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Alexia ~

"We have gone past the delicate stage of the pregnancy. The pup is doing fabulous. So, the princess

can endure training now." The doctor turned to Alexia, confirming, "Your husband is also of an alpha

blood, I assume. Your baby is growing fast. He should be in full term in four months."

Alexia gasped. She said, "That's after I shift."

Her brows met, not sure if it was safe then. Both the doctor and her mother chuckled at her reaction.

Avery said, "It's fine, dear. Your b*dy can care for your pup while you shift."

A smile formed on Alexia's I*ps. She wiped the sweat off her forehead and said, "What a relief."

After the doctor's visit, Avery had a one-on-one with Alexia, teaching her how to control her powers.

They both changed into training clothes and went to the secluded part of the palace's garden.

Avery's warriors circled her and simulated an attack. The queen remained in her human form, but her

b*dy was starting to expand, her eyes turning white and her claws lengthening.

"Since you already know about your power, Alexia, you must control it. You can feel it surging from your

b*dy, and you can thrust that energy in a specific direction!" Avery instructed before she showed Alexia

how it was done.

Avery swung her arm to the left side, and the warriors flew into the air, landing on their backs. A few

managed to land on their feet, meaning they had trained with the queen before.

Next, it was Alexia's turn to feel her powers. She stood beside her

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mother and concentrated.

"Instinctively, your power comes out whenever you sense danger, so it can be hard to bring it out. You

simply concentrate and imitate fear or the need to fight," Avery described. "Think about a specific

scenario where you feared for your life."

Alexia nodded. The first scene she tried to think about was when she and Rae were running for their

lives after several rogues had reached the borders of the Stone Blood Pack. However, that didn't help

because the next thing she remembered was her n*ked husband.

All the more, her longing for Kieran grew.

Next, she attempted to recall Beta Edward's advances. That got her to become agitated quickly. She

then thought of the worst scenario. That was when a group of rogues kidnapped her during their return

from the ball.

Alexia shut her eyes, recalling how the filthy rogues touched her and

tried to remove her clothes. She recounted the voices in her head.

"Tear off her pants!"

"I would love to taste premium meat!"

"Hold her down!"

Instantly, she felt her skin crawl, especially at the back of her neck. She suddenly sensed an intense

energy around her.

At that moment, as she remembered what had happened to her, she could imagine the leering stares

of those unknown men that she screamed, "Stop!"

She noticed the power leaving her, but in a split second, she heard her mother's voice, "Alexia! Stop!

It's fine now!"

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Alexia fell to her knees the second her eyes fluttered open. Her skin remained to formed goosebumps

at the ugly memory. Then, she noticed how everyone was gasping for air. Her mother was especially

panting.

"Oh, Mood Goddess, did I hurt you, mother?" Alexia asked. She rushed to Avery's side and hugged

her, "I'm sorry, mother. I am sorry."

Avery chuckled and hugged her back. After that, the warriors around them stood up and clapped their

hands. Avery said, "I did not realize I had transferred that much power to you." She cupped Alexia's

chin and added, "It must have been hard carrying all that with you and not understanding it."

Alexia nodded, saying, "It was, mother. It was."

"Anyway, that's just the start. At least, you already know how to draw out that power," Avery said.

"And I recognize when it comes out," Alexia also shared.

"That's good," Avery complimented. "Let's have two more attempts, but remember how you are in a

safe place."

"No need to give us a heart attack, Princess," one warrior said before the rest of them chuckled.

Avery laughed with them and reassured her daughter, "They are just joking. They are used to getting

near heart attacks."

More laughter echoed across the gardens before they resumed practicing again.

In the afternoon, following their practice, Alexia finally chatted with Rae. Alexia gave k*sses through a

video call to Kieran before her husband passed on the phone to her friend.

"Goddess, Rae, I miss you so much!" Alexia said on the phone. She

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hurriedly placed the mobile on her desk as she wiped the sweat off her b*dy.

"Oh, My Goddess! I miss you too, Alexia! Your stomach is getting bigger!" Rae exclaimed. "Do you

know the gender yet?"

Alexia chuckled. She replied, "No, we haven't gotten to that part, and I think I don't want to know. I want

to love our child, regardless of his or her gender."

Leaning forward, Alexia asked, "So, Rae. How is everyb*dy? Sheena? Is she fine? Rex? Mel? Clayton,

Sam? The pack? How is the pack?"

"Everyone is fine. Sadly, Sheena and Sam were part of the ones who were kept prisoners at the

palace. Still, they are recuperating well after the king's takeover. Some parts of the Stone Blood Pack

were turned upside down, houses burned, and some prisoners were set freethanks to Blaze. There is

a need for a lot of rehabilitation," Rae described. "Then, there is a possibility that war is coming, which

means Jaxon and I will never get married!"

"Oh, Rae. You know he loves you," Alexia said.

"I know," Rae answered. And through the video call, Alexia saw through her sadness. "It's just that I

wished this would all end."

Alexia was also feeling woeful in the absence of her husband. It didn't help that Alexia was pregnant

and needed her husband's love. She related to her friend, saying, "I feel you, Rae. I wish it will all end

too."

"I wish the war wouldn't come, but if it didn't come now, we would be waiting for an unknown surprise,"

Rae remarked, tears welling in her eyes. "I wish it were back to when it was before, you, me, Jaxon,

and Alpha Kieran back home, but it looks like there is still so much work to

be done."

"I wish I was there," Alexia said.

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Rae hoped the same but said, "I agree with Alpha Kieran. You are safer

there than here. I miss you, Alexia. I hope that the Moon Goddess will return our peaceful lives soon."

"Me too," Alexia responded.

Helen ~

Somewhere in Eswen, Helen, Blaze, and Caspian were called into a meeting with King James at his

palace.

King James walked back and forth in front of this throne and snarled, "How do I know that attacking

Taplean will work? I spent a fortune trying to take over Taplean, but I still failed! All thanks to Alpha

Kieran!"

"If Kieran is still alive, then I will keep failing!" King James concluded

the outcome of the invasion.

"This time, you won't fail, King James," Helen said. "Promise me, you will let us lead Taplean while we

give you the nation's riches, and I will give you the way to winning the war."

"That was always the agreement, but how can we win now?!" King James barked. "Your plan better

work, Helen, for the last time, it better! Or you will pay the price!"

"It will, King James," Helen reassured him. She turned to Blaze and said, "Tell him, my love."

"While the king was presumed dead, we created an underground

passage into the capital of Taplean. Only our loyal warriors are aware," Blaze said. "They will expect

our invasion from the sea, but instead of the south, we will enter through the west and travel by land

through the entrance of the underground passage. We will give them a surprise

attack!"

"And about Alpha Kieran, I know exactly how to take care of him," Helen

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proposed, and a mischievous smile became painted on her face.

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Alexia

"Oooh," Alexia awoke, feeling ticklish in her stomach. Her hand was quick to soothe her growing belly.

"What happened, Alexia?" Her husband's voice came through. Alexia had utterly forgotten how they were on a video call

overnight. She left a tablet charging by her bedside table so Kieran could watch her sleep while he took little naps.

Days came and went again. Since Alexia remained in Azenna, she and Kieran had mostly been calling each other. She had

remained to train with her mother and could say that she had almost mastered the use of her power.

Alexia returned to lie on her side, facing Kieran. She smiled at him and answered, "It's nothing, Kieran. I felt our baby move."

Kieran let out a low growl. He said, "I've asked the king if I could leave for two weeks. I might be granted the chance since we

have not seen any movement from the seas coming from Eswen."

Hearing Kieran's suggestion, Alexia's eyes lit up. She sat on the bed and asked, "Do you need me to speak to him about it?"

A laugh escaped Kieran's l*ps. He said, "I think that would help convince him. He would especially love it if you called him before

your mother."

"Oh, then. I'll do that," Alexia excitedly said.

Later at lunch, Alexia and Kieran had already agreed to plan it out. Alexia was eating her meal with Avery and her mother's Beta,

Agatha, when her mobile rang. Alexia quickly said, "Oh, it's King Balthasar." Immediately, she noticed how her mother froze in her seat. Beta

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Agatha's eyes also widened, Still, she chose to ignore their reactions and took

the call from the king.

"My king, how have you been?" Alexia inquired.

On the other line, she heard the King reply, "I am fine, my child, I heard you are training with your mother."

"Yes, My King, Mother has been training me to control my strength," Alexia replied. They covered some parts of her training, and

Alexia praised her mother for being a great warrior at the same time. After which, Alexia requested, "My King, I miss my

husband. Can Kieran be allowed to see me?"

Traveling to Azenna wasn't easy, but unlike the Queen, Kieran didn't have to hide his identity from threats since he wasn't a

royal. At least not yet. Of course, Alexia already knew of the king's plan to hand over the crown to Kieran. She was shocked

beyond words, and the king habitually gave little info at a time. Aside from naming Kieran the next king, she wondered what

other future he saw in her mother's eyes.

"I will let Kieran see you as soon as we finish securing the seas and the capital," the king said on the phone. He cleared his

throat and added, "Please, send my love to your mother."

Alexia smiled and said, "Yes, My King. I will. Thank you for giving Kieran. a break."

After putting down the phone, Alexia pretended the king had said nothing to the queen. She saw exactly what she wanted as a reaction from her mother when Avery dropped her utensils and

said, "What else did the King say?"

"Oh, I'm sorry, Mother. I was just too happy that the king agreed for Kieran to visit Azenna. I had forgotten his last request." With

a big grin on her face, Alexia admitted, "King Balthasar sends his love for you, Mother."

