

The Luna's Choice by Kat Silver

Chapter 241

Chapter 91: Ayla

A slight whisper rippled through the crowd but died down quickly, waiting for me to continue.

"I am the daughter of Jacob Dominis, Alpha of the Onyxcrown pack," I stated. "Twenty-seven years

ago, the Dominis family was targeted by a secret organization calling themselves the Waar P ak

Society. They attacked and destroyed my father's pack. But the decimation and disbandment of the

Onyxcrown pack wasn't enough for them. And they have been coming after the survivors and their

families ever since. They have sought to kill me and recruit others to their cause. A cause that

threatens our way of life."

I stepped back, placing myself between Malcolm and Amy who were both chained to the floor.

"Malcolm Neal of the Moonshadow pack has been tried and found guilty of numerous crimes against

multiple packs, including treason, attempted murder, and murder," I called out. "His sentence is death

and will be carried out forthwith."

"No," Amy screamed angrily. "You filthy bit ch. I swear I'll finish..." She was cut off by a rough blow to

the face by Mina.

"Amy Centrella of the Greytooth pack," I continued to address the assembly, "has confessed to the

attempted assassination of myself and the murder of the pup I was carrying. For her crimes, she will

also be punished here tonight.

An angry scream began to come from Amy but the look I gave her retreating.
My choice of words

sinking in. She looked to Malcolm, desperately pulling at her bonds trying to reach him as she cried and

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begged. Malcolm looked back at her with both disgust and pain.

“Unchain him,” I told Briggs.

He hesitated for a second in surprise but obliged. Once the chains fell to the ground I faced him

completely. This wouldn’t be pleasant. I wouldn’t find joy in what I was about to do. I wondered if I could

even do it.

Dasha came forward. Standing with me to give me the strength and power I needed. Malcolm saw her

flash in my eyes and swallowed hard.

“Malcolm Neal,” I put the full force of my ability into the command, “give me your heart.”

His eyes widened. There was no question behind the intent of my command. No confusion about some

hidden meaning. He instantly started to fight against his own body. His face turning red as he struggled

to stop his hand from raising. His movements were slow from the conflict and I knew he could die from

the effort of denying the command alone.

But he wouldn’t.

The energy bursting from me was enough to know he wouldn’t win. My command was stronger than his

own instinct to survive. I directed that energy at him entirely.

Finally, he shredded the fabric of his shirt away and his screams filled the air as his claws pierced his

chest. The sound of breaking bones and tearing flesh echoed as the scent of blood filled the air. With a

final jerk, he ripped his arm from his chest. The power of my command keeping his body upright long

enough for him to present the organ to me.

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It was a terrifying and gruesome scene lasting only a second before his lifeless body crumpled to the

floor. His heart pitching across the platform and landing conveniently in front of Amy. Her voice returned

to her and she screamed out in agony.

Whether I should have or not, I found solace in the sound. I met Theo's eyes and knew he felt it too.

I returned my attention to Amy.

"Pick it up," I commanded.

Her head snapped up with a look of horror, but she didn't fight the command. She clasped it in her

hands as she knelt on the cold ground.

"Get up." I told her. But it wasn't a command.

She looked back at me with a look of pure hatred and I raised an eyebrow. It was hard to care if she

died on her knees but I knew I needed to cling to the small part of me that was still good enough to let

her die with a shred of dignity.

Instead of suffering another command, Amy pushed herself to her feet. Theo was standing behind her.

I looked to him and nodded once,

Kieran flashed in his eyes as his claws extended. With speed and precision, he tore across Amy's

throat. She fell and the life drained from her eyes as she clutched the heart of her mate to her chest.

A sense of completion passed through our mate bond. The pain of our loss was still there, of course.

But the nightmare that had caused it was over. We could face learning to live with it.

Chapter 242

Chapter 92: Theo

I couldn't take my eyes off of Ayla. She gave us both what we needed.

But we weren't done yet.

"You see," Charles Anderson yelled. "This is what we were fighting against. This kind of power can't

exist. She will take over everything."

One of the guards gagged him. Ayla disregarded his outburst.

"Fellow Alphas and Lunas, please come forward," she called.

They were hesitant. Worry gnawed at me as I hoped Ayla hadn't just sealed her fate against them. The

power she just demonstrated was impossible. It wouldn't take much for them to fear they were being

forced into something. And Ayla looked terrifyingly formidable as she stood by the carnage covered in

blood. However, they all came to stand in front of Ayla.

She took a scrap of fabric and wiped her hands and arms clean.

"I understand that what you just witnessed has caused concern," she addressed. "You are all now

aware of what I am capable of. I don't want my heritage or my abilities to be a secret that can divide us.

I want to assure you all that neither I, nor Theo, wish to disrupt or overtake the hierarchy our people have established."

She moved to the podium and picked up the book she had brought with.

"In my recent endeavors to find out who I am, I have had the privilege to learn more about our history,"

she said. "Practices we have forgotten. Traditions that we no longer observe. I would like to revive

one of those tonight."

She opened the book and placed it down next to eight vials she had previously set out. She then

picked up a velvet pouch and pulled out a silver dagger. Before I could say anything she made a deep

cut in her hand. The silver slowed the healing process enough for her to fill each vial.

"The strength of the Dominis command lies in our blood. With these vials," she stated, "I relinquish my

ability to command or influence any Alpha or Luna of my fellow packs. I vow to never attempt to take

power over another pack or have any interest in ruling as queen over our people. I vow to maintain the

social hierarchy our people thrive under. If this oath is ever broken, you all have the power to stop me."

