

## **D Desires 86**

### Chapter 86

#### 86 The Meeting

Luke.

I hurried back to my wing to inform Tia of the meeting. Stacy's silence was unbelievable, and I hoped for all our sake she would come clean.

Tia sat quietly on the couch in the sitting area, and I knew she was deep in her thoughts.

"What's the matter, darling?" I asked and she looked at me and smiled. I went to sit beside her. She moved closer to me and leaned on me.

"Luke, someone is trying to ruin this family," she stated the obvious, and I pulled her close and rubbed her arm. Her body was warm, and it got me worried.

"Tia, why are you warm?" I asked her, and she leaned against me. "I guess it is part of the pregnancy symptoms. I have been drinking cold water," she confessed, and I made her get up. I gently took off her clothes and carried her to the bathroom. I hated cold water by her body needed to cool down. I intended to take her to the hospital after meeting with the auditor. I took off my clothes, and we stood under the cold shower for a bit. Tia rested her head against my chest while I held her under the water. I suspected the information we got at the meeting and all that was happening were the cause of her body temperature. I held her while the water washed our bodies.

"I need you to be calm, Tia. Whatever is going on. I am sure we will get through it together. Please do not worry too much for me and our baby's sake." I pleaded with her, and she wrapped her hands around me.

"I am sorry, Luke. I couldn't help it. What Mrs Mulberry said was scary. We just took over the company Luke, and I am in charge." She confessed, and I knew what was troubling her soul. "No one will ever think you are stealing from the company Tia, even if the audit claims that you are a part of it. We will all

know it is a set-up. Please, Tia,” I pleaded, and she squeezed tighter. I wish I could make love to her in the shower, but Krystal Mulberry was on her way, and it will be wrong to stop abruptly or keep her waiting. We left the shower and got into bed to cuddle. I held Tia, and she fell asleep. The doctor had said she would often sleep because of the pregnancy, so I wasn’t worried. I covered her body with the blanket and got dressed for the meeting. I would have loved Tia to attend, but it was okay.

I went to my father’s office and found him waiting there. He did not look happy, and I knew separating from Stacy would take a toll on him. He was used to her. He was with her longer than he was with my mother. I hoped they would be able to settle their differences, and she would see the error of her ways because my father loved her. She couldn’t see it, but he was blind where she was concerned.

“Father, are you alright?” I asked him and he looked up at me and smiled but his smile did not touch his eyes.

“Are you sure about this? I do not think it is wise. you two are bonded.” I said, and he shook his head.

“I never really felt the bond, Luke, but I loved her,” he confessed, and I wondered how that was possible. Tia was my wife, and since we claimed each other, we have felt each other. Maybe the bond worked differently with people that have been married.

“Still, father. The woman is just as miserable as you are.” I told him, and he sighed.

‘If she truly loved me, she would love everything and everyone that has to do with me, and she would not keep secrets from me,” he said, and he was telling the truth, but I also knew that her secrets might be terribly unforgivable.

“Luke, you are blessed to have a mate like Tia and your brother is blessed with Kimberly. I have watched both women, and they have been honest and loved wholeheartedly. Stacy’s love is flawed. Anyone that lies and causes problems for someone they love has a warped sense of love. She is sick in the head.” my father said, and I did not know if that was the issue, but I did not argue.

“Seeing your room. I do not blame her. Mother’s pictures are everywhere. There is no picture of Stacy in that room. She claims you always compare her to my mother and even call her name...” I said, not wanting to complete the sentence because it was weird telling my father he calls my mother’s name while making love to his wife.

"I think you are equally to blame for her behaviour. You have not treated her as a wife; she just lashed out the best way she could. Put yourself in her shoes." I said, and he shook her head.

"That has nothing to do with her lies about Regan Adhit. I have looked him up, and he was a pimp. He was the Alpha of Dome that was not recognised, and he pimped young women in Dome. There is a possibility she was one of his women. Why didn't she tell me?" My father said, and I was shocked to learn that about Regan.

"Did your sources tell you his last known location?" I asked him, and he shook his head.

"He dropped off the radar when I attacked Neev. They believed he died during that war, but now we know he is very much alive. He could be anywhere right now." He said and looked at me.

"What if she still sees him and never stopped seeing him, Luke? What if I was a customer, and she is just with me so she can get money across to her boyfriend?" he asked, and I shook my head

"Father, don't say that. Stacy is a lying, conniving bitch, but she has never cheated on you. She is always at home with you. She is always with you. Unless she can cheat over the phone, I do not see her double-crossing you like that." I said, and he shook his head. "I am done," he said with a definite tone, and I let it rest. I sat down, and Krystal Mulberry arrived thirty minutes later. The woman was pretty and petite.

"Krystal?" my father said, and I was shocked that he knew her. "Hello, Aesop," she said with a smile and shook him and me. My father offered her a seat

smiling "Luke, Krystal and your mother went to the same school in Eastwood. They were best of friends," he said, and I raised my eyebrow, wondering why the woman didn't tell me. I looked at her, and she smiled and nodded, confirming what my father had said. "How is your family?" my father asked, and she nodded. "They are fine, Aesop," she said with a smile, and I linked a worker to bring us juice. We went through the documents, and she explained many things extensively. "How are we owing wages?" I asked her and she sighed.

"To be honest with you, Luke, I will tell you what I think, take it or leave it," she said, and I was eager to know.

“You have people working in your company that are trying to sabotage the company. If you do not fish them out, they will ruin you,” she stated, and I knew she was telling the truth because there was no way hackers or whoever they were could get into our systems and accounts without help from within. I believed Luis was behind all this. To what end?

“Do you have any suggestions on how to fish them out?” I asked her, and she shook her head.

