

# The Defiant Luna Chapter 41

Nathan POV

Nathan walked down the hallway on the top floor of Stanton and Co, heading for one Eric Stanton's office, saw Stephen sitting outside the man's office, and watched him stand up as their eyes met. He had not called to let them know he had landed or was on his way to them.

They had actually arrived ahead of schedule, got a nice tail wind, which allowed them to arrive 30 minutes earlier than expected. He'd called one of the warriors to find out just where they were and gone right to them.

Heard Stephen's voice inside his mind "Aphla, I was Luna Ordered to come and get Suzy!

The man's reaction to seeing him didn't particularly surprise him, he was likely concerned about punishment.

Nathan ignored the comment he already knew that, wasn't going to punish the man.

"Is Jay-la in there with Eric?" He asked, directing a hand to the closed doors with the plaque that stated Eric Stanton on it.

"Yes boss."

He nodded and stood there himself. He knew that she wanted to do this on her own. That's why she'd left with Stephen so that she could. He had intended to let her go into the man's office on her own. Had been going to give her that choice she wanted

Though he would have brought her here, he would have waited downstairs in the car for her, or out in the waiting area, to give her that time with her boss on her own to resign.

Though Tim was another matter, he'd likely have wanted to be in the waiting room on that, but that was his own need, his own issues with her having a human boyfriend.

Wondered now if she had seen Tim already, but didn't ask the question of Stephen even though he knew that man would know.

Tuned his hearing into Eric's office and what was going on in there, to make sure she was alright, as he knew Stephen would have been doing while sitting out there, as he could tell Jackson was now doing as well. He didn't know how long she had been in there.

Heard her state 1 hitched a ride.'

Commandeered his Jet more like it, smiled a little at the thought. To be honest, he did like that she was still doing her own thing, it showed him who she was deep down inside. But he did like the sneakiness of it, the old Jay-la shining through just a little along with the defiant Jay-la both all mixed in together.

But then frowned at Eric Stanton's words, knew that the man had been told about her having a family emergency was the reason shed left work and had been gone for several weeks. Nathan also knew that Jay-la made this company a lot of money as well, that from what he could tell, Eric normally liked her as an employee. Eric was very unhappy with her, his words were clipped and harsh, he sounded very unhappy to Nathan. But surely that man had to deal with people quitting.

Heard that man fire her and sighed heavily, couldn't be a nice thing to feel happen. He also knew this was the only job shed ever had, and was likely going to upset her. She was just quiet for several minutes and then told Eric she would have a check made out to him. That was more than confusing, why was she having to pay the man? If he was firing her.

He pushed the door open and stepped into the man's office, as he heard Eric tell her she'd be paying for his time and efforts, obviously for his assistance with her case against himself. Nathan was uncaring of Eric's secretary's gasp " you're not allowed in there," and ignored that woman.

It wasn't likely that Jay-la actually needed to be told by Eric that he was going to bill her for his time. She should know this. He had been her lawyer. Though he was curious as to whether Eric had previously been attending her case pro-bono, until she had dropped the charges against him and decided to stay with him. Then Eric had changed his mind.

Jay-la didn't look happy, even when he walked in the room, before her eyes landed on him, looked a little more unhappy to see him. He realized, as he informed Eric, that he would just pay it now. Took the letter to see just what he was paying for. It was an official dismissal letter with a contract breaking fee.

Even Nathan knew that was wrong, the reasons listed on it were not correct, the man was just pissed off shed dropped the charges and had decided to stay with him, instead of coming back here to Stanton and Co, this was his way of punishing her.

Wondered if one Eric Stanton was losing money, by losing her, any clients that she had brought in on her own would have the opportunity or choice to stick with her or move to another firm. He could well lose a lot of money from her leaving this company, not that Nathan himself cared at all.

Until that man took a full personal shot at him, about him being faithful this time around.

Not even Havoc, who'd been staying out of it until right this moment, liked that comment, snarled inside his mind, but didn't surface. Nathan pulled out his phone and accessed the file he had on there that showed all of Vera's injuries.

The ones he'd shown Lauren, were still on his phone. The incident was also now recorded on the pack's data base, a lengthy report with Abbey's part in it. A black mark against her name for the rest of her life.

He put that phone right down in front of Eric so he could see the reason that Jay-la had left, the extent of Vera's wounds, which to a human would take weeks to heal those wounds. It had only taken Vera a few days to fully recover, but Eric did not know this.

Eric had attacked him personally, a full insult to his and his wolf's character, so Nathan was going to return the favour.

Only he threatened the man's work ethic and his company's reputation. That dismissal letter had Eric's signature on it, then offered to pit Jay-la herself up against him and his company, he didn't think the man would like that at all. Would know just how good she was.

Then returned in kind, the monetary comment. Nathan knew how much Eric Stanton was worth and he was damned certain that man knew what Nathan's net worth was in the human world. Knew it far out matched Eric's and his law firms at that.

"Was that necessary?" Jay-la asked him, she didn't sound at all happy about his interfering or his threats.

"Yes." He told her, but really no it wasn't necessary. He just wanted to take a piece of that man for the personal attack on him. If Eric had not done that, he'd likely have just walked Jay-la out of the man's office and paid the bills and that would have been it.

Followed her to her office, he'd never actually seen it before, though he'd heard from both Jackson and Stephen it was large and nice, had a hell of a view. They were not wrong, she had a view of the city from up here. To get an office like this there had to be a promotion of some sort or she would have earned them a lot of money and it was appreciated by the company.

He knew what her annual salary was, a fixed amount by the company, and also knew she would receive a commission-type bonus from every case she worked and won on top of that. He didn't particularly like that she was so quiet as they left the building, noticed she was taking her office chair with her. Must have bought it herself.

They left without seeing Tim and again wanted to ask her if shed seen or talked to him yet, or if shed gone right to Eric Stanton's office. He paid the bill and could only shake his head, Eric had every single minute from not just him but all those lawyers he'd seen, standing behind her at that press conference shed held, itemised out. The man was definitely ticked off

"How did he expect you to be able to pay for this bill, if you had stayed here?"

Jay-la looked at it and shook her head. "I don't know." She took it from him and looked over it, frowned herself "Likely. take my commissions or part of each one until it was paid off, over however many years it took to pay it off. Sorry." She sighed up at him.

"Don't concern yourself with it, it's just money."

"A lot of money." She sighed heavily.

"Not to me." He shook his head, and it wasn't her Luna Ceremony was going to cost more than that bill and he didn't care about that, she was worth every penny he had

"For the pack, though."

"Jay-la don't worry about it. I assure you this is nothing to the pack, it is fine." He tilted her chin up and looked down at her. "You sweetheart, snuck away from us." He changed the subject, wanted to see her smile and talking about being fired, was never going to do that.

"Mm, I did. But I followed all your rules."

"Oh, did you now?" he smiled down at her "Found yourself that tiny little loophole and squeezed on through it now, didn't you?" he teased her a little.

Finally, got to see her smile. "Yes, I did. You need to think more about the way you put things."

He heard both Jackson and Stephen laugh now. "Why don't you tell me exactly what it was so I don't walk into it once more." He knew what it was. Just wanted to see her continue to smile, so playing with her verbally was good.

Watched as she shook her head, "No, that's my secret. And I will listen and look for those loopholes all the time, just so you know." She sounded fully amused to him now. He liked this side of her, liked that she could play with him like this.

"I could ask Stephen, you know?"

"You mean you could try..."

" she smiled sweetly up at him "

Perhaps, I have already ordered him as his Luna not to ever tell you."

He laughed now "Cheeky bloody woman you are."

She chuckled herself now.

. “So you’re really not mad

then?”

