

The Luna's Choice (theo and ayla) by Kat Silver Chapter 71

[ad_1]

Chapter 71: Kingston

Ayla left five days ago. We talked every day, but it didn't do much to calm my anxiety. I didn't know how I would make it through weeks of this.

Maybe I could talk her into coming home on the weekends at least?

I was strongly considering the request when Pierce mind-linked me.

'Alpha, we have a guest. You're going to need to speak with him.'

I knew it had to be serious if he was addressing me by my title.

'Who is it?'

'It's Alpha Harden.'

Alpha Harden? What was he doing here?

'Send him up.'

I didn't know what this was about, but it worried me. The last time I spoke to Alpha Harden was right after the Alphas' Gathering when he told me the outcome of Alpha Conner's judgment. There was a knock on my office door.

"Come in," I said.

The door opened and Alpha Harden entered the office. I stood from my desk and walked around to shake his hand.

"Alpha Kingston," the man greeted me.

O noe

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"Alpha Harden, to what do I owe the unexpected visit?" I gestured for him to take a seat.

"I'm afraid it's nothing good, Alpha," he said. "I have to ask you, have you seen or heard from Conner Elkins, former Alpha of the Shadow Claw pack since the Gathering?"

I sat up straighter in my chair. "No, I can assure you, I have not. Why are you asking?"

"He's missing," Harden said, "which is concerning. Since he isn't supposed to leave Shadow Claw territory. No one has seen him in over a week."

"Yes, that is concerning," I said. "So, why come to me?"

"The new Shadow Claw alpha, Alpha Trent, suspects foul play," Alpha Harden said. "Now, he hasn't provided any evidence to support that theory. However, I've been tasked with following up on his disappearance since I oversaw his judgment trial. Naturally, everyone knows you would hold the freshest grudge against the man."

"I have not had anything to do with Conner," I insisted, insulted that he would even entertain the idea. "I was content with the punishment. There was no need to waste any more time on the bas**rd."

He nodded. "I figured you would think as much. But that causes a different concern. If he left on his own accord. He may be coming here. He may be coming for you or worse, Ms. Garner."

That was my first thought.

"Yes, I'll have my warriors on the lookout for him," I said. "But if I do find him in my territory or trying to come anywhere near Ayla, there won't be a trial, Harden."

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"Understood," Alpha Harden replied. "How is Ms. Garner? Has she recovered from the ordeal?"

"She's fine. Fully recovered."

"That's good to hear," he said. "Where is she today? I'd like to say hello."

"She's out of town at the moment," I said. "But knowing Conner is on the loose, I may have her come home early."

"Or she may be better off where she is," Alpha Harden said. I had to suppress the growl that threatened to escape. "Kingston, as one friend to another, I suspect you know Ayla is... different. You may think a different name and twenty-six years means everyone has forgotten, but I haven't. I knew that family before they fell. Jack was a friend."

"I don't know what you're talking about," I insisted, putting a warning behind my words.

"I think you do," Alpha Harden countered. "I don't know how, and I don't really care right now. What I do care about is your stup**ity in bringing her to a conference full of powerful wolf leaders. She's unmarked, Kingston. There's no telling what kind of effect her being there had. The Arrowclaw and Moonshadow agreement has fallen through. There are rumors Alpha Andrew might reject his mate. I know my own son..."

"Had better stay away and forget about her," I growled. "She's mine. She belongs with me."

"

"Does she?" Harden challenged. We stared each other down for a few moments before he shook his head. "That's not even our biggest concern. I'm not the only one who remembers why the Dominis family was targeted. If anyone starts to suspect who she is and it gets back to

42.97%

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the society, you won't be able to protect her."

"Watch me," I declared.

"Don't be a fool, Kingston," Harden barked. "You put a target on her back just because you wanted to wave her in front of everyone. This will be the first place they look if they find even a shred of information that could tie her to the Onyxcrown legacy."

"The Waar P*k Society was hunted down for what they did. There aren't enough left to be a real threat.

"You're so sure about that?" Harden asked. "Because you know all about secret societies older than you?"

I didn't respond. I did know quite a bit about the Waar P*k Society and its current dealings. I've been tracking the group that murdered my family and slaug***red my pack since I was a teenager. I hunted more than my fair share down.

Alpha Harden stood from his chair, straightening his suit.

"Alpha Kingston, I'm going to leave this in your hands for now," he said. "But only because I believe you genuinely care for Ms. Garner. But if I find out you've put her in danger again just to soothe your own ego, I won't stand by again."

I shot up from my chair, no longer holding back the snarl. We glared at each other until he turned and left the room. Pierce entered soon after. I knew he had heard everything.

"You have to tell Ayla about Conner," he insisted.

"If I can get her back home, I may not have to," I said.

"Even if she does come back, Kingston, there's no reason to keep this Chapter 71 Kingston

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from her," he said. "She deserves to know."

"She deserves some peace," I countered. "She doesn't need that kind of stress to worry about."

Pierce shook his head. "What has gotten into you, Kin?"

Chapter 72 Ayla

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#Lunas #Choice #theo #ayla #Kat #Silver #Chapter

[ad_2]

The Luna's Choice (theo and ayla) by Kat Silver Chapter 72

[ad_1]

Chapter 72: Ayla

I stopped the recording and saved the file with the date. I had just finished a three-hour session with Alpha Torin and was pleased with the content. Today, he told me about the talk his father had with him when he graduated high school. Torin said he had carried that talk with him ever since, and it was one of his greatest moments when he shared it with his son, Theo.

It was touching to hear the way he spoke about Theo. The speech was impressive, discussing what being a pack leader meant. I understood why it made such an impact on Torin. I wondered how Theo felt about the experience. It was on the list of items I would need to interview him about. I hadn't seen him since the day I arrived, which I was grateful for. It helped me gain some perspective on the situation. For the most part. It was overwhelming at first. I felt so guilty for days after we kissed that night. My mind had drifted off several times, remembering how good it felt. But I had done what I needed to do. I stayed true to Kingston, and that brought me comfort.

I hoped Theo's distance meant he was also finding closure and moving on. I didn't want to hurt him, especially after our conversation that night. We both wanted each other to be happy. I prayed that he would find that someday. I closed my laptop and stood from my chair on the porch. This had become our favorite place to record each day. I found that our sessions lasted longer when we were outside, close to the forest. Torin's condition was becoming more obvious to me each day. It really hit me when he told me about his first shift. The way he spoke the words, I could tell he missed running through the trees, and it pained him to

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not have that freedom anymore. But sitting on the porch seemed to bring him some comfort. At least he could still experience nature this way.

I headed back to the guest house to put my stuff away. Apparently, Theo comes up every Friday to give his father a weekly update on the pack. I was going to hole up in the guest house while he was here, but Mina messaged me and said she and Briggs would be coming up too. Luna Grace wanted to make an evening of it. She said the guys would probably be off by themselves most of the evening, so us women could have a girls' night.

