

The Lycan King's Second Chance Mate (Ashanti)

#Chapter 0311 - Read The Lycan King's Second Chance Mate (Ashanti) Chapter 0311

Chapter 0311

ASHANTI'S POV.

"Alright everyone, we're back again." Mum's voice is a lot more jovial as she addresses the people in the living room. The elderly man, whom I suppose is her husband, gives me a warm smile and to be polite, I reciprocate the smile. The others, who happen to be a young boy and a girl, are frowning at me.

It's obvious my presence does not make them happy.

My mother turns to me with a subtle look on her face.

"Ashanti, this is my husband, Michael Smith and my children, your siblings, Sheila and Ryan. They are twins."

"Hello Mr. Smith, Sheila, Ryan" I greet, flashing them all a very shy smile. "It's nice to meet you all. I'm grateful to you for letting me stay here." The only person who accepts my greetings warmly is their father. Sheila rolls her eyes and sighs in exasperation as though I'm frustrating the hell out of her, while Ryan just sits there, giving me a glare as cold as ice.

Oh goddess! They hate me.

"It's nothing Ashanti. We were devastated when your mother arrived with you being in an unconscious state. We are all relieved to finally see you awake." That's Michael.

"Thank you, Sir." I say, almost bowing my head.

"Oh dear... there's no need for formalities. Call me Michael."

"Ok, Michael."

Sheila, who seems to be tired of our little chit-chat, rises to her feet.

"I'm starving! Can we go to the dining and eat already?" She asks in a harsh tone and both her parents shoot her stern looks.

"Sheila! Where are your manners?" Our mother scolds her, but that doesn't change anything. Sheila rolls her eyes and storms out of the living room, heading straight to the dining. Her brother follows suit.

Michael and my mother give me apologetic looks.

"I'm sorry about their behaviour. They are usually not like that." This content © .

"I... I hope my presence isn't causing any trouble."

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"No, it's not!" That's my mum. "Come on." I follow the two of them to the dining where Sheila and Ryan are, already seated and have started serving themselves. I take the empty seat next to Ryan because unlike Sheila, he doesn't look like he wants to carve out my kidneys and have them for dessert.

The aroma of the food makes my intestines grumble. I've been

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starving for days now and right now, I'm so hungry that I feel like I could finish up every meal on this table and still not be satisfied. I pick up the empty plate before me and start serving myself, making sure no part of my body touches Ryan's in any way because he looks like a dynamite that's going to explode if I touch him just a bit. I serve myself some chicken curry and start digging in. I don't miss the

occasional deadly glares Sheila

keeps throwing at me. Content

belongs to

Ryan on the other hand is grumpily handing me things I need which seem to be far from my reach. Like the glass of orange juice he just served to me right now.

"Thank you." I say but he doesn't respond. He goes back to biting into his drumsticks.

He's a sweet soul.

"Ashanti... the news of your disappearance is buzzing all over. No one knows what really happened in that..."

"Michael!" Mother calls sternly. "Let the child eat." She cautions and Michael quickly nods his head.

"Oh yeah. I'm sorry."

"No." I shake

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my head. "You don't have to be sorry at all...I really want to know what..." My gaze travels to my mum who still has that stern look on and I quickly shut my mouth. "I'm sorry." I shrink in my seat and focus on my food despite my

eagerness to discuss more on the

topic. Content belongs to

I want to know what's going on.

I vanished into thin air. I want to know how Alpha Reagan took the news. I want to know if he's going crazy and most importantly, I want to know if he succeeded in proving my innocence. There's many things I want to know.

"Alpha Reagan has gone frantic." My mum says after a long pause. "Search parties have been dispatched to every pack in this world. He's desperately looking for you and it's just a matter of time before his men show up here, asking if we've seen you."

"No!" My mouth blurts out before I can think. I'm shaking my head frantically as well. "Please. I don't want to go back there ever again!"

I beg from the depth of my heart.

I never want to go back there.

Chapter 0312

ASHANTI'S POV.

"Why not?" Michael asks, confused. "You're his mate, aren't you?"

"I am, but he never treated me as one. Alpha Reagan knew from the first day he set his eyes on me that I was his mate yet he didn't say anything. He let me stay in the Harem and watched me get bullied time and again by the other girls. I've been through so much in his hands and to top it all, his subjects hate me! They'd rather start a war than let me become their Luna. They think I poisoned Alina."

"Not anymore." Mum chimes in and my brain scatters within. I look at her with raised brows and she nods her head.

"I... I don't understand."

"A few days ago, a trial was held and Alina's crimes were exposed. Alpha Reagan provided strong evidence to prove that Alina murdered two adults and poisoned herself in order to kill the baby in her womb and blame it on you. A whole lot of other crimes she committed were exposed and Alpha Reagan gave her a death sentence. She was hanged yesterday. Alina is dead and the Crescent Moon Pack subjects are all ready to go down on their knees and beg for your forgiveness." I am completely dumbfounded after hearing those words.

