

Chapter 46 - The Lycan King's Gamma

It didn't take long before Kailen fell asleep, and I knew she needed it. I still can't believe she is carrying our pup. I know she said not to get my hopes up, but on the inside, I was the happiest I've ever been since the day Kailen asked me to mark her as mine.

"Rex, please don't let this be a dream." I said to my wolf. He has been wagging his tail since we left the doctor's office.

"We are having a pup." He howled in my head. I knew we had to keep it a secret until she was further along, but I just wanted to shout it from the rooftop.

It wasn't because I would have an heir to the throne. I genuinely wanted kids, but I knew the chances were slim with Kailen. I wanted kids with Kailen and no one else and if she couldn't have one, then I was okay with that, but now that she's pregnant, I can allow myself to dream about our life with a child.

The need to protect them was stronger than ever and when she told me she couldn't shift because she was pregnant, I snapped my uncle's neck without even thinking twice about it. All I knew at that moment was to get to my mate and to keep her and our child safe. Even after the nap on the plane, everything was still a blur. One minute I was fighting my uncle and the next I was standing over her.

I told Greyson and Zach that I would be back, but I didn't know how I'd be able to leave Kailen and I couldn't take her with me. There are too many unknowns and we aren't even sure who the killer is. I will not risk her or our pup. But I don't think I can be away from her.

My phone dinged, pulling me from my thoughts. Picking it up from beside me, it was my father's name on the screen.

"Let me in. We need to talk." He texted me.

“Give me a sec.” I told him, before I eased out from underneath Kailen. After I was free, I quickly got dressed and headed to the door to let my father in.

He was waiting with coffee and passed one to me before stepping inside. I thanked him before we sat down in the living room. I probably should be sleeping, myself, but I was too anxious about getting things done and keeping my mate safe.

“So, you did it.” My father sighed. I knew he was going to be upset. I killed his brother.

“Dad, I had to. He threatened Kailen. His men attacked her and she’s pregnant.” I told him and his face lit up.

“She’s really pregnant?” He exclaimed and I shh him.

“She couldn’t shift when his men attacked us. After we arrived home, we went to the hospital, where the ultrasound confirmed she’s pregnant.” I told him.

“Why do I feel a but coming?” He sighed.

“Everything looks good right now, but she is still high risk. Her doctor wants to see her every week. And then I have to go back to help Greyson and Zach.” I explained.

“I won’t say a word until you both tell me, and if you have to leave, she can stay with me. She can stay in your old room. I’ll make sure there is a warrior assigned to her to take her to her classes, but everything else she can do from home. She needs to rest.” He told me.

“Thanks dad, I’m feeling anxious about leaving her but I can’t bring her with me. There are too many unknowns.” I told him and he nodded.

“I felt the same way when your mother told me she was pregnant with you. I didn’t want to leave her side. I drove her crazy, but our alpha instinct to protect our mate and pup will become intense, especially after you can no longer hide it. By then everything should be smoothed over, but we should all make a statement to the media.” He said, and I nodded.

“Kailen wanted to come to the media conference today. She wants to make a statement about what Jake did and put this all behind us,” I said.

“I think that’s best. Ending this very stressful situation will help her relax and just focus on growing my grandpup.” He said, and I smiled. I know he wanted grandpups.

“Dad, Kailen is worried that she won’t be able to carry our child to term. And I know I shouldn’t get excited just yet, especially since, if anything happens, Kailen will be devastated.” I said.

“Son, all you can do is pray for the best. I’ve read her medical report and, from my understanding, her being pregnant shouldn’t be possible, but she is. And worrying won’t change the outcome. I know it’s hard, but you have to let her body and her wolf take care of the pup.” He told me and I sighed.

“I’m sorry, dad. I know he was your brother.” I said.

“Hunter, he may have been my brother, but I would have done the same thing if he had threatened my mate. There are lines you don’t cross and this was one of them.” He told me.

“Thanks Dad. So what do you want to do about the mess I just handed you?” I asked him.

“We are going to combine the kingdoms. I’ve been running that half of the kingdom for the last twenty years, anyway. And just tell the truth when it comes to the media. He threatened your mate, and you protected her. I’ll hold off traveling there until you are back. One of us needs to be with Kailen at all times,” he said, and I nodded.

“And we should probably plan an engagement party for you and Kailen. And get started on building that dream house of hers by the lake.” He told me and I smiled.

“This place is going to be too small soon.” I told him and he smiled.

“I want a grandpa's suite.” He chuckled.

“Deal.” I told him.

“You should get some rest. I’ve seen you two have been busy.” He said, looking around the room with all the reporters and on the wall.

“Kailen has a new lead. That’s why we went there in the first place. But now it’s just going to be Greyson, Zach and I going to the actual scene to figure this out.” I told him.

“Kailen will figure this out, and she can do it from the safety of home. Now get some rest. The meeting is in a couple of hours. I’ll come get you both when it’s time.” He told me, standing from his seat. I stood up with him and he came over to give me a hug.

“I’m so proud of you, son. And congratulations.” He said before he left.

Before I could go back to bed with my mate, my phone rang. Looking at the screen, Greyson’s name popped up. Sighing, I answered, sitting back down on the couch.

“Greyson, what’s up?” I answered the phone.

“How’s Kailen doing?” He rushed out.

“She’s sleeping.” I told him.

“So, are you going to tell us why she didn’t shift?” Greyson asked.

“We?”

“I’m here too,” Zach said, and I sighed.

“Who else is there?” I asked them.

“No one, we are in my hotel room,” Greyson answered.

“Kailen is pregnant.” I told them. The phone went quiet but I’m pretty sure I heard them high five each other.

“Yes!” I heard Zach exclaim.

“But we aren’t saying a word to anyone. It’s still early and she's high risk. So, don’t do anything to stress her out.” I told him.