Smiled at her and leaned down to kiss her softly “No, I’m not mad.” He murmured “Though what father did when you left him in charge, is anyone’s guess. He looked mighty pleased with himself.”

Saw her smile up at him. “He agreed not to tell you I was gone if I put him in charge.”

“Ah I see, you not only plotted with the Gamma, but with the former Alpha as well.”

“Mm, I did.” She nodded.

“How’d it go, with Suzy?” he changed the subject.

“We’re still working on that.” Stephen sighed “I might have to be here a while.”

“We can stay a few days, Stephen.” Jay-la told him. “I can start packing up my apartment, while you spend time with Suzy.

“Thanks Jay-la.”

“Any time. The Luna and Alpha, should want to assist all pack members in getting their mates, part of our responsibility to keep the pack happy.” She commented as she looked right at him.

Nathan just smiled at her, she was not wrong. “Yes, we can stay for a few days. Mum and dad will watch the triplets, may I ask if you’ve spoken with Timothy yet?” it was itching him and his beast alike to know the answer to that question.

“I have.” She nodded “He’s moved on.”

“That’s an understatement,” Stephen murmured.

“What happened?” Nathan asked out of pure curiosity, though he was happy it was completely over between them now. Happy that man had moved on, it was likely the reason he had stopped calling her, had found someone else.

“He got engaged this morning.” Jay-la told him simply.

“Very suddenly,” Stephen snorted, “and that girl, just happened to be there, strolled into Tim’s office and showed Jay-la that ring she was now wearing.”

“I don’t mind, I want him to be happy.”

Nathan stared at her, he got the feeling there was more to it, something else had gone on, not that she said anything else on the subject, 'Stephen?' he mind-linked to his Gamma as Jay-la sat staring out the window.

We can talk about it later. It's nothing to worry about, she honestly was fine with it, I just thought it odd. A bit of a shock was all, but all is good, I assure you."

He let it go. "I thought that why we were all here. We could have a big dinner with Suzy and her family, let them get to know all of us a little, that perhaps we could help talk her family around over that dinner."

"That might work" Jay-la nodded. "Though Stephen hasn't had a moment alone with Suzy yet, how about we let them two have a nice dinner tonight and we can organise lunch or dinner with them tomorrow, when both her mother and sister are free."

He looked at Stephen "Is that alright with you?"

"Yes, I'll talk to her when we get back."

"Drop Jay-la and I off at her apartment. I've not seen it yet.

You two can go back to the hotel."

"Yes boss." They both stated, sounded amused. Though he thought Jackson more so than Stephen, he had inside knowledge about the possibility of Jay-la being pregnant already. He leaned over and kissed her temple, despite his father telling him to put paws on her, he had not done so.

Kora would tell them when she knew. Felt Havoc huff annoyingly inside his mind.

His beast wanted to know. Nathan, on the other hand, was happy to wait and see, he was happy just being with her.

He got out of the car and held his hand out for her to take, and smiled when she took it. Told the boys he and Jay-la would stay here the night, that they were free to do whatever they liked for the night, watched them just nod and drive away. She was perfectly safe with him. They both knew that.

Turned to go inside the building with her only to pick up a somewhat familiar scent in the breeze, turned and looked around them, didn't see anything. No one was currently watching her building, no need she wasn't here

"What?" Jay-la asked him, turning her attention to the street.

“It’s nothing.” He shook it off. “Don’t worry about it.” couldn’t put a name or a face to the scent he was smelling, and his memory was usually pretty good, though he did know it was wolfen and definitely female.

‘She-wolf.’ She mind-linked to him.

“Yes.’ He acknowledged “It’s nothing lets go inside.” He smiled at her, it was likely just someone he had met in another pack over the years, no one of importance.

Therefore, the scent didn’t retain an image with him.

Smiled down at her “Alone at last. Come show me yourself.

“Myself?”

“Yes, who you were out here in L.A. your style I guess. I am curious.”

“There’s not much to it.” she shrugged “I worked, I looked after the children.”

“I’m willing to bet you’ve got lots of family photos up there in your home.”

“I guess I do.” She nodded.

Walking about her apartment and looking at her things, from the dishes she had purchased to the furniture, a few framed pictures on the walls, didn’t really surprise him that they were of woodlands and forests, her wolfen side showing, did like the one that was mist-covered woods.

Got to see all the things the triplets had, their toys and the books they liked to have read to them, pictures of the triplets at the beach and the park, with not just Jay-la but Suzy, Lauren and Tony, Rae-Rae as well. Lots of family photos of her and her human family, they were close, likely as close as she was to her real family.

She looked happy in them, as did the triplets, and he wondered if she had been happy all the time, doubted it.

None of the loneliness he heard in Kora’s howl showed in any of those photos, kept that side of her away from everyone else, he realised. Hid it from all, likely even the children.

“We should have a meal with Lauren and Tony while were here Jay-la.” He told her while looking at a photo of them with her and the triplets.

“Can’t, they’re off on their annual holiday, Spain this year, believe, won’t be back until the tenth.”

“Oh, I didn’t know that.” He looked at her, shed not mentioned that to him.

“Rae-Rae and I talked to them before they left. She misses them a lot.”

“So do you.” he smiled “I see how much you love them too.

She and Michael should come out here and visit them when they get back. That would be good for her.”

“It would, I think Rae Rae will want monthly visits, she is very close to them.”

“She can do that. But perhaps if it doesn’t interfere with Lauren and Tony’s work, they could come to the pack once a month and then Rae-Rae and Michael can go and see them once a month, say every two weeks a visit.”

“You would allow them in the pack monthly!”

“Of course, I would Jay-la, this will also give you time with them monthly. I want that for you, to have all your family around you. I also think they would like this, to see you and Rae-Rae plus the triplets. On a regular basis.”

“I would like that, though a part of me thinks going to them sometime would be nice too. It’s where Kora was allowed to be let out, there is a reserve behind their property.”

“I’d like that, Havoc to would like to run with Kora there as well one day.” He stated as he pushed what could only be her bedroom door open. Smiled right at her and then just snagged her and pulled her into the bedroom.

“We’re all

alone here, no children or anyone to interrupt us,” grinned right down at her “Let me rip your clothes off and spend the rest of the afternoon, pleasuring you in all the ways I know how.”

Smiled even more when she chuckled up at him “Did you miss me? I wasn’t gone all that long. A few hours.”

“Every second you were gone from me.” He touched her face gently “I miss you even when you’re in the next room.” Kissed her softly on the mouth “I really do love you Jay-la.” He smiled down at her “Maybe we could go away together, just the two of us after your Luna Ceremony. Is there anywhere you would like to go?”

Saw her shake her head ‘no’ and reached up to pull his mouth back down to hers, kissed him deeply and sighed “I like being inside the pack, so does Kora.” She murmured as he picked her up and carried her the few feet to her bed and lay her down.

“You’re all mine.”



” He smiled down at her “It’s just going to

be me and you Jay-la, our beasts can bugger off. I’m going to do all your favourite things to you. Just tell me in what order you want them.”

Saw her smile. “Now how long do you think that will last, denying them.”

He chuckled softly “Havoc will contain himself. Were in the human world, I promise it’s just you and me the whole time where out here.”

Kissed her long and deep, all slow and softly, he was going to rush nothing with her while here, take his time and show her it was all about her, was going to do everything she wanted, when she wanted it.

## The Defiant Luna Chapter 42

Nathan POV

Nathan was sitting with Jackson, Elena, Suzy and Maya, in the suite Stephen had organised for them. It was a lovely three-bedroom suite, fit for Suzy’s status as his Mate. It was much quieter here than it had been in the restaurant they had been eating in. Though that was likely because Elena had chosen it, it was a family restaurant where she knew the owners, and there had been lots of families about the place.

