

## **D Desires 101**

### Chapter 101

#### 101 Glad You Are Home

Caleb.

Luke was finally back. I wanted to go look for him in Santa Braee, but when my father dropped the bomb of leading the pack on me, I knew there was no way I would be able to make it there. Things were falling apart tremendously, and I did not know what would happen if Luke did not return with a glimmer of hope.

I knew Tia wasn't handling it well, and the pregnancy made her hormonal. Usually, she was good at masking her emotions, but she was now the opposite. I knew Luke broke her defences, the same defences she put up because of my stupidity, but I did not expect him to make her completely open. Though I still reminisced about what could have been between us, I accepted that it wasn't meant to be. I meant what I told Tia at the lake, but now I had more. I had Kimberly and Emma; they both meant the world to me. I knew I would never feel for Kim like I did for Tia, but the goddess had decided our paths. Looking at her and Luke. They were best for each other, so I have come to love her as a sister and cheer for her relationship with my brother.

Tia brought light into our dark family and repaired the bond between my brother and me. Luke laughed more often and became more outgoing and patient than he used to be. Seeing his effort and sincerity made me back off. That was why when she started to hurt because she hadn't heard from him, I decided I would go to Santa Braee to look for him. I knew if I didn't, Tia would be stubborn enough to try to go. I got a call that an unauthorised private jet had landed at the airport. I rushed there immediately with soldiers. It was either my brother and his team or an intruder. I had to prepare myself for either. Kirk was the first to inform me it was Luke. My heart soared immediately. I was glad he was back and would not have to lead the pack. The job of being Alpha sucked. I did not envy my brother at all.

I went to welcome Luke. If I did not know them, I wouldn't have recognised them. Mike had no afro anymore, Wiley, who was one year my junior, had dreads, and Katherin looked like an ordinary girl. It was funny. Luke's blonde hair and crooked nose threw me off completely. He smiled at me, and I knew

my brother was okay. I had to compose and control myself. I noticed they brought two people. A woman and a man that looked like a prisoner.

“Caleb!” my brother called out to me, and I ran to him. I looked at him with so much relief, and he knew what I was feeling at that moment. He grabbed my head and rested his forehead against mine, patting the side of my face. I thought we had lost him, but here he was, strong and in charge.

“How is my wife, Caleb,” he asked after he released me, and I began to laugh. Raising my hand, I shook my head.

“I did not make any passes at her,” I said jokingly, and we began to laugh.

“Who are the new people with you?” I asked him, and he turned to look at how his prisoners were being handled.

“The girl is free. Her name is Bianca Ash. A call girl from Dome. Please make sure she gets treated and then send her home,” he said, and I raised my eyebrow a bit defensive for Tia’s sake. Understanding what I meant, he shook his head immediately.

“I will never cheat on Tia,” he said, and I relaxed a bit.

“What about the guy?” I asked, and his face squeezed up.

! Her pimp and the bastard that tried to kill us. He is working for Luis Moon and was trying to carry out orders given to him by killing us. I tricked him with money and killed his team. He works for us now. I do not trust him, so make sure whatever you learn from him checks out.” he said to me, and he sounded like the Luke I knew, never trusting anyone.

Mike approached us, and Luke frowned.

“Where is the prisoner?” He asked Mike and Mike smiled. “In Kirk’s care. Kirk is trustworthy. He won’t double-cross us.” Mike explained, and Luke nodded.

“I really don’t trust anybody right now. That bastard has moles everywhere.” Luke said, and we were silent because he was telling the truth. Besides Kirk and Tia, I did not know who else to trust.

“May I go home to Tasha?” Mike asked, and Luke nodded. I could understand Mike. He was a newlywed that went on three weeks of a covert mission where he could not communicate with her. I also knew she was pregnant. It was only fair Luke let him go because I knew Luke was going straight home to Tia and might spend the whole day tomorrow with her indoors.

Luke nodded, giving Mike the go-ahead. Mike thanked him and left, and so did Wiley and Kathrine.

“How is, father?” Luke asked, and I sighed, not knowing how I would tell him that our father never left the hospital and that he remained there. If my mother thought my father did not love her, she was wrong, but I doubt he can be with her now, knowing she has always been someone else’s. As long as Regan is alive, their union is null and void. “Your mother?” Luke asked, and I bowed my head. “The doctors have asked the father to pull the plug, but he refuses. He believes she will wake up. For someone that claimed he could not feel the mate bond, he seems to really believe she will wake up.” I said, trying to mask my emotions. Luke patted my back gently, but I knew he did not have the words to say to me, and I did not want to put him in a condition where he would say anything. “Come on, big brother, it is time to go home,” I said, and we headed towards the parking lot. While we walked, Luke told me about his ordeal in Santa Braee and how they were made. Apparently, Luis set traps for them, and they fell right into them. The goddess must be on his side for him to think of the lie he told Justin and his gang. Luke was lucky indeed. If Justin’s gang had buried a bullet in his head. Our family wouldn’t have been able to recover from losing him. I was grateful for his return.

We got to the black sedan I had driven in to get there, and Luke and I hopped in. Fastening my seatbelt and adjusting my rearview mirror. I decided to find out about his discoveries. “Did you find anything out about Regan,” I asked and started the ignition? 1 “Matter of fact, I did,” Luke said with joy, and I somehow knew we had gotten the break we deserved.

“I have a picture of him. I also know that he is in Woodclaw. I do not know where precisely,

but I know he is here preparing for war.” he said, and I was elated about him having the guy’s identity. No matter his disguise, I am sure we will still be able to take him out in a crowd.

It was logical that Luis would want war. He had taken most of our military support. Luke did not know that yet, but I wasn’t going to tell him the night he returned. I did not even tell Tia. Which was why I was worried when we were going to the hospital. Luis has also ruined us financially, which was why we lost the Military support because we could no longer pay up. We also had revolting pack members because of the suspension of Diamond corp’s operations. Everything was a mess. I did not want to tell him about it. I wanted him to get home and be with his wife, and then I would break the news to him when I knew he was happy and satiated.

“So, what are we going to do about it?” I asked him.

“Prepare for war, of course,” He said and sighed, and I knew he did not realise the magnitude of the change. I had warned Kirk not to say anything because I wanted to be the one to break the news to Luke.