“Is she coming back with you?” Greyson asked me.

“Not a chance. She will stay here with my father. You three are the only ones that know, and I’d like to keep it that way.” I told them.

“I can’t wait to go shopping.” Zach squealed and I couldn’t help but laugh. Kailen didn’t need a girlfriend. She has Zach.

“You can go shopping when Kailen asks you. She’s scared that she won’t go to term. So don’t say a word,” I said.

“Mums the word.” Zach mumbled.

“So, when are you telling her you’re leaving?” Greyson asked me, and I sighed.

“Fuck, I’ll be leaving tomorrow morning. Just let me have some time with her. She won’t be happy about me being away from her.” I answered him.

“Just let us know when you are leaving,” Greyson answered.

“What happened after I left?” I asked him.

“Nothing, we are just interviewing the Alphas and the warriors that were helping him. They felt the power shift to you after you killed Andrew.” He explained.

“Did you find anything important?” I asked him.

“Not yet. We can go through his office and house when you get back here. I’m sure you’ll want to do that yourself. I know you don’t want to bring Kailen here, but I think it might be a good idea,” Greyson said.

“Explain?” I grumbled.

“She’s the best. If there’s something to find, she will find it.” Greyson said, and I sighed. I know she is the best, but I couldn’t live with myself if anything happened to her.

“It just means that we have to be better. I can’t risk her or our pup.” I told him.

“I’m glad I’m not the one to tell her.” Zach chimed in.

Chapter 47 - The Lycan King's Gamma

Gamma Kailen Steele

I was having the most wonderful dream. Hunter and I were playing with our child. They had light brown hair, and that was all I could make out. I couldn’t even tell if it was a boy or a girl. We were playing by the lake behind the royal pack house. It was a great moment until Hunter’s alarm went off, causing me to groan as I rolled off of Hunter’s chest.

“I’m sorry, Beautiful. We have the media conference.” Hunter chuckled, and I cursed under my breath.

“How are you feeling?” He whispered in my ear, causing goosebumps to erupt all over my body, and I shivered.

“Tired,” I yawned, turning over to face me.

“And the shoulders?” He asked me, and I didn’t even notice them.

“All better.” I told him, sitting up.

“And the baby?” He mumbled, kissing my shoulder.

“Aurora, how is the baby?” I asked her, and she yawned.

“Good,” She answered.

“Aurora says baby is doing good.” I told him, turning my head, so I was looking at him.

“That’s good, baby.” He purred before he crushed his lips to mine. Hunter pushed me back onto the bed, rolling on top of me without breaking the kiss.

Moaning, he thrusts his tongue into my mouth, tasting every inch of me, as he settled himself between my legs. The only thing between us was his boxers. As I only pulled on a shirt after my shower. I could feel how turned on he was, and I was wet just thinking about what he was going to do to me.

“Hunter,” I moaned as he kissed his way down my neck. He was rolling his hip, pushing his cock into my pussy.

“Fuck, I need you babe.” He mumbled against his mark. My hands found his hair as he rolled his hips, while sucking on his mark.

“Hunter, I need you, baby.” I moaned, rolling my hips in sync with him. He paused, lifting himself with his arms.

“If anything hurts or doesn’t feel right. You tell me.” He said, looking down at me. Looking up at him, I nodded, rolling my bottom lip with my teeth.

“Words, Beautiful.” He said, leaning down, licking over his mark. Moaning, I arched my back off the bed, pushing my breasts into him.

“Of course, just don’t stop.” I moaned as he sucked on his mark.

With my hands on his chest, I pushed him off of me on to his back. I climbed on top of him before removing his shirt I was wearing. Leaning back down, I crushed my lips to his. I could feel him moving underneath me, removing his boxers, and before I knew what was happening, he flipped us. He settled himself between my legs, his tip pushed up against my clit.

“Hunter, stop teasing.” I moaned, digging my fingers into his biceps.

“No, foreplay, baby.” he purred, and I shook my head, looking up at him. I just needed him inside of me.

Reaching between us, he positioned his cock at my entrance, letting out a groan as he slowly thrust into me. I know he didn't want to hurt me, but he was moving painfully slow.

"Baby, nothing hurts. Move faster." I breathed out, wrapping my legs around the back of his thighs. Doing what I asked, he moved faster, but it wasn't enough. I could feel my orgasm building and it was painful, begging to be released.

"Fuck," he groaned, moving faster. Digging my nails in harder as he picked up his pace. This has to be the pregnancy hormones. Sex has never felt this intense.

It wasn't until my orgasm ripped through me, did I lean up, sinking my teeth into Hunter's shoulder. It muffled my moans as I came undone underneath him. My pussy pulsed around his cock, squeezing it tightly as he continued to thrust into me, chasing his own release. It wasn't until I pulled my teeth from his shoulder, licking over the bite mark I had just given him, did goosebumps erupt all over his body and he shivered as he came deep inside of me.

My head fell back on the pillow and we were both panting as he collapsed on top of me, his face buried into my neck.

"Is it just me or was that different?" He mumbled against my neck.

"Different, good?" I breathed out.

"Always good, baby. But that was more intense than heat sex." He said, lifting his upper body with his arms, looking down at me.

"But so fucken good." I breathed out with a giggle.

"You feel better?" He asked, grinning at me.

"You always make me feel better, baby." I told him before pecking his lips.

“Fuck, you taste so good.” He mumbled against my lips. His phone rang, pulling us from the moment we were sharing. I groaned as he pulled away to look over to see who was calling him.

“It’s dad. We should get ready.” He said, and I pouted.

“I would rather stay here, in bed with you, but this needs to end,” he said, and I sighed.

“Fine. I just feel so tired. And horny.” I told him, moving off the bed and heading into the bathroom.

“That’s a weird combination.” He chuckled from the bedroom.

