

## **D Desires 91**

### Chapter 91

#### 91 Selfish

Luke

did not expect her to do this.

“Does anyone have her phone?” He asked us, and none of us was smart enough to grab it. I called Norman to bring her phone to the hospital while we waited. “Do you know her password?” my father asked Monica, and she nodded. The woman was distraught.

“If you know anything. You better start talking now!” He yelled at Monica, and I told him to calm down; the girl was distraught. She continued to cry until the phone arrived and she gave us the password. It was my father’s birthday

My father went through the phone, and his hand began to shake violently. I collected the phone from him immediately, and Caleb joined me in going through it. The messages were appalling

“You think that little sum you sent will prevent me from hurting your son and his daughter. Think again, Stacy. I will make you pay for betraying me.” One text read.

“Bitch! Why are you not answering my calls? Fucking whore. I told you to make sure that money is complete, or I swear I will keep my promise. I guess the years you spent with that over-privileged fool have made you forget about me and what I can do when I am mad, Stacy!” “You tried to send a private investigator after me. I hope his death has sent the message. I am unstoppable, Stacy. Pay up, or else I will keep my promise.”

There were a lot of messages from the guy, and he used different numbers. The messages were

wasn’t lying about his intentions. I looked at my father, and he was mad and sad at the same time.

“She did not confess the truth. We could have helped her.” my father said sadly. “You wouldn’t have!” Monica lashed out, and I was shocked, but we decided to excuse her outburst.

” She was just a tool to you. You wouldn’t have helped her. She wasn’t perfect, but she loved you in her little way. She isn’t a bad person, you know. She had it rough and wanted the best for me. We were starving. My father refused to send us money, and she worked overtime in Cleeve to make ends meet. You do not know the shit Regan put her through from a young age. You wouldn’t have helped her if she told you she was trapped in a marriage with her pimp and had a daughter by him.” she confessed, and we were all in shock.

“What!!!!” My father exclaimed, and Monica wiped away her tears. I guess there was nothing to hide anymore. Stacy might die for all we know.

“Stacy is my mother, and Regan Adhit is my father,” she said, and my father was mad.

“Regan forced her into a marriage when she was young so she wouldn’t leave him because she tried to leave him severally. She tried to run away several times, but he always caught her and made her pay for running. Those scars on her back were not from boarding school, as she told you. There were silver wounds inflicted by the sick bastard. He would pimp her out for money, and she would have to pay for it when she refused. She wasn’t working at that hotel out of choice; he placed her there. If she refuses, he’ll threaten to kill her parents. He sent her to Cleeve when she got pregnant with me. He did not look back until you came along. He ordered her to seduce you and become your wife, kill you and your son, and then hand over your money and power to him. He promised his father that the Adhit family would be recognised among the Alpha’s of Woodclaw, and that was how he claimed to do it. But my mother had other plans. She loved you from the day you helped her care for her sick father. She loved you, but you were married then. When Regan forced her to be with you, she did it wholeheartedly and promised never to look back. Thanks to you. We were no longer hungry, and I got the care I needed. Regan did not know she would double-cross him until she got pregnant with Caleb. He knew then that she would not kill you and Alpha Luke, so he got mad and started to blackmail her, and that was how she started paying up.

That is her dirty secret and the reason she is tight lip about it. Unless Regan is dead, Caleb will be regarded as a bastard because she is still his wife and mate,” she said, and we were flabbergasted.

My father sat quietly on the bench, and I invited some medical staff to attend. I knew he was about to have a heart attack. This was a heavy secret that she had kept for so long. The woman was deep. How could she keep this much?

I looked at Monica and realised the girl looked exactly like Stacy. Why didn't we suspect this? How didn't we know? They were inseparable, always looking out for each other. The bond was too strong, but we were too caught up in our mess that we did not know. "Do you know where he is?" I managed to ask her and she shook her head. "My mother used some of the money she got from her jewellery sales to find him, but it was to no avail. The private detective died the very day he took the job, so she sent Regan most of the proceeds she got from selling her jewellery, leaving two envelopes each containing a check, one to me and the other to Caleb. She told me Regan won't stop coming after us until she was dead and said she would end it. I did not know she would have the heart to go through with it. When she did not do it on the night of the handover, I thought she had changed her mind. I guess she did not want to be the talk of the event. "Why didn't you come to me?" My father asked her, and she shook her head.

"I couldn't. You have separated yourself from her. Just like twenty-three years ago, we were on our own again. I had to wait for her instructions." She said.

"Does your father ever call you?" I asked her, and she shook her head.

"I do not even know him. My mother said he tried to abort me, and she refused. I have never met him, and I doubt he cares," she said and began crying. "My mother is all I have, and now..." she said, and Tia went to comfort her. Kimberly did the same. We were still in shock. How could Stacy hold this much in and not tell anyone? As much as I wanted to ponder the issue, my brother and niece were in trouble.

"This must not get out," I warned everyone." For father and Caleb's sake, no one must know Stacy was married to Regan," I said, and Caleb looked at me, surprised. "We can't have them label you a bastard because you aren't. You are a Moon, Caleb. Now I want you to snap out of your shock and do what you know how to do best. I need you to set out your resources to trace these numbers. There is no way the bastard was careful dealing with Stacy. He was sure she wouldn't be able to tell anyone her secret, and he was bound to be sloppy because of it. We need to trace the numbers and follow the lead. Regan is now a top priority. Stacy is a Moon and has committed treason by threatening her!" I said, and I could see gratitude in Caleb's eyes. The whole marriage and Monica issue would be resolved later. It was time to catch the bastard and deal with him.