“Justin has a guy. I have instructed Mikey to make sure they pick the guy up. They will lead us to Luis’s underground pack. We will strike there first to force him out to the open. I want this over with so we can

move on with our lives. I should be training, picking baby names and playing house with Tia right now. Instead, I am taking secret missions and risking my life.” He retorted, and I knew there was no way Luke would spare Luis when he saw him. The man had caused a lot of damage.

We continued the journey to the mansion with Luke telling me in detail what went on in Santa Braee and how the hotel tried to make him disappear. They were all on Luis’s payroll, and the thought that most of that money was money that Westcorp might have stolen from us, along with money the hackers took, made it even more annoying. I was shocked to learn about the reasons for the attacks on our arsenals back then. It was to know if we had weapons for war. Unfortunately, our many years of peace had made us careless in that regard, and most of the arsenals were empty. If we survived this, Luke promised to never slip up as our father did again. “How did Tia handle my absence?” He finally asked the question I knew he had meant to ask.

“The first week was okay. She occupied herself with pack issues. She went to the headquarters often and visited the hospital when she could. By the second week, she became apprehensive and scared.

She tried to hide it, but I could see through it. She looked worried and scared and kept asking Kirk if he had heard from you. The third week was the worst. She went about in your clothes, Luke. She did not bother to take care of her appearance. She would often sit long hours in your office waiting for you to communicate with Kirk. It was terrible; I felt the same too. I was worried. I had planned to go and look for you in Santa Braee. Father knew Tia wasn’t faring well, and her bump was showing. He was afraid something had happened to you and did not want her to suffer a miscarriage, so he convinced me to take over pending your return. Overall, she did a good job as Luna. She handled welfare and security efficiently. I thi Luna’s should be trained subsequently,” I explained everything to him in a nutshell, and he was silent.

"I suspect Tia was planning to go to Santa Braee because she asked for the flight schedule there. I situated people at the airport this morning so they would intercept her if she tried to leave the island. I am glad you are home, big brother, and I am happy about your wealth of information. It will really help us." I told him. "Me too, Caleb. I am glad I was able to return." He said, and I continued to drive until we got

to the mansion.

Still living on the left wing with Kimberly, Luke and I went into the mansion. It was late at night, and I knew Tia would be asleep. I told him to ensure he got rid of the crooked nose before waking her up, and he smiled. We parted ways when we got to where his room was. I continued to my room. I was about to enter my bedroom when I heard Tia scream. I practically began to laugh. The moment I entered the room. Emma started crying, and I went to her crib to calm her down. I looked at Kimberly, who was trying to wake up too. Holding my daughter in my arms, seeing Kimberly made me grateful for the blessings the goddess bestowed upon me even though I did not deserve it because I was shitty to both of them.

## Chapter 102

102 The Talk Caleb I woke up early in the morning and discussed some things with Luke via the mind link. After the discussion, I got ready to go to the hospital. I did not tell Luke about the state of the military. He wasn't going to leave the house that day, so I decided I would allow him a few hours to enjoy his peace of mind with Tia before dropping the bomb about the state of our military. While I was getting ready to head out, Kimberly frowned at me. "Did your brother not just return?" she asked me, thinking I was off to perform Alpha duties. For a woman that wanted to be Luna, by all means, she did not seem to like the whole Alpha thing. I began to laugh. I shook my head and arranged the collar of my shirt, looking at her.

"No, Baby. I am not resuming as Alpha. I promised father I would spend some time with him at the hospital today, and I want to give him a piece of uplifting news about Luke's return. His soul needs it." I said, and she smiled at me. She went to check Emma in the crib and then walked to me to kiss me on the cheek.

"Thank goddess, your brother is back; Tia will return to being her old self. I really miss her. I had to start hanging with my mother because I did not want to be in her space." Kimberly confessed, and I laughed. I grabbed her close and kissed her. Taking in her scent, I kissed her neck where my mark should be resting, and she moaned. "Marry him. I want us to be a proper family." I pleaded with her just as I do every morning, hoping that she would say yes and we could move forward one day. She moved away from me. i

“You promised you won’t trouble me about this, Caleb,” she said. I zipped my lips with my finger, and the gesture made her laugh. I kissed her and left the room.

I got to the hospital in a rush. There was a peaceful protest along the road leading to the mansion and in the city’s heart, making it hard to manoeuvre. People were carrying plaque cards with all sorts of terrible things written on them. They lamented how we do not care for them and want them to starve to death. Some requested Luke to address them after they had been told he was kidnapped. People were just

unreasonable. This event was long overdue. Woodclaw city was broke; they depended on Eastwood. While I looked at their angry, demanding faces, I was disgusted and angry. The Moons risked their lives times without number to make sure they were happy and safe, yet this was how they decided to pay us. By protesting and making us out to be monsters.

My father sat on the couch in my mother’s hospital room, reading a book. I now knew where Luke got his dedication from. He obviously got it from my father. My father looked up at me and smiled, then looked at my mother.

“How are you?” he asked me, and I nodded. I went to sit next to him and looked at my mother. I knew better than to ask if there was any improvement. I knew that would be insensitive of me to ask, and I did not want to do something that would be insensitive. My mother lay quietly there as if she did not have a care. She looked clean and cared for, but she had lost the little weight she had on, and I wondered when my father would accept her fate and pull the plug. He keeps saying wolves can’t die like this, but he forgets she had silver in her system.

“If only she was this peaceful when she was awake,” my father said, and I smiled and looked at

her.

“If she was peaceful at all,” I corrected, and we both chuckled. “I know I sound like a crazy man, but I want her to wake up. I know if I hold on long enough, the goddess will wake her up,” he said, and I looked at him. His eyes were red, and I knew he lingered there not out of love but because he wanted closure. He wanted her to wake up and tell him all that Monica said was not true. He wanted her to explain why she lied to him and deceived him. He wanted to understand why and I could not blame him for it. The things Monica had said were shocking to anyone. Being married to another man’s wife unknowingly is wrong. I hoped she would wake up and answer all the questions swimming in his mind. My father needed closure, and the only person that could give that to him was my mother.

“Luke is home,” I said, and his expression was shocked and relieved. He deserved some good news. His face lit up immediately, and he was so happy. “When did he return?” he finally asked.