I did my business, checking to make sure I wasn’t bleeding. Everything felt good, but I was just being cautious. I fixed my hair before going back into the bedroom to get dressed. Hunter was just tying up his shoes, already dressed in a black suit, looking handsome as ever.

Leaning against the doorway, I watched him as I played with my bottom lip. I wanted to rip his clothes off and taste every inch of him.

“Beautiful, we are never leaving if you keep looking at me like that.” He purred, looking at me.

“That obvious?” I asked, walking to the closet, still naked.

“Not only can I smell your arousal, but I can feel you through the bond.” He said, coming over to the closet, leaning in the doorway.

“It has to be the hormones.” I told him, pulling on some black slacks.

“What, you don’t want to spend the day with me, naked?” He teased.

“Always, but unless we both retire, I don’t see that happening soon.” I told him.

“I’d retire this second, if it meant doing that again.” He chuckled.

“If we didn’t have this media conference, we’d already be on round three.” I told him with a smirk. He shivered when I went over to him and licked up his Adam’s apple. I was dressed and all ready to leave, but I figured I would tease him.

“That was so mean.” He groaned, and I giggled.

“Too bad we have the meeting,” I mumbled against his neck. A knock on the door pulled me from my dirty thoughts, and Hunter let out a groan.

“We can always play after. I don’t have class today.” I told him, patting his chest before leaving the bedroom to answer the door. Hunter let out a sigh.

“Kailen, I have to leave after the meeting.” He told me. I turned to look at him, the person at the door forgotten as we stood in the living room.

“But I’m going with you?” I asked him and he shook his head.

“Kailen, I can’t risk you or our baby.” He told me.

“So you are just going to leave me here.” I huffed, crossing my arms over my chest.

“Kailen, I want you to stay with my dad and he will have a warrior assigned to you. You will be safe here.” He told me.

“I’ll be safe, but I won’t have you. I know you want to keep us safe, but this is my case and I deserve to be there, searching for the evidence.” I told him and he sighed.

The person at the door knocked again, and Hunter moved to answer it. How the hell did he think I would be okay with this? I want to keep our baby safe and it’s my first priority, but I can’t be away from him right now. Even this early in the pregnancy, I feel the need to nest and be close to my mate.

Hunter’s father entered the living room after Hunter opened the door. He could tell that I was upset. I didn’t want a stranger protecting me; I needed my mate.

“You told her?” He asked Hunter, and he nodded.

“Kailen, we are just protecting you.” He told me and I looked at Hunter.

“You know I’m pregnant?” I asked him, and he looked at Hunter.

“I told him this morning, after you were sleeping. I know it’s early, but I need to keep you safe. Baby, you can’t shift and I don’t need you to be under any unnecessary stress.” Hunter pleaded with me to understand. And the logic part of me did, but the hormonal part did not.

“Fine, but I’ll pick the warrior and I’m staying here.” I told them, and Hunter sighed.

“Please, don’t be upset,” Hunter said, and I looked at him.

“I’m not upset. Now should we go?” I told him, walking to the door. I was more frustrated with the situation than with Hunter. Knowing his fears, they are the same as mine, but I’m not sure how I’m going to get by being away from him.

Hunter came up behind me before I made it to the front door of the Royal pack house. He wrapped his arms around my waist, pulling my back flush with his chest.

“Baby, please.” He said in my head.

“Hunter, I get it. I just don’t know how I’m going to be away from you.” I said to him, through our link. He leaned into my neck, planting gentle kisses.

“I’ll be back as soon as I can. You just focus on growing our baby.” he said, and I sighed.

“Come on you two, the media and reporters are waiting outside for us to make a statement,” King Henry said beside us. Hunter moved beside me, taking my hand in his. He gave it a squeeze before he followed behind his father. Still holding his hand, I followed him outside to a driveway full of reporters and media stations. I felt nervous as I looked out and all the cameras were on us. The king stepped up to the podium to make his

statement. Hunter was standing beside him and I was standing beside Hunter, squeezing his hand. The crowd calmed down and the king finally spoke.

“My people, I’m here to announce the death of my brother, Prince Andrew. Prince Andrew challenged my son, Prince Hunter, and lost. Prince Andrew threatened our future queen, Hunter’s chosen mate, Gamma Kailen Steele.” King Henry spoke.

“But Gamma Steele killed Prince Andrew’s son, Prince Jake.” A reporter called out.

“Prince Jake attacked Gamma Steele, and he was killed during that attack,” he answered.

“And there is proof of this?” Another yelled out.

“There is, yes. And once the investigation is closed, all the evidence will be made public. Gamma Steele is here to answer questions that you might have,” he told them. He motioned for me to come over to him, and Hunter kissed my cheek before I moved to the king’s side. I felt like my stomach was in my throat as I looked out at the crowd.

“Gamma Steele, you say that Prince Jake attacked you. What would be his reason for doing this?” one reporter called out.

“I wish I could answer that question, but I can not. I don’t know his reasons for the attack. I can tell you I did what I had to do to survive. Prince Jake told me he was going to kill me and I believed him,” I answered. My stomach was in knots and I was holding back my emotions as I answered that question. Hunter moved beside me, wrapping an arm around my waist.

“Whatever his reason was, if Gamma Steele hadn’t killed him, I would have. As I said at the last conference, Gamma Steele is my chosen mate, and what Prince Jake did was an act of treason against the crown. She is our future Queen and will be treated as such,” Hunter told them.

“And what of your fated mate, Prince Hunter?” Another question was called out.

“Gamma Steele is my mate, and that’s all that matters.” He told them, squeezing me into his side.

“And you killed your uncle over your mate?” someone called out, and Hunter let out a growl.

“My uncle challenged my mate, your future queen. I protected my mate, like any male would have.” he answered them.

“Is it true that you and Gamma Steele have been together for the last four years?”

“That’s correct,” Hunter said.