I was putting my laptop on the charger when I heard a car approaching. I smiled and headed outside. I paused on the small porch. It wasn't Mina and Briggs yet. Theo's black luxury sedan pulled into the empty space beside Alpha Torin's truck. I wrapped my arms around myself as he got out. He

paused when he saw me. He seemed to want to come to me but settled on a wave and gentle smile.

I returned the gesture and watched him head into the main house. I pushed down the feelings that churned within me. I wasn't about to analyze them. I knew they were caused by the mate bond, which didn't make me trust them or what it would do to me if I acknowledged them.

I went back into the guest house to grab my phone to see how close Mina was. There was a text from Emma asking how things were going and letting me know she missed me. I messaged her back with a short update, letting her know I would call her tomorrow. Her reply came as Mina and Briggs pulled up. I went to meet them so we could join the others inside.

Briggs went to join Alpha and Theo in the home office while Mina and I found Luna Grace in the kitchen. She was making some kind of fruity drink in the blender. She cut it off when she saw us come in.

"Just in time," she said with a bright smile. "I've got everything ready

28.88%

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for the boys to get dinner ready. So us girls are going down to the lake."

She poured the contents of the blender into a pitcher. I grabbed the glasses that were sitting on the counter, and we followed her lead. A maintained path led down to a wide dock on the water. There were lounge chairs set up for us to choose from. I set the glasses on a built-in ledge so Luna Grace could fill them.

"So what is this concoction you're treating us to, Luna?" I asked.

"For the last time, call me Grace. And it's nothing too special," she laughed.

"Just some daiquiris to go along with the girl talk. I'm excited to hear about Mina's plans for her mating ceremony."

"Ha, what plans?" Mina said as she took her glass. "We haven't even settled on a date."

"Yeah, what's going on with that?" I asked. "I thought you guys had narrowed that down."

Mina sighed. "Briggs wants to do it before Theo's Alpha ceremony. I'd rather wait until after. Especially since Theo's ceremony is only a few weeks away. It's a lot to plan in that short a time."

"Well, that's what we're here for," Grace said. "Over the years, I've gotten pretty good at making things happen in a short amount of time."

Mina smiled at her. "I'm sure I'll have to take you up on that, but it's not just that. I want our ceremony to be separate from Theo's. I know that both are important to the pack, but at the same time, they both deserve their own celebration. I don't want either to take away from the other or add to it."

“That’s perfectly understandable, honey,” Grace said. “So, you tell Briggs it will be after Theo officially takes the Alpha role.”

60.59%

Chapter 72 Ayla

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“Yes,” I agreed. “All that matters is that he’s a part of it, and you two are marked in the end.”

“I’ll tell him you both say so,” Mina giggled.

“Okay, so what ideas have you had? Have you found a venue? Any dresses strike your fancy?” Luna Grace asked.

Mina and I laughed.

Over the next few hours, we made it about halfway through the pitcher of daiquiris. It had been a while since I had laughed that much. We had been swapping stories about mating ceremonies we had attended and were looking at pictures of terrible dresses when one of the guys mind-linked Luna Grace.

“Well, it seems the menfolk caught on and managed to fix dinner without us,” she teased. “Come on, ladies. It’s time to eat.”

88.01%

#Lunas #Choice #theo #ayla #Kat #Silver #Chapter

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The Luna’s Choice (theo and ayla) by Kat Silver Chapter 73

[ad_1]

Chapter 73: Ayla

We made our way back up to the house. The guys were still on the porch. It looked like everything was set up and ready to go. As soon as we joined them, Briggs grabbed Mina, kissing her lovingly. Alpha and Luna shared similar affections. My chest tightened, and I went to the kitchen to put our drink glasses in the sink, ignoring the feeling of Theo’s eyes following me. I set the glasses in the sink. Gripping the counter, I took a few deep breaths. It was getting harder to imagine, but I had to remind myself I would have that someday. Once I was marked. Then there would be a new bond and I would have that.

I rejoined the group as they were taking their seats. I was saved from sitting next to Theo. Although, I’m not sure if it was better or worse as he sat across from me at the table. We all made our plates and dug in. Both the food and

the conversation were fantastic. However, I wasn't very talkative that night. Grace had just surprised everyone with lemon meringue pie for dessert when my phone rang in my pocket. I pulled it out and clicked the button to silence it. I saw it was Kingston, but I didn't want to be rude to my hosts. I'd call him back in a few minutes when we were done. Grace handed me a serving of pie and my phone rang again.

I sighed, checking the screen again. "I'm sorry. I have to take this. I'll be right back."

"Take your time," Alpha Torin said with a smile.

I excused myself and made my way to the porch stairs, answering the call as I dipped around the side of the house.

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Chapter 73 Ayla

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"Hey, Kingston," I said.

"Hey, babe," he said. "What are you up to?"

"We were just eating dinner," I said. "Mina came up for the evening to visit."

"That sounds nice. I'm sorry to interrupt."

"It's okay," I said. "What's up?"

"Babe," he said tentatively, his tone putting making me nervous, "I need you to come home."

"Why? What's going on? Has something happened?" I rushed.

"I just got some news today that was a little unsettling. But everything will be okay," Kingston said, "once you're home."

"What news?" I questioned. "Kingston, you're worrying me."

"I'll tell you more when you get back, okay? Right now, I just want to get you home."

"No," I insisted. "I'm not going anywhere until I know what's going on. Tell me what happened. Now."

"Ayla, I don't want to scare you over nothing..."

"If it's nothing, then I wouldn't need to rush home now, would I?" I insisted.

"And you're already scaring me."

"Okay, okay. Calm down, babe," Kingston urged. He paused for a moment and sighed heavily. "I had a visit from Alpha Harden today. Conner Elkins is missing."

26.98%

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Chapter 73: Ayla

283 Vouchers

My stomach twisted. "Conner as in Alpha Conner?"

"Yeah," Kingston confirmed. "He's been gone over a week."

"Over a week? He's not supposed to leave his territory. Do they have any idea where he would have gone?" My anxiety had spiked. There were a few people I would imagine were on the top of Conner's hit list. Kingston being at the top.

"No, but we think he may be coming for you?"

"Me?" I practically shouted. "I'd think you would be a bigger target than me. Have you started searching for him?"

"Yes, I've got everyone on the lookout for him. I've got myself covered," he insisted. "But that's also why I need you to come back. I need to put a detection detail on you. I can't do that when you're in Greytooth land."

I ran a hand through my hair as I paced the grass. Conner did have some kind of infatuation with me. So he could be trying to get to me as well.

"Is this what you've been keeping from me, Kingston?" I demanded.

"No, of course not," he insisted. "I swear, I just found out today. Please, just come home. Pierce or I will meet..."

"No, Kingston," I responded.

"Ayla, you can't..."

