

D Desires 96

Chapter 96

96 I Will Be A Coward For You

Luke.

Tia handed the letter to me, and I held it to my nose. I noticed that besides my wife's scent, the envelope carried no other sent. I read the letters and waited for Caleb to enter my room. When he arrived, i handed him the letters.

"Tia found this in your mother's room when we dropped her off. She was looking for evidence of the poison." I said, and Tia said hello to both Caleb and Kimberly at the same time.

Caleb examined the letter and held it to his nose.

"Other than your scents, there is nothing. I can almost assume you wrote this letter," Caleb said, and I knew he wasn't trying to accuse us of anything; he was stating a fact. "Latex," he said, " A hint of latex. Whoever packed this had latex on," and I took the letter from him to sniff it. There it was. I couldn't believe we missed it.

"That is not all," Tia said, " The floor your mother lay on was cleaned thoroughly, but the person or people that cleaned it left the rest of the room in a mess. It was as if they did not want us to know that they had cleaned the room," She explained to him, and we decided to sit on the couch in the living room. Kimberly went to lay sleeping Emma on the bed. Clearly, she wasn't going anywhere, but Caleb was dressed to head for the hospital. "What do you think?" Caleb asked Tia, and she sighed.

"Luis has someone or some people working for him in this house. I would have said someone poisoned Stacy to distract us if it weren't for those checks in the envelope. She did sell all her stuff. There is nothing in her room. The closet is empty. That is why I think she wanted to commit suicide. The only person that can tell us what happened yesterday morning is Stacy, and she is in a coma." Tia said to Caleb, and he nodded.

"I will hold on to both envelopes until she wakes up," he said, and I nodded. I had no business with it.

“Okay, don’t discuss this with anyone yet. The less Luis knows, the better. If someone is working for him here, we need to be secretive.

I am saying we should ask some staff to go on vacation. Then ask Norman and Bart to keep an eye on the few remaining. No staff outside should be allowed to enter the mansion for now. And we need to put security cameras everywhere. And when I mean cameras, I mean non-wifi security cameras, not those wifi things that the footage can be a scramble. The guy has hackers on his payroll. We need to be careful,” Tia said, and I understood her point.

“The cameras can be arranged,” I said, and Caleb nodded.

“Have you told her about Santa Braee?” he linked me, and my stomach churned.

“I haven’t, and I think I should now. Do you mind excusing us? I mean you, Emma and Kimberly. I really don’t know how she would react to this,” I explained to him, and he had a mischievous grin.

“Gossiping about me?” Tia asked, and I shook my head immediately. “Brotherly stuff,” I said, and she shrugged her shoulders.

“Kim, bring Emma along. I guess father can hang in the hospital a bit longer,” Caleb teased, and I began to laugh. I did not know what my father intended to do about Stacy once she woke up, but I hoped he would let bygones be bygones. The woman has been through enough, however misguided and obnoxious she may be. I did not know where to begin when they left, but I knew I had to tell her because the trip would take place the next day. Unlike other trips, we would travel in disguise like every average person and take a boat to Santa Braee. Kirk was organising passports with new identities for us. There was a risk of going MIA travelling under these conditions in Santa Braee, especially if something serious happened; none would be able to trace us, but we hoped that would not occur. It was necessary to make sure Luis did not catch up to us. ‘Out with it, Luke,’ Tia said, and I sighed. I did not know how to start, so

I kissed her, but she moved away. She knew what I was trying to do, and I smiled nervously. “Tell me, Luke. I am getting worried. You have had something on your mind for a bit now, and I sensed that was why Caleb left.” She said, and I sighed because she was right

“Tia,” I said and exhaled. “I pulled her close and looked into her eyes.” I need you to trust me on this and not make a fuss please,” I pleaded with her. I hated hurting my wife, and if this trip made her unhappy, my heart would break.

“Tell me, Luke,” she said, and I nodded.

“Mike and I a leading a secret mission to Santa Braee tomorrow,” I said, and she stepped away from me. Her eyes were wide and tear-filled.

“Why do you want to walk into his trap Luke?” She asked gently, but the tears that rolled down her cheeks let me know the state of her mind. “It is a trap, and you know it. Why walk into it?” She asked me. “I do not want to, but we have no choice. He has backed us into a corner. We need to see what is happening, Tia. There is a possibility this Luis Moon is an Alpha in Santa Braee trying to take over our Island because of its wealth and resources. I do not want him to sneak up on us. We have certain things that we need to verify, Tia, and we will be back. We won’t even be going as ourselves to avert suspicion.” I explained to her, and she bowed her head. “What if you get caught, and he kills you, Luke?” she asked, and I bowed my head. “I promise I won’t let it come to that. I have too much to live for. I will not confront him no matter how strong the urge is, and I will be a coward and come home to you. I cannot do that to you, Tia. You, Paul, and our baby are all I live for right now. But I will need you to trust me on this and let me go to Santa Braee,” I said, and she walked toward me and hugged me. Placing her head against my chest, I felt her nerves. She was shaking, and I knew she was controlling herself. I patted her back gently. “I will need you to take charge in my absence. Caleb and Kirk will be with you all the way. I need you to keep everything in control, Tia.” I said, and she nodded. “How will we make your trip a secret?” She asked, and I sighed.

“I will be reported as ill in the news. With all that has happened, there is a possibility that I am ill. If I do not return early, you should claim I have been kidnapped and create a false search party. As long as the news is controlled and no one knows the truth, the mission will be successful,” I said, and she nodded.

“Do you think it is wise to take Mike with you? He and Tasha just got married, Luke. What will he tell her? what will the other people tell their spouses?” she asked a valid question, and I was glad we had sorted out the issue. Only a few people knew of our trip. Caleb Kirk and Tia. “They will tell their mates that they are going on a mission to secure our arsenals because of the withdrawal of military support. It is a plausible explanation and will be easy to buy.” I explained, and she squeezed tighter.

“Luke, please come home to me.” she pleaded again, and I bent to kiss her. She needed to know that I would never leave her, but it was time to end Luis Moon’s mystery.

