

## The Cursed Alpha & His Forced Luna

Chapter 9 “Alpha Xander, she is at it again,” Beta Jacob reported. “She encountered some of the pack members, and they had bitterly expressed how Delilah was not at par with Kate.” “Where is she?” Xander asked, referring to Delilah. “In your room, Alpha,” Beta Jacob responded. Xander sighed. He slowly went to the main bedroom, the same room he used to share with Kate. Now, it was his room and Delilah’s. He found Delilah weeping on the bed. When they locked eyes, Delilah expressed, “Why is that? In their eyes, I could never be better than Kate?” Xander settled next to Delilah and comforted her. He said, “I’m sorry. The pack should know better. You are my fated, after all.” It had been two weeks since the cursed alpha had taken Kate, yet the townspeople still could not get over their Luna being gone. Sadly, they took it out on Delilah. “It’s time we tell everyone the truth about Kate,” Xander told Delilah. Delilah pulled back. With her fingers wiping her tears, she asked, “Is that okay with you? You don’t have to. I know how much you value Kate. That was why -” She sniffed her tears away and reminded Xander, “That was why I came to her rescue when she had asked for help. I knew she was very important to the pack, and technically, she was my Luna too. I would rather sacrifice myself -” “No! That was not right at all!” Xander retorted. “Kate should not have called for your help since you were pregnant!” “But now, it’s too late.” Xander’s jaws clenched, recounting how Delilah lost their the day Alpha Sebastian overpowered their pack. pup. Xander had expected Delilah to remain in the shelter while he fought. Back then, he had just defeated one of the cursed alpha’s warriors when Delilah mind linked with him, telling him that Kate asked for her help! Why did Kate even do that? It was clear to Xander how Kate was up to no good. Thankfully, Xander arrived in time to save Delilah. He felt her pain and the loss of their pup. So when Kate asked for Xander’s help, he refused. Xander was sure, Kate intended to have Delilah killed by the cursed alpha’s warriors. Her hands would be clean, and no one would blame her, but Xander knew better. It was one of Kate’s methods. Caressing Delilah’s cheek, Xander suggested, “We can have another baby. And after we let the pack know of how scheming Kate was. They will know that she had a hand in your miscarriage. We will marry and I will make you my luna.” Tears welled in Delilah’s eyes again. She said, “Really? I’m going to be your luna?” Xander nodded. He answered, “You deserve it, being my fated mate.” “You don’t regret that Kate is gone?” Delilah asked meekly. 1/4 11:29 Chapter 9 “Kate did an evil thing by indirectly killing our pup. Now, she is being punished by the cursed alpha.” Xander shook his head, He described, “There are many stories about him” “Some say he has women left and right,

turned into slaves. In one of my trips to the north, I had once heard that he likes beating women because women tend to be disgusted with his hideous face that he takes out his anger on his slaves, Xander reported. "Oh, Goddess!" Delilah gasped. "Poor, Kate. She must be suffering at the hands of Alpha Sebastian. I also heard of those stories. My father said that people in the north had seen his face and that it was badly burned." "Some say he had claw marks on his face," Xander said differently, "Either way, the talks of his abuse seem to be true because many people from the north fear him." "Are you sure you are not going to save Kate?" Delilah asked with her face showing concern. "You are too kind, Delilah, thinking about Kate when she had wronged you many times," Xander expressed. He breathed in profoundly and said, "I'm sorry, I never thought that Kate would turn out bad. I should have just rejected her outright and let her leave us. We would have lived peacefully with our pup." "No," Delilah said woefully. "I understand. She was your wife for over a year. You loved her too. It was I who came in between the two of you. She probably could not accept that she was not your destined mate." Yes, that was right. Xander acknowledged how he loved Kate. They were happy together as a married couple for a year until Delilah came. Truth be told, Xander wanted to reject Delilah during Kate's birthday, but out of respect for Alpha Denzel, he opted to take the discussion to their pack lands. However, when they arrived at the Red Wood Pack, Delilah was in so much pain, foreseeing the coming rejection. Thus, he delayed his plans for a few hours. Instead, he wound up spending time with Delilah. One thing led to another, and in the end, he fell right into the mate bond's trap. Xander could not resist Delilah's charms and the pull she had over him, especially since she practically stripped naked in front of him in the packhouse, back at the Red Wood Pack. The wolf in him became ablaze with desire, and the only way he could put out the fire was to claim Delilah, so he did. That was how it all started, and that was why he took Delilah in as his mistress. He still cared for Kate back then, but the more Xander learned of Kate's true nature, his feelings for her easily weakened. Still, he kept Kate as the luna because she was so damn good at the job! If only Kate were Xander's true mate, she would have been his perfect luna. After soothing Delilah, Xander left the master bedroom. He went into his office and called for Beta Jacob. He ordered, "Beta Jacob, call the entire pack for an important meeting. Today, we will let everyone know that Kate, my ex-wife, is a murderer!" Beta Jacob was stunned. He gulped and said, "Alpha, you don't actually believe that, do you?" "Are you deaf?" Xander growled. "Did you not listen to me when I told you that Kate asked for Delilah's help during the attack? She did that on purpose to kill Delilah. She may have failed to have Delilah killed, but my pup died!" "Kate was responsible for the baby's death!" Xander declared.