"Yes, I can," I insisted. "I'm safer here. You're safer if I'm here."

"Don't be ridiculous, Ayla," Kingston snapped, anger filling his voice. "You belong here. Where I can protect you."

45.82%

16:21

Chapter 73. Ayla

288 Vouchers

"If he's coming after either of us, then it doesn't sound too safe for us to be around each other, Kingston," I pointed out. "We'll be putting the other one right in his path. There's no way he could possibly know I'm here. So you just keep yourself safe. I'll watch my back here."

"Ayla," he roared through the phone. I had never heard him like that before.

"Please, just listen to me."

"No, Kingston," I said. "I don't know what's wrong with you, but you're not thinking straight. I'm staying here and you should get some rest. It'll make sense to you in the morning."

I hung up before he could say anything else and tried to calm my nerves.

"What's wrong?"

Startled, I spun around to see Theo standing a few feet away.

I cleared my throat, clearing my expression to hide my nerves. "Nothing," I lied. "Kingston was just giving me some news from the pack."

"Ayla..." He took a step toward me. "Please, don't lie to me. Who's coming after you?"

“Nobody,” I insisted. “It’s nothing you need to worry about.”

“Ayla, please,” Theo pled. “I heard what you said. That wasn’t nothing.”

I huffed. I really didn’t want to deal with this. I already had Kingston breathing down my neck. I didn’t need Theo trying to control me too. But I needed more information about Conner and what the situation was. Kingston wasn’t about to be any more forthcoming than he already was. So I needed something from Theo.

68.52%

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Chapter 73: Ayla

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“It really may just be nothing. Kingston didn’t give me a lot of information,” I said calmly. “Can you do me a favor?”

“Anything,” Theo said, taking a few more steps toward me.

“Do you have Alpha Harden’s number?” I asked. “He may be able to tell me what this is all about.”

“Yeah, of course.” He pulled his phone out and searched for the contact.

He held it out for me once he found it.

93.13%

#Lunas #Choice #theo #ayla #Kat #Silver #Chapter

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The Luna’s Choice (theo and ayla) by Kat Silver Chapter 74

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Chapter 74: Theo

I watched her type the number into her phone before handing mine back to me. She gave me a look and I backed away, giving her some space. I lingered near the house while she walked further down the yard. I was struggling to hold it together.

The evening had been hard enough as it was. I had been waiting to see Ayla again all week. As the day approached, I worried Ayla would feel ambushed or pressured again by my being there. I didn’t want that. I asked Briggs if he and Mina would tag along. It kept Ayla and me apart for the first part of the evening, but she seemed comfortable.

When she had stepped away to take the call, I knew it was him. I hadn’t

planned on coming after her, but something in my gut kept telling me something was off. I was glad I did. I needed to know what was going on. If someone was coming after her, I would keep her safe at any cost. Especially since it sounded like Kingston was being reckless with her safety.

I focused my hearing on Ayla. I could still hear her but couldn't make out what Apha Harden was saying on the phone. She was too far away, and she was careful not to say anything that would give me any information. She knew I'd be listening. I was also watching. Her shoulders became more tense the more they spoke, her movements more anxious.

Their conversation was relatively short. When Ayla hung up, I noticed her roll her shoulders, preparing to put on the mask she knew how to wear so well. But I was getting better at seeing through it. I walked toward her. I would find out what was going on.

"What did he say?"

Chapar 74 TheD

"Hmm?" She turned to me. "Oh... He told me what was going on. He said not to worry about it. It really isn't a big deal."

"Come on, Ayla," I pushed. "I need to know if you're in danger. You may not be a member of my pack anymore, but you're in my territory."

"And there's nothing for you to worry about," she said, pushing past me toward the guest house. "I'm perfectly safe."

I followed after her. "How do you know that?"

"I just do."

"I don't believe you, Ayla," I said. "But if you don't want to tell me, fine. But I'll find out what's going on."

She turned on her heel. "Why do you even care, Theo?"

"You know exactly why I care, Ayla," I snapped.

"Well, you shouldn't," she insisted. "It won't help either of us."

I laughed bitterly. "Why is that?" She didn't respond. I moved closer, stopping centimeters away. "Because you still care. We both know you do."

"That doesn't matter," she whispered, stepping away from me. "Not anymore."

"When it comes to your safety, it absolutely matters," I insisted. "Please, I'm not going to lock you away or anything, Ayla. I just want to make sure you're looked after. Please."

She closed her eyes. Running her hands through her hair, she hugged.

"You have to promise not to freak out," she said forcefully. "What

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Chapter 74: Theo

288 Vouchers

happened is done and over with and was handled. Understood?"

She wasn't helping ease my mind, but I knew I couldn't let my instincts take over.

I gave her a tight nod. "Understood,"

She crossed her arms over her chest. "There was an incident at the Alphas' Gathering with another Alpha. He... took an interest in me, and at the banquet, he kind of attacked me.'

"

My fists clenched. My heart was beating a mile a minute. Kieran was pushing to the forefront, fighting me as I pushed him back.

"I was fine. It wasn't that bad," she insisted. "Kingston, Briggs, and a few of the others stopped him before anything happened."

Briggs knew and he didn't f****ng tell me? They all would have known.

"Who was it?" I asked, using all my strength to keep my voice even.

"Alpha Conner of the Shadow Claw pack," she said. "Well, former Alpha Conner. He lost his rank and was restricted to his pack territory for five years."

"But..."

"But he's missing," she said. "Alpha Harden is looking into it."

"And they think he'll be coming for you." I assumed.

She nodded. "It's a possibility, but there's no way to know for sure. I doubt I'm at the top of his list, though."

"Doesn't matter," I said shortly. "If there's any chance he could be

16.228

Chapter 74: Thea

288 Vouchers

fixating on you, we should be prepared." I could still see how tense she was. I reached out and rested my hands on her shoulders, hoping to give her at least a little comfort. "There are few pack warriors that live in this area. I'll have them do some extra patrols for a while, okay? And it may be better if you moved into the main house."

"No," Ayla said, shaking her head. "I don't want to intrude."

"You won't be," I said. "Besides, this isn't something I can keep from my father. He'll insist on it anyway."

"Okay," she conceded.

"Who all in Sablemane knows you're here?" I asked.

"Just a few," she shrugged. "Kingston, Pierce, Emma, my boss, Erica. That's about it. Everyone else knows I'm out of town, but not I don't think they know where."

"Good," I said. "That makes things easier."

My hands were still on her arms, my thumbs stroking her skin. The tingling

was hard to ignore. I don't know if it was helping her, but it was helping me. At least I no longer felt the urge to hunt Conner down and tear him to pieces. All that mattered was that I kept her safe.

I fought the desire to pull her into an embrace, feeling like the safest place for her was in my arms. I didn't think she would see it that way. That wasn't fair to her. So, I dropped my hands, hoping to remove some of the temptation.

