

## D Desires 111

### Chapter 111

#### 111 Punishment

Luke.

I couldn't believe all that Monica had just told us. I was stunned. Amazed by her stupidity and the complexity of her story. Was she telling the truth? Here I thought I would never find my mother's killer, but he was a bane in our lives all along. I felt a blind rage building in me, and I could not control it. My hands were shaking. My heart was beating fast, and I felt beads of sweat on my forehead. I love Caleb, and he exists because of that one act, but this bastard had robbed me of a mother all because she rejected his false love. I was angry and wanted to hurt Regan in unimaginable ways. A quick death would be merciful. He had done so much, and he deserved pain. I was still seething in anger when I saw Tia vomit. I rushed towards her immediately. "Are you alright?" I asked Tia, and she shook her head.

"No, Luke. I need you and your father to calm down. The pressure is too much." she managed, and I realised the matter with her. I turned to look at my father, and instead of calming down, he stormed out of the office. Caleb was in shock, and Stacy was in tears. I could not look at Monica. She had committed treason with her father. The punishment should be death naturally, but I knew Tia wouldn't sentence her to death. Tia would have to judge the matter because it was in-house. Killing Monica will only hurt Stacy and no one else. It was a shame.

I turned to look at Monica, who sat on the floor, eyes swollen and defeated. Controlling my anger, I returned to my desk to speak to the bitch.

"It is a shame, Monica. You connived with your deadbeat father to betray the only parent that truly loved you. You allowed your father to use you to harm her. The very father she was trying to protect you from. The very mother that sold herself repeatedly just so you can have the care you need. She could have aborted you, given you away or allowed your father to do away with you, but she did everything to keep you. You did not grow up like the others in Dome. While in Santa Braee, I met a woman about your age; she had a pimp and was working her arse just so she could provide for her son. Because of your mother,

you never knew what poverty was. You had the best care. So she wasn't with you, and she pretended you were her niece, you still got the love and care of a daughter, and she always put you first regardless. She remained with my father for your sake, and I am sure she conceived my brother so she could remain and continue to give you the care and protection you needed. How did you pay her back? By deceiving

her and drugging her. You wanted to take her back to the hell she escaped, to a man who used and abused her. Back to a man she feared. You did not care about her feelings. You knew how your mother felt about Regan. You were out there when she was begging me for money. You saw it all, yet you chose to be wicked and selfish. I do not think you wanted your parents to be together. I think you wanted to teach your mother a lesson for fronting you as her niece and not remaining with your father regardless as she did with mine. You wanted to hurt her, and you cannot deny it because you knew the type of man your father was. If your father had told you he pimped your mother to my father so she could kill him and me for his money, then you knew the type of person he was, and you still chose to help him. You're just as wicked as your father. You would have willingly delivered your poor mother to him for him to use and abuse and make her pay for disobeying him. You would have willingly killed her

with your betrayal. What you did not expect was he would treat you bad. You thought he would be warm and kind towards you. As long as you support him, he will be your father. You did not expect him to be the same monster to you. So you threw the Moons to the dogs. You helped your father rob me and steal my military support. You helped your father almost ruin me by selling company secrets to him because there was no way you didn't do that, Monica. You are a wicked person." I said, and she remained silent.

"Your mother will argue that what happened to you in Tetra is punishment enough, but I assure you the rest of us feel otherwise. The truth is you would have gone to any length for your father. The fact that you were meeting him in private all this while and never told your mother shows the depth of your malice. You saw your mother fade away before your eyes because of his blackmail and threats, yet you continued with him. You saw your mother grovel and beg for money. I am sure Stacy would have even prostituted to get the money if it came to that, yet you kept on. You watched your mother sell all she had and lose favour with my father because of it, yet you remained silent and kept at it. Stacy wouldn't have helped

Timothy Miles get the contracts and make my father pay him without inspections if she did not have to pay your father. That was the reason her marriage to my father ended. Yet, you continued to follow and help the man that made your mother's life miserable. You could have told your mother what you knew if you were truly naive and innocent. You could have told her your father had contacted you and told her what he wanted. Stacy wouldn't have told my father, and she would have advised you because she knows him better than you, but you chose to be his accomplice, and for that, you will be punished. I will not have you killed because you are Caleb's sister and Stacy loves you. I love my brother, so I will not hurt him by killing you. Caleb might not care about what happens to you. Still, Stacy does, and Caleb cares about Stacy, so if I kill you and Stacy is heartbroken, it will affect my brother and my father. I will not kill you. I will leave my mate to pass the judgement. That will be the most befitting thing to do because, unlike me, Tia is kind, and right now, you need a bit of kindness." I said and handed the matter over to Tia. Monica had begun to cry again, and Caleb was holding Stacy, who was crying too. It was clear she believed I would sentence her daughter to death.

“Thank you, Luke,” Stacy linked me, and I did not say anything in response. Monica was wicked and evil, and she did not deserve mercy, but other than Stephen, no one died. Stephen was working for Regan, so he is insignificant in the matter.

“Before I pronounce your punishment, is there anything we need to know ?” Tia asked her, and Monica nodded and looked at her mother.

“I am sorry, mommy, I really am. I wasn’t thinking, and my jealousy toward Caleb got the best of me. I just wanted him to know how it feels to not have a mother. They were not nice to me in this house, and I felt out of place. I just wanted to belong somewhere. I hope you will find it in your heart to forgive me.” she said and looked at Caleb.

“It has been hard relating with you as a cousin instead of my little brother. It was torture. I wished our mother told the truth and I got to play with you and grow up together as siblings should I envied you because you got to have a sibling while you were my sibling too, but you never knew because of our

mother. I am sorry, Caleb. I did not know it was poison; I wouldn’t have given her. I hope you can forgive me.” She said to him and looked at me.