It had been quite noisy with kids running about the place, they had eaten alfresco as per Elena’s booking of the place, though he had insisted on paying for all of them. She’d not been too happy about that, told him she could pay for her and her daughters. He’d smiled at her and said, “I know, but I’d like this to be my treat.” Managed to talk her into letting him pay.

There had been no business talk in the restaurant or not the business he and Jackson had planned to do any way.

Elena was stubbornly insistent that they not talk about her circumstances out there in public. She was it seemed, much more comfortable though talking about it in the privacy of the hotel suite.

They had all returned to the hotel, and he’d asked her if they could come in, he had a few idea’s to help with her

current situation, gotten frowned right at instantly. “They’re just idea’s, nothing more.” He had assured her.

He had seen Suzy look at her mother almost pleadingly.

The girl was smitten with Stephen. That much was for sure, and he had been holding her hand out in the hallway.

Elena knew that Suzy was already going to come back to Browning Corporation to work for at least a month, which also gave her time to get to know Stephen properly. He could see that she actually wanted that

Though Elena could at times look disapprovingly at the way Stephen and Suzy always held hands, or the way Stephen sat with his arm draped along the back of her daughter's chair. He was the perfect gentleman, from what Nathan could tell, had yet to even kiss the girl. He didn't want to upset the mother. That was all he'd told Nathan, when he'd enquired about the state of their Mate Bond.

The man was taking it slow, a good thing, and he didn't seem at all worried about it, couldn't see a need in him to Mark and Mate her. Had told Jay-la he had the patience of the moon Goddess herself. It appeared that he did from where Nathan was sitting.

Elena had frowned and then apologised that there was not enough coffee in the hotel suite for her to make them all a cup. Stephen and Jay-la had offered to go down to a local café to get everyone a cup, while they all chatted. Stephen had diligently taken down everyone's order before they had left.

He sat casually on the lounge chair with Jackson reclining next to him, explained to Elena that Jackson had found a scholarship that Maya could apply for if she was willing to switch universities and attend the one in Rochester. Not only could she attain her "updated by jobnib.com" accounting degree, she could if she so wanted, follow it up with a finance degree and go on to do a PhD in business. That the scholarship that Jackson had found would cover all costs for the completion of her accounting degree.

That there were others she could apply for if she wanted to go on and further her education, that the current degree she was studying here, was a little different to the one in Rochester which offered her internships for her degree as well to extend her degree out and get the best of her education.

Jackson slid that scholarship paper work across the coffee table for Maya to read as well as Elena. There, however, was no actual scholarship like this one; the Simon Business School of the University of Rochester did offer many scholarships though. But he and Jackson came up with this one, created it and made it look real and authentic. The pack was simply going to pay for whatever she wanted if she was willing to move out to New York State and be close to the pack.

Nathan had several pack members working in local universities. Most of them were in admissions to help with instances like this,

human mates needed transfers mid

semester or during semester breaks. It came in nice and handy. The only thing he couldn't do was arrange, on campus living.

But moving ones degree was relatively easy, and the scholarship was something they always did, wasn't that hard to do, was his and Jackson's speciality, they drew up contracts and made alliances all the time. This was no different really. Just a contract that was tailored to her needs to help bring her to the pack or closer to it in order to help with Suzy's family moving away from L.A. to let Suzy feel more comfortable moving to the pack.

It had been made out to be a hardship scholarship, something that Maya was currently undergoing, shed lost most of her study books in that house fire, and was going to have to buy them all new again. So this also helped with that. There was a clause in that scholarship that stated 50 percent of all core curriculum books would be covered as well. They had tossed up throwing in all books covered, but with Elena being so stubborn and proud, thought it best to let them see they had to pay for something. It was all tailored to the current state of Maya's hardship. She fit the bill for the scholarship perfectly.

"There's no guarantee 'll get this though." Maya stated as she finished reading it and handed it to her mother.

"There is no a guarantee, you'll get the scholarship." Nathan nodded and agreed with her, though she would be, played it off as she might not. "But there would be no harm at all in applying for it, you can only try Maya." He smiled at her "Why don't you just fill it out, Jackson and I will take it back with us, and you'll know in a week if its approved.

Got that cut-off date there at the bottom needs to be returned within seven days. And then he pointed to the last page "here, it states will be reviewed and either approved or disapproved within 5 business days."

Saw Maya nod slowly. "I guess it couldn't hurt just to fill it in and see what happens. Though I don't really want to move. My friends are here."

He could only nod his head again. "It would be a big change if you were approved."

He turned and looked at Elena as she sighed herself. They did have no where to live currently, their house was 80 percent burnt and not liveable was going to have to be demolished. It had been old and was a wooden house, burned away practically to nothing. He also had driven out there with Jackson to look at it themselves to see the state of it, to help know what to offer the Martinez women by way of cajoling them to trial moving to Rochester to be closer to Suzy.

"Elena, I understand that your insurance is not going to pay for the rebuilding either."

Saw her frown deeply at him now. She did not like people knowing her business, that's why they were having this meeting inside her hotel suite. "Might I put forward an idea to

help you? It's just a thought. As a business man myself, I can actually see an opening for an opportunity for you with all that is going on."

"Really?"

"Actually yes, out of the ashes can grow something better."

He smiled at her.

She stared right at him for a long moment and then just nodded "Couldn't hurt, I suppose, to hear whatever it is."

"Sell your block of land, it is still worth something. Likely a few hundred thousand dollars, pay off the rest of your mortgage with that sale and use what is left over to start your own florist store or buy into a franchise, become an owner. Not be an employee anymore. I actually know of a store that is currently franchising in Rochester. That you could buy into."

"Convenient, seeing as your trying to convince us all to move there."

He chuckled softly as did Jackson, the woman was not so dumb, "It does sound like that, but I and my many company's, and I have many. Use this particular florist chain all the time, to order flowers for our company foyers and reception areas. Have a contract with them, my employees all use the same florist for birthdays and celebrations. I even order flowers from it for events I hold on my own estate. Thats how I know they are franchising. I do a lot of business with them is all. You could be the one I do business with instead of the others." He shrugged

A small white lie, but he could organise it, and she would actually get the full pack support. All pack members would use her florist store, wolves did actually like spoiling their Mate's, and flowers were one of the things they bought regularly. His company lobby's all did have flowers and events inside his pack did mean ordering flowers. Jay-la's Luna ceremony, and the flowers for that alone were up in the thousands.

Then there were Mate Bond anniversary's, birthdays, baby's, wolf emerging celebrations, mating balls. The woman would never be without business, constantly trying to keep up with the demand just from the pack members.

Not to mention what the humans around her would be purchasing, they celebrated all manner of events. Flowers were a big business anywhere in the world you went.

"If you come for a visit, I'm certain that myself or Jackson here could get you an appointment to see the owner, to discuss a franchise or find a store for you to look at and start your own business. We are both very good at business and could help you out with the finer details if you like that is."

“You would be the one.” Jackson told her “Making the decision, buy it with your own money, all we would be doing is introducing you to an opportunity. Everything else would be completely up to you and in your hands.” She nodded at them but stated flatly “Money doesn’t grow on trees, even if I did want to. My block of land may not sell quickly if at all.”

Nathan nodded “That is true, but I think...” he stopped talking as he felt Jay-la suddenly sever from him and heard Havoc snarl inside his mind. They had not done that since before Christmas, reached out for her, got nothing at all, sighed internally they had not been mad at him when they had left. What had happened for her to shut them out so very suddenly?

Tried to mind-link to Stephen, he was with her, to find out just what was happening down there, they’d only gone to get coffee and she’d smiled at him before leaving, even pecked him right on the cheek as she’d gotten up. He’d smiled right back at her even.

