire, werewolf, military, doesn't matter at all as long as they are hot, hard, and sex fiends!

***Also by Joyee Flynn***

Ménage Amour: North American Dragon 1: *Dragon Mine*  
Ménage Amour: North American Dragon 2: *Dragon Ours*  
Siren Classic: Marius Brothers 1: *Micah*  
Siren Classic: Marius Brothers 2: *Remus*  
Siren Classic: Marius Brothers 3: *Stefan*  
Ménage Amour: The O'Hagan Way 1: *A Dillon Sandwich*  
Ménage Amour: The O'Hagan Way 2: *A Caleb Footlong*  
Ménage Amour: Purrfect Mates 1: *Here Kitty, Kitty*  
Ménage Amour: Purrfect Mates 2: *My Little Kitty*  
Siren Classic: Hiding Hounds 1: *Sheriff Found*

***Also by Stormy Glenn and Joyee Flynn***

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