

The Luna Trials by Marissa Gilbert Chapter 40

1. I Am North

“Hey there, Princess,” Bjorn’s voice echoed through the pit’s silver walls, and Savannah looked up to see his red eyes gleaming in the darkness, “Looks like you need a hand.”

She stood up. There was no way she’d be sitting defeated at a moment like this. Besides, this was precisely what she and Kai expected and even planned for. After hours and hours of discussing everything back in the cabin, they came to the conclusion that Bjorn would be seeking to meet her again.

The question was where and when. However, it became obvious after it was decided that Savvy

would compete in the next Luna Trials challenge. It was the perfect place to contact her since the white

bears’ lands bordered the Forbidden Forest.

“Are you willing to help me just like that?” She looked at Bjorn with a raised brow.

“I never said that. Everything has its price.” The man chuckled and sat next to the edge of the pit so

that he could observe her better. He liked the sight of the Western Princess beneath him. “I am not sure ! am going to help you at all if I am completely honest. At least not in the way you want me to help

you.”

“Then why are you here?” She folded her arms on her chest and met his gaze defiantly, “TO

gloat?

“I guess I am... intrigued.” His gaze travelled up and down her body way too slowly for it to be innocent, and Savannah swallowed a lump that formed in her throat.

“Intrigued with what?”

“With you, Princess.” A vague smile touched his lips. “I was sure you would slap that jerk and leave this country for good after what he did to you. This kind of humiliation was... too much, don’t you

think?”

“Was I supposed to run back and lose the chance for an alliance both our countries needed so much to fight against you?” She rolled her eyes and added sarcastically, “Please!”

“So, you know who I am,” he smirked.

“It’s not like you’ve been hiding that, right?” Savvy snorted loudly. His smugness was too much, but it could be for the best. After all, he was helping her to drag the conversation himself.

“I guess not,” he admitted easily. “Still, i am not that famous compared to the North Star and the great Lycan King of the West.”

“Don’t be shy! The White Bear King is quickly gaining quite the reputation. All your work here doesn’t

to unnoticedi”

“It’s an honour for me to be noticed by you, Princess.” His lips curved into a sly smile, and Savannah just hoped that Kal’s warriors were on their way. Helping to catch the White Bear King would automatically mean winning the favour of the Northerners. This was a chance of a lifetime. Not to

mention that it could potentially put an end to this war.

She couldn't do it alone and not from this pit, though. Gideon arrived at the worst time, and Kai was dealing with him now. Otherwise, it would be a done deal. With Kai's ability to do something she never could control his third lycan form- he could submit Bjorn in battle. This was something that others couldn't do. But maybe it would be possible if there were many warriors against him.

"Why do you seek contact with me?" She decided to prolong the conversation, playing for time.

"Isn't it obvious?" His red eye gleamed again.

"I prefer to hear things clearly and not think of the double meanings so that I don't misunderstand anything. So, is the White Bear King brave enough to answer my question?"

"Is the Lycan Princess brave enough to hear my answer?" He teased, enjoying their little game. "I think I can manage!" Savannah chuckled, masking her nervousness with fake confidence.

"Then you can hear it next time." Bjorn stood up. The amused expression on his face changed to that one of indignation. "I see you've been waiting for me, Princess. You've prepared and even managed to call for help somehow."

"What do you mean?" Savvy tried to pretend she didn't know about anything, even though acting was never her strongest gift. She was surprised that he already knew about approaching warriors as she couldn't hear or sense anyone close yet. Just how was he doing that? She was a royal lycan, for Moon Goddess' sake! Yes, she was in a silver pit, which had its effects on her, but it didn't affect her the way it would a simple werewolf. What was wrong with this bear?

"You don't have to pretend with me," Darius Bjorn sneered at her. "I like that you set up a trap for me. I was angry that you didn't appreciate my gift, but I like a good challenge. My next gift will be better, I swear."

I like that you stayed to fight, and I like that you thought you could win against me. It's... refreshing."

"So, I take it as you like me?" Sawy scoffed, hugging herself uncontrollably. This confession gave her chills and not the best kind.

"Like?" Bjorn let out a low chesty laugh. "No, that's not how I'd say it." He calmed down and then looked straight at her with a predator's gaze. "I want you."

His words echoed through her silver prison, and Savannah's lips parted. She didn't expect such a bold declaration. This didn't feel like a game anymore. Not at all.

But the bear didn't move, staring at her from the top.

"Get used to that idea," he told her, and that made her shiver. "When a white bear chooses its prey, it never lets it go."

"Mam no prey!" She threw the words at him, but it seemed to only make his grin wider. He liked her this way.

"I guess you are not," Bjorn agreed readily. "You are Queen material. And it just so happens that I am in need of one"

"You are lucky to find yourself in the middle of the Luna Trials, then!" A little chuckle escaped Sarry's

chest "You can find some girls who are ready to kill to become a Queen!"

"I thought about taking Elene as my wife once to secure the North," he confessed, interrupting her,

and looked away as if he was seeing something peculiar far away. “I thought that once I kill Kai and make

his sister my Queen, the North will accept me. But you know what I learned over the years, Savannah?” His gaze met hers again, and she gulped. “I don’t need anyone to secure my throne here. I have worked hard

for it, and I have earned my right. Once the Lycan King is dead, there will be only one ruler in the North. So,

there is no need to have Elene by my side to rule the North. I AM NORTH!”.

Savvy didn’t reply to anything she didn’t like how he already considered the man she loved dead and built his plans based on that. Elene had a lucky escape there, though, not being his target.

“So, that leaves me with an opportunity to pick my future queen based on my personal preferences.” Bjorn didn’t look like he was in any kind of rush, even though Savannah could now feel approaching warriors. Paws and feet, they were coming from different directions in two forms and closing up on them.

The cameras worked, after all!

“And you choosing me doesn’t have anything to do with me being the Western Princess and

descendant of the Western Lycan Kings?” She snickered, trying to stall him again. However, her attempt

did not go unnoticed.

“Let’s say it’s an added bonus,” he smirked, looking down at her. “I didn’t recognise you the first time

we met, but I knew I wanted you then”

“How romantic!” Savannah selt her claws elongating on instinct but had to retract them not to break

the rules of the Trials.

“There are still so many things you have to learn about me, Princess,” Bjorn clenched his lips tightly and became serious. “I want you, and I like to play games. I love that you are feisty, my woman cannot be anything else you are also smart, and this is a quality I need for my Queen, Nice job hiding your memory skills, by the way. I couldn’t figure it out for a while.”

“Thanks,” she muttered, although she felt like swearing. Now that her photographic memory wasn’t a secret anymore, the little advantage she had was gone.

“Since I know so much about you, it would be fair to share something about me.” Amenacing smile touched the corners of the white bear’s lips, and Sawy felt uneasy. “When you try to mess with my plans, there will be consequences”

She knew it was a threat but still didn’t know what to expect. Bjorn watched her for a white, and now She was sure he wouldn’t be able to escape the warriors. It was too late, but then he touched his temple and sneered at her Plercing pain rippled through her body, and she gritted her teeth, having to lean on the

silver wall lor balance

Mer malet Her damn mate was doing this to her again! Just how many times would she have to suffer Thanks to that man? When she saw him nent, she would rip his heart out on the spot even if all the Cameras in the world were on her!

“See, Savannah, another thing to learn is that even when it looks like I am cornered, I have

everything under my control. I have been working on all of this for too long to lose now!” The white bear’s confidence was through the roof; she would have probably admired that if not for their little

predicament.

“Is that why you so actively avoid Kai?” Savvy let out a bitter laugh; her whole body was aching now, “Admit it, Darius,” she used his first name on purpose, knowing this wasn’t how he liked to be called, “you know that if you two meet in battle, you will lose despite whatever enhancements you’ve done to yourself! You are always on the run. I wouldn’t call that control!”

The smug expression was wiped from his face, and she noticed him clenching his fists, knowing she

had hit the target.

“Princess,” his tone sounded as if he was disappointed, “initially, I wanted it to last just a few minutes so that you learned your lesson. But I guess you just gifted your mate an orgy.”

“Whatever!” She chuckled through the pain. “I think you overestimate Zack’s abilities.”

“We’ll have to put it to the test, I am afraid!” he said, and they both heard a howl nearby. The howl that meant it was a minute until the warrior lycans arrived. “I’ll see you soon, Princess.”

Bjorn was gone, and until she was sure of it, she could finally fall down to her knees and writhe in pain properly.

Someone blocked the sun, and Savannah looked up to see Lachlan watching her with a concerned

face.

“Give me a second,” he exhaled heavily. “I’ll get you out!” “No!” she furrowed her brows and hissed. “The rules...”

“F*ck the rules!” Lachlan grunted, “You are my future Luna, and I can’t leave you like this!”

“Then, as my future subject, take my order!” She did her best to stand up, knowing that her moment of weakness was over. She was a Western Lycan Princess and the future Luna of the North! She couldn’t afford to lie down and feel sorry for herself even if the world was falling apart. She wasn’t new to this kind of pain and could easily handle it! Because giving up wasn’t an option.

“Go and get that bear!” she commanded but still saw the Beta hesitating, “Now!” she roared, noticing a black hawk in the sky. Zara was here too, probably tracing Bjorn’s movements.

“Yes, Luna,” Lachlan bowed respectfully, a little smile playing on his lips. “Follow Zara,” Savvy added. “She will lead you to him.”

The Lycan disappeared after a curt nod, and she heard the receding steps of the warriors, hoping that they would put an end to all of this today.

The pain was still rippling through her body, and she couldn’t believe that Zack had fallen so low as to have s*x on someone’s command. Then again, it was possible he simply did not have a choice.

It didn’t matter much to her, though. She had her own problem now as she had to get out of this pit whatever it cost her.

She couldn’t shift or use partial transformation, but she could still use her body strength. The

patterns on the walls were made of silver and bronze to be able to trap both – Wolves and bears, but they weren't the hardest metals out there...

Clenching her teeth, Savannah slammed her fist against the wall and saw a dent mark left in the metal from the impact. She hit it again and again, ignoring the pain in her bloodied knuckles. This wasn't important now. The cracked bones and torn skin would heal as soon as she was out of this place.

