

Luna Aleksa's Escape Chapter 9

Aleksa POV

I was sitting nervously in my cell awaiting Caleb's arrival. It felt like time had stopped, it seemed to be moving so slowly.

I looked to my side, Mason was doing press ups in his cell. I guess that was his way of passing time. On the other side of me, Kaia was sitting against the wall of her cell, with her hands wrapped around her knees. She didn't seem nervous, more bored.

I think I felt anxious enough for all of us. There was so much riding on all of this going to plan.

We had made small talk throughout the morning, but were careful not to engage when the guard was present. It would definitely arouse suspicion if they were to see their Luna engaging with rogues. And we didn't want that. Not today. Today we needed everything to run smoothly.

In all honesty, I was surprised that Lachlan hadn't paid me another visit. But I guess he must be busy with pack business. As lousy a mate as he was, he took his alpha duties seriously. I'm glad he hasn't come down to the dungeons yet, as it could impact our plans. I was grateful for small mercies.

I looked towards the hallway as I heard sounds, and then the natural light hit me, and I realized that the trap-door was opening. Please let it be Caleb. I thought to myself.

I turned to Kaia, and she looked at me knowingly. "Looks like it is showtime", I said to her excitedly.

Kaia smirked and replies "Don't worry Aleksa, I've got this."

"Ooh! Argh! Oh! My baby! Help – Argh! The pain! Oooh!" Kaia yells pleadingly.

And that is enough to get Chad's attention. He turns to Kaia's cell with a concerned look on his face. Chad may be a fearless warrior, but he sure does have a soft spot for a she-wolf in distress. Even a rogue wolf. And it didn't hurt that Kaia was stunning.

Chad moves quickly to the cell, and reaches into his waist belt to grab the set of keys. At this time, Caleb walks with him, "Hey Chad, how's everything here?" he asks. Chad continues to search for the key. "We have a bit of a problem here. Be with you in a minute" he said quickly. Caleb positions himself behind Chad.

Kaia amplifies her moans and steps up her performance. "Please! My baby! I can't lose it! Please! Ooh! Argh! I think I'm bleeding!"

Chad drops the keys under the pressure of finding the right one, and hearing Kaia's screams. It is at that moment that Caleb knocks Chad over the head.

"I'm sorry friend. Please forgive me." He says to Chad guiltily, as he guides his friend to the floor.

Kaia jumps out of her cell, grabs the keys and locks Chad in. She then unlocks my cell, and Caleb grabs the keys from her and quickly unlocks Mason's cell.

Other prisoners start to make a commotion, wondering what's going on, begging to be released, but no one will be able to hear them, as the dungeons are soundproof and underground, so we continue onward.

Caleb leads us down the corridor, towards the back exit. It's darker the further we go down, but we can just make out the door at the end of the tunnel.

As Caleb goes to pull the handle, it doesn't budge. He uses all of his werewolf strength, but it still won't budge. Mason pushes forward. "Let me help," he asks Caleb. Together they pull with all their strength and the door starts to give way. Kaia, and I looked at each other nervously. We grab each other's hands. And nod to each other. It's like we can read each other's thoughts. We've got this. That's what we were thinking to each other.

The door thrusts open, and for a few moments we are blinded by the light. We have been in this dark dungeon with little to no natural light for days now, so we need a few moments to adjust. We don't have time for this though. So we will have to push through it. We run up the rock stairway and then stop before we reach the top.

While everyone should be at the pack meeting, the warriors will still be around guarding the pack and the pack borders. That and there will no doubt be a few stragglers hanging around.

We look unkempt, we haven't showered in days, our hair is messy and greasy. In short, we looked like we had just escaped the dungeons. So we will need to be inconspicuous.

Caleb looks around and gives us the signal that the coast is clear. We need to keep close. We ran towards the Infirmary building. We are careful not to be seen. From here we need to get to the training grounds. But in order to do that we need to make it past the pack house.

Thankfully, we don't have to run past the front of the house, we can run along the back of the pack-house. The downside is that there are doors and windows, so we can easily be seen. Not to mention that everyone is in the large dining hall, which we will have to get past undetected.

It takes us just under a minute to get to the pack-house. Caleb and Mason strategize, and decide we will have to jump up to the first level and climb across the side rail. That shouldn't be hard. We just need to be very quiet. Werewolves have excellent hearing and will hear even the slightest footsteps.

We all jump up in single file and start to side step across the railing. The meeting is still in session and we can hear debating, so hopefully that will help disguise any noise we may make. In no time, we are all across and jump back onto the grass. Now we are directly across from the training grounds, where we will meet Kali and the twins.

Caleb and Mason check that we are clear and signal for us to run across. We will enter through the back entrance just in case anyone is lingering. We can't scent anyone else, so we proceed through to the courts.

It's at that moment that I see Kali rocking Liam and Layla in a stroller. My heart is full of joy. I rushed up to them and kissed them both. I hugged Kali and thanked her over and over again. Then I took a deep breath. We aren't free yet, I think to myself.

I looked around at my friends. "Aleksa, we need to move. The meeting is almost finished. Chad would wake up any minute now and alert the others. Then we will have the entire pack on our tails. Caleb reminds me.

