

D Desires 41

Chapter 41

41 Drawing The Line Luke.

Making love to Tia felt better each time. It was no joke, but my body craved hers all the time. I had to have her that morning, and I did. I noticed she wasn't so vocal in bed, so I decided I would try to make her speak up more so she could enjoy it just as much as I was enjoying it. Breakfast was great and, above all, peaceful. There was no Stacy to get on everyone's nerves or Caleb sulking and staring at my wife obsessively, Monica trying to flirt with me,

or my father bringing up unnecessary unrelated topics to talk about. The height of it was when he

decided to discuss our first heat on the table. It was private to Tia and me, and he had made it a public affair and even tried to bring up my mother. The man had no limits or shame.

This was our first morning in the house, and Tia looked overwhelmed with happiness. Caleb had called me to inform me that Gabriel was in the warehouse for questioning, and I was eager to learn everything about him. I wanted to know who planned on killing me badly. While we ate breakfast, a call came from the hospital, and I cringed.

"Good morning Alpha Moon," The doctor said, and I looked at Tia. I had the urge to excuse myself, so I could speak to the doctor, but I had promised that I would not keep secrets, so I stayed.

"Good morning Doctor Green," I said, and Tia looked at me with a knowing look. "We need you to sign some documents, and I also want to discuss some things about Miss Barnes. I promise it won't take much of your time." He said, and I looked at my wife. "Okay," I said and hung up.

"What is the matter?" Tia asked me.

"They want me to come and sign some documents, and the doctor wants to discuss some things with me," I said, and she rolled her eyes. "Don't they know we are on 'vacation'?" she said, making the quotes

sign with her fingers, and I laughed. "I guess we have to make a stop at the hospital then," Tia said, and I nodded reluctantly. I honestly did not want to see Elisabeth.

We finished our breakfast and headed out. Jacob and Michelle were in the house, so there was no need for us to lock up. I let them know we might return late, so they don't worry. "While I drove, I placed my right hand on Tia's thighs and squeezed. I knew this Elisabeth thing was taking a toll on her even though she hid it. She looked at me and smiled.

"We will get through this, Luke," she said assuringly, and I was glad for her optimism; I needed it.

I drove quickly to the hospital and parked the car. I held on to Tia's hands so she would not lag behind!

like last time and walked quickly into the clinic. Not having time to waste, I headed straight for the doctor's office. Doctor Benjamin Green was surprised to see me with Tia, but he controlled himself.

"Alpha Moon. Good afternoon," He greeted me, and I replied.

"Good afternoon Luna Tia," He said to Tia, and she smiled at him.

"Alpha Moon," he said, handing me some documents to sign.

"What are these?" I asked, and he looked at Tia and then looked at me.

"It is okay; you can tell me anything you want to say in the presence of my wife," I told him, and he sighed.

"We believe your mistress might...." he said, and I cut him short.

"Elisabeth is not my mistress, doctor. I know the nonsense going around, but I have no dealings with her. She got pregnant as a result of our break up sex. I haven't touched her since," I stated because I knew the news had gone round that I had a pregnant mistress. I wouldn't put it past Stacy or Elisabeth herself;

I intended to correct the misconception at every given opportunity. He cleared his throat and apologised. "Miss Barnes has been inducing her symptoms which might be harmful to the baby." He said, and I

already knew that. Then he looked at Tia.

1

So, what is the way forward?" I asked him, and he sighed.

WAN

"She needs to be watched to ensure she doesn't continue seeking attention this way. Also, She needs to undergo psychiatric evaluation. That is why I needed you to sign the consent form." He said, and I nodded and signed it.

DEL

"Will that be all?" I asked, getting ready to leave.

"If you can help talk to her so she can eat, it will help. She can't receive treatment without eating food, and she has refused to eat since you left yesterday. It is very harmful to the baby." The doctor said, and I couldn't care less at this point. This whole baby blackmail thing was getting to me now. I was done with this woman. We had said our goodbyes, and clearly, she has moved on, so why is she doing this to me? "No," I told the doctor and stood up. "I have signed the document and given you the go-ahead, but I do not want to have any dealings with that bitch. If she wants to starve herself to death, so be it. It would mean fewer problems for my wife and me. Let her know that if she starves herself to death, she will be doing Tia and me a huge favour," I said and got up, The doctor was shocked, but I knew I had to draw the line. If not, she would continue doing things to gain my attention, and Tia can only take so much. I could not subject my wife to constant emotional abuse like this. This was it; I was done. If she ever induces any symptoms again, she will be on her own.

"I am on vacation, doctor. Refrain from calling me, please. If papers need signing, my butler Bart can attend to the documents in my stead. Am I clear?" I said, and the doctor nodded and stood up. Tia did the same, and we walked out of the office and out of the hospital. I had drawn a line, and it felt damn good.

We entered the car and headed toward the warehouse.

"Are you sure about this? You know Elisabeth can be daring," Tia said, and I nodded.

"I am sure she will be okay. Look at Kimberly. Caleb doesn't spare her one look. They sleep in separate rooms, and she goes for her antenatal alone. He is obsessed with you and has shown it, yet she has done nothing to lash out. How often has Caleb had to rush to the hospital to be beside her? Yet this bitch won't let me rest. I have done everything. I pay money to her account weekly. I kept her rent and paid her bills even after we broke up. I offered to give her money to start a business then she did this to me. What more does she want? Once I find the unfortunate man she is screwing, she will be out of the moon mansion and out of my life." I said. I was irate; I felt my mark burning. I had had enough of that bitch. Soon Tia's phone began to

ring.

