

HIDDEN
KINGDOM

Christmas Scare
for Paige and her men



Whispers caught my attention through my half-asleep state. I would have ignored them and curled into Cedric more, then pulled Thorn closer to my back, but I registered the words.

“What do you mean you can’t find her?” Nate snarled low. “She’s supposed to be in bed.”

“I mean exactly that. She’s vanished again,” Asher stated.

“We need to wake them,” Alex suggested.

“Paige needs more rest. They gave her a good workout,” Ezra put in. The blankets hid my smile, but Ezra spoke the truth. Thorn and Cedric had worked my body over in ways I would be feeling for a while.

Dragging the blanket down, I sat up and caressed my baby bump as I yawned. After rubbing my eyes, I blinked sluggishly at my other men standing around the bed. Nate held our squirming boy Isaac, who was five and in his cub form. He didn’t stop moving until Nate lifted him and slung him over his shoulder. Thin-lipped, Asher stared at the others with his hands on his hips. Alex ran a hand through his hair repeatedly, and our little four-year-old mage, Colson, watched his daddy with a grin. He adored his father and followed him everywhere. Except when it was bedtime. Then he was all mine. He loved his mommy’s stories and cuddles.

“Why are Colson and Isaac awake?” I asked.

Alex looked everywhere but at me while Ezra stared down at me, grazing his bottom lip with his top teeth.

Tensing, I asked, "What's going on?"

This time they all turned to me, and I read their worry instantly.

I glared. "What's happened?"

"I have everyone looking," Asher said. His hand came out and patted the air like he knew I was about to get riled.

"Not my fault this time," Nate said with a smirk. Isaac suddenly turned and leaped for me. Thankfully, Nate was fast and caught him before he crashed to the floor. Our little pup was a bit clumsy. He raced up the bed, tripping over his paws. Reaching down, I picked him up and cuddled him close as he licked at my face.

Smiling, I tapped his nose. He was a cutie in both forms. His tongue lolled out before he yipped at me. Yes, very adorable. "Why are both of our kids awake when they should be asleep for Santa tomorrow? What's happened?" I repeated.

Isaac whimpered.

I cocked my head to the side and raised a brow. "Isaac?"

He wiggled out of my hold and bounced down on Thorn, who grunted and woke with a groan. "You little monster," Thorn said, though he didn't sound upset about being woken. He rolled with Isaac in his arm to his back, laughing as Isaac licked at Thorn's face.

Cedric, who was on my other side, stretched before he reached out for me blindly and tried to tug me back down next to him.

“Come back to sleep, beautiful,”

“I can’t. We have an audience.”

He chuckled, opening his eyes. “That’s never stopped you.”

Laughing, I leaned down to give him a quick kiss on the cheek. “That’s true. But Asher was just about to tell me what was wrong.”

Cedric stilled for a beat before he sat up abruptly. “Evangeline?”

Asher nodded. “We have everyone looking for her, but she’s transported herself again.”

With Isaac in his arms, Thorn rolled and climbed out of bed. He dropped Isaac into Nate’s waiting hold and said, “I’ll get the brothers onto it as well.”

“They already are,” Alex stated.

Cedric stood beside the bed and helped me up. As soon as I was on my feet, Ezra was there, rubbing my belly before he leaned down to kiss it. Yes, like all my men, we were excited about another baby. It just happened to be Ezra’s this time, my shifter mates could tell.

“Xi and Kenrick are also out helping,” Ezra said as he straightened.

“Really, there’s only a few places she goes now. She has to be at one of them,” I said as I slipped into the robe that Cedric held out.

Asher shook his head, his long hair falling around his shoulders more. “We’ve looked. She isn’t at any of them.”

Fear knifed through me. “Cedric?”

“She’s blocking me. I can’t feel her.” Panic laced his tone.

I gripped his arm and took a deep breath. If I calmed down, he would too. I hoped. “It’s okay. We’ve been through this every time she gets an idea and wants to follow through. Like the time she transported herself into the woods because she wanted to see the pack. Or when she transported herself from school to your mom because she missed her. She’ll show up and then... then she’d grounded for twenty years.”

He sighed and ran a hand over his face. “All right. I won’t panic yet. But I agree with you about grounding her for twenty years.”

“Good.” I started for the door. “I mean, seriously, what is she thinking by doing this on Christmas Eve?” Opening the door, I abruptly stopped when the devil stood in front of me.

He cocked an arrogant brow. “Missing someone?” He bounced the five-year-old mischief in his arms.

“Evangeline, you are in big trouble, young lady.”

“But Mommy. I wanted to see Grandpa Lucy.”

“You can’t just up and leave. You know this. If someone with ill intentions got their hands on you, it could’ve been bad.”

The men around me let out their own noises of complaint.

Even Lucifer’s gaze darkened. “No one would touch her without forfeiting their lives.”

