

The Alpha's Contract Luna alexia By Lian

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Read The Alpha's Contract Luna alexia By Lian Chapter 61

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Alexia –
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“Luna Alexia! Your mother is here!” Seth screamed, interrupting a critical meeting.

Under normal circumstances, Seth would have been punished for his interference, but not that day, not when the arrival of Alexia's mother involved the king himself.

The alphas and lunas snapped their heads back between. Alexia and the king. The matter of Alexia's identity was still unclear to most of them. By the way everyone was staring at her, Alexia knew they wanted answers.

It was her husband, Kieran, who clarified the issue. He said, “About the queen's accusations. We have already run the test to prove it. My wife is not the king's daughter. She is Alpha Roland's daughter.” “However, it is true. Alexia's mother was my true mate, but I rejected her before marrying Helen. It should not have been an issue because Helen and I never had a relationship before our marriage,” the king admitted. “She should not have involved Alexia in her schemes or her mother.”

Alexia saw how the king was hurt when explaining this. His eyes bore the shame, and how he said it so softly suggested; he lacked the esteem to acknowledge he had rejected his true love.

After the alphas and the lunas accepted Kieran's and the king's explanation, Alexia dashed out with her husband. She had mixed emotions, but primarily she was excited.

“She is on her way here with her people.” Seth frowned as he reported.

“That's what the warriors on patrol said. She has

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people guarding her. It makes me curious about your mother, Luna.”

“I am as curious as you, Seth,” Alexia replied.

Alexia wanted to run and meet her mother halfway, but the Cross River Pack's territory was not that big. She knew her mother would arrive sooner than expected.

As she waited at the driveway of the packhouse, she felt the king's presence, so she turned around. She met Balthasar's gaze, and they both nodded. Alexia smiled, whereas the king sucked in a deep breath.

Alexia's questions would all be answered soon, and as for the king? He might get his closure. Good or bad, at least he would know whether Avery would forgive him. Would the king and her mother rekindle their love? Only time will tell.

Minutes into the wait, she saw three cars driving in their direction. The two were unfamiliar, but the first one was Jaxon's, clearly guiding the other vehicles to the packhouse.

In each second that passed, Alexia's heart raced. She felt her hands shake, and it was probably so apparent that her husband held her hand. Kieran said, "This is it. Alexia. The moment of truth. Don't be nervous."

While Alexia was waiting, she also felt a sense of danger. She wondered why when powerful men surrounded her; her husband, the king, Beta Ford, and behind them were alphas of different packs.

However, because of her excitement, Alexia dismissed her inkling. She concluded no one would dare harm her from where she stood. Instead, she walked forward, leaving Keiran behind. She wanted to be the one to welcome her mother first.

When the cars were a few meters away, Alexia sped her steps.

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Tears were already streaming down her face. Her heart was galloping; she knew she had to ease its yearning.

The vehicles behind Jaxon stopped, following Alexia's decision to make a run for it. Before Alexia knew it, she saw a familiar face she had longed to see. It was indeed her mother, Avery. She could not help but softly call her, "Mother."

"Alexia! My child!" Avery called as soon as she got off the car. The woman wore a long white cloak over her b*dy and looked magnificent. If it were not for the fact that her mother looked like her, Alexia would have mistaken the woman for royalty.

"Alexia!" Avery repeated.

After hearing her name twice, Alexia finally strengthened her voice, saying, "Mother! Is it you? Mother!"

"Yes, it's me." Like Alexia, Avery was teary-eyed. She ran towards Alexia with her arms wide open.

Out of nowhere, however, Alexia saw how her mother froze. Her eyes rounded, and her head snapped to her left. Her fangs

quickly elongated, her b*dy expanding, ready to shift. Avery screamed, "Alexia! Watch out!"

Alexia turned to where her mother was looking. To her shock, it was Drake! He was in his wolf form! 'How did he ever escape his prison?'

Before Alexia could find the answer to her questions, she heard a wolf's growl, which came from the sizeable winter-grey wolf in front of her. Who could it be? It could only be her mother and no one else! Avery was a winter-grey wolf! It shocked Alexia beyond words.

Alexia felt chills down her spine, watching her mother bite
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Drake's wolf mercilessly and swing him from side to side. The same remarkable wolf threw Drake several yards away, and when his b*dy landed, she heard his bones cracking.

Immediately, Alexia could tell that Drake was dead. When he turned back into his human form, his eyes had no life, and blood pooled around him. Drake stood no chance against the strength of her mother,

"Whoever wants to hurt my daughter, Alexia, is declaring war against the wintery-grey wolf clan!" Avery growled. In her wolf form, she viciously looked around, finding another one to kill. "Who else dares to hurt Alexia? I will kill you with my bare hands!"

More than just the surprising revelation that unfolded before her eyes, Alexia felt her husband's presence. She turned and saw how Kieran paled in shock. She looked at the king, and his mouth fell open. The rest of the alphas and lunas were equally stunned, giving varied expressions.

"Avery? Is it really you?" Finally, Alexia heard the king speak. She quickly turned her gaze to her mother and saw how Avery froze at the recognition of Balthasar.

"B-balthasar, is that you? It is you," Avery probed, her words cutting in and out.

"You – you are a winter-grey wolf?" Balthasar asked.

Aides of Avery quickly walked up to her, carrying a cloak. Avery shifted into her human form with her people covering her frame.

After she had wrapped herself, she faced Balthasar and everyone else who remained gawking at her.

She confidently responded, "Yes, to answer your question, I am a winter-grey wolf, and because I am, Alexia is also a winter-

grey wolf.”

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“Excuse me, but she is not just a regular winter-grey wolf,” someone behind Avery declared. “Her Highness, Avery, is a descendant of Adira Elsher, a royal blood.”

“She is the winter-grey wolves’ reigning queen, and we have come here to take our princess, Princess Alexia, back to her rightful home. Address Our Highness rightfully as Queen Avery of the Azenna.”

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— King Balthasar —

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“What did you say?” The king asked, utterly taken aback. The words repeatedly rang in Balthasar’s head. ‘She is the winter-grey wolves’ reigning queen. Address Our Highness rightfully as Queen Avery of Azenna.

Earlier, he was in awe, seeing Avery transform into this massive, beautiful winter-grey wolf. Her strength easily took down Alexia’s attacker. Then, he learned that she was a queen.

He recounted his past decisions and all the regrets that came crashing down on him. He threw away his chances of being with his true mate for the crown. His parents suggested Avery was not worthy since she was a commoner, but as it turned out, his true mate was royalty!

“It is exactly as my Beta had said. I am the alpha queen of the winter-grey wolves,” Avery replied. She sucked in a breath, and Balthasar could tell she was trying to collect herself. He realized his presence may have surprised her.

“And I am here to seek out my daughter,” Avery added, turning to Alexia. After smiling at Alexia and holding her hand, Avery returned her gaze to Balthasar.

The king immediately noticed the change in her temperament. Her eyes narrowed, and her jaws clenched. She sought, “And you, Balthasar – I mean, King Balthasar? What is this I hear about your wife claiming that Alexia is your child? She is not, and how dare she use my daughter to stir up a problem in your nation?”

Avery snarled, “Does she want war against Azenna? I shall willingly grant her wish!”

“No. No.” Balthasar moved closer and added, “Trust me, Taplean does not want another war. We are still recovering from the war against Eswen. Now, I am at war with my queen

as it is.”

He did not know how often he cleared his throat before another set of words left his lips. He said, “Avery -”

“Queen Avery,” Avery corrected. “Call me by my title.”

Balthasar acknowledged that this Avery was far different from the woman he had met many years ago. Avery had more command, and her aura appeared stronger than his. Of course, knowing now that she belonged to the winter-grey wolves clan and much more, she was the queen, he admitted that Avery’s strength would be far greater than his. After all, the winter-grey wolves were known to be the strongest amongst all werewolves, the direct descendants of the Moon Goddess.

Raising his palm, the king showed Avery how he meant no offense. Gently, he said, “Queen Avery. I can see that you have been briefed?”

“Yes,” Avery responded. “The warriors of the Stone Blood Pack clearly explained this when I returned to meet my daughter.

Instead of finding her in a good place, Alexia and her husband were forced to move away from their home. Thanks to the woman you married.”

Her words cut like a knife, and they hurt the king. It was as if Avery was rubbing it on his face how he chose the wrong woman, but how could he have known? Why didn’t Avery ever tell her in the first place?

Redirecting her attention, Avery spoke to Alexia. She said, “Alexia, my daughter, are you fine?”

Alexia nodded, saying, “I’m fine, mother.” Tears rolled down her face, saying, “Thank you for saving me. Thank you for coming back for me.”

Not wasting any more time, Alexia embraced her mother, and from where they stood, the mother and daughter wept, relishing their reunion.

