

The Alpha's Contract Luna alexia By Lian #Chapter 91 - Read The Alpha's Contract Luna alexia By Lian Chapter 91

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Kieran

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Kieran was resentful. He had just met his wife and had been saved from his hunters, the war had probably flared in Taplean, and now, he was facing another problem.

Although they had not heard from Paredon, nor had Azenna reported to the neighboring nation, Kieran knew it was bound to happen. When Queen Avery would inform them of Prince Raegan's attack, questions would arise, and perhaps, the king of Paredon would send investigators to Azenna too.

To prove he was not involved in the prince's attack, Raegan needed to live. Before dealing with the prince, however, Kieran had to make an important phone call.

Back in Alexia's room, he used his wife's mobile to get through Taplean.

When Balthasar did not answer, he called Beta Ford. Eventually, Beta Ford answered with excitement. On the phone, he heard him say, "Luna Alexia! It's so good to hear from you! How is Alpha Kieran? We have not heard from -" "It's me, Beta Ford," Kieran interrupted. "I am sorry it took me a long time to call you. We were ambushed."

Kieran explained everything, from how they were attacked and hunted for days to how they traveled on foot to Azenna's palace up to their current state. He expressed, "Thank the Moon Goddess; we all made it to the palace alive, but I'm afraid it won't be easy to return to Taplean just yet. For one, we don't have our identification passes to go through Paredon and back to Taplean. I need your help with that. Please send men to bring our identifications to Azenna's borders. Second, there is a pending revolt here in Azenna where the instigators have involved me."

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Next, Kieran narrated the attack to Prince Raegan. He sensed Ford's anger as the beta responded, "It must be the elders you mentioned. They must be working with Eswen."

"To me, it looks like it," Kieran answered. "But now, this is the current situation here and the reason I cannot return immediately. Plus, Alexia prefers that we stay together from now on, and given my encounter with the witch, Evilene, I

believe it is best too.”

There was silence on the other line before Beta Ford replied, “Alpha Kieran, we are happy you are well. You don’t know how your people have been worried about you. To us, it’s good news, but you should know... Taplean has been breached. The king is at the front, fighting against King James’ men.”

“It was exactly as we had suspected. Our enemies had entered the nation through underground passages. We managed to identify some cities where they might have entered, but they could have easily left for another town or province to take hiding. To this day, we are tracing leads to possible camps that belong to our enemies. We have, however, managed to identify one: The Golden Eye Pack. However, King James’ men have completely taken over the territory. They have hostages, preventing us from entering on full attack,” Beta Ford described.

“We could use your help. Your warriors, especially, need your motivation and leadership. However, given your situation, I’m sure the nation’s people will understand. They will, at least, be happy to learn that you are alive and well,” Beta Ford indicated.

“I am alive and will return to help save Taplean!” Kieran claimed. “Remind them that while I had led them to many victories in battles, they had always been the heart of every success. I had trained them and taught them everything that I knew. Spread the word, give them courage for me, and promise them I will return soon.”

“That I shall do, Alpha Kieran,” Beta Ford confirmed.

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Following that talk with King Balthasar’s beta, Kieran called his warriors, at least those numbers that he and Jaxon memorized by heart. He also called Alpha Baxter, Alpha Kai, and Alpha Declan, informing them of his current situation.

They were all relieved that he was alive and well. While they all wished for the problems in Azenna to be resolved, they also hoped Kieran could return to Taplean soon.

Alpha Declan was the last one Kieran spoke to. He told Kieran, “Taplean will regain its courage knowing you are well, Kieran, but still, the nation needs its hero. Be back soon.”

“He is not doing well. Despite taking the last of the healing potion, his b*dy is severely reacting to the silver. He needs more of the fire root plant to recover fully, but I had given Jaxon a double dose yesterday, so what Prince Reagan received was only about ten milliliters of the potion,” Morgan reported to

Kieran inside the medical room.

Together with Alexia, Kieran and Morgan visited Prince Raegan. They observed his condition while the palace doctor prepared more IV fluids for the prince.

The prince was in a coma after losing so much blood. He was hooked on IV fluids, and blood had been transfused.

"Then, I think it is necessary to go to Taplean and secure more of the fire root plant," Alexia muttered.

At the back of Kieran's head, he growled. To think he was jealous of this man. If it were up to him, he would leave Prince Raegan dead, but there was that possibility that Paredon would blame Azenna for the prince's death and also him.

"Mother and Beta Agatha have been in the library since this morning, studying how the amulet works. We should hear from them soon," Alexia implied.

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Just as they observed the prince, a palace guard called for their group. They immediately followed the guard into the library where Avery and Beta Agatha were.

Avery was sitting behind a desk when she said, "It's just as I had feared. I just received a call from Paredon, asking if the speculations of the prince's death were true. They received an anonymous call advising that Prince Raegan was killed inside the palace, and the primary suspect was Alpha Kieran. They have photos of the prince and the crime scene."

"Killed? They are already assuming Prince Raegan's death?" Alexia said.

"The attackers probably left him to die," Agatha gave her two cents. "Based on his wounds, he would not be alive by now, but the healing potion that Morgan gave him helped stop his bleeding -"

"But we don't know for how long," Morgan gave her two cents.

Breathing deeply, Avery supplemented, "I denied Kieran's involvement in the attack, but that naturally enraged the king. He thinks I am siding with Kieran. And about Prince Raegan? I decided not to tell him that his son is still alive. Since we don't know my internal enemies within the nation, I chose to keep this quiet. Only my trusted guards and warriors, including you, know that he is still alive."

"The Paredon King, Rowan, is crossing the borders himself. We need to get Prince Reagan back to health fast," Avery concluded.

"And the amulet, mother?" Alexia asked.

Avery's gaze landed on the book, which settled before her. She sucked in a

deep breath and informed, "I have learned many things about this amulet. Apparently, it belonged to Adira Elsher and was passed down to many generations of rulers."

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"I never really paid attention to this in the past." Avery glanced at her daughter, reminding her, "I did not want to be the queen before, but there is just escaping your destiny."

"Anyway." Avery pursed her lips and reported, "There were a few things that Elder Tara lied about. "First, about the blood sacrifice. The amulet holder should sacrifice blood and use it on the amulet during the portal opening. Thus, there was no point in getting Alexia's blood."

"Second, Tara had mentioned only one person can go into the portal, but after reading this, I learned that a maximum of three people can go into the portal. The amulet holder can also pass through the portal the same way. However, the amount of energy used will affect the amulet holder's consciousness."

Avery flipped the book's pages and traced her finger on one page. She added, "According to history, one entry to the portal had caused the amulet bearer three to four days of sleep."

"Elder Tara took almost two weeks to regain her vitality because she went into the portal herself," Avery added.

"Can we use the amulet now? If the king of Paredon is coming here, we only have a few days," Kieran sought.

"Not right now, unfortunately. The amulet has to get used to its new owner." Avery pulled a necklace from the inside of her dress. Dangling on it was the amulet. She said, "Being a royal, the amulet will acknowledge me faster as its new master. Let's try opening the portal first thing in the morning."

Turning to Kieran, the queen proposed, "Kieran, since you know the location of the fire root plantation, you'll be the one to pass through the portal while I open it."

Kieran nodded, saying, "I figured as much."

In the evening, Kieran and Alexia took time to think about their future before resting. Alexia said, "Kieran, why don't we have a normal life?"

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One with no adversary. I miss those times at the Stone Blood Pack. It was my happiest days, even if it was only for a short period."

"What about our honeymoon?" Kieran asked.

Alexia chuckled and answered, "That too. I miss our honeymoon."

Kieran pecked Alexia's cheek. He said, "There is always a fight for power amongst the royals, even for the pack rulers. It's hard to take away struggle and greed from others. You happen to be a royal, and I am Taplean's hero. The former Queen Helen wants to have my head to get rid of King Balthasar easily."

"I think our lives will continually have ups and downs, but don't worry, my wife, because there is always a band of color after the storm," Kieran presented.

"Band of color?" Alexia asked, utterly perplexed. "You mean rainbow."

"I don't like the word rainbow," Kieran replied. "It's too feminine."

Alexia wound up laughing. She embraced her husband and pecked his cheek, saying, "I should have you know, since marrying me, I think you have said more feminine words than you can imagine."

Kieran growled, but his wife chuckled. He rubbed her arm as she made a pillow of his chest. Alexia said, "I pray to the Moon Goddess that our endeavors will be over soon."

"I ask the same," Kieran replied.

The next day, Kieran stood before the portal Queen Avery had created through a powerful amulet. He walked in, determined to get more than enough miracle plants to cure Prince Raegan and make more potions for Taplean.

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Alexia

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Days had passed since Elder Tara and Elder Gaston escaped. Her mother had tested the use of the amulet, and through a portal, they were able to retrieve more fire root plants for Morgan. As a result, Avery was asleep for nearly three days, completely drained.

While waiting for the King of Paredon's arrival, Morgan created healing potions and truth serums. The wait enabled them to prepare for their coming visitor.

Alexia could say they had a few days of peace, a few days to connect with Taplean through the phone, and a few days of rekindling those bonds with her friends, Rae and Jaxon. It was also a good opportunity for Kieran to explore the towns around Azenna.

The humans disliked her husband because of the news of his betrayal, and Alexia had to tell them the truth. She also had to show them that she and Kieran, being a married couple, managed to work through their trials.

Despite the imminent threat, Kieran and Alexia made love each night. Alexia could feel her baby getting restless each day since Kieran's arrival. Their pup

was no longer woeful. In fact, her child seemed to be communicating with Kieran daily; through his dreams and an unexplainable pull that often drew her husband to her tummy.

One afternoon, while Alexia and Rae were reading about the history of Azenna, Rae decided to caress Alexia's belly. Her baby gave Rae a feel of its feet, making her friend exclaim, "Oh! The pup moved! Can you feel your godmother, pup?"

In the next few minutes, Rae kept touching Alexia's stomach. They were giggling and mesmerized by the beautiful life inside Alexia when

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the door to the library suddenly swung open.