“Late last night. He seized a private jet. They also came with a prisoner who has revealed Luis Moon’s identity and can help trace out their underground pack.” I said, and my father was elated. He could not hide the relief and gratitude he was feeling. We had hunted this bastard blindly, and now we have a break. I understood his joy. “That must have been difficult for him to accomplish,” he said, and I sighed. “Father, I need to tell you something,” I said, deciding to open up about our military to him. He was in shock by the time I was through.

“What do we do, Caleb? Does Luke know?” he asked, and I shook my head.

“Does Tia know?” he asked, and I shook my head.

“We need to think of something to do fast. I know the money is gone, but we cannot afford to lose our military support.” my father pointed out and sighed.

“I know, father, but we only have Woodclaw city, Eastwood, Neev, Bravadome, Rain city and Garland. The rest have pulled out due to rumours, lack of funds and underfunding. It occurred within these three weeks,” I said, and my father ran his fingers through his hair.

“Why underfund them?” He asked, and I sighed.

“We needed to buy weapons to prepare for any surprise from Luis,” I said, and he began to laugh from frustration.

“You will need people to carry those weapons and use them against our enemy,” he said and looked at me.

“Now that your brother is back, I think you should discuss regaining the military support with him. I am sure the two of you will come up with something innovative.” He said, and I nodded.

“How are Kimberly and your daughter?” he asked me, and I told him they were fine.

“Push for the marriage some more.” He advised me, and I smiled.

We sat in the hospital room in silence. Soon I got up to leave. He did not stop me, but his mood seemed a bit better now that he knew Luke was back and he was alive and well.

“Will you be coming back in the evening?” he asked, and I nodded.

“I think you should go home and get some rest, father,” I told him and shook his head.

“Now that I suspect someone tried to kill her to cover up, I cannot leave so they can finish what they started, and that brat is long gone,” he said, referring to Monica, and I sighed. It was low of Monica to leave the way she did. Even if she wasn’t being treated well, she owed it to her mother to remain by her side until they finally pulled the plug, but she just ran away.

My father cleared his throat and looked at me. It was apparent he wanted to say something that had pondered on his mind for a while now.

“Did you ever suspect that maybe Monica was lying?” he asked. I wondered why Monica would lie about something of that magnitude. I knew my father’s mind and heart were still trying to process it, and the possibility it was a lie made it bearable.

“I guess we will never know until she wakes up,” I told my father, and he sighed. He was obviously worried about Monica’s revelation,

“I will return in the evening.

“I promised him and left. Kimberly had told me she would be staying over with her parents, so I did not need to rush back home. On the other hand, Luke told me he won’t be going anywhere, and I heard the



two of them going at it when I passed their room. There was nothing to do at home, so I knew I would definitely return.

I went straight to the headquarters to be sure they secured the prisoner. He was our wild card. Getting to the headquarters, Kirk met me at the door just as he had met Tia and me every day until four days ago when Tia decided to stay home and leave all the work to me. I did not blame her because I knew she was not in the right frame of mind to make certain decisions. Luke's return will put her at her best. "What have we learned from the prisoner," I asked Kirk.

"I do not trust him because he answered all our questions with ease, but following what he says, he claims Luis Moon's pack is based in Tetra, a small settlement not too far from Cleeve. It isn't really a big place," Kirk explained, and I sighed.

I planned on discussing this further with Luke and Tia, so we will know what to do next. Tia had mapped out a good defence plan; it was time to see if we could flip it into offence. Destabilising his pack would not neutralise the threat because I knew he was gaining momentum, but it was an excellent place to start. Once he knows we are on to him, he would make mistakes trying to fade back into the shadows. When people overthink, they end up making mistakes. I intended to count on him being extra careful so he would make mistakes that would help us catch him. He had plagued my family long enough. I was also searching for Regan. I wasn't sure if my mother was poisoned or not, but threatening me and my daughter was going too far. I plan on killing him most painfully for even thinking it. The moment I finished at the headquarters. I headed back to the hospital. I missed Kim and Emma, and the thought of them not spending the night at the mansion made me decide to stay over at the hospital. Tia and Luke needed privacy because there was a lot of work to do once they stepped out of their room. My father was eating on the couch when I arrived, and to my surprise, he kept food for me. I used to think my father did not love me until now. He had a peculiar way of showing he cared, but he did. He cares for me deeply. I now understood his ways and had to commend him for it. It wasn't easy being strict and loving at the same time. Finding that balance was always close

to impossible, making him appear mean most of the time. "Thank you," I said, sitting next to him and taking the food from him.

"Had a rough day?" He asked, and I nodded, then sighed. Opening the food, I asked him where it came from, and he began to laugh. "Anywhere but the mansion," he said, and we laughed. Two poisonings in the same place was no joke. I wasn't taking any chances. "How is Luke?" He asked, and I smiled at my father. "Indoors with his wife?" I said, and my father laughed. "Who would have thought Luke would fall completely for that girl. Their relationship really surprised me." My father said, and the thought was mutual. "Father," I asked him, and he looked at me, "you could have assumed the Alpha position in the meantime; why did you ask me to step up?" I asked, and he laughed and tussled my hair the way he

used to when I was a child. "It is not often you prepare a jet for transport, Caleb. Luke might do it, but not you. You like hanging around." he said, and my eyes widened at the realisation. "I knew you were planning to go and look for your brother, and I suspected Tia too. So I bumped you up and told the mansion security not to let her out if she tried to leave. I do not know what happened to your brother, but I could not lose you and Tia. It would have been too much for my soul to bear." he said, and I smiled at him. He looked at my mother where she lay, and I knew his heart was broken. "Have you decided?" I asked him, and he sighed. "Still thinking about it. I want to catch that bastard before I let her go," he said, and I knew he was pained to his soul. It was hard to believe, but he loved her. "I am running an investigation to find the bastard," he said, and I was doing the same too but kept it to myself.

It wasn't long after our discussion that my mother gasped for air. She was awake.

Chapter 103

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Luke.

Tia and I remained indoors the entire day. I told her about everything that happened at Santa Braee, and it sounded funny now. It wasn't funny when it happened, but now that I was home with my wife, we could laugh about it. I was surprised to learn of the protests. The truth was Woodclaw had been broke for a while, with a low productivity rate. Eastwood's exports were what kept their jobs. I intended to do a major reform and run a more transparent leadership so the pack members would no longer be in the dark about things. Right now, the most important thing was dealing with Luis.

My father linked me in the morning, which made me realise he was home. Caleb told me he stayed permanently at the hospital, so I was surprised to hear him in my mind.