“I have so much to tell you, my child. I’m sorry for leaving you. I did not mean to,” Avery said while caressing her daughter’s

back. She pulled back to kiss Alexia’s forehead and her cheek. Then she returned to hugging her. “I’ll

compensate for every minute I have lost with you. Please, allow me to. I’ll explain everything to you.”

After the mother and daughter had a few exchanges, Avery turned to Kieran,

Balthasar, and everyone present that day. She said, "I'd like a moment with my daughter, alone."

-Alexia-

"I'm sorry, can

—

can you say that again, mother?" Alexia asked. It just would not sink in. 'My mother is a queen? And I am the princess of the winter-grey wolves?'

After the shocking revelation, Alexia and her mother talked privately in the forest. Avery tried to be direct with her about her identity, but it overwhelmed her.

"Okay. Let's start from the very beginning, so you will understand," her mother, Queen Avery, said.

"Many years ago, I did not want to be the next queen. I was an adventurous young girl who wanted to travel, but that would not happen if I am named queen. My mother, Queen Adela, allowed me to travel around the world. Back then, she said, enjoy the world, train, and learn about the other species. One day, you will use your knowledge to rule our

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lands," Avery said. "And so I did."

"For years, I traveled from one country to another, meeting werewolves and other kinds. I learned various fighting techniques, including many methods of running nations and small packs," Avery added. "I enjoyed my life going around different countries, and I explored nearly every city or province. It was very experiential for me. I had memories I will forever cherish."

The mother and daughter made it to Alexia's meeting place with her friends. From there, Avery suggested, "This looks like a nice place for us to talk. Let us settle here?"

Alexia nodded. They found themselves a good spot where large rocks could be made into a seat, and then Avery resumed,

"After making it into Taplean, I settled a few days here in the Cross River Pack. That was when I met Balthasar, and everything changed."

"Your king, Balthasar, and I were true mates," Avery revealed. She must have realized how Alexia had already known that she asked, "Has he told you?"

Reluctantly, Alexia nodded, admitting, "Yes, he has, mother."

“Initially, I thought I was the king’s daughter.” Alexia looked down at her knees, saying, “That was the only explanation I could think of why my father would hurt me and abandon me.”

There was silence between the two until Avery said, “I – I do not know why Roland would do that. He was supposed to be my second chance mate. He was supposed to protect you.” Avery embraced Alexia from the side and said, “I’m sorry, my child. It was my fault.”

“Let me continue with my story,” Avery said. “It will all make 4/7

sense to you if we go back from that day when I met Balthasar.” Avery explained how she doubted being with Balthasar. She said, “Back then, I did not know who he was, and he did not know me. We were strangers who had been connected with what we call fate the mate bond. I thought he was just an ordinary werewolf.”

“Alexia, our kind had detested the other werewolf clans. Due to the past wars werewolves, and trying to expand territories, the winter-grey wolves had to find a safer refuge. It wasn’t that our elders could not defend themselves, but our kind wanted peace.

Moreover, many of the winter-grey wolves mated with humans. We protect them from being casualties of the war. Aside from that, many werewolves packs wanted to win our alliance,” Avery explained. “This was a tale my mother had passed down to me. Bottom line, our ancestors found it too chaotic; the fight for power, the continuous warfare, and their interference with the peaceful lives of the winter-grey wolf clan.” With a sigh, Avery said, “Thus, our predecessors moved and moved until finally settling in Azenna. Our ancestors claimed Azenna, and we had lived peacefully for many generations.”

“However, because of the past, our kind had always been skeptical of other werewolf clans. My mother, for one, never wanted me to be mated to a werewolf. While she made me travel and explore the world, she warned me against mating with one,” Avery revealed. “So when I met Balthasar, I did not know how I could be with him and go against my mother.”

Avery looked up. Alexia noticed how she was studying the skies before finally returning to her tale, “But because of the bond that we shared, I decided to be with Balthasar, only to be brokenhearted.”

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"I'm sorry to hear that, mother," Alexia said. "Although I already know about this, it still hurts me."

"I begged the Moon Goddess to give me a second chance mate. For days, I cried in the hotel room I stayed in within the Cross River Pack. I hoped it was a wish that the Moon Goddess could grant me in exchange for whatever it is in me that I have to give up," Avery said. "You see, we are connected to the Moon Goddess in that way. She can hear our prayers and grant our wishes, but it always comes with a price."

Another heavy sigh left Avery's lips. She said, "One day, I felt utterly disconnected from my clan. Even if I had traveled around the world, I had always missed Azenna, but that morning, the longing faded. I felt no urge to call my mother or any of my friends in Azenna."

"The pain that left me in anguish for days suddenly disappeared too. I wandered around the pack and found out why. The Moon

Goddess had granted me a second chance, mate, in the name of Roland, but it came with a price. I was disconnected from the winter-grey wolves, and perhaps, the Moon Goddess meant it so I could live a life with Roland and give birth to you," Avery revealed.

"In the years that followed, after marrying Roland, I felt no guilt or remorse for not returning to Azenna. I was happy and contented with my life here at the Cross River Pack, but my mother's people found me one day." Avery said, and a tear rolled down her face. She glanced at Alexia with regret in her eyes as she revealed, "I learned my mother was dying, and I needed to return to Azenna. I made another wish to the Moon Goddess, and I paid the price so dear to me."

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~Alexia~

"I made another wish to the Moon Goddess, and I paid the price so dear to me," Avery said.

"And, what would that be?" Alexia asked while her brows met.

Avery looked distantly and revealed, "The winter-grey wolves have unique abilities. All of us have great

strength, but other werewolf clans do not know that we, the direct descendants of Adira Elsher, have

this tremendous power that oozes from us when we fear for our lives. Depending on how we are badly

hurt, it can result in our enemies' hearts to stop beating."

Instantly, Alexia gasped. She thought about Beta Edward, Dean, and the rogues who wanted to rape

her. Since she was her mother's daughter, she had the same power!

"But that power only activates when you can shift." Avery turned to Alexia and said, "I requested to the

Moon Goddess for you to carry a fraction of my power so you can be fully protected. In return, I slowly

lost my memory of you and your father, Roland."

Alexia stilled. Dead air followed as her mouth fell to the ground. Finally, it all made sense to her now.

She was deemed cursed, but in truth, her mother lent her powers that were too strong and alien for her

to decipher and

tame.

Avery wept. She described, "I did not know the consequence then. I should have known, but how could

I? Also, for my part, I rarely reach out to the Moon Goddess and make wishes."

She embraced Alexia tightly and pleaded, "Please forgive me, Alexia. Please. I did not know. I meant to

return. That was always my plan. Back then, I decided not to take you with me because my mother still

bore resentment toward the common werewolves. She would never accept Roland. Also, we had to

take another dangerous journey other than returning to Azenna.”

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Avery kept embracing Alexia. She kept apologizing until Alexia finally hugged back.

Alexia felt her mother's pain and regret, but she also understood why she made such a wish. She only

wanted to protect her.

“So, mother, how did you regain your memories?” Alexia asked, after observing how Avery had

soothed her emotions.

Avery wiped the tears from her face. She explained, “Before returning to Azenna, my mother's trusted

warriors and I acquired the fire root plant at Mount Nefarious. It was a dangerous trip, which was part of

why I left you. We stayed in the crater for two days. Because of the plant's medicinal properties, we

planted a few in a cave we discovered within the volcano. My companions and I hoped the same plant

would flourish in a more secure environment rather than constantly being exposed to the volcano's

steam. We had planned to return another time and collect more of the miracle plant.”

“Oh, so it was you who planted them?” Alexia’s emotions changed from being sad to shock. She

revealed, “Kieran had secured some plants when the king was dying. King Balthasar was poisoned by

his queen, but he was miraculously saved because of the fire root plants my husband found by

accident!”

Alexia went on, sharing how Kieran discovered the cave. The news made Avery smile. She said,

“Imagine how fate brought your husband there.”

They continued to talk about the cave. After confirming how its description fully matched her recovered

memories, Avery claimed, “That was definitely the same cave, and we came out the same way.”

Alexia first shared her relief over the king’s healing. It was how Avery learned of Balthasar’s tragic fate,

including how he raised a son that was not his from the start.

After learning a few details about the king, Alexia urged her mother to resume. Avery softly recounted,

“So, where was I? Yes, Mount Nefarious. Anyway, we returned to Azenna immediately after getting

enough fire root plants. My mother received treatment and healed. However, my memories.

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of you and Roland gradually faded. Even the mark Roland had with me vanished like it was never there.”

Avery looked down and sadly informed, “My mother knew I had a family. Her warriors had reported this

to her, but she allowed me to forget. Instead, she forced me to take responsibility and train to take over

the crown.”

“In each month that passed, I felt something was missing in my life. All I could remember was how I

traveled around other countries, but not the memories of you and Roland.” With a sigh, Avery added,

“My mother explained that I had loved the Cross River Pack so much that I had wished for the pack’s

protection. So I lost some memories, but she never said I had a family!”

