

# Darkness Mate Cheated Versus Fated by Victory Done

## Chapter 221

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### Chapter 221

Zora

“Vino Lawrence?” I asked, and she shook her head.

“Larry McMillian?” I asked, and she shook her head, so I called a known member’s name to see if she was lying to me.

“Jacob Ma...” I started, and she nodded before I could finish the sentence which meant she was being truthful.

“Joan Clayman?” I asked, and she shook her head.

“Pamela Rivers?” I asked, and she shook her head.

I felt a tinge of disappointment because I wanted that bitch to be guilty. I still thought she was. Maybe Annika did not know all their names.

“Lucas Vanhill,” I asked the quietest person on the council, and she shook her head.

“Gaston Wayat,” I said, and she frowned a bit and nodded.

“Neil Peakman,” She said quickly, which was the next name I would call.

“I remember him, Neil Peakman,” She said.

“Uncle said he is reticent in the council and makes no sound, but he passes all the orders before the council leader signs them. He was the one who connived with Jenny Lawrence to murder Louis Lawrence, head of the council, Vino’s father. I think they hate Vino Lawrence too. He might be on their hit list,” She said and sighed. Though the information **was** fragmented, I planned to piece it together.

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“I will give you the password to **my** computer and email so you can piece together the information on your own, Luna. Please, I want you to reduce the sentence for my cooperation.” She said quickly.

“Not yet, until your information checks out,” Kara said, and Annika agreed. Her confidence let me know she wasn’t lying, but they would still crosscheck **to be** sure.

“It will check out alright. I am not a liar like that Cindy girl. You know she doubled—  
crossed you, right? She told them you were on to them, so they changed strategy,” Annika said, and I realised she wanted to

cooperate

I doubted it had anything to do with reduced sentencing. She wanted her uncle to get caught.

“It seems to me you want us to catch your uncle,” I told her, and she bowed her head.

“I am tired of the man, Luna Locking me up in a cell for the rest of **my** life will be freedom compared to this I am tired of everything, and I doubt what they are peddling is what they are planning,” she said, and Olga exclaimed and asked her what she meant by that.

Annika began to laugh.

“They claim every pack will be free yet want to install a King. Do the math, Olga, and stop being dumb.” She said and chuckled.

The girl was mentally unstable, and I felt genuinely sorry for her.

Realising there was nothing more to learn from them, Kara, Eloise, and I left them and returned to my wing.

planned on resting before I visited Lori.

I told the additional names to Darius, and I could feel his shock.

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The council members **that** were mentioned came **as a** shocker to him, but the baffling part of all this was that we were still yet to get the name **of** this king. It would have been nice to pick the king up along with the others tomorrow night, but as things were looking, we would just have to go after the names we had and hope that the king and the rest would rear their heads.

Kara, Eloise and I decided to kick back before seeing Lori. I was happy about how fast we were moving. First, we did not have people to deal with, and now we had a list. However, I would have been happier if the king had been on that list. It would mean our troubles would end, but it was better than nothing.

I wondered what Darius was still doing, but I did not want to disturb him. The operation they were planning was very tedious, and I knew it would need a lot of care. Paying attention to detail and being meticulous about it would ensure success.

“I really think Cindy got off easy,” Kara said, and Eloise giggled.

“There is nothing worse than mental torture. Zora sent her to the dark dungeon to await the trial. Who said she would have her day in court ever?” Eloise said, and we all laughed.

There was nothing worse than not being able to plead your case.

Death would be an easy escape for the bitch. She did not strike me as someone that wanted to live. If she wanted to live, she would have taken the gift of life given to her and made the most of it, but she decided that she would throw it all away for nothing. I do not know how her mind functions, but the girl **is** very stupid.

“I will need you to receive David and his family on my behalf when they arrive. We are still planning, and our plans have hit some challenges. Do you think you are up for it, Green-eyes?” Darius teased me, and I sighed.

“I need some stress-relieving activity to be up for it,” I teased him. Giddy

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about **what** we have been **able** to achieve **so far**.

“Meet me in my office,” he said, closing the link.

I was shocked; I actually meant that as a joke. I did not think he would take it seriously. The way he said it was mind-blowing, and my walls began to clench just thinking of what he would do to me in there. Eloise and Kara were speaking, and I wasn't listening.

I stood up immediately.

“Excuse me, ladies. Darius sent for me,” I said, not wanting them to know what I was going to do.

“Okay, we will wait for you here,” Eloise said, and I felt a tinge of guilt.

I left the lounge and walked briskly down the hallway.

Darius was so spontaneous that I liked it. I hoped I wouldn't come immediately because of how I was feeling.

My body temperature had gone up a bit. Excitement wasn't good, especially when there was a task to complete.

It always gets in the way.

I reached the office door and took a deep breath before stepping in.

Darius was sitting on the couch with his shirt open, and I could see the lust in his eyes.

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“Lock the door,” He ordered me, and I obeyed.

“Stress relieving activity, you say,” he said, and I felt my cheek colour. I didn’t know **why** I felt shy, but he had brought that out of me.

“Strip“, he ordered me, and I took off my clothes without argument. I was very wet too. I felt it when I rolled down my panties.

My body was anticipating his touch. It had been a long day, and I needed it.

Darius asked me to kneel across his lap on the couch with my butt in the air.

His thumb caressed my entrance.

“Wet,” he said, and I wanted him to stick it in.

Grinding my pussy against his hand, he smacked my entrance, and I moaned.

“You are too greedy, green– eyes.” he said, and I did not care; Monica was growling; his wolf scent filled my senses, and I wanted to mate badly.

He smacked my entrance again, and I moaned.

I became wild, wanting him to penetrate.

“Darius,” I moaned, grinding impatiently. Wanting the release badly and wanted to ease **my** wall.