"Who is it?" I asked my wife, trying to calm down.

"Unknown number," she said and answered it. "What. What is your problem? You need help,

Elisabeth," I heard her say. I did not bother to care what the bitch was saying at the other end. I used my right hand to take the phone from Tia and hung up.

"Do not communicate with her again. Block her line. I will ask Bart to deal with her henceforth. We have tried. She is impossible, and the doctor might be on to something when he said she might have some

mental issues." I told Tia, and she was silent. I wondered what Elisabeth might have said to her on the phone.

'Don't let her words get to you, Tia,' I said to my wife gently. "I am okay, Luke. It is just disturbing how she can be this way." Tia said I did not say anything else because I wanted the conversation about Lisa to end. Now that I had drawn the line, she would get the message. All this while I had softened towards her because of the baby. I did not want anything happening to my child, but it isn't my fault that Elisabeth is a psycho.

I parked at the warehouse, and the moment I turned off the car, Tia drew me in for a kiss. It was hungry and determined, and one thing led to the other. Before I knew it, she was riding me. I needed it. I needed her because I was seething with anger at that moment. It would have been in the wrong state of mind to question Gabriel. I filled my senses up with Tia's scent and calmed down. The release brought me more calmness, and I realised that Tia might get sore soon at this rate. Wearing the dress

was a good idea. We both left the car feeling optimistic and refreshed. Elisabeth's matter was long forgotten, and I looked forward to finding out who was trying to kill me.

We both entered the warehouse, and the guys there

greeted me with the utmost respect. I walked to Caleb and shook him.

"Awesome job, Caleb," I said, and he nodded and gave me a brotherly hug.

"Tia," Caleb said, waving at Tia, and she responded. There was always an awkwardness between the two, but today was different. It was as if Caleb was beginning to accept the situation.

"So how do we begin," Caleb asked, removing the blindfolds from Gabriel's eyes. Caleb had done a number on him, and I knew it was because Tia had almost lost her life during the attack. Things people did for love.

I walked up to the guy and punched him in the stomach.

"That is for my wife," I said and sent another punch to his stomach. "And that is for me." The guy coughed out blood, and his pain was pleasing to see.

“Tia, kindly do us the honours,” I asked my wife, and she beamed at me. Ready and willing to question Gabriel. We all wanted answers.

Chapter 42

42 Fake Name Luis

Tia.

I smiled at Luke, feeling honoured that he would trust me to interrogate the prisoner. Caleb and Luke seemed to be a bit cool. I guess he meant what he said by the lake, but Luke was right about his obsession being unhealthy. I hoped Kimberly would finally win his heart, and he could move on. I missed having him as a friend, and I expected a time would come when we could get back to that. I drew a chair and sat in front of Gabriel. Caleb and Kirk had done a number on him. I knew my friends did this because they had a pattern.

“Mr Atkins, and so we finally meet,” I said with a low, seductive tone so he could be relaxed around me.

“We all know why you are here, so let us spare ourselves the stress and begin to speak,” I said to him, and he spat in my direction. I laughed at his show of bravado. “Men could not make me talk. Don’t think you will have any luck, Moon bitch.” he said to me, and I found his outburst quite amusing. I reached for his face, held his chin up, and then smiled at him. “I wanted to be nice, but you have made me change my mind, Atkins,” I said and looked at Caleb.

“Did you bring my favourite gear?” I asked Caleb, and he smiled at me. Kirk did too and went to bring a big black box. He began to lay the instruments on the table. “Tia,” Luke linked me, confused. “It is not everyone that understands gentleness, Luke. Some people like it rough and painful, and I believe Atkins is one of those,” I linked him back when he approached me.

“Then let me do it,” he said, and I shook my head.

“I do not plan on beating him, Luke. They say at the academy that the beta, gamma and delta will have to do the dirty job so the Alpha can remain clean. I might be Luna, Luke, but I still have the mind of a soldier. Watch Kirk, and I break this bastard.” I said, and Luke stepped back, trusting me.

Kirk and I went to work. We stripped the man naked and began to torture him with the tools until he couldn't take it anymore and started talking. It took about an hour, but the thing we did to his very erect penis did the job. We were masterful at it, and I felt like I was in a biology lab. We didn't damage his equipment, but we made him realise we could if he did not tell us.

"You are a stone-cold heartless bitch!" the man spat, but it didn't bother me.

"Tell me something I don't know, Atkins," I said to him, and he began to speak.

"I met a guy at the Miles Casino. he said his name was Luis, but I knew he was lying. He did not look like a Luis to me," he said and then asked for water. I obliged him and waited for him to have his fill before continuing.

"I used to gamble a lot at the Miles casino. I owe a lot, and they had been threatening me, so I

got desperate. Luis knew about my debt and offered me a job to help clear it. It was an offer I couldn't refuse. He said all I had to do was come up with a Team that would not lead back to me and help wipe out the Moons, starting from the eldest and leaving alpha Aesop for the last. He was particular, so I told him I would do that job if he told me why. He said Alpha Aesop took something precious from him when he had nothing, and he wants to pay him back." He said, and I frowned at him. Here we were, thinking it was Stacy. There was no way Stacy would want to kill her son.

"So where is this Luis guy?" I asked him, and he began to laugh. "You are way out of your league Little Luna. Luis is a ghost. You don't find him; he finds you." He said to me, and I hated where this conversation was heading. It was beginning to feel like a dead end.

