March 7th 2016 London, England, The United Kingdom, 10:00 AM EST

“Why did we take a plane again?” I asked wryly as we stepped out of the cab in front of the Zedwell Hotel. We’d flown right over, and I hadn’t even had time to stop at the Club like I’d wanted. Of course there was an entrance in town and I’d get to it eventually, but still, it showed exactly how distracting I found recent events. “We could have zetad over, right? This WAS setup through the League.” Of course, I wasn’t actually that broken up about the flight. But it would have set a bad precedent not to complain a BIT. Still, I had to suppress my grin at the excitement of my girls. Zee was thrilled to see her friend, Rose was happy to get a vacation, and Lia…

“I’m in ENGLAND!” squealed my vampire bride so loud it shook the glass nearby. When several people looked over, she winced and shrunk back a bit in embarrassment. “Sorry,” she whispered. “But I’m in England. This is amazing. I’ve always wanted to travel. Not to like…the ocean, but to places like this. There’s so much history, and culture, and everyone is so NICE! Why aren’t people this nice in Gotham?”

“Because it’s Gotham,” I told her with a grin. “Which means the general aura of disdain is enough to offset how friendly people are to pretty, large breasted redheads with cute smiles.”

She rolled her eyes. “That’s not a thing. People aren’t nice to me just because they like the way I look. Right, Zee?” When there was no response, she looked over at our sorceress. “Wait, that’s REAL? But why would they do that?”

Rose rolled their eyes. “Because they want to cream fill your donut, Red. In Gotham, people’s desire to be ornery bastards is stronger than their desire to try to stick their dicks in the nearest thing with tits and a pulse. In most of the world, it’s the other way around. You might be missing the pulse, but those tits more than make up for it.”

“Well they can’t,” Lia said waspishly. “I’m married, thank you very much, the only one who gets to stick anything in any of my pastries is my husband.”

Rose smiled wickedly. “I seem to remember stuffing some baked goods the other night, Red. You’re not gonna tell mommy no next time she wants a bit of hot muffin are you?” Her sensual purr was enough to almost stop me in my tracks, and I saw a bright red flush crawl over Lias’s cheeks and neck.

“No, mommy,” she whimpered meekly, eyes dropping submissively.

Zee scowled at our valkyrie. “You bitch, you started training her without me? I was working up to that.”

“You snooze you loose,” Rose gloated. “Besides, I doubt you have time, because speaking of pastries, a little birdie told me you requested a bun in that oven as soon as this little escapade is over.”

Lia stopped cold. “Th-there’s gonna be a BABY?” she all but squealed. “We’re having a baby? I’m gonna be an Auntie? Or am I going to be a mom secondhand. We’re all married, so your baby would be my baby. Oh my God, there’s so much to do. We need to decorate a room for them and buy them new clothes and register them for school and we don’t even know if it’ll be a boy or a girl. Or BOTH! Maybe it’ll be twins! Or triplets! Zee loves magic, maybe it’ll be a magic number of babies. Like three, or sev-”

Her rambling was cut off by a smooth hand and a frantic, terrified look from Zatanna. “Let’s NOT put that out into the world, kitten. I think one baby is more than enough. I don’t need a magic number of babies. Especially not seven. I’m more than willing to go through the miracle of birth. Once. And I’m probably going to have a C-section.”

“Ok, but remember, if God wanted us to be numb during childbirth, he would have given our nerves an off switch,” Lia said earnestly. “You shouldn’t use any harmful drugs when you’re having the baby.”

Zee stared at her in a sort of horrified fascination, looking torn between losing her shit and being unwilling to get angry at Lia for being so earnest…and then her eyes narrowed. “You’re fucking with me,” she said suspiciously. “When did you learn to fuck with me?”

Lia gave her an innocent smile. “Oh, I think we all know I’ve got plenty of experience with that. But yes, I was teasing. I was a bit miffed you didn’t TELL me, you know.”

“I didn’t tell Rose either,” Zee huffed. “I was keeping it secret because I didn’t want to jinx it. Of course you would have been involved. It IS going to be OUR baby. I have so much I want it to learn from all of you. Rose’s composure under pressure and loyalty, your bravery and kindness. Leon’s compassion and imagination. This baby is going to bring us all so much closer together as a family!” Her eyes moistened as she stared at all three of us. “I love all of you so much, and soon there’s going to be a PERSON that comes from all of us.”

“I wonder if Leon can make it so the baby really DOES belong to all of us?” Lia said excitedly. “Like Zee, I know you want to carry them, but what if he used Synthesize to make it so it’s like…a four person baby. I read an article about that somewhere!”

“Ok, putting my foot down,” Rose said with exasperation. “No baby talk on vacation. I love all of you, but you already said this is supposed to happen AFTER the Reach nonsense, and if you keep hyping it up, Zee’s going to be upside down with her ankles behind her head before lunch. We are on VACATION, people. Let’s enjoy ourselves. You can think of it as a…” she closed her eyes, as if she was about to say something horrible. “A baby moon.”

