

The Defiant Luna Chapter 36

Nathan POV

Nathan sat staring at Stephen, from behind his desk in the Alpha's office, there was a deep frown on his face. His Gamma was going on about Jay-la's birthday. Nathan was well aware of when it was, he did not need a reminder and yes, he was well aware that he had yet to go out and get her anything

But Christmas had come first, and he had wanted to make sure that he didn't get her something anyone else got her.

Knew that she was going to be spoiled not just by him, but by her own family, her parents in particular, seeing as they were so very happy to have her back.

So he had waited on purpose for this. He had a designer working on her Luna gifts, a beautiful jewellery set that consisted of a necklace, earrings and a matching bracelet.

Not that she knew anything about that. Also, he had his jeweller working on her engagement ring, something he wouldn't normally need, but with Lauren and Tony going to be in their lives, he was going to do the human thing. It also gave him a reason to spend money on her and buy her things. He wanted to give her everything, including that human world wedding and a Luna Ceremony.

Stephen was still telling him his thoughts. "You should take Jackson and the triplets with you; they'll be able to help you pick out a nice gift for her."

"Honestly, Stephen, I think asking Jay-la what she wants would be a better idea." She had liked her new car, had been happy about it and used it to drive to her parents place on the other side of the pack's town, and had told him it was dream to drive. That she loved it. He was really happy about that.

"Now you say that, but surprising her is also good, isn't it now?"

Nathan's eyes narrowed on the man now, he was really pushing this hard, he thought. "I surprised her with a new car." He reminded his Gamma.

"Yes, and she loved that surprise. But this is her birthday, the very first one since she's been back. You need to do something big."

"Her Luna Ceremony is in three and a half weeks, Stephen, its going to be massive."

"Oh I know that." He shook his head and waved a hand in the air in a 'whatever' gesture "Everyone knows that, blah, blah, blah. All Luna Ceremonies are expected to be big, bold

and lavish. It's the norm. Her birthday is more important, way more personal or should be to you."

He stared hard at his Gamma now, looked at Jackson at the slight growl that came from him, not even his Beta was happy about the disrespecting of the Luna Ceremony.

That he was showing. Which Jay-la was finally being involved in.

It had taken several days for her to be swayed and have her agree to helping in anyway. He'd nearly argued with her about her not wanting to help plan it, he'd had to rein in his own temper on more than one occasion with her 'do what you want.' Attitude.

Which his own mother had told him, that her attitude towards her Luna Ceremony was still likely to do with his late announcement of her to the pack. That he'd picked her dress for her, and not even brought it up to her when he should have, that her attitude was all his fault on the matter.

To contain himself and his own frustration, as it was his own fault and cajoling her into it, was going to be the only way they would get her to do it, not his temper and yelling at her. So, rein it in he had done on all attempts to talk to her about it.

It had taken not just him, but both their mothers to cajole her into just considering helping them. It had actually been Rae-Rae and Margaret that had talked her into it, and they were now also helping her plan it. It seemed Rae-Rae and Margaret were going to be close to her. She actually really liked Margaret, which was good, being that she was Jackson's Mate and therefore would be part of her social group.

"Watch it, Gamma." he warned him. He hadn't really appreciated that disrespect of her Luna's Ceremony either.

"The children will all want to get her gifts as well." Stephen went on, completely ignoring the warning he had been given altogether.

But that comment did have his undivided attention, had not thought about that part of his getting her a gift. "

Alright, I will consider it Stephen, though I can just shop online and have something delivered or picked up."

Watched as Stephen glared right at him, he looked really angry actually. "You need to go and do this yourself." He snapped "Jay-la is not just your Mate, or the mother of your children. But the love of your life, correct? You do love her, yes? Never want to lose her, right?"

So many questions were fired at him all in that angry tone, that it had not just his undivided attention but Havoc's as well We love our Mate. His wolf practically snarled at

him, he did not like that their Gamma was riling up and firing those questions at them, he was the Gamma and knew what she was feeling better than any one.

“Yes, Havoc we do love her. he told his beast.

“She is not your mother or sister, Nathan.” Stephen went on, shook his head as though he was not only dismayed but disappointed in him, and then just turned and walked out of his office “Bloody fool.” Nathan heard him mutter as the man walked away from the office, Havoc was still all attention “is going to tick her off to no end. Not doing it himself, who the bloody hell doesn’t go and pick a birthday gift in person for the woman they love.”

He could feel Havoc’s anger building inside of him, You won’t tick off our Mate. He snarled all aggression at him. ‘ She’s happy right now.’ He sighed.

They had been getting along really well for the most part.

His eyes moved to Jackson, who just shook his head and shrugged at him, stated “I wouldn’t mind going shopping.

Get something for Margaret, I’ve not done that other than for Christmas, something just because I love her, no reason needed.”

“I don’t think Jackson, this is about her birthday. I only brought that up with her yesterday, she just shrugged at me and said ‘cake would be nice.’ If I recall correctly. She loves a good black forest cake. I have already spoken to the pack chef, hes going to make one for her.”

“Then what do you think it is about?”

“I don’t know,” his eyes moved to the adjoining door that led to her office. She was in there right this minute. Though the door was closed, so she was unaware of the conversation that had just taken place with Stephen.

Perhaps that man had picked something up that he nor

Havoc had.

She had gotten those charges against him dropped, hed heard the not so nice words Eric Stanton had snapped at her down the phone, when she’d told him she wanted them officially dropped

He had been very unhappy about her decision and her being here with him. He’d asked Jay-la point blankly if she was being coerced into dropping them? If she felt threatened? Was being made to stay there inside Browning Corporation? Was Nathan using the children to get her to remain there? Was he using his wealth and legal team to threaten

her with the loss of her children, going for full custody? Could she not get herself off of company grounds?

The man had practically interrogated her, like she was a witness on the stand, and he was cross-examining her, trying to get her to slip up. Nathan had gotten more than annoyed himself, but Jay-la had held up a hand to him on more than one occasion, to make him hold his own tongue.

To stop him from taking that phone from her and having a piece of that man himself.

Shed not once looked at him either, had just known he was getting ticked off about the line of questioning she was getting, shed likely felt his anger rolling off of him or Kora had known Havoc was unhappy. She'd known he was using his wolf's hearing to listen to the other side of her conversation.

Shed not walked out of the room or asked him to leave the room when shed picked up the phone, shed been waiting for a return call from Eric, hed been busy when shed called him. Didn't seem to mind that he was there for it, he did know she was going to close out her human life, it was just a matter of time.

It had all been settled before Christmas, not that Eric was happy about it. Nathan and Havoc were happy about it though, she had told Eric that it came down to the fact that Nathan had not actually laid a hand on her, and she didn't want the charge against him to remain for the children to see.

His eyes were on her office door as he thought about just what to do. Jay-la was currently in there. He could feel that through their tether to each other, likely with the children, though neither of their mothers were in there at this time.

Their relationship was much better and she smiled at him a lot, shed even taken to pulling him into their bed of a night, once the triplets were all tucked in and asleep for the night. His favourite memory right this minute though, had More Rewards

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this.”

to be that soft moan of “Goddess, I really did miss

Just the other night as she'd sat atop of him in their bed she had woken him up and taken him for herself, shoved him over, down under her, had climbed right on top of him, the scent of her arousal had been so strong hed been ready for her by the time shed climbed on top of him, enjoy being woken in the middle of the night by her.

She had taken him into herself with a sigh of pleasure and then had just sat there for a good 15 or 20 seconds, her eyes were closed and there had been a smile on her face, and from what he could tell she was just enjoying the feeling of him hard inside of her.

Smiled to himself at the memory, he'd also enjoyed it, even more so, knowing she took so much pleasure from it, shook it off before he went and had his way with her, but did get up and head into her office to talk to her. The children were not with her, were she stated, with Halley down in the entertainment zone, just hanging out.

He really did like that Nate always called him dad now. The girls still called him daddy. He loved it all. That they were all bonded finally and the children were happy and settled they were happy to climb on him and ask him to tuck them in or read them a story before bed as well.

Nate was still protective of his sisters and now Halley as well, it seemed. They were all the same age. Well, Halley was a month older than they were. But Nate was taller and had seemed to just start doing the typical Alpha male thing, of watching over the three girls.

The boy had asked just yesterday, when Halley was going to come and play with them, looked up at Nathan expectantly almost. As if it was just now normal for the four of them to be together every day. They had spent nearly every day since Jay-la had gone into heat with Halley, and had bonded well with her.

His own mother had chuckled down the mind-link when he'd asked the question, so he could answer Nate. She'd murmured "I remember you wanting to know where your sister was all the time." Then she had told him she'd have Lidia, Halley's nanny bring her down to play.

Now he stood in Jay-la's office and smiled at her answer about where the children were, she was smiling up at him herself. Heard Havoc purr all loud for her and shook his head, his beast was always purring for her when she smiled at him. Though today there was amusement in his beast as well, because there was amusement in Jay-la's smile and it was also rolling off of Kora and Havoc could feel it.