The medical staff arrived and helped my father to a room. He was too young to have heart issues, but no one was too young to suffer from shock. He had been mated and married to a married woman for twenty- three years. No one can shake that kind of load off. As much as I hated to jump to conclusions, Regan was beginning to sound like Luis. What if Stacy and Monica were the things my father stole from him. I did not want to believe that to be the case, but it fits, although Regan seemed a bit more sloppy

and less deliberate than Luis. It could be that way because he was dealing with Stacy, or they might be working together. Either way, we needed to catch the bastard.

“Tia,” I linked to my wife,” find out if Nuclei has anything to do with Tektite. We need to know where they were registered and who are the board members. Work on it with Kirk but be careful and secretive. I might have to secretly go to Santa Braee after all.” I said, and she looked worried.

“Let’s talk about it when we get home, Luke. This guy is very dangerous. Let us discuss this extensive and then decide, but I will work on the investigation with Kirk,” she argued, and I knew why she was worried. I nodded so she would be patient.

We waited in the hallway, and no one came to tell us about Stacy’s progress. There was a possibility she wouldn’t make it. I hoped she would, for all our sakes. It will be unfair for her to die like this. Killing herself

to protect her children and grandchildren was the height of love or maybe selfishness. However twisted it was, the woman’s love was dangerous.

Chapter 92

92 The Clean Out

Tia.

The revelation was still shocking. Aesop had taken it badly. They had to calm his nerves and give him a bed in the hospital. Being married to someone else’s wife and mate was unheard of. He had lived a lie for twenty-three years. “How old are you, Monica?” Luke asked her, and she looked at him.

“Twenty-Four”, she confessed, and I fought the urge to jump with joy and scream, ‘I knew it’. Looking at everyone’s countenance, it would have been unwise.

“Kimberly, I think you should go home to Emma,” I said because it was time to breastfeed her baby. Caleb nodded immediately and said she should go home. She was reluctant, but she had to leave.

Caleb was distraught, and Luke was confused. "Why didn't she come clean about this to me?" Caleb asked quietly, and Monica looked at him. "She didn't want you to know Caleb. She did not want you to have a reason to be ashamed or scared." Monica said, and I could understand Stacy's reasons. If Caleb knew that he was like a love child, he would not have the confidence to excel the way he did. He will always feel inferior to Luke. It was a dangerous decision, but it was wise for him.

The doctor finally decided to grace us with his presence, and we were attentive. He came to me instead of Luke, which was understandable. I was now Luna, and this was a domestic matter. I should be the one here, while Luke should be at the headquarters taking care of security and administrative issues.

"Luna Tia. Mrs Moon swallowed a substantial amount of edible silver," He said, and my breath was stuck in my throat. As much as we all did not like her, no one wanted her to die. We even started missing her during breakfast. It was somehow dull and uneventful with her. Knowing what we now know, she handled the matter the best way she could.

"She should have died instantly, but she wasn't sold the pure thing. Nonetheless, much damage has been done, and her prognosis isn't good." He said and sighed. Caleb sat down on the chair in the hallway, and I knew he was afraid of what the doctor had to say. We all were.

"We have done all we can. Hopefully, her healing ability will kick in, and she will pull through," he said, and I nodded. I did not know what to say. The doctor looked at me expectantly to hear something, and I honestly did not know what to say. I wished there was a Luna training school, and people did not expect whoever it was to just automatically assume the role based on instincts.

"Is she comfortable?" I managed to ask the only humane thing I could think of.

"Yes, Luna and we have three well-trained nurses stationed in her room. There will be no need to stay," she said, and I shook my head.

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"Her niece can remain with her," I said and looked at Monica. I knew they wouldn't let Monica in unless someone ordered them to. "Alright, Dr Ashfield," I said, looking at his name tag, and he nodded." If there are complications or need for consent, kindly convey them to Dr Lockwood. He will get in touch with me." I said, and he nodded and excused himself. I looked at Luke, and he was on the phone. His

eyes were troubled, and I wondered what it was this time. I was tired of Luis and Regan. Monica left to stay with Stacy while Luke, Caleb and I went to check on Alpha Aesop. I was surprised to find him sitting on the hospital bed, but he was unusually calm, which I knew might be the effect of the sedation. "How is she?" These were his first words to Luke.

"Alive" was all Luke could manage. He was being careful not to tell his father something that would get him upset. I knew Luke was worried and was trying hard not to let it show.

"Have you checked on her?" He asked, and Luke shook his head.

"Monica is with her," he responded, and I saw Alpha Aesop's frown. He had an angry and mean scowl on his face.

"And you felt it was right to let Regan's child stay with her?" he asked, and I did not want to confess that it was my idea.

"There is no one else to stay with her, father. We have security issues to attend to, and Tia has to be around to handle matters." Luke said, and I looked at him, worried about what was happening. "What is happening?" his father asked him, and Luke looked at him and sighed, contemplating telling him what the matter was.

