

D Desires 61

Chapter 61

61 The In-Laws

Tia.

Luke planted soft kisses, leaving a garden of pleasure on my body. How could I always want him so much? I thought I would get tired, but that wasn't happening. I wanted him more. Eager and ready to take all he could give me. "Luke.." I managed.

"Let me thank you properly," he said and pushed my breasts together, allowing him to simultaneously lick and suck the nipples. It felt so sweet, and they were extra sensitive too. I ran my fingers through his hair and moaned. It was too much, and I didn't want him to stop. Luke had studied my body, and I doubted I would get enough of him. He kept me wanting more and more all the time. Luke had spoiled me silly. He wasn't bluffing when he implied I was missing a lot by not inviting him into my bed. My toys were forgotten because I was getting too much good stuff. I could not control the intensity of the pleasure rushing through my body, and my moans became louder. Soon he moved from my nipples and travelled down my body. When he got to my tummy, he kissed it gently, and I felt a tingle on the skin.

"Than you, Tia," He linked me, but I was too high with pleasure to respond. All I could do was moan. He took off my panties and went to work. I was so sensitive, so I stood no chance against his expert tongue and lips. I came in no time, and he gently slipped into me. Luke was gentle. He wasn't as rough as usual. He slid in and out gently, but my pussy was too sensitive, and I enjoyed it. My orgasm built up nicely, and soon we came together. I was surprised because that was the first time he would cum so quickly. He gently slid out of me and laid next to me. I placed my head on his chest, still trying to catch my breath. "Sorry, Tia. But you were just too damn soft and slippery. The sensation of being inside you was too sweet to resist," He said, and I giggled. "I have linked Michelle to bring our food to the room. No more beer for you, by the way," he said, and I pretended to grumble, and he laughed, reaching for the remote with his free hand. "Let's watch a movie to while away time before we have to get ready for dinner at your parents," he said, and my stomach churned. I really didn't want to go for dinner with my parents.

Although my mother was a fan of Luke, my father wasn't. He still believed what Stacy did was low and did not like how Luke behaved when he visited with his father. Above all, my father was mad about the Elisabeth situation, so I wondered why he would ask us to come for dinner. Deep down, I knew it was my mother's doing. I crossed my fingers and hoped it would go smoothly because the last thing I wanted was an episode like the one at the Moon mansion. Michelle brought our food forty-five minutes later, and it was divine. Luke laughed while he watched me eat. I smeared some cream from the dessert of his nose and licked it off.

“Now you are being naughty,” he said, standing up, grabbing me from the chair, placing me on the bed and tickling me until I began to plead. He kissed me sweetly. After our meal, we returned to bed to watch a movie. It wasn’t long I snuggled into Luke’s arms when I fell asleep.

Luke woke me up, and I was shocked to see how quickly the time had passed. It was four in the evening. We had only an hour to get ready and head to my parent’s place. I grumbled, and he laughed.

“Me too, Tia. I really wanted to stay home today,” he said and kissed my forehead. He turned on the shower and held my face to look at him as the water poured.

“You looked so peaceful, I didn’t want to wake you, but we promised,” he said and bent to kiss my lips. We showered, and I slipped into something comfortable. It was a sweater-like dress that stopped above my knees. I never wear skimpy clothes when I am with my parents. I knew they would find this strange, but it suited my lifestyle. “You’re sure you want to go in that?” Luke asked me, raising his eyebrow at the short outfit I had on.

“Yes, Luke. As long as you like it and want me in it, that is all that matters,” I said, and he smiled at me. Goddess, he had a perfect smile, and my insides were already melting from the sight of it. Who would have guessed I would fall this hard for him.

We left the house with a bottle of non-alcoholic wine and got into the car.

Our holiday home wasn’t far from my parent’s house, so we were there in less than fifteen minutes. My mother received us at the door, and the moment I stepped into the house, my father frowned at my dress, but Luke wrapped his arms around me, which made my father hold his tongue. “Mr Lockwood, Luke said, extending his hand, and my father shook it. “Welcome to our home Alpha Luke,” he said, and Luke nodded. “My mother rested on my father, smiling and looking at us. “Who knew they would fall in Love, James. It was only yesterday that Tia threatened to run away when we broke the news to her. How time flies,” my mother said, and Luke pinched me a bit, making me jump. Luke handed them the wine, and my mother read the label. “I am so happy for both of you,” she said and hugged Luke. She led us to the dining table, and there was a big turkey on the table. My mother was overjoyed.

“Don’t worry about the quality of the roast; we ordered it from the restaurant. There wasn’t time to do a full grill by ourselves. We do not have servants like you, Tia,” she teased, and I smiled at her, and we

adjusted ourselves. My mother dished the food, and we ate silently for a bit before my father decided to break the silence.

“Is it true that you have moved out of the moon mansion?” he asked, and I looked at Luke to answer the question. “Not really, but we do not live there fully,” He said, and my father looked at him with disdain. “Tia didn’t want to marry you, you know,” He started, and I dropped my fork.

“James...” My mother cautioned him.

“No, Amy, we can’t keep quiet about this. It is an insult to Tia that she will share her husband with someone else.” He said, and I was uncomfortable.

