

The Rejected Luna's Prince Chapter 71 -

10–12 minutes

The Rejected Luna's Prince Chapter 71

Chapter 71 – ???

NEW

(Willa)

Oh my Goddess, my hands flew to my open mouth.

This was everything that I could have hoped for. They would be so good for each other, balance each other perfectly.

“Where have you been?” Jack growled, pulling back and looking at Rachel, “Beautiful,” His wolf pushed forward.

“Italy,” Rachel looked into his eyes, tucking a piece of hair behind her ear.

“Can I come?” Jack asked, and Rachel pulled back, placing her hands on his chest.

“You’re the Gamma here,” She said, her brows tugging together.

Jack shrugged, “I know I don’t know you, but I know we were fated for a reason, I’m happy to follow you anywhere.”

Rachel breathed, and I held mine.

“O-okay,” She said, “But we can talk about it. I don’t want you to give up everything for me.”

“You can’t leave anyways.” Nolan cut in with a dark laugh.

“Don’t ruin the moment,” Cali crossed her arms, taking a step towards the newly mated pair.

“Who are you to speak to me like that?” Nolan said.

Cali raised an eyebrow looking him over, deciding he wasn’t even worthy of a response.

“You’re my Gamma. If you choose to accept your mate she will live here, help out with your duties.”

Jack turned to face Nolan setting Rachel down but grabbing her hand.

“Nolan, I say this as a friend, but I do not think I can stay here if my mate doesn’t want to. Actually, I know I can’t” Jack said calmly, “If it weren’t for my family line, I might have left a while ago.” He said a bit quieter.

“You’re not serious.” Nolan scoffed, his eyes darted to his Gamma and then the crowd still standing there watching the interaction.

“You wouldn’t give up everything, your legacy, your title, just because you met your mate? Act like a man,” Nolan seethed.

“I am,” Jack took a step in front of Rachel, “I am protecting the most important thing in this world, the mate bond. Not all of us see our mates as lesser, as supporting roles, and I won’t see her-.” Jack looked at her.

“Rachel,” Rachel smiled at him, her face full of adoration, “My name is Rachel.”

“I’m Jack,” He said, squeezing her hand before turning back to Nolan, “I won’t see Rachel as anything less than what she deserves, and I know that she won’t get that respect here.” Jack held his ground.

Nolan’s mouth gaped.

Camilla was still on the ground behind him, her hand over her heart, looking up at the interaction.

“We need females here to pick up Camilla’s slack,” Nolan boomed, “And you haven’t even asked what she wants. She should be glad to take up a ranked position.”

Jack looked to Rachel, who shrugged.

“I’m happy with my life, but I wanted a mate more than anything. I understand that we live two separate lives and we will both have to make sacrifices. I had never really cared nor assumed I was mated to anyone of rank, but again, that doesn’t matter.

I will say that what I have heard and seen from this pack is not one I would like to be part of. I won’t go as far as to say that it can’t be turned around, but under the Alpha you have, I don’t see how much change or progress can be made with a man with such dated and archaic views.”

Nolan took a step towards Rachel, and Jack moved to him, pressing his chest into his Alpha’s.

“You will not threaten my mate,” Jack growled. Everyone was silent.

“I, Jack Levine, Gamma of The Blue Ridge Pack, hereby step down from my role as Gamma and cut ties with The Blue Ridge Pack.”

To his credit, Jack barely flinched, and I know that must have impacted him severely.

Nola took a few steps back, almost tripping over Camilla, who was still kneeling.

“Welcome to Crescent Moon,” I whispered to Jack, and he looked at me with a wide smile.

“Thank you, Luna.”

Nolan let out a howl of pure pain and rage, shaking the door of the packhouse.

“You couldn’t just let me go,” Nolan stormed up to me.

Caspian stood by my side, his icy ancient aura unleashed.

Nolan flinched forced to step back without Caspian even making a move.