“Is that the reason she is now one of the gamma’s to your father, our King?” The king moved in to answer that question.

“Gamma Steele being with my son has nothing to do with her accomplishments. Gamma Steele is one of the best investigators that we have and she will continue to do amazing things for this pack and the wolf world. We should all be thankful that my son chose someone like Kailen to rule beside him. Now, that is enough questions for today.” The king spoke. Chaos broke out and Hunter hurried me back inside and away from the crowd.

“Baby, how are you feeling?” Hunter asked me once the door was closed.

“I would be better if I was going with you,” I breathed out, and he sighed.

“I know, and I’m sorry.” He said, pulling me against his chest.

“Son, the plane is almost ready. Go get packed. And Kailen, who have you chosen as your warrior?” the king asked, coming into the house.

Chapter 48 - The Lycan King's Gamma

Leaving Kailen was hard, and I could feel her sadness through the bond. I didn't want to leave her, but I technically was the ruler of that half of the kingdom now and I needed to go sort out the mess that my uncle caused. And I couldn't do that without worrying about Kailen and our baby. But now I was anxious about getting back to her. I knew she was scared and my guilt twisted my stomach painfully. I didn't want her to feel alone, but I also hated thinking that another male was sleeping on our couch.

I knew why she chose to have Caleb, but I wasn't his biggest fan. We used to be really good friends until he tried to be with Kailen. I always thought he was too friendly with her, but she assured me they were just friends. But now she is pregnant and marked by me and if that fucker touches her, I will rip him apart.

I wish I could have Kailen with me, but I needed that side of the kingdom to submit to me. I'm their Alpha now, sort of speak, and I can't get things organized, worried about Kailen. Thinking this way would be easier, but being on this plane proved me wrong. My heart ached for her, and I could feel her sadness. Hopefully, this won't take too long and I can get back to her before her next appointment. And I'm just praying nothing happens when I'm gone.

Finally, the plane landed. Zach and Greyson were waiting for me, and so was someone I wasn't expecting to see. As I exited the plane, I gave Brandon a look. He never told me she was the one that was sent to handle the legal part of this takeover.

"Hunter, it's good to see you." Emily said, giving me a smile before she hugged me. Out of everyone on our legal team, they had to send Emily.

"Always a pleasure." I told her, giving Brandon a look. He mouthed sorry before I pulled out of the hug.

"Are you alone?" She asked me, looking around me.

"My mate had to stay behind." I told her, and she didn't hide her excitement.

"Oh, that's too bad," she said.

“Emily, I’m here to finalize this, and then I’m going home.” I told her firmly.

“Of course, Hunter. We should probably get started then.” She said, heading to the car.

“Why the hell is she here?” I whispered to Greyson, and he shrugged. I didn’t miss the look of disgust on Zach’s face, watching her walk away. I nudged his shoulder with mine and he looked at me.

“Kailen is going to be pissed once she finds out that Emily is here,” was all Zach said before he hopped into the driver’s seat.

“I’ll take the backseat,” Greyson said. Before opening the back passenger door of the car, Fuck, this just keeps getting better and better, I thought as I took the front passenger seat.

My phone chimed in my pocket and I pulled it out before clicking my seatbelt in place. Kailen’s beautiful face popped up with her text.

K: I miss you so much, be safe. I love you.

I wonder if she could feel my guilt through the bond. Emily and I had a past, not one I really remember, but she was a part of our group before Kailen came along. I was with her once and I barely remember it, but since then, she has been trying to be with me. It was a drunken night, nothing more.

Me: I love you so much, baby. I’ll call you when I get to my hotel.

Turning my head, I saw Zach gripping the steering wheel. His knuckles were white. I wonder why he was so angry. I stopped hanging out with her because I found Kailen, but as far as I knew, both of them were still friends with her. Even before we started our relationship, I would rather spend my time with Kailen. My party days were over as soon as Kailen walked into the Royal house with my father. Sure, I would go out, but only with Kailen. I went out a few times with the guys after that, but it wasn’t fun unless Kailen was with me.

“So, Hunter, are the rumors true about you and Kailen?” Emily asked me from the back seat, pulling me from my thoughts.

“What rumors?” I asked her, not bothering to look at her.

“You and Kailen are together,” She clarified.

“Emily, Kailen is my mate, my future wife.” I told her, leaving no room to question my relationship with Kailen.

“Oh, congratulations, then.” She said, not hiding her disappointment. I rolled my eyes and was grateful that she didn’t ask anymore questions.

Even if I hadn’t marked Kailen, I would never have stepped out on her. I have been loyal to her from the moment we first were together. No one knew about our relationship, but that didn’t mean that I ever wanted to hurt her.

“Emily, why are you here?” I asked her, right before Zach pulled up to the hotel.

“To file all the paperwork. Besides, I was already in the area when my father called. Figured I would save someone a trip.” She answered me.

“Isn’t that nice of you?” Zach said sarcastically. I looked over at him and he rolled his eyes, still watching the road.

We finally pulled up to the hotel and Zach parked the car. Zach rushed out, and I followed him. My suitcase was being delivered by the airport, and I just wanted to get to my room and call Kailen before I started going through the paperwork. Emily and Greyson were right on our heels as we entered the hotel. I didn’t want to stay in the pack house and I’m sure Greyson ordered it to be cleaned out. I wanted nothing to do with my uncle or cousin. My father was right. They crossed a line that should never be crossed.

“We should all go out tonight, for old times’ sake.” Emily said as she got into the elevator with us. Greyson handed me a room key, and I was staying on the top floor.

“No,” Zach said.

“Emily, we are here to work and to get back. Now, what things do I need to sign and look over?” I asked her.

“I have all the paperwork in my room,” she said, and I sighed.

“I’ll get the paperwork. You just go get settled and say hi to Kailen for me.” Greyson said, saving me. He and Emily exited when the elevator stopped on the tenth room and when the doors closed behind them, I turned my attention to Zach.