“My Tia is a sweet girl, but you chose to humiliate her by keeping a mistress until you got her pregnant. I bet this is normal news to you since you already have one on the way,” My father shot at him, and I saw his handshake. “Father, it is not what you think. The rumours aren’t true. Luke never kept a mistress. He broke up with Elisabeth before the wedding. He never cheated on me, father. Those are Stacy’s lies,” I said, and he shut me down.

“I am yet to come to you, young lady. We heard you were fooling about the mansion with Caleb forcing Luke to move out,” He said, and I felt Luke’s anger begin to rise. Using my name and Caleb’s name in the same sentence in that context got to Luke. “Father, you need to stop,” I said to him sternly. Luke wiped his mouth and stood up.

“Yeah, now you want to leave. You have forgotten the horrible things you said to my daughter on the porch?” My father said, and I was surprised at him. “Yes, Tia, this is a wooden house with thin walls. We heard his rules and conditions. Calling us gold diggers and whatnot. It is amazing how you can forget so quickly and fall for him,” my father said, and tears filled my eyes.

“This is why we left the moon mansion, daddy, because of moments like this. Why couldn’t you just let it go and let us celebrate the moment? Why did you have to aggravate him like this?” I said in tears because I did not know how toxic my father could be until now. I complained about Luke’s family, wanting to get away from them at every opportunity, but my father was the same.

“James. Apologise to Alpha Luke,” My mother said, “Our baby is upset thanks to you. Can’t, you see, they have made peace with the past and love themselves dearly. Why are you trying to make yourself an

enemy? I called Tia here to congratulate them and celebrate the good news. You just had to spoil the moment by mentioning the past and some stupid rumours Dr Green told you about. I had warned you that Alpha Luke has no mistress. This is low, James." My mother growled. "Tia," Luke said, embracing me and trying to calm me down. "It's okay, Love. We'll be on our way now," He said. "Please do not leave now," My mother said with a shaky voice.

"I do not want anything that will stress Tia out," Luke said and looked at my father." I will let your behaviour this evening slide because you are Tia's father, but I will not be so kind the next time you disrespect my wife and me again. I will not take such behaviours from you or anyone. Only my wife is allowed to raise her voice at me," he said, and I felt his anger and turned to look at my father with

disappointment. He must have really forgotten himself. Just because I was Luna did not give him the right to disrespect his alpha.

"Kindly keep your gossips to yourself, Dr Lockwook," Luke said, and we started moving. I did not say a word because he was mad.

"Please, Tia, Tell him to stay. I still have pudding, and we have a lot of things to talk about." My mother pleaded with me in tears.

"Please, Alpha Luke, forgive my behaviour. It will not happen again. Please.." I heard my father plead, and I stopped walking, which made Luke stop too.

"Please, Luke, do this for me," I linked him, and he turned to look at me. I knew he was angry, but he managed to suppress it, and we returned to sit in the dining room. The rest of the dinner was awkward, but my father did not make the mistake of disrespecting Luke again. After thirty minutes, we were all over it, and the conversations began to flow better. My father apologised some more when he realised that the things he heard about Luke were false.

We talked about many things and ended up staying longer than we planned. once it was ten in the night, I convinced Luke that it was time to leave. We promised my folks that we would visit more often and left quietly. I was glad we could look past our differences and have a good

time. My father had gone too far with his accusations, but Luke had been kind enough to let it go and get to know my old man. I was glad that Luke loved me enough to try.

Chapter 62

62 Mistrusted

Luke.

Dinner at Tia's house was eventful. Her father got on my nerves at first, but soon we were able to patch things up and get along. I understood his pain. I had really insulted Tia the day I visited. I was ashamed that they heard everything I said. To couple that with the news that was going on about Elisabeth, I could understand why the man would be so mad. If it were under normal circumstances, I would have stayed and allowed him to voice his mind, but Tia was pregnant, and he was stressing her out. My wanting to leave was to give Tia peace.

We returned home and got ready for bed. Tia was the first to fall asleep. I snuggled into bed next to her, and she wrapped her arms around me and placed her hand on my chest. She did it while sleeping, and I smiled because holding me in her sleep had become a habit. I caressed her arms lovingly until I finally fell asleep. We woke up late in the morning, and I decided we should soak in the bath a bit. Tia had cinnamon-scented bath salts and bubble baths. She said it reminds her of me. So I opted to use it. With her between my legs, we soaked in the warm water, and I held her. "I cannot believe we are expecting Luke," she said to me, and I hugged, caressed the skin of her arm and kissed her shoulder sweetly.

"It is a gift and a blessing from the goddess. I wasn't expecting it either. I was going to wait for another heat period so we can try and keep trying until it happens. I did not know it had already happened for us." I said, and she giggled a bit. We spent a while in the bathroom before leaving. Instead of remaining cooped up in the house, I decided to take her to Emilianos to eat. I knew it was a stupid choice since that was the place we went to when Luis sent his guy to try to kill us, but that was the best restaurant in town. The moment Tia noticed where we were going, she became a bit panicked. I had to calm her down and assure her everything would be alright. We ate lunch in peace and decided to take a walk in the park. People waved at us. Some people even brought Tia and me flowers which showed how people loved us.

The fight at Eastwood had made me quite popular, and how Tia took charge made the people respect her.

