

The Perfect Luna by Marissa Gilbert

Chapter 19

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Chapter 19. Unexpected Passion

Her first instinct was to push him away. But his tongue on her flesh felt so good that she

couldn't bring herself to actually do it.

And it did feel better. So... it could only be wise to consider it as a treatment. Like when you go to a doctor. Yes, this was the best way to look at it. Gideon was her doctor. A tall, insanely handsome, ridiculously hot doctor who was now sucking on her most sensitive spot, while the fingers of one of his hands dug into her waist and the ones on the other were tugging her hair to give him better access.

She tried to push him away. But not really. Riannon's mind was elsewhere because of all the sensations that the Lycan king was bringing her with his... treatment.

It was hard to breathe, and she bit her lip almost to the point of bleeding when a moan escaped her. This, in turn, made Gideon lose the tiny bit of control he had left. Touching her like that was all he wanted just a minute ago. But now that he was intoxicated with her scent and

closeness, it was suddenly not enough. He wanted more. To take her, to claim her, to take her

away and bring her where she really belonged.

Not here. His house.

Mars was howling and growling in his head. The damn wolf was even crazier than he initially thought.

And when her hand went up to his chest and touched the bare skin on his own neck, he almost lost it, not even realising anymore what he was doing to her.

Riannon could swear that between all the sucking and licking she felt his sharp canines grazing over her skin. A wave of shock went through her body yet she still did not push him away, not even knowing why. However, in just a few seconds his tongue returned to work, and she forgot about all that.

Healing came first.

Just then the door swung open, and Maya froze at the entrance with several huge present boxes in her hands, making Riannon finally return to her senses and push Gideon away to his displeasure. The lycan king grunted and for a second there his eyes shone golden light indicating that his wolf was almost in control. But he furrowed his eyebrows and closed his eyes, rubbing the bridge of his nose, and Ria just knew that she had nothing to worry about.

Except for her best friend grinning at her and her brother poking out from behind her

back.

"My, my!" the Beta girl snickered as she barged in, jabbing her sibling; "Close the door,

The guy followed his sister's orders and Riannon sighed. He was one of those who were hard to see in her new life. Back in the past, after Maya was killed, he changed a lot. The nice 20-year-old boy with freckles was gone. Replaced by a person she wasn't sure she even knew

before.

The worst of all, he was one of those whom Riannon lost too. No, he was not killed. He turned away from her, blaming her for Maya's death. In the end, he couldn't even spare her a

word...

But now he was here, blushing as he always used to in their childhood. He was younger than both Ria and Maya, but he was dear to both of them. When Riannon's siblings died, Maya and Dean became her family. Along with Brayden.

"Is it normal for just anyone to barge in like this in the Luna's office?" Gideon raised his brow, looking at the two intruders.

"Ah," Maya shrugged, "He is just the way you described him!"

Riannon covered her face with her hands as she jumped off the desk. The lycan looked at her questioningly and she gave him an apologetic smile. No, she was not going to tell him that she described him as the biggest prick who ever lived...

"Gideon, this is Maya," she decided to just introduce them to change the subject, "She is my best friend and my future Beta."

"Really?" now he looked at the girl with interest. He wanted to get to know everyone who was important to his mate. He knew that Betas were not chosen on a whim, there had to be a connection. And that made this Maya girl extremely important to him at once too.

"And before you say anything," the she-wolf placed the boxes on top of the table and narrowed her eyes, "I will earn my place. I am already earning it."

"I was not going to say anything," Gideon chuckled, "And I have no doubt."

The girl looked at him in amazement but hid it very quickly under a crooked smile.

"Well, well, well," she snorted, "I guess it's true that lycans do not see a trouble in high-ranking women."

"Why would we?" the king replied politely, "If the person is capable, then it shouldn't matter what their gender is."

"I cannot agree more," Maya darting a mischievous glance at her friend, "And now he is so not the way you described him!"

I am just dying to know, how DID you describe me to your future Beta?"

"I told her that you are a mighty and respectable king!" Ria cleared her throat, shooting Maya a death stare, "How else?"

"Anyway," her friend grabbed her brother's arm and pulled him back to the exit, "We'll be

going, and you can continue to make out! But I suggest locking the doors next time. You are so lucky that it was us. You do realise that it could have been anyone else, right? At least, Dean

and I can keep a secret. But that cannot be said for anyone else in the house."

"We weren't making out!" Riannon tried to explain.

"Yeah, yeah," Maya waved her goodbye, clearly not buying it. The doors closed and they stayed alone again. "Your mark," Gideon turned to her with a clear impression to continue where they left off.

