

The Luna Choosing Game #Chapter 171 - Read The Luna Choosing Game Chapter 171

Chapter 171

After the confrontation with Mark, I expected to be approached by Nicholas, so I wasn't shocked when he called me away from the dining room at lunchtime to speak with me privately.

He started walking away from the dining room and I fell in step beside him. Eventually, in an empty

hallway, he turned to face me. A frown was firm on his face.

Mark told me that you and Julian started investigating the underground organization again, despite my

explicit instruction not to."

"That's correct," I said. Maybe I should have denied it. I knew Nicholas only had my best interest at

heart, but that didn't mean I could roll over to his every whim. He didn't know all the facts. Maybe it was

time I told him the full truth, I wasn't sure.

My answer made Nicholas's face even more severe. This, I imagined, was the face he used to look down those that opposed him politically. It would be intimidating, if I had even an inkling of fear against

him.

"You have to stop, Piper. You must give this up and let it go. You are endangering yourself. I cannot allow that."

I shook my head. "It doesn't matter if I'm in danger. It's worth it, if it helps bring them down."

Nicholas's shoulders tensed. "If you would listen

"

“You can’t convince me otherwise, Nicholas, I’m sorry.”

“But what about Elva?” he said, voice sharp. “What you are doing endangers her as well.”

“Elva is already in trouble. Can’t you see that?”

He opened his mouth. Closed it. Opened it again. “What do you mean?” The hardness in his face crumpled some into confusion.

I wrapped my arms around my own waist, offering myself as much comfort as I could.

Maybe I should have told Nicholas the truth from the start. Maybe if he truly understood the depths of my fear, he would see my side of things. I doubted it – he’d always been a stickler for the rules – but there was always a chance the threat to Elva could change his mind.

“Elva’s werewolf abilities are already powerful and growing stronger all the time,” I said. “How long will it be before the underground organization comes after her and her wolf, like he did for me and mine?”

“That won’t happen. I won’t allow it.” Nicholas inched closer to me so that he was only a mere few inches away. “I can protect you and Elva both.”

“For how long, Nicholas? While we’re under your roof? But what happens to us when we have to go back

out on our own?”

“I’ll find a way. I’ll –”

“You will have your own life. Can’t you see that exposing the organization is the only way to keep Elva

safe for the rest of her life?”

“I refuse to accept that,” Nicholas said. He had returned to authoritative prince-mode. Making plans and statements. I knew he meant what he said, but in reality, he had no way of seeing it through.

I didn’t want to hurt him, but I had to crack his fantasy to help him see he couldn’t protect us from the

whole world, no matter how well-meaning he was.

“You couldn’t help me,” I said. “Three years ago, when the organization targeted my sister and me.”

Nicholas swallowed hard. “You didn’t tell me what was happening then.”

“What would you have done if you knew? You would have run straight into the lion’s den, all righteous,

and got yourself hurt.”

“I would have been smarter than that, and you know that.” His voice lowered, showing a hint of his anger. “You didn’t trust me, just like you aren’t trusting me now.”

“I am trusting you by telling you exactly why I need to continue investigating. It’s all for Elva.”

“Piper

“No, Nicholas. There’s nothing you could say that would make me change my mind about this.”

“Is that right?” He crossed his arms.

“Yes.”

Nicholas stood straighter. “Fine. Then I order you, as your prince, not to pursue this.”

Chapter 172

Just then, I noticed some guards patrolling the hallway they were in. They glanced at me and at

Nicholas

“That is a command as your prince,” Nicholas said again, when they were closer in earshot.

He had me backed into a corner now. I couldn’t disobey a direct royal order, especially in front of the

guards. As much as I wanted to.

“This is the part where you comply, Piper,” he said.

I narrowed my eyes at him, hoping he could feel the waves of annoyance I was sending his direction.

“Fine,” I said, lying, and I hoped he knew it. Typically I would feel bad for lying to his face, but this time, I felt no such thing. He was being a jerk, using his status to boss me around. He didn’t deserve my truth.

“Piper...” He said again, softening now that I’d given him everything he wanted.