“You okay?” I asked him.

“Yeah, just want to get this over with.” He breathed out. I could tell that something was bothering him, but I didn’t push him.

Getting out of the elevator, I found my room, and it was across from Zach’s.

“Go talk to Kailen and I’ll be over there soon.” He told me before entering his room.

I entered mine and immediately pulled out my call to call Kailen. She picked up after the first ring and my heart fluttered hearing her voice.

“Hunter, I miss you so much.” She breathed out.

“I miss you, baby. How are you feeling?” I asked her.

“I’m okay, Hunter. I don’t know how I’m going to sleep with you so far away.” She sighed.

“I know, and I’m sorry. For all of this. I’m just about to go through the paperwork and hopefully I can be on the plane tomorrow afternoon.” I told her.

“Are you not investigating what we found?” She asked me. I scrunched up my face, forgetting all about the investigation.

“I’ll look into it, but I’d rather get home to you.” I told her.

“I’ll keep digging here.” She said.

“Kailen, I love you so much and I just want to keep you two safe. I know this investigation is important to you, but we may have to have someone else look into this while you are pregnant.” I told her and she sighed.

“I’ll investigate from an office. Your fears are my fears. I just miss you. Logically, I hear you, but then there’s a part of me that doesn’t care about the risks as long as we are together. I’m sorry, my emotions are all over the place.” She said, and I could hear her sadness.

“Hey, it will only be a few days, tops. I’ll work throughout the night if I have to.” I told her.

“Have you eaten?” I asked her.

“I was going to go make something. I know I need to eat, but I don’t want to. I feel tired, but our bed is so empty.” It was hard to hear Kailen like this. She is so independent, but her hormones are all over the place. She has never been this needy and I think that’s also scaring her.

“Please eat, baby. I know this is hard for you, but we can handle this for a few days. And you will be busy with class and soon I’ll be home.” I told her. There was a knock on my door and I cursed under my breath.

“Hunter?” Kailen asked, concerned.

“I’m okay, but I have to go. I’ll call you before I go to bed. But you can call or text me whenever you want. And I mean that. Okay?” I said.

“I love you, Hunter.” She said.

“I love you, my queen. Now go eat, I miss you.” I said.

“I miss you. Bye Baby.” She said before ending the call.

The knock came again, and I already hated being here. I should have handed things over to my father and took his spot for however long this

was going to take. Or maybe after I assess the situation, I can bring Kailen here until this is all done.

Sighing, I answered the door to find Greyson and Emily. I stepped out of the way so they could enter. Greyson was carrying a box of files, and I was already dreading this. Before I could close the door, Zach entered with some take-away bags and I knew this was going to be a long night.

“How’s Kailen?” Greyson asked me, setting the box down.

“She’s good,” I answered. I would have told him more if Emily weren’t here, but I didn’t need the entire kingdom to know that their future leader was on their way.

“How long have you and Kailen been together?” Emily asked me, taking a seat in the sitting area of my small apartment-like room.

“Almost four years,” I told her and she looked at me, stunned.

“Mr. I don’t do relationships, has been in one for the past four years,” she exclaimed, and I nodded.

“Just waiting for Mrs. Right.” I said, sitting across from her.

“Interesting. I always thought that she was dating Caleb.” She shrugged and Rex let out a growl that I couldn’t hold back.

“Emily, why would you say that?” Greyson asked her. I noticed Zach was sitting at the small dining table, away from Emily.

“They were always so close, and I know he likes her.” She answered. And I was instantly angry about him being in my apartment with my mate. What the fuck was I thinking? I needed her here and I need her here now.

“Emily, why the fuck would you say that?” Zach growled out, and she shrugged.

“I'm just being honest,” she told him.

“No, you’re being a bitch.” Zach huffed.

“Hunter, I’m going to go do the rounds.” Zach said to me before leaving, the door slamming behind him. I looked at Greyson and he shrugged, clearly not knowing either.

“Emily, can we just get this done?” I asked her. She handed me a file but grabbed my hand when I tried to take it from her.

“I’m sorry, Hunter. I didn’t mean to upset you,” she said.

Chapter 49 - The Lycan King's Gamma

The first night Hunter was gone, I got little sleep. And the morning sickness started the next morning. I awoke early this morning, rushing to the bathroom to empty the contents of my stomach. Not that there was much. Hunter wasn’t here with me, so it was hard for me to eat. I hated how much Hunter's not being here affected me. I’m such an independent person, but being pregnant, though early, was already taking its toll on me.

When there was nothing left in my stomach and I had cleaned myself up, I left to find Caleb sitting on my bed, waiting for me.

“You okay?” He asked, and I nodded.

“Coffee?” He asked, standing up from the bed.

“Can you please put the kettle on? I’ll make tea when I’m ready.” I asked him. He nodded and left my room, closing the door behind him. Sighing, I went to go get ready.

I would have to ask Caleb not to enter my room. His scent was covering up Hunter’s, and I was growing anxious about having another man in my space. Caleb is here because I do trust him and a part of me wanted to piss Hunter off for leaving me. He thinks Caleb has a thing for me, but we are just friends, even before Hunter and I.

Finally ready for the day, I dragged my butt out of my room. Caleb was sitting at my small dining table, drinking his coffee. There was a tea steeping on the counter in the small kitchen area.

“Thanks, Caleb.” I told him, taking my tea with me, I sat down beside him.

“Kailen, are you okay?” He asked me, as I sipped my tea. My stomach was still in knots from earlier and I will have to give my doctor a call.

“Yeah, I’m okay.” I told him. He raised an eyebrow but said nothing else.

My phone chimed on the counter where I left it when I picked up my tea. Sighing, I stood up from my seat to get my phone. Looking at the screen, Hunter’s handsome face popped up and instantly missed him.