Found he couldn’t reach Stephen either, frowned himself as he couldn’t feel the man, that was very unusual, for both of them to be severed from him, looked right at his Beta to see what he was feeling. “Jackson?”

“I’m on it.” he stated right back. He was already pulling out his phone and trying to call Stephen to find out what was going on.

“Excuse me a moment, Elena.” He murmured as he got his own phone out to call Jay-la. It rang out, he looked at Jackson, who shook his head. “This is not good. Call Gregory and find out what’s going on, Jackson.” Turned his eyes back to the three women who were now sitting across from him wondering what was going on.

He couldn’t really explain that one, wasn’t going to try either, looked at his watch and then back to them,

, “I’m

sorry, I have an emergency to deal with. Would you mind if we pick this up another time.” Havoc was already stalking around inside his mind, itching to leave to find out just what was going on. Why they could no longer feel their Mate or their Gamma, for that matter.

They however, couldn’t just bolt from the room stating Jay-la and Stephen were in trouble, like he would inside his pack or in any other pack for that matter. He also didn’t want Suzy freaking out that Stephen was missing. She was his Mate and their bond was growing nicely between them. She would worry about him.

He watched Elena nod her head “of course.”

“It’s likely that Stephen and Jay-la will attend this emergency as well, so won’t be back with coffee, my apologies. Suzy I’ll have Stephen call you the minute the emergency is

over” Saw her nod as he watched Jackson head for the door, they stepped outside and he looked right at his Beta.

“What the hell happened?” he asked as they headed for the stairwell. “I can’t feel either of them.” They could use all their wolfen speed to get down the stairs, where no one could see them

“I don’t know, you gave Greg and his men the night off, seeing as we were all here, they weren’t needed, with the three of us here to protect Jay-la and Suzy.”

He could have bloody strangled himself for doing that. The minute they hit the hotel lobby, Havoc was all over it, scenting out his Mate, tracked her scent right out of the building and down the street, also knew where those two had been going, their scent was true to their destination.

Tracked her a whole block, nearly all the way to the coffee house and then it was just gone,

stood and took a deep

breath in, there was nothing, it was here and no where else.

As was Stephen’s for that matter, his also just stopped here. There were also no other discernible scents of other worldly creatures.

They had been here for several days now, nothing out of the ordinary had happened, there had been no threats, no scent of rogues, he and Jay-la had been staying at her apartment. Stephen and Jackson were here at the hotel.

They’d not report anything to him that was out of the ordinary either. It didn’t make sense to him.

## The Defiant Luna Chapter 43

Jay-la POV.

Jay-la woke up, feeling groggy and not at all herself. The ground underneath her was hard and cold, and smelled rancid to her. She frowned as she tried to get up from the ground and found herself feeling weak and out of sorts ‘ Kora?’ she asked her wolf.

She got nothing at all, there was no connection to her wolf, felt panic start to set in, her eyes snapped open as she realised she was disconnected from her wolf. Looked around her properly and found herself in a dimly lit cell, bars all around her bar the back wall, there wasn’t even a mattress, she was just lying on the cold hard concrete floor.

She could see the old stains in here, got up from the floor, took a moment to steady herself on her feet, used that wall to hold herself up. The cell was only small, maybe nine by nine feet. She could see the door across from her, a large panel with a lock on it. 'Kora.' She yelled into her mind, trying to rouse her wolf. She was not bound by silver.

Stood there and tried to recall what had happened, how she had wound up in this cell. The last thing she remembered was walking to a café with Stephen. They were going to get coffees for everyone down the street from his hotel. Elena had said it had much better coffee than the hotel itself. So, she and Stephen had opted to go down the street to get her what she preferred

Rubbed at her temples as she looked around the cell, and the dimly lit area she was in, there were other cells along the wall, two to her right and four across the room from her, one on her left. Saw Stephen in that cell next to her, lying on the cold filthy floor like she had been. He was still unconscious.

"Stephen." She called out to him, hurried over to his cell and grabbed the bars with one hand as she tried to reach through and touch him, hissed in pain and snatched her hands back, silver bars, they were filthy dirty, and didn't look like silver but definitely were. They burned her skin a little. That sudden flare of pain brought Kora back to her, heard her snarl as much as Jay-la hissed.

Looked down at her hand, at the reddened skin, not enough to leave a scar on her but enough to hurt to blazes. 'Where are we?' Kora snarled.

'don't know, a cell is what.' She answered Kora, "Stephen." She called out to him once more. He still didn't wake.

'How?' Kora asked her.

"I don't know. Jay-la sighed and tried to once again recall what the hell had happened. She was still foggy herself.

Recalled walking with Stephen, they had been chatting happily as they walked. Nathan and Jackson had come up with a plan to get Suzy's whole family back to the pack.

The restaurant had been too noisy to discuss it, so they had opted to go back to the hotel to chat about a business proposal, Elena had said shed make coffee for everyone, but then didn't have enough. So she and Stephen had volunteered to go to the coffee shop down the street. It was still open.

They had left Nathan and Jackson with the three Martinez women, to go over the plan they had come up with. She had been walking next to him, then he had suddenly stumbled and dropped to his knees, then just face plant on the ground, shocked her completely. Hadn't understood it at all until a moment later, as she kneeled down next to him and she

herself had felt the sting in her side, and the familiar burn of wolfs bane, looked right at him as she felt the darkness of unconsciousness rush towards her.

Then they had woken up here in this very cell, looked around the room they were in once more. She had not even known she was in trouble, neither had Stephen, for that matter. Neither one of them had sensed or smelled anything at all. They'd been happily chatting away, Suzy was coming back to the pack to trial living and working with her in another state, was going to give it four weeks.

Stephen was really happy about this, as were she and Nathan. It would allow time for the two of them to bond and get to know each other. Those two had been on three dates in the past two days; a dinner date that first night, a brunch and a movie the next day and a then dinner with her again. They were getting along really well, he was catering to all her wants and needs.

She and Stephen had left so that there was less pressure on Elena or Maya, and that they didn't feel pushed into anything. Knew that Nathan was going to offer Maya a full scholarship to the closest university to the pack, and give Elena a business opportunity, she was a florist, and worked in a store. With her house burning down and the insurance company not willing to pay up. She was now stuck, with a useless piece of land.

Nathan and Jackson had thought long and hard about it, and come up with a plan that if Elena sold her block of land she could buy her own florist store and set it up in Rochester, an hour away from where Suzy would work. It was a good plan she thought, though what Elena would think was another matter.

She had given both Nathan and Jackson permission to charm the woman if necessary, she'd seen Elena and Maya blink at the sight of the two of them. Wouldn't normally want them to do that, but humans were susceptible to the good looks of wolfen men. Kind of fell at their feet for the most part. So it might work, though they were not allowed to push it hard at the woman.

She didn't want Stephen to do it even though she had seen that Elena was naturally charmed by him, thought he was very charming and funny to boot, he was just friendly with her, didn't even really need to do anything other than be himself. She just liked him, didn't seem to have a real problem with him liking Suzy either. That was good.

But Stephen shouldn't do it, it could make Suzy take offence to it and she didn't want to risk that. He couldn't charm his own Mate, that Goddess Gifted Gamma Charm of his did not work on his own Mate. Not that she had at all seen him try it.

Didn't really need to, the girl was smitten with him, blushed all the time around him, when she found his eyes on her and then he would just smile right at her, which he always did. There was no way Suzy misunderstood how much he liked her, his attention was solely on her all the time. Even when Maya walked in the door and eyed him off, he'd shaken that girl's hand and been formal with her. Returned his attention right to Suzy.



Kora pushed forward now to get a good look around them.

