

The Alpha's Contract Luna alexia By Lian

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Read The Alpha's Contract Luna alexia By Lian Chapter 41

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-King James –

"We are nearby," a man said to his king.

"Did you inspect the coast?" King James of Eswen asked.

"Yes, my king," his beta replied. "There are dead bodies on the beach, tents were burned, and they were all running around trying to save their companions."

King James laughed. He said, "Good. The plan is working. Let's stay back and let the two ships proceed first. Make sure they navigate the mines, just like the last."

"Yes, My King," said his beta.

James smiled triumphantly, knowing this time he would succeed. His informant and ally in Taplean was a very prominent person.

No one would ever suspect. In the past, his ally had made mistakes, but that was a given. Not everyone could tell the minds of whoever was leading the front of the war, and Alpha Kieran was a very stubborn man to kill.

King James and his generals have thought of many creative ways to attack Taplean, but Alpha Kieran Stone was getting in his way. He was so patriotic that his warriors often found strength through his encouraging words. Alpha Kieran had set an example

by fighting at the front of the war and causing good damage to his men! The fearless alpha even killed his last general!

The warriors of Taplean saw Alpha Kieran as a hero, and they looked up at him. He was the source of their motivation

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and strength.

King James had conspired with his ally to have Alpha Kieran dead. So far, they had failed miserably.

Now, with another attack set in motion and his ally confirming that they had formed an army of rogues, he hoped he would finally succeed.

From his ship, he watched two of Eswen's battleships making it into the bay. So far, none of the mines have exploded. Hitting the

mines should have triggered the explosion, but it did not. He smirked, knowing that they had passed the mines again. His ally was reliable.

Aside from the two boats that had already maneuvered to the bay, he still had three ships full of soldiers for the battle, his boat included. Since the rogues should have already attacked King Balthasar's soldiers, their numbers should have already been reduced. King James concluded he had more than enough men to break through the coast and proceed to the capital, where his ally awaited, and where he would take the crown from King Balthasar. King James and his beta watched as three of his ships moved closer. He was smiling from ear to ear, anticipating Alpha Kiran's death. When, suddenly, the mines exploded!

He growled, covering his ears from the pain of the detonation. When he recovered, he took his beta's telescope and watched as two ships were wrecked in the middle of the water, some of his men jumping from the boat to save themselves.

King James growled. He was fuming inside. "What happened? How did this happen?!"

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"I think our information was mistaken about the mines, My King," his beta revealed. "Maybe we should retreat. I feel as though a disaster is coming."

"No! We spent too much on this invasion! We still have three ships!" King James replied in anger.

He mindlinked with his surviving warriors on the same two ships, telling them to proceed with the plan. Their boats may be on fire, and some of his men may have been killed by the explosion, but it did not change the fact that King Balthasar's men were outnumbered. 'Keep moving the boats to the shore! Swim to the shore and attack! If you still have your rifle, bring them with you!'

To the other two boats who were floating with them behind the bay, he ordered, "Proceed to the bay! Help the others!"

With the mines already flared, he can be sure the rest of his ship can proceed to shore. He thought, 'How many explosives could they have mined'

As far as his informant advised, only one set of mines existed.

An hour later, King James saw how some of his men made it to the shore.

One of the boats on fire still landed closer to the coast

and had unloaded a few of his soldiers. The fight commenced, and King James was smiling again.

He watched as two of his other boats continued to sail to shore, but just as he did, he also saw how the dead bodies of King Balthasar's men were getting up on their feet!

"What is going on?!" He screamed while looking through the telescope. "Are they not dead?"

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-Alexia-

"They are here. They are at the border," Rae revealed, and Alexia immediately dropped whatever she was cooking. She gazed at Lydia and ordered, "Finish up here."

"Yes, Luna. Go meet our alpha!" Lydia exclaimed.

"I'll wait for you in the driveway," Rae said with a wink.

Alexia immediately ran to the room she shared with Kieran. She thoroughly bathed, lathering soap all over her b*dy.

'Where are you?' Kieran mindlinked with her, proving he was already near.

She chuckled and replied, 'Bathing. I'm going to meet you halfway!'

'Or you can stay there because I f ucking wanna be buried inside you right now,' Kieran suggested.

Yet again, she laughed. Alexia said, 'Behave. The pack is throwing everyone a celebration party. You have no idea how many dishes I cooked today for your arrival.'

'You are all the meal that I want,' Kieran suggested.

Alexia was already done with her shower. As she walked into the closet, she suggested, 'We will have all the time we need after the party. Besides, you have guests! It's going to be a very busy evening for the pack.'

After two months of being away, Kieran and all his men finally returned. Their last battle with King James' men only lasted for three weeks. However, the negotiations, the medical treatments for the wounded warriors, and the rehabilitation kept them from coming home, especially Kieran and the other alphas.

Now, everyone was finally back, including those who had been keeping watch on the coast for months. Kieran and the warriors deserved a celebration party, which was why she worked hard to arrange the event.

'I can't wait to see you,' he said.

'Me too,' she replied. 'I love you.'

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I love you,' he said back.

'I'm heading out,' she revealed. 'See you in a few minutes.'

Alexia wore rubber shoes, tight jeans, and a white-sleeved crop top. She wanted to be comfortable, running towards her husband while tempting him with the feel of her bare tummy.

When Alexia made it inside the car, Rae stepped on the gas. She was as excited as Alexia, saying, "I so want a godson."

"Shut up!" Alexia exclaimed. "Why haven't you and Jaxon made one, anyway? Don't push the pressure on me."

The two of them laughed, but soon Rae replied, "The truth is, we were waiting for this fucking war to end. I seriously hope King

James will not change his mind."

"We could already have a child now, but I ain't married yet!" Rae pointed out.

"I don't have a rock on my finger."

Alexia laughed. She suggested, "He will probably pop the question anytime soon – woah! Be careful! You almost hit a tree!"

Rae simply chuckled at her, but she adjusted her pace on the road. Soon, the streets became crowded. Many of the town's pack members were outside their homes, waiting for their loved ones to arrive. Some were in tears, while a few, especially the children, were jumping up and down, excited to see their fathers, older sisters, or brothers.

It became difficult for Rae to drive through with the crowd. Thus, they both pulled to the side and began walking.

"Luna, Alexia! Alpha is almost here!"

"Our Luna is the most excited!"

Luna Alexia! My dad's coming home!" A little girl said to her.

Up ahead, Alexia saw Dean and Melissa, together with their families. Like the others, they were ready to give flowers and gifts to the warriors.

Melissa screamed at her, "Alexia! Your husband is here! You must be so happy!"

"I am," she replied, hugging Melissa.

"Go ahead, Alexia. I'm sure the pack members will let you through," Dean suggested.

Her face burned at what she was about to do, but she also could not contain her excitement. She said, "Here I go."

"Go!" Rae and Melissa said almost at the same time.

“Go, Alexia!” Dean echoed.

She walked over and announced, “Stone Blood Pack, will you let your luna pass and be with your beloved alpha!”

Alexia laughed at her actions, but the crowd was more amused.

“Let Luna Alexia pass!”

“Chase after our alpha, Luna!”

“Let our luna through!”

Finding a clearing, Alexia ran. She did not count the minutes. She simply looked forward to seeing her husband. Soon, she saw rows of cars, trucks, and warriors on foot.

“Luna Alexia is here!”

“Alpha, the luna is here!”

Everyone was guiding her to Kieran. It took less than a minute for her to find him. He was standing, waving his hands on top of a pickup truck.

It was as though he sensed her presence. He took a big whiff of the surrounding air, and his eyes landed on hers. She smiled while his eyes narrowed.

Kieran efficiently jumped out of the car. His muscles flexed as he strolled across the road, his feet slowly picking up the pace.

Hoots could be heard around Alexia, seeing how their alpha was headed her way. She laughed as she ran in his direction, her arms lifting by themselves.

When Alexia was about a meter away from him, she leaped, and Kieran caught her by the waist. He embraced her tightly, smelling her

profoundly and k*ssing her cheek.

“I fucking miss you so much,” he whispered in her ear.

Kieran spun her around, and when he landed Alexia on the pavement, he cupped her chin, saying, “All mine.”

They k*ssed, and the people howled for their alpha and luna.

“Are we going to have a young alpha soon, Alpha Kieran?” one said.

Kieran had let go of Alexia. He turned to his people and declared, “Soon. 1 After the honeymoon. There will definitely be one!”

Alpha Kai and Alpha Declan had joined the gathering, along with a few of their warriors. The Stone Blood Pack’s territory was along the way to their packs that Kieran invited them over.

The alphas told stories about their fights, and the tales enthralled many.

