

The Luna Trials by Marissa Gilbert Chapter 66

Chapter 66

Kai was about to finish Bjorn off when a huge shadow flew right over his head. He felt a powerful presence, but he did not want to stop. The bast*rd had to die after everything he did! So many people had been killed on his orders. Savvy was wounded and almost died because of him. His closest friends and family survived by a miracle that they still couldn't explain.

"Leave now," Asgard growled inside of his mind, and it was strange coming from him, considering that he was usually the bloodthirsty one. Not to mention that he'd barely spoken to Kai since their rebirth. The whole thing was harder for his wolf because he was the one who went through the biggest transition. Amarok was a unity of the third Lycan form, Kai and Asgard, enhanced by Fenrir's divine power. The Royal Lycan entity was dissolved as now they were all something else. It was a lot to get used to in just a few days, and Asgard was noticeably struggling since everything happened.

"I'll be quick," Kai promised. The opportunity was too good to pass up. Bjorn already looked dead, but he wanted to return the spear favour and make sure his nemesis wouldn't be coming back.

"Leave. Now!" A more powerful voice sounded, and Kai realised that this time it was Fenrir talking to him. That was completely unexpected and hard to ignore. However, it was still tempting to try.

"Stay, and we risk losing our mate," Asgard added with a snarl, and there wasn't a question of what to do next anymore. Amarok turned on his paws and shifted into human form before he reached Savannah. He saw the relief on her face, as if she still wasn't sure it was him before, and then he ran towards her to kiss and hug her again, even if just for mere seconds.

“It still feels like a dream,” she whispered, pressing herself to his chest as he kissed the top of her head softly, squeezing her and inhaling her wonderful scent, trying to fill his lungs with it. It had only been a few days, but it felt like an eternity to him. An eternity of darkness and emptiness. He never wanted to go back there again.

“We need to leave,” Kai informed her with a note of stress in his voice. “It’s not safe here, and you are wounded. Get on my back, Sawy.”

He shifted into his giant wolf with ice spikes growing out of him, but Sawy did not hesitate even for a second before climbing up. The spikes retracted the moment she touched his soft blue-black fur, which amazed her and surprised even Kai, who was still learning how to use his new abilities. Even the ice needles from his battle with Bjorn were new to him. It was possible that his body recognized their mate and reacted to her automatically, not wishing to harm her in any way.

Savannah did not question any of it; she was satisfied with everything that was happening, even if it still felt surreal. If he said they had to leave, then she was ready to follow him. She was ready to follow him even if Kai told her he was going into the underworld itself. Next stop: Hell? Let’s go! As long as it was with him as her company and they got to be together again, it would be worth it.

Sawy felt exhausted and, although she was already healing, blood was still dripping from her wounds. She leaned over Amarok’s back, lacing her fingers into his beautiful soft fur to hold herself in place and closed her eyes with a blissful smile on her face.

“Please, Moon Goddess, let it be true!” she whispered.

They would, of course, have a long conversation later. She would tell him about everything that happened to her while he was gone, and he would tell her what happened to him, how he became this new kind of beast. A part of her was still afraid that when she opened her eyes, she would find herself back in Bjorn’s castle, and all of this would turn out

to be a dream. The thought alone made her shudder, and she closed her eyes for what was meant to be just a moment. She let the air blow through her hair as she enjoyed the softness her mate provided and the tingles that erupted every time she moved, even just an inch.

Mate. He was her mate. For the first time, it felt so right. Savvy knew that Kai was right for her. They found each other in the middle of all kinds of troubles and challenges, pushed into circumstances that were unlikely to make people like each other, let alone fall in love. But they did.

Feeling those tingles tonight was very different from what she had with Zack. Her heartless ex-mate couldn't even compare. Now Savannah knew the difference. That pull and those tingles were instinctual. The mate bond was hard-wired into their wolves, the beasts inside of them, to instantly want each other because they were a perfect match on so many levels. It's said that the Moon Goddess was connecting her children's souls. But did anyone really know that? Of course, couples like Gideon and Riannon made everyone believe in the legend, but at the same time, how many unhappy mate-bonded couples were out there? The answer was – plenty. She could have been in this situation twice already. Statistically speaking, the results weren't that impressive. It made her sad to think of her dead brother and his wife, so she decided to push that thought away. However, she couldn't stop thinking of Kai and mates in general. Maybe her mind was over-stimulated now from all the stress or maybe she needed to rationalise what was happening somehow.

It seemed like she and Zack were a perfect match in every way imaginable. An Alpha and a Princess who would help the West to defend itself against the enemies and traitors. They could have had perfect pups together and lived a happy picture-perfect life. Except Zack was the traitor. The two of them looked like a perfect union to an outsider and Savannah still remembered how everyone congratulated her when they found out about them being mates, Even Gideon gave them

his blessing. However, the mate given to her by the Moon Goddess turned out to be a bad man, a bad person, and a horrible Alpha who knew nothing about loyalty, honesty and honour. It never sat right with her after she found out about everything that he was supposed to be the other half of her soul. He wasn't perfect for her, he couldn't be any less perfect. Maybe their souls were united in a way, but he made some choices that she could never condone. And he treated her as her property, not a partner. For Zack, that's all a Luna like her was. Something told her that the Moon Goddess couldn't have intended her to go through all that.

In the meantime, Kai gave her everything she ever looked for without those damn tingles. They made their choice to be together without the divine connection, and it felt so right every step of the way. Even right now, she loved him and she wanted him, but at the same time, it wasn't just physical. The mate bond they had now felt better than anything she had experienced before. It felt stronger, more intense and more... reliable.

Then she remembered Bjorn and his claim, and the way he insisted they were mates, but he never had a problem hurting her if she didn't fit the mould he wanted her to fit. Those were the choices he made, too.

Wolves grew up believing in fairytales about couples finding each other and falling for each other instantly. In those tales, Alphas were easily falling for omegas, bringing them to their packs and making them their Lunas. No one ever doubted that this was how it was supposed to be because the mate bond was sacred, and everyone dreamed of finding their better half.

Only that it wasn't that simple, was it?

Savannah rubbed her cheek in the soft fur. Mate or not, she would choose this man over and over. She would reject anyone for him. The bond felt amazing, and she couldn't wait to explore it more. It was a gift

neither of them expected, but at the same time, it wasn't what defined them as a couple. They would have been together regardless.

Love was filling her heart, bringing her comfort and peace. If this was a dream, she didn't want to wake up.

"Sawy?" she heard a painfully familiar voice and flinched, afraid to open her eyes. She didn't even notice that Kai had stopped. Where were they?

"Sawy?" Gideon's voice trembled. Her big brother rarely sounded so... worried, and her heart clenched. Maybe it was an illusion after all because getting just Kai back was madness and insane luck. To get her brother back, too, was absolutely impossible! "Is she all right?" The King of the West sounded like he was on the verge of breaking. "What did they do to her? Sawy!"

"Gideon?" She lifted her head, and the first thing she saw was her brother walking towards them. He was paler than usual and not so polished. But none of this seemed to matter. He was alive! Gideon was alive and well and walking towards her! Handsome and perfect as always even despite his dishevelled hair. Now she got scared again that this couldn't be the reality. There was absolutely no way!

Kai shifted to his human form again without warning, and she didn't even manage to yelp before he caught her in his arms. Savannah's lips parted in shock, but Riannon was already by her side with a warm blanket she wrapped around her sister-in-law, covering the rags of her dress.

"You're alive!" Savvy gasped and then added, "Either you're alive, or I am dead and seeing things. Which one is it? Not that I mind either!" She tried to laugh, but it sounded weak and nervous. She wasn't fooling anyone.

“We are all alive,” Ria smiled warmly and gave her a tight hug. It was a bit uncomfortable because, at the same time, Kai did not plan to let her go and was still holding her in his arms, pressing her tight against his bare chest. She wasn’t going to ask him to let her go either. It all was so perfect that she didn’t mind staying like this with them forever. She remembered her brother dying, clenching the already dead Riannon in his arms, grieving their unborn baby and worried sick about his sister. A new tear rolled down her cheek.

It didn’t happen. It wasn’t like that. Not anymore.

“The baby-“Sawy said the words with pale lips. She still didn’t know anything. The poison obviously didn’t work on them, but what if her little niece or nephew got hurt?

“Onyx says the baby is well,” Ria rubbed her tummy.

“Put her down! I want to hug my sister! And put something on, for Moon Goddess’ sake!” Gideon growled, losing his patience, and Kai grunted, already annoyed. However, he did as he was told and carefully placed Sawy’s bare feet onto the ground without any kind of his usual snarky attitude in return. The events of the past few days changed them all.

Gideon did not waste any time and pulled his sibling into a tight, warm, and slightly painful embrace. She could feel his every raw emotion, knowing how much she meant to him. For many years, it had been just the two of them. Savannah remembered how he watched Zack being smug about “his” plan. She knew that it brought him as much pain as it did to her and now he was telling her that without words.