“The fact you think that has anything to do with you is truly a credit to your delusion.” I jutted my chin out, studying him coolly, “I have nothing new to say that I have not told you before.

For the sake of Blue Ridge, I hope you find a way to come to terms with the consequences of your own actions and not think that everything that has happened to you is based on my rage from half a decade ago.”

I was exasperated, and I knew that I wasn’t going to get through to him; it was exhausting repeating myself. I wished he understood for his sake, and for the sake of Blue Ridge, I hoped he took responsibility, even if he wouldn’t admit it out loud.

“Then why?” Nolan said, his voice hard.

He really wasn’t going to drop this? He had an audience, and he was making himself look like a fool.

He’s grasping at straws – Iris growled.

I took a breath and addressed him, my voice thankfully not giving away the annoyance that I felt, “Why is Camilla stripped of her title? Because she went against what the leaders of our territory decided on.” I met his brown eyes.

“Why did Jack leave? Because he found his mate and was sick of you running this pack into the ground. What else do you want me to explain? I let Theo have the title, even if it rightfully belonged to my son.” I took a step toward him.

“As for being mated to Caspien, ask the Moon Goddess.” Caspien’s large palm wrapped around my waist, and Nolan’s eyes darted to it.

“I have nothing to atone for. I never have. These are your consequences. Instead of looking to place blame elsewhere, act like an Alpha and own up to your part in all of this.”

He opened his mouth to say something, rage still contorting his features. I placed a hand to silence him.

“I wish you the best, I really do. I hope that you can be a good Alpha for the pack that I grew up in, that I still have so many amazing memories at.” I glanced toward Lola so he knew that I in no way was thinking about my time with him. Lola smiled up at me reassuringly from the front.

“I don’t want you to fail, you are an allied pack, and we will help you if you ask.” Nolan scoffed at that, “No hard feelings,” I offered.

“If there is nothing else,” Caspien said.

“We don’t even know that her son is mine,” Nolan said.

Griffen handed Caspien a folder, and he pulled out two pieces of paper, handing them to Nolan.

“He was fathered by you, just as Theo was,” Caspien explained.

Nolan’s mouth hung open, “How? This is a violation of privacy,” He held up the papers, bunching them up.

Griffen shrugged.

“Now, son, I think we let this go.” Hugo came up and grabbed Nolan on the shoulder.

“Get off of me,” Nolan brushed off his hand, looking and sounding like a petulant child.

Hugo took a step back and shook his head.

“If any of you have questions, Holden, Cali, and I will stay here to address them,” Griffen said, drawing attention to him.

“Want to help me pack?” Jack asked Rachel; she glanced back at me.

“We won’t leave you.” I told her smiling, “Go, I’ll link you when we’re heading out; we can send for the rest of your things.” I told Jack.

“Congratulations,” I beamed at them.

Jack took Rachels’s hand and tugged her into the packhouse.

“That went just about how I expected,” I sighed, leaning into Caspien. He moved his hand from my waist and wrapped me into him, placing a kiss on my hair.

Everything else around us fell away. The murmur of the crowd, the anger rolling off Nolan, the annoyance I felt moments before washed away.

It was replaced by my mate’s comforting scent, his warm, familiar embrace, and an almost overwhelming sense of finality and peace.

He stroked my hair, and I felt a wave of emotion crash through me. I felt light, leaving this behind me even though we were still there, standing in front of most of the pack.

“Thank you,” I murmured, reluctantly tearing myself away from Caspien.

“For what?” He frowned, pushing a strand away with the back of his finger.

I shrugged.

For everything that he did and didn’t know that he did for me.

For showing me what true partnership and love were.

“I think our job here is done,” Caspien held out an arm to me.

I wanted to say goodbye to Isaac and Nolan’s parents; we didn’t need to foster more hostility on our end.

“I hope you’re happy.” Nolan glared at me; Camilla was standing behind him, looking at the ground.