"Okay, let's do this! I need someone to help me with the twins though – I can't carry them both." I said. "I'll carry one!" Kaia smiled. Kaia grabs Layla, and I take Liam. We won't be able to shift because we will have to carry the pups, but we can still move very fast in our human forms.

At that moment, Kali opens her backpack. “Wait everyone! My Aunt Meadow is a witch, a good witch, don’t worry! I told her of our plan and she agreed to help us. She made these potions. We just take a mouthful each and it should hide our scents for up to twenty-four hours. This should buy us some time,” Kali says proudly.

“That’s brilliant, Kali! Thank you so much and thank you Aunt Meadow!” I said enthusiastically. I won’t be able to give this to the twins, but Kaia and I will bundle them up in our clothes, so hopefully that will help disguise their scents.

Kali takes a mouthful then passes it on. In no time, we had all consumed some of the potion. Kali chucks the remainder back in her bag and we start to move towards the door.

The others start to shift into their wolf forms. Caleb is a large sandy brown-colored wolf. Mason is a little larger, he’s a big black wolf with silver flecks. Kali is last to shift, and she is a beautiful red wolf with white stripes, just a little smaller than Caleb, but still an impressive size for a she-wolf.

Caleb and Mason take a quick look out the door, to check if the coast is clear. It is, so we started to run across the field. We will be taking a route that is not often traveled by the pack. The terrain is rough and a bit overgrown, but nothing we can’t handle. Plus, this way we will manage to avoid most of the pack warriors.

At that very moment, a mass mind-link goes out. Chad had woken up and alerted everyone that we had escaped. Our time just ran out, and we are not nearly close enough to the border yet.

I tell Kaia, that Chad has alerted everyone of our escape, and I can because she is still in human form. But we have no way of letting Mason know, as he is not part of this pack, so we can’t communicate with his wolf form. Although I have no doubt he will figure it out, because of the change in pace and obvious panic that we are in.

The pack’s emergency system has been initiated and it sounds just like an air raid siren. It’s so loud and consuming. Well, I guess Mason will figure it out now. We push ourselves as fast as we can move. We will have company really soon. But we are getting closer to the border.

I quickly block my mind-link so that Lachlan can't get through to me. And I secretly pray that the potion that Aunt Meadow made will be enough to deter Lachlan and the other pack wolves for now.

I was snapped out of my thoughts when two of the pack warriors ran towards us from the border. It is so unusual for them to be out this way, but I guess Lachlan told everyone to split up to cover more ground. One of them is snarling at Caleb. I assume they are mind-linking to each other as his eyes have hazed over.

The other wolf, Patrick, lunges at Mason. He is ready for him though, as he launches in the air and hits him face on. Mason knows not to bring great harm to any of the warriors, we just need to stop them temporarily, so that we can escape.

Kali mind-links me to keep moving with Kaia. She says that they will catch up with us. So I tell Kaia, and we keep running as fast as our legs will carry us with the twins in our arms. It's at this moment that I can see the border is just ahead of us.

Aleksa POV

I see the border about half a mile ahead of us, the rugged terrain is uneven and bumpy, full of rabbit burrows and grass mounds. I quickly scanned the dark treeline ahead to see if I could detect our getaway car. I can't see anything as of yet. I start to tighten my grip on Liam and he is starting to unravel from the sling I have nestled him in. I turned my head back to see where the others were. I can see that they are all still fighting. Caleb and Rick have finished mind-linking, and started fighting, and being that Caleb is of Gamma blood, he has the upper hand in the fight. Although Rick is loyal to his alpha and I sense that he won't give up easily.

Mason and Patrick are still fighting, but Patrick appears to be wounded, bleeding heavily from his shoulder. I am not surprised that Mason is winning in this fight, as while I don't know much about his bloodlines or ranking, he appears to have a strong aura about him and I suspect he has beta blood in him, possibly even alpha blood.

I looked to my side at Kaia. She looked how I felt. Short winded and exhausted. It's so much harder running in human form carrying a baby. Especially when you are already weakened. I have been feeling the effects more and more recently of Lachlan betraying our mate bond, coupled with the

lack of proper nutrition, hygiene and natural light. Let's just say I don't feel at my usual strength. I imagine it would be similar for Kaia.

We are just about to reach the border, when we turn our heads to see that Caleb and Mason have won their battles and have almost caught up to us.

We paused for a moment for Caleb to catch up, and then we followed him to the spot where he had left the car. It is just behind a big grass mound. It is a black SUV, one of the fleet from the packhouse garage. There is a canopy of greenery placed on top of the car, so we quickly push them off and throw them aside. We begin to open the doors and start piling in.

Caleb has thought of everything and there are two car seats for the twins, so Kaia and I start to quickly strap them in. The twins close their eyes and seem snug enough that they will soon fall back to sleep. We are all in the car and Caleb starts the engine. He starts to drive northwards, through the rough terrain. He pushes his foot down and accelerates as fast as the car can go.

It's at this time we can see the pack warriors starting to arrive in the far distance. We weren't fast enough, I think to myself. We need to move faster. They will have the upper hand in this terrain, especially in their wolf forms. The fact that we are slightly ahead will buy us the slightest bit of time.