“The pack has to know so they 11 201 Chapter 9 would slowly accept Delilah as their luna.” “Yes, Alpha,” Jacob nodded before reluctantly turning around. – Sebastian ~ Back at the Wind Walker Pack, Sebastian was catching up with work. He was gone for a week to conquer the Dunswick Pack and now had lots of paperwork on his desk. Suddenly, his beta entered his office. Zev updated, “Alpha, Gus is recovering well. He asked to see you.” Behind his mask, Sebastian smirked. He was relieved that his old friend was alive. He answered, “I will see him, and I will bring Kate as well. They both have something to talk about.” Sebastian expected Zev to leave, but he stood there as if wanting to report more. He looked at his beta and asked, “What is it?” Clearing his throat, Zev answered, “I – I don’t know if this is any relevant, Alpha, but the warriors who are stationed at the South Moon Pack have reported many misconceptions about you -” “You know that I’ve never cared about those talks. Let them think the worst of me. That builds up the fear, and it will ultimately keep my enemies from trying to take me down,” Sebastian reminded his beta. “Okay, well.” Zev sucked in a deep breath. He revealed, “What about accusations towards your future luna, Alpha?” Sebastian stilled. He was already signing documents when Zev mentioned Kate. He looked up to him and asked, “What about Kate?” Zev reported everything, especially about how Xander had branded Kate a murderer. A low growl escaped Sebastian’s lips. He replied, “Look into that woman, Delilah?” “Yes, Alpha, that is Alpha Denzel’s daughter of the Red Wood Pack,” Zev filled in. “Look into her. Something doesn’t add up with that woman,” Sebastian ordered. After all, he was there when it all happened. He saw exactly how Delilah appeared out of nowhere and involved herself in that fight. If anything, it was all Delilah’s fault for losing the baby and not Kate’s. “Yes, alpha,” Zev acknowledged. “me?” “And, can you ask Kate to see me?” Sebastian leaned back in his seat. He revealed, “It’s time we have another talk.” “Yes, alpha,” Zev replied. 3/4

“The Alpha calls for you,” Beta Zev said, making Kate wide-eyed in the library of the packhouse. Since that night of Sebastian’s return, they have not spoken. It felt strange to Kate, especially since he came back from saving Gus. She had always wondered if the alpha still blamed her for Gus’ abduction. While following behind Beta Zev, Kate asked, “Is he mad at me?” “Was he mad at you when he carried you to the third floor the other day?” Zev smirked, and Kate sensed a deeper meaning behind his words. ‘No, he wasn’t,’ she kept her thoughts to herself and simply looked away. Upon arriving at Sebastian’s office, Zev announced, “Alpha, Luna Kate is here.”