Kieran walked in, with Jaxon following behind him. He was supposed to be in another room, having a conference call with King Balthasar, yet, he was, carrying a glass of milk, saying, "My son is hungry. Drink up, my wife."

Alexia raised a brow. She had purposely requested the doctor not to tell her the gender. She asked Kieran, "Did you ask the doctor? How sure are you that we have a son?"

"I feel it so. My pup talks to me, remember?" Kieran suggested.

"Is your meeting with King Balthasar over?" Alexia asked.

Nodding his head, Keiran revealed, "Yes, we have discussed some pointers on how they can infiltrate the Golden Eye Pack. They should be able to act on it without me."

"Alpha Kieran, your pup moved!" Rae excitedly exclaimed.

"My child is excited to see us all," Kieran claimed.

"Can I name him, Alpha Kieran?" Jaxon suggested.

"Why would you name him? This is my child? I will name him!" Kieran claimed before another set of laughter echoed across the room.

"Again, we are not sure if he is a he. Maybe, she is a she!" Alexia countered.

They must have made loud noises in the library that they heard Morgan speaking to their minds. She said, 'Looks like I'm missing the party!'

Rae and Alexia laughed. Morgan was on top of Prince Reagan's health.

Thankfully, he was doing much better now, and he was expected to recover, all thanks to the miracle plant. Still, they did not know what to expect with King Rowan's arrival, the king of Paredon.

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Another day passed, and news of King Rowan's arrival reached Alexia's ears,

and much to their shock, the king of Paredon had come with Elder Gaston, along with warriors of Paredon. Elder Tara was nowhere to be seen.

Queen Avery's warriors had tracked down the winter-grey wolves that aided the elders' escape, but half-bloods also did an excellent job covering the elders' tracks. They did not mind the elders' fleeing freely. It was as if they sacrificed themselves for the elders.

Standing face to face with King Rowan, Alexia felt chills down her spine. The king was obviously resentful. He threw daggers with his eyes in Kieran's way and glared at her mother.

They were all inside the royal hall, accommodating their newly arrived guests. Everyone was present except for Prince Reagan.

"What is the meaning of this?!" King Rowan barked. He flashed his fangs at Kieran, questioning, "Why are you harboring a murderer?"

"It is exactly as I have reported to you, King Rowan. Our queen is giving too much favor to her daughter's husband! Despite betraying the Princess and now, murdering Prince Raegan, she still assumes Alpha Kieran's innocence!" Elder Gaston accused.

"Alpha Kieran is not a murder!" Queen Avery stood from her chair, declaring, "You, on the other hand, King Rowan, are protecting a criminal – a traitor of Azenna!"

"Another lie to cover up the death of Prince Reagan, King Rowan," Elder Gaston suggested.

"We have proof that Gaston and Tara betrayed us. They are collaborating with Eswen. As you know, Eswen is Taplean's enemy, and they are currently at war. Gaston worked with them to take down Alpha Kieran. He even hired some of Paredon's werewolves!" Avery

continuously argued. "The wolves who attacked Alpha Kieran had

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admitted to Gaston, leading their small resistance!"

"It's their word against mine! Besides, who is to say they were forced to incriminate me!" Gaston suggested before turning to the king of Paredon. He said, "This is besides the main problem, my king. Your son was murdered under the watch of Queen Avery, and it was Kieran who killed him! I saw the pieces of evidence with my own eyes."

"Prince Raegan must have wanted me to know who attacked him!" Gaston suggested. He took out photos that had already been printed, saying, "He must have been in his last breath, and he wrote Alpha Kieran's name. Why would he write Alpha Kieran's name using his blood? It's simple. He wanted to

tell everyone who killed him!”

“And the necklace in Prince Raegan’s hand? He must have struggled with Alpha Kieran, and the Prince Grabbed his necklace!” Gaston added. He went on and on, pointing out pieces of evidence that involved Kieran in the prince’s supposed killing.

“Lie!” Kieran barked. He reacted, saying, “I lost my necklace when your cronies ambushed us days ago!”

“I am telling you, King Rowan. Gaston is the one that tells lies! He is a traitor. You should not trust a traitor!” Avery yelled.

Gaston scoffed. He turned to King Rowan, saying, “Your Highness, I am your second wife’s brother. You have known me for years. Who would you believe? Me or these people! Please, give justice to my nephew, Prince Raegan.”

Alexia saw Gaston smirk for a second, but he quickly erased his expression and showed only remorse for the prince’s loss. Alexia could not believe the elder’s acting.

Thankfully, they had more solid evidence to prove her husband’s innocence. Alexia turned to her mother, and they both nodded simultaneously. It was the right moment to reveal their greatest proof.

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“Do you believe in Gaston, King Rowan?” Avery said. “Who would you believe, your wife’s brother or someone who is your flesh and blood!”

Avery’s eyes narrowed as she added, “Hear the truth from Prince Ragan’s own lips.”

Right then, the double doors to the royal hall opened, and everyone’s gaze turned to the back.

Alexia saw how Gaston was wide-eyed. His eyes were searching for a way out of the royal hall! She scoffed, thinking, ‘The elder is trying to find an escape route!’

Prince Raegan walked in, wearing a luxury coat. He still had marks on his face from the struggle, but he was alive and well.

“Raegan!” King Rowan called. He turned to Gaston in complete bewilderment, saying, “Your uncle said you were dead. I – I also could not feel your life force!”

“Uncle Gaston attacked me! He and Elder Tara left me to die, not Alpha Kieran! I was on the brink of death; I had lost my connection with you, father. I had to use my every energy to keep myself alive,” Prince Raegan angrily revealed. “The elders against me because I would not help them with their schemes against Queen Avery!”

“With the help of Morgan, the half-witch from Taplean, Prince Raegan’s

connection to Paredon was suppressed following his healing. Aside from strengthening him, we did not know if more enemies were lurking around that would endanger the prince. It was best that Gaston assumed Prince Raegan's death," Avery explained.

"Father, Elder Tara, and Uncle Gaston probably planted those evidence. I don't recall writing Alpha Kieran's name on the floor with my blood!" Prince Raegan considered.

The prince glanced at Alpha Kieran, lifting his chin to acknowledge

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Alexia's husband. Then he glanced at Rae, Jaxon, and Morgan. He gave the same regard to the queen and her warriors, saying, "Alpha Kieran and his people, Queen Avery, including, instead, saved me from dying!"

With conviction, Prince Raegan proclaimed, "I owe my life to them, father, and for that, I swore allegiance to Alpha Kieran and Princess Alexia!"

Hearing Prince Raegan's words, Alexia smiled. Who would have thought this incident would bring a new ally to their side? And a prince of Paredon at that.

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Kieran's lips curved up, seeing Elder Gaston panicking. King Rowan of Paredon may have brought several warriors to back him up, but they weren't going to protect the elder now that Prince Raegan had revealed the truth. He saw the signs. Elder Gaston's body expanded, and Kieran prepared to chase him. Instantly, the elder shifted into his werewolf form and ran to the door.

Kieran also shifted into his black wolf! Despite the elder's impressive size, Kieran was unafraid.

Growls echoed around the royal hall. From the corner of Kieran's eye, he saw the king of Paredon shift. He angrily called, "Gaston! You are going to die for attempting to kill my son!"

At the door, Kieran saw Prince Raegan change into his wolf form. He blocked the elder's only escape route as he growled, "We have a score to settle, Uncle!"

"You just came back from the dead, Raegan! I'll deal with him!" Kieran barked, but unfortunately, the prince wouldn't hold back.

Prince Raegan fought with Gaston. Their wolves tried to scratch each other, both their claws elongating. At that point, Gaston received several of Prince Raegan's aggression. Still, the elder was a winter-grey wolf, so his counters

were also formidable.

Since Gaston was busy battling the prince, Kieran had an opening. The back of the elder's neck was in plain sight. Kieran lunged at Gaston, sinking his teeth into the elder's flesh.

A loud howl escaped the elder's lips, but it did not stop there. The king

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of Paredon caught his leg, his teeth ferociously biting Gaston. The elder may have been a winter-grey wolf, but he was old, no longer in his prime. He was no match to the solid alpha-blooded werewolves, and he bled helplessly. Gaston tried to fight back. Kieran and the king also received scratches from the elders' claws, but each relentlessly clawed back. Gaston lost consciousness in no time.

It appeared to Kieran that Raegan wanted more. Gaston had already transformed into his human form. The prince bit his arm and tore it from the elder's body!

A growl escaped Kieran's lips, and he did the same to the other arm. He snarled at the elder, "You don't deserve to live!"

Blood stained the floor of the royal hall. Many were purring with anger at how Gaston had turned out to be the ultimate renegade. He broke the queen's trust and tried to kill his nephew. It was clear that relationships and bonds were of no importance to him.

It took minutes for the temperature around the royal hall to settle. When they saw Gaston was clearly dead, the queen ordered her warriors, "Announce to the nation how Gaston had betrayed Azenna and that several of the resistance group have been captured."

"And what will we do with the elder's followers?" Beta Agatha sought.

"We should kill all those who are following Gaston!" One furious warrior proposed.

"No," Alexia interrupted. "Let's not jump into that decision yet."

Alexia stood in the center of the hall and looked at everyone. She implied, "There must be a reason for them to join Elder Gaston. Let us first investigate and hear their reasons."

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She turned to her mother, counting, "Punishing them – killing them will only temporarily solve the problem, but not address the root cause."

"Spoken like a true queen," King Rowan complimented as he shifted back into

his human form. His men were quick to cover him with his cloak. "Too bad, she is already married. She would be better suited for my son."

Kieran purred. He was still in his black wolf. His fangs lengthened as she snapped his head at the king. He said, "Don't even think about it!"

"Enough, Father. I will not challenge Alpha Kieran for Alexia. She loves Alpha Kieran. Moreover, I had sworn my allegiance to them, Alpha Kieran and Princess Alexia." The prince explained, "Alpha Kieran went to fetch more fire root plants for me so I can live."

"Very well," King Rowan acknowledged.

