

# **The Alpha's Contract Luna alexia By Lian #Chapter 101**

## **- Read The Alpha's Contract Luna alexia By Lian**

### **Chapter 101**

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Alexia

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"I swear to the Moon Goddess, when I find that woman, I will strangle her with my bare hands!" Alexia flinched, hearing her husband's voice. She could tell Kieran was angry, making her puzzled as she hummed awake.

"Helen is my trouble to deal with. I'll see to it that she meets her end." Alexia then heard King Balthasar's voice.

Noticing how she was in an unfamiliar room, she called for her husband,

"Kieran?" He was nowhere in site, but it was obvious

that two were speaking behind the two

double doors of the room. "Kieran!"

"Alexia!" The door burst open, and Alexia saw his troubled-looking husband.

His facial expression was filled with anxiety as he

pulled her into his arms. "I was so f\*\*king worried. I swear to the Moon Goddess; I'll never let you fight again!"

"What – what happened to me?" Alexia asked. Her brows met as she tried to recount in

her head. "I – I fainted."

"Yes, you did," Kieran said as he sat beside her. With a long sigh, he

revealed, "When Helen bit you on the back, she did more

than that. She injected you with wolfsbane. You probably did not notice it and only felt the pain of her bite."

"Morgan said you are okay. Our pup had minimal movement at some point, but everything has been back to normal since early

this morning. I called Beta Agatha, and she told me that combined with how you used up your energy, plus the wolfsbane, it made you lose

consciousness," Kieran said. "That's why, my wife, you are never

fighting until you have fully grown a tolerance to wolfsbane, but you can't do that now when you are carrying our child. We don't

know to what extent our pup can handle wolfsbane."

Alexia gritted her teeth. She caressed her belly and asked, "You said this morning? How-how long was I out?"

"Over Twenty-four hours," Kieran answered.

Alexia stared through the open door and saw King Balthasar walk in. She gulped, asking, "Where -where is Helen?" Kieran looked at the king. Balthasar revealed, "She escaped. The rest of the Eswen warriors gave her an escape route and covered for her -" "But I'm sure she will come back," Kieran suggested. "Because I cut off Blaze's head."

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"Caspian has suffered the same fate... in my hands," King Balthasar said. Alexia looked down at her hands. Her mouth hung open for some time before replying to Kieran. She said, "I don't know if staying on the sidelines is an option, Kieran. Not when we are at war, but I understand the risks involved. That time, though, it was necessary since we did not expect Helen to infiltrate the palace." "Are we safe? Have they all gone?" Alexia asked. "Are the children safe?" There was that look of defeat on the King's face that worried Alexia. Eventually, he revealed, "We found Luna Beatrice at the brink of death in one room. They must have left her to die, but she still lives. She is, however, in a coma despite the healing potion given to her."

"We had to bring Morgan to the capital urgently, which all worked out well because she also needed to attend to you," Kieran added.

"Many of our enemies died trying to protect Helen. We have a few who are locked up. Thankfully, they had the decency to surrender and give us information, but to those who ran with Helen, they have suddenly gone missing," Kieran said. "Just earlier, we discovered they had been hiding in the new residential tower within the capital, but our men found out too late. They have fled the same building through underground passages."

"How lucky can she get?" Alexia muttered.

"She had a lot of help, including a few locals that had sworn loyalty to her and Blaze," King Balthasar admitted. "But for now, rest easy. We are okay. Those on the run are less than thirty, including those who managed the residential tower."

"So what now?" Alexia asked.

"We are still on high alert, my wife. Caspian said King James and hundreds of his men were coming to Taplean. Unfortunately,

we cannot confirm this since our spies in Eswen have not been responding to us for a while. We ” The king shook his head as he suggested, “We fear the worst for our contacts in Eswen. That is why we are sending another set of spies.”

“When will this end?” Alexia unwittingly asked.

She noticed the silence between her husband and the king, and she eyed both of them. The king said, “Kieran and I had agreed that the only way for this to stop is for King James to end his rule.”

“When the time comes,” Kieran said. “I will be the one to go after King James.” Alexia did not know why, but the thought of Kieran owning up to King James’ downfall

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did not sit well with her.

A few days passed, and Taplean’s palace had become clear of all the blood stains and other remnants of the fight. War captives

were moved to another territory where it was meant to keep more prisoners.

Kieran and the king eventually learned that King James’ battleships had retreated to Eswen. This was similarly reported in one of

their outposts. They can only imagine that plans had changed for them after the downfall of Blaze and Caspian. Nonetheless,

King James had previously called off the war but initiated another in just a few months. He wasn’t the kind to be true to his words

or surrender. They still expected the war to arrive, but probably later than what was promised by Caspian.

With the capital back in order, Beta Ford left for the Golden Eye Pack to bring Luna Beatrice to her pack members. She had

already awakened, but she was still frail. However, it was her request to recuperate with her family, and being the luna that she

was, her heart wasn’t at ease being away from her people. With this, Jaxon and Rae were expected to return. They were

previously left to lead the Golden Eye Pack while Beta Ford aided in securing the palace back. They were coming back with their

guests, Prince Reagan, and his guards.

Kieran was busy discussing security matters with the king, and thus, Alexia, Morgan, and Sheena lingered by the palace gates to

welcome them.

The second Alexia saw Rae, she ran to the gate and hugged her. Rae

practically jumped as she embraced, saying, “I missed you, Luna Alexia.”

Rae pulled away, adding, "I heard someb\*dy kicked some rogues and Eswen warriors' butts."

Alexia laughed with Rae. Behind them, Sheena described, "Oh, she did, and her wolf is huge! I am very proud of our Luna."

"Watch out! She is already a princess!" Rae reminded.

"Oh, please," Alexia scoffed. "It doesn't change that both of you had protected me in the past. Once upon a time, I could only rely on Rae and Sheena's strength."

"And me too! I was once one of your protectors, Luna Alexia." A familiar voice caught Alexia's attention, and her eyes widened at the sight of Seth!

"Seth! I did not know you were coming! All the way from the Cross River Pack?" Alexia asked.

Before Seth could answer, another voice came through, and it was from Melissa, one

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of Alexia's best friends, "We wanted to surprise you, so we asked Beta Jaxon not to tell you!"

"Mel! I missed you!" Alexia exclaimed before hugging her dear friend.

Next, she saw Dean smiling at her and joining the embrace. Alexia was overjoyed at meeting old friends.

Melissa relished their hold. She said, "Really, you missed me? You only called me twice since you left for Azenna!"

Alexia sadly let go of their embrace, answering, "I'm sorry, I got busy with my mother's training, and I thought that Kieran and I would end up separating, then many more things happened."

"So, I heard," Melissa said. "I'm sorry it had been tough for you, my friend."

"Tell us all about it," Dean proposed. "And, can I just say that the baby is growing really well?"

Alexia smiled, saying, "I will tell you about it." She caressed her belly, revealing, "He is of alpha blood. He is growing really fast."

It was still at the front gate that Alexia learned of how Seth, Mellisa, and Dean had left the Cross River Pack to aid the capital. It wasn't just them. More and more from the provincial territories of Taplean had moved to the capital or closer towns to help in the war.

"Wow, I have a lot of catching up to do," Alexia sighed. She turned to Seth

and said, "And I still need to hear more about Mel and Seth!"

"Me and Seth?" Melissa chuckled. "What about you and Alpha Kieran? Rae told me that you are, in fact, true mates!"

Alexia flushed. She admitted, "We are indeed."

"I am happy for you, Alexia. Your marriage was meant to be after all," Dean complimented.

"I don't care if there is a freaking war. We should celebrate that!" Mellissa announced.

"I agree!" Rae second, and Sheena said the same.