"We should go let everyone know what's going on," I said.

She winced. "Yeah, I guess so."

Chapter 75: Theo

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#Lunas #Choice #theo #ayla #Kat #Silver #Chapter

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The Luna's Choice (theo and ayla) by Kat Silver Chapter 75

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Chapter 75: Theo

I let Ayla tell the others what was going on, allowing her to decide what information she wanted to give. They were all supportive, as I knew they would be. My dad did insist on her moving into the main house, of course. Mina and Briggs wanted to stay the weekend, but Ayla insisted that wasn't necessary.

I could tell Ayla didn't want to linger on the subject, so I changed the subject as soon as I was satisfied they knew what they needed to. We visited for a couple more hours. It was late when I followed Mina and Briggs to the vehicles. I stopped at my car as I watched Ayla go to the guest house. She would move into the spare room of the main dwelling first thing in the morning, but it was too late to worry about that tonight.

'I'm staying here tonight,' I mind-linked Briggs. 'I want to run a patrol. I can establish a route for the others to follow.'

'I got you, bro,' Briggs said. 'I think it's a good idea that you stay close.'

'I just want to make sure,' I said.

'Theo, you don't have to explain,' he said. 'Let me know if you need to stay another day or two.'

He had already started driving down the driveway. I waited until I couldn't see his tail lights before pulling out my phone. I dialed Alpha Harden's number, watching the guest house windows go dark as Ayla settled in for the night.

"Hello?" Alpha Harden answered.

Chapter 75: Theo

285 Vouchers

"Alpha Harden," I replied, "It's Alpha Theo. Sorry to call so late."

"No worries, son," Harden said kindly. "It's good to hear from you. We missed seeing you at the Gathering."

"Yeah, I wish I could have been there," I said. "I had an incident here that needed to be taken care of, unfortunately."

"Everything okay?"

"It will be," I said. "I'm actually calling about something else."

"Oh?".

"

"Yeah, I heard some news today – about Conner Elkins going missing," I stated.

"Ah," Harden sounded. "So, Ms. Garner must be with you then. Kingston said she was out of town. He didn't say where, but I hoped it was someplace familiar."

"Are you talking about Ayla?" I said, not sure how much he knew. Not sure I wanted him to know anything. "What makes you think she's with me?"

Harden chuckled. "It hasn't even been six hours since I told Kingston Conner was missing. Since only a handful of Alphas know, I highly doubt rumor had time to reach you."

"

I sighed. "She's staying with my parents. She working on a job for them."

"Good. I'm glad she's somewhere safe."

"About that, I need any details you can give me so I can keep things that way," I stated. "How much of a threat do you think Conner is?"

21 84%

Chapter 75. Thes

228 Vouchers

"It's hard to say," he said, his tone getting serious. "I'm sure you heard about the incident at the Gathering?"

"Yeah, Conner went after Ayla." I managed to keep the rage out of my voice.

"Yeah," he confirmed. "It wasn't good. The thing is, I'm not sure if he left the territory on his own or if someone went after him. I thought Alpha Kingston may have been behind it, but I'm less inclined to believe it after speaking with him today. But if Conner doesn't go after Kingston, then my guess would be he's looking for Ayla."

"So, he's a threat," I stated.

"That's the best assumption at this point," Harden agreed. "How is Ayla handling it?"

“Conner potentially coming after her barely seems to phase her. It’s Kingston that’s stressing her out,” I said bitterly. “The idiot actually demanded she return to Sablemane territory. She refused. He wasn’t too happy.”

“I could tell she had a good head on her shoulders,” he said. “Not that I’m surprised.”

“What do you mean?” He said that like he knew something about Ayla.

“Theo, what do you know about her parents?” Harden asked. “Was one of them from a different pack?”

“Her mother was born here. I know of her family,” I said. “Her father, Jack, died about ten years ago. I don’t think I ever met him, but Dad knew him.”

“You should ask him about Jack and Ayla. It’ll be important if you’re going to keep her safe,” Harden said. “And how did she end up with

41.07%

Chapter 75: Theo

the Sablemanes anyway?”

1 288 Vouchers

“That’s a long, complicated story,” I said, running a hand over my face.

I had no idea what he was talking about with Ayla and Kylee’s parents, but I could tell he knew

something he didn’t want to tell me. I couldn’t

gauge why, though. He obviously wanted me to know.

“What do you know

know about Ayla, Harden?”

“Honestly, nothing for sure. It’s just a hunch,” he said. “But just know, if she ever needs help, she can come to me.”

I could tell he meant it. I respected Harden. He was a good man. If I had to let Ayla go to keep her safe, I would rest easier if she was in his hands.

“Thanks, Harden,” I said. “Hopefully, she’ll never need it. Keep me in the loop on this?”

“Of course,” he agreed.

I hung up the phone. I looked back at the guest house. It was going to be really hard for me to leave her now. I’d worry about that later. First, I had to get a plan in place to keep the area patrolled. I wasn’t going to risk anything. I stripped down and shifted into my wolf, letting Kieran’s instincts take over as I traveled through the woods. Kieran was incredibly determined. He spent extra time on any path or road he came along. He backtracked more times than I could count, leaving his scent on nearly every tree or boulder to ensure the patrol route was easy to follow. But he needed this as much as I did.

Possibly even more. He had been feeling so useless in the situation with Ayla. He was finally able to do something to take care of her.

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Chapter 75: Theo

288 Vouchers

It was the first time we had worked together like this in a while. We had been at such odds with each other the last few months that we had disconnected in a way. I was reminded of how natural it was to rely on our animals. It was natural to trust them.

We had circled a wide radius around the lake and up and down the mountain and were nearly back to my parent's place. I stopped at the top of a ridge along a game trail that allowed a clear view of the lake house property.

'I'm sorry, Kieran,' I said to my wolf. For getting us into this mess. I should have listened to you in the first place.'

'I know.'

'I don't know if I can ever make it right, but I'm trying.'

'I know.'

I didn't need him to say anything more. I could feel what he felt. We stood and made our way back.

16:23

87.44%

Chapter 76: Ayla

288 Vouchers

#Lunas #Choice #theo #ayla #Kat #Silver #Chapter

[ad_2]

The Luna's Choice (theo and ayla) by Kat Silver Chapter 76

[ad_1]

Chapter 76: Ayla

I woke up to the sound of my phone buzzing on the nightstand next to me. I lifted my head, letting my eyes adjust to the morning light floating through the curtains. I reached over and fumbled for the phone. I didn't even need to check the screen. I knew it would be Kingston.

"Hello?" I mumbled into the phone.

"Ayla," Kingston replied, full of relief. "Did I you?"

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"It's okay." I yawned. "I was about to get up. What's up?"