"Luke," he said.

"Good morning, father," I said.

"I am glad you are home. I heard the good news from Caleb," he said, and I was silent. "I want you and Tia to meet me in my bedroom. Caleb is already there," he said, and I wondered why my father would want me in his bedroom. We were never allowed to go there. I had only been in there once, and that was recently when He got angry during breakfast because I implied he killed my mother.

Tia woke up and went straight to the bathroom to brush her teeth. She looked energised for the day, and I could feel her joy. She returned from the restroom and kissed me gently on the lips. I growled at her, and she giggled sweetly. It was good to be home.

“Good morning, Darling,” She said to me, and I pulled her back to the. Bed and tickled her in response to her greeting. She laughed so much. I then led her to the shower, and we took our bath. We did not make love because we had done much of that the day before. I guess both of us could not wait to follow up on

the leads we had. When my father was Alpha, he had banned Tia from getting involved with military affairs, but now she was Luna. She had also been managing the pack in my absence; it was only normal to carry her along. We needed people like her and Kirk on our team if we were going to win this. I did not care about what my father said; as long as Tia was not putting herself and our baby in danger, it was fine. Besides, there was nothing more for her to do, and I hated leaving her idly in the house.

“Father wants us to join him in his bedroom,” I told her, and she looked at me in shock.

“Your father is home?” she asked, and I nodded.

“I can’t believe it, Luke. He wouldn’t budge from that hospital. I became worried about his mental health. I am so happy right now that he had the heart to leave that hospital room.” she said, and as if something hit her, she gasped wide-eyed and stared at me. I turned off the water immediately. “What is it, Tia?” I asked her, and she looked worried.

“Maybe he finally pulled the plug, Luke,” she said, and it hit me. Was that why he wanted us in his room? Caleb was there too, but if that was the case, he wouldn’t ask me to come with Tia. We left the shower and got dressed in a hurry. While we walked towards the right-wing,

questions reeled on my mind. What must have happened, and why the sudden meeting?” I picked a whiff of hospital scent when we got to the bedroom door and walked in. To my surprise, Stacy sat on the bed, looking frail. Caleb sat beside her holding her hand.

“Shh,” my father said with a finger on his lips. He did not want me to speak to her yet.

“She is confused,” he linked me.

“Caleb..” She managed, and Caleb squeezed her hand that he was already holding.

“I am here, mother. I am with you,” he assured her, and she smiled. She looked frail.

“What did the doctor say?” I asked my father.

. “They say she is healed but a bit disoriented. They said I should give her twenty–four hours to

regain her senses fully, but she recognises everyone.” He told me, and I looked at him. “Did she tell you what happened?” I asked my father, and he shook his head. “I do not think it is wise to ask her now. I want her to fully gain her senses before I ask her anything.” He explained to me, and I nodded.

Caleb laid her to rest on the bed, and I noticed that my mother’s pictures were no longer on the wall. It also looked like he had done it recently.

“Would have sent her to her room, but I need to get to the bottom of the poisoning and what Monica told us,” my father linked me, and I nodded.

“I just wanted everyone to see her and know she is okay. The three of you can go and handle pack matters now. Time is of the essence,” he said.

I left with Tia, and we decided to eat breakfast at a restaurant. With all that I had heard about poisoning at the mansion, I doubted if I wanted to eat in that mansion with the unknown culprit free. Caleb joined us outside the mansion, and we drove to a restaurant. The protest on the road was much, and the people were getting on my nerves. I intend to address them as soon as possible.

After breakfast, we headed to the headquarters, and I could see Tia’s excitement. Caleb told me all he had learned from Justin, and we intend to act on it. As we walked toward my office, I discussed the matter with Caleb and Tia. Mike and Kirk were not around, so we had to make do.

“We need to launch a full assault on Tetra. None of them must escape. Luis needs to know we are on to him. We need to take the heat to his doorstep.” I said to Caleb, and he nodded, but I felt uneasy about something. So I waited until the three of us were in my office before I decided to ask him.

Tia lay on the three-sitter couch while Caleb sat on the chair opposite mine at my desk.

“Spill,” I told my brother, and he looked at me. A bit uneasy. “I kept this from Tia, so don’t be mad at her for not being vigilant. She was dealing with a lot, and I did not want her to panic,” He said to me, and I knew whatever the problem might be, it must be serious.

“We have lost most of our military support Luke. We have only six territories that have remained unmoved.” He said to me, and I exclaimed.

“What happened?” I asked my brother.

“We could no longer offer to pay up, and while we did not pay the full requested sum to some, we outrightly did not pay others,” he explained, and I noticed that Tia took the news calmly. “Those people are traitors, all of them,” she said, and I did not know how she would take this likely. We had a war brewing.

“Why aren’t you surprised, Tia?” Caleb asked her what I was about to ask.

“Because I already knew,” she said, and I wondered when she planned on telling me.

“Why didn’t you tell me?” I asked her, and she shrugged.

“I didn’t think much of it. In fact, I saw it as an advantage. It meant fewer wolves to equip and fewer territories to protect.” she said, and I could not see things her way.

She sat up on the couch and sighed.

“No matter the might they come with, superior weapons would give us an edge. Who needs wolves when we have weapons. Kirk is procuring the latest weapons for our military. Luis stole money from us, but he isn’t still as rich as we are. The peanut he used to sway them would be the death of them. Why waste the money on them when we can spend it on weapons. Luis does not have the financial capacity to equip them the way we will equip ourselves, and most of those territories are poor. That was why he kept

attacking the areas where our arsenals were situated. It wasn’t only to know if we were equipped for war. It was also to steal weapons to help them prepare for war. Unfortunately for them, Alpha Aesop did not deem it necessary to store weapons. For once, his nonchalance worked in our favour without us even knowing it. They are likely to depend on number and muscles. We have the muscles, finances and weapons to win the war. The size of our military should be the least of our concerns. Right now, we should plan on taking over Tetra and forcing Luis out within three days.” She said, and I was stunned.

Tia would have been an incredible asset if she had been in the military. Still, as a luna involved with Military matters, it was a winning situation.

“Why do you want us to complete this task within three days?” Caleb asked her, and she stood up from the couch and began to pace.