Someone had kidnapped them and not just them, Stephen as well, she looked around. There was no one else down here, just her and Stephen, the whole place smelled of rotten flesh and old dried blood. Rogues had been in here recently, she thought to herself or they were in a place where, Rogues were in charges.

Though she did not recall seeing any wolves, she didn't recall smelling others or a rogue scent while on the street either. She didn't think that Stephen had either, he'd have responded to it, taken it as a threat to them both.

'I don't like it.'

Neither do I. there was nothing to like about the situation at hand, and she could already feel fear ebbing in to not just her but Kora as well. They didn't do well with fear, and needed to try and stay calm. Could well lose it and goddess only knew what would happen down here locked in this cell.

But even just standing here she knew it was going to overwhelm them, was already feeling anxious and uncomfortable, not knowing where they were, who took them or for what purpose? How long had they even been here? Heard Kora snarl full aggression at Stephen to try and rouse him, the man didn't even flinch at the sound. Clearly, he'd been hit with more wolfsbane than she had, but he was also much bigger than she was as well.

Jay-la prowled around in her cell for over an hour before Stephen finally started to rouse, moved over to his cell.

Whoever took them had no concerns about them getting out, neither were bound by anything, just dumped in separate cells. That was curious to her, why no chains, understood why they were separated. That would be so they could take them one at a time, and Stephen wouldn't be able to help her even though he would want to.

Heard him groan and watched him roll over and push up from the floor to look about it, saw his eyes land on her and widen, "Stephen?" he stood up and wrinkled his nose at the scent of the place as he took in his surroundings.

"Jay-la are you injured?"

She shook her head "Not yet." She commented, but was willing to bet at some point it wasn't going to be fun for either of them down here.

"What happened?" he asked "Do you recall anything?"

She shook her head as he walked over to the bars between their cells. "Don't they're silver." She warned him as he reached out to put his hand on it "and your guess is as good as mine, taken by someone. I haven't seen anyone yet though."

Saw him tilt his head and really look at her and frown, she knew what he was doing, sensing out the fear that was building inside of her “How long have you been awake?” he asked a moment later.

“About an hour, I’m trying to stay calm.” She assured him.

He just nodded “We’re not bound.” He looked at his wrists ” odd?”

“agreed.”

“Whoever they are, they don’t think were a threat to them or we would be.”

“Or they are just going to come in here with a dozen people to man handle us, or drug us if they need to move us again.” She muttered, really didn’t like that thought at all.

“They’d be stupid to come at you.”

“They don’t know anything about me.” She sighed, looked right at him for a long moment, was actually worried about what would happen if she and Kora got completely out of control. “Perhaps it’s a good thing you’re in a different cell.” She murmured.

“Nathan will come for you Jay-la.”

“I know he will.” She nodded, did actually believe that “but what if it’s too late?”

“Don’t think about that, but Jay-la.” He looked right at her, seemed concerned. “You and Kora, could well see Havoc’s uncontrollable rage when they get here. He’ll be half shifted and on a full rampage, I would imagine.”

She stared at him now. “Half shifted? I didn’t know he could do that.”

“He couldn’t back then. It happened the day Sophia cheated on him and Havoc. Havoc nearly killed her himself for it.”

She could only nod, “I’m not worried about Havoc, to be honest, he’ll never hurt me or Kora.”

“Agreed, just want to give you the heads up, it’s not something you see every day. His Alpha Aura will be pouring out of him at everyone, to in still fear to those around him. To be honest, not even the pack likes seeing it.

Scares a lot of them.

“

“Has he ever hurt any of them?”

“Only the one, but he was the one having s\*x with Sophia, killed that wolf on the spot.”

“Alright, thanks for the heads up, I guess. How long do you think we have been here? Or unconscious?”

“Hard to say.” He looked around them again. “No windows down here to see daylight or night. Could be a few hours, could be day or more.” He shook his head “but those stairs lead up and out, so I’d hazard a guess that we’re underground somewhere.”

“Do you think still in the city?”

“Unlikely.”

“It doesn’t feel like a pack to me or Kora.”

“No it doesn’t so likely rogues took us. It won’t be good, Jay-la, when they come for you.” he looked right at her “I’m not going to be able to help you, which I’m guessing is what they want.”

‘They touch us and they’ll die. Kora snarled inside her mind, Jay-la didn’t doubt that if they were scared and felt threatened, which she already knew she was scared anyone that threatened her now was likely to set off her flight and fight response likely would end up dead, not that they knew that. Had to try and stay calm, to keep control.

It was several more hours before that door above the stairs opened and the lights turned on fully down here, before they heard footsteps on those stairs in the far corner, and saw a pregnant woman coming down them with a hand on the railing and one on her swollen belly. Looked about ready to pop, Jay-la thought absently.

Heard Stephen curse out loud as his eyes landed on the woman when she got to the bottom and walked over towards them, knew her right away. Jay-la didn’t recognise her right away, not until she was standing right before her, staring at her, “Well now, if it ain’t the w\*\*\*e who stole my mate from me?” she stated, glaring at Jay-la.

She had changed a lot since the last time Jay-la had seen her, “Sophia.” She heard Stephen grate out “No one stole your Mate, you ruined your own Mate Bond.”

“Shut it Gamma, you’re my Gamma not hers. Do as you’re told.” She looked right at Stephen.

“The hell I am.” He snapped right back.

Jay-la stood staring at her, she had been afraid of this woman for over six years, afraid that she would hunt her down, hunt her children down and harm them, took a step back from her now, as she felt fear well inside her as she realised who she was.

She was heavily pregnant, but that didn't mean she wasn't a threat to her. Had barely recognised her, her hair was short now and she looked older to Jay-la, didn't look like the years had been kind to her, could also see silver filagree on her neck, was marked by some wolf out there.

"Where are your three little bastards?" Sophia turned her eyes back to Jay-la.

"No where that you can get to them." she stated right back, they were safe back inside the pack with Alpha Blaine and his entire unit, had a whole pack that would protect them, and she knew it.

"Well, once I get Nathan back, I'll take care of them myself." Watched her rub her belly  
"This little one will be the Heir to the pack."

Stared right at her now, "Nathan will not allow another wolfs pup to be the Heir to his pack." No Alpha would.

"It's his Jay-la. We hooked back up a few months ago, then of course, he found out about you and your bastard pups, and everything. My return had been delayed, all so he could get those pups of his."

"Don't listen to her Jay-la." Stephen told her.

"Shut it, Gamma. You know nothing. His wolf loves mine, always has. I'm his Goddess Gifted Mate, not some b\*a\*h he had to choose because the w\*\*\*e had his pups. They are all he wants. How do you think I got the two of you so easily?" She laughed.

Kora was on the surface and snarling right at her now, she was not his chosen mate, Havoc had been Gifted to her. " Oh quit it, he was mine long before he chose you and now you're out of the picture. The children are his and his alone.

Just like he wanted, he never wanted you, banished you remember."

Both she and Kora stared at this woman, his first Mate, the very reason they had been banished by him, looked at her swollen belly. Anything was possible, she had only been in his life barely a month. That could well be his child for all she knew.

"Don't listen to her Jay-la." Stephen told her "You know how Havoc is with Kora, how he is with you yourself. It's you he wants, not that unfaithful, gold-digging b\*\*\*h."

"You'll pay for that Gamma; I'm going to banish you when I'm reinstated as the Luna in a few days' time."

"It will never happen." Stephen laughed. "Though you might lose your head for touching his Mate."

Jay-la saw Sophia look right at him, “How’s the neck?” he asked “You barely survived it last time. You think you will this time?”

“I have insurance.” She rubbed her belly and smiled right at him. “He won’t harm his own child.”