Paired with beer and Alexia’s delicious dishes, the

celebration of the warriors' arrival went past midnight.

When Alpha Declan surrendered to exhaustion, asking to be sent to his hotel, everyone else followed.

Finally, Alexia and Kieran had time alone.

They hastily ran to their bedroom, k*ssing and groping each other from the stairs up. When they reached their bedroom door,

Alexia struggled to open the lock.

"Wife, you better hurry up, or I'll do you right here!" He ordered, hissing as he cupped her breast beneath her blouse.

Alexia chuckled and remarked, "So impatient! Here, the door is open – Ahh!"

Kieran carried her, princess style. He closed the door and locked it behind them, throwing Alexia to the bed.

She laughed as she bounced on the sheets, saying, "Easy there."

"Did Mara give you prescriptions?" He asked while taking off his shirt. He was referring to the town's midwife.

"Yes, she gave me fertility herbs and some vitamins," Alexia confirmed while lazily taking off her blouse.

When they were both fully n*ked, Kieran climbed on the bed and asked, "Mrs. Stone, are you ready to bear me a child?"

"I honestly don't know if I am, but." She softly admitted. After all, she was still twenty years old. She was young. "But for as long as you are with me,

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I can be prepared for anything."

Kieran smirked. He pecked her l*ps and asked, "Do you trust me?"

While wrapping her arms around him, she replied, "Of course."

"Then I'll take care of you," he replied.

Alexia was about to answer when she felt fingers caressing her core.

Instantly, she moaned.

He whispered, "I'm going to make you c um over and over again. Prepare for a sleepless night and many more to come when we leave for our honeymoon."

Chapter 43: Honeymoon

-Alexia-

Kieran wasn't joking when he said he would not let Alexia sleep that night. It was already past three in the morning, and he was

still at it, riding her like there was no tomorrow,

The bed did not stop shaking.

Their howls of pleasure repeatedly echoed in their room.

Their bodies were glowing in sweat, and Alexia's legs had been spread in so many ways. Alexia could not deny it. That night, Kieran was a monster in bed!

On their fourth round, Alexia was lying face down on the sheets, her ass lifted a little higher. Kieran was on top of her, thrusting from behind as his hands snaked around her chest.

Back and forth, his hips moved relentlessly, his flesh slapping loudly against Alexia's butt cheeks.

When Kieran shoved his manhood inside Alexia with enthusiasm, releasing his seed for the fourth time, he howled like the alpha wolf he was. He was so loud that Alexia was sure his voice left the confines of their room.

While she was still shaking from the experience of having orgasmed herself, she could not help but complain, "Kieran, that that was too loud! The whole town might have heard you!"

"Oh, fuck, let them hear. They would be happy to know I am working hard to give them their alpha heir," Kieran said before kissing the back of her neck. He turned to the other side of the bed and pulled Alexia into his chest. Again, Kieran littered kisses on her skin. He especially lingered on that part of her neck where he left his mark on her.

"Goddess, I fucking miss you so much! And just so you know, the seeds I unloaded were just a day's worth of keeping it all in my pants for two months," he said.

Alexia looked at him with a brow raised, saying, "And?"

"Meaning, there's more to it where it came from," he teased and smirked.

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"Are you ready for tomorrow?"

Tomorrow was officially their honeymoon. Although, that night felt like one, Kieran would be taking her to the mountains of Taplean. It was one of Kieran's territories, which he had converted into a vacation rental for private holidays.

Alexia smiled at the thought of going on a vacation. It would be her first since her mother left her side. She replied, "Yes, my beloved Alpha. I am excited."

The following day, the couple wasted no time.

Early in the morning, Kieran left instructions for Jaxon and his gammas to maintain the peace and harmony within the pack while he and Alexia would be away. Then after, they prepared to leave.

Since it was their honeymoon, Kieran insisted they did not require an escort. He swore the route was safe and was well guarded by his warriors in the local territory.

They traveled out of the Stone Blood Pack's main territory in convoy, following Alpha Declan's and Alpha Kai's party. Alexia and Kieran arrived at their destination the following day, right after staying overnight at Alpha Declan's territory for a quick stop.

Alexia did not know what to expect. She was simply happy about spending an entire month with his husband without having to worry about anything else.

"Here we are," Kieran announced while passing through bamboo-made fences and stone paths. Kieran had been driving an SUV the entire time and pulled up the exact vehicle in front of a receiving area, where locals eagerly greeted them.

"Welcome, Alpha Kieran and Luna Alexia!"

"Welcome to the Twin Mountain Resort, Alpha Kieran, Luna Alexia!"

Everyone was so accommodating. Alexia was reminded of the pack back home. Omegas helped carry their bags as they were ushered into their villa.

The second Alexia entered their home for the next four weeks, she swore her eyeballs were ready to pop out of their eyes! The first thing she saw was the view of the opposite mountain, going downhill. She rushed to an open balcony where she reveled in the sweet scent of nature.

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"Wow! So beautiful," Alexia remarked. Her eyes landed on the stream, several feet below their villa, and only then did she realize they were about two hundred feet up from the foot of a mountain. They had driven through an ascending zigzag road; she did not quite realize how high Kieran had been moving up.

"Wow! I love it!" She said again. "I could just... live here."

"Except, you married an alpha, and you are my luna," Kieran reminded. "We have responsibilities to our people, so we must return to our busy lives."

Alexia turned to Kieran with a smile. She embraced his muscular b*dy and pecked on his jaw, saying, "Of course. I'm just saying, we could come here a few days occasionally."

"Anything for my little wife," Kieran promised.

While the omegas took their leave, Alexia and Kieran relished in the view of their balcony, both taking the time to hold each

other, stealing k*sses on their cheeks now and then.

With the air blowing against their faces, they soon felt the chill of the night coming and the sudden need to warm their bodies.

Kieran carried Alexia's weight, resting her on the balcony's frame. He ran his fingers through her hair and cupped her chin. He declared, "In this villa, I'm going to take you in every possible way. Remember that I've only released a day's worth of seeds."

Alexia laughed. She wrapped her legs around his waist and lowered her face to his. She sealed his l*ps with a k*ss, softly tasting his flavor with gentle bites. Her eyes closed, savoring his taste, and he did the same.

From nibbling on their l*ps, their tongues interlaced, their mouths moistening their jaws as their need became more ravenous.

Alexia and Kieran both alternately sucked and bit their l*ps until they felt numbed, their breathing labored and their chests heaving. They took little breaks but returned to k*ssing again, not wanting to stop.

It was the hottest k*ss they had ever had, which definitely led them to continue in the villa's master bedroom. For the next two hours, moaning and erotic gasping filled the air of their honeymoon suite. Their bodies were intertwined like perfect pieces of a puzzle that were better left together.

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Finally, after the first two rounds of making love, they doze off from exhaustion.

-Unknown Pov-

"We are here, my queen," said a young man.

A lady wearing a white cloak over her b*dy stepped out of a luxury vehicle and walked out to meet the border guards. She had

beauty and grace that could only be compared to royalty.

It was nighttime when she and her entourage arrived at their destination. They had been traveling for weeks, coming from their nation and into Taplean. She was very anxious to enter the pack and see the person she had been looking for since her memories slowly awakened.

"Who are you? And What brings you here to the Cross River Pack?" A warrior from the pack sought.

The woman's companions were about to reply on her behalf, but she stopped them by raising her hand. She pulled down the

hood of her cloak and announced, "I am a former member of this pack. My name is Avery. I am looking for Alpha Roland."

Immediately, the guards from the Cross River Pack stiffened. They had their defense mode on, ready to fight.

"What seems to be the reason for the tension?" The lady named Avery sought. She was confused by how the guards were all reacting.

"Are you here to aid and free Alpha Roland? You should not be helping a scum alpha like him!" One guard announced.

"A scum?" Avery asked. "WHY WOULD HE BE A SCUM?"

There was a hint of anger in her tone that anyone could tell she was upset.

Her companions also went into defense mode, ready to protect

her.

"Alpha Roland is locked up in prison for abusing his powers and neglecting to care for his daughter!" One other guard

announced.

Following the guard's revelation, the surrounding air thickened. Avery's lips trembled, and her hands formed into fists.

'No! Not Alexia!'

Her voice trembled as she asked, "Do you mean... Alexia?"

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Unknown Pov-

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"We are under attack!" A warrior was running for his life, hoping to reach the border of his pack. "Warn the others! We are under attack!"

He belonged to the East Valley Pack, a humble and small pack cast of Taplean.

Seeing the unknown werewolves shift, the man also shifted. He picked up the pace and soon saw some of his co-warriors

running toward him. He saw his alpha, Alpha Vincent, also charging, ready to defend their pack. He repeated, "We are under

attack!"