"How the hell is that?" Alpha Trent voiced.

"Everyone is welcome to learn about the blood oath and how it works," Ayla replied.

Trent snorted. "This sounds like a load of bulls hit to me."

Ayla shrugged. "It may be," she replied. "I believe this to be a binding practice. But if I'm wrong, then

these are worthless trinkets. Just harmless symbols. If that's the case, what then? I can't be anything

but what I am.”

“So you just expect us to trust you?” Alpha Patrick added.

“I hope you will trust me,” Ayla said. “But if you can’t, and you choose to take action against me or my

pack, then it will be no secret the risk you will be taking. Because like every one of you, I will protect my

pack to the best of my abilities.”

“I think that is something we can all relate to,” Alpha Harden voiced.

“As another show of faith,” Ayla said, “I will remand former Delta Charles to your custody. We have

provided evidence to crimes he has ordered within all of your territories. I wish to allow you all to decide

how he will pay for them. Hopefully, you can provide your pack members who have suffered with some

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The pack leaders looked between each other. Some, like Harden and Vincent, seemed accepting of the

terms while others were still hesitant.

“We will give you time to think it over before you leave,” I said. “And we are open to any other

suggestions you may have.”

“You may choose to accept the oath as an understanding of peace between our packs,” Ayla

continued.

Harden and his mate, Victoria, stepped forward and took a vial.

“We would be honored to continue an alliance with you and the Greytooth Pack,” Harden said.

Alpha Vincent stepped forward next, followed by Alpha Weston and his mate.

“Our packs are connected by family,” he said kindly, glancing toward Mina.

“We have our own history

with the Onyxcrown. It’s a

connection I would like to keep.”

“Thank you, Alpha,” I said as Ayla offered him a gentle smile.

There was a hesitation from the rest, and I had noticed that they had been mind linking among

themselves since this was put forward. It wasn’t surprising, but that didn’t make it any less nerve-

wracking. Luna Aniya stepped forward.

“We will consider the offering,” she said diplomatically. “While we do wish to continue our peace

agreement with the Greytooth Pack, we feel

the circumstances may require further negotiations.”

“Understandable,” Ayla said. “We are willing to meet with you as soon as you are ready. Would any of

the other pack leaders wish to do the same?”

There were nods and remarks of agreement from the rest. Except for Kingston, who had been curiously

quiet throughout the entire event.

“Very well,” Ayla said. “You can all return to your accommodations and we will follow up with a time and

place shortly.” She turned back to the crowd. “The rest of you may go.”

Everyone began to disperse. A heavy feeling still lingered in the air at the severity of what just

occurred. I knew that tensions would be high for a while.

Kingston lingered back with us. When the area was mostly clear he stepped toward us.

“You know I don’t need any kind of promise to be loyal to you, Luna Ayla,” he stated. He looked at me.

“We are all in this together.”

“Thank you,” I replied. We nodded to each other before he walked off.

It wasn’t long before Ayla and I and our family were the last ones there. No one was saying anything. I

grabbed Ayla's hand for support.

"Jimmy, get someone to come clean up this mess," I said.

My parents walked up to us, and my mother immediately pulled Ayla into a hug.

"Before you speak with the others, we need to talk," my father said.

I remembered we hadn't had a chance to talk about what they had found on whatever mission they had gone on. Dad glanced behind himself. That's when I noticed an

older woman standing on the far side of the courtyard.

"Okay," I said, but with the day I had been having, I wasn't sure I could take any more surprises.

"Should we be worried?"

"We're not sure yet," my mother said. "But it will likely impact your talks with the other pack leaders."

Chapter 243

Chapter 93: Theo

We followed my parents as they led us to the woman standing near the shadows. She wore a simple

dress and a dark cloak jacket that made her seem from another time. There was also a presence about

her that inspired a sense of reverence from her.

"Theo, Ayla," my dad began, "this is Sister Mona, of the Moon Haven Order."

"Moon Haven?" Ayla questioned. "Why does that sound familiar?"

"That would be unexpected," Sister Mona said. "Although, not entirely shocking given who you are."

She reached out and took our hands. "It is an honor to meet you both, but I suggest we take this

conversation to a more private location."

I led everyone back to the Alpha's suite. When we were settled in the living room, I turned back to my

parents and our new guest.

“So, what is going on?” I asked. “What is this Moon Haven Order? And I warn you, I think I speak for

both of us when I say we’re pretty done with secret societies.”

“Trust me, young Alpha,” Sister Mona replied. “The Moon Haven Order is nothing like the Waar P ak

Society. We are far older and charged with a much greater purpose.”

“And what purpose is that?”

“To ensure the continuation of our species,” she said, glancing toward my father.

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Chapter 93: Theo

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“What do you mean?”

“Let’s just start with what this means for the two of you,” she redirected.

“Alpha Torin tells me Luna Ayla

is an Onyxcrown descendant. After witnessing the events of this evening, I have no doubt that is true.

And that you are the Luna of the prophecies.”

“Prophecies? What prophecies?” Ayla asked with slight annoyance in her voice.

I knew she believed her being the Blessed One was nonsense and was growing tired of hearing about

some special fate she was meant for. However, I had a feeling she wouldn’t be able to deny it much

longer.

“Prophecies of the Moonstone being reconstituted,” Sister Mona stated. “I believe you have found one

half of the stone recently. That is what led your father to us.”

“We found a box within the tomb of our founding Luna,” I replied with confusion. “We don’t know what is inside it.”