Closing my eyes, I drew in a deep breath. “I know, Lucy.”

“Only Evie can call me that,” he clipped.

Reaching out, I patted his arm just as one of our people walked by and squawked before running off after they saw the devil. So many still feared him. To me, he was my father-in-law who I could hassle.

He scowled at me. “You will die a thousand deaths.”

Evangeline cackled and snuggled into him.

Lucifer’s expression melted into warmth as he stared down at her. Cedric moved forward, holding his hands out. “I’ll put her in bed.”

Lucifer placed her carefully in his arms with a soft smile while I said, “But Evie, you have to promise us you won’t go anywhere without an adult present.”

She perked up. “Can I still go to Hell?”

I really wanted to laugh at that sentence, but I refrained.

“Yes. But as I said, not without an adult with you. Promise us.”

“I promise. No more trips without someone.”

Leaning in, I kissed her cherub cheek. “Thank you. Now, you’d better get to sleep so Santa can come.”

“I will!” she cried.

Cedric kissed my forehead before he walked to the next bedroom, where the children slept. Until they were older, they would stay in one room together. I glanced back to see Nate and Alex had disappeared with our other kids. Probably entering their room through our joined bathroom.

Asher stepped close, and I leaned into him while looking at Lucifer. “Thanks for bringing her back straight away. We’ll see you in the morning?”

“I’ll be here.” He reached out and ran a hand over my bump. “How’s the grandchild of my lions doing?”

“Dad, hell, he’s not one of your loins,” Ezra complained from somewhere in the bedroom.

“But you are, which means—”

I shot my hand up in his face. “I don’t want to hear it. See you tomorrow, Lucy.”

He glared, then disappeared in the next instant.

Asher steered me back into the bedroom. “Come on, love. No doubt it’ll be a big and early day tomorrow.”

Yawning, I nodded. “It will.”

Ezra, already in bed beside Thorn, flung the blanket back. I removed the robe and climbed in with Asher at my other side. I rolled into Asher, and Ezra molded himself to my back. My body hummed, my links to them filled with love.

“Sleep, love. Thorn and I will set everything up for the kids by morning.”

“I have the best men.”

They chuckled around me.



ALEX, Nate, and I were shaken awake by three toddlers at five-freaking-a.m. Luckily, we’d prepared for it. Alex clicked his fingers to cover me in a nightgown and

them in sleep pants just before Colton climbed in between Alex and me.

The other two jumped up and down. Since he was still in his pup form, Isaac yipped, and Evie yelled, “Santa, Santa, Santa.”

I sat up, curling Colton in my arms, telling the other two, “Go wake Daddy Asher, Ezra, Cedric, and Thorn. We’ll meet in the hallway in a few moments, but wait for all of us before running to the main living room, please.”

My men didn’t like to crowd me when I was pregnant. If I had my way, they’d all be in bed with me, but now they took turns to be at my side.

“Yes, Mommy,” Evie yelled, and raced off. Isaac followed her with a stumble here and there.

Kissing the top of Colton’s head, I asked, “You ready to see what Santa brought you?”

He lifted his head, cupped my cheeks, squished them in a bit, and cried, “Yes!”

Laughing, I gave him another kiss. “Come on then. Up to Daddy.”

Alex was already out of bed and leaned down to grab him. He didn’t shift away until he gave me my morning kiss. Something all of my men did that I loved. When they started for the door, I turned to Nate. His heated gaze was already glued to my lips.

Grinning, I ran my fingers through his hair before tugging it at the nape. “Didn’t you get enough at whatever hour you came to bed?”

“Fuck no,” he growled. “Never enough of you.”

Leaning in, I kissed him until both of us were breathless, and Thorn called from the doorway, “Let’s go, you two. We have three eager monsters out here.”

After sharing a smile against each other’s lips, I scooted out of bed and met Nate at the end, where he took my hand in his.

Outside the bedroom, and after I’d kissed the rest of my men good morning, Nate scooped up Isaac and told him, “You’ll have to shift to open presents.”

Our boy’s body morphed from wolf to child. I would forever be grateful for the spell Alex had placed on our boy, and many other shifter children in the pack on our lands, which eased the pains when they shifted. Alex quickly clicked his fingers, and Isaac was dressed in a cute dinosaur pajama set.

Down the hall, a person stepped out of the living room and called, “Move it, kids. Santa has been,” It was Alma, Lucifer’s better half. I waved while she blew me a kiss.

Nate placed Isaac on the floor to stop him from jumping out of his arms as the kids ran wildly down the hallway. My heart filled with happiness when we heard their squeals and gasps.

As I held Nate’s hand as we entered through the double doors, Ezra drew close and curled an arm around my shoulders.