"Tell me, Luke, I can handle it," his father told him, and my husband sighed. "Deserters from around the island. We lost half of our military force this morning. Kirk said someone is anonymously recruiting them. We all know it is Luis." he said, and I gasped. This was not good. "Why would they leave the army?" I asked Luke, and he looked at me and sighed. "\*\*They are not from Woodclaw City. They are from neighbouring places. We are yet to understand how he convinced them to desert the army, which is an offence of caught, and we do not know what he is telling or promising them," Luke said, and Aesop became angry.

"I am tired of all these guys. My father never had to deal with these kinds of things. In the history of our clan, this is the first. I gut feeling that this Luis moon guy is Regan Adhit." Aesop said I had that feeling, but I kept it to myself. "The arsehole must think I stole his wife from him. I wouldn't have hooked up with her if I knew she was married. I wasn't even looking for a mate," he said and looked at Luke.

'You took to her so well that I felt she would be able to give you the motherly love that you deserved. I guess I was wrong.' He said, and Caleb shook his head.

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"She would have if you hadn't treated her like shit. I used to think both of you did not like taking photos, so I never asked why her picture wasn't in the house. You never really cared about her father." Caleb said, and Luke stopped him by holding his hands and squeezing lightly. "I cared in my own way. I just did not want to get too attached. Chloe's death hit me hard. I did not want to be vulnerable. Your mother and I were never bonded, and now I know why. She was already bonded to Regan." He said, and I found it a bit confusing because a claiming had to take place for a bond, and Aesop's mark was on her neck "But he never claimed her," I said, doubting what Monica had said about her parents. Aesop shook his head immediately.

"People from Dome do not claim their mates by biting them on the neck. They do it by biting the back of the shoulder. Now thinking about it, I was a fool. Stacy has a lovely tattoo there. I did not think much of it because I found it fascinating, but now I know why it was there. They did it to hide the bite," he said and bowed his head. Knowing he was deceived got to him. "She should have told me." He said, and I doubted he would have loved her still. We were silent. No one said anything to him. The reason for the silence was apparent. Everyone knew he wouldn't have handled the information well.

"Why don't you two go and attend to pack matter. I will wait with her here," he said, and Caleb shook his head. They did not want him to know the severity of the matter. As much as Aesop tried to keep his cool, it was clear the subject had hit him hard, and he was afraid he might lose her. If we told him exactly what the doctor said, he might not handle it well, and we did not want that right now.

"You should go home. Monica will take care of her," Luke said.

We left Aesop in his room and went to check on Stacy. I could smell Monica's fear, and I understood. If Stacy died, she would be alone. I doubt if her grandparent would care for her, and her father was a wanted man right now whom she did not know where he was. Caleb was better off. He had a family. A brother that loved him, a father that adored him, a mate and child, but she had nothing. All Monica had was Stacy. She was bound to be hit the most.

'Do you know how she purchased the Silver?' I asked Monica, and she looked at me and shook her head. Someone working in that mansion must have helped her procure the item because Aesop had instructed them not to let Monica and Stacy out.

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We stood around a bit, and Caleb was sad all through the time. Luke asked him to remain, but he insisted on following Luke to the headquarters to deal with the pending matter. We finally left the hospital. Luke dropped me off at the mansion while he left with Caleb to attend to pack issues. I was worried this whole Luis matter would blow out of proportion, and it was already happening. Who would have guessed we would lose some of our military support on the island. It was actually unheard of, as Aesop had said. The moment entered the mansion, I decided to go and search Stacy's room.

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The room was dim, and I opened the blinds. I searched her closet and was shocked to see it was empty. Her room had nothing in it; she had sold everything. There were no traces of what she had taken. Part of the room was cleaned but whoever cleaned it tried to make it seem as if the

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room was untouched. The unfortunate part was that there were no security cameras in that area of the house. It was also understandable. That was where the rooms were. I searched and sniffed around a bit more. I found two envelopes, one addressed to Caleb and the other to Monica. It wasn't sealed, so I opened it to see what was in them. The one addressed to Caleb read,

"My darling Caleb, I am sorry I did this, but it was for your good. Regan will stop bothering this family once I am gone. Please cash the check and start your tech firm. I know it will excel. I love you."

I opened the one addressed to Monica. "My sweet girl. I am sorry I had to do this. I hope you will find it in your heart to forgive me, but you and your brother come first, and your father has sworn to get even. I am sure he will back down with me out of the way. Take the check and leave the island. There is a beautiful world out there for you to see and discover. Do not look back. You have been through enough.



Try to live a decent life. Your looks and body are a gift, not a tool. Take care of yourself, build your self-esteem and forge ahead. Promise me you won't live like the girls in Dome. I love you," It read, and I felt a tear roll down my cheek.

The woman loved deeply in a twisted way. She lied to Aesop for Monica's sake so that she would have a good life, and then she attempted suicide for Caleb's sake, so Regan wouldn't try to kill him and her granddaughter. Although she did not say much in that letter, if someone had been to that room, they might have read it, and if they were smart enough, they would know Monica is Stacy's daughter, and if word got out, Caleb's secret would be out. I hoped the person was too worried about us finding evidence against them and only picked up the poison and left. If they snooped around, they might have read the letters. I held on to the letters and continued to search the room. When I did not find anything. I decided to return to the left-wing.

I decided I would soak a bit to relieve my mind and body of the stress of waiting around in the hospital when my phone began to ring. I had left it in the bedroom when we went for breakfast. I did not know something would happen, and we would not return to the room immediately.