The Princess managed to make a few tactical dents and used them to climb higher on the wall. She was hitting it repeatedly, creating new places to help her and slowly moving upwards.

At this point, she felt more like a machine than a human, and even Athena inside her did her best to block most of the painful sensations for them.

Savvy grasped the pit's edge and paused, taking a deep breath before the final push. She was so close

to getting herself out.

“Savannah?” she heard a familiar voice and winced when she saw Astrid standing before her. Could this day get any worse?

“Hey!” she muttered, knowing that another fall was near. Would Astrid step on her hand like Brigit did

or just unclench her fingers from the ground? Or maybe she would go as far as trying to kill her now? It wasn't exactly prohibited, and it was a perfect chance. It did not help that Zack was still going at it, and her vision was getting blurry from the pain, even despite Athena's attempts to help.

Thinking logically, it was probably best to jump back down and pretend she felt herself. Astrid would leave her here if she was lucky, and she could get out slightly later.

She was about to do just that when the blonde she-wolf grabbed her hand.

“Careful!” The Southerner began pulling her out. “Hold on!”

Finally, Savvy was out of that hole and lying next to Astrid, both girls breathing heavily.

“Thanks,” the Princess mumbled, still shocked that another contender other than Naya helped

her.

“Don’t mention it!” The girl next to her chuckled, “You were totally thinking I was about to push you down, right?”

“Can you blame me?” Savannah turned her head to look at her friend. Yes, now she could call Astrid

that.

“I guess not. If it was anyone else, I would have just walked away,” the girl admitted. “I know where we are, and I just escaped Inga and Celia! Everyone is so brutal here!”

They both stood up, and Savvy tried to accelerate her healing as much as possible, watching her wounds heal rapidly. Luckily, there were no serious injuries.

“Yeah, I met them too,” she shorted and then looked the Southerner right in the eye. “So, why didn’t you?”

“Why didn’t I what?” Astrid giggled.

“Push me of” Savannah watched her reaction not to miss anything. “We are rivals here, after all. And

you came here to win as far as I remember.”

“Oh, that?” The other woman seemed unbothered. “Well, i think it’s clear now that Kai has already

made his choice. I will not be bringing that crown to the Southern republic. But I hope that maybe at least i can claim I am the new Queen’s friend?”

They looked at each other for some time, and Savvy stretched her hand to the werewolf in front of

her.

“If you are talking about me, then sure you can,” she beamed as they shook hands, forming a new

alliance.

“Do you want company?” Astrid asked her, but the Princess shook her head “Sorry, but no. I feel like I need to do this alone,” she conlessed.

“Understandable” the Southerner nodded. “Then I’ll get going. I still need to show good results before going back home. Good luck, Future Luna of The North.”

Savannah wanted to say something else, but Astrid stepped on one of the tiles, and a new wall

separated them

“Thanks!” she shouted to her friend.

“Just don’t go left!” Astrid yelled back. “This is where Inga and Celia are.”

And this was why it was so tempting to go left. Savvy already had a way to deal with Celia, while Inga was good for nothing on her own.

However, she didn't want to lose any more time. She had already lost a few hours and needed to get

to the shrine in the centre of the city asap.

Looking at the tiles under her feet, Savvy tried to find all the signs they had carved on them. She saw tiles with crescents, knowing that these were making arrows shoot from the walls. The sun meant silver pit, and she just got out of one. She grabbed a few heavy stones from the ground and decided to test the

She threw one of them on a tile with a square, and a little window in a nearby wall opened, blazing the fire right to the spot a person would have stood. She tried a tile with a flower, and the tiles fell into another pit. Yet this time, something was different, and when Savannah got closer, she gasped, seeing that this pit was full of water and smelled like... aconite

It was a pool of aconite! Somehow, she was glad now she didn't fall into that one.

Triangle revealed a pit with silver spikes, and this one also made the Princess breathe out in relief

She already knew that the diamond shape was changing walls, and that left her only with snowflake and star patterns. These two could potentially be good because, first of all, something had to be good. And second of all, it was the North, and they loved stars and everything cold.

Savvy had to move, and she tried to pick empty tiles as long as she could since nothing was happening when she stepped on one, but that tactic didn't work for long, and soon she was faced with flowers, suns and snowflakes. She slowly lowered to the ground and picked up another heavy rock,

wishing to test the snowflake.

“I wouldn’t do that if I were you!” She heard a warning and turned to see a woman standing on top of the nearby wall, sneering at her.

The Luna Trials by Marissa Gilbert Chapter 41

1. The In-Laws

Kai rubbed his cheek and looked at Gideon with understanding

“I guess I deserve that,” he nodded and immediately received another blow on his chin. Something in there cracked, and he had to give it to the Lycan King of the West. Not too many people in the world could break his bones. His warriors growled menacingly and tried to approach them, but the Northern King motioned for them to stop. There was no need to escalate things. For Savannah, he was ready to take as many punches as he had to.

“You despicable, obnoxious excuse of a king!” Gideon’s eyes shone gold. “How dare you take out our problems on my sister?!”

“I’m not! I swear!” Kai tried to explain, only to receive another punch in his face.

“I didn’t know about the Luna Trials!”

Punch.

“Originally, I just didn’t want to marry her!”

Punch.

“It’s all changed now! Savvy and I are going to get married and”

Punch

“After the sh*t you pulled, you are going to marry my sister over my dead body! I’m taking her home this very moment, and you’re never seeing her ever again!” Gideon growled, panting. He was about to punch the Northern King again when Kai finally caught his fist and pushed it away.

He was ready to repent, but he would not give up the love of his life. This was a price he wasn’t ready

to pay

“We are in love!” He snarled menacingly, and his eyes flashed blue.

“The hell you are!” Gideon gritted his teeth and yanked his hand back. “What can you possibly know about love?! I knew I should have never let her come to the North in the first place! But do not worry – this is the last time she will set foot here!”

“Savvy is my Queen!” “In your dreams!” They were almost at each other’s throats when a feminine voice interrupted them, “That’s not for you

to decide!”

Both of their heads snapped in the direction of a huge black car with an open door.

Riannon, the Queen of the Western Lycan Kingdom, walked out of it, a regal aura surrounding her. Her blonde hair was up, with a few loose curls framing her face. She was wearing cream high-waisted suit pants and a cashmere sweater with a tan coat thrown on her shoulders

Kai wiped the blood dripping from his broken lip off of his face. Luckily, it was already healing.

“My greetings, Queen Riannon.” He bowed respectfully, remembering Savannah’s words. If anyone was going to help him, it was this woman.

“Greetings to the King of the North,” she replied with a polite smile
“Please, just call me Kai” his lips curled slightly, and she nodded in understanding

“I am shocked you don’t ask us to call you the North Star,” Gideon snorted, and Kai had to count to ten in his mind. He forgot just how annoying his old rival could be.

“Gideon,” Riannon said reproachfully and closed the distance between them. She laced her fingers with her husband’s, calming him instantly as if it was nothing. Kai caught himself thinking that only Savannah could do that to him. She brought him peace whenever she was near.

“Just listen to him.” The woman suggested and brushed her palm over her mate’s cheek.

“Did you hear the nonsense he just spouted?” the Western King was still displeased. She carefully draped her hand around his and pulled him to the side. “You know what I saw,” she whispered, knowing far too well that the Northerner could hear her. “It can be interpreted in different ways.” Her husband was still being stubborn. “You…”

“I know that you’ve been blessed by the Moon Goddess,” Kai said, and they both turned to him with their lips parted. “I know your whole story.”

“Just more reasons to kill you!” Gideon growled, but Riannon held him back “Walt!” she rubbed his shoulder, scanning the Northern King’s face. “Who told you about this?” she

asked.

“Savannah.” Kai decided not to hide anything. He had to look at the bigger picture. They all had to leave their secrets behind for this to work.

“She’d never...” Gideon started saying but stopped in the middle of the sentence, exchanging glances with his wife.

“If she told him, she trusts him,” Riannon whispered, and the Western King softened a bit.

“I want to see my sister and speak to her now. If you insist you love her, it shouldn’t be a problem, right?” Gideon still had his fists clenched. Every word was hard for him because this wasn’t his plan.

“About that...” Kai cleared his throat. It did look bad for him. “You must be f*cking kidding me!” The Westerner had trouble controlling his rage. “She is on one of the challenges of the Luna Trials,” Kai admitted, hating himself for the situation. “Listen...”

“You are so dead, Fionnlagh!” Gideon promised ominously.

“It was her choice, wasn’t it?” Riannon intervened once again, and Kai nodded, thankful for her presence. His nose and lip were finally healed, and he got an envelope out of the inner pocket of his

jackel

“She asked me to give this to you.” The Northern King offered the letter Sawy wrote to the couple, and Gideon snatched it away, opening it at once. His eyes went through the line of the familiar handwriting, warming up his heart. He held the paper so that his wife could read it as well. When they both were done, they locked their eyes again, clearly mind linking each other.

“I can’t believe that out of all the men in the entire world, my sister chose you!” Gideon ran his hand over his face. His every word was laced with bitterness, disappointment and disbelief. But at least the desire to murder the Northerner was gone for now.

“That makes two of us.” Kai chuckled, remembering his Little Maid. He was indeed lucky to have her

“Listen, I know I don’t deserve her. I know! But ... I love her. I will kill for her, I will die for her. I will

take no other mate. She is the only one for me, and there will be no other.”

**You have no idea what you are talking about!” Gideon scoffed. “Mates are. You will not be able to resist the pull once you meet your true mate. And Savannah... Our family has already been through this.”

“No offence, but I am not your wife’s ex. And even he was tricked.” Kal pointed out, and just the

mention of that man made Gideon snarl. “I am not the only man in the world who is ready for a

commitment with a chosen mate. A few weeks ago you agreed for us to get married. What is stopping you now? You will have the alliance we both need, and I will make your sister happy.”