“While I am away, I need you to try to solve this Regan issue by finding out his mole,” I said to Tia, and she nodded.

“If our speculations are true, then we need to nominate a trustworthy military officer to guard her in the hospital. Only Stacy can tell us what happened in that room yesterday morning,” she said, and I agreed. If there was foul play, they would try to get to her and kill her and Monica wasn’t equipped for fighting. I did not want to talk anymore. I wanted to spend the rest of the day loving my wife. Tia and I made love and remained in the room for the rest of the day. Caleb had to take Emma and Kimberly to the hospital because we could not accommodate them. I was going to be away from Tia for goddess knows how long. It was only logical that I make love to her and fill my sense with her essence.

“Make sure you hurry up and come home,” she said, and I promised I would. Every day away from her was going to be hard and painful. When I catch Luis, I intend to make him pay for the sad moments and inconvenience he cost us. I left the house in the early hours of the morning in secret, packed and ready for the mission. I was nervous about Santa Braee, but I was hopeful that it would shed light on our issues and maybe even offer a solution to the problem. I hoped to return home early.

Chapter 97

Luke

The team met in an abandoned safe house on the outskirts of town. Everyone was already there getting ready, Mike shaved his afro and wore golden piercings. He looked good but nothing like Mikey. Mia was dressed like a tourist in a tank top, shorts and a ponytail. She had no muscles, and she looked weak. No one will mistake her for a military officer. Wiley had fake dreadlocks, but they looked natural with blonde highlights. He had false bushy beards with twists in them. He looked poor too. He would fly economy with Mia while Mike and I would fly business class. We wanted to go by ship, but I decided to fly last minute. The earlier we were done with the mission, the sooner I would be home.

I should be with my wife now, taking her for her antenatal sessions, picking baby names and preparing a nursery. Tia would soon start showing, and the thought of the stress this Luis man was putting us through made me want to end him the more. Paul’s visit would soon be due. I hoped to make it home early enough to see my son. I had a prosthetic nose to alter my nose’s shape and make me look different. I shaved my beards clean and dyed my hair blonde. My natural blue eyes matched the blonde hair, and I could not recognise myself in the mirror. My name on the passport was Adam Phelps. “What’s your name?” I asked Mike, and he grinned at me.

“Eddie Willis,” He said, and we both laughed. Mia’s name was Kathrine, and Wiley’s name was Wiley, but his surname was Beams instead Rivers. Before we set out on the mission in our various vehicles, I decided to talk to them.

“We are going on a secret mission to investigate and not to engage. Luis Moon has left us trails leading to Santa Braee. As much as it is stupid to follow an obvious lead, we still have to ensure the threat is not external. We need to find out who Luis Moon is, what he looks like and what he is after. Whatever situation we find ourselves in, we should not engage. Once we get the information needed, we should hop on the plane back individually. Mia, You and Wiley will

Mike and I will leave next. Any questions?” I asked them, and they shook their heads.

“I am sure you all have your spending allowance and hotel reservations,” I said, and they nodded. It was now time to move. We were going to head to the airport in different vehicles to avert suspicion. The cars were parked outside the safe house. Wiley was the only one that would have to use a power bike to fit his disguise.

Boarding the flight was easy, and the air hostesses flirted with me. I got much preferential treatment. To avert suspicion, I collected one of their numbers. I wasn’t going to use it, but that automatically screamed that I wasn’t mated. I wore a business suit so no one could see Tia’s mark on my neck. The flight was peaceful, and we arrived in the afternoon at Konkry, Santa Braee. I did not bother to look for the team because we were already communicating via the mind link, and I knew they were alright. I had to fight the urge to call my wife. I took a cab to the hotel, and the lady at the front desk flirted with me.

Sunset Beach hotel was the same hotel Luis sent us letters from. We had decided to start from there by staying there. Wiley was to find employment there, and Mia was to act like a tourist, The guests weren’t much, and that was a problem. It meant we needed to be careful so we didn’t stand out. novelbin

“Would you like to have company in your room? Mr Phelps?” The receptionist smiled at me.” We have beautiful unmated people from Dome, Woodclaw Island. We also have some of our indigenes here if that is what you would prefer,” she asked. A woman from Dome might know who Luis Moon is. Dome residents could not afford the trip. She must have saved a lot to get here. She will help me if I offer her money.

“I would prefer company from Dome, please,” I said, and the woman smiled at me.

“Male or female?” she asked, and I sighed.

“An adult Female, please,” I said, and she smiled at me. I knew what she was thinking. I was led to my room, and I tipped the staff heavily. The moment I sat on the bed, I began to miss Tia. I decided to return to Santa Braee with her after the Luis ordeal. It wasn't like our Island didn't have it all, but it would be nice to travel with my wife and our children.

The 'company' arrived, and I was disgusted that I had to do this. The female was pretty, in her early twenties. She had brown hair and pale skin, green eyes and freckles. She looked cute. I wondered if she was here of her own volition or if she needed the money so badly and had no other choice. She advanced toward me, and I stopped her.

Keeping up appearances was going too hard, but I had no other choice. “What's your name?” I asked her,

“Bianca Ash”, she replied, and I went to get a drink from the mini bar.

“What will you like,” I said, staring at the array of drinks in their tiny bottles.

“Anything, sir,” she said, trying to sound alluring, and I hoped truth serum was part of the mix if there was anything like it.” I pulled out two tiny bottles of dark rum and handed her one.

“I sat on the couch of the two sitters in the sitting area of the suite and told her to sit on the one sitter on my left facing me. She did as instructed, and I leaned forward to speak to her.

“I like what I see, Bianca,” I said, and she smiled at me.

“Who do I speak to if I want to keep you?” I asked, and she was stunned. Her face was coloured. I knew every girl's dream in her situation was that a rich guy would come and take her away. I intended to do that when I messed the pimp up.

“Justin,” she said, and I raised an eyebrow.