I slipped on my robe and went to see who it was. When I got to where the phone was, it had stopped ringing. I looked at the screen and saw fourteen missed calls from Gail. I called her immediately.

"Hello, Luna Tia," she said, sounding frantic. I told her to calm down and tell me what the matter was.

"You have to come to the office. Our accounts are empty. Some hackers cleaned us out in the early hours of the morning. All our liquid assets are gone." she said, and I was shocked.

"No one should be allowed to enter or leave the building," I said to Gail, and she told me she had given that order already. There were two things I needed to do. The first was to surround the building while we checked and investigated everyone. The next was to find out how much Kirk was able to put away and what could be salvaged.

Chapter 93

93 Speculations and Solutions

Luke.

We zoomed off to the headquarters when we dropped Tia off at the mansion. My wife was worried, and I knew I needed to explain the matter to her, but I did not have the luxury of time. I hated the day. First, it was Stacy's attempted suicide and now this. Why would people pull back their military support like this?

"We know Luis is behind this," Caleb stated with a matter-of-fact tone. I was the one behind the wheels. "How was he able to pull it off?" Caleb asked.

"Mike is still trying to figure it out," I said, taking a sharp turn to the left. "Do you think father might be right about Luis and Regan being the same people?" Caleb asked me, and I sighed. "I thought as much too. This guy claims our father stole something from him because he had money. A wife and child fit the bill perfectly." I said.

"I disagree, Luke. He pimped my mother for years and forced her into a marriage so she won't run away. He must have claimed her by force. Then he abandoned her in Cleeve and sent his daughter to Dome. He did not care for them. Then he finds out our father is single and vulnerable, and he decides to pimp his wife to our father so she could kill him and you and hand everything to him. That same money he claims she left him for is the very money he wanted to get his hands on. My mother did what was best for her and Monica by staying put and not looking back. As much as I hate to say this, our father was an escape for my mother. She was safe. She was finally in a place where she could have all she wanted, she would never be pimped to anyone, and Regan could not get her. He cannot count that as stealing." Caleb argued, and I understood his point, but it is what it is. In Regan's twisted mind, our father took his wife, and he did not get anything for it.

"That bastard bled my mother dry and turned her into a gold digger. She wouldn't have struck those deals with Timothy if she didn't need the money so much," he said, and I pulled up in front of the

headquarters. Something clicked in my head then and there. If Luis is Regan, then the pressure was deliberate. He knew she would agree to help Timothy get the contracts and approve payments just so she could get the money to get him off her back. It was a twisted guess, but it was possible. The guy could do anything. Mike was waiting for us, and I handed the car to a kappa so he would park it for me.

"How are the investigations going?" I asked Mike.

"We just started." He said and sighed, then continued without me urging him to do so.

“Apparently, someone sent an email from your office reducing the Military support allowances.” He confessed and I was shocked.

“How? When?” I asked Mike, and he sighed.

“In the early hours of this morning. It was as if they knew you would not be in the office. They scramble all the camera footage, Luke. We have nothing.” He said, and I wondered why anyone

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from within the headquarters would do that. How far was Luis’s reach? Had he closed us in without us knowing? I noticed that Mike wasn’t done talking yet, so lurged him to continue speaking. He cleared his throat. “Gail called from Tia’s office this morning asking for military assistance,” he said, and I stopped walking and looked at him. “What did she need it for?” I asked, and she sighed. “Something happened in Diamond corp, and she did not want anyone leaving until she could talk to Tia,” he said, and I was about to take out my phone when it started ringing. It was Tia. I answered immediately. “Tia,” I said, and she sighed. “Luke, you need to be calm, please. What I need to tell you is serious,” she said, and there was no way those words could make anyone calm, but I tried to be quiet and relaxed. “They have wiped us clean,” she said, and I wondered what she meant. “Who and what?” I asked calmly, even though I wasn’t calm at all. “They cleaned out our liquid assets this morning Luke. We are broke,” she said, and my

breath caught in my chest. Krystal Mulberry had hinted that this was going to happen. Beads of sweat began to roll down the sides of my face. Money was very essential. ==

iny days. Most of that money was put away

“Not to worry. I had K said, and I exhaled.

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“Tia,” was all I could manage from the relief that she was able to salvage some funds. “But we have to pretend that they got us, Luke. So they do not figure it out. We spread the funds throughout fifty accounts, not to raise the alarm.” She told me I could kiss her at that moment if she was with me.

“Right now, Kirk is helping us investigate the leak. Gail acted quickly. The people that helped them are still in that building.” Tia said. “Great, but I do not want you to go there. Let Kirk handle it. I do not want you stressed out, Tia. Our baby is important.” I told her, and I heard her sigh. “Luke, I have to be there. I am not showing yet. I can handle myself, trust me,” she said, and I wouldn’t have it.

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“No, Tia, it is an order,” I said to her, and the words had slipped out before I knew it. I was scared she would take offence, but when she chuckled, I relaxed. “You are not the boss of me, Alpha,” she teased,

“We are equal partners in this. Key mark or not,” she said, and I hoped she would just listen to me. I did not want anyone to get to her.

“I have to go, Luke, even though I do not want to. My signature is needed for certain things.” She said to me, and I sighed, knowing that was a possibility and I could not go there myself because the military issue was pending. “Very well then, please be safe and go home from there. Make sure Kirk escorts you home.” I

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said.