"Luis has been trying to get even with Alpha Aesop for a long time now. He is determined. Don't think you are safe because you have captured me. I was just a broke guy looking for a break, but he has scores to settle, and he is determined." The guy said and coughed. "Did he tell you what Alpha Aesop

took from him?" I asked him, and he shook his head with difficulty. "I just wanted the money. I did not ask for the details," he replied, and I nodded.

"Can you describe him to our sketch artist?" I asked Gabriel, and he smiled.

"If a description with sunglasses will do the trick, it's okay. I can do it," he said, and my hope was deflated.

"You mean you do not know what he really looks like?" I asked him, and he shook his head again.

"He is always wearing sunglasses, and his beards are always changing. I think he disguised himself a lot," he said, and I had to think quickly. "Can you describe his scent?" I asked Gabriel. "You are a clever one. That was one consistent thing, but he might be misguiding me with it." Musky with a tinge of sandalwood," he replied. "I still want you to describe all his looks to the sketch artist.

"What will happen to me after this?" he asked me. "Once you have finished describing the guy, my husband will decide what to do. Not to worry, he is kinder than me, and you have been forthcoming." I said to him, but the guy knew he was dead already. "At least I will be at peace, and the people from West corp will stop troubling me," he said, and I looked at him.

"Troubling you?" I asked, and he nodded.

"Luis never paid the full money, I still owe, and because Luke didn't die, he said our deal is off," he said, and I asked him where was the last place they met.

"We always meet at the strip bar in the casino building. He likes it a lot," he said, and I looked

at Luke, wondering if he had visited such places, "So if we go to this strip club, we might find him?" I asked Gabriel, and he shook his head.

"I do not know, Little Luna. I do not know. He might have been long gone by now. He has his ears to the ground. He must know that I have been caught, and I owe allegiance to no one. He knows I will definitely rat him out to save my neck. I doubt the guy will be there," he said, and I realised that Gabriel was an intelligent guy. That was a big problem because the possibility everything he had just told us was lies that led to nowhere. I needed to be sure.

"Everything you have told me leads to a dead-end Gabriel. How am I sure you aren't lying?" I asked him, and he smiled,

“Look at me, Little Luna. I have nothing more to lose; you caught me already. Do you think I will be the type to want to go down alone?” He asked me, and I knew he was too selfish for

that.

“Did you receive your money via cash or via transfer?” I asked the guy, and he smiled.

“I see why you finished second place at your fancy academy, Little Luna. I have heard a lot about you. You are the smart kind. Follow the money, and you might find him. I bank with your husband’s bank.” he said and winked. The guy had resigned himself to death. Gabriel

us his account details, and we left the place just as confused as we arrived.

“Are we still going to the office?” I asked Luke, and he sighed.

“No, Love, I think we should work from home.” He said, and I was a bit relieved because I was tired. We spent time at the warehouse, and it was six in the evening now.

“Don’t worry, Luke. We will solve this,” I told him, and he nodded.

“I think I need to talk with my father tomorrow. He needs to tell me who his enemies are and what he did to them. If this man is targetting us, it means he wasn’t s to make sure he ends the moon bloodline. It is

not good. I would have said it is Miles, but Miles’ daughter carries a moon, and she is with Caleb. I doubt that man has it in him. Whoever is doing this is outside the picture.” he said, and I knew this would trouble him a bit. Which meant the night would be boring and a bit tedious.

“Thank you, Tia,” He said to me, and I wondered why.

“for what?” I asked him, and he smiled.

“Before you, I thought women were just for sex and spending money. I thought women were selfish and inconsiderate, and I had a bad experience with Stacy and Elisabeth. All they ever

pretty and show off. I never knew that a mate could be a true partner. You have shown me something I have never experienced before; Loyalty. I am grateful, Tia,” he said, and it warmed my heart. Suddenly the things he said sitting on my father’s porch began to add up. I touched his shoulder and squeezed hard.

“Women are much more than that, Luke. You just met the wrong ones,” I assured him, and he looked at me and smiled and put his eyes back on the road.

“I guess we have to increase our security details since this fake name Luis guy is still at large, and we are not close to solving the mystery,” I said, and we continued the journey in silence until we got home.

Michelle made dinner, and it was delicious. To ease the day’s tension, Luke and I decided to soak in the tub. It was romantic, and I wished we could thoroughly enjoy the moment without dealing with Luis, the ghost.

Chapter 43

43 Breakfast at the Moons

Luke.

I tried my best not to show disappointment. I was hopeful that I would catch someone, but now the list of suspects had broadened to anyone. If anything, all that happened was we were able to exonerate Stacy. Deep down, I wanted it to be her so I could rest. Knowing someone out there had it in for my family was dreadful, and my mind was not at rest. Whatever my father must have taken from this Luis guy must be serious that he is so dedicated to wiping us out.

One thing I was sure about was Luis was an Alpha. Only an Alpha would benefit from wiping out an entire Alpha family. If he was an ordinary pack member, he would not be aiming so high and would not want to get even so badly. I wondered what my father must have taken from him.

It was hard to figure out on my own because my father wasn't shady and wasn't covetous. His only crime was mating with Stacy, whom I found out has been bleeding him dry to pay up a blackmailer. I needed to discuss this Luis guy with my father. Maybe he will remember someone in his past that he might have had a running with that might want to get even so badly by killing him.

I believe the price was too high for an object. Maybe my father took a loved one from him, but we have been at peace for a long time. We rarely fought. We only defended ourselves from attacks. This was all disturbing.