“Unfortunately, that is an impossible task for me to do, but you can narrow it down to your account and IT department. Apparently, West corp seems to be at the centre of your problem. It will be wise to have the people in the account and IT section investigate. Whoever is linked to West corp is a prime suspect. “Are you suggesting the thefts are from West corp?” I asked, and she shook her head. “That can come from anywhere, but Diamond corp had incurred this much debt because of the undersupply of goods to their clients caused by West Corp. It also shows that you had not been paying attention up until recent. You paid West Corp for the supply quantity indicated on paper but not the actual supply they made that might be why your company has lost customers. I am not saying this in a professional capacity but as a friend. I will implore you to deal with the owners of West Corp because this is sabotage and should be regarded as treason as this is the Alpha’s company. West Corp should pay dearly for their actions,” she said, and I knew she was speaking as a family friend and not an auditor.

I left her and my father to catch up in the office and went to set things in motion. I called Mike on the phone, and he told me they had rounded the board members up. All but two people were missing. The prominent Luis Moon and Ralph Arnold, a name I had never heard of. Luis Moon’s address was in Santa Braee, which was a no go for us. So I opted we freeze all their accounts in Woodclaw and send a mandate to alert security when anyone attempts to transfer money to an account on a different island or continent. It will just be for the meantime until we catch Luis. I returned to my father’s office, and Krystal was gone. He wasn’t as sad as he was when I came, but I knew he would be back to his gloomy self once he returned to his room.

“I am sorry, Luke,” My father said, knowing what we were facing now was his fault. It was easy to blame it on Stacy, but he should have known better. He should have checked the documents and made sure there were inspections. All the woman did was make sure he favoured her friend. He should have made sure those inspections were carried out. Stacy wouldn’t have stopped him.

“This is on you, father. This is not Stacy’s fault.” I said, and he nodded.

“Where do we start from? We can’t let that company die, Luke.” He said, sounding a bit worried.

“We have to investigate the accounts, but I intend to change everyone working there tomorrow. While we investigate the current workers. I will put Caleb on it. He will yield results faster than I would. I just hope it isn’t too late.”

## Chapter 87

### 87 A Glimpse Into Stacy’s Mind

Stacy.

Caleb and Luke left me alone, and I rested on the bed, i had left my door open deliberately so Aesop could see what he had done to me. He had broken my heart completely. I never did anything to him. I have loved him since I met him, but he never failed to point out my flaws, comparing me with his late wife and making me feel small. I took it out on Luke. I shouldn’t have, but I did.

“Darling, let us talk about this,” I linked Aesop, but he did not respond. I remained in bed, unsure of what to do. It all seemed like a horrible nightmare I would soon wake up from. The reality of what had happened created an intense fear in me. I never imagined that Aesop would go this far, but he did. He embarrassed me and cast me aside. My phone began to ring, and I wasn’t looking forward to speaking with whoever it was. Timothy Miles had been threatening me, asking for his money back since Diamond corp refused to pay for the contract. I did not want to deal with him in my current state of mind. I linked Norman to bring me a bottle of gin. My nerves were all over the place, and I was afraid. The gin was delivered, and I did not bother to use the glass. I took several swigs from the bottle and began to sing songs to ease my aching heart. I felt neglected and abandoned. I hated Aesop for doing this to me. I did not do anything. I had stopped antagonising Luke and Tia; I wasn’t scheming against anyone. I did not speak during breakfast, yet he took it out on me. That was what I was good for anyway. He always took out his anger and frustration on me, but this was its height. Luke insults both of us, and I get to the boot. I began to laugh at the irony of the situation, I bet if Caleb were the one that insulted him, he would have dealt with him. What a bloody hypocrite. My phone began to ring, and I decided to answer it. I picked it up and looked at the screen. It was Timothy Miles. I wondered what the bastard wanted now. “Stacy!” he yelled without answering. “You are a sick bitch!!” he yelled, and I wondered why he would speak to me in such a manner. “What did I do to you, Timothy?” I asked him, slurring my words. “They were coming to arrest us, and you did not give me heads up. I will rope you in on this, I swear,” he said, and I was stunned.

“How? Timothy. I would have exposed you if I knew you were stealing from my husband. You never told me you were running shady deals. You never told me you were defrauding the company. It wouldn’t have killed you to carry out the contracts. I thought I was helping a friend, but you ruined my husband’s company. Go ahead and lie against me, Timothy. I have nothing more to lose. My marriage is over.” I

said to him, and he was silent. "I want my money back, Stacy", he yelled as a comeback line, and I laughed. "If you find a guy called Regan Adhit, ask him for it. I gave it all to him." I told him and hung up, not wanting to hear whatever he had to say.

Luke was much more ruthless than his father, and I knew it was Luke who decided to arrest them. I should have been nicer to him, but Aesop did not give me a chance. I loved that boy and cared for him as a mother should care for her child, but Aesop always pointed out my flaws and showed his son and the memory of his dead wife more love than he showed me. I became resentful and lashed out. If I didn't lash out, my marriage would have been intact.

I finished the bottle of Gin and became very drunk, but sleep did not come. I decided to wear something sexy and go back to Aesop's room. I needed him to hear me out and forgive me. This was the time. I wore his favourite lace lingerie and wore a white silk robe over and headed to his room.

He wasn't in his room when I entered, so I linked Norman to find out where Aesop was. I learned he was having a meeting with Luke and a woman in his office. I decided to wait for him, I went where he kept his liquor and helped myself to some. If I was human, I should have been knocked out by now, but here I was, trying to keep myself tipsy. I should have done things differently. I should have been honest, compassionate and patient. I just have to hope he will hear me out.