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Agatha choked, and she repeatedly coughed, whereas Avery's face burned. Avery's mouth fell open, but she struggled to speak. Soon, however, the gueen said, "Next time you speak with King Balthasar,

tell him to take care of himself."

Maintaining her smile, Alexia responded, "I will, mother."

'Will my mother and the king have their second chance?' Alexia thought in her

head. 'I hope so.' A

Kieran

A week went by since the king had approved his leave. Kieran was in his wolf form, running through half of the southern coast

and inspecting the perimeter. Alpha Baxter was examining the other side. Jaxon and Rae were behind him, giving him another pair of eyes throughout the trek. They also ran in their wolf forms to cover more areas of the shores.

Kieran heard a loud howl from Rae, and he turned around. He ran back with Jaxon, and from where Rae stood, she said, "This

part of the coast could be a weak entry, Alpha Kieran."

He looked up at the boulders before the sea and true enough. It was a potential entry. They did not secure the area because of

the rocks, but he realized it was an easy climb.

With a nod, Kieran answered, "You are right. I'll tell Alpha Baxter to make the necessary defenses."

They continued to cover the rest of the coasts, and as he did, Jaxon asked, "Is the cost the only access to Taplean, Kieran?"

"No, but it's the most accessible access for Eswen. Don't worry, Alpha Declan is already on his way to the east, where he would

be checking

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for possible entry there," Kieran replied.

It took two hours for them to finish their side of the coast. Kieran, Jazon, and Rae were about to meet Alpha Baxter and his group

to discuss their findings when suddenly, Kieran felt a pull that kept him rooted to the ground.

He saw Jazon and Rae run ahead, but he couldn't utter a word or call to them. His nose caught a sweet scent that compelled

him to turn. His wolf howled in excitement, eager to find the source of that sweet smell.

'What is this?' He thought in his head. 'What is this scent?!"

Behind him, he finally heard Jaxon and Rae calling out to him, but he could not turn back. His feet wouldn't let him!

"Alpha Kieran! Where are you going?"

"Alpha Kieran?"

The smell was so intoxicating that Kieran had to find it. He ignored the calling

of Rae and Jaxon and ran into the thick vegetation

next to the shores. He ran until he saw a red-haired she-wolf turning her back to

him.

Kieran did not know what came over him but shifted into his human form. The woman faced him, and her green eyes appeared

to glow. He

saw green smoke sizzle around the she-wolf, and he saw himself and the woman from the smoke together and having a child.

He felt chills down his spine, fearing what this meant. He was also suddenly attracted to the woman and had the urge to take her

into his arms, Kieran's heart raced as he locked eyes with the she-wolf. He heard her say, "Mate."

"You are my mate!" The woman said.

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"No," Kieran said under his breath. "This can't be."

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"Alpha Kieran? What happened? Who was that?" Jaxon called behind him.

Kieran ran madly into the southern coasts' camp in his wolf form. The warriors who were on guard were startled by his speed

and irritation. He could tell they were all baffled by his actions.

His black wolf growled at whoever stood in his way. He howled loudly, further confusing his ga mmas and Alpha Baxter, who

stood further out. However, he did not care. He needed time for himself – to process everything.

Earlier, he met a red-hair she-wolf who called him her mate. He felt the signs, the intoxicating scent, his arousal, and saw an

image of his future through the smoke around the woman. He discerned a powerful pull that held him on the ground that he could not move.

There was this strong urge for him to k*ss the woman and f**k her wildly. It took every bit of his strength and sanity to set himself free from the strange attraction, and thanks to Jaxon and Rae calling

him, he managed to break free. He shifted into his wolf and ran away from the woman. That was how he got to the camp in less than an hour.

The further he was away from the red-hair she-wolf, the less interested he was in letting out his desire on her. Instead, he

thought of his wife, Alexia.
"Alpha Kieran? What happened?" He heard Rae call.
"Leave me alone! I want to be alone!" Kieran growled. In his wolf form, he continued to run like the wind. His Beta and Rae couldn't keep up.
The moment he stood before his camp, he ordered, "No one disturbs me! No one!"
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He flashed his canines as a warning and entered his tent. Kieran shifted into his human form. He closed his tent and scrambled

to find his mobile. The first person Kieran called was his wife. He said, "Pick up, Alexia! Pick up! I need you, my wife!"

He couldn't accept it. Could that woman possibly be his true mate? But despite how drawn he felt towards her earlier, he also felt

guilty. His feelings for his wife were still there; the longing and passion. He was still so aroused from meeting the she-wolf, but he

would rather

c um at the sight of Alexia.

"Pick up, my little wife! Pick up!" Kieran growled.

Completely n*ked, he was already wacking himself, thinking about doing his wife, when Alexia finally answered, "Kieran, I was in

a shower

"Video call!" Kieran requested. It took a few seconds, but eventually, Alexia came into his view, wrapped in a towel.

In that small frame of his mobile, he saw his wife studying him. closely. Alexia asked, "Kieran? Did you go out for a run-"

"Take off the towel, my wife. I f**king miss you so much. I want to f**k you now!" Kieran claimed. "Show me your a*s."

Alexia did as he instructed. She also seductively flaunted her behind, giving him a view of her cr ack. She remarked, "Someone

is h orny. Is this good enough, Kieran?"

"Aaah!" Kieran speedily palmed himself. He briefly shut his eyes, imagining his wife, his member going in and out of her. He said,

"I wish you were here."

"Tease me, my wife," Kieran appealed.

Following his proposition, Alexia began swaying her hips. She turned to him and cupped her breasts, saying, "Oh, I miss that too."

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"Lick it for me, my wife," Kieran instructed, and Alexia simulated giving her man fe llatio.

"I miss those pretty I*ps around my co ck – F**k!" He added, his eyes narrowing at how Alexia's cheeks were hallowing.

Kieran came in no time. He told Alexia to drink him up, and she tried her best to act like it. For seconds more, Kieran studied his

wife's n*ked boy. He looked down at how much he came. After some time, he lay on his bed while still on a video call, saying, "I'll

try to ask the king if I could leave earlier. I don't know if I can stand being away from you this long. You are right. Maybe it was better for us to be together."

"Something wrong, Kieran?" Alexia asked. She squatted on the bed, while holding her mobile. "Why the sudden change of

heart?"

"I realize how much I miss you." Kieran rolled on his bed and focused on Alexia's tummy. He said, "My child. I'll remember you always -"

"Kieran?" Alexia asked again. "Are you okay?"

He only nodded, saying, "Some troubles I need to figure out. Don't worry about it, my wife. I want you to know that I love you so much."

"I love you too, Kieran. I miss you so much," Alexia replied. "I hope to see you soon."

Kieran did not count the minutes. He chatted with his wife longer until he felt calm and was reassured that he only had love for

his wife. Whatever emotions awakened after seeing the unknown woman had strangely vanished into thin air.

He concluded his love for Alexia was greater, much stronger than the socalled fate the Moon Goddess had given him. He said in

his head, 'I don't need to tell Alexia. I don't need to make her worry. She is pregnant with our child.'

Kieran decided the same with Jaxon and Rae. Knowing Rea's closeness to Alexia, he felt it was best that the existence of the

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red-hair woman would remain only in his memory. Besides, Kieran was never going to see that woman again. His only mistake

was failing to reject the she-wolf. Kieran did not want to entertain it. He was already happily married. To him, Alexia was his mate.

For the rest of his day, Kieran met with Alpha Baxter. They questioned his actions, but he kept the truth to himself. When his

meeting ended, Kieran traveled with Rae and Jaxon to the capital. The further away from the coast, he felt better and thought

less and less about the red-hair she-wolf.

A few days went by since Kieran met the unknown red hair. His original, plan was to seek an early leave from the king, but

Balthasar became so occupied that the meeting did not happen.

King Balthasar was often away, visiting packs attacked by Blaze's men, whereas Kieran had been receiving intel on how some of

King James's forces had been traveling out of Eswen's capital, but they couldn't trace where they had headed off to next. There

were also reports that Helen had left Ewsen to return to Taplean. However, none of their border camps have seen signs of

Helen's return.

A night before King Balthasar's return to the palace, Kieran me ntally noted to speak with the king first thing in the morning. He

slept in his designated room. At the back of his head, he wished for hours to pass quickly.

In the morning, news of the king's arrival reached his ears. Kieran hurriedly walked to the gates and welcome King Balthasar and his warrior escorts.

The gates to the palace opened, and several cars drove in. Beta Jaxon was the first to exit the middle vehicle, and the king followed.

Kieran and the warriors around bowed at the presence of the king. As Kieran had his head down, he could hear how the car

doors had opened and closed again.

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Suddenly, he felt chills down his spine. A familiar sweet scent filled his nostrils, making his heart sk ip a beat. Kieran heard Beta

Ford say, "This lady saved me from a poisonous plant, but as a result, she got stung by the plant's thorns. Please call the doctor

and let him attend

to her."

Kieran lifted his face, utterly curious, but to his shock, he saw the red-haired she-wolf in Beta Ford's arms. His face paled,

watching as the lifeless woman was carried into a stretcher and brought into the palace.

He gave a low growl, sensing an inner battle. He silently said, 'I must reject this woman now and leave. I need my wife!'

Au

Kieran ~

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"We were on our way back after visiting Alpha Vincent's pack when we suddenly saw a rogue attack a

pup running on the roadside. We ran after them in our wolf form," Beta Ford reported to Kieran.