“What stops me now is that I don’t trust you! You didn’t earn that!” The Western King was still agitated. “And Savannah... she’s been hurt too many times already”

“I know more about this than you do,” Kal clenched his fists. “Zack Morgan is here. He is in the North. I didn’t know when he first arrived, but I arrested him later when I saw how he was using their mate bond to hurt her physically.”

“He was doing what?” The royal golden eyes flashed again, and Riannon placed her hand on her

husband’s shoulder.

“He escaped.” Kal continued. They had to be done with it last, as it was already dragging for too long and precious time was being wasted. “Sawy and I were gone for a few days, and someone helped him to

escape.”

“What kind of security do you have here?!” Gideon grunted.

“Don’t judge,” Riannon sighed next to the two of them. They both were hard to deal with. “You know who we are up against.”

“The united bears and foxes.” Kai nodded and got out his phone. “Their leader, Darius Bjorn, has approached Savannah several times already. We’re currently trying to get him into a trap.”

“Am I understanding correctly that you are using my sister as bait?” Gideon gritted his teeth. The more he was finding out, the worse it was getting

“It was her idea.” Kai replied and looked his old enemy in the eye “And I would have been there by her

side if you hadn’t arrived with an army on my border, unannounced, and threatening the North with a new

war.”

“So, now it’s my fault?” Gideon let out an exasperated sigh

“Oh, would you two stop it already?!” Riannon lost her patience “Savannah is a big girl, and she can clearly make her own decisions. With her abilities, I don’t think that any challenge at the Luna Trials is a difficult task for her. She is the only one who decides her own fate.”

“My warriors are by her side at all times,” Kai promised and switched on the streaming videos from the cameras installed in the Forgotten City to prove his words. He was searching for Savannah for a while as there were too many cameras recording everything that was happening. The footage would be processed later and cut for Claude and Chloe’s evening program, showing only the best moments Also known as the safest moment for the royal family.

But when he finally managed to find Savvy, his eyes went wide.

“What is it?!” Gideon grabbed the phone and saw a man with white hair standing next to some kind of hole in the ground. The angle was changing, and he realised that a drone was filming this at that very moment. However, the smaller picture of what the next camera was recording got to him.

“I need to go there!” Kai told them and turned away, walking rapidly to the men waiting behind him. He didn’t even bother to take his phone back as all he cared about was his future wife.

Gideon was watching his little sister stuck in some kind of pit and looking like she was in pain but keeping up a brave face. He knew that expression of hers too well, and his heart clenched at the realisation that his beloved sibling was hurting. The man on the screen turned around and left, and Savvy fell to her knees, trembling

“Who the hell is this?!” The Western King roared,

“It’s Darius Bjorn, the self-proclaimed white bear king,” Kai told him on the way to his car.” suspected this before, but now I am completely sure he is the one who has Morgan. I have no time for all of this now. Now you know what is going on, and you can wait...

“You must be delusional if you think I’m going to wait while someone torments my sister! As I have already told you, you don’t have my trust. You will have to earn it.”

“I respect that,” Kai said. “Let it be my first step to our mutual trust. I’m ready for an alliance with you to fight the bears and the foxes together as you originally wanted. You and your warriors are now welcome on my land, and I hope you join me on my way to retrieve your sister.”

Riannon took the phone from her husband and said,

“No offence to both of you, but it looks like Savannah manages just fine on her own.” A proud smile touched her lips. “She doesn’t need saving. But that white bear needs to be captured as soon as possible. He is the one I saw In that nightmare of mine. We have to stop him.”

Zara was soaring in the sky, but it wasn’t for her enjoyment this time. She had one purpose and one

purpose only – to find the enemy and to help the lycans capture him. Too much depended on that.

It was relatively easy, thanks to Bjorn’s head full of silver hair, he was easy to spot. She saw groups of lycans in their wolf and human forms closing in on the white bear. They were so close!

However, at the very last second, Bjorn made a quick turn in the opposite direction from where he was initially heading and then disappeared into thin air between two walls.

She was circling over this spot until the first warriors arrived there. They tried to find the enemy using his scent, but it proved to be useless. The golden cream wolf arrived soon, and Lachlan shifted back to his human form. He gestured for her to join him, and it was too tempting to resist.

“Where did you see him last?” The Beta asked the girl, standing bare before her eyes.

“Right there.” She pointed to the two walls and walked over to them first. “He was here, and then he

vanished.”

“Damn it!” Lachlan swore under his breath as he studied the carvings on the walls.

“What is it?” Zara furrowed her brows.

“I think he is using the catacombs,” the Northerner explained to her.

“And this is the first time we hear about it because?” The werebird was annoyed with the new

information

“Because they were destroyed and sealed,” Lachlan confessed. “It’s one of the reasons it’s called the Forgotten City now. As you can probably tell, this place was built to be able to defend the citizens. Whoever entered would find themselves in a deadly trap. Many armies met their ends here. Until...”

“Until what?” Zara arched her brow.

“Until the Great Lycan war,” Lachlan whispered so that only she could hear it, making her gasp. “After the Moonrise Kingdom fell and separated into four different countries, this was the biggest war that touched these lands. The city was almost destroyed, and the citizens hidden in the catacombs barely survived. They say it was a bloodbath.”

Zara shivered at the thought of lycans fighting against lycans. That wasn’t how it was supposed

to be.

“The catacombs were destroyed under the ruins, and the city never recovered after that.” The Beta went on.

“There is something seriously wrong with you people making your future queens run around these deadly traps. Who in their right mind does it?”

“Our rulers are supposed to be fearless,” Lachlan retorted, and she rolled her eyes, upset that it was another dead end, when the man next to her pressed something on the wall and a small passage opened up before

them. “After you!” the guy smirked, and Zara rolled her eyes as she slid inside between his naked body and the old walls....

“Show off!” she snorted, only to hear him chuckle as he followed her inside into the darkness. “Would you relax?” he teased her.

“Relax underneath a city full of deadly traps on a hunt for the most dangerous enemy?” Zara let out a laugh. “Easy!”

“It’s going to be okay.” Lachlan promised, but just then, the door behind them shut forcefully, cutting the rest of the warriors off from them and leaving them alone against an unknown enemy...

The Luna Trials by Marissa Gilbert Chapter 42

1. I Want You

Savannah looked up. The sun was setting down, and its rays blinded her as she tried to trace the movements of the woman on top of the wall.

Spikes were still poking out of the old stones, but Mikaela did not seem bothered. She was walking between the sharp blades gracefully without even looking at them. A true werecat.

“Is the little Princess lost?” she sneered, words laced with spite. Cats knew how to give attitude when they wanted it.

“I am.” the Lycaness chuckled. “Why don’t you be so kind as to get down here and help me out?”

“Oh, I am planning to!” Mikaela snickered, “I just want to offer you to give up first. Step on the sun tile,

and I will not throw you somewhere worse!”

“Hmm,” Savvy hummed. “Tempting, but I would have to decline. Nonetheless, I will do the same since you are so kind to me. Step on the sun tile, and I will not throw you somewhere worse.”

They glared at each other for some time, already knowing this wouldn't end well for one of them. “So be it,” Mikaela narrowed her eyes and jumped down on an empty tile in front of her.

The werecat struck first with her long leg with a sharp and accurate blow. Savvy dodged, stepping on a safe North star tile.

Another blow. Savannah twirled, avoiding it, fast as the wind.

They both jumped from one tile to another, and it started to look like a deadly dance. The cat was surprisingly better at this. She moved with ease and precise aim, her caramel hair flying in the air.

Savvy quickly realised why she dared to attack her. This was her only chance to win against a Lycan. Especially a royal Lycan. Cats were naturals at this. Jumping gracefully and avoiding danger was in their blood. At the same time, Lycans usually used raw force. If it was just about the force, Mikaela wouldn't stand a chance.

However, Savvy noticed something quickly. Each time before another elegant landing, Mikaela had to look at the signs on the stone floor again. She didn't remember their position and had to check every time, while Savannah didn't have much trouble with that. All tiles were imprinted in her memory by now. She could walk through them with her eyes closed.

Mikaela got what happened when a grin formed on the Princess's face, but it was too late as Savvy had already sped up. She was throwing a few tactical punches to make the werecat defend herself and lose awareness of what was happening around her. Savvy was moving as fast as lightning since she didn't have to look under her feet much. All while Mikaela was losing her confidence with every second of the fight.

“Fine!” The cat yelled. “Let’s just go our separate ways!” Sawy would have laughed if she had time for this. It was too late for a truce now.

“I don’t think so!” The Western Princess went down, kicked her opponent’s feet in one swilt move,

making the werecat fall right onto the sun tile. The ground under her disappeared in seconds, and, screeching, Mikaela fell into a new silver pit.

Cautiously, Savvy stepped close to the edge to make sure that the girl was all right.

“You didn’t have to do this, you know?!” The cat looked at her with fury in her eyes, clenching her fists. They both knew that for Mikaela The Luna Trials were over. She wouldn’t be able to get out of here.

“This is for Petra,” Savannah said calmly. “You didn’t have to break that child’s teg either!”

Mikaela prepared to say something else, but Savvy wasn’t interested anymore. She had already moved on, continuing her quest.

The tiles went on for quite some time, but knowing which ones were safe, made the task easy. She did not meet anyone else for a while and soon reached the normal part of the Forgotten City,

It was forgotten, indeed. The streets mainly consisted of broken ancient houses built of white stone. They were much smaller than the houses now—each with a fireplace inside to keep the owners warm during cold winters.

Sawy looked up and saw drones in the sky. Three were circling above her head, and she saw several other groups at a long distance. That probably meant that other contenders were not close to her at all. This gave her relief, but she was still cautious about her surroundings.

From where she stood, she could see the shrine in the city's centre. It was higher than any other building here, and Sawyer frowned when she noticed drones flying over it. Someone was already there. which meant she wouldn't be first.

She didn't waste any more of her time and moved as quickly as she could. She had to at least be

second

The Princess was finally at the bottom of the shrine when the sun was almost down. Hundreds of steps were before her and she clenched her fists, knowing that the other contender was still inside.

It could only mean one thing. That contender was waiting for others.