Soon, their pack became chaotic. The invaders infiltrated their borders. The assailants had stolen their food, burned houses, and raped some of their women.

Their intimate pack was no match against the forty werewolves that had plagued their territory. Their alpha was badly beaten to near death. His luna was assaulted in front of him.

When the attackers had taken as much treasure from their pack, they gathered all the prisoners in the center of one field and plunged a pole into the earth, holding up a family crest flag. The leader of the unknown group announced, "We are warriors of Alpha Kieran Stone! Moving forward, you will pay us dues every time we visit, or else we will ruin your pack again!"

"This pack now officially belongs to the Stone Blood Pack!" The invaders roared and cheered, drinking their pack's liquor and leaving them with broken souls.

-Alexia-

Nearly a month had passed since Kieran took Alexia to the mountain valley. She considered it as her new paradise.

Throughout their honeymoon, they had gone trekking, exploring nature, and often enjoyed taking a plunge at the flowing river below. They made love too many times that she could not count. Alexia swore she might end up having twins.

That day, Alexia was still fast asleep, tired from their bed exercise last night. She flinched, feeling something poking her cheeks.

Her eyes

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fluttered open, and she saw Kieran's mushroom tip right in front of her.

She smiled. Seriously, her husband has excellent stamina. Didn't they just make love four times last night? Yet, he was stiff as a

rod every waking hour of their day. And she wasn't just talking about their honeymoon. Even while they were back home, she

would find his manhood hard beneath the sheets whenever she got up before him.

"Baby, someone needs you," Kieran said.

A

"Hmmm," Alexia hummed while wrapping her hand around his shaft. She palmed him back and forth before lifting her torso to give him better service.

Like always, it was tough getting all of him inside her mouth. It did not fit at all, no matter how much she tried. He was just too

big. She gagged a few times as his tip reached the back of her throat, and when Kieran was about ready to unload, he said.

"Turn around for me, my little wife."

She did as he commanded and was pounced on from behind in no time.

The sounds of their moans filled the air, along with the slapping of their flesh.

Kieran was at it so passionately that he exploded into her womb in no time.

When they were done, they took a moment to rest in their arms, hugging and k*ssing. After a while, Kieran's phone rang. He wasn't planning on answering it, but Alexia took a peek and saw it was Jaxon. "It must be important," Alexia suggested. "You should take it. Jaxon hasn't bothered us for almost a month. I'm sure there is a reason for his call."

Kieran groaned, but he did so as she suggested.

-Kieran-

"What is it, Jaxon?" Kieran asked as soon as he answered the call.

"Alpha, I'm sorry to disturb you on your honeymoon, but there is a problem," Jaxon said on the other line. "There were attacks on packs in the east and southeast."

"Did you send help?" Kieran sought.

"We tried to look into it, but our gestures angered the locals," Jaxon revealed.

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"Why would they be angry at us? We are only trying to help," Kieran sought. He found himself getting up from the bed as he probed.

"The problem is Alpha, whoever is staging these attacks is claiming that it was your orders. In each territory that had been

invaded, the perpetrators left your family crest in the land, proclaiming the ground under the Stone Blood Pack," Jaxon finally informed.

"It has gone bad, Alpha Kieran. The complaints have already reached the palace. I wasn't going to interrupt your honeymoon, but the King had ordered your presence. The council of alphas has asked the same," Jaxon added. "They want your side of the story."

Kieran had to take the conversation to the living room of their villa. They covered a few more details of the attacks and other

news before returning to the bedroom. When he walked in, he found Alexia lying in bed, trying to get some last-minute sleep.

He did not want to break the bad news, but a crisis needed to be solved. He said, "We need to go home."

"Something wrong?" She asked.

"There is a problem," he admitted. "And you had a visitor weeks ago."

Kieran saw that look of confusion on her face. He sighed and resumed, "Someone came looking for you, a woman. She visited

the pack only for a day to leave a message. She said she had important things to take care of and would return in a few weeks, but she left you a letter.”

“Who?” Alexia asked.

“Her name is Avery, Alexia. She claimed to be your mother,” Kieran said, and at the mention of the woman, he saw Alexia’s eyes rounded. She got up abruptly, her face turning ghostly white.

“Mother,” he heard Alexia say.

-Alexia-

[My Dearest Alexia,

My daughter. How long has it been since I last saw you? To be honest, my memory is not in its best state yet, and I apologize for that.

It is me, your mother, Avery.

When I left the Cross River Pack, I made a deal with the Moon Goddess,

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which left me impaired and forgetting about my past. Host my memory, Alexia. I can’t explain entirely how and why, but that was why I could not return.

There are so many things that I want to tell you, including who I am and why I left, but it’s better that we talk about it in person. I want you to know that I have been searching for you.

I went to the Cross River Pack and learned of your father’s betrayal. He betrayed you, and he betrayed me. He promised to take care of you, but he failed. Instead, he hurt you, and I am sorry for that. If I could tur back time. I would have taken you with me.

When I learned that you were forced to marry Alpha Kieran Stone, I wanted to take you back and protect you, but arriving at the Stone Blood Pack, I discovered how you were well accepted. The pack members spoke of your love, and I was happy knowing you were in a good place.

I’m sorry that I had to leave again. I wanted to stay, but a conflict in our lands still required my attention. When I can travel again, I will come and find you. When that time comes, we will talk. From there, you can decide if you will stay with your husband or go with me to our lands.

I love you, Alexia.

Your mother,

Avery]

Alexia was back at home, reading the letter in Kieran's office. When she was done, her heart felt like it was being crushed. She just missed meeting her mother.

Tears stung her eyes as she pressed the letter against her chest. She softly said, "I – I don't know, but I feel it's really her. That explains why she never came back for me. She lost her memories."

Im sorry, Alexia. She would have left anyway. She insisted that her lands she always referred to it as her lands," Rae explained.

"She said her lands. were in trouble. She left her home because she could no longer bear not knowing how you were."

"When we confirmed with her that you were in good hands with us and that you and alpha are in love, she decided that your talk could wait," Rae added, and behind her, Jaxon echoed the same.

"Thus, we decided to share this news with you later. The plan was to give you the letter upon your return." Jaxon added. "Either way, she would have left, and if we reported this to you and you returned prematurely from your trip, you would still not have met."

Plus, we weren't sure of her identity," Jaxon added. "We were hoping that Melissa's or Dean's parents would identify her, but at that time, they owed the gift-giving in one of our other territories. No one was around to identify her as your mother."

Dut she say when she will be back?" Alexia sought.

Rae and Jaxon looked at each other before shaking their heads.

We oned to ask where she lived, but she refused to give the information, saying that it wasnt safe for now. Rae explained.

Feeling thoroughly defeated. Alexia shut her eyes, wondering. Just who exactly is my mother And where does she live? Why would she want to make me choose between Kieran and her?

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-Kieran-

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Kieran was happy for his wife. Many questions were left unanswered, but there was hope to finally meeting Alexia's mother. He certainly wished that Avery would return, just as she promised.

Unfortunately, they could not dwell on the matter for now. Kieran had to leave for the capital to clear his name. He brought Alexia with him to testify that he had no opportunities to give orders to attack small packs.. After all, they were busy, day and night,

making love.

Kieran and Alexia only lingered for a day before leaving for the capital. They arrived at the palace at night and rested to prepare for the council of alphas meeting.

The following day, the couple entered a meeting hall within the palace. Unlike the ordinary chamber that accommodated only the top alphas of the lands, the meeting venue was one of the largest halls in the castle.

“Alpha Kieran, you are finally here,” Beta Ford, the king’s second in command, said.

“Kieran,” Alpha Declan was seated closer to Kieran and greeted him. Kieran saw how the man was agitated. He wondered why.

He saw the same furious expression from Alpha Baxter and Alpha Kai.

“Kieran,” Alpha Kai greeted. He motioned Kieran to take the seat next to him, and he approached, bringing along Alexia.

As he and Alexia walked to the table, he could feel everyone’s burning gaze.

He saw Alpha Vincent of the east was there, his eyes throwing daggers at him. Kieran also witnessed the same from the other alphas who were newly present for that meeting.

When Kieran made it to his seat, Alpha Kai briefed him. He whispered to his ears, “Most of these newly attending alphas are the ones whose packs were attacked. I don’t believe them one bit. In fact, Alpha Declan, Alpha Baxter, and I have been defending you over the past few minutes.”

Kieran tapped on his back, saying, “Don’t worry, Alpha Kai. We will get to the bottom of this. Thank you for having my back.” He gazed at Alpha Declan and Alpha Baxter, giving them a nod, and they nodded back.