At that point, everyone was in their human form. Kieran was also covered in a cloak. He heard King Rowan say, "Then, let's return to Paredon -"

"Father, I swore allegiance to Alpha Kieran and Princess Alexia. Thus, I will go with them to fight the war against Eswen," Prince Raegan replied, surprising everyone, including Kieran.

Kieran did not know how to feel about Prince Reagan's offer. He only wanted to save his reputation when he sought the fire root. In addition, to create more healing potions. He did not expect the prince to feel obligated to return the favor.

Narrowing his eyes at the prince, Kieran said, "It's unnecessary. You can return to Paredon -"

"I insist." Prince Raegan answered. He turned to his father and added, "Father, I insist. This would also be a good opportunity for us to form a strong alliance between Azenna and Taplean. Why befriend Eswen and

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Vottara when they had caused so many troubles for its neighboring nations."

"If you are worried about the crown, I have two brothers before me, and they both want to be king," Prince Raegan pointed out. "Let me experience what it is like to fight a real war – to test my ability and form a collaboration with Azenna and Taplean."

Despite Prince Raegan's arguments, Kieran was unresolved. He said, "An alliance? To test your ability? Is this really what you want? Somehow, I don't buy it."

He gave the prince his back, saying, "Let me think about it."

~Alexia~

Avery had followed her daughter's advice in dealing with the resistance group. In the days that followed, Alexia and the queen had a more welcoming interview with the younger half-bloods, and it was then that mother and daughter learned the truth. Some of the young pups' families were threatened, but what stood out was their hunger for acceptance. They wanted to belong

so badly that they hoped Gaston would give them a name – a position. The mother and daughter discussed with Beta Agatha inside Avery's office. They had also invited Kieran, for he was known for his leadership skills. "I must admit that I tend to be selective of who I trust and give responsibility to," Avery revealed.

"Queen Helen, there will always be a hierarchy in every nation, but acknowledgment matters most," Kieran proposed. "They should still be punished, but give them hope for when their confinement is over. May I suggest that, instead of an actual prison, give them work, one that they can take pride in -"

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"I know, Mother, we can relocate them to the towns where farming is possible. It will be their form of disciplinary action. They can prove their worth by contributing to Azenna. With guidance, they can be taught how to farm and harvest. They can have a share of the sales, – which will encourage them further to work harder," Alexia proposed.

"Or as an incentive, they can have the option to buy the lands they are farming," Kieran supplied.

It took a few hours for them to thoroughly discuss the matter and the direction Avery would take. After their meeting, Alexia and Kieran left to meet Rae, Jaxon, and Morgan at the palace's wintery garden.

They were still halfway into their route when Prince Reagan met them at the halls. He and King Rowan remained in Azenna, for the prince was still adamant about joining Kieran's cause. However, Kieran still refused to let the prince go with them to Taplean.

"We need to talk," Prince Raegan requested. "There is something that I haven't told you yet; my main reason for not wanting to return to Paredon."

Prince Reagan joined them in the backyard. Morgan, Rae, and Jaxon enjoyed the snow while Alexia, Kieran, and the prince settled in one of the gazebos. For seconds, the prince was silent. However, soon, he revealed, "I told you about my best friend who left me to be with her true mate. I did not tell you how her true mate turned out to be my second older brother from my father's first wife."

"My second brother had been away since his teens, studying in the Eastern Continent, so he and my best friend had not met for many years either. They are set to be married this year. That was why my mother was adamant about finding me a mate, and they preferred that

I marry a royal. My father is doing the same. The truth is, gaining power

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was just another reason. At the back of their heads, I know they did not want me to trouble my older brother and my former best friend,” Raegan fully disclosed.

Alexia and Kieran looked at each other in shock. They were silently speaking in their minds, evaluating Prince Reagan’s actions. As they did, the prince resumed, “So, I don’t want to go back. At least, not yet. It’s true, though, I want to learn from Taplean, and given my predicament – how I’ve been sulking for four years, I think an adventure could do me good.”

“So, Princess Alexia, Alpha Kieran, will you take me to Taplean? I swear my allegiance to you for having saved my life. I will give you my life if needed, Prince Reagan added. “Please, allow me to help you both.”

Alexia and Kieran did not give him an answer just yet. Kieran especially sought the truth through King Balthasar’s contacts in Paredon.

In the evening, the couple was preparing for bed. Kieran was still on the phone with King Balthasar. Alexia heard her husband saying, “Yes. I understand. Thank you for the intel, My King. I’m glad there is progress in taking control of the Golden Eye Pack.”

After Kieran’s call, Alexia lifted a brow at him, and he willingly gave the information, “They managed to take back half of The Golden Eye Pack’s territory. Alpha Declan captured Eswen’s new general, so they made an ex-deal.”

“That’s good,” Alexia responded. “And what about Prince Raegan?”

“I.” Kieran shook his head and replied, “I might regret this, but I’ll allow Prince Raegan to travel with us. If he f**king looks at you or touch -”

Alexia laughed. She replied, “He doesn’t take advantage of me. Honestly, I think he is a good person. I don’t know Kieran, but I have a feeling that bringing him to Taplean will do us all good -”

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Kieran growled, and Alexia laughed again. She felt his jealousy rising at that thought of the prince.

Alexia thought that since matters in Azenna had already been resolved, they would go straight to Taplean, but her husband suggested, “Let’s wait until you have come of age before we return to Taplean. I want to know for sure if we are... true mates or not.”

Time stilled for Alexia. She weakly asked, “And if we are not?”

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“And if we are not?” Alexia asked, taking Kieran aback.

He saw the hurt in her eyes and knew he had to explain himself. He inhaled profusely before walking around the bed and embracing his wife. Kieran answered, “My wife, my little wife. I have given this much thought. It was a good idea for me to come over here. You are closer to coming of age, and with the recent attempt to break us apart, I realized it is best that you mark me first, true mates or not.”

Taplean was holding up without Kieran, and that was because King Balthasar took the lead at the front. Taplean’s current standing was Kieran’s primary reassurance that he could linger in Azenna until Alexia’s birthday. Besides, technically, Kieran did not have his identification pass. King Balthasar’s men were still coming to bring him the needed identification. This included Jaxon’s, Rae’s, and Morgan’s.

With the current crisis in Azenna, it wasn’t wise for Queen Avery to use the amulet frequently, considering it would drain her for at least three days. While Gaston died, Elder Tara’s whereabouts were still in question. Azenna was still in need of their queen’s active presence. Kieran could not also ask for such a sacrifice from Alexia’s mother.

Kieran cupped his wife’s chin. He said, “It’s just that, after hearing Prince Raegan’s predicament, I fear I’d lose you to this f**king true mate’s bond, and I couldn’t have that. We are married, and I marked you. I thought our bond could be further strengthened if you mark me too. Technically, it will seal the deal. I’d then be able to feel and hear your thoughts.”

He grabbed Alexia’s hand and suggested, “And we will always stay together. Apart from that, I will be more assured that you can defend yourself from my enemies once you can shift to your wolf -”

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“I told you, I have powers,” Alexia reminded her husband.

A hiss left Kieran’s lips. He chuckled and replied, “My wife is getting too brazen.”

“I do, Alexia repeated. “I’ll show you tomorrow, but regardless, I agree.”

Alexia wrapped her arms around Kieran’s neck. She said, “It is better if we both have our marks on each other and stay together as a family.”

Thank you, Kieran.” She smiled and expressed. “It would mean a lot to me if I could celebrate my twenty-first birthday with my mother, my people, and you.”

Kieran nodded. He kissed his wife, and that brief contact gave him pleasure. Alexia always had this effect on him. They wound up making love again, and after that, they were tangled under the blanket, cuddling to sleep.

Before Kieran rested utterly, he said to himself, ‘Keep fighting, Taplean. It won’t be long. A few more days until my wife’s birthday. I promise to return.’ Because Kieran decided to wait until Alexia turned twenty-one, it was agreed that Morgan, Rae, and Jaxon should return first to Taplean. There was so much need for the healing potion due to the number of warriors wounded amidst the war between Eswen and their nation.

King Balthasar’s men arrived in Azenna after a few days, and thus, Alexia had to bid goodbye to her friends again. They were going to make the long journey back, going through Paredon. Fortunately, Prince Raegan and King Rowan would accompany them.

The king of Paredon would clear their path until Taplean’s territory, while Prince Reagan would travel with Morgan, Rae, and Jaxon. The prince was determined to aid Alexia and Kieran and be as far away from Paredon as possible.

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At the gates of Azenna’s palace, Kieran and Alexia said goodbye to their companions.

Alexia was teary-eyed as she hugged Rae and Morgan. Kieran, for one, had a heavy heart. He gave Jaxon a manly hug, saying, “I’m sorry. For many years that I have served my nation, please forgive me for being selfish, just this once, just for these few days. I want to ensure Alexia can shift before we return to Taplean.”

“And let her mark you, I get it,” Jaxon said, chuckling. He let go of his alpha, adding, “I understand, Alpha Kieran. You are already a married man and expecting a child -”

“Let us take our leave now,” The king of Paredon declared. He turned to his son, adding, “We have overstayed in Azenna. I need to get back to Paredon.”

King Rowan bowed at Avery, saying, “Thank you, Queen Avery, for your hospitality and for helping to save my son’s life.” He gave the same regard to Kieran, revealing, “Alpha Kieran, I will send a few of my warriors to help Taplean. To be exact, I will allow Raegan’s guards to come with him.”

A few more words were said, especially from Rae and Jaxon, but soon, their party began their trek into the snowy path of Azenna.

Acknowledging how Kieran made the most difficult decision, prioritizing his wife and child, he felt a pang in his chest. With Rae, Jaxon, Morgan, and Prince Raegan returning before him, he certainly hoped that Taplean would continue to manage until his arrival.

Days had passed. Jaxon, Rae, Morgan, Prince Raegan, and a few of Paredon's warriors had reached Taplean. They had offered the necessary aid to give Taplean's warriors leverage against Eswen.