Next, Avery continued, “In the years that followed, I strictly trained to

replace my mother, and I was good at it, but despite achieving so much, I was miserable. I could not

put a smile on my face. There were nights that I would cry in my room, and I did not know why.”

“A year before my crowning, my mother finally saw through my unhappiness. I may have lost my

memory, but the longing was still there in my heart,” Avery described. “It was then when my mother

confessed that I had a family back in Taplean.”

“My sorrow grew daily, and my mother became consumed with guilt. After two months, she wished for

my memory to return, all of it.” Avery looked into Alexia’s eyes and revealed, “The Moon Goddess

granted her wish, but in return, she slowly died in the following weeks.”

“I started to regain my memories of you, and with the power in me, I tried to reach out to you. I wanted

to see you, but my responsibilities kept me from leaving the country. After my mother died, the

crowning happened, and invaders came into our nation, thinking the new queen was weak. For

months, I had to show them my strength and keep the enemies from entering our lands,” Avery

recounted.

“Aside from that, some turnovers needed to be made, and my memories did not come back all at once.

It came in flashes at first,” Avery reasoned.

“Most memories came back when Roland’s mark on me reappeared.”

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Avery covered a few more challenges as she attempted to make her way to Taplean, including an

internal fight for the crown. She only left Azenna once she confirmed most of the warriors’ loyalty was

with her.

After everything had been said, Alexia asked, “So, what happens now, mother?*

“What happens now? First, I will speak to that good-for-nothing father of yours. I will reject him so I will

no longer be bound to him.” With anger in her voice, she claimed, “How can I love a man who

maltreated my daughter?!”

“I will take you and your husband back with me to Azenna. I don’t want your battling a war that is not

yours to fight! You are a princess. You do not deserve to be thrown away from your home because of a

stupid

accusation!” Avery said.

Avery held Alexia’s hand and asked, “My daughter, Alexia. Please, will you come with me to Azenna? I

will figure out a way for my people to accept Kieran. With his leadership and battle experience, he

could offer wise advice on how to run Azenna. I will name him as one of my generals. What do you say,

Alexia?”

Alexia gasped. Her heart raced. Oh, how wonderful it would be finally together with her mother.

However, the truth was, she knew Kieran would never leave Taplean and his people, more importantly,

his king.

“Mother,” Alexia said. “I can’t leave. I love him, and Kieran will never leave. I

am his wife, and I will stay by his side. Kieran’s pack needs him. He is meant to serve his people. Back

at the Stone Blood Pack, they wait for his

return.”

“But Alexia,” Avery countered. “You do not know if that will happen. You will not be safe -”

“I am pregnant, mother. I am carrying Kieran’s child. I cannot leave him,” Alexia revealed.

Avery sucked in a breath, her eyes looking down at her belly. She shut her eyes and repeated, “You –

you are pregnant?” She gulped and insisted,

“Then all the more you should come with me for your safety!”

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“How long before the queen learns of Kieran and the king’s hiding? Maybe tomorrow or the next day!

She could launch an attack. You, the people here, and the baby will be in danger -”

“She is right, Alexia.” Alexia and Avery’s head snapped to their left. The voice came from Kieran. The

mother and daughter were so engrossed in their conversation that they failed to notice how Kieran had

followed after

them.

Kieran walked closer to Alexia, saying, “My wife, Alexia. Your mother is right. You are not safe here. I

want you to go back with your mother to

Azenna.”

Alexia's eyes widened in shock, her heart aching. She frowned and screamed, "No!"

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~ Kieran

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After Kieran had investigated Dean's escape, he brought his wife to the packhouse for a decent talk.

Earlier, he discovered that Dean had manipulated one guard to open his prison cell. That was how

Dean escaped.

"Listen to me," Kieran said while pushing Alexia's hair behind her ear. He pecked her nose and licks

before suggesting, "We don't know what will happen when we go to the capital. For the queen to plot

against the king, it meant that she was confident – she has allies behind her back, and I don't mean by

Alpha Blaze alone."

He pulled her tight against his chest and said, "I want to make sure you and our child are safe."

Kieran shut his eyes and pecked Alexia's head, saying, "Please, go with your mother. I promise I will

come for you when all this is over."

Alexia and Kieran were resting in their assigned room. They repeatedly covered Avery's proposal, but it

only made Alexia uneasy.

It was equally painful for Kieran, but he agreed with Avery. His wife was better off, protected by her

mother, a winter-grey wolf queen.

“I love you, Alexia,” Kieran said. “Do you trust me? Do you believe I’ll be okay and we will be back

together again?”

“It’s just not easy for me, Kieran. I am pregnant with your child. The thought of being away from you, or

even worrying about you, scares me,” Alexia admitted. “Promise me you’ll be safe. Promise you’ll find

your way to me, no matter what?”

Kieran nodded and swore, “I swear. I will find my way back to you and our child. I mean, I married a

powerful winter-grey wolf princess. How could I not be motivated to come back to you?”

“Pfft! I don’t know, Kieran. I don’t even feel it,” Alexia admitted. “I don’t know what is so great about

me.”

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Then, I guess it’s better that you stay in Azenna for the time being. You will learn about your heritage

while our baby grows in your womb,” Kieran proposed. “I certainly hoped we would be done with this

internal war before your birthday and see you shift for the first time.”

Alexia nodded and said, "I hope so too, Kieran. I need you there."

"No, you don't," Kieran insisted. "You want me there. There is a difference."

"I need you with me because I want to see my mate the moment I shift,"

Alexia claimed. She will not use her wish to the Moon Goddess to make it happen, but she certainly hoped they were truly fated to be together.

"Then, I'll be with you on your birthday, I promise," Kieran swore.

The couple k*ssed and made out until they made love. They remained in each other's arms throughout

the night, knowing they would part again in a few days.

Alexia

"Why? Why did you do this to our daughter? Why!" Alexia felt chills down her spine, hearing her mother

question her father in the underground prison of the Cross River Pack.

She saw her mother full of rage, her b*dy expanding and her fangs elongating. Avery barked at the

man behind the cell, "I entrusted our daughter to you, and you let her become enslaved? A princess of

the winter-grey wolf clan?"

"What good is a princess if she cannot be recognized?" Roland barked. "Why did you only return now

when she is a lot older? We waited – I waited for so long! Did you go back to your true mate? Is that

why you never came back?"

His response made Alexia gasp in shock. So, her father had known all along that she was a winter grey

wolf. Her father had known about her mother's heritage but said nothing!

Aloud growl left Avery's lips. She replied, "I lost my memory! That's why! It has nothing to do with my

first true mate because that bond had

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disappeared when we mated!"

"No matter. I'm glad I can still end our bond now," Avery declared. She ordered the guards to open up

the prison cell.

"Mother," Alexia called, worried about what her mother would do.

"Stay back, Alexia! Remember, you are pregnant! I can handle Roland," Avery claimed.

Avery walked in and commanded Roland, "You better say back the words that I need to hear, Roland!"

"I, Avery Lane, reject you, Roland Reed as my mate!" Avery said. She put her hand around Roland's

neck and demanded, "Answer me!"

Alexia saw how her father struggled to say the words, but eventually, after laboring to breathe, he

begged to be free. Her mother must have been so strong that Roland gave up in less than a minute.

Avery released his neck, and from there, he fell on his knees while weakly replying, "I, Roland Reed,

accept your rejection, Avery Lane – aghh!"

In the next few seconds, Alexia saw her father in pain. His hand clasped against his neck.

Alexia looked at her mother and saw her discomfort too, but whatever pain she was feeling, Avery bore

it all. Alexia noticed smoke sizzled from the slope between Avery's neck and shoulder.

She wondered what it was, but when her mother left the prison cell, she learned Avery's mark was

gone. Her mother had her back facing Roland when she declared, "Now, our bond is broken. We are

done, Roland. And with how you treated our daughter, do not dare to call Alexia your own."

"Let's go, Alexia," Avery commanded, and Alexia followed behind her mother.

"Let us leave Roland to

suffer for his sins."

~Alexia~

Another day passed.

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Queen Avery and her warriors remained in the Cross River Pack,

accommodated in a hotel within the town. However, she and Alexia had already agreed to leave on the

third day.

Only a day had gone by since the truth of her identity came to light, and Alexia observed how

everyone's approach toward her changed. From respecting her as a Luna, the alphas regarded her as

royalty.

Some of the alphas meant to leave after the meeting with King Balthasar, but after discovering Alexia's

true identity, they all remained curious about the winter-grey wolves.

Luna Grace, for one, approached her, saying, "Luna Alexia, I mean, princess. I had always known you

were special. I am happy that Alpha Kieran found a good and special mate in you."

Alpha Kai kept cussing at her husband, saying Kieran was so damn lucky, while Alpha Declan and

Alpha Baxter repeatedly addressed her as Princess Alexia of Azenna, constantly bowing at her.