To Kieran’s shock, the next alpha who arrived was Alpha Blaze. A

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commotion suddenly erupted in the room when Alpha Baxter growled, “Why is this traitor here? He did not help defend the southern borders. He fled when the fight commenced!”

Alpha Declan barked the same, but soon Beta Ford warned everyone, saying, “Alpha Blaze is here as a witness. His sanction for not actively participating in the war remains the same.”

Alpha Blaze and his pack were being investigated. They were not allowed to enter the capital and were asked to render one

hundred thousand hours of community service to aid the rebuilding of the southern coast.

“A witness?” Kieran immediately protested. “A witness to what? Should we trust whatever lies come out of a traitor’s mouth?”

Alpha Ford sighed. He shook his head and revealed, “Her Majesty’s orders. The Queen insisted all sides should be heard.”

The news made Kieran squint. He always thought Queen Helen did not approve of him, but to allow Alpha Blaze to speak to the council of alphas was another story. Somehow, he felt trouble coming his way. The waiting subsequently ended. The king and queen entered the meeting hall with their son, Casper. Rarely did Casper attend such meetings, but that day, he graced them with his presence.

Kieran felt a hand around his arm. He turned to his wife and heard her say, “I don’t feel good about this, Kieran.”

“Relax, Alexia,” he assured her. “The king will always have my back. He will clear my name.”

He saw her honey-colored eyes filled with worry, but after his words, she nodded, her gaze landing on the king, and somehow, she believed the same. She mindlinked, ‘Right. He treats you well!

Soon, Beta Ford called everyone’s attention. He announced, “We are all gathered here for the alphas meeting. The war between Taplean and Eswen has ended, but sadly, a new war has begun, an internal conflict which needed to be resolved.”

Turning to the affected packs, Beta Ford explained to everyone, “Five packs had been attacked. Their money was taken, their houses burned, and their women were assaulted.”

One by one, Beta Ford named the packs and their alphas. They all came up in front and testified in front of the council.

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“The group of werewolves named Alpha Kieran as their leader. They claimed my land by leaving the Stone family crest. They

said we should pay the Stone Blood Pack money moving forward,” Alpha Vincent said. He was the first to narrate the invasion in his pack. “My wife was raped.”

He cried, “They had the power of men twice our strength? Who else would be strong enough to attack my warriors? It could only be warriors. from the Stone Blood Pack!”

The other affected alphas testified, recounting the same. They all blamed it on Alpha Kieran.

After their reports, King Balthazar asked, “So this is based primarily because

the attackers claimed Alpha Kieran instructed them?”

“Yes, My King,” Alpha Vincent said.

“We have not captured anyone from their side and made interrogations?” The king stopped, feeling his chest. “I’m sorry, I have not been feeling well lately.”

“What I am saying is, I don’t see that we have enough proof to pin it on Alpha Kieran. For all we know, this is just a ploy to blame him!” The king pointed out, and Alpha Declan echoed the same.

“Alpha Kieran was away for his honeymoon. We traveled together ent route to the mountains of Taplean. How could he give orders while he was on vacation?” Alpha Declan said.

“Is that true, Alexia, child?” The king asked. “Please tell the other alphas.” Alexia stood up from her seat and described, “This is true. Kieran was with me the whole time. We were never on the phone. He gave no such instructions. Furthermore, I don’t see why he would. My husband is a passionate alpha. He aids other packs, even those not in his territory

“But that doesn’t mean Alpha Kieran had not been planning this all along,” Suddenly, Casper, the king’s son, spoke. “We have a witness to attest to this.” He turned to another table, saying, “Alpha Blaze. Kindly share with us what you have discovered.”

As Alpha Blaze stood up and took the center of the hall, Kieran was on the verge of shifting. He wanted to bite off Alpha Blaze’s head. The only thing that kept him in control was Alexia’s hand over his.

“During the war planning, I entered Alpha Kieran’s tent to discuss a
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problem with the mines, but he was not there. I saw on his desk letters addressed to his beta and gam mas, who were keeping his territories secured. I stole one of these letters,” Alpha Blaze declared. Alpha Blaze presented the letter and said, “It has Alpha Kieran’s family crest in it, suggesting it was his plan all along. The letter instructed his men to prepare for an attack over the small packs to the east and south to gain power! I was scared of Alpha Kieran, so I did not come forward then

“That is preposterous!” Kieran shot back, his fangs already elongating in anger. “Did you see me write the f u c k i n g letter?”

Anyone could make a letter and fake my family seal on it!”

“Oh, but this one has your handwriting, Kieran!” Alpha Blaze pointed out. “Let

all the alphas see for themselves, including the king and queen.”

The letter was passed on to everyone, but while the other alphas started questioning Kieran, Alpha Declan, Alpha Baxter, and Alpha Kai, they remained on Kieran’s side.

Alpha Baxter said, “I have also been in and out of Kieran’s tent. Heck, I slept there once when my tent was ruined! I did not see such a letter, nor did we have time to make letters, you f u c k i n g a s s h o l e !”

“We should have that letter analyzed!” Alpha Kai proposed. “I believe it will never match Alpha Kieran!”

“And it would not!” Kieran snarled. “Because I did not write that letter!”

“Enough!” The king rose from his seat, infuriated. He said, “Kieran is our hero! How dare you make accusations against – Ahhh!”

King Balthasar clenched his hand against his chest, looking like he could not breathe.

“My King! My King!” The alphas expressed their worry.

“Give room for King Balthasar!” Beta Ford ordered.

Immediately, Kieran suggested, “Maybe we should stop this for now. This isn’t the right time to have this meeting. The king is not well = ”

“Actually, this is the best time,” the queen rose from her seat and announced, “Since your wife is here, Alpha Kieran, this is the best time to also bring up another betrayal – my husband’s betrayal!”

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“Do you all want to know why my husband, your great king, favors Kieran? To the point of denying his mistakes?” Queen Helen said in indignation. She pointed to Alexia and declared, “It’s because of that woman! My husband’s fruit of his deception!”

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~Alexia-

‘Me? Fruit of deception?’ The words rang in Alexia’s head again and again. She froze in her seat, hearing what the queen had to say about her. ‘How 1 was it possible? Was I not my father’s daughter all along?’

The air around the meeting hall turned chilly, following the queen’s claim.

Everyone’s gaze landed on Alexia and Keiran. Alexia

became fully self-conscious that she hid between the frames of Alpha Kai and her husband.

“Helen! You are wrong! Do not say that about Alexia!” The king exclaimed.

“She Ahhh! Arrghh!”

Suddenly, the king fell off his seat, his hand clutching against his chest. "Help the king! Help the king!" Kieran jumped out of his table and approached the king. He cared not about the guards that tried to stop him.

Beta Ford also came forward, trying to soothe the king. However, in the end, King Balthasar lost consciousness. The entire time, Queen Helen did not show affection for the king. What surprised Alexia further was how the king's son, Caspian, also appeared unaffected.

"Call a doctor!" Beta Ford ordered, and while the guards within the palace scrambled to aid their king, the queen had other plans.

"It's true. The king has betrayed me. He cheated on me with a woman who was said to be his true mate!" The queen pointed to Alexia again and said. "And that woman is his daughter!"

Kieran had already helped the king into a stretcher. While the guards carried the king to his chambers, Kieran said, "What nonsense is this? Alexia is the daughter of Alpha Roland! What proof do you have that the king betrayed you?"

"I have seen this woman named Avery in the past!" Helen said to Kieran. "The king doesn't know it, but I know, and your wife?"

She is an exact copy of Avery – his true mate! What more proof do I need? The king cares for Alexia like she is his daughter, and that's because she probably is!"

—

Alexia saw how Queen Helen addressed the alphas before her. She said, "Your king will never lock up Alpha Kieran because of this! He is biased

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towards Alpha Kieran, for he is married to his bastard child! Is that the kind of king you wish to serve?"

"Nonsense!" Kieran yelled. He looked at the attending alphas and defended King Balthasar "Whatever personal issues the king has had nothing to do with how he led our country! King Balthasar had protected, us from invasion and sacrificed his happiness to serve the nation. King Balthasar is a good king!"

Alpha Declan, Alpha Kai, and Alpha Baxter had Kieran's back. They vouched for the king, recounting the projects that he had

implemented, but despite their efforts, the council of alphas still became divided, and it was all because of the recent attacks on

the eastern and southern packs.

Then, I shall have Alexia locked up for now, so we can have the doctors analyze her blood. If she truly is my husband's bastard child, then the king has sinned against me, against his promise to me!" The queen suggested.