Kieran had been constantly on the phone with King Balthasar, strategizing their next move and getting updated on what was

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happening at the front of the war.

In between, Kieran had been teaching Avery's warriors to have silver and wolfsbane tolerance. He had also learned a few techniques the winter-grey wolves use in their attacks. Simply put, Kieran was learning from Azenna, and the wintery-grey wolves were also learning from him.

In Kieran's view, his time was well-spent. The valuable lessons he had learned from the winter-grey wolves would be helpful in Taplean's fight against Eswen or any future invaders.

The day came for Alexia's twenty-first birthday countdown. Kieran spent his entire day with his wife, teaching her how to tolerate the pains of the first shift.

At the same time, the couple prepared

themselves for the worst outcome; should it turn out that they were not true mates.

It was already eleven in the evening, yet the couple was still in Alexia's room, talking.

Kieran said, "No matter what, we are married and love each other. We have a child that is about to be born. Let's not be affected if we are not true mates.

Let's continue the path we have chosen."

He held Alexia's face and said, "The first thing you should do is to mark me. You understand, Alexia?"

Alexia nodded. She embraced Kieran, saying, "I'm nervous."

"I am too, but we have to face the possibility." Kieran kissed her forehead, saying, "I love you, Alexia. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever think I would fall in love or turn soft for a woman, but you changed me. Remember that."

"And me too." Alexia softly answered. "I love you, Kieran, fated or not."

A knock on the door interrupted their chat. Avery personally came for

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her daughter, saying, "It's time. Everyone is waiting for your first shift, Alexia." In the next few minutes, they made it to the palace's front grounds, where a few other winter-grey wolves were about to come of age.

Kieran watched as his wife walked at the center-most of the celebrants. Her eyes were first glued to him until the clock was close to striking twelve.

He observed Alexia focused on the night sky, watching the moon. Her hand was on her belly as she took heavy breaths. Kieran could tell she was praying hard to the Moon Goddess.

Finally, midnight came.

Kieran locked eyes with his wife again. He smiled at her, mindlinking, 'Happy birthday, my lovely wife. I love you.'

'I love you too, Alexia answered. "Aaah! Arrgghh!"

Alexia was the first to cry out her pain. Kieran eyed how she threw her head back, and her hands quickly stretched open, her b*dy expanding. Slowly, she was transforming, and Kieran's heart was beating loudly with each passing second. He silently prayed, 'Moon Goddess, do not forsake me. Let me have my wife fully. Let her be... my true mate.'

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Alexia ~

'This is it, Alexia said to herself as she gazed at the moon. She called, "Moon Goddess, what was the reason for bringing me to Kieran? I hope it was because we were fated to be together and are true mates."

The next thing she heard was the barking of the winter-grey wolves. Most of them declared the time.

"It's midnight!"

"Happy Birthday!"

"It's time to shift!"

There were other young werewolves around her, three of whom had the same birthday. Alexia made a mental note to befriend them, considering they could share the same yearly celebration.

Next, she locked eyes with her husband. He mindlinked, 'Happy birthday, my lovely wife. I love you.'

'I love you too,' she said back.

Shivers ran down her b*dy. It was finally her birthday, and once she would shift into her wolf form, she would be able to recognize her true mate.

"Aaah! Arrgghh!" Before she knew it, her b*dy appeared to be moving on its own. She felt her limbs breaking, her face stretching. She was very worried for

her pup, but her baby was not distressed.

Next, she was down on her fours, growling. She could feel her snout forming, her hands and feet sinking against the snow.

Alexia howled for the first time, her eyes looking back at the moon.

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Her bones continued to break, her b*dy expanding. Despite the transformation that she was experiencing, she felt her baby was moving along with the changes in her b*dy.

Alexia did not know how long she endured the ache of shifting for the first time, but eventually, all the pain disappeared. The first thing she noticed was how tall she appeared to be. Her vision was sharper, and she saw warriors and humans gaping at her in amazement.

“Princess Alexia is a beautiful wolf! Just like Queen Avery!”

“Her wolf is as huge as the queen!”

“Princess Alexia!”

Alexia studied her fur; in the night, she was gleaming in winter grey, almost like silver. She was about to compare herself with the other winter-grey wolves around her when she smelled something sweet, something so exhilarating!

She could not explain it. It wasn't specific to any scent, but it simply pulled her. In her wolf form, she growled, snapping her head in that same direction. She could not help but sniff the air profusely. Aside from that, she sensed her pup getting restless, like her child was enthusiastic.

From the corner of her eye, Alexia saw her mother. She heard her say, “Go, my child. Go to him.”

She did not have time to turn to her mother nor acknowledge Avery's words. Alexia marched in the direction of that intoxicating smell.

Alexia swore Kieran was standing on that very same path, but now, winter-grey wolves and humans were crowding around her, and she did not find him with her eyes. She could smell Kieran, his woodsy and sp icy scent.

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‘Could it be?’ She wondered.

“Princess Alexia, congratulations on your first shift!” Still, humans surrounded her.

At that point, Alexia badly needed to see Kieran. She said, “Please, clear the way. I want to see my husband.”

Her people realized what she was aiming for that they cleared her way. In each second that passed, that sweet scent and that woodsy and spicy aroma became more potent.

'Kieran,' she said in her head.

'I am here, Alexia, Kieran said back.

Before she knew it, Alexia was looking at Kieran's figure. He closed the gap between them, and the same scents engulfed her.

Alexia stilled. Still, in her wolf form, her eyes met Kieran, and suddenly, she heard nothing else but the beating of her heart, that of Kieran's and even her pup's.

Her surroundings seemed blurred, and she was immediately lost in Kieran's eyes. Sweet chills ran down her spine as she was pulled in.

Through Kieran's eyes, she saw their future.

Alexia was wearing a crown, and so was Kieran. They were teaching their son about the history of Taplean. Next, another image flashed. Still, in Kieran's eyes, she saw them running through the coasts of southern Taplean in their wolf form. However, it wasn't just the three of them. Alexia saw they were running with two more pups, one inheriting the winter-grey wolf gene.

When those images faded away, her awareness returned. The chilly air of Azenna blew against her gleaming coat, and as she maintained to look at Kieran, a tear rolled down her face.

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She said, "Mate."

"Mate," Kieran said at the same time.

Alexia saw Kieran was also teary-eyed.

Finally, all those fears of not being true mates can be pushed aside. Alexia acknowledged that everything was the Moon Goddess' plan; her leaving the Cross River Pack, her arranged marriage, and the love that formed between her and Kieran.

A loud howl escaped Kieran's lips, and next, she saw him shift into his black wolf!

Kieran was the same size as Alexia's wolf, and he went around her in circles, howling like the alpha that he was.

"Alexia is my true mate!" Kieran screamed. He jumped around Alexia, further igniting tears in her eyes.

Hoots, claps, and words of encouragement surrounded them, coming from the warriors and the humans. Eventually, Kieran settled in front of her and licked her madly, especially her face. Under his breath, he said, "Thank you, Moon Goddess."

There was no need to speak after that. Alexia and her husband rushed back inside the palace, and everyone cleared their route. They ran in their wolf form until finding Alexia's bedroom.

Inside, Kieran shifted first. He had to instruct Alexia how to shift back. It took a while because Alexia was distracted on what to do first. She wanted to bite Kieran, k*ss him, and even spread her legs for him, but she forgot she was in her wolf.

Eventually, when she returned to her human form, Alexia crashed her l*ps to Kieran. She k*ssed him wildly, her hands restlessly touching his b*dy.

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"Mine!" She growled.

Alexia's hand immediately reached for Kieran's shaft and began palming it. As she sucked on his l*ps, she wound up biting him. She tasted blood that further torched her desires. She did not know where this possessiveness came from, but she could only assume it resulted from her true mate's bond. "Mine!"

"Mine!" Kieran said back. Like Alexia, he was also carelessly touching her. He especially liked the mark he gave her. "All mine!"

Alexia jumped on Kieran's weight. She wrapped her legs around her husband as he carried her entire frame. While they made it into the bed, she noticed her pup moving around. Alexia knew her pup was happy as well.

Kieran lay her on her back as he devoured every inch of her. Alexia was already damped down there, but her husband still pleased her with his fingers and tongue.

"Kieran! Aaaah!" Alexia howled her desires. At that point, she did not care if the entire nation could hear her. She was celebrating how her husband was indeed hers!

Her fangs were lengthening, ready to take a bite at him.

"Aaahh!" Before she knew it, Kieran entered her, and she was immediately drowned in a sea of pleasure!

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With just a few thrusts, Alexia's eyes formed stars. She could not believe the effect of their true mate's bond. It was simply another level of high.

Alexia bounced on top of the bed as Kieran made love to her. She grazed her claws against his broad chest and abs, her tongue tracing her l*ps as she recognized how lust consumed her.

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A low growl escaped her lips when Kieran picked up the pace.

The sound of their smacking flesh resonated loudly against the room, and upon recognizing another climax coming, she flipped Kieran over and took command!

Alexia straddled Kieran, moving her hips up and down, sometimes grounding on his crotch. She was screaming her desires as her fangs reached their full length.

When her body felt goosebumps, she dipped between Kieran's neck and his shoulders and plunged her teeth into his flesh. She tasted his blood again, and it further gratified her.

Kieran howled loudly! It was a clear announcement of how, finally, they were one.

Alexia did not know how long her husband kept howling, but he was thrusting up repeatedly at the same time. She knew he had come too.

She had already let go of Kieran's flesh. Alexia was licking his blood as Kieran rolled her to her back.

"Mine," she heard her husband repeat it.

Alexia was smiling from ear to ear. Her eyes were still fixed on the bite she gave him, and just then, she saw the exact mark change into the form of two werewolf heads next to each other. One was black, while the other was in her lineage's color.

Next, Alexia saw how an infinity symbol circled the werewolves' heads. She pulled away and caught Kieran also staring at her mark. Alexia did not see it, but she could tell her husband also noticed the change in her mark, the same he had given her months back.

Kieran's gaze landed on hers. He cupped her face, declaring, "Finally, you are mine, not just by the law of Taplean, but in the Moon Goddess' eyes."