Kate flushed at the fact that the people around the packhouse still called her a Luna. Although she was going to be a luna for Sebastian, technically, she was still not. She proposed, "Seriously, you can just call me Kate – you and everyone else in the packhouse." "They will eventually get used to calling you the Luna," Sebastian's deep voice came through. Although he still wore his bronze mask, Kate could feel his eyes on her. He ordered, "Sit." "Yes, Alpha," Kate answered and hastily sat on the chair before Sebastian. "You wanted to talk?" Sebastian questioned. "Let's talk. I'd rather that you ask me than go around questioning others." Kate pursed her lips. She realized that the doctor, Cassandra, must have told him. She replied, "I was just hoping to find answers. I have every right to know, considering I will be your wife, regardless of our plans to separate in the future." "Fine," Sebastian conceded. "Before anything else, I want you to know I contacted your parents. I have told them about your witch predicament. They want to see you as soon as possible, but the suitable place to meet is within Vottara's capital, the palace. We will be leaving in three days." "And, I take it you need help tracing down this witch, Glinda," Sebastian recalled. Kate nodded, saying, "Very much. I was trying to track her whereabouts when I was still at the South Moon Pack. She was my ticket out of there, but -" She paused, looking Sebastian in the eye. She resumed, "But instead, you saved me." "Hmmm," Sebastian responded plainly. "My last update on her location was at the Spratzie Islands," Kate said. "I need her to undo the seal." "I'll send people to look for her," Sebastian said. He leaned back, lifting his chin in her direction, and waited. "Well, ask away." "Um, how is Gus?" Kate probed. "He is fine. I'll take you to see him later today," Sebastian said. "He wants to see you." 1/3 11:30 1 Chapter 10 "You know, since the other day, you seem calm," Kate suggested. "You are not mad at me because of Gus?" "The attack on the caravan over a year ago had nothing to do with you. I know that now, so let's say I no longer blame you for losing my men." Sebastian revealed. When Kate's brows met, Sebastian explained further, "There was a traitor within my warriors. The betrayer was the one who sold your information to Alpha Peter, thus, the attack happened. Gus told me everything. He found out about it while in captive at the Dunswick Pack." "I had also sent men to the Blue Bandits headquarters. Their leader said they were only trying to get more money from you. They never really sold your information, fearing that I would find out, Sebastian supplemented. "Really?" Kate sighed in relief. She rested her hand on her chest, saying, "Somehow, that makes me feel a little better." "But because of a traitor's actions, I am the one who owes you. Because your guard, Dolores, died in that attack," Sebastian said. He knitted his brows and added, "Now, I must explain that to your parents." Hearing Dolores' name, Kate felt low. She took a moment to respond, "We can't always control the actions of others, but I'm

glad you told me. I don't blame you for her death. I'm sure my parents won't blame you either." Following Kate's words, there was silence between them. Each of them took opportunities to study their expressions. Too bad for Kate, though; all she could evaluate was Sebastian's stiff posture, leaning against his chair. "So," Kate finally found the courage to say. "Are you really not going to tell me why you wear a mask?" "I have my reasons," Sebastian said. Kate waited for another few seconds, but nothing more came out of his mouth. "So, that's it? Don't you feel suffocated wearing that thing?" Kate asked, referring to Sebastian's bronze mask. "Haven't you heard what other people say? Who knows, one of them speaks the truth," Sebastian suggested. "But -" "Enough about the mask. I have something to hide, so I wear a mask. End of discussion," Sebastian asserted, his jaws clenching at the end of his sentence, and his voice raised. "If you bring this up again, we will end up in an argument, and you don't want that." "Fine, then, tell me about the curse," Kate finally asked. "What makes you the cursed alpha of Vottara?" "Because I am... cursed," Sebastian admitted. "Cursed, how?" Kate asked. "Cursed," Sebastian replied. At that point, Kate was frustrated. She thought, 'How long was this man going to drag this out?' Chapter 10 Kate frowned, and her lips twitched. Then, she heard the most impossible thing in the world; Sebastian chuckled! 'Oh, so he has a human side of him, after all!' Kate mused. "Your angry expression amuse me,"

Sebastian remarked. Kate was about to react when Sebastian explained further, "My family had been cursed for generations. And the funny thing is, your kind caused it." "What?" Kate was taken aback. She clarified, "My kind?" Particularly, your mother's kind," Sebastian revealed. "My mother's kind?" Yet again, Kate was stunned. She raised her brow and confirmed, "By a winter-grey wolf?" "Yes, by a winter-grey wolf," Sebastian responded. "They say winter-grey wolves are direct descendants of the Moon Goddess. They could wish for anything, and the Goddess would grant it, including a curse." "I will tell you what I can about the curse, but you must promise that whatever we discuss will not leave this room. I will trust you, being your father's daughter," Sebastian added. Dead air fell upon them. Kate was slowly taking it all in. Yes, Kate's mother, Alexia Reed Stone, was a winter-grey wolf. However, unlike her mother's white-greyish werewolf coat and extraordinary ability, Kate got most of her father's qualities. Thus, Kate never considered herself to be a winter-grey wolf. Her mother was, but not her. Kate did not know for how long she was in a daze, but recalling how she had already agreed to marry

Sebastian, she weakly replied, "I promise not to break your trust as long as you are not in the wrong." "I had no choice about my family's curse. It was passed on to every offspring in our family," Sebastian revealed. "Let me hear it. I need to know as much as possible if I am to marry you," Kate answered. "Very well," Sebastian said. He sucked in a deep breath and said, "There are many versions of it, and it's because the rumors of our family's curse had gone on for more than a century. The last indication of its existence was with my father, which happened twenty years ago when I was only eight years old." "It all began with my great-great grandfather, Bernard Armstrong," Unhurriedly, Sebastian narrated. "Many years ago