We talked for a few minutes. Kingston apologized for reacting the way he did the night before but said he still wanted me to come home. I told him Alpha Torin had already arranged for extra protection for me. I still didn't have nearly enough of what I needed, so I couldn't come home yet. But I did promise that I would try to return as soon as possible. He seemed okay with that.

I got up and went to the bathroom. I had been either swimming or jogging every morning. Since Dasha still wasn't present enough for me to shift, I found a different outlet for exercise. I decided to go for a swim that morning and threw on my swimsuit. I added a pair of shorts and a cover-up. I went and turned on the small coffee maker in the guest house kitchenette and opened the blinds to let some sun in.

I paused. Theo was sitting in the rocking chair on the front porch. It looked like he was asleep. My brow furrowed as I wondered how long he had been out there. I went to the door. Unlocking it, I opened it gently. The screen door squeaked as I pushed it, startling Theo awake. His eyes shot to me, and he almost looked embarrassed that I had

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16:23

Chapter 76: Ayla

1288 Vouchers

found him out here.

"Ayla, sorry," he said, rubbing his eyes. "I'm leaving."

"Were you out here all night?" I asked.

"No," he rushed, shaking his head. "I ran a patrol through the area last night. I made it back a couple hours ago, I guess. I didn't mean to fall asleep. I was just..." He went quiet for a second before clearing his throat. "I'm heading out anyway. I've got to meet up with the warriors running the patrol."

"Theo, you need to go to bed," I said. "You can't run another patrol and drive all the way back to the city on no sleep."

He gave me a small smile as he stood. "I'll be fine. It's done before."

stood. "I'll be fine. It's nothing I haven't

I sighed. "Fine, then, at least get a cup of coffee in you before you go. I stepped back into the doorway, holding the screen door for him to come in.

He hesitated for a minute but ended up following me in. I pulled a couple mugs from the small cabinet and set them on the counter as the coffee finished brewing. I grabbed the creamer from the fridge and poured the coffee as Theo took a seat at the table. I sat a mug in front of him before leaning against the counter with mine. He really did look exhausted.

"Thank you," I said, breaking the silence that hung in the air between us. "You didn't have to stay last night."

"Yes, I did," he said quietly. "It's my job."

"Regardless," I replied, "it's appreciated."

23.94%

16:23

Chapter 76: Ayla

288 Vouchers

"I appreciate what you're doing for my parents," Theo replied sincerely.

"Seriously, Dad's been in better spirits than he's been in months. It's been good for him."

"I hope so. I'd never want to make things harder for him."

"Ayla, can I ask you something?" he inquired.

I didn't know where he would go

With this, but I nodded. "Sure."

"You said you wanted to do this job because you owed my father. What did he do for you?"

"He saved my family," I told him. "Ma has struggled ever since Dad died. It started out with drinking, but after a year or so, she got into gambling. She... she got us stuck in some bad situations a couple times."

"What kind of situations?"

"Let's just leave it at bad," I insisted. "One time, Ma owed a lot of money to some not-so-great people. We had to either find the cash, or they would take me as payment."

I noticed his whole body tense up.

"The one thing Ma managed to do with the money Dad left us was pay off the house. I tried to take out a mortgage against it, but Ma couldn't keep a job and I had just turned eighteen. I had been working multiple jobs for a few years, but it wasn't enough. So, no one would lend to us. Legally, at least. But borrowing from loan sharks got her into the mess in the first place, so I was desperate not to go down that road."

"So you reached out to your Alpha..."

I nodded. "I didn't tell your dad what was going on at first, but he

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Chaplet Ayla

288 Vouchera

seemed to just know I was in trouble. After convincing him not to go after those guys directly, he helped me get the loan. Since the house was in Ma's name, I cosigned with her. That allowed me to buy the rest of the debt a few years later and get the deed transferred to me."

"And the men that were going to take you?" he asked.

I smiled. "They weren't around much longer after that. I heard a couple ended

up in prison. Not something to do with it, b., the others. I know Dar admit it. We dad had would have made it through that without him. Ma tried to get clean initially, but it didn't last long. Luckily, I had decided to become a little more proactive with her addictions."

He looked at me curiously and I laughed.

"I made a deal with a loan shark. Using what was left of the mortgage loan, I paid him to spread the word that no one else was to loan to Marie Garner. He would contact me if she ever came to him, and I'd tell him if he could give her anything. That kept her from draining our savings, and I was able to keep her from getting the cr*p beat out of her or worse.'

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"Wait, you got a loan shark to agree to that deal?"

"Okay, I may have also worked for him for a while," I offered. "I managed one of his fronts." He raised an eyebrow. "Don't worry. I stayed away from the money laundering part of the business. For the most part, at least. The arrangement worked out for a couple years until my writing really took off, and I could quit. It helped that he's actually a half-decent guy. You know, for a loan shark."

Theo smiled, taking a sip of his coffee.

"Where was Kylee during all this?"

65.65%

16:23

Chapter 76: Ayla

288 (Vouchers

"She was in high school," I said with a shrug. "I never told her what happened. I'll admit there were a few decisions I made that could have made her believe some of the things she said about me. She had already lost our father. I didn't want her to lose a mother the way I had. So, I let her believe Ma did a lot of the providing. Ma's explanation for me being gone a lot was that I was out with friends."

"That doesn't excuse her behavior, Ayla," Theo said.

"No, it doesn't," I agreed. "But I can at least learn something from all of this. And to do that, I have to accept that I made some wrong decisions somewhere down the line."

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#Lunas #Choice #theo #ayla #Kat #Silver #Chapter

[ad_2]

The Luna's Choice (theo and ayla) by Kat Silver Chapter 77

[ad_1]

Chapter 77: Ayla

Theo drank the last of his coffee and stood up. He came over to the sink and washed the mug. It was a small space, and we stood only inches apart. I focused on the coffee in my cup. He dried the mug and put it away before looking out the window over the sink.

"I guess we're both trying to learn from all this," he said gently.

I rested my hand on his forearm. I accepted the tingling sensation I knew I needed to avoid, but I couldn't help it. The room stood still for a time. Until Theo reached up and pushed my hair behind my ear, cupping my cheek. Our eyes locked.

"Ayla..."

He was interrupted by the sound of a loud engine approaching the house. He looked toward the door.

"Are you or my parents expecting anyone today?" he asked.

"Not that I know of," I said. "Could it be one of the warriors?"

He shook his head. His hand went to my shoulder with a gentle squeeze.

"Wait here."

I did as he said while he left the guest house. Even if he had found me, surely Conner wouldn't dare come barrelling up the pack Alpha's driveway? It wasn't long before I heard voices drift through the screen door. I went to look and saw Theo speaking with a man. They seemed to know each other, so I assumed it was safe.

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Chapter 77: Ayla

288 Vouchers

Wrapping my cover-up around me, and walked out to meet them. As I got closer, I recognized the man. It was Beta Harry, Alpha Torin's Beta.