Alina has been exposed.

Alina has been hanged for her crimes.

Alina is dead.

The pack subjects want to apologise for pointing accusing fingers at me.

I secretly pinch myself very hard and take a moment to appreciate the pain that I feel coursing through the assaulted spot. This is not a dream. This is reality. Alina has finally paid for her crimes. I want to smile, but my mood turns sour again when Alpha Reagan crosses my mind.

It's true that he fulfilled his promise to me by bringing Alina to justice, but I still don't want to get back with him.

I'm his mate, meaning I'm his equal,

but he has never treated me as such. I don't want to be with a man who'll always want me to be under his wings. I have my own life to live, goals to accomplish. If I go back to I Alpha Reagan, my goals will be nothing but thoughts that will never be able to act upon. I don't want that. This content © .

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"I uh..." I croak. Clear my throat. "I'm truly happy to hear that. It was about time Alina atoned for her crimes. I'm happy Alpha Reagan finally saw to that, but that doesn't change how I feel. I don't want to go back to that pack. Please don't give me to them when they come for me." My teary voice pleads as I look from Michael to my mother with tear-filled eyes.

"Great!" The sound of cutlery clattering against a I plate fills the entire dining room and I shoot Sheila a scared look, "Just great!" She

exclaims yet again as she angrily bangs her fist on the table and rises. "First, a complete stranger is

I.ne

brought into our home and now we

can't even eat dinner with...we

it

turning into a pity party." She shoots me a deadly glare that burns right through my face to the back of my head. Her wide eyes scare me to the core. "All thanks to you!" With that, she storms out of the dinner and the tears in my eyes break loose as I look at Michael and my mother who

looked absolutely horrified by her sudden outburst.

"I am so sorry..."

"There's nothing for you to be sorry for." That's Michael. "Well, talk to her. This will not happen again, I assure." Mum gives a warm look that eases the tension in my heart, but when I look down at my plate, I realise I've lost my appetite.

God, my life is a hot mess!

"Do you want more chicken?" A masculine voice interrupts my thoughts and I jump up in fright. I almost faint when I look up and see that Ryan is the one who just asked the question.

"I uh....." I stutter nervously. He doesn't wait for me to respond, he simply picks up my plate and starts serving me some more chicken curry. I shoot my mother a confused look and she simply smiles at me.

"Here you go." Ryan says as he places the plate of food before me. "Enjoy your meal." Then he turns back to continue with his meal.

I stare at him for long, completely awed by his bipolar nature. I could have sworn a while ago that he hates me, but now, I don't even know what to think.

He's so cool!

Chapter 0313

REAGAN'S POV.

"Your father disowned you?" I ask in horror after listening to Kyle narrate to me how the introduction went. He simply smiles as he nods his head. He doesn't look the least worried.

"This is not the first time he's saying those words to me, so I'm used to them. However, I could tell from the look in his eyes that he really meant them this time around. I guess I struck his very last nerve." He explains blithely and I can't help but stare at him in awe.

"Kyle." I call in shock. "Your father just disowned you, how come you're so chill about it?"

"Well..." He breathes heavily and chuckles. "You know how the elders in your council always do nothing but criticise every major decision you take for the pack or your personal life?"

"Yeah."

"That's exactly what I went through in my father's hands. Most times I wondered if he even loved me at all because he was always darning everything I did. I cannot remember the last time my father gave me a compliment or congratulated me after I achieved something. He always found something to complain about. Some irrelevant mistake to point out and invalidate the good thing I've achieved. He wanted to control my life, but I made him understand that wasn't going to work so he got mad and decided to be a shitty father to me. That's why him disowning me doesn't hurt, Reagan." Deep sigh "I've considered myself fatherless since the day your father, the former Alpha died because he's the only one who ever treated me like a son. My father treated me only like a successor that had to live up to his name and his reputation and I hated him for that. I still do."

Now I'm totally speechless. I'm at a loss for words. I don't even know what to say to him. He's been through so much in the hands of his father I feel like shit for only finding out about it now. No wonder

he's always been so out of touch with his family. They gave him a terrible childhood and I'm sure that's the reason why Alina's death did not affect him too much.

Poor Kyle.

"Wow!" I manage. "I... I don't even know what to say."

"You don't have to say anything. I just wanted to make you understand the reason why I'm not attached to my family so you don't think I'm a monster for not feeling remorseful about all that's going on with them. I tried to warn them, but because I'm an outcast, they didn't listen and now, here they are. I love how just the moon goddess is. She punishes everyone accordingly, at the right time."

"Yes..." I say, nodding my head. "Yes she does."

"Enough about my very depressing family history. I have news." He quickly changes the topic and I'm not even surprised.

Never have I met a man who despises talking about himself like Kyle does.

“Alright then, hit me.”