We returned home to get ready for dinner at the moon mansion. When I told Tia about it, she cringed a bit, but it was inevitable. She wore something simple, and we left around five in the evening. Knowing we were on our way. Bart waited for us outside. I told him to make a salad for Tia so she would eat

something before dinner started. I intend to discuss my findings with my father after dinner, so there was a possibility we would be spending the night at the moon mansion.

The moment we entered the dining room, my father pulled Tia into a hug. He held on for a bit, broke it, and hugged me. I could feel his mood. He was delighted. Kimberly and Caleb joined us, and they seemed to be getting closer than before. She had a small gift in her hand and gave it to Tia.

“Congratulations, Luna Tia,” she said, and the two hugged and kissed each other’s cheeks. Caleb shook me to congratulate me, and I was surprised by how calm he was taking it. I guess dinner won’t be bad as I thought.

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“Congratulations, you two,” Stacy said, and I nodded to thank her. “Luna Tia, Congratulations,” Monica said, and I wondered what she was doing at the dinner, but I kept silent to keep it peaceful.

We went to sit at the table, and we ate merrily. Unlike what happened at the Lockwoods, there were no offensive comments. In fact, my father went on and on about names and aspirations for the little Moon in Tia’s tummy. I noticed Kimberly was a bit sad about the situation, and I wished my brother would just accept that the baby was his, but he had reasons to doubt the baby was his, and I wasn’t planning on getting involved. After dinner, I told my father I would like to discuss something serious with him in the office. I also requested Caleb to join us. “Luna Tia, do you mind if I hang out with you while they have their meeting?” Kimberly asked Tia nicely, and Tia looked at me for approval. I linked her that it was okay, and she nodded at Kimberly. It was amazing to see how Kimberly wanted to be Tia’s friend. I linked my

wife to be careful. It wasn’t like the girl had anything to benefit from hurting Tia, but I just did not trust anyone in the mansion. I watched them leave, and soon my father, Caleb and I went to the home office for the meeting. “Are you guys moving back in now that she is pregnant?” My father said, sitting at his desk, and I shook my head. Now that my mark was active, there was no point lying to him. “We have moved out, father and we are not coming back here. I have bought the house we are living in. I do not want to raise a family in this place, especially around the likes of Stacy. I also want Tia to live a stress-free life.” I said, and he was stunned. “How could...” He started, and I interrupted him. “I bet the tension in this house was part of why Tia didn’t conceive. I wouldn’t want to put her in a situation where she will miscarry. Please respect my decision, father,” I said, and he was highly disappointed. “Stacy told me you moved out, but I said it was a lie and that you will tell me if that ever happens,” he said, trying to sound betrayed. “You made this house impossible to live in, with your compulsory breakfast and obnoxious mate. I am sure when Caleb and Kimberly settle their differences, he, too, will want to move out. You

are the only one comfortable in this house, Father. Just because you love Stacy does not mean I have to put up with her bullshit." I said to him, and he looked a bit pissed off, but I didn't care.

"You will be the first Moon to live outside this mansion. This is your heritage, Luke. As Alpha of Woodclaw, you should be living here and using this office." he said. "No, father. I want peace for me, Tia and our children." I said, and he looked at me angrily.

"So what about Elisabeth. Why did you dump her for us to care for?" he asked, and I shook my head.

"I pay the bills and staff of this house. Technically I am still caring for her. If you want to kick her out, feel free to. I already told you she is seeing someone, and she was seeing the guy while she was dating me," I said, and Caleb gasped.

"Does that mean her baby isn't yours?" Caleb asked, and I shook my head. "I am very sure it is mine, Caleb. Elisabeth is a sneaky bitch. There is no way she would still hang around if it weren't. Joey isn't broke, and he is okay. She knows I love Tia, and I have forgotten about her. If the baby wasn't mine, she would have left." I told him, and he looked like he felt sorry for me. "What will you do when she delivers

because it is in two months" he reminded me, and I knew he could do the math because Kimberly would be due next month. "Tia and I have discussed it. If father still wants to take the child from Elisabeth, he can, but Tia is willing to take care of the child as hers," I said, and Caleb shook his head.

"Don't do that to her, Luke. Elisabeth is a vicious bitch. She got pregnant to get your money... Having Tia deal with Elisabeth in her current condition will be wrong. She will stress her the fuck out. You already know." he said, and my father cleared his throat.

"Stacy and I are willing to care for the child," My father interrupted. "I am only waiting for her to give birth so we can take the child from her and kick her out. If you threaten to cut her off the mark, she will leave quietly." my father advised me to use his methods, but I knew a better way of dealing with Elisabeth. "No, father, I do not need to threaten her like that. All I have to do is offer the barest minimum for the child or threaten to abandon the baby. She will give it up immediately. The only reason she would want to hold on to that baby is to get money out of me, but once she realises she won't be getting much, she will dump the child and move on with Joey. I have her email account on my laptop, and she has promised Joey to give up the baby and return to him. That is why I know the child is mine," I told my father, and he sighed. "Enough about Elisabeth and her baby. I am happy that our Luna is with child, and Tia's child will be regarded as your first born and heir." my father said, and he did not need to say it. It was going to be so. Tia's baby was wanted, planned for and needed. Elisabeth's child was a

trick, a mistake that I wished I could go back in time and fix. — “So, what do you want to discuss with me, Luke?” My father asked, and I sighed. “Alpha Luis..” I told him everything the captives said to me before they committed suicide. He was flabbergasted.