While waiting, I remembered how innocent I was when I met Regan. His father had just died, and he was alone, standing by the streetlight. I had gone out to look for food. My father was ill, and my sister had run away to Cleeve to be with her lover. It was only my mother and me. She accused me of being lazy and asked me to put my looks into good use, so I headed out to see what I could get. Regan called out to me, and I crossed over. I knew who he was, and I felt weird that our alpha would talk to me. He asked

me what I was doing, and I could not tell him, but he figured it out and gave me some money. I took it home to my mother and told her how I got it, and she encouraged me to see him. That was how Regan and I started dating. I moved in with him, and he took care of my folks, but then one day, he returned home with a stranger and asked me to sleep with the guy. I was shocked, and I refused to. Regan was my first, and I hoped to start a life with him. When I refused, he linked me and told me we were broke. and this was how we would survive henceforth. I knew he had some money, but he said he had plans. That he could not be great living in Dome, he wanted us to have enough to move to Neev and establish a business. He claimed ma

He claimed many rich people go to Neev, and we will be made. He beat me up for the first time when I refused and forced me to sleep with the stranger. That was the first. He did not go easy on me after then. I tried to run away several times, but that only made it worse; soon, I accepted it as my life. The

moment he felt we had enough, we moved to Neev, and I began to work at a hotel as staff and entertainment. It was like that for a while until I met Aesop. He was supposed to be an extra secret customer. I needed to send money home to help manage my father's health, and Regan refused to give me money. I offered myself to Aesop for a see, but he turned me down. He let me know he was married and showed me her mark on his neck. I felt ashamed, but he went easy on me and got me talking. That was when I told him about my father, and he gave me money to help with my father. He made me promise him that I won't offer myself to customers.

Although I made the promise, it wasn't mine to keep. I envied his wife, and I wished I had met him instead. Soon Regan decided that we should move to Cleeve. That was the last time I saw Aesop. Two years later, Regan left me in Cleeve and returned to Neev for business. He asked me to join him in Neev. As usual, Regan had a customer for me. Unlike the others, this customer knew nothing of Regan or his plans. This customer did not know he was a customer. It was Aesop, and his wife had died. I snapped out of my thoughts and took a swig of the bottle

while I waited.

I waited around, and Aesop finally walked in. He was angry to see, but it was all or nothing right now. I could not afford to lose him. I walked towards the door as if I was ready to leave and locked it.

"Stacy get out," he yelled at me, and I cringed. I was petrified. The last time I was this afraid was when I was with Regan.

"Please, Aesop, I am begging you. Do not do this to me. I cannot live without you. I will be silent. I will never say a word or do anything. I will be more submissive and obedient than an omega. I don't want..." I said, and he cut me short.

"I need space, Stacy. You have ruined everything." He said to me, and I shook my head. I moved closer to him, and he moved back with angry eyes.

"Aesop, Please," I pleaded with him. My tears were flowing freely.

"Give me another chance. Please. I will never speak to Tia or Luke. I will never speak to anyone again. In fact, I will stay away from breakfast. I will only do what you want me to do. I will never go against you." I

said and went on my knees when I found out nothing I was saying was getting through. I felt like throwing up, but I held it.

“Please, Aesop. Don’t leave me. I cannot live without you. Please. I love you. I love you so much you do not know how much I love you.” I pleaded.

Tell me the truth about Regan and where he is,” he asked me, and I was shocked at his request. I did not know where Regan was, and I could not tell him the whole truth. He would lock me up or kill me if I told him the truth. “I do not know where he is, I swear. I do not know.” I said, and he went to the door.

“I will break this door and leave the mansion permanently if you do not leave my room now,” he said, and I stood up, realising my predicament.

“At least make love to me one last time, Aesop. I do not know how long this separation will be, but I want you to touch me one last time.” I said and moved closer to him. He did not move from the door, and I decided to go for it. I tried to kiss him, and he moved away and then I dropped to my knees. It was all or nothing.

“You told me once that this was all I was good for; I am willing to render my services forever,” I said, reaching for the buckle he pushed my hands, and before I knew it, he broke the room’s lock and walked out leaving me dumbfounded. I got up and left his room quietly.

I stayed in my room for three days. It finally sank in the Aesop was done. Not once did he check on me. I could feel that this was final. I hated myself for allowing it to get to this. I should have just left well enough alone and lived in Chloe’s shadow. However hurtful, he wasn’t beating me up and pimping me out to men like Regan. I should have loved Luke and kept the peace in the home. My mother did this to me. She was the one that gave me all the bad advice that led me down this road. Aesop was a good man, and I had pushed too hard. I refused to eat or come out, hoping that Aesop would be worried enough to check on me, but he never did. Monica tried, but I shut her out too. I was a mess. I missed Aesop, and I felt alone. Caleb did not bother to check. To my surprise, it was Tia that sent food to me.

The handover was in two days, after which I was sure Luke would kick me out. I began to think of committing suicide. I could not go back to Dome. I was afraid of Kegan and what he would do to me. I disobeyed him. He was my husband, and I betrayed him for love. I was supposed to marry Aesop and kill him and Luke, but I didn’t. I fell in love and got pregnant instead. It was a simple plan. Regan called me to Neev so I could seduce Aesop and get close to him enough to make him fall in love. It was a long-term investment that Regan was hoping would yield profit. My orders were simple. Get him to marry me and



then kill him and his heir, get back with my husband and transfer all the assets I inherit from Aesop's demise to Regan. I couldn't do it.

I loved Aesop and Luke, and I couldn't do it. I decided to take my chances and be free of Regan by investing all I had in the marriage with Aesop. Regan haled me for it. My marriage with Aesop is null and

void, but no one can ever know, and that is why I am willing to take it to my grave. No one can know that Regan is my mate and Monica is our daughter. Caleb will be seen as a bastard, and I do not want that for him. I am willing to die with my secrets. I did this for all of us. Before Aesop, we were starving. My parents and my daughter were hungry. Regan barely sent money to them, and I had to work double in Cleeve. With Aesop, I knew my daughter would be cared for, and my parents would be okay. I had to do it. Aesop was so sweet that I fell quickly. If only I had been kinder and did not listen to my mother's advice. She would have been a better mate for Regan if she was younger.