“We do not know Luis’s movements or the people working for him. If he returns to Santa Braee and finds out what happened there, he will likely re-strategise, and we will return to where we started. We must attack that place tomorrow and go there ourselves and lead the assault.” She said, and I understood her point, but there was no way I was letting her go and lead an assault, pregnant or not. I did not want a situation where I would be distracted with my heart in my mouth. “What you say is valid, Tia, and I think three days is too long a time to do that. Also, there is no way I will let you come along. I said you could get involved with Military matters quite alright, but I meant as a consultant and strategist. There is no way you will be engaging in combat, my darling wife. Especially when you are carrying our baby.” I said to her, and she pouted her lips, angry at the systematic way I had said no to her.

“Yes, Tia. I will need you here to hold things down while we bring Petra to its knees tomorrow. “I told her, and she reluctantly nodded. There was no use arguing with me, and she knew it. There was no way I intended to allow her to risk her life and that of my child for the pack.

“So, what do you intend to do in Tetra?” Caleb finally asked me, and I smiled.

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'I intend to do what they did at the village in Eastwood. Wipe all of them out and maybe take a prisoner or two, pending their use.'" I said, and Caleb was okay with it.

Protecting ourselves from Luis and the constant rollercoaster we have had to endure has hardened our hearts. Usually, we would just seek Luis out to kill him, but right now, anyone in league with him was just as guilty as he was, and I did not intend to show mercy to anyone. The bastard had done enough damage.

"Are you doing to address the people?" Tia finally asked me, and I requested that Caleb should organise a press conference. I know they had said I was kidnapped. I would have to explain the situation to the people and make sure whatever I say adds up. Caleb organised the press conference together quickly, and I was eager to get it over with. I did not need to write anything down because I would be speaking from the heart. I would give my speech and then take questions. We got to the conference room, and I was surprised at the turnout of the media. They had only received the invite an hour and thirty minutes ago. It was almost as if they were lurking about the headquarters. The room could not fit most of them, so Caleb had selected a few and left the less relevant ones outside.

As soon as everything was set, I looked at the camera and began to speak. "I am glad to have finally returned home after a life-threatening ordeal. I want to thank my Luna for keeping things under control while I was away and my Beta and Delta for making her work easy. I have heard your plights, and I understand your pain. Sadly, Diamond corp had to suspend its operation. Still, I promise you that operations will be up and running once the threat has been neutralised. Woodclaw is currently suffering from terrorism, and we are still unable to figure out how to catch this group. Some packs and territories have joined up with them and are making resolving the issue harder than it should be. I assure you that we will not rest until the order is returned and there is peace again. I implore you to bear with us and allow us to do our jobs. Unlike your former Alpha, my tenure would be more transparent and accountable. Thank you for understanding." I said and started answering the question. I answered about fifteen questions before excusing myself from the conference room.

I did not know if that would work, but that was the best I could give them at the moment because I did not want Luis to realise we were on to him. I called Mike on the phone and told him to prepare for the assault against Tetra. As things were looking, we would go to the place at night. The assault will start in the afternoon when the people are up and about. They will least expect an attack at that time, leaving them vulnerable. My plan was to eradicate the place. Luis needed to know that the tables were turning in our favour.

Chapter 104

## 104. 104. Stacy And Regan

Tia.

Caleb was surprised that I knew what he was trying to keep from me. I knew we had lost our might. I was counting on it, so I decided to put the money into procuring weaponry instead of funding the military. The region that had stayed with us had remained even though we did not give them money. Clearly, their loyalty was absolute, and those were the people to trust. I wasn't happy when Luke said I would not be coming with them on the assault mission, but I understood his viewpoint. I knew he was being protective. I doubted I would be as efficient as I used to be, especially now that I was showing. Remaining behind the scenes and drawing out the plans was the best job for me. So when Luke said no, I did not push back. I accepted it and looked forward to ending Luis Moon.

The Press conference was rushed and very brief. Luke only addressed the people out of respect, but we had bigger things to worry about like the underground war.

After the conference, Kirk informed us of the arrival of the first shipment of the weapons we procured. I was glad we would have something to use against the people of Tetra. There was a time I would have kicked against wiping the place out but right now, I couldn't. The man was too damn dangerous. Any territory that managed to break away from us is automatically regarded as the enemy. There was a time when I would have worried that Luke was about to go to war. The fact that he was leading an assault made me at ease because this time, he had the element of surprise.

We stayed a bit in the office, talking with the Alphas still loyal to us to inform them of Luke's return and some of our plans to salvage what was left without us telling them about Luis Moon's identity or our plan to attack Tetra. As much as we were grateful that they remained with us, we could not be a hundred per cent sure they were loyal to us. So we needed to be careful. No one would know of the attack except those who would be a part of it. The island can find out after it has happened.

When it was evening, we went to eat at a restaurant.

After eating at the restaurant, Luke and Caleb dropped me off at home and went to prepare for their trip to Tetra.



I entered the mansion and sluggishly walked to the left-wing. The house was very quiet. It wasn't its busy old self, and I knew it missed the Stacy touch. The woman was a clown, pissing everyone off and making a fool of herself. Remembering my encounters with her at the entrance and hallway made me giggle.

I was glad Stacy had woken up, and she was fine. I was happy that Alpha Aesop would finally get the closure he deserved, and we might figure out who poisoned her. Which would expose the culprit, and we can finally eat safely in the house. I also wanted her to confirm if what Monica told us was the truth or fabricated lies. I knew Monica had no reason to lie, but I did not want to dismiss that probability.

Approaching my room, I found Kimberly at my door. I smiled at her immediately, and she hugged me,

"It is good to have you back, Tia," she said and broke the hug to admire my clothes.

"And you managed to wear your clothes this time, not the usual Luke outfit," she said, and I began to laugh. I let her into the room. When I asked of Emma, she said Michelle was taking care of her.

"You know you will have to get Emma a nanny eventually because Michelle will be caring for my baby," I told her, and she laughed.

"When that time comes, Tia. Let Emma keep her busy for now," she said, and I laughed.

"Caleb told me they are going on a trip; when do you think they will be back?" She asked me, and I smiled.

"Give them a day or two," I said, and she raised an eyebrow at me. "I can't believe you are this calm, Tia. Luke just got home." She pointed out, and I shrugged my shoulders.

"I am getting used to it, Kim. Luke is an Alpha; I do not expect him to always be with me. That would be absurd and disturbing, don't you think?" I asked her, and she laughed.

"She opened my mini-fridge and helped herself to some Orange Juice.