“When were you tell me that my mother was a Renshaw from Eastwood and the Alpha of Eastwood?” I said, and Caleb was shocked.

“The actual Renshaw family?” Caleb asked, and I nodded.

“My mother was a key mark bearer like you, father. How could you hide such a thing from me? The Moons do not own Eastwood; the Renshaws do. So I would have been Alpha of Eastwood even if you chose to hand the Woodclaw pack to Caleb, yet you tried to hand both my mother’s pack and yours to Caleb. What did you take from these people, father? You better start talking because whatever your mistakes are, it is beginning to claim lives. This Alpha Luis is bold and isn’t backing down. He also has soldiers willing to die for this cause. They warned me to back out that the fight is between you two, but I do not think they can face you without burning Caleb and me. You better start talking now, father. My Luna is pregnant, and the last thing I want is to fear for my wife and baby’s life.” I said to him, and he was tongue-tied.

“Honestly, I never stole from anyone Luke. Yes, your mother owned Eastwood, and I should have handed it over to you right when you turned twenty-one. It was poor judgement, but I never took anything from anyone, Luke. Please, you have to believe me. I do not know who this Alpha Luis is, Please.”

My father said with teary eyes. It was clear he was raking his memory and confused about the events, which was frustrating.

“You have to think, father, because I doubt we have seen the last of them,” I said, and he bowed his head. As much as I wanted to believe him, I couldn’t. He had kept too many secrets and done some unfair things because of Stacy. I wouldn’t put bullying someone with money to take what is theirs past him. It was sad, but I just did not trust my father anymore.

Chapter 63

63 Kimberly’s Plans

Kimberly followed me quietly to the left-wing. It was amazing to see how she was warming up to me gradually. When we entered the room, she sat on the couch and put up her feet. "they are killing?" I asked her, and she smiled at me, relaxed and nodded. "Yes. My feet swell up if I don't put them up. It's part of the downsides of the last trimester," she said to me, and I decided to take some lessons from her. "I guess you will educate me then," I said, and she smiled. "You are Lucky, Tia. You won't be doing this on your own," She said, and her smile dropped slightly. "How are things going between you two?" I asked her, and she smiled. "He is warming up to me and trying to be nice." She said, but the smile did not touch her eyes. "What is bothering you?" I asked her, and she looked astonished. "You could tell?" She asked, and I nodded. "Your smile didn't touch your eyes," I said and sat down beside her. Mimicking her, I put my feet up on the centre table too. She giggled a bit, and I laughed. "Not now, Tia. You are still in the early stages," She said, and I shrugged. "I might as well start practising," I said, and she smiled.

"Now tell me what is troubling you, Kim?" I asked on a serious note, and I noticed she was reluctant to speak

"I promise I won't tell anyone except Luke if I have to, and you know he doesn't talk to anyone," I said, and she smiled at my honesty. I did not want to lie to her that I won't tell anyone and still tell Luke. "I will tell you, Tia. You are not malicious and have nothing to gain from hurting me." She said, summing it up.

"I never planned on getting pregnant. I honestly thought people only get pregnant when they are on heat, and they do it. I have liked Caleb since we were fourteen, and he never saw me. I crushed on him just like you did, but soon I became a little bolder and asked him out. He didn't turn me down, and we hung out a lot. Stacy and my father encouraged it, and Caleb made me feel like he was interested, but soon I realised he only had eyes for you, and that was why I hated you so much. Even though he claimed you two were just friends, I knew he was lying, but I hoped we would finally get together. Then we started dating, and everything was great, but he didn't want you to know. He said it would hurt your feelings.

Deep down, I knew he cared about you, and I might just be his past time because his mother pressured him to date me. I figured he was doing it for the benefit of his mother, but at that point, I would take anything. After the way he treated me at the graduation party, I broke up with him in the morning. I didn't bother sleeping over at his house. Then I found out I was pregnant two

weeks after graduation. The baby was conceived in the car, but Caleb kept thinking about the graduation night when he used a condom. Unknown to us, I was already pregnant then by then. I wanted to abort the baby, but my father said no. He told me I should keep it and get with Caleb, or he would cut me off. I felt if Caleb felt anything for me, he would accept the child since you will be marrying Luke." she said and burst into tears.

"It wasn't the rejection that hurt, Tia. It was the fact that he denied my baby. Look at how Alpha Aesop and everyone was congratulating you. Luke assumed responsibility for Elisabeth even though everyone knows she is a two-timing bitch. He still accepted responsibility for her and her unborn child. Caleb kicked me to the curb. He made me feel dirty; he was my first. I have never been with anyone other than him, yet he did this to me." She said, and I patted her back gently.

"He is coming around," I told her, and she wiped away her tears.

"It doesn't matter, Tia. I have some money saved up. Once I have delivered the baby and he has cleared his doubt with the DNA test, I will be leaving the city. Please do not tell him or

anyone this. You can tell Luke because I know you two love birds are close, but please tell him not to say a word to anyone about it. I want to move away from here and start afresh. I know no one would want to mate with me because I already have a child, but it will be better than living with a man that does not love me. That treated me like shit for eight months." she said, and I was shocked.