“It’s not his.” Jay-la stated, it could be his. She had to stay clear headed, “you’re marked by another. He would never touch that who was marked by another. Knows how it feels, to suffer the pain of betrayal. You did that to him.”

“He’s very forgiving, and I can be very seductive. Know everything he likes.”

“I doubt his beast would be so forgiving.” She murmured, not if that beast had so much rage and anger within him, because of this woman. She had to believe that he nor his wolf would ever want to touch this woman again. He had tried to kill her once, his rage stemmed from her betrayal.

“You’ll see it’s all the truth, he’s going to let you know just how much he loves me, doesn’t want you. I already have a buyer lined up for you. He’s not so nice either. You will suffer at his hands a lot. But that is what you get, what you deserve for hiding his children from him for all these years. What he told me to organise, to make sure that you suffer for stealing his children. He hates you for that, everything he did with you is an act.”

“He’ll never let you hurt me or the children.”

“You,” she laughed “He doesn’t care about, as for the children, ‘ be taking care of them myself. His only concern then will be this little one. He’ll forgive me, I assure you.”

“Good luck with that plan, Sophia. Killing an Alpha’s Heir will get you killed by that Alpha.” Stephen laughed, “Havoc hasn’t changed one bit since nearly killing you, twice I believe, the day you cheated and the day he smashed your head to the desk and crushed your hand in making you sign those papers and accepting your rejection of him.”

“It’s all forgiven, Gamma. Shut your mouth, just wait and see.”

## The Defiant Luna Chapter 44

Nathan POV

It was barely 8pm out here in L.A. he was looking all around him, as was Jackson. He could see Apollo on the surface trying to scent anything at all, his Luna or his Gamma. It didn’t look like he was having any more luck than Nathan or Havoc was himself. They were both walking back and forth trying to find out anything at all.

Both got nothing.

There weren't all that many people on the street, but surely someone would have seen something and reported it. He was looking at the people. There was no one milling around or looking like they were waiting on police.

Everyone was just passing by, was this just a normal occurrence for them to see? People disappearing off the street? He had no idea how no one was concerned.

Surely there had been someone who'd seen something they thought was out of the ordinary, but it certainly didn't look like it. 'I don't like it.' Havoc snarled, he was not happy and wanted to rip out of him to hunt her himself. Though that even appeared to be pointless right that minute. There was nothing to track them, both Jay-la and Stephen's scents were gone, it just stopped right here on the footpath, by the roadside

"We need a car, we're going to have to drive around and look." He muttered, it was not the most efficient way to search for her or Stephen, but it was all they had right this minute.

"There has been no threats." Jackson frowned "I've not even smelled a single wolf, that's not ours, at all the whole time I've been here."

Nathan stood surveying the street as he thought about Jackson's words "I have." He stated "Though it was days ago, so did Jay-la. At her apartment the day we got here. A she-wolf, not a rogue. I thought it was familiar, but couldn't place it. Jay-lay, I don't think knew it at all."

"And you didn't think to mention it?" Jackson was glaring at him

"I saw nothing at all, I looked. It was just one scent, caught it on the passing breeze, thought it was perhaps just a passing she-wolf was all. We wouldn't be the only ones out here in L.A. There are packs here in California. It wasn't rogue. There were no signs of a threat, no sign of the she-wolf herself." he shook his head.

"Perhaps it wasn't so innocent now," Jackson muttered, sounding annoyed.

"No." Nathan frowned, had to agree with him on that now " Though it was familiar to me. Or I thought it was.

Therefore, no threat either, likely a she-wolf from a pack I'd visited before."

"Do you recall it at all now?"

"No." he shook his head, "Didn't smell it all again after that either." He sighed heavily.

Watched as Gregory pulled up a truck in front of him "We saw nothing on our way here boss. What happened?"

“Stephen and Jay-la were taken off the street. From right here. This is where the scent stops.” His eyes were once again on the move, assessing the people on the street.

Looking for anything at all. Looking for anyone looking right at them, that seemed to be watching them or looked to be hovering about.

“Hey you there. A male voice caught his attention, and he saw a homeless man walking towards him, filthy, dirty and quite pungent at that “You Nathan?” turned right to that man.

“I am.” He nodded.

“I was asked to give this to you, when you show up.” He was holding out a phone to him.

Nathan took it “Who are you? Who gave it to you?” he rapped out “What did they look like? Where did they go?”

“I don’t know man.” The guy shrugged. “Just got given a hundred bucks to give you that is all.”

“By who?” he asked again.

“Some dude, warned me not to fail in the request, or he’d beat me to death.”

“What did he look like? What car was he driving?”

“Wowa man, that’s a lot a questions you got.”

“How much for the information.” Nathan snapped at him as he saw the man holding out his hand, rubbing his fingers together.

“Match the other dude. A hundred bucks a question.” He snort fully amused, it seemed

Nathan got his wallet out and checked his cash, saw Jackson do the same, though he was not one to go around carrying much cash. Used his pack card for near everything, he was only carrying two hundred dollars.

Looked at Jackson he two was only carrying that much.

Looked at the homeless man and saw him blink in shock that they were willing to pay him the money, he requested ” You’ll be honest about this.”

“Yeah man.” He nodded the guy said as he heard Gregory state “we can pool more between us boss.”

“What did the guy look like?” he asked once more.

“Tall and bulky like you and your friend there, um, had dark hair, scary looking fella.”

“What was he wearing?”

“Jeans and a tee-shirt.” The guy shrugged.

“Nothing

unusual.”

“What kind of car was he in and which way did it go?

“It went down the street that way” he pointed behind him. “

Was blue and I don’t know what kind it was.”

“Anyone else with him?”

“Na, just that dude.”

“Did you see what happened?”

“No man. I was down in the alley, minding my own business, he called out to me offered me a hundred bucks.

I ain’t gonna say no.”

Nathan put the money they had pooled into the man’s hand, “Thanks.”

“Hey man, you short a hundred bucks.”

Nathan frowned at him. “It’s all I got, you don’t want the five hundred I can take it back.”

Saw the man poked it and shake his head then turn and hurry away back towards the alley he said hed come from.

Stood and looked at the phone in his hand, touched the power button and the screen lit up, no lock screen. Clicked into the contacts nothing in there either. Frowned at it, thought there would at least be a number in there for him to call.

“Burner phone.” Jackson stated “We’re going to have to wait on them to call us as well.”

“Someone is going to die.” Nathan snarled.



This was the very reason he didn't want her here on her own and she hadn't been either. But someone had still managed to come along and take her from him. Took not just Jay-la but Stephen as well.

"We're not going to be able to do anything Nathan. Have to wait on that phone to ring and see what demands are made."

He already knew that, didn't bloody like it at all. She had been with him just 33 minutes ago and now she was just gone from him. He had no idea who took her, why they took her or what they wanted from him in order to get her back. If they were willing to give her back, that was.

The two of them were finally in a good place, they were actually happy and loved up together and now this has to go and happen. She had told him she was ready to go home, wanted to be with him. They had had a really good couple of days here, had gone out just the two of them and had dinner. They'd gone dancing last night and she was smiling at him nearly non-stop. She was really happy, and he knew it, Kora was letting Havoc and he feel just how happy she was.

It had been just the two of them the whole time here in L.A

Havoc and Kora were behaving themselves and actually staying out of it. Letting the two of them fully reconnect and bond to each other. Havoc and Kora had simply taken a back seat for them to really spend time together and Jay-lay knew this as much as he did

He could tease her and play with her, sit and talk with her, cuddle on the couch with her in her apartment and just be with her, like it had been in the old days. It was really nice, not just for her but for him as well. He could make her laugh and roll her eyes, shake her head and whack him playfully.