“If I could have come sooner,” Gideon said in a low voice and for a second there, she felt like he was shedding a tear or two. He buried his face into her messy hair, and she did not rush him, letting him have this moment discreetly.

“It’s okay,” Savannah giggled softly, reassuringly, still not believing her own luck. “Trust me; they regret abducting me in the first place.”

“That’s my girl,” the King of the West chuckled proudly and gave her a fatherly kiss on the forehead. From the corner of her eye, Savannah noticed Kyle and Zara running in her direction, followed by Evelyn and Lachlan. Petra was waving at her at a distance but not approaching, giving her privacy and some time to spend with her closest people. The girl didn’t look as high-spirited as usual, but that could have been easily explained by what was going on, and Sawy didn’t pay it much attention. She was more concentrated on thanking the higher beings for getting everyone she loved back to her.

“You’re all alive!” Tears streamed down her cheeks as she laughed and hugged each of them. If heaven really did exist, it probably felt like that. “How is it even possible?!”

“You all better be careful and not crush my mate over there!” Kai grumbled as he pulled on the jeans that Lachlan had brought for him, bringing silence to the little clearing they were all gathered on.

“Excuse me?” Gideon arched his brow. “How is that even-”

“I don’t know, and I am not questioning the gifts given to us by the gods,” Kai shook his head. “But I have to say that this new life

feels so much better than the first one. I have a new power, by the way. Ice needles! Who knew?!”

“I liked you better when you couldn’t shift,” the Western King rolled his eyes. “Sawy, my dear sister, you do know you can reject him, right?” he teased and the Northern Lycan King let out a menacing snarl. “See what I told you?” Gideon continued his mocking. “The mutt doesn’t even know how to behave in public!”

“At least now I know this is real because you are back to your usual bickering!” she beamed at her big brother and then burst out laughing,

still unable to stop the tears. She was too emotional, and it was getting out of control. “As for the manners, my mate and I will work on that. Thank you.”

She was slowly starting to like the mate concept again because, somehow, saying the word in relation to Kai was bringing her joy every time.

“Sadly, we have to cut our reunion short,” Kai gently but persistently took her out of her brother’s hands and back into his, kissing her temple softly. “I don’t think it is safe to stay anywhere other than my castle now. The final battle will happen as soon as possible. We won a few days, were able to prepare while no one knew, but we don’t have that luxury anymore.”

“Then shall I activate the second part of our plan?” Ria asked, her hand rubbing her slightly on her rounded belly. She still did not look like a pregnant woman, just like one who had a full dinner. Then again, no one expected anything else from the perfect Luna. Something told Savannah that when she would be pregnant with Kai’s baby one day, this wouldn’t be the case for her. That made her think of something else, and her cheeks flushed at the sudden realisation...

out.

However, there were more urgent things at the moment, things that couldn’t wait.

“Of course,” Kyle agreed with his Luna. “I will alert Uncle Reid right this very moment.”

“What is the second part of the plan exactly?” Savvy wondered, assuming that the first part was getting her and the other hostages

“Well,” Gideon smirked, “my brilliant wife talked us into this, and now that you are here, I am glad she did. Remember how hard it was for us to expose the traitors among us? Even after you found out the truth about

Zack and brought me the information you found on his phone, we still weren't sure we got everyone."

Savannah nodded, and Kai pulled her closer, unable to stop touching her.

"Now was our chance to find out," Kyle winked at his friend while lacing his fingers with Evelyn's. The woman, however, slipped her hand out of his grasp, and this did not escape Savvy's gaze. "We set traps for everyone who wasn't with us," the guy continued as if nothing happened, but the Western Princess knew her best friend too well and saw the disappointment in his eyes.

"You all have been busy!" Savannah praised them. They all did so much while she was lying sick in Bjorn's bed...

"So were you," Zara chimed in. "I flew over the bears' castle now. Well, whatever is left from it. Castle for a castle, right?"

"Right," Savvy smiled, feeling better now.

"But we do need to leave," Kai reminded them. "We can talk back at home."

"Is there something you haven't told us?" Gideon raised his brow.

"Plenty of things," the Lycan King of the North snorted. "But this is not the place nor the time. Savannah needs a healer, though-"

He did not finish as his hands slid under the blanket Savvy was covering herself with. All the wounds were already gone.

"I think I already got one," she giggled and leaned over his chest. "Feeling much better, Doc."

"Mates indeed," Riannon chuckled softly. "And no magical lycan licking required! Gideon, can you imagine?!"

“Ha-ha,” her husband crossed his hands over his chest. “Just remember I am watching you, Fionnlagh. And if you hurt her-”

“Never!” Kai interjected, and they stared at each other for some time.

Gideon’s lips curled into the vaguest of smiles.

“Good!” the Western King nodded, taking his wife’s hand, walked away. “Let’s get going then!”

They shifted one by one, and only Kai prevented Savannah from doing so.

“I am not ready to part with you just yet,” he told her as he placed a gentle kiss on her lips. “So, you are going on my back.”

“I can get used to it,” she taunted him, and a growl escaped the Northern Lycan King’s chest.

“You’d better,” he claimed her lips once again and then added. “Hop on. We have a longer road than everyone else.”

“Why?” she looked at him, startled slightly.

“Because we are not going where everyone else is going.” A smirk formed on Kai’s lips. “The night is young, Savvy, and we have more important things to do. Something I should have done a while ago.”

She wasn’t surprised when he took her to the mountains. Thanks to her memory, she recognised the place as the one where the cabin was located and where they spent those wonderful days. They passed the northern castle first, of course. It pained Savannah to see the damages done to it, although she had to admit that Bjorn’s Castle suffered more thanks to her invisible helper.

Everyone else was about to stay with Elene and work some more on plans for that final battle. At the same time, Kai decided to take one night off for the two of them.

Amarok had no trouble moving through the snow of the mountains. In fact, it looked and felt as if he was exactly where he was supposed to be. So they reached the little wooden house faster than she expected, and Kai turned back into a human.

Surprisingly, it was already warm inside as someone had already started the fire for them. Savannah noticed a table set for two and various clothes put in neat piles on the sofa. Someone has been preparing for their arrival. However, she could tell by the scents inside the room that this someone was long gone.

gone.

Someone had been preparing for their arrival. However, she could tell by the scents inside the room that this someone was long

She walked inside and stopped by the fire, dropping the blanket to the ground and staying just in that torn red dress of hers. This made Kai growl and cross the living-room in a couple of strides.

Alone, at last, they couldn't take their eyes off each other.

"Mate," the sweet word escaped the king's lips as he brushed his palm over her soft cheek. His eyes were filled with lust and longing, and it took all of Savannah's willpower to step away. The action caused fear to appear on her beloved's face. The bond was so new and fresh that they both were afraid, it was too good to be true.

"I just-" Savvy tried to search for the right words, but then chose to say it plainly, "I need a bath, Kai."

His brows went up, but he understood what she meant at once. She was covered in dirt and blood. Some of it probably wasn't even her own. No wonder she wanted to clean it off first.

"If my Queen wants a bath, then she gets a bath," he smiled and took her hand, pulling her behind him. "Luckily, we have a tub that fits two here, remember?"

She remembered. She hoped that he would say that because she couldn't take not being together with him anymore. Not even if only for a few minutes.

Kai filled the bathtub while she washed her face. For her, it wasn't just the dirt or the blood, not even the remains of the make-up the white bear maids put on her. She wanted to get rid of Bjorn's scent on her. She brushed her teeth vigorously, remembering how he kissed her without her consent, how he touched her at every opportunity he could. She felt that if she washed it all away, it would somehow fix what had happened. She wasn't thinking about all that while she was in there because she had more important things on her mind, but now, with Kai so close, she didn't want to have a trace of another man on her. It insulted their mate bond, and it insulted their love. She couldn't have any of it.

She was washing her hands, again and again, scrubbing vigorously under the nails when he got her. Two strong hands gently wrapped around her waist, and Kai closed the tap, pulling her away from it. Savannah looked down; she couldn't brace herself to face him with all those thoughts in her head. And her mate did not want to force her. Their bond was new and fresh, but he could sense her distress.

Kai lowered his head and gently pecked her on the shoulder, but to his surprise, she shuddered.

"What's wrong?" He asked, afraid to make a wrong move. He was beginning to understand...

“It’s... nothing,” she tried to push past him, but he did not let go of her. Instead, he gently turned her around and made her look into his eyes. “I just really need this bath,” she tried to snort, but it sounded like a whimper instead. Why couldn’t she just be happy

now?

“Savvy,” it took all Kai’s strength and restraint to ask the question, “did he- Did Bjorn ever-” He couldn’t say it because he felt like a failure too. For not being there for her, for not being able to protect her when she needed it the most.

Savannah’s eyes widened when she realised what he was asking, and she shook her head, denying it.