"But he is turning around," I said, and she shook her head.

"The damage has already been done, Tia. I spent so many lonely days and nights crying, wishing and hoping. I searched my soul for where I had gone wrong. I am over him, Tia. The truth is he doesn't love me. He is trying to settle for me. I deserve better than that. I am only pretending to be okay with everything so no one would spoil my plans. You are blessed to have Luke, Tia. He is faithful to himself and you. Every woman envies you right now." she said, and I smiled at her.

"Do not be hasty. Give him a chance to redeem himself," I pleaded with her.

"I would have, Tia, but my heart doesn't beat for him the same way it used to. I am numb right now. I have saved all my love for my child." she said and rubbed her belly gently.

"So you won't be around to walk me through mine?" I asked her, and she smiled.

"I envy you, Tia. You have Luke and wonderful parents. Even Alpha Aesop likes you, even though it seems otherwise. Stacy envies you. You won't need me. Besides, Luke has taken the best step for you by

moving out. You do not have to deal with Stacy and Monica in the mornings. That one is a grade 'A' bitch, and the fact that she pretends around Alpha Aesop and Luke is mind-bugging. Monica has her designs on your husband, Tia. You need to watch out for her." Kimberly said, and I was stunned by her. "I know. Alpha Moon, this and that.." I said, mimicking Monica and Kimberly laughed. "The best part is when Luke gives it to her. It is always epic, and the girl has no shame. She keeps trying, and he keeps shutting her down," Kimberly said, and we laughed. She then touched my hand and looked at me.

"I will be due any time, Tia. I know this is too much to ask for, but I do not want to do it alone.

None of my friends talks to me anymore. They all know what Caleb said about my child. In fact, I am labelled a slut. Even if the DNA result proves it is his, it won't change the fact that I have been labelled a slut. I was hoping you could come with me to my appointments, and I could call you to be with me when I want to deliver the baby," she said, and I looked at her to make sure she was serious. I did not know how Luke would feel about it. "I will be due in two weeks, Tia. Caleb thinks it is in a month because he keeps calculating it from the graduation night, but I have conceived before then. Please, I need help. I do not

want to do this alone." she pleaded, and I looked at her. I did not know how Luke would take it, but I understood her plight and nodded.

"I will be there. I said and picked up her phone to type in my phone number. "All you have to do is call me, and I will be there," I said, and she hugged me.

We turned on the television to watch what was on it while waiting for Luke to finish the meeting. An hour later, Luke and Caleb walked into the room.

"hey," Luke said, kissing me on the cheek. "Should we head back to our house, or we should spend the night here?" Luke whispered in my ears, and I honestly did not mind sleeping over. I was already tired. "Maybe Kimberly can give you some pointers, Tia", Caleb said, and I smiled and nodded.

"She already is," I said, and he smiled back and then looked at Kimberly.

"Are you ready to go to bed?" He asked her, and she stood up.

“You do not need to pretend to care, Caleb. I can find my way back to my room,” she said and smiled at me.

“I guess it is time to excuse you, Luna. Congratulations, by the way.” She said, walking past Caleb and heading out. The men were stunned, but I wasn’t. It was clear Kimberly was done loving Caleb. He had his chances, and he blew them all. I wondered how he would handle it when she left for good.

“You need to make amends, Caleb; you really hurt her deeply,” I told my friend, and he looked away. It was clear he was adjusting too. I understood why Kimberly said he was settling for her. It was a sad situation. Caleb excused us, and Luke sat next to me on the couch.

“What was that all about?” He asked me, and I sighed.

“It’s his baby, Luke. Kimberly has decided to leave once the paternity of her baby is determined. She said she is over him and does not want to be with a man that settled for her,” I said to Luke, summing up my conversation with Kimberly. “I hope Caleb makes amends quickly,” Luke said, feeling slightly sad. “It isn’t up to us, Luke. He really treated her like shit. If he knew he did not care for her in that sense. He shouldn’t have given her false hope and touched her,” I said, and Luke nodded, agreeing to what I had to say. “So we are staying the night then,” he asked, changing the topic, and I nodded. “I am tired,” I told him, and he sighed.

“I told my father we have moved out,” he said, and I was shocked.

“How did he take it?” I asked him, and he sighed.

“He had no choice, and there is nothing he can do about it. He should know now because he was trying to get us to come back because you are pregnant. I said no,” he said.

“I guess no more compulsory one-week visits,” I said, and he pulled me close and kissed me sweetly on the lips.

“We will only come when we feel like it,” he said, and I could not stop kissing him. I wanted him at that moment. I was happy and giddy, and I wanted to share the joy I felt with him as best as I could.

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Chapter 64

64 Emergency And A Choice Luke.

TWO WEEKS LATER.

