

Chapter 10

LADY KATARINA

My head swung to the phone ringing on Darwin's desk, and I contemplated if I should pick it up or not. Lately, I've been doing some paperwork for the pack, helping Darwin so as not to overwhelm him with pack duties, especially since soon he will be stepping down as the Alpha of this pack.

Soon, I would be claimed by Alpha Aeon of the Blood Moon Pack, and as soon as the union took place, Darwin would step down as Alpha of our pack, the Moon Stone Pack, and Aeon, my chosen mate, would be given the Alpha post, and I would be Luna of this pack as well as the Luna of the Blood Moon Pack.

This mating was nothing out of the ordinary. Aeon and I were entering this union to save our packs, especially mine. And as much as I hated the idea of Darwin not being an Alpha anymore, I couldn't say no to what he wanted. It is my responsibility as an Alpha Female to step up if the firstborn Alpha is unable to perform his duties.

So here I was, slowly switching my mindset to learn more about the pack and the duties surrounding it. Because even if I were the Luna, Aeon would give me equal authority over my pack. We would share the Alpha's responsibilities and decision-making.

But as of now, answering phone calls and addressing issues without Darwin's advice was never my business. So I usually ignored the phone because I knew it would be connected to the Beta and Gamma's offices at the training building and someone would surely pick it up there.

But for some reason, I was itching to pick up the phone. Maybe because I was already too bored from sitting here for the last two hours.

"Moon Stone Pack, how may I help you?" I finally picked it up. But there

was no response, although I heard someone hiss from the other side.

"Hello... Are you there?" I tried again.

"Hi! Yes, I'm here. I'm sorry, I wasn't expecting a female to answer the phone."

I closed my eyes as the deep baritone voice at the other end sent tingles down my core.

Oh, Goddess! Why did I feel so horny all of a sudden?

"I'm Alpha Darwin's sister. He's out of the pack house at the moment. Do you have a message for him?" I tried to say it in a straight voice, but my heart was beating erratically. I hope he will speak more because his voice really sounded so sexy.

He chuckled, and I clamped my legs together. Oh, Goddess! I have a fiancé. I didn't even feel this with Aeon at all. But if nobody knew, then it wouldn't matter, right? 

"Of course, I know he has sisters. Just that you never picked up the phone whenever I called, so I guess I forgot."

"Do you call here often?"

"Hmmm... Actually no."

"So there's your answer." I regretted it the moment it slipped out of my tongue. I sounded so snobbish. "I mean, if you called often here, then you would have known I do pick up the phone from time to time."

Lies. This was the first time I picked up the phone.

"My bad then. Apologies to the lady..." His voice was so charismatic that I couldn't help but bite my bottom lip or I would probably end up giggling.

"You're forgiven, Sir. May I know who's calling."

"Lucas." 1

"Lucas?" If my heart was beating loudly earlier, it was now drumming wildly like it would burst out of my chest anytime soon. "As in Alpha Lucas?"

Oh shit! I hope he didn't hear the excitement in my voice.

"Yes, the one and only. Unless there's another Alpha Lucas around."

"I thought you died already?" 3

"What?"

Oh, Goddess! Nadia and her words! She told me maybe Lucas had died already and that's why we had never heard anything about him.

I saw Lucas for the first and last time during an Alpha camp that was held here in our territory when I was fourteen, and that was six years ago. While Nadia was smitten with the Young Alpha Riley at the time, my attention was drawn to the Young Alpha Lucas.

But after that, I never saw him nor heard of anything about him. And I never dared ask my brother about him.

"That's not what I meant to say. I mean, it's a joke because I've never seen or heard of you again."

"Good, because I thought you wanted me dead already."

You had no idea it was the other way around. "No. Of course not." I stifled a giggle.

"What's your name?" He asked, and his voice sounded like he was grinning.

I didn't know what to say. What if he knew I was betrothed to Aeon and he wouldn't talk to me again?

"Uhhh... Sofia?" I told him, unsure of myself. That was my younger sister's name. 4

"Sofia?" His voice suddenly changed, and I panicked. Did he know something about Sofia? 1

"Yes."

"Oh, I thought..." He didn't finish his words and diverted the topic. "By the way, can you tell Darwin I called and if he can return the call right away?" His voice sounded different and I felt disappointed.

I closed my eyes and hoped that my assumptions were right as to why he sounded cold all of a sudden.

"I'm Katarina. I'm sorry, I was just... I don't know what got into me." 5

"Katarina..." My name sounded so good in his mouth, and although his voice wasn't as jolly as it was earlier, it still sounded sexy and not cold anymore. "The eldest one?"

"Yes."

"So tell me, Lady Katarina, what made you use your sister's name? Are you trying to play jokes on me?" A smile curved on my lips as I rested my back on Darwin's chair. His voice was back to the jolly one he had earlier.

"Maybe..."

"You were good at it. I almost believe you and I was about to hang up the phone."

"What do you mean? Were you disappointed when I said I was Sofia?" Was this flirting? Was I committing a sin to Aeon now? 1

"Maybe..." I heard him breathing a bit louder on the other line, and I didn't know what to say anymore.