The past few days had been amazing between them, not just in the bedroom but during the day and afternoons, evenings just sitting and talking, spending quality time with each other, really getting to know each other.

Though Havoc had laid his paws on her, like his father had Ch 14

told him 100, Nathan had woken up to find his beast in control and his ear pressed to her belly while she had been sleeping soundly. They could hear a tiny furiously beating Nutter of a heartbeat in her belly, they had both smiled. She had not woken up and Nathan had made sure she hadn't.

He'd not particularly wanted to know, it would happen when it happened. He wasn't the one trying to impregnate her, but Havoc was a different story altogether, his beast was very happy. Just a few weeks along she was, he had no idea how far along she was when they found out about the triplets.

Didn't know right now if Kora knew they were with pup or not. He had laid there and both he and Havoc had just watched her sleep for a long time. Havoc was happy, told him it was his pup not Nathan's which had nearly made him laugh out loud. They were one and the same,

, but

Havoc was certain he'd been in control when that pup was created.

He'd also not told her he knew, wanted them to find out on their own, tell him the news when they were ready to.

Hoped she was going to be okay with this so soon in their relationship. Havoc had snort inside his mind, Kora wants it'. He told his wolf that he and Kora needed to back off a bit and let Jay-la make some choices for herself and her body.

Havoc was no longer allowed to be all aggressive in his mating of Kora any more either. She also wouldn't be able to shift till after that pup was born, so Kora and Havoc could only mate in human form now. Havoc had snorted at him, told him I can be gentle, Kora just likes it rough and aggressive

Well, no more of that. You got a pup to think about now.'

He'd heard Havoc chortle inside his mind and then just settle back down to watch her sleep.

"Nathan, Jay-la will be fine, and Stephen is with her." Jackson's voice interrupted his thoughts.

"You don't know that." He sighed as he looked at the phone, they may have taken both of them, but that didn't mean that they were safe or even together. As for her being fine, he'd not told anyone about her being pregnant, he was pretty certain she didn't even know yet, too early.

"Yes I do, Nathan." Jackson put a hand on his shoulder. "if she gets really scared, it is going to set off her flight and fight response. She and Kora will react without much thought and kill everyone that is a threat to her. She'll be just fine."

"If Stephen is with her?" he muttered, that would put the man in danger himself if he was where she was.

"Stephen is a smart man, he'll also know not to present himself as any kind of threat to her, he knows about her affliction, he will back away and she'll leave him alone."

He looked right at Jackson and knew that was likely the truth of the matter.

“You’ve seen Kora, she is massive now, and hopped up on adrenaline no one will be a match for her.”

“She can’t shift Jackson.” He looked right at his Beta, shook his head. “Won’t shift, I don’t think.”

Saw Jackson look right at him for a moment and then nod in understanding “She will be just fine, Jay-la can fight, with or without Kora, was trained with all of us. She took down the last lot that took her and didn’t have Kora, was cuffed with silver and still got away. Your Luna is strong and capable.”

“She doesn’t have Kora right now, we can’t feel them, wolfsbane or silver. I don’t even know if she knows she can’t shift yet.”

“I know you’re scared for her, we all are. Stephen will do everything to protect her, you know that. She is not only his job Nathan, he is her closest friend right now. She trusts him more than anyone.”

He knew that, but that did not stop him or Havoc worrying about her safety, or Stephen’s for that matter. Her affliction could well save her life, but it could well also mean that she will attack Stephen. Kill him, without understanding who or what he is to her, not care at all at the time. Lost to her flight and fight response nothing and no one was going to register with her.

“Back to the hotel.” He muttered, very unhappy with the situation that was unfolding around him. There was no point standing on the street, they could only wait on that phone in his hand to ring, to find out who had her and why.

What they wanted from him was another matter, he would give anything to get her back, that much he knew. No price was too high for him to pay to get her back. He could only pray that no one harmed her, touched her. He would know if someone violated her, and it wasn’t going to go down so well if they felt that.

Tried not to think about that at all. Was agitating not only him but his wolf too.

## The Defiant Luna Chapter 45

The phone did not ring for 4 hours, it was an agonizing wait, where Nathan and Jackson and two of his warriors were all just sitting around or pacing around the hotel suite Jackson had for himself.

The other two warriors he had posted to watch the Martinez women, who knew if they were going to be targeted next. It was clear that someone had been watching them and tracking them,

, likely just waiting for the

perfect opportunity to strike. Those that were watching would have seen Stephen walking with Suzy. She could be the next target no one really knew.

Nathan had put a call in to the pack, spoke with Ethan and his mother and father, to inform them of what was going on. Made sure that both Jay-la's family and Stephen's family were alerted to the situation at hand. He had stated he wanted Ethan and a full elite warrior team on his parents' jet out here. He'd sent it back directly after arriving, knowing that his was here for use.

He had also alerted Ethan and his father to the concerns of Jay-la being a potential threat to his own men, if her affliction was activated. He knew that the more men he sent in to get her out, when they found her. The more chances there were of setting off her flight and fight mode.

Those that were coming to their Luna and Gamma's aid needed to be prepped in advance about her condition. The way to handle her.

His father had said he would make sure it was all sorted out, to stop worrying about it, just focus on the situation itself, he and Ethan would sort everything out on their end and send a full unit asap.

Those men were all currently still in the air on their way here, would arrive later, near 4am, even later if there was a headwind. He knew they were all coming directly to the hotel from the air strip, that it would take an hour for them to get the men together get out to his private air strip and take off. The flight time was also 5 hours, not a short time

It was just past lam when that phone rang, it was sitting on the coffee table in front of Jackson, as Nathan had been prowling around the suite unable to sit still, as much as Havoc was stalking around inside his mind swishing his tail furiously. Their not knowing where she was or even being able to feel her, or that ache in his chest to say he was away from her either.

Which likely meant that she wasn't all that far away, a few hours by car at most. She was likely still unconscious but still close enough not to enact that ache inside his chest that depicted how far away she was from him. Though thankfully still untouched. They would feel that regardless of her state of unconsciousness.

Anyone touching her was going to die. He knew that he would never stop hunting even when he got her back, if one SOB got away he would hunt them to the ends of the earth to kill them, there would be no mercy for anyone hurting his Mate. Hell just taking her from him was a clear death sentence in both his and Havoc's book.

He stopped pacing as Jackson reached out and touched the green glowing accept button, "Speak." He and Havoc snarled into the room, they couldn't contain their anger at the loss

of their Mate, to whoever this person was, and they wanted them to know they were angry as well.

“Baby don’t snarl at us like that, we might just hang up and make you wait some more.” A sickly-sweet female voice practically purred down the line, with full amusement.

He saw Jackson’s eyes move right towards him, as they both recognised that voice. “Sophia?” he asked, more than shocked

“That’s a much better tone for me and who else would it be, baby? I finally got that little w\*\*\*e, to punish, I can now rid you of her easily.”

“Don’t you dare touch her, Sophia.” He grated out.

“Hmm, then place nice baby and give me exactly what I want.”

Nathan glared right at that phone. Jay-la was no w\*\*\*e and if anyone could be called that, it was Sophia herself. How on this earth had that b\*\*\*h managed to get Jay-la and Stephen? She wasn’t that smart, just a gold digging w\*\*\*e of a she-wolf, one he hadn’t seen or heard of in years for that matter. Didn’t bloody care about either.

He had to take a deep breath in, to try and stay calm and not roar at her down the line “What do you want?” he finally managed to get words out.

“I want you back, baby. My alpha is willing to trade me for her, so we can be together once again, like we should be as the Goddess saw fit, but he wants a replacement for me.

You don’t need some chosen w\*\*\*e just because she had pups for you, then stole you from me.”