"Congratulations, Princess Alexia, for finding your true mate." Alexia looked up and saw Prince Raegan. He was smiling as he

added, "You and your child deserve happiness with Alpha Kieran. You will no longer worry about your future together

Suddenly, Prince Raegan stilled, his eyes widening, and his lips slowly parted.

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Alexia realized that the prince was looking behind her. She turned to where Raegan was staring and caught Sheena doing the same.

It was as if they were caught in a trance and unable to move, and their eyes remained glued to each other. It took a few seconds for Alexia to realize what was happening, but by the time she recognized it, Prince Reagan had spelled it out for everyone.

"Mate," the prince said. "I found my mate!"

"Well, what do you know," Rae said under her breath. "The prince of Paredon is fated with our strongest female warrior, Sheena."

"Prince of Paredon?" Sheena said. Her voice broke in and out. "You – you are a prince?"

"My mate, finally. I have found you," The prince said with relief, and Alexia knew this was heartfelt, considering what Raegan had been through.

"I – I can't –" Sheena ran back inside the palace, as if scared out of her wits from meeting the Prince of Paredon.

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"Sheena! Stop! I command you! Are you going to make your Luna give birth

prematurely?" Alexia yelled. She had been running after Sheena from within the palace and out of the back gate. After what felt like forever, Sheena turned to Alexia, chasing her breath. She looked past her, and immediately, Alexia knew what was on her mind. Alexia said, "I asked Prince Raegan to give you time to let it sink. I can only guess the mate bond is shocking you – not the usual reaction, but I figured that was the case."

"Sheena, talk to me," Alexia urged. Then, she noticed Sheena staring at the back gate, making Alexia look back.

Raegan was there. He looked worried, but he kept himself from running after them.

"I can tell he's troubled by your reaction. You have no idea how he has been looking forward to meeting his mate, only for her to run away. Talk to me, Sheena," Alexia encouraged.

"I-" Sheena looked away from Raegan and focused on Alexia. She said, "I'm not leaving Taplean. This is my home, the Stone Blood Back is my family. I will die serving you and Alpha Kieran, and I don't plan to compete with the princesses of Paredon -:

"Then don't," Alexia answered. She sucked in a deep breath before suggesting, "Talk to him. Tell him your concerns."

"Don't shut him out, Sheena," Alexia proposed. "You'd be surprised to know he isn't that eager to go home to Paredon. That's why he wound up here, helping us."

"You know him well, Luna?" Sheena asked.

It was because Sheena had been assigned to the coast upon Jaxon and Rae's return that she had not met the prince. This was their first meeting.

"I know a little about him. I have come to know him while in Azenna. Kieran saved him, in a way. That was why he came to Taplean to help. He swore allegiance to Kieran and me." Alexia smiled and said, "What do you know? You both swore to be on our side?"

Alexia chuckled as she closed the gap between her and Sheena. She said, "The brave warrior is afraid of love -"

"Luna Alexia!" Sheena objected.

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"Just talk to him. He is your better half for a reason. I have come to believe that the Moon Goddess has planned everything for us," Alexia said.

After talking it out with Sheena, Alexia guided her back to the palace, where

Raegan remained standing at the back gate. Alexia saw how many times he gulped his spew until he finally spoke, "Am I not handsome enough, my mate?"

Alexia wound up laughing while Sheena flushed. For the first time, Alexia saw the brave female warrior being affected by a man.

"I am not leaving Taplean, and you won't make me. Agree to this first before we even begin to talk," Sheena firmly said.

"Wow, a woman who is not afraid of me," Prince Raegan remarked. "All the more, I have every reason to move to Taplean permanently."

Alexia watched as Raegan offered his hand to Sheena, and the warrior reluctantly accepted it. As soon as their hands met, Alexia noticed how Sheena gasped. She could only imagine that pull, sending waves of tingling sensation through Sheena's b\*dy.

Prince Raegan k\*ssed Sheena's knuckles. After which, he said, "Shall we? Get to know each other and talk about your

conditions?"

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"Long day, husband?" Alexia asked, seeing Kieran walk into their assigned room in the palace.

"Hmmm." Kieran captured Alexia's l\*ps. They shared a heated k\*ss before stripping n\*ked and making love. They went for a second, after which they settled in bed.

"I heard some disturbing news," Kieran said, embracing his wife tightly. "The prince of Paredon is a true mate with one of my best warriors."

Alexia chuckled. She replied, "Is it disturbing? I always knew there was a reason I met Prince Raegan."

A low growl escaped Kieran's l\*ps. He said, "Not that I am complaining, but Sheena swore to protect you and our future children

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"Don't be selfish, Kieran. Let your warriors get a life," Alexia scolded. "You have many warriors, and you forget I can protect myself and our future children. We will respect whatever decision they make as a couple."

"Well, that is true. I suppose I can let Sheena go," Kieran said.

"that might not happen. Sheena was pretty adamant about staying in Taplean. Prince

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Raegan hinted that he was willing to stay in Taplean,” Alexia revealed. “I think, in the end, this is good. Technically, Paredon, Azenna, and Taplean are working together. All the more that Prince Raegan is true mates with Sheena.”

“The Moon Goddess’ mysterious ways,” Kieran remarked as he lowered his frame to caress Alexia’s belly. He said, “I pray we have enough time before King James would strike again. I want to be there for when our son is born.”

“Two months?” Kieran asked.

Alexia nodded, saying, “Around two months, Kieran.” She smiled and caressed Kieran’s athletic face, saying, “Two months and you’ll be officially a father.”

“Where do you want to give birth, my wife?” Kieran asked.

The question made Alexia gasp. She bit her lip and stared blankly at the ceiling. After a few seconds, she admitted, “I want to give birth in our home, Kieran. Can I?”

“The packhouse at the Stone Blood Pack?” Kieran asked.

“Yes,” Alexia confirmed. She smiled and suggested, “Where it all started for us.”

“Back to the house where you tried to scare me off with a contract and a set of rules, only to be giving me mixed signals until you finally admitted how you felt for me – how we swore to go against fate should we not be true mates,” Alexia reminded. Her face burned as she recalled how her husband first masked his intentions toward her.

“Do you remember the day you insisted on teaching me how to k\*ss properly?” Alexia asked, giggling. “You were probably dying to k\*ss me then.”

Kieran groaned. He laid back, leveling with Alexia, and said, “And you k\*ssed me back, willingly, I might add.”

The couple went at it, recalling those days when they were both fighting their attraction for one another. They also covered the pack members, “I miss everyone – Cindy, Mara, Lydia.”

She let out another sigh and added, “I’m sure they would be glad to see you too.”

“The packhouse was severely damaged when Helen’s followers tried to look for the king, but it’s back to its old glory.” Kieran



pecked Alexia's lips, adding, "And you are right. I need to see everyone; I'm sure they have been yearning to see both of us."

"Our presence will make them stronger," Kieran added. "I'll take you home next month. I will bear traveling from the capital to the

pack. Of course, there will be days when I cannot return home, but it's not like when you were in Azenna, where you were two nations away."

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There was silence in the air. The thought of being unable to see Kieran for a few days made Alexia rethink her decision, but again, was Taplean's palace a good place for her to give birth? It certainly wasn't.

The capital was the perfect target for the enemies and much closer to the southern coast, where most of King James' attempts to attack occurred.

"I hope this war will end soon," Alexia remarked.

"While I hope it, we cannot say for sure," Kieran answered. "I have been fighting this battle for some time, my wife. For now, we can just relish this momentary peace."

Just as Kieran said those words, they heard loud wails within the palace. The emotions that broke through the howls were lust and desire.