Kieran, of course, was the proudest. He kept following Alexia, reminding his men to give his wife the

respect she deserved. To Seth and his warriors, he instructed, "Address your Luna as Princess Alexia."

Her mother's arrival had interrupted the previous meeting with the alphas. Thus, the king called for

another session the next day. The alphas were all gathered in the living room of the packhouse,

offering suggestions to the king.

"My king, could we make use of this opportunity? Luna Alexia is the daughter of the Queen of Azenna,

a wintery-grey wolf. This means we could ally with Azenna – wait, does that mean Queen Avery was

your true mate?" Alpha Kai asked, arriving at a realization.

All alphas around them stilled. Alexia saw how others, especially the older alphas, had put two and two

together. Still, some failed to connect the dots.

“Yes,” the king replied. “And as I had told you before, I rejected her for Helen. I don’t see how I can

convince Queen Avery of an alliance.”

“But, you can try, my king, maybe even bring back that bond which you

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shared with Queen Avery,” Alpha Declan suggested, and the rest of the alphas echoed the same.

King Balthasar glanced in Alexia’s way. She smiled at the king, saying, “It’s worth a try, My King. Maybe

you should have that talk with my mother

before we leave.”

Immediately after the meeting, the king walked with Alexia and Kieran to find Avery. She wasn’t that far

from the packhouse. In fact, she had been waiting outside all along.

“Mother,” Alexia called. “The King has something to say.”

Avery merely lifted her chin to Balthasar. In a stern voice, she asked, “What is it, King Balthasar?”

Kieran and Alexia watched as the queen and king stared intensely into each other’s eyes. Avery was

especially overpowering that the couple could not read what was happening behind her head.

Only King Balthasar appeared apologetic through his tone and his humble actions. The king bowed and

requested, "May I request a moment of your time?"

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Queen Avery ~

"You can request, but that's all you will ever have," Avery said. However, she quickly took it back when

she saw Alexia's expression. Alexia frowned at her, and she realized she was showing bitterness for

something that had happened long ago.

With a sigh, she gazed at King Balthasar and said, "I'm sorry. Fine, let us talk."

The king and queen found themselves in the packhouse's office, where they could talk. Everyone was

ordered away from the packhouse, giving them the utmost privacy.

Once they both sat on their preferred seats, the king said, "Queen Avery, I want to apologize for what I

have done in the past. I hope you'll one day find it in your heart to forgive me."

"I wanted to explain my side." Balthasar cleared his throat and said, "I was about to be crowned king.

My father had already arranged a marriage for me, but I had no relationship with Helen then. So when

we met, I wasn't sure what to do."

The king narrated what had happened in the past. He covered how he asked for his father's approval

to take Avery as his queen instead of Helen. At the end of his tale, he revealed, "I chose to follow my

father's command, not for the crown, but because of Taplean. After all, I am the only heir. No one else

was fit to run Taplean. Plus, I thought you were an ordinary

werewolf.”

“Funny you should say that, King Balthasar because I chose you and was prepared to leave my

crown,” Queen Avery said. “We were on the same boat back then, but I chose my true mate, only to be

brokenhearted.”

Avery noticed how the king looked down. Regret reflected on how his eyes became hooded and how

many times he took a deep breath. It took seconds for the king to say another word, but eventually,

Balthasar responded, “And you don't know how many years I regretted it. Because

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even if I rejected you, I still thought of you. In the first year, I thought of you nearly every day. In the

years that followed, you haunted my dreams so much that I could not dare touch Helen.”

“I – I did not even Mark Helen. We were married only in name, but there was never love between us,”

Balthasar admitted, shaking his head.

The discovery shocked Avery. She repeated in her head, ‘He didn't mark Helen?’

Balthasar studied her expression, and realizing how she stilled, she frowned and said, "Go on."

"As I said, I could not stop thinking of you... Your face, the way you cried that day we last saw each

other, remained carved in my memory all these years," the king added. "So, when I discovered Alexia, I

knew she was your daughter. Whether she was mine or Roland's, I did not care. I wanted to give her a

better life than this small pack she had been living in."

Avery and Balthasar continued to let out all their inner thoughts about the past. For one, the queen

narrated her choices, including using her connection to the Moon Goddess and wishing for a new mate.

That was how she was given a second chance mate.

She then explained her powers, including how the Moon Goddess could grant her wishes in exchange

for something dear to her.

"I'm sorry," Balthasar repeated. "I'm sorry for everything. Ultimately, my choice led me here, hiding in

the Cross River Pack because Helen betrayed the crown. I raised a child that is not mine while she had

an affair with her

true mate."

Avery gulped air down her throat. She has heard about this truth from Alexia, but hearing it from

Balthasar made her feel sorry for him.

“If only I had chosen you, Alexia would have been my daughter, not Rolands,” the king continued.

Balthasar’s last words took Avery aback. She had heard from her daughter about how the king treated

her well. That fact made her reconsider her temperament towards Balthasar. She left the Cross River

Pack and

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disappeared. What would her life have been if it were not for Balthasar’s intervention in her daughter’s

life?

Remembering how this Drake tried to kill her daughter before her very eyes, rage filled her heart again

for Roland. She realized how she also made the wrong choices.

Sucking in a deep breath, Avery shook her head. Soon, she responded, “I also made a mistake. If I had

told you my true identity, that would have solved all the problems, but then again, how was I to know

you were the prince back then?”

“Eventually, though, after being married to Roland, I learned about you and how you were the new King

of Taplean. I discovered this after Roland and I were invited to your crowning. I pretended to be unwell,

so Roland would leave me to attend the crowning alone,” Avery revealed.

“I will forgive you, King Balthasar, but primarily because of the aid you have given my daughter,” Avery

said. “Second is, I somehow understand your predicament back then. We both lied about our

circumstances, so we somewhat shared the cause of that mistake.”

“Many years had gone by. Let us move on from the past,” Avery proposed.

The king rose from his seat and offered his hand. He said, “Thank you, Avery. Thank you for giving me

your forgiveness. I hope in time we can be...

friends.”

Avery fixed her gaze on the king. She thought, ‘Friends?’

“Well, I certainly don’t want an enemy,” Avery answered. She also stood up and gave her hand to him,

saying, “Friends.”

However, the second their hands touched, a jolt of electricity ran through her b*dy. Pleasure engulfed

her just by his mere touch, and she could tell it was the same with Balthasar, seeing how he gasped

and how his eyes gleamed.

The king and queen stared at each other for seconds before flashes of their futures appeared before

their eyes. King Baltasar gave up his crown to be with her in that future. She and Balthasar ruled

Azena, while someone

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else ruled Taplean.

Avery felt like the air had been sucked out of her lungs. She found it hard to breathe, realizing how the

Moon Goddess had returned her original fate. She didn't say it, nor did Balthasar say it, but she was

sure they were true mates again before the eyes of the Moon Goddess.

Balthasar smiled, but Avery took away her hand. She said, "I need to go now."

Before leaving the packhouse's office, she heard Balthasar say, "I will stop at nothing to prove to you I

will make it right this time. Given that the Moon Goddess has given me a second chance."

Avery could only blink. She was still so taken aback by how she and Balthasar were true mates again

that all she said was, "We'll see about that."

W

Alexia

The time came for Alexia to leave with her mother. By the driveway of the packhouse, Kieran kneeled

before Alexia, repeatedly k*ssing her belly. He said, "Be strong, my child. Your father will come for you

soon."

He stood up and k*ssed Alexia passionately, so deeply that the butterflies in her stomach went wild.

After they k*ssed, she hugged Kieran so. She pecked his cheek, saying, "I love you, Kieran. May the

Moon Goddess

protect you.”

“I will see you soon, my little wife. Be safe on your journey,” Kieran said before turning to Avery. “Queen

—”

“Mother, you can call me mother since you are married to my daughter,” the queen offered.

Alexia smiled at Avery’s suggestion. She looked up at Kieran and waited for his response.

“Mother, thank you for looking after my wife and child,” Kieran said.

Avery nodded and said, “I will have eyes and ears in Taplean, so I will know if you have succeeded in

your plans.”

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The queen turned to Balthasar and the other alphas and lunas present to observe Alexia’s leaving.

Then, her gaze became fixed on Balthasar as she said, “Until then, you can call Alexia through the

mobile.”

Avery’s beta gave Kieran a mobile number. After which, Avery said to Alexia, “It’s time to go, my

daughter.”

As Alexia and her mother drove away from the packhouse, they stared at the crowd by the driveway.

Yet again, Alexia was teary-eyed to be apart from her husband.

Alexia saw how Kieran chased after the car. She waved at him and said, "I love you, Kieran."

"I love you, Alexia! I'll be with you sooner than you know it!" Kieran claimed.

Eventually, Kieran stopped running, and it did not take long before Alexia could no longer see Kieran in

her line of sight. She rolled up the car's window and pondered what her life would be like in Azenna.