And considering she knew where the rest of them were, it could have been only one person

It was dark inside the shrine. Only the large round fire pit in the middle of it illuminated the place, letting Savannah see the carvings and murals on the walls. It was Fenrir's temple, so, of course, she recognised the huge black wolf depicted in the stories the ancient pictures told. Son of a God, he was betrayed and chained in the underworld. But even then, he managed to bite the hand of his enemy, Tyr. After years of waiting and suffering, the Wolf God was freed by a maiden and changed the world for her, creating the first Lycans. This was what the Northerners believed in.

There was a bridge from the entrance to the centre of the spacious ritual room with incredibly high ceilings. One step in the wrong direction, and she would fall down, down, down ... something told her that she'd fall well below ground level as a quick glance only showed her the emptiness and darkness over the

edge of the bridge

There were many torches on the walls behind the fire pit, but only one of them was lit-the red stone

one, Savannah knew who had the red ribbon.

“You are so late! I am tired of waiting! What kind of Queen would you be with such results?” Penelope didn’t even try pretending to be nice anymore as she walked out of the shadow with a smirk.

“The kind who fights her own battles, I guess,” Savannah retorted, a confident smile playing on her lips. That woman did not scare her at all, so she added, “Something you will never be able to say for

“No worries, I am about to fight my battle now! So, the victory will be clean and all mine!” The words seem to irritate the Northerner. “And you will be forgotten as if you never happened!”

“Hardly,” Savvy stepped forward, eyeing which torch was hers and not even surprised that it was the

one right behind Penelope’s back. So very naive of her. She probably even thought she would be able to stop her from getting there and lighting the fire.

“We shall see now!” Penelope snarled, baring her perfect white teeth.

“Oh, you make me so sad, Pen!” Savvy chuckled. “And here I thought we would be drinking cosmos

and braiding each other’s hair as the besties that we are. You, me and Elene. How disappointing you couldn’t keep your act up any longer!”

“I don’t know what you told Elene for her to change her mind about me becoming the Queen, but it doesn’t matter! I didn’t spend all these years listening to her whining just to lose now, as what I always wanted is so close!” The woman gritted her teeth,

“Some friend you are!” Savvy snorted.

“I was the best friend for her! I tolerated all the tears and all the sleepless nights for so many years! Do you know that she still has nightmares about her parents being killed? She wakes up in tears almost every night! And i was there for her every time she needed me! I wiped her eyes and gave her a hug when she required one! And I listened about her obsession with your brother for years and years! Do you have any idea how annoying that is?”

“Probably as annoying as your confession right now,” Savannah nodded, holding back her anger.

“earned that crown! I worked for it for so long!” Penelope yelled, hitting herself on the chest. Her eyes flashed green as she did it.

“You lied for it!” Savvy cut her off. “You used a vulnerable girl who considered you her friend just to gain the title with her help. Well, she did help you. She owes you nothing anymore. How far would you have gotten without Elene? That is the question...”

“I’d be in the same damn place! Ready to push you off that bridget My family is one of the oldest in the North! It’s our rightful place on that throne!”

you didn’t even mention Kalonce.” The Northern Princess pointed out, getting closer. “I guess you don’t care about him much either?”

“On the contrary,” Penelope hissed. “I care about him. We would make a great power couple!”

“Wow! So much love in every word!” Savannah let out a laugh, hoping to stretch the conversation for longer. She almost reached a sale spot. “It looks to me that all you care about is power. Aren’t you afraid to say all that in front of the cameras?”

“Cameras?” Penelope cackled. This was hardly a laugh of a normal human. She looked insane, absolutely deranged

“That explains why you are so transparent today, Pen. The acting was so good, though. I almost bought it. Almost.” Savannah was moving forward confidently. She knew she had to go through the bridge fast as this was probably the Northerner’s best bet. Unless she was foolish and really believed she could take down a royal Lycan.

“Aren’t you clever?” Penelope’s expression changed to a menacing one. “You come from the West, and you think you are so much better than everyone else! The prettiest, the brightest, the bravest...”

“I was just being me, but thank you.” Savvy accepted the spiteful compliment and, without any warning, ran straight at the other Lycaness, dodging her blow at the last moment and sliding down on the ground right up to the fire pit. She grabbed one of the torches and stuck it inside the flames, charging for the big torch on the wall with the blue crystal,

A second, and the fire started burning brightly, the crystal glowing in the darkness as the announcement of her completing her task. That couldn’t be undone, and Savvy breathed out. All she had

to do now was survive.

Now she was free to deal with Penelope, who was already storming in her direction.

However, Savannah noticed some movement behind Penelope’s back and tensed. Who else could be here other than the two of them? All the contenders were too far away now.

The Northern Lycaness did not see the dark figure that appeared from the back entrance of the shrine. This was probably one of the passages from where the priests were arriving in the olden days for

the rituals.

One footstep and Savannah saw the familiar white hair sparkling in the light of the fire, making her

freeze on the spot.

Penelope was right next to him when Bjorn grasped her hair and yanked her back forcefully. The woman screamed as he threw her to the ground without any pity and without letting go of her black as

night hair

“What the hell?” Penelope looked at the man who held her in place as her eyes went wide with shock.

“Shut up!” Bjorn caught her hand as she tried to scratch him with her elongated claws, not caring anymore that this was breaking the rules of the Trials. The she-wolf knew she was fighting for her life now. The white bear twisted her arm, and Savannah heard a loud distinctive crack, followed by a piercing scream

as Penelope’s hand got broken.

“Let go of her!” Savannah heard herself saying. She didn’t like that woman, but this was too

much

“You don’t really want that do you?” Darius Bjorn looked her in the eye, and his own healthy one gleamed red.

-1

“And now you know what I want?” She folded her hands over her chest, not moving. Who knew If this

was another trap? It could have been all staged. Yet the panic in Penelope’s eyes told her otherwise. The Lycaness was gripped with primal fear, losing all her acrimony now that she realised her situation.

Savvy knew she couldn't win a fight against Bjorn because he was much stronger than he was supposed to be. Penelope had no chance whatsoever.

"I think I'm starting to figure it out," the white bear king's lips curled into a smile and did not promise anything good. "You didn't like my last gift. I was sure you'd rip his heart out the minute you saw him, but you did no such thing. No worries, I got you. You didn't want to get your hands dirty, Princess, and that's fine with me. This time I will do everything myself, and you don't have to lift a finger. I don't mind doing the

dirty work for my..."

"I don't need any of this!" Savannah interrupted him, not willing to hear the end of that sentence, but it was too late as Bjorn lifted Penelope by her hair and snapped her neck effortlessly, letting her dead body

fall to the ground.

Savvy wanted to scream, but no sounds came from her dry throat. She could hear her heart drumming in her ears as the white bear approached her, simply stepping over the girl he had just killed. His ruthless gaze was now on the Western "Princess, and she took a step back for the first time in her

life.

"See? I can just make things easy for you," he insisted as she gulped nervously

"I did not want or need any of this!" She repeated, Athena growling inside her mind, ready to fight if they had to

"Of course you did," he went on. "You hated her from day one. She was doing everything to destroy and humiliate you. Now she is gone. And you are welcome."

“Again, I didn’t ask for it!” Savannah furrowed her brows.

“You will not have to ask me for anything, Princess.” He was slowly getting closer. So calm, considering he was in the middle of his enemies’ territory, Alone.

This was when it hit her. Was he actually alone, or was it a part of an elaborate plan?

“I will learn to fulfil your desires. Even the ones you don’t realise you have. It’s going to be fun. I promise.” Bjorn was now just Inches away from her.

“You really don’t have to,” Sawy clenched her lips and fists. She’d have to break the rules of the Trials too if he attacked her

“Oh, I do!” He chuckled darkly. “You prepared quite a surprise for me today, didn’t you? I just had to

pay it back. Tenfold.”

Her breathing hitched. Lachlan had so many warriors to get that bear, and yet here he was standing in front of her in his black leather jacket. Unharmed. She noticed a little blood stain on his neck, but something told her it wasn’t his.

“What do you want from me?” She decided to ask, thinking of what to do now. What was the best course of action when alone with a crazy, enhanced savage white bear?

“I want you.”

The Luna Trials by Marissa Gilbert Chapter 43

Chapter 43

Savannah clenched her lips, preparing to fight. This conversation was going from bad to worse.

“What kind of reaction do you expect to get for a claim like this?” She crossed her hands over her chest. The defensive movement came naturally to her, and Darius frowned, seeing this.

“I want you to go with me,” he said without breaking eye contact. Bjorn wasn’t lacking confidence.

“Now.”

“Go where exactly?” Savannah was slightly startled by his bluntness,

“To the real North.” He lifted his chin higher and took a step forward. Savannah decided not to budge and stayed in her place. Showing weakness now would have been a mistake,

“And this is... where again?” The woman looked at him questioningly.

“My castle,” he replied calmly. “The White Bear Clan territory. This is from where I am planning to rule the North and other kingdoms in the future.”

“Other kingdoms?” She shot her brow up. Now, this was getting interesting. “Are you even serious?”

“I am deadly serious.” Not a muscle flinched on his face, and he took another step. “My family have been working for this for years. And we have never been closer.”

“You family?” Savvy decided to try and fish for more information while he was offering it so easily. “And here you gave me an orphan vibe.”

“I guess you can say that about me now.” The man chuckled. “I am one of the last ones left. But I will do anything to keep the family’s legacy.”

“How very noble of you,” she scoffed, still thinking of the best course of action. “I didn’t take you for a family man.”

“Family is of crucial importance to me.” Now Darius was almost next to her. “You will learn this over

time as you are going to be a part of it.”

Savannah was unimpressed with the statement. “Have you ever thought about maybe asking for my opinion first?”

“I am asking you to go with me now. Leave this place; forget about Kai and the stupid humiliating Luna Trials.” His jaw tensed as he took another step. The last one. Now she was finally within his reach, and they both knew that. “This is a one-time offer, Princess.”

“And if I say no?” She swallowed the lump that formed in her dry throat. Close, he was too close. What would you do then?”

“I would still make you mine,” he promised while his healthy eye darkened. “But it would be a less pleasant process for you. This is why I want you to think carefully now. It’s rare for me to give anyone a choice, but I would prefer us to have a good start even if the finale doesn’t change.”