They found something funny, it seemed. Not a coincidence that Stephen had been in his office, harping at him about her birthday, he thought. Likely those two were up to something. It had not escaped his attention that they'd been hanging out a lot over the past week. They were always off, up on the third floor having coffee together.

Stephen had raised an eyebrow at him for questioning him as to why he was always with Jay-la. Sometimes he felt those two were together more than he and Jay-la were.

Stephen had simply stated You were the one that told me you needed me here for her. So that's what I'm doing. She's also helping me with Suzy. We often talk to Suzy together while having coffee, along with the children:

They had mostly convinced Suzy to come here in the new year, her family was another matter, her little sister Maya was in the middle of an accounting or finance degree and her mother Elena was trying to sort out her ruined house.

The insurance company was being a real pain. Were trying to say it was her fault, that she'd lied on her insurance papers that the house hadn't been up to code and therefore they didn't have to pay. It was all very stressful over there for Suzy and her family right now.

He knew that Stephen was itching to go and get his Mate and at some point the man was likely to just up and go, even without Nathan's permission. That thought struck him and he suddenly realised what they were up to.

Those two, Jay-la and Stephen, were working on a plan to get Stephen back to L.A., they'd always been close and enjoyed being mischievous together, though not as much as she and Jackson had back in the day.

They needed him out of the pack so that he wouldn't realise Stephen was gone. Smiled right at her full amused smile up at him, and now that he was looking at her, really looking at her with that knowledge. He saw it, she was not just amused but had that mischievous look about her, like she used to get.

What he was looking at right this minute, was, he realised.

The old Jay-la, fun and mischievous like she had been when they'd been growing up together. She and Stephen, it seemed, were fully bonded now, and hatching a plan to get him off to Suzy. He walked around her desk and looked right down at her, it was good to really see her. "You're so very happy today." He commented softly

"Yes, I've had a good morning."

He was not going to stop their devious plan. This was the woman he wanted to see, had never actually thought he would ever be able to see again, but it seemed that not only was she still in there. Stephen had managed to bring her out, it was a good thing, could only be a good thing. He was so very happy to see that glint in her eyes, shining up at him.

"I'm going to go shopping for your birthday." He told her, knew this would make her even happier.

"Mm, okay." She nodded and turned her eyes back to the paperwork she had in her hands. It was a menu, likely for her Luna Ceremony, something she had to sort out, the foods she wanted served there.

"Is there anything in particular you want?" he asked.

"No." she shook her head, "just cake."

“Just cake?” he asked with a smile. She couldn’t look at him, was going to give away her secret if she did, he thought to himself. He felt Havoc chortle inside his mind, he also liked seeing her like this.

“I don’t really need anything.” she finally looked up at him.”

When were you thinking of going?” it sounded so casual, but he knew it wasn’t. Her mischievous side was ticking away.

“Tomorrow, I’ll take the unit and if you’re okay with it, I’d like to take the triplets as well. Let them buy something for you too.”

“Oh, I might need Stephen here though, we’re going to really push Suzy tomorrow. Get that solid yes from her, hell want to be here for that.”

“I see..but can’t you do that on your own?” he asked and leaned on her desk

“I don’t think so.” She shook her head. “He’s very charming with Suzy’s mother, Elena. I need him to win that woman over, she’s so very stubborn.”

He leaned there on her desk and pretended to think about it for several minutes.

. “Alright then, about the children

though, is that alright with you? It would be the first time I’d be out with them away from the pack. Are you comfortable with that?”

“They can go with you, if they want to.” She nodded “I have no concerns about you taking them out for a day. I know you will never allow harm to come to them. Protect them always.”

He smiled right down at her, “Thank you, I’ll leave Stephen here with you then, as you request.”

“Alright.” She nodded.

He leaned down and kissed her softly, “I like seeing you like this.” he murmured softly, and then got up to leave her office. Chuckled to himself after he closed the door to her office. Jackson looked right at him.

“What’s so funny?”

“Jay-la and Stephen are hatching a plan to get him off to

L.A.”

“Ah...that’s why all the annoyance, he needs you off pack territory. She can tell him to go.”

“Yes, I believe so.” He nodded “I’m going to let them.

Stephen really does need to go and be with his Mate, bring her back. Let them think I don’t know anything or see that glint in her eye in there.”

“It’s just a few days early anyway” Jackson smiled “She’s finally starting to settle in once more, really settle in then.”

“Yes.” Nathan nodded and he was truly happy about that.

Perhaps one day she would return to the carefree girl she’d once been.

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Jay-la POV

Stephen had managed to convince Nathan to take the triplets for a day or morning of shopping. For her birthday that was coming up, it was less than a week away now.

She was standing with Stephen on the pack-house steps waving him off, along with the children and Jackson.

Their plans to get Nathan off of pack territory had been a long time in coming, but now that it was finally here she could get Stephen off to L.A., everything was nearly ago.

Nathan was still so concerned about her and her being adrenalized all the time, that he thought it was better to have Stephen here. Had stated that Stephen had to be wherever Jay-la was. This had actually annoyed her more than he’d expected it to.

They’d gotten into an argument about it, not so heated that she or Kora had shut him out and not so heated that he had yelled, but they had both given each other tone over it.

It had also taken place in front of his entire unit, shed not really cared about arguing in front of them, inside the Alpha’s office.

They had all grown up together, and Jackson and Stephen had seen her rile up before. This was about one of his unit, and his human mate. Nathan had put his Alpha foot down in the end and stated “Stephen has to be near you at all times Jay-lay, you know why. We will find a way to bring Suzy and her family here, she told you already she wasn’t going to make a decision until the second of January, it can wait till then.”

Shed glared right up at him and snapped “One day Im going to beat the hell out of you.” and stalked from the room and into her office to slam the door shut in his face as he’d followed her. She’d not wanted to see him right that minute.

Shed spent a lot of time with Stephen after that, been very apologetic to him, felt absolutely responsible for him not being allowed to go to L.A. and get to know his Mate. Was bloody determined to get that man to his Mate. Had been still ticked off about it that afternoon and marched herself into his training room in full training gear, Stephen chuckling behind her. Pointed her finger right at her Mate and snapped “You and I right now.” Then had just launched herself at him and let him have all her anger and aggression as she literally tried to beat the hell out of him.

A part of her had wanted to do that for weeks now and she let him have everything, it had ended up just the two of them fighting it out on the floor. Jackson had halted the training at some point during their sparring.

Which he was defending mostly, she noticed, though shed gotten past it a few times and heard both him and Havoc snarl right at them. Shed never actually been able to beat him in any kind of fight, and still couldn’t, had found herself pinned down on the floor underneath him till she’d stopped struggling against him.

“Had enough sweetheart?” he sounded amused to

“Don’t even think about it.” she muttered, glaring up at him and that gleam in his eye, she knew all too well.

“Are you calm yet?”

“Enough to walk away.” Shed muttered, had wanted to wolf out on him but Kora wouldn’t have it.

Hed let her up and smacked her right on the backside as she walked away from him, seemed he either understood her need to beat the hell out of him or had decided to just take it as a good opportunity to really train properly.

Stephen had followed her out still smiling, had mind-linked to her ‘Bet that felt good.’

Shed really let Nathan have it, and not just on Stephens’ behalf, but her own as well, for his treatment of her, banishing her all those years ago. Had finally let it all out on him. Hed never actually come and questioned her about that fight in training, but she was very certain he understood it was not training for her. Likely so had everyone in that room watching on.

Maybe he had been expecting it from her at some point, who knew? Hed not gotten mad or anything about it, had simply crawled into their bed later that night, pinned her down and growled “you really do need to train me more often, though one on one with no one

around afterwards” and had then just kissed the hell out of her. Appeared fighting him had just turned him on. The man was insane.

She stood on that top step smiling happily as they drove off. He was taking the children up to Rochester to do that shopping, it would be a good hours drive to get there. The children she knew were going to be on their very best behaviour.

Shed laughed when they’d promised her they would be, all those cute smiling faces looking up at their father at the time. Shed knelt right down with them and murmured. ” Now you behave and I’m sure your daddy will get you ice-cream while shopping.” They’d all run right over to him yelling about having ice-cream all excitedly and she herself had smiled right at him as she’d stood up. He wasn’t going to want to say no to them, when they saw that ice-cream place.

Yes, they would be very well behaved until they didn’t get that ice-cream, but she needed him to be distracted while out there shopping, so didn’t warn him. Then had told him to go get the car, she’d bring them down after popping their jackets on them. He’d nodded and headed off.

Jay-la knelt down to them the moment their jackets were on “I’m not going to be here when you get back. I’m going to pick Suzy up and bring her back for you, okay.”

They had all smiled at her “Is she really coming?” Lilly had asked her excitedly.

“Yes, and she is going to stay for a long time, your uncle Stephen, is so in love with Suzy.”

Watched as the three of them all pulled funny faces. “Yes, its disgusting how much he loves her.” she chuckled “But we’ll be bringing her back in a few days. You’ll stay here, with your grandparents.”

“Not with daddy?” Rosalie asked her.

“Hmm, now daddy doesn’t know about this yet. It’s a big surprise for him. So, shh” she put her finger to her lips “no telling him either, okay.”