"I was running so fast that I did not see how Crown Thorns surrounded me. Fortunately for me, the

woman lunged at me, pushing me off my path. The rest of my men were able to save the child and kill

the rogue, but the woman fell victim to the thorns," The king's beta added. Then, he leaned back,

asking Kieran, "Why are you interested in knowing about her?"

"It's just... I have seen that woman before a few days back," Kieran

admitted.

"I see," Beta Ford replied. "I don't know, but I was compelled to bring her here, and when I asked the

king, he also felt pity for the woman. Everyone, including the warriors, felt sorry for her. The new palace

doctor is attending to her now. Let's give her time to rest before we ask about her identity."

Because of what Beta Ford suggested, Kieran let the woman be. Instead, he spoke to the king,

requesting his leave. Sadly, however, upon meeting Balthasar, he received terrible news.

Alpha Declan had arrived moments later, reporting in the king's chambers, "We found a covered hole

underneath the eastern border. It was big enough for people to pass through them from the woods."

Inside the chamber, the leading alphas of Taplean were present, including Alpha Baxter and Alpha Kai.

Kieran and Beta Jaxon also attended to listen to the report.

"My men are tracing the underground passages, but towards the next town, they were covered up,

some blown by explosives," Alpha Declan

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described. "So I don't know, My King. For now, we are trying to evaluate based on the looseness of the

soils and create a map on these grounds. The worst part was how the scent smelled awful in those

underground underpasses, not as awful as Alpha Kai's stunk formula, but it definitely did the trick of

covering tracks."

"It's better to assume the worse. We may have been breached," Beta

Ford concluded.

"I agree," the king said. "We need to use all our resources. Strengthen security, especially within the

capital. Let us also maintain watching the seas in case it's only a diversion."

Balthasar looked at Kieran, ordering, "Alpha Kieran, strengthen our men's ability to fight. Continue their

training and prepare them for the worse case scenarios. I know I promised you to take a leave, but

perhaps, Alexia will understand if you delay your trip to Azenna. It's for Taplean, after all."

Lifting his chin, he proposed, "Perhaps, Morgan can lean us a hand. Her witchcraft and ability to make

potions can certainly aid us in the coming battle."

Kieran's mouth fell open. He wanted to reject the idea but couldn't, knowing his nation's security was at

risk. He bowed at the king, saying, "I agree, my king. Jaxon and Rae will fetch Morgan first thing in the

morning, and I will keep training our warriors within the palace grounds."

Two days had passed, and so far, Kieran wasn't having any problems. He kept chatting with Alexia

daily, learning about her daily activities. His wife had reported how the elders repeatedly questioned

whether he was fit for her husband, but Alexia also said that Queen Avery was shutting their mouths.

Because Kieran felt confident that the red-haired she-wolf was not

creating a problem for him, he was convinced there was no need to tell Alexia or anyone else, not even

his best friend and beta, Jaxon.

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However, one night, his fears came true.

Kieran was sleeping in his quarters when he suddenly dreamed of the strange she-wolf.

In that dream, Kieran saw her gracefully walking toward him. Her green eyes gleamed as they looked

into his dark orbs, and her hair blew against the wind.

In that image, Kieran thought the woman was so beautiful and alluring. She wore a long dress with long

slits that flaunted her legs, and her top also showed off part of her breasts.

"Mate," the she-wolf called him.

She shifted into this red-colored wolf and ran to him. Kieran also

shifted into his black wolf to meet her halfway. Soon, they stood in front of each other, completely

n*ked. They were touching each other's faces before they suddenly k*ssed.

The red-haired she-wolf and Kieran were at it eagerly, their hands gripping their skins. In that dream,

Kieran was about to make love to the woman when the image of Alexia came through his dream!

Kieran felt goosebumps all over his b*dy, and he jerked awake! He screamed, "Alexia!"

When he studied his surroundings, Kieran panted. His eyes narrowed at the small vent under the table

lamp, and he swore he saw a greenish smoke. He shook his head vigorously and wondered, "Am I

seeing things?"

Suddenly, Kieran noticed his phone ringing. He frantically grabbed his mobile and saw it was his wife

calling. When Kieran answered the phone, he put her on a video call. Alexia said, "Kieran, I had a

dream about you. I don't know why, but I saw you drifting away from me."

Alexia cried as she described, "I felt like I lost you. My heart was aching so much -"

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"Shhh." Guilt washed over Kieran as he hushed his wife's emotions. He

said, "It's only a dream. It's not true. I'll always be your husband. I love you, my wife."

"Kieran, I thought you requested the king for an early leave? How is that coming? I had even told the

elders that you planned to visit me so they would get off my back," Alexia reported. "Please, Kieran. I

need you. Come to see me. I need to shake off this strange feeling that I am getting."

Kieran ran his fingers through his hair. He sucked in a deep breath, saying, "No matter what, Alexia, I

vowed to love you. Nothing will change between us, but there is something I need to tell you –

something that I should have told you since last week."

"What is it, Kieran?" Alexia asked on the phone. She was sniffing her tears away and caressing her

growing belly.

"Please, don't get mad at me, my love. I didn't tell you this before because I did not want you to worry.

You are pregnant, and you should always be optimistic," Kieran added, but his words clearly panicked

Alexia instead of calming her.

"Alexia, there is no easy way for me to say this, but sometime last week, I was running through the

coast with Jaxon and Rae, when I came across a she-wolf with red hair." Kieran felt a lump in his throat

when he added, "Her gaze held me captive, and I did not know why."

After moments of avoiding Alexia's gaze, Kieran looked straight at his wife, admitting, "Alexia, I think

she is my true mate –

The next thing he heard was Alexia howling in tears, and before he could offer comfort, Alexia cut the

call.

Kieran repeatedly called his wife, but to his dismay, she did not answer. Knowing the agony he had

given his wife, Kieran knew precisely what to do. Later that day, he went to the medical room where the

she-wolf was being treated.

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When he walked in, he met the woman's eyes and couldn't move.

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~Alexia

Alexia had just finished her training with her mother, Queen Avery. She was smiling and complimenting

the maids who were cleaning the corridors of the palace when two elders, Gaston and Tara,

approached

her.

Gaston asked, "How is your husband, princess? Your pup is growing big every week. Will the pup be

born without his father? I heard that war is coming again for Taplean. Until when will Alpha Kieran be

there?"

"As long as the nation needs him," Alexia said.

"He loves his nation more than he loves his wife?" Tara indicated, and

that made Alexia still.

"It's not that. He leads the nation's army. My husband plays a very important role in Taplean," Alexia

pointed out. "He loves me, and because of that, he will take time off from his duties and visit me."

"Will he?" Gaston said. "I highly doubt that."

"You should really consider choosing another husband," Gaston added. "One who holds more power

and is not a mere se rvant to a king. You are a princess and deserve a prince."

"I love my husband, and I swore to love him in marriage," Alexia said. She considered telling them how

Kieran may be named king, but there was no telling what would happen next. For now, it remained to

be King Balthasar's plans. Instead, she bowed her head in respect to the elders, saying, "Excuse me."

"What if your husband dies, princess? It is war, after all? Who will look after your pup? The baby will

need a father," Tara asked.

Alexia snapped at the elder, answering, "Kieran is a strong warrior. He

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will not die easily. I know that for a fact. He will survive."

Again, she bowed and attempted to flee. She did not want to appear disrespectful, so she gracefully

excused herself.

There was silence as Alexia marched. She could only hear her footsteps against the stone floor when

Gaston said, "You know, my youngest sister is the second wife of the king of Paredon. Her son is a

prince. I think he matches you well."

'A prince of Paredon?' Alexia scoffed. Finally, she understood elder Gaston and elder Tara's interest in

ending her marriage with Kieran. They had their own interest to protect.

In the evening, Alexia learned that the elders had requested dinner with the Queen. Thus, she had her

meals sent to her room instead. She knew well that Gaston and Tara would bring up the Prince of

Paredon, who apparently was a nephew of elder Gaston!

She chatted with Kieran briefly that same night before dozing off to sleep. Alexia was tired from her

day's activity, and Kieran was exhausted from teaching his men.

Alexia lay comfortably in her huge bed, determined not to get her mood ruined. Sleep was everything to

a pregnant woman, and she was going to get a good sleep.

In the wee hours, Alexia appeared to be traveling in waves of light. Her heart raced, unable to

recognize where she was. Next, she saw her

husband in the arms of another woman. Alexia called for his name over and over again, but Kieran did

not hear her.

The following scenes baffled her more as she saw Kieran walking away. Alexia was chasing Kieran,

while holding her belly, screaming, "Kieran! Kieran! It's me, Alexia!"

"No matter how hard she called, he kept walking away, and at the end of Kieran's bath, a frame of a

woman embraced him. A pair of green eyes peered in Alexia's way.

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Alexia awoke, gasping from the dream, her heart racing. Just what did that dream mean? Barely a

whisper, she asked, "Who was that

woman?"

Suddenly, she felt her skin crawl. She sensed the eeriness in her room for the first time since she

arrived in Azenna.

Alexia looked around and saw part of her window was open, sending cold air into her quarters. She got

up and closed her window.

She gave her time to reflect on her dream before calling her husband. The second he answered the

call, she said, "Kieran, I had a dream about you. I don't know why, but I saw you drifting away from me.

I felt like I lost you. My heart was aching so much -"

"Shhh. It's only a dream. It's not true. I'll always be your husband. I love you, my wife," Kieran was

quick to soothe her, in words and through his tone of voice.

However, no matter what, Alexia felt uneasy. She asked Kieran to be with her sooner, "Please, Kieran. I

need you. Come to see me."

