

Darkness Mate Cheated Versus Fated by Victory Done

Chapter 151

Chapter 151

Zora

I lay amid beautiful flowers, and the sky was a brilliant shade of blue and purple. I knew I was in dreamland. I wore a flowing white dress, and I was pleased.

I was in a lavender and jasmine flower field, and I wasn't alone. I looked ahead, and Darius was sitting on the green grass with his back to me.

I went to where he was and hugged him from behind, but then the clouds became dark, and the plants died. Heavy rain began to fall, and suddenly he was over a cliff, and I was holding his hand, trying to pull me up.

"Don't let me go," he said with fear in his eyes, and they went dark.

"I can't," I said and woke up panting.

I looked at the window. The sun was yet to come up, but it was four in the morning.

Darius was sleeping peacefully beside me, and I realised I had had a bad dream. Vivid dreams were part of the listed pregnancy symptoms, so I rubbed my belly and smiled.

Darius and I had crossed the **biggest** hurdle that could pull us apart, and we **had** survived. I knew nothing could come between us. My mind was just replaying an old fear.

I kissed his cheek, and a strong need to sink my teeth into **his sweet** spot came over **me** as **his Cedar** scent engulfed **me**. I felt an overwhelming need to strengthen the bond between us. I felt **the** cord joining us, and it **felt** stronger than **it did yesterday**.

Chapter 151

288 Vouchers

Darius pulled **me** close, and I let **him**. I drifted back to sleep in his **arms**.

He woke me up in the morning.

I opened my eyes, and Darius **was** leaning over me with a broad smile.

“Good morning, darling,” He said and kissed the tip of my nose.

I pulled him close until he was resting on me.

He moved down and placed his head on my bosom while I stroked his hair gently.

He touched my lower belly and rubbed gently. His hand felt so good against my skin that I moaned.

Then he reached between my legs with his hand, and I gave him access. I felt his index finger rub my clit gently, and he rested on me while he did

1. it.

It felt good. I stroked his head hair while he pleased my clit.

He licked his finger and placed it back on my clit, building the pleasure. This was the best way to wake anyone up.

I moaned, and I heard him growl.

“Darius... Ahhhhahhha,” I moaned gently, and he **was** pleased.

I felt the pleasure building until I came.

He slid his finger down my **slit** into my pussy, but there was no **way** it would fill me up the way I wanted.

“Darius, I **need** you **to** fill me up,” I moaned, feeling **like** I was out **of** this world

.

“You have to be **a little** more specific, Zora,” **He** told me, and **I moaned** as

Chap

he **caressed my** entrance **with his** thumb.

288 Vouchers

I had no shame **at this** point **as his** cedar scent filled me taking control of **my** senses. All I wanted to do **was** mate with him.

“Fill me up with your cock,” I said, and he growled with approval.

He leaned over me, placed his hard length into me, and began pumping. Monica took over from me, and he pumped sweetly.

I felt the pleasure building up in me when I looked at him and said.

“Mate“, climaxing along **with** the word.

I felt an out-of-body experience while my teeth elongated, wanting to claim my man. His eyes were dark too, and his teeth were out. A serious turn—
on for me, and he fucked me through my orgasm.

I came twice before he spilt into me with Cremin saying Monica’s exact words.

“Mate“.

He fell on me and kissed me.

“I do not know why but I have been feeling the need to claim you since the night I rejected Shanon,” He confessed, and the feeling was the same.

“I have battled it, but I know I will lose the battle soon because it is overwhelming,” he said **as I** stroked his hair.

“Should we try it?” I asked, and he rolled off me and looked at me from the **side**.

“It **will** be an **ugly scar if** we do not do it on the blue moon,” he said, and I **was** quiet, not wanting to push.

“**Come on, let** us shower. **Your** game is **by** eleven this morning. I noticed

09:581

Chapter 151

288 (Vouchers

you are pairing up **with** Neva while **Kara** is pairing up **with** Eloise,” he **said**, and I **nodded**.

We did not want to play one-on-one, so we chose to play the double team. I just hope we would score fourteen points and win. I would not want to try another sport.

Darius led me to the bathroom, and after we brushed our teeth, we went into the shower.

He kissed the side of my neck while standing behind me, gently squeezed my upper arm on both sides and breathed me in.

“I swear your pussy feels so damn good, Zora. Thinking of it just made me want to bury myself in you. I am addicted to you.” He confessed, and his words gave me tingles.

I did not know he was serious until he hoisted me against the bathroom wall and took me again. When we finished, we exited the shower to get dressed for the day.

“Your game against The Eastern Beasts is this evening; how do Theo and Marcel feel about it?” I asked him as we dressed up.

“Excited, but they hope they beat them quickly so they would have no choice but to play Rugby next week and then get to pounce on them and beat them some more.” He said, and I laughed.

“How will you do the rugby team? It wasn’t part of your preparations,” I asked, wondering how they would come up with a last-minute team, and he laughed.

“Who said we would do that? Theo already spoke to the Northern Bulls, so we **will just** replace three members in the actual game; they know our intentions, and

they plan to humour us,” he said, and I laughed, amazed at how determined they were to have fun with Cruz and Sheperd.

5747%

09:58 1

Chapter 151

288 (Vouchers

“**Before** I forget, do you know much about Ramsey Kuhn?” He asked, and I hated that name because he was the one who forced **his** daughter into our home.

“Other than the fact that he **was** the douchebag alpha that threatened to go to war with Casey if he did not accept Lori, I know nothing serious,” I said, and he nodded.

“Why did you ask?” I asked him, and he sighed.

“He was linked to the attack that caused me to attack the east,” he said. and I gasped.

“That bastard,” I said in anger.

“We are investigating him. Does he have any other daughter or a sister?” He asked, and I frowned.

“None. He has a niece that lives with him, but Lori is the only princess in his castle,” I said, and he nodded.

“I want you to be a part of this investigation, and it also means you will interact with Casey. Do you think you can do that?” He asked me, and I searched his eyes to see if he was serious or if it was a test.

“I trust you, Zora. Casey can’t take you from me. You are mine,” he said confidently, and his wolf flashed. I nodded, accepting the task, and he thanked me.

I wore white pants and a Sage polo t-shirt with Darius’s family name and crest on the back and Northern Beasts on

the front. Same as Darius's polo team. The back read Hand instead of Albert or Riverstorm because I already **saw** myself **as** a Hand.

80 40%

Content

288 Vouchers

Chapter **152**

Zora

I packed my hair in a ponytail and wore a Sage face cap with the Hand family crest. Then I hooked my gloves to my pants. I would use it to hold the croquet mallet when the time comes. I hoped they gave us mallets with square ends and not round ends. I wore white sneakers to finish the look.

Darius dressed the same way; only he wore white-fitted trousers. He wore sneakers. He would wear his boots when the time came for the game. We looked good together, and we went downstairs to have breakfast and go.

Kara looked exquisite. Her shirt had Sidorov on the back with their family crest, while Eloise had Orlov on the back with the family crest. We were given Royal bands the previous day, so we wore them on our wrists.

We ate quickly and left in a hurry.

We arrived there and took the cart to the croquet garden.

Neva was already there in her uniform, and she looked good. She rushed to hug me when she saw me, and I wrapped my arms around her. Lily was there, too. I wasn't bothered because she was serving a purpose.