"Is fine now!" Riannon touched it automatically and it indeed felt normal, so he distance herself from the man, walking all the way behind her desk, "Those lycan healing abilities are indeed amazing!"

The king tried to hide his disappointment, trying not to think of the many things that they could be doing on top of that desk if she felt he was her mate.

However, today could be considered progress anyway, since she clearly was reacting to him. It couldn't be confused with anything else. He just needed more time. And more effort.

"Lycans will surprise you many times in the future," he chuckled as she handed him some folder with papers, while her cheeks were deliciously pink.

"I have no doubts in that," she smiled politely and he frowned, realising that she was in her business mode now. He did not like it. But he couldn't do anything about it now. She was clearly putting up her guard now after what happened.

It hurt him a great deal to know that the wolf was gone because she was heartbroken for

another man. He would take any other reason, but this one was torture to think about.

Nevertheless, at least she wasn't dead. He and Mars would do anything to bring her back and make Riannon theirs.

"So, as you can see," she pointed out with her delicate finger as she stood right next to him again, coating him in her scent, "I have made the proposals for the law changes. And here

you can find the suggested statements we can use."

"Where?" he furrowed his brows, knowing really well where everything was. But he

closeness.

This was not nearly enough for him, but he knew that this was all that he was getting. He didn't even try anything, just enjoyed those crumbs...

"Here and here," she was patient with him. And he liked that about her because he was

often hot-headed. He always thought that he needed his Luna to be on the rational side of

things. And it made him smile that the Moon Goddess heard his silent prayers.

"So," she bit her lip impatiently. She did that a lot. "What do you think?" she asked, *worry*

on her face.

"I think it's a way bigger problem than initially thought," Gideon closed the folder, "We will need to brainstorm it for a few days at least. And we need to run it by the lycan laws as well."

"Of course," she agreed, "We can arrange a call any time that is convenient for you."

"No," he tried his best not to smirk when he said it, "I think we need to meet. You will have to come to the lycan territory for a day. Or two. Or three... Clear a whole week."

"But," she gasped. This was not what she expected at all.

At this moment in time, they heard a knock on the door, knowing at once that it was Brayden. Alphas had the strongest scents.

"hope I am not interrupting," he walked in without permission and quickly scanned the situation in the room. His whole body relaxed when he saw the folder in the king's hands.

"Of course, not," Riannon answered dryly. She did not want him to get suspicious before the time came but she wasn't in the mood to be nice to him after everything either.

"What is it that you discuss here?" he asked expectantly, and she almost rolled her eyes.

"There are a few laws that require adjustments," Ria said, "Mainly to give women more

rights. You know how it is. Some are good warriors but can never be considered for the position unless they have a high-ranking blood type. There are many other little things too."

"I know," he pretended that he was aware the whole time and she wanted to laugh.

However, it was what happened next that she did not anticipate at all. Brayden came all the way to her and wrapped his hands around her waist possessively, brushing his cheek over hers. "I am so proud of my beautiful Luna. You truly are the best, Ri," he murmured almost intimately, "That's why I love you so much."

Gideon's friendly expression dropped at once and his fists clenched...

signed and the book will stay on Dreame forever! This wouldn't have happened without you and I am very grateful for all your support.

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Chapter 20

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Chapter 20. Don't Go.

Riannon shifted slightly in her husband's hands, trying to get out of his grasp but he held

her in place. Just like he did in their youth when someone looked at her and he suddenly got in his possessive alpha mode. And she always was the popular girl.

Before Ria was sure that he was like that because he loved her. Well, that assumption was long dead now. It turned out to be as simple as him not wanting to share his toys with anyone. And that realisation hurt her even now.

Besides, the look in Gideon's eyes worried her. He looked as if he was ready to kill now. And she did not get why would it have such an impression on him. Apart from that "healing" episode, there was nothing between them. Was it possible that he liked her?

However, in just under a second, everything became clear on that end too.

"Don't you think you are a bit too disrespectful to behave like that during a business meeting, Alpha...?", even though he knew his name very well, Gideon still raised a brow implying that he had forgotten it again.

"Thorn. Just like my wife here. Brayden Thorn," the werewolf tried not to show how that insulted him. He had a bigger problem at hand. No one wanted to piss off a lycan, even if they did not like them. But the Lycan King went without saying. Even he, the strongest werewolf alpha, couldn't afford to offend him. At least not now.

So, no matter how much he did not like his wife next to that man, he had to act politely at all times.

"My apologies..." He waited for the king to let him know how to call him.

"King Gideon," the lycan smirked darkly and Brayden clenched Ria tighter in his hands. Almost to the point of hurting her.

"My apologies, King Gideon," he tried really hard not to grit his teeth, "It's just that I missed my wife so much that I couldn't handle myself properly."