I was sitting at the foot of the bed, thinking about the situation, and I heard Tia wake, kneel at my back and hug me. "You should not overthink things, Luke," she said, caressing my chest with her hand and kissing my neck. Tia's hands were masterful, and she made me groan a lot.

"I am sure your father would shed light on the matter when you and Celeb speak to him tomorrow." She said, and I touched her hand.

"I think you have to be there, Tia," I said, and she kissed my neck. "I think it is best I remain here, Luke. Your father might not open up as he should if I am there," she said, and I knew she was right, but with how I was feeling, I needed someone neutral who could think fast there.

"All you have to do is find out if your father bullied anyone with money and took something precious from them, especially an alpha, because this guy's modus operandi screams Alpha material." She said and kissed the back of my ears, and I moaned. She was getting me all worked up, and I was hard.

"At this rate, you will get sore, Tia," I warned her, but she didn't stop. She nibbled my earlobe.

"Just because we get a toothache from too much candy does not stop us from consuming it. Making love with you is sweet, Luke and I can't get enough of it," she said and moaned. I turned towards her and kissed her passionately. Tai had a huge appetite, and I was glad to be the one satisfying it.

"I want you to take your time, Luke. Don't rush; we have all night," She said between moans, and I peeled off her clothes while she peeled off mine.

We went wild that night, and I could not believe how long we went at it. We both passed out after, and I did not wake up until eight in the morning. Leaving Tia still sleeping on the bed, I went to shower and get ready for the day. I asked Gail to forward some of my work to Tia and gave her Tia's number in case she needed anything done. I had finished getting ready to go to the Moon mansion when Tia woke up.

"You got ready without me," she said, pouting, and I smiled and went to kiss her on the cheek I knew she hates kissing with morning breath, so I did not want to D

"I have to catch my father and Caleb, and I feel after breakfast is the best time," I said, and she nodded and smiled at me.

"It is okay. I will just wander about the place waiting for you to come home," she said, and I laughed because I knew what she was doing.

"I told Gail to forward my office work to you, and I told her to call you in case of anything. So it will be a busy day. You can work from the home office." I said to her, and she beamed at me. I guess Tia did not like being idle.

"Are you going to spend the whole day there?" She asked me, and I could hear the loneliness in her voice.

"No, darling. Once I am done, I will come home straight to you. I promise. Or you know what? If you can get ready quickly, you can dress up, and we can go there together and go to the office after," I suggested, and she frowned. "What about the office work Gail is sending to me?" She asked me, and I smiled "We can always deal with it when we get there," I told her, and she darted to the bathroom and was out in fifteen minutes. She wore a loose dress, and I smiled, knowing exactly why, and I pulled her close to me and nibbled her ears.

"The rate we are going, you might become too sore," I said, and she moaned.

"I heal fast," was all she could manage, and I had to break up the hug, or we would not be able to meet up for breakfast.

We rushed downstairs, greeted the Wilsons and left the house.

I drove to the moon mansion in a hurry, and we arrived on time. My father was surprised to see me and Stacy looked sickly as if she had been crying. She had fear in her eyes when she saw Tia and me. I guess she regretted telling us the truth. I knew her desperation drove her to it. I wondered what she might have done for this man to have such a hold on her.

“Don’t worry, I won’t tell him,” I linked her, so she would be calm. Her face relaxed a bit, but she was still on edge. Whoever was blackmailing her had a stronghold on her and wasn’t letting go. She better tells the person her financial condition so he can leave her alone. Twenty -three years is a long time to bleed

someone. The culprit was dedicated, and Stacy was too much of a coward to own up to whatever mistake she committed in the past and shake the leech off.

Moona

“Miss us so much?” My father asked, and Tia and I smiled as if that was the case. “Happy you decided to grace us this morning.” My father said, and I thanked him for having

us.

“Tia, are you enjoying the holiday?” he asked my wife, and she nodded and smiled at him. “You have Luke’s scent. Of course, you are enjoying the vacation,”: My father said, ever forward and never knowing when he is making others uncomfortable. “I hope grandchildren will come of this?” he asked, and I cleared my throat. We ate in silence, and when we were done, Caleb and I requested to see my father in private. Stacy became worried, and I did not know how else to assure her that her secret wasn’t mine to tell

We walked to my father’s office, and he was curious about why we wanted to see him. Caleb did us the honours by telling him everything we learned from Gabriel. “Are you sure this man is in his right senses?” My father asked, looking confused. “Unless the person that contracted him to do the job was lying, father, I doubt this guy will lie to us, Tia and Kirk did a thorough job,” Caleb said, and my father looked at me, stunned. Why did Caleb involve Tia in this? “You took your wife to the warehouse to question this guy?” My father asked, a bit annoyed. “She is very good at it, father,” Caleb said, realising his mistake. “I do not care. She is no longer in the military. She has no business getting involved with

Military operations; she is your wife, Luke and will soon be the mother of your children. You shouldn't endanger her life like that," My father growled.

"Let's not digress here," I said, standing my ground, "Who did you steal from many years ago that will want to get even so badly because this guy seemed determined, and I do not like the fact that my brother

and I along with my wife are caught in this mess. Better tell us so we would know where to start digging, father," I said, and he balled up his fist.

"Don't use that word with me, Luke. I am not a thief and have no reason to steal from anyone. I have run this pack smoothly for thirty years, and I have never had a running with anyone to the point that they will have a grudge. You need to find this Luis guy," he said. "You are still Alpha father; your duty is to find him. We have done our part," I said, and he shook his head.