“Okay.” They nodded

Jay-la knew it was likely going to make Nathan very mad, but he had agreed to let her go back and exit from her human life, her way finally. He’d fly her out there, on the first. But Stephen was really moping about, and she was feeling really guilty about being the reason why he wasn’t allowed to go and be with Suzy.

She also wasn’t happy about her job being on hold for so long, or Tim being left in limbo, but she knew Tim was mad at her still, had not once called her or texted her since that conversation she’d had in her kitchen with him. The man knew from that one phone call,

but she still wanted to speak to him in person. Without Nathan hovering around or the risk of Havoc getting upset.

Nathan had told her himself that he didn't know what

Havoc would do seeing Tim, his wolf didn't even like the mentioning of his name, so going there and talking to him without Nathan present was actually the best option for all of them.

Even Kora agreed that it was for the best, to not have Havoc in the same room as Tim. She knew her Mate, Havoc was a possessive wolf. Even Kora, saw that if the man was brought up, a little anger rolled off her Mate. Even Kora didn't think she could predict what would happen if the two of them came face to face.

. She'd rather not have

Havoc surface and rip into a human. Even though Havoc knew they would never leave him, would never let Tim touch them, and had no interest in the man ever.

He was a jealous beast, though sometimes he just got quiet and seemed to Kora to feel sad or be sulking even.

Jay-la had actually questioned Nathan about it and he'd looked right at her and sighed quite heavily, stated "Tim is a consequence of my and Havoc's actions, he knows this.

Doesn't like knowing it was his fault you have a human lover out there."

Both she and Kora had sighed heavily, shed walked right over to him and sat in his lap that day, right in his Alpha chair. Looked right at him,

, "Havoc." She'd said softly and

saw his beast rise to look at her, fully on the surface, would never hurt you." she told him, he knew Kora wouldn't and she wondered if he thought she would, needed to make him feel secure, she thought "Kora wants no other.

We, want no other ever." Then she had leaned forward and kissed Havoc herself softly and gently, chuckled softly when his hands had gripped onto her and started moving his body against hers.

"Mine." He growled right into her neck as he'd bit her playfully.

"Yes, yours." Shed told him, and found those brilliant green eyes of his on hers, touched his forehead to hers and then had just kissed her right back in the same manner she had done him.

He'd receded and shed found Nathan smiling at her. "

Thank you, he worries sometimes."

"He has no need to." Shed smiled at him, gotten off his lap, seen him raise an eyebrow at her. "Before, I can't get off your lap. I have things to do with your mother." Shed told him and he'd nodded at her.

She was risking right this minute, watching them drive away, their happy state of relationship, but she was doing so in order to be here without him worrying ever that she would leave him for another. She was not going to, loved him. Still had that little bit of fear where they were concerned but was pushing it down and aside, it just stemmed from them dismissing her, banishing her and never thinking about her and she knew it.

Was trying to let it go, was not easy to do, but she was working on that.

She was only going two days ahead of schedule, so she was hoping that Nathan wouldn't get too mad at her. She was going with every intention of closing out her human life completely, as she had told him she would be doing.

Jay-la also had every intention of answering every call he made to her, when they started coming and she knew they would be. Though hopefully she'd be in L.A. when they started, hopefully he wouldn't know she was gone till he got back from shopping.

She was also taking Stephen with her. That was his requirement, wherever she went, Stephen had to go as well.

She'd turned that statement around after some thought to, wherever Stephen went, she was to go. A little loop hole, shed called it. Stephen needed to go to L.A. so she was going to have to go with him.

Stephen was at her Luna's Order, going to be made to go to L.A. to pick Suzy and her family up, and she needed to go to L.A. to close out her human life, a win, win, she was calling it. Stephen just thought it was devious to turn Nathan's words around on him, also agreed with her that it wasn't going to go down so well with him.

'Were both getting in trouble you know that right. He mind linked to her as Nathan's car drove out of sight.

'Oh yes, I do.' She answered him, knew that Nathan was likely to blow a gasket, but even Alpha Austin had told her she should close out her life, the way she chose to. 'If your mate loves you Jay-la, he'll let you go on your own, or with his Beta or even just your Gamma. He doesn't need to be there for that, it will show he trusts you as well. So she was taking that advice into account as well.

It took 10 minutes to feel them leave pack territory. She turned and looked right at Stephen. "Go make that call to the pilot."

"You're certain of this Jay-la?" he'd asked right back.

"Yes Gamma, she nodded "1, as your Luna, am ordering you to go and get your Mate."

Saw him smile right at her now "Yes Luna, as you wish it." he then chuckled softly and walked away into the pack-house to do just that, make a call to Nathan's pilot, to get his private jet ready for them when they got to the airstrip, where it was parked only 30 minutes away.

She herself headed upstairs, to pack a simple overnight bag, didn't really need anything at all, she had an apartment full of clothes over there, so only needed a few things, also packed herself one of Nathan's tee-shirts to sleep in while over there.

Her apartment had been sorted and paid out, the pack movers were arriving on the 4th to pack everything up and bring all her and the children's things here for them. She wanted to bring her wardrobe back with her, Nathan's choice of clothing for her was all conservative and she really did miss her short, pleated skirts and her stiletto's, loved how she felt tall in them.

Changed from the jeans and sweater she was wearing into a dark blue pair of slacks and a white silk long sleeved blouse, grabbed the matching jacket and pulled on black boots and headed out of the suite, only to find Alpha Blaine leaning on the wall waiting on her.

Stopped dead in her tracks and stared right at him a little guiltily as his eyes moved to the bag in her hand.

"Now, Luna. Are you running away from my son?" he asked, all casual like.

"No!" she shook her head at him, technically she wasn't.

"Then pray tell, where are you going?"

"To close out my human life. I'll be coming back."

"Hmm, I take it Nathan has no idea at all."

Jay-la sighed, "No. are you going to tell him Blaine?"

"You're the Luna." He shrugged "I can't tell you what to do, but answer me something and if I get the answer I want. I'll plead ignorance."

Jay-la nodded.

“Whose in charge, with all of you, bar Ethan off pack territory?” he was staring at her pointedly now

She knew that she was currently in charge and with her and Stephen leaving, it would leave Ethan in charge of the pack, that was the chain of command. But with the way he was looking right at her, she had a feeling that was not the right answer.

“Um, you are Alpha Blaine.”

Saw that man grin right at her now “Correct answer.” Then he just pushed off the wall and walked away down the hall

“Have a good trip Jay-la.” He chuckled as he walked away from her. Then stopped and looked at her from the top of the stairs, “You might want to be n***d when he hunts you down over there, you know he will, right? It will distract him plenty, I imagine.”

“Yes.” She nodded, she did know he was going to come after her, it’s why she’d told the children they’d be staying with their grandparents. “I can manage that.” She told him and saw him nod. Then just move on down the stairs at a rather casual pace, still smiling at himself. It was a little odd of him.

Stephen was waiting for her downstairs with her car. “Where is Ethan?” she asked him, didn’t want that man calling Nathan, he could still get back and stop them had only been gone 20 minutes.

“I believe he’s with the pack doctor, helping to research Adrenaline. That man will be buried in a book or absorbed in online research papers for days. Likely won’t even know what is going on until after we all get back.” He chuckled and grabbed her bag and tossed it in the back seat. “He’ll likely still be buried in a book when my a*s is tossed in a cell, when we get back.”

“TH let you out each night, and you just get your a*s back in there before he gets up.” She laughed softly.

They were up and in the air forty minutes later. “No going back now.” She mused, aloud.

“Nope. We’re both in trouble now.”

“Well, technically as long as you’re with me. What’s the issue, we’re together are we not? How long is he going to stop you from being with your Mate Stephen, it’s been weeks now. It’s quite selfish of him.”

“I know, it’s not exactly fair. But I do get why Jay-la.”

“It’s not fair at all Stephen, your father is in the pack, I’m certain he is just as capable as you are to handle me.

“It’s not that bad anymore, you’re more relaxed nowadays.

Took some doing though.”

“It did.” She nodded.

“You two are good, right?”

“Yeah.” She nodded “Once I close out my human life, everything will be as it should be.” and it would be.

“Why do I not feel convinced?” He murmured softly.

She smiled at him. “It’s all fine Stephen.”

“Jay-la?”

“Stephen?”

“Jay-la?”

She sighed, couldn’t bloody get past the Gamma and his stupid knowing of what she was feeling. “It’s not like I can just forget what happened, you know. I’m trying to. But I think it’s always going to be there in the back of my mind.” She looked out the window, really was trying to let it go, but it had only been a few weeks and though she loved him and knew he loved her. Still had that tiny bit of doubt to contend with.

“What exactly is in the back of your mind?”

Her eyes moved right to Stephen. “If you think I didn’t hear that slightest of southern drawl then, your dumb.” Saw him laugh “Come on Jay-la, I’m your Gamma. Trust me with it.”