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eyes."

Tears stung Alexia's eyes as she nodded. She grabbed Kieran's hand and rested it on her belly. She said, "We are meant to be. I love you, Kieran."

"I love you, Alexia," Kieran replied.

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. "Mine," Kieran declared.

In the morning, he made love to his wife again. He rested beside her, kissing her luscious lips, his hand kneading her breast.

Alexia's right leg hung mid-air, her thigh intertwined between Kieran's elbow. It gave him enough room to penetrate her core and pump in and

out of her.

As they made out, his wife's hand reached for his biceps and hips. Frequently, Alexia felt the tightness on his butt cheek.

When Kieran moaned into Alexia's mouth, she squeezed his a*s tightly. He released inside her, and he felt euphoria all over again.

Kieran tightened his hold around Alexia, noticing her concluding simultaneously, mildly convulsing.

What made their lovemaking extra special was how he felt Alexia's every emotion; her gratification, lust for him, and inner thoughts.

At that very moment, his wife thought of how big he was and how he was filling her completely. Kieran was proud beyond words at how he satisfied his wife.

He let go of Alexia's l*ps and heard her say, "Kieran, that was amazing."

"It was incredible for me too, my wife," Kieran answered. He rested Alexia's leg before littering k*sses all over her face and then to her mark. He said, "You are completely mine now. No one can take you away from me."

"And from me," she said back with a smile.

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Kieran reached for her belly, feeling his pup as he said, "Our son is happy."

There was no longer denying how they were having a son. The vision he saw through Alexia's eyes passed midnight said it all; their future. together.

"Yes, our son," Alexia acknowledged. "Two more months to seeing him."

Kieran then also thought about the other visions of him and Alexia, how they had more pups in the years to come, especially how they wound up being royals in Taplean. How did it happen?

Well, Kieran already knew this. After all, this was King Balthasar's plan, but what would happen to his king if he passed on the crown to him?

Kieran then recalled his obligation to Taplean. Guilt washed over him for being in bed, making love to his wife while his nation was at war, and then he will be the next king? What kind of a future king was he?

He knew he had to return soon. He was about to bring it up to his wife when her stomach growled.

Alexia chuckled. She said, "We sk ipped my birthday party completely."

"That's fine. I'm sure the people of Azenna understand," Kieran answered with a sly grin.

His wife laughed thoroughly, correcting, "You mean, they know exactly what their princess was up to!" Her face turned red as she proclaimed, "They probably think their princess is a wild h orn y wolf!"

A low growl escaped Kieran's lips. He answered, "It's normal, my wife. We are werewolves, and we give in to our carnal desires, especially with our true mates. They understand. In fact, they will not mind if we skip meals the entire day -"

"Kieran!" Alexia scolded. She smacked his arm, reminding him, "Our

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"Oh, right," Kieran replied. He sat up and reached for her stomach. He kissed her belly, saying, "Don't be mad, son. We will feed you now."

In the next half an hour, Alexia and Kieran bathed together. As they did, they did not miss kissing their marks, alternately proclaiming, "Mine."

There was no doubting it now. She and Kieran were indeed true mates and were fated together. Now that they had marked each other, their bonds were more potent. They could feel each other's feelings, read each other's minds, know when one is in danger, and many more.

Alexia and Kieran were now one, and no one could break them apart.

Au

Alexia ~

"Mother!" Alexia called, embracing her mother.

Queen Avery rubbed Alexia's back with a smile. When she pulled away, Avery said, "Congratulations on finding your true mate."

Turning to Kieran, Avery added, "Take care of my daughter, Kieran."

"I will, Queen Avery," Kieran said, and the queen laughed.

Avery suggested, "Mother. Call me, Mother. And I know you still feel sorry about hurting Alexia, but let's put that behind us. Now that you have marked each other, I know you will never hurt my daughter again. Being blessed by the Moon Goddess, I know you will have a brighter future together."

They were all at the dining area, ready to have their breakfast. Avery turned to the table and said, "Let's eat. With all that exercise you both had, I'm sure my daughter is starving."

Alexia flushed like a red tomato while her husband merely chuckled.

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They finished eating breakfast in an hour. Avery chatted in between, revealing the progress of their offer to the resistant group. She said, "I can feel their regret now. They have been remorseful of their actions. I think the option to relocate them, at the same time, giving them

responsibility, truly helped."

“They have been willingly telling Agatha, Gaston, and Tara’s plans. Apparently, the two elders had been the root of my troubles for years. They weren’t planning to overthrow me but wanted to control Alexia or me. One member of the resistance also admitted that Tara had left Azenna. The former elder should be in Eswen right now. She is indeed colluding with Eswen.”

“Has Tara been working with Eswen for a long time?” Kieran sought. Queen Avery shook her head, answering, “According to the young ones, the cooperation was recent. It must have started when I brought Alexia back. My daughter’s arrival must have thrown their plans off course.”

“How troublesome.” With a sigh, Avery continued, “But I’m glad everything has come to light, and everyone in the resistance group has surrendered. Azenna can move forward from here on.”

“Now, about your plans to return to Taplean. I have been thinking about it and have come to a decision.” Avery leaned back, revealing, “I will open the portal for both of you. I think with the issue of the resistance group at rest, it should be okay for me to be out for a week.”

Alexia sighed. She recalled how her mother estimated her unconscious state after using the amulet for the first time. Elder Tara was old and weaker, but Queen Avery was still in her prime. The amulet only forced her to rest for three days when she used it to open the portal for Kieran to Mount Nefarious, and she had kept it open for an hour. Thus, opening the portal for two werewolves in seconds should only knock her out in a week or less.

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“Are you sure, Mother? I’d hate to impose,” Alexia said. “Azenna will also be at stake.”

“I can assure you, My Princess. I have got that covered.” On the other end of the table, Beta Agatha said. “I will look after Azenna while my queen is resting. Besides, we want you to travel safely, especially with the baby.”

Hearing Agatha’s reassurance, Alexia and Kieran looked at each other.

“I do need to get back ASAP,” Kieran admitted.

Alexia nodded. She glanced back at her mother, saying, “Then, Mother, we will leave whenever you are ready.”

Queen Avery smiled at Alexia. She said, “I’ll open the portal for you both tomorrow morning. You can make the phone call to inform your king.”

Alexia saw her mother rest back in her seat. Then, Queen Avery returned to lean forward, proposing, “Better yet, why don’t I speak with King Balthasar.”

The dining room had an awkward silence, and Alexia thought her mother must

have noticed it. Avery clarified, "I just want to confirm that the king will ensure your safety, my daughter – you and my grandchild."

"I see," Alexia acknowledged.

"I'll arrange the call, Mother," Kieran confirmed.

Alexia

Later that evening, Kieran made the critical call to King Balthasar from inside the queen's office. It appeared to Alexia that the king was pleased, seeing her husband's smile.

From the corner of Alexia's eyes, she saw her mother suck in a breath like she was nervous about speaking to the king. Inwardly, she smiled.

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It seemed like, her mother was hiding something, her true feelings perhaps.

"Here you go, Mother." Kieran extended the mobile to Queen Avery. He said, "The king, as you have requested."

Avery took the phone cautiously. Holding the mobile to her ear, she looked at Alexia and Kieran. When her gaze panned from back at forth at them, Alexia stood up, understanding immediately.

"We will give you privacy, Mother," Avery said before dragging her husband to the door.

The last thing Alexia heard was her mother speaking on the phone, "King Balthasar -"

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Queen Avery

"King Balthasar, I am sending Kieran and my daughter to Taplean -"

"Please, call me Balthasar. Let's skip the formalities. Aren't we true mates?"

Avery's words were interrupted by Balthasar's proclamation.

She let out a scoff, but inside, her heart fluttered. She indicated, "Our time is over, Balthasar -"

"It's never too late. We still have the rest of our lives. We age slowly. I may turn a hundred years old and still feel like I am in my forties," Balthasar suggested. "The Moon Goddess returned our fates together for a reason, and we should fulfill our destinies."

Avery was rendered speechless. Because she failed to reply, King Balthasar added, "So Alexia and Kieran turned out to be true

mates. I suspected as much. It was a good decision for Kieran to go to Azenna."

“Hmmm,” finally, she replied.

“You know what this means, right, Avery? The future we had both seen through each other’s eyes is about to become a reality.

Unless, unless the war takes my life,” King Balthasar said.

Avery’s eyes widened. She felt a pang in her chest that she did not want to acknowledge. She stuttered in her reply, “Please do not hurt my daughter anymore by hurting yourself. Alexia, my daughter considers you as a second father.”

“Is it only because of Alexia?” King Balthasar asked, and with that, Avery was stunned again.

Avery gulped and replied, “What other reasons are there?”

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A low growl escaped Balthasar’s lips. It appeared to Avery that he also evaded the issue at hand and instead addressed her primary concern, “I’ll make sure that Alexia is safe, but knowing that she has come of age, she doesn’t need my protection. It’s King James’ men who need protection from her.”

“And don’t worry. I’ll stay alive to fulfill our fates. I’ll see you soon, Avery. Wait for me,” King Balthasar said before adding,

“Goodbye.”

Avery’s mouth hung open, utterly stunned. She could not believe he had ended the call before her, like it was a done deal.

Helen

The former Queen studied the nation’s fortress at the top of the Skyline Tower, a luxury residential building a block from Taplean’s palace. She used a vision-enhancement device to observe the palace gate from

afar.

Only a few warriors guarded the gates, and she counted less than thirty warriors roving around the capital.

A sinister laugh escaped Helen’s lips as she described, “Balthasar has a weak heart. He went to help his wounded people within

The Golden Eye Pack, not realizing he had left the capital vulnerable! Thank goodness Kieran is away. The king has less help now.”

King James’ men and her party had completely surrendered The Golden Eye Pack two days ago. After all, they had already

taken all their arms and wealth. However, before leaving Blaze's former pack, they punished some pack members for their betrayal against Blaze. Men or women, their hostages, were beaten to a pulp, unable to join Balthasar's upcoming battles. Luna Beatrice suffered the most, but her misery did not end there. Helen and Blaze still took Beatrice with them. as they had other plans for her.