"Hmm," Gideon sneered this time, "And here I thought you were an Alpha. Shouldn't you be able to be more in control of your emotions? Besides, you were just fine without your wife the other day as far as I remember."

This jab Brayden had to swallow too. There was nothing to tell to that. And Riannon used that moment to get out of his hands and step away, which made Gideon relax at once. He felt as if a heavy boulder was lifted off his chest when she appeared to be closer to him than to her own husband.

“Anyway,” she tried to sound businesslike, “The king and I were discussing the new laws,

was

“Of course,” he interrupted her as usual, not caring for her Luna duties as always. This was a habit of his since he knew she would be handling everything impeccably, so there was no point to take part in any of it. He had a lot of things on his own mind and did not need to add to that. However, when they were deciding on how to handle general pack matters, that was when he wanted her opinion always. Because in most cases it was very helpful. To him.

“Take as much time as you need, my dear,” he wanted to touch her but she crossed her

hands on her chest demonstrating to him that he was better not to.

“That’s good that your husband is so helpful and agreeable,” Gideon suddenly looked much happier than before, “We were just talking about how some of the lycan laws may be helpful in our case. And that there is no way to discuss this properly during a short meeting or over the phone. We need to actually work together. So, it was decided that the Luna will come to my kingdom for a week.”

Riannon almost choked on that but played her part, concealing all the emotions. They hadn’t agreed on anything yet.

“A week?” Brayden’s mouth opened as he was processing what he just heard, “This is…”

“Not enough?” Gideon chuckled, “Let’s make it two then.”

“No,” the Alpha growled and the king’s eyes glowed gold. Even Riannon got tense watching the two of them.

“So, you do believe that your wife would be able to deal with everything in one week?” the lycan was forcing him to give him an answer that he wanted to hear. And the werewolf knew *very* well that in fact, he had no choice in the matter.

“She can even deal with all that faster,” he tried to play the game.

“Let’s not be cruel to the Luna,” Gideon smirked again, “We don’t want to overwork her, do *we?*”

Riannon was perplexed about all that. They were discussing it as if she was not there and she did not like it one bit.

But if she was honest, this was playing out nicely. Roxy was quiet in her first weeks in the

pack and did not do much except for the crying. And it could be good to let Brayden

concentrate his attention on her without the feeling of guilt that he had at first. Not to mention that the help from the lycan king was priceless.

But...

herself... Could it be that his motives weren't that great? And if she was right about that, could

she still use his help?

But then she remembered her people. And realised that for them she would have to at least try. Gideon did not look like a man who would force her into anything. Not to mention that there was a great risk that he wouldn't even have to. The thought alone of their closeness brought colour to her cheeks and she touched them to cool down, which did not escape the lycan king's attention.

He had a very hard time controlling his wolf inside as it was. Mars wanted to get out, kill Brayden and everyone else who would dare to object to him claiming his mate. And then he wanted to place a big fat mark on her right on top of her old one. The worst thing was that it was this last part that bothered him the most. He did not want Mars to go on a rampage and

hurt his beautiful mate.

So, he had to restraint him extra harder this time, which caused him physical pain. And

Riannon's blushing cheeks were not helping him with all that. He knew he had to get out of there as fast as he could, even though he hated the idea of leaving her alone in this place.

He had to constantly remind himself that Ria wanted to go through with her divorce. And Goddess would sure help him to make it a speedy one. Then the minute she would be free, he would state his claim and go from there. But for now, his main task was not to scare her off. And this had to do. He had to believe in her.

"Of course, we don't want that," Brayden seemed displeased.

"So, it's a done deal then," Gideon prepared to leave, itching to touch her again, "I will send a car tomorrow."

"That fast?" the alpha next to him frowned.

"I have no time to lose," Lycan king was not even looking at him. He looked at Riannon and he was talking to her, "The faster we start, the sooner we will be done."

She gave him a faint smile, getting his hint and his lips curled at that a bit too.

"I'll be leaving," he announced dryly since the alpha ruined their potential goodbyes. He was sure that if he asked Riannon to see him off, the husband would tag along. And he couldn't

see him anymore without slashing his claws over his neck... He had to leave this place. Fast.

Ria sighed as she watched Gideon through the windows going to his car. He looked as if he was in a rush. But right before he got in, he turned and looked right where she was standing.

He couldn't see her through the white curtains but it still felt as if he knew she was there.

at the realisation that it was Onyx.

Onyx was alive!

"Onyx!" she called her, "Are you there? Are you okay?"

Riannon wanted to ask her so many questions but her wolf was not responding anymore.

And she still couldn't feel her.

However, this was good. This was hope.