I wasn’t sure about telling her that we knew Kingston had the other half. However, I knew he needed to

be here for this. He was still the protector of his half. I told him I would respect that position.

‘Briggs,’ I linked my Beta, ‘message Kingston to come here quick.’

‘Got it,’ he replied. I saw him discreetly send a message on his phone from the corner of my eye.

“I think we all know what we will find inside that box,” Sister Mona said. “And it’s important that you do it soon. The time is almost here.”

“The time for what, Sister?” Ayla inquired,

“For your ascension.”

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“Come again?” – “Excuse me?” Ayla and I spoke at once.

“Both of you,” she continued. “You are the descendants of the original families. It is your destiny to

make the moonstone whole again.”

“You’ll have to forgive us, Sister Mona,” Dad said. “Our history was taught to us a little differently.

Prophecies and rituals haven’t been a part of our culture in a long time. Perhaps we would all benefit

from a revised history lesson.”

“Yes, I suppose you are right,” she replied. She smoothed her dress and sat up a little straighter in her seat. “I suppose the best place to start would be how the Moonstone became a myth to you. In the beginning, there were only two packs. Together, they wielded the power of the Moonstone to grow our race. With it, we thrived. Building a society and culture of our own. The two packs maintained their hold for generations. You would find small, scattered packs of rogues here and there. But none that would ever be officially recognized as a pack. The Onyxcrown and the Sablemane would never allow it.

“Until, a thousand years ago, those scattered packs began to organize,” Sister Mona continued. “The Sablemane Alphas abused their ability to command their people. What we saw today with Luna Ayla was a demonstration of how great their abilities were. Many of those rogues were so because they chose to leave the packs rather than risk being commanded to do unspeakable things. They appealed to the Onyxcrown for help, but the Alpha did nothing. The rogues tried to form their own packs, but the Sablemane would attack. Break them up before they could establish themselves.”

“We know that our found Luna was a Sablemane, an Amvorov to be exact,” I interrupted. “Is that why she left her pack?”

“It was part of it,” she replied. “Matilda was the daughter of the Sablemane Alpha, Thane. She protested against her father’s abuse of

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power, but her objections fell on deaf ears, as you may have guessed. It wasn't until the Alpha's sights

were set on a young pack member, Lorna. A young mother with a fated mate. The Alpha wanted her for

himself. However, even he couldn't overrule a fated match. She would have to leave her mate willingly,

but she wanted nothing to do with him."

She fell quiet. We all knew the next part of her tale would be tragic.

"He wasn't going to accept that, was he?" Ayla said, squeezing my hand.

"No, he wasn't," Sister Mona replied. "As punishment for refusing Alpha Thane, he commanded Lorna

to kill her mate... and their child."

Audible gasps filled the room, and Ayla's grip on my hand tightened, As did my hold on her.

"That despicable, evil..."

"Yes, he was," the sister agreed. "He planned to command her to become his mate. With her fated

mate dead, he would have to power to do so. But Matilda was outraged by her father's actions. She left

the pack, stealing Lorna away with her, in search of a way to not only remove her father as Alpha but to

strip him of his powers as well."

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Chapter 94: Ayla

"She went after the Moonstone," I said.

Sister Mona smiled at me. "She did," she confirmed. "But it wasn't easy. She was wary of approaching

the Onyxcrown to help her. She knew they would likely see her as a threat should to prevail. Lorna's

brother had already left the pack prior to her ordeal. So, she sought him out among the rogues. That is

when she discovered that Lorna's brother was her fated mate, Isaac Arden."

"They fought her father together."

"Indeed," she replied. "But it was a long and bloody battle. They didn't have enough wolves to fight

against the power of the Moonstone. The fight eventually spilled into Onyxcrown territory. The

Onyxcrown were led by a young, new Alpha. One who had witnessed the damage the Sablemane

abuse had done. His name was Jacob."

"Like my father," I said.

"Yes, he was your father's namesake, I would guess," Sister Mona replied.

"He reached out to Lorna

and Isaac in secret. Together, along with Jacob's sister, Kora, they searched for a way to destroy Alpha

Thane's connection to the Moonstone, stripping him of his powers."

"But the only way to do that was to split in two," Theo said next to me. "Which, I'm guessing, would

have reduced Jacob's powers as well."

"You are correct, young Alpha," Sister Mona confirmed. "But it was a sacrifice he was willing to make."

"So, they split the stone, leaving one half with Jacob and the

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Chapter 94: Ayla

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Onyxcrowns and the other with Lorna and Isaac, to be brought here, creating the Greytooth pack,” I concluded.

“Very good,” Sister Mona replied with a smile.

“But where do you come into this?” I asked. “Why was this all hidden from our history? What does this

Moon Haven Order have anything to do with all of this?”

“Jacob’s sister was a holy woman,” Sister Mona said. “She was touched by the moon goddess and blessed with the gift of premonition.”

Theo rubbed my back. “You said you read about one of your ancestors with that ability.”

I nodded. “I did.”

“The process to split the Moonstone wasn’t an easy one,” Mona stated. “It took a spiritual ritual to break

it, during which Kora was sent a vision from the goddess. She predicted that the Moonstone would one

day need to be reconstituted. The power it holds sustains our abilities. It keeps us tied to our wolves, to

that part of who we are. It wasn’t just the original families who lost something when the stone was

broken. It cost us all.” She glanced up at Alpha Torin. “Over time, we became more susceptible to

disease and other afflictions.”

“Like addiction?” Kylee questioned from behind us.