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“**Yes, yes,**” I moaned, agreeing with what he was doing and how he **was** doing it. Pumping and hitting the right spot. I crashed again, and he stilled and buried his cock deep inside before releasing it into me.

I **was** out of breath by the time he pulled out. He caressed my butt cheek and kissed the right side gently.

Then I turned to look at him.

He had a smile on his face.

“Are you still stressed?” He asked me, and I shook my head.

We both laughed. I got up and began to wear my clothes.

“How did it go with Cindy and those two?” Darius asked me, and I told him all that had happened. He was stunned at how ruthlessly we dealt with the girls.

“And they call me the dark one,” he said, laughing.

“You should be called the Dark Luna. You and your friends. Goddess, that was something else,” he said, and I laughed.

“Never have I ever thought of bathing a wolf with silver. Their skin is marred for life,” he said, and I shrugged.

“They should be lucky if they get to ever show it again. Treason is a huge offense,” I told him, and he sighed.

“I actually saw Cindy as a younger sister. To think she could be so wicked like this breaks my heart. I feel like my kindness has been thrown back at me, Zora,” He said, and I went to hold him.

He was sitting on the couch, and I stood before him and hugged him; with his head against my belly, I ran my fingers through his hair to calm him down.

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“It will be alright, darling. We are on the right track.” I said, trying to calm him down.

He held on tightly and kissed **my** tiny bump.

“It will be alright. Once we arrest them, you will be king, and we can have our wedding. No one can work against us again,” I said, and he held on tight, squeezing me. I could feel his anxiety and fear. Although our love-making session had given us temporary ease, I could feel his building up again.

“Darling,” I said, and he looked at me.

“It will

be best we receive David together. I know you are nervous about seeing him, and I am sure he feels the same way. He will be at ease and feel more welcomed if he sees us instead of just me.” I told him, and he sighed.

I knew he was avoiding seeing David, and I could not blame him. This was someone he did not know existed. Seeing David makes everything real, and he must deal with it.

“Okay,” he said reluctantly, and I sat beside him on the couch and rested my head on his shoulders.

“We will be alright, darling. I am sure of it. You will have nothing to worry about,” I told him, and he held me close.

I linked Kara and Eloise to inform them where I was and let them know Darius and I had decided to wait for David to arrive.

Kara and Eloise decided to retire to Eloise’s room. They said they would ask Neva to join them, so she does not feel alone.

I told them it **was** alright and closed the link.

Darius and I decided to freshen up and wait for David to arrive.

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We returned to our bedroom and showered together then **lay** on **the** bed naked in **each** other's arms.

The clothes that we would wear were ready. We just wanted to be nude on the bed for a bit. It wasn't long after we laid down that I drifted to **sleep**.

Darius

woke me, and I noticed I had been asleep for two hours. He was dressing up, and I realised that David must have arrived.

"They are here. They are in my lounge." Darius said, and I became nervous.

"Abelardo will be joining us too," He said, and I did not think it was wise that I would be there.

"I do not think I should come with you, darling. I think the three of you should get acquainted," I said, and he smiled at me.

"Nice try, Green— eyes. I need you to help with his wife and children. He came with two girls and a boy, and they seem to be triplets, according to Brian William," he said, and I was surprised.

David was older than Darius, so he should be in his thirties.

"That is beautiful," I said and got up.

"What wing will they be staying in?" I asked him, and he shrugged.

"Put them in our wing. Two rooms, one for the triplets, one for the couple," he said, and I shook my head.

"We need three rooms. The boy should have his own room while the girls can share a room." I told him, and he nodded.

"I will give David and his wife my former room and allocate two smaller rooms to the children," I said, and he smiled at me.

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The look in his eyes said he was doing the same as I was. Reminiscing about our time in that room. The awkward situations, Monica's tantrums and the northern cocktail episode. It all led to **this**.

I got dressed, and **we** headed out. I did not know what to expect, but I believed we had one less person to worry about with David on our side. For him to come without stress meant we had nothing to worry about. I was curious to learn how he got to know Jenny and why she sent him Eight hundred thousand. I was excited.

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Darius

Our little love session in the office helped me gain some focus. When Zora linked me about being stressed, I did not think twice about it. We had spent the past three days working and doing a lot of mental work. I had not been able to spend time with my mate, hold her hands, have a picnic and make love to her under the stars like I once did. I did not even have time to stay in bed with her.

We were dealing with one stress and then another. The traitors and the spies. It was all too much.

What we did in the office was spontaneous and worth it. I had almost forgotten how to live. I felt like I was drowning in all the issues surrounding me. My little time with my mate in the office pulled me back

1. up.

Everything was crazy. I had to open my doors to two unlikely people in the name of trying to establish peace, and as things were, I would have to open my door to more. It was hard, but I had to do it.

Casey was Zora's ex, yet he was staying at the estate, not to talk of Hardy, who wasn't only Zora's former fated but the very guy that almost made the north start a war. He killed my father due to the intel he got from my mother, laid claim on the lordship, attacked my home and tried to take my mate from me. Yet he was in my lounge drinking scotch and making plans as if nothing had happened. The thought of it alone made me laugh at life.

Sometimes taking things too seriously was wrong and stupid because we did not know where the road would lead us.

Sitting in the lounge and planning the massive arrest was tedious. We had

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to find a **way to** ensure we did it **at** once so that none of the people **on** our list escaped.

The names

that we had were surprising. The ones that hurt me the most were the council members on the list. Hearing that Jenny teamed up with some people to kill her brother made me commend my mother for finishing the woman. She had no ounce of loyalty in her. I could see why **my** father never committed to her and felt the need to punish her sometimes. She was the type to be kept on a leash, or she would bite. She was good riddance, but she had caused a lot of damage.

One of the damages Jenny had caused was what I would have to fix soon; my brother David.

She had

told the guy that I was hunting him. She had lied to him and made me seem like a monster, and then she sent him money. Then I heard they were trying to r

recruit him. I thought he was the king until I got that information and realised he was a victim too.