“Stacy is home.” She said, sitting beside me on the couch, and I nodded.

“Who would have guessed that that woman would survive that magnitude of poisoning? I am so happy for Caleb because I knew it was killing him.” She said, sighing and then took a sip of the juice.

“I am happy for their father too because as much as that man said he hated her, he just couldn’t let her go,” I pointed out, and she nodded.

“I noticed too, Tia. He stayed in that hospital and refused to move. Now that they are back, he put her in his room.” She said, and I shook my head because I doubted his feelings had anything to do with it. “I guess staying with her at the hospital and putting her in his room has nothing to do with his heart. I think he is trying to protect her from whoever might have poisoned her,” I said, and she frowned at me.

“Does he think someone tried to kill her?” She asked me, looking worried and confused.

“Yes, it seems like it because the letter found in those envelopes was not written by her,” I explained to Kimberly, and she was in shock. I went further to tell her of the guy poisoned in the mansion.

“Goddess, This house is not safe,” she exclaimed, and I nodded.

“We have been eating out pending the time we figure out who the culprit is,” I said, and she nodded lightly.

“Have you seen Stacy?” I finally asked her, and she nodded.

“At first, she seemed slightly off, but I later realised it was the meds. Now that it has left her system, she is getting better. She knows my name but did not ask of Emma. That was how I knew she wasn’t quite there yet.” She said to me, and I was glad things were looking up.

Kimberly and I spent two hours watching a movie. Deep down, I prayed to the Goddess to keep our men and their team safe. It wasn’t long after the movie ended when someone knocked on

my door. I went to answer immediately. I knew it was Bart because he had linked me. He

sounded a bit frantic too. I opened the door and saw he looked worried.

“Luna Tia, you need to come to the right-wing. Something is going on there.” He said, and I frowned but left with him. Kimberly followed me. He led us towards the bedrooms on the left wing

“How could you do this to me!” I heard Alpha Aesop’s angry growling voice coming from his bedroom. We entered and saw Stacy sitting on the bed and crying. The man looked at Kimberly and me. There was rage in his eyes.

“Where are your mates?” he asked, and I told him they had gone on a mission. He understood why. I didn’t emphasise, and he nodded.

“Alpha, what is going on?” I managed to ask my father-in-law, and he looked at Stacy. “Everything Monica told us was true.” He said, and my heart sank. His red eyes showed his heart was breaking. Stacy was crying; she shouldn’t be because she was just out of the hospital. She should be resting. I went to sit beside her to calm her down.

“You need to take it easy, Stacy,” I said, and she hugged me. It was sudden and unexpected. I froze and then gently embraced her. She was frail.

“I am tired, Tia,” she said, crying, and I knew she was holding so much in. Breaking away from the hug, she looked at Aesop.

“You should have pulled the plug. You should have left me to die. At least I will be at peace. I have been fighting all my life, trying to get out of a bind. For thirty years, I have tried to survive. I can’t do it anymore. I am tired. My children can survive without me. I do not want to continue living anymore.” she said, and I figured she might have tried to kill herself, but why did someone else write the letters?

“Why did you not tell me?” Aesop asked her calmly, “Why did you lie to me?” he said and ran his fingers through his hair. He was trying to handle his emotions, and he was doing a good job too. “I married you, Stacy. I claimed you. Where is his mark?” he finally asked, and she looked like her life was going to end.

“At the back of my shoulder covered by the tattoo,” she confessed, and he punched the wall. Vibrating with anger. I felt his pressure; we all did. Aesop was an Alpha, and we were feeling his might.

“Please, you need to calm down, Alpha,” I said, touching my bump because the pressure nauseated me. He relaxed a bit, and I looked at Stacy.

“Regan forced me into marriage because I had already run away too many times. Claiming me was a form of insurance. When I got pregnant, we went to Cleeve. He was pursuing someone there. Something about his power moves. He pimped me to all sorts of men to gain favour and have them on his team. I was subjected to all forms of abuse, Tia. He left me alone when my pregnancy started showing and did not look back. When I gave birth to Monica, he came for her. She was an inconvenience to him, a plan spoiler, and he wanted to get rid of her so he could continue his secret conquest. I begged him to send her to my parents, and he finally agreed, saying he would not be responsible for her. The guy was a terror, and everyone was afraid of him. No one would help me, so I had to keep working for him while I picked up other jobs secretly to make enough and send home to my family for Monica and my father’s care.

One day he asked me to join him in Neev that he had a job for me. I wasn’t enthusiastic about it, but I had no choice. I had to go. I did not know anyone that would help me get out of the bind I was in with the

monster. When I saw Aesop was the job, I was elated because he remained burned in my mind from my first encounter with him, but Regan told me it wouldn’t be the usual. I was to get close enough to marry him, kill him and Luke, and then hand over all I inherit to Regan. He let me know what would happen if I didn’t do it. I refused at first, but when he took my parent and our daughter to a hidden place, I complied. It was difficult, but I had to comply. Luke took to me quickly, and within the three years of trying to gain their trust, I fell in love, but Aesop’s heart belonged to Chloe. I would have walked away because love never brought me anything good, but I couldn’t. So I took my chances and called Regan’s bluff. With Aesop protecting my parents, Regan did not have the might to do anything, and that was when the blackmail started because he knew Aesop would throw me out once he found out that I have a mate.” she said and began to sob.

“I love you, Aesop, but I won’t be mad if you want to end it. My marriage to Regan wasn’t consensual. I was shackled into it, and I dreamt that a strong man would one day rescue me from that nightmare. I have been a handful, but it was out of jealousy and nothing else. I love you and Luke, so I could never bring myself to do what I was asked to do. I would rather die than kill you or your son. Please. My tantrums and schemes were out of jealousy and nothing more. I am so sorry I lied to you,” She pleaded with him, and he did not say a word.

"I think I should leave," she said, and I knew she was too frail for that.

"You can't leave in this condition," Aesop said calmly.

"Then at least let me go to my room." She said, and he was silent. That was when it clicked for me to ask.

"Did you try to poison yourself?" I asked, and she looked at me, afraid to tell me the answer.

"Please, Stacy. Stop keeping things from us. You graciously said goodbye to all of us and left notes for your children. We need to know because a staff member was poisoned too," I said, and tears began to fall from her eyes. Whatever she was trying to say was difficult.