“It doesn’t sound like a choice!” Her fists clenched. “It’s a threat!”

“It’s an offer,” Bjorn retorted. “I am offering you everything. I will throw the whole world at your feet. I will give you your mate’s head on a spike. Your every wish will be granted as long as you stay by my side.”

“Generous.” Savannah sighed, choosing her words cautiously. “You offer me Zack’s head? Isn’t he your best buddy? The last time we spoke, he even had sx on your command.”

“Command is the right word here.” Bjorn brushed his fingers over her arms gently as if he was

studying her skin, her reaction. For the first time, Savvy stepped back, and he scowled.

of them conspiring to do this to her made her livid.

“He was doing that on his own accord. As you know, I had no interest in you just until recently. Everything changed after I met you.”

“What did I do to deserve such an honour?” Savvy taunted, quirking her brow up.

“Come with me, and I will tell you.” The bear knew how to be stubborn; at this point, it was a game of wills.

Yet Savannah made her choice a while ago, and nothing could change her mind. She was in love.

Deeply, unreasonably and beyond retrieve. Even if the leaders of the white bears decided to kill her here and now after her words, she knew she wouldn’t humiliate her chosen mate by lying. She would die fighting if she had to

However, before that, she would first try to push the man in front of her off that ridiculously high bridge

He must have read it in her eyes as he glowered suspiciously, but then his gaze landed on something else, and Savannah felt him grasping her neck painfully and yanking her towards himself. The airflow was restricted now, but it wasn’t her main problem. The main problem was the power she felt vibrating from him. If he tightened his grip on her just slightly, he would snap her neck, and it would be the end of

her.

“What is this?” He growled as he pulled the zip of her front jacket down and tore the rest off her with his free hand, leaving her just in a black cropped top. She was terrified when his hand went to her chest, but then she saw him hooking the North Star necklace with his finger. “When did he give this to you?” Bjorn seemed furious, his eyes glowing red now. “When you disappeared with him for a few days and let him have his way with you?!”

“Why ask if you know the answer?” she said, breathing rasp in her throat as he squeezed it tighter. Her vision started to darken, and she thought this was the end when he threw her to the ground.

Savannah gulped the air greedily, returning to her senses quickly.

“Doesn’t matter!” Darius grunted as he circled her, looking down on her, yet stretching his hand as

another offering. “What is your answer? Come with me now and ...”

“No!” She snarled, her voice hoarse, certainty still present in it.

Bjorn’s lips clenched tight, but other than that, nothing changed in his expression. Deep inside, he knew that this was how it would end. They both knew.

I

Luckily, Sawyer was restoring quickly and gathering her strength, she managed to stand back on her feet to face the enemy.

“Whatever happens, I will never go with you! I will never be with you! I will never-” He charged at her, trying to capture her again, but this time she was ready and dodged in time, recoiling with her own attack and pushing him closer to the edge.

“This is something you are going to regret!” He promised, baring his teeth. “I thought one lesson was enough for you, but it looks like you

will need more! No worries, Savannah. I will be a good teacher for you. You will learn to obey and respect me!”

“See, this is exactly why we will never be a good match!” She chuckled, not letting him out of her sight. Then she tried to kick him again, but he caught her foot and threw her towards the giant fire pit. She hit the heavy hot cast iron wall that burned her exposed skin. It didn’t matter much. Scars wouldn’t kill her, but losing wasn’t an option right now.

Savannah hissed but still tried to get up. However, the creaking of the opening shrine doors distracted them both as they turned and saw Astrid walking in, followed closely by Naya and Petra. All three women were shocked by the picture that unfolded before their eyes

“Savvy!” Astrid was the first one to charge at Bjorn, not a moment of hesitation. A true warrior at

work.

“Petra.” Naya turned to look at the pink-haired werewolf, “Go back and make as much noise as you only can. The guards are near. Let them know that there is an intruder inside the shrine, and he’s attacking

the contenders.”

Petra paused for a second but then nodded and turned on her heels, almost bumping into Brigit’s chest. Now there were two white bears in the room, and Savannah wasn’t sure how it was going to go

However, Brigit’s eyes glowed as she assessed the space around her, and she firmly stepped on the

bridge

“You!” She grew her claws, not caring about the rules of the competition anymore. She ran at Bjorn and tried going for his neck, however, he managed to dodge the blow and recoiled by throwing her at Savannah,

who was trying to attack him too, knocking her off her feet. Both women grunted as they tried to get up, but Naya and Astrid were next. The white bear leader laughed as he blocked their attacks. This didn't seem to bother him at all. For Darius Bjorn, it was just a game.

Sawy was furious This was probably the best opportunity they would ever have at catching him and ending all thts.

By now, she knew there was only one way to overpower him. They either needed more people, or she would have to use her third form. Just the thought of It made her shudder. This was her one weak sport,

one thing she was bad at. Every royal lycan had a problem controlling the beast inside of them. They were primal creatures, full of power and strength. They were sleeping inside of them, hibernating, One could go his whole life without awakening them. But once a beast was unleashed, it started craving freedom, power, blood ... It was never enough.

The creature inside of her was unstoppable. It wasn't like what your brother had, where he simply had to control the time he spent in that form. The longer he spent in it, the harder it was to get back. It only changed with Riannon's advent in their life. During the last bloody battle, he didn't stop on time, and she was the one who managed to bring him back. Their love, mate bond, their special connection pulled Gideon out of the darkness.

Her own mate was useless in that sense. Sometimes she thought that Kai could be the one to do this for her, but he was nowhere near now. Nevertheless, she was ready to take one for the team. If it meant ending the Great War that threatened to happen any day now, she was willing to make the sacrifice. Kai

and Elene could control their forms, and Gideon was now in the North. Between the three of them, they

would be able to stop her. To kill her if they had to

Yes, she had made her decision and stood up.

“I will hold her back as long as I can,” Athena promised her in their shared mind.

“I know,” Savvy breathed out. She was ready to turn into a monster when Kai’s warriors burst through the door. The room suddenly became crowded.

Bjorn was surrounded, but it didn’t seem to disturb him as he removed his leather jacket and made it fall to his feet. His lips curled into a smirk as he twirled on his feet, either watching his enemies or showing himself off to their faces. It was hard to tell. But one thing was for sure – he still wasn’t bothered with any of this. He still wasn’t lacking confidence. On the contrary, he radiated it when he lifted his hands as if he

had welcomed them all.

Savannah had a bad feeling.

Two men shifted into their wolves in a jump, trying to get the white bear first. He met one of them with a strong punch in the jaw, well managed to catch the other one by his neck. The grey wolf scratched him where he could get it, but Darius twisted his neck and the cracking sound echoed through the high

walls.

Astrid tried to attack him again, but he didn’t pay too much attention to her, not taking the werewolf seriously. He threw her over the bridge, and Savannah screamed, running after her friend and trying to catch her. A fall would mean death for her. She managed to catch her hand at the very last second, clinging to her as if everything depended on it. She was ready to sacrifice herself, but she was not prepared to lose the people she liked and cared about.

“You really don’t have to do this!” Astrid tried to smile as her hand was slipping out of Savannah’s. “I can hear water. Maybe there is a pool down there, and I will not die.” The she-wolf tried to joke but it wasn’t funny

“We don’t know that!” Savvy tried to get her out, but the grip was uncomfortable, and she was afraid

she would lose her any moment now.

“Hold on!” Naya appeared by her side and somehow bent lower, grasping Astrid’s second hand.

From the corner of her eye, Savannah saw that it wasn’t going well for the warriors. One wolf managed to bite at Bjorn’s side and rip a big chunk of his flesh. The blood was gushing at first, but the wound started healing very quickly, closing before her eyes,

This wasn’t possible! What was he?! Because he definitely wasn’t a simple bear! She couldn’t heal like this. Her brother, the mighty lycan king, couldn’t heal like this! She was pretty sure that no one could heal like this. No creature she was aware of.

They managed to pull Astrid out when they saw Bjorn lifting Brigit up by her neck. He was covered in blood now. Mostly not his. His black t-shirt was in pieces on his toned body, but it didn’t seem to have any effect on the man.

Brigit was kicking her legs, trying to reach him and save herself. It proved to be useless.

“What do we have in here?” He let out a dark laugh that could make chills run down everyone’s spines. “A little traitor, aren’t you?”

“I’ll put my life to kill you!” Brigit gurgled.

“More reason to kill you now!” The man didn’t seem impressed by her speech, but this was when two loud, powerful growls interrupted them all.

The Luna Trials by Marissa Gilbert Chapter 44

1. Long Live The Royals

Bjorn’s eyes scanned the space around him calmly. As if he wasn’t in immediate danger. As if the presence of not one but two Lycan Kings was nothing to him.

He dropped Brigit to his feet, losing interest in her. The woman almost clawed her own chest, trying to get some air into her lungs.

She was lucky to survive as it was.

Kai and Gideon both growled again, warning the bear, letting him know his days were numbered. They saw what kind of chaos he caused and were ready to end him right there and now.

“On your knees!” Gideon ordered, eyes glowing golden. “Do it quietly, and your life will be spared!”

A chuckle escaped the white bear leader, and Savannah had a bad feeling about it as his gaze grazed over her. Calm, he was too calm. This kind of confidence could only mean he was sure he would be walking out of here unharmed.

However, this was ridiculous! She might have had trouble defeating him on her own, but now there were three royal Lycans in the

room and a few Alphas to top that off. Not to mention the feisty contenders who all looked like they wished to take part in his

execution.

Bjorn knew all that, and he still remained uncanceled.

“So tempting!” He stepped over Penelope’s body which was on his way again. “Did you make an offer like that to my brother before you killed him, Western King?”

Everyone tensed as his red eye gleamed in the dimmed lighting of the ancient temple. They all had been thinking about the same

person now.

“You are Castiel’s brother,” Riannon entered the shrine, and Gideon growled, trying to step in front of her for protection, but she only

placed her palm on his shoulder and didn’t move an inch from where she stood. Those two had an understanding between them, and

although Gideon wanted his wife safe and sound, as far away from here as possible, he had to respect her choices. And she chose to join the fight alongside her family as the Alpha that she was.