"You are Alpha now. You took the authority from me, Luke," He said, laughing." Even if I didn't name you as heir, you would have still become alpha," My father said, smiling at me with pride.

"My key mark is no longer active," he said, which explained why mine always burned.

"How is that possible?" I asked my father.

"A stronger and younger Alpha will always dominate the weaker and older one. My mark just stopped burning one day. This takes over usually occurs in the heat of passion, a show of ultimate dominance and control." He said and leaned back in his chair.

"I haven't made the announcement simply because I want you and Tia to have more time before you get saddled with pack duty," he said, and I was a bit grateful because Tia and I were still behaving like we were still in our honeymoon. I smiled to show gratitude, and my father returned the smile.

"I haven't seen you this happy before, Luke. Who would have thought Tia Lockwood would have this effect on you," he linked me, and I knew it was so Caleb won't get depressed. "I will look into my past to see if there is someone I have wronged badly." He said, and we nodded and got ready to leave. "Father,

you need to find out what is troubling my mother. She has been acting paranoid for two days now. She isn't her old self," Caleb said, picking up on his mother's emotions.

"I have been asking her for a week now. She says it is nothing. I know it is a lie, but I can't help somebody that refuses to trust me with their problems," My father said, and at that minute, I was ready to tell him about the blackmail, but I had also promised I would not, and it wasn't my place to tell. "Well, I know she is having money issues," I told them, and my father frowned at me. "Why will you say that. I pay her allowance, and you handle her wardrobe and staff. What money issues?" He asked me, and I sighed. "Father, you must be more vigilant regarding the people around you. It is imperative. Stacy doesn't have a business she is running, nor does she have responsibilities. We take care of her folks in Tempaah. She has literally no reason to spend money in high amounts. Yet she helped Mile defraud Diamond corp for a fee, which wasn't on one occasion. Every time that man gets a contract, he pays her for it. She has been taking huge some from your joint account. I have the paper trail. At first, it seemed like she was saving up for rainy days, but she is broke, Father. Which begs the question, where is all that money going. I think you should investigate where the money is going. I have an idea because she told me out of desperation, but I can't tell you because I promised her I won't, and I urged her to come clean to you about it. That is the best I can say," I said, and Caleb and my father were stunned.

"You mean she came to you for help?" Caleb asked me, astonished.

"Yep, she came to Tia and me for help. Accosted us on our way to our holiday home, her niece in tow." I said, and my father sighed heavily, and I could feel the frustration in his voice.

"I will look into it. Thanks for the heads up.

"You can tell me, Luke," Caleb linked me, and I sighed. I never promised her that I won't tell her son.

"Your mother has been paying her blackmailer for twenty-three years," I said. "Fuck!" He exclaimed loudly, and I frowned at him to keep himself composed. 'Fuck!' he exclaimed again and left the office in a hurry. He could not handle the news. "What did you tell him?" My father asked. "What his mother told me," I replied, and he looked at me curiously, hoping I would spill.

"She is your mate; ask her," I said, and he took a bit of offence but let it go. "Do not take Tia along for any Military operations again. She is your Luna and not a soldier. We can't risk her getting into a fight. She might soon get pregnant. I knew what it was like for you without your mother passed. Although your mother's case was different, I do not think it is wise putting her in danger," he said, genuinely

concerned for Tia, and I nodded my head. "Well, have you decided what to do about Elisabeth and her complications?" My father asked, and I laughed.

"They were induced for attention. We found evidence in her room, and the doctor attending to her case confirmed it. She is just an attention seeker. She is also seeing someone," I said, and his eyes widened. "Are you sure about this?" he asked, and I sighed. "Very sure," I replied. "So we can kick her out?" he asked, and I nodded. "Once I confront her about it." I said, and he shook his head. "She is carrying my grandchild and likely an Alpha heir. I would like to keep her and take the child from her first," He said, and I cringed.

"That baby will not inherit me," I told my father, and he was stunned.

"You should have thought of that before getting her pregnant a week before marrying Tia. Now you are head over heels for Tia, but the mess you created with Elisabeth lingers. "He will inherit you, Luke. If he is an Alpha and a boy. He will inherit you." he said to me. "What about my legitimate children?" I asked him, and he smiled. "Give them, Diamond corp or whatever you build," he said, and I decided to excuse myself at that minute because I was irritated with myself for doing this to us.

Chapter 44

44 Secrets and Lies

Tia.

The breakfast table became quiet when Luke, Caleb, and Alpha Aesop left. Monica had a permanent bitch look on her face, and it was directed at me. Stacy was too worried about her blackmailer to care, and pregnant Kimberly smiled at me while she picked the fruits on her plate.

"How is your holiday home, Tia?" Kimberly finally asked me, and I smiled at her. "It is nice and quiet. Just us," I said, and she smiled.

"I envy that. Hopefully, Caleb will get over you, and we can move on," she said with sincerity, and I felt my heart break. I did not like this girl initially. She had taken my crush away from me, and I hated her bitchy behaviour, but I understood her pain. I have never been pregnant before, but if I were, I would want the father of my child to care for me, especially when he is single and we dated. Her case was very different from Elisabeth's.