"I really don't like him!" only now the Luna noticed that her husband was standing with her the whole time with his hands crossed. He watched the lycan leave and only then did he let out a deep sigh. "Ri, you need to be careful with him. I don't trust this guy!"

She looked at him in amusement. Was he serious? Did he think that now they would go have a drink like they used to and discuss everything?

"It's just business, Brayden, relax," she tried to sound casual and stepped away from the window, "Besides, a link with the lycans is a good thing for our pack."

"I think that he is the kind of man who would give you empty promises and nothing in the end," the Alpha stated with a frown.

Ria looked at him. The audacity. Wasn't he the one with empty promises in her life?

"Still," she tried to gather herself, "Other packs wouldn't know. All they would know is that our Luna is working with the lycans. Imagine the fear that would feel before us."

"They are already afraid of me enough," Bray grunted and she almost snorted.

"Can't deny that," she decided that she would get rid of him faster if she simply agreed with everything, "By the way, do you need my help with something? It's unusual to see you here

at this hour."

"I..." He did not know how to phrase her. He knew this woman for so long and she was an important part of his life. With her he shared everything. And yet now it seemed harder than ever. "Throw away the gifts," he coughed, clearing his throat, "I'll buy you whatever you need or want. Better than what they sent you."

“I have no doubt,” she tilted her head watching him in amusement, “But it’s not the point, is it? We can’t be rude. And we already talked about this. However, I was serious that Roxy can take whatever she likes. I think in her case everyone would understand.”

The silence between them quickly became awkward. Not for her. For him. “You take it better than I thought,” he said finally, and she wanted to laugh, getting back

“It’s not like you left me any choice, is it?” she looked at him through her lashes and he sighed, coming closer to her.

“Let’s talk about all that, okay?” he sat on the verge of her desk, “I don’t want you to feel threatened by Roxy.”

“How kind of you,” she scoffed, “Bray, let’s not do this now. I am not ready to discuss this.”

“Fine,” he smirked and scooped her in his arms in less than a second, placing her on top of the desk to her horror, “Then let’s not talk. Let me prove my feelings to you!”

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Chapter 21

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Chapter 21. The First Time

Riannon couldn’t believe what he was doing. Didn’t he get that they weren’t in the right

place right now? How did he see them having s*x now?

Surely, he had to be aware that he hurt her with his actions. He did not know that she already lived a whole other life and fell out of love with him. But he had to have some idea about human feelings. And he brought his future mistress home just one week ago.

“Ri... You look so beautiful today, babe,” He lowered himself to try and capture her lips, but she dodged it. She couldn’t risk it too much because she did not need him suspicious at this moment in time. However, sleeping with him was absolutely out of the question.

“I am not exactly in the mood, Brayden,” she averted his lustful gaze and heard him sigh

excessively.

“I know,” he said with a bit of regret in his voice, “and I know that it’s all my fault. But I meant what I said, I will find a way to make it up to you. Just tell me what

you want, even if it is a completely new packhouse. Or the biggest diamond in the world. Or..."

He was contemplating what things he could buy her while she wanted to laugh. Could he buy her some dignity that she lost because of him? Or some magical painkillers that could ease the pain in her heart which was caused but his actions.

But even if he could, it was too late for that now. She did not need any of those anymore. She was fine on her own.

His hands started travelling up her thighs, giving them a light squeeze as he tried to part

them while digging his head in the crook of her neck, peppering it with kisses.

She found it... repulsive. Back in the day, she would be melting in his arms, happy at their sudden closeness. When Roxy was still new in the pack, she believed that it was just temporary and they would be able to overcome this. So, when he was sleeping with her, just the way they both enjoyed, she was on cloud nine.

This was not the case anymore. All that she was thinking of now was how to get out of

this situation.

"I miss you, Ri," he whispered, trying to seduce her into giving in. And then he froze. Something was not right there. She pushed him away, realising quickly what was the problem.

Gideon was... healing her right there before. A werewolf couldn't miss that. "You reek of that lycan!" Brayden said angrily. "And you reek of your mate," she said the first thing that came to her mind and it came

out wrong.

your business is all about?" he threw accusations at her one by one.

"Of course, not!" she tried to look appalled even though he was absolutely right. "Then why do you smell like him?!" the Alpha demanded.

"Because my mark was inflamed, and he checked it!" she decided to go with partial truth. After all, Gideon could confirm it for her, "Lycans have the strongest scents. And I bet their king is even worse than that. So, that's why it stayed on me."

Seconds seemed like years as she waited for her husband to respond, to make his decision.

"I am sorry, Ri," he said after a while and moved closer to her again, "Let's pick up where we left off."

