The Alpha's Contract Luna alexia By Lian #Chapter 131 - Read The Alpha's Contract Luna alexia By Lian Chapter 131

Chapter 131

Kate -

"Mate" Xander, Kate's husband, said.

Unfortunately for Kate, her husband wasn't referring to her but to the woman seated at the end of their dining table.

Silence fell upon the room as the unknown woman rose from her seat and und back to Xander, "Mate

Kate stiffened, and her eyes followed her husband's gaze. She looked at the woman and acknowledged her beauty. Her heart

sank altogether. What made in even worse was how the woman was Alpha Denzel's daughter from the Red Wood Pack.

What a slap on Kate's face!

Kate was the Luna of the South Moon Pack. Xander, the alpha, was her husband of one year. She met Xander by chance while

she was running away from her past. He brought her to his pack, and immediately, they formed a bond Ete no other.

They were not fated mates but fell in love and chose their fates. Xander had claimed Kate, and they had marked each other.

On that day, they were celebrating Kate's 25th birthday. For Xander to find h fated mate on Kate's special day was a sick joke of a gift!

Kate wanted a simple gathering, just between her and her husband. However, Xander insisted they invite their neighboring

packs. A few days ago, he said "Sweetheart, I want to show you to the world. Let them see what a beautiful and great Luna I

have. Please, let's have this party. Alpha Maximo, Alpha Rick and the old Alpha Denzel have been asking about you, and I'm

dying to flaunt you around!"

That was because Kate was behind the success of the pack's Water Utility Company, which serviced five neighboring packs.

With her added contribution to the community, Xander was the proudest alpha of having Kate as his wife and Luna. However,

with how everything unfolded now, would everything remain the same?

The dining hall had high–profile guests: alphas, lunas, and betas from the neighboring packs. With this in mind, Kate's face

reddened in embarrassment as they all turned to her, waiting for her reaction. "Well, this is awkward, Alpha Denzel said while looking at Kate and then back to his daughter.

The food was still warm and freshly served. Everyone had just settled in, but by the looks of it, no one would enjoy Kate's

birthday dinner that night.

The Alpha's Contract Lima

+5 vouchers

"Well," Kate rose from her seat. She grabbed her husband's hand and said, "Xander and I are married. We have been for a year.

We had vowed to reject our fated

mates."

She gulped and told Alpha Denzel, "I'm sorry, but it has to be done." Turning to her husband, she asked, "Right, Xander?"

Xander did not respond. Instead, he asked to speak with Kate in private. Needless to say, the celebration ended before it even

began. Xander took Kate to his office, and from there, he said, "To show respect to Alpha Denzel and his daughter, I would rather

reject her in private. You understand, right, Kate?"

Kate wanted to come along, but Xander convinced her otherwise. He left her at the packhouse that night and went with Alpha

Denzel to the Red Wood Pack. Hours passed, but Kate's husband didn't return. The sun had already risen, but there was no

word of Xander. The news of the alpha, finding his true mate had already spread at the packhouse, and Kate would not be

surprised if the same information had also leaked to the rest of the pack.

Kate did not sleep at all. She had repeatedly called her husband, but sadly, he was out of reach.

To get her mind off things, she made a run for it in her wolf form. She inspected the southern border and sought out the beta.

However, even Beta Jacob had no answer for her, and he dared not look Kate in the eye. The gammas on patrol averted her

gaze as if they knew something she did not.

Fear had already crept into her heart, but as she returned to the packhouse, she tried to convince herself, "He promised me. He

would do right by me. Xander would reject her, and everything will be fine." Yet, despite assuring herself, Kate sensed the heaviness in her chest that the moment she returned to the master bedroom,

tears streamed down her cheeks..

"He would not leave me. He loves me so much." Her hands were trembling as she wiped the stain on her face. She said, "That's

right. Xander loves me."

A knock on the door interrupted her thoughts. Kate opened it and saw her maid walk in. She said, "Luna. I heard. I'm sorry –"

"It's okay, Adri. Xander will reject her. Go back to your work. I'll be fine," Kate assured her maid, but she wasn't convinced herself.

More hours passed, and Kate still had not heard of her husband. She did not eat, nor was she in the mood to leave her room.

She kept muttering, "Xander, fuck! Please give me a sign!"

When afternoon came, Kate finally got the sign she requested, but it wasn't what she hoped.

Her heart was suddenly aching!

Kate felt like a knife was stabbing her! She clenched her hand against her chest, and she could barely breathe. Worst, her entire

b*dy felt like it was turned into a

The Alpha's Contract Loma

+ vouchers

punching bag! She fell on the floor, taking in various positions in an attempt to endure the torture.

"Aahhh" Her screams muffled into her hand as she covered it. The last thing she needed right now was pity.

When it all stopped, Kate cried her heart out. "No. No. Not my Xander. Why? Xander, you promised!"

Her face was awash with tears because she knew the ordeal she had just undergone meant Xander had been intimate with

another woman.

Kate and her husband had marked each other. They were one. Because of this, Xander's betrayal had left Kate battered. It was

the curse of the mate bond, a way for the Moon Goddess to enforce loyalty between mates. If Kate were to betray Xander

similarly, he would feel the same excruciating pain.

Xander knew this, but he hurt her altogether.

It was already nighttime when Xander returned to the packhouse. He entered the master bedroom and saw the pack doctor

wrapping bandages and herbal leaves around Kate's stomach. It was meant

to compress the bruises on her b*dy.

Seeing Xander, the doctor quickened his work and pulled Kate's blouse down. The doctor greeted Xander, "Alpha."

"Leave us," Xander instructed, and the doctor left quickly.

Kate did not look at Xander. She just leaned on the headboard and stared angrily. into nothing.

"I'm sorry, Kate. I could not resist it," Xander explained. "The pull was too strong." Experiencing it was one thing, but Kate

realized his admittance was far more heartbreaking. This man had promised to love her all her life. How could a year full of love

be easily forgotten?

Yet again, she found it hard to breathe. Tears rolled down her face as she asked bitterly, "So what happens now?"

"You are my wife. You will still be the pack's luna –"

"But?" Kate interrupted, knowing what was coming.

"But I must bring Delilah here since she is my fated mate, and I have claimed her. I have to take responsibility," Xander said in a

deep voice. "We must make it work

the three of us."

'Delilah, so that's her name, Kate made a mental note.

The truth stung. Kate shut her eyes, taking deep breaths. When she fluttered her eyes open, she said, emphasizing each word

that rolled off her tongue, "What if I say no? I'd rather you reject me and set me free than endure the pain of your betrayal."

"No, Kate! You have no choice." His voice echoed crisply in the air. He said, "You

Chapter 132

-Kate-

A woman's loud moans reached Kate's room, alarming the maid and medical staff attending to her. Xander and his fated, Delilah,

were doing it in the other room without bothering to be discreet!

While lying in bed, Kate felt the pain surge in her b*dy. Tears rolled down her checks, but she clenched her jaws not to show any

weakness, her hands balled into

fists.

"Hurry!" Kate's maid, Adriana, urged the doctor and nurse. She also cried with Kate. "Hurry, can't you see she is in pain?"

The needle pricked Kate's arm, and the morphine slowly did its magic, tricking her brain to feel no pain.

Delilah moved into the packhouse four months ago, and everything turned from bad to worse for Kate.

Delilah, Alpha Denzel's daughter, was no innocent woman. She frequently created drama in the packhouse. Often, she would

turn Kate into a villain by acting like a white lotus.

On the first day, Delilah joined them for breakfast. She gave an apologetic look and said, "I'm sorry, Luna Kate. This is not what I

had wanted for myself. I did not mean to get in between your marriage –" At that time, Kate was still resentful and directly retorted, "Really? Then why did you spread your legs for a married man?"

"That's enough, Kate!" Xander scolded her. "Can't you see how Delilah meant not harm? Show respect because she is also my mate, my destined."

Kate did not know how it happened, but Delilah earned points that day. She started gaining sympathy from a few of the

packhouse's workers and selected warriors, especially from Xander.

Moving to the room next to the master's bedroom was also Delilah's assertion. Kate's bed had long turned cold, and she knew

Delilah wanted to shove it up her face by moaning like a whale each time Xander touched her. It wasn't enough for Delilah that

Kate was battered each time it happened.

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The most notable occurrence, however, was how Delilah sl*pped on the floor on purpose after walking past Kate. Back then,

Delilah cried, "Xander, I might have. lost our baby! Kate walked past me too fast by accident!"

First of all, Kate was shocked that Delilah was pregnant. After a year of trying to get pregnant herself, Kate and Xander were

never blessed with a pup, while Delilah got pregnant in just two months! Second, Kate did nothing to Delilah. She was simply

walking!

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1. Alphas Contract Lama

+5 vouchers

Although Delilah did not lose the baby, that incident completely changed how Xander treated Kate. He hit her for the first time

and sent Kate to the dungeons for five days. Kate officially became the evildoer in Xander's eyes.

Kate could go on and on and make a book of Delilah's schemes. However, no matte: now she tried to expose Delilah, Xander

could not see through her lies. He was utterly blinded by the true mate's bond. And as for Xander's solution of making things work for Kate? He decided that the pack's doctor would give Kate painkillers

whenever he wanted to bed his mistress. This was also why the doctor and nurse were already living in the packhouse, so they

could attend to Kate whenever possible.