“The search party sent to the Diamond Stone pack just arrived. They didn't find Ashanti, but the others we sent to the other packs are still looking. Hopefully we get some good news from that end.” He reports and melancholy fills my heart again.

The thought of Ashanti. The sound of her name. Anything that has got to do with her right now fills me with nothing but pain and sorrow and regret. holds © this.

I miss her.

God I miss her so much that I could die and I'm extremely worried about her well being. I hope and pray that she's fine wherever she is, because I believe that she's out there, somewhere.

“The cell door was locked. How on earth did she escape? It's like someone magically appeared withing and snatched her away. Something is not right.” I look up at Kyle who seems to be just as confused as I am about the issue. “Kyle... you don't think she vanished into thin air, do you?”

“Alpha Reagan, to be honest I have no idea what to think or say right now. How Ashanti left that call remains a mystery to me.”

I throw my head back and groan in frustration.

“This is my punishment for not claiming her the first day I set my eyes on her. I hesitated and it angered the Moon goddess. She sent me the Second chance mate I had begged her for, but I was reluctant to claim her the moment we met and now she has taken her away from me. This is all my fault.”

“Alpha Reagan, I understand that you're going through a hard time right now, but never lose hope. We'll keep sending search parties. Even if Ronald and I have to go out there to carry out the search ourselves, we will. We will find our Luna!”

That tone. That voice. Those words of determination.

Very typical of Kyle.

I shut my eyes and try to imagine where Ashanti could be right now. Her father's pack was the first Pack we searched. He was stricken with grief when we told him about Ashanti's disappearance. I don't know any other relative of hers except...

Wait.

I snap my eyes open and stare at Kyle.

“Her mother.” I blurt out without thinking. “Ashanti always talked about wanting to meet her mother. What if she’s with her?” I ask thoughtfully. “We once had a conversation and Ashanti mentioned which Pack her mother hails from but I seem to have forgotten the name of the pack. Quick Kyle, call her father. Ask him everything there is to know about Ashanti’s mother. Her name, her whereabouts and how to find her. Do that with immediate effect!”

“I’m on it!” Says Kyle as he bolts out of my office. I rise from my seat and start pacing about.

Her mother!

Why didn’t I think about this sooner?

If Ashanti escaped on her own, the one person she’d have run to is her mother since she knows where she resides.

I have a good feeling about this.

“King.” I call in my mind and King stirs. “I think we’ve finally got a lead on Ashanti’s location. I think we are finally going to get our mate back.”

“If you had just listened to me from the beginning, we would not have lost her in the first place.” Then he shuts me out. I stay still, confused.

What’s with him now?

He should be happy we’ve got a lead.

Grumpy dog!

“Call me a dog one more time and I’ll shred your mind into pieces.” He threatens in a deadly tone and purse my lips together, sealing my mouth closed. I plop a nearby couch and allow myself to relax.

I’ve found her.

Chapter 0314

ASHANTI’S POV.

I didn’t get any sleep last night. I kept thinking about my mother’s cold reaction towards me last night. I still can’t get over the fact that she wasn’t excited to see me. We’ve been apart for so many years and it hurts so much to know that I’ve been the only one

missing and longing to meet her. Her reaction yesterday made me understand that she ever thought about me. It seems after she left my father, she loved on with her life like nothing happened.

But then she saved me.

She heard my cry and came to save me.

She still hasn't told me about the skill, but she saved me. I'm sure she would have done that if she did not care about me. I'm very sure of that.

"You are over thinking again." Lena chimes in and let out a heavy sigh of exasperation.

My mother's children dislike me. It's just a matter of time before their little protests grow into a full blown war and my mother will have no choice but to send me away. If that happens, I'm doomed because I have no where else to hide.

Alpha Reagan must have sent troops to raid my father's castle and pack by now, so going back there would really be a stupid move on my part and I'd rather die than go back to Alpha Reagan's pack. Like I said before, I want nothing to do with him and I mean it.

Sighing heavily, I rise from my bed and head to the door. I'm tired of sitting in here and trying to guess my fate in this household. I need to talk with my mother again. About to step into the hallway, but my step is halted a loud voice from one of the bedrooms at the end of the hallway.

"First of all you never told us about your daughter..." The voice... it's no one's else's but Sheila. "You just spring her on us and now you expect us to accept her." Her words pierce my chest like sharp arrows and pain courses through my heart as they sink into my blood. Heating it up. My body starts trembling as I stand at the door.

"I'm not asking you to accept her... not yet! All I'm asking is for you to be a bit nice to her. Stop making her feel as though she's not welcome here." holds © this.

"But she isn't!" Sheila scold firmly. I vibrate on my spot. It seems my greatest fear is going to come true after all. "Her father is an Alpha. She should go to him. She shouldn't be here! I don't want her here!"

"Sheila!" Mum scolds firmly, sounding very dissatisfied in Sheila's words. "I didn't raise you to be an inconsiderate person. Ashanti needs our help and we'll give it to her!"