I did not look at her, but Eloise interacted with her to avert suspicion, if **any**.

It was time for **the** game to start.

“This morning, The Northern Beasts team, consisting of Lady Zora Hand and her teammate Neva Nowak **will** be starting the game, playing against Western Butterflies Luna Ashley McCain and Luna Alexandria Russel, first to make fourteen points **win**.

0.001

09:58

288 Vouchers

The northern Beasts control the Blue and Sage balls, while The Western Butterflies **have** the Red and Yellow Balls. The Northern Beasts **would** go first,” The commentator said, and people cheered.

I looked **at** the booth where Darius **was** sitting. Nellie and Abelardo were there, and they all waved at me.

The game was easy as Neva and I could pass the balls through the **six** hoops in the right order and hit the central peg, and we won.

Two matches were played before Eloise and Kara’s team. They won too, and we were excited.

We went to join Darius, and I asked the very reluctant Neva to join me. Darius hugged me when I joined him, and Neva greeted everyone politely.

“Where are you from, young Lady?” Nellie asked her, and she was shy.

“She is in Marcel’s Harem,” I said, and Nellie looked at me.

“How come I have never seen her?” Abelardo said, and I laughed.

“She is a bookworm, and she is in her room most of the time except the few times we socialise in the garden,” I said and smiled at her.

There was a look of approval in Nellie’s eyes, and she was made to sit with **us**.

I wondered where Glenda was, but I did not ask. I believed her absence was for the best.

We sat to watch the other games. Darius's polo match would not start until the evening, so we had a lot of time on our hands.

There was a comfortable booth reserved for us at every **sports** section, and looking at the contents of the booth that we were in, Darius made sure it was equipped with food.

20 **73%**

09:58

288 Vouchers

"Luna, someone just **made** contact with me," I heard **Lily's** voice in **my** head, **and** I was alert.

"Do you know who the person **is**?" I asked, and she wasted a bit before answering me.

"Luna Gezel of Grizlo," She said, and I wondered who the fuck that **was**.

"What does she want?" I asked her.

"The usual stamps, and she wants me to place a tracker on Lord Hand's phone. She said something about us moving quickly so we could rescue Sofia Malek. I think they are planning an attack." She said, and I did not know what to say.

"Continue what you are doing. We will discuss extensively after." I linked her, and she was silent.

I linked Darius with what Lily told me, he was a little worried.

I did not know why and could not wait until we got home, so I asked him to link me with the reason.

"Luna Gezel is a Sidorov," he said, and I knew the implication of the Sidorov family being tied to treason. It would be bad for Marcel. We needed to deal with it quietly if it was true.

"I **am** sure it is a set-up," I linked Darius, and he rubbed my back.

“We will deal with it when we get home. We have to act normal and not **tell** our friends **yet**. I want to speak to Marcel about it before we proceed,” he said. I obeyed and remained silent.

We spent the day watching sports, eating and having fun. I did not see anyone I knew. Not

Hardy, Not **Casey** or the men that Theo and Marcel were planning on dealing with. Yet I knew they were around.

I knew I would see them when the time of the game came. I brushed off what I had

42.50%

09:58

Chapter 152

learned about **Gezel and** focused on the match that **was** to come.

288 Vouchers

Soon **it was** time for the Northern **Beasts** to face the Eastern **Beasts**. **It was a match** to watch.

Eloise was excited about the Polo match. I doubt she had ever seen a live polo match before, but she seemed happy about this one. I did not want to be in Cruz's shoes right now; the look of mischief in Theo's eyes spoke

volumes.

I stood with Darius watching him put on his knee guards and boots, and he looked handsome.

“Oh my,” I said, looking at him, and he gave me his boyish grin. He was quickly the most handsome man. I knew others would say the same about their men; to each his own.

I kissed him before he put on his helmet, and he winked at me, getting prepared to mount his horse.

I could feel his excitement, and it was because he knew it would be an easy win while they had fun knocking Cruz and Sheperd about.

They mounted their horses, and the ladies and I returned to our booth to watch the match.

The place was filled up with spectators, journalists and cameras. It was as if that was the only event taking place.

I felt terrible for those playing other sports at the same time as Darius's polo match.

I knew **why the** place **was** filled up.

The four most powerful men in our world were playing. Everyone would **want to see** it.

The crowd cheered as Darius, Marcel, Theo, and Abelardo **rode in**. The

64.78%

09:58

288 Vouchers

screen showed them individually, and **people** cheered **every time** the camera **switched**.

"Playing this evening are the Northern Beasts against the Eastern Beasts," The commentator said. I felt Eastern Beast **was** too much for a bunch **of** amateurs.

The name alone would make people that did not know they were amateurs expect so much from them. Sadly, they would be disappointed.

I doubt they thought much about the name before choosing it. I believed they wanted to copy the north. Too bad they would get their arses kicked.

"In position one is Sir Marcel Sidorov playing attack and offence," The commentator said, and everyone cheered.

“Position two is Sir Raphael Orlov, also on the offence. Position three is Lord Darius Hand on the attacking position,” the commentator said. The crowd cheered louder when Darius’s name was mentioned.

Darius waved at people, and then he blew me a kiss. I caught it and blew mine.

It was beautiful, and the camera caught the exchange because it was displayed on the screen.

85.10%

Content

DO-58

ouchers

Chapter 153

Zora

“And last but not least, Sir Abelardo Hand playing position four on the defence,” he said, and people cheered Abelardo too. He waved at everyone and even at us.

That was the first time I would hear someone address Abelardo adequately as Sir and not Lord, which was meant as a jab.

I watched them arrange themselves, and then the commentator spoke again.

“On the opposing team, Eastern Beasts, we have Alpha Casey Albert playing Position One, playing attack and offence,” People cheered, and I saw Casey wave at everyone. He turned to wave in a particular direction. and I saw the heavily pregnant Lori on the television screen. She waved at him smiling. It was good to see they were still getting along.

“In position two is Alpha Sheperdwell Blanch, also playing offence.” I saw Sheperd wave at the crowd, but he wasn’t so happy, and I could swear he was nervous.

He did not seem confident on the horse either. Raphael must have made sure the handicap wasn't counted for this match to be possible.

"In position three is Alpha Cruz Nikson playing attack, and lastly, we have Alpha Gabriel Wright in position four," The commentator said, and **Casey's** team arranged themselves on the field.

The whistle was blown for **the** first Chukka, and the umpire **threw** the ball between **the team**.

0.00%

09:58

288 (Vouchers

Instead of going for **the** ball with the **mallet**, Darius went for Cruz's horse leg, forcing the horse to bend slightly, making Cruz tilt over and fall to the ground by the ball.

Theo hit his head with the mallet before they stopped so Cruz could **get** back on his horse.

The hit was brutal because Cruz was dazed, but his helmet reduced the impact slightly.

A foul wasn't counted, and they waited to restart the game, and this time they hit the mallet normally to avert suspicion.

Darius scored the first goal, and they switched posts. Then while heading to score on the other side, Marcel challenged Sheperd by ridding him off.

He got his horse close enough to bump Sheperd's horse hard.

Max wasn't well secured on the horse, and he fell, but his horse did not stop moving, dragging him along the field.

It was clear that they were outmatched.

The umpire blew his whistle, and they had to make Sheperd's horse stop.