She sighed and looked out the window once more, for several long minutes before stating quietly “That he just turned on me so quickly. Doesn’t actually help me that he has told me that he desired no other the whole time he was with me, kind of makes it worse to be honest. To know that for that year he wanted no other and then just dismissed me in the blink of an eye. Whose to say he won’t do it again.” She voiced aloud her singular doubt.

“It’s not going to happen again Jay-la.” He told her firmly.

“You don’t know that. No-one knows it’s going to happen till it does.” She shrugged.

“He loves you.”

“Apparently he loved me, before once, Mate Bonds don’t always work out. Look at him and the one he left me for, left her too.”

“She was a nasty piece of work, Jay-la. He could do nothing right in that she wolfs eyes, and she cheated on him while still mated to him. That is what ended it between them. He tried to make it work. A lot of effort on his part and none on hers. She was all about money.”

Just looked at him, that was not the first time she’d heard not so nice things about the woman.

“I guess Stephen, this

is my way of testing him.”

Saw him frown deeply at her now. “You’re doing this to test his love and loyalty to you?”

“In part.” She nodded “I love him Stephen, don’t doubt that.

But our past, the way we came together.” She sighed “I guess if he loves me he’ll forgive me, understand even. If it’s all a lie on his part, and it is the children he wants. This will show me.”

“It’s not just the children that he wants, Jay-la. He is going to be pissed off at you, Jay-la, but he will forgive you.

Likely you’ll end up tethered to him after this.” She shook her head,

, “We’ll see, won’t we?”

“You will see that he does love you. I won’t even tell him what you just told me. I’m willing to bet he’ll just turn up, frown down at you and then mutter something about you needing a s*****g and that will be it.”

She could only hope so, she did love him, always had, but always in the back of her mind was him not caring to even say good bye that day, that hard look he’d given her as shed touched his arm, then that order, that he had rolled out of him to make her leave. There had been no need for it.

She was leaving anyway, hed not needed to make it an order, could have just asked her not to touch him, to apologise to his Mate, hadn’t needed to order her from the pack. With every minute of distance this flight was putting between them, she felt it more, their past history pulling to the forefront of her mind.

Alpha Austin was right about something, the further one got from their Mate, the more any issues you had with them or doubts you had, the more you could feel them, the more

you focused on them. That love bubble you were in with your Mate, was so all-consuming lessened, and you could think and feel those doubts more.

She didn't want to leave him, wouldn't ever cheat on him, but she knew deep down she also didn't want him around when she closed out her human life, and she knew he was never going to let her do it on her own. Had now taken matters into her own hands.

She did not want a falling out with him, but really did need to do this, on her own. Was also hoping that he would see it from her point of view, that if she did this willingly on her own. It should show him and Havoc that she meant it, wanted to be with them. It should bring them both closer together.

She was sure that he had to have some doubts about her, seeing as she wasn't willing to do this over the phone, and had put it off for this long a time. Shook it off, she would apologise to him and try to explain it to him if he didn't understand it.

"Stephen?"

"Yes Jay-la,"

"Why would Blaine want to be in charge? While I'm away."

"Hmm, I don't know..any number of reasons why?"

"Curious is all, he seemed happy with me putting him in charge."

"It could be any number of reasons, probably he wants Nathan to do something and he's not done it or said no. If he's in charge he can just go and do it now."

"Oh, is that bad?" she bit her lip a little.

"Who knows, Blaine has that foresight, he could well have seen something and needs to do something." Stephen shrugged. "Guess we'll find out when we get back."

"I guess so."

The Defiant Luna Chapter 38

Nathan POV

He was watching both Jay-la and Stephen in the cars revision mirror as he drove away from the pack house.

They were waving and smiling, he chuckled to himself " They think it got past me."

"Hm, I bet she was extra attentive last night, huh."

Nathan cleared his throat and glanced at the children, they were all sitting in the back seat chatting happily amongst themselves. Seems they were excited to be going out to buy their mum a birthday present as well. Stephen had been right about that.

This was the very first time he was going to be out with them on his own, without Jay-la and hed seen on occasion that they could be a handful, hoped that today would go well, that they wouldn't be too much for him and Jackson to handle. He'd left Ethan at the pack under the guise of helping Franklin, the pack doctor, research, though he was actually there to tell him what was going on.

He had told Ethan what he suspected was going on, not to worry too much if Stephen suddenly disappeared off pack territory he was expecting as much. Had seen Ethan just shake his head and chuckle "I didn't think he'd still be here to be honest."

It didn't take long for the call to come through just half an hour, plenty of time for him to be far enough away that he wouldn't make it back to stop his Gamma from leaving, no real surprise on that one.

Though the second call he got from Ethan just 10 minutes later made him frown, when Ethan told him that Jay-la had also gone off pack territory with Stephen that they had taken Jay-las car.

That his own father, Blaine, had strolled into the Alpha's office where Ethan had been sitting and had looked right at Ethan and stated, "Out of my chair boy, the Luna has put me in charge, until Nathan comes back. Seeing as she's also no longer here."

Ethan had looked into her where about, after that. Found out that Nathan's plane was being prepped to leave, cheeky bloody woman had commandeered his own plane to get the Gamma to his mate. He did like that she had taken her car, liked that she used it all the time. Obviously, she was going to drive Stephen to the air strip herself. Likely order the pilot not to bring him back if Nathan called and told him to.

"Likely ordered him to go to his Mate." Jackson chuckled "

There'll be no punishing him for this you know, not even taking your plane. If she ordered that as well, you know that right."

"I do." He smiled, "It's fine, now that I've seen she's really happy, it's okay for him to be gone a few days or a week."

"Hm, did you just hear yourself?"

“I know what I said.” He smiled.

“Okay...but I don’t think you fully understand just how devious that Mate of yours could be, or understand what you really just said.”

He looked at Jackson a bit confused

“We’ll wait on that, huh!” Jackson smiled right at him.

They parked at the shopping centre and he let the children wander about, looking for something for their mother. In and out of stores, none of them really knew what they wanted to get her. They were happy looking at anything and everything, until they saw the ice cream place that was.

Then all their attention was diverted to it, they all ran over there to it wanting to have ice cream. It was barely ten thirty in the morning and he shook his head at them. “How about, we shop some more, have lunch and then you can have ice cream.” He thought that was a good compromise to make. Also made him a good parent by not giving them ice cream at that hour of the day.

He saw all three of them look up at him, three sets of green eyes right on him and then they were suddenly begging him and grabbing onto him, like they had done that day back in the pack where he had caved and given them everything they wanted. Jay-la had told him he had to learn to say no to them.

He said “Not now, later.” And they were all pouting up at him, was going to cave and he knew it, was going to have to steal himself against those three adorable pouting faces of his children, looked at Jackson for moral support and the man just shook his head “Your children.” He laughed right at him.

Took a deep breath and tried to put his foot down as gently as possible, didn’t want to upset them, had never had to admonish them in the past few weeks of them being in his life, didn’t exactly know how it would go down.

“Mum, would let us.” Lilly told him right away.

He heard Jackson snort with full amusement, took a breath in and said “No, Lilly. After lunch you can all have ice cream.” He kept his tone light but firm and tried to take both girls’ hands to lead them away from the ice-cream place. Couldn’t he realized, hold onto all three of them, watched as both his daughters ran away from him and Nate laughed a little.

He had to take another breath in, was not at all used to people in his pack not doing as he said, even the small children listened to him, they all knew who he was and did as they were told. Not his children, it seemed, he managed to snag Rosalie, but Lilly was gone in

the other direction, ran right behind and then around Jackson and Nate, who were both just standing watching him.

His own children were drawing unwanted attention to him.

There were several people staring at him as they walked by, heard one woman state “Control your children.”

Lilly was yelling at him that “Mum would let us.”

Another passer by commented “I guess, mum wears the pants, in that family.” With a snicker.

He sighed and stopped trying to chase her about, despite his size and larger steps she was actually pretty fast and used the strangers walking about to hinder him. He could see there was no point in continuing to try and get her, it was just causing a bigger scene.

Nathan realised that he had no idea how Jay-la managed the three of them, sighed, she’d warned him they would try and walk all over him, that he had to learn to put his foot down. Frowned right at his wayward daughter, who was now standing glaring at him, that Alpha blooded defiance on full display for him to see,

, “Lilly come here.” He told her

firmly.

“NO, I want ice cream.” She shot right back at him.

He handed Rosalie to Jackson. “Please take her.” he said, and Jackson did, Rosalie went without issue. It appeared that Lilly was the only one on the ice cream train, Nate had not kicked up a fuss about being told no, only the girls had, and Rosalie had stopped once hed snagged her.

“Lilly, I said no.”

“Mum would say yes.” She stated right back.

“Mums not here, I am.”

“Then call her, she will say yes.”

Nathan sighed a little on the heavy side now. “I’m not going to call her Lilly, you’re out with me, you’ll do as I tell you.” he told her, tried to be firm with her, find his dad’s voice.

“I’m having ice cream.” She suddenly yelled at him and then just ran over to the ice-cream place right up to the counter.

He damn near snarled at his daughters' defiant attitude." Lilly that is enough." He snapped right at her. "I said no. I meant it. There will be no ice-cream, period."