"I don't care, mum. What I know is that I hate her and I don't want her here. Period!"

"Let me handle this." A low, masculine voice interrupts their banter. It's Michael. "Sheila..." He starts to talk but Sheila cuts in.

“Dad... you have to...”

“Sheila!” Michael calls again, this time around in a no nonsense tone. “Sit down and be quiet!” He orders and I've had enough. I step back into the bedroom and close the door with trembling hands.

My entire being is vibrating with fear and panic as I rush back to the bed and sit on it.

It was just a matter of time... my foot.

The time is now!

The war had began.

I'll be kicked out.

My fingers fly to my mouth and I nervously bite my nails, staring blankly at the wall, completely lost in thought.

Where will I go from here?

I don't know my way around this pack. I don't know my way around anywhere else...

My thoughts are interrupted by a knock on the door that makes me vibrate with fear. Hot balls of sweat roll from my temples, through my cheeks down to my chin. I am breathing fire through my nostrils as I stare at the door, startled out of my skin.

“Ashanti.” My mother's familiar voice comes through and I nearly piss my pants.

She's coming to send me away.

Chapter 0315

ASHANTI'S POV. Content rights by .

My heart feels like a war drum against my chest as I watch my mother approach me with a half smile that doesn't reach her ears. I suck in a breath at the sensation shooting up my arm. My head is spinning, my mind is working like a running treadmill as I try to search for options of places I can go to from here. I'm sure the entire werewolf world knows my face by now. If I have to leave this pack, I'll have to disguise myself in some way so people won't easily recognize me and send word to Alpha Reagan.

“Ashanti.” Mother calls and a strange feeling in my gut comes to life. The weight of her stare presses against my chest like an anvil, making each inhale progressively more difficult.

“Mother...” I choke out, hoping she doesn't get offended that I keep addressing her as such. I cannot bring myself to address her by her name. I've never done that before and I never want to do it. She is my mother and no matter what, I love and cherish her.

“Good morning.” My voice is almost inaudible. The tight smile on her face relaxes much to my surprise.

“Good morning, Ashanti.” She sits by my side, on the bed and I turn to face her. What baffles me the most is the smile on her face that never fades. It's a contrast to the look she had on yesterday when we were talking. Her smile feels warm and looks more genuine and her overall countenance is more welcome than that of yesterday.

I wonder what changed overnight.

“How was your night?” The care and concern in her voice melts my heart like it were butter slapped on a hot frying pan.

“My...” My voice comes out as a terrible croak and I have to stop and clear my throat before riding on. “My night was great. Thank you.” I lie smoothly, complimenting it with the perfect fake smile. As

it is, I'm barely managing to keep myself calm. My anxiety is hanging by a thread that's about to snap into two. My heart is doing backflips in my chest and my blood is swooshing in my veins like strong waves at a seashore. It's a miracle I'm not trembling right now.

I am not ready at all for the bad news she's about to throw at my face. I'm definitely going to burst into tears when she asks me to leave.

“From the look of things, it seems you overheard my conversation with Sheila a while ago.” She's still smiling and I'm freaking out internally as I nod my head in agreement. Her face falls and she lets out a sad sigh. “Sheila's having a hard time adjusting to your presence here and on top of that, she has a very short temper.”

“If she doesn't want me here and that's causing too much trouble, I can leave. I'm sure there are other places I could go, I just have to find them. I don't want to...”

“No.” She cuts me off, her voice calm, but firm. I nearly die of shock when she gently reaches out for my hands and envelopes them in hers. The warmth in my chest reroutes itself to a different area of my body. A fluttering sensation in my stomach makes me anxious. I nearly combust when she brings the back of my right hand to her lips and kisses it.

What in the seven hells is going on here?

Her face is a wreck of emotions when she meets my gaze again and I'm looking at her as though she grew a second head.

I have so many questions. The most prominent of which is why she just did what she did, but I simply have no energy to talk right now, so I keep staring at her like I'm an idiot.

"You're going nowhere. This is your home too. You are going to stay here with us and we'll give you the protection you need from anyone trying to harm you." Her brows pull together as she raises her

left hand towards my face. Blood heat beneaths my skin when she gently places the raised palm on my cheeks and gently caresses it. "My baby..." She whispers with a teary voice. Chills run down my spine and my tears glands get to work. It's just a matter of time before my eyes have gone glassy and there's a painful knot in my throat I keep trying to push down into my stomach.

Chapter 0316

Did she just call me her baby?

And what's that transparent liquid shimmering in her eyes? They can't be tears, right?

For all I know she's not happy to see me here.

Yesterday, when I hugged her, she went stiff in my arms and did not return the hug. She quickly changed the topic of discussion when I started mentioning our past. She acted so cold and aloof and it broke my heart. I was convinced that she was not happy to see me and she wanted nothing to do with me. What's with all the warm gestures and sweet words today?

And tears?