But I was done listening to him.

“I need to get back to lunch.” I didn’t wait to be dismissed. I simply turned on my heel and sped away

down the hallway.

Later, the remaining candidates were called into the parlor for announcements from Nathan.

He stood on top of the stage, waiting for us to arrive. When we were all present, he cleared his throat

and then spoke into the microphone.

“Attention, please. You have been waiting patiently for updates regarding the next elimination ceremony

and I finally have something to share.”

The girls murmured nervously to each other. Nathan waited for us to quiet again before he continued.

“The next elimination ceremony will be held in two days.”

Gasps sounded in the room. I gasped too. Two days? That was hardly any time at all.

I still needed to talk to Julian. Without his help, I had no idea how I was going to survive this round, especially now, with Nicholas and I not on the best of terms.

Beside me, Susie had gone quiet too. Many of the girls had. Two days wasn't long enough to change anyone's mind, not if they'd already made it. Some of the girls that hadn't made impressions on any of the princes now faced the real possibility of being sent home.

Chapter 0172

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princes now faced the real possibility of being sent home.

Lilliana smiled dully. She knew she was safe.

Olivia also seemed unbothered. She had enough confidence to carry her through.

The rest of us weren't so sure.

After returning to my room, I stopped at the door to speak with Mark.

“I really need to speak with Prince Julian. Do you think you could find him for me?”

Mark shook his head. "I'm sorry, Piper, but Prince Nicholas directed me not to assist you in your investigatory attempts."

Of course he did. The problem with knowing Nicholas so well was that he also knew me. He likely knew that I had lied to his face the moment I had done so.

"This isn't about that," I said. "Nathan just told us the elimination is in two days, and I have not secured my place as one of Julian's selections yet. If I don't talk to him, I might get sent home."

Mark's brow furrowed. "Oh."

"If you see him, please just tell him I'm looking for him," I said. "I don't want to get you in trouble, but as you can tell, this is very important."

Reluctantly, Mark nodded. "I'll see what I can do." He turned to speak with the guards, so I entered the bedroom.

I didn't hear from Mark until several hours later, as Elva and I were getting ready to go down for dinner.

He pulled me aside and said, "Prince Julian isn't here."

My stomach dropped. "What? Where did he go?"

"I'm not sure, but no one has seen him since this morning," Mark said, frowning. "Wherever he went, he didn't tell anyone."

How could he disappear? Now of all times?

"When will he be back?" I asked.

Mark shrugged "I'm sorry, Piper, but I really don't know."

Chapter 173

It wasn't that I didn't believe Mark when he had told me that Julian had left the palace and hadn't been

seen since the morning, but I still had to snoop around some to be sure. I needed to talk to him so badly, t

couldn't just sit around and wait for him to return.

I asked some of the servants and the more-friendly of the guards. But each person had the same story,

more or less. No one had seen Julian or his Beta Brian since the morning Julian and I had talk to Williams.

"It's not unusual for him to disappear," said one of the servants. "Prince Julian is a bit rebellious.

Sometimes he would leave the palace for days at a time only to return with no explanation. No one's ever

really sure about that one."

That didn't make me feel at all better. He would disappear for a few days? Surely he would know this time about the elimination ceremony. He wouldn't leave me high and dry while he was off doing

something foolish, would he?

No, I couldn't believe that. Much of Julian's flakiness was a façade he put on. He took plenty of things

seriously.

Like our investigation.

I didn't want to admit to myself that I was worried about him. Nicholas had been right about one thing: investigating the underground organization was dangerous.

Julian and I weren't exactly friends, but I didn't want to see him harmed.

I half-hoped he had simply run off with some random girl for a while, being irresponsible but safe, rather than the alternative that he was actually in trouble.

Either way, he wasn't here now, so I couldn't speak with him about securing my spot in the elimination. I could only hope that he would return in time, and that he would consider me in his selections.

To give the candidates just a bit more time with the princes, that evening, a brief meetup was arranged in one of the sitting rooms. Since Julian was missing, only Nicholas and Joyce attended. The girls fully surrounded Nicholas, while Joyce had only two or three girls vying for his attention.