"Ah, there's the VIP guest," Beta Harry said, reaching for my hand. "How are you, Ms. Ayla?"

"Beta Harry," I replied, "it's bee

a long time. It's good to see you."

"You as well. And you looking as beautiful as ever."

I shook my head. I forgot how much of a charmer Beta Harry was. It had been several years since I had seen him last.

"I didn't think you were coming until next weekend?" Theo commented.

"I got freed up early. When I heard Torin was getting a book written about him, I had to come and make sure he doesn't exaggerate things in his favor too much," Beta Harry teased.

"Ha," Theo scoffed. "More like you two will battle over who remembers what correctly."

Beta Harry chuckled. "I better head in and surprise your old man. I'm looking forward to sharing stories with you, Ayla."

"Me too," I replied with a smile.

He made his way into the house, leaving Theo and me behind.

"I should go get changed," I said. "It doesn't look like I'll be getting a swim in this morning."

"Looks like," Theo said, rubbing his neck. "I've got to head out. The patrol will be in place within the next hour. If you head into town or

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Chapter 77. Ayla

288 (Vouchers

the city, let Briggs know. Or me. We'll make sure someone is close by."

"So I guess that doesn't mean I'm stuck here?" I joked.

He looked confused. "Why would you be stuck here?"

"Nothing," I said. "But, um, I was planning to go into the city for a little while tomorrow. Zeff will be in town and wants to meet up."

"Okay," Theo nodded. "Just let one of us know when you leave."

"I can do that," I said.

I went back to the guest house and changed. I packed everything up as well so I could move into the main house later. My phone pinged on the nightstand. It was Kingston checking in. Again. I sighed and shook my head. I messaged him back. I smiled when he replied. He promised to take me for a night out as soon as I returned.

I had just grabbed my work bag when I heard Beta Harry from the other room.

"Knock, knock," he called.

I left the bedroom. "Beta Harry, I was just on my way over. Is everything okay?"

"Yes, yes, everything is fine," he said kindly. "I just wanted to come and see how you are doing. I heard it's been an interesting few months for you."

"Yeah, I suppose you can say that," I expressed. "But I'm doing good."

“Good,” he said. He indicated toward the door, so we could walk to the main house together. “And what about your family. Are your sister and

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Chapter 79 Ayla

mother fairing well? I understand Theo and Kylee’s separation wasn’t exactly amicable.”

I followed him. “My family and I have had a bit of a falling out, I’m afraid. I haven’t spoken to them in some time. But my cousin says they are about as well as can be expected

“I’m sorry to hear that,” he replied. “I know how protective you were of them.”

“Yes, it’s been hard,” I replied. “I’ve been coping, but I still worry about them.”

“I can have someone check in on them for you if you like,” he offered. “I can also stop by when I’m in the area. I pass by the area when I go visit my daughter.”

“I would appreciate that,” I said with a smile. “Just don’t tell them I sent you. I’m not sure how they would take it.”

“Of course,” he agreed. “Your secret is safe with me.”

“Thank you.”

“And what about you and Theo?” he asked.

“W-what do you mean?” I stuttered, his question catching me off guard. to

“I saw him come out of the guest house this morning,” he commented. “I’m guessing that means there’s no ill will between you two over what happened with your sister?”

“Oh, that,” I said, relieved. “No, I understand my sister is the one who made the fatal mistake in that relationship. He did what he felt was right.”

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Chapter 77: Ayla

288 Vouchers

“So you have become close to him since you’ve been here?”

“Who? Theo? No,” I rushed, feeling heat rush to my face. “He’s only been here a couple times. We don’t talk much. He was just out patrolling the area all night. So I offered him a cup of coffee before he left. That’s all.”

“Well, at least it hasn’t been too awkward for you then,” Beta Harry said. “I’m sure that Sablemane Alpha of yours appreciates him keeping his distance. We wouldn’t want you giving anyone the wrong idea about you two.”

It was a strange remark. It made me wonder if Beta Harry knew more about our situation than I thought. I didn’t know why, but that made me nervous. Even though we hadn’t really discussed it, I felt there was an unspoken

understanding that our being mates would be kept secret. From what I could tell, he hadn't told anyone other than Briggs, Mina, and his mother. What other impression could he be worried about? Why did he care?

#Lunas #Choice #theo #ayla #Kat #Silver #Chapter

[ad_2]

The Luna's Choice (theo and ayla) by Kat Silver Chapter 78

[ad_1]

Chapter 78: Ayla

I pulled into the restaurant's parking lot and looked for Zeff's car. My excitement about seeing him had been growing the entire ride down from the lake. Yesterday had been a long day. I had spent about six hours recording with Alpha and Beta Harry. Then I spent most of the night compiling everything together to get some of the work started.

I really was trying to keep my promise to Kingston. But I needed a break and had planned to see Zeff since I decided to return home. He had been out of the territory on business since I had been here. He was finally back, and I was ready to catch up.

I saw his car near the front and pulled into an empty spot next to him. When I got out, I saw him waiting outside the entrance. I practically ran at him, throwing my arms around him as he lifted me off the ground in a big bear hug. We both laughed with joy, and I had to fight back tears.

Goddess, I had missed him.

"How's my Ayls doing?" he asked as he set me down. "I've missed you."

"I've missed you, too," I said, looping my arm in his as he led me into the restaurant. "Everything has been so crazy lately."

"You don't say?" he teased. He had been there for me through just about everything, after all.

"What about you?" I said. "You've been all over the place lately. Are you finally going to tell what that's been all about?"

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Chapter 78 Ayla

298 (Vouchers

"That's exactly what I plan to do," he said with a smile.

A hostess greeted us and led us to a booth. We requested a spot a few tables

away from anyone else for some privacy.

“So, what is all the secrecy about?” I pressed once we were settled.

“I’m not sure how else to say it, so I’m just going to get it out,” he started. “I left the publishing house.”

“What?” I said, shocked. “Why?”

“It was time, Ayla,” he said, giving me a knowing look. “It was a great job, and I loved the people I worked with. But you know it wasn’t my plan to stay there forever.”

“Zeff, if this is because I left...”

“It wasn’t because of that,” he interrupted. “Well, it wasn’t only because of that. Your leaving was more of a catalyst to get me to do what I’ve wanted for a while.”

Zeff had gotten his degree in journalism. He had worked with newspapers in his early career. It was a competitive industry then, and he wasn’t growing as much as he wanted. So when the opportunity with the publishing house came about, he took it. But he always told me he wanted to go back to journalism at some point.

“Did you find something with a newspaper?” I asked excitedly.

He shook his head. “No, I had an offer but decided not to take it. Do you remember Holly? The interviewer for that magazine that did that piece on Sabina Heartwood early last year?”

“Yeah. From the Blue Fang pack, right?”