“No, he didn’t,” she assured him and placed her palm on his chest. “But being there was still-unpleasant and I don’t want you to feel his scent on me-”

“Is that what is bothering you?” he cupped her face and made her look at him. “Savvy, as long as you are alive and with me, this is all I could ask of you. I’d never blame you or be disappointed. I only want to kill the guy all over again. And I am so sorry that I didn’t protect you. It’s all my fault! You have no idea how much I regret not acting differently in the past. I should have lured him out, found him and killed him the moment he laid his eyes on you. But I swear to you that it will never happen again. No one would dare touch you again! I came back to life because I couldn’t leave you. I-”

He was lost for words, and she felt his despair. A tear rolled down her cheek, but her lips curled into a smile. She stood on her tiptoes, and this time she was the one to kiss him. The kiss was as light as a wing of a butterfly, but somehow this one single motion managed to break his soul and then heal it in just mere moments.

“We are not doing this,” she told him firmly, confidently. “We are not wasting our second chance on all of that. I’m not going to cry, and you are not going to beat yourself up about this. I didn’t even dream about you coming back, and now here you are! And Kai, I love you so much! I am always going to love you, and now we get to spend our lives together, however long that is. Let’s take that bath together, wash it off and move on. We will never forget it, but we’re not going to be the slaves of our past. What’s done is done, but together we are going to build our perfect future!”

“My Queen is wise,” he gave her a smile back, a genuine and heart-warming one, and then pushed the straps of her dress off her shoulders, making it pool at her feet.

Cautiously, he checked her body for any kind of wounds, bruises and scratches, and soon he hummed in approval when he didn’t find any.

She let him examine her with a little glint in her eyes and the relief on his face when he confirmed she wasn’t harmed, made the corners of her lips curl. Moon Goddess, she missed him! The desire for him was growing in her body, and when he lifted her up in her arms and then lowered her into the warm water, getting in there together with her, she did not protest.

Kai sat behind her back and nestled her between his things, then took a sponge and added some expensive and nice-smelling soap to it. Then he started sliding it over his mate’s delicate body softly, cleaning her torturously, thoroughly. Inch by inch, he was driving her crazy while she rested on his chest, not forgetting to claim her lips from time to time, each kiss getting deeper, longer and more passionate. She could feel his hardness growing, and her breathing became ragged from their proximity alone. He always had this effect on her, but now it was undeniable. Kai Fionnlagh could ignite her inner fire within seconds.

“Look at you,” his voice rasped as he gently brushed his nose over her neck. “Ready to be undone, and I barely touched you!” She simply chuckled at that because she was not going to deny it. Moreover, all she wanted now was to embrace him. She needed him; she needed to feel his love.

“Tell me, Savannah, are you feeling fresh and clean now?” he teased her; drawing his tongue over her sensitive spot and making her toes curl. “You taste so good. I can assure you that! But do you have the strength to-”

“I feel as good as new!” she reported, sliding her palm over his well-sculptured thigh and pressing her nails into his flesh gently to let him know how serious she was about it.

“Good!” Kai approved, a low dark laugh rumbling through his chest. And then he got her out of the water in one swift move, not caring about the water splashing all over the expensive wooden floor. “Because I haven’t even started, Savvy, and I have big plans for you tonight.”

The Luna Trials by Marissa Gilbert Chapter 67

Chapter 67

Kai grabbed a huge fluffy towel on the way from the bathroom to the bedroom and wrapped it around Savannah, not bothering with all the water drops falling from his own perfectly sculpted body to the wooden floor. He carefully placed his mate on the bed as if she was made of the finest porcelain that could break at any moment and then gently dried her body, groaning from the desire to devour her hastily. However, he knew very well that she deserved more than that. She was made to be loved and worshipped. Kai wanted her to scream his name first, and only then would he think about his own pleasure.

“Tell me that you are ready and you want this,” he said, still kneeling in front of her. “If you are not, it’s absolutely fine, and I would-

“I’ve wanted this for a while, and if you don’t take me now, Kai Fionnlagh, we are going to have a problem!” Savannah threw the towel at him and leaned backwards on her elbows, naked and beautiful, daring him to join her.

“Oh?” A wicked grin blossomed on the king’s face as he quickly patted himself dry and threw the towel away. A growl escaped him as he saw her crawling further away from him on the bed. It was too late now to try distancing herself from him. Not after she practically challenged him to take her, knowing where this would lead them tonight.

“We should test how this mate bond of ours works, don’t you think?” a smirk spread over his lips, and he noticed Savannah’s breathing getting heavier, her perky breasts rising and falling in sharp rhythm. Something told him that she was restraining herself too, and he liked that idea very much. They were starved for each other.

Her luscious lips parted when she saw him walking in the opposite direction from her.

“Someone is playing a dangerous game!” she teased as she watched him opening one of the drawers of the nearby dresser in search for something inside.

“What I love about this bond of ours is that you seem to read my mind,” Kai chuckled darkly, and she saw a black silk tie in his hands. “I am desperate to play with you too, Savvy.”

He strode slowly towards her, enjoying how her cheeks flushed from the thought alone. She was so beautiful this mate of his. He touched her with the soft silk fabric first, gliding it torturously from her calf to her upper thigh and then her belly, all the way to her neck, making her breath and body shiver in delight.

“Would you let me?” Kai asked, knowing that she already understood what he wanted to do. “I’ll be gentle,” he coaxed her with the corners of his mouth rising upwards slightly.

“Don’t be,” Savannah brushed her fingers over his sculpted abdomen, tracing each line that looked like it was carved out of stone. She enjoyed watching goosebumps form on her mighty Alpha’s skin, knowing that she was the reason for it.

Kai towered over her. then crushed his lips over hers in a kiss that wasn’t nearly enough for her as she whimpered when he broke it. But before she could protest, he tied the fabric over her eyes, making sure she couldn’t see anything, and then he pushed her gently back onto the pillows.

Savannah expected him to be all over her, but for some time, he wasn’t doing a thing, which frustrated her, but also... made her bite her lip anxiously. Anticipation was building her up quicker than she could have thought possible. Kai noticed how her fingers were grasping the sheets around her, knowing that she couldn’t handle much more. A dark chuckle escaped him, because she had no idea how hard it was for him to restrain himself and what he had in mind for her.

Savannah expected to feel his warm lips or hands on one of her sensitive spots, but instead, her whole body jolted when a small piece of ice came into contact with the skin between her breasts. She gasped at the unexpected sensation and felt him drawing the ice tower and making her clench her thighs together.

“My beautiful little mate,” he whispered. “So responsive...”

Then it was gone, and for a few good seconds, it seemed that Kai was gone too. Only his strong scent let her know that he was near, watching over her and not leaving her alone.

The ice was back, this time on her n****e, forcing a gasp out of her, being able to control her reactions. However, the moment the ice was gone, the hot tongue of her mate swirled around her pink bud. This time she couldn't help but arch her back and moan loudly. She definitely liked that. Kai repeated the same with the other breast, fondling the first one gently in his palm.

"Do you like it?" He whispered into her lips, and she was sure that he was about to kiss her, but at the last moment he pulled away and his warm breath disappeared while the ice was back, shickingly cold on the inner side of her thigh.

"Thate it!" she lied, throwing her head back but once again, the cold was replaced by the heat as Kai began to leave a wet trail of

kisses that led to her core.

"Oh Goddess!" Savvy covered her mouth, biting on her own flesh to keep herself from screaming. Warm fingers brushed over her

folds, already glistening with desire, making her whole body quiver.

"Kail" Her voice was laced with reproach as he pulled away, but then she felt his hands wrapping around her ankles. Her mate yanked her to the edge of the bed, positioning her the way he liked and sliding his hands all over her body, caressing her thighs, breasts, neck, face... His thumb brushed over her lips, making them part, and a growl escaped him when Savannah sucked it in, teasing the digit with her tongue. She let out a gasp as his other hand cupped her core, sliding a finger inside, probing her slick tightness.

With her eyes covered, all the sensations were intensified exponentially. So, when Kai knelt in front of her, parting her legs and drawing a finger over her already pulsating bundle of nerves, eliciting wave after wave of tingles to surge through her, Savannah lost it

and let out a loud moan.

Kai chuckled, observing all this and took another maddening pause. He knew that she was about to lose her patience because he

could see how close she was to the edge already.

“You are the most beautiful little thing I’ve ever laid my eyes on,” he told her. “I could watch you like this all day long... every day...”

Her cheeks became a brighter shade of pink, and her breathing became faster.

“Kai Fionn-” she was about to scold him when he plunged his tongue inside of her, making a long luxurious slide down her core. Her thighs trembled, and he placed them on his broad shoulders to keep them in place, all while not breaking contact with her sensitive

flesh.

She moaned his name again and again, rocking her hips to meet his pace as he teased her, tortured her by bringing her so close to

cli.max and then stopping at the last second.

“More!” she screamed, arching her back and entwining her fingers in Kai’s hair to pull him closer.

“My greedy gorgeous Queen!” he snarled into her, but obeyed, picking up the pace. “I am happy to oblige!”

He used his lips to suck and nibble at her most sensitive bud, and slid his tongue into her wetness and soon he felt the waves of her release rushing through her, letting her ride it properly. Pleasure rippled through her, but her mate did not plan to stop.