While I sat in that lounge to plan the arrest, I was tense. My nerves were all over the place. I was afraid. As much as I tried to hide it, I was worried.

I was going to blatantly violate the rights of the people on the list. I knew I had to be the villain for the greater good. It was sad. I was also worried but hopeful that we were on the right track. I hoped we were not being misled and playing into the enemy's trenches.

A lot crossed my mind, and I prayed where I sat.

I had never asked the moon goddess for much, but here I was, pleading for my life and those of the people I love. My mate, my friends, their mates, my allies, and the innocent people of our world. I did not want a war. I knew what war brings. I fought a few of them for peace, and I do not want to fight again. Especially not in the magnitude these people were trying to bring. I knew if I did not do something about it quickly and shut it down, we would be in a dark age, and a lot of killing would occur. The

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bastards might not have an army, but they were recruiting daily. Once **they** have the number, they will come for us. **This** move was to make sure they would never have the numbers.

When Zora linked me, I had to excuse myself from the meeting and go to the office. We had been at it for two days. I need a break.

Zora had been questioning and torturing people for two days. She needs a break.

While I walked to my office, I was mad.

I was pissed off and prayed that I catch this king very soon. I won't kill him because death would be an escape for the bastard. I planned on making the rest of his life excruciatingly painful and challenging. I planned on chipping away his sanity bit by bit and watching him suffer from fighting for it. I planned on destroying him from the inside out. Death would be an escape I wasn't willing to provide the bastard.

Zora, Eloise and Kara should have been resting and planning our wedding, which was in two weeks and some days now, but here we were. planning arrests and torturing people.

I prayed that the arrest would buy us time. I hoped the time would be enough to plan our wedding, get married, claim our mates and love each other. I prayed that we catch the king, but if we don't, I pray he goes into hiding and stops troubling us. I hoped for a lot and prayed that the goddess would grant me the best.

I moved to my office and unbuttoned my shirt. Cremin was eager to ravage Zora, and that was what we did when she entered the office. I felt at peace after.

When Zora told me I would have to receive David, I knew she was telling the truth. It would have been wrong for me to have Zora receive him, especially after all the lies that Jenny filled his head with.

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**While we walked** down the hallway to welcome David, who **was** waiting in **m**y lounge with his family, I **was** clueless about what to **say**.

He **was the** son of the woman that broke my mother's marriage, the reason my father broke his promises and never returned to who he was again. He would have taken my birthright. I should hate him by all standards, but it wasn't his fault.

It wasn't his fault that his mother was a bitch. It wasn't his fault that our father was a douchebag, and it sure wasn't his fault that he existed. Either of us could have been in the situation that he was in. I wished my parents had handled it differently, most especially my mother. I wished she cared for him and kept him close; Jenny wouldn't have been able to do what she

did.

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Darius

I stood before the door leading to the lounge and took a deep breath. Zora squeezed my hands to help me calm down, and we both walked in. Being lord and soon-to-be king, I dared not show fear or weak emotions, so I held on to a brave face while we walked to where David was.

The moment I saw him, I wanted to crumble. He was the spitting image of our father. He did not wear his hair long. His brown hair and brown eyes were exactly like our father's. Although his features were softer. I knew it was because of his mother. I heard she was a beauty. A beautiful bitch.

His wife was blonde with blue eyes, and his children were beautiful. They all stood to pay their respect, and I could see the fear and concern in my brother's eyes.

I was about to speak when Zora broke the ice by hugging his wife.

"I am so happy to finally meet my sister-in-law. You are welcome," she said joyfully and hugged David's wife.

Breaking the hug, she looked at her and her children.

“I am Zora,” she said, introducing herself, and the woman smiled warmly at Zora.

“I am Nicole,” she said and introduced her children.

“This is Tanya, Liz and Justin. They are triplets. Justin was the first to come,” she said, and Zora smiled and hugged the children warmly. David relaxed, and I extended my hand for a handshake which he willingly took.

“Welcome,” I told my brother. **The** look in his eyes showed that my

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behaviour wasn't what we expected.

**We sat** back down, and Abelardo **was** yet to come.

“Abelardo will join us soon,” I told him, and he smiled at me.

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“Thank you for inviting us; I did not think I would ever be allowed to enter this place,” he confessed, and I frowned.

“Why is that?” I asked him, and he sighed.

“Well,

I heard I was being hunted by you. A woman called Jenny said your mother had ordered my assassination because father said I should be lord,” He said and sighed.

“I told her I wasn't interested in being Lord and that I would just come and explain myself to my stepmother, but she filled me with so much fear and told me it was best I go into hiding,” he said. I could not believe how far Jenny had gone.

“So you have been in hiding since?” Zora asked him, and he nodded.

“Sort of. She sent me some money and pleaded with me to disappear. I felt it was odd that someone I did not know would ask me to sign some documents and ask me to disappear,” he said, and I frowned at him.

“Sign some documents?” I asked, and he nodded.

“She said you sent it. I should relinquish my claim to anything that has to do with Hand.

I will never be lord, and I will never head the council. I will never have a say in the governance, and neither will my children,” he said, and I wondered why Jenny would go that far.

“It wasn’t difficult. I signed it and quickly sent it to her. She sent me money, and I went into hiding. It was a no-brainer for me, really. I did not want anything to do with the things stipulated in the documents, so it was an easy sign,” he said, and I could see he was sincere.

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“**Anyway**, the woman **was** a traitor. She is dead now. I **was** never hunting you. I did not even know you existed until recently when my mother told my **mate** about you,” I said, and the man was shocked.

“I told you,” Nicole said, and I wondered what she meant.

“**If** I may speak your eminence,” she said politely.

“We are family, no need to address me officially,” I said, and she smiled and thanked me.