"Let's not!" she quickly jumped off the table, "The mood is gone anyway, and I still have a

lot of work to do. And I bet so do you."

"The most important thing that I have to do is my wife," he growled. He was not used to refusals. Riannon always wanted him. Their passion was never dying down and this was

literally the first time when she felt fine yet said no. He did not like that one bit.

That was when a door knock disturbed them and they both turned to see Roxanne

standing in the doorway.

"Luna, Alpha, I am so sorry for disturbing you," she mumbled.

"That's fine, Roxy!" Ria was happy to see her nemesis for the first time in her life, "We are done here. What did you want?"

"..." she was playing with the hem of her new dress, "If I could talk to the Alpha..."

"I am busy!" Brayden snapped and tears glistened in Roxanne's eyes.

Usually, Riannon would roll hers seeing that. But right now Roxy was her saviour and she

decided to use her arrival to the fullest.

"Don't be cruel, Bray! Look at the girl! She is crying!" she tried to speak as expressively as she only could, "The poor child had a hard enough life! Don't make her cry!"

Now even Roxy was looking at the Luna with an opened mouth. That woman was surprising her time after time and she did not know what to expect from her. And Roxy liked her prey predictable. This ruined a few of her plans already.

"I wasn't planning to..." the alpha tried to explain himself but he got interrupted again. "The two of you need to speak," Ria stated dryly, "Go to your office. Or some other private

She met her husband's puzzled gaze and just shrugged her shoulders, getting a few big folders from a bookshelf and demonstrating that she was busy.

"Fine, sorry," Brayden said and stormed out of the room, motioning for Roxanne to follow

him.

However, as soon as they were out, he told her to come and see him later.

He contemplated for the rest of the day on what to do with his wife. He loved Riannon but everything was complicated now. Sitting at a chair in his office, he was smoking a cigar and trying to relax at least a little bit. And failing.

Something was bothering him. Riannon changed so much since the day Roxy arrived. It

was as if two different people were living inside of her.

“Alpha,” this time Roxanne walked in without any knocking. He wanted to send her away first but her innocent expression made him stop. It was already dark behind the window and he wondered how many hours he had spent thinking about Ria.

“You wanted something?” he asked the girl, noticing that she was wearing an unusually tight and short dress for her, which hugged her petite body in all the right places.

“I wanted to make sure that you are feeling fine,” she said in a sweet voice while her fingers brushed over his shoulder as if by accident, creating waves of tingles over his skin. She

was afraid to do more and he liked how obedient she was. Riannon was a lot of things. But

obedient was never one of them.

“What makes you think that I am not?” he looked at her with a dare, eyes on her

impressive cleavage. He hadn't slept with her. Yet. And now he was asking himself a question, what was holding him back.

Slowly, she knelt right before him, making him swallow as her delicate hands landed on

his knees.

“I am not blind, Alpha,” she looked him straight in the eye, licking her lips, “I can see when you are not happy. I am your mate, so I feel what you feel. And I want to make you feel better.

If you let me, of course.”

Her hand travelled all the way to the zip of his pants and paused as she waited for his

approval. Brayden nodded without even thinking twice. They were mates and it was inevitable. He gave her time to adjust to his pack but it was time for him to take what was rightfully his.

She crawled in between his thighs, fitting there just nicely and dipped her head all the

his eyes.

Brayden relaxed more into his chair and laced his fingers into her hair, helping her find the rhythm that was the best for him as she bobbed her head diligently, moaning softly on his

hardness.

It felt good. She felt good. And he wanted more since he wasn't an i***t and knew that Riannon wouldn't let him touch her for at least a few days now. He knew his wife too well.

He understood. She was punishing him and it was the only thing that she could do in her situation. But sooner or later, she would get used to it too. And everything would be back to

normal. Just better.

"Alpha," Roxy moaned desperately as if she felt that his attention shifted elsewhere. Her eyes were teary again from all the effort and he made his decision very quickly.

"Dress off," he commanded her with anticipation in his voice, "On the carpet on your

fours and as.s in the air."

She let his flesh out of her mouth with a pop and stood up obediently, letting her dress slide down to the ground. And then her tiny panties followed after which she turned her back to him, giving him a good view of everything and at the same time doing exactly what he told her.

Brayden already knew that she was a virgin. She made it clear to him several times, so he decided to be gentle with her. They had an awkward relationship since he did not wait for her and marked another. But the attraction between them was undeniable. And he loved how she depended on him as if he was her air. Although it was important for him to have a strong Luna by his side, he could definitely see the appeal of a damsel in distress.

Riannon was always strong and collected and it was what the pack needed and what he

admired about her.

But Roxy was so simple to deal with. She craved his attention and was happy to receive even a few crumbs of it.