Nicholas had locked eyes with me for a moment, before looking away. This was fine with me. I didn't want to speak to him either. The presence of his emotionless mask hurt though, just a tiny bit. It seemed like he was treating me just as he did all the other girls.

Wasn't that what he had done earlier, too? He hadn't spoken to me as a friend, he had commanded me as a prince.

Fine Perfect. novelbin

"This is ridiculous," said one of the girls near me, who had tried to get closer to Nicholas but was shoved away by the group circling him now.

"Tell me about it," said another. "At this rate, we might as well see ourselves out. I don't even think

Prince Nicholas knows my name."

"Well, what about Prince Joyce?" asked the first.

"Prince Joyce?"

Both turned their heads to look at him. I did, too. He was chatting politely with the three girls near him,

Susie being one of them. Jessica was another.

"The competition isn't so fierce with him," said the first girl.

She was right. Joyce was quiet and shy. For most of the competition, he kept to himself, only brought

into the spotlight when it was absolutely required of him. I wasn't sure I had heard him spoke more than a handful of words at any one time.

I tried to remember him from our days at the Academy. He would have been a few or two younger than us. But nothing stood out in my memory, not even his face. He must have preferred to stay in the

background then too.

The second girl pouted. "But Prince Nicholas is the one I want."

"I think you need to accept that ship has sailed," said the first.

Chapter 174

I didn't want to think about Nicholas anymore, so I made my way over to Joyce instead. I knew his two

brothers well but not him, and that seemed a shame.

When I drew near, Susie glanced up to smile at me. "Oh, Piper. Have you met Prince Joyce? Should I introduce you?"

How could I say that if I met him, I didn't remember? That would be unbearably rude.

"I don't remember if we've met," Joyce said in my silence. He looked at me eyes of burnt umber, watchful and calculating. novelbin

"I'll introduce you, then," Susie said. "Prince Joyce, this is Piper. Piper, please meet Prince Joyce."

"Nice to officially meet you, Prince Joyce," I said, giving a small curtsy.

He nodded.

We both didn't move for a moment, me standing with Joyce gazing up at me. Then he motioned toward one of the chairs near him.

"Please, sit," he said.

I did as he asked, taking the chair. Then there was silence again. Prince Joyce didn't seem to care for small talk. Meanwhile the quiet was making me anxious. I worried my fingers together in my lap.

"How are you enjoying the competition so far?" I asked him.

"It's okay," he said.

I glanced at Susie. She shrugged.

"Have you decided who you are going to select for the elimination ceremony?" I asked.

Jessica perked up, eager for the answer. Meanwhile Susie seemed a bit downtrodden. My heart went out to her. If only Mark could make a choice himself, but the competition wasn't for Beta's.

"I haven't given it much thought, honestly," Joyce said. He quickly covered a yawn with his hand. "If it were up to me, we wouldn't even be doing this competition."

"Oh, no?" I asked.

"How am I supposed to find the perfect person for me during a popularity contest? No one cares about me anyway. They didn't before the contest, and they won't after. I have no hope of wearing the King's

not true that no one cares about you," Jessica said softly.

He didn't seem to hear her.

"Let my two brothers fight over it. I just want to be left alone."

Glancing at Jessica, and the way she frowned, I prompted, "Wouldn't it be nice if you did find love

though? I admit it's not an ideal situation for love to spring from, but imagine if it did."

"No one is going to be interested in me with my brothers around," Joyce said. "I wouldn't even bother with this, except my parents would nag me to death if I didn't put in appearances."

Jessica worried her bottom lip with her teeth. Her previous attempts to gain his attention and declare her interest had gone unnoticed. She took a breath, maybe to muster her courage, and said too loudly, "I'm interested in you!"

Half the room turned to look at her. When she noticed, her face went as red as a cherry tomato.

But Joyce had looked too. He had heard her this time. His eyes were wide and his mouth slack.

He said, "You are?"

Jessica hid her face behind her hands. She nodded.