It started with simple painkillers, but as each week passed, Xander and Delilah's appetite for intimacy grew stronger, and giving

Kate a tranquilizer became

necessary.

Unfortunately, the medications could only stop the pain, but they did nothing to prevent the damage to Kate's b*dy. Each time,

Kate would be covered in bruises, taking a week at most for Kate's b*dy to heal.

The moans fired up again in the other room, suggesting Xander and Delilah were up for another round. The doctors regretably

gave Kate a tranquilizer this time around.

"This cannot go on. How much more can Luna Kate take if Alpha Xander cannot help himself? He should just reject Luna Kate,"

the nurse said faintly.

"But he is our alpha," the doctor reminded the nurse. "If you want to live, keep your opinions to yourself."

When Xander finally addressed all his desires in the other room, the doctor and nurse left Kate's quarters. Kate's maid remained

inside, crying for her. She held. Kate's hand and said, "This isn't right. My dearest Luna. We must leave here soon."

Kate was still awake. She wept again, not for her, but how Adriana felt sorry for her. She gripped Adriana's hand and ordered,

"We must find Glinda."

Adriana nodded. She replied, "I am trying my best, my Luna. Soon, I will find Glinda for you."

Because of her current state, Kate was determined to leave, but Xander had warriors guarding the pack, and worst, his alpha

command was above her. Defying him meant facing a greater deal of torture. Time and time again, Xander had refused Kate's request to be rejected. If

Kate wanted to be free from her husband, Kate's only

hope was Glinda, the witch who did her a favor, a favor which turned out to be a disadvantage to her now. Who would have

thought that she would suffer at the hands of her husband? Regret consumed

her. Kate gave up everything for Xander, and look where it got

her.

'I swear on my life. Once I find Glinda, Xander, Delilah, I will make you pay, Kate

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The Alpha's Contract 1 ima

said in her head before finally surrendering to her medication and falling into a deep slumber.

"We love you, Luna Katel" the children said in unison after Kate handed bags of food by the north border of their pack. This part

of their territory had less fortunate families, so Kate organized a gift-giving for them.

During breaks, and by breaks, Kate meant when her husband wasn't screwing hist mistress, Kate performed her luna duties.

Working and meeting the pack members was therapeutic to her. The people gave her a sense of belongingness that she no

longer felt with Xander.

"Thank you, Luna. You have been so kind and considerate," one mother said with

tears.

"We are lucky you are our Luna," another child exclaimed.

Another elderly woman looked at her with sympathy. She approached Kate and whispered, "I am sorry about what you are going

through. You are such a strong Luna to have to withstand this. My heart goes out to you."

The elderly woman k*ssed her forehead and mindlinked, 'We know you love us, but whatever you choose, we will understand.

Don't stay on our account."

Tears trickled from her eyes, touched by the older woman's words. Kate may have lost the love of her husband, but the pack still

loved her. It was something that Delilah could never have. To Kate, this was why Xander held on to her as the luna of the pack.

Kate was the perfect luna. She had contributed so much for the pack in just a year, whether in business, giving security

strategies, or simply being the people-serving luna that she was.

On the other hand, Delilah was a pampered alpha's daughter. She was quite the opposite of Kate. She had blonde hair, whereas

Kate had light brown hair. Kate was taller and more masculine, but Delilah had a delicate-looking b*dy.

Delilah focused more on fashion and arts growing up, whereas Kate well, Kate, had probably done it all. Of course, no one in the

pack knew this about her. It was her biggest secret. Not even Xander knew. Kate and her group resumed carrying out the gift-giving activity. As they did, Adriana updated Kate through mindlink, 'Our

contacts outside have traced the witch, Glinda. It won't be long now."

'Good.' Kate said in her head while waving at the children who called her name. Kate happily distributed more bags to the

children who approached, when a warrior in a panic suddenly called Kate's attention, "Luna! Our scouts on this. border have

been attacked. They said over a hundred men are coming this way!" "What?" Alarmed, Kate snapped in the warrior's direction, wide-eyed. "Are they roques?"

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The Alphis Contract Lausa

The warrior showed a hint of fear as he conveyed. "Luna, the scouts who reached out to me II think they are dead. I can't feel

them anymore. They failed to identify the coming intruders. The enemies are about a kilometer away."

Kate took inoment to let it all in. She studied the surroundings. The north borde: was their weakest boundary. Strengthening its

fences was supposed to be Xander's project had he not been so busy fucking Delilah these past four months! "Arrgh! There is no

time!" Kate said. She ordered the warrior, "Bring all the people to the shelter as fast as you can! Hurry! Women and children

first!" She ordered the same, mindlinking to closeby warriors and gammas.

With several warriors, Kate and Adriana led as many pack members to the shelter. By the time Kate arrived, Xander and Delilah

were already there too. Xander was clearly mindlinking with his warriors who were on patrol. He barely noticed Kate's arrival.

Not too far, Kate saw Xander's beta running towards them in his wolf form. The beta shifted into his human form and reported.

"Alpha, Xander. They are almost at the border!"

"Who the hell has the nerve to attack my pack?" Xander angrily growled. "Why has no one given me a name yet?"

Beta Jacob braced himself. His face appeared burdened as he revealed, "It's the cursed alpha, Sebastian Armstrong. He is the

one attacking us."

The entire time, Kate was behind Xander. At the mention of the cursed alpha's name, Chills ran down her spine, and she froze on the spot.

Kate did not know how long she stood there in a daze. Barely a whisper, she said under her breath, "The cursed alpha?"

More than a year ago, she fled from this man. Now, it would seem as though her past was chasing after her. She mused, 'Did did

he finally find me? Was was he here for me?"

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– Kate –

"What? We have no choice. We have to fight!" Xander announced. "Jacob, gather all the men who can fight!"

While Xander and Jacob were rallying the men, Kate remained still, feeling her heart race. She had a hand on her chest, fearful

for the reason of the cursed alpha's attack.

"Kate? Kate!" Xander's domineering voice distracted her thoughts. He said, "Are you just going to stand there? I need you now. I

need you to fight with me!" She was so lost in her thoughts that she did not even notice how Xander was already standing before

her and holding her arms. Xander suggested, "Alpha Sebastian might be after our water utility business, one we have worked so

hard. forl"

Kate nodded, but she wasn't sure if she wanted to fight.

"I'll fight too!" Delilah offered, making Kate return to her senses. Kate and Xander looked at Delilah in surprise because getting

dirty wasn't her style.

"No, you are pregnant," Xander pointed out. "You stay here in the shelter. Protect our child."

Xander glanced at Kate, ordering her, "Let's go, Kate."

Xander had already made a run for it, leading the warriors to the said location. His cinammon brown wolf glanced back at her,

and he mind linked, 'Kate, are you coming?'

'Okay,' that was all she said, mindlinking back.

"Luna Kate." Adriana pulled Kate away from the crowd. When they were alone, Adriana mindlinked, "This is our chance. While

Alpha is fighting, we can flee. His alpha command won't be able to reach you once we have crossed a kilometer outside the

border.

Kate gulped. The idea of escaping while the people she had grown to love were attacked made her feel like a traitor. She was second–guessing, but Beta Jacob's report fired up the luna in her.

"What? What did you say?" Beta Jacob was obviously mindlinking with whoever was out there, fighting. He turned to Kate,

saying, "Luna, our eastern borders have fallen. Over fifty of the cursed alpha's warriors had also infiltrated that location! They

have captured women and children."

"Copy, Beta Jacob," Kate replied. "I'll take the east."

"Luna," Adriana called.

Kate, however, turned to Adriana and mindlinked, 'I can't, Adri. The pack needs help. We can't just leave them like this. There

will be another opportunity."

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Adriana did not get a chance to speak because Kate immediately shifted into her wolf, tearing her clothes.

Kate had grey and stripes of black coat on her back and a white fur on her belly. Her size and speed made her wolf form stand

out the most, so she was easily identified by the rest of the pack.

The warriors who ran with her howled confidently, knowing their luna was with

them.

When Kate reached the eastern boundary of their pack, she saw a group of women and children being rounded up by giant

werewolves. There were six of them. Two growled and flaunted their teeth at the hostages, while four guarded anyone from

breaking their barrier.

Around them were fifty unknown werewolves, all robust and fearless, fighting their warriors. Then, judging by the screams behind

the trees and the thundering paws that rumbled against the ground, more of the enemies were coming.

Kate began to fight back. She lunged on a werewolf that was fighting one of the gammas. With her speed and precise moves,

she toppled down the opponent and bit him in the leg.

Jumping from one enemy to another, Kate managed to take down four fighters in half an hour, making her catch the attention of

the surrounding enemies.

Kate could feel eyes on her. Very quickly, five rival werewolves surrounded her, but she remained calm. All of them had their

fangs out, their saliva dripping in anger.

"She is mine."

"No, she is mine."

"I like the challenge. Let me fight her."

"I like a feisty lady."

Each of the werewolves in that circle wanted to try out her skills. Repeatedly, they growled and attempted to lunge at her.

Unexpectedly, a loud and authoritative tone snarled, "No, I will fight her!" Whoever that was, Kate noticed all five werewolves retreated. One opposing warrior panned from Kate to that man twice and

hissed before leaving her alone.