Jackson was on him in a flash, all wolfen speed to clamp a hand over his mouth as tightly as he could, mind-linked right to him, ‘Don’t yell at her. She has Jay-la and Stephen, she could kill them. You need to play along. At least until we know where they are, stay your beast, listen to me, you both know I am right. It’s a deadly game we have to play, but play it, we must.’

It was not an easy thing to do, staying his beast or himself for that matter, they did not want anything to do with their ex, not ever again, didn’t care what had happened to her, after she had left the pack that day. Likely just made her way back to her home pack and returned to her father’s care.

“Sophia.” It was Jackson. “It’s good to hear your voice, my Luna, our pack has missed you.” his voice was smooth and didn’t hold any anger or resentment, almost sounded loving. Nathan realised.

“Who are you?” Sophia’s tone changed, annoyance showing that she was speaking to someone else.

“My apologies for not introducing myself, it’s Jackson your Beta, my Luna.”

“Then shut it Beta, I do not wish to speak with you. I only want to talk to my Mate.”

Nathan saw Jackson glare at the phone and then look right at him, pointedly. Nathan knew what that look was, contain yourself and your beast was the look. Then he finally let go of him.

“A trade you say?” Nathan asked carefully.

“Yes, a Luna for a w\*\*\*e, he will treat her just like what she is, punish her every day for what she did to us, I assure you of that.”

“Where are you Sophia?..’ll come and get you.”

“Really? Just like that. Hmm, what assurance do I have you’ll come with a smile on your face for me? You were mad at me the last time you saw me.”

“I was.” He nodded more than mad shed been lucky to keep her head attached to her body. “I have missed you as much as you have me.” He stated felt bile rise up in his throat at having to say those words barely kept it down ” What assurance would you like Soph?” he asked though there was a slight edge to his voice, and he got glared at by Jackson, a warning look, his anger was showing a little. It was hard to play nice with this woman who had taken Jay-la from him.

“Hmm,” there was a pause for a long minute before she spoke again. “I’m going to call you back in a little while and you’re going to tell me everything I want to hear. I’ll make sure she’s there to hear it, our conversation. Let that chosen mate of yours know that she is nothing to you. That you only want me. That will work for me, I think. I want to see her all broken and devastated like she should be. That will work for me, and baby?”

“Yes?” he muttered.

“I don’t want to see or smell any of your men, not your Beta, or any of those four warriors I know you have with you.”

Havoc was snarling inside his mind, they were not happy, and they were certainly not going to do that. “I want to speak with her, know she is alright.”

Heard her laugh now “I’ll call you back baby, when the little w\*\*\*e wakes up. Love you.” and then the line clicked closed

“Stay calm.” Jackson stated right away.

It was the last thing he wanted to do, wanted to rip apart this room and unleash Havoc on the world right this minute.

“I know it’s hard,” he put a hand on him “But you have to stay calm, till she calls back, you have to be calm and do as she says, or we’ll not be able to find out where Jay-la is.

We need her to want you to go there. She could just hand Jay-la over to that Alpha and not care at all. We don’t want that. Need to make her want you to be there for the trade.”

Nathan could see the logic in it, knew it was what needed to happen. “I can’t do what she wants, Jackson. I won’t bloody tell her I love her and want her. I won’t tell her any of that, not with Jay-la right there listening to it. We can’t. It’ll destroy her, bring about everything she’s always worried and feared about where I am concerned. Bring all that right back to the surface, she’ll never trust me again, it’ll ruin us and we’re finally together.” He shook his head.

“Jay-la loves you, Kora loves Havoc, they will never believe it.” Jackson told him, knew he was trying to reassure him.

“You and I don’t know just what Sophia will say to her, will tell Jay-la, who knows what sick and twisted things are inside her mind, to hurt Jay-la, it’s clear she knows who she was, remembers her from the pack.”

“Stephen is with her, he knows you love her, he will remind her of that. Tell her it’s not true if he senses any doubt or fear from Jay-la. You are going to have to play the game, to find out where they are. Really play the game, Nathan.”

“I don’t know if I can, Jackson.” He stated as he sank down on the couch, “say those things she wants to hear me say, contain myself or Havoc, for that matter, to say them.

“I’ll likely be the hardest thing you’ll ever have to do, but you will do it, for Jay-la. We just need to make sure we are there for the trade itself. That is the best plan.”

He stood once more unable to sit, needed to be on the move or doing something, he knew this was all Jackson’s Beta training shining through, this is what the man did.

Plan for the worse case scenario, likely his brain had been ticking the whole time. Since they had heard Sophia’s voice come down the line, they all knew how cruel and vindictive she could be.

If they were in the pack, Jackson would have a whole team of people around him right now and they would all be plotting and planning an assault of some sort, the best way to retrieve what was theirs.

It had to be Jackson, Havoc was not level headed enough him.

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It had to be Jackson, Havoc was not level headed enough about threats to his pack and he certainly wasn’t going to be level headed about a threat to his Mate and this was exactly that. They had heard what Sophia had said, punish every day, treated like the w\*\*\*e she was.

Havoc had actually gone quiet inside his mind with Jackson’s words, he wasn’t even stalking around inside his mind right this minute. His beast was standing still and keeping his thoughts all to himself. Likely not a good thing

“Havoc?’ he enquired.

‘Til kill her, all that dare to touch my Mates.’ His beast told him, sounded awfully calm to Nathan, though he understood that it was not a threat, it was full certainty.

That was what his beast was going to do, rip out of him and kill any and all that dared to be involved in their Mates k\*\*\*\*\*g.

‘Can you contain yourself through a conversation like we need to have?’ he asked Havoc, Nathan didn’t really know if he could pull it off himself. He doubted his beast could, they



hated Sophia. Loved Jay-la. He also knew that Sophia was going to make him say every hideous love word there was to her, with Jay-la right there in full earshot of the phone, to hear every word he had to say.

‘Kora will know it’s a plan. For us to get to them, she is smart, knows I love her, that I will never give her up.’

‘I know Kora has pure faith in you. But Jay-la’s fears from our past, the way we just abandoned her once before for Sophia, way down deep Havoc, is likely still in there somewhere. Could rise up.’ That was his true worry, she seemed to have forgiven him but he knew she would never forget it. He had hurt her a lot and this could bring them back to square one. He didn’t want that. But realised this could do that to her, ruin them all over again.

‘Trust our Mate’s.’ Havoc huffed

‘It’s not her I don’t trust Havoc, it’s her fear I worry about.’

‘Trust her, like I trust Kora. They both love us, they will both know it’s a plan to get them back, nothing more.’

Nathan didn’t know if that would be the case. Years of fear of Sophia wanting to harm her, harm the children. Now it was Sophia who had her, out there somewhere drugged and locked up, wanted to trade herself for Jay-la, to some Alpha, could well be Sophia’s new Mate, likely found a mate that was as cruel as she was herself and this was her way out of that bond, if he wasn’t willing to sever ties with her.

She’d likely seen that battle between them, realised that Jay-la had children to him, thought he had taken her as a chosen mate just to get his children back to him. Knew she had been his goddess gifted, Jay-la had been inside the pack not his Mate so just presumed he’d chosen her. It was the only thing he could think of as to why she was calling Jay-la his chosen mate.

“Nathan?” Jackson interrupted his thoughts.

“Havoc is extremely calm.”

“The calm before the storm.” Jackson sighed, they all knew what his beast was like.

Nathan was in agreement with that statement, his beast had never seen so calm, likely it was not a calm. But a deadly calm. It was unlikely that anyone was going to survive his beast, there was no telling what he would do or how he would respond. He’d been very different since being Mated to Kora. Not only did she calm him completely, he also loved Jay-la herself. His beast loved both of them the same, they were both his as far as he was concerned.