Joyce continued to stare at her for a long time.

Susie and I traded quick smiles.

Jessica and I weren't close friends by any means, but I still felt proud of her. It was difficult to admit feelings for anyone, let alone a prince. Especially one as purposefully oblivious as Joyce.

I admired their connection for a moment, before a soft cough behind me claimed my attention.

Charlotte had found her way to my shoulder. Her dire expression immediately spiked concern into my chest.

"What is it? What's wrong?" I asked.

She leaned in closer to whisper/"Elva has another fever."

Today's Bonus Offer

Chapter 175

I quickly excuse myself from Joyce and his group and rush from the room, with Charlotte following me..

"The doctor should be in with her now," Charlotte said. "Mark sent a guard to retrieve her just as I left to

find you."

“Good,” I said. We did not speak again as we hurried through the hallways and up the stairs.

Finally, when we made it to the room, we found the doctor tending to Elva in bed while Mark watched

1. on. He greeted me when I came to stand near him.

“How long has she had a fever?” I asked. I hadn’t been gone all that long myself. She had seemed okay

before I left, but I had not thought to take her temperature.

“She only really started to feel bad in the past twenty minutes or so,” Mark said. “At first we thought she

had overexerted herself when playing, but after sitting for a while, she still didn’t feel better. When I

touched her forehead...” He lifted his hand and glared at it like it had betrayed him. “She was burning up.” novelbin

We watched on for a while, as the doctor examined and tended to Elva. When she finally stepped back,

she caught sight of me and motioned me over. I hurried to her. Elva was sleeping soundly in the bed.

“This fever is not as severe as those in the past, partially because we caught it so quickly, but also, I

believe because of the continued treatments and care we’ve taken over the past weeks,” the doctor said. ”

The fever itself is already going down.”

“So she is okay?” I asked.

“Yes. She will be herself tomorrow. For now, she only needs rest. We will continue to monitor. Call me if

I am needed, else I will check back first thing in the morning.”

“Thank you, doctor,” I said.

She nodded. “She’s a brave little girl, and a fighter. She will be fine.”

I thanked her again for the added assurance. Then Mark walked her to the door.

I sat on the edge of the bed, watching Elva as she slept. The doctor had spoken true, she did not seem

to be in as much pain as usual. Her sweating was minimal, and when I touched her forehead, it was only

warm and not hot.

Staying in the palace had been doing wonders for her illness. The high end medical care and treatments

might just have been saving her life. The problem, of course, was that this was all only temporary As

soon as we left, Elva’s health would likely decline again.

+15 BONUS

With an elimination ceremony only a day and a half away, that unpleasant reality was creeping in on us

sooner rather than later.

I couldn’t let that happen. I had to make sure we stayed for as long as we could.

I needed to speak with Julian.

I stayed with Elva for a few hours, until the fever truly decreased. Mark continued to stand diligently at

the door. I wondered when he slept.

He immediately noticed when I came closer to the door.

“It’s after midnight, Piper,” he said.

“I just need to go for a walk to clear my head.” It wasn’t a total lie. More of an omission. If my walk just

so happened to take me by Julian’s door, well, who would know? “Can you keep an eye on her? She’s

resting and shouldn’t wake.”

“Of course,” he said.

I hated leaving her while she was under the weather, but nothing could delay this. Julian may have disappeared during the day, but it was possible he was holed up in his room, simply avoiding everyone. That wasn’t entirely like him, but I couldn’t rest until I was sure.

Elva’s future rested entirely in his hands.

So as not to arouse suspicion in Mark, I walked toward the stairs and then down them. Once I was out of his line of sight, however, I veered down a series of hallways to bring me to the second staircase,

which I quickly climbed.

Chapter 176

The rules stated that we were to avoid the personal rooms of the royal family unless explicitly invited. I

was taking a great risk by sneaking here now. But for Elva’s sake, this was only the beginning of the level

of danger I was willing to take on.

I walked to Julian’s door and lightly tapped on his door. I pressed my ear against it, listening for any

sound of movement within. Then I knocked again, a bit louder.