Watched as those green eyes of hers turned right on him and knew instantly she was going to cry, this was the first time he had ever raised his voice to any of them. Saw her lower lip quiver and then she just started crying and sobbing before his eyes, he walked over to her to pick her up with a sigh. Hed not meant to make her cry, only to have her run around him and right over to Nate, stood right next to him.

He saw his own boy stare right at him as he took her hand in his, he was frowning right at him, didn't like that hed made his sister cry. It didn't take long for Rosalie to start crying after that, less than a minute and he had to sobbing girls. He'd gone from happy children to unhappy children in the matter of a few minutes and all over ice-cream. He stood and looked at his children.

"How does she do this?"

"Maybe you should ask her how."

He could only nod his head and say, "I will have to I guess." But he did want to show Jay-la that he could handle the three of them when out on his own. He was now just realising how very hard her life must have been, and wondered what she did, when they were like this. Did she give into them? Or hold firm and deal with the tears and tantrums?

Hunkered down in front of Lilly. "I didn't mean to yell at you, or make you cry." He told her gently and reached out to pick her up, she actually let him, but didn't say anything, was still sobbing. He looked at Nate, he was the only one not crying, stood up and took his hand. "Come on, let's find mum a present."

Jackson, he saw was rubbing Rosalie's back. The man smiled at him. "Not so easy, I guess."

"No." he could only agree with him.

Nate didn't cry at all, but both girls did, sobbed for a good ten minutes before settling down, Lilly squirmed to get out of his arms, to be put down, and he let her down, watched as she took Nate's hand and walked with him, saw Rosalie follow suit and he and Jackson walked along behind them, the three children were just quiet now.

Nathan found himself not really knowing how to deal with them, they were always happy back in the pack. He'd thought today would be just the same, was standing with them while Jackson was looking at jewellery for Margaret, rubbed his chest and frowned as it ached more than a little.

He didn't think he was far enough away from Jay-la to cause himself any issues, though he did know what that ache inside his chest meant, it meant that they were far apart from each other. So far apart that his bond to her made his chest ache.

Saw Jackson look at his action "Might want to think about your words now." He commented.

"What?"

"Does your chest hurt? Mine doesn't."

"A little, yes."

"Why would it?"

"Mm, I'd be willing to bet it's going to get worse as the day goes on."

Saw Jackson pay for his purchase and stroll out the store.

"Didn't you tell Stephen he had to stay with Jay-la." He commented casually.

"Yes." He frowned right at him.

"And where do you think Stephen is right now?"

"On his way to Suzy, I imagine." He shrugged "Why?"

"Yes..." Jackson stared right at him, and after a few seconds "So..."

"So?" he stared right at him.

"My goddess you're completely dumb sometimes."

Jackson shook his head. "Stephen is with Jay-la."

"No, Jay-la took Stephen to the airstrip, she's in the Pack."

"How's that chest ache going for you, I don't ache at all." Jackson smirked, "Your Gamma and your Luna, were hatching a scheme for Stephen to go to L.A. and you told your Gamma, he had to go wherever Jay-la went."

"No, she wouldn't just leave." Turned his eyes to the children, then back to Jackson mind-linked right to him ' She wouldn't just leave them with me all alone.'

“Why not? You’re their father. They’d be perfectly safe with you and Havoc.’

He frowned now as he really paid attention to his aching chest, it was already stronger than a few minutes ago,-heard his own wolf huff, annoyed inside his mind

“And you thought it would be good to have her mischievous side back?”

“You knew?”

“No..but I suspected as much.”

“Why didn’t you say something?”

“It’s not my place to tell the Luna, what she can or can’t do.

You should have seen it coming with that rule you have about them being together.”

Wanted to curse at the man, refrained himself and pulled out his phone, dialled Ethan
“Where is Jay-la?” he asked right away.

“With Stephen still, hasn’t come back yet.”

“Stephen is going to see Suzy.” He muttered.

“Then my guess is, she’s on that plane with him, she’s not returned from the airstrip yet.”

“Just great.” He muttered and hung up, looked right at Jackson “She is with Stephen.”

“Well, at least she isn’t alone,

, has Stephen with her and

there are four warriors out there, one’s which Stephen hand-picked to protect her.”

He could see all the children looking up at him now. He smiled down at them, and nearly groaned out loud as he realised why he had the children. He couldn’t get mad while around them, even if he got a call through to her, wouldn’t be able to yell at her or be angry with her in front of all of them. It would upset them.

“Might as well, get the shopping done. She’s got a five hour flight, plenty of time for you to think about how to respond.

” Jackson told him.

“I’m already thinking about it.” he muttered, he was going to use his parent’s Jet to fly right over there the minute he got back, was going to be several hours behind her, likely she would arrive as he was leaving or close enough to it.

Stephen had better stick to her like glue or he was in for the beating of his life.

If anything happened to Jay-la on that man’s watch, all hell was going to break loose. Looked back at the children. ” Come on let’s get your mother a gift, and then I will go and get her.” he half muttered

“You’ll bring Suzy back too?” the girls both asked him.

Even Havoc huffed inside his mind, as they both realised the children knew she’d left. She had obviously talked to them about going away, shook his head. Of course she would have. Wouldn’t have wanted them to worry, she wouldn’t just up and leave without telling them where she was going.

“Yes.” He nodded, there wasn’t much he could do right this minute, and yelling at her wasn’t likely going to work either.

She had wanted to close out her human life by herself, likely was just doing that, it was something that he also wanted. Though he was unhappy that he wasn’t with her, it was too late to do anything about it now.

They continued to shop, let the triplets pick out a gift, one from each of them and bought them ice cream as he’d promised to do earlier in the day. Jackson drove them back to the pack while he was on the phone organising for his parent’s jet to be on full standby for him to follow Jay-la to L.A.

They weren’t using it, likely that vacation they were supposed to be on was on permanent hold for them, or at least until his little brother was born anyway.

He walked the triplets into the pack house to find Ethan and his father waiting for him, saw his father’s smirk, bloody bastard knew what was going on as well.

“Father?”

“Son, did you have a nice shopping trip?”

“Did you know?” he asked right back.

“Yes, I don’t see any harm in it. She’s with Stephen, will be just fine.”

“You’re sure of that?”

Watched his father think about that for a full two minutes, then nod “Yes, I already see her here and your son playing with my son, later in life, so everything will be fine.”

Stared right at that man, more than shocked “You what?”

“Its curious even to me.” He stated “I’ve always seen

Jay-la’s boy playing with my boy. Even when she was not here, I always saw it.” he shrugged “Meant to be I guess, though I didn’t pick him as yours all this time.” Shook his head. “Just always knew she would end up back in the pack someday and her son and my son would play together.”

Nathan was really staring at him now “and you never once said anything at all. Didn’t think to mention it.”

“No, didn’t see a need to. I saw she was here and happy.

That was all that mattered, it would happen when it was meant to, I guess.”

“Is he my son?”

“Yes, now that I look at it, he will look more like her side of the family, have her dark hair and her green eyes, kind of look like Jodi actually. Probably why I didn’t pick him as yours. The boys will be the same age nearly too.”

Blinked at that, his parents were already pregnant. “Is she pregnant now?” He couldn’t but help to ask. Shed been in heat, it was possible, even Havoc right this minute was excited at the prospect.

“I don’ know, go put your paws on her, use your Alpha senses, it’s been over a week since her heat, you or Havoc should pick up something even if she and Kora don’t.

“

He smiled at the thought of it, was now itching even more to get over there to find out. He’d not been focused on trying to make a baby, he was just happy being with her, they had three children. He wasn’t trying to get a baby out of her. Though Havoc was another matter.

“Jackson, go pack, Ethan, you’ll be in charge, father stay out of my office.”

“Oh it’s too late to spoil my fun now, son.” His father laughed and walked off happy with himself and whatever dealings he’d made while he was back in charge. Nathan wasn’t even going to bother asking him what it was. If it was really important, his father would tell him. likely just bought something very expensive was all. It would show up on the

man's pack card or the pack's accountant would call him with the concern about the amount.

The Defiant Luna Chapter 39

Jay-la POV

Jay-la looked right at Stephen when his phone rang and he said "He we go Jay-la." Showed her the caller ID, it was Nathan. Watched him answer it, "Yes Nathan." He put it on speaker phone so she could hear it all.

"Where are you, Stephen?" Nathan asked, sounded calm she noticed, not what she expected.

"On your plane, boss." Stephen answered.

"Why?"

"That's a bit more difficult to answer."

"Just try and explain to me why my private jet is three quarters away across the country without me, without my permission."

"I was ordered by the Luna to use it. Ordered by the Luna to go and get my Mate."

"My Luna, wouldn't happen to be sitting across from you now, would she?"

Jay-la bit down on the laugh that was bubbling inside of her, he was trying to play nice about this, it seemed "She would be." Stephen smiled to himself as he looked right at her. "You are on speaker phone boss."

"Sweetheart, why are you three quarters away across the country from me?"

"Well, I do believe Stephen wasn't allowed to leave the pack, because you were worried I might need him. So, I have to go where he goes." She smiled.