“I am,” I shrugged, “But not because of anything that has happened today.” I brushed my hair over my shoulder.

“Alpha Nolan, Camilla.” I nodded at them politely, and Caspien gave them a grave nod before we turned our backs on them.

Back in the car, I felt good, more than good.

Relieved. It was the last thing we had to check off – for the moment, at least.

Emmett fevers, Assassin part one two and three, The Conference, Alpha Jasper, Caspien on death’s door, Camilla, and passing classes, well, barely passing.

This was the last part of it, and I felt like we would never get here. There was always a long list of things we had to do and millions of steps in between each of them.

But we did it.

We came out the other end better for it. I couldn't have done it without every single one of them.

Cali was whispering to Holden, Griffen was ferociously texting probably Nolan, and Rachel was pulled onto Jack's lap.

Our group, my family, was growing, and I felt so full.

"Stick around for the royal ceremony?" Caspien asked Rachel and Jack.

I fought my mouth from hanging open, that was the most civil and normal I had heard him speak to Rachel, and I appreciated it.

"We wouldn't miss it." Rachel smiled widely at him.

"Then Italy?" Jack asked excitedly.

"Do you want to?" Rachel turned to him, "Really want to?"

"Hell yeah, I do," Jack said, "We can figure out everything else later, I have enough savings, and I think I deserve some time off." Jack crossed his hands behind his head.

"I'm sure we can find you a job within the pack or company." Caspien said, "Possibly as advisors, as well. Both of you." Caspien said.

"I would really like that," I accidentally said out loud.

"We can talk about it later. Today has been," Caspien sighed, running a hand through his midnight hair.

"It's been a f.ucking day," Cali said.

"That," Caspien gave her a smile that was becoming more and more normal for him, "It has been a f.ucking day. A long string of f.ucking days."

The Rejected Luna's Prince Chapter 72 -

14–18 minutes

The Rejected Luna's Prince Chapter 72

Chapter 72 – Family Shifts

(Willa)

Lola texted me that her parents were packing up and would be here tomorrow. Caspien promised them a great apartment in the packhouse and Lola one of her own after she finished her Masters she was working on.

Holden and Griffen said that no one really came forward with any questions after that public display; not really sure what else we could call it.

Neither of them seemed to mind. Griffen seemed confident that people might show up in the future. I think Holden just didn't want to do that work or at least pretended that he didn't.

Either way, Cali and I spent the afternoon with Nora and our kids, talking housing arrangements and strategy. I didn't realize how many apartments Caspien had for his pack members. There would be more than enough room to house twice of Blue Ridge just with the vacant cottages, packhouse apartments, and places around the city.

Nora held Olivia; she was the picture of bliss. Her cheeks were rosy and warm, and her soft smile never left her.

Griffen and she balanced each other so well. She softened his hard edge and grounded him when he became over-paranoid. She had the patience that I could only hope of finding as a mother and she was the perfect Beta for Cali and me.

She helped bring down Cali's impulses in a way that made sense to her, and she didn't fight about them while offering insight into me being in a ranked role for a few years now.

"Are you still going forward with the renovations?" Nora asked, stroking Olivia's cheek.

"I think so," The renovations to Caspien's place were put on hold indefinitely after we were forced to move in full-time after the attack and Cali's place.

I hadn't been back to my old place since, but Caspien had it packed up, our stuff still in boxes at our new home to be unpacked after renovations.

I didn't want to change much, just add a few homey touches to make the massive space seem a bit cozier.

A few plants, adding a bit of lighter wood, one of the designers suggested installing wooden beams to cut through the harshness of the modern lines. A touch of color and some small changes and I think it would be perfect for our family.

It already was the perfect home because I had Emmett and Caspien there.