Tia and I spent a lot of time indoors. I had slowed down my activities, so I could be with her as often as possible. I did not want her going through her pregnancy alone. I wanted to be there every step of the way, so I had to be less busy. Because of that, I ended up helping her carry Kimberly for her check-ups. The two of them were bonding nicely, which was terrific, and every time I saw how close they had become, I was worried Tia would miss her when Kimberly leaves. I really hoped Caleb would make her change her mind. She was a great girl for him. Caleb was making efforts too. I guess he was beginning to see the errors of his ways, but from my observations, Kimberly had already made up her mind. It wasn't in my place to tell my brother she was planning to leave for good but knowing that she still slept alone made me realise it might be for the best. I thought Caleb would put in some extra effort like he did when he tried to take Tia from me, but he wasn't. It was almost as if he was taking her presence for granted. I hoped he would realise his errors before it was too late. Tia helped Kimberly, and there were days Kimberly would come by our house and spend the entire day there. Tia's pregnancy was also a bit difficult for her to adjust to. She was nauseated most of the time and found it challenging to keep food down sometimes. Doctor Genevieve said it was normal and that people react to pregnancies differently. Kimberly claimed hers was worse, and the thought that she did it all alone was sad. I decided I would speak to Caleb about Kimberly after our meeting. Mike told me they had found out certain things about Luis's network, but they had yet to figure out who he was and where he was. The frustrating part was that it seemed like the man was playing with us. He clearly knew we were looking for him, and he was leaving trails of breadcrumbs that led nowhere. I was worried about the other stuff that I would find out about my father that might be unpleasant, but as things were, it was best to prepare my mind for the worse because my father had hidden too much from me. There was no way he had no clue. what he stole. If he could try to pass my mother's wealth as his own, I wouldn't put anything past him there. My mother must have known the kind of person he was, which was why she named everything after me. All

the issues and unanswered questions made me decide to dig into my mother's death. I needed to know why she was poisoned and who did it. It might take a while, but right now, every piece of information we get is vital to propel us forward.

I left Tai in the morning and promised her I wouldn't be long. We were meeting at the headquarters, and I needed to be there physically. Only a few high-ranking military officials were going to be there. I wished Tia could join us. Her quick thinking was critical, but she threw up most of the night, so I figured to let her sleep through the morning. I would have to run everything by her when I return. For now, we

would make do. Kirk was also a good analyst. Their scores were neck to neck, but Tia beat him in almost everything except the physical examinations.

I arrived at the headquarters to find everyone there. Caleb, Mike and Kirk were already discussing the strategy before I came.

“Good morning, Alpha,” they all greeted me, and I answered. It was amazing to see my brother take up the Beta role happily. Just like me, he, too, did not want to be Alpha. The goddess granted him his wish at my expense.

“Nuclei Corp is registered to a guy called Luis Moon,” Mike said, and I was stunned. This was obviously a joke. “Age fifty. He lives on Santa Braee Island. If we want to find out more about this guy, we have to lead a secret mission to go there and investigate.” Mike said, and Kirk shook his head

“It is another breadcrumb. Maybe a trap this time. We should only follow that trail when there is nothing else to look into,” Kirk advised. “What if we are overthinking this shit, and the guy is actually there?” Caleb said, and I sighed. “I doubt he would want to make finding him this easy, and if he does, it might be to achieve something. I think we should put Santa Braee and Luis Moon as viable options but keep searching for other clues. If we have to follow that lead, we will have to lead a small group there to keep the mission secret,” I said, and Caleb’s phone started vibrating non-stop. After a few minutes of continuous calls, I asked him to answer it.

He did not want to answer it at first, but I told him it was okay. It wasn’t long before he answered the phone when he got up; ready to leave. “What is the matter?” I asked him.

“Kimberly is in labour, and Tia is with her in the hospital,” He said, and I got up too. We headed out, and someone brought my car. I did not want Caleb to drive in his current state of mind, so I offered to take him to the hospital. Seeing the way he was behaving. I knew it would hurt him when Kimberly left, “Hey, you need to calm down.” I told him, and he sighed. We both got into the car, and I started driving “You need to make it up to that girl because she plans on leaving after the DNA test,” I told him, and he exclaimed.

“You do not expect her to hang around after the way you treated her. Pregnancy isn’t easy. We are just at the beginning of it, and it has been hard with nausea, mood swings and irregular temperature, name it. You let her go through it alone. All by herself, all because you believe the baby wasn’t yours. It is sad, you know.” I said, and he sighed. “It wasn’t like that. My mother forced everything. You have Elisabeth

to deal with, so you understand how it feels to be tricked into something. I have been trying for a while now," He said.

"You need to try harder because she plans on leaving even after the DNA proves the baby is yours. She told Tia she is leaving you, Caleb." I said, and he was distraught. "I didn't mean for it to get all messed up. I fucked up big time, Luke. I am really sorry for how I kept coming at Tia. I did not know how to manage my emotions. I am sorry about everything. I know she is happy with you; I have never seen you this happy either. I am glad you two made it work, Luke. I will always love her, but I am letting go because I know she is happy with you, which is what I want for her. I love her enough to let her go, but Kimberly is different.

like her. I have been trying recently, and I have started developing feelings for her. Hearing that she wants to leave with the baby is hard. I promise I will make more effort. But please talk to Tia to help me talk her out of it. Tell her I am willing to move out of the moon mansion so we can raise our child far away from my mother after I marry her, of course," He said, and I pulled into the hospital's parking lot. "I think

you should tell Kimberly that yourself. It must come from you." I said and parked the car. We rushed into the hospital and were directed to the maternity ward. Tia was pacing about the place in her sweater, jeans and swollen eyes from tears. I ran towards her and held her. "What's the matter, baby?" I asked her, and she began to sob.