He pushed two fingers inside of her, trying to work her out and grunting satisfactory at the fact that she was already wet for him.

"Please," the girl whined, "I can't do this anymore, Alpha. I want you so badly!"

He brushed his hands all over her body, cupping her breasts and grasping her bottom delicately, all while placing his tip at her entrance. He started to push in slowly but firmly, letting her adjust to him and happy that he decided to take her after all. Being with her felt amazing.

mate, and I was made for you. I can take whatever you want to do to me, Alpha. Trust me."

This was all the permission that he needed to start moving inside of her. Roughly and possessively, staking his claim over her body so that everybody would know who she belonged to.

He was pumping into her vigorously, stilling in just a few minutes and filling her with his seed as she moaned under him from all the pleasure that she was getting.

"Good girl," he praised her, slapping one of her ass cheeks gently and realising that he probably should have hold back and not c*m inside of her. Riannon was supposed to give birth to his first alpha heir. And then a spare.

Now that he was thinking about it, he did not need potential omega children at all. So, he

had to start using condoms next time.

"Dress up and follow me," he said dryly, zipping his pants.

"Where, Alpha?" Roxy flapped her long lashes, covered only with her luscious red hair.

"You don't seriously think that we are done, do you?" he chuckled, brushing his hand over

her cheek, "I am just starting with you."

Riannon was in her room when she felt her mark stinging again. She came to the mirror to check it and saw how red it got again, remembering the lycan king and how he helped her the last time. A smile touched the corners of her lips when she heard loud and distinct moans. And

then more of them followed, mixing with growls and grunts.

Brayden's bedroom that he used from time to time when they did not sleep together was separated from this room by a thin wall and there was no denying what was happening there

this very moment.

It was annoying, He was disrespecting her right there and then.

But other than that, surprisingly, it did not bother her.

Before, she used to sob in her bed each time she heard the two of them having fun. But today was different. Today she did not care anymore.

Maybe it was because Onyx was not there still. She called her many times after what happened today but to no avail.

So, after her nighttime routine, she went to bed, ignoring the loud banging behind the

wall.

Closing her eyes, she thought of king Gideon for some reason. The sooner she went to

thoughts, she drifted off to sleep peacefully.

In the morning, she watched the omegas gather her things for the travel, after which she went downstairs to have some breakfast. She woke up early today, feeling refreshed and did not want to waste any time.

But when she was close to the kitchen, she heard two voices she was sure she would never hear together...

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Chapter 22

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Chapter 22. Surprise

Riannon walked into the kitchen to check if her assumption was correct. And it was. Roxy was giggling and eating her cereal in the company of Dean, Maya's brother. The young man was blushing and his freckles were becoming more obvious on his face. This was bad. He was still young and one of the guys who were easy to impress. And manipulate.

"You are not serious!" He chuckled, not even sensing his Luna's arrival. He was too engrossed in the conversation he had with the cure redhead omega.

"But I am!" Roxanne placed her hand on his, "I was working at the stables in my previous pack for many years! There isn't a single thing that I don't know about horses. I loved taking

care of them."

"And I thought that you were only treated as a slave in your old pack," Riannon scoffed, "Werewolves don't let omegas take care of the horses. They are afraid of us and if we keep one, we need to take care of it ourselves to create a bond. For omega to take care of a horse would be a luxury."

For the first time, Roxy did not burst into tears in her presence while being confronted. Neither did she shake or tremble. Ria wondered if having s*x with her husband gave her

newfound confidence and she wanted to laugh at that.

"Our pack was different," Roxanne smiled sweetly and took her hand off Dean's, making the guy even more flustered. "Not every pack has an Alpha as amazing as Alpha Brayden. My previous Alpha thought that it was beneath him to take care of a horse. He kept them just for show and omegas had to do the dirty work. But you are right, it was amazing and felt like a gift,

"I see," Riannon went to the coffee station and started preparing herself a cup.

"Luna," Roxy's voice was overly sweet, "I can make you a cup. After all, I am the omega and you are the Luna."

Riannon rolled her eyes while she was facing the wall. She would take a cup of coffee from Roxanne's hands only if she was suicidal and wanted an easy way out.

"As you just said," she remained calm as she loaded the coffee machine, "This pack is very different from yours. I can make my own coffee, thanks."

"Ria," Dean stuttered slightly, "I will go. I have battle practice soon. It was nice to see you. And nice to finally meet you, Roxy."

"I'll see you around, Dean," Riannon turned just in time to see the omega brush her palm

over her friend's arm and tilting her head, making him leave even faster..

As soon as Maya's brother was gone, the two women left in the room locked their eyes.