“I told him to still come and see you and explain himself, but he refused,” She said, and I could not blame him. Because my family was being branded as ‘evil people’, no one would want to try to reason with me.

“Anyway, I would like you to stay here in the meantime; there are people out there to wipe out our

family for personal gain. That Jenny woman was one of them, but she is late now. I believe you and your family would be safe here in the estate while we deal with the threat,” I said, and he thanked

1. me.

“I know of the threat. They tried to gun me down six months ago. That was why we moved to the south. I honestly thought you were the one, but now I know it might have been those people,” He said, and I frowned.

“How do you trust me so easily?” I asked him.

“Because if you wanted me dead as they said, you wouldn’t bother to bring me here. They would have just killed me instead of transporting my family and me to the Hand Estate,” he said, and I was glad he was the intelligent kind.

I got up immediately, not ready for an extended reunion.

“My wife would show you to your quarters. Please feel free and make yourselves comfortable.” I said, and they thanked me. Seeing David was difficult because it felt like I was looking at the younger version of my

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father. I suspected that was the sentiment that made my father go against **my** mother. Something he paid dearly for. I did not feel sorry for my father, but I was glad that the uprising wouldn’t get to David again. This was a victory.

I returned to the lounge while Zora helped settle David and his family in. I wonder why Abelardo did not show up to meet the guy. I knew my brother was petty like our mother. He knew Alissa, and she was mean to him and our mother. It was normal that he would avoid her son and not want to have anything to do with David, but he needed to overcome his hatred and show some love.

I entered the lounge, and Abelardo was there.



My guess was right about him not wanting to see David.

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Darius

“How did it go?” Abelardo asked me, and I sat down on the couch.

“You would have known if you were there,” I said, and his face dimmed.

“I can’t have anything to do with that bastard,” Abelardo voiced out, and I nodded.

“That bastard is the spitting image of father and seemed pleasant too. He isn’t interested in our politics and has a lovely mate and three children, who happen to be triplets, by the way.” I explained to Abelardo, and I could see the shame in his eyes. My words rendered him speechless. Everyone was quiet too. It was as if I had made the atmosphere seriously awkward.

“We are not obligated or expected to Karange mother, Abelardo. Our parents lived their lives and made mistakes, we do not have to continue the pattern among ourselves,” I said, and he felt ashamed.

“Where is he?” Abelardo finally asked.

“Zora is settling them in,” I told him, and he nodded.

“I **will** see them later,” he said, and I sighed.

Once the atmosphere was calm, Hardy was the first to speak.

“My beta would arrest the people in the south today. But he said he would do it quietly, so they do not alert the people here,” he explained to me, and I sighed.

“So what will happen after we pick these people up and you become

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king?” **Casey asked** a valid question because what we were doing **was** only going to buy us time, not solve the problem.

“I **will** give both of you seats on the council, increasing my influence, and **we will** hunt for someone,” I said, and they were attentive.

I did not know if Abelardo knew of Jenny’s son, but this **was** the time to lay it on the table.

“Jenny Lawrence had an affair with my father. She also slept with Marcel and Raphael’s father,” I said, and they were shocked.

“This Jenny woman is all over the place,” Hardy said, making an obvious observation.

“But that isn’t the issue, really,” I said and sighed.

“We investigated her home a few months ago and found some pretty disturbing things. The woman had a knack for keeping records. Official and private records, some of which were disturbing.” I said, and Raphael interrupted me.

“Maybe her involvement in these things is what got her killed. She might have pissed them off, and they came for her and then tried to make it seem like it was Corrigan. I am glad we did not act on the information we had.” he said, and Hardy exclaimed.

“What attack?” He asked.

“Jenny was killed in the Hand home in Wonderland when she visited lady Nellie. There was a fight, and they said the attack was from you. That you ordered them to bring Zora to you,” Marcel said, and Hardy was confused. Of course, he would be. He did not orchestrate the attack, and **my** friends did not know the truth about the attack.

“Why would **I attack** Lady Hand and this Jenny woman, let alone kill her?” Hardy asked, and we sighed.

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“It seemed plausible at that time since that was the day Darius **was** taking Zora to **visit** our mother, and you had already attacked the estate to take her,” Abelardo said, and I could hear the tinge **of** shame in his voice.

He had humiliated our mates and the girls in the harem because of the event. I am sure he wished he could take it all back now.

“Wow, these people want a war badly,” Hardy concluded, and I did not want to elaborate because I knew exactly what had happened.

My mother had killed Jenny and tried to make it seem like it was Hardy. There was no point explaining or elaborating because that would unearth my mother’s secrets, and I could not allow that.

“Anyway, Jenny liked to keep records,” I said, going back to the topic of discussion, and they were attentive.

“According to those records, she had a child with my father, or so she said. It could have been anyone’s child, but she claimed it was my father’s. Her husband was late by then, and she occupied his seat on the council so that it would have been a scandal, and she would have lost the Babanin’s seat,” I said, and they were in shock.

“What happened to this baby?” Casey asked, and I nodded.

“She claimed my father took the baby from her, and she does not know where the baby is,” I said, and Abelardo growled.

“Another bastard!” he said, and I nodded.

“Technically, the only bastard if the baby is a Hand. David isn’t a bastard since father claimed his mother, but Jenny’s child is a bastard not only because of the illicit affair, but we are not sure if the child is truly a Hand. The baby could have belonged to any of her lovers. She also seemed obsessed with my father,” I said, and Raphael laughed.

“You can say that again, Darius. Eloise can’t get enough of those journals.

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The woman **was** out **of** it,” He said, laughing. Honestly, the journals were funny.

“Journals?” Casey, Hardy and Abelardo asked, and I nodded.

“There were journals of her personal life that we took from her home where she describes all manner of things. It is easy to conclude that the woman was unstable.” I said.

“Anyway, what if this son is the king?” I said, and Abelardo shook his head.

