

## CH 14

Nick POV

He watched as Luna Lindy, Gamma James and his Mate Gabby, plus the pack Beta, Adam, all strolled into the Alpha's oce. It surprised him, not the Beta, that was completely normal for this kind of dealing. Jeremy would normally be in this oce as well, but was currently occupied.

The Luna and the Gamma's, that was what he found unusual. Luna Lindy was carrying a notebook and pen, odd. It looked like she was going to take notes, it seemed. Did Alpha Corey not have an assistant?

"You look a little confused, son?" Alpha Corey commented.

"I don't understand why your Luna is here. I get the Beta, and..." he thought about it for a moment, "even the Gamma's, I guess, being that they are Lucinda's twin sisters' guardians, but." Nick let his eyes fall on the Luna. "I don't get her, being in here."

"Why would I not be here? Lucinda is my pack member and I want to look out for her."

"No disrespect, Luna Lindy, but you're just the Luna. You have no say in this matter. Alpha's make the decisions on pack alliances. So if you're here to catch gossip, you can just leave."

His words stung her, he watched as her demeanour changed and she became angry. Actually, watched as her wolf pushed forward and snarled at him, an unusual reaction for the woman. Rip ignored her, she was of no threat to them. Just a she-wolf.

"That is very disrespectful," she snarled at him "I'll have you know, my opinion on pack matters are valued, not just by the Alpha, but by my pack."

Nick's mouth twitched into a smile. 'Her Pack,' so funny.

"Alright, calm down." Alpha Corey got up and walked over to his Mate. Nick watched as the man slid his hands around her and pulled her into him, for a cuddle, it seemed. "I'm sure he didn't mean it like that." he murmured softly in her ear, obviously trying to calm her down.

"He'd better apologize, or I'll put a stop to it right now."

Nick raised an eyebrow, 'she would put a stop to it,' like she could. She was just a gloried baby-making machine. "And how do you plan to do that?" he shot at her. Wow, this woman really thought she held power in this pack. From what he knew of Luna's, they held nothing, just the position in the Alpha's bed.

"Like this." she snapped at him, and yanked herself out of her Mate's arms, "I do not agree to this mating." she turned to Alpha Corey "I will not subject my Lucinda, to that barbarian." She pointed right at him with an angry nger and to Nick's shock stormed out of the oce, with Alpha Corey heading off after her, calling out her name, she was fast for such a tiny woman.

What was wrong with this pack? He shook his head, dismayed.

Gabby stood and followed as well. "Goodbye, Alpha Nicholas." she nodded her head towards him, her tone implied he was about to be asked to leave. Actually, asked to leave and without his Mate. What the hell was going on around here? Were the women in charge?

He was sitting alone in the Alpha's oce, with the Beta and the Gamma. He turned his eyes to Beta Adam, "What the hell just happened?"

"You're about to be ejected from the pack at Luna's order, without your Mate, I believe." he answered.

"What?" he shot to his feet. "She can't do that, she's just a woman."

He heard the two of them snort and half laugh at him. Adam walked right over to him.

"Nick, may I call you Nick?"

"Go ahead." he nodded, not really liking the amusement in his tone.

"What do you know about Luna's, their positions within a pack? I have heard how you got your pack, about both your brothers and how they both became Alpha's of your pack, and even your father... Didn't any of them have a Luna?"

"Of course they did. My father had 5 Luna's. Produced several heirs, he rejected them when he found something else that interested him more. My brothers, much the same, they are just there to sate an Alpha's needs, why?"

"Hmm... Interesting take on a Luna." he heard the Gamma murmur, dismay in his voice.

"Well Nick, have you actually looked into what an actual Luna's position is? Title and Rank are important. Perhaps you should, they are not just for you to gratify yourself with. As much as that is what you've seen all your life, I suppose...you would be dead wrong. You might want to go pack. If Corey can't calm his Mate down.

"She will never agree to allow you to take Lucinda off pack territory... And before you go, all 'she's my Mate, I'm an Alpha'...that won't matter. There is only you and your Beta here now, I believe. Two against a whole pack, 48 of which I can absolutely guarantee without a doubt, will follow Luna Lindy's order, without any hesitation and step between you... and your Luna."

Nick turned at the sound of the Gamma chuckling. They weren't joking, and he knew it, but what was so funny, he was clearly missing something. He watched as Beta Adam headed off, after his Alpha and Luna.

He was tapped on the shoulder by the Gamma. "You might want to go and read up on Luna's. The pack library is on the rst oor, east wing. You can't miss it." then he headed for the door.

"Wait, what am I missing?" he asked the Gamma.

"A lot, it appears. You might be a powerful Alpha...but you clearly don't have," he tapped his chin in thought for a moment "perhaps...were not brought up the correct way, and don't understand what an actual Luna is. Or the position a Luna actually holds within a pack. Oh, and you'd better be willing to apologize to Luna Lindy, because if you can't sway her..." James left it unsaid, then followed his Beta and Alpha out of the oce as well. All of them, it seemed to go after the Luna to try and calm her down.

What the hell was going on around here? Perhaps he needed to go and read up on Luna's. He knew what a Luna was, had seen his father create ve of them, one after the other, dismissing the previous one for the next one, once he found a stronger she-wolf to mate with, that would produce him a stronger heir.

Even his own mother had been replaced when he was 4 years old, for another woman. He had half a dozen half siblings, only one actual full-blooded sibling, his little sister, Mary, two years younger than he was.