Hearing this, Alexia shuddered. If it weren't for Alpha Kai, who was comforting her, she would have fainted with all the revelation.

"You don't need to lock up my wife! She will willingly give her blood for the analysis, Kieran replied.

"How uncooperative!" The queen announced. "Not only did you attack the small packs in the east and south, but you would also help cover up the king's mistakes!"

"My Queen, since the king is not in good health to defend himself, I suggest we continue this later," Beta Ford suggested.

Alexia saw how the queen was hesitant. She glowered at the opposing alphas and said, "Very well. We can deal with my

husband's betrayal for now, however! Alpha Kieran needs to be punished!"

The alphas who were affected growled in their agreement. They said, "Punish Alpha Kieran!"

"His wife should also suffer the same fate as my wife!"

"Take away his richest and his pack!"

"Let's not make hasty judgments just yet. We need to investigate further, and the king is not here to make the decision," Beta

Ford suggested.

"Why? Isn't the pieces of evidence enough? I think they are more than enough! The queen declared, and the affected alphas agreed with her.

"This here is proof enough!" Alpha Blazed raised the letter that he claimed to have been written by Kieran.

"What is the rule, Beta Ford? Should my husband not be available to make these decisions? Who can make it in his place?" The queen sought.

Beta Ford looked down, thinking. Then looked at Kieran and Alexia sympathetically. He replied, "The queen."

"Therefore," said the queen. "I will make the decision!"

Alexia watched as the queen pointed a finger at Kieran. She announced,

"Alpha Kieran Stone. For the abuse of your power and

for attacking the small packs in the east and the south, I, therefore, strip you off of your alpha title!

"The palace will take over your pack and all of your territories. I will put these lands in the care of Alpha Blaze! You have one

week to leave your pack or suffer the consequences!" The queen added. "Choose Alpha Kieran. Leave peacefully, avoid hurting your pack members, or go to war with me, your queen!" "My Queen, don't you think this decision is too much?" Beta Ford questioned. "Who is your queen again?" The queen barked at Beta Ford. "I am second" in command next to the king. You must follow my orders! Don't you see. Beta Ford?" The queen pointed to half of the alphas present in the council. She said, "The other alphas agree with me. Once we send out

letters to all the alphas of Taplean, they will agree with my decision, too." Helen snapped at Alexia and glowered at her. Then, she turned to Kieran and said, "Out! Get out of my palace before my guards drag you out!"

The couple was in their chambers within the palace, packing. They were accommodated in a room last night, but now they were preparing to leave.

Alexia was crying as she closed her bag. Her emotions were all over the place. She badly just wanted to scream and let it all out, but she couldn't not when they were still in the palace. She felt arms around her waist and she felt Kieran k*ss her head. She F

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heard him say, "It's going to be alright, Alexia. It will be fine."

"Do you think it's true?" She asked. "That I am the bastard child of the king?" She turned to Kieran and asked, "The queen knows my mother, Kieran. That can't be a coincidence!"

"I don't have the answers right now, Alexia. What I know is that we need to get out here and fast," Kieran replied.

"Where will we go, Kieran? Your people? Rae? Jaxon? Melissa? Dean? Seth? Sheena? Everyone! What will become of them?"

She asked as tears stung her eyes.

Kieran embraced Alexia tightly. He revealed, "I have already given the word to Jaxon. They are free to remain in the pack.

Whoever follows after me needs to understand that they will be putting themselves in danger, but some will follow me. Jaxon will surely follow me. I know it."

Cupping her cheeks, Kieran said, "Listen to me. They don't know about the Cross River Pack. The king was not able to update it

as a list belonging to my territory. I saw the list from Beta Ford. So we can go there for now while we figure it out. Jaxon should be making all the arrangements by now.”

“I don’t know what the queen is up to, but I think she is using you as an excuse to remove me from my title – take away my power and influence,” Kieran implied. “So don’t blame yourself for any of this, okay?”

Alexia nodded reluctantly. She hugged Kieran again and said, “I’m scared, Kieran. I’m scared for you, and I’m scared for us.”

“As long as we are together, we will be okay,” Kieran firmly said.

Suddenly, they heard a knock on the door. When Kieran opened it, Beta Ford walked in. He pleaded, “Alpha Kieran, please...

Please take My King with you. I don’t feel comfortable that he is here, in the palace, where he could die. Two weeks ago, King Balthasar was as healthy as a horse, but suddenly he had fallen ill, yet despite his symptoms, the queen kept dismissing it, telling the king he was just tired and needed rest.”

Beta Ford shook his head and said, “I have been meaning to tell the king this, but I have doubted the queen since your wife was attacked a few months back. I think the queen was behind it and not her guards.”

“I will help you with everything you need. Some guards are loyal to the king, and they will always have his best interest. They will come with you wherever you take the king to recuperate. I don’t trust the doctor the queen had brought into the palace,” Beta Ford added. “Please, Alpha Kieran... Take My King with you.”

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-Kieran-

“Who is that with you?” The palace guard asked, seeing another man inside Kieran’s car.

Kieran and Alexia were inside the car, moving out of the palace’s estate. Behind Kieran, Alpha Baxter’s and Alpha Declan’s vehicles lined up to leave.

The men questioning them at the gate were the queen’s guards. After the queen announced how she had controlled power, she had over a hundred men going around the palace grounds.

“It’s Alpha Kai. He and Alpha Declan had one too many drinks. He is riding with me out of the capital. Kieran sternly replied.

“I have to check him!” The guard insisted.

“Be my guest,” Kieran answered, his head tilting in the backseat of the car. To his left, Kieran saw how Alexia avoided looking at the guard. He could tell she was being extra careful not to alarm anyone. She was seated next to him, looking at Alpha Kai with worry. “Are you okay, Alpha Kai?” She managed to act along. The guard opened the backdoor and tried to wake Alpha Kai. He forced Alpha Kai’s face up, and after confirming it was him, the alpha vomited on the guard’s arm. “F uck!” The guard exclaimed. He had that look of disgust as he pulled his arm away. He then glowered at Alpha Kai. “Careful now, that’s Alpha Kai you are speaking you. I may have been stripped of my title, but he is still above you,” Kieran warned, and the guard retreated to control his anger. “Gross, man!” The other guards on duty said. “Is it Alpha Kai, though?” “Yes, it’s Alpha Kai,” the guard responded before rushing off to wash his arm. “Just let them leave. We will still supervise them at the Stone Blood Pack,” guards representing the king said out of nowhere. Kieran saw how they drove in the car next to them. “We will make sure Kieran leaves the pack

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in peace.”

The queen’s guards looked at each other, and they nodded, saying, “Okay,” They opened the gates and let Kieran and Alexia leave with Alpha Kai. The king’s guards followed behind them in another vehicle

Through the car’s rearview mirror, Kieran saw how Alpha Baxter’s car was also cleared to leave. The only test now was whether Alpha Declan’s vehicle would be allowed to leave without suspicion. He certainly hoped.

-Alpha Declan-

Alpha Declan was nervous. However, he was the best candidate to do the job. He had the same build as the king and the same length of hair.

He would never abandon his king, and thus, he agreed to act along. The last to be inspected was his car. His warrior drove his vehicle while he was seated in the backseat with the king. They had changed the king into his usual jacket, plus Alpha Kai’s skunk scent invention. It was the perfect disguise for the king, masking

his scent. Alpha Declan wore the clothes of his warrior, pretending to be a simple gamma. He held the king next to him and tried to control Balthasar's movements.

King Balthasar was still unconscious. Alpha Declan pulled down the king's hair to cover his look. He had also painted the king's face with a beard to make him look like him, while Alpha Declan shaved thoroughly. Of course, they had added help as they had left in the night. Not everything was what it seemed without the light of day.

The guards immediately reacted as soon as the car door opened. "Why does the car stink? It stinks like a skunk!"

They kept repeating their questions, but the warrior behind the wheel reasoned, "A skunk made it inside the car before coming here. Sorry for the inconvenience."

The guards struggled to enter the car, utterly disgusted by the scent. When Alpha Declan saw how one guard was ready to check the king, whom they had disguised as him, he shook the king's body and adjusted his voice simultaneously, claiming, "He's about to throw up!"

"Fuck!" The guard immediately retreated, recalling how one of their comrades had puke all over his arm.

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"What are you doing?" From outside the car, Alpha Declan heard Beta Ford's voice. He was relieved the king's Beta arrived on time. "Why are you making things difficult for Alpha Declan? Let them leave! He is not penalized by the queen!"

"But, Beta Ford -" The guard objected..

"Let them go! Do you see a reason to hold them at the gate?" Beta Ford added.