"So tell me, Lady Katarina, what made you use your sister's name? Are you trying to play jokes on me?" A smile curved on my lips as I rested my back on Darwin's chair. His voice was back to the jolly one he had earlier.

"Maybe..."

"You were good at it. I almost believe you and I was about to hang up the phone."

"What do you mean? Were you disappointed when I said I was Sofia?"
Was this flirting? Was I committing a sin to Aeon now? 

"Maybe..." I heard him breathing a bit louder on the other line, and I didn't know what to say anymore.

"I will tell Darwin you called. Should I give him any number in case he didn't know your number?" This was so lame of me. Of course, he knew his number.

"Write this down." He said on the other line, and I scrambled to grab a pen and a piece of paper. "0-6-3-7-1-4-2-6-5-6-7."

"Is this a mobile number?"

"Yes. He can call me any time."

"Anytime?"

"Yes, anytime."

"Okay. 0-6-3-7-1-4-2-6-5-6-7. Right?"

"Yes."

"Okay."

"Okay."

"I will tell him to call you."

"Thank you."

"You're welcome. Bye."

"Bye. It was nice speaking to you, Lady Katarina."

"Same here, Alpha Lucas." I know I should have hung up the phone, but I didn't want to.

And he wasn't hanging up either.

"You can drop the call, Lady Katarina."

"Yeah?"

"Yes. I don't hang up on females."

"Oh, so you talk to females all the time? Nice to know." I felt my eyes rolling, and I already hated all the females he spoke with.

"No. Not like that." He chuckled, and I felt my stomach knotting. "I just find it rude to hang up first if it's a female on the other line."

"Okay, that sounds valid. I will hang up now."

"Okay..."

"Okay... Bye." My hand reached for the phone plunger instead of putting the receiver back into the cradle as if I was waiting for something.

"Have a nice day, Katarina."

I closed my eyes and savored the way he said my name again. He dropped the term 'lady' and I liked it that way. "Same to you, Lucas."

I pressed the plunger and dropped the receiver on the table before resting my forehead on Darwin's desk.

Lucas. Oh, Goddess, why?

I needed to call Nadia and tell her Alpha Lucas was alive. 

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AEON.

I just got off the phone with Alpha Caspian and informed him about the planned attack on his territory. I didn't reveal Alexa's identity but informed him about the rogue we captured who squealed before he was killed off.

We had sent reinforcements to his territory and sent out an alert to all neighboring packs of Caspian's, including Riley and Darwin's pack, about the threat of a rogue attack.

My territory was way too far from there, and I was sure that if none of Achilles' men identified us, they would never know that it was our pack that ransacked their camping spot and the one that took his daughter.

It was better that way.

Alexa would be safer here. He could never harm her again or force her to mate with someone else.

I leaned my elbows on my desk and brushed my palms over my face. I had no idea how many times I had done this gesture in the last 48 hours since

she came into my life. Everything I had planned and everything I intended to do was now a big mess.

Because of her, it felt like my entire life had come to a screeching halt.

I was trying to block off my mind when my father connected with my mind, asking me to meet him. I had to prepare myself and be cocky again, otherwise, he would notice the turmoil within me.

He probably felt a bond disconnect when Luis died. Good thing I already discussed it with Krane, and we had to make it appear that he was nowhere near when Luis died to avoid him being interrogated.

Now I just needed to talk with Alexa to get her to lie for me about him.

"Dad..." I acknowledged my father as I entered his office.

He nodded at me before pointing to the seat in front of his desk. "How are you?"

"I'm good. What happened to you? Did you just arrive now?"

"Yes. We just went on another route and checked the area. I met up with other packs and let them know we saw the rogues near Caspian's territory."

"Did you tell them we have Achilles' daughter?"

"No. I had no idea what your plans were and I didn't want to spoil it."

It was only then that I let out the breath I was holding, before giving my father a smug smirk. I was fucking too good now at hiding my real emotions from him. "Thanks, Dad. I assure you, you won't be disappointed with me."

He just raised his brow at me, and I was now baffled if he could sense my lies.

"By the way, the rogue spoke and said about a planned attack on Caspian's territory, so we alerted him as well as Riley and Darwin. They're amping up their security, so hopefully, Achilles will back off if he notices they are prepared until I can set my plan in motion." I added before he could ask questions.

"Tell me what happened with Luis?" He ignored my information, and I just cocked my head to the side before letting out a deep breath.

"The rogue was with him when they were cornered by two other rogues. I was fucking too late already and I couldn't save him. The rogues want her back, of course."

I wanted to tell him how much of a pig Luis was, but I had to protect my mate. I had no fucking idea if my father would side with Luis against her. So I had no choice but to let them see him as a fucking hero. I just hope my father won't dwell on it too much.

"Have you met his family?"

"Yes, I went to see his sister this morning and informed her about our loss and that we didn't bring his body home. I burned him on site." It was a ritual to burn the dead bodies and usually take the ashes to be buried, but since we were not burning them at a place in our territory where we could collect the ashes, bringing his ashes home was impossible. "I believed Krane was with the payroll team this morning as well and discussed the compensation for his sister."

"Good. And can you explain why Alexa is not on our cells? I went there and expected to see her, but no one knew about her. Where is she?"