I decided that if Aesop chose to kick me out permanently, he would be burying my corpse because there was no way I was going back to the life that I detested so much.

I was lying down thinking of my life when my phone started ringing. I checked to see who it was and it was an unknown number. I instantly knew who it was, and my heart was in my mouth.

"Hello," I said.

"Stacy." The arrogant voice that had plagued my life since I was a teenager said, and my body cringed. "Alpha Regan..." I said with a shaky voice. "Luna Stacy, I am yet to receive the money," he said, and I did not know what to tell him.

"Please, Regan. I do not have money. I have nothing. You have taken everything from me, and now Aesop and I are separated. Please, let it go." I pleaded with him in tears, and he began to laugh. "The fool finally saw you for what you are and has moved on," he said, and I cringed. "You are resourceful, and I need that money, or you won't like what will happen," he warned coldly.

"Please, Regan," I said in tears, "I have nothing," I pleaded with him. "And whose fault is that, Stacy. You had one fucking job to do, and you decided to fall in love. You would have been better off if you had done what I instructed. I want that money, or I will come after your son, his mate and your granddaughter. Stacy, it is a promise, and you know I always keep my promises," he threatened.

“Please, Regan. Let me come back to you. I will work for you. I will work for every penny. Leave my family out of this,” I pleaded with you.

“Have you looked in the mirror? Your value has dropped, Stacy, and besides, I do not pimp women anymore, let alone my wife; thanks to you and your rich fool, I am in the big leagues now,” he said, and I felt insulted, but I needed to get through to him.

“Tell me what I need to do, and I will do it,” I said, and he sighed.

“You have nothing I want, Stacy. I want money from you; if you can’t give me that, then I will take your loved ones from you one at a time so you will feel the pain of betrayal,” he said and laughed.” Irony of life, you betrayed me for the very man that has now kicked you to the curb. Hope it was fun while it lasted,” he said and hung up. With those words, I knew I was in trouble. I needed help. Knowing Caleb and Emma’s lives were in danger, I had to do something about it. It was time to come clean, but I did not know who I should tell. Caleb was irrational. Luke hates me, and Aesop can’t stand me. This was an urgent situation. I could not let Regan get to Caleb and Emma. I needed to do something. Maybe hire someone to guard them. I still had some jewellery I could sell for money. That will buy me enough time to figure out what to do.

Chapter 88

88 Saving For Rainy Days

Tia.

It was a day before the handover, and I was nervous. It was one thing for people to call me Luna. It was another to know that that would be my official title. I wonder how Stacy or Chloe handled it. Thinking of Stacy, I was worried for her. She had remained indoors since the incident, and I was getting scared. Those were signs of serious depression, and no one seemed to be paying attention to it. It wasn’t any of my business, but I wished Aesop or Caleb would do something about it. I linked my husband to find out what he was up to, and he informed me that he was with his father doing what needed to be done in preparation for the handover. That gave me ample time to do what I had planned. Since the meeting with Krystal Mulberry, I have been troubled. There was no way we could move faster than the schemers. They were at an advantage. We did not know them, so we walked blindly, but they knew us and had a goal They were heading for it too.

I had a plan, and I needed someone I could trust to help me execute the plan I took out my phone and called to set up a meeting with Kirk He was the only one I knew that could handle the task. We needed to save for rainy days secretly because if destroying Diamond Corp was part of Luis's plans, then he was definitely planning on making us broke. It was time to have a giant piggy bank I decided to keep this from Luke; only Kirk and I would know of it. It will look like stealing, but it was necessary. We could not let them lay their hands on all the money. Timothy and his cohorts were not speaking. I was shocked when he tried to rope Stacy in, claiming she was a part of it. We all knew it was a lie because the woman had confessed her role and his explanations made no sense. It didn't sound like Stacy. I wished the woman would come clean about the other issues so we could solve them all once and for all.

Kirk answered my call, and he was surprised that I called him. 'Luna,' he leased, and I began to laugh.

"Kirk, I need us to meet secretly at the park," I told him, and he was silent. 'Would Alpha Luke approve?' He asked, sounding scared, and I laughed.

"Luke is busy, and he is not the boss of me. I can do as I like. Besides, it is not like we are having an affair. I have a plan, and I need you to execute it. It is to secure the future." I said, and he was silent for a bit. I knew he was contemplating, and I would not blame him. Luke had temper issues, and he was protective of me. No one would want to be on his wrong side where I was concerned.

"As friends. Let us meet up as friends, Kirk." I said to him, and I knew he wanted to say no, but then again, I was his Luna, so he had no choice. He reluctantly agreed, and we were set to meet in an hour.

I quickly got dressed and linked Luke that I was going out. "You should be resting in bed, Darling," He argued, and I sighed. "Please, Luke, I need some air. I won't be long, I promise. You can meet me at the park when

you are done, Kirk will be there," I told him, and he waited a bit.

"Should Caleb go with you?" he asked, and I was surprised he would suggest Caleb come with me. He really trusted his brother now. I was glad,

"No need. He is your beta, Luke. You will need him and Mike too. If I do not return by the time you are through, come and meet me there, but I doubt I will be there long," I said, and he agreed, I broke off the link and headed out

I asked Bart to have a mini coup waiting for me at the entrance because I intended to drive myself there, and Luke's cars were too flashy for my liking

I drove quickly, wanting to meet up with the time. There was a bit of traffic, but I got there fifteen minutes before the set time, I decided to take a walk and eat ice cream. It wasn't until I got to the ice cream stand that I realised I was craving Sorbet which was the first. I usually hated it, but I wanted them instead of my creamy, icy sweets. I knew it was the pregnancy. I got a couple of flavours together and walked to the mini-lake in the park. Then I called Kirk to meet me up at the lake. He said he was almost there, and I waited for him patiently.