“This king thing is a spillover from father’s time. It might be the same set of people. He is too young to be the mastermind. He should be twenty–five twenty–six now since you said it was after Jenny’s husband’s death.” Abelardo said, and I nodded.

“That is the confusing part of the information. I thought it was David, but after meeting him and his family, I do not think he is the one.” I said, and Casey leaned forwards.

“It will be wrong to dismiss hunches. I think this bastard is worth looking into. After the arrest, we should pull our resources together and trace this guy out. We need to know if he is alive and where he is. This king guy must have a serious sense of entitlement, and I am sorry to say this, but he is likely the one who thinks he is owed because other than that, he has no reason to want to be king.” Casey added, and we agreed.

“So, how are we doing this?” I asked, and Marcel leaned forward.

“The games have been cut short because of security issues and the rates of forfeitures and dropouts. So, it ends this week. We will go to the arena tomorrow and make our presence known. Pretend nothing is happening and move in on the traitors at night. The longer we stay away from the arena, the more alert they **will** be. We need them to relax,” Marcel said, and I agreed with their devised method.

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“I thought we should play some Polo, too. Cruz and Sheperd **are** on their **way**,” Casey said, and we all laughed, remembering what happened at the last game. Everyone laughed except for Hardy, who didn’t get the joke because he wasn’t there.

“**They** won’t trouble Eloise and Kara. They know they have lost. If anything, they are very sorry. Sheperd has bigger issues. It seems Ramsey is behind his pack’s predicament, and Cruz is paranoid about his warriors,” Casey said quickly to put Raphael and Marcel’s minds at ease.

“We will need all the help we can get. Sheperd and Cruz are pretty strong warriors and the best

the east can offer Differences aside, we will make a great team,” I said, agreeing with Casey’s choice, and my friends had no choice but to accept it.

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Chapter **226**

Darius

We went over the plans again and decided to rest. Marcel planned on introducing Hardy and Casey to the ladies in the harem, but I doubted they were up for it. They still had eyes only for Zora. Anyway, I let them go about their businesses. I hurried back to my room.

On my way, I saw my mother at my door. She must have been knocking. I wondered why she did not bother to link me.

“Why didn’t you link me?” I asked her, and she smiled.

“I have a headache just thinking that bitch’s son is in here.” She said, and I sighed.

I opened my door and let her into my room.

“I can’t believe Zora would betray me and be nice to them,” she said, sounding petty, and I hugged her.

“You have to let it go, mother. Alissa is gone, and so is father. David did not ask for any of this. You can’t continue to feel this way about him,” I said, breaking the hug.

“Do you know you were the reason he went into hiding?” I told her, and she widened her eyes in surprise.

“I did not do anything to him. He is lying,” she said quickly, defending herself, and I shook my head.

“He didn’t say you did anything to him, mother. I am just telling you why he went into hiding. Jenny told him you were looking for him,” I said, and she swore at Jenny.

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## **Chapter 226**

288 Vouchers

“And while she was at it, did she tell him she was the one that killed his mother out of jealousy or did she pin that on me, too?” She asked, and I shook my head. I did not even give him that bit of information.

“I need you to look past our differences, mother, and make it work. These people are making use of our grudges and shortcomings. We must ensure they can’t use any of those things anymore.” I said, and she looked at me and sighed.

“How is he?” she finally asked me the real question she wanted to ask. Deep down, she did not hate David. Her anger was towards my father and Alissa. I smiled at her and looked at her.

“Maybe you should see him yourself. After all, you took care of him before they sent him to Grizlo,” I said, and her face coloured.

“I do not know what to tell him or what he would think of me. I feel bad

that I suspected he was behind everything,” she confessed, and I nodded

“We all do.

He did not even want to be lord, mother. He did not care at all. He just wanted to be left alone. Jenny even made him sign agreements that he would not lay claim to anything or get involved with anything.” I said, and she cursed.

“That bitch. She must have wanted him out of the way for her son’s sake.” she said and looked at me.

“Are you sure Jenny did not know where her son was or who he is? That bitch could not have done all this if she did not know. She did not look like someone who had lost something precious to her. I think she knew where her son was and was in communication with him before I ended her,” my mother said, making a very valid observation, one we had never thought of.

If what my mother was saying was true, my guess might not be far from the truth, and he might be behind all this. I also could not dismiss the clue that the king **is** old. Could they be the same, or could he be another idiot

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Chapter **226**

**288** Vouchers

and pawn like Liam? Something the uprising wanted to use for personal benefit and discard, or worse, could they have eliminated him after the **death of** his mother just like they wanted to eliminate David? There were many questions, and I did not know where to start.

My mother excused herself from the room, and I relaxed on the bed. A short nap would get me to where I wanted to be. Zora had hers and was probably catching up with David’s wife. I won’t be surprised if Eloise and Kara were with her too. I guess I would just sleep a bit to gather my strength. The next day would be tedious, and I need all the energy I could

get.

**Content**

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Chapter **227**

288 iVouchers

Chapter **227**

Zora



Getting Nicole and the children settled in wasn't a challenge. The children were pleasant and a joy to have around. They were eight years old, and I was a bit envious of them but glad I had my little bundle of joy growing inside me.

"Lady Zora. I am grateful that you would welcome us into your home." Nicole said while her husband helped put their bags in the room. It was my old room.

I thought Lori would be in it, but I was told Darius changed his mind about putting her there and put her in the smaller room.

"Oh, I am not Lady yet. Our wedding is in two weeks. Nellie Hand is still the Lady of the north; they refer to me as Luna for now, and having you in this place is a joy. It is also your home," I said, and she smiled and came to hug me.

"Thank you so much. It really means a lot. We had been running around and hiding before we had our triplets. At least now we can rest." She said. and my heart broke.

Hearing her say they have not known peace for the years they have been together was hard. It is the worst thing that can ever happen to anyone.