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When King Balthasar named Helen, Blaze, and Caspian traitors, over half of the Golden Eye Pack surrendered pieces of

evidence against them and pledged loyalty to Luna Beatrice. The others became rogues and ran to different woodlands, only to seek their hideout upon Blaze's . directive.

The damage they had done to The Golden Eye Pack had forced King Balthasar to soothe his people. The king had also ordered most of his men to aid in healing the wounded.

Helen allowed King Balthasar's men to think they were heavily impaired, but it was only for show. Alpha Declan was so close to finding their location that Blaze had to create another plan, which involved giving up the entire territory of The Golden Eye Pack, even after retrieving Eswen's General.

Over a hundred of them managed to sl*p through the underground passages to Taplean. Half of their forces secured the Golden Eye Pack, while the others hid in the nearby territories within the coasts, waiting for the final fight.

With King Balthasar's relentless pursuit, they were now down to half their original heads. Thankfully, they still had Blaze's rogues. Adding them up, they were back to a hundred men, maybe more. She was unhappy with the number of Eswen warriors they had lost, but she knew it was bound to happen.

Sacrifices had to be made. The half-witch, Evilene, was also part of that sacrifice. Helen could care less if King Balthasar's men had already killed the witch. Evilene had served her purpose. Regardless if Evilene was unsuccessful in breaking up Alpha Kieran and his wife, the latter was out of Taplean, and as far as she had heard, he wasn't back. Only Beta Jaxon returned to the

nation.

The Skyline Tower residence had been Helen's refuge, along with King
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James' trusted men. The entire building itself was under an alias belonging to Helen-another one of the safety nets she had long planned.

Of course, Alpha Declan had searched the building. The building administrators were under her payroll. They had willingly shown the alpha around, including surveillance videos of whoever was coming in and out of the building. Sadly for Alpha Declan, the same residence tower also had its secret passages, leading to an underground shelter that now housed Blaze's rogues.

Technically, her mate, Blaze, was now the alpha of Taplean's rogues. Helen and her party had also masked their scents, so their stay was utterly undetectable. King Balthasar was unaware; they had been hiding in plain sight.

Just as Helen thought about how they had gone this far, her son, Caspian, walked into the balcony. He reported, "There are twenty guards at the back of the palace, thirty at the front. There are probably a few roaming within the palace. I have also gathered that King Balthasar is headed back for some reason."

Helen's true mate followed them into the balcony, as if on cue. Blaze asked, "What are your plans, My Love?"

Helen lifted her chin with a confident grin. She suggested, "This is the best time to infiltrate the palace. King Balthasar's royal guards must be tired, having aided and traveled from the Golden Eye Pack."

"We can ask Balthasar to surrender willingly. I'm sure he will resist, but he will always have a soft spot for the weak," Helen suggested. "He will come to their saving."

"What do you mean, Mother?" Caspian asked.

"Get Beatrice and take as many pups within the capital. We will exchange their lives for Balthasar's surrender," Helen proposed.

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"Good plan, Love," Blaze remarked.

Following her suggestion, Helen saw Caspian's eyes narrow. He growled, saying, "I want to feel his skin under my claws. He had taken my chance to be a king. He is going to pay for it!"

"Then, contact the rogues and give them orders. Prepare silver weapons and the wolfsbane too," Helen commanded her son. "We are going to need it."

King Balthasar

"What is the matter?" King Balthasar asked as soon as he walked into the palace halls.

"My King, we have parents who have reported their pups missing within the capital," one of his warriors revealed. "Some werewolves said they fell unconscious in their homes, and when they woke up, their pups were gone. Some were said to be missing from school grounds."

"What?! Send a few men to check it out," the king ordered. When he saw his warrior hesitate, he asked, "What's wrong?"

"We can barely cover the palace, Your Highness," the guard answered.

"The lives of the children are more important. Go! Besides, I can protect myself," King Balthasar answered. "Update me when you have answers. Awake me if you have to."

"Yes, My King," the warrior replied.

King Balthasar had just returned to the capital with six royal guards. They came from The Golden Eye Pack, ready to welcome Kieran and Alexia back in the morning.

He was beyond exhausted, and then he was faced with bad news upon

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his entry to the palace. As he went to his chambers, he mumbled, "This better not be the work of Helen or King James' men.

They would dare

not hurt innocent lives such as children."

Balthasar wanted to wait for the news, but his eyes betrayed him. He slept for a few hours until a loud knocking on the door disturbed his

rest.

"King Balthasar! The palace is under attack!"

"My King! We are under attack! About a hundred men have surrounded the palace!"

King Balthasar stood abruptly, his heart drumming against his ribcage. How unfortunate that this was happening now. Most of his

men are helping the Golden Eye Pack. Some are guarding the coasts, while some are still following leads of Helen's whereabouts.

"The former queen is at the gates, My King!"

When Balthasar went to the front of the palace, he saw the gates were already forced open. Many of his men were wounded.

They were still fighting it off. A good number of rogues were lifeless on the ground.

Even if his men were outnumbered, they still had a chance to prevail with their skills to consider. Unfortunately for the king, Helen called his attention.

"Resist, and I will kill Luna Beatrice and these poor children!" Helen suddenly appeared, dragging a little child at the front of the gate. The child was unconscious, appearing to have been drugged. The king could only think of wolfsbane.

Behind Helen, Luna Beatrice was being carried by Blaze. A few more rogues were bringing babies or toddlers in their arms, and most were crying their hearts out.

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Helen lengthened her claws. She grazed it on the child's neck, saying, "Their lives or yours. Choose Balthasar! Choose!"

"Arrggh!" She was about to cut the child's throat when Balthasar gave the order.

"Don't hurt the child! Don't hurt any of them!" Balthasar said. "I'll surrender!"

"Tell all your men to yield now!" Helen demanded.

"Surrender!" Caspian barked.

"Stand back!" Blaze commanded.

A low growl left Balthasar's lips. Before giving the order, he mindlinked with his men, 'Those inside the palace, find hiding. After my surrender, find a way to rescue these children and Luna Beatrice. We can retaliate after we have secured their lives. Find a way to contact Alpha Kieran.

Inform him of the situation.'

After communicating with his men, Balthasar sucked in a breath and gave the word, "Men, surrender!"

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N

King Balthasar ~

P

. “Arggggh! Aaahhh!” King Balthasar’s screams echoed loudly within his prison cell as his former wife repeatedly cut his arms with a silver blade. He gritted his teeth and was tempted to break free from his chains, seeing the son he had cared for, line up next to hurt him.

Caspian let out his claws and slashed them against Balthasar’s bare chest!

Balthasar screamed again, his fangs elongated while he was at it. The entire time, as he bore his torture, he thought of the young pups who were held captives somewhere in his home. He mindlinked to those who were free, hiding, ‘Find the children now! Free them!’

‘My King, we have found their location. They are kept in the medical room, but ten rogues and Eswen warriors are on guard. We are figuring out how to get them out safely since our enemies are spread everywhere, one of his guards replied. ‘So far, only Mike and I are together in this location.’

‘Your Highness, there are too many rogues from where I am hiding. I can’t leave unless it’s time to fight, one other warrior said, then a few more echoed the same. Apparently, there were about ten of his warriors still taking cover somewhere.

‘King Balthasar, I am in a safer place by the garbage area, one warrior who was one of his long-time guards said. His name was

Tyrone. ‘I was able to get my phone. I will contact Luna Alexia from here.’

‘Hurry! I don’t know how much longer I can take this!’ Balthasar revealed before another howl left his l*ps.

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It wasn’t like Balthasar to allow his enemies to hurt him. He was the

king, after all, but for the sake of the pups, he endured it all, hoping they would be set free by the time he lost his patience.

“How dare you take away what’s mine? And what is this I hear that you are planning to name Kieran the next king?” Caspian

barked. He yet again cut through Balthasar’s chest in anger. “I am the rightful king -”

“Which you could have had if you did not betray me!” Balthasar angrily shot back. “I had known you were not my son for a long time. I treated you like my own, and I was willing to name you king, but instead, you conspired with your mother to kill me – Ahhhh!”

“Shut up! Shut up!” Caspian said. “You never wanted me to be king! You give Kieran more tasks and me! You named him the hero of Taplean – you gave him more credit than me! He was like the son you never had!”

“All you saw was Kieran! Kieran this! Kieran that! You even arranged his marriage to a girl you thought was your daughter!”

Caspian yapped, and in the next few minutes, he inflicted pain on Balthasar. After some time, Caspian expressed, “I won’t kill you just yet. I want to see you in anguish day by day until I see regret in your eyes. Haha!”

Behind Caspian, Helen and Blaze were observing the entire time, delighting in his suffering. Helen approached Balthasar, saying, “This is just the beginning. We will slowly kill your warriors, those that are spread throughout Taplean. Later in the afternoon, more of your warriors will surely come into the gates and try to save you, but we will be ready for them.”

“By the time the rest of the packs in Taplean are aware of the situation here in the capital, more of King James’ warriors would have already arrived. Taplean will be defenseless by then,” Helen suggested.

“Watch me slowly take everything away from you, Balthasar! Soon, Taplean will be completely ours!”

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W

- Kieran~

“Alexia! Alexia!” Kieran’s eyes fluttered, hearing Queen Avery at the door.

“You and Kieran need to go to Taplean now. I feel something has happened to Balthasar!”

With the queen’s last words, Kieran stood up abruptly, and so did Alexia.

Kieran checked the time and realized it was still five in

the morning. They had agreed to go through the portal around nine, but plans were unexpectedly moving forward.

Kieran and his wife quickly changed. They walked over to Avery's office, where the space was private enough to make the portal.

As they marched, Alexia asked, "What did you mean by what you had said, Mother?"

"I had a dream about him getting hurt. I don't know why I had that dream, but it was so real in my head," Avery said while hastily taking her steps.