“He works for the boss. I do not know who the boss is, but Justin knows” She had fear written all over her face while talking about this, Justin. I sighed and leaned forward because I had found my opportunity, “I do not want to fuck you, Bianca. I like freeing girls like you, and I am willing to pay you handsomely if you can point me in the direction of this Justin guy.” I said to her, and she

stood up abruptly and started shaking her head.

“I won’t betray my pimp. If you do not need me, then I will take my leave,” she said, and she reeked of fear. I got up and pinned her against the wall, taking in her scent of fear. It disgusted me, but I controlled my wolf.

“Fifty thousand for your trouble,” I said, and I could smell her arousal. The money made her hot. It was a life-changing sum in Dome.”

“Are.. are you serious?” she asked me, stammering and not able to believe what I had said.

“What do you want me to do, Sir,” she said, and I moved back to sit on my chair.

“I need you to remain with me and pretend as if we are fucking while you point out your pimp to me. Once the job is done, I will credit your account in Dome.” I said, and she nodded immediately. I did not want to mention Luis’s name because I just got there. I had no business with her pimp or his business, but it was a good diversion. Gradually I will ask her about Luis. Girls like her got around a lot. She will be able to help me find him. I have to make sure she is comfortable with me and that I can trust her. “You sleep on the couch, Bianca and no funny business, or our deal is off,” I said to her, and she nodded. I went to the bathroom to shower, and Mike linked me.

“We have all settled into our rooms. Wiley has an interview scheduled for tomorrow for a temporary job as a barman at the beachside. I am thinking of where to find would keep my ears to the ground.” Mike said. “Good luck with that. I have a girl with me here, and she will lead me to Justin, her pimp. If Luis is from Woodclaw island, the pimps from there might know who he is, or one of the call girls might have rendered her services to him. I intend to butter her up and ask her tomorrow if she knows of anyone by that name.” I explained to Mikey, and we promised to keep each other posted.

I returned to the room fully clothed with my fake nose. It was done so well that it will take much effort to take it off. I also hid Tia’s mark.

“You do not have to hide your mate’s mark, sir. I know you are mated.” Bianca said, and I frowned at her.

“It is only a mated wolf madly in love with his mate that would refuse a woman like me, sir.” She said, and I smiled.

“You are wrong. My mate died in an accident. I do not have one. Planing on getting a tattoo over it to help me forget.” I lied, and I hoped Tia would forgive me for it.

“I am so sorry, sir. That was insensitive of me; forgive my words,” she said, and I was glad she bought it. She would want to do more for me, believing she has a chance.

“My friend told me to ask of a guy when I get here. I do not know if you can help me in that regard, “I asked her, and she sat on the couch.

“What is his name?” She asked.

“Luis. His name is Luis,” I said, and she laughed.

“I have come across a lot of Luis on konkry. You will need to be a bit more specific,” she said,

and I did not want to drop Luis’s Last name in case the Moon part was a trap,

“I will have to call him for his last name. Thanks anyway.” I said and went to bed. I tossed her a duvet and Pillow and used the other. While I lay in bed, I wondered what Tia was doing without me.

All the leads we followed led to dead ends. We tried not to use the Moon surname that Luis gave us, which was hard. We did not know what this guy looked like, and I began to suspect we had wasted our time by coming there. I was tempted to call home every day, but I refused to, hoping that we were closer to solving the problem and that I would soon be home with my wife. I wondered how everyone was doing and what was happening in my absence.

I wanted to get up and leave Santa Braee, but I knew we had to catch the bastard. It was now three weeks and nothing. Bianca had been a good sport, and she had shown me who Justin was in the second week. The rest of the team had watched him hoping to catch him privately. They all did eventually, but it led to nothing. It was time to make a bold move. I let Bianca go and paid her some money. Using the bank account created for Adam, I credited her Dome account. She was overwhelmed with Joy, and she left.

We should have been more careful than we were. Two days after I let Bianca go, men broke into my room with tasers and silver. I was bundled and blindfolded. This wasn't my territory, so I knew I was in deep shit. They carried me blindfolded in a van to an unknown location and then forced me into a building of some sort. I was able to pick the environment from the distinct scents. The vehicle because of the smell of leather and iron and the fact that we were moving. The building because of the smell of wood, iron and dusty concrete floors. I was placed on a chair and cuffed with silver. It burned so harshly that I screamed. The blindfolds were taken off, and to my surprise, my entire team was bound in chains. Some people stood before me, and I saw the most painful thing ever. Bianca was tied too, bloody, beaten and barely breathing. My heart broke. The poor woman only wanted to return to Dome to be with her son.

"She was asking too many questions, which was odd." The guy she pointed out as Justin said, holding a silver knife.

"Suddenly, I learned she packed up and was trying to leave. So I caught her and decided to teach her a lesson. Boy, did she sing? She didn't want to, but she complied when her son came into the picture. She told me all about your questions. It made me begin to wonder. Four people arrive from Woodclaw on the same day at the same hotel asking for a guy with the same name. I must tell you, the four of you almost had us fooled, but we all came here to make a living, and Mr Moon is paying us way too much to disappoint him. Our instruction was clear; whoever comes from Woodclaw asking of Mr Luis or Mr Moon should be caught, questioned and killed," the guy said, and I realised we had walked into his trap.

We did not have any information about Luis but his name, so we had no choice but to ask about him. He had prepared the place for such an event, and we had stupidly walked into it.

"Mr Adam, who sent you?" The guy asked, and I realised the guy did not know who we were. I was going to use this to my advantage,

"Mr Timothy Miles. He is a business associate." I said quickly, and Justin moved closer.

“What are you doing, Luke?” Mike linked me, and I told them to follow my story.

“Why would Mr Miles send you?” Justin asked.

“The Moon family has locked him up on Woodclaw because Mr Luis is on his board. They will not release him until he provides Mr Luis Moon. We were to come here and find Mr Luis to implore him to surrender

himself to the Moon family or help Mr Miles get out of the bind that he is in.” I said, and Justin believed me because he looked disappointed.