Turning to her mother, she asked, "Will your people accept me, mother?"

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Kieran ~

"Alpha Kieran, the queen's forces have arrived at the neighboring pack! Hurry! We need to leave!" Seth

announced at the packhouse.

"Seth, I need you to stay here with the others. Protect this pack in case any suspicion arises," Kieran

ordered. "Besides, isn't your mate here? You need to stay with your mate-"

Seth tried to object, saying, "But Alpha, my loyalty is to you -"

"I am not just your alpha, I am also your cousin. You need to stay with your mate for your sanity. I am

also looking out for you," Kieran ordered. "I have all the men I need. Jaxon is with me. Plus, I will

reunite with the other warriors once we reach the capital. Stay here, hide, but fight when there is a

need to protect the pack."

Following Kieran's orders, Seth had no choice but to remain in the Cross River pack. He was tasked

with masking their scents, especially the king and his loyal guards.

It was exactly as Queen Avery had suspected. Queen Helen did not take long to seek out the king's

b*dy from the distant packs. Over the past few days, Helen's loyal guards and that of Alpha Blaze had

been jumping from one territory to another, hoping to find King Balthasar's dead b*dy.

Kieran had heard the news from his warriors. Alpha Blaze's men had turned the rest of his territories

upside down. Some of his trusted warriors have been imprisoned due to withholding information.

Fortunately for Kieran, he maintained contact with the people who believed in his innocence. His

warriors remained faithful to him, knowing he was never behind the attacks on the eastern and

southern packs. Furthermore, they believed in his loyalty to the king and that he was never responsible

for kidnapping King Balthasar.

In the next three days, Kieran's party and the king's traveled across different woods, through secret

passages, and between packs.

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They camouflaged themselves using the skunk scent that Alpha Kai had invented, which proved helpful

throughout their journey. While they hid from the crowd, there were a few occasions when werewolves

saw them.

However, only a few dared to approach because of the overwhelming smell of skunk around them.

They had encounters with rogues who dared to seek their identity, and the same scoundrels suffered

for it with their lives. Kieran did not spare them, knowing it would jeopardize their plans.

On the fourth day, they arrived in the capital. It was Alpha Baxter who found a private mansion as their

hideout. From there, they waited until the council of alphas would regroup for another meeting.

Queen Helen

“We have yet to find the king’s b*dy. Maybe he has already been buried underground, and none of the

commoners know about it,” Alpha Blaze reported to Helen from within the king’s office.

Helen was fuming, occupying Balthasar’s seat, while Caspian, the prince, shook his head in dismay.

“We need to find Beta Ford, or at least Kieran’s beta, Beta Jaxon. Either of the two should have the

information we need!” The queen said in anger.

“But while Balthasar’s b*dy is still not found, we must hasten Caspian’s provisional appointment. At

least, he will have the full power as king, and we can use that to our advantage. In the king’s authority,

we can fully search the lands that belong to the other alphas, suppress the alphas who may cause us

trouble, and Caspian can appoint you as a new General of Taplean,” Hélen proposed.

“In front of all the alphas and the elders, let us show them how we are fully convinced of Balthasar’s

death. We can bring in a witness, a warrior of Kieran, who can testify to the king’s death. That will make

their decision easier,” the queen added.

After naming Kieran as a criminal, the queen was able to justify the full search within all the Stone

Blood Pack territories. He put some of Kieran’s warriors in prison, and she made it look like they were

traitors against the

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crown, but it was somewhat challenging to do the same with the other packs.

They were going all out on Kieran’s territories, but what if they buried the king’s b*dy in Alpha Kai’s

land?

Helen had tried searching in Alpha Declan’s lands, but it resulted in other alphas questioning her

authority instead. She was only able to frame Kieran, not Alpha Kai, and certainly not Alpha Declan.

For now, she could not risk another opposition.

They were still at a stage where they required the votes of the other alphas and the elders. The queen

needed their side and their favor. Thus, she concluded, moving forward with their plans was the best

solution.

Once Caspian has been named king, she will bring in her ally, King James. With Alpha Blaze and

Caspian, they will rule all of Taplean with King James' added protection.

"Then." Alpha Blazed glanced at his son, Caspian. He leaned back in his seat and said, "Then, let's

push through with our plans during the meeting of the council of alphas."

"I'm ready to be king," Caspian claimed.

W

Queen Helen

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The council of alphas meeting fully occupied the royal hall of the palace, and it pleased the queen.

According to Alpha Blaze, ninety percent of the alphas have attended. The gathering included the

elders who were once

leaders of the land.

There were disadvantages of a massive gathering. There were new faces, from alphas new warriors to

wives, and even old alphas inactive from the council. There were also elders she had not met and only

knew by name. Nonetheless, Helen was confident with the security measures she took.

None of Kieran's warriors were allowed into the palace. Kieran was gone, but his faithful warriors were

still out to avenge his death. The queen was sure, they all blamed her and her son for his passing.

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Helen was seated at the very front of the elevated platform, sitting on her golden throne. Her son,

Caspian, stood next to her. Alpha Blaze stood a level below, so as not to disclose their relationship.

When her head guard confirmed that all registered alphas had entered the great hall, an

announcement was made.

"Her Highness, Queen Helen! All rise!" The royal crier called the people's attention.

Everyone stood up in respect for the Queen as she rose from her throne.

Helen studied everyone's reaction. She sniffed the air profoundly and tried to get a feel of whoever was

present that day. Helen found nothing suspicious. Thus, she cleared her throat to speak.

"Good morning, alphas, lunas, and great elders," Helen began. "In today's meeting, we will cover an

essential matter. You may have read the letter I have sent."

Helen acted to weep, wiping the corners of her eyes. She said, "As much as it hurts me to admit this,

the king is dead, and I need help running Taplean. What better way to address the nation's current

predicament than to name my son, Caspian, king? By naming him king, we can share the responsibility

of running Taplean, and have full authority in making decisions that are best for the nation."

"If we continue to have no king, I'm afraid that the other nations will consider it our weakness, and they

will begin to launch another attack at us when we had just recently won the war against Eswen," Helen

added.

"Caspian is due to be king, regardless. We are only going fast forward with the plans of crowning him,"

Helen described. "Thus, I call upon all the alphas and the elders to vote, in favor of naming Caspian as

our next king."

One elder raised his hand, and, following the queen's permission, he pointed out, "But without the

king's b*dy, his appointment is only temporary. According to our law, the provisional king can be

officially crowned in the absence of the real king within one year."

"And that is all I am asking for now," the queen said. "I am giving it my all in

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finding the king's b*dy, but Kieran and his men have made it impossible for me to find my husband's

remains."

"Rest assured, I will stop at nothing to give King Balthasar a proper burial," Helen guaranteed. "But

now, Taplean needs a king, and that king is my son, Caspian."

Out of nowhere, a woman came forward, sending chills down Helen's spine. Her eyes widened,

knowing who she was. It was Luna Beatrice, Alpha Blaze's wife. She said in her head, 'How could

Alpha Blaze miss this? She should not have been allowed to join the meeting!'

"I am still allowed to speak, am I right, Your Highness?" Luna Beatrice said., "I am still Alpha Blaze's

luna, considering our divorce has yet to be decided in today's council meeting."

Helen gulped, her eyes panned to Alpha Blaze, but seeing him stiffened, she forced a smile, acting like

she was unaffected. She permitted Beatrice to speak. "Go ahead, Luna Beatrice. What questions do

you have about my proposal?"

Luna Beatrice smiled. She moved forward from her seat, allowing everyone to find her. She looked

around before addressing the crowd. "As the prince, he is indeed the rightful heir to be the next king."

Turning to Helen, she asked, "But what if Prince Caspian is not King Balthasar's son?"

Helen's skin crawled, and her hands formed into fists.

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Queen Helen ~

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Murmurs echoed across the hall, following Luna Beatrice's accusation. It thoroughly enraged Queen

Helen that she barked, "How dare you spout such baseless accusations! Do you want to die?"

"Baseless accusations? Have you forgotten, Your Highness, how I had called my dearest husband in

the middle of the night when I suspected him to be with his mistress? Guess whose voice I heard

during that phone call? It was yours!" Luna Beatrice turned around and declared, "The council of alphas

and the elders, you should investigate if Prince Caspian is the king's son because, for all we know, he

is my husband's son!"

"That's right! My husband has been cheating on me with the queen for many years!" Luna Beatrice

said, her voice deafening throughout the vast hall.

At that point, jaws were dropping. Mutters resonated across the hall, with everyone considering Luna

Beatrice's accusation.

Helen's son, Caspian, was clearly in a panic, and so was Alpha Blaze.

Queen Helen immediately ordered his guards to seize Luna Beatrice, saying, "Lock her up for making

false accusations!"

“There will be proof once we order Prince Caspian’s blood to be examined against Alpha Blaze!” Luna

Beatrice suggested. “But you would not want that, would you? You’d rather lock me up, and pin a crime

on me, just as you did with Alpha Kieran!”