Kieran was beside Alexia. He was on the phone, trying to reach King Balthasar, but the line was dead. He called Ford, but the king's Beta also had no contact with the king. On the phone, Beta Ford revealed, "I have no contact with anyone in the palace. I am at the Golden Eye Pack. Let me contact a few friends within the capital instead."

Since King Balthasar was not answering, Kieran meant to initiate a message, but instead, he found a text from an unknown

number, one they had missed out on entirely. It read: [Luna Alexia. My name is Tyrone. I am one of the guards in the palace. I

remembered your number from when Beta Ford asked me to try and contact you weeks back. Taplean's palace is under siege.

I'm sorry I could not call you. I am afraid my location will be given away.

Helen, Blaze, and Caspian have King Balthasar. I could hear his cries from the underground

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prison. He was tortured for hours.]

Kieran gritted his teeth. He said, "F**k. Caspian, you ba stard!"

While Alexia and Avery waited to hear the news, Kieran communicated with the palace guard in Taplean. Thanks to the Moon

Goddess, Tyrone replied quickly.

Tyrone: [Children and Luna Beatrice were being taken as hostages. That was how King Balthasar ended up surrendering. We were all asked to yield, but some of us took cover.]

Tyrone: [I am at the garbage depository area at the back of the palace's underground. Some of my colleagues are trapped in other areas. They wanted to save the children first but could not determine where to take them without getting into a fight and risking their lives. Yes, this place is safe.

Why?]

“We must open the portal going through the main garbage area. It’s the safest place we know right now,” Kieran said before turning to his wife. “Maybe, you should remain here, my wife. I can’t take the risk of you being attacked. What if our child gets hurt -”

“I am not weak anymore, Kieran. I have shown you. I can protect myself and our child. No one can come near me,” Alexia insisted. “If anything has happened to the King, I want to help.”

Kieran shook his head as he hissed. Sure, he had seen his wife use her inherited ability, but he was still afraid Alexia and his pup would get hurt.

“Alexia is right, Kieran. She can protect herself and your pup. Believe me. I would be the first person to shield Alexia from harm, just like how I brought her here to Azenna. But now that she has learned what she needed to know, she can fight back,” Avery explained. “Take my daughter with you. She will do more help than trouble, I can assure you.”

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“Kieran, she is your true mate for a reason, and part of it is because she is strong enough to stand alongside you.” Tapping Kieran’s arm, Avery added, “You’ll see. You will witness my daughter fight for the first time. And don’t worry about my grandson, Alexia’s b*dy will protect him.”

Coming from Avery, Kieran felt slightly reassured. He gasped as he took his wife’s hand, suggesting he was now resolved with their plans. Next, Kieran contacted Jaxon and his gamas.

Jaxon was at the Golden Eye Pack with Beta Ford and Prince Reagan. He informed them of what was happening in the palace based on Tyrone’s report. He also contacted Sheena, who was with Alpha Baxter, manning the coasts.

It did not take long for Avery to open the portal. By the time she did, Beta Agatha was already with them. Alexia embraced her mother tightly as she bid goodbye. She said, “Mother, I don’t know when I’ll see you again, but I will miss you.”

Avery pulled away from Alexia. She caressed her cheeks, saying, “We will see each other.”

She turned to Agatha and directed, "Send at least thirty of our warriors to Taplean and help them with the war. The first thing that

they should do is to find Alexia."

"As you wish, My Queen," Beta Ford acknowledged, bowing her head.

Kieran locked eyes with Avery. She immediately knew the growing concern in his chest that she said, "It's time to go. I love you, Alexia.

Take care."

"I love you too, Mother. Be safe," Alexia said. She glanced at Beta Agatha, asking, "Look after your queen."

"I will," Beta Agatha confirmed.

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The spiraling light grew bigger in front of Kieran and Alexia. Kieran tightened her hold on Alexia's hand, "It's time, my wife. My people – our people need us. The king needs us."

After Kieran said goodbye to Queen Avery, he walked into the portal with his wife. Like the last, the light was blinding. He could not fathom how long he was in that void of white light, but soon, he sensed being in a dim room, and it smelled of filthy garbage.

"Alpha Kieran. Luna Alexia," a man called.

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Kieran

"Alpha Kieran, are you sure Luna Alexia is up for this?" Tyrone said, his eyes looking at his wife's belly.

While a tiny part of Kieran was still concerned about their plan, he told Tyrone, "Watch and be proud of your future queen. My wife can fight."

Kieran concluded Avery was right. The Moon Goddess must have fated him and Alexia for a reason. Alexia was now strong enough to be his mate and fight. She wasn't that delicate girl he met months back. He needed to accept that part of his wife now and use it to their advantage.

After almost two hours of careful planning and contacting warriors nearby, the three slowly made their way to the children's holding area. They met with two other Taplean guards discreetly lingering across the

same room.

The young pups were all kept in the medical room guarded by a mix of rogues and Eswen guards. Kieran and Alexia's party took cover in a narrow secret passage leading directly to the other wing. It was meant to speed up the warriors' tracks should they be under attack.

According to Tyrone, Helen nor Caspian did not lead the search for the other guards, so they were never found. Only those that lived in the castle knew the secret passages. The former queen and Caspian were too busy beating the king that the search was left in the hands of the rogues and Eswen warriors.

"Are you ready, my wife?" Kieran asked.

Alexia nodded, saying, "I can do this." She put her hands on his cheeks, saying, "I can do this."

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Kieran nodded his head, replying, "I trust that you can. Use your ability to the fullest."

Tyrone and the other warriors studied Alexia with apprehension, but Kieran ignored them. Alexia was the best person to do this job. The rogues will not consider her a threat. Moreover, they probably won't know her, especially the Eswen warriors.

Before letting Alexia leave, Kieran smudged her face with dirt they had brought along from the garbage depository area. Alexia purposely made a mess of her hair. When she was barely recognizable, Kieran allowed Alexia to walk out.

Alexia ~

"My baby! My baby, are you here?" Alexia called, pretending to cry.

The rogues guarding the medical room quickly saw her, but as Kieran suspected, they did not see her as a threat. She was a

pregnant young woman who looked vulnerable.

"Who are you? How did you get here?" One werewolf question. He marched toward Alexia and sniffed the life out of her. "You stink like garbage."

"I work here as a maid. I was hiding when I learned that my child was taken, and I was told my baby would be here! Did you take my baby?!" Alexia asked, her eyes darting at the medical room, and she rushed in.

“Wait! Wait!” Sure, they called after her, but clearly, they did not see her as someone who would cause a problem, for they did not use force upon her.

When she made it in, Alexia searched for a baby. When she saw one baby crying on the floor, she reached for it and claimed, “My baby!”

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“Please let me stay. Let me be your prisoner. I only want to care for my baby,” Alexia begged.

“Is that her child?” One rogued asked the other.

“How am I supposed to know! I did not take that baby, it was Mac, and he is still sleeping right now!” A woman said. She looked at Alexia and remarked, “What a slut. She has an infant, and now she is pregnant! Horny dogs!”

Ignoring the woman’s words, Alexia studied the number of children. About ten kids could run independently, and two babies and three other toddlers were crying their hearts out.

“These children are hungry! We need to feed them!” Alexia yelled.

The woman who was earlier watching the babies pointed to a table where food and milk were. She said, “Knock yourself out.”

The female rogue turned to her colleagues and said, “Let’s keep her there. I could use a break. Let’s just add her to the hostages, whoever she is.”

Alexia first fed the children with the very little available food. At least, it will get the young ones to trust her, especially the toddlers. As she did, she communicated with Kieran, speaking through her mind. Tyrone also mindlinked with the children, letting

them know they could trust Alexia and follow her lead.

Once the children were comforted, Alexia gathered all the kids closer to her. She asked two older youngsters to carry the other babies while holding one in her arm. She said, “Come here, kids. Don’t cry now. I’m here. I’ll take care of you. I’ll be your mother for now.”

The two rogues guarding inside eyed her. What appeared as an offer for solace was part of Alexia’s plan. The closer the pups were around her, the more she could protect them.

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“What are you doing, woman?” The rogue asked.

“They are scared. They just wanted a hug. Please don’t scare these children any more than you already have,” Alexia begged.

The rogue only hissed and warned, “Don’t try anything funny, lady. I could easily grab one boy and slit his throat! That will be in your hands!”

“I just want to comfort them, please,” Alexia swore.

When all the children hugged her tightly, she whispered, bowing her head to them, “Get ready. We are all going out. Do not lose sight of one another.”

The children nodded. Alexia saw the fear in their eyes, but she promised them, “I’ll take care of you.”

With her eyes on the door, she said under her breath, “Let’s go.”

Two steps in, the female rogue inside barked, “Step back, woman! I said step back!”

Alexia did not listen. She moved forward with the children, clinging around her.

“What are you planning, lady?” A male rogue questioned. Regardless, Alexia ignored him.

Raising a hand, the male rogue growled, “You little bitch. You are courting death – Ahhh!”

“Ahhh!” The female rogue also screamed.

With one thrust of Alexia’s hand, the two rogues were thrown into the air, their hands clutching their chests as they landed on the floor.

“I can’t breathe!”

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“What’s – what’s going – “The male rogue coughed, alerting those on guard outside.

More rogues and Eswen warriors came to reach for the children, but in each attempt, they flew in mid-air, their hands against their chests, appearing to have a heart attack!

The entire time, Alexia focused, recalling how she had trained her mother to use their unique ability. She primarily concentrated

on the pains of the children. Alexia felt their fears and ache, which fueled her energy.

The same situation continued for a few minutes until the rogues realized that Alexia was tossing their accomplices away with the mere wave of her hand.

“What is she? A witch? A Demon?” One rogue asked.

While the rogues on guard panicked, Alexia reminded the children, “Stay close to me, kids!”

The rogues could not get near Alexia. She reached where Kieran and the three guards were hiding, and only then did her husband reveal

himself to their adversaries.

Kieran screamed, “The children are with us. Palace guards, attack!”