"Kimberly is having complications. We did not arrive on time. They said they might have to operate, but her blood pressure is too high. They are trying to bring it down before they operate." Tia said to me, and I was afraid for Kimberly, Caleb ran his fingers through his hair in total shock. His eyes were misty immediately.

"You need to calm down, Caleb. This is not the time to get emotional. You need to be strong." I told him, and he nodded, but his tears were already flowing. They were tears of fear and regret, and I wish I could help ease his conscience, but there was nothing I could do about it. He had fucked up big time. "How did you get here?" I asked Tia, realising that she wasn't well either and was supposed to be in bed.

"Kimberly called me when her mucus plug came off. I drove to the mansion to pick her up and brought her to the hospital before calling Caleb. I called you a couple of times, but you must have put your phone on mute," She said, and I hugged her and kissed her head. "Did my mother know she was in

labour?” Caleb asked Tia. “I don’t know. I moved quickly. Bart and Norman were the ones that helped me get her into the car. She was in pains by the time I got to the mansion,” she answered him, and he nodded, but he was still distraught. The doctor came to us at that moment. “Alpha Luke, Beta Caleb, good morning?” he said, and I read his name tag. “Doctor Philip Newman, how is she?” I asked, and the doctor sighed. “We are doing all that we can. She hasn’t dilated beyond six centimetres, so we have to do a caesarean on her, but her blood pressure is too high. It is risky. She might die if we operate, but the baby doesn’t have much time. We have to get the baby out of her and then try to save her life; we will need her mate to sign consent forms because this cooperation is complicated, and it can go either way,” He said, and I

looked at Caleb. “I will sign it,” He said and followed the doctor. Tia was panicking, and I held her. This was not a good thing because she was pregnant, too; it took a bit for Tia to embrace the idea of being a mother. Kimberly’s predicament might cause her to be afraid. I held her and kissed the top of her head.

“She is a wolf, Tia. She will survive it.” I said to her, and she began to cry. She was afraid for Kimberly’s life. I was worried for her, too, but I held it together. I hoped, for Caleb’s sake,

Chapter 65

65 Ordeal

Luke.

We waited in the hallway for Caleb to return. Tia wasn’t feeling well, and I tried to convince her to go home, but she insisted. I could not stop her, but I wasn’t happy that she refused to go home.

We sat on the chair in the corridor of the maternity ward, and I held her. Her hands were a bit cold, and I knew it was part of it. “I promised Kimberly I would be here,” she said, and I understood her reasons. “We’ll. Thank goddess, it is a hospital. I might just ask them to give you a room.” I said, and she smiled at me. It would have been funny usually, but the situation was too dire. Kimberly had planned on leaving Caleb after giving birth. I hoped she would survive this.

“How did it get this bad?” I asked Tia, and she sighed. “She was alone. No one attended to her,” she explained, and I was angry. “You mean there were no workers in that wing?” I asked her, and she nodded.

“Once your father, Stacy and Caleb are not in, they take a break. That is what Bart told me. Norman has reported to Stacy, but nothing was done about their conduct,” She said, and I got angry because I pay them full salaries with benefits. At this point, I felt robbed.

“I guess we will be hiring,” I said, and Tia nodded to agree with me.

Caleb returned, sweating. I knew he was panicking but trying hard to keep his shit together. It was sad.

“You need to calm down, Caleb,” I said, and he just stared at me.

“This is my fault. I shouldn’t have left her alone,” he confessed.

“Yes. I heard the workers leave once father, you and your mother are not there. Only the goddess knows how long Kimberly was crying for help before she could get a hold of Tia. Tia had to come from our house to get her here. It is bad. Norman told your mother about their conduct, and she did nothing about it. You should have instructed one or two to stay with her, though,” I said, and he was pissed off. “I am sacking all of them,” he said, and I nodded.

“So, what did they say?” I asked him, and he bowed his head. I knew he was fighting back the tears. His eyes were misty. “She is suffering from pre-eclampsia. I should have noticed from her swollen feet,” Caleb said as if he was even paying attention. “They say she has a severe case,” he explained.

“What are her chances?” “Tia asked him, and he hesitated.

“They are taking the baby out so they can treat her. The doctor said he can’t make promises,” he said and cracked. I had to let go of Tia to console him. “This is all my fault,” Caleb cried, and I held him. There was no point in saying otherwise

because he was right, and I did not want to lie to him. He was a bit selfish like his mother. I guess he was seeing the repercussion of his actions now. It wouldn’t have killed him to pay a little attention. If not for anything but for the sake of friendship. As much as I hated what Elisabeth did to me, Tia and I always made sure she was alright and cared for. She had workers watching her and caring for her around the clock. The only thing was that I did not deal with her directly, and that was because of her intention and

the fact that I was a married man. Caleb's case was different. He had Kimberly, but he was busy chasing after my wife.

We hung around and waited. Two hours later, the doctor came to us. "Congratulation, Beta Caleb", Doctor Newman said, but Caleb interrupted him. "How is Kimberly?" He asked, and the doctor hesitated, which meant it wasn't good. "She slipped into a comma. We hope she will come out of it soon. We have done everything we can to stabilise her. It is up to her and her wolf: You can see your daughter now." the doctor said and Caleb stood frozen on the spot. My key mark began to burn. I did not know why but

something told me the problem was coming from Caleb. "You need to calm down, Caleb. Let us go and see your daughter." I said.

