

The Rejected Luna's Prince Chapter 66 -

15–19 minutes

The Rejected Luna's Prince Chapter 66

Chapter 66 – Your City

(Willa)

I glancer looked over my shoulder at my prince.

“I’m just keeping a promise,” His eyes turned dark, “Turn back around” I did as he said, remembering what he wanted to do the first time that we came here, the first time that I gave myself completely to him, but I knew I was completely his well before then.

My body lit up at the thought of all he wanted from me, wanted to do to me. He came up behind me, the back of his fingers ran up my exposed back, I shuddered under his touch.

“I like this dress on you,” He leaned forward, so his mouth was hovering near my ear.

He moved his hands up to the straps and pushed them away from my shoulders slowly.

“You’re not going to say you like it better off or something like that, are you?” My voice came out as a whisper.

“I might have, but clearly not the way to go.” His laugh was low, and it rumbled through his chest.

he ran his chin over my shoulder the hair of his beard rubbed my exposed skin.

Caspine’s hands left my shoulders and made their way around the front of my dress. I held my breath, trying to be subtle as his fingers traced the outline of the bodice where the top of my breasts swelled with each breath.

Desire swirled through me, and my breath became shallow.

Goddess, this man.

“I want to show the world how incredible you are.” His voice was gravelly as his finger dipped just below the neckline, brushing the top of one of my already hardened nipples.

I let out a sigh of relief at even the slight contact, but it wasn't anything near what I craved from him.

One of his hands roamed to the back and tugged at the zipper. I looked back at him, his dark hair tumbled over his face, frozen in concentration. My throat went dry at the sight, my mouth parted.

He looked at me; his eyes turned dark as he met my gaze. My breath hitched at his hungry stare. He broke contact before I did as he slid to the floor, kneeling behind me.

His hands roamed up my exposed back, I fought to keep my arms at my side. I didn't want to distract him.

He trailed his fingers to where he left my straps hanging down my arms, and pulled them down further. As soon as they slipped from my arms, my Luna dress fell off and pooled at my feet.

Caspian stilled behind me, and I bathed in it. I shifted on my feet, stepping out of the dress and kicking it aside. I knew the effect that it would have on my legs and ass in the moonlight.

"Damn Willa," He breathed.

Having someone, no, having him so affected by me like this lit me up.

I let him look as much as he wanted until his warm hands came back to my body near my ankles.

He slowly worked up from there, running his hands up from my calves to my thighs. It felt nice, but I knew this was for him. He wanted to touch me, to feel me, and I melted under his probing embrace.

His large hands came up to my hips, grasping onto me tightly, as he let loose a long breath. He stilled there for a moment, and I backed up into his embrace, thrusting my hips and behind to his somehow bare back. I didn't question when that happened, just revelled in the feeling of my skin against his.

One of his palms came to cup a butt cheek. He kneaded it in his hand, lightly massaging it. I breathed deeply, enjoying the feeling.

His other hand dipped over my stomach and traced a lazy pace to my center. All of my attention focused on where the tips of his fingers traced blazing circles on my skin. His fingers finally caressed the top of my underwear, and I held my breath.

He paused again, and I almost said something about him teasing me, but I was so focused on him touching me in any capacity it never came out.

My eyes fluttered shut, waiting for him to dip his finger beneath.

Instead, he pulled back. I felt the absence of his warm hands immediately. My eyes shot open, and I looked behind me, but he stood and crossed his arms, tilting his head back toward the window, indicating where I should look.

I sighed but obeyed, happy that he couldn't see my smile other would prolong his slow assault.

I let out a sigh of relief when his palms made contact with my hips again. He gripped me tighter this time, his fingers digging into my soft flesh.

I leaned back against his bare chest, settling in the familiarity that was Caspien.

"I'm going to need you still for this first part." He grumbled into my ear, leaning down to suck on my earlobe.

His hands wrapped around my wrists, and he brought them above my head, securing them around his neck.

"Keep them there," After my hands intertwined he let go of my wrists, sliding them down my arms that were wrapped around the back of his neck.

A thrill shot through me, settling at my core.

I was exposed, open, right where I wanted to be with him.

His hands trailed down my side, brushing against the sides of my breasts.

I stilled wanting him to touch me, needing him to touch me.

His fingers roamed over my skin, inching ever so close to my nipples. He stilled for a moment right when he was close to where I needed him.

My breath caught when he removed his hands, but I could feel the heat of them hovering over my chest.

"Please," I murmured, trying to press toward him.

"Mm," He responded, his fingers featherlight brushing over my exposed nipples.

I buckled at the light contact, trying to press myself further, but he pulled back.
(Willa)

I glancer looked over my shoulder at my prince.

Once I caught my breath again, his fingers brushed over them again, staying there, circling them slowly.

I whimpered in his arms, my hand intertwined with his soft hair, trying to convey my want, but I knew he knew the extent of my desire.

“Keep them there,” He reminded me, his breath fanned over my neck.

His hands were gone again, and I tried to steady my uneven breath, but it did nothing to help. Anticipation and desire were raging through me at his slight touch. I gasped as his fingers closed in on my nipples, his nose brushed my hair away from my neck, and I could feel his smile against my skin.

“You like that,” It wasn’t a question.

He pressed his hardened length into my back, and I almost stumbled.

One of his hands came to the window to steady us. His other tugged lightly and then rolled my nipple between his fingers.

He let out a breath as he let my nipple, trailing a burning finger down my stomach and playing over my core.

“Caspien,” I murmured, a plea.

“Hm?” He rumbled into my throat, his finger dipping lower under my underwear, tracing a line to my core that was alight with anticipation.

He pulled back again, running his finger over the soft fabric. I whimpered at the whisper of pleasure but it was nothing near what I wanted.

“Please,” I wiggled against him, tugging his hair on the nape of his neck.

He adjusted himself behind me and moved a hand back to my breast. I let out a confused sigh, not wanting the teasing anymore.

One of his fingers pushed the fabric away, and he slid a finger up my wet slit. He growled in approval, the sound reverberating through his chest.

A thick finger slipped into me, and I moaned at the sudden yet welcomed contact. I grabbed at his neck, his hair, anything to keep me up. He placed a warm kiss on my neck while massaging my breast.

He moved his finger in and out of me as I clenched around him, trying to keep him in me. I was already starting to wind up at every calculated movement of his.

“Is this what you want?” He asked his lips against my neck with each word.

I could see his smirk in my mind, but as I opened my mouth to speak, his thumb brushed over my c.lit, making me almost stumble forward.

“You don’t have to say anything,” He pulled out his finger, circling my wetness around my opening, “I know what you like I just like to hear the confirmation.” He plunged his finger back into me.

“Call it cockiness,” He removed his finger and swirled it on my entrance again before pushing it back in deep, massaging my inner walls.

“I didn’t think you needed the validation,” I managed to get out, sounding as breathless and distracted as I was.

“I don’t,” He paused, his smile on my throat, “But Goddess do I love to hear your want, Willa.”

He kissed my neck, “My Mate,”

He lowered his lips to my marking spot, “My Luna,”

He sucked it into his mouth, and I gasped, “My princess.”

His finger flicked inside of me again before he removed it, letting another one slip in alongside it. My mark was in his mouth, and he sucked and lapped at it hungrily while he played inside me.

My or.gasm that was building caught fire.