“Alpha Luke. I am sorry. It was wrong of me to help my father steal from you and work against you. There is nothing I can say to justify the actions. I hope you will find it in your heart to

forgive.” She said and then exhaled. It was as if she had been holding her breath all along. “While in Tetra, I overheard the men talking about many things. I learned Santa Braee’s army is gathering on the east coast of Eastwood. I also learned that Cleeve is currently housing the military force that would march into Woodclaw city. They intend to launch a full assault led by my father. They will take down Woodclaw and Eastwood at the same time. To aid their attack, they have people in your Military working for them. They are also situated in Eastwood, Neev and Bravadome to force a surrender. Then most importantly, your son will be taken on the eighteenth of this month. They are currently negotiating with his mother, Elisabeth, and a worker at the facility to help kidnap him. They are offering them a lot of money, and it seems the mother is in dire need of it.” she said, and I stood up immediately.

“What!” I growled, and she nodded.

“They did not tell me. I heard it while I pretended to have passed out after they had r\*aped me for hours.” She said, and I could not believe Elisabeth would even consider this. Hadn’t she learned her lesson yet? I needed to put an end to her menace.

“Don’t worry, Luke. I will call my father to have the doctor fly Paul back today,” Tia told me, and I calmed down a bit. I knew we needed to be careful. If Regan was planning on kidnapping my son, I needed to evacuate him with protection.

“Is that all?” I asked her, and she nodded. I did not want to linger there. I watched Tia bring out her phone to call her father, but I wasn’t satisfied, so I told her to stop. Taking my phone from my pocket, I called Kirk. He answered on the third ring.

“Alpha,” He greeted, and I went straight to the point.

“I need you to arrange transport to Neev and bring my son back today. Take the chopper with armed troops.” I ordered him, and he agreed.

“Is Mike there yet?” I asked him, and he was silent for a bit.

“We have not been able to reach him.” He said, and I figured Caleb had not carried out the dismissal order. I decided I would do it myself in person.

“Okay. I want my son with me tonight.” I ordered, and he understood me loud and clear. I was confident that he would succeed regardless of Regan’s plans.

“Does your father have arms?” I asked Monica, and she nodded.

“That was why he wanted me to sleep with the Alpha of Santa Braee, Joseph Marco. He had a shipment coming, and my father wanted me to bug his phone and computer so he could have his pirates intercept the Vessel.” She said, and I sat up. This was vital information. A ship of arms was bound to be a problem for us. Could it even the odds? “So what happened?” I asked her.

“He had someone else do it, and I think she succeeded because they could figure out the ship’s coordinates. That was why my father left Tetra. They were going to steal the Vessel as pirates, but Alpha Marco would not know it was him, so he would still help him. My father plans on taking over Santa Braee when he is done with Woodclaw. He dreams of establishing his name on both islands and controlling them.” She said, and I had heard enough. “Tia?” I said to my wife, and she looked at Stacy and then at Caleb. Kimberly stood up at that

moment to excuse herself. She had clearly heard enough because she was shaking from shock even though she tried to mask it.

“I need to check on my daughter,” she said, and Tia smiled at her. Kimberly left, and then Tia looked at Monica.

“I can’t sentence you to death, but you will be sentenced to prison. You will be locked up for a minimum of thirty years. In that time, you will be rehabilitated. You will have time to reflect on your actions and change your ways. Hopefully, when you are free again, you will be a better version of yourself.” She said, and Stacy started wailing. That was the best option for Monica. Tia had even gone easy on her. I knew Stacy wanted us to let her go, but Monica had delved in too deep, and her hands were too dirty to be overlooked.

“Caleb, handle her sentencing,” I told my brother and stood up. I was mad about what I learned Regan had done to my mother. There was no way I could get over that shit. Knowing I could not get even with him, I decided to get my mind occupied so I do not do something I might regret because of the rage and pain I was feeling at the moment. I decided to settle myself. Finding Mike and dismissing him myself was the best way to do so. He had no right to take his job for granted.

Chapter 112

112 Mike’s Reason

Luke.

“Where are you going?” Tia asked me while I was walking out. She walked up to me, and we continued together. Caleb walked past us with Monica and Stacy. Stacy turned right while Caleb walked towards the exit of the building. He was taking her to prison. I thought Stacy would follow, but she didn’t. Stacy wasn’t going to my father’s room either, which was thoughtful of her. I would not want to be in the same room as my dad right now. All though he needed some release to calm down from his rage, I doubted he would ever touch Stacy again. She was Regan’s wife. “Where are you going?” Tia asked me again, and I knew I shouldn’t lie to her. I urged her to walk with me to our wing so I could tell her.

“Mike chickened out of Tetra, claiming Tasha was sick, so I demoted him to Delta. When I returned from Terra, I discovered he wasn’t here to protect the estate, and now Kirk said he hasn’t resumed duty at the headquarters. I want to go to his house to make sure all is well. If I find out nothing is wrong with him, I will dismiss him and have him punished for deserting his duties.” I said, and she was silent a bit, then spoke up. “What about Elisabeth? Clearly, she is trying to work against us.” She said, and I grinned at her.

“It is time for that woman to go to jail too. I will send someone to arrest her and lock her up. I can’t and won’t deal with her directly. Monica’s claims would be investigated; if they are true, she will go away for a long time.” I told Tia, and she was in complete agreement. I really did not understand how Elisabeth’s mind functioned. Why did she agree to help Regan kidnap her own son? A boy that is receiving care. I wonder what she planned on achieving with it. That woman was just impossible.