"I said goodbye to everyone because I was going to leave, Tia. I had sold everything I owned and split the money three ways. One for Caleb, the other for Monica and the last for me. I paid an assassin to help me catch the bastard and kill him. I do that every year, and it always yields nothing. But this one felt sure. He knew where Regan was and assured me he would succeed. I made the mistake of telling my plans to someone, and it went belly up. I was saying goodbye because I believed the assassin would succeed and I would be free of the bastard. Little did I know that the walls had ears, and he would find out. When I realised what had happened, I was stuck and confused. That was why I did not come out for days. He sent me messages about how he was coming to get me. I was tired," She said, and I figured she did attempt suicide. "So you chose to end it," I completed, and she shook her head. "I love Caleb, Monica and Emma. I want to live for them. Not really; I planned on running away still." She said, and I was confused.

"Then what happened, Stacy. You had a lethal dose of silver in your blood. You were not allowed to leave the mansion, so definitely, someone brought it in and tried to kill you with it." I said, and her dancing teary eyes said it all. She knew who had tried to kill her but was afraid to give the person up. It had to be someone she loved dearly and would protect with her life.

"Monica," I said, and her tears rolled down. I was in shock.

"She's confused and angry, that is all," Stacy tried to explain, but it all began to click. Stephen must have brought Monica the poison and cleaned up after her. Why would Monica position her mother the same

morning that we were attacked by Luis? I felt like a fool. Regan is using Monica. It made me conclude that Regan was Luis, but I had to be sure. Thankfully, Luke had sent me the picture of Luis.

“Stacy, I need you to identify someone truthfully. Can you do that?” I asked her, and she nodded, looking confused. I took out my phone and showed her Luis’s picture, and she began to scream. She looked like she was living her worst nightmare, shaking and screaming. Aesop had to come to hold her. She pointed at my phone with a shaky finger. “Monster! Monster!” she screamed, looking like a little scared child. The abuse must have been incredible for her to lose herself the way she did. She had confirmed what we all

suspected. I sighed and looked at Aesop. “Regan Adhit is Luis Moon. The L in his name must stand for Luis.” I concluded, and he was stunned: We were all stunned. We sat in silence while Aesop tried to calm Stacy down. She was terrified, and I could only imagine what she had to endure with the psychopath..

## Chapter 105

### 105 Tetra

Caleb and I dropped Tia off at the mansion and proceeded to base i noticed that Tia had developed a thick skin because she wasn’t looking bothered. It was very unlike her Usually, s would need to convince her that I would return before she would let me leave I guess my trip to Santa Braee had boosted her confidence in me. We also had the element of surprise this time around

“Tia didn’t flinch,” Caleb noted, and I smiled. He was reading my mind. “Did you tell Kim you were going on a mission?” I asked him, and he shook his head.

“I dare not, Luke. She wouldn’t let me leave. She panicked when I told her I was to take over as alpha. She was highly relieved when she heard you had returned. So relieved that when I got

ninded me that you were back and I was no longer in charge.” he said, and I began to laugh. “You should have told her you were going on a mission still,” I cautioned him, and he shook his head.

“I am sure Tia will pass the message. She should hear it from Tia,” He said, and I knew he was just being a coward in that regard. It wasn’t easy telling the woman you love that you were going on a mission that might cost you your life if luck was not on your side, but he owed it to her still.

The base wasn't far from the headquarters, so we arrived in no time. Kirk was there with crates of weapons piled up. Tia wasn't joking about procuring weapons. Mike did not seem enthusiastic about the trip. In a genuine sense, Kirk was more qualified for the Gamma position, but my father made him Delta so he would hang around during the mission. I knew it was for Tia's benefit, so I allowed it. As much as I wanted to revert their positions, I did not want to embarrass Mike.

"What's with the long face?" I asked Mike, and he sighed. "Tasha is a bit ill," He said, and I could not believe this guy.

"So?" I asked him, and he frowned at me. "I should be home with.." He said, and I cut him short.

"We were at Santa Braee together. You got home when I did, and you have been indoors with your wife. I am equally married, and my wife is already showing, but the safety of this pack is high on our list of priorities. If this pack isn't safe, Tasha won't be." I said, and I sighed. Although He was my friend, I knew I would have to put him in his place because I knew what he was exhibiting had to do with Tasha, which explains why Tia did not like the girl. She was a bit like Elisabeth but in a subtle way.

"If you feel you should be at home right now, then you have no business being here or being in the ranks," I said, and he looked at me stunned. "Your situation is not more critical than ours. Your wife is not more important than ours, and

her well being is not more important than our wives, but we all chose to be here I will not have peace of mind if your heart is not in this. So if you feel you should be at home, as your friend, I will ask you to take your leave and say goodbye to your rank." I said to him and held his gaze. His eyes faltered a bit, and he averted his stare, which was a sign of submission My mark burned, and i knew he could feel the pressure of my disappointment in his action

"I am sorry, Alpha, I was out of line." He said and saluted me. I nodded, but I wasn't fooled. He was still unhappy about the mission. I could feel it. I moved past him to check the content of the crates

After making the rounds with Kirk, I was satisfied with what I saw. Tia wasn't joking when she said she would put the money into arms. With what was available, fifteen of us were enough to raise Tetra to the ground. The grenade with silver bits, silver bullets and gas with silver particles were perfect. They would not know what hit them. I wasn't planning to be merciful or convert Luis's pack members. I planned to wipe them out. I wanted all the territories that supported him to feel my might. Just as Tia had speculated, there was no way they could be as equipped as we were.

"I need you to send fully armed troops to Eastwood to guard the place. I do not want any surprises. Luis promised Santa Braee's Alpha Bitumen. We all know where he plans to get it. I also need Troops in the city here, just in case an attack should ensue." I said, and Kirk nodded.

"What about the territories that are still under us?" Mike asked, and I shook my head.

"As far as we are concerned, the only people we can trust are people from Woodclaw city. I will not want our newly procured weapons to fall into Luis's hands. They can desert us at any time. The last thing we want is our weapons to be used against us. Let them know we will come to their aid if there is any need, but we will not be giving them weapons to defend themselves until we neutralise the threat." I said, and they all understood because they nodded at once.

"So who are the twenty people that will be following me to Tetra, in Cleeve?" I said, and Many soldiers volunteered, but I felt their uneasiness. Not all of them wanted to go.