A hiss left Kieran's lips while Alexia chuckled. She said, "It looks like Sheena and Prince Raegan made their decision."

Prince Raegan

Raegan willingly surrendered. His mate was adamant about staying in Taplean, and he did not mind. His father had older sons to be crowned the next king. He wasn't going to compete with them.

The prince swore that after the war, he would have a blood compact with Alpha Kieran. Besides, he owed his life to Kieran and Alexia. While in Azenna, his promise to them was true.

Raegan and Sheena discussed everything in one of the guest rooms assigned to the prince. After arriving at a decision, they could no longer resist the mate bond pull. They wound up making out until their clothes were torn into pieces and were down on the floor.

They made it to the bed with ease. Their bodies easily got tangled, and their

hands carelessly touched each other's bodies.

It did not take long for them to be one. Once Raegan pumped in and out of Sheena, he studied her beautifully toned b\*dy and golden hair. He also adored her battle scars. It proved that his mate was strong and capable.

"You are so beautiful," he said under his breath, his eyes full of adoration for her.

Sheena moaned loudly. He watched as she shut her eyes, her claws digging against his flesh. She said, "You are hot yourself!"

They did not know for how long they made love. Throughout the night, they howled

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and screamed their desires for each other, going for another round.

On their fourth round of being intimate, Raegan was already grazing his fangs on her neck, where her mark should be.

Repeatedly, he licked that part of her skin before announcing, "I'm going to make you mine."

"Go ahead," Sheena said. "Claim me – Aaaahh!"

Raegan did not give her any more chances to speak. He plunged his teeth into her flesh and marked her. Just then, he came inside her and knew Sheena also or gasped.

"Aaaahh!" Just as he was delighting in the feeling of being high, Sheena marked him too.

The moment their backs fell on the bed, their thoughts and hearts became one. Raegan could not be more happy and contented with his mate.

After smiling like a fool for a few minutes, he rolled on top of her and k\*ssed her again.

He claimed, "You are mine."

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"What happened in the palace was a different story. You were injected with wolfsbane, which I had not considered at all. So, if you must fight, have someone watch your back. However, you will be in your

weakest state after you give birth. You must temporarily avoid fighting during the week of delivering my grandson. You will not be strong enough,” Avery said on the phone.

It was just as they had suspected. It took a week for Avery to recover from creating a portal for her and Kieran. After waking up from her long sleep, the queen was immediately notified of how Alexia lost consciousness while fighting Helen and the rogues.

The first thing that Avery did was call Alexia.

Alexia expected her mother’s advice. She answered, “I suppose I have no use for my power, Mother. Kieran will move me to the Stone Blood Pack when I am ready to give birth.”

“Yes, my daughter. Who knows what the effects will be if you use it while in your weak state? Sadly, there are not enough records from our ancestors,” Avery replied. She sighed and added, “I’m glad you are safe. After you give birth, continue with your training. Learn how to tolerate wolfsbane more, the same way your husband does. Now that you can shift into your wolf, I will no longer overprotect you. Instead, I urge you to be strong because Kieran will need a strong queen – I mean, luna by his side.”

Alexia’s brow raised. Sure, she had seen this in her vision, but truthfully, she still had many questions to ask, like what would become of King Balthasar if he ever passed the throne to her husband?

“There is something you are not telling me, Mother,” Alexia said.

Avery brushed it off, saying, “The talks of Balthasar potentially naming Kieran as the king had reached my ears. I’m simply preparing you for

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when that day will arrive.”

After her talk with Avery, Alexia and her friends, Melissa, Dean, Sheena, and Rae, distributed monetary aid, especially to those who lost a loved one from the recent fight within the capital.

Prince Raegan naturally came along with Sheena. Since they had marked each other, they had been inseparable.

The palace held another council of the alphas meeting, and Alexia had decided to kill time and meet the capital’s visitors.

They gathered around a small park, two blocks away from the palace. Alexia was welcomed with open arms. A few cried on her

shoulders, while many praised her for saving the children who were taken as hostages.

In the middle of the park, children assembled around Alexia, asking her to show them her wolf form.

“I have never seen a winter-grey wolf! Can you show us, Luna Alexia?” One child asked.

“Me too! I’d like to see!”

“Where do winter-grey wolves live?”

“Why do you smell of snow?”

Rae was handing out a pack of snacks for the children. She chuckled for Alexia and replied on her behalf, “Because the winter-grey wolves live in a nation that snowed all year round. Luna Alexia got the scent from her mother.”

“Thanks for the help, Rae,” Alexia winked at her friend. She then addressed the children and the adults who accompanied them. “You sure you want to see me in my wolf form?”

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“Yes!” Both children and adults exclaimed simultaneously.

Melissa and Dean, who were also giving away food at that gathering, said the same.

“Heck, even I haven’t seen your wolf!” Melissa exclaimed.

Dean nodded, voicing, “I’d like to see!”

“Go ahead, Luna. Impress them,” Sheena encouraged.

“Okay, stand back!” Alexia conceded, encouraging everyone to clear her area. She caressed her belly, as if asking permission from her baby. “Here we go!”

In the next few minutes, she shifted into her wolf form, and instantly, jaws dropped, and eyeballs popped out of their eyes. Alexia saw varied reactions.

“Wow!”

“Bless the Moon Goddess for giving Alpha Kieran such a mate!”

“So beautiful!”

“So huge! Like Alpha Kieran!”

She stood tall amongst the crowd, her wolf standing out due to her unique coat, and she emitted that powerful aura of an alpha blood. Alexia saw how a few attempted to kneel in front of her.

“There is no need to kneel. I do not request it,” Alexia said. “I am one of you, born and raised in Taplean, regardless of the blood

and genes  
that flows in me.”

Tyrone, one of the guards who followed them that day, smiled at Alexia, saying, “Fitting to be our future queen!”

Cheers erupted. A few broke down in tears. Soon, Tyron bowed at Alexia, and the rest of the guards did the same. The crowd soon  
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rest

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followed, making Alexia’s heart skip a beat. She said, “Now, now! We don’t know what the future will come. We still have our king. Even if I don’t become your queen, I am honored to serve you as Kieran’s Luna.”

The scene reminded Alexia of how it was in the Stone Blood Pack. It gave her a sense of happiness being around the children and residents of the capital. She felt so contented that she claimed, ‘I made a good choice, coming here with Kieran.’

‘Yes, you did,’ Rae said in her head.

‘I did not realize I was mindlinking,’ Alexia said silently.

‘We hear you, Luna Alexia. We are happy for your return,’ Melissa added.

Alexia glanced at Dean, and while he said no words, she felt his assurance. He believed the same.

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Returning to the palace, Alexia thought it was a productive day. She was excited to share her experience with her husband.

Together with Rae, they went straight to the Royal Hall, where nearly all alphas of Taplean had gathered.

However, instead of an amicable meeting, there appeared to be a commotion inside. The alphas were arguing. Their voices were so loud that Alexia could hear their cries.

“Have you gone mad, Alpha Vincent?!” Even from the outside, Alexia heard her husband’s angry tone. “How about I snap your neck right now and see if you can make me surrender!”

“You can’t blame me for wishing the end of this!” Another voice came through, and Alexia suspected it came from Alpha Vincent.

“Do you think the war will end by surrendering Alpha Kieran? If you think that, then you don’t know King James!” King Balthasar objected.

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'Surrender my husband?' She said in her head. She turned to Rae and her friends, who tailed her to the royal hall, and saw they were all equally curious.

"We will fight them with all we got, and that's final! End of our session!" King Balthasar concluded.