There was no answer. Beyond the door, I heard no sound of footsteps or talking. The room was most

likely empty. Still, I tried for the handle. I cursed when I found it was locked.

“He’s not in there.”

My heart leapt from my body, and I nearly fell, catching myself on Julian’s door as I turned around.

Nicholas stood behind me, his arms crossed over his broad chest. He peered down at me with mild disapproval. Otherwise, his face was an emotionless mask.

“Julian left two days ago and didn’t tell anyone where he was going. He hasn’t been seen or heard from since.”

“You aren’t worried?” I asked. novelbin

“About Julian? No. He always does this to escape his responsibilities. He’s not dependable.”

I wasn’t sure that was entirely true. At least, not totally. Julian was a free-spirit, sure, but he usually had reason for his actions, if they weren’t entirely put on. He placed into people’s perceptions of him. How

easy it was for Nicholas to believe the worst.

That itself wasn’t shocking either. Nicholas believed the worst about everyone, and he was stubborn too. It was nearly impossible to change his mind once he was set on something.

“So you won’t be able to meet up with him tonight,” Nicholas said.

“I suppose not.”

Nicholas’s veneer cracked and anger shone through. “So you won’t be able to fuck him tonight.

“... wait, what?” I had to have misheard. Did Nicholas think I came to see Julian for sex?

Unhooking his arms, Nicholas walked closer. He leered down at me with fire in his eyes. “Is this the person you are now? Sneaking out in the night for casual trysts with my selfish brother?”

“It’s not like that..”

+15 BONUS

Words failed me as Nicholas closed the distance between us. His hands fell onto my shoulders and he guided me backwards until I was up against Julian’s door. Then he closed in around me, his arms on either side of my head, his chest pressed to mine. He was taller than me, I had to look up.

“I bet he takes and doesn’t give. You deserve better.” Nicholas’s voice was growing rougher, like he had gargled with sandpaper between his last sentence and this one.

I shiver ran down my spine. I might have been embarrassed by how quickly I was aroused for him, if the lust wasn’t currently fogging my entire brain. I pressed my thighs together to give me a hint of friction. More than anything, I wanted him to touch me.

1

“He can’t give you what you need,” Nicholas leaned down. His hot breath brushed against my cheek. Only I can fuck you like you deserve.” 2

God, when he spoke so filthy, it made me dizzy. I pressed my hands to his chest for balance, but the hard muscle there only amplified my desire.

I wanted to be tough and demand he stop bullying me. He was being a pushy asshole right now, and I

should want to push him away.

Instead, I curled my fingers like claws and pulled him closer.

“You talk a big game,” I said, giving a soft growl of my own. “Why don’t you prove it?”

His lips curled into a snarl. That was the only warning I was given before he pressed his lips to mine and claimed my mouth as his own.

Chapter 177

slicked at the seam of my lips before coaxing his way into my mouth with his insistent and

ding tongue, I closed my arms around his neck, holding on as best I could while he delved and

d my mouth like he belonged there.

Like this, it felt like he did.

His hands dropped to my waist, where he gripped me firmly. His body held me flat against the door at my back.

When we had been intimate in the past, it had been soft and slow, gentle and tender, with barely there touches and exploratory kisses. It had been a low simmer, burning over a long evening as we shyly explored each other's bodies.

This was nothing like that.

Where that had been a simmer, this was an explosion.

His kiss was fierce, claiming. His body was everywhere against mine, yet still somehow not close enough. I wanted him naked. I wanted the press of his bare flesh to mine so that nothing could ever come between us.

His hands moved down from my waist and gripped my ass. I moaned against his mouth.

Yes, that. More like that

He complied by taking me fully in his hands. He lifted me up against the door, wedging me there with his thighs. I wrapped my legs around his waist. His rock-hard arousal pressed against my core and I moaned again, louder.

He covered my mouth with another kiss. But I couldn't keep quiet, especially when he began to rock his hips.

Breaking the kiss, he moved his lips to my ear. Meanwhile, he reached up and covered my mouth with one of his palms.