"Please rest," I said, and she held my hand.

"If there is anything you need me to help with, kindly let me know. I am good with house chores," She said and looked at her husband.

"We do not plan to be freeloaders here. We would like to earn our keep,"

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## Chapter 227

288 Vouchers

**she** said, and **my** heart broke into pieces. David is a Hand. I wonder how **he** grew up and **how** they have lived for them to be this **way**.

"I am sure Darius would find a place for his brother. As for you, you're a luna here too, so start acting like one. My friends and I are havin

g evening tea later; I would like you to join us," I told her, and she looked at David, who nodded.

I did not know if Darius would want to spend time with his brother and get to know him. We were planning an operation, I could not jeopardise it and send David to where Darius was having his meeting. I would have to allow Darius to move at his own pace.

"Do you know where my older brother is?" David asked me, and I knew he was talking about Abelardo.

Abelardo might have changed, but he was still a douchebag.

"You mean Abelardo?" I said, and he nodded.

"I am sure he will come searching for you once he is through with his engagements," I said, not wanting to get into details and start explaining things to him. I wanted to keep it simple.

"Okay, ehm, I will take the triplets to their rooms. Tanya and Liz would have a room while Justin would have a room to himself," I said, and Justin squealed.

It was clear he had to share with his sisters most of his life.

"A room would be fine. I am sure you have other guests," Nicole said, and I shook my head.

"**He** is a boy and deserves his own space, and the girls deserve their privacy, too," I said, winking at Liz and Tanya, who grinned at me.

"Come on," I said, **and** with that, I exited **my** former bedroom, which was

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## Chapter 227

now David **and Nicole's** bedroom.

288 Vouchers

I **did not** take the children too far **away** from their parent's room. I gave them **the** rooms immediately after their parents' room. Justin started jumping on the bed when we entered the space allocated to him. He looked so excited that it warmed my heart.

I gave the girls the only room left; Lori's room was beside it. I needed to question Lori before the tea party.

Once the girls were settled into their room, I excused myself.

I went to the door of Lori's room, and one of the Brians lurking about used the key to open it so I could enter the room.

I entered the room, and there she was, standing by the window with her hand on her bump, staring outside. She turned to look at me. Her eyes were swollen, and I knew she must have cried her heart out.

"Lori," I said, and she left the window and approached me. She looked like she had aged a bit from the last time I saw her at the Arena.

"Lady Zora," she said and bowed her head to show her respect.

"Why?" was all I could ask her.

We stood there for a few seconds, and she looked at me. I knew she was thinking of how best to start. I was all ears.

She wiped away her tears.

"I had no choice. My father already had set everything in motion. I did not know until they took you to the north. That was when he became forceful. He had set everything in motion." she said, and I sighed.

"Before then?" I asked her knowing she had visited her father too **often** for comfort before the north attacked. I thought she went to complain to her

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**Chapter 227**

father about her living condition, but now I know better.

## 288 Vouchers

“When he asked me to lie that Casey accepted me, I went along with it because only a fool would defy my father. Everyone that defies him ends up dead,” she said, and she did not need to elaborate on this. My parents paid the price for their defiance. Casey’s father, their Alpha then, could not protect them.

“He would invite me, and during my visits, he would ask me what was happening in our house, pretending he cared about my well-being. I did not think much of it, so I talked.

I said everything exactly how it was, and he would tell me to hang in there and that it would soon improve. It sounded generic and rehearsed, but I would excuse it since I knew he did not know how to show

affection.

When you gave yourself up, and they took you away, everything changed. He began to push me to marry Casey, and he started asking me private questions about Casey’s moves and what Casey was up to if he was going to Karange the attack and so on. I thought that was a bit too nosy, so I pushed back. He told me I was dispensable; if I did not do what he wanted, he would just get me out of the way and do what he liked. Knowing his brutality. I knew he could kill Casey and me, so I agreed to feed him information. After that decision, I did not know what to do, but I knew it would buy us time.

You need to understand that I was grabbing on straws. Casey hated me, so I dared not confide in him, and you were no longer with us. I was alone. Everyone looked up to me as the head Luna of the east, so I had to keep going. I performed these luna duties to the best of my abilities while I fed my father lies to satiate him.

It **was** getting tedious, especially when I feared my information would not check out.

One **day** I decided I would run away. **Casey** didn’t love me, and he didn’t

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## Chapter 227

288 Vouchers

**want** me **around** him, and I knew my father would soon find out that I had been lying to him. **Casey** had the power to push back; **he** had Sheperd and Cruz, but I had no one, and I doubted he would protect me from my father since he blamed **me** for losing you.

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## Content

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Chapter 228

288 Vouchers

Chapter **228**

Zora

Casey saw me moving out of my room with my bags the day I wanted to leave . I could not tell him the real reason, so I made it seem like it was a matter of the heart, hopeful that he would let me leave, but he pleaded with me to stay, and I was too in love to walk away.

I knew he needed help and could not be left alone, so I chose to risk it and stay. Every day I woke up fearing my father would find out I had been lying.

When Casey decided to leave for the games, I decided to visit my father's house and steal some information that I knew might keep me safe. The flash drive is currently in

my bag at the hotel. It has the list of people he planned his mutiny with and how they funded themselves. Every single one of them. I made sure I took the information before joining Casey in the north," She said, and I paused.

"Where is the flash drive right now?" I asked, and she sighed.

"In our hotel suite, I put it in Casey's bag before we came here. So if they checked my things, they wouldn't find it," She said, and I was elated. That was all the information we needed to nail more people. I hid my excitement so she would finish talking and I could send people to get their stuff.

"Continue," I said, and she nodded.