Hunter: Good morning, beautiful. How did you sleep?

Me: it was okay. How was yours?

Hunter: it was okay. I miss you so much.

Me: I miss you, Hunter. I woke up not feeling great. I’m going to go see the doctor.

As soon as the message said read, my phone was ringing in my hand.

“It’s Hunter. We can leave in a few minutes.” I told Caleb, before grabbing my tea and heading into my room.

“Hunter?” I answered.

“Baby, what’s wrong?” He rushed out. Sighing, I took a seat on the edge of the bed.

“I’m exhausted, and I had some morning sickness.” I told him and he sighed.

“You need to rest. Maybe you should stay home today.” Hunter said.

“Hunter, I miss you, and I hate this. Can you please come home?” I asked him. I’ve heard that pregnant wolves can be impossible, and I quickly understood why.

“Baby, I’ll be back as soon as I can.” Hunter sighed. I could feel the tears threatening to fall. The need to be with my mate was strong.

“Kailen, I can feel your emotions. What’s wrong?” He pleaded.

“Hunter, I don’t know what’s wrong. I miss you so much and I can’t control my emotions right now.” I told him, sniffing.

“Baby, please don’t cry.” He sighed.

“Hunter, it’s been a week into this pregnancy and my emotions are all over the place. Can’t you come home or can I go there? It feels like I haven’t seen you in a lifetime.” I huffed.

“Kailen, I know this is hard, but I need you to be safe. You are safe there, even though I hate Caleb sleeping on our couch.” He grumbled that last bit. I heard a noise coming from Hunter’s side before he let out a groan.

“Baby, I love you. I have to go, but call me after you see the doctor.” He said.

“Okay, Hunter. I love you.” I said before he ended the call.

Sighing, I called my doctor to make an appointment and I was thankful that she could see me before my class today. Sipping my tea, I walked back out to find Caleb playing on his phone, sitting on the couch.

“Is everything okay?” He asked me when I sat down in the chair.

“Yes, I have to go to the hospital before class today. I forgot about the prescription I needed to fill.” I told him and he nodded.

“And how’s Hunter?” Caleb asked, and I sighed.

“Busy,” I told him.

“Hey, he’ll be home soon enough.” Caleb told me, placing his hand on my knee.

“We should go.” I rushed out, standing up. I think I made a mistake having Caleb here. Or maybe it’s because my hormones only want Hunter.

Caleb drove me over to the hospital and as soon as we entered, my doctor pulled me into a room to see me, leaving Caleb in the waiting room.

“Kailen, how are you feeling?” Dr. Connors asked me while I took a seat.

“Nauseous.” I told her.

“Hormones are getting stronger. That’s a good thing. I’ll give you something that will help settle your stomach. Bleeding?” She said, typing on her laptop.

“No bleeding.” I told her and she nodded.

“I also feel weird being away from Hunter,” I mumbled. She stopped typing to look at me.

“Nesting?” She asked, and I shrugged.

“He was away last night and I couldn’t sleep. And then, with my personal bodyguard, I hate his scent.” I told her and she chuckled.

“Usually, I don’t hear that until the second trimester, but you are both of alpha blood. If he can’t be with you, wear his clothes and don’t let anyone into your personal space.” She told me and I sighed.

“Hunter is away and I don’t know how long, so my assigned warrior is staying in our home.” I told her.

“Whatever he is doing, I think you should be with him. If you feel like this now, it will only get worse. And you are already at a higher risk.” She said, and I nodded.

“I’ll talk to him after my class. We will have to come up with a schedule. And am I okay to fly?” I asked her.

“I’ll keep checking you every week and we will assess it from there. But as of right now, you are safe to fly.” She told me.

“Okay.”

“Okay, let me go get you some tablets for the nausea and I’ll be right back.” She said before leaving the exam room.

After she left, I pulled out my phone to text Hunter. Not only was I missing him, but something felt off with our bond. I couldn’t make out how he was feeling.

Me: The doctor is prescribing me some nausea tablets.

Hunter: How are you feeling now?

Me: Weird. Can I call you before class?

Hunter: Of course, but what’s wrong?

Before I could answer, Dr. Connors came back in and I put my phone away.

“Take one tablet three times a day. You should feel better in no time. But Kailen, please consider what I said. Right now, you need Prince Hunter.” She said, and I nodded. She handed me a list of appointments and then I was free to leave.

I met up with Caleb in the waiting room and he drove me over to my classroom. After I placed my bag on my desk, I pulled out a water bottle from my desk to take one of my tablets, downing it with my water.

Sitting at my desk, I was trying to organize my thoughts, but my mind always drifted to Hunter and what he was doing. Sighing, I pulled out my phone. Hunter had texted me a few times.

Me: Hunter, we are both okay. But being away from you is getting harder and harder.

Hunter: Baby, I know and I’m sorry, but this place is a mess.

Me: Then I should be there with you. I feel like I'm losing my mind.

Before I could read his text, my class started to enter. Now I had to function and focus on the lesson.

"Caleb, can you please get me a tea?" I asked him. He hesitated and was about to say something until I did.

"With all these alpha's and beta's around, I should be okay for 10 minutes. And you look like you need a coffee." I told him.

"Your couch is really uncomfortable." He said, cracking his back as he left my class.

"New room mate?" Mr. Cooper asked me, as I took a seat on the edge of the platform.

"Just for now," I answered.

"Miss Steele are the rumours true about Prince Andrew?" Mr. Carter asked me and I sighed.

"Prince Andrew challenged Prince Hunter and lost," I answered.

"Because Prince Jake attacked you?" Mr. Cooper asked.

"I'm sure that was his reason, yes." I answered.

"Miss Steele all our packs would have sided with you and Prince Hunter. You're the new power couple." Mr. Carter said, and I chuckled.