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“Yes, Alpha”, she teased on the phone, and we said our I-love-yous and hung up. “What happened,” Caleb asked me the moment I Hung up. “The money is gone. They cleaned our accounts this morning while we were in the hospital.” I said, and Caleb frowned at me.

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“How did they know we would be occupied this morning?” Caleb asked a valid question.

The way everything happened, we were not supposed to be around to prevent or salvage the situation. If Stacy had not tried to kill herself, I would have been in the headquarters, and maybe I would have caught the bastard that sent the email with my computer, causing the people to desert the military. Tia would have also been in the office to make quick decisions to fish out the culprits. Somehow the missing money was tied to the deserters. There was no way it was a coincidence that this happened simultaneously by coincidence. We could not have lost our military support and money at the same time. You needed money to build an army.

“Mike?” I immediately asked my Gamma and best friend, “”what areas deserted our army?” I asked, and he frowned. “Dome, Cleeve, Cape, Woodland, Forest and Eclipse,” he said, and I smiled at him.

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“What is so funny, Luke?” he asked, looking at him as if I had gone mad. “Luke, are you alright?” Caleb asked me, and I headed towards my office. They followed me. I sat down at my desk and turned on my computer.

“Those are the poorest parts of Woodclaw Island,” I said, and Mike frowned at me. “And what does that have to do with the deserters. “They will follow an Alpha willing to give them more than we offer,

especially if they consider it. Then, we presumably sealed our fate by sending an email claiming we were reducing their allowances that might not have been substantial initially. After that email, they were more likely to choose an alpha that would promise to give them the impossible telling them it is possible, but the Moons are the obstacles.” I said, and Mike shook his head, a bit confused, unable to follow along.

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“If Luis is Regan, then he is an Alpha,” I linked Caleb not wanting to tell Mike so he wouldn’t ask questions that would lead to us revealing Stacy’s secrets. “It is not a coincidence that Diamond corps accounts are cleaned out the same morning that we lose Military support from these poor areas,” I said, and they both realised what I was trying to say.

“I think Luis is trying to take power by force. He will be in charge of the island if he can cripple us financially and take over the military.

“What about the key mark, Luke? You are the one with an active Key mark.” Mike said, and Caleb and I looked at each other and smiled. There was a reason Moon Alphas had separate training from everyone. It was because of the secrets that the ruling family did not want to share with others.

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Others are taught in the academy that you cannot join with another pack and attach yourself to a new Alpha, but in a real sense, it is wrong. All of the Alphas on Woodclaw Island came from the Woodclaw pack, so they are indirectly connected to the Moon family Key mark, but I have no power over them; it just means we can identify as one. Suppose a Woodclaw pack member leaves our pack without me cutting them off from my mark and swears his allegiance to the alpha of a small pack on the island. In that case, he will be connected to that alpha, and I can no longer cut them off because their connection to me would be secondary. If Regan is Luis, then the deserters have made him their alpha. His mark will become their primary mark, and mine will be secondary and dormant. This bastard knew this, but how? It was a well-kept Moon secret so we could keep people in check and discourage them from joining a lesser alpha to maintain the strength of the family and our pack. “I think Luis is building an army, Mike,” I told my friend, who was a bit confused.

“The mark might not be able to stop him or the deserters. I am yet to master its use,” I confessed, which was also true. My father only knew how to cut people off the mark and nothing more. “How will they clear our accounts and steal our military support in one morning without us knowing?” Caleb asked, and

I sighed. "Two things Caleb, it is either your mother is working with Luis, or she did not try to commit suicide. For this to happen, we had to be caught off guard. Rushing Stacy to the hospital and hanging around the clinic gave them the opportunity they needed. Tia wasn't in the office to monitor and stop the account activities, and I wasn't here to prevent the intruder from sending the email," I said, "someone wanted us occupied this morning," Caleb sighed relaxed on the seat.

"I do not know which it is," he confessed to me, a bit distraught, but it was a bit extreme that Stacy would attempt to take her life to help Luis. What would have been her gain in all this? The dose was lethal. Luis having someone in our house was the most plausible explanation.

"What should we do, Alpha," Mike asked me, and I lowered my head to ponder on the matter.

"If Luis is gathering Military support, then it might lead to war, but with all that has happened," I said and looked at Caleb, "Me, Mike and three trustworthy men will have to lead a secret mission to Santa Braee. Everything has pointed us in that direction, except for what happened this morning. We must ensure that our problem is confined to Woodclaw and that Luis isn't an actual Alpha from Santa Braee trying to take over our lands." I said, and Caleb understood. We had to try out all the angles and not rest on speculations. Regan being Luis would be easy, but what if they were two different people and the threat was actually from outside.

"Why can't I come with you?" Caleb asked a valid question, and I leaned forward.

"My wife is pregnant, Caleb; I do not want her stressing. These are precarious times; I need an Alpha other than father on the ground to take charge if the need arises," I explained to him, and he sighed. I knew it would be difficult to convince him not to come, more so to convince Tia to let me go, but it was necessary.

Chapter 94

94 At The Office

Tia.

I headed to Diamond corp after telling Luke about the clean-out. I was glad he took it well. I just hoped we wouldn't have any more surprises. Since I was going to drive, I decided to take the mini coupe. It was easier to manoeuvre on the road. I got in and zoomed off to Diamond Corp.