With every rhythmic thrust of his fingers, his other hand answered my m.oans with him massaging my b.reast and tugging lightly at my n.ipple,

But his h.ard e.rection pressed behind me, and my marking spot being sucked between his teeth unraveled me.

I wound up to my breaking point with all these warring sensations begging for my attention. I couldn’t focus on one point of pleasure, and it all came bursting through me.

I grasped tigher to his neck, not trusting my shaky legs to hold me. I grabbed his silky hair, trying to remember how to stand as my pleasure tore through me in waves.

His breathing came out in short bursts, his mouth left my neck and through my haze of l.ust I thought it was glorious that he could be so distracted by my p.leasure.

I held onto him steadily as the last waves of p.leasure pulsed through me. He helped me come down, his strong arm wrapped around me, his muscles tensing against my skin. I leaned against his arm knowing that he would hold me.

He slowed his fingers until the waves settled into nothing but a languid satisfaction that settled over me in a haze.

“Not yet, my Luna.” He helped me stand on my own two feet, “I want the world to see how amazing you are.” His fingers traced my silhouette, igniting me again chasing away the warm sleepiness I felt.

“I want the world to see what is mine,” He places a kiss on my shoulder, “And what they can’t have,” He moved his mouth to my other shoulder.

He grasped my waist, thrusting me forward. My nipples met the cool window and I gasped at the sensation.

“I want to show the world that you are mine, and I need them to see how beautiful you look when I make you cum on my dick,” His breath fanned over my neck eliciting goosebumps, but his words sent waves of pleasure through me.

“I need them to see what they will never have, and I need them to see what only I will be able to do to you.”

“O-okay,” I think I said. I was wide awake now, but my brain was clouded with lust.

He rested his chin on my shoulder, “If that’s okay with you,” His voice was, more uncertain, sincere.

I nodded, “Yes,” I croaked.

Whatever he wanted at this moment, I wanted.

His possessiveness lit me up in a way that was claiming yet secure.

We owned each other because we gave each other to this bond. The bond that we created past what fate or destiny or The Moon Goddess decided for us. We chose each other.

He didn’t own me and I didn’t own him.

We both succumbed to the mutual bond that was us.

I would willingly do things for him because I trusted him, and that trust, this bond, it was freeing.

“Anything you want,” I whispered.

With those words, I didn’t submit to him. I didn’t give anything away to him, I just dove deeper into our needs, what we wanted from each other.

More than that, I wanted Caspien to f.uck me in front of anyone that wanted to watch. I never thought about the audience anyway, just him. And if they could see how well he f.ucked me, how hard he made me o.rgasm, that made me excited in ways I didn't realize.

A deep growl of appreciation rumbled through his chest and ignited sparks through me straight to my c.ore.

His hands dipped below my underwear, ripping them off. His body pressed me to flush against the window, and I reached out to steady myself.

“Hands up,” He wrapped his hands around my wrists and put them above me on the window. I smiled, thinking of the smudges there tomorrow.

He stepped away, but I felt his presence behind me. I chewed my lip as I studied the vast expanse of the city beneath me, the city that belonged to me now.

Caspiens pack, my pack.

He stepped back to me, his palms encircling my waist, his b.are e.rection pressed up to my back, warm and s.tiff.

“Legs wider, Willa.” His voice rumbled, and I obliged, shutting my eyes waiting for him.

His tip b.rushed against my opening. I sighed with anticipation and want. He used my wetness to coat himself before he settled at my opening, pushing slightly in.

I held my breath as he slowly entered me, filling me completely. I spread open for him, tightening against his l.ength. It was everything that I needed, and I took a deep breath memorizing the absolute rightness.

I tried to grab something once he settled deep inside me, but all I had was the half-fogged window where my finger prints made marks.

I was completely at his mercy, I could go nowhere, do nothing, and I loved it.

I felt my insides start to tighten and curl. The primal instinct deep within me started to coil.

Caspien g.roaned as he pushed into me one more time, pushing further with his hips until I cried out before almost pulling out completely.

“Look at your city Willa. This is your pack, our pack.” He said before bottoming out in me again.

I m.aoned as he pushed into me. His hands came next to mine, his legs propped mine open, widening them further for him.

I tried to look at the twinkling light below and above us, but with every thrust but my breath fogged up the glass, inhibiting my view.

“You are mine,” He growled. The windows shook under my nipples, rippling pleasure through me.

I was winding up to the point of no comprehension.

He took a step back, removing one hand to dig into my hip and pull it back for him, adjusting my opening for him.

I tried to claw at the window as he entered me deeper than before. His other hand grabbed mine and pushed it against the window in a way that might have been painful, but I was so consumed by pleasure I wanted more.

“Willa,” He grunted.

“Please,” I answered.

He thrust back into me, holding onto my hand and my hips, keeping me in place, or else I would have buckled under him. Everything inside of me twisted and curled tight, too tight, and with one final long thrust I exploded.

I clenched around my mate, pouring myself into him, sharing the euphoria he brought me to, and he found his pleasure in me almost instantly after.

“Willa.” He cried.

I opened my mouth, but only a string of jumbles and half-formed words came out as my pleasure pulsed through me from when Caspien met me with his final thrusts.

He stilled inside of me, his hands slackening, and his forehead hung on my back.

We both took time to catch our breath.

“So much for the world seeing,” I looked back at him, and he glanced up at the fogged glass.

Caspien smiled at me, “We’re going to have to fix that,” He was still breathing hard, his midnight hair plastered to his face. He looked young and unencumbered. It was rare to see him look anywhere near his age.

I smiled widely at him, and when he inhaled as he pulled out.

I turned and grabbed his cheeks in my hands and gave him a hard kiss.

“I love you,” I reminded him, “All of you, everything you are, everything you’re not, who you were, and everything you are going to become.”

He swallowed, and his eyes glistened. A long moment later, he took my chin in his grasp.

“You are everything,” He breathed, and I settled into the love and security that was my mate.

I nodded, savoring his words and closing my eyes. As soon as I did, the tiredness that Caspien’s and my desire held at bay overcame me.

“Let’s go to bed,” He pulled me into the bed and his arms as the last light of stars twinkled through the foggy windows behind us, “Princess,” He murmured into my hair.

I nodded, settling into his broad chest. His arms wrapped around me, and his scent dragged me into a comfortable sleep.

The Rejected Luna’s Prince Chapter 67 -

15–19 minutes

The Rejected Luna’s Prince Chapter 67

Chapter 67 – Finals

(Nolan)

Sitting at my desk I grasped a large glass of whiskey in my hands. Everything was muddled. I wanted to slip into the comfort of the abyss.

I didn’t want to think, didn’t want to have to think anymore.

I’m pretty sure that Jack and Isaac came by, Jack probably spewing some moral b.allshit, I could still see his disappointed and condescending face. I was his Alpha for f.ucks sake, how dare he?

My dad came in and took one look at me and left this afternoon, or maybe this morning. Possibly yesterday.

I was hoping everything would right itself, by some miracle everything just fall back into place while I was gone deep within myself. I needed someone else to figure it out, to step up. I couldn’t do it right now. I had so much on my plate to deal with it, I had my own internal problems.

I took a long sip of the burning liquid that tasted like nothing now.

I squeezed the glass, and it shattered in my hand, but I didn't feel that pain. It was nothing compared to the pain that rippled through me in burning waves.

Was this the mate bond snapping?