Sister Mona looked at her. “Yes, my dear, like addiction. After the ritual, Matilda, Jacob, and Kora made

the decision to hide this truth to protect the secret of the prophecy. They feared outside influence might

prevent the true intended outcome. One half of the stone went with each of them and Kora, well, Kora

left werewolf territory altogether.”

“What do you mean?” Theo asked.

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Chapter 94: Ayla

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“Young Alpha, how do you think we’ve kept this a secret all this time?” she asked. “Kora took three

other she-wolves with her and moved to human territory. They hid within a town there as an exclusive

religious sect

—

the Moon Haven Order. Every ten years, we send one of our sisters back to pack lands. They spend

time observing and learning the changes to our people. And to find possible new recruits.”

“But what does the prediction have to do with me and Theo?” I asked.

“Not just anyone can bring the Moonstone back together,” Luna Grace said.

“Its powers are still tied to

the original families’ bloodlines.”

“Okay,” I said, standing from my seat to pace the floor. “That doesn’t seem so difficult. I don’t see why it

has to be us. We’ve all seen what power can do to people. Just look at the Waar Pa k. I mean, do we

really think this is the best time to be reconstituting something that can be so corruptive?”

“Do you think it could corrupt you, my dear?” Sister Mona said.

“Only a fool would consider themselves incorruptible,” I said with a side-eyed glance at the woman,

“And I’m far from perfect. I’m no stranger to bending the rules when I have to.”

Sister Mona continued to smile at me. "Any single person is more susceptible. That is true," she stated.

"But what about two people? Can they not benefit from each other's moral compass? Could they not keep the other in check?"

The sister stood up and crossed the floor, stopping my pacing.

"The Sablemanes hadn't had a true Luna, a fated mate for their Alpha, in over five generations. They

took chosen mates to keep the bloodlines alive, but the relationships were strained at best," she told

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Chapter 04 Ayla

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"Well, the Greytooth pack has had plenty of fated couples leading them before now."

"But not one made up of both families," she pointed out. "The prophecy states that a true Luna will arise

and join the families together. Only when the first bloodlines are united can the Moonstone become one

again. Once the Moonstone is whole again, so will we be."

"And a bigger target Theo and I will be," I said. "I've had enough of being in the line of fire."

"But you can stop all of that," Sister Mona insisted. "You can't hide from this, Ayla. It is your fate."

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Chapter 245: Theo

I couldn't take my eyes off of Ayla. She gave us both what we needed.

But we weren't done yet.

“You see,” Charles Anderson yelled. “This is what we were fighting against. This kind of power can’t exist. She will take over everything.”

One of the guards gagged him. Ayla disregarded his outburst.

“Fellow Alphas and Lunas, please come forward,” she called.

They were hesitant. Worry gnawed at me as I hoped Ayla hadn’t just sealed her fate against them. The

power she just demonstrated was impossible. It wouldn’t take much for them to fear they were being

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Chapter 245: Theo

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Chapter 245: Theo

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Chapter 245 Theo

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"You know I don't need any kind of promise to be loyal to you, Luna Ayla," he stated. He looked at me.

"We are all in this together."

"Thank you," I replied. We nodded to each other before he walked off.

It wasn't long before Ayla and I and our family were the last ones there. No one was saying anything. I

grabbed Ayla's hand for support.

"Jimmy, get someone to come clean up this mess," I said.

My parents walked up to us, and my mother immediately pulled Ayla into a hug.

"Before you speak with the others, we need to talk," my father said.

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"Should we be worried?"

"We're not sure yet." my mother said. "But it will likely impact your talks with the other pack leaders."

Chapter 246

Chapter 246: Theo

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"Moon Haven?" Ayla questioned. "Why does that sound familiar?"

"That would be unexpected," Sister Mona said. "Although, not entirely shocking given who you are."

She reached out and took our hands. "It is an honor to meet you both, but I suggest we take this

conversation to a more private location.”

I led everyone back to the Alpha’s suite. When we were settled in the living room, I turned back to my parents and our new guest.

“So, what is going on?” I asked. “What is this Moon Haven Order? And I warn you, I think I speak for

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“Trust me, young Alpha,” Sister Mona replied. “The Moon Haven Order is nothing like the Waar Pa k

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“To ensure the continuation of our species,” she said, glancing toward my father.

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Chapter 246: Theo

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‘Briggs,’ I linked my Beta, ‘message Kingston to come here quick.’

‘Got it,’ he replied. I saw him discreetly send a message on his phone from the corner of my eye.

“I think we all know what we will find inside that box,” Sister Mona said. “And it’s important that you do it soon. The time is almost here.”

“The time for what, Sister?” Ayla inquired.

“For your ascension.”

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Chapter 246: Theo

288 Vouchers

“Come again?” – “Excuse me?” Ayla and I spoke at once.

“Both of you,” she continued. “You are the descendants of the original families. It is your destiny to make the moonstone whole again.”

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“You’ll have to forgive us, Sister Mona,” Dad said. “Our history taught to us a little differently.

Prophecies and rituals haven't been a part of our culture in a long time. Perhaps we would all benefit from a revised history lesson."

"Yes, I suppose you are right," she replied. She smoothed her dress and sat up a little straighter in her

seat. "I suppose the best place to start would be how the Moonstone became a myth to you. In the

beginning, there were only two packs. Together, they wielded the power of the Moonstone to grow our

race. With it, we thrived. Building a society and culture of our own. The two packs maintained their hold

for generations. You would find small, scattered packs of rogues here and there. But none that would

ever be officially recognized as a pack. The Onyxcrown and the Sablemane would never allow it..