“I want to come with you to Mike’s house,” Tia requested. I knew she would flip if I said no, so I reluctantly agreed for her to come with me to keep her happy. I was annoyed with Mike and needed a valid explanation for his silence.

We wore casual clothes and headed out. I decided to use the Jeep because I wanted to take my wife to the cliff after the issue with Mike had been resolved. Because I did not plan to go to the cliff initially, I intended to branch into a restaurant to pack food and drinks. I kept it a secret and drove.

“You need to be calm when dealing with your friend, Luke. I know you are mad and have the right to be, but you need to calm down. You can’t lose your cool over his actions, Luke. Promise me you will be cool. A lot has already happened today to throw you off the bend, but I need you to keep it together. I know we will resolve everything together, and your mother will get the justice she deserves.” Tia said, hitting the nail on the head.

I was still mad and edgy about what I had learned about my mother. Somehow, I could transfer the anger and aggression to deal with Mike, which would be wrong. I still could not understand why Regan would kill her. I knew why but I still could not understand it. So what she said no, did he have to kill her? I knew there was more to it than just anger and jealousy.

Regan was the only person that could tell me why he went as far as killing my mother. He was the only one who could explain it to me. I wanted to promise myself to make him tell when I finally lay my hands on him, but I knew it was possible he wouldn’t. I could not let not knowing his reasons have power over me. Regardless of his motives, The fact still remained that he killed her.

"I am calm, darling. I promise to handle it calmly," I finally responded to my wife. I needed a form of release to calm down entirely, but we were already on our way to Mike's place, so making love to Tia was out of the question. I just had to make it until we got to our cliff.

When we got to Mike's home, we met no one. The door was locked, and it was clear no one was home. His car wasn't home either. Had they gone out, or had he run away with this wife. I took out my phone and dialled his number. It was switched off. I looked around, hoping to find clues about where he might have gone.

"Maybe we should ask his neighbours. The least they can do is tell us if he drove out or not. They can also tell us when." Tia said, and I knew it was a brilliant idea. I looked around for the neighbour with the best view and decided to check the house across the street. It looked newly renovated, and the last time I was there, there was no one living there. Whoever moved there moved in recently. There was a possibility the person looked out for their neighbours, if not for anything but to know who they were.

We sauntered to the house, and I knocked on the door impatiently. Tia cautioned me to relax. I held it together and continued to knock; I knew people were in the house because I could sense them. I was about to link them when a middle-aged, dark-skinned woman opened the door.

"Alpha Moon?" she said, a bit surprised, and I smiled at her. She was clearly in shock, so I hurried straight to the point. Old people have a way of wasting time with long meaningless conversations, so I quickly spoke before she came out of shock and started talking because it would be impolite to shut her up.

"Please, I want to know the last time you saw Mike Crawford," I said, and she looked behind me and smiled at Tia.

"Luna Tia, nice to meet you. Please come in," She offered. I wanted to tell her we were in a hurry, but I knew that would be rude. So I obliged her, and Tia did too. She offered us seats, and we sat.

"Would you like tea?" She asked us with a broad smile, and Tia spoke on my behalf.

"We are actually on duty, Mam," Tia said. "Bridget. My name is Bridget Crawford. I am Mike's aunty. I just moved here from Bravadome two months ago." She said, and I was shocked that she was Mike's

relative. What are the odds? Most houses on the street belonged to the Crawfords, but Mike was the only Crawford living there. They had rented the other properties out. "Please, do you know where Mike is?" I asked her nicely, and she had a haunted look in her eyes.

"At Brine mental health Facility," she said, and I was shocked, wondering what he was doing there.

"What happened to him? Is he okay?" Tia asked, taking the question out of my mouth.

"When Mike went on a trip and was missing for three weeks, Tasha lost her mind. It was gradual She would come to ask me if he called. The poor thing wanted to come to the Mansion to ask Luna Tia about his whereabouts, but she felt Luna did not want her around. By the third week, she was talking to herself and saying something about a pretend secret mission in a kitchen. She really made no sense. She had from Psychosis. Apparently, mental illness runs in her family, and the whole anxiety and agitation of the trip broke her mind. She seemed a bit better when he finally returned, and he had to stay indoors with her to make sure of it. Two days ago, he brought her to me that he was going to a meeting. She tried to stop him, yelling he would not return this time around. It took a bit for him to convince her to let him go. She did eventually. She seemed okay, so I let her go home when she requested to return to her house. I did not think much of it, really. I felt she would be okay. Mike returned home and rushed her to the clinic. I later discovered that she had tried to kill herself, thinking he was going on another mission. I know she really harmed herself. He has remained with her in the clinic since then." she said, and I was stunned. I knew the woman wasn't lying, and I felt like a selfish bastard. Here I was, mad and ready to dismiss him while he was dealing with a lot. Why didn't he tell me that day that his wife was having mental issues? Instead, he told me she was ill and did not want to go on the mission. He should have told me the truth. I wouldn't have been mad. I would have given him a leave of absence.

I stood up immediately. "Thank you, Bridget. I really appreciate the information." I said, and she smiled at me. Tia hugged the woman, and we left the house.