After her first release, she was quivering with each new movement of his tongue, and when he slid a finger back into her, curling it to reach a

little ridged spot inside, she lost it again, pressing her thighs tightly around his head as she bucked her hips in ecstasy...

He loved feeling her react to him in this way. He slid his palm up her belly and then higher, knowing that everywhere he touched her, tingles from the new mate bond erupted. Kai grasped one of her breasts and rolled the n'pple between his fingers, which tipped her over

the edge again as he kept stimulating her in all the right places.

Savannah tried to catch her breath when he took the blindfold off, giving her time to adjust to the light. Their eyes locked, faces

illuminated by the flickering flames of the fireplace and she knew what he was about to do.

“Kai,” she wanted to say something, but the words still weren’t forming properly.

“I love you so much,” he said exactly what was on his mind as he climbed on top of her and claimed her lips. “I thought I lost you and

– Savvy, I couldn’t leave you even when I was dead.”

The mention of death brought her out of the daze, and a single tear rolled down her cheek. Just the memory made her

shudder.

“Savvy, I have to tell-”

She placed her fingers on his lips to silence him.

“Mark me,” she said, and another growl escaped him because every part of him had wanted to do this since day one. “Mark me, Kai.

Whatever you want to tell me can wait. Nothing will change my mind because I was yours even before I became your mate.”

It was true, and he knew it. He had no doubts and neither did she.

“Mark me before the war starts, mark me before someone interrupts us again, mark me before one of us does something stupid,”

she pleaded, lacing her fingers into his dark hair.

“You will not have to ask me twice,” Kai said, as he scooped her up, sitting comfortably on the bed. “Originally, I wanted to give you a ceremony to remember.”

“You succeeded with that one,” Savannah’s lips curled into a smile, “We said our vows, and none of us will ever forget that day. Now, give me your mark. I want it, Kai. I need it. I-”

He kissed her again because words couldn’t express what he felt. But their bodies entangled together could. Without breaking the

kiss, Kai gently lifted her by her hips and slid her slowly onto his hardness, filling her up and stretching her out. He could feel Savannah’s

nails digging into his flesh as they were finally joined and he wrapped his large arms around her, drawing her closer.

Kai couldn’t help but be worried about hurting her. After all, his body, although it looked the same, was completely new, and he

didn’t know the full extent of Amarok’s strength and power yet. What he knew was that he wanted this woman so much he could barely

control himself. It was a thirst of a new kind, and only she could quench it. Savannah was precious to him, and if she got hurt because of

him again, he wouldn’t be able to bear it.

However, she couldn't wait anymore and started moving on top of him, moaning as she slid up and down his length. Her breasts.

were brushing over his chest, driving him crazy and just the look of her was unleashing Amarak himself.

"Mine," his intense growl shook the walls around them and it only made Savannah moan louder. She did not plan to stop and

neither could he anymore. He buried his face in her neck, showering it with possessive kisses as he staked his claim on her. He grasped her

bottom, holding her in place, and started pounding into her, making them both forget about everything.

"Kai!" she screamed as a new orgasm ripped through her tiny body, but he kept going. This was only the beginning. She climaxed

on top of him again and again, until he knew that the time had come, and his teeth grazed over her marking spot, drawing a gasp of

anticipation from her.

"Are you ready?" his voice rasped through his chest.

"I've been ready for a long time," she panted and locked her legs around his waist as he sunk his canines into her delicate flesh. He tried to be gentle, but it felt so good to claim this woman to the fullest finally that a snarl was forced out of him. A snarl so powerful that it caused an avalanche in the nearby mountains. His hands were holding her tightly now as he forced his canines to withdraw, still tasting

her blood on his lips.

"Are you... all right?" he asked, the worry evident in his voice as he observed his mate with her eyes closed.

“Better than ever!” Savannah looked like she was coming down from her high. His heart was racing. Her eyes snapped open, “My turn!” she announced and a wave of relief went through him.

He chuckled, happy to see a smile curling her lips. He started thrusting into her again, licking the spot where his mark was already forming, cleaning her up.

Savvy tried not to lose herself in the sensations. Everything was so intense now, but she knew she still had to do the most important thing. She grasped his hair and made him tilt his head to give her access to his strong neck. She bit him exactly where she’d always

wanted to bite him, reveling in the new connection that was entangling their souls now.

Receiving her mark undid him. Kai unleashed himself on her, dropping her back onto the bed and bracing both her arms above her head with one of his. Hooking one of her thighs with his free hand, he rammed into her like there was no tomorrow until a joint release exploded through both of them, making them lose breath as their bond became unbreakable at last.

Their gazes locked and they both smiled at each other, happy, breathless, fulfilled.

“Mine at last,” Kai whispered and lowered his head to kiss her once again.

“Always and forever,” Savannah replied, and they were about to go at it again when something started to change. Their marks

started glowing, and Kai paused on top of his beloved, watching how the traces from his canines were forming some kind of a

pattern.

“It can’t be!” Savvy gasped when her fingers traced her mate’s mark as tears formed in her eyes, “Kai...”

The Northern King didn’t reply as he was busy pushing her wet hair out of the way so that he could see how the spikes of the North

star started shimmering on his queen’s neck one by one. It was so beautiful that he couldn’t take his eyes off his mark.

“I have never seen anything so beautiful,” he muttered, pressing his lips against it and feeling divine power surge through the star.””

It’s so fitting... for my beautiful Queen.”

“Don’t stop,” she murmured, and he knew that they wouldn’t be able to control their passion for a while...

After hours of lovemaking, Savannah lay her head on Kai’s chest, feeling the rise and fall of his chest and inhaling his wonderful

scent of earthy forest and pine. The best scent in the world. Not a hint of mint or wintergreen. Just the way she liked it.

She noticed that he hadn’t said a word, and it was beginning to bother her.

“You are unusually quiet,” she lifted her head up and noticed the tense expression on his face.

He did not look at her, and she immediately knew that something was wrong.

“Kai, what is it?” she cupped his cheek and gently made him look at her.

“I shouldn’t have-” his voice broke, and now she was worried.

“Kai?” Savannah sat up in the bed, and he exhaled heavily as his gaze grazed over her beautiful naked frame.

“I was so happy... I absolutely forgot... I shouldn’t have filled you with my seed tonight,” he avoided her eyes.

“And why is that?” she was startled by his sudden revelation. This was completely unexpected.

“Getting you pregnant tonight... it’s not the right time,” he still wasn’t looking at her, and she knew that he was hiding something. However, she had a bigger surprise for him than that.

“Well,” Savvy giggled, “I am afraid it’s a bit too late for that!”

The Luna Trials by Marissa Gilbert Chapter 68

Chapter 68

“Savvy, what do you mean?” Kai’s face went pale, and the princess’s smile dropped. She expected him to be over the moon about it,

or at least stunned, but she could feel waves of tension radiating from him now and did not know what to do.

“Kai Fionnlagh, this is not the reaction I was counting on,” she informed him with her brows knitted together.

“Savvy,” he pulled her into his embrace and cupped her chin gently. Nevertheless, she could tell he was nervous. “Are you-”

“I don’t know yet, if I am honest,” she admitted, blushing softly. “I think it’s possible.”

Savannah felt his grip on her stiffen and instantly knew that something was wrong. She distanced herself from him, the mood sour

all of a sudden. Was the possibility of the two of them having children together so scary for him? Weren't they talking about expanding their family right after they got married before all the drama? Did he change his mind? A panic attack started without warning, affecting every single cell of her body. Why was it going all wrong?

"If you don't want the child-" She fiddled with the sheet, lowering her eyes, and he growled, getting her back into his arms and onto

his lap.

"Savvy, I want it more than anything. You, me and an army of our little pups. I want it all," the King assured her. "There is one problem, though. I... Sawy, I think I f*cked up."

Now he was the one who couldn't look her in the eye, and she started to get worried.

"What is it?" She brushed his cheek with her palm, tilting his head towards her. Surely, it couldn't have been that bad.

"I've been blessed by a god, Savannah," Kai confessed, and she breathed out in relief. She kind of figured this one out already.

"It seems to be a common theme lately," she chuckled. "I only heard about it in legends, and now I know three people who have had the honour."

"Three?" He shot her a puzzled look.

"You, Ria and... Bjorn," she admitted, letting out an exasperated sigh. "There is this deity that helps him- You know, never mind. This night is ours, and I want to only speak about us."

"You see, Sav, there is a difference between me and the others," Kai decided to be honest with his mate. He didn't want to start their new life together with lies or hiding essential information. Their family wouldn't

be like that, and his Luna deserved to know everything. She deserved all the best things in life; especially choosing her own destiny. Unfortunately, that was one thing he partially deprived her of

now.

“What do you mean?” Savannah was ready to listen to whatever it was he had to share with her. She could see how not easy it was for him and gently laced their fingers together to give him the reassurance he needed.

“The deity who blessed me was Fenrir,” Kai revealed, but this was something she already suspected.