The seven Minutes for the first Chukka was up.

So they started the second Chukka.

This Chukka had a lot of falling and hitting, with Cruz and Sheperd doing all the falling and getting hit. It was so bad that Sheperd was taken out on a stretcher.

Marcel had done a number on him, and a foul was called. It didn't matter because the Northern Beasts were way ahead with more points, so the goal **Casey** scored for **the** foul did not mean anything.

Casey was impressive for a **first-timer** and **did** a good job holding his

17.79%

09:580

288 (Vouchers

own. I **was** sure Sheperd and Cruz would have done the **same if** our men weren't targeting them.

I noticed that after Sheperd was taken off the pitch, there was concentration on Cruz.

Darius, Theo and Marcel wanted a piece of him, and they did not want him to be taken away quickly, so they took their time.

Cruz fell off the horse many times in the fourth Chukka and was dragged along the field.

Theo's mallet met his head by 'accident' a couple of times until he was knocked out, and they had to take him out on a stretcher too.

By then, I was sure Casey would have figured out what was happening, but it didn't matter. The crowd found it funny, and Eloise and Kara found it satisfying.

I doubted they would be in shape for Rugby because beating them up on the field during Rugby would be easier than this.

The match ended with our team winning, of course. It was the most entertaining match of the day, and the crowd cheered both teams for the humour they got during the game.

We went to their changing room to celebrate their victory, and I saw Theo and Eloise kiss passionately.

Eloise had given him her big thank you. He kissed her with his hand on her tiny bump. It was amazing to see how much they loved each other. Marcel lifted Kara **in** his arms, and she giggled.

They really had it in for Sheperd and Cruz, and the satisfaction they got from it was amusing. It **was** more fun for them than revenge.

Darius touched **the tip of my** nose playfully, and I walked him to where he would unburden himself and **take off** his **gears**.

37.43%

09:59

288 Vouchers

“Those men did not make it challenging,” He complained, **taking** off his knee **guard**, laughing.

“They probably trained for just one month. Polo isn’t played in the east. I was honestly surprised that they would want to play polo. Given the circumstances, they tried,” I said, and Darius looked at me.

“I was surprised, too, until I saw my itinerary. Casey asked for an audience with me on behalf of Cruz and Sheperdwell. I think they want to discuss something with me, and this is the only way they could get close enough,” Darius said.

I wondered what it was that Casey wanted to discuss with Darius on behalf of Cruz and Sheperdwell.

“I will see them in the afternoon tomorrow,” Darius said, finishing what he was doing, and we headed towards our booth.

When we got there,
I found Abelardo in deep conversation with Neva, and Nellie was talking to someone on the phone.

Darius made me sit on
his lap to watch the next game, and I enjoyed him holding me.

We watched the game together, and I realised that Darius and his team were ruthless because I saw a smooth game with no fouls or violence. No one was carried off in a stretcher. I looked at the part given to the east and noticed that Cruz and Marcel had not returned to sit in their positions, they must have been injured. While I searched for them, I saw Alpha Ramsey with his daughter sitting next to Casey, and I remembered what Darius had told me.

I spoke up immediately.

“Darius, Alpha Ramsey Kuhn is the man in the eastern booth sitting next to Casey,” I said.

58.40%

09:59

288 Vouchers

“The **one with the blue shirt?**” He asked me, and I nodded.

“**Yes,**” I said, and he sighed.

“I **will** put someone on him just in case his intentions are malicious,” He said, and I agreed.

After

Darius told me about Alpha Ramsey, I wondered why he would do such a thing, and I could not figure it out.

The man had no reason to set Cruz up and bring evil upon us.

But then again, he had forced his daughter into our home and threatened war with Casey.

I also knew that Ramsey did not like Casey at all.

I think it had to do with the Howling Moon being in charge of the east before the rise of the Magic Fang.

I did not want to draw any conclusion because many things could have caused him to go against Casey, but one thing that was certain was that Casey needed to know that Ramsey worked against him, but I did not know how Darius would feel about it.

I planned on discussing it with him when we got home.

“Link Cindy to join us for dinner so I can give her some of my seals,” Darius told me, and I looked at him to be sure I heard him right.

“Why would you want to set yourself up like that?” I asked him, and he smiled at me.

‘I am not setting myself up, darling. I want to trace it. It is a physical item, so the culprits would have to find a way to collect it. I want to trace it until it reaches **its** final destination. I can catch the person and maybe figure out the reason,” he explained, and I smiled, realising it was a brilliant idea.

79.27%

09:59

I linked Lily to join us for dinner before we left the place.

288 Vouchers

99.11%

Content

09:59

288 Vouchers

Chapter **154**

Darius

We returned home, and Zora and I went to our bedroom to change. The moment we entered our bedroom, I pulled her close to me.

“We should change and have dinner with everyone, deal with the Lily situation and then maybe you will choose to spend time with me tonight instead of your friends,” Zora said to me and moved away.

I could smell her arousal, but she wanted me to work for it.

I understood her point and quickly changed into something simple.

I wanted to get the dinner over and return to spend time with my woman.

We headed downstairs, and I was surprised to see Neva at the table. She looked nervous, but Zora smiled at her, making her relax.

Glenda, whom I had banned from the table, was there too, and I looked at Abelardo, who shrugged.

Not wanting to embarrass him, I let it rest.

“Hope you will be of best behaviour tonight, Glenda?” Zora asked her, and she stood up and greeted Zora and me respectfully.

I knew it was a pretence, and when I looked at my mother, I saw her rolling her eyes at what Glenda did.

Neva was sitting next to her.

“I invited her to join us,” My mother said quickly, and **as much as I** wanted to **pretend not** to know **what she was** doing, I knew **exactly** what

0.00%

09.59

288 Vouchers

she **was doing**.

She **was** trying to separate Abelardo from **Glenda**. Honestly, I **was** in support because the girl **was** just toxic.

I somehow believed

Glenda had forced herself to join us, leaving Abelardo to take responsibility for it. It was just so low of her.

Kara and Marcel joined us; they looked like they had done something before coming down. They smelled like it, and I looked at Zora, who looked away from me, knowing exactly what she did.

Eloise and Theo joined us, and the butler soon ushered Lily in.

She was very nervous and was made to sit next to Neva.

Dinner was served, and we ate quickly. I wanted it over with.

“The game against the East was brutal,” Abelardo said, and we laughed. He wasn’t in on the plan.

“It was intentional,” Zora told him, and I watched it click in his eyes.

“My, I learned those alphas were in the infirmary for a while, especially the red-haired, Nikson,” he said, trying to remember Cruz’s name, and we all laughed.

Honestly, beating him up physically and stripping him of his alpha status would have been the best punishment, but we did not want something that would cause a war between us, so we had to settle.

While we discussed the events, I wondered what Casey wanted to discuss with me. It must have been important for him to go through the trouble of signing up for a sport in which he had no skill.

I also commend him because he played well. We would have still won without the brutality, but the fact **that** they scored some points meant they put some effort into it.

22.61%

09:59

Chapter 154

After dinner, Zora and I led Lily to the mini office in the **duplex**.

She **was** nervous, and she ought to be.

I wasn't over her betraying and trying to ruin me.