While the struggle continued around Kate, she turned to the voice that ordered the five werewolves away. She was surprised that

the man did not shift into his wolf. Instead, he stood tall, wearing bronze chest armor. His cut was so imposing that Kate felt

threatened just by his looks. He also had a bronze mask covering his face. His hair was long, and he walked lazily in her

direction like he owned time. A distinct and primal scent permeated the air when this masked man closed in on Kate. It was an

intoxicating mixture of wild, untamed elements. He smelled of deep, earthy musk with the hints of falling leaves.

Kate was sure this man was a high-ranking werewolf, and he was about to fight

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The Alptors Contract Lana

her? In his human form? She mused, 'Does this man have a death wish?" "What's the matter? Already scared of me?" the mysterious man asked in a deep

voice.

Narrowing her eyes, Kate growled. Then, she advanced, leaping from where she stood, hoping to defeat the man sooner. To her

shock, however, the man was fast in his human form!

Kate began to attack without holding back. She was striking with her claws and attempted to bite at him, but all her efforts were

in vain. The man dodged them all. Kate also tried to fight in her human form. When she managed to punch him in the face, she

received the pain instead.

"f**k your mask!" Kate barked. "You are a coward, hiding behind your armor! Fight like a man! That probably hit his ego because the man started fighting back without hold. He punched her, grabbed her arms, and fl*pped

her over. Then, the man quickly restrained her to the ground like she was feather–light.

Kate could not believe what had just happened! Her heart drummed against her ribcage, and for the first time, she feared for the

outcome of that fight. Kate tried to wiggle free, but the man was far stronger. She screamed for help, but no one came either.

"Are you ready to die?" the man said behind her. "Do you even know who you are fighting? Foolish woman!"

Just as Kate was struggling, she saw Delilah rush in her direction. She said, "I'll help you, Luna Kate!"

Sadly for Delilah, a rival werewolf spotted her. The enemy quickly mauled her to the ground, and Delilah bled! She screamed,

"Help! Xander, help!"

Surprisingly, Xander wasn't too far away. He appeared out of nowhere in his wolf form, fuming. Xander easily killed the werewolf who attacked Delilah.

While Kate was watching everything unfold, the man who was holding her down grazed his claw against her neck. In a raspy

voice, he suggested, "Time to die." "No!" Kate looked at Xander and also called for help, "Xander! Please help mel Help me!"

Kate saw how Xander ignored her. As he scooped Delilah in his arms, Xander mindlinked with Kate, 'Why would I save you

when you called Delilah out to help you? You knew she was pregnant! You did this on purpose to hurt her and our child! I did not

think you could be this cruel, Kate!'

'What?' Kate protested. 'I did not do such a thing! Whatever she said, she is lying! Help me!"

As Kate called for help, the man sat on her back, forcing the earth to mold against her chest. Her entire b*dy ached because of

the weight above her. Next, the man pulled her hair, forced her face up, pressed his claw deeper against her skin, and

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+5 vouchers

made a small cut.

"This is it for you, dearest Luna," the man concluded. "Say your goodbyes!" "Xander, please!" At that point, Kate voiced her thoughts. "If you don't believe me, fine! But at least, help me for the sake that you once loved me! I am still your wife!"

Unfortunately for Kate, Xander chose to flee with Delilah. Kate saw how Delilah smirked. She looked at Kate mischievously as if

having won the battle. Instantly, Kate knew it was another one of Delilah's ploy to get rid of her.

"Aaahhh!" Again, rage surged in her heart, seeing Xander abandon her for Delilah's lies.

"Hahaha!" Out of nowhere, the man behind laughed as if mocking her! Only then did it dawn on Kate that he allowed her to

watch the entire scene. He did not kill her. He wanted her to witness her husband's abandonment, but why?

The attack on the South Moon Pack continued for hours. All Kate could hear were their people's cries and screams of horror.

She felt many of their warriors lose the bond to the pack, meaning they lost their lives.

Guilt consumed Kate, but there was nothing she could do. Like them, she was now a prisoner to the cursed alpha. She could

only wish that the cursed alpha would not recognize her.

Kate remained facing the ground but now had silver cuffs and chains around her torso. The man still sat on her like she was a

couch, and damn, he was heavy. Finally, the attack ended two hours before sunset. The opponents gloated in their conquest in words and laughter.

Another powerful man walked in Kate's direction. He had red hair and a scar on his forehead going down his right eye. He stood

before the man who remained to sit on Kate and said, "Alpha, we have now gathered all prisoners in front of the packhouse. We

are ready for you."

Kate's eyes grew wide. She muttered under her breath, "Alpha?"

When the man got up from her, Kate fl*pped her b*dy to lie on her back. She instantly locked eyes with those blue orbs beneath

the bronze mask. Shivering, Kate asked, "Are are you the cursed alpha?"

The masked man scoffed and lazily answered. "The one and only."

Chapter 134

Kate-

Thank you, Moon Goddess, for giving me a little bit of justice, Kate mused after seeing Xander and Delilah across from her. They

were also captured. No one escaped the cursed alpha's forces.

Like every high–ranking werewolf from the South Moon Pack, Xander was on his knees with silver chains and cuffs. Delilah was beside him, weeping.

Around Kate, the pack members were wailing, seeking answers from anyone who could answer what would become of their

fates.

"Silence!" Kate heard Alpha Sebastian call everyone's attention. "All of you, look at

me!"

In a menacing tone, he added, "I, Alpha Sebastian Armstrong, leader of the Wind Walker Pack, command you to look at me!"

Then, Sebastian let out his alpha aura. It was like a wave of electricity that suddenly rolled out, reaching everyone in their pack.

Kate felt it too. In just seconds, she could barely move and was forced to look up to Sebastian. It certainly was far different than

that of Xander's alpha command. Alpha Sebastian's alpha command was more potent.

She could hear the others screaming in pain before finally submitting to the cursed alpha's order. As for Kate, she had no more

reason to defy this new alpha. She no longer respected Xander.

"Now t that I have your attention!" Sebastian said. "I have conquered your pack. The South Moon Pack is officially mine!"

"Like all my conquests, this pack will pay taxes to my pack, The Wind Walker Pack. In return, you will be part of a strong alliance

protecting you from rogues and other alliance packs," Sebastian described. "Your alpha, Xander Baros, can remain to lead, but

note that I!"

He made his voice loud and clear, giving Kate goosebumps as he added, "I am above him. I am the supreme ruler of all my

territories, including the South Moon Pack!"

Sebastian growled and threatened, "Defy me, and you will die. Create a rebellion, and you will find yourself six feet beneath the

ground. Lie to me and my men, and you will suffer the same fate."

Suddenly, Sebastian growled. His b*dy slightly expanded to the point that the veins in his arms and along his neck protruded

from his skin. His claws. lengthened. He emitted power similar to that of an alpha king that everyone, including Kate, was forced

to firmly straighten their backs and bow their heads in respect to him. It surprised Kate completely that Sebastian had so much power!

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"Am I clear?" Sebastian asked loudly. His words were enunciated with precision, and they resonated with a sense of

uncompromising conviction.

No one. Absolutely no one could free themselves from that alpha command. "Yes, Alpha Sebastian."

"Yes, Alpha."

"We submit, Alpha Sebastian!"

Words of compliance followed. Kate also heard the same from Xander. It meant that even Kate's husband failed to fight Alpha Sebastian's orders.

It took a while for the cursed alpha to be contented with everyone's submission. It was as if he was purposely making the South Moon Pack suffer by prolonging the powerful aura around them.

moon rack surfer by prolonging the powerful atra alound them.

When he finally released them from his alpha command, all their shoulders fell. Kate, for one, took deep breaths. She could hear

gasping and whimpering around her. Some murmured about how the rumors of the cursed alpha were true.

"He really is as powerful as they said he is."

"I can't believe what just happened."

"He is stronger than Alpha Xander."

"We never stood a chance to begin with."

Before those whispers could erupt into something more, Sebastian

announced, "Now, some of you may not know this, but in

every territory that I conquer, I take a prize."

He turned his head to the side, looking at Xander, and asked, "What is... your most prized possession, Xander?"

Kate was far to the right from where Xander was. She finally spared him a glance. while listening to him name his material

possessions.

"I – I have gold bars in my safe." He shook his head and added, "The the water utility company

"Fool!" Sebastian exclaimed. "I have no interest in your money. I am... a thousand times richer than you, Xander Baros! They are

not true prized possessions. Besides, you will be giving us taxes starting next month."

The cursed alpha suddenly leaned down to grip Xander's neck. He held Xander up in the air, leaving him fiddling to breathe. He

asked, "Who is more important to you? Your fated mate, who you are fucking around with? Or, the great Luna of this pack?"

Murmurs flared. The townspeople were getting a bigger picture of the situation between Kate, Xander, and Delilah. Kate

suddenly felt the pack member's sorry looks on her. As for Kate, she was shocked at how the cursed alpha knew!

"Can't talk?" Sebastian asked Xander. He hissed and said, "Then, let me decide."

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The cursed alpha threw Xander to the ground, leaving him aching in pain. Sebastian first picked up Delilah, grabbing her by the

arm as she screamed, "Help! Xander, help mel"

The cursed alpha studied Delilah from head to toe. He remarked, "This one has no real value. I don't like this one!"

Sebastian also threw Delilah to the ground and paced toward Kate.