"There won't be a war or anymore trouble, but I appreciate your loyalty. I may have been protecting myself, but two lives have been lost." I told them.

Caleb came back, taking a seat beside me before passing me my tea. Even the warmth from the cup didn't warm me. And I hated Caleb's scent and moved over a bit to put some space between us.

"Miss Steele, could we talk about the mate bond?" Mr. James asked.

“Of course we can. What’s troubling you about it?” I asked him and he hesitated, looking around the room.

“If you take a chosen mate, what happens to your fated mate?”

“Nothing happens to them, persay. You will just form the bond you would have had with your fated mate with your chosen as soon as you mark them.” I answered.

“Will they get another fated mate?” He asked.

“They may get a second chance mate. My ex-mate did. But I’m not sure,” I told him.

“But you rejected your mate?” Mr. Carter asked, and I nodded.

“How is that fair? He cheats and you reject him for that and then he gets a second chance?” Mr. Carter huffed.

“It may not seem fair, but I think things worked out in the end,” I told him.

“Mr. James, are you worried about choosing a chosen mate?” I asked him.

“Does it feel the same?” He asked him.

“If you love them, I think it does. How does your wolf feel about it?” I asked him.

“He won’t answer.” He sighed.

“There is no rush. Hunter and I were together for four years before we marked each other.” I told them and Caleb spit out the sip of coffee he had just taken.

“You okay?” I asked him, turning to look at him.

“Four years!” He exclaimed, coughing the hot liquid out of his lungs.

“Don’t worry, Delta Caleb, we were all surprised too.” Mr. Carter chuckled.

I was so glad when class was finally over and I could go home and wrap myself in a blanket that smelled like Hunter. As the students were leaving, my phone chimed on my desk. I was packing up my bag, trying to leave. Hunter had texted me, but Caleb pulled my attention away from my phone.

“So you’ve been with Hunter for four years?” He asked me, standing very close.

“Caleb, I love Hunter. And yes, we have been together for the last four years.” I told him and he sighed.

“Then I hate to show you this.” Caleb said, holding up his phone so I could see. It was a picture taken from outside of a window. It looked like Hunter was sitting ever close to some woman.

My heart twisted painfully in my chest as I tried to think of a logical reason for him to be so close to another woman.

Chapter 50 - The Lycan King's Gamma

Lycan Prince Hunter

Sleep did not come easily and all too soon my alarm was going off and I needed to get up. Groaning, I got out of bed to get ready. After going through the paperwork yesterday, I knew I still had a ton of things to get done before I could get back to Kailen. I spoke to my father last night, and he assured me that more warriors were on their way. I also had so many meetings to get through. My father and I both agreed to have both kingdoms integrated into one kingdom under his rule until my thirtieth birthday.

Before I could walk out of the bedroom, I felt this wave of burning sadness coming through the bond. I immediately texted Kailen, sitting back down on the bed. When she told me about not feeling good, I called her. I knew she was having a hard time, but I wasn’t sure if this place

was safe yet. But listening and feeling her sadness killed me inside. I heard a commotion coming from my living room area and had to end the call with Kailen. No one should be in my room.

Walking out, I found Emily sitting on the couch with coffee. She gave me a smile as I looked at her in confusion. Why the hell was she in my room? And where did she get a keycard?

“Coffee?” She asked, holding out a cup.

“Emily, what are you doing in my room?” I asked her, not trusting the coffee that she had brought. I knew this game all too well and right now, I don’t trust her.

“I was just bringing you a coffee, Hunter. What, we can’t be friends since Kailen marked you?” She huffed, placing the coffee on the table.

“Emily, I never said we couldn’t be friends, but I don’t want you coming into my room. You should have knocked.” I told her, and she frowned.

“We are friends, but friends also knock before coming into someone’s personal space.” I told her before there was a knock on my door.

Answering it, I found Greyson and Zach. They both gave me a look when they saw Emily was in my room. I just shook my head and moved so they could both enter. I pulled out my phone to text Greyson. I wish I could mindlink him without having to be Rex.

Me: I need a new keycard for my room.

His phone chimed, and he pulled out his phone. He looked at his screen and then at me, giving me a nod.

Zach took a seat after taking the coffee that Emily had brought for me. At least someone was going to enjoy it. I noticed Emily glared at Zach, but said nothing.

“Let’s get a coffee and head into the offices. We have a busy day ahead of us,” Greyson told us.

Emily insisted on coming with us, and Greyson took the back seat with her. I feel uncomfortable being around her now. Maybe her actions earlier were innocent, but she still shouldn't have been in my room.

Pulling up to the pack house, the media lined the driveway, hoping for a story. Zach parked the car, and I sighed before getting out of the car. I stopped to make a statement before heading in.

"Prince Hunter, what is your plan?" One called out.

"My father and I have united the kingdoms under one rule. His." I answered.

"And where is our future queen?" Another one yelled out.

"She is attending to her duties as Gamma." I told them.

"Was this the plan all along?" Another asked.

"Prince Andrew threatened my mate, and the future queen. I didn't intend to challenge my uncle, but my mate and future wife will always come first." I said.

"Now, if that's everything, I need to get everything organized to hand over to my father." I told them before moving into the house. I was thankful that most of it had been cleared out.

I entered his office, which was on the main floor, and the others followed me. There were already files all over the coffee table in the sitting area, so I took a seat on the couch and, to my annoyance, Emily sat down beside me. I noticed Zach glaring at her the entire time. I'll have to ask him about it when we have a moment alone.

"Hunter, I'm going to go gather everyone here so you can speak to everyone." Zach said before he left the room.

Greyson sat down on a chair closest to me and handed me a file.

"Emily, give us a minute," Greyson told her. She tried to complain until I looked at her.

“You can always leave?” I asked her. She huffed and finally left the room.

Rolling my eyes at her attitude, I turned my attention back to Greyson.