She repeatedly pleaded, truthfully telling Kieran her apprehensions. Many scenarios played in her

head, giving meaning to her dream. One that stuck out to her was Tara's words. 'What if Kieran dies in

the war?'

While she thought of the worst-case scenario, Kieran cut her off, revealing, "There is something I need

to tell you something that I should have told you since last week."

"Alexia, there is no easy way for me to say this, but sometime last week, I was running through the

coast with Jaxon and Rae when I came across a she-wolf with red hair. Her gaze held me captive, and

I did not know why." Kieran slowly said. "Alexia, I think she is my true mate -"

I think she is my true mate.

I think she is my true mate.

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The words rang in her head like a broken record. She immediately dropped her phone, and it fell to the

floor.

'So that was what the dream meant. It wasn't because of the war, but because of his true mate? And

he only told me just now!' Of course, she knew this day would come, but it still was not enough to

prepare her for the pain. Tears immediately stung her eyes, and she howled in

tears.

She crashed into the bed and stained her sheets. After minutes of crying, Alexia only returned to her

senses. When she picked up her phone, she realized she had broken her mobile.

Because she did not want to wake up her other and Beta Agatha, Alexia only acquired a new phone in

the middle of the day, when everyone was awake. When she called Kieran next, his phone could no

longer be reached.

In the next two hours, she tried to call Kieran again, but it was of no use. He wasn't answering.

By the time Alxia was scheduled for training, she was dressed like she was ready to leave the nation

instead of wearing her workout clothes. She carried a duffle bag with her as she approached her

mother, her eyes had that look of determination.

"Alexia? What is the meaning of this? Are you going somewhere?" Queen Avery asked.

She said, "I need to see my husband. I need to go now."

"Alexia? Haven't we talked about this? I cannot let you go there for your safety. Taplean maybe at war

again with Eswen. Didn't you hear the same from your husband?"

"Taplean has long been at war with Eswen, Mother. I am still alive," Alexia reasoned. "I need to see my

husband."

Avery looked at her beta before focusing on Alexia. She said, "Let's

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discuss this in my quarters."

Inside Queen Avery's chambers, Alexia shared what she learned about Kieran, how he thought he had

met his true mate.

Alexia saw how her mother's heart ached for her, and her eyes landed on her belly. The entire time,

Avery's beta was present, and she could not help but turn to Agatha as if asking for help.

"Alpha Kieran is not certain, princess?" Agatha sought.

"He said he thinks she is his true mate," Alexia answered.

"It's strange because once you meet your true mate and your eyes look at each other, you can tell right

away, and you see your future in your mate's eyes," Avery said. "Of course, the feeling is there, the

attraction. It's so strong that it's hard to break away."

Queen Avery put a hand over her chest. She shut her eyes, saying, "Oh, how my heart aches for my

daughter. This cannot be happening. My inkling had told me you and Kieran are true mates -"

"But only the Moon Goddess knows, My Queen," Agatha corrected.

"Mother, please. I need to go there – to be with Kieran. While he tried to reassure me of his love and

said nothing would change between us, I can't rest knowing that his true mate is out there! I need to

remind Kieran of our love. I need to save our marriage, not just for myself but also for our pup!" Alexia

insisted. "I beg you, mother. I need to go

there!"

Yet again, Agatha and Queen Avery glanced at each other. Avery suggested, "It's going to be a long

travel and dangerous too."

"I have a suggestion," Agatha said. She turned to the queen and added, "You won't like it My Queen,

but it will save the princess the time and effort in traveling -"

"No, please not, elder Tara," Avery said, shaking her head.

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"I am precisely considering elder Tara's help," Agatha admitted.

"What's what is with elder, Tara?" Alexia asked.

With a long sigh, Avery revealed, "Tara has been one of my mother's trusted advisers and that of my

grandmother."

"Because of the service she had given Azenna, my mother gave her one of our most prized treasures,

an amulet said to have been passed down by our ancestors. It remained in her possession till this day."

Avery looked Alexia in the eye, saying, "It can create a portal that will

allow you to travel into distant lands."

Alexia's eyes lit up. If there was an easy way to reach Taplean, she would take it, no matter what.

"But there is a catch. Whoever is the bearer of the amulet will use

most of her energy to create this portal. The last time elder Tara tried to use this amulet, she was

asleep for over a week. When she regained her consciousness, she asked for a big favor in return, and

that was how she remained in the elders' council until this very day," Avery revealed. "She had not

used the amulet since, considering how long

she was out of it."

"Oh." Alexia woefully reacted.

"But, knowing your predicament, I will reason with her. Time is of the essence," Avery said. "Whatever

favor she will ask for next, we will carefully evaluate if it is doable."

Alexia thought about it. The image of Kieran with the green-eye

woman utterly gave her a bizarre feeling. She asked her mother, "Can I speak to elder Tara?"

Rae

"Alpha, Kieran. There you are. We have been looking all over for you,"

Rae said after finding Kieran in the palace's west wing.

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She strangely looked at the woman who was clinging to Kieran's arms. It was the red-hair she-wolf

Beta Ford had brought from their travel two days back.

"Rae," Kieran said. He was calling her name, but her alpha appeared to be looking distantly. He said,

"Meet, Evilene. She is... my true mate."

Chills ran down Rae's spine, and her mouth fell on the floor. 'Oh, no.

Alexia.'

W

Alexia

~

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Alexia's heart was racing. Elder Tara was looking at her intensely and had been for minutes.

When she and her mother, Queen Avery, had approached her with a request, elder Tara asked for

private time with her.

Elder Tara was said to be nearly two hundred years old, but she looked like she was still in her fifties. In

general, werewolves age slowly when they turn thirty-five. That was also why Alexia's mother, Avery,

looked younger for her age.

Tara ran her hand over her long white hair and said, "So you want me to use the amulet?"

"If – if possible," Alexia asked.

"Despite knowing how it will leave me weak and unconscious? And you realized that if you use the

amulet going to Taplean, you will need to use it again, going back? Else, you will be traveling another

dangerous route for over a week with your growing belly!" Tara questioned.

Alexia quickly regretted her decision to see the elder and said, "I'm sorry. You are right. I will just – I will

travel the regular way instead -

"You are pregnant. Do you not care for your child?" Elder Tara asked.

"But -bút," Alexia sucked in a deep breath and revealed, "My mate- my husband. I need to see him. He

he found his true mate -"

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"Ah." Tara shook her head and said, "You see, that was why we questioned if Alpha Kieran was the

right one for you, princess. Gaston and I weren't trying to be the villain in your life. We were looking out

for you – and now what? Alpha Kieran had found his true mate? Is he going to abandon you?"

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"No," Alexia answered. "It's not like that at all. He loves me -"

"Yet you sense your marriage in danger?" Tara asked. "I had asked around and discovered that you

and Alpha Kieran were only arranged to marry. Maybe, it's true that you fell in love, but that kind of

marriage was not meant to last in the first place."

"Please, enough. I should go. I'm sorry I bothered you with this request. It won't happen again." Alexia

stood up, realizing that elder Tara would only lecture her about her choices.

As soon as she turned her heel, however, elder Tara called to her,

saying, "I will do it. I will do it."

Alexia stilled. She gulped air down her throat and turned to elder Tara, asking, "Are – are you sure?"

"It will weaken me, and maybe, I will lose consciousness for days, but if it helps you make the right

choices, then I will do it," elder Tara said.

"Right choices?" Alexia asked, utterly bemused. All she wanted was to see Kieran, talk with him, and

remind him of his promise. Moreover,

she has his mark on her only that the distance between them has made it difficult for her to read his

inner thoughts and feel his genuine

emotions.

"I will send you through a portal, but I have a condition," elder Tara proposed.

"Condition?" Alexia asked.

"Yes, one condition only, and it is meant to protect your heart," elder Tara proposed.

"What is it?" Alexia sought.

Tara smiled and said, "If you go to Taplean and you see that your husband is not behaving the way you

expect him to, meaning, he might choose his mate -"

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"He won't," Alexia firmly said.

"I said if," Tara repeated. "Only if."

"Again, if Alpha Kieran breaks from his promise and behaves in favor of this true mate, then it's only fair

that you reject each other. We can file for a formal divorce later, but getting that mark off your neck is

important!" Tara spat.

Alexia stilled at the proposal. The possibility of Kieran hurting her made her heart ache. She wondered,

'Would Kieran do this to me? But, he loves me.'

She touched Kieran's mark, and tears welled in her eyes.

"If. Only if." Tara repeated it. "Should that happen, and should Kieran betray his promise to you, then

ask for rejection and reject him back. Lastly, since you would be free from your bond, I want you to

consider mating with the youngest prince of Paredon."

"Again, these are only ifs. Of course, if Alpha Kieran truly loves you and will choose to be with you, then

you don't need to do as I suggested. I won't ask for anything else in return either," Tara said.

Tara moved closer to Alexia. She pushed back Alexia's hair, saying, "I only have your best interest at

heart. So what will it be? Arrive in Taplean now or after nine to ten days. Mind you, a lot can happen in

ten days, especially if true mates find each other, you know what I mean. That's how babies are made."

Alexia gasped. She closed her eyes as her b*dy trembled. She looked down at her feet before lifting

her chin. She said, "I'll do it. I'll accept your terms."

"Then." Tara smiled. "Let me get ready. I'll first ask the palace doctor to

make a medical tea while I fetch the amulet. At least the tea will give me added strength to make a

second portal or to keep the portal open for a few hours as necessary."