I only felt something similar to this before when Willa accepted my rejection. I held it together only until she walked out of my office, pain, and sadness etched on her beautiful face. Thankfully, I had Camilla to help me through the pain, but now, I had no one.

Was Camilla dead? Did they kill her already?

I clutched at my heart, trying to claw away the pain. It was bigger than me, something undid me, changed completely. Something was ripped away from me for good.

I screamed wordlessly, pain rippling through me, suffocating me.

I knew that it wasn't Camilla, something like what we had wasn't this powerful.

No, something fated destined was shifting, it's lingering remnants leaving me forever.

I was cold, dark, helpless.

All was lost.

(Willa)

The late morning sun stretched through the cracks in the curtains bathing me in buttery warmth. I moved back a bit from Caspien's tight embrace and looked up at him still sleeping.

I dragged my finger lightly over his familiar beautiful face. His dark brows, straight nose, perfect lips. He looked so peaceful, so unaffected by his everyday troubles when he was sleeping.

His eyes fluttered open pinning me with his icy stare.

His hand nestled on my cheek and he rubbed his thumb across it, "My Luna," He said in awe before dipping low and placing a hard kiss on my lips.

"How are you this morning, love?" He asked, his voice still grumbly with sleep.

"Sore," I admitted, even the small movements I did made my body ache.

A wide smile plastered on his face as he brushed a loose strand of hair behind my ear, "Good."

I settled into his warm touch and let my eyes close, breathing in his scent and basking in the feel of him.

I was safe and secure in our apartment, where our parents had places a few floors below, and my son was loved and well taken care of.

Our son.

I didn't think about what was next, I didn't obsess over what was to come for once. I just let this perfect moment be.

Are you up? We have to study

What? – Hissed back at Cali annoyed at her ruining this moment with reality

Get your booty down here, lover girl

I sighed and peeled myself away from Caspien explaining that Cali needed me. He reluctantly let me go running his hands down his face.

“I should get back to life too,” He sat up and stretched, his muscles rippled and stretched. His motion almost made me crawl back into bed with him.

He raised an eyebrow at me, a question.

“I can't.” I shook my head bit my lip and dashed to the bathroom to take a cold shower before my lust could overcome the sliver of logic that I had knowing Cali needed something.

If I slipped back into bed we wouldn't leave. All day. And unfortunately, reality did call, there was a lot of s.hit we had to figure out still regarding Alpha Jasper's pack and the looming Camilla problem.

I slipped under the cool water and squeezed shampoo into my hands, waiting for the water to help me make sense of things.

I tried to wrap my mind around her actions and what to do with her. I didn't understand her hatred of me, it seemed to only stem because of her love for Nolan. But she went out of her way to try to harm my mate, her Prince, and that seemed like a personal attack against me.

After I wrapped myself in a fluffy towel and started to air-dry my hair I still had no further insight on how to deal with her in a way that was rational and fair.

End her, she might still pose a threat – Iris growled

She had a point, who was to say that if we let her go she wouldn't retaliate again? I wouldn't put it past her to be even angrier that she was imprisoned instead of seeing it as a huge favor we were doing.

But what would happen to her son? My stomach clenched thinking about what Emmett would do without me.

Griffen was right, there was no easy choice and I didn't think I could keep emotion out of it. I tried to remove anger but now I just felt so guilty for what I could take away from her son.

Caspian's arms wrapped around me and I gently pulled the brush from my hand setting it by the mirror.

"What's wrong?" He murmured into my shoulder and I leaned back into him.

"I'm just not sure what to do with Camilla. No matter what I choose I'm terrified that there will be repercussions," I let out a long breath, "What if we let Camilla go and she still holds that anger?" I met his eyes in the mirror, "What if we sentence her to death or to live her life in a cell, and then Nolan comes after us?"

I shook my head and closed my eyes, a familiar sinking feeling settled over me. I didn't want to live on edge, I didn't want to have anything looming over me.

"Don't worry about that," Caspian kissed my shoulder, "Don't think about the potential consequences, we don't have control over everyone else and you'll drive yourself crazy if you try to map out every possible reaction."

He was right, of course, he was right. He had years of training, years of experience, he was quite literally bred for this role.

"We will deal with any potential consequences that may come our way. No matter what you choose, what we choose there will be something that arises from it, good or bad. Usually both," I didn't look away from his gaze in the mirror.

"So leave consequences out of it, or try to. The only factor in what you think is the right decision."

"How do you know?" My voice was small.

"You never do, not fully," He shook his head barely, "It's something you have to live with."

"You sound like Griffen," I smiled at him, and he returned it.

"I knew I chose a good Beta," He kissed my neck and I tried to keep my logic despite the butterflies erupting at his touch, "But the Moon Goddess chose you as Luna. Twice," He raised

an eyebrow, “You were meant to be in a leadership role, trust your instincts, if something feels wrong, really wrong, there’s usually a reason for that.”

I tried to wrap my mind around that.

At the moment, everything felt like the wrong choice, but there was something that was gnawing at me, eating away more than anything else. I had time though to revisit it and see if it was my instincts instead of some misplaced anxiety.

“Thanks, that was honestly really helpful.”

“Don’t act so surprised,” He stood to his full height behind me before turning me around and wrapping me in his arms again, “That’s what I’m here for, My Luna,” He murmured into my hair.

The sound of that coming from his lips sent a bolt of tingles through me. Through it all, even if it was only a few months, we made it this far and we would make it much further.

Together.

Cali was waiting her arms crossed looking me up and down.

“You look fresh,” I noted.

“Sit,” She motioned to Caspien’s dining table, my dining table now.

I looked over the array of bright notecards and piles of books, neatly stacked blank pages and pens.

“What is this?” I asked her, not taking a seat yet.

“We have finals. Final finals.” She said, her hazel gaze piercing.

“Cali I-”

“Sit,” She commanded and I pulled out the chair across from her.

I vaguely remembered turning in some papers and doing online quizzes in between all the b.ullshit. This past week I didn’t even open a book. It was something I did to make me try to feel normal when Emmett was sick. I would sit next to him and go through notes and textbooks and re-watch recorded classes, but I wasn’t fully there.

There has been so much going on it fell to the back of my mind and there was no way I could even pass.

“I emailed your professors explaining the situation that a family member was gravely ill,” She pushed a cup of coffee toward me and I gladly accepted, “You have time to re-take the quizzes and a paper you missed, but the finals still stand.”

I swallowed, “I don’t even want to know what grades I have,” I muttered, accidentally out loud.

“You’re not doing so well,” She gave me a slightly sympathetic smile and a shrug, “But if you don’t do too bad on your finals then you might just make it.”

“You’re really selling it,” I smiled at her, “Fine, what do I have to do.”

Cali grinned and leaned forward, running me through it all.

—

Caspian came in with Emmett and Loreli later on, they brought us doughnuts from Goddess knew where.

“I’m taking our parents to the game tonight, I skipped out on my promise last time,” Caspian frowned.

“I think being on your deathbed is a warranted excuse,” I tried to smile but chills ran through me at the words.

“Either way, we’re all going, get out of your way for a bit.” Caspian placed a kiss on my forehead.

I was begging for any distraction from the meaningless words swimming in front of me. I went through my chemistry this morning and was able to work through most of it before even re-watching the classes I missed.

These terms and phrases and LIFO vs FIFO were getting to me. Maybe I didn’t see the merit of it, but I knew that wasn’t true. It made more sense for me to understand business than chemistry as a Luna.