Alpha Declan felt their gazes inside his car. He had already prepared the fluid mix that looked like vomit. He shook the king again and threw the liquid in the car's seat, some on King Balthasar's leg too. His warrior aided in creating noises. "Oh, no. Alpha Declan! Now, we have puke in the car!"

While his warrior made such claims, Alpha Declan glued himself to the king, supporting his weight and acting to cough.

"Let them go, I said," Beta Ford repeated.

"I'm not going in there," the guard said, looking at the vomit. The other guards had the same idea, and with Beta Ford urging them to let Alpha Declan leave, they opened the gates and said. "You can

leave!”

Alpha Declan and his warrior drove out of the capital. They met with Alpha Kai and Alpha Kieran on a secluded road. The guards of the king were also there, waiting for them. Alpha Baxter had taken his usual route but promised to convene once Alpha Kieran had settled in the Cross River Pack.

Alpha Declan first removed the king’s jacket. It at least helped reduce the smell of skunk. He carried the king with his strong arms and settled him in Kieran’s car. He said, “I’ll still follow you until the Stone Blood Pack. From there, I’ll head fast to my pack and prepare for the coming war.

Yes, another war. With what had happened, the four alphas had already forecasted that the queen would create an internal conflict in Taplean. “We will meet you at the Cross River Pack in two months. We will first observe if the queen will suspect me.”

“Thank

you, Alpha Declan,” Kieran said. “We shall take our leave now.”

“Alpha Kieran,” Decian said. “The queen may have removed your title, but you are an alpha to me. Never let it change who you are.”

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Kieran nodded. He said, “I won’t change. I will continue to protect my people, one way or another.”

– Kieran-

His people were heartbroken by the news. Immediately after arriving at the Stone Blood Pack, he gathered everyone in the biggest clearing of the pack, informing them of the queen’s decision. He spoke through mindlink, making sure everyone understood the forthcoming changes.

The queen has decided to let Alpha Blaze control this pack. My warriors, keep protecting the people. I know not everyone can

leave their lives. behind, so I leave it to the warriors to maintain peace and order while I try to find out the queen’s intentions, he

said. For the others, Alpha Kai, Alpha Declan, and Alpha Baxter have opened their territories for you. Should you wish to relocate, please share your intentions with Seth. He will be in charge of communicating this request to the alphas.

Keiran did not speak of the king, for his presence in the pack was a secret. As he addressed his people’s concern, the king was

treated by their finest. doctor inside the packhouse. The king's guards were with him throughout the entire ordeal.

I will not put your lives at greater risk, so I will not force you to join us in being rogues. In fact, I highly discourage it. Yes, rogues, because I will no longer be called an alpha, nor am I allowed to keep the territories that had belonged to me. In the eyes of the palace and the council of alphas, I am without a pack moving forward. The queen had made it perfectly clear that my people would suffer the consequences should I decide to go against her, and I can't have that. I cannot let you suffer in my place, Kieran added.

Many of his people cried, especially the elderly. Kieran heard all of them express their dismay. He also saw how his wife was in pain, for she wept with his people.

Despite what he had seen, however, Kieran maintained to appear strong. He did not want them to lose hope. He said, 'In time, all this misunderstanding will be cleared. Trust in me, but for now, do not address me as your alpha, for the queen may persecute you!

'More palace guards will be here in a week. I need to leave before then. So, for those who will come with Alexia and me, say your goodbyes. We will leave in two days, Kieran revealed.

"Stone Blood Pack, have faith in the Moon Goddess. She will find an answer for us all. You will always be one. Remember to help each other and protect each other. Thank you for having followed me all these years, but for now, I am no longer your alpha, Kieran said with a heavy heart. Tears stung his eyes.

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"What's on your mind?" Kieran asked Alexia as she packed her things. Alexia paused and looked down at her luggage. Then she peered in Kieran's direction, saying, "My mother, Kieran. I won't be here when she comes back and finds me."

"There are about a hundred warriors that chose to stay, not because of convenience, but they know it's their obligation to protect their pack members, Kieran explained. "They will keep watch of the borders and inform your mother should she return to find you. She'll find you, Alexia. She will. Trust in the Moon Goddess that she will"

A knock on the door interrupted their conversation, and Beta Jaxon walked in.

He announced, "The doctor's findings came in. The king has been poisoned."

Alexia's heart ached, hearing the news, especially since King Balthasar may potentially be her father. She spat, "That's horrible."

"Who would do that to the king?"

"We will find answers soon, Alexia," Kieran promised. He turned to Jaxon and sought, "Has the doctor given medication?"

"The doctor has, but he feared the poison had reached his blood. He thinks the king requires a witch's help," Jaxon replied.

"Then, let's split the group. Some may proceed directly to the Cross River Pack with you in the lead," Kieran instructed. "I'll take the king's guards and twenty warriors with me to see Morgan."

"Morgan, Alexia recalled the half-witched who suggested she was gifted. Morgan appeared to be a strong witch and perhaps could really save the king.

"Alexia," Kieran said. "I have things to take care of. Go with Rae to the hospital to leave a sample of your blood. The queen will require it."

"She can always fake the test," Alexia pointed out. "And make the king look bad."

It wasn't like Alexia to doubt anyone, but her experience with Queen Helen had been unpleasant so far. Following her words, Kieran replied,

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"That's why we will do multiple tests, one from our pack, and I'll send another sample to Alpha Declan's Pack. Two results opposing the queen's test result will disprove her claims"

"I certainly hope so," Alexia said.

Alexia grumbled as she resumed packing her belongings, and as she did, Kieran embraced her from behind. She stilled, feeling his apprehensions. Being marked by him meant knowing his inner thoughts and emotions. For the first time since meeting Kieran, she sensed his fears.

Her husband, the most fearsome alpha in the land of Taplean, was afraid. In front of the pack, he appeared to be collected and brave, but Alexia knew the truth. Kieran also feared the unknown, which was all the queen's fault.

"Will you be my strength in all this, Alexia?" Kieran asked, pecking the back of her head. "The pack has been the source of my

strength, growing up, and now I am leaving it, May the Goddess find answers to all our worries. May the truth come out, and the people of Taplean see through the lies.”

Alexia turned to Kieran and embraced him tightly. She said, “No matter what, Kieran. I’ll stay by your side. I’ll be your strength, and likewise, you are mine. I believe in the faith that brought me to you, so I know the Moon Goddess has a plan for all of us.”

Kieran cupped her face and sealed her lips with a kiss. Amid the trial, they were facing, she felt comforted by his taste, his hold, his scent, and his warm embrace. The couple remained in the same hold, passionately kissing, until Kieran pulled away.

In the evening, after visiting the hospital with Rae and after checking on Melissa and Dean, Alexia went to find the king in the guest room. His guards were present as she sat on a chair beside the bed. Alexia studied the king thoroughly. They didn’t look alike, but then again, Melissa’s mother had mentioned how she looked like Avery. She recalled all the information she knew about her mother, Avery. With a frown on her face, she dug through her brain and recounted how her mother said Alpha Roland was her second chance.

‘Why would my mother have a second chance? A second chance, mate? That meant, she had a true mate, and it did not work out? Could it be the king? And what did that mean for her?’

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Alexia thought back to the times when she and the king spoke.

“Trust in your king.

‘You remind me of someone. Someone important to me.’

‘Alexia, child. Sometimes, we make mistakes in our lives, but the regret of making those mistakes can really haunt you for life.

These lines were from the ball when the king danced with Alexia. It made her wonder what King Balthasar meant.

It wasn’t just the words. Now that Alexia thought about it, there was sadness in the king’s eyes, suggesting a deeper meaning to his statement.

‘Could the king and my mother be involved? Could I really be the king’s daughter?’ Alexia wondered.

Unfortunately for Alexia, the king remained unresponsive. She reached for his hand and held it firmly, wishing she would find the

answers soon. If the king was her father, it explains how Alpha Roland mistreated her. If she was not, then why was he so good to her? To the point that she ordered her marriage to Kieran?

Alexia caressed King Balthasar's hand and softly said, "My King, please wake up. Please be well. I have so many questions, and Kieran needs help. He needs you, My King."

"Can you hear me, My King? This is Alexia," she sought. "Please fight the poison. Be strong. Take back the palace and lead the people of Taplean. I fear the queen's plans."

"Luna, Alexia, maybe it's time to let the king rest," one guard said.

She nodded and gripped the king's hand one last time. Alexia looked at the king's face, and just before releasing his hand, she felt his fingers move. Chills ran down her spine, thinking of the possibility, but before she knew it, the king's hand had no strength.

Alexia shook her head, thinking, 'Maybe I was mistaken. She looked to the skies and asked the heavens, 'Please, Moon Goddess, save the king for the sake of Taplean.'