The military force I met at the entrance was impressive. Looking at them, I remembered the deserters and territories we might have lost. I felt a bit bad about our family's situation. This man was ahead of us, and he was hitting us hard. Luis was at a greater advantage than we were

se he knew us. He knew who we were, what we looked like and where we lived. We did not have any information about him except what he allowed us to know, which was dangerous.

I alighted the mini coupe, handed the key to the parking valet, and made my way into the building. Military officers held people in groups, and I did not spare one glance at them. This was not the time to show kindness and sympathy. This was the time to find out who was the traitor among them. An alpha was needed to question them. They were a lot of people, but it was necessary. I knew I might have to ask for help from neighbouring Alphas to make it quick. The people were a bit apprehensive, and the soldiers were ruff to keep them in check. I knew it was time to address the workers.

I had never communicated this broadly via mind link before, but this was the time to do it. It might take a toll on my body. I wasn't sure how effective it would be because I wasn't an Alpha. I closed my eyes and tried to feel the people around me. It took a bit before I could connect with them mentally. It was very uncomfortable and caused me a slight headache which I was willing to overlook to pass my message. Reaching for the connection, I focused my mental abilities to pass my message through the mental link I had already established.

"You are being held because of a wicked financial crime committed this morning against Diamond Corp," I linked. It felt like multiple echoes in my mind. I wondered if this was how Luke or Caleb felt when they had to communicate with everyone simultaneously. "Our accounts were hacked and liquid assets wiped out." people gasped, and I felt an echo in my ears that made me flinch and clasped my hand over my ears. The noise wasn't coming from outside but from within; nonetheless, it was loud and painful. I could not take it anymore, so I broke the link. The information I had given them should be enough. I felt warm liquid trickling down my nose and ears, and I touched them and looked at my hands. It was blood, and I realised I had put my body through something it shouldn't have been put through. Not to show weakness, I braced myself and walked to the elevator to head to my office. While in the elevator, away from the curious eyes of the employees and the military, I rested my back against the metal wall and tried to breathe. My head was banging, and my heart was thumping. Why the fuck did I do that? I made a mental note never to try it again. Soon I stepped out of the elevator and walked toward my office. Krystal and a young man my age were waiting for me in the waiting area of my office. I greeted them and asked them to join me. I turned toward Gail to thank her for her quick thinking. She smiled at me and nodded.

I went straight to my desk and offered Krystal and whoever she brought a seat.



“Luna Tia, this is Paul Slater. He is an underground hacker. I noticed your IT department

worker’s skill is below average. I hired a freelancer I can trust to do the job.” She explained.

“Thank you, Mrs Mulberry. So what, how do we proceed?” I asked her, and she smiled.

“He has already done the job while we waited.” She said, and I was surprised.

“So, what did you find out?” I asked the guy, and he looked at Krystal, urging her to explain. I figured that the guy wasn’t one to talk much.

“Some funds were scattered to about forty-nine accounts on Woodclaw Island. While a huge some was moved to accounts on Santa Braee belonging to packs on Woodclaw,” she said, and I frowned.

“I do not understand,” I said, and she cleared her throat.

“All packs have bank accounts. See it more like the collective purse of the pack to help them manage and run the pack territories smoothly. These packs recently opened accounts in Santa Braee and were each credited a Million by Nuclei Limited. This morning the money missing from Diamond corps account, other than the money in the forty-nine accounts, was spread through the accounts of these packs.” She explained. “Forget about the forty-nine accounts on the island. I know of those. Do you mind sharing the names of these packs with me?” I asked her, eager to know the treacherous packs on Woodclaw Island to watch out for.

” The accounts belonged to Dome, Cleeve, Cape, Woodland, Forest and Eclipse pack”, she said, and I figured those were poorer packs on the island. “Do you know if they had help from the staff here?” I asked, and she sighed. She looked at me, and I knew she was contemplating what to say and how to say it. ” There is no need for mild explanations. Please be frank.” I urged her, and she nodded. “They had help from within. It could be anyone, but the help wasn’t today. They had been gradually stealing from Diamond corp, practising how to perform this operation. All the money they shaved off your accounts initially was practice. Whoever gave them the information they needed to hack into your accounts had done this a while ago. You are wasting your resources holding the staff; we should plan to rebuild the company’s account or take a loan; if not, the people working for Diamond corp and Woodclaw pack will have to be laid off. “She said and leaned forward.

“A lot of people’s livelihood depends on the Moons. If you lay them off, there will be a riot,” Krystal was speaking as Chloe’s friend, not an auditor, and I appreciated her.

“If we take a loan, they will steal it.” I pointed out, and she smiled.

“That is what Mr Slater is here for. We won’t be using your usual accounts. In fact, we are going to leave the accounts empty,” she said, and I understood what she meant.

“Still, we will have to lay people off,” I said, and she sighed, knowing it was inevitable. I dreaded it, but it was only logical. We couldn’t take loans to pay salaries. That would be counterproductive. We were already owing wages and servicing loans, and what I set aside for rainy days could not be wasted on that venture.

“I will have to discuss this with Alpha Luke,” I said, and she nodded, understanding my position. I might be running the place, but I do not own it.

“Very well then. I will leave you to it.” She said and stood up.

“Please take Mr Slater to the ground floor and have him report to Delta Kirk. He will know what to do.” I said to her, and she nodded and smiled at me.