“Ah, Queen Riannon Stormhold in the flesh. I thought getting to you in person would be much more complicated.” Bjorn sneered,

taking a step forward. The remaining warriors snarled at him; however, everyone’s movements were restricted because of the narrow

bridge between the two platforms. There weren’t too many left, but with the royals in the room, their chances of winning were huge now.

“It’s bold of you to just arrive here like that in front of me.”

“I am not going to die or get hurt today,” the Queen stated calmly, and now he stared at her with genuine interest. “He spoke about

you a lot, you know.” Ria tilted her head to have a better look at him.

“He didn’t speak much about you,” Bjorn countered. “Which only means he treasured you, considering how much trouble he got

into thanks to you. My silly brother was probably afraid I would want to take you for myself. He was a bit insecure like that.”

Gideon’s eyes flashed gold as he bared his teeth, but that only made the white bear chuckle.

“Relax” he lifted his hands up in the air. “I am not interested in what belonged to my brother. I have my own prize in mind.” Bjorn’s

gaze locked with Savannah’s once again, and both Lycan Kings growled menacingly, realising what he meant.

“Over my dead body!” Kai was next to her in an instant, pushing the three girls behind his back, his hand brushing over Savannah possessively. Gideon followed him to the centre of the bridge, ready to rip the enemy to shreds.

.

. “Funny you should say that because this is exactly my plan!” Darius threw his head back and laughed wholeheartedly.

***“Why don’t you come closer and try bringing it to life?” Kai scoffed, knowing there was no chance in hell the bear would do this. Although Darius had spent a lot of time on his territory lately, Kai had trouble meeting him face to face for months. Every time he was close, Bjorn changed his location. This chase had been going on for years, and there was no end to it. However, right now, he was close. So close. It could altend tonight. The white bears would be broken easily without their scheming ruler. This was why the Norther King

was so surprised that Bjorn was still here, with a smug expression plastered over his face.

“I am afraid you will be too busy for that.” The bear king’s grin deepened. This couldn’t be good.

“Sawy, take the other women and leave,” kai found her hand without looking at her as he had to keep his eyes on his foe and gave it a squeeze.

“I have a better idea!” Bjorn got angry for the first time as he observed them. “Come here, Savannah, and I will give you the best gift.

You can choose the one who will survive out of your family. Your brother or your pregnant sister-in-law.”

Silence engulfed the room as Sawy’s head snapped to Riannon. She already knew, of course, but this wasn’t something they

announced to everyone. This was a secret. It was essential for safety reasons, yet Bjorn was aware. It started to seem like traitors were everywhere.

“I will repeat myself just once.” The white bear’s healthy eye found the Princess, immediately getting darker. “Come to me now, leave this place with me, and I will spare one of them.”

“Let’s start with the fact that you are not leaving this place!” Gideon was barely holding himself back. “Not after you threatened my wife and my unborn child.”

“Savannah is not going anywhere with you, Bjorn. And for the first time ever, I have to agree with Stormhold; neither are you. It ends now!” Kai joined the Westerner.

The bear wasn’t even looking at them, his eyes still lingering on the woman he desired.

“I only need your answer,” he said, frowning.

“I’m not going anywhere with you,” Savvy replied calmly. “My choice was made a while ago. I already told you that.”

“Then don’t blame me when the time comes.” Bjorn gritted his teeth, clenching his fists and turning his back to them. This was when Brigit tried to attack him again, but he caught her in the middle of it and threw the woman at the two Kings who charged at him. Savannah and Naya helped the group to keep their balance and prevented them from falling off the bridge, but all of them were delayed now. The warriors shifted into their wolves, ready to fight.

This was when a sound of an explosion reached them. The ground shuddered, and so did the walls of the ancient temple, threatening to fall on their heads at any moment.

“Yeah, I forgot to mention that the Forgotten City is about to explode!” Bjorn chuckled as he observed their reaction with some kind of amusement on his face. “Now, it’s a real survival mazel If you make it out of it alive, I’d be surprised! But I will give you a little clue on how to do it. Silver pits. Jump in them, and you’ll be safe. I’ll get you later, and we will continue where we left offl”

Gideon was furious, but his protector’s instincts took over. He knew he had to get his wife out first. There will be another chance to

get this bastard.

“Everyone out!” He commanded, looking at his sister and then Riannon. The stubborn woman hesitated, and he knew he’d have to

carry her out against her will if he had to. He wasn’t taking this risk, even if it was just a distraction for them.

Kai, however, still ran in Bjorn’s direction. Savannah followed close behind, even though Astrid tried to stop her.

“Sawyl” The Southerner begged, but the Princess wasn’t going to leave her chosen mate alone. Brigit rushed for the exit, and so did

Naya after clicking her tongue. The cat knew better than to stay in a crumbling building,

Two warriors charged at the white bear, but he recoiled easily. The Northern Lycan King was close, ready to shift into his third form

and end this,

“Aren’t you missing a Beta?” Darius burst out laughing, and Kai froze, blocking Savannah’s way, “And a little bird to go with

him?”

“What did you do?” Savvy growled, growing her claws. “Where are they?!”

“No need to be so angry!” His lips curled into a smirk. “I am going to tell you! I am not a monster. Maybe they are still alive... maybe not. Can they both swim?”.

Another explosion deafened them, some kind of dust or sand falling through newly created cracks in the ceiling. This one was too close.

Kai clenched his fists, knowing that he had already lost this fight.

“Conic on” Bjornchored for him with a mocking smirk. “You already know I locked them in the dungeon, don’t you? The first

explosion caused a leak in the old water supply system of the city. The space where they are is rapidly filling up with water. You have minutes to try and save your friends. Although, my personal advice would be to run and save yourselves.”

The two wolves snarled at him, but Kai mentally ordered them to stop. They wouldn't be able to win against the bear without him, and he couldn't stay.

With a smug smile, Darius Bjorn bowed with contempt on his face and fell through the back exit, his laugh echoing through the building.

"Take Penelope's body!" Kai ordered his men and turned to look at Sawyer. "Go find your brother. As long as Gideon and Riannon are with you, they will be safe."

"Excuse me?" The Princess furrowed her brows, shocked by his words.

"Something tells me Bjorn wouldn't blow up the parts of the city where you walk." He haled saying these words, but it was the truth.

The Bear King was a calculating bastard. He made a claim on Savannah, meaning that killing her wasn't in his plans. He wanted her alive.

"More reasons for me to go with you!" She insisted.

"Sawyer, please, we have no time!" He grasped her, almost ready to send her off hurriedly and let one of the wolves carry her back to safety. But the stubborn glint in her eyes told him this would take a number of minutes he didn't have at his disposal.

"Ria is blessed by the Moon Goddess." Savannah reminded him. "When she said she isn't dying today, she meant it. Trust me! Zara is my friend! I am not leaving her behind, and if you are right, it's only more reason for me to stick with you guys!"

"Fine!" He growled and took her hand. They were running down spiralling stairs as the third explosion went off not too far away.

from the shrine. Kai swore under his breath at how easily they got into a trap. This place was checked. Other than the Luna Trials traps, nothing was supposed to happen. Yet Penelope was dead. And Fenrir knew how many other casualties they would have by the end of the night.

The staircase was too narrow, ceilings too low. Ancient lycans were definitely smaller than modern ones.

“How long?” Savannah asked him as they skipped steps in the darkness to save time. There was no light in here, and they only relied on their night vision.

“Two or three minutes,” Kai replied on the way.

“Will it be enough?” She couldn’t help herself, worried sick for her friend.

“I don’t know,” the King admitted as it was the truth. “All we can do is try...”

Lachlan was furious. He had years of experience as the King’s Beta, but he still found himself in this situation.

A bait. He was a bait for his own best friend.

When they found themselves alone inside of this catacomb, he already knew it was a trap.

The bears got Zara first, the werebird wasn’t a match for them, and when he saw a knife drawing blood from her delicate neck, he

lost the ability to think clearly.

He blamed himself. It wasn't supposed to be like this. He knew exactly what he had to do back then. She was the sacrifice he had to –make for the greater good of his kingdom.

She was just an assistant of a foreign Princess. He had to be able to give her up in a heartbeat for the North, for Kal. But he wasn't

able to

Bjorn wasn't there. The damn bear didn't even spare them a glance before he left. He clearly had more important things to do. His

men brought Lachlan to his knees, threatening him to kill the bird. His bird. They injected him with something that made his head hazy

and then chained the two of them together, back to back.

They left and didn't leave them a single torch behind. Darkness surrounded them, and only the sounds of their breathing were their companions for a while.

“You shouldn't have done it,” Zara said. He could hear her pulse quickening. The girl was terrified.

“They didn't kill us,” he said, hoping to bring her some kind of relief. It didn't work as she started panting. “Birdie, calm down,” he

advised. “The stuff they injected me with will wear off, and I will break these chains.”

“You don't know that,” she held back a sob. He could tell she was on the verge of crying.

“Listen,” he tried to chuckle, “I'm not a royal, but I'm still a lycan. Whatever it is, my body will process this sooner or later.”

Her breathing became ragged. He could tell she was panicking.

“I hate closed spaces!” She confessed all of a sudden and leaned her head on his back. He tried to do the same, stretching his hands as far as they would go thanks to the chains and reaching for her delicate fingers. She flinched when his large palm wrapped around her tiny wrist, drawing circles on her skin. It was surprisingly comforting.

“Will you tell me why?” Although he told her his strength would get back fast, sadly, this wasn’t the case. He could feel life slipping away from him, but he wanted to at least help her in his last minutes. Ever since his mate died, he never wanted to care about anyone else.

Zara changed that for him.

“I was locked up for a long time,” she said in a broken voice. “Trapped in a golden cage. First, I didn’t understand what I was getting into, and by the time I did, it was too late. Every day, all I could do was fly to the unbreakable glass ceiling and look at the sky, imagining! would be soaring free one day again. I swore to myself that if I ever got out, I would never let anyone lock me up ever again. And now look at me!”