“I see what this is all about,” Helen said. “I did not know that Luna Beatrice supports Kieran?”

“Who isn’t? Alpha Kieran has saved us from the war. Why would he so easily ruin his reputation for

small packs in the eastern and southern packs when the king can grant him bigger territories!” Luna

Beatrice retorted. She glowered at those alphas involved in the accusations against Kieran. She said,

“Have you ever thought about that before convincing this b*dy that it

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was indeed Alpha Kieran to initiate the attacks against your packs?”

“What about the king’s kidnapping? He is involved in it!” Alpha Vincent said. His pack was attacked first

by the unknown group of men who claimed to be Kieran’s wing.

“How do you say that? Did you find the king in any of Alpha Kierna’s

territory? What is your proof?” Luna Beatrice said before the queen’s guards finally held her arms.

A guard covered her mouth while being forced out of the royal hall.

The queen repeatedly sucked in a deep breath. She had to give everyone her back for a second,

composing herself. Caspian soothed her, massaging her back. When they both faced everyone, Helen

said, "Clearly, Luna Beatrice was being spiteful. Please ignore her accusations."

Suddenly, one of the alphas raised his hand. It was Alpha Dave. Since Alpha Dave was one of the

inactive alphas, Helen did not think of any harm in letting him speak. She allowed him to say a word.

"My Queen, may we ask exactly how you discovered the king is dead?" Alpha Dave sought.

"Ah, the moment I have been waiting for." Helen ordered Alpha Blaze to call in the witness. She said

before the council and elders, "We have interrogated one of Kieran's men. He finally admitted to

witnessing how Kieran brought the king out of the Stone Blood Pack. He can confirm that the king had

died within the territory of the Stone Blood Pack, only that Kieran had taken my husband's b*dy away."

Heartbeats later, the queen's guards brought a severely wounded warrior. The said ga mma had

several bruises on his face, his nose was broken, and his l*ps were cracked. As he was thrown into the

floor, blood stained the

tiles.

Helen announced, "This is Sam, one of Kieran's trusted warriors. He will tell us the truth -"

“So your guards beat him up for an admission? How do we know if he is telling the truth? Or did you

force the truth into his mouth, YOUR

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HIGHNESS?” Alpha Declan spoke, and there was resentment in his tone that made the queen clench

her jaws. She certainly made a mental note to find fault with Alpha Declan. Like Kieran, she will strip

him of his alpha title!

“My men did what they had to do to find the king. We failed, but at least, we got some information! This

is your last warning, Alpha Declan. Do not give me that condescending tone! I AM YOUR QUEEN!

Respect me!” Helen threatened. She found herself moderately expanding, her claws elongating as her

b*dy acted to shift!

Helen let out her powerful aura. She may not be the king, but she was born with an alpha blood. She

still had it in her to weaken their courage. After all, she was the queen. Technically, she was still above

them all.

Seeing how Alpha Declan bowed his head, she urged Kieran’s warrior to speak. She ordered, “Tell this

council what you have told me. Tell them how Alpha Kieran kidnapped the king!”

At first, Sam's voice could barely be heard. Tears stung his eyes, clearly from the pain of having been

tortured. Because no one heard him, Helen demanded, "Tell them now!"

Suddenly, Helen noticed the warrior sat up straight. His eyes roamed the entire hall, as if searching for

something. Tears continued to roll down his face, but he appeared to be courageous this time.

What baffled Helen was how the warrior's cries became louder. 'Was he crying because he was about

to betray his alpha?'

Next, she heard the same warrior admit, "Yes! Yes, it's true! Alpha Kieran took the king!"

A smile became painted on Helen's face. Finally, that was the answer she was looking for. However,

just as she was about to rejoice, the warrior added, "But not because of what the queen insinuated!

Alpha Kieran took King Balthasar to save him! The queen had poisoned the king, and to save his life,

Alpha Kieran took him out of the palace so that he could be cured!"

"You lie!" The queen objected. She snapped at her guards, giving them her threatening glare, and

ordered, "Take him back to his cell! Punish him for his lies -"

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"He speaks no lie!" A voice so commanding, yet so familiar, resounded across the hall. Helen's knees

turned weak as one hooded man stepped away from the crowd. The man sent shivers down her spine

as he said, "Alpha Kieran did, in fact, save me."

Kieran

Kieran and his selected men had hidden amongst the escorts of Alpha Dave. The king and his royal

guards, including Beta Ford, had covered their identities as warriors of Alpha Helman. The queen had

not suspected the packs of the mentioned alphas, and they easily passed the security check without

suspicion.

Of course, they all masked their scents, using various potions so as not to be identified. They all

managed to enter the royal hall acting as the alpha's warriors. Some of Kieran's men remained outside

the hall and behind the palace walls, being lookouts for any aggression coming from the queen's side.

Luna Beatrice's interception had always been part of the plan to create doubt in the queen's objective.

He did not expect one of his warriors to be presented as a witness.

When he saw Sam, his gamma, in such an awful state, Kieran badly wanted to attack. He craved to

take Sam away from the palace and give him the fire root potion he had with him. It hurt him to see his

men in pain and to think Sam suffered because of him.

Because Sam still pledged his loyalty to Kieran, he could connect with his gamma through the mind.

He said, 'Sam, it is me. I am here with the king, and we are here to take back the palace. I don't know

what the queen expects you to say, but instead, tell the truth about how the queen poisoned the king in

order to take the crown!'

That was all it took for Sam to find the strength, and Kieran knew it.

'Alpha Kieran! It's you! Thank the Moon Goddess; you have come! Tyler and Rob have been locked up

like me, but we never said a word about your plans! I swear!' Sam mindlinked with Kieran.

'I have never doubted you or any of my warriors. Thank you, Sam, for your

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sacrifices. We will save the others later. For now, it's time to ruin the queen's plans!' Kieran said in his

mind.

Sam could not see him, but he let his presence be felt through the bond they shared as a pack. All the

more, his gamma became assured. He eagerly revealed the queen's attempt to kill the king, "Yes! Yes,

it's true!"

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"Alpha Kieran did, in fact, save me." That familiar voice came through, and the queen knew it was King

Balthasar. He was alive!

The words rang in Helen's head a million times. She muttered silently, 'No. This can't be.'

Fear crept into her heart, her eyes wandering over to Alpha Blaze. For a second, she glowered at her

son. She wondered, 'Didn't Caspian say he destroyed all the fire root plants? Then why is Balthasar

alive?! Is this trickery?'

But no, she had known that voice for years. It was definitely Balthasar!

Then, she realized that Balthasar had initially concealed his powerful energy. Not everyone knew it was

him! In an effort to save herself and her son, she pointed at Balthasar, saying, "Guards, seize him! He

is an imposter!"

The surrounding alphas and lunas fell confused, although she saw a few who shook their heads at her

claims. Now, she realized that Alpha Declan and Alpha Baxter were in on this!

Still, she took the opportunity to retreat, grabbing her son, and Alpha Blaze quickly caught on, following

after her.

She could hear the footsteps of her loyal guards marching toward the king. She could hear the

commotion around the hall while she and her family

tried to flee.

Suddenly, a loud growl echoed across the hall, and Balthasar's strong aura felt like it seized the entire

royal hall that the queen could barely move. It was the same with Alpha Blaze and her son.

“Stop! Bow down to me or be prepared to die in my hands!” Balthasar growled.

When Helen snapped her head toward him, she saw Balthasar in his

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werewolf form. The alphas around him bowed their heads, some kneeling, submitting to his command.

She warned those who swore their loyalty to her, mindlinking, ‘Prepare to attack!’

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King Balthasar

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“Bow down to me, all of you, for I am your king!” Balthasar ordered. “I am the king who ruled you for

years, had led you free from the war, and had served the nation faithfully. I am alive and well, thanks to

Alpha Kieran’s saving.”

Balthasar’s dark brown wolf scanned the surrounding alphas, saying, “Not only was it Alpha Kieran, but

other alphas also my recuperation and escape from the Queen!”

“The queen tried to poison me, and the son, who I tried to treat like my own, tried to kill my chances of

surviving!” Balthasar spat. “Caspian cannot be named as the king, for he is not... my son! All this is a

plot against me, including taking down my best alpha, Alpha Kieran, so the queen can control Taplean

through Caspian!”

“Why do you think she plotted against Kieran? He was the next strongest alpha, with strong warriors

under his command. Helen would fail in taking over the throne if Kieran stood in her way!”

In a louder tone, Balthasar snarled, “Believe me, for I am your king. I only have your best interest at

heart!”

Gasping and murmurs echoed across the hall, and many tried to search for the queen and her son.

“The king is alive!”

“The queen lies!”

“It’s no wonder the queen was in a hurry to declare a new king!”

“She did not even bother to find the king’s b*dy because there wasn’t any b*dy in the first place!”