“Well, it was to be expected,” Savvy asserted with her lips curled into a gentle smile. “He is the patron of the North, after all.”

“You see, the problem is, I don’t think he wanted to bless me,” the King sighed, avoiding her gaze.

“Then how?” Now Savannah was lost. Surely, a god had to know what he was doing. And why wouldn’t Fenrir want to save the lycan who served him his whole life?

“He is... not what we imagine him to be. He looked... like he didn’t care. Long messy hair, a beard and a few scars on his face,” Kai closed his eyes, trying to remember any details. “He didn’t come to help me. It was an accident.”

“An accident?” The princess gasped. Here she thought that Kai had a similar experience to Riannon’s, but apparently, that couldn’t be further away from the truth. “Is that even possible?”

“He came to retrieve the spear,” her mate admitted. “It was all he wanted. But the moment he touched it, something happened,” and a jolt of divine power went through me. This brought me back to life, but it was temporary, and Fenrir seemed as surprised as !

was.”

“Are you even sure that it was Fenrir?” Savvy couldn’t believe what she was hearing.

“Yes, I am certain of that. It’s hard to explain this, but he is my deity. At some level, a part of me has always heard his call inside of my soul. It spoke to him even if he did not respond. The moment our eyes met, I knew who he was.”

“But why didn’t he want to save you then?” She couldn’t comprehend this. The Moon Goddess went to great lengths to help Riannon because she believed that her sister-in-law was worthy of a second chance and that they deserved to win the war against the foxes and bears. Why didn’t Fenrir feel the same way about the King who worshipped him his whole life and served the North with his

whole heart?

“He looked... strange,” Kai replied after a while. “Not godly at all. He looked like he was just passing by. If not for the spear, I don’t think he would have bothered helping me at all. He told me that my life was over, and I had to go to the next world, that it would be

better, and I would be happy there.”

Savannah’s heart clenched uncontrollably. Her nightmare could have been true. She could have lost him because no one was eager

to save him. Him being here right now was just dumb luck and nothing more.

“Sawy-“her mate took her hands into his large palms and placed one to his heart, while the other was pressed against his lips. “I

will always be at fault about this, but I hope that you will understand. I was already on the other side, dead and gone. And all I knew was

that I left you alone at the worst of times. My house was in flames, and I saw dead bodies around me. I saw Zack, and I could smell the scents of the bears that had already left. I knew that Bjorn took you away and that you were alone. At that moment, that was all I cared about. I-”

“What did you do?” The Princess whispered with pale, trembling lips, only now realising how worried he really was. He did something. Kai did something he couldn’t forgive himself for.

“Fenrir did not want to save me,” the Northern King repeated himself, “and I begged him to help me. I held the spear in my hands, not letting him pull it out, fighting him for it. I knew very well that the moment he retrieved it, I would go back to the other side, and you would be on your own forever. I couldn’t let that happen.”

“What did you do?” Savannah’s nails dug into his flesh, demanding the answer.

“He told me there would be a price,” Kai said, his voice void of emotion as he couldn’t bring himself to look into his mate’s eyes. “I said that I was ready to do whatever it took. You were my number one priority. So, when he said that my firstborn would be this price, I agreed without hesitation.”

Savvy choked on her own breath and let go of him. Her hands wrapped around her belly unconsciously. This was the moment when

she knew there was a life inside of her; this was the moment when she felt it for the first time so distinctively that she couldn’t ignore it

anymore or pretend that it wasn't there. She was with child, and this child would be taken away from her one day.

Life was so cruel indeed... Why was it so merciless? What did she do to deserve this? Was she so horrible that all the bad things.

always happened to her?

Tears stung her eyes, and she blinked them away because she knew crying wasn't an option anymore. She couldn't be weak. She

couldn't afford to be weak. Even though she wanted to fall apart, she knew that now she had to be stronger than ever.

"I hoped we would have more time," Kai continued, guilt written all over his face. "I thought that maybe-"

"Maybe what?" She darted her eyes at him. "What could possibly fix this?"

"I didn't have much time to think about it, as you can imagine." He couldn't bear to see her this way. He couldn't tolerate the fact that this time, it was his fault. All he wanted was to protect her, to save her, and now he ended up being the person who hurt her the

most.

"Oh, Kai," she whispered, covering her face with her palms.

"I thought that maybe I could go to a clinic, use a surrogate and someone else's egg-" he confessed. "It was the best thing I could think of, but-"

"But it's already too late," she interjected, sparing him from saying that it was a horrible idea either way.

"Savvy, I'm so sorry!" he wanted to pull her into a hug but was afraid to even try. Kai Fionnlagh, the King of the Northern Lycan

Kingdom and the warrior who was never afraid of anything, was terrified now that the mate he had waited for so long, the one whom he loved more than life itself, the one for whom he came back from hell would reject him now.

She did not move, and he did not know what to do. If he lost her now, it would break him. If she rejected him now, he would have no choice but to turn into a wolf and follow her around as a loyal dog until the end of his days because he couldn't part with her again. He would spend his whole life trying to fix what he did and prove her his worth if he had to.

Her warm palm cupped his cheek, and he flinched, realising he was shaking before that moment. The fear of losing her again was agonising.

"I am angry," she said honestly, and his heart dropped, "I am so freaking angry, and I will probably always be. But... I want you to know that I love you even when I'm angry. That will never change, Kai. I already lost you once, and I am not going to do that again. I won't be able to live without you anyway. I am not wasting time on quarrels. Everything is against us once again, but I'm not going to let it break us. Just know that I'm not planning to give up our child to any of the gods that want him or her. I will fight for them, and I will die for them if I have to, but no one is touching my baby."

"I will not let them," he assured her. "I'd rather go back to the other side than let anyone touch a hair on our child's head. It did not look like Fenrir wanted her too much, to begin with. I'm sure we'll find a way to negotiate it, and if not, we will find another way-"

She nodded at him, and this time he did pull her into his chest, burying his face in her hair and letting her scent envelop him. He could feel the cold glow of his mark on her, and in some way, it brought him peace. It wasn't the end, and they would find a way out again. They always did.

her?"

“Wait-” suddenly, he distanced himself from her and made her look at him. “What do you mean by any of the gods that want him or

He did not think it was possible, but Savannah’s face became even sadder.

“The deity that helps Bjorn, Joran, made me a similar offer. He wanted me to promise him my firstborn in exchange for his help.”

“What the-“Kai swore under his breath. “What do they all need from our child?”

“I don’t know,” Savannah admitted, “but if anyone would know, it will be Riannon. Her gift lets her see many things. If anyone can. help us, it would be her.”

“Good.” The king placed a soft kiss on the top of her head, murmuring something else she couldn’t understand, but then added louder, “We need all the help we can get.”

They stayed like this for some time, and before the light dared to reach the room, Kai felt the sun rising with his skin. Their peaceful time was almost up, and soon they would have to get back to the castle. It couldn’t wait any longer, and they already stole these hours like two thieves who did not know any better.

“Savvy,” he fell back into the bed, placing her head on his chest and stroking her hair gently, “tell me everything that happened there. I want to know everything there is to know.”

“It’s-” She bit her lip, not sure if it was a good idea. “It’s not a pleasant story.”

“This is exactly why I want you to share everything with me,” he caressed her more, hoping that he could make her feel safe despite his imperfections.

go on.

Savannah sighed heavily and traced the silver North Star mark on his neck with her fingers. Somehow, it was giving her strength to

She started from the moment Kai closed his eyes at their unsuccessful marking ceremony and finished when she saw him again back in the woods. Kai did not interrupt her and only asked questions when she paused to help him have the full picture, and by the end of her retelling, his anger was boiling inside of him.

“Savvy,” he cleared his throat when she was done. “Did you ever... feel attracted to Bjorn?”

“Not really,” she replied without hesitation, knowing that he hated the bear’s claim on her. “I mean, I was interested to find out more about who he was because our encounters were strange, but-”

She looked at his face and smiled, reaching to give him a small peck on the lips. “Don’t be jealous. You were always the one for me,

even when Zack was alive. There was never a competition with anyone.”

“Do you think it’s possible he is or was your second-chance mate?” Kai furrowed his brows.

“Of course, not!” Savannah lifted her chin to have a better look at him. “You are my second-chance mate, are you not?”

He pressed his lips and let out a painful growl.

“Fenrir... After I was reborn, he did something else.”

“What did he do?”

“He took a bead off his bracelet and crushed it between his fingers, letting the sparks of magic as ancient as time land on me. I

didn't know what it was back then, and I didn't feel any different, but it seemed important to him. He said he was keeping it for someone else, but it wasn't meant to be."

"Kai, what are you saying?" Savvy started to realise the horrible truth, but she did not want to say it out loud.

"I begged for you, Savannah," her mate confessed. "It was all for you, and it felt like he wanted to give me a gift after all. What if...

what if Bjorn was right and you were his second chance? But Fenrir gave us a new mate bond instead."

Her lips parted in shock. She couldn't have imagined that.

"But I never felt anything for him," she wanted to argue her case.