288 (Vouchers

If it weren't for the fact that we needed her cooperation to make headway on the matter, I would have ensured she faced the ultimate punishment for treason: death. I was sure no one would dispute it, not even her family.

"Have a seat." I heard Zora tell her, and I wanted to tell her to keep standing, but I let my mate handle the situation.

"So tell me about Gezel Sidorov," Zora said, and Lily adjusted herself in the seat.

"She is the head of the northern uprising group. I do not know her function, but they want me to meet with her during the games. She plays golf. so I am expected to hand her the seal at the golf course," Lily said quickly.

"Did they tell you what their mandate is?" Zora asked her, and she nodded.

"They want a democracy where the council would be the highest seat and every top family in the regions, and the packs would have a seat on the council, creating a senate. They feel the system we run is stylishly autocratic and want to change that." She said.

"Do you know who the leader of this future senate will be?" Zora asked her, and she shook her head.

I needed to understand why Gezel Sidorov would want to ruin a system that benefits her family and implicate her cousin in the process. If this treason **is** linked to the Sidorovs, Marcel would be asked to go into exile as punishment for not keeping his family in check.

50.83%

09:59

Chapter 154

288 Vouchers

I **needed to** find a **way** to discuss **this** with Marcel and Theo because they must look into the **affairs** of their families.

Whoever is doing this is trying to weaken my support.

With Marcel out of the **way** and maybe Theo too, I will be left to deal with the uprising alone.

It would be difficult for them to unseat me, but what if they divide my control?

I could not risk allowing Marcel and Theo to be implicated in this. There has been a need to implicate them for a while. This was the smartest route, and this Gezel bitch was making herself useful to the enemy.

opened my drawer and handed three seals to Zora.

“Do you know what they want to do with it?” Zora asked, handing the seal to Lily.

“I think they want to write a release letter for Safia Malek that would be forced into order while the tournament is on. They want to ask for her release making it seem like Lord Hand ordered it. It is just my guess. I am not sure. Maybe they **will** clue me in on what they want to use it for once I deliver it to Luna Gezel,” Lily said, and she made a lot of sense.

I wondered if this Luna Gezel was the one that forced Bryce to act against

1. me.

78.86%

Content

09:59

Chapter 155

Darius

I was in a dilemma. I did not know if I should arrest her immediately or allow her to lead us to other people so we could have a wider picture of what was happening.

So far, the trails we were getting led us away from the council.

I could understand Pamela and Joan being scornful and jealous of our mates, but with what Lily had just told me, the council might be pawns

too.

They might be reacting the way this malicious group want them to react. I knew I would have to tell Marcel and Raphael. Abelardo also needed to know because he was the first to be framed; they might try to frame him again.

Lily seized the opportunity to apologise and beg for my forgiveness, but the damage had already been done. My heart was closed off to her. Zora linked me to accept her apology, and I knew she must have her reasons.

I reluctantly smiled **at** Lily and told her it was okay and that what she was doing **was** a great way to apologise.

It was hard for my lips to form the words, but they did.

Zora ended the meeting with Lily, and she left.

I could **see** the regret in Lily's eyes, but I did not care. Once a traitor always a dangerous company to have.

After **she left**, Zora and I headed to our room.

0.00%

09:59

We needed

to shower and then **sleep**. I **had** to **ask** her **on** our **way** up why she **asked** me to accept **Lily's** apology.

“So she would do the task given to her diligently. She is obviously seeking your approval, and this was **to** show she is sorry. If you continue giving her the cold shoulder, she won't give us the result we want because she will have given up. Hope is a strong driving force that pushes people to achieve the impossible, your forgiveness and affection is the impossible goal her hope drives her to achieve. Let us use it to solve this problem. If not a full solution, partial would do just fine.” She said, and I pulled her close to kiss her.

The instant we entered our bedroom. I closed the door and pulled her close to my body.

I had been meaning to hold her all day. The PDA in the booth was not enough. It filled my senses with her arousal and made me want to do things to her. She got away when we returned home, but there was no escaping now.

I kissed her neck, and she moaned. Her citrus scent drew me in.

I had spent most of the time battling Cremin from claiming her. I did not – know if I should go for it, but only fated mates could claim each other successfully without a blue moon blessing the union.

I did not want to mar her neck.

The cord connecting us was getting stronger, and I did not understand what was happening, but I had an overwhelming need to claim her and make her mine.

“Mate,” Cremin growled in my head; I did not want to argue with my wolf. Of course, she **was** our mate.

We entered the shower, and the moment the water came on, Zora grabbed me. Wrapping her legs around me, I supported her **with** my hand **as we**

20.02%

09.59 1

288 Vouchers

kissed fiercely.

She had a strong need for me, and I could feel it.

Our lovemaking had become more frequent and intense since she got pregnant, and I liked it.

She held on to my hair, grabbed fiercely and kissed me.

Realising I could not give her the satisfaction she needed in the shower, I turned off the water, still carrying and kissing her, and we moved to the bedroom.

“Claim me, Darius,” She said with wolf eyes, and I was a bit confused. One of us needed to control it, and I decided to.

Moving down her body with my lips, she tugged on my hair and writhed.

I touched her pussy, and it was very wet. I wondered how long she was aroused.

I felt my teeth elongating, and I did not know what to do.

I had to move with instincts. So I kissed her clit and sucked on it gently. – Flicking the tip with my tongue.

Her Citrus scent engulfed me, driving Cremin crazy, and as soon as she came, I sank my teeth into her inner thigh close to her pussy.

She moaned loudly, and I felt the cord connecting us tighten.

I did not know what the fuck had just happened because that was Cremin's doing, but it felt so right.

“Zora,” I **said**, looking up at her, and Monica was in charge.

“**Inside me,**” **She ordered** me, and I obeyed.

47.13%

09:59

Vouchers

Placing my cock in her, I pumped.

1

The feeling was heightened. I felt the connection so strong, and I enjoyed giving her pleasure. I felt the pleasure coming back to me at **the** same time. I could not explain it, but it felt good.

“Mate,” I heard myself say, and I did not know why Cremin called on to her like that, but it felt right. As long as it was Zora he referred to as ‘mate’, it was right, and I loved it.

We were in our world for about an hour before we finally stopped panting on the bed.

I looked at Zora, and I could see she was fully satisfied.

She smiled at me, and I winked in return, making her giggle and smack my chest gently.

“Did you just claim me?” She asked, and I did not know what to say.

I felt the place with my hand; it had healed because it was smooth. Zora moaned when my hand came in contact with the place, and I was tempted to look at **my** mark on her thigh.

I knelt between her legs, and she frowned at me.

“I just want to see it. I do not want to mar your skin, my love,” I said, and she giggled and opened her legs for me.

What **I saw** took me **by** surprise.

The mark had not just healed, but like that of a true mate’s bond, a pink crescent moon perfectly rested on the spot.

“Fuck!” I exclaimed softly, and she **sat** up to look at me.

“**What is** the matter?” She said, checking out the **spot and** she was **surprised**.

67.44%

09:59

Chapter 155

288 Vouchers

“How?” That was all she managed, and Cremin **was** howling in my **head**. How did I miss it? **I was** so used to Zora that I could not read the changes between us. I could not understand the scent and the need to claim and own **her**.

She looked at me, and I noticed that it had clicked in her mind just like it clicked in mine.