“I guess you lots are not the ones we are waiting for.” Well then, Kill them,” the man said to the other, taking out their guns. My heart was in my mouth because I knew they would not miss their mark. This was the worst way to go. I promised my wife I would return to her. I began to struggle with my chains, but it was useless. I had never been afraid, but the thought of putting Tia and our children through the pain of living without me scared me and I was determined to live. Her words kept ringing in my ears, and I wished we never came. Mike had just gotten married, and Tasha was pregnant. This was all my fault. Wiley and Mia were both nineteen, yet to start their lives. I felt like shit and began to pray to the goddess for a miracle. “Wait,” One of the men said, and I sighed, but I knew my relief would be short-lived. “We need to call Mr Moon before we kill them,” The guy argued, and Julius became short with

him.

“We won’t be able to reach him. Remember. He is on an important mission in Woodclaw. He won’t have time to answer our call when he is busy gathering the army for the war.” He said, and I was worried. What will Tia and Caleb do without us? If this man is on my Island preparing for war and I am not there, we will lose. Tia was right. This was a trap, and I had walked right into it. I should have remained on the Island and prepared for battle. I just hoped all wasn’t lost.

Chapter 98

98 White fer War Away

Tia.

The morning Luke left, I had my heart in my mouth, but I had to hide it. I couldn't be the drip in our marriage. I almost lost my mind the last time he left on a mission. I knew I had to keep it together, hoping he would return to me. So with a bold face and confidence, I made a press release about his sickness that travelled through Woodclaw. At the same time, deep down, I prayed he would come home to me and address the people by himself.

ding operations at Diamond Corp wasn't easy, but when we explained our reasons to the people, they calmed down a bit; I knew it would only take a month or two before they revolted. Diamond Corp's suspension meant many businesses would suffer, and livelihoods would be affected. On the third day, there was a protest throughout the Island. I did not care much for the territories that had withdrawn their military support. However, I cared about the seven regions that still supported us. I was tempted to reopen because we were insured, but I did not know what else Luis would do, so I had to let things remain the way they were.

Caleb had the cameras installed throughout the mansion, and I thanked him for it. By the fifth day, I couldn't take the longing anymore. It was easier when Luke travelled and we were in communication. His silence was killing me, yet I knew it was necessary to keep their cover,

I kept a strong facade for two weeks. I would visit the headquarters to handle the matter and return home to an empty room. It was killing knowing Luke wasn't going to call me. I was hormonal, too, crying in the shower and wearing his clothes to sleep. I knew we would have to change the narrative, but I didn't want to. I wanted to maintain that he was sick and would come home. By the third week, Caleb and I made a press release that he had been kidnapped. I became apprehensive. After meeting

with the press, I returned to the left-wing, and Caleb followed me. We were afraid. Luke meant the world to both of us, and he wasn't home yet. Standing in the hallway, the smell of our fear filled the air.

"What should we do, Caleb?" I asked, and he sighed. I knew he was afraid too. I could feel it.

"Do you think he is alright?" I asked Caleb, and he motioned me to enter my bedroom. I walked in and sat on the couch.

Caleb stood and sighed.

“They should be back by now. He wasn’t supposed to stay this long,” he said, and I folded myself on the chair and began to sob.

“What if that bastard got them?” I said, voicing out my fears.” Tasha has been calling, and I do not know what to tell her. Everyone is asking about him, Caleb, and I do not know what to say. They are demanding answers.” I cried, and he sat beside me to hold me.

“We have to be strong, Tia,” he said, and I moved away from him. Drying my tears, I stood up.

“It is time to visit the hospital,” I said, and he nodded.

“Meet me at the entrance,” Caleb said and left the room. I went to shower and put on joggers. I had the urge to hop on a plane and go to Santa Braee, but I knew Luke would not want any of that.

I left the room and headed towards the entrance when Bart approached me.

“Luna, may I have a word with you, please?” He said, and I nodded. There was an urgency to his voice that made me figure it was something bad. I started praying that it wasn’t bad news from Luke.

We walked to the right-wing straight to the staff section into a room. I gasped when I saw a dead young man on the floor.

“He took his life yesterday. I do not know when precisely, but his body is cold,” Bart said, and I stared at the body. He was young and new to the staff. I wondered what he must have gotten himself mixed up in to make him take such a drastic decision. “Did he confess to anything?” I asked, and Bart shook his head. “Nothing,” He said, and I got pissed off at what was happening. I needed peace, for fuck sake. And no one was ready to give me that. My bump was showing a bit, so I robbed it. I knew someone killed the guy to cover their tracks, but I did not voice it out. I really did not trust anyone anymore. Lucky for us, Caleb and kirk had secretly installed security cameras about the house. I was going to call Kirk to retrieve the footage. That would lead us to the culprit. “Very well then. Do the needful. We have bigger issues,” I said and left the wing.

Caleb was waiting outside the house in his car, and I hopped it. Kimberly had gone to hang out with her mother. Since Luke locked her father up, the relationship between mother and daughter had mended. I was happy for her.

“What kept you?” Caleb asked while he drove, and I told him about the worker and what I wanted to be done. He sighed, and I figured he was troubled about something.

“What is the matter, Caleb?” I asked with my heart in my mouth.

“We can’t discuss it here..” he said, and I cut him.

“Damn it! Caleb. Enough of the suspense, tell me. Is my husband alright? Has he been found! any news?” I asked, and As I asked, fear rose in me, and I began to tear up.

“Tell me, Caleb!” I yelled, and he parked the car on the side of the road.

“Keep it together, Tia. You aren’t the only one breaking here. And No! Nonthing still! It is like the four disappeared from the earth’s surface, Tia. We have done everything. They did not go to Santa Braee as themselves, so it will be hard to find them. The names Kirk gave them are not in any record. It is as if someone wiped them out completely. I am tired too.” he said, rushing through his words. His eyes were teary too. “He’s my big brother, Tia. I love him. He is the only part of my family that makes sense. I am scared too. I am terrified. If Luis got him, I do not know what I would do, Tia. This is too much of a burden for me, too.” he confessed to me, and I remembered how we were in our teens. How we usually sat in the park and talked about our childish fears and aspirations. Caught between childhood and adulthood, not knowing how to manoeuvre our way through. This very moment felt like it again. The signs were there, but neither of us was willing to accept them. I placed my hand on the bump and prayed to the goddess to bring him home to me.