Kate's eyes rounded. Her heart was about ready to jump out of her chest. 'No. No. No! This can't be happening. Does he

recognize me? It can't be. It can't be –" "Put me down!" Kate tried to resist as Sebastian's strong arm pulled her up. He cupped

her face, turned it side to side, and gripped her arm and thighs. He announced, "I want this one."

Sebastian turned to Xander and asked, "Isn't she your Luna? I commend you for your taste. And because you chose well, I want her too!"

"No. No, please," Kate begged while Sebastian returned his attention to her. She saw through his mask how his blue–colored

eyes focused on the mark on her neck, Xander's mark, the mark that bound her to her husband.

"We have to get rid of that," Sebastian said. His voice showed a hint of irritation. He dragged Kate closer to Xander and

commanded, "Reject her!"

Xander froze. He looked at Kate as if he was weighing the pros and cons. It was probably because of his hesitation that Sebastian kicked Xander in the stomach and repeated, "She is the prize I want.

Reject her now, or I will kill your mistress!"

The red–haired man, introduced as Sebastian's beta earlier, grabbed Xander's shoulders and echoed, "Do as my alpha says!

Reject her!"

Another of the cursed alpha's warriors grabbed Delilah, threatening to hurt her. When Xander saw this, he said, I, Xander Baros,

alpha of the South Moon Pack, reject you, Kate Reed, as my mate and luna!"

Kate gritted her teeth as the hurt rushed inside of her. She was not even given the chance to soothe her pain when Sebastian

grabbed her by the jaw and ordered, "Accept his rejection, now!" "Now!" He snarled again.

Left with no choice, Kate braced herself for a more painful experience. The thing about marking another werewolf was that the

bond was supposed to be unbreakable, that defying and damaging it would result in the most tremendous heartache.

Trembling in her response, Kate said while looking at her husband, "I, Kate Reed Stone, accept your rejection, Xander Baros! I

renounce my position as your wife and being the Luna of the South Moon Pack!"

For a fleeting moment, Kate saw the puzzled expression that came from Xander. It

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was the first time Kate used her real name, but it had to be done. Otherwise, the rejection will fail.

Then, the pain kicked in, and Kate used all the energy left to withstand rejection. Just like at, Kate was disconnected from the

members of the South Moon Pack. Sebastian quickly grabbed Kate's arm. He stared into her eyes and declared, "Now,

you are minel"

Chapter 135

Kate –

"What are you going to do to me Ahh!" Kate was practically shoved inside a car upon reaching the main road, a little over a

kilometer from the South Moon Pack's territory.

Her b*dy was aching. She was still covered in bruises from Xander's betrayal. Plus, the painful rejection, and here was the

cursed alpha, pushing her into the car's backseat in a very ungentle way. Of course, she expected no less, but Kate sure could

use a break.

While the cursed alpha entered the vehicle after her, she groaned, saying, "Please, I need a break from all this."

From the corner of her eye, she saw the masked alpha swing his b*dy back. She screamed, "No, no! No!"

Kate shut her eyes, preparing for the impact of a fist or elbow, as she curled into a ball in the backseat. However, after a second,

she felt a warm blanket cover her frame. When she opened her eyes, she

realized that Sebastian had covered her up. He even

tied the ends of the blanket around her neck to ensure it did not sl*p. down from her b*dy.

"It's time to leave," Sebastian ordered, resting his back and head on the seat. "Yes, Alpha," the beta acknowledged.

The car they were in began to drive away. Kate looked out the window, her heart. aching to leave this place. At the same time,

she was worried half to death about what Alpha Sebastian was planning to do with her.

A big part of her wanted to cry for the unknown coming for her, but she had been crying so much over the past four months that

nothing came out of her eyes. All Kate could do was study this huge man resting next to her, his arms crossed against his chest.

"What." Kate gulped. "What are you going to do with me?"

"Anything I want," Sebastian coldly said. Through his mask, Kate could see that his eyes were closed.

"What-"

"Shhh. I don't want to talk right now. You can stare at me, or you can be smart and use the time to rest," Sebastian said in a husky voice.

Kate looked at the man driving in front of the car. It was the red-hair beta. He did not give her any regard, and it seemed like she

wouldn't get any answers soon. She leaned back and tried to be watchful. For as long as she could, she tried to stay awake, but

her b*dy betrayed her. After an hour on the road, she fell asleep.

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Kate jerked awake, panting. She took heavy breaths as she studied her surroundings wide-eyed. Surprisingly, she wasn't dead

yet.

There were two women dressed in white who were inside an unknown room with her. She say that she was hooked into an IV.

"Luna Kate? Are you feeling better?" the lady with long white hair said. She smiled and introduced herself, "My name is

Cassandra. I am the pack's primary doctor here at the The Wind Walker Pack."

Cassandra turned to the other short black–haired woman and said, "This is Ellice. She is one of our nurses at the pack. We have

been taking care of you while you were out for a week-'

"What?" Her brows furrowed, and her vision blurred as she clarified, "A week?" "Yes," the doctor confirmed. "When Alpha

Sebastian brought you here, I was shocked to see that you had posttraumatic hematoma, and still you fought against our men!"

"I heard what your husband did to you, and I figured that was how your bruises accumulated. I'm rather surprised how you

survived all that. Most women would have easily died after a month or two from a mate's betrayal," the woman added. "Forgive

me for prying, but do you happen to have an alpha blood?" Cassandra asked, making Kate feel uncomfortable.

Kate did not answer. Instead, she lay back on the bed while studying her arms. All bruises were already gone. She inspected

beneath her shirt and observed the same with her chest and stomach.

"We had given you a special healing potion that would help you heal faster," Cassandra said as if reading her mind. The doctor

then turned to the nurse and ordered, "Please get Luna Kate a glass of water and some vegetable soup." Kate was hungry but

was not in the mood to eat so much. The water and soup were just what she needed to warm her stomach, and it helped her

sleep again. When Kate woke up the next day, Cassandra came to see her again and announced, "I hope you are feeling better

because Alpha wishes to see you." Silence stretched between them. Kate shut her eyes and said, "Right. I forgot about that. I

am now a property of the cursed alpha."

Kate was feeling much better. She bathed, and the maids aided her into a maroon dress that was slightly revealing in the chest.

Many scenarios played in Kate's head as she wondered what Sebastian Armstrong wanted from her.

'Will he use me as a slave?' she mused. 'Or does he know me? And he has come to collect?'

Either way, Kate wasn't born a weak person. Thus, she figured she would try to fight her way out of this situation no matter what.

Kate thought about running away but did not know where she was. Plus, recalling how the cursed alpha easily restrained her,

Kate knew she was no match for Alpha Sebastian.

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After she was ready, the maids gave her time to be alone. Kate checked herself in the mirror and realized the mark was gone.

Kate caressed the slope in between her neck and shoulder blades. Briefly, she remembered that time when Xander had marked

her. Now, it was gone. She was already a free woman but was now a possession of another.

No longer wanting to think about her ex-husband, Kate left the quarters assigned to her. Two maids escorted her as they walked

in a long corridor of a large Mediterranean–styled mansion. The walls were white with rustic interiors, very minimalistic yet stylish looking.

They descended two floors before making it into a grand living room and again walking down a long hallway towards the only

room in that wing of the house. The red-haired beta was standing on guard. He was expressionless upon seeing her but opened

the door quickly for Kate, saying, "Alpha is waiting for you, Luna Kate."

Kate was about to walk in but remembered something. She looked at the beta and corrected, "I'm not a luna anymore."

The Beta smirked and answered, "Not yet, I supposed."

Lifting her brow, Kate became confused, but she heard a scary man inside growl that she dismissed the beta and walked into

Alpha Sebastian's office in a hurry. Kate found Alpha Sebastian sitting in front of his desk, slumping back on his leather seat

while holding a glass of wine. He was no longer wearing a chest armor, but he still had that bronze mask covering his face.

Sebastian's long and wavy hair cascaded down to his shoulder blades.

Strands of it fell into his eyes. He wore a black shirt that

hugged his muscular b*dy. His sleeves were rolled up to his arm, flaunting part of his tattoos. He wore two white gold. chains around his neck.

Kate tried her best to recall the rumors about Sebastian. She hated herself for being complacent, forgetting everything, and

thinking she had successfully escaped this man.

While standing before him, she finally recalled what was said about this man. Alpha Sebastian Armstrong was said to be a

ruthless alpha who was scarred in the face. The scar was so nasty that he would cover his face daily with a mask. They said this

alpha ruled his pack with an unyielding grip and was a master of discipline and control. It was told Sebastian oversaw every

aspect of pack life with meticulous attention to detail, ensuring that rules were followed to the letter. Deviations were met with

swift and unforgiving consequences.

However, about the curse and why he was named the cursed alpha? Kate never really understood it back then. Rather, she never cared enough to find out.

Kate was still thinking deeply about this when the alpha called her attention, "Are you done eye–fucking me?"

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Her I*ps twitched, and she could not help but be herself. She replied, "You are rather self–centered."

"Sit, he commanded sternly, his eyes never leaving her as Kate chose the seat farthest from him.

His stare was unwavering.

Kate looked back, determined not to show weakness.

Seconds turned into a minute, and only then did the cursed alpha scoff. He laughed and asked, "So, how have you been, my

run–away bride?"

Kate's confidence broke down. Her mouth fell open, realizing one thing: he knew her.

The cursed alpha knew her all along.

She was doomed.