"My sweet girl..." She calls again, still stroking my cheeks and I cannot hold back tears. They roll down my cheeks uncontrollably and I have to snuffle my sobs in order to keep calm. "I've missed you so much!" That confession is my undoing. A violent sob breaks through my lips and seconds later I'm crying and wheezing and splintering into teardrops. Mother pulls me into a warm hug and I don't hold myself back from crying like a baby on her shoulders. She gently rubs her back, sobbing softly while I cry my life away.

Finally, the moment I had always dreamed up. For us to hug ourselves and cry in each other's arms like there's no tomorrow. The reunion of my dreams.

"I..." She croaks, gently pulling me out her arms and locking her teary gaze with mine. "I'm so sorry for how I treated you yesterday." She apologises and I start shaking my head.

I don't care how she treated me yesterday. She definitely had her reasons and they are valid. What's important is what's happening today.

"I acted that way because seeing you after all these reminded me of your father and how he betrayed our bond. I felt hurt again for the first time in many years. I'm so sorry."

"No, mum. It's okay. There's no need for you to be sorry. I completely understand." I recognize the warmth sipping through me as she smiles amidst her tears. She takes my hands in hers again and plants soft kisses on them.

"Don't you worry about Sheila. She'll come around. You are my daughter and I didn't save you from that cell only to send you away again. This is your new home and you are welcome to stay for as long as you want." holds © this.

"But he's going to come for me." I lament, referring to Alpha Reagan.

"That's only going to happen if he knows you're here. You can stay secretly. I have a lot of influence in this pack. My father was the former Alpha and right now, my older brother is the current Alpha. We'll make sure news of your presence in this pack doesn't spread."

"What about Sheila? She hates me."

"She doesn't hate you. She's just having a hard time adjusting and she'll come around pretty soon. If you're worried about her saying anything, don't be. She won't." I nod my head despite the uncertainty ragging in my blood.

I don't know how it's going to work, but I trust her. She's my mother. She loves me and she'll do her best to protect me.

"Okay."

"This is a chance for you to start a new life and as your mother, I'm going to stay by your side and see to it that you succeed. I'm very happy to hear how determined you are not to go back to a man who didn't treat you right. I made that decision with your father and never looked back. See how

well my life turned out. You can do the same. There are good men out there who will treat you with the love and respect you deserve. Forget about Alpha Reagan. He's the past. You only have to look at the present and the future from now on."

Pain courses through my heart at the thought of forgetting Alpha Reagan and moving on with my life.

He's my fated mate and I love him with my entire being. I cannot deny the fact that we've had happy memories together and that he's been good to me as well, but a life with him is not what I want.

I want something else and I'm going to pursue it.

“Thank you, mother. I promise not to disappoint you.”

It's going to hurt, but I'll overcome the pain. I'm a fighter after all.

Chapter 0317

REAGAN'S POV.

It took less than no time for Kyle to get in contact with Ashanti's father who did not hesitate to tell him everything we needed to know about Ashanti's mother's whereabouts. Her full name, the name of the pack she resides in and her home address. It took me all my self control not to leave for the Blue Diamond Pack in the middle of the night. I was restless and didn't get even an ounce of sleep last night. I kept thinking, praying and wishing for morning to come so we can leave already. holds © this.

Yes.

You heard right.

I'll be following the others to the pack.

I could've sent my men like I did to the other packs, but because I have a very good feeling about this, I have decided to tag along. I want to be there when Ashanti is found. I want to see the surprised look on her face when she sees me again. I know our relationship is very strained right now and I've done a lot of things to offend her. If I have to, I will go down on my knees and apologise for everything wrong I've done to her. If she wants me to do that in public, naked, I will do so in order to get her to come home with me.

Apart from the fact that she's my fated mate, I love Ashanti. I love her with all my heart, my soul and my body. I love her from here to the moon and back. I need her by my side. I will not function properly as a human or as a King without Ashanti in my life. So, the goddess help me find her here, in her mother's pack.

“You are welcome to our humble household, My Lord. We are honoured to have you here.” The Master of the house who introduced himself as Michael Smith, says with a bow and I flash him a tight smile.

“Thank you, Mr. Smith.”

Right now we're comfortably seated in the living room and for some time now, I've been secretly sniffing around, trying to catch a whiff of Ashanti's pheromone, but so far, I've gotten nothing.

God, I should have marked Ashanti. I would be able to reach out to her right now if I had just done that!

My eyes skim over the woman, Ashanti's mother and she bows.

"I'm sure you all must have heard about Ashanti's disappearance. There was an issue back at my pack and she had to get locked up during the investigation. We succeeded in proving her innocence by exposing the person who tried to pin such heinous crimes on Ashanti, but when I went back to the cell to tell her the news and release her, she was nowhere to be found." The woman's brows rose in surprise. I nod. "Yes. And there was no sign of forced entry or exit from the cell. The locks were intact and my wardens saw no one go in or out. She vanished into thin air." I breathe heavily. "I know that anything could have happened to her, but I believe that she's still alive and when I have come here because I think she's here with you." The woman turns to face her husband and they both exchange confused looks. My heart sinks into my abdomen.