Lucifer instructed Evie, Isaac, and Colton to sit in front of their piles, which had suspiciously grown from what we’d brought them. I glanced at Alma, who

winked. Of course they'd added to the already spoilt monsters' gifts. They loved them nearly as much as we all did. Thankfully, I'd banned my people from getting them anything. They'd been upset, but it'd settled them somewhat when I explained that I'd told my sister the same thing.

Evie glanced back at me. "Mommy, can we start?"

Smiling, I nodded. "Go for it." I took a seat on the couch and watched Nate sit on the floor beside Isaac, who had just ripped open a present.

"Mommy!" he yelled, holding it up.

"Wow, baby."

He beamed and thrust it at his daddy while grabbing for another. Nate smirked.

Colton was slower in opening his, and I caught Alex's hands twitching from where he sat beside our son, as if he wanted to help Colton tear the paper to see what was inside.

Then there was Evie, who had Cedric and Lucifer helping to put together a large doll house while she worked on opening other things.

After speaking with Alma, Asher sat next to me as Ezra dropped to the floor in front of me, leaning against my legs. Reaching out, I rested a hand on his shoulder. He turned his head and kissed it. I shifted slightly to press my head against Asher's shoulder while I sensed Thorn step up behind me. He leaned down and kissed the side of my neck.

My men.

My family.

Yes, we'd had our ups and downs over the years, but I wouldn't give any of it up for anything. No doubt there would be more trials to come, but with all the support surrounding us, we'd get through it.

Together.

Have you met Paige and her men before?
You can check out their trilogy in Kindle Unlimited!

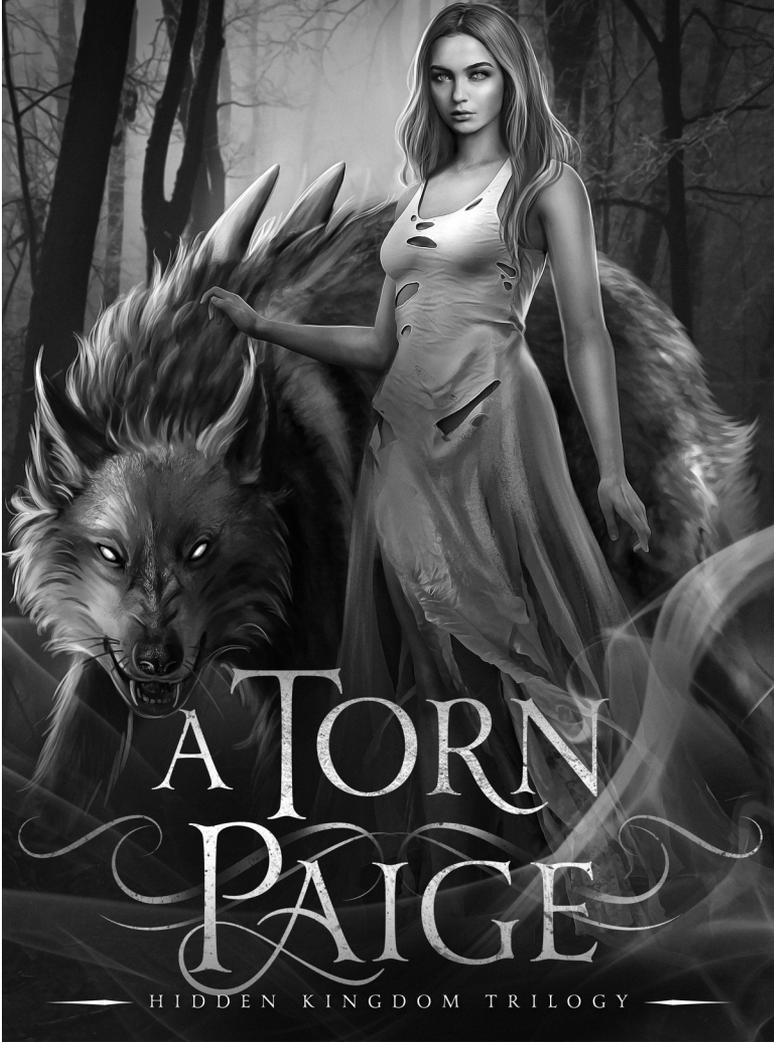
Book one: A Torn Paige

One, two, things are changing for you.
Three, four, monsters at your door.
Five, six, no one could predict.
Seven, eight, you learn they're your mates.
Nine, ten, it's time to fight again.

Paige Alice has changed, but she's not sure if that's a good or bad thing. The good. Four annoying and different types of men, who she trusts with her life. A scary but faithful sidekick, and of course, her crazy family. The bad.... Everything else.

Note: This is the first in a polyamorous paranormal romance trilogy. There's adult themes, ghouls, shifters, vampires, course language, humor, and mm scenes, for 18+ only.

L. ROSE



A TORN
PAIGE

HIDDEN KINGDOM TRILOGY