"My father followed me here, and he was mad but couldn't do anything. That was why I was always in public or with Casey. I had lied to him that Casey won't come to the north. I had messed up his plans because I knew he wanted to plan an attack on your **life** and make it seem like it **was** an

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Chapter 228

288 Vouchers

**act** of revenge **by** Casey. **He** knows Lord Hand would lose it **and attack Casey** blindly. I happened on that information the last time **I** visited him, so I lied to him.

He also knows Casey isn't a pushover and would fight Lord Hand. Casey and Hardy are friends, so they would get into the war they have been trying to create. Casey being here spoiled the plan, and he was mad.

The night Casey caught me, I had learned that day from a friend who was in a society that my father had put a target on my head and they were going to kill me. I could not tell Casey, but I remained with him, waiting for an opportunity to run. The fact that I am almost due did not help the matter either." She said and went to sit on the foot of the bed. That was

when I noticed that she had silver bracelets on.

“Who put that on you?” I asked her.

“Casey. I told him I won’t run, but he wouldn’t have it,” she said, and I took out my hairpin to pick the lock on the bracelet.

Taking her hand, I began to pick the lock.

“You know how to do this too?” she asked me, amused while I picked the lock.

“Yes, Casey taught me when I was young. It was the only way I could get out of the house at night so we could hang out,” I said, and the bracelet opened.

“I am sorry I ruined your happily ever after with Casey, Zora. I wish I never went to that damn party,” she said, sounding genuinely regretful

“We all wished we never went to that party, but I believe it was meant to happen because I am where I was meant to be all along,” I said, and she nodded, tears streaming down her cheeks.

“I am glad you got your happily ever after, Zora; you deserve it. I was **too**

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Chapter 228

288 Vouchers

jealous **of you** to be nice to you back then, and I am **sorry**. I wish I could take it all back. But know that I did not want to come into your home. When my father found out we were fated, he began to scheme. I should have fought back,” She said, and I pulled her close to hold her. She broke down completely.

I felt her fear and her anguish. I wished Casey would just try with her. She was a victim like all of us, caught in the web of her father's lies.

As things were, if we did not put an end to Ramsey, it is only a matter of time before he gets to Lori and kills her. Any man that can order the assassination of his child is cold-hearted. When we catch the bastard, there is no point in being merciful. He did not deserve it at all.

I left Lori in the room and sent Brian Wilson to Casey's hotel to get their stuff. I also asked two female staff to cater to Lori's needs. The woman had been thorough enough, and the truth was, if she had not come into our lives, I would not be with Darius now. I was grateful for how things turned out; it was time for peace.

## **Content**

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288 Vouchers

## **Chapter 229**

Darius

Zora woke me up from sleep, and I realised it was nighttime. I must have fallen asleep while resting.

"Sleeping," she teased, and I managed to sit in bed.

"Where are you going?" I asked, noticing she was in her casual outfit.

"You do not expect me to go to dinner in my nightwear," she said, and I looked at the clock.

It was seven-thirty. I managed to get off the bed to get ready for dinner.

"Were you with Nicole all the while?" I asked her while I changed my clothes because I had slept in the ones I had on.



“No. I went to see Lori. Learned a lot of things and then had tea with my friends. Nicole joined us during tea, but they will have dinner in our former dining room. I did not want awkwardness there, and besides, we have an operation to discuss.” She pointed out, and I nodded.

“What did you learn from Lori?” I asked her, and she sighed.

“Well, for starters, I have a flash drive she claims has the names of all Ramsey’s associates,” she said, and I looked at her, leaving my shirt unbuttoned. She showed me the drive in her hand and giggled.

“How?” I asked her.

“According to her and Annika, she has been lying to her father. She knew he would find out soon, so she took an insurance policy to make sure he left her alone when he found out. She hid it in Casey’s bag. I sent Wilson

10:15

## Chapter 229

288 Vouchers

to **get the** bag, and I asked **Casey** to hand it over to me. **This is it,**” **she** said, grinning, and I buttoned up my shirt and went to her.

I

took the drive from her while kissing her. There was peace and giddiness in me.

“It is all strange. Why didn’t she give it to Casey before he brought her here?” I asked her, and she shrugged.

“I thought as much, too, but right now, we need all the information we can get.” Zora said, and I sighed.

“Can we trust what she has?” I asked Zora, and she shrugged.

“Trust is a strong word when it comes to Lori. But we can check it out and see if she is telling the truth. I also released her silver bracelet and had two maids attend to her,” she said, and I was a bit uncomfortable.

“Don’t you think you jumped the gun there?” I asked, and she shook her

head.

“She is still under lock and key. I just wanted her to be comfortable because of her condition. We can’t rule out the part where she fed her father information. Whether they were lies or not, the man almost succeeded.” She said, and I understood her point.

“Have you checked the files?” I asked her, and she shook her head.

“I was going to leave that bit for you,” She said, and I was too eager to check it out.

The drive would need studying. We would have to spend a whole day figuring out the information on the drive.

“We will still carry out our plan, and then we will arrest the remaining people some other time. That is if they do not go into hiding by then,” Zora said, and as hard as it was to admit, she had spoken the truth. There

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was **so** little we could do between tonight and the next day.

“How did you get her to give it to you?” I asked her, and her smile faded.

“She claims she is like us, trying to survive her father. Too bad Casey isn’t willing to give her a chance,” She said, and I knew she felt bad about it.

“Let’s not conclude. She is Casey’s mate, and he knows her more than us. We can’t rule out that she had all the opportunity to come clean about her father’s schemes to her mate, and she kept silent.

Ramsey wouldn’t have been able to do anything to Casey. He is your ex. and you know him better than everyone. He might like peace, but he isn’t a weak man. I am sure there is more to their problem, but I doubt Casey wants her back. Even his wolf hates her.

I have never seen something like it where fated mates are concerned. However rare it may be, fated mates don’t hate each other. Casey’s

wolf detests her. He does not even want to speak her name. Let's survive this and see where it takes them, but I doubt there would be reconciliation between them." I said, and she smiled.