I sat by the lake, wondering what we were doing wrong. I did not want to be dealing with the Luis issue when my baby arrived. It would be tedious for both Luke and me. I began to pray to the goddess that the bastard would slip up and we could catch him.

Kirk arrived, and I was happy to see my friend. He looked around the place as if he was up to no good, and I laughed. Luke could drive that much fear into anyone. I knew Kirk feared my husband would show up and beat him up. It was cute, and I liked that people were afraid of Luke. That way, no one would dare mess with me.

'Why did you call me out here, Tia. You know how Luke is,' he said, and I laughed. 'And what do you think he will do to you, Kirk?' I asked my friend, and I noticed he was sweating.

'Beat me up like he beat Derin for talking about your ass in the locker room,' he said, and my eyes widened.

'he didn't tell you?' Kirk asked me, and I shook my head.

'Derin accidentally described your features when your husband walked into the locker room. He got the beating of his life for it. So why am I here, Tia,' he asked me, and I laughed. I knew why Luke beat Derin up. He had a foul mouth and must have used some offensive words while describing me. 'How is the investigation with West Corp?' I asked him, and he sighed and sat beside me. 'tight-lipped. They are all tight-lipped. Apparently, Luis recently procured the largest shares in West Corp. Kimberly's father is the main culprit, and I do not know why he will help an outsider he does not know defraud his alpha. He is being tried for treason. He claimed Luis lives on Santa Braee and gave us a hotel detail confirming the bastard is there, but Luke and Caleb do not want to cross the waters to go there. They hope to stop the

bastard's operation on Woodclaw and force him to a corner so he will have no choice but to come here physically. As things are, money cannot be transferred out of Woodclaw, so everything is tight now. If Luis is in Santa Braee, he will not have access to his money here on Woodclaw. Cutting his supply is a good way to handle the matter." he said, and I nodded.

"That is a good idea, but he is already cutting our supply by conniving with the accounts and IT department to hack into our system and steal our money," I told Kirk, and he widened his eyes, and I knew he was surprised. "Based on the information I have. I know the bastard wants to cripple our pack financially, This asshole is aiming for a takeover. I do not know how he intends to do it, but once the Moons are financially crippled, he might be able to swoop in with his resources. Loyalty can be bought, especially when we have smaller packs that are poor and in need of resources on this Island. He will not need to get military support from outside. They will willingly sign up for a fee." I said, and he became uncomfortable.

"They can't betray Luke even if they try. His mark is active, and it will override that of their Alphas" he said, and I nodded. I did not think it was necessary to share my fears to that extent with Kirk. The truth was, I doubt Luke could control what he did in Eastwood. Knowing that he is partly from there, the rightful Alpha of Eastwood and an heir of Neev, it is plausible that his Moon Keymark would easily override the Marks of the wolves from Eastwood's neighbouring packs because they are from the same source. Luke should naturally be able to override the mark of every pack on the Island because they all come from the Woodclaw clan, but I doubt Luke could wield that strength at will. I kept it to myself and just smiled. "That is true, Kirk, but we have to be ready and not allow them to cripple us financially," I told him, and he sighed. "So, what do you have in mind?" He asked me, and I smiled,

"I need you to create a private account under an alias in a separate bank, and I will anonymously move some money to that account. Once Luis is caught, I will put it back Can you do that?" I asked, and he looked at me with fear. "If they catch us, it will be seen as thest," Kirk told me, and I nodded. "They won't. I will make sure of it. The audit is over. If they do, I will come clean about it." I assured him, and he reluctantly agreed to do it. We discussed the case extensively, and soon I left the park to return home.

When I got to the mansion, I saw Stacy outside. She had lost a lot of weight, and she looked despondent "Good evening Luna Stacy," I said to her with concern hoping she would lash out, but she didn't.

"Good evening Tia. Hope you guys are preparing for the big day?" she asked me nicely, surprised, and I became worried. It was very unlike her to be nice. I noticed she had jewellery boxes, and she was loading them into a cab.

Noticing I was looking at the boxes, she smiled at me, but the smile did not touch her eyes. I knew something was troubling her. "Since Aesop has abandoned me. I doubt I will need any of this," she said with a fake smile." I decided to sell them and see what I can do with the money because Luke is definitely kicking me out tomorrow.

" she said, and I was shocked she would think Luke would do that to her. I did not know what

to say to her, but I did not think it was wise she sell her valuables. I doubted if that was the reason. She might be trying to come up with the money to pay Regan Adhit.

"I think you should come clean about the blackmailer, Luna Stacy. You really have nothing more to lose." I told her, and she looked at me and shook her head.

"I am on my own now, Tia. You should mind your business," she said, sounding like her old self, and I almost laughed, but I knew it would be insensitive. I wanted to laugh not because she was going through hell but because I was glad to see her react as her old self. I was worried she had sunk into depression and might want to kill herself. The way she snapped at me meant she was still fighting to live. I shook my head and walked into the mansion. I linked Luke to tell him I had returned and was in the room. He was yet to be done with his father, so I decided to put my feet up and rest. To my surprise, Kimberly came to hang out with me in my room, She brought Emma along, and I welcomed their company.

Chapter 89

89 Weird Goodbyes

Tia

Luke returned to the bedroom late in the night. He looked tired. I watched him go into the bathroom and return to the room.

"How was it at the park with Kirk?" he asked, climbing into bed next to me. I snuggled close to him, and he kissed me.

"It was okay, but it wasn't fun without you," I told him, and he held me close. "I am sorry I didn't come, Tia Father was putting me through a lot. I could not get away." he said and sighed. "So, are you pumped

up for tomorrow?" I asked him, and he nodded; I was glad he wasn't as nervous as I was "Father seemed a bit gloomy today," he confessed, leaving an opening for me to discuss Stacy with him.

'Of course, he will be, Luke. He separated from his mate Even if he claims they were not bonded, he has been with her most of his active years. He will feel the void. I must say that he is handling it better than she is." I said, and he giggled.