The door burst open, and Alexia saw Alpha Vincent stepping out, fuming. He winced at Alexia before storming in the opposite direction. Two other alphas followed behind him, along with their betas. Seeing this, Alexia and her party entered the royal hall immediately. The place was still filled with alphas and their betas. She locked eyes with Kieran, asking, "What was that all about? What is happening? What did I hear about surrendering Kieran?"

Kieran groaned. He shook his head and revealed, "King James had secured an alliance with Lord Vlad, one of the biggest vampire clans in Vottara. Thus, they are coming at us with additional force, vampires."

"King James sent a message an hour ago. He asked that Taplean surrender Kieran to him, and he will cease the war," King Balthasar revealed.

Instantly, Alexia laughed. She snapped her head in the door's direction, knowing who were the opposing alphas. She spitefully barked, "That is absurd! The last time he lost, he said he surrendered! But where are we now? We are still at war with Eswen!"

"I know, my wife. He gave us the white flag before, but he was untrue to his words," Kieran said while approaching his wife.

"My husband's surrender will not end this!" Alexia growled. "If anything, it will maybe be Taplean's downfall!"

"We won't give up, Alpha Kieran, Luna Alexia," Alpha Declan declared.

"I will fight with Alpha Kieran," Alpha Baxter said.

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A few other alphas who remained in the room echoed the same. Alpha Kai was the last to say, "I have always supported Alpha

Kieran, and that will never change.”

“Alpha Kieran will have the winter-grey wolves’ backing. My mother had already sent winter-grey warriors as our aid!” Alexia turned back to Prince Raegan. He and Sheena were behind her the entire time. She added, “Prince Raegan represents Paredon, and he will fight for my husband!”

“Without my husband, Taplean will not have the support of these two nations!” Alexia eyed the remaining alphas in the royal hall.

She said, “So, for those weighing my husband’s value, think again. Before another fight happens, decide where your loyalty lies.

Because aside from being enemies with my husband, you stand the chance of being rivals of the wintery-grey wolves!”

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Following the meeting, Alexia and her husband went to their room. From there, Alexia expressed her sentiments, “How dare they? After all that you have done -the sacrifices that you made – time away from me, your pack -”

“Shhh... Sometimes, the fear of dying clouds a person’s judgment. The alphas who implied I give up rarely participated in the war,” Kieran chuckled as he embraced Alexia. Clearly, he was not concerned about the division of alphas earlier. Instead, he said, “I have to say, my wife is now so feisty!”

Alexia turned to face her husband. She frowned as she said, “I can’t believe you find this amusing!”

“But it is, in a good way,” Kieran said with a smirk. He pushed a strand of hair behind her ear and added, “I am proud of you, my wife.”

Alexia gave up. She sighed and wrapped her arms around his neck, saying, “I have to be strong alongside you, an equal partner who can

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also carry your burdens.”

A growl left Kieran’s lips. Alexia saw contentment in his eyes before he kissed her lips. They made out for seconds, and just as they pulled away, King Balthasar mindlinked with both her and her husband, ‘Alexia, Kieran. I have sent my reply to King James.

Let’s be ready, for Eswen and the vampires will go all out on Taplean.’

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Kieran

Over a month had passed since King James declared he would, once again, bring his army to Taplean. This time, he was bringing vampires from Vottara too.

Kieran and his co-alfas had made preparations, considering the previous infiltration within Taplean using underground passages. All borders were strictly monitored. Morgan lent the most significant hand by creating spells at every potential land entry to the nation. If Eswen made it in, they would go through hell, at least. Now and then, one or two unknown werewolves have attempted to break into the borders but failed miserably, resulting in their deaths. Kieran could only assume they were rogues belonging to Blaze's army or were Eswen warriors. King James might be testing the waters, evaluating which border they could break through easily. All packs within Taplean's boundaries were provided with arms, and warriors were repeatedly trained to fight and tolerate silver and wolfsbane. Over a few weeks, nearly all warriors have learned to kill a vampire too.

The seas were vulnerable but also their most guarded part of Taplean. Their seabeds would be lined with mines, traps have been put in place within their shores, and a lot more.

A week ago, Prince Raegan swore allegiance to Kieran via blood compact. Kieran doubted it was for the best. Raegan was a sheltered prince, but he seemed very devoted to Sheena and was happy to stay away from Paredon. Kieran could only imagine the distance that had grown between him and his older brother.

King Rowan initially disagreed, but after learning Raegan was mated to one of Kieran's best warriors, the king of Paredon freed his son. With this, Raegan took the second command overseeing the land borders.

Chapter 104

Alpha Declan led all the outposts.

Paredon sent over fifty warriors to their aid, and Azenna sent another twenty warriors on top of those who had already arrived.

All in all, Azenna dispatched fifty of their best warriors.

There were still no signs of Eswen or the vampires heading to Taplean in troops. Since Alexia was about to give birth, Kieran had finally arranged their return to the Stone Blood Pack. He ensured everyone in their posts was on high alert before doing so.



He traveled with Jaxon, Rae, Melissa, Seth, and Dean. Sheena left for the borders to be with her mate, while Morgan remained in the palace to make more healing potions. However, Morgan gave Alexia three bottles of the healing potion in preparation for her birth.

They had a tiring journey, but eventually, they made it safely. Despite arriving in the night, Kieran was overwhelmed by their welcome. His pack members were on all sides of the road, expressing their happiness. His usual poker face formed a smile as he rolled down the windows to listen to their remarks.

“Welcome back, Alpha Kieran!”

“We longed for your return, Alpha!”

“Alpha Kieran, I heard Luna Alexia is pregnant!”

“Is Luna Alexia with you?”

Kieran waved at those who were on the road. He let Alexia take a peek at the pack members, and she greeted them, “It’s nice to see everyone!”

‘Yes, your luna is pregnant. We are home so she could give birth safely and comfortably, Kieran mindlinked to all of them.

‘Finally, an heir to the Stone Blood Pack!’

And the next alpha will have a winter-grey wolf bloodline!’

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Chapter 104

Kieran could hear many words of praise in his head until they all arrived at the packhouse, where more of the townspeople awaited their arrival.

As Kieran and Alexia stepped out of the car, he saw many of his people cry as they bowed in respect toward him. He held

Alexia’s hand and commanded, “Welcome your luna and our coming child!”

“Welcome back, Luna Alexia!”

“We miss you, Luna!” A child who was very familiar to them called, making Kieran’s wife turn to find the source of the voice.

“Cindy! Mara!” Alexia exclaimed. His wife let go of his hand to embrace the child that had caught her adoration. Many others she had become friends with also embraced Alexia, including the housemaids and the packhouse staff who missed her cooking.

Rae and Jaxon had their fair share of hugs, bringing tears to their eyes. It was

the first time that Kieran saw his beta cry. Heck, he was close to weeping too. He missed this place, his parent's home, and where he grew up.

It was undoubtedly an emotional return.

As usual, a small feast was ready for them at the back of the packhouse. Alexia was tired, but for the sake of their people, she and Kieran stayed around for an hour to chat and show off her glowing coat in the moonlight. Everyone was in awe of Kieran's wife, and he could not be more proud. His people were happy with Alexia then. Now, they were beyond thrilled that they had her as their luna. When it was finally time for the couple to rest, they excused themselves and went to their room. As they walked up the stairs, Kieran caught his wife grinning from ear to ear. Her face flushed too. "I miss this," she said.

Chapter 104

Alexia immediately lay on their bed when they entered their room, saying, "Mother gave me such a very comfortable bed in Azenna, but why does this one feel more like home?" "Hmmm." It brought a smile on Kieran's face. He removed his coat and answered, "Because this is where you belong, with me, in this pack, as my luna and my mate."

When Alexia sat up on the bed, Kieran kneeled before her. He placed both his hands on her belly and k\*ssed it. He said, "We are home, son.