Chapter 136

Kate-

Kate ftit a lump in her throat. When she recovered from the shock, she replied with a fake laugh, "I don't know what you are

talking about -"

"Really?" Sebastian said.

A hiss left his I*ps. He finished his wine, and after placing the glass on the table's surface, he said, "Then, I made a big mistake. I

suppose I have to return you to your husband then, let him mark you again! I wonder how he would react if he learned that I

attacked his pack, thinking you were someb*dy that I knew -"

"Don't –" Kate clenched her jaws. "How dare you?"

Going back to Xander was the last thing she wanted right now. If Xander learned, that Sebastian conquered the South Moon

Pack because of her, she would experience more abusel

"Watch your language, Kate. You forget that you are now my possession,"

Sebastian warned. "Moreover, had I not taken you

from your husband's pack, do you realize you could have died in his hands?

You should thank me instead." Emphasizing his words, he added, "Because I. SAVED. YOU."

"And I thank you, but " Kate paused for a second. She shook her head and replied, "I still don't know what you are talking about

Goddess!"

Kate jumped out of her seat! Sebastian suddenly punched the surface of his table, cracking the center of that beautiful

rosewood! His eyes were glowing in fury, and he looked like a volcano about to explode!

He growled, "You are the reason for my warrior's death over a year ago! Your father and I had an agreement, but you instead

chose to rebel and cut off your own family!"

"What -"

"Ten of my warriors and even your personal guard? Did you arrange that attack? Why did you go that far, Kate? Just because

you did not want to marry me?" Sebastian barked, his b*dy expanding.

Kate was panicking. The room seemed like it was burning with Sebastian's rage, and she was scared half to death of this man!

He kept throwing accusations at her until she could no longer hold it. She countered, "I did not kill your warriors! We were

attacked! Why would I kill my own guard? I would never -"

As those words rolled off her tongue, Kate stepped back, covering her mouth. Her eyes widened. 'Oh, Goddess! What did I do?'

It was as if the invisible steam that emitted from Sebastian disappeared. He scoffed, and through his mask, Kate saw how his

eyes thinned. He said, "So the truth comes out. Although, I did not have to flush it out of you. I already knew it

was you, Kate Reed Stone!

"Did you forget that you had to use your real name during the rejection

Sebastian reminded. He walked around the table and approached her, saying in a stern voice. "It's funny how karma works to

those who dishonor an agreement You used to marry me and found your socalled love, and look what happened?"

Xander trapped you with the mark on your neck and meant to use you to flourish his pack, despite finding his fated mate and

repeatedly bedding that woman every night?" Sebastian rubbed it in her face and pointed out, "I would not have treated you that way.

"And how would I know that?" Kate raised.

Sebastian grabbed her face with his large hand. He responded, "Because, unlike Xander Baros, I know exactly who you are. I

am not stupid to anger your father when I have worked hard to help him over the years

"You were supposed to bring peace between our nations, not start a war? Sebastian reminded before letting go of Kate, returning behind his desk and taking a seat.

"But you cannot do that! You cannot force people into marriage Kate shouted. justifying her previous actions. "I did not know you!

How could I marry someone who hides behind a mask – why do you even wear one?"

"Don't you know?" Sebastian asked. He laughed ominously and said. "If I tell you. I'd have to kill you. But I can't do that. You still

have a purpose to serve."

What do you mean?" Kate asked.

To follow through on what your father and I had agreed on." Sebastian said. "Let's get married."

Kate gulped. She sighed and said, 'But – but I do not love yo

"Love? Do you need to? Haven't Xander taught you a valuable lesson?" Sebastian reminded her. He laughed and said. 'Don't

you know that love can kill HATE MAKES YOU LIVE. Use that hate to get back at Xander and Delilah"

Sebastian pulled out some documents from his drawer. He threw it in Rate's direction, and she caught it. He described. "We

don't have to be enemies. If anything, we can simply work together."

"I need you so I can ascend to the throne and become the nem alpha king of Vottara. Be my contract luna. I will punish your

good-for-nothing husband and his mistress for what they did to you."

Sebastian offered. After I get what I want- get the crown. I will set you free "

will set you free."

"You don't need to love me? You don't even have to pretend to love me as long as you respect me. I will respect you. In from of

Alpha King Henry, his queen, and your parents, you must at least show that we are in agreement with our marriage Sebastian

resumed. This time, you can't turn back from our agreement L

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SAVED YOU. You owe me.

"Also, you must not let anyone know that we plan to separate after I have become the alpha king" Sebastian nodded. "You know

how ludicrous monarchs see an unmarried king as a weakness."

Kate frowned. She asked reluctantly, "Let's say I agree. What will you do once you set me free?"

"We won't separate abruptly." Sebastian explained. "I will see to it that a proper transition happens. Let me worry about that."

Kate sucked in a deep breath and reflected on the past.

It was true. Over a year ago, Kate's father offered her to Alpha Sebastian. Kate never understood why her father agreed to it.

She was hurt and felt betrayed. Kate had her dreams and wanted to find love, but instead, she was sent to Vottara for a loveless

marriage. So, she retaliated by escaping as soon as the opportunity came. After considering everything Sebastian said, Kate

realized that running away only harmed her. And he was right. She married for love, but she suffered. So, why the hell marry for

love again? This loveless marriage was probably what she needed right now! Moreover, the idea of getting back to Xander and

Delilah sounded very tempting.

Kate sighed again and looked at Sebastian. She answered, "Fine. I will agree to marry you under one condition."

"What is it?" Sebastian asked with his chin raised.

"I will sleep in a separate bedroom. You cannot touch me. I am only your wife on paper," Kate firmly bargained.

"Whoever said about touching you?" Sebastian replied, and if it were not for the mask that covered his face, Kate was almost

sure he was glowering with disgust. "Bedding you is the last thing on my mind!"

"Your sole purpose is to get me that crown," he clarified..

Kate's mouth fell on the floor. She thought, "The audacity of this man.

Shouldn't I be revolted at the thought of sleeping with him?"

Not wanting another argument, Kate responded firmly, "Good! Let's put that in writing so we are all clear because it doesn't seem

to say that here!"

Kate fl*pped through the contract to be sure. After seeing no mention of the sleeping arrangement, producing an heir, whatnot,

she insisted, "See? There is none! I want revisions in this contract!"

Sebastian let out a low growl. He proceeded to make changes to the contract and re-printing them. After which, he stood right

before Kate, intimidating her with his glare, and ordered, "Sign."

Kate signed three copies of the marriage agreement. After her, Sebastian also affixed his signature.

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"Holding the documents in his hands, Sebastian said, "Now that we have this out of the way, I will contact your parents and let

them know you are still very much alive -"

"What? You: don't want to see your parents?" Sebastian immediately reacted, seeing Kate open her mouth.

Kate's emotions immediately changed. She sensed her chest become heavy. Tears welled in her eyes at the thought of her

parents. She said, "It's not that. I'm – I'm just unsure if they want to see me all this time."

"What makes you think that?" Sebastian asked. "You don't know how devastated they were when I could not find you. They could

not even feel you. I don't know how you did it, but you managed to disappear without a trace. You also owe your parents. You

need to talk to them."

Hearing everything, Kate shut her eyes, feeling guilty. She nodded, saying, "Yes, I owe them. I regretted all that."

"Since we are already talking about the past, why don't you tell me everything from the very start," Sebastian proposed. He

leaned back, crossed his legs, and rested his arms on the armrest, waiting. "It's a long story," Kate said with a sigh.

Sebastian stared at her for seconds before saying, "I waited over a year. What's a few minutes or even an hour going to do? I bet

it isn't even long enough."

"I —"

Chapter 137

Kate –

"I adrit. My guard, Dolores, and I were planning my escape," Kate said softly. Her chest heaved when she added, "Dolores had

arranged everything, but when we arrived in Vottara, Dolores found out that our contacts were double-crossing us." Kate looked

at Sebastian seriously and told him everything.

[FLASHBACK: OVER A YEAR AGO]

Kate, the Blue Bandits are asking for more money. They threatened to sell out the information of your location to the other packs,

Dolores, Kate's guard of five years, mind linked with her.

Dolores was sitting next to Kate, holding her phone. She had been

communicating with the Blue Bandits since they arrived in

Vottara.

The Blue Bandits were a criminal in Vottara with a mix of humans and werewolves. They were the only ones courageous enough

to take the offer from Dolores at the very last minute.

The plan was simple: The Blue Bandits would intercept the caravan and help Kate flee to another nation. However, it failed.

"What?" Kate reacted. Her eyes widened, but she looked out the car window, trying to hide her anger. The vehicle's driver was

said to be one of the cursed alpha's loyal gammas, Gus. He should not know that she was planning to escape. 'How am I going

to send money when we are in the middle of I don't know where? Can we even trust them now that they are trying to swindle

us?' Kate groaned inwardly and decided, 'Never mind! I still have a few days to go before the wedding. Let's see if we can find another way.

Kate shut her eyes in annoyance, and her hands were clenched into fists for the next few minutes into the drive.

Two hours later, the gamma named Gus stopped the car. Kate noticed the frown on his face when she asked, "What's wrong,

Gus?"

Gus replied, "My men sense a disturbance in the ground –"

Before he could finish his sentence, a werewolf lunged at the car's hood. More followed, and it became clear to Kate that it was

an ambush.