"Anyone could hear you," he whispered. He took my earlobe between his teeth. He didn't bite, just held it as he rolled his hips again, pressing me further up the door. "Maybe you want to be caught. Maybe we should let everyone know that I'm the only one who can make you lose yourself like this."

Danger and adrenaline surged inside of me, swirling deliciously with my fiery lust.

I wanted him to keep talking. I wanted him to rip my clothes off. I wanted him to fuck me right here,

was burning hot, that much was clear. He had misunderstood Julian and my relationship him med. He wanted to claim me, to keep me from Julian. And despite myself, I wanted him

too.

ever seen this animalistic side of him before. He was always so measured, so controlled.

I wanted to make him wild, to see how hard I could press him, to see how rough he would get.

But, even like this, I couldn't make him more jealous. The truth was, I didn't care about Julian in the same way, Julian was a friend. Nicholas was someone I wanted to ravage me, heart and body, until I was a whimpering puddle of pleasure and satisfaction.

So I pressed my mouth into his neck and told him. "Only you. Only you, Nick."

His dick twitched against me, growing impossibly harder. His grip on me tightened.novelbin

"I just want you."

At once, his hips shot forward once, twice, pounding me into the door so hard that it rattled on its hinges. He growled, wolflike, in my ear.

God, the friction was perfect. If he kept going like this, I could reach my pleasure.

But as soon as his wild side had revealed itself, it immediately vanished. Suddenly, he stilled as if he

had transformed into marble. Only his cock continued to twitch against me.

Slowly, he lowered me down. I unhooked my legs from behind him to get them back under me.

“Nicholas?” I asked, breathless.

When I was steady, he stepped back from me. His hair was a mess from my running my fingers through it. His chest heaved with heavy breaths. His lips were kiss-red and swollen, likely mirroring my own.

Chapter 178

But his eyes were crystal focused now. Whatever fire that had sparked there had been well contained. He was pulling himself back under control, and I felt cold, mourning the loss

He didn't apologize, thank God, but he didn't say anything else either. No explanations. No words of comfort or cruelty

Looking at me, he swallowed hard. Then, finally, he said, “Return to your room, Piper.” His voice was still lust-rough. He cleared it but did not speak again.

He'd made it sound like an order, and not a sexy one. His words were like a bucket of cold water dumped over my head.

I opened my mouth to say something, I honestly wasn't sure what, when he abruptly turned and all but ran from me. He disappeared into his room, the door closed and locked behind him.

I stood staring after him, trying to collect myself after everything that happened. In the end, I simply felt

abandoned.

Confused and embarrassed, I returned to my room. If Mark noticed my disheveled state of dress, he did not mention it. Good, since it was likely his fault, Nicholas had known to look for me at all. If Mark said something now, I'd likely reply with a cutting remark I didn't mean and would regret.

The person I was truly hurt by was Nicholas, not Mark. But I was ready to lash out at just about anyone.

Except Elva.

I went to her side to check on her. She was still sleeping peacefully.

Finally, I exhaled and slunk down onto the mattress beside her. Here, in the safety of my room with the

knowledge of Elva safe and happy, I could reflect on whatever the hell had just happened between me

and Nicholas.

My body had ignited when Nicholas had touched me, and I couldn't blame nostalgia for it this time. Before, our intimacy had been shy and experimental. This had been all heat and passion, and even a little

rough. And I loved it.

I had wanted him to continue so badly, I nearly begged for it. I might have, had we gone on longer.

I was a mess.

I only went out to try to find Julian and convince him to save me during the next elimination. Instead, I ended up dry humping Nicholas against his door.

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where they belonged. This competition was more than just my wants. My life was more than just what I

had an obligation to Eve couldn't make selfish choices anymore I had a daughter

So whatever Nicholas unlocked in me tonight needed to be locked up again

had to put him finally out of my mind

But as I pressed my fingers against my lips I didn't know now I would ever be able to forget the passion

he had shown me tonight

I wondered if he was still thinking of me soon

when he was 12 I couldn't control

him before

he had drawn it out of me. Even after our breakup and with our years apart, he was the only

man I

wanted. Genuinely tonight had it a spark inside of me. I felt like I had been just sleepwalking before, placing

myself and my needs secondary to everything else, but now, I was coming alive again.