“Father wants to see my mother’s letters. So we are taking them to him. I also think they want

me to take over as Alpha temporarily,” he said, and my heart broke. The signs were there, but none of us was willing to accept the possibility that Luke and his team won’t be returning from Santa Braee.

We arrived at the hospital and were surprised to find only Aesop there. Thinking he had chased Monica away, I didn't know to ask

"Any news?" he asked. The man had aged a bit in these three weeks. I shook my head, and I knew he was afraid too. Luke was his favourite.

"Why did he have to go to that damn island?" he said, angry and sad simultaneously. I glanced at Stacy, and there still wasn't any improvement.

"Caleb, you will be commanding the military henceforth; Tia needs to rest for the baby's sake," Aesop said.

"Why?" Caleb asked, and Aesop sighed.

"I am not sure yet, but we need to be ready for anything." Aesop told his son and placed his hand on Caleb's shoulder. "I wish it will not come to it, son. I wish Luke was here to take care of everything, but things haven't been happening in our favour lately. I do not know what to do," He said and sighed. "In case of a battle, I will be leading the battle as Alpha," Aesop said, and we were surprised.

Not knowing what was happening with Luke had damaged the man, and I wished he could give me some hope by being strong, but he wasn't helping at all, and I became scared too. Since it was coming to this, I decided to go to Santa Braee to look for my husband.

"Where are the letters?" Aesop asked Caleb, and Caleb reached into his pocket and handed the envelope. The man glanced at the contents and read the letters. He did not bother to sniff it, but he had a frown.

"It's a good copy, but this isn't Stacy's handwriting. The check is hers quite alright, but the letters aren't." Alpha Aesop said, confirming what we had suspected all along. Stacy did not try to kill herself. The woman was too selfish to pull that kind of stunt. Then why was she acting funny, and who really did it? Whoever did was quite informed about Caleb and Monica. I remembered the dead worker, and I doubted if he alone could pull it off, that is, if that was why he was killed. Two people had been poisoned in that mansion. I did not need a psychic to tell me that there was a mole in our house. We needed to lock them all up until we were sure.

"If she didn't write it, then who did?" Caleb asked.

"The same person that poisoned her and maybe poisoned the poor staff member yesterday," I said, and Aesop was surprised.

"Someone was poisoned at the mansion?" He asked, and I nodded.

"Yes, I think it is time to lock them all up while we review the footage of the cameras we installed. Luis or Regan might have someone in our house. I suspect Luis at this point." I confessed, and we were silent for a bit. I knew it was eerie having a killer in our home poisoning people. I might have to cook my own meals henceforth. There was no talking me out of it.

"Where's Monica?" I heard Caleb ask Alpha Aesop,

"Isn't she at the mansion?" Aesop asked, and Caleb shook his head,

"She hasn't been here for two days. I thought she was home." Aesop said, and Caleb took out his phone. I knew he was trying to confirm Monica's whereabouts. I would also be worried for my step-sister if there was a killer on a rampage. The truth is she should be with her mother, but I doubt Aesop was giving her an easy time. Aesop did not even seem bothered about her whereabouts. He looked at Stacy, and I knew he was worried. We have been asked to pull the plug, but Aesop is still holding on. Hopefully, he will let go. Luke's absence wasn't helping either. Everything was falling apart, and no one knew what to do.

"She isn't at the mansion," Caleb said, hanging up.

"Well, maybe she has a boyfriend," Aesop said, and Caleb shook his head.

"She moved out. Her things have been cleared out. Norman said she packed all her belongings," Caleb said, and Aesop shrugged.

"Good riddance. Run away at the first sign of trouble." He said, and I did not think that was the case, but then again, it might be. Our home was in shambles; our family structure was collapsing. Everything

was just sour. I would bail out, too, if I were her, but it was a bit low for her to abandon her mother in this state. It wasn't any of my business anyway. I had my shares of problems.

Aesop looked at me and my bump.

"How are you feeling, Tia?" he asked me, and I did not know what to say because I felt like shit. "I have had better days," I replied, and he smiled at me. "I am so sorry you are going through this, especially in your condition. Luke should be here with you. I did not know why he decided to go after the bastard anyway." he said and sighed. He wanted to tell me something difficult but did not know how to say it.

"As long as it has nothing to do with Luke dying, I can handle it," I said, urging him to speak. He smiled at me and shook his head.

"These are tough times, Tia, and we cannot look divided. That is why I will ask you to step down as Luna and allow Caleb and Kimberly to take over for now. Until Luke returns. I can't have you stressing about carrying Luke's child." He said, and I understood his point of view. I really did not want to deal with any of them anymore. I just wanted to find my husband.

"I understand," I said, and he smiled at me.

"Will there be a need for an announcement?" I asked, and he shook his head. "As soon as you agree, it will take effect." He said, and I nodded. I sighed and hugged myself; I really didn't care about anything at this point. I just wanted Luke home. Caleb noticed my countenance and hugged me, then kissed the top of my head. "Be strong, Tia. Be strong for all of us," he said, and all I wanted to do at that moment was lock myself up in my room and pray to the goddess to bring Luke home. Caleb took me back home and wanted to stay with me a bit in the room, but I asked him to leave. I wanted to cry alone. I have never felt this helpless in my life. I did not know what to do or who to talk to. I had no idea where to go. I took off my clothes and lay on the bed holding

the pillow tightly.

“Luke, where are you?” I cried, holding my pillow really tight. Then I decided to get up and pack my bags. My mind was made up. I decided I would go to get look for Luke in Santa Braee. If I do not find him, so be it, but I refuse to sit on my arse and wait. While I packed my small bag. My hands trembled with uncertainty and fear. I did not know what to do or where to start. Kirk had told me their names and the hotel they should have stayed at. I intended to go there. I would have asked Kirk to come with me, but Aesop said they would need all the hands-on deck With what was happening, everyone had to be highly alert. Well, that was now their problem. As far as I was concerned, I was going to Santa Braee in the morning to find my husband.