"Can we take the swab for the DNA test you requested a few months ago?" The doctor asked, and Caleb just stood there speechless. The doctor was confused.

"Take us to see her," Tia said to the doctor, and he nodded. Caleb followed quietly. We got there, and the baby lay peacefully in her cot. Tia picked her up gently, and she was beautiful. Her eyes were shut, and she looked adorable. She was wrapped nicely. "Do you want to hold her?" Tia asked Caleb, and he nodded reluctantly. I did not want Tia to hand the girl over, but she had already done it before I couldn't link her not to. Caleb held her and began to cry. "The baby has a key mark on her upper right arm," Newman said, and there was no disputing that she was Caleb's at that moment, but the nurse had brought the swab, and they took samples from both Caleb and the baby. He had ordered and paid for the test, so they had to carry it out even though he was no longer clamouring for it. "What am I going to do now?" Caleb asked me, and I honestly did not have an answer. "Pray she comes out of it and beg her for forgiveness. Clearly, the baby is yours. All that stress you put the poor girl through was for nothing." I said, scolding him. The nurse came to take the baby for feeding, and we decided to check on Kimberly. She was hooked to machines and looked like she was sleeping. Tia broke down a bit. "We hung out yesterday, you know, and she was so full of life," Tia said between tears, and it was amazing to see what brought people together. "Tia, we have to go home," I told my wife. She had dark circles, and I knew she needed to rest. She agreed, and I asked Caleb if he was coming, but he refused. he said he would sit in the hospital with Kimberly and his daughter. I expected that from him. so I told him I would send a worker to attend to his needs. He thanked Tia and me, and we left. "Do you think he will be okay?" Tia asked me as we walked away, and I nodded. "He is coming to terms with his mistakes." I told her, and she didn't repeat anything. Two days passed, and Kimberly did not come through, The DNA result was out, and the baby

was Caleb's. Caleb did not want his daughter in the hospital, so he asked us to care for her. Tia was more than happy. Stacy took offence, but Caleb did not want to put his daughter in his mother's care. I

doubt Stacy knew how to nurture, but I also knew it would be tedious. I was afraid the baby would strain Tia, but Michelle stepped in. Tia didn't have to do much.

I told Bart to take Elisabeth for a thorough check-up because of what happened to Kimberly. I did not want her to have complications. I wanted her to be able to care for her child and return to Joey alive.

I spent the entire week working from home and helping Tia with Caleb's daughter. He remained in the hospital, waiting for Kimberly to wake up. He refused to name his daughter, claiming Kimberly would name her. It was sad. His beards had grown out in that week. He looked a little bit like me now with the beard; for someone that was always clean-shaven. Kimberly had no improvement, and Tia was getting attached to the baby. Our sex life suffered a bit during that week, but it was worth it.

Tia and I lay in the room after changing the baby's diapers and rocking her to sleep: it was nighttime. She snuggled into my arms. I knew she was sad about Kimberly. She visited the hospital every day to see Kimberly, hoping she would wake up. I followed her three times, but she went alone the other days.

"Luke," Tia said, resting her head on my chest, and I was attentive.

"If Elisabeth's baby is yours, do you think we should take the baby from her?" she asked me, and I was stunned.

"That is a lot of commitment, Tia; besides, you are pregnant. She will have to care for her child by herself, of course, I will pay for a nanny, that is, if my father does not take the child." I told her, and she adjusted herself in bed and sat up.

"Caleb does not trust his daughter with Stacy, who happens to be his mother. I do not think you should trust them with your child Luke." She said I honestly did not want to talk about Elisabeth and her baby. She would soon be due, and my panic meter was high. I honestly did not want the baby to be mine, but I knew how conniving Elisabeth was, and there was a high possibility it was mine.

"Do you mind not discussing Elisabeth, please, Tia? I do not want to deal with it right now. I have a lot on my plate, Tia." I said, and she shook her head.

“We need to decide what to do right now. If we don’t, we will be confused when the time comes. Elisabeth will be due in three weeks or less; we have to decide where we are going with this,” she said, and I got off the bed.

“Please, Tia, let us not talk about her,” I begged Tia, and she nodded.

By the second week, Caleb called us to inform us that Kimberly was awake. Tia was about to go to the hospital when she got that call. We were overjoyed, and we went to visit Kimberly with her daughter.

Kimberly was sitting up in bed when we arrived. She looked well-rested. The coma had afforded her body time to replenish and fix itself. She stretched her arms towards Tia, and Tia went to hug her. I placed her baby in her hand, and she shed tears. I could see relief in Caleb’s eyes. His beards were bushy, and his eyes were tired. This was a blessing, and I hoped he would seize the opportunity.

“Since Kimberly is awake and looking strong, we should leave the two love birds to settle their

differences. We will just be in the hallway.” I said aloud, but Kimberly shook her head.

“I do not love Caleb anymore. Right now, I just want to take my daughter, go to that awful place, pack my things and leave. I only hung around to prove that I wasn’t a slut, and my baby was Caleb’s. There is no need to hang around after that.” Kimberly said, and Caleb was tongue tied. It was apparent he had a lot of work to do.