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“Oh my, Moon Goddess! Caspian is really Alpha Blaze’s son!”

While the crowd speculated on the queen’s intentions, Helen’s loyal guards tried to fight off the king’s

compelling energy. They pointed spears with silver blades at Balthasar while the others tried to shift

into their wolf form.

It no longer surprised Balthasar that most of the queen's guards had learned to resist his alpha

command. For all he knew, they had been training for years while he was blinded.

"Who is your king?" Balthasar growled, his fangs elongating at the guards.

Behind him, Beta Ford revealed himself and also shifted into his wolf. He said, "King Alpha Balthasar is

our king!"

His loyal guards followed, shifting into wolf forms, and surrounded Balthasar. They were prepared to

fight with him and defend the crown.

Alpha Kieran appeared before the crowd next. When he hopped into the circle around the king,

everyone quickly identified him with his shiny black coat and menacing eyes.

Meanwhile, Balthasar found the queen almost at the royal exit. He caught how Helen was surprised,

seeing Alpha Kieran alive! He scoffed, thinking they probably thought Caspian had successfully killed

Kieran at Mount Nefarious.

His eyes narrowed at Helen as he ordered, "Don't let the queen and Caspian escape!"

"Attack!" At the same time, Helen commanded. Her voice also roared across the royal hall.

Anywhere the king turned, werewolves were expanding, both from his side and that of the queen.

It could not be helped. The plan was to avoid any fight, but apparently, Helen had initiated it. The worse

part was how they were inside the royal hall, where many innocent lives could be hurt.

“Find a safer place for those who cannot defend themselves!” Alpha Balthasar commanded the other

alphas.

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Chapter 68

While the quick-minded alphas and their warriors ushered other attendees to safety, a fight

commenced within the royal hall. It started with the queen’s guards charging at the king.

A wolf flung at Balthasar, but his giant mouth easily caught the attacker’s neck, and with one snap, the

king broke his neck!

Around him, he could see his loyal warriors battling off the queen’s guards. From afar, he caught a

glimpse of Keiran going after Helen.

Balthasar followed Kieran. He ran in his paws, growling now and then and letting Helen know he was

coming for her. Much to his dismay, more and more of the queen’s guards attacked him and Kieran. □

~ Kieran

W

Chapter 69

News of Queen Helen, her son, and Alpha Blaze being the traitors of Taplean, traveled fast following

the king's announcement. The elders and the council of alphas remained in the palace for the next few

days to hear Kieran's side and the proofs they had gathered against the queen.

Remnants of the poison being given to the king were presented to the council of alphas and the elders.

The doctor who colluded with the queen admitted it all.

In the circle where the influential leaders of Taplean were gathered, the guilty doctor said, "The queen

asked me to poison the king. Caspian watched the king ensure that King Balthasar maintained his

regular dose of the medication."

"It still does not change the fact that Alpha Kieran attacked our packs," Alpha Vincent growled while

looking at Kieran.

"Alpha Kieran would never do that." Jaxon, Kieran's beta, stepped in, saying, "He is a good alpha and

leader to our pack. He had also helped other neighboring packs by aiding financially and providing

necessities in times of calamities."

"I can attest to that," another alpha said.

"We all can testify to that," Alpha Declan said, and so did the other alphas who sided with Kieran.

Kieran was in his seat, listening to everything. He saw King Balthasar about to defend him when he

raised his hand, saying, "May I, My King?"

King Balthasar nodded, extending his hand to Kieran's way.

Walking into the center of the crowd, he turned to Alpha Vincent and those pack leaders who were

attacked by unknown men. He offered, "I will let you go into all my territories and search for the men

who attacked your pack. You will find out that none of them are in my lands, for I did not, and I repeat, I

did not order the attack on your lands."

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"You can speak to my people and other neighboring packs who I have aided. Before casting judgment,

Alpha Vincent, assess the alpha that I am." Kieran raised his chin. He stood tall and let his dominance

unleash. He described himself, "I am unforgiving and a ruthless warrior to my enemies, but to my

people, to Taplean, I am a benevolent leader."

Alpha Vincent and the other affected alphas looked at each other. Not long before, their faces were

painted in regret. Alpha Vincent, for one, said, "Then, if it was not you, we have not achieved our justice

just yet. Then who? Who did this to us?!"

"It's like what we said a few days back, on the day that I returned." This time, it was King Balthasar who

spoke. "We suspect that it was the queen. We think she had help from Alpha Blaze, which is where my

men are headed now – to the Golden Eye Pack.”

“Another ally of hers may have also helped instigate the attacks and may have been the reason why

Eswen was able to navigate our seas,” the king revealed.

Around the royal hall, gasping and murmurs could be heard. Alpha Baxter, for one, sneered. His frame

expanded in anger. He said, “You mean the queen was King James’ spy?”

Kieran could understand his friend’s anger. It was Alpha Baxter’s men who suffered the most in the

war, being the closest to aid the southern coast.

“Before Helen fled, Alpha Blaze and unknown men fired bullets at the palace gates. Alpha Kieran was

hit with a silver bullet, but thankfully, our great alpha warrior has grown a tolerance to silver, and he

barely felt the effects of the bullet in him,” the king revealed. “That same ammunition was the seal of

Eswen.”

“And where is the queen now, My King? Have your men traced her whereabouts?” Alpha Baxter asked.

King Balthasar gazed at Kieran. With his brows meeting, he looked past Kieran, staring at the alphas

and lunas, including the warriors around. He said, “The last sighting of the queen was at the southern

port. She fled, riding a speedboat, and boarded a large vessel. We believe it is a boat from

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Eswen.”

A growl left Alpha Baxter’s lips. He barked, “The queen is indeed a traitor and should be banished from

Taplean!”

“Banish Queen Helen and Prince Caspian!”

“Include Alpha Blaze!”

“Banish the queen!”

“Dethrone the queen!”

In a few days, the leaders’ cries were heard. The queen was stripped of her title, and so was Caspian.

Blaze suffered the same fate. His lands were surrendered to Luna Beatrice for good, and the Golden

Eye Pack was now searching for a new alpha. It was announced to Taplean that Caspian was the son

of Blaze and the queen was a traitor to the nation.

They were deemed banished from the land and considered enemies of Taplean.

Along with this news, rogues were captured near the Golden Eye Pack, and they were the same men

who had attacked the small packs of the south, east and western borders.

Following an interrogation, it was later determined that Blaze was the one who ordered the attacks. The

rogues were commanded to name Alpha Kieran as their leader, but in truth, they were paid by the

queen and Blaze.

With the internal enemies named, it became more explicit for the king to command his people. King

Balthasar called for another meeting, ordering all alphas and lunas in the land. He wanted everyone to

take a renewal of oath under his leadership.

One by one, each alpha and luna swore allegiance to the king in the form of a blood oath. And at the

end of the ceremony, King Balthasar gave a significant announcement.

He stood before the leaders and said, "Our spies in Eswen have alerted us that they are planning

another attack on Taplean. I can only imagine, this time; they are coming with the guidance of either

Helen or Blaze, maybe

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even Caspian too. There are many things that we need to prepare and change. Helen and Caspian

know too much about our borders. Thus, I ask for your commitment to keeping Taplean safe and

protected. Let us all work together for Taplean!"

"I feel responsible for not having read the queen, and because of this, I will personally be in the front

battle in the coming war against Eswen!" Balthasar declared, shocking everyone.

Kieran's mouth fell open. His gaze snapped in the direction of the king and of Beta Ford. He thoroughly

disapproved of this plan. However, King Balthasar gave the most shocking words next. The king said, “I

am naming Kieran our General. He will command all alphas and troops once the battle commences.”

“Our Major Generals are as follows,” he added, naming Alpha Declan, Alpha Baxter, and Alpha Kai.

The king continued until he said, “Lastly, since I have no heir. I request everyone to support me with

this desire.”

The king scanned the gazes of everyone. Then, he fixed his eyes on Kieran, saying, “Should anything

happen to me, or should I decide to step down, I want Kieran to be your next king.”

Kieran’s eyes widened, and his skin crawled. He didn’t know if the news was good or bad. His mind

drifted to the thought of his wife, asking himself in silence, ‘Me? A King?’

Alexia

W

While Kieran was faced with a shocking revelation from the king in the distant land, Alexia and Avery

walked into a meeting room with the elders of Azenna, their eyes quickly finding her growing belly.

They arrived in the morning, yet, the elders didn’t bother to let the mother and daughter rest some

more. Instead, they wished to see the missing princess, Alexia.

The dismays on their faces were apparent, seeing that she was pregnant. Immediately, one elder with

long white hair asked, "Is the father of that child of royal blood?"

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"He is known to be the best alpha of Taplean," Avery responded for Alexia.

"The best, but not the king," another elder said. This time, a man with white eyes was covered in a blue

cloak.