We were fated mates. The goddess had blessed our union without a blue moon. In a world where finding mates was rare, we did not only get to find ours and reject them; we became second-chance mates. Seeing this, I prayed that Shanon and Hardy would also find second-chance mates too and leave us alone.

89.77%

09:59

Content

288 Vouchers

Chapter 156

Zora

The pink crescent moon on my thigh gave me so much joy. I felt intense pleasure while Darius sank his teeth into my skin. I felt a strong pull and a bond forming.

It was similar to a thick cord that I could almost tug. I felt lighter.

Having been claimed before, this was different. The euphoria was more enjoyable.

I looked at it, and Darius ran his finger along the skin, making me moan because of the tingles. He looked at me and smiled.

“Should we go all the way?” He asked me the very question I wanted to ask him.

I was about to **say** yes when I thought of our friends.

We tried to do everything together.

Kara already felt unfortunate because she was the only one that wasn't pregnant, and I remembered how I felt when Eloise got pregnant. It would be wrong and insensitive to wear each other's marks before them.

“I know what you are thinking, darling,” Darius said, pulling me close.

“You do **not** want to hurt them. I understand. We can wait. The blue moon **is** roughly **six** weeks away. After the tournament, we would just have two weeks to prepare and then that **is** it,” He said and kissed me sweetly on **my** lips. I moaned, feeling **his** need for me.

“I doubt I **would be able to control** Cremin, Zora. **He wants** to claim you

0.00%

09:59

Chapter 156

288 Vouchers

and Monica **badly**, and now that we have done it partially, his need for you to wear our mark and us yours would grow. I hope you will be able to handle **my** love bites,” He said, kissing my neck and grazing his teeth against the skin.

I **was** too much in need that all I could give was an inaudible moan saying

“Yes“.

We cuddled in each other arms after. It was two in the morning. Glad we had no matches to play, we decided we would arrive at the sports arena late.

Darius's meeting with Casey was late in the afternoon. I wondered what Casey would want to discuss with Darius. I honestly wished I could be there. I would have to wait for Darius to tell me about the meeting.

Darius stroked my hair and my skin until I finally fell asleep.

I woke up in the morning with an intense need for pleasure. I did not know if it was the partial claim or my hormones, but the need was there.

Darius wasn't in the room, and I didn't bother to link him.

I went to freshen up and get ready for the day.

When I exited the bathroom, someone knocked on my door, and I went to answer to see who it was. To my surprise, it was Kara, and she was crying.

I gently **let** her into my room. Before closing my door, I looked around to see if anyone was in the passage.

I picked up a box of tissues and handed it to her. She thanked me and used it to **wipe away** her tears and blow her nose.

"What **is the** matter **with** you?" I asked her gently, and **she** looked at me with fresh **tears**.

18 **53%**

09:59

Chapt

"Oh, Zora. I am sad," **She** complained.

288 Vouchers

"I **was** hoping **we** would get to do everything together. You know," She **said** and looked at my tummy, which was still flat, but I **got** the message.

"Eloise is showing; she is four months gone; you are almost three months but look at me. I was hoping our children would be age mates. Maybe not the same month but the same year. So they will be close and tight like Marcel, Theo and Darius, but I still have nothing," She said and bowed.

“I have done everything. I have changed my diet; I even secretly tried fertility pills. I tried staying in bed after we made love; sometimes, I would hold my legs up so everything stays in there and gets to the right destination. We made love throughout my ovulation period last month, and I have been checking. I use the strip every day, and it is always negative. I don’t know what to do, Zora. It is hard for me. Nowadays, I get cranky and furious when Eloise rubs her bump. Marcel says it is okay, but I want to have children, Zora,” She said and started crying. I went to console her.

“Why is it bothering you so much? The doctor said there was nothing wrong with you. Did it ever occur to you that it is taking time because you are stressing about it too much?” I asked her, and she shook her head, wiping away the tears still flowing.

“Why are you not confident this will happen for you, Kara?” I asked her, and she could not respond. So I touched her hand.

“**It is okay** to be impatient about something you want so much. But it isn’t okay to work yourself into depression for it. Marcel loves you. He doesn’t care about this; he is only trying because you want it now.” I said and sighed, then chose to tell her a secret.

“Honestly, when we found out Eloise **was** pregnant, I was jealous, I wished it was my news to give and not **just** hers, and I know you **are** feeling that **way** too, but just like it happened for me, **it** will happen for

40.25%

09:59

Chapter 156

you **too**. **I was** pregnant without knowing.” I said **and sighed**.

288 Vouchers

“Enjoy your time with Marcel. **He** is nothing like Sheperd and will never be. You mean the world to him, and that means a lot. You are his centre. Children, for him, are an addition to the bond you already have. Do not put a strain on your love because of this. I know it will happen, but you have to enjoy

every moment. Make love to your man because you want to share with him, love him, give him your all and be one with him, Not because you want a baby. Enjoy your time, and the reward will come.” I said, and she wiped away her tears.

“Do you think I am stressing him out?” She said out of worry, and I shrugged.

“He might never say it, and I might be wrong, but everything you want and need matters to him. See what he did to Sheperd on the field. He will do anything for you. Do not let this destroy your love,” I said, and she hugged me and cried.

“I don’t want to stress him out, Zora. I love him so much that I want to have his babies. I want to have little me and him running about the place. That is why I want this so much.” She said, and I understood her need.

She wanted the baby so much because, to her, that was the outlet that could express the strength of her love for him, evidence of their love, a reminder that they are united. I could understand her, but she needed to relax.

“Come on; we need to eat.” I said, and she looked at my tummy and giggled.

“You mean you need to eat,” She said with an emphasis on you, and I squinted and smiled.

“What’s **with** Glenda, by **the way?**” She said, and her mood **was** lifted.

“**What do you** mean?” I asked her, **getting my clothes** for **the** day. I opted

68.47%

09:59

Chapter 156

to dress **in** front of her **while** we gossiped.

288 Vouchers

“I mean, she has been around Abelardo like glue. She has been so nice. I **do n’t get** it.” She said, and I laughed.

“Haven’t you seen Neva?” I asked, and she widened her eyes with realisation.

“Oh, I get it now, oh my. Neva is gorgeous, she doesn’t stand a chance,” Kara laughed.

It was good to see her mood switch so quickly. She might be pregnant without knowing because of the hormonal display she gave me.

Content

09.59

Chapter 157

288 (Vouchers

Chapter 157

Zora

“You need to see her, Zora. She is practically glued to him. She served him breakfast and whatnot. She hasn’t said anything to aggravate anyone. I see she is on her toes,” Kara said, laughing heartily.

Glenda’s pain would be a pleasure, especially for me, because she was the one that encouraged Shanon to come and get my man knowing that he wasn’t available.

“Nellie is shoving Neva in there; you know she invited her to stay at the duplex during breakfast,” Kara said, and I widened my eyes. I missed a lot by not eating breakfast with everyone.

“Yep, it was hilarious because Abelardo told Neva during breakfast that they would love to have her around. He even smiled at her,” She said, and I laughed. By then, I had finished dressing up, so we headed out.

Since they had already had breakfast without me, I decided to eat.

I wondered where Darius was, and I decided to link him.

“Where are you? I woke up alone,” I complained.

“Sorry darling, I had to attend an emergency meeting **via a** conference call in the home office,” He responded.