"Hm, that is not exactly what I meant, I see you think it is more than amusing."

"I did find a tiny loophole in your order for him to be wherever I was. It is my job to exploit those loopholes on behalf of my clients." She chuckled, couldn't help it and seeing as he wasn't mad, let him see how funny, she thought it was.

"Oh is it...Since when is Stephen your client?"

“Hmm, I guess you could now say, that everyone in the pack is considered a client of mine. I am the Luna and they will come to me for advice.”

“You couldn’t wait just two more days?” he asked.

“No.” she shook her head “Stephen has the biggest puppy dog eyes I’ve ever seen. How could I say no to him.” watched as Stephen pout right at her and put his chin in his hand, batted his lashes at her, she reached over and wacked him as she burst out laughing at him.

“I see the two of you are having fun then. Enjoying my private jet.”

“Our private Jet.” She corrected him. “You told me yourself everything you own, I, as the Luna, now own as well.”

Heard him sigh and heard Jackson burst out laughing in the background “I’m trailing you, in mum and dads Jet, just so you know.”

“Oh, is it big enough for all of us and Suzy’s family?”

“Ours is, as you are aware, have commandeered it for yourself.”

She looked around the plane, it did seat a dozen she could see, “It does, and it’s comfy as well...Are you mad at me?” she asked the question she needed an answer to, for her own inner thoughts.

“No Jay-la. A little annoyed, but not mad, I’m only going to be 4 hours behind you.”

“Okay.” Though that was going to be a bit of a hinderance to her, she didn’t yet know if she could get in, to see Tim and talk with him or Eric for that matter before he arrived, would have to try and sort that out right away.

“Where are we staying?” he asked her.

“My apartment.” She did intend to stay there. Stephen she knew, would stay in the hotel he had Suzy and her family in, would want to be close to her at all times.

“I’ll meet you there then, shall I? Stephen.”

“Yes boss.”

“If anything happens to Jay-la, it’s on your head, you are clear on that, yes?”

“Yes, but nothing will happen. I have got two warriors meeting us at the air strip, we’re all good, I assure you.

“You had better keep her safe, Stephen.”

“I will, I am her Gamma and I want nothing more than her safety and well-being, for her to be happy!”

“Other than being with Suzy.”

“It was an Order. I just followed it. Didn’t have much choice.

” Stephen reminded him.

“Hmm, ‘ll deal with you later. Jay-la sweetheart, you and I will have to talk about this.”

“Why? We were planning on coming in two days’ time anyway. So, I came ahead of you.” dropped a double meaning into her sentence, her voice all soft and silken ” You always let me come before you.” and she saw Stephen try not to laugh, heard Jackson chuckle. It was not lost on any of them.

“Sweetheart?”

“Well, you do!” she pout a little “Is that going to stop now?”

Heard even him chuckle “No.”

“Are you sure, I was naughty” She added a little of her old self in that sentence, it was something she used to say to him back in the day.

Got growled at by him and knew Havoc was right there as well. Heard Kora growl right back all playfully and burst out laughing herself, tapped the end call button before it got out of hand.

“See Jay-la, I told you he would be fine, you have nothing to worry about.” Stephen told her with a full smile.

It was actually a relief to her. Shed not known how this was going to go down, had herself chosen to go for the fun and playful interaction with him, like shed done once upon a time, and thankfully he seemed to respond well to it.

“He wasn’t mad.” She nodded.

“I think he really liked that playful side of you.”

“I got that.” She smiled.

“Might find yourself n***d very quickly, with that naughty comment.”

She chuckled “Hmm, Blaine did tell me,

being n***d would

help distract him.”

“It certainly will, you even had Havoc up and all attention.”

That he was, though his beast was easily roused by anything with s****| innuendo, was an Alpha wolf that loved mating his mate at any given moment.

They landed and she called Tim’s office number as they walked from the plane to the car, there were two pack warriors waiting for them as Stephen had said there would be. They might have snuck off on their own, but he was still diligent in his duty of keeping her safe.

Tim was in court and wouldn’t be free till right before lunch, she asked his secretary to please pencil her in for a few minutes, and she did. Put a call into Tim’s mobile and got his message bank, let him know she was in town and wanted to speak with him, that shed had his secretary pencil her in before lunch when he was free.

She had called him early this morning as well and told him she would be coming this morning, Nathan had been at training and it was the wee hours of the morning for Tim, knew he wouldn’t take her call at that hour but would get her message first thing when he woke up.

She got in the car and called Eric. He was in a board meeting, requested for a time to see him as well, pretty much got the same thing. He was busy all morning but was due in his office for lunch. His secretary allotted her into that time. Not much she could do about it.

Looked at the time and calculated how long she would have, before Nathan arrived. Would she get both meetings done before he arrived? She doubted it. Could only wait and see.

They headed right for the hotel where Suzy was staying.

She could actually see Stephen getting a little nervous in the car. Smiled at him “She’ll love you in person. Did you call her and tell her you were coming today?”

“No, I thought I’d surprise her.”

Jay-la nodded he’d not actually spoken to her in person, snuck around and watched her when he’d been here the last time. And though they saw each other on the video calls, he’d not talked to her in person ever. It was cute to watch him get all nervous to come face to face with his Mate, for the very first time.

It wasn't all that long a drive an hour to the hotel from the airstrip they'd landed at. That was good for L.A. traffic, she called Suzy as they walked into the hotel and headed for the elevator.

"Hi Jay-la, how are you and the children?"

"Good, all settled in, the children miss you a lot. I'm here in L.A., I thought I'd drop by."

"Now might not be the best time." She sighed heavily down the line. "The insurance company is adamant they are not paying and mum, she is at a complete loss."

"I'm sorry to hear that, but perhaps now is a good time to sit down and discuss a holiday for her and your sister." She said as they got out of the elevator and headed for her room.

"I don't know Jay-la, mum is currently ranting in full Spanish."

"Well, Suzy. I'm outside your door." Jay-la reached out and pressed the doorbell.

"What?" it took only a few seconds before she opened the door. "Hi."

Jay-la disconnected the call "Hi, I brought a friendly face with me." She said right away and stepped aside so Suzy could see Stephen, saw Suzy's brown eyes move right to him, and saw her suck in a deep breath "Stephen this is Suzy...Suzy, Stephen." She introduced them officially to each other.

"Hello Suzy." Stephen smiled right at her, "It's nice to finally be here in person."

He was dressed in light grey slacks and a white dress shirt, looked very nice for his first in-person meeting with Suzy.

"Hi." Her voice sounded a little breathless to Jay-la.

Jay-la smiled as she watched Suzy take him in. She was all of five foot four inches, a tiny woman herself with curly brown hair and chocolate brown eyes, she was looking up at a man that was six foot two. She'd not actually met him in person, and he was not a small lad. Muscled up to the hilt as most Gamma's were. She saw Suzy take in a deep breath, then take a slight step forward and extend her hand to him "Nice to meet you finally."

Watched as Stephen took her hand and stepped right up to her, lifted her hand to his lips and kissed the back of it, saw Suzy blush beet red and her eyes go very wide.

Watched him reach out and tuck a loose curl of Suzy's hair behind her ear as she stood smiling down at her.

He was just standing there taking her in and Jay-la knew it, every little detail, both he and his wolf were watching her, likely memorising her scent and her looks, saw him actually

breathe in and his smile soften a little as he relaxed in her presence. Finally, where he wanted to be.

She waited, there was no rush and she needed this meeting to go well, Suzy, though she was willing to come out for a month, had not actually said yes to a permanent job. Was still worried about being so far from her family. She and Stephen were going to convince her mother to give her approval.

“Suzy, who is at that door?” It was her mother Elena, she was now at the door. “Oh, it’s your boss’s friend.”

“Hello Mrs Martinez.” Jay-la said, making herself known.

“Miss Freeman, it’s been awhile.”

“It has,” she nodded, been almost a year since shed seen the woman, not since she’d driven Suzy home. That time her car had broken down, and Elena had insisted on her and the children coming inside for a thank you cup of coffee and a piece of cake. “May Stephen and I come in please, we’d like a moment of your time.”

She saw as Suzy pulled her hand from Stephen’s and she stepped back away from him, saw him frown a little, but then pull himself together quickly and greet Suzy’s mother himself.

“Mrs Martinez, it is so good to meet you in person, finally.”

Smiled right at her.

Watched Elena eye him off for a moment and then just smile up at him. “You’re a rather large man, aren’t you?”

“I am.” He nodded with a soft chuckle “Or is it just because you’re so tiny and petite?” She was a small woman of only five feet, and she was petite at that.

Saw Elena chuckle herself “Still as funny as ever, I see.”

“I try to be.” he nodded “May we come in for a little while.”

Elena nodded. “I’ll make coffee.”

They all walked inside the hotel suite and Jay-la looked about her. It was indeed a nice suite, she knew Stephen was paying for it, perhaps she realised the pack should be paying for it, could well be, she hoped so, seeing as Nathan had been the one stopping Stephen from coming out here for weeks now.