"Poor Mike," were the first words that Tia uttered when we entered our vehicle, "I suspected something was off with how she spoke to me on the phone. She was trying to find out if Mike was at the Mansion, but the way she asked was a bit funny. She said they were going to catch the bad guy in the kitchen": I thought she was being cryptic, but now I know her nuts weren't screwed well. I can easily understand why she would break, especially if her family has a history of mental illness. I know how I felt when I did

not hear from you and did not know what to do. It could break anyone, and the fact that she is pregnant again cannot help issues." Tia said, and I was silent. I drove quietly, ashamed of myself for hating him. I was mad that he wasn't around to help my wife and father. Little did I know that he was fighting tooth and nail to keep his wife sane. I was glad nobody reached him and dismissed him; he would have felt



betrayed. I now realised the reason for his uneasiness which I misread as disloyalty. We finally pulled up at the facility. The staff were surprised to see Tia and me at the reception

“I am here to see the Crawfords,” I said, and the nurse greeted Tia and me with great respect. We were quickly ushered to the room where they were. There Mike was sitting on the couch, resting his chin on his hands, looking at his wife, who was sleeping strapped to the bed. “Mike,” I managed, and he turned to look at me. His eyes were swollen. I went to him immediately, and he stood up. I could see the sadness in his eyes.

“You should have told me,” was all I could manage as I watched tears fall from his eyes. He represented another life that Regan’s problems had burnt and left charred.

## Chapter 113

### 113 Friends Talk

Luke.

Mike was too distraught to speak. Apparently, he had been crying, and I did not know how to console him. I couldn’t imagine what he was going through because I had never been in his shoes before, but it was hard.

“How are you holding up?” I asked him, and he looked at his wife.

“They say they will discharge us tomorrow, but I am not allowed to leave her by herself. She is suffering from bipolar one disorder,” he said and sighed. “Her grandmother had it, but her mother was okay. I just didn’t get it,” he said more to himself than to me. I motioned him to sit down, and he did gently, still looking at his wife. Tia stood midway between us and the door, a bit confused about whether she should be in the room. Anyone would feel helpless in this situation because there was nothing we could do to improv

“I should have suspected it. Her mood swings, depression, and anger. They were there, but sometimes, she was so happy that I wouldn’t think much of it. She had been depressed for a while, even before we got married. That was why the wedding was quiet. I did not know. Before our mission to Santa Braee, she acted funny and made unusual utterances. I didn’t think much of it because I believed she would tell me if she was feeling off. By the time I returned, she was in the psychosis stage. I have an aunt that lives across the street from us. She was the one that took her to the hospital. They claimed the depression

and stress of not knowing what had happened to me while I was away had made her break from reality. She was talking about the kitchen and people attacking and kidnapping someone. When I came for the meeting we had before the attack on Tetra, she was silent. She did not talk. At first, I thought

ne meds, but I later found out it was out of choice. When she finally spoke, she claimed I wasn't taking her seriously. I was still trying to calm her down when I was summoned for a

n you left for Tetra, I had returned and saw she had harmed herself with silver. I was mad at my aunt for letting her return to our house when I had not come home yet." he said, and I looked at Tasha sleeping peacefully on the bed. She had lost a lot of weight.

"What about the baby?" I asked him, remembering she was pregnant. He nodded.

"The baby is fine. She is fine too. The doctor said she was okay, but I had to avoid triggers Which is why I have decided to drop my rank." he said.

I knew he loved military service, but Tasha meant the world to him. If leaving the military is what it would take to make sure she is okay, and they are happy, I was willing to accept without a grudge.

"I will have Kirk handle the details. You will get the full package with honour," I told him, and he nodded at me.

"I really wished I could help you fight that bastard, but my world is in pieces at the moment, and I need to get it together," he said, and I touched his hand.

"Do not tell Tasha you left the military for her sake. It will hurt her. Tell her I dismissed you." I said, and he understood my reasons. Everyone knew that Mike enjoyed being in the ranks, it was a hard decision for him. It will be unwise for us to let Tash blame herself "Tasha?" I heard Tia say and move quickly to her side. Tasha looked a bit disoriented. We

walted a bil for her to figure out who we were Tasha gripped Tia's hand and began to cry

“You came, you came,” she cried, and we all went to her side. Her skin looked a bit pale. Even though she had dark skin, it was pale.

“I am sorry, Tia I really am I did not know what Lisa was doing until it was too late,” Tasha complained and honestly, I did not know if we should take her seriously or not.

Tia picked up the water on the table and placed the straw by Tasha’s lips because she looked thirsty. We cranked up the bed so she could sit up then she slowly sipped the water while Tía gently stroked her hair

“Nothing is your fault, Tasha,” Tia said without knowing what she did.

“I did not know Elisabeth was working with Luis Moon. I was the one that gave her the address to your holiday home, Tia,” Tasha said in tears. She told me she wanted to send you a letter Then I told her you moved back to the mansion. I told her everything we were doing. I Told her everything I knew that was happening with you guys. I am sorry. She was my friend, and I hated seeing her hurt. I believed Luke had wronged her.” She said in tears, and Tia just stroked her hair and told her it was okay.

“Let it go, Tasha. It is okay. You were just a good friend. There is nothing to be sorry about.” She said to her gently, and I was silent.

“Elisabeth has someone in the kitchen working for her. I found out she was trying to poison you. I called you when Mike went for a meeting, but I couldn’t reach you, and because Mike lingered, I began to have scary thoughts about something happening to you. The thought was horrible, and soon, I believed Elisabeth had succeeded. A voice kept telling me that the person in the kitchen had succeeded and you were dead. It told me that Mike would be arrested for conniving with Elisabeth to kill you. It told me I was the real accomplice. I could not live with myself knowing I had given her all the information she used to harm you. The voice was so loud, and I tried to end it.” She said and began to weep. Tia hugged her immediately.

“I am here, Tasha Me and my baby. We are here. Elisabeth failed, and you didn’t help her do anything. You did nothing wrong.” She said tearfully. Tasha held on and wept, and Tia held her.

“I am sorry for pushing you away. I do not hate you. I just had a lot going on then and still do. You and Mike are welcome in our home anytime,” she said, holding Tasha, and Tasha held on tightly.