If I had acknowledged my own desires, then yes, I wanted to fall into bed with Nicholas. The problem, of course, was that I also wanted to keep him there afterwards.

I didn't want a one and done with Nicholas. I wanted him for life. A dangerous, impossible prospect.

I needed to get my head on straight. I needed to put my selfish personal desires back on the shelf where they belonged. This competition was more than just my wants. My life was more than just what I

wanted.

I had an obligation to Elva. I couldn't make selfish choices anymore. I had a daughter.

So whatever Nicholas unlocked in me tonight, needed to be locked up again.

I had to put him totally out of my mind.

But as I pressed my fingers against my lips, I didn't know how I would ever be able to forget the passion

ie had shown me tonight.

I wondered if he was still thinking of me, too.

tolop thinking about kissing Piper.

after I had escaped to my rooms, the moment I closed the door separating us, I pressed my ehead against the cool wood and felt myself burn.

Her body had been on fire against mine, the curve of her ass plush in my hands. Her hips had been so aight around my waist, beckoning me into the depths of her most sensitive parts.

She had made me wild. If we hadn't been in that hallway where anyone could come across us, I might have stripped her bare and taken my fill of her body until we both would be sated.

I could give her pleasure that Julian could not. He was such an asshole, he was likely a selfish lover.

With Piper, I would give everything and then some. I'd want her to come twice before I even thought of entering her. I'd have her on my fingers and on my mouth. I'd lavish her clit with my tongue until she could

only moan or cry my name.

In my grief of losing Piper, I had fallen into bed with other women. None of it meant anything, but I had

learned from the experience.

I knew the female body well, much more so than when I had touched Piper in the past. Now, I knew the

places to touch and how to caress them so that I could make a woman scream.

With Piper, I wanted to use everything I had learned, like it had all been a practice just to learn how to

drive her wild.

If I had her in this room right now, I would-

e wasn't one I

I slammed the door on those thoughts. Piper was a candidate in the competition, and she could pick even if I wanted to. We were destined to be apart for the rest of our lives.

Fantasizing like this accomplished nothing. Piper would never be mine.

A growl escaped from the back of my throat before I knew to contain it. My inner wolf wasn't pleased with that remark. Frankly, neither was I.

But it was fact.

To lust after Piper was pointless. Worse, it could even be seen as disrespectful. She had to know as well as I that we couldn't be together.

And she was Julian's girl now.

Another growl escaped me, louder than the previous

Julian did not deserve her.

Only you, Nick, she had said so sweetly, voice breathless and needy.

My dick was shameless, pressing uncomfortably up into my pants. I shouldn't give it attention, I should take a cold shower or something and forget this whole night.

But then I remembered Piper's moan.

"Shit," I grumbled as I hobbled into my bedroom. I lost my pants along the way. The boxers went soon after, and I hissed as the cool night air surrounded my hard, exposed dick.

In my bedroom, I ripped off my shirt and undershirt, so that when I finally toppled onto the bed, I did so

entirely naked. novelbin

Maybe, I reasoned, if I gave into my fantasies just this once, they would go away. I couldn't have Piper in the flesh, and that might have been part of her allure. If I imagined her and brought myself to completion,

then I'd likely be able to let her go.

Resolved, I wasted no more time and took myself in hand.

I imagined our same position, with me pounding her into the door, but without our clothes in the way.

She had been animalistic, all claws and whimpers, just from me rubbing her through our clothes. How

wild would she be if my dick was buried inside of her wet, warm folds?

Would she throw her head back against the door? Would she arch her back, shoving those delectable breasts out into my chest? Would she move her own hips, grinding and swirling, trying to match my movements as best she could?

I wouldn't give her much chance. Some other time, I would want to take it slow. Carry her to a mattress and lick her all over her body.

Chapter 179

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wanted

Geng him tonight had it a spark inside of me. I felt like I had been just sleepwalking before, placing

and my needs secondary to everything else, but now, I was coming alive again.