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"Tell your mother of your decision and meet me back in four hours," Tara instructed.

Rae

~

"Your true mate?" Rae asked.

"Yes, Rae. Evilene, here is my true mate. So we are getting acquainted," Kieran flatly said.

Rae then noticed how Alpha Kieran never looked into her eyes. She frowned and said, "Alpha Kieran.

It's good to make friends, but in case you forgot, you are already married. Your first task is to reject

Evilene since you have marked Alexia! Your wife!"

Rae purposedly raised her voice, so her alpha would be reminded.

By the mention of his wife, Alpha Kieran let go of the woman's arm. He glared and asked, "How did we

get here?"

The next thing Rae saw was how Evilene grabbed Kieran's face. She rounded her eyes while looking

straight at her alpha, saying, "But I am your mate! Look into my eye and tell me I am your true mate!"

The red-hair woman suddenly embraced Kieran. She said, "Smell my scent. Remember, I am your true

mate. You cannot reject me!"

Clearly, the woman was rubbing herself on Alpha Kieran. Seeing everything before her eyes, Rae

reminded her alpha, "Alpha Kieran. You are already married! It was by the king's command! Remember

how King Balthasar arranged your marriage to Alexia. Plus, your wife is pregnant! Alexia is pregnant!

You need to reject her now!"

This was not the Alpha Kieran she knew. It truly puzzled Rae because she was confident that Kieran

loved Alexia. Could a true mate's bond readily change one's feelings and forget the other?

She did not care if she became a nagger to her alpha, but she repeatedly mentioned Alexia. "What will

become of your pup? Alexia is

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pregnant, Alpha Kieran! Reject her now!"

"Ahhh!" The red-haired woman screamed for Alpha Kieran, suddenly pushing her away with force.

Evilene wound up on the ground, crying. "Why did you push me?"

Rae saw Keiran panting as if becoming confused. He said, "Rae, I'm sorry. Please, don't tell Alexia

about this! I can't – I can't lose my wife – my pup! This Mate bond is f**king messing with my head!"

"Kieran? My love? I am your mate," Evilene said while weeping. She tried to reach for Kieran's hand,

but he cut her off.

"I, Alpha Kieran Stone, reject you as my mate!" Kieran barked while pointing a finger at Evilne. "Accept

my rejection now!"

"No! No, I won't! I won't accept it!" Evilene cried. "I am your mate, the chosen one by the Moon

Goddess for you!"

"Accept the rejection now, or I will kill you!" Kieran angrily growled, his b*dy expanding and his claws

elongating.

Now, Rae could see how the true Kieran was before him. He was back to himself, which made her

wonder what had happened to him earlier.

"You need to accept his rejection!" Rae aided her alpha, but no matter what, Evilene insisted on their

mate bond.

Rae could feel her alpha's frustration when Kieran growled louder and shifted into his wolf form. He ran

away from where they stood and barked, "Rae, I need time to clear my head!"

It wasn't only Alpha Kieran who left. The red-hair woman suddenly ran

back to wherever it was she came from.
Rae was left confused about what to do next. She and Jaxon had just arrived from fetching Morgan.

She and Jaxon were tired, a war was coming, and now, Alpha Kieran may have found his true mate,

but it

wasn't Alexia!

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"What will I do?" Rae asked herself, her voice echoing through the palace hallway.

"Rae? What's going on?" Suddenly, she heard Jaxon behind her. He was walking with their healer, and

elder, a powerful half-witch, Morgan.

Before Rae could answer, Morgan sniffed profoundly. She smelled the area, including where Rae stood

and where Evilene had run off. She said, "There is... another witch in the palace. Who?"

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~Alexia ~

"Rae, thank the Moon Goddess, I was able to reach you! Where is Kieran?" Alexia asked on the phone.

Following her chat with elder Tara, she contacted Rae and Jaxon, hoping she could get through to

them since Kieran was unreachable. She could at least warn them that she was going to Taplean

through a portal.

Immediately, she noticed how Rae was reluctant to talk to her. She was stuttering as she reported,

"Um. Alpha Kieran? Well, how do I say

this? He ran off somewhere because he wanted to clear his head. He

is not in the palace -"

"Is it because of is true, mate?" Alexia asked.

"Wait. Wait. You know?" Rae asked.

"Of course, I knew," Alexia replied. "Kieran told me about it when I called him around three in the

morning today."

Alexia relayed to Rae her earlier conversation with Kieran. In the end, she revealed, "I'm going to

Taplean. I need to speak with Kieran now."

"I think that is a good idea, Alexia," Rae said. "I think Alpha Kieran really needs you. I want you to know

that he tried to reject the woman, only that she would not accept the rejection. So the pull is still there."

Suddenly, Alexia felt a needle had been pucked out of her heart. She wept in her room, asking, "Did

Kieran think of me?"

"I will be honest with you, my dearest luna. When I saw Alpha Kieran earlier, he appeared confused,"

Rae described. She told Alexia how this woman had been brought to the palace by Beta Ford.

Rae added, "The woman looked so familiar, Alexia. And if you say that

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Alpha Kieran met her over a week ago, it's possible she was the woman we saw by the southern

coast."

Alexia inquired further. After which, Rae described on the phone, "We were scouting the coat, checking

the borders, when Alpha Kieran suddenly ran all the back to where we had come from. We chased

after him, but as you know, he can run really fast."

"When we were able to find him, we noticed him walking towards someone in his human form.

However, we were too far from them. I suspected it was a woman, but with the vegetation and the sun

going down, I wasn't so sure. It was unimportant to us then because Alpha Kieran ran back in his wolf

form and rushed to the camp," Rae explained. "I don't recall him meeting another woman and acting

strangely. I think that was the only time he acted weird."

"Weird? How?" Alexia asked.

"He appeared agitated, and he wanted everyone to leave him alone. He stayed in his tent for some

time and only came out after a few hours," Rae revealed. "When we asked him about it, he dismissed

it, saying it was nothing."

An awakening came to Alexia. She realized it was when Kieran called her and asked her to strip n*ked.

That day, her husband helped relieve himself on their video call.

Alexia gulped air down her throat. Earlier, when she heard that Kieran tried to reject his true mate, she

was relieved, but this time, she seriously questioned whether Kieran could hold back from the mate

bond's pull. Apparently, her husband was aroused after meeting his true mate but chose to get a

release at the sight of her. Was it good or

bad?

"A lot is going on here, Alexia. Jaxon and I have been away because we fetch Morgan. Now, Morgan is

telling us there is another witch in the palace, which is odd because King Balthasar do not use witches.

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Morgan had helped save the king's life," Rae added. "And, this problem with Alpha Kieran."

"You should come here, Alexia. Alpha Kieran needs you. If this matter is not resolved, I will be forced to

report to King Balthasar because I know he will forever favor you as Kieran's wife," Rae resumed.

Alexia knew this to be true. She gasped and replied, "I'll be there."

"I don't know if it's possible to arrive in less than a week," Rae questioned.

Alexia replied, "I'll be there this evening. If you can find Kieran, please tell him I'm coming, and I love him - me and our child."

"Why do you need my daughter's blood?" Queen Avery asked elder Tara. "Didn't you use your own

blood the last time?"

"Either my blood or whoever goes through the portal," Tara responded. Since the plan is to keep the

portal open as long as possible, I would appreciate Alexia's blood on it rather than mine. That way, I

can conserve energy. Only five milliliters are needed. It shouldn't be a problem."

Alexia saw how her mother's brows furrowed and how she studied

elder Tara's eyes. She figured her mother was trying to read the elder's intention. She did the same,

giving Gaston that kind of stare, but he was unmoved.

When Alexia and her mother returned to Tara's quarters, Gaston was already there. Tara said Gaston

had to know whatever was happing to the princess of Azenna. Thus, there he was, observing Alexia

from a safe distance.

After trying to read the two elders, Queen Avery returned her attention to Alexia, saying, "It's up to you,

Alexia."

"I need to. I need to do this," Alexia said. She turned to Tara and agreed, "I'll give you my blood."

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A smile reflected on Tara's face as she turned to get a syringe. The female elders extracted blood from

Alexia and gave them their back. She appeared to be doing something on a small table before she

returned her attention to us.

Tara was already holding the amulet with her right hand. It looked like a huge stone pendant

surrounded by gold.

On her left hand, Alexia's blood was placed in a small tube. Before getting started, elder Tara reminded

her, "Only one person can pass through the portal. Princess, Alexia, you will experience a little

discomfort, but that will pass once you arrive in Taplean."

"Next, I have not been to the palace of Taplean, so you will have to picture out where you want to go.

The amulet will take you where your mind directs it," Tara suggested. "Lastly, I don't know how long I

can keep the portal open. So if you feel you need to get back here right away, return to the portal's

location."

"If you decide to stay in Taplean, contact us immediately," Tara said. "Gadgets won't be able to get

through the portal, so leave your phone. I'm sure you can find a way to contact your mother."

Alexia repeatedly nodded, saying, "Got it."

With her chin lifted, Tara asked, "Are you ready?"

"I am ready," Alexia said.

"Then, let us begin," Elder Tara said before looking down at the amulet. She fl*pped it over. At the back

of the amulet, there was a small hole. It was there where Tara poured the blood in. Once the blood had

settled, Tara's eyes were fixed on the words carved against the gold.

Again and again, Tara read the exact words. Slowly the temperature around the room changed.

Everything felt cold, and the wind was blowing, forming a circle.

Alexia did not know where the wind was coming from, but it spiraled in

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the center of the room.