Luna, do you have some free time this afternoon? – Caspien asked

We are pretty much done here. Actually, we're ready if anyone comes

Good, meet me downstairs in fifteen. Your parents are coming to grab Emmett

"I'm going to spend some time with Caspien, I told them standing. Emmett grandma and grandpa are coming to pick you up, is that okay?"

He pouted, "I wanted to stay with Lorelai and the baby."

"I'm sure Loreli can come over if you ask her first and then grandma and grandpa really nicely."

"Okay!" Emmett asked Loreli if she wanted to come to play, and of course, she said yes.

"Anything else you need, link me," I told them.

"We're good here, Nora is going to continue my werewolf training," Cali said.

Nora has been diligent about teaching her werewolf history and laws. We all have been helping her out and she has taken a real interest not just in the pack aspect but in the business side of The Dracos group.

I met Caspien downstairs. He was waiting for me by the elevator doors.

"Willa," He gave me a brilliant smile and held his arm out to me.

"Cas," I took it and let him lead me out to where a car was waiting for us.

"Where are we going?"

"I promised you a run once things calmed down, didn't I?" He turned to me, and Iris howled in my mind, pacing around frantically.

"How can I deny Iris that?" I said, but in all honesty, I was yearning to get her out again.

Living in the forest I shifted almost daily, going on long runs.

I could feel it deep in my bones, the ache, the emptiness that came from not shifting, and I knew it was even harder on Iris.

“We won’t go so long again,” Caspien kissed the back of our intertwined hands, “Things are safe, secure, and we can go spend more time at the original packhouse deep in the woods.”

“I like the sound of that.” I laid my head on his shoulder.

Eventually, his parents would return to the old packhouse in the woods, my parents had a cottage being renovated there, as well.

It wasn’t a far drive, and I knew we would probably see at least one set of them almost daily. It has been nice having them at the packhouse though, especially to help with Emmett when a new burst of chaos was unleashing itself.

“I’ll show you the rest of your lands later on,” He smiled against my hair, “But I want time for Atlas and Iris to get to know each other.”

I settled into his side, and soon the buildings gave way to the sprawling expanse on the other side of the city. The driver pulled over on the side of the road, and I looked up at Caspien curious.

“There’s a nice clearing through there with a creek; the trees aren’t as thick here.” He explained. That would make it easier for us to run and really stretch our legs.

“Ready?” He reached out his hand for mine, an infectious smile crossed his face that made him seem years younger.

I nodded, returning his smile.

He led me through the trees in silence, I basked in the last of the warm afternoon sun that trickled through the trees.

The familiar forest sounds seemed to quiet everything else.

“Here,” Caspien stopped by a tree outside a clearing, “Just a short run to the East and the trees thin, it’s gorgeous this time of day, I haven’t been here in ages.” He removed his jacket and tugged his shirt over his head.

I focused on his rippling golden abs, heat pooling to my core. His eyes flashed black when he caught my scent.

I took a deep breath shutting my eyes, and slipped the cotton dress I changed into over my shoulders.

Caspien came behind me and unhooked my bra. His warm fingers trailed down the side of my arms, leaving goosebumps in their wake.

My breath hitched as he knelt behind me and tugged down the thin fabric.

“That’s better.” He placed a kiss on my backside and stood up, his warmth leaving me.

I looked over my shoulder as he discarded his pants and boxers.

My body swirled with anticipation.

My turn my turn Iris chanted, and I suppressed my groan.

Fine

I nodded to Cas and got down on all fours. The transformation was slower than I was used to, but in no time, Iris stood where I was moments earlier. Her light gray fur shone in the filtered light in the clearing.

Capien circled us, and Iris walked up nuzzling his hand. She purred when Caspien ran his fingers into our soft fur.

“Lovely.” He murmured.

I let Iris and him have this time before Caspien knelt down and changed into a large black wolf, almost double our size in a few seconds.

Iris growled in approval, and they nuzzled each other before Atlas broke off into a run. Iris kept up with him well.