Caleb puts his foot down and makes a right turn. He is driving the car at full throttle, and luckily for us the tar-sealed road is just ahead.

I turned back to look out the rear window and I could see the pack warriors were right behind us. My heart rate accelerates as I see another wolf join the others from the left of them. I know who it is immediately. I can tell his wolf anywhere. It's Lachlan! His wolf, Cyrus, has tawny coloured fur with big brown eyes.

He looked furious. As our eyes met, I felt shivers running down my spine. I was starting to feel a sense of dread. I felt like the walls were starting to close in on me. My body started to shake and shiver. I could feel my heart racing frantically. My stomach started to churn and my breathing rate started to speed up.

Kaia grabbed my face, "Aleksa, just breathe. It's going to be okay. We won't let them get to you and the twins. Look at me. Focus on your breathing. You need to be strong for Liam and Layla". She calmly reassured me.

My breathing started to slow down, and slowly a new feeling started to replace my anxiety. Anger. And that was what I was going to hold on to. I needed to focus on my anger towards this man, this situation. I am a fighter. And I would continue to fight for my pups, and for my freedom. For our freedom. My friends and I.

I looked back out the window and I shook my head defiantly. I was gonna show Lachlan that I would not let him win. I would not show him my fear ever again.

We have already come too far and sacrificed too much to be caught now. We just needed to get to the nearest human town and then we would be safe for a bit.

Humans were unaware of our existence, so the pack wouldn't be able to do anything on human territory. Every wolf has to obey the sacred vow that they won't share their secrets with humans. They would never understand us and would hunt us down out of fear. Even though we are superior to them in almost every way, we didn't need that complication. Nothing good would come of them knowing about us. Although there was always an exception to every rule, the point was that human ground would be our safe haven for now.

"Caleb – Lachlan and the others are right behind us, and seem to be gaining momentum. Please tell me we are almost there." I yelled hopefully.

"We are just a few minutes away now, they will have to pull back any minute now or they risk being seen – just a few more minutes guys" Caleb yells while he takes the corner aggressively, wheels screeching furiously, as he swerves to miss something on the road. I can smell the burning rubber as he hits the breaks frantically. He then puts his foot down eagerly on the accelerator as he attempts to make up for the time lost on breaking a few seconds ago.

I look back at Lachlan and the others. They are still gaining on us, but we are still just out of their reach. As I turned forward I could see the buildings of the city center. Caleb pushes his foot down as far as he can and we all say a silent prayer to the moon goddess. We have almost made it! It's not over by a long shot but we are safe for the moment while we strategize our next move.

Out the rear of the window I see that Lachlan and the pack warriors have pulled back and have moved into the woods. I know they will still be out there, watching us, but for now they can't make any drastic moves.

We keep driving and after a few minutes we pull into the city's central park and central business district. We will regroup, get something to eat and drink and plan our next move. It will be dark in a few hours and we will need to decide whether we risk staying here the night or keep moving.

We all looked at each other with slight relief, and took a moment to breathe. We are all aware that we are not free by a longshot. We had hoped to be further ahead than this. We had hoped we would escape and Lachlan would be none the wiser for a period of time. But it hasn't worked out that way. They were still hot on our tails.

Caleb turned to us. "Let's go get something to drink at the diner and plan our next move. They are at bay for now, but there's nothing to stop them coming right up to us at any time. We need to keep moving."

We all got out of the SUV and took a moment. We knew we were being watched. We also knew for the moment we were untouchable, but that had an expiry date.

It would be nightfall soon enough and then all bets were off.

"We need to make this quick. We are going to need to ditch this car. They will flag it immediately. If we are to have any chance of getting out of here and putting some distance between us, we are going to need to split up", Caleb says, matter of factly.

"We had always planned to go our separate ways, this is a little sooner than planned, but you are right. At least we still have the potion in effect for another twenty hours plus." I said to the group.

"Kali and I will start heading to our destination. We will be going in a northwest direction, so if you all go in a northeast direction, that should divide their group into two. That way, if they do manage to catch up with us, there will be fewer of them to deal with", Caleb said.

"I agree. Mason and Kaia – do you still want to come with me? I completely understand if you would prefer to go your separate ways, given the circumstances, this is not your fight, you shouldn't have to get caught up in my problem", I said sympathetically.

"Aleksa, I am coming with you, if you will have me. For some reason, I feel the need to protect you and your pups. It would be my honor", Mason says.

“You’re not getting rid of me that easily, Aleksa!” Kaia added.

“Then it’s settled. Kali and I will pair off, and the rest of you will go off in the opposite direction,” Caleb said.

“Mason, if you take Aleksa, Kaia and the twins into the diner for some food, Kali and I will source some new transportation. Meet back here in thirty minutes?” Caleb suggested.

“Affirmative. Watch your backs. I will protect your Luna and the pups.” Mason declared.

“Please be safe, Caleb and Kali”, I said with concern in my voice.

Caleb and Kali walk off onto a busy side street, while Kaia helps me with Liam and Layla, and Mason leads the way to the diner.

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