Out of nowhere, white light appeared at the same spot where the wind had formed into a vertical spiral.

She turned to her mother, and Avery nodded, giving her assurance.

When Alexia looked back, the white spiral had already grown five feet tall, and it continued to grow in

each second that passed. Finally, at its full length, Tara said, "It's time to go, princess."

She smiled and said to Alexia, "Remember my condition."

Alexia did not know why, but she felt her skin crawl.

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"

~Alexia ~

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"You should come here, Alexia. Alpha Kieran needs you. If this matter is not resolved, I will be forced to

report to King Balthasar because I know he will forever favor you as Kieran's wife," Rae resumed.

Alexia knew this to be true. She gasped and replied, "I'll be there."

"I don't know if it's possible to arrive in less than a week," Rae questioned.

Alexia replied, "I'll be there this evening. If you can find Kieran, please tell him I'm coming, and I love

him - me and our child."

"Why do you need my daughter's blood?" Queen Avery asked elder Tara. "Didn't you use your own

blood the last time?"

"Either my blood or whoever goes through the portal," Tara responded. Since the plan is to keep the

portal open as long as possible, I would appreciate Alexia's blood on it rather than mine. That way, I

can conserve energy. Only five milliliters are needed. It shouldn't be a problem."

Alexia saw how her mother's brows furrowed and how she studied

elder Tara's eyes. She figured her mother was trying to read the elder's intention. She did the same,

giving Gaston that kind of stare, but he was unmoved.

When Alexia and her mother returned to Tara's quarters, Gaston was already there. Tara said Gaston

had to know whatever was happing to the princess of Azenna. Thus, there he was, observing Alexia

from a safe distance.

After trying to read the two elders, Queen Avery returned her attention to Alexia, saying, "It's up to you,

Alexia."

"I need to. I need to do this," Alexia said. She turned to Tara and agreed, "I'll give you my blood."

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A smile reflected on Tara's face as she turned to get a syringe. The female elders extracted blood from

Alexia and gave them their back. She appeared to be doing something on a small table before she

returned her attention to us.

Tara was already holding the amulet with her right hand. It looked like a huge stone pendant

surrounded by gold.

On her left hand, Alexia's blood was placed in a small tube. Before getting started, elder Tara reminded

her, "Only one person can pass through the portal. Princess, Alexia, you will experience a little

discomfort, but that will pass once you arrive in Taplean."

"Next, I have not been to the palace of Taplean, so you will have to picture out where you want to go.

The amulet will take you where your mind directs it," Tara suggested. "Lastly, I don't know how long I

can keep the portal open. So if you feel you need to get back here right away, return to the portal's

location."

"If you decide to stay in Taplean, contact us immediately," Tara said. "Gadgets won't be able to get

through the portal, so leave your phone. I'm sure you can find a way to contact your mother."

Alexia repeatedly nodded, saying, "Got it."

With her chin lifted, Tara asked, "Are you ready?"

"I am ready," Alexia said.

"Then, let us begin," Elder Tara said before looking down at the amulet. She fl*pped it over. At the back

of the amulet, there was a small hole. It was there where Tara poured the blood in. Once the blood had

settled, Tara's eyes were fixed on the words carved against the gold.

Again and again, Tara read the exact words. Slowly the temperature around the room changed.

Everything felt cold, and the wind was blowing, forming a circle.

Alexia did not know where the wind was coming from, but it spiraled in

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the center of the room.

Out of nowhere, white light appeared at the same spot where the wind had formed into a vertical spiral.

She turned to her mother, and Avery nodded, giving her assurance.

When Alexia looked back, the white spiral had already grown five feet tall, and it continued to grow in

each second that passed. Finally, at its full length, Tara said, "It's time to go, princess."

She smiled and said to Alexia, "Remember my condition."

Alexia did not know why, but she felt her skin crawl.

"

Alexia

А

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Walking through the portal, Alexia was half-hearted. How in the world did she wound up agreeing with

Tara? But then again, her soon arrival wasn't too late. From what Rae had described, Kieran tried to

fight the mate bond and attempted to reject the woman.

She shut her eyes, holding her belly. The lights were too bright, and the spiraling motion of the portal

made her feel a little dizzy. She felt chills all over her b*dy, and she sensed her pup moving inside her

for the first time.

"It's okay, baby. We are going to see your father," Alexia said under her breath.

Her mother, Queen Avery, had mentioned the last queen was the last to use the amulet, and she was

pregnant with Avery then. That was how they determined it was safe for Alexia to travel through the

portal.

Alexia hugged herself, feeling all of her hair stand up. She maintained to close her eyes because the

light was so blinding. She imagined the royal hall inside Taplean's palace, for it was what she

remembered the most from her last visit. It felt like an eternity to her. Then all of a sudden, there was

this wobbling sound.

She opened her eyes and saw red stone walls. It resembled the palace of Taplean. It was strange

because Alexia was thinking of the royal hall, but she was in an unfamiliar place. Still, she knew it was

King Balthasar's palace because its family crest was carved against the wall.

Alexia stepped out and looked around her. She frowned, realizing she was inside an underground

passage.

Taking a deep breath, she first settled her emotions. She looked

behind her and saw how the portal was still open.

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"Right. Elder Tara said she would keep the portal open for as long as she could," Alexia muttered.

She started marching in search of the passage's exit when she felt someone's presence. Alexia

snapped her head to her left, asking, "Who

Alexia Stone, wife of Alpha Kieran? Anyb*dy there?"

is there?

There was no answer, but Alexia swore she felt someone's presence. It was rather tempting and sweet.

She frowned and studied every corner of that passage again but did not find anyone.

She thought about checking the columns, but before she could, she heard noises not too far from her.

Alexia, instead, searched for the source of the voice. She walked around until she found the way to the

garden's exit. Alexia saw the king's warriors, and one of them happened to know her.

"Luna Alexia!" The guard said, utterly wide-eyed in shock. "Weren't you supposed to be in Azenna?"

"Well, I am here now. I need to speak to my husband or the king," Alexia requested.

Evilene ~

"Yes, I will do as you told," Evilene said to the woman before the green smoke, and with the snap of her

fingers, the same mist disappeared into thin air.

She looked around the empty medical room, and after confirming that no one had witnessed her speak

to her employer, she left the chamber, heading to the agreed-upon location.

Taplean's guards may think that Evilene was unfamiliar with the palace, but she had rested overnight

for two evenings, pretending to be sick from the poisonous plant. However, she had roamed through

secret passages every night and even attempted to get into Kieran's head as he slept. Evilene had

grown familiar with the palace, all thanks to her employer's guidance.

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Once there, she waited for two hours, hiding in one column.

While waiting, she grumbled and thought about Kieran. It was supposed to be a simple task. Her

employer had purposely sought her out from the nation of Vottara to do one thing: to covet Alpha

Kieran Stone, and lead him out of Taplean.

She felt excited about the job because Alpha Kieran was such a great catch. Evilene thought she would

get paid and marry a strong alpha. too. Sadly, it didn't work out as smoothly as she had planned.

'Why is it so difficult to sway that man?' She thought in her head. Kieran was the first man to fully resist

the mate-bond potion she had specially made for such missions. In the past, it had always worked.

Evilene was a half-witch and half werewolf. She was the first to have

successfully mimicked a true mate's scent. Combined with spells and tricks, she easily swayed

werewolves into a mate's trap in the past.

The red-hair half witch had successfully broken a few marriages. She earned a lot of money for it, not

to mention many great intimate nights. with the same werewolves. She expected it would be an easy

task with Alpha Kieran too, but her potion was nearly running out, and she even used hypnosis on

Kieran today. What else will she use on Alpha Kieran next? Why was he so adamant about resisting

her mate-bond potion?

"Maybe because he came from a strong alpha blood," she

contemplated before frowning. "Or maybe, Alexia could be his true mate."

A frown formed on her face, thinking, "Maybe, I should just kill this princess Alexia?"

A smirk formed on her face, just thinking of taking a princess' life, but then again, she was also

reminded of the powers of the winter-grey wolves. Her knowledge of them wasn't that profound, but

she knew they were the strongest among the werewolf clans.

Evilene sneered, thinking, 'I might die before I could even get my hands

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on her.'

"Might as well stick to the plan," she softly said.

Soon, she felt a strange energy within the underground passage. She looked around and noticed a

spirling white light. 'This could be it. Such an incredible power I wish I had.

Evilene concluded that the winter-grey wolves were indeed a supreme clan. The moon goddess

blessed them with strength, and because of how long their generations have lived, they acquired many

charms with special powers.

She noticed a woman with long and wavy brown hair step out of what appeared to her was a portal,

and she was holding her belly.

'This is Luna Alexia? And she is pregnant?' Now it made more sense to her. If Kieran's wife was

pregnant, there was yet another connection that the alpha would not easily let go. She recalled how

Kieran had mentioned a pup earlier, but because she was so focused on getting away from that she-

wolf named Rae, it had totally sl*pped her mind.

Evilene concluded that their plan B would have to be implemented.

She noticed how Alexia sensed her presence and shrank back into the column where she had been

hiding for a long time. 'Indeed, Kieran's wife is something.

In that same spot, she remained hidden until Alexia ran off to search for the guards that had passed by

above them. She lingered there for a few minutes more until she heard someone calling out to her.

Evilene showed herself and met another strange-looking woman. The woman gave her a tube of blood

and said, "Use it to your advantage."

She smiled and took it. It wasn't her boss, but another woman who wanted to break Alpha Kieran and

his wife apart. It didn't matter to her what this woman's intentions were as long as she got her job done.