"You couldn't," Kai's grip on her tightened, but he continued his thought. "You were mated to Zack first and fell in love with me.

Then, when Zack was killed, your soul needed to heal first to accept a new bond. These things aren't instant... But Fenrir bonded us

before Bjorn could do anything."

Savannah tried to connect the dots, but it wasn't easy, and in the end, she hid her face somewhere in Kai's broad chest.

"It doesn't matter," she muttered. "Even if it were the truth, I would still choose you."

"I know," her King smiled, wrapping his hands around her. "You were mine from the moment I laid my eyes on you. The mate bond

from Fenrir is a nice bonus, but- Savvy, what we always had was more than a connection created by someone else. It was almost more.

Even gods couldn't break us apart."

"And gods aren't taking our baby anywhere," she agreed, feeling the weight of her eyelids getting too heavy..

She closed them just for a second, as it was almost afternoon already.

"Time to go back," Kai whispered and placed a kiss on her forehead.

Savannah feared going back to the castle, fearing to see what happened to it after the recent events, but when they both walked

into the main hall, holding hands, she gasped because she did not expect to see what unfolded before her eyes...

The Luna Trials by Marissa Gilbert Chapter 69

Chapter 69

It was the first time Savannah had visited the northern castle since the fire, and the sight saddened her to the core of her soul. The

scent of smoke that was still present hit her nostrils, and when she saw the blackened walls stripped of curtains and other decorations,

she clenched her fists, trying to control her fury. The royal lycan wished to be freed and bestow her vengeance on the ones responsible for

all of this.

Savvy had grown to love this castle and the history it held; she loved noticing little details she had missed previously every time she

paid attention to a painting or to a carving. And now most of it was gone, leaving a little empty spot inside of her.

For the first time, she realised that this place was her home now and that her enemies had entered it and tried to wipe it off the face

of the earth, destroying everything and everyone she loved in the process.

just a little That's it.

A on her hand tightened as he pulled her closer and whispered, "No wouses, Sak de est rése

This castle has stood through worse times, trust me."

She rested her head against his chest just for a moment, breathing in his scent to calm down. "I just hate that it happened on our

can't let them win after everything."

watch. W

"We won't," he assured her, lacing his fingers in her hair. "We are the ones already winning."

He took her into the main hall, and she let out a sigh of relief when she saw all her friends inside. A little part of her was still afraid

that all this was a dream. They were discussing their war plans around an interactive table, moving the maps as they carefully planned

tha

strategies, and hadn't even noticed the Northern King and his Queen at first. Until one set of familiar eyes locked with Savvy's.

"Rei She threw herself into the Western Beta's arms. "I didn't know you were here!"

4 emerged behind her, and she instantly knew that it was Kai's reaction to her hugging another man. She ignored it though.

This was something he would have to get used to because Reid wasn't a threat to him and he was family.

"I'm not technically here," her friend laughed, patting her head as if she was still a child. Reid was like a father figure to her. When

her parents died, and Gideon was busy with his Lycan King duties, this man was the one to step in and raise her and Kyle. Unfortunately,

during those days, they couldn't trust too many people and the Beta had to act as a babysitter as well.

"You are not?" Savannah knitted her brows, puzzled slightly.

"He is not," Gideon smirked. "Right now, he's trying to rule the western Kingdom in my stead because I'm dead. So sad-"He

grimaced and she chuckled in response to that.

"Poor you," Savvy rolled her eyes, but it was just a cover-up because her eyes started stinging from the tears forming in them. The memory of losing her sibling was still fresh in her mind and she was so happy that she got to tease him like that again.

"What's this on your neck?" Gideon grasped her hand and his sister closer to inspect her brand new and shiny North Star mark. It was still gleaming softly when the light grazed over it. "Did you mark my sister?" the Western King growled, nostrils flaring and eyes

shining golden for a moment until he suppressed it.

"Yes, I did," Kai responded calmly and moved Savannah away from her brother, wrapping his hands around her to demonstrate their

closeness to everyone. “What did you think I was going to do with my mate?”

“I still can’t believe the Moon Goddess punished her that much!” Gideon grumbled, but no one took it seriously because the next thing he did was place his palms onto their shoulders and whisper with a wicked grin, “Hurt my sister and I will arrange her next marriage

in a heartbeat and make sure she gets half of your Kingdom in the process.”

“Gideon,” Riannon reproached her husband as she strolled towards them with a bright smile, “leave them alone. Look how happy they are!” She then turned all her attention to the beaming couple and her eyes studied their marks as well. “They are very beautiful,”

she said honestly. “Just as marks of Divine Wolves should be.”

“Divine Wolves?” Savannah’s eyes grew wide.

“When the gods bless us, they give us a particle of their divine power,” Riannon informed them. “Any special ability we have

afterwards comes from it. This is what being blessed truly means, and the way our marks looks is a sign of how we can recognise other

Divine Wolves.”

“How do you know all this?” Kai was impressed by the western Queen’s knowledge. “Was it a vision?”

“When my wolf asks the Moon Goddess a question, sometimes she answers. After I found out that you have been blessed too, this was what we asked. It’s different from my visions, though. Because they come when they please and don’t depend on my wishes. But the powers develop slowly. The particles of divine power we receive grow or die-It

depends on the person who received them and the intention of the god who blessed them. It can go either way.”

“That explains why you and Kai have special marks,” Savannah chimed in. “But why do Gideon and me? We aren’t the blessed wolves, but our marks are the same as yours.”

“That’s because we’re mates, of course,” Ria smiled gently, and her eyes found her husband. “A mating bond is a special connection. between two souls. When one of the mates gets hurt, their mate feels it. When one mate feels happy, so does the other one. It works the same. When one of the mates becomes a divine wolf, so does the other, Mates share everything, including divine blessings, because it’s spiritual and given to a soul, not a body. And a mark is a reflection of that spiritual bond.”

“If I understand it correctly, Gideon sees the future too now?” Kai looked at his old rival, arching his brow curiously.

“Not really,” the Western Lycan King admitted. “But some things are different for me now.”

“Like what?” The northerner wondered, scratching his beard that needed some trimming desperately, but he chose not to waste his time on that this morning and stole a few extra minutes to spend with his Queen.

“The return from the third form,” Savannah whispered, but in a room full of wolves, everyone heard her. It was so logical. Since she was little, she had the worst control of her third form, Compared to Gideon, her control of the beast was weak. It wasn’t good, it wasn’t bad. It was just how things were. For as long as she could remember, she was trained not to let her beast out because everyone knew that

it was possible the Princess wouldn’t be able to get back to her human form. The royal transformation could cost her too much and mostly, it was not worth it, considering she was a good enough fighter in her second form. But just one day ago, she was ready to sacrifice herself for

her friends when she shifted into her third form in Bjorn's castle. Savannah knew there would be no return from that. There

wasn't supposed to be a return from that...

Yet here she was.

Because of him.

She glanced at Kai, and he squeezed her palm. A simple motion, but with such a deep meaning behind it. He received Fenrir's blessing, and the same Wolf God made them mates. He connected their souls with the help of the mysterious bead at the best of times, thus, helping Savvy to turn back the moment she saw her mate in the woods. The same thing happened to her brother a few months ago. He stayed in his third form for longer than it was safe during a brutal battle, and they almost lost him that day. However, Riannon found him on the battlefield and as if by some miracle, Gideon came back. They never connected the dots back then, but now it was clear.

as day. The royal curse was broken by divine wolf mates.

And that meant one thing – they were given an ultimate weapon in the upcoming war.

They wished they could talk about all this more, but unfortunately, they had more pressing matters at hand. The bears would

retaliate one way or another. No one had any illusions about resolving this matter peacefully.

Savannah and Kai joined the rest of the team at the table and started going through what had been planned so far. A few hours later, all of them were exhausted, but they knew that so much more had to be done still. Somewhere into the eighth hour of their

strategizing, the doors burst open and in came Chloe and Claude.

The TV presenters looked troubled and everyone knew that the news wouldn't be good.

"You have to see this!" Chloe insisted and passed a tablet into her king's hands.

Kai gave her a glance that told her he still wasn't sure whether he forgave them for their latest actions, and the siblings bowed apologetically without saying anything.

However, all that became irrelevant the moment he saw the face of his enemy staring right at him from the screen. It took him a

minute to realise that it wasn't an old video. His eyes went to the bottom of the screen where the date was showcased. This was recorded

today.

Bjorn was alive. Which could mean only one thing – he would be back very soon, and all their plans had to be adjusted

accordingly.

"What can you say about the recent video of Savannah Stormhold circling on the web," a reporter asked him, and Bjorn's expression darkened.

"Queen Savannah Bjorn," he corrected the journalist with a frown.

"Savannah is my mate and my Queen. She will always stay my mate and my Queen. You should address her according to her status."

The words made Kai grip the tablet so hard that it cracked under pressure in a few places.