“Is everything alright?” I asked him, and he was silent.

“I am afraid not, but **I am** trying to put it under control.” He said, and I became nervous.

“**May I join you in the office?**” I asked, and he **was** silent a bit.

09:59

I

Chapter 157

288 Vouchers

“**I am** almost done. **Marcel** and Theo are here. I promise **I** will tell you everything before we **leave** for the games,” he said, and I became worried.

I did not know what **was** going on, but **it** seemed serious. I could feel it.

I decided **to eat** in the kitchen.

Eloise and Neva joined Kara and me, and I was happy to see Eloise glowing.

“I hear you will be staying with us,” I told Neva, trying to get my mind off what Darius had just said. I needed to take the advice I had given to Kara and not worry. Whatever the matter was, it must be serious.

“Yes, Lady Nellie asked me to stay and keep her company,” Neva said, and Eloise laughed.

“Her or Abelardo?” Eloise asked, and we all laughed. Neva’s cheeks coloured, and I realised she might like him.

“I mean, he is hot,” she whispered, and we laughed.

“Do not let fang lady hear you say that,” Kara said, referring to Glenda. Neva rolled her eyes, disgusted by Glenda.

“She just won’t leave him alone for a second. She is with him all the time...” S he said, and I smiled.

“He isn’t a baby, Neva. He has to rescue himself from her. If he likes you, he will be the one to make a move,” I said, and she frowned.

“But you three did not wait...” She said, and I laughed.

“Oh, we did. **Kara and** Marcel clicked first, but Marcel was the one that went to **her**, then Darius and me; I mean, I could not resist. Then Eloise, whom Theo practically persuaded. The only difference **was** that **they** weren’t attached **then**,” I said, and Neva nodded **as if she** had learned

20.07%

09:59

Chapter 157

something new.

288 Vouchers

“Do not copy us, darling; follow your heart; some men require that push. Abelardo might fall under that category,” Kara told her. I **wasn’t** surprised that she would give her an impatient idea. She had always been the least patient of us three.

Just then, Glenda strolls in with a glass of water in hand. She greeted us respectfully, except for Neva, and we knew it **was** on.

The moment she left, we laughed. Honestly, if Glenda had to do so much to keep Abelardo from Neva, she would have lost the battle because she shouldn’t have to do anything to keep her man. I could have beautiful women in the same room as Darius and me, and I won’t be bothered because I know he loves me and only sees me and no one else.

We talked about other stuff, and it was noon.

“Where are you?” I heard Darius’s voice in my head, and I was alert.

“In the kitchen with the ladies,” I replied.

“Meet me in my office,” He said, and I closed the communication between

1. us.

I excused myself and went to his office.

I entered, and Darius looked troubled. He came towards me and crashed **his** lips on mine, kissing me as if I was the air he needed to breathe.

I could feel his anxiety and his need. Something **was** bothering him. Whatever it was, it **was** serious, and he was trying to calm down.

He kissed my neck, but I doubted he wanted foreplay.

I felt the **anxiety, too**; there **was** no need to be a gentleman about it. I would **always want** him anywhere **at** any time.

09.59

Chapter 157

288 Vouchers

Turning me against the **wall**, he reached under my **skirt** and **rolled** down **my panties**. Holding my hand above my head against the wall, he rammed into me and pumped gently.

Cremin was distraught.

“Hard and rough,” I moaned, and he increased his speed, needing that release that would relieve his anxiety. His mood wasn’t great, but I enjoyed it too much to say anything. He moved me from the wall to his desk and bent me over it, ramming hard and fast. He wasn’t gentle anymore, and I was enjoying it because he was hitting the right spot. He was consistent, and I came. I came hard and fiercely, and he followed, emptying himself in me. Then he pulled out gently and kissed me. His eyes were misty, and I did not know what to do.

“Darius, what is the matter?” I asked him, feeling satisfied.

“I didn’t want a war,” he said, and a tear escaped and rolled down his cheek. I held his face and let him place his forehead against mine.

“Breathe,” I told him.

“Breathe and relax,” I said, and he closed his eyes and did as I had told him to.

He moved away from me and sat on the couch in the office.

“The council called, and half of the north do not want me as their lord anymore. They **still** want the council, but they do not want to have a lord. They have sent a petition,” He said and bowed his head.

“I have two options, Zora. Either be an evil bastard like my father and force them to remain under me via **war**, or hear them out and lose the battle because I know this is some people’s doing. I need to find the traitors before this gets out of hand. Someone is actively working **against** me and the **system**,” He said, and I understood his dilemma.

09.59

Chapter 157

“How **long** do we have?” I **asked him**.

288 Vouchers

“Eight months before the hearing, but we both know that **is** too small of a time.” He said, and I nodded.

“I need a book of the northern Laws and constitutions. There should be something in there that could help us cancel this nonsense while searching for the culprit. With Kara and Eloise’s help, I will read it faster. I am sure we can keep their hand. These people are manipulating the laws for their sake. It is time we start doing so, too,” I said, and he looked at

1. me.

Content

09:59

Chapter 158

288 Vouchers

Chapter 158

Darius

My insides were calmer after what I did with Zora, but I could not shake off the feeling that everything was falling apart and slipping away.

I did not want to be wicked like my father, but these people made it more challenging

I wondered why I could not have a peaceful life.

One that involves me ruling in peace and raising a family.

My mate was expecting, and our wedding was around the corner, so why couldn't I have an everyday life?

I looked at Zora and did not know what to tell her.

She deserved better. She deserved peace, and here I was, dealing with one problem or the other. When does it stop?

The bastards had hidden so much that they were hard to find.

I just needed to know who was behind all this, and there would be peace, but the people troubling **my** life and my people were wise and hidden.

I looked at Zora, and as much as her suggestion made sense, I doubted it would work. These people needed a firmer hand than the law to sit down.

As much as I **was** against my father, there was a reason our bloodline went from kingship to lordship and maintained it. It was because, during the brief democratic period, too many wars were fought because of greedy regions and leaders. So they had to reinstate the old order, but instead of **a** king, we were given lordship, forcing us to share our power with the

Chapter 158

council. **Going** back to those wicked times would mean war for many of

1. **us.**

“I don’t think that would work, Zora,” I said, telling her **the** truth, and she sat next to me and touched my hand.

“Darling, I know you are a kind man,” She said and sighed.

“But there are times you will need to be ruthless and wicked. This **is** one of those,” She said, and I was confused by her words.

“If you do not do what I am about to tell you, I will carry it out on your behalf.” She said, and Cremin was curious because I could feel her determination through our little bond.

“Whoever is messing with you knows you are kind and patient. People may call you the Dark Lord Alpha, but you only fight when provoked. Because of this, they **will** avoid provoking you, but they will run circles around you.” She said, and I wanted her to get to the point.

“So, what do you suggest?” I asked, and she nodded.

“Who are these people that raised this petition?” She asked me, and I sighed.

“Alpha of Keev, Grizlo, Haddad...” I said, and she interrupted me.

“May I have a list, please?” She asked, and I frowned, wondering why

“Tell me why,” I asked her, and she smiled.