"Until, a thousand years ago, those scattered packs began to organize," Sister Mona continued. "The

Sablemane Alphas abused their ability to command their people. What we saw today with Luna Ayla

was a demonstration of how great their abilities were. Many of those rogues were so because they

chose to leave the packs rather than risk being commanded to do unspeakable things. They appealed

to the Onyxcrown for help, but the Alpha did nothing. The rogues tried to form their own packs, but the

Sablemane would attack. Break them up before they could establish themselves."

"We know that our found Luna was a Sablemane, an Amvorov to be exact," I interrupted. "Is that why she left her pack?"

"It was part of it," she replied. "Matilda was the daughter of the Sablemane Alpha,/Thane. She

protested against her father's abuse of

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Chapter 246: Theo

288 Vouchers

power, but her objections fell on deaf ears,

wasn't until the Alpha's sights were set on a young pack member, Lorna. A young mother with a fated

mate. The Alpha wanted her for himself. However, even he couldn't overrule a fated match. She would

have to leave her mate willingly, but she wanted nothing to do with him."

were as you may have guessed. It

She fell quiet. We all knew the next part of her tale would be tragic.

"He wasn't going to accept that, was he?" Ayla said, squeezing my hand.

"No, he wasn't," Sister Mona replied. "As punishment for refusing Alpha Thane, he commanded Lorna

to kill her mate... and their child."

Audible gasps filled the room, and Ayla's grip on my hand tightened. As did my hold on her.

"That despicable, evil..."

"Yes, he was," the sister agreed. "He planned to command her to become his mate. With her fated

mate dead, he would have to power to do so. But Matilda was outraged by her father's actions. She left

the pack, stealing Lorna away with her, in search of a way to not only remove her father as Alpha but to

strip him of his powers as well."

Chapter 247

Chapter 94: Ayla

"She went after the Moonstone," I said.

Sister Mona smiled at me. "She did," she confirmed. "But it wasn't easy. She was wary of approaching

the Onyxcrown to help her. She knew they would likely see her as a threat should to prevail. Lorna's

brother had already left the pack prior to her ordeal. So, she sought him among the rogues. That is

when she discovered that Lorna's brother was her fated mate, Isaac Arden." out

"They fought her father together."

"Indeed," she replied. "But it was a long and bloody battle. They didn't have enough wolves to fight

against the power of the Moonstone. The fight eventually spilled into Onyxcrown territory. The

Onyxcrown were led by a young, new Alpha. One who had witnessed the damage the Sablemane

abuse had done. His name was Jacob."

"Like my father," I said.

"Yes, he was your father's namesake, I would guess," Sister Mona replied.

"He reached out to Lorna

and Isaac in secret. Together, along with Jacob's sister, Kora, they searched for a way to destroy Alpha

Thane's connection to the Moonstone, stripping him of his powers."

"But the only way to do that was to split in two," Theo said next to me. "Which, I'm guessing, would

have reduced Jacob's powers as well."

"You are correct, young Alpha," Sister Mona confirmed. "But it was a sacrifice he was willing to make."

"So, they split the stone, leaving one half with Jacob and the

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Chapter 247: Ayla

288 iVouchers

Onyxcrowns and the other with Lorna and Isaac, to be brought here, creating the Greytooth pack,” I

concluded.

“Very good,” Sister Mona replied with a smile.

“But where do you come into this?” I asked “Why was this all hidden from our history? What does this

Moon Haven Order have anything to do with all of this?”

“Jacob’s sister was a holy woman,” Sister Mona said. “She was touched by the moon goddess and

blessed with the gift of premonition.”

Theo rubbed my back. “You said you read about one of your ancestors with that ability.”

I nodded. “I did.”

“The process to split the Moonstone wasn’t an easy one,” Mona stated. “It took a spiritual ritual to break

it, during which Kora was sent a

vision from the goddess. She predicted that the Moonstone would one day need to be reconstituted.

The power it holds sustains our abilities. It keeps us tied to our wolves, to that part of who we are. It

wasn’t just the original families who lost something when the stone was broken. It cost us all.” She

glanced up at Alpha Torin. “Over time, we became more susceptible to disease and other afflictions.”

“Like addiction?” Kylee questioned from behind us.

Sister Mona looked at her. “Yes, my dear, like addiction. After the ritual, Matilda, Jacob, and Kora made

the decision to hide this truth to protect the secret of the prophecy. They feared outside influence might

prevent the true intended outcome. One half of the stone went with each of them and Kora, well, Kora

left werewolf territory altogether.”

“What do you mean?” Theo asked.

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Chapter 247:

7: Ayla

“Young Alpha, how do you think we’ve kept this a secret all this time?” she asked. “Kora took three

other she-wolves with her and moved to human territory. They hid within a town there as an

exclusive religious sect

288 Vouchers

The Mor Haven Order. Every ten years, we

send one of our sisters back to pack lands. They spend time observing and learning the changes to our

people. And to find possible new recruits.”

“But what does the prediction have to do with me and Theo?” I asked.

“Not just anyone can bring the Moonstone back together,” Luna Grace said.

“Its powers are still tied to

the original families’ bloodlines.”

“Okay,” I said, standing from my seat to pace the floor. “That doesn’t seem so difficult. I don’t see why it

has to be us. We’ve all seen what power can do to people. Just look at the Waar P ak. I mean, do we

really think this is the best time to be reconstituting something that can be so corruptive?”

“Do you think it could corrupt you, my dear?” Sister Mona said.

“Only a fool would consider themselves incorruptible,” I said with a side-eyed glance at the woman,

“And I’m far from perfect. I’m no stranger to bending the rules when I have to.”