Gus tried to drive away, but they could only go far when Kate estimated around thirty or more werewolves attacking them!

Kate looked behind. The cars that had followed them had already turned over. Warriors of the cursed alpha were on foot, already

in a fight.

When three werewolves started shaking the car, Kate and Dolores were forced to

get out. Gus exited first and fought in his wolf form. Dolores and Kate also fought. Much to their dismay, more werewolves

arrived. It was then that Gus announced. "They are from the Dunswick Pack. Alpha Sebastian's rival! Alpha Peter must have

ordered thein!"

Afte: Gus had named them, one opponent announced, "All we want is the lady from Taplean. Hand her over, and we will let you

live. We paid a very high price for her, so we must have her -

"Don't believe him one bit! He won't allow us to live!" Gus said to his men. He declared, "Fight to the death! Fight to protect Katel"

Dolores probably realized it was a useless fight. Their caravan was so outnumbered that there was no way that they would win against them. Moreover, they were in an unfamiliar land. Thus, Dolores

tried to pave the way for Kate's

escape.

She covered for Kate as she made a run for it. Dolores said, "Go, Kate! I'll follow behind you, I promise!"

Kate fled instead of facing the attackers. She was frustrated and angry at herself. Kate was sure the attackers from the said

Dunswick Pack got intel from the Blue Bandits. This attack was all her fault in the end!

Kate had made it far when she encountered four other werewolves on the lookout. One screamed, "Stop her! We must take her

to Alpha Peter!

She understood they were part of the pack that had attacked the caravan. Sadly for them, Kate was fast and robust. She had

already outrun them when suddenly, she felt the bond between her and Dolores break. Kate stopped in her tracks and gasped.

She called, 'Dolores? Dolores? Dolores!"

With her mouth wide open, Kate made a silent cry! Even with the loss of her guard, she could not voice her pain, for it would give away her location.

Her heart felt heavy, but she had to continue her run. Dolores had sacrificed herself for her freedom!

Kate was on foot again, but she saw the werewolves behind her were gaining on her. She growled, ready to attack, but noticed

another powerful presence nearby. A large cinammon brown wolf suddenly intervened. He had two other werewolves following

his lead. The seal werewolf was big and strong. He quickly defeated two opponents on his own.

The struggle took little time. The cinammon brown werewolf and his followers. ended Kate's pursuers..

"Alpha Peter is probably up to no good chasing after a woman," the cinammon brown werewolf assumed before shifting into his human form.

From there, Kate saw the man's beautiful features: his dirty blonde hair, tanned skin, and muscular b*dy. She was attracted to him at first sight.

Kate also shifted into her human form, and she could tell the man was stunned by 2/1

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her beauty too.

The man smiled at her and said. "I am Alpha Xander, the alpha of the South Moon Pack. What is your name, and what did these

men want with you?"

Kate was sull in a daze, stunned by the man's attractiveness. She cleared her throat and replied. "My name is-" She paused

momentarily before deciding to hide a little yet important detail about her. "My name is Kate Reed. I am from a pack far away

from here from Taplean. I was sent out here as a promise

"To Alpha Peter?" Alpha Xander let out a low growl. "He has mistresses left and right."

Alpha Xander studied Kate carefully. After a few seconds, he offered, "If it was your will to be with Alpha Peter, then I will let you

go, but if he is forcing you, then I will help you. You can stay in my pack, assuming you don't have any home to return to."

"I was forced!" Kate declared, not bothering to correct which alpha had brought her to Vottara. It was better that way. Because,

as far as she knew, many packs in Vottara feared the cursed alpha. Alpha Xander could have surrendered her to Alpha

Sebastian.

Thus, Kate lingered in the South Moon Pack. Alpha Xander and his men helped erase traces of her scent. In that short period,

Kate developed feelings for Xander. How could she not? She was the subject of his attention, and he was gorgeous! Xander did

not hold back his attraction toward Kate. Within a month, he had already publicly announced that he was in love with Kate.

The best part was how Kate's confidence, good heart, and charms easily won the hearts of the packmembers. Kate immediately

felt she belonged, and she concluded that being with Xander was her future. Within the South Moon Pack, Kate also met a powerful witch. Her name was Glinda. She had black hair, a slender figure, and emerald eyes.

Glinda was passing through, renting a room within Xander's pack. Her arrival caused an alarm because of the power she carried,

but Xander still welcomed the witch because Kate insisted. The witch simply needed a roof over her head for a few days.

Little did Xander know, Kate had another purpose for helping Glinda. On Glinda's second day of visit, Kate asked the witch to

walk with her into the woods. From there, Glinda remarked, "You are no ordinary werewolf."

Kate turned to Glinda and admitted, "I am running away from my past. Will you help me?"

"What do I get in return?" Glinda casually asked.

Kate gave Glinda a bag of money, saying, "This is all that I saved since staying here. On your next visit, I will happily offer you

another accommodation and, perhaps, give you another payment."

"Please, Kate begged. If i go back to my family, they will force me to marry someone I don't love

"But Xander is not your mate, either, Glinda cut her off.

"I know. but at least I love him, Kate declared. "He loves me too, and I am confident he will do right by me."

"Are you sure this is what you wanted?" Glinda asked.

Yes, I am certain," Kate assured the witch.

Glinda agreed to Kate's request. Before leaving the pack, they secretly hid in a nearby cave, where Glinda sealed a portion of

Kate's strength and true scent.

A spiral mark formed at the back of Kate's left shoulder blade. It symbolized the completion of the seal.

In effect, it also impacted the bond Kate had with her family. When the seal took its complete form, Kate gasped in pain. Her

eyes widened, and tears trickled down her face. She muttered, "Mom. Dad. My brothers.""

"It's not real," Glinda said. "The seal hid your bond with your family. They will also think you have died."

"That is what you wanted, right?" Glinda asked.

Kate was still weeping from the pain of losing her family's bond. Glinda had to repeat her question, making sure she had no

regrets. After some time, Kate reluctantly replied, "Yes, I am sure this is what I wanted."

Glinda left. After two weeks, Xander had proposed marriage to Kate. She became the South Moon's pack luna, and life was bliss.

On two occasions, Glinda returned. Each time, she asked Kate if she had changed. her mind. However, Kate firmly assured

Glinda that she was the happiest with Xander. Glinda never returned since then, and Kate did not see the need to see her until...

Xander betrayed her.

[END OF FLASHBACK]

Chapter 138

– Kate –

Earlie.. the room in Sebastian's office was like molten lava. All that tension was roming from him. Now, the air had turned frosty,

and thanks to his icy stare. Kate's skin formed goosebumps. He did not have to speak for Kate to know that he was blaming her

again.

*I get that you are angry, Sebastian, but you cannot fathom what I felt back then. I was stripped of my freedom my free will, by

you and my parents." Kate did not give him a chance to voice out his thoughts. "At that time, all I wanted was to run away. I had

not planned that attack, nor did I wish for lives to be lost at my account Ahh!" –

Yet again, Kate was startled. The man gave his table another punch! He growled, "Dunswick Pack, you said! Are you sure?"

Kate nodded and answered fearfully, "Yes, I remember well because Xander had to send men to observe Alpha Peter's activities.

He was afraid that Alpha Peter would look for me-"

"Zev!" Sebastian called. "Let's go to the Dunswick Pack and save Gus!"

"What?" Kate reacted, raising her brow. "Gus is still alive?"

"I can still feel Gus. He is still connected to my pack," Sebastian revealed. "I know he was taken, but I never knew who did it. The

werewolves who tried to take you had covered their tracks and scents!"

"Over the past year, I have also been getting hints that he is alive."

Sebastian's blue eyes glowed as he declared, "Either way,

Alpha Peter must pay for killing my

men!"

"Um." Kate had many questions for Sebastian too, but she forced those thoughts back into her head, knowing that he had more

important things to do. As Sebastian walked around his table, Kate stood up unknowingly and tried to avoid him. She did not

know how it happened, but in her effort to clear Sebastian's path, she bumped into his solid frame.

Kate bounced off him and nearly sl*pped. If it were not for Sebastian's strong arms that quickly held her waist, her ass might have landed on the floor.

For a second, Kate and Sebastian stared into each other's eyes, their bodies inches apart.

Kate was dumbfounded. Sebastian's masculine scent engulfed Kate, and for a fleeting moment, her fear of him evaporated. Her

heart skipped a beat as those blue orbs sucked her in.

Sebastian had... very beautiful eyes.

It would appear to Kate that the cursed alpha was also taken aback by their sudden

closeness. After getting ever the shock, Kate saw through his mask how his eyes thinned. He forced her up, saying. "Don't stand

in my way. I'll ask Cassandr help you settle. We will continue our talk when I return.

And just like that, Kate was left alone in Sebastian's office while the alpha and his beta. Zev, rallied the warriors for another conquest.

"This is your room, right next to the alpha's, Cassandra said to Kate. She smiled and explained, "The room from the far end was

only temporary since this one wasn't ready when you arrived."

Kate nodded and studied at the new room. It was well furnished, still with Mediterranean interiors. It had beautiful earthly colors

of wood, white, and copper. She had a king-size bed, a sitting area, and a beautiful view of the front lawn.

"It's great." Kate bit her I*p and muttered, "Though, I did not mind the room furthest from here."

Cassandra laughed. She answered, "Sorry, no can do. Alpha's orders. He wants to keep an eye on you."