She sat herself in a single chair, knowing that would put Stephen on the lounge with Suzy, saw the girl blush a little as she sat down and he sat right next to her, heard him murmur softly “I missed talking to you last night.” Coffee was made and brought to them, Jay-la smiled and thanked Elena, practically moaned as she sipped the coffee, was the best damn coffee she’d ever had.

“I hear you could all use a break from the stress your under.

” Jay-la said once Elena sat down.

Saw Elena glare right at Suzy. She didn’t like anyone knowing her business, or thinking that her daughter was going around talking about it, she was a private person and a proud woman at that. But Jay-la had to approach the subject at hand somehow.

“My offer still stands, for all of you to come and have a break, a holiday with us in New York State, we don’t live in the big city itself. It is peaceful and relaxing out where we live. Also pretty with it snowing, I brought some photo’s.” and she had, got her phone out and showed the pictures shed taken, the snow covered woods, the town’s houses with snow filled yards and snow covered roof tops. As well as the entertainment zones. The indoor gym and pool.

“Stephen has even secured you a suite, one with three bedrooms, so you can all stay together.”

“That’s very presumptuous of him.” she remarked as she looked through the photo’s.

“It was.” Jay-la nodded. “But Suzy has expressed her interest to both of us in coming out and working for me still. I was hoping that you as her mother, might want to come out for a short visit, to look at where she would live and work. Approve the place yourself.”

“Considerate of you Jay-la.”

“I love Suzy and so do my children. They also miss her terribly; ask daily when she’s going to be coming out to look after them again.”

“They are cute, those three.” Elena nodded, “and one day my Suzy will get married and then give me grandchildren of my own to spoil.”

“Mama.” Suzy blushed fiercely.

“Marriage first girl, then babies you know the rules.” She saw Stephen smile at Suzy’s embarrassment, and thought it was cute, she supposed. He, however, did not know Elena meant that for real. Would likely be disappointed in her daughter if it was the other way around.

The Defiant Luna Chapter 40

Jay-la POV

Jay-la walked into Tim's office. Stephen was sitting out in the waiting area, hadn't gotten up at all, had no intention of going into that office with her. Didn't need to either, his hearing would pick everything up from out here.

Tim was pacing around his office, papers in his hand reading. She'd seen that many times before, over the years that she had known him, before she had dated him and while dating him. It was a completely normal thing for him to do while he was working. Thinking on his feet.' He called it.

He looked right at her when she walked into his office, she'd been announced by his secretary, who then vacated the office and closed the door behind her. She watched him put the papers down on his desk and close the file they had been in. Confidently was a must for his job.

Then he stood and looked over her. "I'm really alright Tim."

She told him, smiled even.

"Look's it." he nodded without smiling, "Have a seat on the couch Jay-la."

She did, it was a bit weird, she kind of felt like he was her lawyer, shook it off as she sat down, "How are you, Tim?"

"I'm actually good myself," He stated, as he sat in the single armchair opposite her.

"I'd like to apologise Tim, I'm sorry. There is a lot going on, and I wanted to talk to you in person not over the Phone."

"I get it Jay-la. You're going to live and work there now. Eric told me you dropped the charges against that man."

"I did." She nodded "He never actually hurt me, never laid a hand on me."

"The k*****g was his doing though."

There wasn't much she could say on that topic, there had been video footage of it. "It wasn't supposed to happen like it did. We've sat and talked about it now."

"Or that's what he tells you, to get you to drop those charges...are you and he...back together now?"

“Yes.” She answered him, wasn’t going to lie or delay the truth, he had a right to know.

“Is he out there?” His hand indicated to his waiting room.

“No, I left to come and talk to you, without telling him.

“Do you have to tell him everywhere you go? Seems a bit controlling to me.”

“He can be.” Jay-la acknowledged “I am sorry Tim, about how this ended, you and I. It’s not what I expected at all to be honest.”

She turned at the sound of his office door opening, and watched a young lady stroll in. “Honey, I thought we could have lunch.” Watched as she walked right over to Tim, saw her narrow her eyes right on Jay-la and then look at Tim with a deep frown and a questioning look.

“I have to be back in court in one hour, Grace this is Jay-la.

Jay-la, Grace.” He introduced them to each other.

“I know who she is to you Tim.” She murmured, sounded somewhat annoyed as she sat herself on the arm of Tim’s chair and then placed his hand on her thigh. He didn’t stop her, Jay-la also noticed the diamond ring on the girl’s left hand as she linked her fingers with his.

“Congratulates.” Jay-la said to him “I didn’t know you’d gotten engaged.”

“It’s recent,” he told her simply “The announcement will officially be made, tomorrow.”

“Just this morning, in fact.” Grace smiled at her, then looked at the ring. “Isn’t it perfect, he knows me so well.”

“It’s very nice.” Jay-la smiled at Grace, she was staking her claim on the man. It looked to Jay-la that she came from a wealthy family as well, she was dressed impeccably, in brand name clothing.

“Grace, if you could give Jay-la and I a few minutes alone, then we’ll go and have lunch.”

She smiled right at him “I’d like that.” She said and stood up.

Jay-la watched him walk her to the door and she reached up and kissed him on the mouth, before he closed it, looked right at him, was very curious, it was good to see that he’d moved on, but he’d not said anything at all. If he had she’d likely not have needed to come here at all.

“I’ve known Grace for a long time, most of my life actually, weve dated on and off like you and I did.”

“She seems nice.”

“Is my family’s choice.” He nodded as he sat down.

“May I ask how long you’ve been seeing her?” she was curious, seeing as they were engaged, shed only been gone a few weeks. Not many people get engaged that quickly.

“Annoyed are we Jay-la?”

“No Tim, I’m actually happy for you.” and she was, didn’t have so much guilt.

“I’ve been seeing her as long as I’ve known you,” he answered.

That shocked her more than a bit. “Both of us at the same time?”

“Yes, she knew the whole time. Didn’t much like it.” he shrugged “But she has been patient and was willing to wait for me to make a clear cut decision between the two of you.”

“Honestly Tim, I never saw us getting married. Did you?”

“I don’t know. But you’re completely different to her. You’re not clingy or emotionally demanding. You didn’t mind us only have s*x and hanging out. The s*x is also very different with you compared to her.”

Jay-a raised an eyebrow at him, “Alright.” She knew she was demanding in that department, liked to be in control and could be rough at times, was a part of who she truly was and her need to sate herself, not really doable with a human. Not completely anyway. “You got engaged this morning though?” that couldn’t be a coincidence.

“I did.” He nodded “You and I, are done right?”

“Yes.” She nodded.

“Then I will marry Grace. She’s put in her due’s where I’m concerned and waited years for me. Loves me, spent many nights at mine over the years, even though she knew about you and I.”

“Why did I not know about her? If she knew about me?”

“I honestly didn’t think you’d like that” He shrugged “You’re not the type to share.”

"I'm not." Jay-la agreed with him, if she had known about Grace would have ended it with Tim right away. "She was just okay with you sleeping with me? I don't understand that, Tim."

"She loves me Jay-la. Understands, that what you I had, the hard roughness and the sheer duration of s*x, I really enjoy that, she however is not up for that, so..." he shrugged once more, "allowed me that with you."

Jay-la just stared at him now, apparently she didn't know Tim at all. He had two women all this time, "Well, I guess she gave you, what I couldn't."

"Yes, honesty" He commented, "Devotion and love, and she is still willing to share me with another on occasion."

"That is very unusual Tim." She shook her head "I would get that in writing in your prenup."

"It will be, I will also allow her the same. Weve got an understanding."

"As long as your happy Tim."

"She's lovely, and wants to marry me, I know her family as well. So, it's all good." He told her.

"Well, I'll let you go and have lunch with your future wife."

She smiled at him and stood up.

"I hope for your sake Jay-la, Nathan Browning shows you the same kind of devotion and loyalty as Grace does me."

"He does." She nodded and left his office.

She found Stephen standing waiting on her, also found Grace looking at her, she smiled at her, even held the door for her to go into Tim's office.

'That was weird even for me Jay-la. Stephen mind-linked to her.

'I honestly had no idea he was with Grace, or that she even knew about me.*

'Oh she did. He commented 'Did not like you being in there alone with him at all. Muttered he was her fiancé now. That you'd better not be in there asking him to take you back

Jay-la looked at him 'Shell be happy, I didn't'

“I think he would have if you wanted it. Sounds like she also thought he would*

“She’s got nothing to worry about on that front.’

I never once heard him state he was happy Jay-la.’

She pressed the elevator button to wait for it to take them to go up to Eric’s office, she’d not heard him state he was happy either, only that she’d paid her dues and was his family’s choice for a wife. He was likely going to need one hell of a prenup or that girl was going to get everything he had, when he decided to go out and sleep with another, as he stated he would.

It was going to be one weird prenup, and she wondered if the girl’s family would be allowed to see it at all. If it was her and that was going into her prenup she wouldn’t want her family knowing that her husband was going to stepping out on her, whenever he felt like it, to have the type of s*x that she wouldn’t give him. Nearly sighed out loud, likely that girl deserved better.

She and Stephen headed for her office and she saw her secretary smile at her “Jay-la, you’re back?” He seemed happy to see her.