The late afternoon sun rushed through our fur, the scent of warm overturned dirt hit our nostrils, the only sound was the wind and the soft crunch of underbrush under our footsteps.

The trees grew sparse, and we came upon a shallow creek where we stopped to drink. Atlas growled, making Iris’ head snap towards his before dipping shyly.

I let her take complete control, slipping to the back of her mind so that they could have some semblance of privacy.

Flint and Iris had some alone time, playing and toying with each other until they completed the final act of our mate bond.

I felt our bond reach out to each other, tethering together in a way that was concrete, solid, unyielding.

I knew at that moment that nothing could break this.

Not rejection.

Not death.

We were one; we were us.

We lay there in wolf form for long moments, which felt like hours, but the sun was still bright above us.

Let's get back to the road. I have something else I want us to do – Caspien linked.

I slowly got to my now wobbly feet, a rush of pure bliss coursed through me.

Atlas' eyes showed me he felt the same.

We curiously followed him the way we came; it was slower this time but no less exhilarating.

He shifted back and threw on his pants.

“Don't worry about your underwear.” He said.

My brows tugged, but I trusted him and that I would find out soon enough.

My parents were standing by the side of the road in another car, Emmett between them.

“I don't understand.”

“I thought we could see if Emmett was ready to shift; he told me that he wanted to.” Caspien said, “You want to try that?” He knelt at Emmett's height.

“Yes,” He nodded enthusiastically but shifted from foot to foot.

“You don't have to be scared; if it doesn't work, then it doesn't work.” Caspien said placing his large hand on Emmett's small shoulder, “We have all the time in the world to practice, and if your wolf is only there sometimes, or not there anymore, then he will be back.”

Emmett looked at Caspien timidly with wide eyes.

“And if you don't want to try, then we can just go for a walk; how does that sound?” Caspien asked.

“Good,” Emmett smiled.

“Thanks for bringing him,” Caspien told my parents, “You're going to be late, though.”

“To what?” My mom looked at my dad, who shrugged.

“Your date,” Caspien said.

“I'm not dressed for-” My mom looked down at her jeans.

“I own the restaurant, plus,” Caspien shrugged slightly, “You’re the only ones there.” He fixed them with a smile.

My mom’s eyes were wide.

“Thank you,” She said.

“We appreciate it,” My dad said, shaking his head.

“I appreciate you, both of you,” Caspien said, clasping his shoulder.

“Have fun,” I said to them, I knew Caspien-style dates, and my mom was about to have the shock of her life. They both were.

I reached my hand to Emmett, and he took it, looking up at me.

“Let’s have some fun,” I said to him, “This is a beautiful place. I’m sure we can find some treasures.”

Emmett smiled widely, bouncing up and down, taking Caspien’s hand in his other one.

“We brought that back, right?”

“Yes, of course, love,” I smiled at him, “We just need to unpack it, but that doesn’t mean we can’t find new treasures to add to it when we do.”

Emmett tugged us forward. We spent a while looking for new things, Emmett explaining to Caspien what he already had and what he was looking for.

Once we found a triple acorn hat, a leaf that had prematurely started to slip to autumn before it fell, and a speckled rock that was almost the exact version of one, he found with my dad but half its size, Emmett was calm and distracted.

“Do you want to give it a try?” Caspien said, his voice soft.

“Sure,” Emmett nodded.

“Not because you think we want you to, but if you do,” Caspien went on.

“There’s no pressure. I didn’t shift until I was a lot older than you, a lot bigger.” I said to him.

“I want to,” Emmett smiled.

“Okay then,” I looked at Caspien.

“I’ll shift first so that we can guide him in both forms,” Caspien said; he almost sounded nervous.

Caspien slipped behind a tree and prowled back out the large black wolf that was Atlas.

“Wow,” Emmett bounded towards him, “You’re huge,” He laughed, wrapping his hands into his fur.

Caspien carefully sat down so as not to knock Emmett. Emmett crawled on top of him and almost fell over the other side.