I don't like what I'm seeing.

"Alpha Reagan." The woman calls, turning to look at me again. "We haven't seen Ashanti. She hasn't shown up here. By the way, it's been many years since I left her with her father in his pack. She knows nothing about me, not to talk of where I live. She must have probably forgotten about my existence by now."

"No." I say, shaking my head, my heart as heavy as steel. "On the contrary, Ashanti had not stopped thinking about you for a single day since you left her. She always spoke about how much she'd love to meet you again and she even went as far as asking about your whereabouts from your father.

That's what gave me the feeling that she could be here. Because you're the one person I know she could run to in a time like this."

"Oh..." She exclaims. "Is that so?"

"Yes. And I had promised her we were going to find you with the information she had gotten from her father, but all these problems began and the plan slowed down. If Ashanti is not here with you then, I really don't know where she could have run to right now."

"She really isn't here."

"Are you sure?"

“Yes. I have no reason to keep her here.” My eyebrows shoot up as I stare at her in shock.

“Excuse me, what?”

“I didn't contact Ashanti all these years for a reason which I'll tell you. I hated her father, that's why I left him and staying in contact with her would have done nothing but remind me of the man who betrayed our mate bond. Even after all these years, those feelings have not changed and I still want nothing to do with Ashanti. If she had showed up here, I would have presented her to you before you even asked. I no longer consider her my daughter. So, don't you worry, from what you explained, I've gathered that she's eager to find me which I know she will and once that happens, you'll be the first person I tell so you can come and get her away from me.”

I am so stunned and speechless by her words that I turn and stare at Kyle and Ronald who look just as terrified as I am. Those are words no child should hear from their mother's mouth, no matter what.

Now I have a strong urge to find Ashanti before she arrives and listen to her mother spew all these heartbreaking words to her. I look back at the woman, a part of me hoping she'll smile and tell she's

just kidding, but the stoic expression she has on tells me she's not. Her emotionless eyes are staring right back at me, cold as ice.

I breathe heavily.

“These are not the words I expected to hear from you, but it's okay. I'm going to try my best to find Ashanti so she doesn't get to you and hear all these painful words. It'll shatter her. But if she does before I find her, please, I beg you to find some other way to tell her these words. Not the brutal way in which you just spewed them out to me. She's still your daughter. She loves you and rejecting her in such a manner will destroy her. Be nice and don't hesitate to let me know when it happens.”

“I will take your words into consideration if that time ever comes, My Lord. And I will inform you like I mentioned before.”

“Thank you.” I say and rise to my feet.

I need to leave this house this minute because I'm already getting

very upset just by looking at her face.

How dare she!

Chapter 0318

CHAPTER TWO HUNDRED AND EIGHT.

ASHANTI'S POV.

“Mum!” Sheila calls furiously, seizing the cellphone from my hand, frowning like an angry bear. “What do you mean we have to stay here for another? You said we could come back home by evening!” Her voice is so loud, I'm sure people living five blocks away can hear her. I don't miss the occasional glares she shoots my way.

If we have to spend another day in this strange place – strange to me, but not to them – it will be because of me.

“Sheila...” our mother's voice comes through and she sounds sick and tired of Sheila's whining.

We all are.

“You can't come home yet because we have to make sure Alpha Reagan didn't leave his men behind to monitor us.”

“And what has that got to do with me? I'm not the one trying to hide. She can stay here alone. Just let me come back home.” She whines.

“And I say no!” Mother's voice is firm and serious. “You will stay there with your sister and return home when I say so. That is not up for a debate!”

“She's not my...” Her sentence is cut short by the beeping sound of the phone. Mum just ended the call. “Sister.” She finishes her statement anyway. When she turns to face me again, the fire in her eyes nearly sends me six feet. She's so mad right now, I'm sure I would've gotten the beating of my life if I wasn't older than her. “This is all your fault!” She accuses, taking a step forward.

She's right. We're here, in another pack because of me.

Last night, Our mother got a call from her brother, the Alpha of the Blue Diamond Pack. He told her about Alpha Reagan's visit and mother immediately figured out the purpose of the visit. When she told me, I cried and begged her to hide me away from Alpha Reagan and after confirming with me for the hundredth time if that's what I really wanted, she sent us(the twins and myself) along with a few royal guards out of the pack and we were brought here. That's why Sheila is so angry at me right now.

“I have a sleepover party to attend tonight but I'll be missing that all thanks to you!” She screams yet again, her voice reverberating throughout the living room. Even Ryan who

has been ignoring us all this time shoots her an irritated look. "Don't look at me like that. Blame of this on her!" She points her index finger at me and that's my undoing.

"Today's Tuesday, which is a weekday. I highly doubt mum would've let you attend a sleepover even if we were home."

"What did you just say?"