“I’ll bring you back a hot dog,” Emmett promised bouncing up and down next to me.

“Thanks, honey. Have a good time.” I ruffled his hair and he grabbed Loreli’s hand and dragged her behind Emmett.

I sighed slumping back in my chair and staring longingly after them.

“Those terms aren’t going to memorize themselves.” Cali gave me a playful smile but it promised death if I didn’t get back to my flashcards.

I shot her a glare and flipped my page noisily.

“Isn’t this nice?” Cali said looking around ignoring me, “It’s like the good old days. But instead of us cramming at your rickety dining room table were in a penthouse looking down at where we used to live.”

“It is, but still weird,” I admitted thinking of how completely our lives changed.

“Weird for you?” Cali crossed her arms, “I found out that humans can turn into giant wolfs, and that I was destined to be with one of them.” She snorted.

“This isn’t a weird competition,” I shot back smiling, “But you’re right, your life has completely changed. Completely.” I couldn’t even imagine.

“It has,” Her smile widened as she twisted the ring on her finger, “It is everything I didn’t dare to even dream of, and it happened.” Her voice was soft, wistful and it made me happy.

“Beer?” I asked, one of our study beverages when the coffee was hitting too hard.

“Celebratory beer?” She asked, flipping her long curls over her shoulder, “Always.”

She popped up from her chair and went into the kitchen behind her to grab some beer from the fridge. I wondered when Caspien started stocking it, it didn’t seem like his drink, and I didn’t remember seeing it in there when I first started coming over.

“I asked him,” Cali said setting down our favorite cheap beer in front of me, “To stock this,” She added giving me a smile answering my unspoken question, “He’s not so bad you know.”

“You’re right. You really sold him.” I met her wry smile.

“Cheers,” I tapped my beer to hers, “We did it.”

“Some of it,” I amended, scowling at my notes.

“This is worse than I remember,” Cali frowned at her beer, “I love it.”

“Reminds me of a simpler time,” I joked, but even back then nothing was simple.

Caspien came into my life and he turned it upside down. He showed me how a mate, a partner, and an equal should act and he let me fall in love with him in a way that felt comfortable for me. If he would have been anyone else, I don’t know if I would have accepted a second chance, especially if they tried to push me like Nolan often did. I was lucky that it was him.

“Nothing in my life has been as easy as it is now,” Cali’s voice dropped, “I’m thankful that Holden and his family, your family, and even Caspien’s stepped in.” I swallowed.

“I’m happy that I have you, I’m d.amn lucky that I met you,” Cali said her fiery stare met mine but I could see it misting over, “I don’t know what I would have done without you.” She shook her head blinking.

That floored me, I didn’t know what I would have done without her. My dark firecracker fairy godmother that helped me find a job, took care of Emmett and pulled me back from myself when I was internalizing.

“You saved me,” I whispered.

“That is not the truth. You saved yourself.” Cali said, her voice hard now, “I might have been there but just as a witness.” She gave me her signature smile.

“Okay, fine, but you helped me more than you could have known.” I amended.

“So did you.” She nodded towards me lifting her beer, “To family.”

“To family.” I raised mine.

—

I felt like I was actually in college, cramming for days. Everything blended together, my eyes felt hot and stung at some points when I opened a page. I wrote and re-wrote the same essay, and even though I got sleep I still felt overwhelmed.

It was kind of nice.

Stressed over something that wasn’t life and death for once.

It felt almost normal.

“Ready?” Caspien held his hand out to me, and I scooped my notes into a purse.

“Sure,” I placed my hand in his and he helped me stand.

I ran my fingers through my hair. Why was I so nervous? Did it even matter?

But it did. To me, it did. I wanted to finish this, the first thing I might have started myself for myself.

I wouldn’t condemn myself if I failed, in the grand scheme of things it didn’t matter, it wouldn’t change the course of things that I had set in motion. But I was nervous. It did matter to me. I had to prove to myself that I could.

“Good luck, but you don’t need it.” Caspien raised my hand to his lips and kissed it before sliding out of the car and opening the door for me, “I’ll be here when you’re done.”

“Thanks.”

I took a long look at him. Unwavering confidence, as always. He was fixing the sleeve of his immaculate suit, looking picture-perfect, but I no longer wondered if I could match up to that.

He was mine, and I was his, and we balanced each other, completed each other perfectly.

I turned away with a glimmer of confidence, and I hoped it was all I needed to help me get through these finals.

Cali stood by the computer, refreshing our grades, I knew she wasn't as worried for herself. She excelled at her courses and was keeping up with them. I appreciated her anxiety for me, at least.

I needed 72% on my final to pass this class. The others I passed. If barely. But the business one was my hardest, for me at least.

“Oh my gosh!” Cali jumped up and grabbed her face.

“What?” I couldn't contain my shock and excitement.

“You got a seventy-three.” She jumped up, and I joined her, I grabbed her arms.

“Holy c.rap did I pass?” My voice was high-pitched, and we danced around the kitchen before bumping into the island and falling over it laughing.

“I don't have to ask that you passed, right?” I looked at her.

“I got it of course I did,” She flipped her hair over her shoulder but fixed me with a smile.

“I never doubted you,” I said. She raised an eyebrow, “No, really, not with this, at least.”

“B.itch,” She slapped my arm before leaning over the counter.

“So now what?” We conquered summer classes at community college; where are we going next?”

Cali sat up, “The world is our oyster.” Her eyes gleamed, and in some way, it was.

The Rejected Luna's Prince Chapter 68 -

8–10 minutes

The Rejected Luna’s Prince Chapter 68

Chapter 68 – Graduation

“Come here, Mama.” Emmett tugged at my arm, Cali and I were sprawled on the couch the day after our results.

I didn’t care that I would probably never see the inside of a classroom again. All that mattered was, for some reason, somehow, I passed.

Like everything else recently, I did it, but I accepted the help of others.

I think they call that growth

I rolled my eyes and looked at Emmett. He was wearing a little black tie suit, and his hair slicked back.

“Emmett, whats going on?” I asked.

I had a ring, the title, the royal crowning ceremony, or whatever was being planned. Maybe I slipped on an event? That wouldn’t be surprising.

“Mommy,” Loreli came up in a little floor-length green dress.

Cali looked between me and her daughter and I shrugged, she looked just as confused as I was.

Was this something for both of us?

“You look lovely,” I said to Emmett and his smile widened, “So do you, Loreli,” She did something that looked like a bow.

“She learned that from Holden,” Cali shrugged, smiling down at her daughter, “Where are we going, Lor?”

“Shh,” She put a finger to her mouth, and I tried not to laugh.

We followed them out and to the elevator.

“Now what?” I asked, “Do you know where we go next?” I amended.

The elevator door opened and Griffen was standing there in a button-down and slacks, “Ladies,” He said with a slight nod.

We followed him into the elevator, and he stood in front of us, not saying a word. I didn't bother even trying to ask.

Emmett and Loreli were giggling, shifting on their feet looking at each other.

The elevator doors opened and we followed Griffen out on a floor that I hadn't been to before. If I didn't trust him so implicitly I would say this was borderline creepy.

Griffen opened a door and held it for us.

"Thank you," I said following Emmett who was trying to tug me. Loreli bumped into my back.

"Slow down, honey." Cali chided lovingly.

Emmett stopped, and I took in my surroundings. A large conference room, bigger than I had seen even in Caspiens' work office was brightly lit. A stage was on one side of the room and chairs were lined up and filled with – filled with my parents, our mates, Nora and Oliva, Rachel, and Caspien's parents, and h.oly c.rap.