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After getting the blood, she returned to the medical room, her official chamber for two days. She locked

herself in the bathroom and took out two small potion bottles hidden beneath her tunic.

Evilene made apparatuses of the bathroom glasses and mixed her mate-bond potion with the blood.

Her eyes turned bright red as she chanted words, strengthening the power of her potion.

As a final step, she lit it on fire while mixing the formula altogether.

When the potion had cooled off, the half-witch leveled the mixture with her eyes' view and said, "Let's

see if you can resist me now, Alpha Kieran stone."

An ominous laugh escaped her I*ps before Evilene prepared for her bath and threw in half of the

mixture into the water. She had the most satisfying bath in months, imagining herself getting f**ked by

Alpha

Kieran stone.

-After her bath, she smelled herself and said, "I smell like snow."

With a shrug, she added, "No matter. Tonight, Alpha Kieran will be

mine."

As she had suspected, Alpha Kieran had run off to the nearby woods, a city next to the capital.

She smirked because Alpha Kieran had nothing on, and the distance of the woods was far enough for

him not to make a connection with his men through mindlink.

When Evilene found Kieran, he immediately turned to her and angrily barked, "How did you find me?

Stay away from me -"

Before Kieran could utter another word, Evilene closed the gap

between them. Green smoke quickly sizzled around them, trapping Kieran in a dream state, and forcing

him to look into her eyes.

At first, Kieran's brows met, asking, "Alexia?"

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"Call me whatever you want, but look at it and recognize that I am your true mate," Evilene suggested

before the green smoke above her created visions of their future together. This time, however, she

made herself look like Alexia in Kiran's eyes.

Evilene used her power to wrap Kieran in that dream-like state. It weakened her, but at least she knew

the potion was making him stay in place.

"Alexia," Kieran said before wrapping her in his arms.

Evilene pulled away with a smile, saying, "Let's return to the palace and enjoy our night."

Of course, where would Luna Alexia repeatedly go within the palace to search for her husband? His

chamber would be her regular place to

check if the incredible alpha had arrived.

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Alexia ~

"Luna Alexia!" When Alexia entered the king's royal hall, Morgan was the first to see her.

Morgan's eyes I*p up, seeing her growing belly. She said, "Oh, Kieran's pup is growing fast!"

"Alexia!" Rae also called, rushing towards her and hugging her. "I miss you so much."

Alexia first relished in that hold. Rae was her closest friend in Kieran's

pack. She missed her too. After pulling away, she said, "Rae, we have so much to discuss, but I'd need

to see Kieran. Where is he?"

"Alexia, we have asked around. The palace guards did not chase after Alpha Kieran since he warned

them against it," Rae revealed. "He has been gone for two hours now."

"He will be back," Jaxon assured before embracing Alexia too. "How

are you, Luna Alexia?"

Their exchange went on for over an hour. It was when Alexia learned more about this woman named

Evilene.

Jaxon, Rae, and Morgan reassured Alexia while sitting on the chairs near the hall entrance. Jaxon said,

"Alpha Kieran won't betray you."

"Why would Kieran betray Alexia?" A dominant voice echoed across the hall, and it came from the king.

He had arrived with Beta Ford.

Alexia was startled, and she directed her gaze at King Balthasar. She bowed her head and said,

"Apologies, My King. We did not notice your arrival -"

"No need to be apologetic. I treat you like my child, and you are also a princess," King Balthasar said.

"When Rae had sent a message

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through my guards, informing me you would be traveling through a portal, I wasn't sure if it was true,

but then again, the winter-grey wolves have many secret powers beyond our knowledge."

"Come here, child," the king requested.

Alexia smiled as he approached the king. He stood up from his chair and opened his arms for her.

Following a brief hug, King Balthasar asked, "Now, tell me about Kieran. What is going on?"

Rae narrated everything, from when she met Kieran and Evilene together. The king and Beta Ford

could not hide their dismay. The king said, "To lose control? That is not like Kieran at all."

With a sigh, Balthasar said, "Let me check with my guards."

King Balthasar found his seat, and from there, he shut his eyes, mindlinking with his warriors. After

which, he reported to everyone, "Kieran left the palace and warned the guards not to follow after him.

He appeared to be very upset."

Glancing at Alexia, the king promised, "I don't know how real is this true mate of his, but I will talk some

sense into Kieran and this

woman."

Seeing Morgan, the king acknowledged her presence, "Morgan, we meet again. Thank you for coming

here."

"My king, before that, I wanted to report that I sensed another witch. Did you authorize a witch in your

palace?" Morgan said.

"A witch? Other than you?" The king clarified.

"Yes, my king. I was worried that you may not have noticed this witch's presence. I am not a seasoned

half-witch for nothing. Before joining Alpha Kieran, I traveled to many countries and met many witch

clans. Even if they masked it, I could smell a switch's unique scent," Morgan explained.

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"I don't have anything against witches, but they need to reveal themselves in case they use their magic

against our kind," The king admitted. A witch cannot use magic to influence a werewolf's behavior in all

nations. It was against the law. Balthasar, for one, was cautious about this and required the registry of

all witches in Taplean.

"Well, over the past few days, we have had warriors join the training from different packs. This witch

could be a half-werewolf and a half-witch. She could have easily mingled with the crowd or is part of

the pack, and we don't know it," Beta Ford supposed. "I will contact all the alphas and ask if any of their

warriors are half-witches."

"Or it could be the red-hair she-wolf who saved you from the poisonous plant," Jaxon suggested.

Beta Ford wound up looking at the king as if hesitating. He said, "I don't know, but she seemed

harmless."

"Well, she is causing trouble now because she claims to be Alpha Kieran's true mate and would not

accept his rejection," Rae pointed

out.

"Good point, Rae. What's important is to find Kieran, Evilene, and the witch. If Evilene is the same

person as the witch, then that solves our problem faster," The king said.

"Alexia and Rae, stay with me. I will call upon all my people to give me Kieran's direction," The king

instructed. Turning to Beta Ford, he directed, "Accompany Morgan and Jaxon to search for this witch,

and Evilene too."

"Yes, My King," Beta Ford confirmed.

After Beta Ford had left, King Balthasar mindlinked with his people. Unlike them, the king's mindlink

capability could reach other cities and counties within Taplean.

Alexia observed how he concentrated, his brows meeting as he did.

Soon, King Balthasar opened his eyes. He reported, "Some of my

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people saw Kieran go to the next town, into the woods. I'll keep asking."

It took minutes to connect with his people, but after some time, he

said, "I have ordered men to search for him in the woods. Let's wait

and see."

Half an hour went by, and the king received another report. He said to Alexia, "I am told that Kieran is

heading back to the capital." He frowned and added, "With Evilene. I had warned my guards to inform

me upon their arrival."

'Evilene,' Alexia said in her head. Immediately, her heart weakened, learning how Kieran had been with

this woman all along. Suddenly she doubted her place in Kieran's heart. Softly, she asked her friend, "I

thought Kieran ran off alone?"

"He did, Alexia. I swear he did," Rae confirmed. "She must have followed after her. That can only be

the explanation."

The wait was excruciating for Alexia. As another hour passed, she felt more uneasy, despite the king's

assurance and Rae's comfort. Repeatedly, as she lingered in the royal hall, her eyes landed on her

growing belly and thought of the worse case.

'What if my child grows up without a father?' Alexia asked herself.

It wasn't like Kieran to be friendly with women. She remembered how he treated her in the past, and

now, he readily welcomed the companion of another. Perhaps, it was because of the fact that this

Evilene was his true mate. 'How can I compete with a true mate?'

She reached for her mark and wondered if it was working. Alexia shut her eyes and tried to feel

Kieran's emotions. It took a while, but after some time, she finally sensed Kieran was nearby.

Just in time, The king said, "Kieran has entered the palace gates. He is in his wolf form."

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Alexia saw how the King was mindlinking again, but after a second, he said, "Kieran is not responding. I told my guards to order him and Eveline into the royal hall, but -"

The king frowned, saying, "Are they disobeying me?"

Alexia stood up from her chair and asked, "Where are they headed to, My King? I'll go to see Kieran."

"I'll walk with you. My guards told me they were headed to Kieran's chambers, and it seemed Kieran

was resisting. He is growling at my men," The king said. "This isn't like Kieran at all."

The next ten minutes felt like the longest to Alexia. Her heart raced as he walked along the halls, and

tears threatened to fall from her eyes.

or for so leeran's emotions. He

was MAGARI VE

Next, Alexia felt Kieran's emotions. He was excited about something

She did not want to name it, but Alexia confirmed it was lust, recognizing this same feeling from when

they made love. The worst part was how she felt his feelings were genuine.

'Are they being intimate right now?' Alexia could not bare the thought.

"They are in Alpha Kieran's chamber, My King," one guard reported, pointing in the direction of Kieran's

room. "They just entered a few minutes ago."

'A few minutes? What could happen in a few minutes?' Alexia speculated.

She ran to the door, and so did Rae and the king. Balthasar, himself, banged at the door, calling,

"Kieran? Open up! Your wife is here!"

Because there was no answer, the king used his might and kicked the door open.

What Alexia saw broke her heart completely.

Keiran was k*ssing the red-hair she-wolf. He was n*ked, clearly having shifted from his wolf form. The

she-wolf was barely covered, her dress

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torn into pieces. The woman was hungrily responding to Kieran's k*sses, her legs around his waist.

While they appeared not to have copulated, it was enough for Alexia to conclude Kieran's feelings for

the woman. He could not control himself before his true mate, and she stood no chance.