I called my father to ask him to help me check on Paul because I would be taking a trip. I did not tell him where I was going, and he did not ask questions. Knowing that Paul would be okay if anything happened to Luke and me was essential.

I prayed in the night and went to sleep. “Tia, Tia”, I heard a soft whisper. Someone was trying to wake me up from sleep. I slept late, and I was tired. I did not want to wake up, but I knew I had to. I opened my eyes and saw a blonde-haired, blue-eyed, crooked-nosed man. I punched him on reflex and screamed. I was disoriented. I sat up with my back against the bed rest, trying to understand what was happening. That was when I focused on the person, and I was in shock and could not speak. Covering my mouth, I began to cry. Relief, joy, anger, peace, gladness, name it. I was feeling it all as I was staring at my husband. He kept his promise. He came back home.

Chapter 99

99 What Happened in Santa Braee

Luke.

I sat on the chair and did not know what to do, but I had a wife to go home to, and I promised I would return no matter what. I could not let these people kill my teammates. Their lives were meaningful, and I wasn't going to sit and let a pimp waste them. The silver binds had sealed our fate. There was no getting out of it, so I did the only thing I knew how; I negotiated.

Tugging on the binds, I called to Justin. “We are just businessmen working for West Corp!” I said to the guy, and he looked at me, irritated as fuck.

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“Shut the fuck up!!” he said, sounding like someone needing a fix. That was also an opportunity.

“How about you let us go, and we pretend we never met. I will give you twenty thousand each,” I said confidently, and Justin looked at me. He was trying to size me up, and I had to suppress the Alpha in me. He walked up to me and punched my jaws. It was a good punch, but I could take it. Still, I pretended it hurt like hell.

“You gave the bitch fifty. Do we look like fools to you?” the guy said, and I shook my head, pretending it hurt. I did not want him to know I was an Alpha. He did not need to know my strength level; I just needed them to free us. I knew I could take them. If they were all from Dome, I could take them. “How much do you want?” I asked Justin groaning from pain, and he began to laugh. “If you want us to pretend this never happened, five hundred thousand will do the trick.” he said, and I tried to negotiate with him.

“I do not have up to that. How about three–fifty.” I said to the guy. Of course, I could afford five hundred thousand, but I would not give it to him quickly. That would be suspicious. He walked up to me and tried to punch me, but one of them stopped him.

“If you kill the guy, we won’t be getting any money. The rest don’t look like they have it. Take it easy.” The guy said. I looked at them; they were six altogether. I would be able to take six scrawny–looking wolves. There was no way they were military trained from the way they punched. That was why they assaulted us with guns and tasers.

“How about you give us four hundred,” Justin asked, and I nodded.

“Deal,” I said as if I was afraid. I had one thing in mind: getting home to Tia. I knew she would be out of her mind by now. There was no way she wasn’t scared at home. I wondered if she was

showing by now. I really regretted coming to Santa Braee.

“So, how do we do this?” I asked, and they were silent. None of them responded. Their eyes glazed over, and I knew they were communicating via the mind link. “Do you think they will let us go?” Mike asked me, and I bowed my head so they did not see my glazed eyes.

“Follow my lead, Mikey. Think of Tasha and your unborn child and pretend to be weak. It will get us home to our wives.” I said to him, and he was silent. “How do you want to give us the money?” I finally heard Justin’s voice. They must have finished communicating by then.

” you have to untie me, and I need a laptop to do the transfer,” I said to them, and they looked at themselves. They were sizing me up. I knew it. They were calculating the risk of freeing me. “Just you?” Justin asked, realising the six of them could take just me. “Yes,” I nodded, “You have to promise to let us go after this,” I said to him, and he laughed. “I need a form of assurance that you won’t just take the money and kill us,” I said, and Justin laughed.

‘A smart one,” he said, smirking.

“Well, I guess you will never know. You will just have to hope,” he said, and I knew they would try to kill us after the transfer. I was silent for a while and looked at my teammates.

‘I have a son to take care of. My colleague has a wife to go home to. Please let us call this a day. Let us go, please.” I said to Justin, and he was silent. ‘After the transfer, we will decide.” Justin said, and I knew what I had to do. I had achieved one thing already: stopping them from planting their silver bullets in our heads; now, I needed to accomplish the next thing, and that was getting out of there alive. Justin walked up to me and untied the silver chains. I flexed my wrists, pretending to be weak, and the guys brought a laptop and handed it to me. They were not holding their guns anymore. I signed in to Adam’s account and did a false transfer to them. Kirk had shown me how to do it, and the guys were not paying attention to what I was doing. Soon they would get an alert on their emails and phone about a credit. “Are you done?” Justin asked me, and I nodded. I stood ready to defend myself if they tried to be innovative. My mark was burning, but I kept my rage under control and focused on Tia. I had to get home to Tia. “Are you going to let us go?” I asked the guy, and he looked at me and began to laugh. He walked up to me and punched me in the face. I fell down deliberately so he wouldn’t be able to size up my strength. “Miles sent whimps to do a man’s job,” he said, laughing, and I knew the bastard could not be trusted.

“I am feeling generous. You get to choose one out of the three of them. That way, all of you don’t die, and we have a body to show Mr Luis.” he said, and I pretended as if I was afraid. novelbin

I watched them link themselves.

“While I head to the bank, I will leave you with Tom and Gentle. They will release whoever you choose, and you can go home.” He said, and I pleaded with him, but he ignored me and walked away. I gave it fifteen minutes, and then Tom and Gentle were history. I attacked them and Killed them with my Alpha

might. They did not stand a chance. It was pretty sloppy of Justin to leave two men to guard an Alpha. Too bad he did not know I was an Alpha, which worked to

my advantage.

I realised my team members. We wanted to leave immediately but decided to hang around. I wanted Justin’s phone. I knew there would be a wealth of information on it. A picture, number or address that would lead me to Luis.

“What if they overpower us again?” Mike asked, and I looked at him.