"Lola!" I shouted running up to her, her parents were sitting next to her and I wrapped them all in a hug or tried to, "What are you doing here?"

"Wouldn't miss this," She saig giggling into my ear.

Miss what? I still didn't get what was happening. Lola pulled back, her eyes sparkling.

"Your graduation," Caspien came up to me in a white button-down shirt with the sleeves rolled up over his tanned skin, "You might need these," He held up a black gown and a hat.

"What?" I looked behind him; our school's colored balloons were strung to the stage, "Why?" I asked him.

He shrugged, "You might never get this, I know you might not continue on with college so I, well we, thought we would do something for you." I grabbed the paper-thin gown that felt like plastic somewhere.

"Not great material, but they are authentic," Caspien frowned, almost wincing at the feel of it against his skin.

"Caspien," I didn't know what to say, were there even words for it.

"Holy sh–." Cali shut her mouth I turned back, and she bit her lip looking down at the kids. Holden was next to her and already placed the black cap on her head.

"But why?" She asked Holden.

“Because we can, and we want to, and you deserve it, and,” He took a breath, “Should I just write you a list?”

“You’ve missed a lot, given up a lot because of me, us.” Caspien said, drawing my attention back to him. Emmett was in his arms now, and the matching suits almost undid me.

“I didn’t.” I breathed.

“You didn’t get the time you wanted. I know it wasn’t intentional that I stole you away from that,” He swallowed, “I don’t know how to put it, but I do regret for your sake that you didn’t get that time to be on your own-”

“Stop,” I smiled at him, “It’s no one’s fault and I don’t regret this, not anymore, not a single part of what my life has become with you.”

He nodded seemingly at a loss for words, so unlike him. I took a step towards him and ran a hand over his cheek, not caring who was watching.

“Thank you,” I whispered, “Both of you,” I looked at Emmett.

“I’m proud of you, Mama,” Emmett said, and my heart burst.

“So let’s do the darned thing,” Cali said from behind me.

Caspien put Emmett down and helped me get the robe on, and Cali pinned the hat after I helped her.

“Ready?” She said, rolling her eyes, but her face held nothing but sheer joy and affection.

“As ready as I’ll ever be to celebrate the end of my first and last semester of college.” I joked, but I was actually c.hoked up.

The thought and effort they put into this and planning enough so that Lola and her parents could be here. Caspien continued to surprise me.

Cali grabbed my arm, and Griffen led us to the side of the stage. Holden played a video from our professors and other students that I had never even talked to. I looked at Cali, and she had her eyes closed, laughing.

“What would you say about Cali?” He asked a girl he stopped in the hallway.

“Who?”

“This high, long blood-red curls looks like she might accidentally kill you?” Holden said

The girl’s face was blank.

“I think you have a class with her, Professor Smith?”

“Oh, yeah,” The girl said, “I’ve seen her before.”

Holden turned around the camera,” That was beautiful,” He wiped a fake tear away.

Cali was laughing so hard she was holding on to her sides, I had never seen her like this, and it was contagious.

Caspien said some words, briefly, more formal but when he looked at me, pride shone through his face.

He called Cali’s name, and she bounded across the stage, shaking Caspiens, Holden’s, and Griffen’s hands after Caspien handed her something that looked like a scroll.

Cali bowed with a flourish and basked in the round of applause.

I took a few steps to the stage and shook Caspien’s hand; he pulled me close to him and leaned down.

“I am so indescribably proud of you, Willa.” His warm breath fanned over my neck, and the sincerity of his words made my stomach drop.

It seemed so small, something that I was throwing away but the way that he talked about this he acted like I won The Nobel Peace Prize.

“Thanks,” I finally found my voice, and he reluctantly dropped my hand, replacing it with a scroll of paper.

I forced myself to tear my eyes away from his and shook Griffen’s hand. He awarded me with a rare genuine smile that made his obsidian eyes seem to light up.

“I’m proud of you. Despite it all, you persevered and stuck to it, staying true to what you wanted. I admire that, Luna.” My face scrunched up I could feel the hot tears prick at my eyes.

“Thank you, Griffen.” I released his hand and went to Holden.

He wrapped me in a hug, lifting me off the ground, “You brilliant b.itch. Next step your Doctorate.” I laughed, hugging him tight.

“Maybe we just get through the next weekend, and then I can see about my future in academics.” He laughed at set me down.

“Congrats, Willa.” He looked serious and sincere and proud, and I nodded, not finding any words for what I felt.

I joined Cali at the other end of the stage, and she grasped my hand, squeezing it tightly. I saw all my emotions mirrored on her face.

Unadulterated joy, self-pride, and acceptance of our accomplishments. For a moment not diminish what we achieved despite the circumstances stacked against us.

We weren't the same women who met at orientation. I was confused, lost, overwhelmed by a city I didn't know.

Now, I practically owned that city.

In a few short months, my life was upheaved, overturned, and then when everything settled, it was overturned again.

I wasn't the same person I was a few months ago, and my life was completely changed. I marveled at that thought, the complete parallels from the beginning of the summer to the end. I reveled in my accomplishments and didn't shy away from them.

I took a deep breath looking at everyone I loved, their faces held pride and love and affection, and they all chose to be here to support me in this. I wanted to be here for this.

Caspian's mom clasped her hands, her eyes misted over, my mom and dad were wiping away tears, and Lola was bouncing up and down in her seat.

I earned this, and I would bask in it.

The Rejected Luna's Prince Chapter 69 -

14–18 minutes

The Rejected Luna's Prince Chapter 69

Chapter 69 – Chapter????

(Willa)

“Ready?” Caspian asked, his face was set; he already knew my answer.

“Sure,” I shrugged.

There was a sinking feeling in my stomach that settled as soon as I opened my eyes this morning.

He nodded resolutely, nothing he could tell me was anything he hadn't said to me before. He trusted my decision more than I did.

"You look the part at least," He amended, taking my hand and spinning me around.

I chose a nude wrap dress and plain black heels. The weather was cooling off, but not enough yet to wear anything heavy. Cali helped me braid one side of my hair that ended in a loose high ponytail so my waves hung down my back.

Caspian opted for his signature white button-down and gray slacks, something I would have sworn he slept in if I didn't know him better.

"As long as I can fake it," I tried a smile.

"You can do this," He kissed my hand, "We can do it."

—

Emmett was downstairs waiting for us. I wrapped him in a hug, trying to settle my nerves. I missed him, I was used to him being with me most of the time, and now that his grandparents wanted to share time, I felt like I rarely saw him even if he was with me most of the day.

"I like your dress," He said, "It's pretty."

"Thank you, my sweet boy." I kissed his head, and Caspian picked him up.

"Let's do it," Cali walked in the door wearing dark green pants and a matching blazer that trailed behind her, "It's a cape blazer," She tugged at the side of the cape.

"Very nice," I said admiring her while she twirled.

"I didn't know I had a thing but I think this is it now," She smiled, "I never really had time to have a thing besides the whole diner b.itch personality but I have now moved on to capes."

"I don't know if that really is a comparison," Caspian said.

"It suits you," Holden came up rolling up the sleeves of his light blue button-down that almost matched his eyes perfectly.

"Griffen is meeting us downstairs," Caspian wrapped an arm around my waist.