She didn’t make another sound, but he could feel her body twitching, recognising a silent sob.

“it’s not your fault,” he grunted, trying really hard not to close his eyes. He knew that if he did, it would be the end. “I should have protected you.”

“No,” she laughed through tears as she struggled against the chains, “you really shouldn’t have.”

He knew that.

“I wanted to.” A confession came easy to the dying man. There were no games between them anymore, no teasing.

“Why?” She asked desperately. She needed the answer on a physical level because she knew he was now dying because of her.

“You ... you make me feel alive again.” He laced their fingers together, and she didn’t object one bit.

There was nothing around to help them. No weapons, no metallic hooks to help them break the chains. Just the dirt on the floor and naked walls.

His eyelids became too heavy, and Lachlan started slowly falling asleep. Zara could feel it, and it scared her more than she could

imagine. She knew what it meant, and her heart clenched at the thought.

“Hey mighty Lycan Beta,” she taunted him, challenged him. “If you don’t die today, I will let you see me naked as soon as we get out of this city.”

“I am listening!” He chuckled weakly, but surprisingly it did help him a lot.

“I will personally come into your room and let you peel every piece of clothing off me.” Zara’s voice became raspy.

“Go on,” Lachlan encouraged her. He may have lost the fight with his own eyes, and they were now closed, but his vivid imagination was keeping him going.

–” will let you explore every inch of me,” the woman continued.

“With my hands?” he asked, Lips curling into a smile.

“First with your hands,” Zara purred. “Then with your tongue.”

“And then?” His breathing hitched, but this time it wasn’t the poison’s fault.

“And then everything will depend on how good your tongue is!” The werebird laughed.

“I call fennir to be my witness, Birdie, you will come undone before you even know it!” He growled.

“I sure hope so,” she ground against him, making blood run faster through his veins.

“Seductress!” He breathed out. “You will raise a man from the dead with your promises.”

“Oh, Lachlan!” Zara turned her head so that her hot breath burnt the skin on his neck. “I haven’t even started seducing you. After all,

when you’re done exploring my body with your tongue, it will be my turn.”

He wanted to say something hot and dirty in reply, but this was when the first explosion went off.

“What’s that?” Zara was worried now.

“I have no idea,” the Beta admitted, fearing the worst, He knew Bjorn didn’t just leave them to sit here for hours.

However, soon they both heard the sound of gushing water and knew that it promised nothing good for them.

Soon ice cold water started streaming through a hole at the top of the room created for ventilation. There were no windows, and the

two doors were sealed.

“Cr*p!” Lachlan muttered. “Birdie, we need to get up! Now!”

She did not object, although it proved hard given the way their arms and legs were chained tightly. Luckily, they still managed to do

The water was streaming fast, its coldness helping him to come back to his senses. Nonetheless, they were still trapped.

“Let’s move towards the door,” he offered, and she did not object. “Stay still and I will try to knock it out!”

The Beta tried hitting it with his feet, but he was weaker than usual, and the ancient door did not budge.

Soon the water was at their chests, and panic started to grab them both. They knew they wouldn’t be able to swim. Not with their

hands and legs tied up and heavy chains weighing them down.

The water was at their necks.

“Listen to me, Zara.” Lachlan’s tone was serious now, not containing a hint of playfulness from a few minutes ago. “I want you to give

me a signal when it is near your mouth. Then we both take a deep breath and count to thirty. After that, we bent down and jump as high

as we can. This will give us a chance to gulp some air. We’ll be doing it while we can. Do you get me?”

“Yes,” she was already breathing heavily. “Thirty seconds.”

She tapped his hand in less than a minute, and he knew it was time. They bent down slightly and then pushed as hard as they could,

taking in full lungs worth of air before they went down underwater again. Counting seconds in their minds helped them to avoid giving

1. They were still alive and had a goal to keep them going. It might have been silly, but it worked.

It worked right until they slipped, lost balance and fell down...

The Luna Trials by Marissa Gilbert Chapter 45

Chapter 45

Savannah and Kai could hear the sounds of the water threatening their friends' lives. Water was merciless to shifters unless they were

sirens. Thanks to their regenerative abilities, they could survive if they were thrown into a fire. Bullets were useless because most shifters

moved faster than them. Cold weapons were dangerous only in another shifter's hands and only if special conditions were met; it had to

be a special type of metal or poison, plus it had to go through the heart. Decapitation was also an option.

But water... water did not need special conditions. If a shifter was trapped under it, it would kill him sooner or later from lack of

oxygen. In the middle ages, it was one of the three types of executions for lycans and werewolves.

The stakes were ridiculously high.

"Where is the entrance to the catacombs?" The Princess demanded as she followed the Northern King.

“Not here,” he informed her, and she froze just for a second before anger made her clench her fists.

“What do you mean not here?” She was furious as this wasn’t the time for jokes or mistakes. The stakes were too high.

“We wouldn’t get there in time if we went to the main entrance that should be unscaled.” Kai replied, “That is why I am looking for ... this!”

He pointed at a carving on one of the walls, and Savannah stared at him with a raised brow.

“How does that help us exactly?” she wondered, but the Northerner brushed his palm over the carving.

“Everything is not what it seems in the Forgotten City,” he explained and then, as if by magic, the stone with the carving moved,

revealing a small window with metal bars. “This was done for security reasons so that guards could watch over the priests while they

performed rituals in the catacombs.”

But Savannah wasn’t interested in the explanation anymore. There would be time for that later if they survived today. And if not, it

wouldn’t matter.

The little window gave them a view of a closed room full of water, but it was too dark, and they couldn’t see anything else. If there

was some light before, it was gone now. The water level was rising rapidly, and one could tell it would soon reach the window.

“Da.mn it!” Kai swore under his breath, sensing his Beta close. There was no other place for him to be. “Sawyer, step away!” he

ordered and closed his eyes, preparing for the shift. He knew very well that he would have to use his third form for this task.

Savannah gasped as she saw his bones breaking as he stood. A transformation to the royal lycan form was different from shifting into a wolf. It was painful, and usually, it took more time. But not for Kai. He made it look so... easy. Almost effortless. She was nowhere close to that. However, she was happy that he was able to become the lycan beast. They sure needed one now!

Their eyes met just for a second as she nodded to him in approval, and he knocked the metal bars out of the window, destroying a generous chunk of the wall along with it.

without hesitation, he shifted back into his human form and dove into the water, his eyes glowing to illuminate the area around him.

Kai followed his instincts and soon saw his Beta floating unconscious, chained to the werebird, who also didn't show any signs of life.

Too late! He was too late, and he would never be able to forgive himself. He wasn't sure that Savannah would forgive him for this

either. After all, it was his fault they still went through with the stupid Luna Trials. Even capturing Bjorn wasn't worth losing their friends.

And they didn't manage to take the werebear prisoner. It was all in vain.

He grabbed the chains, silver coating burning his palms slightly and swam back to the surface as fast as he could.

The water came right next to the cavity he created, and the first thing he saw were Savannah's terrified green eyes.

He pulled their friends out of the water, and she grasped the chains to help him, trembling when she noticed their pale faces.

“They aren’t breathing!” She said what they had already both known. Without speaking to each other, they grasped the chains from different sides and broke them, working in perfect sync to separate the couple and using their royal lycan strength for it. Then, in

complete silence, they started performing CPR as they heard yet another explosion far away.

“Sawy, you should leave!” Kai told her when they dared to look at each other in between chest compressions.

“No,” she firmly declined, and right then, water gushed out of Zara’s mouth. Immediately, Savannah helped her turn to a side and

held her until she was taking breaths on her own. The werebird still had shackles around her wrists, and the Princess suspected they were

suppressing her healing and preventing her from shifting.

“Steel is underneath the silver coating,” the bird rasped, confirming her suspicions as she caught her gaze, but then she noticed Kai

still trying to save Lachlan and somehow managed to become even paler. She didn’t have strength in her and tried to crawl in the

direction of the two northerners.

Sawy helped her up, and Zara took the Beta’s large palm into her hands.

“Hey,” she whispered with tears forming in her eyes, “unawarewolf, wake up!”

Kai kept pressing with his hands. Mechanically, tactically, not thinking. Not ready to give up.

He wasn't losing his best friend. Not today. Not like this.

“Come on, big guy!” Zara pleaded. “If I did it, so can you! Come back to us!”

However, it was taking too long, and the three of them knew Lachlan's chances were lowering every second that passed.

“They poisoned him,” the werebird couldn't hold back tears anymore and rested her head on Savannah's shoulder. “He... he could

have fought them off or at least escaped, but he stayed because of me!”

“I wouldn't expect anything less from my Beta!” Kai grunted. He should have stopped already, and they all were aware of this. It was time to get his woman out of here, but every time he pressed on his friend's chest, he promised himself that it would be just a few more

pushes before he gave up. And if nothing happened, he would stop.

“Lan, get your ass back here! That's an order!” He growled loudly and slammed his fist into his friend's chest harder than he was

supposed to. He felt a bone cracking, but at the same time, water burst out of his Beta's throat from the pressure. Lachlan tried taking

desperate breaths, but it was hard, and Kai had to help him just like Savannah did to the werebird a few moments ago.

Finally, he was able to breathe, still facing the floor, muscles flexing and twitching from the struggle.

“Kai” he panted, his voice hoarse. “This is awkward... but I have to tell you this. Although my ass is truly irresistible, I have to say

am into the Little Birdie. I am sorry, but”

“Shut up!” The King growled through laughter, almost tearing up in relief. This was a good sign. “Can you shift?”

“No,” Lachlan confessed. “Go and leave me behind. I’ll manage without shifting.”

“Yeah, Lan, because we just wasted all this time saving you to leave you behind!” Kai rolled his eyes. “You are riding on my back then.”

“Kai, again,” Lachlan tried to smile through pain as they helped him back to his feet. “I am not interested in being your bride!”

“More for me then!” Savvy interjected as she broke the shackles on Zara’s wrists, freeing her from binding metal.

“We need to get back to the surface,” Kai said, wrapping his Beta’s arm around his neck for support.