"I have been apologising since the moment we got here for any inconvenience caused by this sudden movement. Don't you think it was about time you gave me a break?" I ask calmly and she's completely taken aback by my question. She takes a step back, her gaze intensifies and she chuckles in total disbelief.

"Did you..." She's circling the same finger pointing at me a while ago around my face. "Did you just use that tone on me? Did you just ask me that question?" Content rights by .

"Yes, I just did." I say firmly. She chuckles yet again, this time around, looking at her brother.

"Ryan, did you hear that?"

Ryan does not respond. She looks back at me.

"Look here..."

"I'm not looking anywhere." I cut her mid sentence. "For the umpteenth time, I'm sorry for putting you through all this stress and I hope you never find yourself in this kind of situation because if you do and someone treats you the way you treat me, you'll be sorry!"

"Don't you dare raise your voice at me!"

"You've been doing that to me the whole day! Why? Are you the only one allowed to lose your cool? Why can't I raise my voice at you?"

"Because... because... because..." She stops when she realises she has no reason to give.

"Sheila." Ryan finally acknowledges us. He rises to his feet and faces his twin sister who's breathing like she's going to explode soon. "She's right. Give her a break. She didn't mean for things to turn out this way for her." With that, he starts heading for the staircase.

"Why are we being punished for her predicaments?" She shouts after her brother but he doesn't say anything else.

I have so much to say to her, but I'm scared. The least mean word I utter to her will reach our mother's ears and I don't know how she's going to take it.

I just have to keep dealing with her bitchy attitude until she decides to change.

"This is so unfair!" She stomps her right leg on the ground and storms out of the house. I'm left all alone in the living room, contemplating all my life decisions.

Maybe I should've just let Alpha Reagan find me. I don't think I can handle another sibling rivalry.

Chapter 0319

REAGAN'S POV.

I understand that by delaying to claim Ashanti, by not treating her as my equal and not telling my subjects sooner that she was my mate, I committed a grave offense that warrants punishment, but I think this is too much. This is cruel and I'm starting to lose my cool. I was so confident about finding Ashanti in the Blue Diamond Pack. It took me all my courage to keep a straight face when Ashanti's mother told me Ashanti had not come to see her. I was even more dumbfounded when she firmly deciphered her aversion to taking Ashanti in if she ever showed up at her doorstep.

Right now I'm not only worried for my mate, but I'm scared that she might go to meet her mother with all confidence only to get the disappointment of her life.

I have to find Ashanti. I have to bring her back home. I have to make sure she doesn't meet her mother and find out what I just found out. It will break her!

My thoughts are interrupted by a knock on the door. I look straight ahead at the door, frowning as I let out an exasperated sigh. I'm not in the mood to see or talk to anyone, but when the thought that whoever is there could have come to give me good news crosses my mind, I give the signal. The door opens and I'm not surprised to see that it's Kyle.

"Alpha Reagan." He steps in and heads over to the table where I'm seated.

"Yes, Kyle." My voice is a raspy, tired mess. "Are you here to tell me something that'll uplift my mood? Or should I kick you out?"

"You'll probably kick me out after you hear it." I groan.

Another search party is back with news of no sign of Ashanti in whatever pack they were sent to go look for her.

I know that's what he's here to say.

"If it's about a search party not being able to find Ashanti, I don't want to hear it." I say, waving a dismissing hand at him. His shoulders sag in dismay. I watch his chest rise as he sucks in a heavy breath and quickly lets it out.

"Let Ronald and I go." He repeats for the one millionth time. I shake my head, denying that suggestion for the one millionth time as well.

"As it is now, I'm barely functional. You guys are the ones running the pack in my stead. If I send you two away, I will run this pack to the ground and if I dare leave and spend a single night out of here, those pesky Lycan King's who think they can overthrow me will turn this Pack into a venue for a Rogue festival. I can't risk it. Just keep sending the best guys we've got." I explain thoughtfully, leaning back on my chair.

I have thought time and again to go out there and carry out this search on my own, but that would mean me staying out of this Pack for days and even weeks. I cannot risk that.

The fact that I am the Lycan King does not make me free from jealousy and usurpation attempts. I have faced these before. My ex-mate died during one of those unexpected attacks and I still get PTSD whenever I think of something like that ever happening again.

My presence in this pack scares them from making a move. If I leave, they will swarm in here with every rogue they can find and cause trouble. I cannot let that happen.

"Alpha Reagan." Kyle calls after a long pause. I look back at him.

"Yes Kyle."

"Have you ever thought that we've not been able to have a single trace of Ashanti's whereabouts because that's what she wants? What if she's deliberately hiding from us? What if she doesn't want

us to find her? What if she wants away from all this and that's why she left in the first place?" His words leave his mouth with so much care and in the calmest tone, but when they reach my ears, they sound like harsh tones that jar in my ear like loud music, causing every hair on my head to stand erect and my scalp to start itching. Blood pauses in my veins as I ponder upon the hidden meaning in those words of his.