"Do not let Stacy fool you She is seeking attention. You will be shocked what will happen once she gets it." he said, and I knew this wasn't the case

"I doubt it, Luke. You should see her. She was selling her jewellery today. Claiming you will kick her out after the handover." I told him, and he sat up in shock.

'It must be pretence; she loves flashy stuff" Luke said, and I shook my head. "Something is wrong with that woman She hasn't come out and eaten in four days, Luke. She has lost a lot of weight. She wrecks out of fear, and she is selling her stuff. I think she is still in trouble with her ex." I said to him, and he shrugged his shoulder.

"If she needed help, she would have come clean. Leave her to deal with her shit Tia. It is really none of our business." He said to me, and I sighed.

'It is our business, Luke. If anything happens to that woman, it will affect Caleb. You might hate her, but you have a sibling, thanks to her. You won't be alone like your father. Caleb might say he doesn't care right now, but if she dies, he will become resentful of you and your father. Remember how you felt when you believed your father had a hand in your mother's death?" I said, and he shook his head angrily.

"That is different." He argued.

"It is not Luke. Stacy is Caleb's mother. No matter how bad she is, she is his mother, and he will feel it if anything happens to her. If you don't want to help her, at least do it for Caleb's sake. He is a wonderful brother to you, and he is a hundred per cent loyal. He isn't competing with you or fighting you. It is a rare kind of commitment. Most people with Key Marks would have set out to form a pack for themselves, but he chose to support you as your beta. If we

ignore Stacy's cry for help and she dies, Luis Moon and Regan Adhit would be the least of our problems. However sawed she is. She is still his mother, and you will notice the difference then, Luke," I warned my husband, and he looked frustrated

"I have had a hectic day, Tia I planned on coming home to make love to my wife and sleep, and you had to spring this on me. Why should I care about Stacy? Stacy has decided to take her secrets to the grave. Why should I care? Why are you trying to make it seem as if what we are doing is unfair, Tia?" he asked me, and I knew he was angry. I decided to leave it alone.

"I am sorry I brought it up, Luke. I won't speak about it again " I said, I did not want to argue with Luke; his temper was bound to be short because he had had a hectic day. I would not want us to say hurtful things to each other that we would not be able to take back I was hurt by how he handled the conversation, but I kept it to myself. I decided to let the matter go and not bother him about Stacy again. Her son and husband will deal with the repercussions if anything happens to her.

I laid back down and turned away from Luke. I hated the pregnancy hormones for making me emotional

"Tia," Luke said calmly and moved close to hold me I shrugged him off, and he kissed my shoulder.

"Please, Tia. I am sorry I got short. I just did not want to discuss Stacy. I am tired, and I have a lot on my mind." He said, and I did not say anything because I knew those were his reasons. He moved close and held me close, and I let him. As much as I was concerned about Stacy, I could not fight Luke over it. He kissed my neck where he claimed me, and I felt the tingle move through my body. Being pregnant had made me extra sensitive, and I released a moan. He did say he intended to make love to me, and I was more than eager to let him.

I turned towards him, and he kissed me fiercely. I knew he was tired, so I decided to be in charge. I returned the kiss and went on top of him. He looked curious and smiled when I took off my clothes.

"Taking charge tonight?" he smiled at me, and I pulled down his shorts. He used his legs to take them off completely, and he rested back in bed, grabbing my waist. I was too horny for foreplay. My body was something else, and I liked it. Placing him in me, I rode his cock We woke up early in the morning, refreshed, showered and dressed up for breakfast. Breakfast had been boring lately without Stacy there. She was some form of entertainment, really, but the peace was welcomed. Aesop did not ban her from the table. She just refused to come. Getting there, I was surprised to find Stacy sitting there at the table. She had lost a lot of weight quickly and reeked of alcohol a bit. Kimberly smiled at me, and I returned the smile. I greeted Stacy, and she replied joyfully, and I could swear she was on something. She did not



carry Aesop scent, so I knew they were not together, but she looked happy. She was definitely up to something. I looked at Caleb, and he shrugged. Monica sat quietly at the table's end, looking worried. When Aesop came, he froze. He wasn't expecting Stacy at the table. As soon as he sat, she got up and went to sit next to Monica as far away from Aesop as possible. I did not understand why she did not sit there in the first place. We all greeted Aesop, and he replied and sat down. Breakfast was served, and we ate in silence. I noticed Stacy did not touch her food and seemed a bit nervous. It was weird, but I refused to speak

"Won't you eat your food?" Aesop finally asked her; I realised why, and she smiled at him.

"I am not hungry. I just came down to spend some time with my family," she said and patted Monica on the head. The woman was eating her food, terrified. "Luke, I hope you are prepared for the handover. You will make an excellent Alpha," she said to him, smiling, and I was perturbed now. This was very unlike Stacy. "I wish I could give you pointers for being Luna Tia, but I wasn't ever good for anything," she said and drank her juice. I guess she got on Aesop's nerves, and he stopped eating. "Out with it, Stacy," he growled, and she stopped smiling "I have nothing to say," she said.

"Then don't spoil breakfast. Today is a big day for Luke and Tia," he warned her.

"I have said nothing wrong. I just congratulated them. I guess I am not allowed to congratulate them then," she said and turned to Luke and me. "Sorry I said anything," she said, and her eyes were filled with tears.

"Where is Regan Adhit, mother!!" Caleb asked her, and she turned to look at him. She was hurt

"Anything I haven't said is for your good, Caleb. But I promise you he won't bother anyone again after today." She said, sounding sure, and I wondered.

"Why are you so sure, mother. Have you finally paid him off? I saw you selling your jewellery and stuff. Did you finally come up with the money?" Caleb asked, and Aesop exclaimed.

"What!!" he said, and she shook The woman was terrified of Aesop.