If Lucknowledged my own desires, then yes, I wanted to fall into bed with Nicholas. The problem, of course, was that I also wanted to keep him there afterwards.

didn't want a one and done with Nicholas. I wanted him for life. A dangerous, impossible prospect.

I needed to get my head on straight. I needed to put my selfish personal desires back on the shelf where they belonged. This competition was more than just my wants. My life was more than just what I wanted.

I had an obligation to Elva. I couldn't make selfish choices anymore. I had a daughter.

So whatever Nicholas unlocked in me tonight, needed to be locked up again.

I had to put him totally out of my mind.

But as I pressed my fingers against my lips, I didn't know how I would ever be able to forget the passion

he had shown me tonight.

I wondered if he was still thinking of me, too.

Instead of thinking about kissing Piper.

After I had escaped to my rooms, the moment I closed the door separating us, I pressed my forehead against the cool wood and felt myself burn.

Her body had been on fire against mine, the curve of her ass plush in my hands. Her hips had been so tight around my waist, beckoning me into the depths of her most sensitive parts.

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Chapter 180

But for now, for this fantasy, I wanted to f*ck her so hard all she could do was hold on and enjoy the had the strength to keep her pinned for a good long while, and I had the stamina to match I'd have er coming on my d i c k until she couldn't even remember her own name.

She'd know mine though. I'd have her screaming it.

N i c k! Ah-aah Nicholas! Don't stop. Please don't stop!

"Anything for you," I growled now as I f*c k e d my d i c k into my own fist. It wasn't enough, not near enough, but it was all I had.

I imagined Piper's face, scrunched up with pleasure, her mouth slack. Moaning and moaning with each

thrust.

Only you. Only you, N i c k.

I wanted her so badly that my entire chest ached. If she was here... If she was with me...

If I was allowed to have her...

I shoved those thoughts away, and for a while, lost myself in the fantasy of giving Piper the ultimate

pleasure. Sometime later, with the thought of her voice near my ear, I finally reached completion. It took

me a long while to want to move again.

After cleaning up and preparing for bed, I returned under the covers. I had hoped that fulfilling one desire would sate me enough to ignore the others, but even now, I continued to want her.

And not just to hear her moan.

I wanted to hold her as she slept. I wanted to keep her safe and happy.

But I had no right.

I didn't sleep at all through the night. In the morning, one of my father's servants came by my rooms. novelbin

The King wishes to speak with you as soon as possible.

Nothing like a 6am summoning to start off a day.

I finished dressing, then followed the servant down the hallway to my father's room. He was sitting at the head of the table there, with my mother beside him. Neither looked up when I came in the door.

The servant moved to one of the chairs at the table and pulled it back, likely telling me this was

but to sit and join them for breakfast.

1. up.

No sooner had I sat and reached for one of the muffins in a basket on the table, than my father spoke

"Nicholas. Do you have any idea where Julian ran off to this time?"

He still wasn't looking at me. His eyes were on a newspaper trapped over his own empty plate.

"No," I said. I grabbed the muffin.

"Do not lie to us, Nicholas," the Luna said now. She did look at me, her judgmental eyes peering into me.

The accusation annoyed me, but I knew better than to reveal that to anyone at this table. "Julian has never shared with me why he leaves when he does or where he goes. This time is no exception."

Mother leaned back in her chair, frowning.

"He's right, dearest," my father said. "Julian has always been reckless and irresponsible all on his own."

I nodded. At least father could see reason some of the time.

“Was that all you needed?” I asked. Muffin in hand, I was ready to retreat.

“No,” the King said before I could move an inch out of this chair. I stayed where I was. “We have told. Joyce and now I will tell you. When we eventually find Julian, we will tell him too.”

I braced myself, knowing I would hate whatever they were about to say.

“About Piper.”

I

Now I really knew I would hate it. I dropped my muffin to my plate so that I could grip the arms of my chair with both hands.

o one is allowed to save Piper from the next elimination ceremony. Not you an she will be going home.”