“He will. I think he already has,” I told her, and she smiled and shook her head. “Caleb is afraid of Luke; if not, he would have acted out his intentions. He still looks at you the same. The way he looked at you in the academy, the same way he looks at you when you go out together,” she said, tears welling up in her eyes. “He didn’t fancy me then,” I said because I knew he didn’t. “On the contrary, Tia. Caleb had liked you since you were fifteen. Don’t say you do not know. Was that not why you dumped your studies and joined the academy?” Stacy said blandly, “His love was true, but yours was shallow, and that was why you moved on quickly. See you with Luke as if Caleb never happened.” She said, and I could not believe this woman.

“Honestly, Luna Stacy. I can’t believe you. Why shouldn’t I move on? You wanted me out of your son’s life, forced alpha Aesop to purchase me for Luke.” I said, and Kimberly gasped.

“Yes, Kimberly, I was bought for Luke. My parents had no choice but to sell. It was either that or rogue status,” I said to Kimberly. “I had to adjust Luna Stacy, and in doing so, I fell in love. Instead of being miserable, I fell in love, so I do not understand. Maybe if you have left well enough alone, Kimberly will not be pregnant and stuck here unloved.” I said, and I could not finish the sentence because Stacy’s actions had brought me, great love.. “Finish the sentence Tia,” Stacy said, waiting for the other part, so I took a deep breath. “I am also grateful for your action because it gave me true love,” I said, and she laughed.

“That wasn’t what you were going to say, Tia. If I had not intervened, you would have been with Caleb,” She corrected, and I shook my head.

“Caleb and I went to the academy. We spent every day together for four years, and he never asked me out. He never showed he cared. If you hadn’t intervened, I would have ended up with someone else but not Caleb,” I said, and Caleb approached us at that moment.

“You would have ended up with me, Tia. I was going to wait until it was safe to show my true intentions and settle down with you. I did not want my mother to interfere. That was why I hid my feelings,” He explained, and I cringed. I really shouldn’t have come with Luke.

“Well, that is water under the bridge now,” I said with a smile and sipped my orange juice.

“Of course, it will be. You get to be Luna and run Diamond corp. Luke has fallen madly in love with you that he even neglects his first love, who is carrying his child. I must say, Tia, you are a master,” Stacy said, and I was silent because now I knew why she hated me. First, she didn’t want me with her son because I had no money. She antagonised me because Caleb was hung up on me and refused to move

on with Kimberly, which made her relationship with Timothy Miles rocky. After everything, I will be Luna and run Diamond corp, everything she ever wanted for herself. I got it all without trying, but she was wrong. Luke and I had to try. We were two people that were forced to be together. Instead of being miserable, we made it work, and she hates us for it.

"I take comfort in the fact that you won't be able to direct the course of my life anymore, Stacy," I said, and she glared at me. There was no need for formalities anymore.

"You dare disrespect me. I am your Luna," She yelled at me, and I smiled at her frustration. I got the reaction I wanted. She was seething with anger.

"Mother, we need to talk," Caleb said to her with a calm tone. Something was bothering him.

"I do not care; someone must put this bitch in her place. Wait until your father gets here," She said, smiling at me evilly.

"Father can't do anything to Tia, Mother. Luke is alpha now, which makes her Luna," He said, and she looked at him with horror. "Yes, mother's Luke's mark is active," He told her, and she frowned. "But Aesop has not handed over to him yet," she said, sounding confused, and he smiled at her. "He is a stronger Alpha," Caleb said, and my heart swelled with pride for my husband. Everyone thought I was doomed when they purchased me for Luke, but the goddess had blessed me. I no longer have to worry about being cast out or cut off. "But that is not what I want to discuss with you, mother. What have you been doing with all the money you stole?" Caleb asked her, and I looked at Kimberly, who was smiling. I guess our feelings were mutual in that regard.

"I wasn't stealing. I earned that money. I just made sure Timothy won the bids," she said, looking at me as if I had told Caleb.

"So where is it. I need to use it for business," Caleb said, and I knew he knew, but he was trying to back her into a corner. Luke must have told him.

"It's my money; ask your father or brother to give you money for business," She said with a shaky voice.

“No, mother. Luke is enjoying his mother’s money; the least you can do is set me up unless you have spent it all, and if you have, I need to know what you spent it on because you have no

responsibilities, mother. Everything is taken care of. Even now that Luke has taken over the money, he still makes sure we all get our allowances, and the staff are paid. Your closet was changed at the same time as Tia’s, please. What did you use all that money for, mother? Do not make me investigate you.” He threatened. Caleb might be a weak Alpha, but he was a master investigator.

HI

Fear washed over Stacy, and she looked at me. I looked away. “I doubt the answer is written on Tia’s face, Mother,” he said, sounding short and impatient with her.

WWWOO

wwwwwwwwwwww

GO

“I ... I... I spent it,” she managed. “On what!” He yelled at her. “You don’t understand, Caleb. It is for our good. If I don’t pay up, everything will crumble. He is dangerous, Caleb. Please let it go,” she said, and I frowned at her. She said nothing and said a lot. The fear on her face said it all. “Who is the guy?” Caleb asked her, and she stood up, ready to excuse herself. “I will tell father, and lunch and investigation. You have done enough damage, mother.” Caleb yelled at her. “Caleb, please leave her alone; she is going through a lot,” Monica managed with fear. “And who asked for your opinion? I am speaking to my mother. This isn’t your family. You are a guest here, so you shut up when we are speaking,” he shot at her, and she was angry but looked at Stacy, who shook her head and calmed down. The aunty-niece bond was pretty intense. Stacy must really love her niece. “Caleb, do not talk to your cousin like that,” she said, trying to change the topic, and he grabbed her arm. “I swear, mother if I find out that you were behind the attempt on Luke and Tia’s life, I will hand you over,” he said, and she widened her eyes with surprise. “I swear, Caleb,” she said, trying to yank her hand away, but he was holding on tightly. “Caleb, let her go,” Monica yelled. “Shut your trap, Monica!” he yelled at her. He was seething with anger. “Who have you

been giving all that money to, mother?" he yelled at her, and I knew she would not tell him. It must be serious.