This is our home."

He felt his son move, and yet again, he smiled. Kieran claimed, "He is happy to be home."

Alexia chuckled and replied, "I'm sure he is. He could feel our happiness too."

"Kieran, I'll be giving birth soon." Alexia touched his face and said, "We haven't named him. What would you like to call him?"

Clearing his throat, Kieran said, "I have been giving it much thought. I want to name him after you."

"After me?" Alexia clarified. "Alex?"

A hiss left Kieran's l\*ps as he said, "Close. I want to name him Alec. Alec Stone, son of Kieran and Alexia Stone."

"Alec Stone, a name fitting for our son," Alexia remarked. She looked down at her belly and asked, "Did you hear that, son?"

Kieran's hands felt his son move. He sensed his delight at hearing his new name. He said, "He likes it."

“Alec,” Kieran repeated. “The future Alpha of The Stone Blood Pack.”

‘Maybe even the future king, Kieran said.

‘Maybe, Alexia answered.

Chapter 104

“F\*\*k, did I mindlink that?” Kieran growled.

Alexia laughed at him and answered, “Yes, you did.”

\*\*\*

Weeks went by in a blur.

Most days, Kieran lingered in the pack, monitoring the war preparations online or on the phone with the other alphas, his

ga mmas, the king, and Beta Ford. However, there were also days when he traveled to the capital or a nearby border to train and direct

warriors.

Still the same, they had intruders now and then, but nothing was alarming yet.

Alexia was a few days far from giving birth, and

Kieran earnestly said he would be there for when his son would be born, but sadly, it was as if the Moon Goddess had other plans.

One night, while sleeping beside his wife, he received a call from the nearby border. It was Sheena.

“Sheena,” Kieran immediately answered.

On the other line, his female warrior responded, “Alpha, I don’t mean to wake you, but our station is under attack by vampires.

Raegan assured me that he could take care of it, and I think he is doing great, but I still thought you needed to know -”

The call was cut short, and Kieran could hear vampires hissing and groaning.

In the background, he could also hear Sheena

barking. Kieran called the nearest pack to the said border, ordering to send backup to Raegan’s post. Then, he prepared to leave with Jaxon and some of his ga mmas.

When packed, he awoke his wife, telling her the bad news.

Alexia got up lazily and said, “Be safe, my husband.”

“You know me,” Kieran said. He pecked Alexia’s l\*ps, promising, “I’ll be

Chapter 104

back when you give birth.”

He reached down to his wife’s belly, adding, “Wait for me, Alec. Wait for me.”

Chapter 105

Chapter 105

~Kieran

“Stop! Or you will die!” Kieran barked, his black wolf speeding through the secluded graveled path, entering the fields. It was another nightfall, but the moon shone bright enough for Kieran never to miss his moving target.

“I will die either way! So, I’ll keep running!” The vampire responded while running for his life.

After nearly twelve hours of driving to where Prince Raegan and Sheena were stationed, Kieran and Jaxon had already encountered a vampire that had entered Taplean. Kieran was the first to jump out of the car and shift into his wolf, making the chase.

He had to give it to the vampire. The thing was fast, but nowhere faster than he was.

‘Thing,’ that was what Kieran called the dead.

Gaining up to the vampire, Kieran lunged at the blood-sucking creature. He sunk his teeth into the vampire’s neck before thrusting its b\*dy from side to side.

Jaxon caught up with him, carrying a lighted torch.

After Kieran pulled out the vampire’s head, Jaxon set it on fire. The only way to kill vampires was to cut their heads or burn their bodies to ashes. They did both.

Before burning the vampire’s torso, Kieran sniffed its b\*dy and familiarized himself with the scent. Seth came after them, and seeing his warrior, Kieran said, “Let’s hurry and get to Prince Raegan’s post.” “I had finally connected with Prince Raegan. They have the border under control now. There were about thirty vampires that attempted to enter. He said -” Seth frowned, saying, “He said no one got in.”

enter. He said -” Seth frow

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Chapter 105

“Obviously, he is mistaken,” Kieran growled. “Let’s hurry.”

After shifting back to his human form, Seth handed him his clothes. They drove to the border for four another hours.

Along the way, they encountered werewolves from the Green Valley Pack, fixing the cellular tower. Then, Kieran understood how

Prince Raegan had lost contact with them. The signal was unstable from then on.

Finally, when Kieran, Jaxon, and Seth, along with the other warriors from his pack, had arrived at the border, Kieran confronted Prince Raegan.

Kieran angrily stormed into Raegan's tent, barking, "You let one slip through! Who knows, there could be more -"

"Alpha Kieran! Calm down! We found the area where the other vampires may have passed!" Raegan admitted. "At the end of my covered territory. I don't know how or why, but two of our guards were dead, allowing their passage."

Raegan clenched his jaws, admitting, "Sadly, I don't know how many got in, but we managed to kill thirty vampires -"

Lifting his finger, he revealed, "We have two vampires who surrendered willingly. They are now in the other tent, being questioned by Sheena."

Kieran immediately turned his back, and Raegan raced after him. Seth and Jaxon followed.

When Kieran entered the next tent, he saw Sheena already clawing the lady vampire. She barked, "Answer me!"

"Ahhh! I don't know if I can trust you! I will only speak to Alpha Kieran!" The vampire had no choice but to take every hit.

Behind her, another elderly vampire kept screaming, asking Sheena to stop. "We will help you! Stop! Please stop! Elle, tell them!"

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12:33

Chapter 105

"I am here! Why would you need to speak to me?" Kieran sought in irritation. The vampire in front of Sheena wept. Her hands were tied behind her back, and so were her legs. She gasped and asked, "Are you really Alpha Kieran Stone?"

"The one and only!" Kieran answered.

"He is our alpha," Sheena said. "Now, tell us what we need to know."

The vampire looked back to her companion. The older one said, "It does look like him. The hero of Taplean."

When the female vampire looked at Sheena with fear, Kieran said, "She is my loyal warrior. She can be trusted."

"My name is Elle. Behind me is my mother. Her – her name is Annet. We never wanted to take part in this attack. In fact, those that Lord Vlad had sent were his prisoners. Our families were threatened if we did not follow his orders. As for me, my – my

mother is my only family,” the vampire said. Her voice trembled as she spoke. “Coming here, I thought to exchange what I know for refuge. We can’t take residents in Vottara anymore, not with how we have surrendered, although this had always been part of our plan,” Elle described. “If I tell you what I know, you have to promise me that my mother and I will be given sanctuary here in Taplean!” Elle requested.

Kieran let out a low growl. They had never allowed vampires to live in their lands. He turned to Prince Raegan since he had more experience with vampires.

Prince Raegan proposed, “I can show you how to manage vampires, or we can recommend them to the vampire town in Paredon.”

“No! No, please. Lord Vlad has connections in Paredon,” Elle begged, her eyes watering.

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12:33

Chapter 105

“That’s true. That’s why we surrendered here. We promise we don’t mean any harm,” the older woman said.

Kieran purred. He said, “It depends on whether your information is helpful.”

“Okay, I understand,” Elle said. “The orders from Lord Vlad to us were to infiltrate, cause a diversion, and our families at Vottara will be spared. However, his direct men had a spy on Taplean that would let them in. There should be ten of them who may have entered your territory -”

“You said a spy!” Kieran growled. “Who?!”

“Um! The Lord said that his spy was Prince Raegan,” Elle said.

Kieran immediately snapped his head in Raegan’s direction, his fangs elongating. Jaxon and Seth were also in defense mode, ready to attack the prince.