The smile on Roxy's face faded. Did she decide to stop pretending?

"What," Ria couldn't help herself, sipping her coffee and taking a seat at the head of the table, "No tears today?"

"You don't like them, do you? I don't want to offend you with them," a smile spread over the omega's face.

This was new. She didn't behave like that before she had Brayden's affections secured in

the past life. And right now they just had their first night together and she was already so

brazen. What was that about?

Riannon tensed inside but did her best not to show that, continuing with her drink.

"You are only having coffee?" Roxy almost sang the words with a smirk on her face, "A sleepless night, perhaps?"

"Not really," Ria mimicked her, "Actually, I slept like a baby. And I always start my day with a cup of coffee. So do millions of people. Don't read too much into it."

"I have to give it to you," Roxanne scoffed, "You are holding up just great."

Yes. This was definitely new. They never talked like that in the past. It was refreshing but at the same time, it worried Riannon. What was that woman up to?

. "Can't say the same about you," Ria said calmly, tempted to go on, "All that crying... It gets repetitive, you know. And Brayden gets tired of repetitive things very fast."

"That's great advice actually," Roxy grinned, "I guess it's coming from your experience? Anyway, you underestimate the power of mate's tears. Probably because you don't have one."

That was a low blow. And if Onyx was there, she would tear her apart for that.

That was when it hit her. What if this was exactly the purpose of all that? Roxy was provoking her to be able to play the victim again after the Luna lost her patience. There wouldn't be a more perfect opportunity than that.

Right now Riannon was supposed to be in deepest pain and depression. Back in her past life, the first time she felt Brayden being intimate with his mate, her mark was hurting her like hell and Onyx was going crazy inside of their shared mine from all the pain. It was incredibly hard to deal with it and the first day, she simply stayed in her bed, stating that she was sick. She only left her bedroom when she was feeling better and could control Onyx again. Hence...

they never met like that. understandable, considering the circumstances. Ria was hardly the only witness to the audible love-making of her husband. But it would look bad. For her. And it sure as hell would earn some points for the omega.

"Nice try," Ria chuckled softly and took another sip, making Roxanne frown. She was not going to give her enemy the satisfaction of humiliating herself like that.

"I think you misread what I was trying to say," Roxanne looked at her again with some kind of new determination, "What I really meant to let you know is that you can go to the lycans

and work as long as you want there. I will take care of Brayden. Just like I did the last night."

"I am sure of that," Ria snorted but just then her opponent's face changes to the grimace

of horror.

I as

"I am sorry, Luna! This was so insolent of me! I should choose my words properly, you are absolutely right, I am just a piece of lowly trash!" the omega had tears in her eyes again and had her head lowered in submission, showing off her neck.

Ria stared at her in shock. What was she doing now? There were no witnesses... But it was right then that she sensed the pack's chef walking in. The woman looked at the two of them, taking the whole scene in, and then mumbled an apology and left abruptly.

Did Roxy sense her before she did? Was that even possible? Did her not having Onyx presence make her weaker now?

She concealed her worries again. This wasn't the time.

"Seriously?" Riannon put her cup of coffee away. This was getting annoying. "It's nothing personal," Roxanne stood up, "A girl has to do what a girl has to do." She looked at her rival and then with all the force that she could master, she hit her head

over the table, making Luna gasp.

"What are you..." Ria almost choked on her own breath when she saw Roxy smiling at her with a face covered in blood. She broke one of the plates and there were a few pieces of glass poking out.

What was that woman? The devil?!

"You are crazy!" Riannon hissed. "On the contrary," Roxy smirked, "I am the sanest person you would meet." And with that, she threw herself through the French windows, breaking them, and into the

garden.

running in the distance with a worried face and a few other people with him.

A loud growl emerged not too far from them and Ria recognised her husband. He was the first to reach Roxanne, who was now properly injured and bleeding in several

1

places.

"It was my fault," she whispered loudly so that every werewolf around could hear her, "All me. *My* fault. I was too... too... disrespectful. The Luna did not want to..."

Brayden's head snapped in Riannon's direction at once and she knew that the omega

managed to set her up again...

The Perfect Luna by Marissa Gilbert

Chapter 23

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Chapter 23. Explain Yourself

TRIGGER WARNING. There may be some triggering events mentioned in this chapter (self-harm, abuse, mental illness etc). Please, read at your own discretion.

She kept sitting in her place. This was the only thing that she could do now. They all were looking at her, expecting some kind of reaction.

She gave them none, keeping composure at all times and thinking hectically in her mind of what to do next.

"Alpha, she is bleeding so badly!" Dean knelt right next to the couple, "She needs to be taken to hospital! She is an omega and can't heal quickly."