I touched Luke's arm. 1

"Stay out of this, Tia. This is between my mother and me," he warned me, and I held back. "Let her go, Caleb," Kimberly pleaded with him. "Who asked for your opinion?" he shut at her, and I knew there was no saving Stacy. I wanted to link Luke, but that will bring Alpha Aesop to the breakfast lounge, and he will know her secret.

"Please, Caleb, don't do this here. She clearly does not want your father to know," I pleaded

with him, and Stacy looked at me, surprised but scared too.

"Caleb, please, she is your mother. You can discuss this with her privately. I am sure she will open up to you," I told him calmly.

"I need that money for business, and I need to know who she has been giving it to," he said, trying to cover the source of his information, but I knew Luke had told him. He didn't need the money for business because Luke was already setting him up. He just wanted her to confess. He must think she was paying someone to try to kill Luke.

"Please, Caleb," I pleaded with him, and he let her arm go.

"If you do not tell me, I will tell father, investigate you and report to him everything that I find out," he threatened, and she shook her head and began to cry. "Please, Caleb, leave it alone. Please. Everything I did was for a better life. Please, Caleb. He is dangerous and deadly. I am not paying anyone to kill Luke or Tia. Please," she wept. She was terrified of this man and did not want Alpha Aesop to know. It must be terrible. I wondered how she would get out of this mess. Just then, Luke approached us. "What is going on here?" he asked, looking at everyone, but no one answered. No one wanted to say anything. "She

won't tell me who she is giving all the money to," Caleb told his brother. "Stacy, you better confide in your mate, or all hell will break loose. If this guy is as dangerous as you make it seem, you will need all

the protection you can get; if Father does not know, we can't help you." Luke told her gently, and she looked up at him.

"If I confess, I will lose everything. If I don't pay up, he will take everything from me. Either way, I am doomed. I will take my chances," she said, and something in her sentence did not sit well with me, but I brushed it off. I stood up immediately and looped my hand with my husband's. "I guess it is time to leave," I said to Luke, and he nodded.

Chapter 45

45 And It Was Just Us

Luke.

I heard the noises when I left my father's office, and I decided to wait a bit before entering the lounge. The breakfast lounge was cursed. There was no day that drama wouldn't occur in that lounge. I was glad that Tia and I had moved away from it. Hearing the conversation, regretted bringing my wife to the Moon mansion. Caleb was trying to get the truth out of his mother, and I admired his strength. Whatever it was, Stacy was really scared because she refused to speak, and it was beginning to bother me. The guy must be dangerous, or the information he had must be complex for her to hold out on her son.

Soon I had enough and walked into the lounge.

"Tia," I called to my wife, and she stood up and looped her hand with mine. "I guess this is our queue to leave. Caleb, take it easy on your mother," I advised my brother and was ready to leave. "You are heartless, Luke. I told you my problem, and you refused to help me." Stacy shot at me.

"I have told you to open up to your mate. I will be stupid to start helping you pay someone that is blackmailing you. Whatever the matter is, you and my father are stuck together forever.

you, and now that he is no longer Alpha, he can't cast you out. I definitely won't cast you out because it is really none of my business. It will be in your best interest to tell him what is happening, Stacy. It will be best for you and everyone," I said and took Tia with me.

"I know you have moved out, Luke. I know you two are not coming back," she said, and I laughed.

“Watch your tongue, Stacy. Solve your problem,” I said, and Tia and I left. Stacy was cursing at me, and Caleb kept yelling at her. It was a fiasco.

The moment we stepped out of the mansion, my luck turned sour when Elisabeth arrived. Bart had gone to bring her from the hospital. She stepped out of the car quickly, wearing joggers and a hoody. The hospital had many of those to give out. She looked haggard with ashen skin and dark circles. I did not know why she was doing this to herself. “Luke,” she said, trying to sound hurt, “You just abandoned me there. I am carrying your child, and you showed no care towards me. Then I heard you came and signed me up for psychiatric evaluation. Why? All this to please her? Where was she when everyone hated you and people thought you would amount to nothing? Who warmed your bed then, Luke? I did. I kept you company and loved you. I still love you,” she said in tears, and I had had enough.

“Just look at yourself, Lisa. Have you looked into the mirror? You are too selfish to care for anyone than yourself. Mind you, I was still a nobody when Tia married me. Unlike you, her love had no price or condition. She wasn’t ashamed of me or made me go through hell. I have never had to beg her for anything. For eight years, you made me feel you were doing me a favour that I could not do better than you, Lisa. Yes, I signed you up for evaluation. It is only a crazy woman that would deliberately induce symptoms that can kill her baby for attention,” I said, and she shook her head.

“That is a lie,” she protested.