"Who dares interrupt me and my mate?" Kieran growled, his eyes. glowed, and his fangs elongated.

"What are you doing with that woman, Kieran?!" King Balthasar angrily growled.

"I am Alpha Kieran's true mate! The Moon Goddess has fated us together," Evilene spat. "No one can

go against fate!"

barking, "H O BAN

Next, Alexia saw Kieran protectively wrapping the woman in his arms,

dare you barge in here!"

'My mate? Fato

Alexia felt like she had witnessed enough. She could hear Rae and the king confronting Kieran, but she

retreated her steps. Tears flooded her face as she screamed, "Kieran! How could you! How could you

break my heart?! And our child!"

She met Kieran's eyes and saw him stilled. "I, Alexia Reed, reject you as my mate!"

Not that it would work. Alexia knew she could not reject Kieran in that way because she did not mark

him. Still, it quickly escaped her I*ps because of how much she was hurting.

Alexia felt discomfort in her belly as she howled in tears. She sensed her child was also in pain and did

not want to see more. Kieran could break her heart, but he was not allowed to hurt their pup!

While the king and Rae remained to reason with Kieran, Alexia ran away, heading towards the portal.

She could barely breathe from the pang congesting her chest when she arrived. All she wanted was to

be with her mother.

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She thanked the Moon Goddess the portal was still open. Looking at

the underground passage entrance one last time, she said, "Goodbye,

Kieran."

Alexia walked in, and the portal closed after her.

Kieran

~

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Kieran felt he was in dreamland. He was with Alexia, and that was all it

mattered. It felt like he was in a dream. It didn't matter how Alexia got to Taplean. He was thoroughly

convinced it was his wife. Her scent enthralled him that he did not hear nor see anything else but the

woman beside him.

In order to arrive at the palace faster, he shifted into his wolf form and carried her on his back. As they

ran from the woods, going into the capital, Alexia's scent continued to leave him in a daze, his arousal

growing in each second that passed.

Alexia was stroking his coat, teasing him and suggesting she wanted him.

"Mate," Alexia softly expressed behind him.

'That's right, Kieran said in his head. 'Alexia is my true mate. This woman is my true mate.

But while he was somewhat persuaded, Kieran felt something was missing. However, whenever her

scent entered his nostrils, he cared for nothing else but for the two of them.

"Look into our future, my mate," Alexia proposed, and as he ran, he saw green mist flashing their future

together in the air.

At the back of Kieran's head, he thought this green smoke was familiar, but in his state, he could not

point a finger at it, nor did he find it suspicious. Instead, it fascinated him.

After a long run, they finally arrived at the palace. Kieran entered the back entrance, where the guards

had initially prevented him from heading to his chambers.

"The king asked for your presence, Alpha Kieran!" The guards said.

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"Don't listen to them," Alexia softly warned. "I want to make love to you, Kieran. I miss you."

Alexia's scent, once again, engulfed him, giving him courage as he growled at the guards, "I want to be

alone with my mate! Leave me be."

He ran to his chambers and warned the king's men, "Don't follow after me if you want to live!"

It did not take long for Kieran to find his room. Once inside, Kieran shifted into his human form, and

Alexia was all over him instantly. She was pulling him toward the bed while tearing off her clothes.

"I want you," Alexia seductively said. "I want you to f**k me!"

Kieran had always been h orny for his wife, and he assumed this was the reason for his b oner. He was

so aroused that he helped her tear

off her top.

Once Alexia lay on the bed, she squirmed and asked to be touched. Suddenly, a thought came to Kieran. His gaze landed on her belly, and he saw it was flat. Then, out of nowhere, it formed a baby

bump. Kieran wound up shaking his head, utterly puzzled.

However, in the next second, Alexia's scent consumed him again. He saw the green mist surrounding

him but did not question it either. He sensed a strong attraction towards Alexia, his arousal growing by

the

second.

"It's me, Kieran, Alexia," the woman declared while wrapping her legs around his waist. "F**k me."

Kieran lost all his senses in a split second and surrendered to the calling in his head. He k*ssed her

and touched her b*dy madly.

He could hear banging and noises at the door, but Alexia's voice kept ringing in his head, preventing

him from caring. 'Don't open the door. No one should interrupt us.'

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Kieran was compelled to follow the voice completely until the door swung open, and he heard a familiar

voice, which he could not

decipher.

"What are you doing with that woman, Kieran?!" A man with authority questioned. Kieran noticed his

knees attempting to fall before this man, but he could not understand why.

"I am Alpha Kieran's true mate! The Moon Goddess has fated us together," Alexia said. "No one can go

against fate!"

Pulling Alexia into his hold, Kieran barked, "How dare you barge in here!"

He saw two other figures behind the strange man, but they appeared to be blurred. The next thing he

heard was a woman's voice, "Kieran! How could you! How could you break my heart?! And our child!"

The voice made him lose his grip on the woman beside him. Suddenly, the woman before him

announced, "I, Alexia Reed, reject you as my mate!"

'Alexia?' He silently asked in his head.

Suddenly, Kieran felt a strange pull towards her, and his vision became evident with each second that

passed. His eyes became fixed on the other woman's belly, and he saw how she was in tears, touching

her

stomach.

He sensed someone else was in pain – a young life. Only then did he realize it was his pup calling out

to him!

Chills ran down his spine, recognizing the pull from the woman a few meters away. Why didn't the pull

of his pup come from the woman beside him?

"Don't look at her. Look at me," the woman whom he thought was Alexia urged, her hand forcing him to

see her.

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However, the pain of this new life reaching out to him, kept him

looking toward the door, and Alexia's face became more explicit by the second. Kieran's hand

stretched out to Alexia, but she left, crying.

He felt his heart aching. He was so much in pain that he realized something was wrong. He couldn't

move!

"Kieran, why are you hurting Alexia? Why are you with that woman?! Evilene, Alpha Kieran is already

married to Princess Alexia of Azenna! Leave him alone" Suddenly, Kieran finally recognized the

overbearing tone. It was the king! He was calling this woman someone else!

'Evilene?' Kieran sneered.

"Alpha, Kieran! Please! Say something. What about your wife and child?" He realized it was Rae yelling

at him.

Another figure came up behind Rae, and that voice awoke him from whatever it was he was trapped in.

"Alpha Kieran! Kieran! I saw Alexia running away! Why are you with that woman?" It was Jaxon, his

old-time friend, and beta.

Kieran growled. He climbed down from the bed and screamed at the top of his lungs. He felt the

woman trying to speak to him in his head. Green smoke enclosed him, trying to let him see images of

his future.

"What is that green smoke?" He heard Rae say.

"She must be the half-witch!" Jaxon called.

"Evilene of Vottara's Murrel Clan! What are you doing with our alpha?" Another voice came through,

and Alpha Kieran swore it was from Morgan.

Commotion erupted around him, but Kieran focused on freeing

himself. He screamed, letting out all his energy and thinking of no one else but Alexia and his pup.

"Aaaaahhh!" When Kieran felt utterly free, he saw Evilene shrieking in

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pain, her b*dy trembling. He immediately grabbed her throat and said, "You! What did you f**king do to

me?!"

Despite his questioning and his commanding aura, Evilene would not respond. Only then did Morgan

explain, "She overdid herself in using her powers. She tried her best to control you, Alpha Kieran, but it

backfired on her."

Evilene's b*dy continued to shake in the next few minutes, and while she appeared to be in pain,

Kieran did not care. He repeatedly punched her, shouting, "You made me hurt my wife! And my child!

You are going to pay!"

After ruining Evilene's face, she passed out. Morgan had to intercept, saying, "Enough, Alpha Kieran.

We need her alive. We need to know who hired her. Evilene is known to accept odd jobs. I know about

this half-witch."

Kieran realized that he had an audience through it all. Aside from Rae and Jaxon, King Balthasar was

there. Beta Ford was also present, shocked by the revelation.

"Now that she is unconscious, I feel no care for her," Beta Ford

confessed.

"The same with me. I used to feel an ounce of pity for her," The king

admitted.

"She must have used a potion or magic to attract concern, pity, or love," Morgan explained.

"She used to smell sweet, but now, she smells like snow," Beta Ford

observed while walking closer to Evilene.

"The only werewolf I know that smells like snow is Alexia," Morgan suggested. "And knowing now that

Alexia is from Azenna, that explains it. However, Evilene does not come from Azenna. Clearly, we need

to interrogate her."

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14:41

Chapter 80

"Where is my wife?!" Kieran angrily asked as he turned to Jaxon.

"She ran this way, Alpha, Kieran! Let's find her," Jaxon offered before he

shifted into his wolf.

Kieran and Jaxon sniffed the palace for Alexia's scent, but they only wound up in the garden's

underground passage where there was no one, absolutely no one. The strangest thing was how one

particular wall had the most potent scent of Alexia, but she wasn't there.

When attempting to find Alexia through her scent failed, all palace guards aided in searching for the

princess, but alas, Alexia was

nowhere to be found.

When everyone gathered in the royal hall, the guards and Kieran's friends gave their findings.

"We can't find Luna Alexia anywhere," one guard said. "We have covered the entire palace."

"She doesn't respond when mindlinking either, Alpha Kieran," Rae described. "I think – I think she must

have returned to Azenna. She did say she traveled through a portal coming here."

A tear fell on Rae's face when she said, "She was really hurt, Alpha Kieran. I saw all her fears when

she when she saw you with Evilene -"

A loud howl escaped Kieran's I*ps. He screamed, "Alexia!"