“Do we really, though?” Savannah chewed on her lower lip, and they all looked at her. “Kai, if you are right about Bjorn and he wants

me alive, then maybe it’s best for us not to go back up there for now? This will give a chance for everyone else to escape safely. It really

looks like he is exploding the city borders for now.”

“Staying here isn’t an option.” The King furrowed his brows. “We don’t know if the bears wouldn’t arrive, and there are just four of us here.”

“I think I have a better idea!” Savvy smiled for the first time as she pointed to the wall behind them with a huge map carved on it. A map of the labyrinth of the catacombs, “How accurate is this?”

“It’s hard to tell,” Kai rubbed his chin. “it’s ancient, We haven’t done any adjustments to the catacombs since the city was sealed, but it’s

pretty clear now that Bjorn and his people were using those. And who knows if they managed to make some changes.”

“But overall, it’s correct?” Savannah insisted. “It matches the city labyrinth.”

“I guess so,” her chosen mate nodded.

“Then how much do you trust me?” She looked him in the eye.

“With my life,” he did not hesitate with his answer, and she felt warmth spreading over her chest. They may have been chosen mates,

but this was how mates were supposed to be.

“Then you will follow my lead, and we will leave the city through the catacombs, giving everyone else a chance to escape more or

less safely while we do.”

“Fine with me,” Zara agreed.

“I’m just a passenger tonight,” Lachlan chuckled weakly.

“So be it,” Kai smiled at her. “Lead us, my Queen.”

“Fine,” she squeezed his hand quickly while she could. “Just so that you know, we will be making a little detour.”

They didn’t have time for further discussion or to question the decision. Kai and Savannah shifted into their wolves, while Zara helped Lachlan to get on his king’s back and then turned into her black hawk.

The group ran fast through the dark underground labyrinth, only their night vision helping them to see their surroundings. Their worst suspicions were confirmed when they saw a few glowing lights of the detonators attached to the walls. Bjorn was indeed using the catacombs for his plan. It explained how he was moving unnoticed for so long.

Savannah stopped in front of one of the ladders that led her to the top and shifted into her human form, Motioning for everyone

else to stay behind and wait for her. She climbed up quickly and moved the cover of the manhole that was disguised as one of the empty

tiles in the tricky part of the city's labyrinth.

From there, she moved firmly, using the safe tiles to a silver pit, where she had left Mikaela not so long ago. Although now it felt as if

it was weeks ago.

“You damn lycan!” the werecat hissed when she saw her. “You’ve returned to finish your job, haven’t you? As if explosions weren’t enough to kill me!”

“Seriously?” Savannah chuckled as she stretched her hand down.

“You’re lucky you are a cat and have nine lives. With your attitude

and people skills, you are going to need them all. Come on! Grab my hand, and let’s go! We don’t have much time!”

“Is this some kind of a trick?” Mikaela stared at her warily.

This was when they heard another explosion, and Savannah realised Kai was right. Because it was the part of the city close to the

shrine in the centre that got blown up. Another explosion sounded, deafening her sensitive ears temporarily. He was getting rid of the

part of the city where she was not in, sending a message.

“Fine!” The werecat jumped and grabbed her hand. Sawyer pulled her out in less than a few seconds. “What now?”

“You can either follow me underground or stay here alone and try your own luck.” the Princess told her as she was already taking a leap to a safe tile. When she was back on the ladder leading down the manhole into the catacombs, She saw Mikaela doing the same.

Sawy shifted back into her wolf, while the werecat turned into a lioness.

Now wasting any time, they ran, ran, ran, following Savannah’s lead. The map didn’t fail them, and soon they reached the last exit. Surprisingly, this one, an old stone door, was sealed like it was supposed to be. However, Kai knocked it out with ease, turning into his third form again. He got out first, then helped Lachlan, Sawy and Mikaela, all of them panting and not knowing what to expect next.

Nothing went as it was supposed to be.

They found themselves on a hill close to the Forbidden Forest with a full view of the Forgotten City, which was now in flames. New parts of it were exploding as they watched the show unfolding before their eyes. Zara flew around and signalled to them when she saw other survivors.

Sawy let out a sigh of relief when she saw her brother and sister-in-law unharmed. Naya, Petra, and Astrid were there as well, along with Inga, Cella and a few wolves who managed to get out of the deadly trap.

Cars with northern warriors were arriving each minute at the scene, and so were reporters, Chloe and Claude were already with their microphones, working for the cameras.

“Bjorn.”

“Bjorn.”

“Bjorn.”

“Darius Bjorn.” The white bear’s name was everywhere. Somehow everyone already knew who caused all this.

“We thought we were choosing a Luna!” one of the journalists said with a serious face. “But if this is not a challenge for the title of the King of the North, then I don’t know what is!”

Just as she said that the ancient temple in the centre of the city, the one that everyone could see from here, burst into flames

she had already tried before. She knew she couldn’t

one way too fast, way too close ...

it.

the secret tiles and tried to hop from one to another, looking for the empty ones or the northern

could

almost taste the safety.

from her exploded, pieces of stone flying in all directions, one of the

arrows flew at her, and she ducked down, sliding over several tiles.

ground started falling through under her as she activated one

The flower one.

The one that had sharp spikes at the bottom.

of her hands slipped.

This was the end.

her eyes.

Everything was in vain...

her wrist, not letting her fall to her

and a chill went down her spine because

Failed, failed, failed.

Big time.

wished it was one of the white
bears.

to the surface.

the northern mountains she loved so much.

his body.

or to himself, and she didn't care.

down now.

held her in his arms.

in place.

run away...but she did not want to.

She had dreamt of this her whole life.

her unconditionally, who would belong to her and her alone.

to fight for him, she did not want to beg for

was born to make her happy.

For whom she would be enough.

give her everything she ever wanted.

It was heartbreaking to know she couldn't accept him.

felt him placing a soft kiss on the top of her head.

Just for a moment.

Just this once...

she did not want to move.

over.

She would have to end this.

she saw one of the northern warriors.

to push him away, to distance herself from him.

He looked at her with fear in his eyes.

was afraid.

into an exploding maze in a heartbeat...

was the only person in the entire world who could break him.

Her voice trembled, chest heaved from the inner pressure.

as if she was suffocating

He looked at her.

Really looked at her.

still evident on his face.

louder this time, but the lycan in front of her stood up
“I don’t buy it,” he said and

“Come back when you actually mean it.

at first, but then rage took over her.

storming as far away from him as she could...

A week passed, and everything changed.

Bear King, who made his claim on the land after being silent for so
one.” Gideon stated calmly as they

hideout,” kai retorted while pouring himself a drink.

Riannon and Savannah exchanged glances.

Their men were so stubborn.

back in his chair.

“You screwed up when you blew this alliance.

“I could have been married to Savannah for years if not for your ego!”
Kai retorted as they drilled each

tapping her fingers on the top of the

we can form that alliance after all.”

“Maybe you are right, Savvy, but the conditions have

But her glare told a different story.

“You need this alliance as much as I do.

If not more.” Kai reminded him.

this?”

“I dealt with the brother I had on my hands.

Now they are concentrating on the North.

then destroy them when they are weakened? “Gideon repeated almost

The irony wasn’t lost on the Northern King.

tired of them going back and forth.

his arms on his chest.

here hate you now more than ever.

Savannah clenched her lips.

They all knew it was the truth.

since they found out that Penelope died, while it was only her and Savannah in the temple, things

in this story, a lot of newspapers started questioning her

laptop so that they could all see the screen.

the logo of the first channel news on

click on the play button.

his lips as he spoke.

a pathetic state.

reason.

one is safe.

to protect you, but because he simply cannot offer you protection! I got

Stormhold slayed her competition with ease and grace, worthy of a
what she expected from her chosen mate.

his shoulder.

her thumb in soothing
circles.

but when he pulled her into his embrace and wrapped his arms around
her

said, tucking his head into her
neck and inhaling her bluebell

smiled softly and tilted her head
to reach his soft lips.

wing of a butterfly might, and

dead bodies?” Gideon cleared his throat, turning away.

“And also, don’t forget you are not alone here.

I don’t want to see my little sister...

Savvy tore away from her man and raised her brow at her brother.

our house and supported you
both along the way.”

“But he is not your mate.”

my mate.

he will have time for me between all the orgies he is having

woman with the adoration she deserved.

became cold and serious.

and stood before the king of The Western Lycan Kingdom.

some of them are partially my fault,” he started.

direction.

She didn’t expect this.

but for the past ones too.

a woman you don’t love and then get angry

I had never been in love before.

I thought I was, but I really wasn’t.

Not before Savannah.

but it should be pretty close to what I feel for

I love your sister.

I will always love her.

Nothing will ever change my mind.

There will be no other woman for me.

She is mine the same way I am hers.

Everything I have belongs to her.

is already my soul, my heart and my best friend.

*Nice speech,” Gideon looked them both up and down with a stern

deal with everything alone.

This time Savannah was the one to growl.

Athena inside of her was fuming.

wrapped his hand around his woman.

“I am not asking for your blessing.

If you decide against the Alliance, so be it.

you again for Savvy’s sake because

Savannah and I are going to be together.

That’s our decision, not yours.

And we made up our minds a while ago.

the Coronation, by the way.”

The Western King inhaled deeply

smile.

pull is, and I can say that what I feel towards Kai is so much different from what I

wanting each other, although we didn’t have a

my whole heart.

my every wish, he’s ready to fight for me if he has to, but most importantly, he respects

“Even if it’s with you.

together, which formed a little wrinkle over his nose,

you tearing up?” Riannon asked all of a sudden in disbelief, and all eyes darted

He turned away quickly and cleared his throat.

“Of course not! It’s just something in my eye.

seat, and his face already had his usual stone expression.

hiding and strike first.

Kai said coldly.

“But first, it’s my time for a speech.

our Royal Marking Ceremony.”

Savvy’s heart fluttered.

This time with excitement.

She knew that she was ready for
this now.

“People hate her now,” Gideon reminded them.

cut him off.

Savannah was exhausted, but there was no time to relax and drop one’s
guard.

not going to risk her newfound happiness.

For this, she was ready to do anything.

now.