Almost half of the pack began their move the next day, away from the main territory. Some were heading to Alpha Declan and Alpha Baxter's Pack, while the others would faithfully follow Kieran wherever he went.

For the entire day, wherever Alexia went around the town, she saw families hugging each other, saying, and saying their goodbyes. It was such a painful sight. For a pack that was strongly bonded, parting was so difficult

Alexia's friends, Melissa and Dean, decided to move back to the River Crow Pack. Then families naturally left with them.

Jason and Rae led the group heading to the Cross River Pack first, while Kieran and Alexia traveled to where Morgan lived, the half-witch Kieran hoped Morgan could heal the king, and she had the same sentiments,

For hours, they traveled on land with over twenty of Kieran's men securing their path. The King's guard on live of them, were

focused

mainly on the king's well being

Alexia did not realize how long they were on the road, for she dozed off in the middle of the trip. When she woke up, they had

already arrived. Immediately, the king was presented to Morgan

Inside her house, Morgan assessed the king, It was already in the morning

when she came out with a solution. She said, “The poison has reached the king’s bloodstream. I tried to take some of the poison out, but it wasn’t enough. The only solution I can think of is to secure the fire root. I can mix a medicinal potion with that Miracle Root.”

Alexia and Kieran had been waiting in the living room of Morgan’s home. They had fallen asleep there overnight, together with the king’s guards. Alexia sought. “The fire root? The same plant found at the crater of Mount Netarious? Isn’t that suicidal?”

“I’m afraid it is,” Morgan confirmed. “But the root has the most medical properties amongst all plants. That’s why it is also called The Miracle Root. It is said to be blessed by the Moon Goddess. Only this can save the king. My magic can only do so much.”

“I’ll go,” Kieran quickly stood. “I will never give up on My King.”

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Queen Helen.

Earlier in the palace.

Her slender frame went up and down, and she panted as she chased her high. A man’s hands were around her waist as she ground against her true mate.

The woman threw her head back as soon as she reached ecstasy, and so did the man she was riding. The woman was none other than Queen Helen, and she was with her true mate, Alpha Blaze. They were making love inside the king’s quarters, the same bed Helen shared with the king.

“Ah, my love. It feels so good to make love to you.” Alpha Blaze said as he lay Helen on the other side of the sheets. “It would feel better if we were no longer hiding our relationship.” Queen Helen chuckled. She replied, “Soon, my love.” Her eyes landed on the wall clock, and she said, “The doctor working with me should give Bathasar a full dose of the poison today. That should kill him in just minutes.”

It had been two days since Queen Helen took over the palace. She made it look like a nurse, and a doctor was attending to the king. In truth, however, both the nurse and doctor were poisoning the king. It started with a simple headache. Due to the rehabilitation on the southern coast, the king spent long hours attending to his people. As a result, he had headaches during the day.

The Queen saw it as an opportunity. She conspired with a doctor, paid him

enough money to live two lifetimes, and urged Balthasar to seek treatment. The medicine the doctor created relieved him of the headaches, but it was also killing him slowly.

She had been working with their enemy, Eswen, for months, hoping to dethrone Balthasar. She and her true mate, Alpha Blaze, had been feeding King James information about the coast's mines and the soldier's war plan. However, in the end, Alpha Kieran still led the warriors of Taplean to victory!

Her exchange deal with King James was simple. By helping him, Balthasar would be dethroned. King James would take his shares of Taplean's riches and receive monthly taxes. Helen did not mind sharing

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wealth for as long as she was in control, together with her mate, Alpha Blaze.

With King James miserably failing and surrendering, the queen had no choice but to find another answer to her problem. She loathed Balthasar. It started when she found out that Balthasar had found his true mate. He did not deny it, but he swore he rejected his true mate to keep the crown, for the woman named Avery was a mere commoner, and his parents disapprove of her.

Helen and the king were married, but he never loved her. He did not even mark her! She could tell his mind was constantly drifting off somewhere, thinking of the woman he rejected.

Thankfully, Helen also found her true mate in Alpha Blaze. They had been keeping their relationship a secret for over twenty-five years. Caspian was a product of their love. He was living as a prince, but he was not Balthasar's real son.

Helen could not forget how he tricked Balthasar into believing that Caspian was his son. He had to get the king drunk and drugged. She forced herself on him until he gave in to the temptation and had S** with her.

Then, a bonus to her plans was the arrival of Alexia. At first, she wondered why Balthasar was adamant about helping her. Later on, she discovered Alexia was the daughter of one, Luna Avery of the Cross River Pack. To her, it wasn't a coincidence. Queen Helen confirmed her suspicion when she poked into the king's office and

unlocked his secret safe using a replica of Balthasar's fingerprint. In that safe, she found an old photo of Avery, and the same woman looked the same as Alexia.

It angered the queen that she swore Alexia would suffer along with her husband, Kieran Stone, the same alpha who had repeatedly ruined her plans of winning the war with Eswen.

Queen Helen was thinking about the past and recent events when Blaze remarked, "I can't wait for that bastard Balthasar to die." He leaned to Helen and kissed her lips, adding, "And I can't wait for my son to be announced as the next king."

—

"Patience, Blaze. Patience, we did not wait this long to fail," she said. She rechecked the time and suggested, "You better leave now through the secret passage. It will take some time for your scent to leave the room. The guards will be looking for me in an hour."

Before Alpha Blaze could get up from the bed, someone had already

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knocked on the door.

"My Queen! My Queen! It's an emergency! My Queen!" Whoever was behind the door was persistent. It left Helen and Blaze scrambling into their clothes.

"Wait half an hour! Let me change!" Helen replied. "How dare you interfere with my sleep?! Do you want to die?!"

"But, My Queen, it's urgent! The King is missing!" Helen realized the voice was that of the doctor she commissioned to poison the king. If Balthasar was missing, it only meant one thing: he did not receive the last dose of the poison.

Moments later, Helen arrived at the treatment room. She studied the place closely with her son, Caspian. The fluid bag that was supposed to be infused into the king's veins was missing. There were other bags around, but they were not connected to the tubings.

'Did Balthasar at least finish one bag?' She fearfully wondered.

Helen was busy rejoicing in her triumph and ordering her personal guards that she left the king's care with her son, Caspian. Her orders were not to give Balthasar food or water since he was already hooked into an IV. Moreover, he was unconscious. It was meant to weaken him further since it also contained a dose of the poison.

"I thought he was here all along," Caspian said.

"So that meant you did not bother checking? When was the last time you came here?!" Helen screamed at her son.

"But mother, Beta Ford, offered to monitor father's care. Plus, the nurse you hired was here all the time!" Caspian reasoned. He looked around and realized that the nurse was missing. He let out a low growl. "Where is she? Where is Beta Ford?"

Helen grabbed her son by the collar and pulled him to one corner. She angrily reminded, "Are you out of your mind? Don't you remember where Beta Ford's loyalty lies? He would do anything to save Balthasar if he had any suspicion."

"What's going on here?!" Eventually, Alpha Blaze arrived at the treatment room after navigating the secret passages.

Helen informed him of what had happened and ordered the guards to look for Beta Ford and the nurse. Unfortunately, they could not find Beta

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Ford, and the same could be said for the king's loyal guards. The nurse had also disappeared.

Later, a report came to her inside the king's office. One of the head guards said, "My Queen, Beta Ford, and about twenty guards left last night, saying they needed to visit the southern coast's rehabilitation, but after checking with the warriors there, Beta Ford had not arrived."

"Also, two nights ago, some of the king's loyal guards had left to follow former alpha, Kieran Stone, but the guards at the gate assured the king was not with them. They did, however, fail to check Alpha Declan's vehicle thoroughly," the guard described before narrating the turn of events.

"Ahhh! Why am I only hearing this now?" The queen yelled, throwing whatever documents were at the king's table. She ordered the guard, "Send men to Alpha Declan's pack. Send men to the Stone Blood Pack!"

With her nose flaring and her b*dy acting to shift, she summoned, "Call the doctor now!"

Heartbeats later, with Alpha Blaze and her son, the queen spoke to the doctor about the possibility of the king surviving the poison. She asked, "What are the chances that he will live? Will he eventually die even if he had not taken the last dose?"

The doctor nodded, confirming, "The king is already weak, My Queen. He will eventually die unless -"

"What?" Alpha Blaze asked.

"Unless they can secure the fire root, the most potent medicinal plant found in Taplean. The said miracle root can only be found in the crater of Mount Nefarious," the doctor revealed.

The queen sat back in the seat, the same chair that belonged to the king. She turned to Alpha Blaze and then to her son, saying,

"They will definitely seek this miracle root."