As weird as what she said sounded, I knew she was telling the truth. I had already sent Kirk to arrest Elisabeth for me. I would leave Tia to get the fact out of that bitch. She was inconsiderate; knowing Tasha's situation, she still chose to use her in the worst way ever. Elisabeth deserved to be locked away for good. The fact that she planned to have my wife poisoned was horrible. I also now knew how Regan was able to send Tia a letter to our Holiday home It was Elisabeth that helped him send it. How long had she been working with that bastard? Was that why she moved into the moon mansion?

They broke the hug, and Tasha turned toward her husband.

"I am sorry, Mike. I didn't mean to, but the voices won't stop telling me I had screwed up," she said, and he placed his forehead against hers.

"You have nothing to be sorry about. I should have been home with you. I should have been there It was my fault. I promise I will never leave you alone again." He said, and she shook her

head

"Do not neglect your duty because of me, Mike. That would be too much sacrifice. I promise to take my meds and be happy. I have ended my friendship with Lisa. Please do not abandon Luke in his time of need because of me. Luis is dangerous, and he has a wide network Luke will need all the help he can get," she said, wiping away her tears, and he shook his head. "I am not quitting because of you, Tasha. Luke feels it is best this way," he said just as I had instructed him to. She shook her head immediately and looked at me.

"Don't dismiss him because of me. You need him. You need people you can trust in these hard times. Please, Luke. Don't dismiss my husband." she pleaded, and I looked at Mike. "But you can't be left

alone," I said, and she shook her head.

"I will take my meds," She repeated, and Tia cut in.

"She won't be alone, Luke. She will be with me at the Mansion until the matter is resolved and we have peace again. I won't let her out of my sight whenever Mike is not around; I will take care of her. Whenever there is a need for mike to be away, he should bring her to the mansion. I will love to have

her around. Besides, we have a lot to do together,” she said, talking about her pregnancy. Tia was trying her best to make light of the situation, but I doubted Mike would want his wife in the mansion right now, with the way things are.

“Do you like that arrangement?” I asked Mike, and he looked at Tasha, who looked at him eagerly. “You need to promise me you will take your meds, and you will tell me the moment you start feeling depressed. You have to promise you will talk to me, Tasha. You have to promise me you won’t let it get this bad again. I can’t live without you. Please do not ask me to,” Mike said to her pouring out his heart, and she nodded.

“Notwithstanding, I am still giving you three months off to spend with your wife. I want both of you to go on vacation,” I stated and would not let them refuse. Before he could speak, I quickly changed the topic.

“I will need Elisabeth’s new address to send to Kirk,” I said to Mike, and Tasha was elated.

“You believed me,” she said with surprise. I understood her joy. Whenever people broke into psychosis and came back to reality, people rarely took them seriously, but I believed her, and I also believed she would be okay. All Tasha needed was love, companionship and support. I knew she would be okay. She was surrounded by the people that loved her. I knew she would be alright. I forwarded Elisabeth’s address to Kirk after Mike had given it to me. I couldn’t wait to unleash Tia on her. The interrogation room would do well. I will watch from behind the glass while Tia gets at her.

We stayed a bit in the hospital. Tia and I still had a lot to do, so we could not wait until Tasha was discharged. I promised Mike to stay in touch and told him to make sure he leaves Woodclaw on an extended honeymoon. I advised him to go anywhere but Santa Braee. On a typical good day, that would be a nice place to go for holidays, but it was a war risk right now, and I did not want my friend and his wife to be caught up in it. Tia and I left the hospital feeling happy. I was glad I searched for Mike and did not deal with him the way I wanted to. I would have regretted it, and nothing would have been able to fix the situation. Mike and Tasha had a challenging life ahead. I just hoped they both overcome it and have a good life together.

While we drove towards the cliff, a call came in from Kirk that they had arrested Elisabeth. I hung up and turned to Tia.

“Are you ready to torture the truth out of Elisabeth?” I asked her, and she had a broad grin on her face. I could only imagine what was going on in Tia’s head at the moment. I knew my wife was itching for

payback. I was also nervous about what I might find out. Hopefully, this will lead us to Regan finally, and I can end him.

## Chapter 114

### 114 Elisabeth And Her Delusions

Tia

Tasha's situation was heartbreaking. Although I was right to distance myself from her, was it worth it? If I knew she was battling depression when Luke and his team went missing. I would have reached out to her. I knew how I was feeling during that period. I was equally depressed but had no issues, so it did not get the best of me. I could just imagine. Tasha had a good heart. Even though she had broken into the stage of psychosis, she still tried to tell me about the kitchen in the form that made the most sense to her. I was too distraught to even stop to think. I was glad Luke listened and decided to seek out his friend. A disgraceful dismissal would have been unfair to Mike. I really hoped things got better for the Crawfords.

I couldn't wait to question Elisabeth. We got to the headquarters in no time. Kirk was waiting for us outside. Seeing how devoted Kirk was, he was the best option to place over me in the academy

"Hello, Kirk," I said, and he all smiled.

"You are about to get even with that bitch, Tia," He linked me and said hello back in response so that Luke won't know we were communicating.

Kirk was an excellent friend of mine, and he knew how much of a pain Elisabeth was to me. I really could not wait to get even with that bitch. It was personal right now. I thought what happened to Paul would have made her turn a new leaf, but I was wrong. The woman was rotten to the core. I was mad at her, but I masked it so that Luke would not deem me unfit to interrogate her.

We headed straight to the interrogation room. Luke went to the next room to sit behind the glass while I sat on one of the chairs at the table. Kirk smiled at me and went to bring Elisabeth. I was giddy, but I masked it. I rubbed my tummy lightly.

"Are you okay, darling" Luke linked me, and I looked towards the glass and smiled.