“Only for a few days, sorry.”

He sighed “I thought as much...Eric’s had people in and out of your office the past few days, and your clients are being divided up amongst the other lawyers, from what I can tell.”

She nodded “To be expected.” There was nothing else she could say. “Am I allowed in my office? Eric did know I was coming today.”

“He didn’t say you weren’t.”

She sighed, “I’d better not without permission.” Turned and headed back to the elevator to go up to Eric’s office, though they were going to be early now. Arrived and Eric’s secretary waved her and Stephen at the chairs in his waiting area.

“Not likely to go so well, Jay-la.” Stephen commented as he sat down next to her.

“No it’s not. But I knew that coming here, likely going to be yelled at, probably best that Nathan is not here.”

“Agreed. He would not stand for it.”

She saw Eric come from his meeting and look right at her, look at Stephen and then just frown and state flatly “My office Jay-la.” Then turn to his secretary. “Is it printed?”

“Yes, on your desk awaiting your signature Eric.” She answered him as Jay-la stood up.

“Good.” He nodded, looked back at Jay-la “I don’t have all day Jay-la.” He snapped right at her.

She walked into his office and he closed the door behind him. “Good to see that man knows he’s not welcome in this office.”

“His name is Stephen.”

“I don’t much care for his name Jay-la.” He remarked as he walked behind his desk and picked up a piece of paper to read it “Sit.” He stated

She sat and waited, watched him as he put the paper down and then signed it, then just sat behind his desk and stared at her for a long quiet minute. Jay-la understood he was more than annoyed with her, but there wasn’t much she could say that hadn’t already been said over the phone.

“Where is Nathan Browning?”

“Not here.”

“Let you come out here on your own, did he?”

“He didn’t really get a say in it. I just left to come here.

“

Saw him lean forward now “You left?”

“Not like that, Eric. I did not leave him. I just came here on my own to talk to you is all.”

“Not on your own, that is one of his CEO’s out there.”

“Yes, I grew up with Stephen, actually I came here with him, he had business here, I just hitched a ride.”

“I don’t really care to be honest. You disappoint me, are a good lawyer, fitted in well here. Usually have an excellent work ethic, now...I don’t see that anymore.”

“Extenuating circumstances Eric, you knew where I was, I answered every call, and all your questions at that.”

“Left the company for over nearly three weeks now, you missed your court dates, and I had to have things rescheduled, appoint new lawyers, get permission from your clients,

after explaining you were off on the other side of the country and not likely to come back as well.”

“Most of my clients would have moved over to Gillian or Adrian without issue. We all work together, when more than one Lawyer is involved, you know this, put us all together.” She remarked right back, knowing it wouldn’t have really been that hard for him to do, if he himself had done it.

Which she doubted, likely Gillian or Adrian themselves would have made those calls.

“You’re here to do what Jay-la? Resign, I presume. I know that man and his company have a law firm, looked into him myself.” He completely ignored her remark.

“I know you did.” She nodded “And yes, that is why I am here.”“

“Well, don’t bother.” He stood and picked up that piece of paper, walked around his desk and handed it to her ” Despite your being a good lawyer, with a good track record.

We here at Stanton and Co, no longer require your services.

“

Jay-la sighed as she read the letter, it was a letter of termination of her current contract. Which she was under, and due to be renewed in just over a month. It stated she was derelict in her duties, had failed to turn up for court or to her office for the entire period of work she had missed.

That the company and it’s entire board, now saw that she was irresponsible and they no longer believed she fit with the company’s core values. It was effective immediately.

She looked up at him after reading it, he didn’t look happy at all, though she had watched him sign it right in front of her. He had wanted her to see him sign it and knew it.

That letter of termination had a break of contract fee on it, which it stated she had to pay, even though they were breaking it, she was expected to pay them out the reason listed for her having to pay it ‘as per above.’

Frowned at him now,

, “What did you expect would happen,

Jay-la?”

Shed not expected that, “I’ll have a check made out Eric.” She stated there was nothing else she could state.

“You’ll also be receiving a complete bill, for my time, for all this company’s time and efforts on your behalf.” He stated as his office door opened

They both turned to see who would walk into his office unannounced, not many she knew would do that. She nearly sighed when she watched Nathan walk in and stroll across the room. He was wearing a full three-piece business suit and tie, in dark charcoal gray, dressed for the office or any interaction between Eric and himself, she thought.

He looked at her, looked at Eric and stated “Ill just pay it now, write it up.” He took the letter from her hand and glanced at it, then looked right at Eric. He didn’t look happy either.

She watched the two of them come face to face for the first time ever and stood up to step between them, she had no idea what would happen between them.

“Fine.” Eric stated, leaned over his desk and hit his intercom “Stacey have Jay-la’s bill prepared at once, call accounting and tell them it will be paid today. Immediately, don’t make them wait on it.”

Turned and looked back at Nathan. “I hope that card of yours is unlimited, she had a lot of lawyers.”

“It will be pocket change for me, and Jay-la is worth every penny I have. She’ll now be free and clear of you. From today, won’t have to take your calls.”

“Good luck Jay-la...I hope the man is faithful this time, unlike the last time you two were together.” Shw watched Eric turn and go and sit behind his desk. It was a low blow and one that was uncalled for as well.

“I am sorry, Eric.”

“So am I.” he stated flatly “The door is open, go and collect your personal belongings, pay your bill and go Jay-la.

She sighed as she turned to leave his office, stopped when she didn’t hear Nathan follow her. “Nathan?”

Saw him lean on Eric’s desk and put his phone in front of Eric. “Family emergencies, are acceptable reasons to be away from work unexpectedly. Jay-la’s mother was attacked by a wolf. These are her injuries. Take a good look, see for yourself. If you like Mr Stanton, I can hold another press conference and show all your clients and shareholders, that you fired Jay-la for dereliction of duty, when really, she was attending a family emergency. That you clearly knew about, your company is breaking her contract, not her.”

“She came here to resign.” Eric stated.

“She did, but you didn’t give her the chance to, sacked her and broke that contract yourself. I now have the written proof here in my hand of why it is so very wrong. Lets go to battle Eric, see who wins. I could pit Jay-la up against you, she loves contract law. Does that sound good to you? Do you think you’ll win?”

She was watching Eric look through the photos and he was frowning

“I can also produce the medical paperwork to prove what injuries her mother sustained, the severity of them, how close to death she actually was...” watched Eric look right at Nathan “You needn’t be so harsh, to someone going through a family crisis. Or an employee you clearly normally respected and valued.” He picked his phone up “I will pay the bill and this.” He waved the termination paper at Eric,

, “Then I’ll hand it to my lawyers to sue you for wrongful dismissal. Goodbye Eric, I’ll see you in court, I hope you and your company enjoy the publicity you’re about to get.” He turned to leave the office. “Oh Eric.” He smiled from the doorway “I hope your funds are unlimited, mine certainly are.” Then he stepped out of the office and looked right at her as she held the door open.

She sighed once more, closed the door to Eric’s office and asked “Was that really necessary?”

“Yes.” He stated with a frown down at her “Come on, let’s go and get your things.”

“Why are you even here?” she asked him.

“I’m here because you are here. You left without me, used the children to hide the fact you were leaving even.”

“I did not.” She walked ahead of him. “You wanted to take them shopping, I just let you.”

“You had your own agenda, as well.”

“Yes I did.” She acknowledged “Give me that.” She took the letter from him and headed back down to her office, “I’m not going to sue him. I’ll just pay it.”

“You could win that easily.”

“I’m not going to take Eric to court. The man hired me right out of Law School, gave me a job and let me keep it. That job allowed me to raise the children and pay for all the things they needed.”

He was quiet after that, just walked along next to her to her office, saw her secretary and sighed he to, was going to be looking for a new job if they didn’t find a place here for him.

“Jay-la?”

“Fired.” She stated “I’ll make a couple of calls if you need me to, I also write you an excellent reference if you need one.” Saw him nod and not look happy at all.

She walked into her office and looked around, this had been her office for two years now, gotten that big office with her promotion, saw the empty box waiting for her to pack up her things, Eric had everything all laid out for her to leave. She didn’t have many personal belongings in here, kept her office just that an office.

Stephen took her box of belongings and she looked at her very comfortable office chair. She’d bought that herself with her own money, rolled it out of her office, she would take it back to the pack, she liked her chair and it would be more comfortable than the one Luna Darla used

Two meetings shed had today and neither had gone at all as she had expected, she had known that both were not going to be nice or happy. But she had not expected Tim to tell her he had another woman the whole time they were together. Kind of sounded like she was the other woman at that. His mistress, where as Grace had stayed over at his place all the time, was his girlfriend

Had also not expected Eric to fire her on the spot, to accept her resignation, yes, but to fire her like that, lay it out as she was derelict in her duties, that was not like him. Though she guessed he likely felt somewhat betrayed by her, so she couldn’t really blame him.

” All she had to do now, was pack up her apartment. She had a vacate date for that, so everything here was done.

Her human life was all closed out in a matter of just over an hour. Shed thought it would take longer than that.