Nick did not like the turn of events in Alpha Corey's oce. Luna Lindy outright rejecting his Mate Bond with Lucinda. The girl wasn't even there to make the decision for herself. How can a Luna have the power to do that?

The Luna's he had known had held no power at all. His father claimed what he wanted and when the mood took him, bedded when and where, he wanted his current Luna. Most of them had just sat around waiting for him, to pay them attention.

He'd been a cruel Alpha to his mates, it seemed, and hadn't seemed to acknowledge anything about them. Nick had actually heard him ranting at his last Luna "You're just here to produce me an heir, so do it already, you have no say in how I run my pack, don't ever think you do."

His father had told all his sons, that a Luna of a packs job, was to produce a good strong heir to take over and that was it. To never let a woman walk all over you. As the Alpha, you are in charge and if your so-called Luna didn't like it. You could just reject her and nd another. There would always be plenty of she-wolves out there willing to f\*\*k an Alpha male.

It was true, Nick had plenty of she-wolves notched on his belt, there was never a shortage of bodies he could f\*\*k, when and where he wanted.

He made his way upstairs and found the library on the rst oor; it was massive. Much more extensive than the one his father had kept. He'd never see a book about Luna back in his pack, for that matter. He walked around not knowing exactly what he was looking for.

When he came across a whole section: Tilted 'The Luna's Library.' He couldn't believe it. Luna's had a whole library section dedicated just to them. Nick strolled down the aisle reading the titles on the books. There were books on all sorts of things; how to plan pack events. What mating balls were for? How to organize mating balls.

How to properly invite Alpha's to the pack. How to seat Alpha's by rank and pack size at functions. Planning of 18th birthday parties for she-wolves and male wolves; apparently different. The correct way to party plan for ranked and non-ranked members of a pack. How to negotiate deals and terms of female pack members that wanted to be ranked-up. What the proper ranking system was.

Where to house visiting ranked members. Monitoring and Blessings of newborn pups. Counseling of pack members among other things that were on the shelves. His brain couldn't cope, one woman to do all of these things. He'd never once seen a Luna do anything at all in his whole life. Other than mate and produce and heir; exactly what his father had told him they were for.

"The Luna's Role," caught his eye, he plucked it off the shelf and sat down with it. It was old, like very old, and well-worn, obviously used before. And a lot, he guessed, by the multiple dog tagging and folds on the pages, some of it was underlined too.

To his complete and utter surprise, a Luna was not just a baby-making machine. Her roll in the pack was to stand beside the Alpha and assist him with pack decisions, to actually handle the lower ranked wolves and some of the really important pack decisions. Luna's were considered to be the same Rank as the Alpha, and were as respected as he was. Her words and orders were as good as her Alpha's. She was not below him, but his actual equal.

Well, that was not what he was taught. No wonder they were laughing at him, it appeared his view on the situation was more than a little backwards. He had just made a royal ass of himself, again it seemed.

If a Luna's orders were as good as an Alpha's, Luna Lindy had literally just informed him, he could not be mated to his mate. She wouldn't allow it. This was not good. He made himself comfortable in the library, collected a few other books from the shelves and continued to educate himself.

Hell, there was an ocial Luna ceremony and everything. He'd never seen one of those. Wouldn't even know how to do that. "Mark and Mate your Luna" is all he was ever told he had to do when growing up. So he'd just presumed that was all he had to do.

Luna's, it appeared, were revered and trusted by pack members. Pack members could ask for an audience and visit the Luna's oce on many matters. "A Luna's oce." He had heard Luna Lindy had an oce when he'd arrived, and thought that was silly, but now it seemed it was actually a real thing. A place for her to work from, to do all her duties. Goddess, he was brought up completely backwards by his father, this was not going to go in his favour.

A Luna was also completely responsible for making sure mating balls were held on a regular basis, so that their pack members could nd their mates and create a happy, harmonious pack environment. Responsible for keeping track of pups that were born, registering their births ocially with the pack, and visiting each new mother the day her pup was born, to give a Luna's Blessings to the child. What the hell was a Luna's blessing? He wondered.

The Luna was in charge of orphaned pups after attacks, to place them with a new caring, loving family. Determine punishment for those without wolves; she was supposed to be fair and just, less harsh than the Alpha, and pack members would trust and rely on her.

When the Alpha was away her word was law.

She was also supposed to put herself on the line for her female pack members and their children, to defend them against other invading forces. Try to negotiate truces and keep pack members as safe as possible, in the event her Mate was killed.

Goddess, her job was almost like his, only she didn't have to go off into battle, stayed behind to protect and save the women and children. It was also written that she was supposed to bring balance to the Alpha and his pack. A true destined Mate gifted by the Goddess herself, to an Alpha, would also make the pack stronger, just by being there, because the Alpha in turn would also be happier.

The Goddess herself would smile down on them, bless their pack herself, if the Goddess-Gifted mated pair were loyal and true to each other. Their bond strengthened every day, until it was unbreakable, and they would love each other completely, defend and die to protect the other.

Nick sat feeling very overwhelmed. How was he supposed to do all of this? It was not how he was raised, and though he had tried to be a fair Alpha, he denitely had no idea how to treat a Luna, it seemed. A Mate yes, s\*x was easy, and he was good at it. But it seemed Beta Adam was right. A Luna was not just there to gratify his needs and produce him an heir.

Which was what he had been taught his whole life.