"I always feel better when I do this. It is now a habit," I linked him back. I could only imagine he was smiling because I could not see his face. Kirk finally brought Elisabeth in. She was looking good for someone who claimed to be sad and miserable.

"Hello Lisa," I said while Kirk bounded her with silver on a chair. I stood up, and she looked at my tiny bump. I rubbed it lightly and smiled at her. She had a mean scowl, and I found it so

amusing that I began to laugh.

"I guess I do not need to ask how you are doing because I know you are doing fine. So instead, I will go straight to business. Tell me all you know about Luis Moon and who works for you in my kitchen." I said, and she just stared at me. Looking at the defiance in her eyes, I knew she would be a bit stubborn. I walked up to her and slapped her hard across the face. I knew it stung because her eyes began to water but too bad she was tied down.

"You will let me do my work the easy way, and we both are happy, or the hard way, and I put you through the most unimaginable pain ever. I am fine with whichever way you choose. Besides, I have been itching to use my interrogation tools a bit now. I do not mind satiating that need with you, Lisa; the choice is yours," I said and nodded to Kirk, who left to get me my

stuff.

Elisabeth stared At me, tight-lipped with anger and hatred in her eyes. "I thought you said he wasn't a good catch, now look at you. Head over heels for him and carrying his baby. How does it feel, Tia? How does it feel about eating your words?" She asked me, and I smiled and rubbed my bump again. "It feels so fucking good, Lisa. Literally speaking," I said, and she looked away, disgusted by my response.

"I have nothing to say to you. Do your worse. There is nothing more you can do. You took my man and my child from me. You ruined my life. There is nothing more you can do to me that would hurt more than what you have already done, Tia," She said on the verge of tears when she mentioned Paul.

"You took my son from me. Wouldn't even let me get close to him. You all deserve what is coming to you. Luis is out to get you, and I promise you, he is ruthless," she said, and I looked at her with a straight face. "Is that why you wanted to help him Kidnap your son. What do you think he will do to Paul? You

are stupid, Lisa. I thought you had realised your mistakes that day in the hospital, but I was wrong. Your remorse was a momentary thing. After hearing all that Tasha had to say, I realised you are no good for society". I said, and Elisabeth began to laugh. She was just using Tasha for information. I was glad she wasn't my friend.

Kirk finally walked in with the tray of silver objects used for interrogation, and Elisabeth's eyes widened with fear.

"Since you want to behave like a hardened criminal, I will treat you as one," I said and reached for a tool; she screamed immediately.

"What do you want to know. I will tell you. I will tell you all," She said, and I looked at her and frowned. "That easy? You couldn't even out up a fight." I said, surprised at how quickly she had broken. She was silent.

"I want to know everything, Lisa. I want to know what you know about Luis and what you discussed with him. The things you helped him do and what you know about his whereabouts. I also want to know the kitchen staff working for you." I said, and she began to breathe rapidly out of fear. I waited for her to calm down and sat in front of her.

"I am listening, Lisa. I do not have all day," I said, and she sighed from fear. "Only crazy people listen to crazy people," she said, and I walked up to her and punched her in the stomach.

"How dare you speak of someone in that manner," I said to her, and she coughed from the pain of the punch. It was insensitive of her to make fun of her friend during her trying times. It just shows that Elisabeth was never a true friend.

"I won't even bother to lie and deny it, Tia. I did it. I worked against you, gave him your address and sent the letter to you, making it seem like it was from Santa Braee. I had sent it a month before you received it because I knew I would soon be in labour. He promised to help me get Paul from Neev and set me up financially. So I helped. Two weeks ago, I met him in Dome, and he said something about going on the sea to Santa Braee to Intercept a vessel. We



are in love, Tia, and even if you lock me up, which I know is what you will do, he will free me Luke is no match for him, Tia He has all the military support and all the Moon's money at his disposal. He will crush the Moons like a lily. It is already a lost battle." She said proudly, and I began to laugh at her delusion

"I doubt he loves you, Lisa," I said and stood up I knew she had told the truth and was confident that Regan would free her. I did not feel sorry for her.

"Elisabeth Barnes. I am sentencing you to a minimum of fifty years and a maximum of Seventy years imprisonment with hard labour under harsh conditions for treason. You will use this time to reflect on your wickedness and plead with the goddess for forgiveness and cleansing of your soul" I said, and she began to laugh

"Luis will defeat the Moons, Tia, and I will be free in no time. They will march on this soil and end the reign of the Moons. I hope you have said goodbye to your loved ones," She said and looked at my bump. "That baby will never see the light of day," she said, and I smiled at her.

"I am sure you haven't heard the news about Tetra Sometimes it is good to listen to the news." I said, and she looked confused. I linked Kirk to play the footage of Tetra. After five minutes of watching it, she began to scream and yell. It had finally dawned on her she was on the losing team

"Take her away. I hope the goodness cleanses your soul Lisa," I said to her, and she began to plead.

"I can help you get him. Please don't lock me up," And I began to suspect she was unstable, She had switched too quickly for it to be expected. She had just claimed they were in love and he would defeat us. Her loyalty was fickle.

"I have gotten more than enough information from you, Lisa," I said and started walking out. "The Kitchen staff's name is Gilbert. Please let me go. Please let me go." I ignored her entirely and went to join Luke in the other room. He smiled at me with approval.

"Monica said the same thing about his whereabouts. I guess we have to prepare ourselves for an attack. He is bound to attack now that he can no longer remain in the shadows." Luke said, and I agreed with him. I knew that would be the next move. "We need to solicit help from others so we can have a large resistance," I told him, and he nodded and stood up to leave the room. Walking towards his office, he continued to speak "It will not be easy getting people on board," he said. I knew we would have to lean

wholly on Woodclaw residents for defence if we could not get people to join our military force. The power between Regan and the Moon family was equal at the moment. People will instead remain neutral than pick sides.