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Chapter 78: Ayla

288 vouchers

“Yeah,” Zeff confirmed. “Well, we’ve kept in touch. She had an idea for an online magazine. So, we’ve been working together, and we’ve actually gotten some decent interest in it. We have few investors. We’ve launched the first two weekly issues through pre-release to a test demographic. Things are looking pretty promising.”

“Zeff, that’s fantastic,” I exclaimed. “I’m so proud of you. How long have you been planning this?”

“We’ve been discussing it and making plans for a while,” Zeff said. “But I didn’t seriously consider making it my primary focus until you left. Let’s face it. You were my best client. There didn’t seem like much of a reason to stay.”

I knew he was making light of everything that happened, but it still bothered me that I had hurt him the way I did.

“Zeff, you know how sorry I am about what happened.”

He grabbed my hand. “Don’t be, Ayls. Honestly, it was the best thing that could have happened for both of us. I know that now. Asking you what I did

wasn't fair for many reasons. So, just forget about it all. You did nothing wrong, and I'm happy. Okay?"

I smiled at him, believing every word. "Okay."

"Good," he said. "Because I have a proposition for you."

"Okay..." I said skeptically.

"So, we have an open segment that we feel we need to fill, but we were having trouble finding anything we think would be a long-term fit. But we got a suggestion that, with the right writer, we think would be interesting to try. And I thought of you."

"Okay," I said, still skeptical. "You know I'm a Sablemane now, Zeff. I

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Chapter 78: Ayta

288 Vouchers

have a job there."

"I know," he said. "You can do this from anywhere, and it wouldn't be a full-time position. We publish one issue a week at this time. We may bump it up to two issues later if it's justified. But you wouldn't have to contribute to every issue."

"Okay, so what's the project?" I asked.

"We want you to cover an advice column," he replied. "Kind of like a Dear Abby. Industry stats say they are making a comeback and doing well on online platforms. Holly and I both think you'd be perfect."

I was shocked. That wasn't anything like what I expected. I was flattered but confused.

"Oh," I said. "Well, that's not where I thought this was going. Why me?"

He chuckled. "Trust me, Ayls. You're a natural at it. You may never see it yourself, but you can do this no sweat."

I sighed. "It sounds great, Zeff. But I've already got a lot going on right now. I'm still learning how to run the business at Second Story. Plus, Alpha Torin's book."

"You absolutely don't have to commit to anything right now," he insisted with a smile. "We have the next couple of months scheduled out anyway. And we would need to run a few issues with submission requests. We're open to working with you on a schedule and have time. So just think about it."

"I think I can do that," I said.

I changed the subject to his recent travels. He had been in the Blue Fang territory for the most part, working with Holly to get the site up

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Chapter 78: Ayla

288 Voucher

and running. But he had visited a few other packs looking for investors and contributors. The more we talked, the more I started to feel something was going on between him and Holly. After some prying, he did finally admit that they were dating. I was so happy to hear that and couldn't wait to meet Holly again.

We ended up spending hours at the restaurant. We talked about a bunch of things, and I was reminded just how much I loved Zeff's company. It was late afternoon by the time we left, leaving a huge tip for the server for taking up her table for so long.

I was giving him a hug goodbye when I noticed a man standing on the sidewalk at the end of the lot. He was familiar, but I couldn't remember from where. We briefly made eye contact, and the man turned and walked away. It felt strange to me. But it wasn't surprising that I would see someone I knew in the area, so I brushed it off.

Zeff and I planned to get together again later in the week and parted ways. I wanted to run a few other errands before heading back to the lake house.

84.36%

#Lunas #Choice #theo #ayla #Kat #Silver #Chapter

[ad_2]

The Luna's Choice (theo and ayla) by Kat Silver Chapter 79

[ad_1]

Chapter 79: Ayla

I woke up to the sound of yelling in the distance. I looked at the clock on the bedside table. It was two in the morning. The yelling drifted up to my room again. It sounded like it was coming from the backyard.

I got out of bed and moved to the window. The second-floor spare room I had moved into looked out over the back of the house. I could see lights moving near the treeline on the other side of the property, but I couldn't make anything out. Opening the window, I leaned out and could hear Alpha Torin's voice from the commotion.

I rushed downstairs and outside. I was halfway across the lawn when I froze. Beta Harry, Luna Grace, and Theo stood near the trees, surrounding an almost feral, half-shifted Alpha Torin. My chest tightened as my heart ski**ed between panicking and breaking. He was flailing around as he tried to

complete the shift. I couldn't tell which direction he was trying to go, but I could hear the pain from both him and his wolf. He would lash out if they tried to get close to him, filling the air with animalistic snarls and human wails. My eyes were stuck on Alpha. I desperately wanted to help him but wasn't sure how. My feet led me forward a few more steps. I vaguely heard Theo calling my name when Alpha Torin's eyes locked on me. We both froze. The rage in the yellow eyes of his wolf shifted to fear as he looked at me. Fear and anguish.

Alpha Torin lunged toward me with inhuman speed, throwing Beta Harry to the ground. Part of me told me to run, but another part

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Chapter 79: Ayla

288 Vouchers

insisted I didn't. Before I had a chance to figure out what to do, Alpha Torin was ripped from his path. A rush of fur yanking him from his feet and throwing him against a tree, Luna Grace's scream filling the night air.

"Stop," I rushed, my legs finally moving as I rushed toward Alpha.

Theo had shifted, and Kieran was panting as he stood over his father's prone form. As I got close, I saw Alpha Torin's body complete the shift back into his human form. I knelt down by his side. He was alive but unconscious. I could feel Kieran's and Theo's devastation rolling off of them. I reached up and ran my hand through the fur of his mane.

"It's okay," I whispered. "He's going to be okay. He wasn't going to hurt me." He whined, pushing against my hand for what little comfort it gave him. My other hand brushed along Alpha's forehead. Beta Harry and Luna were by us in a few seconds.

"Move back, Kieran," Harry said. "Let me get him inside."

I helped Beta Harry and Luna Grace pick Alpha off the ground. Grace squeezed my hand before helping lead her mate inside the house. Kieran and I followed them, stopping just off the porch. I didn't want to leave him alone like this. He had just attacked his own father because of me. The least I could do was make sure he was okay.

He shifted next to me. I averted my eyes as he went to a storage bin under the porch and pulled out a pair of shorts. His clothes would have been shredded from his sudden shift.

"You shouldn't have come out here," Theo said. There wasn't anger in

his voice, only worry.

"I heard Alpha yelling," I stated. "I didn't know what was happening. I

25.44%

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Chapter 79 Ayla

298 Vouchers

was worried he needed help.”

Theo sighed heavily, running his hands over his face and through his hair.

“I know,” he said. “If it happens again, please just leave it to us. If you ended up hurt...”

“He wasn’t going to hurt me, Theo,” I interrupted.

“Ayla, he’s not himself when he’s like that. The pain he’s in.....” His hands clenched and his body tensed. “He doesn’t recognize anyone when in that state. His mind and body betray him.”