Sister Mona continued to smile at me. “Any single person is more susceptible. That is true,” she stated.

“But what about two people? Can they not benefit from each other’s moral compass? Could they not keep the other in check?”

The sister stood up and crossed the floor, stopping my pacing.

“The Sablemanes hadn’t had a true Luna, a fated mate for their Alpha, in over five generations. They

took chosen mates to keep the bloodlines alive, but the relationships were strained at best,” she told

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Chapter 247: Ayla

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288 Vouchers

“Well, the Greytooth pack has had plenty of fated couples leading them before now.

“But not one made up of both families,” she pointed out. “The prophecy states that a true Luna will arise

and join the families together. Only when the first bloodlines are united can the Moonstone become one

again. Once the Moonstone is whole again, so will we be.”

“And a bigger target Theo and I will be,” I said. “I’ve had enough of being in the line of fire.”

“But you can stop all of that,” Sister Mona insisted. “You can’t hide from this, Ayla. It is your fate.”

Chatper 248

Chapter 248: Ayla

My mind was still reeling from what I had done in the pavilion. Now this. And I still had to figure out how

I was going to deal with the other pack leaders. I had a feeling my demonstration had them more weary

of me than accepting at the moment.

I rubbed my forehead as there was a knock on the door. Kingston entered the room.

“Ah, and here must be the one who has the other half of the stone,” Sister Mona said.

We all looked at one another in surprise.

“The women of my order are trained to be observant,” Sister Mona stated. “A few months every ten

years isn’t a lot of time. We have to be skilled to gather as much information as possible.”

“Alpha Kingston, this is Sister Mona of the Moon Haven Order,” Theo introduced. “Sister Mona, this is

Alpha Kingston of the Sablemane Pack.”

“I see,” Mona replied. “If I recall, you are an adopted Amvorov.”

Kingston looked around the room in surprise and confusion. “I fear I took too long to arrive and have

missed something.”

“You could say that,” I replied.

“When we found Luna Matilda’s tomb, I remembered something my father had told me when I was a

boy,” Alpha Torin said. “It was a story about a secret hidden within both Luna Matilda and Alpha Isaac’s

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Chapter 248: Ayla

288 Vouchers

burial crypts. It wasn't until we found Luna Matilda, telling us they weren't buried together, that I

realized this needed to be looked into further. It led Luna Grace and I to a human city, where we found

the Moon Haven Order."

"Now, perhaps you can tell me how a Sablemane came to be in possession of the Onyxcrown

Moonstone."

We are the protectors of the MOO

Prophecy," Sister Mona said.

"Alpha Kingston is an Onyxcrown survivor," Theo defended. "He just recently retrieved the Moonstone

from its hiding spot when it was threatened to be discovered."

"My father was the Onyxcrown Beta," Kingston said.

"So you also understand what it means to be the protector of such an important secret," Sister Mona

indicated.

We briefly filled Kingston in on the information he had missed out on. I was eager to move on and find

out what Sister Mona expected us to do next.

"Say you are right," I stated, "and Theo and I are meant to make the Moonstone whole again, what

about the other pack leaders? How are we supposed to reconcile them with the fact that the largest

pack will now also be the most powerful? I just got done telling them we weren't looking for a crown."

"I never said this would be easy," Sister Mona said gently. "Only that it was your fate."

"We can't hide it from them," Theo said. "Powerful or not, the last thing we want is a war."

"I think you may have better luck addressing one or two of them at a time," Briggs noted. "They don't all

see things the same and it seems to

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Chapter 248: Ayla

288 Vouchers

me that diplomacy can often get in the way when we are all in a group. I think you'll have better luck

getting honest responses."

"I think Beta Briggs is right," Alpha Torin replied.

Theo nodded. "Agreed. At least when delivering the information. We will eventually have to get them all

together to confirm whatever outcome we are looking at."

"Well, Alpha Kingston is already here," I said. "What do you say? Should we do this?"

Kingston's expression softened. He could sense my apprehension. I didn't want this. My life had

already been the object of too much attention as it was. How would I ever find any peace? How could I

ever move on from everything I had been through?

"I will support whatever decision the two of you make," he said firmly. "But I won't deny that I believe

this is what you were meant to do. We'

ve always known you had a destiny bigger than any of us, Ayla."

I shouldn't have, but I felt a little betrayed. I turned away from everyone.

"I think we need some time to discuss things," Theo said to the others.

"Briggs, could you see to the

other pack leaders and set up a meeting schedule? Sister Mona, I would greatly appreciate your attendance.”

“Of course,” she replied.

“For now, do you all mind giving us some privacy?”

They all agreed and I listened to them leave our apartment, not even turning back to watch them go.

Mina rested a hand on my shoulder briefly before exiting, but the rest left quietly. When we were alone,

Theo came up behind me, snaking his arms around my waist and

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Chapter 248: Ayla

288 IVouchers

resting his chin on my shoulder with a heavy sigh.

“We should clean up,” he whispered.

I glanced down. We were both still covered in now dry blood. I could only imagine how terrifying we

both looked.

Theo kissed my neck and took my hand, guiding me back toward our bedroom. I chose not to look at

the mirror as he started the shower and mirror as he started the shower and we undressed: He pulled

me under the hot water and began to wash my body clean. As he did so, I felt some of the pain and

anger and guilt and all the other emotions that had been boiling inside me for weeks start to ebb away.

But it wasn’t just the temporary release I had been getting glimpses of.