“You need to take it easy, Luna. Bleeding from your nose and ears isn’t a good sign.” she linked me, giving me a painful headache. I clasped my palms against my ears to stop the ringing sound the link caused, and Krystal ran towards me. “Tia, are you alright?” She asked, and I shook my head. She handed me some tissue, and I cleaned my ears and nose.

“Please do not link me again,” I pleaded with her, knowing what caused it.

I knew linking multiple people at a time was dangerous, and I still did it, but I had no choice. It would get better soon. Only the Alphas were equipped for that kind of communication.

Krystal waited with me until I was okay, and then she left. I placed a call to Kirk to inform him that Paul was coming to him. I also told him to let the people go. There was no point holding them. It wasn't likely to yield anything since nothing was stolen physically.

I left the building after that and drove straight to the hospital to see my father. I needed help with the link and ringing in my ears. Any other doctor would tell Luke, and I did not want Luke to know what I did because I knew he would say it wasn't necessary and scold me for it.

I got to the hospital and requested to see my father. Luckily for me, he wasn't occupied and could see me. He was elated when I entered his office because it was unlike me to pay him a visit.

"Tia," he said, surprised to see me, and I sat on the chair at his desk.

"Father, I need help," I said, trying not to alarm him. "What happened?" he asked, and I sighed and pulled up my hair in a bun so he could see the traces of blood on my ear notch.

"What happened, Tia" He exclaimed.

"I linked too many people at a time," I confessed, and he exclaimed. "What!! That is Luke's job, not yours. Just because you are Luna does not mean you.." he said, and I shook my head and cut him off. "I wasn't trying to be Alpha. I felt it was necessary at that moment. Do you have any idea how to solve it?" I asked him, and he sighed.

"It will take twenty-four hours of no linking on your part for it to be corrected. Others can link you, but it will be painful." He said, and I already knew that part. Knowing I wouldn't hear anything else, I got up to leave. Time was of the essence, and things were happening pretty fast. I could not slow down.

I left the hospital and returned to the mansion. I was surprised to see Kimberly and Emma in my bedroom. I wondered why she would come to sit in my room when I wasn't there.

"Kim?" I asked, and she smiled at me.

"I was worried. I knew you had arrived, and when you didn't come to see me, I decided to wait for you here," she said, smiling, and I nodded. "What is happening?" She asked me

"Stacy isn't out of it yet, and we have our hands full with pack business," I said, and she ?! nodded. Before she said anything, I quickly spoke. "Please don't link me," I said to her, and she frowned and nodded. Kimberly wasn't one to ask too many questions, and I liked her for it. She was easy to be around.

I went to the bathroom to shower. I needed Luke to come home so we could discuss the next course of action. Luis has struck us really hard.

Chapter 95

95 It is Okay to Be Selfish Sometimes

Luke.

Caleb and I rushed home after the meeting. I did not know how to break the news of the mission to Tia, but I had to. Whether we liked it or not, it was essential to go to Santa Braee. I needed to know who Luis Moon was and what he was doing there. There were many unanswered questions, but I needed to know Luis's relationship with Santa Braee that his bread crumbs kept leading there. He wanted us to go there so badly. As much as I tried to avoid it, it was now inevitable. With our military support weakened, we needed to solve the problem as soon as possible. I just hoped Tia would understand and not try to hold me back.

Caleb and I went to the left-wing when we entered the mansion. I tried to link Tia to find out if she was home. I could reach her, but she did not respond, which was weird.

"Kimberly and Emma are in your room," Caleb said.

"Is Tia there?" I asked him just to be sure.

"Yes," he answered.

“Please take Kimberly to your room. I need to talk to Tia about the trip.” I told him, and he began to laugh.

“Good luck with that, Luke. I doubt she would be okay with it. With all that has happened, Tia won’t let you go.” He said, and I knew he was telling the truth, but our duty was to secure the pack. We could not let a war sneak up on us because it looked like that was where we were heading. Now that we have lost military support from those areas, what would stop them from working against us and teaming up with outsiders to attack? I hoped Tia would understand and allow me to do what was necessary for our future.

I entered the room, and Kimberly was carrying Emma and watching the television. Caleb led her out of the room and wished me luck. I left the living area and walked into the bedroom. I found Tia lying on the bed, and some blood stains on the pillow made me panic. She sat up and raised her hand, asking me to stop.

“What is the matter?” I asked. She looked a bit ill.

“I am okay”, she managed, “Don’t just link me, please,” she pleaded, and I frowned at her. I took off my shirt and climbed into bed next to her. I sat up so she could rest her head on my lap. I gently ran my fingers through her hair.

“What happened, Tia,” I asked her, and she looked up. There was a tinge of shame in her eyes, and I knew the answer might make me mad.

“I promise I won’t react,” I said so she would tell me.

“When I got to the building, the staff were being manhandled by the military, and they looked confused. I had to think of a way of communicating the situation to them so they could relax. So I did something stupid and linked all of them at once,” As soon as she completed her explanation, I shrieked in shock.

“What the fuck, Tia! Do you want to kill yourself? Why will you do that? Why will you even think of doing that?” I asked her, and she closed her eyes. I knew I had to reduce my voice.

“My father said I should not use the mind link for twenty-four hours, and I will be okay,” she

quickly said to assure me; I was mad at her, but I controlled my temper. She was already suffering from her actions; there was no need to scold her. pl! It was evening already, so I decided to shower and then sleep. There was no way I could discuss Santa Braee's mission with her in this condition.