"Right," Kate said while averting Cassandra's gaze.

"I guessed your size correctly. That dress fits you well. I had a few clothes brought in for you from the town's shops, but we can

buy more tomorrow," Cassandra said

to Kate.

Kate immediately looked down at her dress and smiled at Cassandra. She said, "Thank you for buying me clothes."

"You are welcome," Cassandra replied.

Kate studied the doctor well. Casssandra looked like she was in her forties, a lovely woman with dark hair. Kate asked, "I feel

that Alpha Sebastian trusts you more than just being the pack's doctor." Cassandra smiled. She revealed, "Ah, he is like a son to me. I've been tending to his. wounds so much seeing him every after a

conquest, a fight name it, and I was there."

"Oh, so you must know what they say about his face?" Kate asked reluctantly. "And also about the curse?"

"He hasn't talked to you about it?" Cassandra asked.

"Um." Kate frowned and admitted, "He said he would kill me if we talk about his face –"

Cassandra laughed. She replied, "Listen, Luna Kate. Sebastian can be harsh. sometimes, but he won't kill you. He needs to marry you."

"So, you know me?" Kate asked.

Cassandra nodded. She answered, "I know you, but I don't know everything."

The Aplis's Cost

"About the curse, we don't talk about it. I especially don't. And as for the scar on the Alpha's face? Well, people made different

versions of it," Cassandra revealed.

"So," Kate sought. What about you, Doctor? What is your version of it?" Cassandra looked at Kate genuinely and clarified, "His scar?"

"V. s?" Kate requested, her patience stretched, waiting for the answer. If only she had paid enough attention to the rumors about

Sebastian in the past, she didn't have to ask Cassandra.

"His scar goes deeper than the flesh," Cassandra responded, surprising Kate. That wasn't the answer she expected. It had a

deeper meaning but still evaded the direct inquiry.

Before Kate could make a follow–up, Cassandra asked, "Do you hate scars, Luna Kate?"

"Not really," Kate replied. "I think scars are like battle wounds beautiful, in a way. They show what you've been through and your

strength for coming out of it." "Look, doctor. I used to not care about the rumors about him. However, seeing Alpha Sebastian in

the flesh, I'm curious," Kate admitted. "I have scars too. My father has a lot. Why hide it? It must be hard to breathe under that

mask. Is it necessary for him to cover his face every day?"

With a shrug, Kate suggested, "He is the alpha. Even if he looks hideous, no one would dare say it in his face!"

"It's the choice that he made, and we don't question him being our alpha,"

Cassandra replied.

"So you will not tell me about the curse either?" Kate pried further. "It's not my story to tell. Like I said, we don't talk about it. It's like a grave sin to discuss why he has been named as the cursed

alpha." With a smile, the doctor suggested, "I'm sure he will tell you. One day." Well, that one day would have to wait because Sebastian was trying to conquer the Dunswick Pack.

Days had passed since Sebastian left, and Kate mainly stayed in her room to rest. That was Cassandra's directive so her b*dy

could fully heal. Kate did manage to get a grand tour of the packhouse.

With the doctor, Kate had also bought clothes and necessities for herself, but, generally, nothing significant yet no introductions

to the pack or updates about her parents.

One day, in the wee hours, Kate awoke with her b*dy sweating. It was already, summer, and the room's air conditioning was

insufficient to cool down her b*dy. Instead of her pajamas, she changed into a silky and skimpy nightgown. She lowered the

temperature of the room and decided to get some water.

She made it to the kitchen and quenched her thirst. Kate knew the maids at the packhouse were sleeping, and the guards were

outside. So, she felt safe in her skimpy silk nightgown.

Kate was about to walk back when she heard men's voices. There were many of them she took a whiff of one familiar,

overbearing scent. She realized that Sebastian was back, and he was probably with his warriors to reconvene in his office!

"Oh, shit," Kate muttered. Nudity was not new to their kind, but because the nightgown was a little alluring, she felt conscious

altogether. Her bare feet sped on the floor, hoping she could still get a chance to evade Sebastian.

Unfortunately, instead of maneuvering through the dark living room furniture, she bumped into a sofa, resulting in Kate pivoting

and landing on something metal.

It was Sebastian, and Kate had just hit his chest armor!

Kate screamed as she pushed herself away from him, but in the process, part of her nightgown got stuck in Sebastian's chest

armor. Her nightgown tore open, revealing her bare chest!

She fell on the floor and looked up to Sebastian wide–eyed. Sebastian also gazed at her in shock!

Footsteps were at the door, and a mix of werewolf scents permeated the air. "Alpha, we have already sent Before anyone

could see Kate practically half n*ked, Sebastian scooped her in his arms and pressed her bare chest against his. He dashed to

the third floor and in front of her room.

The second Kate's feet landed on the floor, she hurried behind the door. With her head darting out, she looked at the masked

man and shyly said, "Thank you." Sebastian did not answer. He had already retreated a few steps back when Kate indicated,

"Since you are back, can we talk?"

"Soon," he plainly said before lazily walking to the stairs and down the first floor.

Chapter 139

Xander –

"Alpha Xander, she is at it again," Beta Jacob reported. "She encountered some of the pack members, and they had bitterly

expressed how Delilah was not at par

with Kate."

"Where is she?" Xander asked, referring to Delilah.

"In your room, Alpha, Beta Jacob responded.

Xander sighed. He slowly went to the main bedroom, the same room he used to share with Kate. Now, it was his room and

Delilah's.

He found Delilah weeping on the bed. When they locked eyes, Delilah expressed, "Why is that? In their eyes, I could never be better than Kate?"

Xander settled next to Delilah and comforted her. He said, "I'm sorry. The pack should know better. You are my fated, after all."

It had been two weeks since the cursed alpha had taken Kate, yet the townspeople still could not get over their Luna being gone.

Sadly, they took it out on Delilah. "It's time we tell everyone the truth about Kate," Xander told Delilah. Delilah pulled back. With

her fingers wiping her tears, she asked, "Is that okay with you? You don't have to. I know how much you value Kate. That was

why She sniffed her tears away and reminded Xander, "That was why I came to her rescue when she had asked for help. I knew

she was very important to the pack, and technically, she was my Luna too. I would rather sacrifice myself –"

"No! That was not right at all!" Xander retorted. "Kate should not have called for your help since you were pregnant!"

"But now, it's too late." Xander's jaws clenched, recounting how Delilah lost

their pup. It was the day Alpha Sebastian overpowered their pack.

Xander had expected Delilah to remain in the shelter while he fought. Back then, he had just defeated one of the cursed alpha's

warriors when Delilah mind linked with him, telling him that Kate asked for her help!

Why did Kate even do that? It was clear to Xander how Kate was up to no good. Thankfully, Xander arrived in time to save

Delilah. He felt her pain and the loss of their pup. So when Kate asked for Xander's help, he refused.

Xander was sure, Kate intended to have Delilah killed by the cursed alpha's warriors. Her hands would be clean, and no one

would blame her, but Xander knew better. It was one of Kate's methods. Caressing Delilah's cheek, Xander suggested, "We can have another baby. And after we let the pack know of how scheming

Kate was. They will know that she had a hand in your miscarriage. We will marry and I will make you my luna"

Tears welled in Delilah's eyes again. She said. "Really? I'm going to be your bu Xander nodded. He answered. "You deserve it,

being my fated mate."

"You don't regret that Kate is gone?' Delilah asked meekly

"Kate diá an evil thing by indirectly killing our pup. Now, she is being punished by the cursed alpha." Xander shook his head. He

described, "There are many stories about him.

Some say he has women left and right, turned into slaves. In one of my trips to the north, I had once heard that he likes beating

women because women tend to be disgusted with his hideous face that he takes out his anger on his slaves," Xander reported.

"Oh, Goddess!" Delilah gasped. "Poor, Kate. She must be suffering at the hands of Alpha Sebastian. I also heard of those

stories. My father said that people in the north had seen his face and that it was badly burned."

"Some say he had claw marks on his face," Xander said differently. "Either way, the talks of his abuse seem to be true because

many people from the north fear him." "Are you sure you are not going to save Kate?" Delilah asked with her face showing

concern.

"You are too kind, Delilah, thinking about Kate when she had wronged you many times, Xander expressed. He breathed in

profoundly and said, "I'm sorry. I never thought that Kate would turn out bad. I should have just rejected her outright and let her

leave us. We would have lived peacefully with our pup."

"No," Delilah said woefully. "I understand. She was your wife for over a year. You loved her too. It was I who came in between the

two of you. She probably could not accept that she was not your destined mate."

Yes, that was right. Xander acknowledged how he loved Kate. They were happy together as a married couple for a year until Delilah came.

Truth be told, Xander wanted to reject Delilah during Kate's birthday, but out of respect for Alpha Denzel, he opted to take the

discussion to their pack lands. However, when they arrived at the Red Wood Pack, Delilah was in so much pain, foreseeing the

coming rejection. Thus, he delayed his plans for a few hours. Instead, he wound up spending time with Delilah. One thing led to

another, and in the end, he fell right into the mate bond's trap. Xander could not resist Delilah's charms and the pull she had over

him, especially since she practically stripped n*ked in front of him in the packhouse, back at the Red Wood Pack. The wolf in him

became ablaze with desire, and the only way he could put out the fire was to claim Delilah, so he did. That was how it all started,

and that was why he took Delilah in as his mistress.