"Your highness, your daughter already has a weak father, a second chance mate, which meant he was

not whom the Moon Goddess truly intended for you to be with," the earlier elder said.

"And what does that mean?" Avery curtly asked.

"It means that your daughter is weaker than you," the man with a blue cloak said.

"She will be naturally strong, and I will teach her to be strong," Avery responded. "Let me worry about

that -"

"Is the father of that child even her true mate? If he isn't, that will weaken your lineage," the female

elder said.

Because Avery and Alexia were silent, the elders assumed the worst. The man with the blue cloak

said, "I see, so he is not your daughter's true mate. That's a problem. We should consider finding a

better mate for the princess

of Azenna."

Alexia's eyes rounded, and her mouth fell open upon hearing the proposal. She voiced, "No!"

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W

Alexia ~

"Kieran, I miss you so much! Thank the Moon Goddess that I can finally reach you," Alexia said over

the phone.

It was because of the travel route Alexia and her mother took to Azenna, their mobile connections were

unstable. Moreover, for security purposes, Avery's beta had specific instructions on when to make a

phone call.

On Kieran's side, Alexia knew how busy he was helping the king fight against the queen's forces.

"I miss you like f**king crazy, my little wife," Kieran answered. "How was the travel?"

"Exhausting," Alexia replied. She was in her new room, still gawking at the furniture that appeared to be

made of gold. It still hasn't sunk in how she was a princess. "Mother's Beta, Agatha, said they heard

the news of how you and the king had taken back the palace. I'm so glad that is the case."

"Yes, we have, but Helen escaped. You wouldn't believe how many royal guards she had apparently

convinced to take her side. The king struggled to put many of them under his alpha command," Kieran

revealed.

Kieran narrated what transpired during the fight, including the days that followed. In the end, he added,

“Helen is no longer queen. She, Caspian, and Blaze are banished and stripped of their title. However,

we think she had allied with King James, and war may be coming again.”

“Oh, Kieran, that is awful,” Alexia sighed.

“So, I’m going to be very busy again,” Kieran admitted.

Silence stretched for seconds before Alexia divulged, “I don’t know if I’ll like it here, Kieran. The elders

have already questioned my capability since I am half a normal werewolf -”

“Hey, Roland is still of an alpha blood. That counts for something,” Kieran said. “And I’m sure, once you

get your wolf, you will be a strong winter-grey

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wolf, like you are. Didn’t your mother say she would teach you the ways?”

“She did,” Alexia replied. “There is one other important thing you should know, Kieran. They were

asking about you. The elders here earlier questioned whether you are fit to be with me. They even

suggested matching me with another, but I objected! I told them we were already married, fated or not.

Mother said not to worry about it since her say is the last, being the queen. Still, I can’t help but be

concerned.”

Alexia ran her hand over her belly, saying, “I don’t know, Kieran, but I feel safer with you. Can I go to

you, please?”

“But you just got there, my little wife,” Kieran pointed out. “And another war is coming. I don’t think it’s

safe for you to travel out here for now. Listen to me. You cannot be mated to another because you are

my wife. I will not allow it. I will speak to your mother about this, but I trust you won’t allow it too.”

“I won’t! I love you, Kieran,” Alexia said.

“I love you too, my little wife. I miss you every day, but matters of our nation need to be addressed,

and I play an important role in it,” Kieran said. “I don’t want you to be caught in the middle when you

have not yet shifted into your wolf form. Plus, you are pregnant with our child. Our child is more

important.”

Alexia heard Kieran gasp, saying, “I will bear my longing, knowing you and our child are safe.”

Yet again, Alexia glanced down at her belly. She was already two months pregnant, and her baby was

growing fast. She certainly hoped that Eswen would not attack until she gave birth. Better yet, they will

not attack at all!

Alexia was tired that day but bore it, wanting to hear more of Kieran’s voice. They talked over the

phone, with Alexia mostly asking about the others next. She asked, "Can you let Rae call me, please? I

miss her too."

"I will," Kieran promised. "And I will call you every night. I will assess if the threat to Taplean is not yet

coming, and I will see you if it is the case. Better for me to go there than you, coming over here."

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Lying in her bed, Alexia nodded, saying, "Okay. I miss you so much, Kieran. I love you."

"I love you too. Take care of our little one. Rest, Alexia. Rest," Kieran said before ending the call.

Alexia helplessly dozed off, dreaming of a better future for her and Kieran, where there was no war to

worry about and no threats to their lives.

The next day, Alexia had the busiest schedule. In the morning, she was introduced to the people of

Azenna, presented through an announcement at the palace balcony where most winter-grey wolves

and humans came to see and praise her.

She wore costly clothes fit for a princess, and they were embroidered with gems, and the fabric was

made of quality satin.

She watched as her mother introduced her, saying, "The daughter I have been missing all these years

has finally returned to me. Love her. Welcome her, as you did upon my return. My direct descendant

and your princess, Alexia Stone!”

Alexia was happy about one thing. Her mother never objected to Kieran. How Avery introduced her as

a Stone made her smile.

Avery went on to explain how Alexia was already married to the most respectable alpha in the nation of

Taplean and that they were already expecting a child.

Alexia saw how the people were clapping for her, their eyes gleaming in excitement, but when she

turned to the side of where the elders were, she noticed them shaking their heads. She wondered, ‘If

the people have no problem with it, why are the elders making it a big issue? Besides, Kieran isn’t just

a normal alpha. He is probably the strongest in Taplean!’

The other day, she had come to know the elders. Gaston was the one who opposed her marriage to

Kieran. He strangely had white eyes and regularly wore a blue cloak around him. The other elder who

was also very against her marriage was Tara, the woman with white hair. The other elders were mere

followers of Tara and Gaston and mostly had no personal stand but were knowledgeable about the past

and history of Azenna.

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According to her mother, they were old advisers of her grandmother, the previous queen who passed away. They opposed Avery's marriage to Roland then and even suggested not retrieving Alexia. Too bad for these elders, Alexia's mother's longing for her was overpowering after regaining her memories. Moreover, Alexia's mother had no other heir, and she refused to remarry. The strength of the wintery-grey wolves would die with Avery if Alexia were not acknowledged.

Alexia recalled how her mother described it. The elders reluctantly gave their blessing for Avery to find Alexia in Taplean.

Reflecting on these thoughts, Alexia didn't realize the people were calling out for her. Below the

balcony, the citizens of Azenna raised their hands, and the smiles on their faces were evident.

"Hail to princess Alexia!"

"Welcome, Princess Alexia!"

"To the princess of Azenna!"

Avery urged her to come forward. She whispered in Alexia's ear, "Wave at them."

Alexia bashfully waved at the people and saw some of them cry, extremely happy to see her. The way

they looked at her with adoration touched her heart. Forget the elders because the people themselves

made her feel welcome and accepted. They are the ones that mattered most to her, for they are the

people she should serve.

Suddenly, a realization came to her. If her mother had no other heir, she would be crowned queen.

What would happen to her and Kieran then?

Kieran ~

Back in Taplean, Kieran had just entered the chamber of King Balthasar.

The king asked, "Have you spoken to Alexia? What about her mother?"

"I have, My King. They arrived safely in Azenna yesterday. And yes, I spoke to Queen Avery regarding my wife's condition," Kieran admitted.

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"Oh, did she say anything about me?" The king asked, his hand massaging his chin.

Kieran wound up chuckling for his king. While his marriage to Helen failed miserably, he was happy to

learn that the Moon Goddess returned him to his original mate, Queen Avery.

He recalled the king's tale before leaving the Cross River Pack. A day after Queen Avery rejected

Roland, the king and her sincerely talked. She forgave him, and their fates instantly flashed before their

eyes. The king revealed to him that they were true mates once more.

The Moon Goddess was giving King Balthasar a second chance with Queen Avery, but he didn't know

if the latter would entertain the idea of them fulfilling their fates as mates.

Clearing his throat, Kieran answered, “No, my king. She didn’t ask, but I willingly gave her the

information. I told her that you were safe.”

“Oh.” The king’s smile could not be kept, making Kieran smile back. “What did she say next?”

“She said to keep you safe,” Kieran replied.

King Balthasar nodded, saying, “I think that is progress.”

It couldn’t be helped. Kieran laughed and said, “I wish for that to happen to, My King.” He bowed at

Balthasar, saying, “Happiness for my king is my joy as well.”

The king chuckled. He said, “You realize that if Avery and I were to marry, you would become my son,

right? Though, I always considered you my son, Kieran, more than just my best warrior and alpha. That

was why I gave you

the best wife.”

Kieran reflected on the past. He smiled and answered, “I am happy for the choices you made for me,

my king. But setting that aside, I wanted to know why you considered naming me king.”

“Because you are the best out there. Your leadership skills outweigh any other alphas in the land. More

importantly, because that is the future I saw

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C 20

when I looked into Avery's eyes," Balthasar revealed, leaving goosebumps all over Kieran's skin.