"So is Rachel," I said, and his hand froze, "I invited her, she has great insight, and I value her opinion." I went on.

Caspian sighed but didn't say anything.

We descended in the elevator in silence, the air felt heavy, none of us truly knew what to expect.

“I, for one, am excited,” Cali said stepping out first.

“At least there’s that,” I mumbled.

Rachel was standing by the front entrance next to a solemn but presentable Griffen. He opted for something that he could fight in, but I really didn’t think it would come to that. Rachel had her perfect hair down in her signature Hollywood waves. She was wearing an elegant knee-length black dress.

“Welcome to the team,” Caspien said.

“Really good impression of someone smiling,” Holden whispered to him, and Caspien gave him a flat look.

“Thanks for inviting me,” Rachel said giving Caspien a brief smile before looking at me.

“I want you here. Thanks for helping out.”

“This is going to be a day,” Cali said.

That was one way to say it.

Cali linked her arms with ours and tugging us out to another limo, at least we would have enough people to actually fill this now. That was one way to say it.

“We’re bringing the b.itch right?” Cali asked.

I thought to the last time I saw Camilla, I only visited her once again after I thought she had time to process some of her anger.

(A few days ago)

“Camilla,” I stood at the glass door of her cell.

I didn’t know what to expect but I felt like I owed her this for some reason. Not for who she was to me but for who she was as a prisoner, I was determined to make a fair decision.

She slowly turned her head to me. They took care of her down here, she had fresh clothes and food and water but the glint in her eye faded.

“What do you want?” She c.roaked.

“Are you ready to talk?” I sank to the floor to be face-to-face with her.

Her back was turned to the door, and she shifted barely so that she could face me.

“We already did,” Her voice hardened barely, “Just get it over with, you win, kill me or whatever.”

“Camilla,” I sighed, “I want to talk,” I paused, “Actually talk.”

She turned slowly to face me, her hair was tangled and matted.

She had a brush here, I made sure she had basic comforts, this sight was jarring, she seemed completely broken, and it made me feel sad.

I didn't want to see her like this; years ago that would be another story but I felt so past this part of my life that it was just annoying to me that I still had to deal with it.

“Camilla?” I asked again, and she fully turned to me, crossing her arms.

Her face was sour but the anger she had a week ago was replaced by sadness.

“Willa?”

“She's behind us,” Caspien said to me rubbing circles on the back of my hand, “Presentable, well as much as she would let them help her, I know you didn't want to force her into anything.” He read my mind.

“Thanks,” I studied the now familiar landscape.

The city dispersed into suburbs and a few buildings. The suburbs were behind us and the houses were replaced by trees, I always admired how the landscape could change so completely in such a short drive.

The trees thickened and I started to recognize them. The place I knew most of my life that stopped feeling like home now. That realization sent a smile across my lips.

Caspien squeezed my hand.

The other's chatter stopped around us as we got closer, the silence made me shift in my seat. I wasn't nervous really, not a quarter as much as when I first faced my old pack.

More than anything, I wanted this to be over, past us so that I could focus on my mate, my family, and being the best Luna for my pack.

“So, this is it,” Rachel breathed, she gave me a reassuring smile.

“It is,” I said.

“How do we want to play this?” Holden asked.

“A bit late for strategy.” Griffen sighed pinching the bridge of his nose.

“I say we play it as us,” Caspien said looking down at me.

“I can do that,” I smiled at him, I could.

We rolled to a stop outside the packhouse.

“Are we expected?” I asked Caspien.

He shrugged, “I think I might have mentioned we would be stopping by.”

“Now this really will be fun,” Cali had a wicked glint in her eye.

I shook my head and got out of the car after them. We stood in a line at the front of the packhouse, this was a bit awkward, were they really not expecting us?

The door flung open, and I almost jumped. Nolan’s dad came out, and his eyes widened. He cleared his throat and brushed off his pants slipping back into his familiar Alpha mode.

“Prince Dracos, Willa.” He said.

“Luna Willa, now.” Caspien’s deep voice rumbled.

Hugo’s eyes widened slightly, “Congratulations, Willa,” He smiled at me, and I wanted to believe it was genuine, “Luna Willa.” He corrected.

“Thank you, Hugo. It just happened.” I had nothing against him really, nothing I wanted to hold against him at least.

“I’m assuming you’re looking for Nolan?”

“Yes, I sent word that we were coming. He should have been expecting us.” Caspien said, his voice devoid of all emotion.

I wondered if that was true, but we did warn them that we would be back, and Griffen told Nolan that he should be expecting us.

It didn’t matter.

We were here now.

“Are you planning to stay? I can have some rooms ready in a few moments,” Hugo looked over our large group; only Nora was left of our ranked members.

I was looking forward to her showing back up to these events, I knew she would be a force to be reckoned with. Her calm, collected energy and undiluted confidence would have been a welcomed addition today.

“We won’t be staying long, but thank you,” I said as soon as Caspien opened his mouth.

I didn’t want to set a bad president, I didn’t want to be seen as the bad guys, and I knew Caspien already had that reputation, and he leaned into it in these situations.

“We just want to request an audience with the pack; as many as can attend.” I pressed.

“I’ll forward you the documents I sent Nolan.” Caspien nodded to Griffen, who pulled out his phone.

“Well then, okay,” Hugo ran his hands through his hair and let out a deep breath, “Come in then, we can have a light lunch prepared.”

“Thank you, but don’t go to too much trouble,” Caspien said, I was surprised by his politeness.

Emmett is rubbing off on me – Caspien linked taking my hand in his.

We followed Hugo towards the dining room, passing Natalie. Her eyes widened when she saw us, and she scurried up to her mate.

“What is going on?” She hissed at him.

“Not now,” Hugo responded, “Please get lunch prepared and them situated. I’ll get Nolan and deal with everything else.”

“O-okay,” Natalie looked flustered but held her head high, to her credit she was a born Luna, she thrived under pressure, and I almost admired her at this moment.

“Welcome,” Her smile seemed real, and she ushered us into the dining room after Hugo left us, “This is a real surprise, a welcomed one.”

“We appreciate your hospitality,” I said walking past her, her eyes showing nothing.

We all sat around the large table where the ranked members had their meals at. Instead of us all on one side, we gathered around the table facing each other.

No one said anything for a while, the only sound was us pulling out our chairs.

Griffen looked around, Holden looked bored, Cali was biting down on her smile and Rachel had a curious impassive look about her.

“Worse than I expected,” Holden said after a long minute.

“Definitely interesting,” I sighed.

I was hoping they were ready for us. This seemed just weird.

“You did tell them?” I asked Caspien looking up at him.

“I did,” He said looking down at me, “Multiple times actually.”

“With the actual date?”

“Yes,” His face was hard, but his voice was playful.

“Well then,” Holden said, “Great place though love the uh table,” Holden said.

“Save it for the others,” Griffen said, shooting him a look.

On cue, omegas entered the room; they looked flustered and placed glasses and plates, and silverware in front of us.

“Just a moment for lunch then. What can I get you to drink?” An omega asked taking our drink orders.

The dining room was completely bare, empty, besides us.

“How much longer until we can address the pack?” Griffen asked, shifting in his seat.

“Nora and Olivia are fine,” Holden said.

“I know, but-”

“I get it,” I cut in, “It’s hard being away from them even for a few moments when they’re that young.” Griffen’s dark eyes shot to me.

“I got a babysitter once, and I called them twice an hour,” Cali added twirling a curl but not looking at any of us.