I laughed, taking a seat on the cool grass.

“Do you want to try to become your wolf again like Dad?” I asked him, and Emmett nodded without reservation slipping down from Atlas’ back.

“I know it was scary the first time. You felt stuck. Your wolf is part of you, and when you become them, they take over. It’s a strange feeling, but you can trust them, and once you let them have control it’s such an incredible feeling.”

“Yes, Mama.” Emmett smiled.

“Okay then,” I looked at our son.

Extra clothes are in the car for him and us – Atlas linked me, and I nodded at them.

“Get down on your hands and knees like this,” I did the same thing, “Like you’re a wolf.”

“Okay, Mama.” Emmett dug his hands into the grass.

“Can you try to talk to your wolf? Talk in your mind?” I asked him.

It dawned on me that this might hurt him, and I wanted to stop it right now, but I remembered he had done this before and never mentioned pain.

“Sometimes,” Emmett said, a slight v in between his brows, “I can try.”

“Try,” I said, closing my eyes, “Breathe and let them come to you.”

“Okay,”

A long moment passed.

“I hear him!” Emmett shouted.

“Good,” I smiled, my eyes still closed, “Connect with them, let them take over.”

I took deep breaths, and Emmett followed my lead. I was lost in breathing for a while until I dared a peek.

Emmett turned into a little black fur ball, trying to stand.

I almost laughed as joy and love rushed through me at the cute sight.

Atlas walked up to him and licked him. Emmett found his feet and pranced around. I shifted to Iris, and she nuzzled our pup, licking him up and down.

Want to run? I linked him, and his little tongue fell out of his mouth

Follow Atlas

I nodded once at Atlas, and he took off into a walk that turned into a jog.

Emmett kept up well, better than I expected, for him being so small and his first intentional shift.

We spent hours until dusk started to settle deep in the forest.

Emmett chased butterflies, smelled everything, chased trails, and then abandoned them.

Seeing this through his eyes was magic, pure magic. I didn't think I could be happier than in this moment, both of us experiencing this with him, leading him through it.

I never wanted it to end.

I cataloged the feelings flooding through me, the scents, the sight of Emmett chasing Atlas' tail.

It was peace, happiness, and love.

We need to go – Caspien linked me, Atlas huffed.

Everything okay?

I think so.

I sighed, and pulled back from the perfect moment again.

We nudged Emmett, and he followed his dad back through the forest. I was surprised how he knew exactly where to go, I was so focused on them, the surroundings, I didn't catalog the route.

Caspien shifted first and told us to stay here while he got fresh clothes.

I cuddled up next to my pup, thanking the Moon Goddess I had this chance to do this. Such a rare thing to have happen, cuddle up to your pup in wolf form.

Iris and I were reveling in the feeling.

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Emmett walked between us slowly back to the car. I didn't care for once what was awaiting us, Caspien seemed calm, and I trusted him. I could read him better than he thought I could.

Emmett fell asleep across our laps, and I leaned into Caspien's arm around me.

The city lights flickered to life around us, and I felt just as peace heading to our penthouse home as I did in the forest.

Willa? – Cali's voice sounded frantic but elated

I'm here

Thank The Gods, Goddess, Whatever. You need to see this.

We pulled up to the side of the packhouse, and Rendell was there to take a sleeping Emmett from Caspien's arms.

"Well done, son," He shook his head, smiling.

Caspien frowned a bit and took my hand. Looking at me, I felt he was just as confused as I was.

The doors opened, and chatter swelled around us, almost deafening.

I looked from Caspien to the crowd huddled in the middle of the packhouse, filling the common space up almost completely.

Cali, Holden, and Griffen turned to us from the outskirts.

"Explain," Caspien said back in Alpha mode, "In detail."

"Well," Cali said, twisting a curl a brilliant smile lit up her face, "Most of Blue Ridge is here."