What if Ashanti doesn't want anything to do with me anymore?

What if she's deliberately hiding from me?

What if she doesn't want me to find her?

These thoughts have never crossed my mind and now I feel like an idiot for that.

We were not on good terms when she was locked up in the dungeon. Everything went downhill when she found out about Alina's pregnancy. She believed I was truly responsible for it and threatened to leave me. That's what made me lock her up in the penthouse. Another terrible thing I did was force her to have sex with me. She called me a monster and promised to leave me when she got the least chance. Then came the accusation that led to her being locked up in the dungeon. Her angst towards me must have reached sky level and her determination to leave grew stronger at the hours ticked by.

I don't know how she pulled it off, but she escaped from the dungeon and left this pack just like she had promised and now, she's somewhere, hiding, making sure I never find her again.

It all makes sense now.

No one kidnapped her. No one took her against her will and wherever she is right now, she's not in a bad condition. She's perfectly fine. She's in hiding and she'll do all she can to make sure I never find her again to bring her here in this pack where all she ever knew was problems and hardship.

And it's all my fault.

My constant fear of the unknown. My cowardice and indecisive attitude pushed her away.

I take in a deep breath that nearly breaks my chest and rise to my feet. I head to the transparent wall to ceiling window, shove both hands in my pockets and stare blankly at the busy street beneath.

"Keep searching." I say absentmindedly, directing my words at Kyle who must be wondering the reason for my sudden silence. "I agree with you that she could be in hiding right now, but she's going to come out sooner or later, so" I face him. "Keep searching." Content rights by .

"Yes, My Lord. We will find her." With that, he swivels on his heels and exits the office. I turn back to the window and take two steps closer.

I am such a dog!

Chapter 0320

ASHANTI'S POV.

"Oh..." A little exclamation leaves my mouth when Ryan gets into the back seat with me while Sheila sits shotgun.

She's so mad at me. We've not exchanged a single word to each other since we had that little fight yesterday and I want it to stay that way. Because I feel like I'm going to lose my cool and give her a proper scolding if she tries to speak rudely to me again.

"You good?" Ryan inquires in a calm tone. I freeze on my seat. My brows rise to my hairline as I give him a surprised look.

Did he just ask about my well being?

"I uh... Yeah. I'm good."

"Good" he says, buckling his seat belt. When we're all settled in and our bags are put in the car, the driver gets in and we hit the road. I take that as the perfect opportunity to bury myself in my thoughts.

When mum called to give us the signal to come back home, she said the coast was clear, meaning Alpha Reagan is convinced that I'm not with her. Once we go back to the Blue diamond Pack, I'll have to start my life from scratch. It's going to be hard and I know I'll have many melt downs along the way, but I'm strong and resilient and I know I will make it. Especially since I have my mother by my side.

For Alpha Reagan, I'm going to try my best to forget the man. Yes, I love him.

God I love him so much that it hurts, but live is not enough.

I've been through so much just being by his side. I don't want to keep living that kind of life.

"Are you sure this is what you want?" A deep voice interrupts my thoughts, making me tremble as I snap out of reverie. I look ahead, thinking it's the driver who asked the question, but it couldn't be because his eyes are focused on the road and it's just odd for him to have the one who asked the question because we've not really exchanged many words with each other since we embarked on this journey.

The only person left is Ryan.

I turn to him.

He's looking at me with expectant eyes and that's when it hits me that he's the one who asked the question.

Since when did Ryan start caring about me?

"Did you... Did that question come from you?"

"I believe so."

“Oh...” Another soft, quiet exclamation leaves my mouth.

He shocks me everyday.

“Well...” I suck in a deep breath. “I don't quite understand what you meant.”

“You're the Lycan King's fated mate and by the default the Lycan Luna of the entire werewolf and Lycan world. Are you sure you want to leave all that behind? You'll be pretty much an ordinary person if you stay with us.”

“I don't mind living as an ordinary person, Ryan. Besides I've been doing so all my life and to tell you what, it's a lot more peaceful. There's only problems and hardship on that high seat and I want none of that anymore.” I explain, trying to keep the bravest smile on my face. He simply nods his head and says.

“I see...” Then looks away from me.

The ride continues in dead silence and I'm grateful for that.

Ryan might be younger than I am, but he intimidates me to the core. I'd rather drown myself in my thoughts than have a conversation with him. At least my heart doesn't threaten to hop out of my chest when I'm thinking random things.

“Only an idiot will do what you're doing right now.” Sheila speaks from in front. I nearly evaporate from my seat when she looks behind, shooting me a scornful glare. “Yes. I juts called you and idiot because that's what you are.”

I open my mouth to speak but on second thought, I decide not to. I seal my lips and lean back against the chair. When she sees that I'm not going to say anything to her, she looks back in front and I calmly shake my head.

With time, I'll teach her a lesson just like I did with Rhea.