“Goddess, that woman is a pain in the ass.” Greyson mumbled.

“What’s this?” I asked Greyson.

“Financials. I know you don’t want Kailen here, but things aren’t adding up.” He told me and I opened the file.

“What am I looking for?” I asked him and he moved to sit beside me. He pointed out a very large transaction, and it made little sense.

“There are a few like this one over the last twelve months. We have the banks tracking the transfer,” Greyson told me.

“Okay.” I told him, before my phone chimed. I pulled it out of my pocket to see it was Kailen.

“How is she?” Greyson asked while I read her texts.

“Morning sickness.” I answered.

“That sucks. She’s still early?” He asked me, and I nodded. Sighing, I put my phone on the coffee table.

“You okay?” He asked me.

“No, she wants to be here and I don’t know what to do,” I told him.

“Does she know Emily is here?” He asked me, and I looked over my shoulder at him.

“Stupid question. If she did, Kailen would be here already, ripping her apart.” He chuckled.

“What’s your feelings about her being here? Do you think she will be safe?” I asked him.

“I think she should be here. She can investigate her case and you can clean up the mess your uncle made. Hunter, Zach and I would let nothing happen to Kailen or your pup.” He said, and I nodded.

“I’ll call her after class and tell her to pack her bags.” I told him. And he slapped me on the shoulder.

“Good, now we can get rid of Emily.” He chuckled, and I sighed.

“What’s up with Zach?” I asked him.

“I don’t know. He won’t say.” He shrugged.

“Maybe he’ll talk to Kailen,” I said.

I left the financials for Kailen to look over and move on to all the alphas who have packs on this side of the kingdom. My first call was to Thomas as his pack, as the Opal Mountain pack was on my uncle’s borders.

“Prince Hunter, what can I do for you?” Beta Thomas answered.

“Have you accepted Kailen’s offer of taking over as alpha?” I asked him.

“I’m the stand in Alpha. This will always be Kailen’s pack,” he answered.

“Thank you, Alpha Thomas, for doing this for her. And I’m sure you heard what happened to Prince Andrew,” I said.

“And for most of the packs, this will be a blessing. I know you did what you did to protect Kailen, but you won’t find much resistance from most of the packs on his side of the kingdom.” He told me.

“What do you mean?” I asked him.

“Where do you think most of the money was coming from? Your father only takes about 10% and that depends on the size of the pack and wealth and such. But Prince Andrew was taking almost 50% and it would have been more but the packs put up a fight.” Thomas answered.

“And don’t get me started on the crime rates. Prince Andrew was easily bought for the right price.” He continued. I was furious that this had been going on for so long and we did not know. He was reporting a different amount to my father and keeping the rest for himself.

“So the only ones that will be loyal to him were the ones that bought him?” I asked.

“And that’s only about five packs. The rest will follow you as long as things change,” he answered.

“I’m planning on handing this side back over to my father, to be one Kingdom again. And everything will change. And I hate that this has been going on for so long underneath our noses.” I told him.

“You’re a good man, Prince Hunter. I know you’ll do the right thing. Kailen picked you, so you must be good.” He told me with a chuckle.

“And you know her. She will make sure this is all made right. Can you text over the packs that you feel were in with Prince Andrew and I’ll look into them personally?” I asked him.

“I’ll send that right now. And please say hello to Kailen. Cathy has been missing her.” He told me.

“I’ll make sure she calls when I see her. Take care and thank you.” I told him before ending the call.

Greyson was watching me as I threw myself back onto the couch, resting my head on the back of the couch. Rex was grumbling, and I was just as furious as he was. Your job as an alpha is to protect your pack, not exploit them.

“What’s wrong?” Greyson finally asked.

“Andrew had been taking advantage of all the packs here, except for the ones that could buy him out. He was taking a bigger cut from the packs, but only reporting the amount that my father had set in place. Thomas is texting over a list of packs that we should also investigate. Also, there are crimes that are left unreported,” I told him.

“Well, this just became a bigger mess than we thought.” Greyson sighed. My phone chimed, and I knew it was Thomas sending me the list of packs.

Picking it up, I was right and I sent the list to Greyson. Then I texted Kailen. She should almost be done with class by now and I miss her terribly.

I sent her a text telling her how much I loved and missed her and then Greyson and I got to work looking into all the packs that Thomas sent over. There were only six of them, but they were, of course, wealthy packs with a lot of pull. We were going to have to change that.

Greyson and I were so consumed by work it wasn't until Zach stormed in did I notice the time. We had been at this for the last four hours, but where the hell has Zach been?

“Have either of you been on social?” He rushed out, pacing around the room.

“No, we have been working.” I told him. Zach sat down beside me and Greyson leaned over to see what Zach was talking about.

As soon as Zach pulled up the article, I cursed and Rex let out a growl. I was looking at a picture that was taken earlier today, of Emily and me sitting on the couch. They took the picture from the window behind the couch.

“That's not the worst part.” Zach said, clicking off the picture so I could read the headline.

“Trouble in paradise for our future king and queen?” Greyson read out, and Rex let out a growl.

I immediately picked up my phone to call Kailen. Dialing her number, it went straight to voicemail.

“Fuck.” I growled. I focused on our bond, and I could feel her confusion and pain.

“Her phone is off.” I told them when Emily entered the office.

“Emily, I think it’s time you headed home.” I told her before she could say anything. She crossed her arms over her chest and pouted.

“Hunter, I did nothing wrong.” She huffed. She didn’t, but I didn’t care. My mate is pregnant and her being here could affect Kailen.

There was a knock on the door, and Greyson moved to answer it while I dealt with Emily. I smelt her before I saw her. Kailen let out a growl as soon as Greyson moved and she saw Emily. Before Kailen could move, I moved to her. Grabbing her, I pinned her body against the wall with mine. I could feel her fury through the bond and I couldn’t risk her getting hurt.