As soon as Kieran declared the pups’ safety, two Taplean warriors lunged out of nowhere, attacking the rogues. Tyrone and another guard aided Alexia in directing the children through the secret passage.

Alexia watched as her husband joined the fight. She was nervous, but she knew Kieran was not an ordinary alpha. She mindlinked, ‘Be safe, my love.

‘I’ll be fine, Alexia. Take the children and keep them safe, Kieran said back, and the next thing Alexia heard was her husband’s loud growl. “I’ll

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bite your head off!”

Very soon, Alexia, Tyrone, and one other guard made it through the secret passage, but instead of the garbage area, they

walked to the palace’s lower floors until reaching the near-back entrance. From there, Tyrone said, “Over here. We can wait until the back gate has fewer rogues.”

He was pointing to what looked like a garden storage area. It was filled with garden soils and pots. The space was undersized, but it was much better than the garbage depository.

“Let me check the back gate first and see how many are on guard,” Tyrone said before leaving Alexia and the other guard.

After a few seconds, growls and howling erupted at the back gate.

Undoubtedly, Tyrone wound up getting into a fight. Alexia

knew it was bound to happen since the entire palace must have already been

alerted of how the children were taken.

Before she knew it, the door to the garden storage area swung open, and two rogues stood before them, seething.

"I knew I smelled more wolves in here!" One rogue snarled. "Trying to get away? You are all dead meat!"

The children cried their dread while the other warrior who helped Alexia stood before them, saying, "Let me protect you, Luna Alexia."

"No," Alexia said with conviction. "Stay with the children. Let me take care of these two."

While the rogues laughed at Alexia's claim, she purred in irritation. She pushed the children behind her, and when she was out the door, Alexia shifted into her colossal wolf!

Seeing her form, the rogues were taken aback. Their eyes widened, and

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their mouths hung open.

"W-win-winter-grey wolf! Help!"

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King Balthasar was out of it, having been beaten and wounded badly. Still, being an alpha king, his healing ability was also faster. Some of his cuts were still open, but he was no longer bleeding after a few

hours of rest.

Out of nowhere, Kieran's words echoed in his head, 'The children are with us. Palace guards, attack!'

As the king of Taplean, he could mindlink with everyb*dy within nearby reach, regardless of whose pack they belonged to. Thus,

he called to those in the capital, 'To those who can fight! Fight off our intruders. Let us not give them mercy for taking our children

hostage. Alpha Kieran has the children. We can already retaliate! Yes, Alpha Kieran has returned to Taplean!'

'We are ready to fight, My King!'

'Attack!'

'We have been waiting for your orders, King Balthasar! We have been on standby by the palace gates the whole time!'

Several of his people mindlinked back. After giving his orders, the king growled, pushing his arms forward and trying to break

free from his chains. His fangs lengthened as he expanded his b*dy, ready to shift!

Just as his b*dy changed, he caught sight of four of his palace guards fighting off the rogues outside his containment cell. Some of his men appeared to have gotten away from their own lockup. His warriors were still outnumbered, but they fought their hardest! Soon, King Balthasar broke through his chains. He commanded, "Get the keys, Gil! That brown-haired rogue has the key!"

Gil quickly lunged at the rogue who held the keys and threw the

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opponent's b*dy near Balthasar. The king reached for the unconscious enemy and secured the key.

Not too far, Balthasar could hear a struggle. Knowing he had to be on top of the battle, he swiftly opened the steel bars of his cell and shifted into his enormous wolf.

With his beastly frame and remarkable strength, he easily took down four adversaries. Some of their opponents carried a gun, obviously with silver ammunition, but with Balthasar's speed, he dodged the bullet. Two of his men were hit, but Kieran had long trained them to tolerate silver. It pained the warriors, but they still continued to fight.

King Balthasar and his men freed more of the palace guards who were locked up. Their numbers grew, strengthening their forces.

After clearing the prison, Balthasar searched for the upper floors, finding more rogues and Eswen warriors. The king was on a rampage, taking down the enemies one by one. Soon, he caught up with Kieran and saw his best alpha infuriated.

The king saw one of his men wounded and Kieran doing most of the work. Balthasar claimed, "We will win this fight, men! Your king is here, and so is your hero!"

"I have the healing potion, My King!" One other palace guard came out of nowhere. "I have kept all the potions with me the whole time. I was afraid that our enemies would take it."

Balthasar could not be more proud of his men's initiatives. He appointed tasks to those who were able, assigning the distribution of the healing potion while identifying those who could resume fighting.

'We have taken over the back gate!' Another mindlink came through. 'King Balthasar, we have arrived!' Beta Ford communicated in his mind. 'We are coming for you, My King!'

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Boosted by the fact that his warriors had come to take back the palace, Balthasar fought with Kieran. As he did, he continued to receive more and more information from his people.

'We have secured the children! Luna Alexia had protected them all!'

'Take them away! Keep them away from all this fighting!' Balthasar commanded.

From one group of enemies to another, Kieran and King Balthasar moved on, until they came face to face with the trio they despised the most.

Nearly at the palace's main entrance, the two met with Caspian, Helen, and Blaze. It appeared to Balthasar that the family of three was

attempting to escape.

The gate was already open, and another ongoing fight between their enemies and residents of the capital could distinctly be seen.

"Leaving the party already?" Kieran yapped.

Caspian howled, saying, "Kieran! How was it that you are back?" Narrowing his eyes, he concluded, "So it was you who ruined

our plans! No wonder Taplean's warriors are so bold all of a sudden!"

The former prince raised his hand and revealed a gun, but Kieran threw dirt into Caspian's eyes. Kieran said, "Remember this?"

After blinding Caspian, Kieran lunged at the former prince. He bit on the gun and threw it far from Caspian's reach.

Blaze also had a gun. He shot at Kieran and hit his leg, but it was not enough to put Kieran down. After disarming Caspian,

Kieran chased after Blaze. Kieran barked, "Fool, silver will have little effect on me! Why don't we try it on you, Blaze!"

While all this was happening, Caspian got up, and it was the king's cue

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to teach him a lesson. He bit his so-called son on the leg before Caspian

could even shift!

At that point, Kieran was fighting Blaze, and Balthasar was putting Caspian in his place. As he gave back the same injuries the former prince inflicted on him, he barked, "You are not worthy to be a king. No king would use the lives of the innocent!"

"You think you are winning? Hundreds of King James' men are coming as we speak! Even if you take back the palace, you will still fall!" Caspian proclaimed.

"I think!" Balthasar growled. "That with the three of you gone, we have better chances of winning the war!"

From where Balthasar was pinning Caspian down, he could see Helen conflicted. She looked at Blaze and then back to Caspian as if she could not decide who to help next.

What surprised Balthasar was Helen's unmistakable decision. She turned around, clearly attempting to make an escape! In the end, she chose to save herself. Her b*dy was inflating and was about to shift. However, before Helen could leave, a huge winter-grey wolf jumped in front of her.

Helen stilled and asked, "Avery?"

Alexia

"Avery?" Helen called.

Alexia was puzzled how the former queen thought she was her mother. Then, she remembered how all her clans had the same coat. She was also the same size as her mother's wolf.

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Alexia growled. She answered, "No, I am Alexia! Kieran's wife!"

She saw the shock in Helen's eyes. Alexia swore; Helen's l*ps trembled at the sight of her. However, she could not blame Helen because Alexia was bigger than her in her wolf form.

"You -you've already shifted?" Helen asked, her brows meeting.

Alexia thought Helen was still taken aback, but in a split second, the former queen was charging at her.

With just one growl from Aelxia, Helen was sent flying into the air. Alexia said, "That's for setting up my husband! Letting us leave our home and the pack Kieran values!"

Behind Alexia, she could feel the tension between rogues and Eswen warriors. She turned to them while Helen was still getting

up on her feet and saw the hesitation in their eyes. Some were fighting the capital's citizens, but quite a few had their mouths open, utterly stupefied. Alexia inwardly smirked, knowing that every werewolf clan feared winter-grey wolves for their strength. "Wi -winter-wintery-grey wolf?"

"They really exist?"

"Cowards! Attack her now!" Helen ordered.

'Don't you let those wolves touch a single hair on your b*dy, wife!' Kieran called, and Alexia did as he requested.

Concentrating on her ability, Alexia used the pains of her past to hurl up a force within her. When the attacking wolves came within two meters of her, she screamed loudly. The same enemies either flew up in the air or descended on their knees, heaving as if losing all the air in their lungs.

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While Alexia was prevailing, she ignored she had a blind side. Helen had jumped at her, forcing her to roll to the ground. The former queen managed to bite on her back. Still, Alexia got up on her fours and swung Helen around until the latter loosened her hold on Alexia. "Arrgghh!" Alexia cried her pain, but that agony further fueled her energy.

"What are you waiting for? Attack her!" Helen summoned the rogues. Kieran and the king were still at it, fighting Caspian and Blaze. Thus, Alexia knew she had to deal with such an unfair number,

looking at Helen and the adversaries before her.

Alexia sucked in a breath. She did not cower. She dug her claws against the earth, ready to unleash every bit of her strength.

When about ten rogues assailed at once, Alexia growled with all her might.

One by one, her attackers went down on their knees, losing their breath.

How the enemies clearly fell made a statement, and only then did the rogues and Eswen warriors realize Alexia's power.

"This must be the strength of the winter-grey wolves!" One said in fear, resulting in the others retreating.

Suddenly, more cries echoed from the back. When Alexia looked up, she saw Alpha Baxter and his men. Sheena was there too,

fighting in

her wolf form.

'Luna Alexia? Is that you?' Sheena asked.

'Yes, Sheena. It's me!' Alexia answered.

'We have your back, our Luna!' Sheena guaranteed.

Now that the numbers were evened, Alexia focused on Helen. She turned her gaze at the power-hungry woman who was the cause of all of Taplean's recent anguish. Alexia told Helen, "Be ready to face the

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consequences of everything you have done!"

Alexia was about to strike, but her vision suddenly blurred. Her speed became restricted, and the next thing she knew, she fell to the ground. After a few seconds, she saw nothing but black.