On the other hand, Prince Raegan countered, saying, “What the f\*\*k! I had nothing to do with this!” He raised his hands,

claiming, “I swear, Alpha Kieran! I don’t know anything! You can ask everyone. I was fighting with every bit of my strength for Taplean. I wasn’t aware of whoever came through the border -”

“He is telling the truth, Alpha Kieran!” Sheena stepped in front of the prince. “I feel his emotions. He can’t hide it from me!”

“Sheena! Where does your loyalty lie?” Kieran snarled, his nose flared as he approached her.

Sheena flashed her mark, reminding Kieran, "Look! See that? We have marked each other, Alpha. He cannot lie to me. I am his mate! He is not lying!"

The Taplean warriors inside the tent also gave their two cents, saying, "Prince Raegan killed over ten vampires, Alpha Kieran, and he was far from where the breach was!"

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Chapter 105

Raegan pushed his mate to the side. He kneeled in front of Kieran. He swore, "I would rather die than admit I had anything to do with this. I had sworn my loyalty to you! Believe me!"

"You – you are Prince Raegan?" The vampire, Elle, asked in surprise.

"See? She doesn't even know Raegan!" Sheena pointed out.

"You!" Keiran shot back at Elle. He sought, "What makes you believe it was Prince Raegan? Did you see him helping the men of Lord Vlad?"

"No, Alpha Kieran. Only that, before we were sent out here, each of us, his prisoners, were told that the spy helping them was Prince Raegan," Elle answered.

"This could be a setup – to divert whoever is the real culprit!" Sheena said.

"But maybe you can work with that later. The more important mission was to take a newborn child back to Vottara. This was what I overheard from the guards days before coming here," Elle revealed.

"What do you mean?" Kieran shot back. "What do you mean about a newborn baby?"

"I hope with this information. You will believe us," Elle sucked in a deep breath. She said, "Lord Vlad, he – he believes that drinking blood from Adira Elsher's bloodline will give him the power they possess. So, he is after a newborn child – a winter-grey wolf bloodline. That's all -"

Before Elle could finish, Kieran howled. His clothes became torn as his b\*dy expanded. He commanded, "Jaxon! Put the Stone Blood Pack on high alert! They are after my son!"

Chapter 2978

Nicole paused briefly, weighing her words. "Yes, and I'm going to ensure the news of my presence at the event is openly circulated."

It seemed wiser not to conceal her schedule, as transparency might provoke a

reaction from the opposing party.

Max's comprehension dawned, his complexion turning a shade paler. "Mrs. Johnston, are you really planning to use yourself as bait?"

It was evident that exposing Nicole's itinerary now would certainly draw the attention of those figures lurking in the dark.

Nicole nodded affirmatively. "Since I'm their target, let them focus on me. It'll keep others out of harm's way."

Considering their reluctance to confront her in San Joto, she saw an opportunity to draw them out.

"But isn't that exceedingly risky?" Max's worry was palpable.

Nicole looked toward Jared, her lips curving into a smile. "You wouldn't let anything happen to me, right?"

"I'll be by your side," Jared stated, his tone solid and resolute.

Nicole's expression showed a momentary frown, then she acquiesced with a nod. "Okay."

"When are you planning to depart, Mrs. Johnston?" Max inquired.

After a moment's thought, Nicole replied, "I'll have Lulu arrange the tickets. There are still a few matters I need to address."

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She couldn't pinpoint the exact time of departure yet, but left it in Lulu's capable hands.

Finishing her thoughts, Nicole caught Jared's gaze and promptly flashed a smile, amending, "Us."

Nicole briefly glanced at Jared, catching his softened gaze. She playfully stuck out her tongue when his attention diverted. He's

really taking this too seriously,' she mused. It wasn't that she wanted to exclude him; she fully intended to honor their agreement.

Arriving at Riddle Corporation, Nicole exited the car and made her way inside.

Jared's expression shifted as he watched her enter, the warmth in his eyes giving way to a more serious demeanor." Let Charlie



organize a team to go ahead. The rest will stay back," he ordered, his voice deep and authoritative.

Max, taken aback and filled with worry, grasped Jared's intent to accompany Nicole. However, he couldn't help but wonder if it was wise for them to go without additional security until they reached their destination.

"The trip should be secure, and arrangements will be in place there," Jared reassured Max. "I need you here to oversee things." Max, understanding Jared's strategy, nodded. "You're saying they might still act, even with your departure."

"Possibly," Jared acknowledged, implying there were deeper plans at play. Realizing his role in the larger scheme, Max accepted his duty. "Understood, sir. We'll ensure Scorpio pays this time."

The situation was intricate. Lawrence's cooperation with Scorpio appeared superficial, more a maneuver for his own agenda.

Max internally resolved, 'With the Johnstons away, they're likely to make a move. We need to be vigilant here.'

Meanwhile, Nicole settled into her office. Moments later, Lulu entered with several documents.

"Nicole," Lulu began, laying the papers on the desk, "take a look to see if anything here need adjusting?"

## Chapter 2979

Nicole nodded, briefly looking over the documents. "Okay," she said.

Lulu, observing Nicole, frowned slightly and asked, "Something on your mind?"

"Yeah, it's just something I'm working on," Nicole replied, glancing up at Lulu.

Lulu leaned in, her expression turning more serious. "What's going on?"

"It's about the Apex Corp project. I've decided to tackle it myself," Nicole revealed, her voice carrying a determined undertone.

Lulu's surprise was evident. "You're actually taking that on?"

"Yes, I'll leave in a few days, once I've sorted things out here. Jared will be coming with me," Nicole explained.

Lulu's eyes widened. "Both of you are going?"

"That's right," Nicole confirmed. "He's uneasy about me going solo."

Lulu shook her head, a mix of disbelief and relief in her eyes. "And you were considering going alone? It's a good thing he's joining you."

Nicole's laughter lightened the mood slightly. "It's just a project negotiation. I don't see why everyone's so

concerned."

Lulu, still wearing a frown of concern, insisted, "But you know how things are right now."

"That's the very reason I have to go," Nicole replied, her smile a blend of confidence and reassurance. "And I won't be alone; Jared will be with me."

"Okay," Lulu conceded, though her worry was evident. She knew Nicole was determined, and having Jared by her side was a comforting thought.

"Can you get the documents ready for me? I'll need to take them along," Nicole instructed, shifting back to business.

"Of course, I'll take care of it. Don't worry about a thing," Lulu responded, ready to assist.

As Lulu exited, Nicole's gaze returned to the paperwork spread across her desk. She had a lot to wrap up before leaving -

ensuring work at the office was under control and revisiting Ellar's situation one more time.

Time passed, and soon it was lunchtime.

Nicole and Lulu settled comfortably near the couch, ready for their lunch break, when a knock sounded at the door.

"It must be Ellar," Lulu guessed, glancing up.

As predicted, Ellar entered, a lunch box in hand. "Brought your favorite - Spicy Mexican fish," he announced with a cheerful grin.

Lulu's smile widened in surprise. "You really went out to get it?"

Ellar set the lunch box on the table, its opening releasing a tantalizing aroma.

"I knew you both would enjoy it, so I made the extra effort," he explained, joining them.

Lulu couldn't hide her delight. "Now that's thoughtful. We've been concerned about you."

Turning to Nicole, Lulu observed, "He seems much better, doesn't he?"

Nicole nodded, noting Ellar's improved demeanor. "He does appear more recovered."

"Let's dig in," Ellar quickly suggested, avoiding Nicole's examining gaze.

Nicole, her eyes slightly narrowed, kept watching Ellar. Despite his apparent recovery, something about his condition seemed off to her.

Ellar, feeling Nicole's gaze, stayed focused on his food, engaging in light conversation with Lulu. "I wanted to express my gratitude for your concern," he added.

"That's really considerate, Ellar," Lulu responded with a laugh, appreciating his gesture.