I reached out to him. “He wasn’t going to hurt me, Theo. I can’t explain it, but I just know he wasn’t. But I’m sorry if I scared you. I’m sorry got him hurt.”

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With one smooth motion, Theo pulled me against his chest and wrapped his arms around me. Tingles erupted everywhere. He held me tightly, even though I wasn’t protesting.

“If anything ever happened to you, Ayla...” He rested his face on my head. “I couldn’t live through that again.”

“What?” I pulled away. Confused by his words.

Theo kept his arms around my waist, not ready to let me go. He rested his forehead against mine, taking a deep breath as he closed his eyes.

“The car accident,” he finally said. “I felt you get hurt, Ayla.”

“But that’s not... We’re not...”

“I don’t know how either,” he said. “But I nearly lost my mind when I didn’t know what happened or where you were. Even when I

52.41%

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1 288 Vouchers

thought...”

When he thought I was a bad person.

“I just need you to be safe, Ayla,” he whispered. “I accept that you’re with him. I know I lost you...”

“Theo...”

“I know you want him, Ayla,” Theo continued. “I can live with all of that if you’re happy. But I need you to promise me you’ll keep yourself safe. Please, I just need to know you’ll be safe.”

I fought the tears that threatened to fall at the urgency in his voice. I didn’t understand how he could have felt my pain from my accident. It was strange enough that we could feel it when we were with other people. I couldn’t imagine what I would do if Theo was hurt, and I knew I couldn’t do anything to

help him.

I buried my face in his chest, holding him tighter.

"I promise," I said. "I promise."

I felt the tension leave his body, but we didn't release each other yet. His perfect scent engulfed me, calming my mood. His fingers were buried in my hair, and I felt him lightly kiss the top of my head. He finally loosened his hold on me with a deep sigh.

"I should go check on Mom and Dad," he said.

I nodded. "Is your dad going to be okay?"

"He shifted. He's going to be in pain for the next week or so," he said sadly.

"But he'll get through it. He's still strong."

"He is strong," I assured him. "He'll be here for a while longer."

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Chapter 79: Ayla

288 Vouchers

The corners of his mouth twitched up as he tried to smile, but I don't think he had it in him. I followed him back into the house, heading back to my room. I laid back down, knowing I wouldn't be able to sleep as I tried not to think about the warring feelings inside me.

95.49%

#Lunas #Choice #theo #ayla #Kat #Silver #Chapter

[ad_2]

The Luna's Choice (theo and ayla) by Kat Silver Chapter 80

[ad_1]

Chapter 80: Pierce

I waited as the phone rang again. It was the third time I had called Kingston. He would pick up if it took me thirty. If he was where I feared, we might have had a bigger problem than I thought.

"Yeah," Kingston snapped when he finally answered.

"Where the hell are you, Kin?" I demanded.

"I'm working," he replied vaguely.

"Where?"

"We tracked him down, Pierce," he told me. "I'm not going anywhere until he leads me to Grogan."

"Kingston," I burst out, "what the f**k? You promised you wouldn't do this."

"I'm not risking this bas**rd getting away. I will get my answers."

"Not like this," I said, pinching my temples. "You know you can't go down this road again. Not after the last time."

"Well, I obviously didn't finish the job last time, now did I?" Kingston snapped.

"This doesn't end until Grogan stops breathing."

He hung up on me. I gripped the phone, fighting the urge to throw it across the room.

"Pierce? What's wrong?"

I turned to see Emma come out of my room. The sight of her- her

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288 Vouchers

scent – calmed me down some. She came to my side, snaking her arms around me.

"What's going on, babe?"

"Kingston is hunting his past again," I said.

"What do you mean?"

I couldn't tell her exactly what was going on. I wanted to, but it wasn't my secret to tell her.

But it was getting hard to keep it from her. For obvious reasons, no one else in the pack knew about Kingston's true heritage. When he was adopted, the former Alpha and Luna created the story that he was from a border town and his parents were killed in a rogue attack. But there were a few times he had threatened that story.

When he was seventeen, a stranger started asking questions about Onyxcrown refugees. The guy wasn't exactly covert about it, and it was discovered he had ties to the Waar P*k Society. The group that slaugh**red Kingston's pack. He hunted the man down, and after finding out any information he could get out of him about any other members, he ended him.

He spent the next eight years hunting down every member he could find. Regardless of whose pack they belonged to. And he didn't exactly reach out to their Alphas about their proclivities. I wouldn't fault him. for his desire for vengeance. I was by his side through much of his effort. We got lucky more than once that he wasn't caught.

He became more reckless over the years and nearly died when he walked into a trap that nearly killed us both. His parents demanded he stop hunting the Waar P*k members. He refused initially, but eventually, when his father

threatened to disown him, he backed off.

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Chapter 80 Pierce

288 Vouchers

It took him some time to move on from the rage and hatred that had come to guide his life. But in the end, he came out of it a changed man who realized he had a pack that loved him and would put them first. So, when he became Alpha, I never doubted his worthiness.

But now, he was going down that dangerous path again, and he was starting to remind me of that kid who was out to destroy the world and anyone who got in his way.

Except this time, it wasn't just about revenge. It was about Ayla.

It was easy to see why he cared for her so much. And at first, I thought it was good for him to find someone who gave him the connection to his roots that he seemed to need. I felt like it brought him some peace after all these years. But now, after the break-ins, Ayla's stalker, and her going back to Greytooth territory, he had been on the warpath. It was like he was desperate to not only protect the Onyxcrown heir but keep her by his side. As if that would be enough to bring his pack back. What was worse, his desire to keep her seemed to be causing him to make poor decisions about her safety.

And he was going to get them killed

"Pierce," Emma's voice pulled me out of my worried thoughts.

"I'm sorry, Em," I said, wrapping my arm around her waist. "It's a long story. I can't really get into it now."

"Is Alpha okay?" she asked worriedly.

I smiled at her concern. She was so da*n sweet. I pressed my lips to hers.

"He just hasn't been himself lately," I told her. "But I'm sure he'll snap

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out of it once Ayla is back."

"We all miss her," Emma said.

"Yeah," I agreed. "Has she let you know when she'll be coming back?"

"She's not sure," Emma said with a shrug. "She's been working hard to make it happen as soon as possible. It seems Alpha has been pretty persistent."

"

"Can you do me a favor?" I asked.

“What’s up?”

“Can you let me know as soon as she tells you she’s coming home?” I asked.

“Sure,” she said. “Although I’m sure Alpha will find out before I will.”

“Maybe, but if not, just give me a head up,” I replied.

”

“I can do that,” she agreed.

“Thank you.” I kissed her again, pulling her against me. My hands roamed on their own, loving every inch of her body. “Now, let’s go back to bed.”

85.07%

III

16:25

#Lunas #Choice #theo #ayla #Kat #Silver #Chapter

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