"If the king had been gone for two days all along, then yes, they might have figured the fire root is the only solution," the doctor suggested.

"I'll go," Caspian said. "I will take my men with me. It was my fault that my so-called father had disappeared from the palace. I will find whoever is seeking the fire root and destroy their chances of saving the king."

Helen and Alpha Blaze looked at each other before agreeing. Alpha Blaze Fejes 49

said, "Then, go. Destroy all the fire root plants, son. Remember, if the king survives, you will not be king. The fire root stands in the way of your future crown."

"I will, father," Caspian affirmed.

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The fire root plant often lived for two years upon its growth. They cultivate all year round and feed on the minerals in the crater of an active volcano. However, should Mount Nefarious erupt, that was another story.

Mount Nefarious was named as such due to its intermittent inferno. Its crater often burned at the center, whereas the fire root plants grew on the right side of the volcano's hallow

The problem was the only feasible access to the volcano's top was its left wing, and getting across to the right wing meant climbing sideways above the burning flames.

Kieran and his men struggled through their climb as the volcano was very steep. Moreover, the soil's rocky surfaces were slippery; it was challenging to stay grounded even in their wolf form.

In his black wolf, Kieran led the group of warriors and the king's guards. He was jumping from one large rock to another when he caught a whiff of a familiar scent.

A growl left his lips, and he sucked in a deep breath. He turned to his

colleagues and announced, "We have company."

One of his gam mas, Ace, ran towards Kieran and smelled the surroundings. He confirmed the same, "Doesn't this smell like – "

"Prince Caspian is here," Kieran confirmed.

"If they are here, it means one thing," Ace said.

"They already found out that the king is missing. They probably suspect we are coming for the fire root plant," Kieran said. He ordered, "Seth, you, me, and Ace, let's race to the top! Prince Caspian is here, and who knows what he meant to do with the plants!"

If Caspian intended to destroy all the fire root plants, that meant they would wait for another natural germination, which could take years. The king didn't have that long.

The king's guards were also alerted, and they all sprinted to the top, hoping they could catch up with Caspian's party.

Soon, the earth on the volcano rumbled. With the speed they were going, Chapter 50

rocks unavoidably rolled down, some sl*pping yet fearfully climbing back up.

Above them, they could hear howls; soldiers of Caspian were scrambling to reach the top. It did not take long for Kieran's group to find Caspian. They were also in their wolf form, racing to the crater.

"Hurry! We need to destroy all the fire root plans!" Caspian ordered. He has led his group of men, running in his red-brown wolf.

A loud growl escaped Kieran's l*ps as he picked up the pace. He leaped in between rocks and dug his claws into the sl*ppery earth, making sure not to fall down. The king's life depended on him.

Kieran managed to reach a soldier and efficiently bit the wolf in the leg, thrusting him to the ground. It sent the soldier rolling down. He glowered in Caspian's direction, asking, "Why are you doing this? To your father? Why, Prince Caspian? Your father treated you well!"

"I don't have to answer you, Kieran! My father betrayed my mother!" Caspian quickly said before running to the crater again.

"Is that why you poisoned the king? Merely because of possible disloyalty when it has not yet been proven? There is something that you are not telling me, and I meant to find out what!" Kieran snarled, his nose flaring in anger as he lunged at another soldier trying to block his way.

Unfortunately for Kieran, Caspian ignored him and continued his ascent to the top. He was busy biting off the soldier's arm when he saw from the corner of his eye how the prince was closer to the volcano's opening. He yelled, "Ace! Seth! Hurry!"

Another soldier came at him, but before the same wolf could reach Kieran, Seth's wolf flew in mid-air, biting the opponent with his enormous jaws.

From that point on, the werewolves from both groups fought against each other. Kieran could hear the howls and the shrieks of pain behind him. He saw how his group was outnumbered, but he had faith in Seth and Ace. They would fight bravely and strongly for their lives. As for the king's guards, Kieran knew they were the best warriors trained by Beta Ford. He hoped they could sustain the fight, but Kieran still had to catch up with Prince Caspian. When Kieran reached the crater, he saw how the bottom of the volcano was on fire. It was just like he feared. From afar, Prince Caspian navigated

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through the side. He changed into his human form, holding on to rocks as his feet cautiously stepped on slippery minerals.

Kieran also shifted back to his human form, realizing his size wouldn't help. He needed his hands to grip the rocks and minerals forming on the side of the volcano's hallow.

As Kieran traversed through the crater, he asked the prince, "I didn't think you hate this father this much. What did the king do to you, Prince Caspian? Tell me. I don't understand."

His eyes narrowed in Caspian's direction, but seeing him not responding, he asked, "Are you the king's son or not? Prince Caspian!"

Finally, he got the reaction he wanted. Prince Caspian stilled, and when he turned in Kieran's direction, he saw how the prince formed a full frown on his face. He claimed, "I am the king's son, the rightful heir, and the next king! Do not ever doubt my lineage, Kieran!"

Kieran saw it as an opportunity. He sped his steps as he challenged, "I doubt that now, seeing how badly you want to kill your father. The king has done nothing to you, nothing!"

"You want the truth?" Caspian said. "I'll give you the truth! I never loved the king. For he is not my real father! He is just the tool

for me to get the crown!"

Then, out of nowhere, Caspian threw earth in Kieran's way, blinding him momentarily. Whatever the prince had tossed in his direction stung his eyes, and Kieran recoiled in pain. When he opened his eyes, he could barely see.

However, noticing how Caspian's frame was nearly to the other side of the crater, Kieran rushed to follow after the prince, despite not being able to see clearly. He realized that some of the soil going through the path was warm, probably due to the volcano's opening, and it was the same soil Caspian used to blind him.

Holding on to one of the rocks, Kieran miscalculated. He thought it looked firmly rooted against the earth, but he slipped after holding on to it!

"Ahhh!" Kieran glided down, feeling some rocks pierce against his body while the earth burned his skin. He was going down so

fast that he feared falling into the inferno.

He repeatedly screamed, trying to grip the earth with his hands. However, he wasn't getting any luck. Each second, he felt the heat scorching more and more into his bare skin.

From atop, he heard Caspian laugh, saying. "Die Kieran! Die!"

The prince's voice was so loud it echoed throughout the volcano's opening, resulting in some rocks falling into the fire.

'Moon Goddess! Save me! For the sake of his people, his king, and his wife, Kieran pleaded in his head. He wanted to live!

"Alpha Kieran!" He heard his gammas alternately scream.

Before Kieran knew it, rain instantly fell from the skies, and he found himself halted, stuck in what he felt like bushes that carried his weight.

The branch appeared to have grown from the side and firmly rooted. As Kieran took a moment to let it all sink in. how a mere bush tree saved his life, the rain continued to pour. It came down so vigorously that the fire below was put out. Instead, hot steam covered the crater, and the entire top had no visibility

"Yah! Yah!" Kieran heard Caspian make noises as if he was assaulting someone or something above, but later on, he realized that the prince was destroying the fire root plants

Kieran studied his surroundings, but no matter how he opened his eyes, all he could see was the mist. Worst, his eyes were still

in pain.

His hands tried to feel the earth and later touched an opening to his left. He stretched to the same direction, learning it was a much larger opening. Slowly, he climbed sideways, checking further how big the hole.

was.

He wasn't sure how much longer the bush could hold his weight. After all, he was a massive man. Thus, he took a leap of faith and made his way to the unknown entrance. He then recognized that it was a small cave.

Kieran did not know how long he stayed there, but as the minutes passed, he felt utterly defeated. He was certain Caspian had already destroyed all the fire root plants. Then, he was worried for his men. For their sake, he hoped they had stayed put.

Attempting to save him would be futile, and they would only fall into the crater where more danger awaited them. Although the fire was put out, the crater's center would still be at boiling point, enough to kill any creature upon contact.

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Hours passed. Kieran realized he had fallen asleep inside the small cave. When his eyes fluttered open, the skies were fog had already cleared. He tried to peek above the cave, but he saw no one. At least, in his view, no one was in his line of sight.

Kieran thought about climbing back up, but it was too steep and dangerous. He turned into the cave's depths and decided to explore it, see where it might lead.

It was dark, but crystals guided his way, Nearly half an hour later, he made it to part of the cave where more crystals had grown.

Not too far,. he saw a flock of light. It was so bright that it was blinding. Still, he persisted on the same path.

Little by little, he felt the light become tolerable. He saw crystals sparkling in the dark, and around it was like a plantation of fire root plants that could heal a thousand men, Kieran felt the weight on his chest lift, and tears stung his eyes. His king could be saved in the end.