Chapter 2980

Ellar's tone conveyed his effort to contribute positively to the lunch gathering.

"I remembered how much you both liked it last time, so I grabbed it for today," he said.

Lulu casually mentioned, "Well, enjoy it while you can.

Nicole will be out of the country soon."

Ellar's reaction was one of genuine surprise. "Out of the country? Nicole, what's the occasion?"

"Just some business matters. I'll be back in a few days," Nicole replied, downplaying the significance of her trip.

Ellar, not privy to the details, simply nodded in understanding. "Got it."

Nicole then shifted the conversation, her gaze intent on Ellar. "Before I go, is there anything you need assistance with?"

Ellar, slightly uneasy under Nicole's scrutiny, averted his eyes. "No, everything's fine on my end. You don't need to worry about me, Nicole."

Nicole, not entirely convinced, pressed a bit more. "Are you sure about that?"

Ellar's vigorous nod seemed to affirm his words. "Really, everything's fine," he reassured Nicole.

"Alright, let's enjoy the meal then," Nicole said, deciding to leave the matter for now. Despite her lingering doubts, she couldn't pinpoint anything specific about Ellar that seemed amiss.

She chose to focus on the present, resolving to revisit any concerns about Ellar after her trip. She thought that it was possible that her recent stress had been amplifying her worries unnecessarily.

After lunch, Ellar quickly found an excuse to leave the Riddle Corporation ahead of time.

Once outside, he released a relieved sigh, wiping the perspiration from his brow. He had sensed the underlying reason for

Nicole's questions and was grateful for his preparedness.

In reality, the Spicy Mexican fish was ordered by his assistant, while he had met with Martin to improve his complexion, anticipating Nicole might notice any discrepancies.

His efforts appeared to have paid off, allowing him to narrowly evade Nicole's suspicions.

With Nicole's impending departure, Ellar hoped for some change in his situation by her return. Even if things didn't improve

substantially, he felt confident that his condition would not be as evident and would likely go unnoticed.

"Mr. Riddle, you look very pale. Should I take you home to rest?" Ellar's assistant, full of concern, looked at his ashen face.

"No, let's head back to the company," Ellar's voice was weak, barely a whisper as he leaned against the seat.

'Going home in this state would only make my family worry more,' he thought. As Martin had predicted, Ellar's complexion had only improved temporarily. When the medication's effects started to fade, he felt even weaker than before.

He considered himself fortunate that no one had seen him after the medication wore off. 'If they had, keeping this a secret would've been impossible,' he mused.

Meanwhile, back at Riddle Corporation, Lulu had just finished tidying up and turned to Nicole. "He does seem a lot better, doesn't he? Why do you still look so worried?"

Nicole shook her head slightly. "I'm not sure. He does seem okay, but something still feels off."

"Don't worry, he's grown up and knows how to take care of himself," Lulu tried to reassure her.

Nicole's eyes narrowed as she said, "What worries me is whether he's hiding something from us."

Lulu, understanding Nicole's concern, volunteered, "I'll keep an eye on him for you while you're away."

Nicole nodded in appreciation. "That would be great, please do."

After agreeing, Lulu glanced at the time. "You should rest for a bit. I'll head out now."

Nicole, leaning on the couch, closed her eyes to rest. 'What am I missing?' she wondered, her mind buzzing with thoughts, feeling like she was on the verge of uncovering something elusive.

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Three days later, everything was ready for Nicole's trip. She and Jared were prepared to leave.

Nolan and Lana clung to Nicole, their voices tinged with reluctance, "Mommy, please come back soon."

Chapter 2981

Nicole gently kissed Nolan and Lana on their cheeks, reassuring them, "Okay, I will come back soon after finishing my work."

Jared affectionately patted Nolan's head. "Be sure to take good care of Lana

while we're away."

Nolan nodded confidently. "I will."

"Daddy," Lana reached out her arms toward Jared, yearning for a hug. Jared lifted her up, and she wrapped her arms around his neck, planting a kiss on his cheek. "Daddy, I'm going to miss you so much."

A look of deep love flashed in Jared's eyes as he replied, "I'll be back before you know it."

"Nolan, Lana, it's almost time for kindergarten," Tia gently reminded them. After bidding their parents a reluctant farewell, Nolan and Lana waved goodbye.

"Bye-bye, Daddy! Bye-bye, Mommy!" they called out, their little feet dragging and their heads turning back three times to look at their parents before following Tia to the car.

Nicole watched the car carrying Nolan and Lana until it disappeared from view. The sight left a bittersweet feeling in her heart.

Soon after, Nicole and Jared themselves got into their car, poised to embark on their journey.

"Mr. and Mrs. Johnston, everything is set," Max confirmed, his voice steady as he started the car and steered it toward the airport.

Upon hearing Max's assurance, Nicole cast a quick glance at Jared. He responded by tenderly holding her hand. "Max will handle things here. Once we're on our way, our focus should be solely on our respective tasks."

Nicole nodded in agreement, her expression morphing into one of resolve and determination.

Their journey was about more than just the Apex Corp project; there were other unresolved issues that demanded their attention.

Upon arriving at the airport, Jared and Nicole swiftly boarded the plane, leaving the familiar landscapes of San Joto behind.

As their plane soared into the sky, Max departed the airport and made his way back to Charlie's apartment.

"Mr. and Mrs. Johnston have embarked on their trip," Max reported upon arrival.

Charlie looked up at him, a hint of concern in his gaze. "Is everything set up on their end?"

"Don't worry, everything's arranged. But I'm here to discuss the current situation in San Joto," Max clarified.

Charlie's expression grew more cautious. "Does Mr. Johnston want us to handle Scorpio?"

Max gave him a correcting glance. "It's me who'll be dealing with Scorpio, not us."

"You're here to assist me. Besides that, your main task is to ensure you're well-rested," Max reminded Charlie.

"I'm actually fine now," Charlie protested, clearly not enthused about the prospect of more rest.

Max, however, was firm in his stance. "Whether you're fine or not isn't for you to decide."

Charlie shot Max a glare filled with accusation. "You're just being dictatorial."

Max simply shrugged, unfazed by the accusation. "We could always consult Patricia for her opinion on this."

At the mention of Patricia, Charlie fell silent. He knew all too well that if Patricia got involved, she would likely side with Max, leaving him without any support for his argument.

"Let Seth stay with you. I'll get in touch if anything comes up. I've temporarily reassigned the rest of the team," Max said, finalizing his plans before he prepared to leave.

Max paused at the door, a thought striking him. He turned back to Charlie.

"How's Patricia's situation? Any progress with her facial treatment?"

Charlie let out a sigh, a mix of hope and resignation in his voice. "Dr. Wyance seems to be onto something, but it's still experimental. We'll have to wait a bit longer. It's a ray of hope, at least."

The idea of waiting was difficult, but the possibility of a breakthrough was a comforting thought, a glimmer of hope in an otherwise challenging situation.

Max nodded understandingly. "We shouldn't rush things. With such a delicate matter, patience is key." He then inquired, "Did Dr.

Wyance give any specifics about this new approach?"

Nicole had previously mentioned that more reliable treatments for such injuries were usually lengthy and complex processes.

Max wondered why he hadn't heard about this development earlier. "Is it a new technique devised by Dr. Wyance? And is Mrs.

Johnston aware of it?"

Charlie shook his head, indicating his lack of detailed knowledge. "I'm not sure of the specifics. Dr. Wyance hasn't shared much yet."

Chapter 110

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Kieran

Chapter 110

Days passed, and Taplean was busy preparing for King James' arrival. Even the king had been stationed at the coast with Alpha Baxter and Beta Ford. Kieran's other allied alphas, Alpha Declan and Alpha Kai, monitored the land borders with Prince Reagan.