“They upset my man. We had a lot of fun. I am still looking forward to that rugby match, and I want to know why Casey wanted to see you today. We made love yesterday, and you claimed me partially. Basically, things have been great, and they have been looking up, then this comes up, and **you** are **down**. I think it **is** time to visit those clowns and tell them what they are messing with. I will do it in a way that does not **lead to** you or

Chapter 158

288 Vouchers

1. **me**. But **I** need loyal Brians and enforcers to **get** this done,” **she** said, and **I**

wondered.

“Someone is motivating them to work against you. We must motivate them to work in your favour and lead us to the culprits.” She spelt out, and I understood her angle.

“The method would yield results, but it would be brutal,” she explained After hearing Zora say it, I realised it was essential to act quickly. Killing the movement that fast would buy us time to catch the culprits. Gezel would be caught soon, and she could lead us to the others. As slow as may seem, we were closing in on them, and the good part is that they did not know it.

I looked at Zora and smiled.

“I will compile that list and give you Brians and enforcers that you need. but you have to promise me you will not engage physically,” I said, and she smiled.

“Bryce was motivated to work against you. I would just use the same method. Until the petition they pushed forward is reversed, their loved ones would not be returned to them.” She said, and I realised that Zora could be dangerous if she wanted. As much as I disliked the method, it was necessary, and I fully supported it.

“If I can get the list by tomorrow, this matter should die down next week, and we can move on with our investigation .” She said. I knew it was best to inform Theo and Marcel about the idea so they could relax.

“Are you alright now?” She asked, and I smiled. It was uplifting. One thing I did not want to tell Zora **was** that after we do this, I plan on wearing the Dark Lord Alpha’s shoes and being unapologetic about it.

I had been **nice** because **I** did not want Zora to view me as a monster, but **these** people had crossed the line with me.

I won't be so talkative with them again, especially the council, who are insular and **have** outdated

09:59

Chapter 158

opinions about how things should be run.

Zora stood up.

288 Vouchers

"I **need** to clean up and replace my underwear so we can leave," She said, and I smacked her cute butt while she walked away.

linked my friends to join me, and they responded in about ten minutes.

I did not need to wonder why **it** took that long. They were just as unnerved as I was. No one wanted war.

It used to be easier when we had no relationship, but we had mates now, and Theo and I would be fathers soon; we would like to be around for our mates and our children. Getting up to go to war did not sound as easy and wise as it used to.

Theo was the first to arrive at my office, followed by Marcel. They were a lot calmer, and they wondered why I was laughing.

When I told them Zora's Idea, Marcel was the first to laugh. He loved it.

"She is right, you know, Bryce was really motivated. I am sure this move would motivate anyone. I believe it is better than the other option. I advocate for democracy, but we know what these wolves would do with it. If we do not find the people doing this and stop them, it will be worse." Theo said, and I agreed with him.

We decided we would secretly compile the list of the people we needed to deal with so we could reverse the problem.

Content

no **50**

Chapter 159

288 iVouchers

Chapter 159

Darius

We also decided to compile the list ourselves and use men from the estate to carry out the task. The mission would be a secret. The three of us were excited and could not wait to get it over with.

My meeting with Casey Grady was in two hours. We got ready and left for the Sports Arena.

There was a lot of traffic, and we got there thirty minutes before the meeting.

I went to attend to Casey in a private empty booth while the rest went to join my mother and brother in the rugby section.

Casey joined me in the booth when the meeting was set to take place, and I admired his punctuality.

“Your eminence,” he said, greeting me and looking uncomfortable.

“Alpha Albert, you requested an audience with me. Is everything alright?” I asked, and he nodded.

“Everything is fine, Lord Hand. The hospitality is great, and my people are having fun,” he said. At the mention of his people, I wondered how the two sorry arses were doing.

“How **are** your alphas?” I asked, and he smiled.

“They **are** alright. They are studying the rugby game **as** we speak,” He said, and **I nodded**.

“I hope **your team** gives more **of a challenge this time**,” I said, **and** he

09:59

Chapter 159

laughed.

288 (Vouchers

“I doubt they would, but we will **be** better next year. Once we get home, **we will** practice our moves,” He said, and I nodded.

We were served drinks, and I gave him the floor to speak.

“I do not know how to say, this.” He began.

“I warned my Alphas against it, but they insisted. As the eastern leader, I am obligated to try,” he said, and I composed myself.

“Max wants to swap Kara for his fated mate, Gabriella Shieldse,” He said, and I held my tongue so he could finish.

“And Cruz wants to swap Eloise for his fated Samanta. They do not want to disrespect you but feel they made the wrong decision. Since you want something of sentimental value, they believe their fated mates would be a better choice,” He said. From how he spoke, I could tell he was reciting something he had rehearsed several times. He wasn’t confident, and he did not sound convincing.

“This has to be a joke, right? Or maybe you want to swap Zora for your heavenly pregnant mate, too,” I said as he shook his head.

“Zora deserves to be happy, and I see the light in her eyes. I took away her joy by not keeping my promise and rejecting my fated. You put it back there. I can’t tell you I did not love her because I did, and I still do, but you are what is best for Zora. My love is not selfish, and I want her to be happy. She looks very happy with you, and you passed the test I failed. She is with the best man. It will be silly of me to even try to ask you to give her back to me,” he said, and there was a truth in his voice that made me know he was genuine.

“You know Your **friends’** requests won’t be granted, right?” I said, and he **nodded.**

09:59

Chapter 159

“Eloise **is** pregnant by Theo, and Kara is with Marcel. They are not

288 (Vouchers

things. They are not objects your men can give away and swap whenever they like. They are people and should be respected and treated **as** such.” I said, and he nodded.

“I am surprised that you would go to this length for your Alphas, Casey,” I said, a tinge of anger rising inside me.

“I must say I wonder what the moral compass of the east is. I would have been more impressed if you had stepped in and rescued Kara from the abusive Shepherd, who beat her wolf senselessly and treated her like shit.” I said, and he was ashamed.

“Where was your leader spirit then, Casey? Were you too blind to see that these men were maltreating their wives? Do you know what Cruz did to Eloise?” I asked him, and he looked down.

“I will tell you. He degraded her. Took her money and her lands as if that wasn't enough, he had his men use and abuse her because he had gotten himself a shiny new toy. Did you not know this? Where were your confidence and brave then? Why didn't you make the east safe for these women? Rescue them from the monsters? Now that they're happy and safe, you want to throw them back into the hell I rescued them from?” I said to him, and he remained silent. I knew he was ashamed, but he

needed to be told the truth.

“You speak of your betrayal toward Zora as if it was something simple. You might not have beaten her and Monica up or humiliated her, but you abused her mentally. You crushed her soul. She told me everything. How you broke your promise, how you made her share. Did you bother to ask for her opinion before you jumped into Lori's bed? Did you bother to care about how she would feel? No, you wanted her to be okay with it whether she liked it or not, likewise, your friends, Casey, they wanted their women to **just** take it, and now you want them to go back,” I said and **smiled**.

no so

Chapter 159

288 Vouchers

“If you had **any** respect or conscience, Cruz should not have a pack in the **east**. He should be stripped of his position and disgraced for his conduct. Eloise should be given her land and money. Sheperdwell should be disciplined for his actions against **his** luna, but here they are, playing sports, asking for swaps and living their lives as if nothing happened. Eloise arrived here damaged and destroyed. It took a lot for Theo to get her to where she is now. You should be ashamed of yourself.