"I have a perfectly good explanation as to why my mate attacked me in the middle of the mating ceremony," the white bear

growled, showing off his teeth, but then he got his emotions under control and continued, “We were so happy and planned to spend our whole life together. It’s a blessing to find a mate, and I am sure everyone understands our euphoria. Just when I left her that morning, she kissed me goodbye and said that she couldn’t wait to get my mark on her neck. She couldn’t wait for it to happen, but when I saw her again, she attacked me, and it broke my heart. Savannah stabbed me and ran away, leaving only questions in her wake. But luckily, a good friend of mine helped me to understand that something was wrong with her. She wasn’t acting like herself. I was worried sick about my Queen, and of course, I followed her the second I healed. I couldn’t leave the love of my life like that. My soldiers tried to help her, but she tried to kill everyone who approached her. Thita was the state she was in. When I finally managed to reach her, I understood what was going on and who had done this to her. There was this... creature. There are no other words to describe him. He made her believe in the things that weren’t real. It was the ugliest thing I had ever seen. A mutated wolf with a distorted body and horns covered with ice. I am not sure he was a wolf anymore, but when he shifted, he looked like the deceased Lycan King of the North.”

“So, do you confirm that King Kai Fionnlagh is alive?” the reporter asked emotionlessly, and Chloe clicked her tongue in annoyance.

It probably wasn’t the first time she heard it all because she had her hands crossed over her chest and didn’t seem impressed.

“He can’t be alive,” Bjorn said confidently. “We fought, and I personally put a silver spear through his heart. It was recorded back

then, so it's undeniable."

"But how can you explain what you saw then?" the journalist seemed eager to get to the bottom of things, and everyone in the room tensed, waiting for the reply.

"How else?" Bjorn quirked his silver brow up. "To be raised from the dead, he had to take part in some dark ritual and sell his soul to a demon. Or maybe it's just a rotting corpse walking after some witch used him for necromancy purposes. Witchcraft and demons would explain why Savannah was deluded. I am sure that her mind was manipulated while I was gone."

"Is there a chance that you will ever forgive her?" the woman asked her next question.

"There is nothing to forgive," Bjorn smiled, and Savvy cringed watching this. "She is my mate. All I need to do is to destroy the spell on her and kill the monster who tried to break us apart. Once it's done, we'll be together again, and no one will stand between us. This is how the mate bond works."

After these words, he looked directly into the camera as if he knew whom he was saying all this for.

going.

"Does it mean that you will go to war?" The reporter's voice trembled for the first time as she realised where all of this was

"We are already at war," Bjorn went back to being reserved. "I am just going to end it this time."

“Enough!” Gideon took the tablet and smashed it over the nearby wall as Claude let out a little whimper. It was probably his gadget.

“This is why you kill guys like him when you have a chance. And then CHECK it! And if he is alive, you kill him AGAIN!”

Kai darted his eyes at the Western King. “Believe it or not, but when a deity tells me to get the hell out of somewhere, I listen.

Savannah was there, and she was more important than anything. As for Bjorn, I’d gladly kill him. AGAIN. And then AGAIN and AGAIN.

They all got quite in the aftermath of the news.

“Well, we don’t have time to waste,” Riannon tried to organise everyone again. “Our strategies definitely need some tweaking if that

bear is alive.”

“I don’t like this,” Lachlan sighed heavily, wrapping his arms tighter around Zara.

“Neither do I,” Kyle agreed. “He is trying to play the public opinion and tries to reduce our troops’ morale in this way. Believe it or not, but some people will start doubting whether they are on the right side. In the meantime, the bears do not have this problem and

think they have a hero king.”

“We can do an interview too,” Claude interjected. “When people see King Kai and Princess Savannah together, it will be proof

enough.”

“Right,” Chloe nodded. “Especially the new shiny marks.”

“No,” Elene’s voice sounded for the first time during the whole day. She was in the room together with all of them the whole time but spoke only

now. “They can explain marks on TV with ease. They would say it’s just make-up.”

“The Princess is right,” Evelyn agreed. “Considering what we have just heard-”

“I can turn things upside down too,” Kyle sneered but the woman ignored him as if he didn’t say anything.

“It’s true, though,” Ash agreed. “We have the footage of everything that happened. We can play it to our advantage.”

“You don’t get it,” Elene insisted, and they all looked at her again. “The North needs a miracle. They got it in the form of Amarok.

They will follow him. They will fight for what is right. We just... we need to prove to them it’s real.”

“And how would we do that, Elene?” Kai was probably the only one who gazed at his sister with trust in his eyes. “Do you have a plan?”

“I do,” she confirmed with a nod. “But you will have to trust me. And we will have to do this tonight.”

The Luna Trials by Marissa Gilbert Chapter 70

Chapter 70

“This is not how I imagined it,” Savvy let out a little laugh as Elene tried to open an old chest in her room, which, luckily, wasn’t touched by the recent fire.

The Northern Princess tried key after key to unlock one of her secret treasures. “I figured that it would be best if I didn’t tell anyone

of my thoughts until just a few hours were left before the event. After how things went last time, there were no illusions about making

any announcements,” she confessed, finally finding the right key and opening the lid. “Ah, here it is!” she gasped in delight as her

trembling fingers brushed over the shimmering pale blue fabric. The Princess’ smile faded, and her eyes glistened as a few tears formed

in them. She was supposed to be the one to wear this dress on her wedding day. Her mother’s dress that was passed from one Luna of the

North to another for generations.

However, this felt right.

It was right.

Because Elene was simply a princess, and Savannah was her Queen now. There was no time to shop for designer gowns, and there

wasn’t a more perfect dress for the occasion. Now that Elene looked at it, she knew that this dress belonged to her brother’s Luna. After

how Bjorn twisted everything again, they had to prove to the people of the North, who were still torn between two possible kings, That

they were the real deal. Kai and Savvy. They were the true King and Queen of the North, and they did not have any competition. They

were the ones whom people should follow into the battle and to whose heirs they would one day bow their heads.

Claude, Chloe and Kyle were already working, spreading the videos from the flash card that Claude managed to bring back from the

white bears. They were already giving a different narrative to the recent events, but a final blow was required.

The idea struck Elene instantly when she heard that monster's words. Bjorn called her brother a walking corpse who conspired with

demons and made a fatal mistake by doing so because now they could prove once and for all who was the main liar and manipulator in

this story. Elene remembered how her eyes met with Riannon's when they watched the video on the tablet. Wasn't it just perfect? Bjorn

has given them a gift they couldn't have been dreaming of receiving.

Elene knew that the Western Luna somehow was aware of what she was thinking. She hated to admit that, but in the past few days,

she grew to understand one thing she liked Riannon. A part of her still hated herself for liking that woman, but it was hard to deny that she now understood what all the fuss was about. It was impossible not to like her, considering she obviously meant well and always found a good word even for her. So, Elene made the only right decision and chose to leave the past behind.

She had her chance with Gideon. She really did. When She came to visit Kai during his Alpha training, Gideon was nice to her. He was talking to her, accepting her attention, and it could grow into anything if she were smart about it. Unfortunately, she wasn't, and she had realised it only recently. When Amarok and the others left to rescue Savannah, Elene got to work. Lachlan dealt with the warriors, and she got to the information war. She knew that this was one crucial piece they would have to handle cautiously, and they would have to show Bjorn in his true light sooner or later. She was checking their system for any videos from the day Bjorn abducted Savvy, hoping to make a compelling short film about his lies. Then she decided to go further and dig for anything else she could use about him back from the Luna Trials. And that was when she encountered something she did not expect. It was hidden in a separate file, and she stopped

breathing when she saw the words “Penelope’s Death”.

They told her that there was no footage of that, but there it was right before her eyes.

At first, Elene did not want to watch her beloved friend being slaughtered by a monster. But later... after biting her nails way too many times and pacing around the room, she decided to rip the bandage off. She had to see it. She had to know. This decision was supposed to help her and fuel her for the current war with their enemies, but she couldn’t even imagine what she would actually see. She wanted to hear Penelope’s last words during her last moments alive, and she heard more than she counted on. What her best friend said about her was an eye-opener, and for a few seconds there, the Northern Princess didn’t know how to react. The Penelope she saw on the

screen was spiteful, arrogant and cruel. It wasn’t her best friend at all. Or was it?

She never doubted anything that Penelope told her, but after hearing what her dear friend really thought about her, how she

Chapter 70

belittled her and was annoyed at the mere mention of Elene’s name, she started questioning everything. That fateful day when Gideon stopped talking to her once and for all came to her mind as well.

That day Elene and Penelope came to the Lycan practise field and found Gideon and an Alpha she-wolf who was actively flirting with him. It was just some werewolf, and she couldn’t be a real competition for a Princess, but she sure did her best to seduce the Western Lycan King. She asked Gideon to show her some battle moves, and while he was doing just that, she tried to touch him or showcase her impressive curves, which Elene herself did not possess. The whole thing was annoying, to say the least.

“You’re not going to leave it like this?” Penelope whispered into her ear in her usual innocent tone.

“He has just become the Lycan King,” Elene shrugged his shoulders. “Women will always be around him.”