“Your family ring wasn’t part of what I sold. I will return it to you today after the handover.” she quickly said, and he did not calm down.

“Why are you doing this, mother. You rather pay up than tell us where he is?” Caleb asked her, and she had tears streaming down her face. She was holding a lot in, which wasn’t good for her soul.

“I wish I knew where he was, darling. I would have killed him myself, but I do not know where he is and what he is up to. But I have figured out how to get him off our backs,” she said to Caleb and patted Monica’s head. Her niece was in tears. She knew something and wasn’t speaking

“I have something for you and Monica,” she said to Caleb.”i had to come down to breakfast because everyone has blocked me from the mind link, so this is the best way to communicate with all of you,” she said and wiped away her tears.

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“Luke, I am sorry for being a shitty mother to you. You were innocent and did not deserve anything I did to you I wish I could go back in time and take it back, but the Moon goddess did

e with that ability. All I can do is seek your forgiveness. Know that I am not begging you because I am afraid you will kick me out. I am actually ready to leave the Mansion of my own accord. I just want you to know that I regret my actions toward you. Tia, I am sorry for tearing you away from Caleb the way I did. I said you were not good enough for my son. I was wrong. You are the best thing that has happened in their lives. They are closer now than ever, and Luke has become more caring because of you. Thank you for that. Kimberly, I failed

you terribly, and I am sorry. I should have been there for you when you were pregnant with Emma, but I was so busy trying to cover my secrets that I did not see the extent of neglect. I can’t go back in time to fix it, but I am sorry, and I hope you will forgive me. Caleb, I love you dearly, and it wasn’t my intention to ruin your life. I thought I was helping you out. I am sorry and hope you will forgive me, but I love you. I am proud of you for how you turned out, Caleb, and I wouldn’t have had it any other way.” She said and patted Monica’s hair.

“My little princess, I am so proud of you too. I never wanted you to suffer. I promised to do everything I could to make sure you had a better life than I did in Dome, and thanks to Alpha Aesop, that was

possible. Do not make the same mistakes I made, and do not listen to your grandmother. She is full of bad advice.” she said and giggled Alpha Aesop got angry. “Enough of this nonsense, Stacy. You are making everyone nervous. This is Luke’s big day Can you try not to make it about you!” He yelled at her, and she smiled at him.

“My darling Aesop I am sorry you feel this way. Since everyone blocked me, I felt it was best to come and say goodbye properly before I left the Mansion I am not trying to make this about me I might not get this chance again, I want to thank you 100 for your kindness towards me. You rescued me from poverty and never asked about my past. Because of you, Monica and my parents had a good life. I will forever be indebted to you. I tried my best to make the cut, but I am not made of premium stuff, and I do not have to deceive myself any further. I am sorry for the pain I have caused you, and I hope you find it in your heart to forgive me. I loved you deeply, and it had nothing to do with your money, Aesop. You were the first man to ever treat me nicely. Don’t change your kindness because of me. I wish I could give you Regan on a platter, but I do not know where he is. Once I am out of here, he will no longer be a Moon problem. It is the least I can do to show my gratitude.” She said, and Aesop smirked.

“You think I will let you leave when you haven’t accounted for all the money you stole?” He said to her, and she smiled at him.

“Very well, Aesop, have it your way. I will be in my room until you decide to let me go. I did not steal from Diamond corp. Timothy was the one that gave me money. If taking money from Timothy to pay Regan is stealing, then I am guilty.” she said and got up. She kissed Monica on the head and went to kiss Caleb, then picked Emma up and kissed her. “You two will be fine, parents,” she said and held Emma to her chest a bit and then placed her down.

“I will deliver your family ring to your office after the handover if you do not mind, Aesop,” She asked, and he did not respond. She went to where he sat and leaned to kiss him She whispered thank you, I was close enough to hear and walked away from the table. Stacy had said her goodbyes. I wondered where she was going.

Monica wiped away her tears and stood up from the table. “Where are you going?” Aesop asked her firmly. “To pack my belongings, Alpha,” she said and did not call him Uncle; it was a huge surprise. “Your aunt isn’t going anywhere, and even if she is, she can’t take you with her. What about your work?” he asked her calmly.

“I will tender my resignation tomorrow, Sir. I am going back to Dome. I have no reason to be

here,” Monica confessed, which was true. If her aunt was leaving, she had to go. She wasn’t related to Aesop. I knew Aesop wanted to stop her but held his own. Monica left the table quietly.

“Maybe she really doesn’t know where Regan is,” Kimberly volunteered, and no one answered. Aesop was angry.

“Don’t let this spoil your day Luke,” Aesop said to Luke, but he seemed to be saying it to himself than he was saying it to Luke.

“Stacy only apologised, father. If anything, I am glad she sees the errors of her ways. Like I

d, the separation is unnecessary, but it is your choice,” he told his father, and Aesop could no longer eat his food. He was troubled, and he should be. Stacy had just said goodbye as if we would never see her again.

## Chapter 90

### 90 Handover

The handover ceremony took place. Stacy showed up happy and merry. She lied that she had been ill to cover up her weight loss and was nice to people. I was glad she thought of keeping up appearances. My father was wrong when he said she would make it about her. She didn’t. She sat with him all through and pretended as if nothing was wrong. I could swear she was on something, but then again, she was good at pretending. Monica wasn’t at the event. I figured she was packing like she said she would. I wondered why Stacy thought I would kick her out of the mansion, but I kept it to myself. I met all sorts of people, and Timothy Miles was the topic of discussion. People wanted to know why we locked him up and if he would be released soon. I did not know how to explain his crimes to them, and I did not know who I could trust. There was no way Luis was working with only West Corp board members. He was bound to have people in the pack working against us. Our investigations had just started, so we were yet to figure out the people working for him. Going to Santa Braee wasn’t an option yet, but the bastard kept leaving breadcrumbs leading to the place. It was a trail I wasn’t ready to follow.