“OH MY GOD ITS A BABY MOON!” Lia screamed so loud I was worried about my fillings rattling out of my teeth.

I glared at Rose. “What part of your experience with her made you think that would deescalate the situation?”

Her sly smirk told me that she hadn’t as she sashayed into the hotel, leaving me to deal with our starry eyed vampire as she gushed about all the fun things to do on a baby moon in London, despite having never experienced either of those things. Zee, for her part, was watching us all with a warmth and affection that was almost scary, hand resting gently over her stomach. I shot her a wide smile and then nodded to the hotel, and she headed in.

Lia was still chattering, but I caught her wrist and pulled her against me.”Hey,” I told her quietly, cutting off her babble. “She’s gone.”

She froze. “I…don’t know what you mean.”

“You were hurt we didn’t tell you,” I pointed out. “Not bad joke hurt. Real hurt. She was telling the truth though, she just didn’t want to jinx it. She’s worried I’ll get cold feet if she brings it up too much.”

“That’s stupid,” she said bluntly. “You’d do anything for her. If I wanted a baby I’d just ask. I know you’d give me one. Not that I don’t want to have kids with you!” she reassured me. “I just-”

I laughed, kissing her to cut her off. “Kitten, you don’t have to APOLOGIZE for not asking me to breed you. We’re young. Zee…Zee had to grow up fast when she lost her dad. She’s been an adult for a lot longer than the rest of us, I think, even though we’re the same age. Now that she feels stable she’s ready to have a family of her own, and I can’t wait to give her that, but you not being there yet, or even not ever getting there, it’s all fine. Hell, I think even if you WERE ready I’d want to wait. One baby is plenty before I turn twenty.”

“I just…I didn’t want to make this about me,” she said quietly. “I’m SO happy for her. I was just a little sad I didn’t get to be part of things.”

I waggled my eyebrows at her. “You can be a BIG part of things if you want.”

She giggled at that. “Not what I meant, pervert.” She let the laugh trail off. “Is that…can I? I want that. I want to see you give her a child. Our child. That sounds so…wow. Is it hot out here?”

“Rose was right,” I said as I let her go. “You two are going to have Zee in a mating press by the end of the day.” I slapped her bubbly ass, directing her towards the hotel with a squeak. “Get thee in front of me, vampire. You can be part of the process, but we aren’t talking about this now. We have a meeting with Zee’s friend in a few hours.”

She gave me a cheeky wink and wiggled her ass at me provocatively before darting off into the hotel, and I followed with a wide smile. My girls never ceased to amaze me every damned day. They were something special.

We arrived at the front desk to find Zee just finished up paying for our room. Apparently she'd gotten us the honeymoon suite because it had the biggest bed. We all piled into the elevator and headed up to our floor, dropping our things in the hotel before I flopped down onto the bed with a groan of enjoyment. It was so nice to be on a soft mattress after that annoying ass place ride.

"So, where are we meeting your friend?" I asked Zee lazily, my eyes closed from the sheer relaxation.

She flopped down next to me, and I enjoyed the lilac scent of her perfume, even without opening my eyes. I loved to look at her, but sometimes you just wanted to decompress from everything. Even sight.

"Evie and her husband have an estate apparently," she said enthusiastically. "They had some grand adventure and found a horde of treasure. Used the money to buy a manor in Oxfordshire. We're supposed to be going over for dinner in a few hours. I'm looking forward to whatever we'll be eating, though I'm wondering if we can squeeze in a quick nap? If not, maybe you could whip up some of that coffee Rose loves so much."

I blinked my eyes open. "Wait, a few hours…dinner? It's ten in the morning?"

She giggled. "It's three PM. You're so used to zeta tubes you forgot about timezones. Dinner is at six."

On either side of us, the bed dipped, Lia snuggling into my side as Rose lay her head on Zee's generous chest. I smiled warmly as I wriggled in closer. "Six huh?" I asked with a wide yawn. "I bet we could make do with a few hours. And we could always do the coffee thing later. Can you set up an alarm spell for us? I don't want to get my phone out."

Zee snorted, eyes fluttering shut, then muttered a few words. "S'okay," she yawned sleepily. "Larm now."

I nodded, letting my head dip as I buried my nose in her hair. I was so exhausted. Plane rides always made me tired, and while I had been pushing it off with my Willpower on the way here, now that I was warm and safe in bed with my girls, all the sleepy seemed to sneak up and sucker punch me.

Oddly, I found that I didn't mind. As I let my eyes close, I took a deep breath, inhaling the scent of the people I loved most in the world, and let the warmth and safety wrap me up and drag me down into the endless twilight sea of dreamless sleep. The last thought I had as I drifted off was

how lucky I was, and how nothing in my life could have prepared me for everything I had now. My life was pretty amazing, and I couldn't wait to see where it would go next.