“They’re okay, I promise.” Caspien said, “I need my Beta.”

“Yes, Alpha.” Griffen’s face hardened with resolve.

Food was served, and Natalie came back to check on us twice during our meal.

“Is there an update with Alpha Nolan?” Caspien asked, not looking up from his food.

“He’s coming soon,” Natalie looked down.

“Where should we go after this? Where is the pack meeting?” Caspien pressed.

“I- uh,” Natalie’s brows tugged together slightly, “Let me confer with my mate, and we will guide you there.”

“Make it quick.” Caspien let out some of his aura and Natalie nodded, scrambling to get away.

“I didn’t come here for lunch,” Caspien explained.

“Added bonus,” Holden said, taking a long sip of his water.

Finally, after a mostly silent lunch, Hugo reutred with his mate in tow.

“We can address the pack outside the packhouse if you wish,” Hugu wrung his hands, I had never seen him anything less than confident.

I wondered if that was because of the situation or if it was because of how I grew as a person. He didn’t intimidate me anymore. I didn’t feel small or insignificant next to him.

“Give them enough time to congregate, don’t f.orce them there, but anyone that wants to come should have the opportunity,” Caspien said.

“For what?” Hugo said, his voice sounding small.

“For them to know the truth,” Caspien’s voice was resolute, “This pack has been living with an Alpha that fed them nothing but lies and deceit, and I intend to change that.” He stood up and adjusted his sleeves.

“Will, I mean, is this for a punishment?” Hugo paled.

“It isn’t up to me, and not for your son, not like that,” Caspien said and Hugo let out a breath some color returning to his face.

“I don’t care what happens; all I ask is that Theo is not to blame. Nolan’s son is a good kid. It’s not his fault.”

“I don’t believe in taking the actions of parents out on their children.” I stood up next to Caspien, “No child should be held responsible for the actions, or lack thereof of their parents. If you think he will make a good and fair leader, then I will take that into account.”

“Thank you, Willa, er-Luna.” Hugo bowed his head.

“Let’s get this over with.” Caspien wrapped my arm in his and walked out, knowing that everyone would follow.

Pack members gathered around the front steps of the packhouse, there was nervous and excited chatter between them.

When I stepped out on Caspien’s arm, the audience quieted.

There were about as many as I expected, not a huge crowd, but I saw some of them mindlinking, and I knew that there would be more coming.

“Where is your Alpha?” Caspien addressed them, turning to Hugo.

“Give him a moment.”

We studied the crowd from our perch on the steps and waited.

The door opened slowly behind us, but none of us looked back.

Nolan stumbled out finding his feet. His Beta and Gamma, Jack, and Issac were behind him. Jack looked at us his eyes wide, and I was worried for a second that I would ruin our friendship over this.

Which one is Nolan? – Rachel linked me, panic lacing her voice

I studied them. Nolan was wearing a fresh shirt, but his hair was in disarray, and his wide eyes were red-rimmed.

He didn’t look good, but it didn’t make me feel any better; in the same way, it didn’t make me feel better seeing Camilla in a cell.

The one in the white, brunette – I said glancing at her.

Rachel seemed to loosen up a bit but she started playing with her hair; glancing down, it seemed unnatural for her, but I didn’t have time to analyze it.

Nolan snorted, seeing us here. Isaac held him up by the back of his shirt.

“You weren’t expecting us?” Caspien asked, his voice booming as he let some of his aura out.

“What do you want?” Nolan asked looking over the crowd and frowning, “It wasn’t enough to steal my mate, your Luna,” He turned to the pack, and there were a few gasps.

None of us said anything waiting for him to go on.

“I sent you advance notice, thankfully your parents were here to receive us,” Caspien said when Nolan stopped.

Nolan scoffed, rolling his eyes. He seemed so childish.

Was he always like this? I internally winced, he definitely was, and I was embarrassed to have ever found him attractive.

“We are here to discuss the future of Blue Ridge, the line of succession,” Caspien said to the crowd.

They were silent now, I noted that the crowd had almost doubled at this point.

“The line goes on with my son, my heir, Theo.” Nolan addressed the crowd confidently, finding his voice.

“Just because you gave up your rights to your first legal heir, doesn’t mean that he isn’t the rightful heir of Blue Ridge.”

The crowd collectively gasped before going completely and utterly silent.

Nolan’s brown eyes widened slightly, “My heir is Theo.”

“Did you not produce an heir with your first mate?”

“I- uh,” Nolan looked at me, and I kept my face impassive.

“Did you not know that she was pregnant when you rejected her?”

Everyone held their breath, Nolan’s eyes widened looking between me and Caspien.

“Answer me.” Caspien growled.

The Rejected Luna’s Prince Chapter 70 -

11–14 minutes

The Rejected Luna’s Prince Chapter 70

Chapter 70 – Stripped Bare

(Willa)

Nolan's mouth hung open, but his shock was quickly replaced by anger.

"So that's really why you're here?" He spat, his fiery eyes turned to Caspien, "To get revenge for Willa?" He laughed once it was dry and grating.

I fought the urge to roll my eyes, but I was sure Cali didn't.

"Answer the question, Nolan." Caspien sounded bored.

"It doesn't matter-"

"For the line of succession, it does."

"What do you want me to say?"

"The truth." Caspien pinned him with a hard stare, "From your mouth, You Coward."

Nolan swallowed, crossing his arms, his lips in a hard line.

"Did you reject Willa knowing she was pregnant with a potential heir?" Caspien asked again.

Isaac and Jack were looking at Nolan now, I wasn't sure how much they even knew, even after Jack and I talked I knew how Nolan could spin things.

"It doesn't matter, Camilla was pregnant, and I took her as my chosen mate. Theo is my heir." His voice was firm but his face gave away his emotions.

"But you rejected Willa knowing she was pregnant?" Griffen asked, clearly bored of the encounter.

"I was going to before that; the pregnancy didn't matter," Nolan muttered.

I knew that was true, even though in the past I had a hard time wrapping my mind around it.

I thought that if the situation was different, if he found out about my pregnancy first or if I had gotten pregnant months before, everything would be different.

If he never had that conference where he must have re-connected with Camilla if we took over as Alpha and Luna sooner. A million possibilities used to keep me up at night.

But I realized, that no matter the situation, no matter what I could have done differently, Nolan was still the same person.

I couldn't blame myself for anything I did or didn't do; those were his actions, his choices, and nothing that I could have done changed who he was or the choices that he made.

I chose to forgive my past self, and that freed me.

"The line of succession does," Caspien faced the crowd, "Nolan fathered a child with his mate and rejected her after finding out she was pregnant."

"I gave up my rights," Nolan hissed.

"Emmett, Willa's, and my son is the rightful heir of Blue Ridge," Caspien started ignoring him.

The crowd was silent for a long moment.

"However, he is heir to Crescent Moon and," Caspien looked back to the pack house, "I think he is destined for much more than this. Emmett Balfour is my heir," Caspien said.

"So where does that leave us?" Jack asked.

"Theo can be heir here if he chooses. There will be rules and regulations, and you will sign a new treaty with us." Caspien went on.

"Like hell we will." Nolan cut in, and Jack put his arm out stopping him from going further.

"Your Luna, ex Luna," Caspien corrected himself, and Nolan's eyes shot to him, "Has gone against the Alpha and Luna's decision of this territory." Caspien turned to the crowd that seemed to have almost doubled yet again.