I put the drive in my pocket and buttoned up the rest of my shirt before we headed out.

I noticed my mother was absent when we got to the dining room. When I learned she was having dinner with David and his family, I was glad she had decided to try to know the guy. Abelardo was with us, and I suspected he had not checked on David. I did not bring it up but let it go.

We discussed the drive Lori had given us, and I deliberately thanked Casey for letting his mate help us even though I knew he had no say in it. He warned us not to trust her, and the feeling was mutual. We just wanted peace so we could get on with our lives.

I also noticed **Casey** did not like that I referred to Lori as his mate. But that was precisely **what** she was, whether he liked it or not. It was easy for

**55.95%**

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288 (Vouchers

**the** guy to forget his role in messing his marriage up and blame it on **the** woman. I was glad Zora was out of their **mess**.

"My daughter has been brought to the north. She doesn't know what is happening yet. Her brother brought her. I do not know if we would be arresting her or if she should be brought to the mansion immediately," Jake Brighton said, and I knew it was a difficult thing to do.

**Content**

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Chapter **230**

Darius

“Tell Donald to bring her here. Make it seem like we are having a party. The rest would be taken care of.” I said, and though it was eight thirty, I knew they could arrive before ten.

I was looking forward to our activities in Wonderland. Questioning Iris would have to take a back seat even though I wanted to punish her for poisoning Zora and almost killing her and my unborn child.

The rest of the dinner went quietly, and I advised Abelardo to try and see David.

He protested, claiming he wanted to rest because of our activities the next day. That was when I decided to explain something to him.

“You won’t be making the arrests with us,” I said, and he frowned at me

“I do not have to be an Alpha breed to be useful, Darius. I am your big brother, and I have a stake in this too.” He protested, and I shook my head.

“No one said you won’t be doing anything. In fact, you will be doing much. You will help us keep up our appearance and remain at the arena for the party of the medalists. One of us has to be there. The cups will be presented before the closing ceremony the day after tomorrow, but there will be a party for the medalists after the games tomorrow. I need you there.” I said, and he shook his head.

“Mother can do it,” He protested, and I looked at him.

“We both know our mother isn’t cut out for things like that, neither are we, but we must do it. **It** is part of our duty and a sign of respect and

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288 Vouchers

**gratitude to** our people. A

Hand has to be there,” I said, and he bowed his **head**. He really wanted in on the action.

“Okay, Darius. **I will** remain at the arena, but I must be a part of the interrogation,” He said, and I nodded.

“Of course, you will be. The arrests would be silent. There will be no interrogation, so it is quick. I just hope none of them would fight back,” I said, and he smiled.

“As long as no one tips them off, they won’t fight back. It would be too sudden for them to even consider it,” Abelardo said, making a valid point.

I hoped an unknown informant would not ruin our carefully planned arrest. These people were too resourceful. The fact that they did not have an army made this more of a mental war, and they were brilliant.

Zora and I returned to our room to sleep. I wanted Zora to avoid following me to the arena for security purposes. I could not risk it if they planned to assassinate people with guns. It was one battle Zora was going to lose with me. There was no way I would let her go. So I decided to occupy her with Iris’s questioning.

The thought of the gun assassination baffled me. It felt odd, but I wasn’t going to dismiss it.

The moment I laid down, sleep returned. Cremin and I needed all the rest we could get because tomorrow would be a very long day.

I woke up early in the morning feeling well—rested and pumped up for the adventure. I had slept in the clothes I ate dinner with, so the flash drive was still in my pocket.

I placed it in a drawer in the closet before showering and getting ready. Raphael had set out the game for the afternoon so Cruz and Sheperd could join in.

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**10:15**

**Chapter 230**

I wonder how Raphael and Marcel would handle those men, but the **situation** forced us to collaborate with them. It was weird.

288 (Vouchers

**I was** working **with** Hardy and Casey, and Theo and Marcel had to put up with Cruz and Sheperd, all for the greater good.

All our issues seemed trivial compared to solving the problem at hand. Even if we did not catch the king, the rapid arrest would slow them down or stop them completely.

Installing me as king would give us more power over the following events. The main aim was for the four of us to wed in peace and have some quiet time with our mates before we continued the search. If the King's name happened to be among the names in the drive Lori gave us, then we would have hit the jackpot. Either way, I see peace in our near future, whether short-term or long-term. It was better than nothing.

I finished dressing up and exited the closet when Zora stood akimbo looking at me.

"Good morning, darling," I said and went to her.

"What a nice way to want to sneak off," She said, sounding hurt and betrayed. I knew Zora would want to be a part of the action, but I needed to deny her the thrill this time.

"You have Iris to question and the drive to look into," I said, avoiding telling her she could not follow me.

"I wouldn't follow you even if the opportunity presented itself," She said, and we laughed.

"But I need you to be careful," she said with concern.

"If they have started thinking of gunning people down, you are not safe either. What if they decide to go for you?" she asked a valid question, and **I knew it was** a risk I would have to take.

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## 288 Vouchers

I also knew that killing me won't give them what they wanted. They needed to discredit me, my bloodline, and my friends to install a new king and make the people accept their decision. They couldn't do that with me **dead**. Causing a war **was** their best bet, but I kept it to myself and smiled at my mate.

"I think whoever this king is, wants me to suffer. I am going to hope that is his goal and push. Once we arrest the people in question, we would tread with caution." I assured her, and Zora did not seem convinced.

"Just come home to me, Darius. Asking me to carry on without you will be asking for too much," she said, and I knew she meant her words. With that, I knew failure wasn't an option.

We kissed, and I headed out.

We all converged outside at the entrance and left in different vehicles.

We arrived systematically. Our guests went to the arena ahead of us, and the rest arrived an hour later.

We knew the uprising would have eyes on us, but we planned to arrest Ramsey and the council members on our list.

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**Content**