"The outpost had alerted us that they had crossed our sea border," Beta updated everyone. He was pointing at a map, giving an idea of

their adversaries' current location.

"I was also on the phone earlier with Alpha Declan. Our enemies are also attacking with the vampires from the eastern border, but so far, the numbers are under control," Kieran said. "It is a good thing most of the Paredon warriors are there. They are the most skilled in killing vampires."

"Would that mean they might go after Alexia and your son, Kieran?" King Balthasar said with worry.

"I have moved twenty winter-grey wolves to the Stone Blood Pack. They will only meet their end should they get past the western border," Kieran revealed. "Besides, thanks to Morgan's potions, my wife is already fully healed. She can protect our child well."

"I have three hundred potions secured in our location. Gamma Seth and Gamma Clayton are the other two warriors who carry the potions with them. Each post in the land borders also has about a hundred tubes of healing potions. We should be all good,"

Morgan reported.

All the leaders based on the coast gathered in the main tent to discuss the war last minute. Just then, a warrior rushed into their tent, saying, "Our enemies are closing in on the bay, King Balthasar! We see four ships in total!"

"Let's get ready!" King Balthasar said.

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"My men will attack first!" Beta Ford suddenly offered, going against their original plan.

Kieran was taken aback. He said, "But I'm going first -"

"No," Beta Ford replied. "You have been at the front of many battles. If I don't

survive, taking the first wave of our enemies, I can rest easy, knowing that our best warrior and his men are still alive to finish them

off!”

“But this is not what we planned! It will ruin -”

“It won’t,” Beta Ford opposed. “It’s just a matter of who goes first or not. Let me take the first wave of Eswen Warriors, and if I get through, I will infiltrate their ship and find King James or Helen! I will put an end

to their lives!”

Kieran and Beta Ford argued. Truthfully, Kieran had found Beta Ford’s actions strange recently. On two occasions, he had noticed him taking a call in secret, often looking over his shoulders. Next, Kieran observed how the king’s beta had turned his phone off completely, sometimes finding it hard to contact him.

When discussing the matters of the war, he was often distant, like he was thinking of something else. Beta Ford only admitted to being exhausted and would prematurely depart from the meeting to rest. Now, he wanted to change the war plans at the very last minute. It did not sit well with Kieran.

Kieran was about to object again, but because their enemies were closing in, King Balthasar said, “Let him! Let Ford do as he pleased.”

The king turned to his beta and said, “Please take care of yourself. Watch your back. I need you back alive.”

Beta Ford stilled for a second, and Kieran noticed his reluctance. The king’s beta asked, “Even after you give the crown to Alpha Kieran, My King?”

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“Of course,” King Balthasar said, and Kieran saw the perplexity on the king’s face. Even he was confused about Ford’s query.

“You are my beta, but later. We will talk about that.”

“My king -” Beta Ford meant to say more, but the words outside the tent urged them to line up for their upcoming battle.

“Aren’t you going first? Go and warn your men,” King Balthasar ordered, making Beta Ford nod.

Kieran and Beta Ford walked out of the tent together. They were striding to their assigned platoon. They were about to part ways



when Beta Ford asked, "What about you, Alpha Kieran? Has the king said anything about his plans? When you ascend to the

throne, what will become of him? And what is he planning to do with me?"

"To be honest, he had never explained his plans. Then, this war is also getting in the way of us, talking about his plans of giving you the throne. He only tells me to trust him, but I have always wondered, after the war, where do I belong in his future?" Beta Ford resumed.

"You know our king. He leaves mysteries for us to solve." Kieran halted his steps. He frowned and asked, "Has that been bothering you long, Beta Ford? Because considering how you have been together as friends and as Beta and Alpha, you should not doubt any of his plans."

"I -" Beta Ford gulped.

Kieran saw how the king's beta swallowed air down his throat as he replied, "Forget what I said. Let's go on and end this war, once and for all."

Looking Kieran in the eye, he revealed, "Alpha Kieran, I might die in this war. I intended to end it today. Please, look after the king -"

"Will you die intentionally, Beta Ford?" Kieran did not know why, but his instincts told him something about Ford's actions were not right. He said, "You know, you are the only one who did not take the truth serum, Beta Ford. Did those unanswered questions of yours lead you to

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betray the king? Most of all, urge you to betray me and have my wife and child kidnapped?!"

Before getting any answer, Kieran immediately jumped on Ford, and the beta fell on his back. Kieran snarled, "How could you? How could you?"

"I don't know what you are talking about -"

Beta Ford still denied it, prompting Kieran to punch him in the face!

"After all we have been through!" Kieran threw another punch, and in the next few minutes, he and Beta Ford wound up

punching each other by the shore.

"Enough!" King Balthasar snarled. "Tell me! What is this all about?"

“Beta Ford is the traitor!” Kieran barked, his hands still clutching Ford’s shirt as he turned to the king.

King Balthasar’s eyes widened in shock. After standing still for seconds, he commanded, “Take him back to the tent!”

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King Balthasar ~

Now injected with the truth serum, the king, Kieran, and Alpha Baxter questioned Beta Ford. The leaders had about an hour, based on their enemies’ location. They figured there was still time to seek the truth

from Ford.

King Balthasar’s voice trembled as he asked, “Are you the traitor we have been seeking?”

Beta Ford struggled to breathe, and Balthasar could tell he was trying to fight the truth serum that every vein in his b\*dy was

threatening to pop out. As Beta Ford grunted, even Morgan stepped back.

“Are you?!” The king shouted, his heart aching for the truth that was

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about to unfold before him.

After minutes of resisting the potion, Beta Ford cried. He answered, “It’s because you have forsaken me, My King! You have

named Kieran the next king, but where does that leave me?!”

“What do you mean where does that leave you? You betrayed me because I had planned to make Kieran king?” Balthasar was

rageful when he asked, “Did you want to be king?”

Beta Ford was tied to a chair with silver chains. He fell on his knees, the seat still attached to him. He shook his head and

replied, “No! I don’t want to be king!”

“At first, I fell into the witches’ convincing, but later, I accepted their invitation, but I never meant to hurt Luna Alexia! It wasn’t

what we agreed. I only wanted Kieran to be out of the way, so I could be named the nation’s hero instead of him.”

Ford cried remorsefully before adding, “If Kieran becomes king, he will appoint Jaxon as his beta. Where does that leave me?

Where My King? You have planned out Kieran’s life, but what about me? I am your most loyal subject!”

King Balthasar’s heart was crushed altogether. He wondered if this was his fault. He did not tell his Beta all the future he saw in

Avery’s eyes because, in truth, nothing is definite. In their current state, there

was no guarantee that they would win the war. One can only fight to make such a destiny come true. He knew betrayals would happen, obstacles to fight, and heartbreaks to experience, but he never thought it would come from his best friend

and beta, Ford.

“Where does that leave you?” King Balthasar yelled as he sarcastically said. He answered, “With me, of course! I planned to take you with me after leaving Taplean! Where his alphas go, the beta goes with him as well!”

“How could you think that I have forsaken you! You are part of the future I saw in my mate’s eyes. Your fate had always been to follow me wherever I go,” King Balthasar revealed.

The king could tell that he had knocked some sense into Ford, but it was already too late for whatever realization he had made.

Ford betrayed him, and he committed treason against the nation.

“It’s a shame! Now look at what you have done,” the king said. “You have changed what had been written in the stars for yourself, us, and Taplean.”

“Now, tell us... what have you told King James and Helen about our war plans?” Kieran asked.

“I -” Beta Ford sucked in a breath and replied, “I did not tell them anything.”