"Camilla went to Alpha Jasper the Alpha that took a hit out with an assassin on my son," The crowd collectively gasped, "Camilla informed him about the challenge that we decided I could go forward with at the conference here."

"Who cares?" Nolan said.

"Alpha Jasper had time to prepare a special kind of poison he used against me in the challenge. It wasn't a fair fight, thanks to Camilla, and she betrayed the packs in our territory."

"So you killed her," Nolan was shaking.

"No," Caspien shrugged, "I left it up to my Luna to decide, I would have gutted her on the spot, but Willa is the more rational one."

Nolan's eyes turned to me.

"She's here," I said, "She will be stripped of her title," I informed him, my voice unwavering.

“No,” Nolan said.

He wasn't happy to have her back? How was that his first thought? Anger over her title being stripped instead of relief that she was alive and well? Well, and well as she would let herself be, I was past feeling guilty for the choices of others.

“The other packs have been informed,” Caspien said, “She will not hold any weight at this pack, and we will have regular check-ins.”

“Then what's the point?” Issac asked.

“Of her?” Caspien shrugged, “I've been wondering that for a while.”

“She can be a mate and a mother, with no official duties or titles. That will be upheld.” I told Nolan.

The only reason that I let her live was because of her son. I couldn't do that to him, even though I was warring with the decision and the potential impact it could have on my family.

“She will take a blood oath not to harm any members of my pack,” Caspien said.

“No. she won't.” Holden tried to lunge at us, but Jack held him back.

“She already has,” Caspien replied, glancing at the slight cut on his palm that was already almost faded from this morning.

Nolan's face paled. He violently shook his head, taking a step back.

“What the f.uck am I supposed to do without a Luna?” Nolan shouted, thrashing against Jack's hold.

“Hire a party planner,” I murmured, and Caspien smiled at me, but I tried to keep my face impassive.

“We came here to tell your pack the truth, so they know what you are capable of,” Caspien said, “The decisions you make as an Alpha have an effect on your entire pack.” He glanced back at Nolan briefly.

“You could have lost everything if Willa was vindictive.” Caspien went on, “Lucky for you she doesn't give a single s.hit about you anymore.”

That was true, Goddess that felt good that that was true.

“I know there have been a lot of rumors, and talk swirling around.” I addressed the pack. Lola told me that a lot of the pack members pieced it together about my son, but some of them still thought that I ran without telling Nolan.

“I just wanted to set the record straight. I grew up here, and for many years, this was home. I was, at one point, your future Luna,” A lifetime ago, “I just wanted you to be informed.”

“We want you to be able to make an informed decision,” Caspien said, placing a hand on the small of my back.

“Decision?” Jack said, but he didn’t look away from Rachel, who was fidgeting and tugging on her hair.

You okay? I linked her looking back to where she stood.

Her wide eyes met mine, and she nodded imperceptibly.

“If they want to stay here under his leadership,” Caspien said.

“What other option do they have?” Jack asked.

“They can leave, relocate to a pack with better leadership.” Even Isaac snarled at that.

“Crescent Moon is open to anyone. We have a packhouse in the city and in the forest, also apartments around the city and suburbs that are open to pack members,” Caspien announced, his voice booming.

“It’s just an option but one I wanted to open up to my first pack, the first place I knew as home,” I said, not sounding as confident as I would have liked.

There was talk amongst the crowd.

“I’m coming,” Lola walked to the front of the pack with her parents behind her.

“So are we if you’ll have us.” Her dad said.

“Of course, I would love nothing more.” My heart swelled. Lola bounced up and down and tucked her short blonde hair behind her ear.

‘Talk later’? She mouthed, and I nodded, smiling.

“Decisions don’t have to be made now; it’s an open invitation, even if in a few years you decide to move,” Griffen said, quieting the group.

“You will not take any of my pack members.” Nolan bellowed.

“They have free will, or don’t they?” Caspien countered, his aura expanding.

“You know the truth about your Alpha and former Luna. We came here to return her to you. Any questions after will be addressed by my Beta and Gamma.” Caspien said.

“Where is she?” Nolan said, his face red.

Caspian’s eyes clouded over, and a few seconds later, Camilla was brought out the front of the packhouse. Her hair was tangled, and even though she was wearing fresh clothes, she looked in complete disarray.

Her wild eyes scanned the crowd, and she rushed up to Nolan, who held her at arm’s length, looking her over.

“What did they do to you?” He snarled, “See what they do to a Luna in their territory? How do you think they would treat you?” Nolan addressed his pack, his voice loud.

“Ex-Luna,” Cali corrected, crossing her arms and jutting her chin at Nolan. Cool yet fiery as ever. She was my rock.

Nolan opened his mouth to say something but Caspian cut him off.

“She was given good food, water, and a comfortable cell. Willa made sure that she had clean clothes and basic amenities.” Caspian’s voice was hard, “Something I did not think she deserved,” He added.

“It was my Luna’s call, and she was treated better than any prisoner I have ever taken alive.” Caspian’s voice left no room for further questions.

“Now, let’s get it over with. This has taken enough of my time already.” Caspian said, walking towards Nolan and Camilla.

“Camilla Wright, you are stripped from your title as Luna of Blue Ridge by my authority as Alpha of The Crescent City Pack.”

Caspian’s royal aura expanded, and his command whipped through the crowd.

Camilla fell to her knees, clutching at her stomach and head. Silent sobs wracked her body, I wondered if this felt similar to being rejected, but I didn’t think anything could compare to that gut-wrenching pain.

Nolan stared down at his chosen mate in shock and what might have been disgust.

“You will honor the blood oath and focus on raising your son, which is the only reason you’re alive,” Caspian added, growling.

We would have people checking in, not just to make sure that Camilla didn’t try to act as Luna but to make sure that Theo was well taken care of. I knew that despite his grandparent’s misdeeds, they loved him and would protect him, but I needed to know that he was well taken care of.

Nolan seethed, his hands in fists and his whole body shaking.

“You b.itch.” He growled at me as if this was all my fault.

I raised an eyebrow, not suppressing the amused smile that crept onto my face. Caspien growled louder than Nolan, and everyone in the crowd took a step back under his ancient power.

“Try again,” Cali said, her voice cool yet fiery.

“I would watch your mouth when talking to your Princess,” Caspien took a step forward, towering over Nolan, “Stop blaming these consequences on others. That isn’t the mark of a leader, but then again, I wouldn’t expect you to know how to act like one.”

“Ohhhh, s.hit.” Cali said, and I tried not to smile, she was doing really well, not cutting in, but I knew she must have been dying to say something.

Nolan shut his mouth, but his shaking didn’t stop.

“Thank you for letting us intrude on your time,” I said to the crowd, trying to diffuse the situation, “I hate that we had to come back under such negative circumstances, but I hope you understand to some extent why we did.” I shrugged.

Caspien turned to the crowd after taking his place next to me and grabbing my hand, “You are welcome at Crescent Moon. Anytime.”

With that, the conversation ended.

I let out a deep breath.

“Well done,” I murmured to Cali.

“She was linking me her commentary the entire time, the only thing that s.hut her up,” Holden said, taking his mate lovingly into his arms.

The crowd didn’t disperse. Instead, loud chatter filled the area until one word cut through it all.

“Mate,” Jack yelled as if he were gasping for air.

Rachel ran into his open arms, wrapping her legs around him and burying her face into his neck.