We stepped into Luke's office and found Alpha Aesop there. We were not expecting him to be there. It was surprising, and I could see the shock on Luke's face. The last time we saw Alpha Aesop was when he stormed out of the home office during Monica's questioning in the morning. What was he doing in the headquarters? "Father," Luke said, surprised, and Aesop looked up at him with rage still in his eyes. He was still angry

"I can't retire with that bastard still on the loose," he said, and I went to sit on the couch, not

bothering to greet the man. He probably did not see me in his angry state. It was apparent the man was still angry. The atmosphere was tense.

"Father, I am in charge now," Luke protested.

"Yes, I know, but it is personal now. Regan is my problem," Alpha Aesop said, and I could tell he was trying to control his anger. I had never seen him this mad before. It was scary. "I know, but I have also inherited that problem. He is trying to hurt all of us." Luke said to him, and Alpha Aesop did not seem to be listening.

He stood up from the chair and came to stand in front of Luke. They looked too much alike; it was just that Alpha Aesop looked older than Luke, and Luke had blue eyes. The man stared at my husband with rage and anger. It wasn't meant for Luke, but that was his state of mind at that moment.

"That man took Chloe from me for petty reasons. He couldn't take no for an answer and decided to kill her. He did not let her rest. Driving her into depression with his harassment. I almost destroyed Neev thinking the Alpha had worked against me. I looked for her Killer for years. I will often stay awake wondering what went wrong. I felt like a complete failure. I could not move on because I could never bring her justice. No one would rob me of this opportunity, Luke. I will get Justice for Chloe and Stacy. The poor woman might be annoying and erratic, but she did not deserve to go through what he put her through. Claimed or not, she is my wife, he gave her to me, and that bastard tried to kill her. He has screwed with me times without a number. It is time for me to pay him back. He is a sick fuck that needs to be put down like a dog. Don't get me wrong, Luke. I do not plan on doing it quickly. A slow, painful death will be most befitting

## Chapter 115

### 1151 Deserve My Axund Of Fimah

Luke

My father had a solemn expression on his face, and I felt the pressure he exuded. It did not affect me, but I knew Tia was barely fairsing

“You need to calm down, father,” I said and looked at where Tia sat on the couch, looking uncomfortable and bothered. My father took in a few breaths and tried to relax a bit. Noticing he was struggling with his temper, I quickly came up with a suggestion “Why don’t we head back home, and then we can discuss how to move forward there,” I said, and he looked at Tia

“I want Caleb, Kirk and Tia there. We need all the wisdom we can get,” My father said, and Tia looked at him, eyes wide and surprised she could not believe he finally invited her to participate in a military discussion. I knew she was happy about it. I could feel it.

“It is time to finish this bastard,” My father said through gritted teeth. Truth be told, he had been the target all along. The bastard had the effrontery to claim my father stole from him. Meanwhile, he was the thief, stealing people, money and lives. We all had a pound of flesh to take from him.

“We will meet you at home, father,” I said, and he nodded and walked away.

I linked Kirk to meet us at the mansion for the meeting.

“What about Mike,” he linked me back.

“Della, Mike has a personal issue he is sorting out, and I have granted him indefinite leave,” I said to Kirk, and he was quiet.

“Shall we?” I asked Tia, who was still beaming with joy. I took her hand to help her get up, not like she needed my help, but it was my way of caring for her. Tia was still beaming with joy.

“It is just a meeting, Tia, I will not let you fight if it comes down to it,” I said so she would know where I stood. Her smile dropped a bit, and I decided to remind her what happened the last time she shifted to fight

“Unless you want to go through what you went through last time,” I said, and she shook her head quickly. I learned it was a painful experience, and I was mad at her for putting her body through that kind of stress. Shilung while pregnant, especially when a woman starts showing, is prohibited. My wife had to damn the consequences and go ahead. I could not blame her either, my father needed the help.

“I need you to promise you won’t get in a fight no matter what, Tia I need you to promise me.” I said, and she reluctantly nodded. She did not speak the words.

“If your life is in danger, Luke, I will damn the consequences,” she said honestly, I knew it would be unfair to force her to make such a promise when I knew the roles were reversed, I would do the same. I just have to hope the need will not arise.

“Where are we going?” She asked me, and I sighed. I wanted to take her out, but my father had disrupted my plans with his meeting. “Home. We do not want to keep Alpha Aesop waiting,” I said, trying to mimic my father’s

countenance, and Tia giggled sweetly. It warmed my heart. She always looks more beautiful when she smiles. I hoped I could keep a smile on her face every day for the rest of our lives.

We arrived at the mansion with Kirk in tow. Entering the mansion, I learned that Caleb was already around. My father and Caleb were waiting for us in the office. I grumbled a bit because I wanted to take a shower and maybe make love to my wife before the meeting. But now we had to just get straight to it. I walked into the office, and Caleb was sitting on the couch minding his business while my father was

pace about the place. He had somehow calmed down. I did not bother to ask him how he managed to dissipate the rage so quickly. “Are we all here?” he asked me and motioned me to sit at the desk. It was a way of stating that I was still in charge. “Kirk is behind us,” I said, and he sighed. Very well then.” he said, and just then, Kirk walked in. He looked excited. I have never seen anyone who loved his job as much as Kirk did.

Tia sat on the couch beside Caleb, and Kirk joined them. They looked like they did when they were at the academy hanging around.

Once everyone was settled, my father cleared his throat to speak, and Stacy walked into my office.