“We were trained for battle. It will be a shame for four pimps to end us.” I pointed out to him, and he was quiet. I had managed to get us out of the silver binds. It was now up to us to get what we came for and leave.

“They will return here with a problem and a pain in the arse. The transfer was false.” I confessed, and Mikey was shocked at what I did.

“I do not have a lot of money to throw around. I am on a budget.” I said, and Mike chuckled. “Haven’t heard you said that in a while,” and we laughed.

“Kathrine. Release the woman. She is coming with us.” I said. “The poor woman had been through enough. She really helped us out, and all she wanted to do was return to Dome to be with her son.” I said, and Kathrine went to help her down.

“You and Wiley should guard her body and watch our backs while we take care of Justin and his minions,” I said, and we were on alert.

My mark burned, and I was ready. We stayed at the door leading to the room they had kept us and waited. Soon we heard their angry voices. We waited by each side of the door, so they would not have the time to compose themselves when we attacked.

Justin and his peers did not know what hit them. Mike and I took out our frustration on them and killed all, leaving Justin wounded.

“Alpha Moon,” Justin said with realisation. He was looking at me with fear. He was so afraid that he peed on himself..

“It was Mr Luis that put us up to it,” he pleaded. I could smell his fear.

“Why should I let you live, Justin?” I asked him, and he could not respond.

“If you are of no use to me, I cannot let you live,” I said to him.

“I... I will work for you, Alpha. I know Mr Moon; seen him, and I know how you can fly off this Island. I will help you get back home. Please do not kill me.” Justin cried, looking at the corpse of his friend on the floor. I guess it hit him that he would have been dead, too, and no one wanted to die. The corpses were motivation enough. “Get the guns and silver bullets.” I linked my team, and they did it. “I need a jet out of here. Do you think you can arrange that?” I asked him, and he nodded quickly.

“I have a Guy. Olson. He will hook us up. He owns a hangar and rents out jets. If I tell him it is from Mr Moon, he will let us borrow one. I swear.” I looked at him to gauge his sincerity. I had no cause to doubt him.

“If it is a trap, consider yourself dead, Justin,” I said to him, and he nodded.

We left the vicinity in a van and headed towards the airport where Olson had a hangar. There was no one there, and Justin made a few calls. To my surprise, the guy was not lying. I was ready to kill him and whoever he might call for help, but he did not even have the guts to double-cross me. Seeing how a supposed hard guy could turn into a coward, the moment death stared at him was amazing. If he was this afraid of dying, then why do a deadly job? I guess I will never know. Bianca was awake, but she was

weak. We boarded the jet, and Mike decided to be the Pilot. I made sure we took Justin along because he had a lot of information about Luis Moon that I would need to move on the bastard. This was indeed a great turn of events. My heart was glad that I was going home to my wife. I couldn't wait to get home and hold Tia. I had a lot to pay for. Three weeks of anxiety and not knowing what might have happened to me must have taken a toll on her, my father and Caleb. I was glad I was on my way back to them.

Chapter 100

100 Back To The City

I could not believe the relief I felt seeing that the man I had just punched was my husband. I could not stop crying, and he came to hold me.

"Why did you stay so long," I wept uncontrollably. I was relieved that he was back. I had packed my bags, ready to go to Santa Braee to find him. I did not care if anything would happen to me there; I just wanted to find him.

"Tia," He breathed my name and kissed the side of my head. He placed his hand on my tummy and rubbed lightly; he felt the tiny bump.

"I am so sorry," Luke said with a shaky voice. "Forgive me," he pleaded, but I had forgiven him before he even asked. To be sure I wasn't dreaming, I breathed in his scent, and we kissed. It was mild and gentle, and soon it became hungry, needy, and grateful. Three weeks without him felt like forever. My body needed his touch, and I needed to assure myself he was alive and back. I needed the assurance badly. Waiting and not knowing had scarred me.

"Tia," He breathed my name, and I tugged at his dirty shirt. I took in his scent, and he took off the shirt that I was wearing and kissed my neck sweetly. I moaned, feeling the wetness between my legs. I was shaking like a leaf anticipating what he would do to me. I wanted him

so badly.

He took off what was left of his clothes and laid me on the bed. My heart was thumping fast. He travelled with his kisses and sucked on my breast. I savoured the feeling enjoying every moment of it. It had been three weeks, but it felt like three years. My nipples were hard and ready. Getting them to their peaks, he left them alone and rubbed them between his thumb and index finger. I felt so good. He

travelled with his lips to my bump and kissed it. I was glad he was home. I would not be going through the pregnancy alone. I would not be abandoned; I would not be pitied.

I moaned because I anticipated more and my nerves were all over the place, crumbling. Luke spread my legs wide and moved with his tongue to my clit. Sucking on the nerve bundle, I came immediately. I wanted to salvage the feeling, but I could not hold it. I came shaking and moaning, glad he had returned

home to me. I was pleased that he was the one touching me and was with me. I dug my fingers into the sheets, arching my back and pushing myself off the bed before collapsing back down and shaking from the over sensitivity of my clit. Luke understood my body and knew exactly what I wanted and where I wanted to be touched.

“I am sorry I stayed long, darling,” he said with his low, gruff and husky voice, positioning himself between my legs, but I was too dizzy to process his words. My pussy clenched uncontrollably, and I wanted him inside me. He gently placed himself in and began to pump. It felt so sweet and new. It felt so amazing that I did not know what to do. He pumped, pumped, and poured into me, but I knew he wasn’t done. He made me turn on my hands and knees and placed his finger inside me, massaging my walls. I moaned and pushed my pussy against his finger, wanting him to go deeper. “Luke, deeper,” I moaned, and he pumped hard and fast, adding more fingers until they were three inside me. I moaned, and he growled. I knew he was waiting to get aroused. When he was hard, he pushed his cock in and began to pump. He pumped viciously like a man that had been sex starved for ages.

“Your pussy is so fucking sweet, Tia. It is softer than it used to be,” He said, and I knew the pregnancy had changed me. From the way, he was growling and groaning. I knew it was getting to his head just as it was getting to mine. Soon I came, and he poured into me at the same time. It was so intense that I moaned very loudly. He was back.