Tia joined me in the shower, and I was surprised. I thought she would be sleeping because of the headache. I guess I was wrong. "I can still function, Luke," she teased. I knew it was her way of

apologising for being careless. She wrapped her arms around me, resting her head on my chest while the water washed our bodies.

"I am sorry," She apologised. I warped my arms around her with relief and stroked her back under the warm shower.

"Please don't take such risks. If anything happens to you, those people won't feel it. I will be the one to deal with the issue. I will suffer it the most, Tia. So when you want to do something, think of our baby and me." I said, then broke the hug so I could gaze into her eyes.

"It is okay to be selfish in situations like this. No one will think of your wellbeing and safety better than you and me," I said, kissing the top of her head. We showered together and got ready for bed. As badly as I wanted to make love to her, I did not want to touch her because I did not know the impact it would have on her health.

We laid down, and she turned to face me. I was about to speak when she hungrily crashed her lips against mine. Kissing her, I felt her worry and anxiety, something was bothering her, and I hoped she would share it with me.

I kissed her back, and she tugged at my shorts. I knew she didn't want foreplay. She wanted to be in charge, so I let her. I can never say no to this kind of treatment. After a rough day, love was all I needed to calm the noise down.

Taking off her robe, she climbed on top of me and placed me in her. Her breasts puffed up beautifully, and I sat up so I could swirl my tongue on her nipples and feel them.

Supporting her back with my hands, she began to ride, and the pleasure overrode the anxiety and worry both of us were feeling at that moment. Swirling my tongue and tasting her nipples, her moans became louder, and she moved faster. I held on, so I did not come immediately. I knew she was coming, and I let her continue at her pace until she crumbled from ecstasy. I flipped our positions and pounded into her

fast to sustain her orgasm. It felt so good that it went straight to my head, and I shut into her sweetly. I groaned from the intensity of the pleasure and collapsed on her chest. She held me and stroked my back. Still buried in her, I passed out.

I woke up with my body still pressed against Tia with me, buried inside her. I gently got up and rolled to the side of the bed. It was morning, and I sighed, knowing I would have to discuss the Mission to Santa Braee with her. Caleb linked me, and from how he sounded, he had been trying to link me for a while now.

“What’s is the matter,” I asked my brother.

“Father doesn’t want Monica to be left alone with my mother, so I will be heading to the hospital to relieve him later in the day,” he said. I wondered what my father had against Monica. It was understandable for him to detest the girl. She was Regan’s daughter, but not

wanting to leave her alone with her mother was a bit extreme, but my father had his reasons, and I wasn’t going to question him for it.

“Okay, will check on you at the hospital when I am done,” I replied and ended the link. I got up and went to brush my teeth. When I returned, Tia was awake. She smiled at me and went to brush her teeth as usual. When she returned, she looked energised and happy. “Guess breakfast won’t be as usual,” she said smiling, and I nodded. I could see the relief in her eyes. We showered together, and I linked Bart to bring breakfast to our bedroom. Tia wore casual clothes, so I knew she did not intend to leave the house.

“How were things at the office,” I said, sitting at the foot of the bed, and Tia knelt behind me, hugged me and kissed her mark on my neck. “Not good, Luke,” she confessed and came to sit next to me. “Krystal was nice enough to bring a hacker to help. She says we should create new accounts and take a loan to keep the business running because of the lives that depend on it,” she explained, and I knew she had her opinion, so I asked her for it.

“And what do you think?” I asked, and she sighed. “I think we should suspend operations for now. We won’t lay them off, but we will suspend operation and tell them they can do other things in the meantime while we solve matters. We can pay at least two months salaries in advance, and some of them have their pension savings to fall back on, which would not bleed our pockets. Taking a loan is not the best way to go right now. We have a powerful enemy, and we did not know how else he would strike. Sinking the company into more debt would be unwise. We also have to be meticulous about the resources we have put aside and use them for critical things,” she said and gently placed her hand on my thigh.

“If Luis is gradually taking over our military support, we must be prepared for war. This means he is trying to strip us bare. Taking away our money and support is the wisest thing for him to do to achieve his purpose. While I was in school, we learned our weapon reserve was depleted, and that was due to the long-term peace we enjoyed. We might need to buy weapons if he manages to take all our military support from us. Five against one would not be a good ratio on the battlefield.” She said, and I understood her point. Her reason was valid. Instead of putting the money into the business, we needed to use it for security. The downside is that we would have more unhappy people in the pack, which may lead to riots or make them desert the pack for better opportunities. Either way, Luis might have won this.

“Luke,” Tia said, snapping me out of my deep thought, “There is something not quite right about Stacy’s attempted suicide,” she said, and I was all ears. I felt the same, too, because it wasn’t a coincidence that all this happened the day she attempted to take her life.

“What do you suspect?” I asked her eagerly, and she smiled.

“When I returned, I went to check the room. I found the letter and checks in opened envelopes addressed to Caleb and Monica, but the area where we found her lying was cleaned. The culprit tried to make it seem as if nothing had been touched, but the lack of scent on the spot gave it away. I think the person went back there to get the poison.” She said, and I frowned at what she said.

the sometimes

“Why would someone go back in there to clean the spot? May I see the letters?” I asked her, and she went to get the letters. I linked my brother to join me in the room and told him to bring Kimberly and Emma. If there were workers in our house working for Luis, then we were not safe.