We were all surprised at her. Her eyes were puffy, which showed she had been crying. I did not need to guess why. Monica was locked away.

“You can’t have a meeting about dealing with Regan without me,” She said with determination in her eyes.

“Go to bed, Stacy,” My father said to her with a dismissive tone and then she shook her head and did something unexpected. She took off her blouse and showed us her back. It was covered with silver scars. I looked away immediately, and Tia gasped.

“You do not know what life has been like with that man. I never said a word because I believed he was my problem. I thought I was the only one he was troubling. I did not know he was Luis Moon, the one who killed your wife, or was trying to kill Tia and Luke. I did not know he was the one troubling this family. I thought they were two different people. But now that I know the truth, I want to help.” She said and wiped away her tears.

“I am not just a tool, Aesop. My value does not begin and end in the bedroom. All my life, I was told that sex was all I was good for; my mother told me that, Regan told me that, and you

told me that. But I know I am more than a hole to give release to a person, a woman, and I have my values. I might not be a trained fighter like Tia or an academic, but I have the zeal to live and survive. That bastard took everything from me. My dignity, my life, my daughter, my peace, my joy and my husband. He took it all without cause and without remorse. I want to pay him back in his coin. I want to strip him bare as he did to my family and me. I want to ridicule him and take everything from him. I want to watch him suffer,” she said, wearing her blouse. Adjusting herself, she looked at my father. <sup>1</sup> “I do not care if it is that last thing I do. I really don’t have anything to live for anymore. My parents are close to the grave, and my daughter might never see the light of day again. My son does not need me, and my husband has left me. The least I can do is take Regan down for everything he made me do and lose.” she said, and I felt a sharp pain in my heart.

I could not believe my father was verbally abusive to her. No wonder she was always bitter and lashed out at everyone. It was her outlet. She dared not lash out at him, so she picked on me,

the staff and sometimes Caleb. It was her way of dealing with her situation. I looked at my father, and he was ashamed of himself.

“How can you tell the woman you claim to love that sex is all she is good for?” I linked my father, and he could not meet my eyes. He was sorry. He might have said those words out of anger, but he was still wrong. It cut deep and messed her mind up. It destroyed her self esteem. He was wrong.

My father stood up and walked to where Stacy stood. She looked terrified, and I noticed she was shaking. She has always been afraid of my father, but I know that he will never lay a finger on her, but sometimes words hurt more than the physically inflicted pains.

He pulled her close and hugged her tightly. She was still shaking while he held her with her head against his chest.

“I am sorry, Stacy. I never meant it that way. I was angry. I did not know it would cut that deep,” He said to her, and she wrapped her arms around him and sobbed gently.

“I am sorry I lied to you. I was scared,” she confessed, which we all already knew by now. The only reason Stacy did not tell a soul was out of fear. Regan had that effect. I wondered why Lisa would think he would love her. She was just as delusional as he was.

My father led Stacy to where he was sitting and made her sit beside him. Seeing them was beautiful, and I caught Tia wiping away tears from her face. It was about time they reconciled. So far, my mother and Stacy were victims of Regan, Stacy was only lucky she survived.

I cleared my throat to snap people back. My father and Stacy will deal with their issues when they are alone.

“How do we get this bastard?” I said aloud because I was out of ideas, and Regan had refused to come out of the shadows.

“We thought Tetra would force a form of response from him, but he is still somehow hiding in the shadows. We learned he went to intercept a vessel with ammunitions meant for Santa Braee. How long would we keep playing hide and seek with this bastard?”

Stacy raised her hand as if she were in a classroom, and I almost laughed. It was clear my father never allowed her to get involved with pack affairs. I nodded at her, and she smiled at

1.

“Thank you, Alpha Luke.” she started and cleared her throat.

“Regan is a coward. I do not know about now, but he avoids confrontations. He likes to lurk in the shadows, deceiving and manipulating people to do his bidding but he never gets involved directly.” She

said, and I paid attention.

“He is also a very arrogant man. He will surface if you have a way of calling his bluff publicly He always does, but he might surface with a lot of might, so you also have to be ready to withstand his might before publicly calling his bluff.” she said, and I really appreciated her insight. She knew Regan more than us, and if what she was saying was true, we would need to prepare our military before considering how to humiliate or dare him publicly

“How is the state of the Military Kirk?” I asked, and he leaned forward to speak I could tell he was yet to shake off the shock of seeing Stacy topless. The woman was still a beauty

“Not good, Alpha We have a lot of people taking the neutral stance right now. Neither are for or against But we still have the loyalty of Neev and Bravadome. You own Woodclaw city and

Eastwood. I guess after Tetra, they realised it will not be an easy win for Luis or Regan,” he said, sounding confused about what to call him.

“His real name is Tom Regan Adhit,” Stacy said, and Kirk nodded.

“We will still refer to him as Luis Moon to outsiders. We do not want him to know his game is up.” Tia chipped in, and Caleb giggled.

“Let us leave him thinking his identity is hidden. I can’t wait to see the look on the face of the bastard when he finds out that we know everything.” Caleb said and still giggled.

“Kirk, I will need you to prepare the military with arms and station them ready for defence. Divide the force into three. I will lead one, my father will lead the other, and Caleb will lead the last one.” I instructed, and he nodded

“That is good, but I am tired of the bloodshed. The truth is the bastard will keep covering himself with others. We must challenge him in a one-on-one fight wolf style with everything to lose on both sides. We

need to condemn wasting innocent lives and challenge him in one-on-one combat. If we win, we take it all; if he wins, he takes it all. It will be a fifty-fifty-stake fight. Let us end him once and for all,” Caleb suggested, and it was the best yet the riskiest idea. If Regan agrees, what are the odds that he will actually fight fair?