"I want soldiers that are passionate about our mission and will give everything without looking back. I do not intend to die there, so I want people willing to win." I said, and the hands reminded up. My mark burned, and I began to feel them individually. I felt their resolve; some were weak, and others were strong. I did not know how I was doing it or if I was the one even doing it, but it was amazing to feel. It was a sign of loyalty and strength. It did not mean the weaker ones were disloyal. It just meant that their commitment wasn't absolute. Mike was one of the people I could not feel, and I knew why. "I hope you won't run for the hills when we get there?" I asked him, and he shook his head, surprised. Caleb walked to me and showed me his upper right arm. His alpha mark burned brightly. He was excited about it too, and I laughed. Kirk's resolve was the strongest, and I knew I would have to bump him up to gamma. He was supposed to be Caleb's Beta and would have been a fine one.

"Kirk, from now on, you are Gamma, and Mike is Delta," I said, which meant Mike would have to remain in Woodclaw to help Tia in case of an attack. I expected him to go straight to the mansion once we left. He will be in Woodclaw close to his wife, away from the fight, just as he wanted.

"Now, you can remain here, but you must be with Tia and follow her orders," I said to him, and he was a bit ashamed, but he got what he wanted. He could not chicken out of a mission and still keep his title. It

would not work that way. The demotion was permanent, and it would remain that way regardless. He used to be a delta anyway; the position would be easy for him to fit in



I selected twenty loyal wolves. We armed ourselves, boarded a Chinook helicopter with our weapons, and headed for the place. As much as we planned on assaulting them in the afternoon, I planned on attacking them the moment we got there. We would rain bombs, bullets and gasses on them first, ensuring we get as many as possible, both military and civilian. Then we would jump down to finish the job. I decided to address the troops on our way to Tetra. "These people disrespected us and threatened our lives. They have robbed us of our livelihood and brought chaos upon our island. Our people can no longer go to work or work. Businesses are on hold, and people are afraid for their lives because of these people. They have tormented us and stolen from us. It is now time to push back. We will show them we are not to be trifled with. We will show them we are not pushovers, and we will show them we own this island. I do not want prisoners tonight; I want Tetra to cease to exist." I said, and they hailed with respect. Kirk was so excited about the mission. I could see it in his eyes, likewise Caleb. I looked at the men around me; they were all excited and eager to get it over with. They were filled with the type of energy needed for the mission. I knew none of them would betray me and my heart was relaxed. The mark stopped burning the moment we were in the air.

We sat in the chopper for two hours and finally arrived at Cleeve. Tetra was an isolated settlement in the woods of Cleeve. We began to rain bombs on them when we got there while the helicopter roamed the air. There was no way they had an anti-aircraft. I doubted we had that, so we were safe in the air. I heard screams among those, which were women and children, but I was past mercy. There was no way they did not know what their alpha was doing. If they had issues, they should take it up with their alpha, that is, if they live long enough to do so.

"This is a civilian setting," one of the soldiers said. "Spray them all. They did not have mercy on the civilians of Eastwood. The aim is for this place to cease to exist. It is an illegal settlement and pack. They are all rogues," Caleb ordered as beta, and no one spoke a word again. We continued to shoot and kill. Once the gas we threw had dissipated, we were out of ammunition. We jumped down and shifted. They

were more warriors in the place than civilians which made the attack worth our while. I tore through flesh and bit down legs, crushing bones. I didn't care. My wolves carried my mark burning brightly, so I simply killed any wolves that did not bear my mark. It was clear their alpha wasn't there, but every pack that had deserted us to team up with Luis would learn of what I did here, and they would be afraid.

"We surrender," I heard someone say in my mind, and I did not care.

"I did not come here to take prisoners. Luis Moon started this," I said and continued to kill. They put up a fight, but they were not prepared for us. We did a number on them. "Please, we will give you whatever you want," I heard a female voice in my head. She sounded

frail and afraid.

“I want your Alpha,” I linked her back, and there was silence.

“Our Alpha travelled, but our Beta and Gamma are around.” She said, and that wasn’t good enough for me. For someone like Luis Moon, I was sure he had multiple Betas and gammas. I wanted every pack associated with him to know what would befall them, so I blocked my mind entirely and continued to kill. We spent hours in Tetra fighting until morning. We killed everyone.

To ensure they were all dead, we checked the bodies in wolf form. When I was satisfied, I linked the chopper to land. We had a camera to help us go live on the helicopter; this was the time to pass my message. I shifted back to my human form and wore joggers. Kirk held the camera, and we went live.

“This is Alpha Luke Moon of the Woodclaw back. What you see is the remains of Tetra. Their only crime is their affiliation with Luis Moon. Luis Moon has plagued my island long enough. He has stolen from my pack and ended people’s jobs. I have a lot of jobless unhappy people in my pack because of this man. I promised my people I would restore their peace and give them their jobs back. This is me doing it. If your pack is associated with Luis Moon, I promise to come for you. I will keep at it until he surrenders himself

to me. He knows where to find me. Let this be a warning to all the packs that have chosen to house him and take his side. You will be treated as guilty as he is. Let this be a warning to all.” I warned and walked away. I allowed Kirk to walk around the place and film all the corps. It was a massacre indeed. The island needed to see how far I could go to end the threat. This was a perfect example.

I asked the troops to search the still-intact building in case people hid in them. I told them to bring whatever they found to me before killing them. The settlement was small, so I knew we would cover the grounds quickly. It wasn’t a genuine pack. It was an artificial settlement. It wasn’t long before they started living there. The buildings were made from wood, so they were not planning to have permanent structures there

After searching the place for three hours, the men brought Monica to me. I was surprised to see her. I wondered what she was doing in the area.

“What are you doing here?” I asked her, and Caleb walked up to her.

“Were you kidnapped?” He asked her, and she could not speak. It was as if she was still in . shock, so we decided to take her back to Woodclaw so she could get some help. Caleb did not tell her their mother was awake. It either skipped his mind, or he wanted it to be a surprise.

“Won’t you tell her your mother is awake?” I asked Caleb.

“I do not think her mind is functioning at the moment. She is in shock,” He pointed out, which was true. She was lucky I asked the men to search the buildings. We would have left without her.

We boarded the helicopter and returned to Woodclaw. This would force those territories that pulled their military support to stay away from Luis. Most especially the poor settlements. If not all, he is bound to lose some.