“It’s one thing to be around him and another to be all over him.” Penelope played with her shiny black hair, tossing it to the back when she was done. “But he is looking for a Luna now. And you know the qualities of a good Luna. A real Luna should be fierce and domineering. She can’t let some she wolf touch her man like that. She would put the brat in her place to demonstrate who is the real deal!”

H

“As a royal, I have to disagree,” Elene simply rolled her eyes at that. “We need to know when to act.”

“Fine,” Penelope giggled, but that giggle seemed cold and... cruel. “Follow the etiquette while that she wolf arouses his... instincts.

Elene looked at the girl again. She was already bending right in front of Gideon, and his gaze grazed over her bottom at full display. It was such a basic thing to do, but she couldn’t help and ignore a spark of male interest in his eyes. The girl said something, and he laughed. All while she watched them both from the top of the stairs near the spectators’ seats.

Soon he left, and the werewolf girl turned to give her a sneer. She knew the whole time that the Northern Princess was watching.

“That b*tch!” Penelope hissed. “Seriously, El. You can’t let her get away with it!”

The said girl was next to them in seconds, meeting Elene's gaze with an ominous glare..

"Enjoyed the show?" she asked arrogantly, making the princess' blood boil. "I can give you a master class on how to do it, Your Highness! You've been around him for weeks and barely had any results. Such a pity." She was clearly mocking her, and Elene raised her

chin up high to give her a cold northern stare.

"It's funny how you think you can teach me anything." the princess smirked.

"One word of hers and your whole pack would be wiped," Penelope interjected, crossing her arms on her chest.

"Is that so?" The girl raised her brow. "She doesn't look so terrifying with those lousy snacks in her hands."

That was too much, and Penelope's voice rang in her mind through their link, "Show her now or regret saying nothing and losing to

her until your last day!"

Elene handed her friend the lunch box with Gideon's favourite sandwiches she made with her own hands. Making those was her way of showing him how much she cared. Usually, royals did not cook, but in this establishment, all shifters were required to cater to their own needs as a way of teaching them to be more independent. And Elene grabbed this opportunity. Someone laughing at her sincere

attempt along with Penelope's whispers made her angry.

"Is this terrifying enough for you?" she asked with an arched brow and pushed the snarky girl lightly. "Remember that Gideon

Stormhold is minel"

It was supposed to be a light demonstration. Only that she forgot the difference in strength between the royal lycans and simple

werewolves. The girl's eyes widened as she flew down the stairs of the stadium and landed in the dirt at the very bottom.

"What happened?" Gideon came back for some reason at the worst time possible, shocked by the scene before his eyes. He helped

the she wolf to stand up, and she said something to him that Elene couldn't hear. A bad feeling rose in the pit of her stomach.

"It was an accident!" The Princess was next to the two of them in seconds and noticed how Gideon clenched his lips tightly. As if....

he did not believe her but had to tolerate her. "She was-

"I understand," he told her politely and lifted the other girl in his arms.

"Don't worry, Princess Elene. I will take her to the infirmary."

"I'll go with you!" she suggested as Penelope gave her the box she was holding back. "I prepared some-

"No need," he replied and left without sparing her another glance.

She did not see him talking to that girl anymore, but at the same time, their own conversations were limited to a few brief words

required by the royal protocol and nothing more. Kai found her crying once, and she told him about her feelings for the Western King. Her

brother got tense but offered her hand in marriage to Gideon nonetheless. However, when a rejection letter came, things between the

two kingdoms that were never too friendly only turned for the worse.

There were many other moments with Penelope that she now questioned, and sadly, she realised that she had never had the friend she imagined.

Nevertheless, there was another realisation. Savvy knew all that and never told her during her mourning. She could have used

Penelope's speech to gain points for herself, but she chose to keep this information away so as not to hurt her. Life had peculiar ways of

showing her what was really important, and although Pen was her fake friend, she now knew that Savannah was a real one. They would

need time to get to know each other better and move on from the Luna Trials, but... there was definitely something good there,

something worth exploring.

"Are you sure?" Savannah asked when Elene stretched her hands with her mother's wedding and coronation ceremony dress. The

Lycans always celebrated both events together. "I know what it means to you. I mean, Kai told me—

"I have never been so sure about anything in my life," Elene nodded with a timid smile, blinking her tears away. "You will look

beautiful in this, Savannah, and everyone will recognise it. It's the Queen's dress, and now it means that it's yours."

She helped Savvy into the dress and pinned it at the back for her, noting that the seamstress would have to make a few urgent

adjustments.

Savannah gasped when she saw herself in the mirror. She saw this dress in one of the books she had read during the Luna Trials.

They said that each Luna made her own adjustments to it. Initially, she planned to take just a few embellishments from it and add them

to the dress of her choice. However, now that she was looking at herself in the mirror, she knew that this dress was the one. There could

be no other gown for her in the whole wide world.

Long off-shoulder sleeves and a sculptured corset gave her a regal look, while the pale blue silvery fabric cascaded down to the marble floor, creating a magnificent ball gown. An intricate design of silver sequins and beads was adorning the corset and the skirt, and only when taking a closer look did Savvy realise that the pattern reminded her of the northern mountains and some of the ancient symbols she saw back in the cave and the shrine. It was a masterpiece! A subtle shine emanated from the sequins, making them look like pieces of ice or maybe the crystals from that cave Kai once took her in. It was indeed something a Northern Queen should wear. There was a beautiful North Star brooch at the top of the corset, right in the centre of her chest, and Savannah unpinned it, noticing how

Elene's lips parted.

"Here," she handed her the brooch. "I want you to have it for when your day comes."

"Savvy, you don't have to-"The Princess tried to protest, but it did not work.

"I know I don't have to, but I want to. It will suit you, Princess of the North," she smiled and then turned back to the mirror. "Besides,

I already have a necklace and a huge shining North Star mark. I think they are statement enough."

Elene traced her fingers over the cold metal with a smile. It was nice that a part of this dress would still belong to her. Something that was her

mother's would be with her on her big day. If it ever happened, of course. She was about to stop believing in it.

"Oh, there is also the veil!" Elene remembered suddenly and went back to the chest, producing the most gorgeous tulle with silver

north stars embroidered all over it.

"It's gorgeous," Savvy covered her mouth with her delicate palm and tried not to cry as Elene attached the veil to her hair.

"It's perfect on you!" the Northern Princess smiled. "Are you at all nervous? About the whole wedding/coronation thing?"

"No," Savannah did not hesitate with her answer. "How could I be? Kai is the one for me, you know. I love him, and there is not a -single bit of doubt in my heart. If anything, I can't wait to be done with it! The sooner we are married and crowned together, the

better."

Elene smiled at her sister-in-law. It was the perfect response, and she was so happy for them, but a part of her felt a little prickle of

pain. Everyone around her was finding their mates and experiencing this huge unconditional love. Everyone but her. Even that white bear traitor Brigit was mated to Aspen and dared to throw this kind of blessing away, but Elene still had no one. It did not seem. particularly fair, and she started to get worried that maybe it was her punishment for all her past mistakes? Yes, Penelope was feeding her

ideas, but she was the one to follow and act on them. The responsibility was hers. Was she punished for it? Or maybe it was as simple as

her mate never existed because she wasn't worthy in the first place?

“El,” Savannah turned to face her with an understanding smile. “You know, just a few months ago, I was helping Riannon into her

coronation dress while my own heart was broken by my first mate. I thought there was no hope for me, and this was it. And then....

couple of months later, I went for the North, thinking that it was the worst thing that could happen to me. I really thought I was

sacrificing myself for my people!” She chuckled, and Elene snorted, her eyes watery. “What I am trying to say is life is unpredictable, and you may not know it now, but the experience you had... It was necessary. For something bigger and better. You’ll see.”

“Oh, Sawy,” Elene pulled the other woman into a tight hug, “I always knew I wanted a sister! And finally, Kai gave me one!”

It was the truth, and for now, it was enough for the Princess of The North.

Savannah thought that some of the northern traditions had to be changed! They couldn’t be serious with all that stuff! Who in their

right mind was marrying in the mountains during night-time?

However, she wasn’t going to complain. Not anymore. Not after she lost him and got him back.

“We can still turn and go back home,” Gideon told her as he offered her his hand in the dark cave where only rare crystals were

glowing in the darkness. “Just saying.”

“A bit too late for that, don’t you think?” Sawy giggled, happier than appropriate. In the morning, the war would start, and they would all have to fight. She had no right to be this excited now. None of them had, but dying or losing everyone they cared about made

them look at life from a different angle.

“You mean the marks?” Her brother rolled his eyes. “Big deal! I’d whisk you back home in an instant if you give me a signal. So,

whenever you are ready, sis.”

“I wasn’t talking about the marks,” Savvy let out a laugh that echoed through the cave walls, and now he looked at her with an

arched brow. “I was talking about your niece or nephew, silly!”

“What did you “Gideon’s breath hitched, but this was when Zara entered the cave.

“The time has come!” she announced, ignoring her King’s startled face.

“The aurora has started!”