When we were done greeting everyone, Tia and I went to sit at the high table. I did not miss the lustful hungry eyes staring at my wife. She was looking stunning in a backless red velvet gown. The slit was high up her thing with an open V front that went down to her navel, decently showing some nice cleavage. I was definitely peeling the dress off her once the night was over. Just looking at her got me fired up. I did

not take offence, and they always looked away when I caught them staring; it made me proud. I was the one with the forbidden fruit.

We sat next to my father and Stacy, and he held her hand throughout the events. Although it was pretence, it was apparent they both cherished the moments. I wished they could get over themselves and move on. The woman might have a lot of secrets, but she did not know where her ex was. I was worried about her intentions. She had no jewellery except for the family ring, which she said she would return to my father after the event. The woman was too pretty for anyone to notice that she had no

jewellery. I watched her take care of my father as she usually did whenever they were at a function, and I wished things had happened differently.

Soon the crowd dispersed, and I was officially the Alpha of Woodclaw, and Tia was my Luna. We all went to my father's office for him to hand me the family quill. We never used it, but it was tradition. It was no longer his office but mine. Everyone was happy, and they cheered. Stacy took off the ring and handed it to Tia.

"You now carry the responsibility of Luna and the lady of the house. I am sure you will bless this home with Joy, love and peace. All the Luna's of the Moon family have worn this very ring. Today I hand it over to you, Luna Tia," she said, and she hugged Tia and then let her go. Tia was uncomfortable about it, but she smiled.

1. That was so low of my father to think Stacy might have sold the original and have a replica made. I guess it was the real thing because shame washed over him, and he handed the ring to

Tia.

"Satisfied?" she asked, smiling, and he nodded with a firm facial expression.

She smiled at me and congratulated me one more time, and left. We were silent for a bit.

"She is just acting up," my father said, but I doubt that was it. "Monica has packed her things, father", Caleb told him. "They are really leaving," he said, and I knew then that Caleb wasn't cool with what was happening. He had held it in, but his genuine emotions were showing. I hoped father could see it. "She

can't go anywhere. I have alerted the Mansion security not to let her pass. Neither of them is leaving until she tells me where Regan is," He said, and Caleb shook his head.

"She doesn't know where he is, father. Mother is selfish. She would have given him up if she

said with tear-filled eyes.

"I know my mother isn't a good person, but she never killed anyone. She was only annoying at breakfast and lied against people she did not like. What else did she do, father? This is too much. I am beginning to believe her when she said you didn't love her. There is no wall with her picture in this house, and you are always quick to point out her flaws. You did it so often that it became normal. This is extreme. So someone is blackmailing her. Maybe it was because she knew you would kick her to the curb; that was why she didn't tell you. She is always afraid of you, and now I know why. You are heartless. Why did you instruct security not to let her out? She might probably starve to death, hiding in her room." Caleb said, and my father became angry. "No one stopped your mother from eating!" he yelled at Caleb, and I had to calm the situation down.

"Why can't you let it go then?" Caleb asked, and my father sighed. "Because she hurt me, Caleb. She made me look stupid and weak." My father said.

"But isn't that what love does to you? Look at Luke and Tia. Me and Kimberly. We are fools for our mates." He said, and my father shook his head. "If you were mated to the likes of your mother, you will understand, Caleb." My father said, and Caleb shook his head and looked at me.

"I love you, Luke, but I won't do this. I have been silent enough. If all my mother said about how father treated her was true, I can't be here with you either," He said and looked at our father.

"Since Luke's mother was your golden wife, and she gave you a golden son, then you do not

Caleb until now. Stacy was his mother. How did I expect him to just get over it and move on? Would I have done that?

“Caleb, please calm down,” I said, and he shook his head. “I love you, Luke, but I will leave when my mother leaves,” he said. Caleb left with Kimberly leaving my father, Tia and me in the office. My father looked at me, and I did not know what to tell him.

“Father, I think you should give Stacy one last chance. You clearly are not ready to let her go. If not, you wouldn’t tell the security to stop her. I know she has hurt you, but you won’t get the truth out of her like this. She is desperate and afraid of you and this Regan guy. If what she said was true, you, too, have failed her father. I have let everything she said and did, go; I think you should too; It will be for the best. In the process, you will lose a son and a granddaughter, and I will lose my brother and niece. Our lives are too intertwined for us to disconnect abruptly like this. I am not Judging you, father, but I believe it is time the two of you talk.” I said to him, and he nodded.

“I still need time. Tell Caleb I will settle my differences with his mother. He has blocked me from the link. But it won’t be tonight. She can’t have her way every time,” he said, leaving Tia and me in the office. She shrugged her shoulder and smiled at me. “First night in your office was eventful,” she said with a weak smile. I walked to her and held her close. The dress still had its effect on me.

“Isn’t every second in this mansion eventful?” I replied, and she giggled. I made love to my

Tia wore my shirt and held her dress and shoes in her hand, while I wore my trousers and held my shoes in my hand. We snuck back to the left-wing into our bedroom. I tried to Link Caleb, but he was asleep. I decided I would talk to him in the morning.

Two Weeks Later.

We were eating breakfast in the lounge when I heard Monica scream. I honestly thought she

carried out their orders and stopped her and Stacy from going. We all abandoned our food and ran upstairs towards the rooms of the right-wing. Stacy’s room was Ajar, and Monica was crying My father was the first to enter, followed by me. Monica knelt by Stacy on the floor, trying to wake her up. “Please get up!” she kept crying, and we were all shocked. There was no time for questions. My father picked her up, and we left the house to rush the woman to the hospital. She must

We arrived at the hospital, and the emergency staff were waiting at the entrance. They put Stacy on a stretcher and carried her in. My father was confused, and so was Caleb. I tried to hold it together, but I couldn't. Was this what she meant about leaving us. The selfish woman was planning on killing herself.