He still cared for Kate back then, but the more Xander learned of Kate's true nature, his feelings for her easily weakened. Still, he

kept Kate as the luna because she was so damn good at the job! If only Kate were Xander's true mate, she would

have been his perfect luna.

After soothing Delilah. Xander left the master bedroom. He went into his office and called for Beta Jacob. He ordered, 'Beta

Jacob, call the entire pack for an important meeting. Today, we will let everyone know that Kate, my ex wife, is at murd:ral"

Beta Jacob was stunned. He gulped and said, "Alpha, you don't actually believe that, do you –"

"Are you you that deaf?" Xander growled. "Did you not listen to me when I told Kate asked for Delilah's help during the attack?

She did that on purpose to kill Delilah. She may have failed to have Delilah killed, but my pup died!"

"Kate was responsible for the baby's death!" Xander declared. "The pack has

to know so they would slowly accept Delilah as their luna."

"Yes, Alpha," Jacob nodded before reluctantly turning around. Sebastian –

Back at the Wind Walker Pack, Sebastian was catching up with work. He was gone for a week to conquer the Dunswick Pack

and now had lots of paperwork on his desk.

Suddenly, his beta entered his office. Zev updated, "Alpha, Gus is recovering well. He asked to see you."

Behind his mask, Sebastian smirked. He was relieved that his old friend was alive. He answered, "I will see him, and I will bring

Kate as well. They both have something to talk about."

Sebastian expected Zev to leave, but he stood there as if wanting to report more. He looked at his beta and asked, "What is it?"

Clearing his throat, Zev answered, "I - I don't know if this is any relevant, Alpha, but the warriors who are stationed at the South

Moon Pack have reported many misconceptions about you -"

"You know that I've never cared about those talks. Let them think the worst of me That builds up the fear, and it will ultimately

keep my enemies from trying to take me down," Sebastian reminded his beta. "Okay, well." Zev sucked in a deep breath. He revealed, "What about

accusations. towards your future luna, Alpha?"

Sebastian stilled. He was already signing documents when Zev mentioned Kate. He looked up to him and asked, "What about

Kate?"

Zev reported everything, especially about how Xander had branded Kate a murderer.

A low growl escaped Sebastian's l*ps. He replied, "Look into that woman, Delilah?

"Yes, Alpha, that is Alpha Denzel's daughter of the Red Wood Pack, Zev filled in.

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"Look into her. Something doesn't add up with that woman," Sebas After all, he was there when it all happened. He saw exactly

how D out of nowhere and involved herself in that fight. If anything, it wa fault for losing the baby and not Kate's.

"Yes, alpha," Zev acknowledged.

"And, can you ask Kate to see me?" Sebastian leaned back in his sea "It's time we have another talk."

"Yes, alpha," Zev replied. Send gift

Chapter 140

Kate

The Aipha calls for you," Beta Zev said, making Kate wide–eyed in the library of the packhouse.

Since that night of Sebastian's return, they have not spoken. It felt strange to Kate. especially since he came back from saving

Gus. She had always wondered if the alpha still blamed her for Gus' abduction.

While following behind Beta Zev, Kate asked, "Is he mad at me?"

"Was he mad at you when he carried you to the third floor the other day?" Zev smirked, and Kate sensed a deeper meaning

behind his words.

"No, he wasn't, she kept her thoughts to herself and simply looked away. Upon arriving at Sebastian's office, Zev announced,

"Alpha, Luna Kate is here."

Kate flushed at the fact that the people around the packhouse still called her a Luna. Although she was going to be a luna for

Sebastian, technically, she was still not. She proposed, "Seriously, you can just call me Kate – you and everyone else in the

packhouse."

"They will eventually get used to calling you the Luna," Sebastian's deep voice came through. Although he still wore his bronze

mask, Kate could feel his eyes on her. He ordered, "Sit."

"Yes, Alpha," Kate answered and hastily sat on the chair before Sebastian.

"You wanted to talk?" Sebastian questioned. "Let's talk. I'd rather that you ask me than go around questioning others."

Kate pursed her I*ps. She realized that the doctor, Cassandra, must have told him. She replied, "I was just hoping to find

answers. I have every right to know, considering I will be your wife, regardless of our plans to separate in the future."

"Fine," Sebastian conceded. "Before anything else, I want you to know I contacted your parents. I have told them about your

witch predicament. They want to see you as soon as possible, but the suitable place to meet is within Vottara's capital, the

palace. We will be leaving in three days."

"And, I take it you need help tracing down this witch, Glinda," Sebastian recalled.

Kate nodded, saying, "Very much. I was trying to track her whereabouts when I was still at the South Moon Pack. She was my

ticket out of there, but -

She paused, looking Sebastian in the eye. She resumed, "But instead, you saved

me."

"Hmmm," Sebastian responded plainly.

"My last update on her location was at the Spratzie Islands," Kate said. "I need her to undo the seal."

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"Til send people to look for her, Sebastian said. He leaned back, lifting his chin in her direction, and waited. "Well, ask away."

"Um, how is Gus? Kate probed.

"He is fine. I'll take you to see him later today, Sebastian said. "He wants to see you."

You know, since the other day, you seem calm," Kate suggested. "You are not mad at me because of Gus?"

"The attack on the caravan over a year ago had nothing to do with you. I know that now, so let's say I no longer blame you for

losing my men," Sebastian revealed.

When Kate's brows met, Sebastian explained further, "There was a traitor within my warriors. The betrayer was the one who sold

your information to Alpha Peter; thus, the attack happened. Gus told me everything. He found out about it while in captive at the

Dunswick Pack."

"I had also sent men to the Blue Bandits headquarters. Their leader said they were only trying to get more money from you. They

never really sold your information, fearing that I would find out," Sebastian supplemented. "Really?" Kate sighed in relief. She

rested her hand on her chest, saying, "Somehow, that makes me feel a little better."

"But because of a traitor's actions, I am the one who owes you. Because your guard, Dolores, died in that attack," Sebastian

said. He knitted his brows and added, "Now, I must explain that to your parents."

Hearing Dolores' name, Kate felt low. She took a moment to respond, "We can't always control the actions of others, but I'm glad

you told me. I don't blame you for her death. I'm sure my parents won't blame

you either."

Following Kate's words, there was silence between them. Each of them took opportunities to study their expressions. Too bad for

Kate, though; all she could evaluate was Sebastian's stiff posture, leaning against his chair.

"So," Kate finally found the courage to say. "Are you really not going to tell me why you wear a mask?"

"I have my reasons," Sebastian said. Kate waited for another few seconds, but nothing more came out of his mouth.

"So, that's it? Don't you feel suffocated wearing that thing?" Kate asked, referring to Sebastian's bronze mask.

"Haven't you heard what other people say? Who knows, one of them speaks the truth," Sebastian suggested.

"But –"

"Enough about the mask. I have something to hide, so I wear a mask. End of discussion," Sebastián asserted, his jaws clenching

at the end of his sentence, and his voice raised. "If you bring this up again, we will end up in an argument, and

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you don't want that."

"Fine, then, tell me about the curse, Kate finally asked. "What makes you the cursed alpha of Vottara?"

"Because I am... cursed, Sebastian admitted.

"Cursed, how?" Kate asked.

"Cursed." Sebastian replied.

At that point, Kate was frustrated. She thought, 'How long was this man going to drag this out?"

Kate frowned, and her I*ps twitched. Then, she heard the most impossible thing in the world; Sebastian chuckled!

'Oh, so he has a human side of him, after all!' Kate mused.

"Your angry expression amuse me," Sebastian remarked.

Kate was about to react when Sebastian explained further, "My family had been cursed for generations. And the funny thing is,

your kind caused it."

"What?" Kate was taken aback. She clarified, "My kind?"

"Particularly, your mother's kind," Sebastian revealed.

"My mother's kind?" Yet again, Kate was stunned. She raised her brow and confirmed, "By a winter–grey wolf?"

"Yes, by a winter-grey wolf," Sebastian responded. "They say winter-grey

wolves. are direct descendants of the Moon Goddess.

They could wish for anything, and the Goddess would grant it, including a curse."

"I will tell you what I can about the curse, but you must promise that whatever we discuss will not leave this room. I will trust you,

being your father's daughter," Sebastian added.

Dead air fell upon them. Kate was slowly taking it all in.

Yes, Kate's mother, Alexia Reed Stone, was a winter–grey wolf. However, unlike her mother's white–greyish werewolf coat and

extraordinary ability, Kate got most of her father's qualities. Thus, Kate never considered herself to be a winter–grey wolf. Her

mother was, but not her.

Kate did not know for how long she was in a daze, but recalling how she had already agreed to marry Sebastian, she weakly

replied, "I promise not to break your trust as long as you are not in the wrong. "I had no choice about my family's curse. It was passed on to every offspring in our family," Sebastian revealed.

"Let me hear it. I need to know as much as possible if I am to marry you," Kate answered.

"Very well," Sebastian said. He sucked in a deep breath and said, "There are many versions of it, and it's because the rumors of

our family's curse had gone on for

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more than a century. The last indication of its existence was with my father, which happened twenty years ago when I was only

eight years old."

"It all began with my great–great grandfather, Bernard Armstrong," Unhurriedly,

Sebastian narrated. "Many years ago –"

Send gift