I did not take action

against you because of Zora. Even though you hurt her, she still cares about you and is protective **of** you; if not, I would have taken over the east by force just to deal with those two clowns.” I said, and he looked up at me with misty eyes.

“You are right. Everything you said is right,” he confessed, and tears rolled down his cheeks. Something told me he had been doing a lot of crying for a while now.

“There is no night I do not sit up in bed wishing I had done things differently, that maybe my heart wouldn’t be so heavy. I loved her, and I still do, and it hurts me every day knowing that I fucked it up. It is a pain that will never go away, and I embrace it as my punishment, but as for Sheperdwell and Cruz, I did not know what they were doing until recently. You are right, I should have taken disciplinary measures against them, and I will move to do so when I get home, but you need to know our system is different from yours; unless you give the decree as lord, the best I can do is present the matter in our committee. Then we would vote on the punishment,” he said, and I realised I might have been too hard on the man.

There was a sorrow in his eyes that might never go away. He had lost a gem he would never get back.

I decided to **let** the matter rest and focus on more pressing issues.

I **needed answers**. I had **problems that** required to be solved quickly, so I **decided** to discuss Ramsey Kuhn with him.

09:59

Chapter 159

288 Vouchers

Hopefully, **he** would cooperate and work with me on it. I **needed** to start catching people.

Ramsey might be his in-law, but he might be a tool used to work **against**

1. me.

After studying the events of that attack, I figured someone wanted to force my hand to attack the east so the east would rise against me feeling

wronged.

Content

10-001

Chapter 160

288 Vouchers

Chapter 160

Darius

I couldn't risk it anymore, and Casey seemed like someone who would willingly work with me.

Casey and I sat in the empty booth and spent at least one hour discussing Sheperd and Cruz.

I was amazed to learn how oblivious he was of their activities, and I was amazed to learn how extremely democratic their system in the east was. Wolves needed one leader, one they would listen to and follow. They can only achieve a little when given ample freedom of choice. In a situation like that, people like Cruz and Sheperd will get away with many atrocities as they already have. Wolves needed firm hands and definite action.

Casey wasn't weak, as I had thought initially, but his environment made him so.

Their democratic system was flawed, allowing people to meddle in other people's affairs without consequence.

If Cruz and Sheperd had a say in whether Lori should be in Casey's house, it was only natural they would vote for it because that was precisely what they were doing. There was no yardstick to measure moral compass **or** qualification to vote. It was chaos.

After he told me about Sheperd and Cruz and how best to deal with them, we delved into other matters.

"I am of the notion that Cruz did not orchestrate the initial attack against Gad's borders," I said, wanting to know what he knew before I divulged my truth.

10:00

Chapter 160

288 Vouchers

"He **did say he did** not **do** it, and honestly, I believe him. He **isn't** that smart to do something at that scale. I have been investigating the incident **since** the attack happened because I did not want Zora's sacrifice to be in vain," he said and chuckled.

"Had I known she had gone to be where she would find love again, I wouldn't have been bothered. But I had this hope of finding the culprit. and reporting the person to you, hoping you will give me back my wife," He said.

Referring to Zora as his wife got to me, but I figured it was out of habit, so I let it be.

"And what did you find during your investigation?" I asked him, and he sighed.

"Well, Cruz's men defected and were working against him." He said, which corresponded with the information that we got too.

“Do you know who they were working **with**?” I asked him, and he shook his head.

“I am yet to find out, but I believe it is one of the eastern alphas because only someone very close to Cruz could do that magnitude of damage. We initially thought Hardy did it to force us to join forces with him and attack the north, but when I spoke to Hardy, I realised he just wanted to protect his people. He even believed you orchestrated to attack, so you will have a reason to come for us as punishment for going into alliance with the south,” he said. I could not believe how these people viewed me.

“I guess that is why I am called the Dark Lord Alpha,” I said, and he smiled and nodded.

“You don’t want to **hear** the stories told about you. They make you sound **like a heartless** monster that kills at will. Seeing Zora’s joy has changed my perspective **of you** completely. Zora has a good heart, and for her to love you **completely** and deeply means you have a kind heart, too,” he

10.00

Chapter 160

said, and I gave a half smile.

“I will take that **as** a compliment, **Casey**,” I said, and he laughed.

He **was** comfortable enough for me to ask him a question.

288 Vouchers

“I see Lori’s father is an Alpha, and Zora told **me** that is why I got lucky with her. If Lori wasn’t an alpha’s daughter, they wouldn’t have forced Lori into your home,” I said, and I could tell the memory was painful for him, and he shook his head.

“I made a silly mistake,” he said and sighed.

“Finding a fated was so rare that I was excited that I found mine. Instead of rejecting her as you did, I allowed room for conversation and let the bond thrive.

It thrived enough for me to kiss her and make out with her. In the process, her dress got ripped, but I did not do anything with her or accept her.

I planned to reject her, but I feared the weakness that came with it. So I tried to be passive.

I wanted to ignore her until she gave up and moved away.

I was unfortunate because she told her father I had accepted and taken her. So they fought me to get her into my home.

Ramsey asked me a couple of times, then threatened me. When that didn't work, he began soliciting alphas to help him go to war against me. He claimed I defiled his daughter, so a meeting was called, and I was given a week to take her in, or they would come for me.

By then, my marriage with Zora was rocky. She had already given up on us, and my wolf did not want Zora, and she knew it, so I let Lori **stay** in my house.

I ignored **her** for a **while**, and one night, my wolf, overwhelmed by **the**

10:00

Chapter 160

288 Vouchers

bond and Lori's scent, took over while I **was** sleeping and took me to Lori's room to claim her. I did not know what had happened until we had claimed each other; by then, it was too late, and there was no going back," he said, and his eyes were teary.

"Sage never betrayed me before, but he betrayed me that night. He let the mate bond overcome us, knocked me out and took over my body to claim his mate. When I found out what had happened, I had to accept it and live with it," he said and bowed his head.

"I did not want to let her go," he said and began to weep again.

The man was broken, and I doubted anything would put him back together.

"I am willing to let you continue your friendship with Zora," I blurted out, and he looked at me in shock and wiped away his tears.

"Yes," I said because his eyes asked if I was serious.

"You two have been friends for a while. She told me how you taught her how to pick locks.." I said and stopped.

"There is no happy memory Zora has about her past that you are not in. Besides what transpired between you, you were her family and best friend. That is why your betrayal was hard. You were all she had and her only relative in the world, so she was trapped until my men came and took her away," I said, and he shook his head.

"She wanted to leave me. She had been trying to leave me. She saw your men as an opportunity," he said, and I laughed.

"I know," I said, and he **was** surprised that I knew that Zora had left him.

"She told **me she** wrote several letters to various alphas asking them to absorb her into their packs," I confessed, and **he** nodded.

10:00

1

Chapter 160

288 (Vouchers

"The **day I heard** she **was** writing letters to join other packs so she could **leave** me, I felt destroyed. I never imagined a day when Zora and Monica would want to be far away from me. We promised each other forever and **always**. She did not even take the locket with her. She let me go

completely," he said, and I looked at him.

"Just because you two are no longer mates does not mean you can't be friends. If you want to continue being friends with Zora, I will allow it," I said, and he was still in disbelief.

4

10:00

Content