“I found the drugs in your room, the search history of your search engine. The doctor confirmed it. They found the substance in your blood. If you truly care for me, you wouldn’t try to harm my child for attention. I never wanted this. I had let you go, ready to move on and try with my wife, but you decided to get pregnant. I would have still cared for you. I was still paying your bills and sending you money. I told you to move on because I can never cheat on my wife. I did right by you, and you paid me back with this. I have had enough of you. I will have no dealings with you henceforth. I am on vacation with my wife, so it would be in your best interest to behave yourself. There will be no one here to attend to your foolishness.” I said I was about to walk away with Tia when she spoke. “You know I am supposed to live with you,” she said, and I did not want her to know that I knew she was seeing someone. I looked at her.

“You are living with me. Why else will you be in the Moon mansion?” I said, and she was quiet. “You are supposed to be with me, Luke. Taking care of me and following me to antenatal sessions and picking out baby things..” she said, and I cut her. “Those are things I look forward to doing with my wife. You decided you would be doing this alone when you purposefully decided to get pregnant. Please excuse me,” I said and started heading towards my car. Elisabeth said some things, but I wasn’t paying attention anymore. I was done with the place. Tia and I got in, and we drove off. “Eventful,” I said, and she began

to laugh. "Breakfast from hell," she said, and I laughed too. We weren't expecting less, and the family did not disappoint. "Don't you think we should look into the person Stacy is paying?" Tia asked, and I glanced at her and looked back at the road.

'Why?' I asked her.

"It seems serious, Luke. You needed to see how Caleb bungled her, yet she did not crack. She was afraid and refused to crack Luke. I think it is serious." She said, and I scuffed.

"Whatever it is, it isn't our business. Our business is catching Luis," I said, and Tia was silent.

We drove to the office. I made sure Tia handled all the work for that day. It was best to start letting her take charge so she won't need my help when I take over the Alpha's Office. Now that I had an active Key mark, I might have to take over soon.

We spent the better part of the day trying to trace the money Gabriel received and who was paying it to him. We found the money paid to him by looking at his bank statement. It was paid to him before we got married. Six months ago. It was paid by an offshore company called, Nuclei. I browsed the internet for it, and all the company had was an email and a phone number that had been disconnected. It was a shell company, so we would have to dig further. The guy seemed a bit rich, so he could not be a ghost. He must have some footprint that we can trace him by.

"Maybe we should investigate the registration Licence of the Nuclei. They need identification documents to register these things," Tia said, and I nodded because I was thinking in the

same direction.

"We will spend a lot of money to find the information we need because it wasn't incorporated in this country," I pointed out to her, and we were silent. I took out my phone to delegate the work to someone. After that, we pulled up Stacy's bank statement and noticed she paid one million Kins to a company called Tektite which was also a shell company. What was it with people's shadiness? I called Caleb immediately to tell him what I found out. He thanked me and said he would find someone to investigate the company. Hopefully, that would lead him to the blackmailer. I urged him to try to get his mother to open up to him so she could get the help she needed on time before it was too late.

Tia and I had lunch and dinner in the office. Once it was seven in the evening, we decided to call it a day and leave. Instead of taking the turn that would lead us home, I took another turn, and that piqued Tia's curiosity..

"So, where are we going?" She finally asked, and I smiled.

"You'll see," I said, and she was silent. She had absolute trust in me. I drove to a private cliff. It was called the lovers' hideout, and I had wanted to bring her there for a while. "This place is beautiful, Luke," Tia said, and I was glad she loved it.

I took off my tie and my jacket. Unbuttoned the top three buttons of my shirt and rolled up my sleeves. We exited the car and sat on the hood to admire the city and the night lights. I intertwined my finger with hers and brought her hand to my lips. I kissed her hand gently and placed her palm against my cheek. She caressed it gently, and I watched her close her eyes to feel.

"Luke," she said with a breathy voice, and I drew her close to me and held her. This was it.

I kissed my mark on her neck. "I wish we could leave all of these and just run away together," I confessed, and she sank deeper into my embrace. "I used to come here to escape every night. I came

here alone. It made all my troubles seem distant and far away, but right now, I just want to silence the world for us, Tia. I want the world to be silent." I said, and she got off the hood and stood in front of me.. Standing on her tiptoes, she reached for my lips with hers. I bent down to meet hers, and she kissed me sweetly.

"We will get through this, Luke," she said with hope in her eyes, "The noise will be quiet soon. Everyone will move on, and it will just be us and our pups," she said, and I loved the idea of having children with Tia.

"Before you, Tia, I thought love was supposed to be a painful experience, one-sided and unrequited. I took that into my marriage and believed I would be miserable because your heart belonged to my brother. I did not know that I would learn how to try with you. Being with you, I finally have someone I could confide in, Tia. I can't say it enough, but my heart has always beat for you ever since," I said and placed her palm on my chest.

“Can you feel that, Tia?” I asked her, and she looked at me with misty eyes.

“The rhythm is for you, and it will keep beating for you until it can beat no more,” I said, and her tears fell freely, and she placed her head against my chest and began to cry.”

1

“Luke,” she said between tears. I lifted her chin to look into her eyes. “I didn’t tell you how I felt to make you cry, Tia,” I said, and she smiled, but the tears fell freely. They were happy tears. “Where were you all this while, Luke. I thought I knew what love was until you happened to me, Luke. I love you,” she said, rarely using those words. I knew she meant every bit of it. I hoped we would quiet the noise soon and love each other freely.

We stayed at the cliff a bit longer, cuddled in each other’s arms, admiring the night lights and the sky. The moon graced so beautifully that I knew my union with Tia was blessed. This was supposed to be a

painful experience for us, but it was a blessing. I couldn’t help but make love to her under the night sky with the noise and the crowd far away from us.

It was just us.