Luke led me into the shower for us to clean up, and to my surprise, he took me there too. We finally returned to the room and lay down. Placing my head on his chest, I took in his scent as we drifted back to sleep.

I woke up on an empty bed and began to panic. Had I been dreaming? Did he come home?

“Luke! Luke!” I called out. I was afraid that I was dreaming. Panicking and shaking, he rushed out of the bathroom and came to hold me. I held him tight and began to cry. The event had scarred me; it would

take a while before I finally let him out of my sight.

“I am here. I am home,” he said and held me tight, kissing the top of my head.

“I am so sorry, Tia. I am so sorry I put you through this. I really am. It wasn’t my intention to be silent or stay that long,” he said, and I held him tight, relief washing over me. He held me for a bit, and then we showered together. While dressing up, he looked at my bag and passport where I had kept them. “Going somewhere?” He asked me, and I looked at him, and it clicked.

“No way, Tia. You were planning on coming to look for me?” He said, and I looked away. He was the missing one; he did not know how it felt, not knowing where he really was or how he was doing. I thought I would die. This was the best way to ease my mind.

“I came home every night Luke, counting the days, hoping you will return. I called Kirk, yet no word from you. When your father requested Caleb take over, I saw it as an opportunity to come to find you.” I confessed to him, and he came to hold me.

“Don’t put your life at risk for me again, Tia. Please don’t.” He pleaded with me.

“Don’t ask me to live without you, Luke. Don’t put me in that situation again.” I replied because that was the truth. I could not live without him. However strong I may be, he was my soulmate, and if he did not come home to me, I would have gone to search for him.

“What happened there anyway. Why did you stay long?” I asked him, and he sighed and went to sit at the foot of the bed. Luke narrated his entire ordeal, and when he told me how close they were to dying, I was grateful to the goddess for sparing him.

“So you mean we are still blind where Luis is concerned?” I asked him, and he shook his head. Although he had not said it yet, my heart did somersaults. It sucked walking blind at least now We would have something to work with.

“For starters, he owns that hotel and never stayed there. He only wanted me to come looking for him so they could finish me off. If I went as me, I would have been dead. I also learned he has security situated on the Island to resist an attack in case there should be any. He promised the Alpha of Santa Braee bitumen. So Santa Braee is helping him with his revenge plan.” He explained to me, stood up and began to pace. “Justin the pimp claims Luis is preparing for war; we do not know how or where he will strike, but we need to build an army to resist and defeat him.” He said and then looked at me with a grin. Bringing out his phone, he handed me a picture.

“That is Luis Moon,” He said, and I was shocked. The man was just as old as Alpha Aesop and handsome too. He had green, evil-looking eyes and was clean-shaven with a pale skin tone. “Justin says he wears a lot of disguises, but that is what he looks like. He is also an Alpha with an underground pack.” Luke explained, and I was surprised. “Did you learn anything else?” I asked him, and he nodded.

“Luis is here on Woodclaw island,” he said, and I wasn’t surprised because it was apparent the man wanted to be at the top. The only way he could mess the Moon family up is to cripple us financially and weaken our military support. He had done those things already. He was bound to swoop in for the kill.

“Caleb is now in charge, you know. Your father asked me to step down because of the baby,” I explained to Luke, and he nodded.

“I know. Caleb knows I am back. He is happy,” Luke said, laughing, “He detests being Alpha,” I laughed, remembering how Caleb always complained while at the academy. He never really wanted to be Alpha.

“Have you heard of the poisoning?” I asked him, and he shook his head. “Caleb did not tell me about it, but he told me his sister has bailed out on us. I wouldn’t blame the woman. Her mother would likely die, and her father is our enemy. She might think we would throw her out. But she didn’t have to leave. As angry as father is, he loves Caleb and wouldn’t have thrown his sister out,” he said, and I nodded.

“Did Caleb tell you that Stacy did not write the letters, but she wrote the checks?” I asked him, and he frowned and shook his head. I guess Luke and Caleb did not speak for long because those were vital information he missed, however trivial they might seem.

“No, he didn’t. How did you find out?” He asked me.

“Your father asked for the notes and immediately recognised it wasn’t her handwriting. The person tried to make it look like hers, but it wasn’t good enough to fool him.” I said, and he sat down beside me.

“That is eerie, Tia. Is there a possibility she didn’t attempt suicide?” he asked, and I sighed.

“We all suspect that but she did say goodbye to us weirdly,” I pointed out, and he nodded. “Yeah. She did,” he agreed. “Well, only Stacy knows what really happened.” I said and remembered I was still yet to tell him about the dead staff, “ About the poisoning. Someone was poisoned two nights ago, and his body was found yesterday afternoon. I was called to the staff quarters of the right-wing to see the body. It was Stephen Mace. He was nineteen years old. He just started working here recently. I wondered what or who he got himself mixed up with to warrant such a gruesome death.” I said, and Luke sighed. It was clear the news of the poisoning bothered him too. Living in a house where two people had allegedly been poisoned was scary, mainly because we did not cook our meals. Certain things needed to change in the meantime until the conflicts were resolved and mysteries solved.

“A lot needs to be solved, but we must prepare for battle. I need to know the state of the Military and our arsenal to proceed.” Luke finally said after a few seconds of silence, pondering over the news of the poisoning.

“What about Luis?” I asked, and he placed his hand on his forehead as if something had skipped his mind. “We have two of his people working on our side for a change. One we got from Santa Braee, and the other was picked up an hour ago. We want to trace his underground pack. We have been on the defence for a long. It is time to be on the offence and even the playing field.” He said to me, and I smiled at him. He looked at my tiny bulge and smiled, then placed his hand on it.

“Showing,” he said, and I smiled at him. He kissed my neck sweetly and kissed my lips gently. “I will never leave you again, Tia. I promise you, he said, and I wanted us to stay indoors that day. Somehow I knew that was precisely what would happen. Three weeks apart wasn’t easy, however small it may seem to others. It was a long time for us because we were rarely apart. We needed to make up for a lost time.