As Theo finished, I returned the favor. I watched the red-tinted water flow off of him and I thought about

what I done. What it had meant. What it would mean going forward. And I felt some of that burden

wash away with the filth of that evening.

I didn't feel anger toward Malcolm or Amy anymore. But more importantly, I didn't feel guilty for their

deaths. I did what I had to do. I understood what Sister Mona spoke about when she said we had

changed as a species. After spending the last few months reading so much of our history, I knew we

had lost something of who we were.

But we were still wolves.

I felt Dasha stir within me. I realized she hadn't been there with me like she once had been before. Had

I really drowned her out that much?

'Hey, girl,' I reached out to her. 'I'm sorry. I guess I should have asked you how you felt about this

whole Moonstone thing.'

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She came to the trend of a wind wasting for the to war something

else to ask her what I should have asked her all along

Should we do this"

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Chatper 249

Chapter 249: Theo

I watched Ayla as she conversed with Dasha. I didn't even think she realized I had noticed. Whatever

was going through her mind, whatever was being said between them, needed to happen. Kieran had

been quiet for days. Only snippets of his rage and anguish would push through at times. But he was at

the edge of my consciousness now. As if he was waiting for something.

Ayla's hands had stopped, and she

Bill for

a long moment. I

couldn't see Dasha in her eyes. She was just deep in thought. I reached up and lifted her chin, my eyes meeting hers.

"Are you okay?" I asked gently, running the pad of my jawline.

umb along her

She took a deep, slow breath, stepping into my arms as hers slid around my waist. "I'm getting there,"

she replied softly. "I know I should be questioning what I did tonight, but I'm not. It still feels like it was

the necessary thing to do."

"It was," I agreed firmly. "Too many people have believed they could best us. They made targets out of

us. At the very least, they will think twice now. We had a right to do what we did."

"We will still be a target for others, though," she said calmly. "We could reduce that by refusing to

merge the stones. Give the halves to the Alpha leaders to protect." She sighed again. "What do you

think about all this business with the Moonstone?"

I brushed her wet hair from her face, holding her tightly to me. "I think there is some validity to what we

are finding out. However, we can't move forward with anything unless we both agree to it. Whatever is

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Chapter

meant to happen, we're meant to do it together. That I am sure of."

A soft, brief smile touched Ayla's face before her expression became serious again. "I think we need to

join the Moonstones."

I was a little taken aback by how sure she sounded. I understood why she had been against it in the

first place. She has had so little peace in her life. Our time together was supposed to provide her with

that. I was ready to give her that, regardless of my own doubts. But she didn't seem pressured in her

decision.

"Why the change of heart?" I asked.

"Dasha," she replied. "She believes we are meant to do this. She's always believed. She..." Ayla

paused as her brow furrowed. "She said this will fix things. That it will make us all stronger again. Like

we are supposed to be."

Kieran grunted his agreement with her statement. He and Dasha both knew something we didn't. They

sensed something we couldn't.

"What does that mean?" I asked, reaching to turn off the taps.

"I'm not sure," Ayla replied as she grabbed our towels. "She won't tell me. She keeps telling me to trust

her. The truth is, I've been denying her for too long. She has always believed we are the Blessed One

and I insisted she was wrong. Now, it doesn't matter. She believes we were meant to do this. I won't

deny her anymore.”

“We both know this will likely complicate our lives even more.

”

“I know,” she acknowledged. “But that’s not a reason not to do it. But we still need to get approval from

the other pack leaders. Or at least, the majority of them. If we go against them on this, it will guarantee

a war.”

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Chapter 249: Theo

288 Vouchers

“I agree,” I said. “We’ll talk to all of them. From the sound of it, Sister Mona thinks this will benefit all the

packs, and I believe her. We’ll get them to see that too.”

“And maybe she can help us set up some kind of security plan,” Ayla said as she grabbed some

clothes. “You know, something that lessens the power imbalance this will cause.”

“Exactly,” I replied, pulling on a pair of pants.

I picked up Ayla’s hairbrush and started brushing her hair once she finished dressing. It was getting

late: I knew some of the other Alphas and Lunas wanted to speak with us soon. I’m sure they were

eager to return home.

“Let’s get some food in you.” I put the brush away and turned Ayla toward me.

“Then we’ll meet with

one or two of the pack leaders tonight.”

Ayla nodded. "Okay. Alpha Gregory or Alpha Vincent may be good places to start," she suggested as

we left the bathroom.

"I think it should be Alpha Anthony and Luna Aniya first," I said. "They were hesitant at the pavilion. I

don't think it's because they are in league with Delta Charles, but there was something there."

"It could be embarrassment," Ayla said with a shrug. "But you're right, there was something stopping them."

"And I can't figure out what it could be," I replied. "I can see Alpha Trent being an issue. In fact, I'm

almost counting on it. Maybe even Alpha Patrick. But Anthony is a friend. I was at his Alpha ceremony

ten years ago. I think they're our first priority."

I linked Briggs to tell him to bring Sister Mona up and have Jimmy

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Chapter 249: Theo

288 Vouchers

escort Alpha Anthony and his Luna to our apartment. We ate quickly and set up some refreshments at

the dining room table. Briggs arrived as we finished with Sister Mona.

"Thank you for joining us, Sister Mona," I said as we took our seats at the table. "There is more that we

want to know about this prophecy and the Moonstones. And I'm sure the other pack leaders will have

the same questions. It will make this a lot easier having you here."

"Indeed," Sister Mona said with a smile. "I will provide whatever help you need. Is there anything you

would like to know before we meet with the others?"

“No,” Ayla interjected. “We don’t think there is anything we would learn that we wouldn’t want to share

with the rest of the packs. So there’s no reason we should have to go through everything more than we

have to.”

Sister Mona smiled at Ayla and me, pride filling her expression. “Absolutely.”

Chapter 250

Chapter 250: Theo

It wasn’t long before there was another knock on the door and Briggs escorted Alpha Anthony and

Luna Aniya inside. We greeted them and took our seats.

“I hope you don’t mind meeting us here,” I said. “I know it may feel more casual than you were

expecting, but we want to assure you we are taking these talks seriously. We are very aware of how...

complicated the situation between the packs is right now.”

“We respect the authority

and the courage – you both showed

today, Alpha Theo,” Alpha Anthony stated.

His words sounded hopeful, but I couldn’t get past the diplomatic tone to his voice.

“Thank you,” I replied. “I know that as a member of your pack, Malcolm’s death...”

“Don’t apologize,” Alpha Anthony interrupted. “You did what you must. I can’t pretend that I wouldn’t

react as severely if I had lost what you two had.”

He glanced at his mate, squeezing her hand. It was the first time I noticed how tightly she had been

holding onto his. As if she was needing extra support from him. She seemed nervous, although she

was trying to hide it. My stomach dropped and I worried things weren't heading in a good direction.

"Before we talk about a pack alliance," I pushed forward, "I should introduce you to Sister

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Chapter 250 Theo

288 Nouchers

Mona of the Moon Haven Order."

Luna Aniya looked as confused as we were at hearing the name but Alpha Anthony's demeanor said

something very different. He looked at Sister Mona with great deference.

"Sister," he said kindly, eagerly extending his hand to take hers, "it is an honor to meet you."

"Anthony?" Luna Aniya pressed.

"You know about the Moon Haven Order?" Ayla questioned.

"Yes," he replied. "My grandmother told me about them when I was a pup. Her older sister was

selected to join the sect. They are a secret order ordained to protect our most sacred writings."

Sister Mona's face lit up. "What is your aunts name?"

"Julianna," Anthony replied.

Mona smiled fondly. "Yes, she is much loved in the order."

"Is?"

"Oh, yes," Sister Mona replied. "She's still alive and doing quite well for being nearly ninety years old."

"My grandmother would be delighted to know that," Alpha Anthony stated.

"Thank you for telling me."

"

“It is my pleasure, young Alpha,” Mona insisted. “I hope that helps me maintain your good favor as we continue our talks.”

“You will be staying with us?” Luna Aniya asked.

Chapter 250: Theo

288 Vouchers

“Sister Mona has been brought here regarding an artifact that was recently found here in the Greytooth

pack lands,” Ayla explained. “She has informed us of some of what this artifact means. However, there

is more we need to learn. I felt that it was important that another pack Alpha and Luna were present, as

the situation has implications that will affect us all.”

Alpha Anthony and Luna Aniya looked at each other in concern.

“Does this have to do with your ability to command like you do?” Aniya asked nervously.

“I’m not sure,” Ayla replied hesitantly, glancing between me and Sister Mona.

“It’s possible, I suppose,

but I don’t know to what capacity.”

“It won’t get rid of it, will it?” Aniya pushed, almost sounding desperate. Alpha Anthony tried to calm her.

“No,” Sister Mona offered. “Luna Ayla’s abilities, and Alpha Theo’s for that matter, will not be lost.”

“Why do you ask?” I inquired.

Luna Aniya looked to her mate. Alpha Anthony nodded.

“We wish to continue our alliance with the Greytooth pack,” Luna Aniya stated.

“However, we have a request...”

“Please,” Ayla invited, “feel free to voice any request or concern.

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Aniya played with her fingers. She truly was nervous, nearly terrified, about what they were about to

ask. I hoped it was something we could give. I feared the meeting would end badly if we couldn't.

Taking a deep breath, Luna Aniya spoke, "I want you to command me to shift."

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Chapter 250: Theo

288 Vouchers

"I'm sorry?" Ayla and I were again left looking at each other in uncertainty.

Luna Aniya seemed to be holding back tears and her expression seemed to be filled with shame.

"I... I have never shifted," she admitted painfully. "I have spent years trying to figure out why I can't

connect to my wolf, but I... I just can't. It has been a source of great disgrace in my family."

Ayla reached out and grabbed Aniya's hands, offering kindness and comfort.

"I am so sorry, Luna Aniya," she said softly. "As someone who has lost her wolf before, I know how

hard that can be to live with."

Luna Aniya's eyes looked up at Ayla. "You lost your wolf?"

Ayla nodded, glancing back at me with a gentle smile. "I made a mistake once," she said. "It hurt Dasha

to the point she left me.

I can imagine how difficult it would be to feel that all the time. To have never met that other part of you."

"Do you

think you have a...?" I started to ask.

"She does," Alpha Anthony insisted. "My wolf senses a presence. She is there somewhere." He

brushed a hand over his mate's hair. "Aniya just needs help reaching her."

Ayla took a deep breath, and looked around the table.

"I would be more than happy to help you, Luna Aniya," she stated honestly.

"But...?"

"But I don't want to make any promises," she said gently. "If I'm being honest, I didn't think about

whether my command to Malcolm would work or not. I don't want you to get your hopes up if I simply

don't have the power to help."

Aniya grabbed Ayla's hands firmly. "I just want to try," she insisted. "Please, this could be my last

chance."

I looked at Sister Mona. She was sitting with a pleased, knowing look on her face.

"Do you think it will work?" I asked.

"Only one way to find out," she replied.