"I will be... fine," Roxy sighed so heavily as if breathing was actually hard for her.

Brayden tried to drill a hole in his wife's skull with his eyes.

"How could you do this?!" he gritted his teeth, his eyes shining red meaning that his wolf was trying to get through. Did his wolf want to hurt her? Or were they fighting for control because Bray was unreasonable now? Ria thought that she always had a good relationship

with his wolf. But she wasn't so sure about it anymore now that mates were in the game.

"What makes you assume that I did anything?" she raised her brow calmly, holding her cup with fingers that were almost trembling. Almost. She still could keep her cool even in a situation like that. She had to. Especially now that she was about to be accused of snapping and harming her husband's mistress.

"My mate covered in her own blood says that it's you!" he hissed.

"And?" Ria shot her brow up, "Since when is she more credible than your wife and Luna of six years. Besides, she did not say that I harmed her. She said that I did not want to. And you know what, I did not want to harm her and I didn't. I was sitting here, drinking my morning coffee as I always do and minding my own business when your sweet little mate started harming herself."

"You are not serious right now!" Brayden looked at her in shock.

"Oh, but I am," Riannon took a sip even though there was practically nothing left in her

cup. But she needed this little break to gather her strength. "You know her for what, a few

days? Weeks if you had been lying to me. That's not that long to get to know someone

San

properly. She may be your mate but that doesn't make her a good person. Or a sare one. To be honest, I am as shocked as you are that she did something like that. There was absolutely no reason for that. We were just having a more or less friendly conversation. Dean was here just a

few minutes before. He can confirm."

being infatuated by Roxy.

"B-but the cook," the omega pointed her trembling finger at the woman who was also already here, "She heard how you treated me and I was apologising for..."

"She is not a cook," Riannon rolled her eyes, "She is a chef. And what exactly did you hear, Maggie?"

"I...", the older lady was bothered with the situation, "Roxanne was apologising and calling herself worthless trash..."

Brayden growled. "Did you hear me telling her anything?" Ria asked. "No, Luna," Maggie replied honestly. "And that's only because I didn't say anything of the sort," she shrugged her shoulders.

"I am telling you. She was fine one minute and then went absolutely nuts the other. I believe there are a few mental conditions that could cause that."

Everyone was silent and she was not sure if it was working or not.

"For Goddesses' sake!" Maya appeared from the back door followed by worried Ash, "You know our Luna for many years! It's ridiculous that anyone even thinks of accusing her! She is the most rational person ever! She is even calm during rogue attacks!"

"It's true," someone muttered at the back, "Our Luna is better than this." "Agreed, even though she is in her right to beat the crap out of this omega, she wouldn't

stoop this low!"

It suddenly became slightly easier for her to breathe, and she relaxed into the back of her

chair.

"And while we are at it," she continued, "I am an Alpha by blood. If I threw her through these windows, she would fly way further than she did. Not to mention there is no way there is my scent on her. And I have none of hers on me. Do I even need to continue?"

"Exactly!" Maya placed her hands on her hips and stood behind her friend, "And look how her wounds healing way too fast. Is she even an omega herself? We know way too little about this woman! An omega would be healing for days after something like that!"

It was an incredibly good point and now Riannon found herself standing up and walking to her husband and Roxanne. Feeling cornered, the girl started to cry again.

"They are right," she mumbled, "I hit my face myself over the table. And then broke the

swear."

Riannon clenched her fists. She was at it again. Implying that it was her after all even

though all the evidence was against her. The audacity of this redhead devil had no boundaries!

She kept on crying in Brayden's arms but he motioned for Dean to take her and the guy readily obliged. Ria knew that her husband still did not believe her. But at least he doubted Roxy. She could tell by the perplexed look on his face.

"Alpha," Ash stepped in, "I think we can solve this matter easily. There is a secret camera installed here. I did it a month ago. I believe everything will be on tape."

Riannon tensed, turning to look at the Beta. If there were cameras here, she would have known and used this first-hand. But there were none.

What was he doing? Did he try to help her or bury her? Given their history in the past life, she just couldn't tell.

"Fine, let's check the footage in my office," Brayden said, his voice changed instantly,"

Ash, place some guards at Roxy's door in the hospital. I don't want anyone to get in... or out."

This was interesting and Riannon did not know how to read this. Was he protecting his

mate or was this the first sign of his distrust?

"Riannon, dear," he stretched his hand to his wife, "Follow me. I am sure all this is just a

big misunderstanding."

People behind their backs were puzzled. But at least, she won that battle to some extent. Ria decided against accepting her husband's hand and turned away, walking out of the

kitchen first. The last thing that she noticed was how worried Maya looked, seeing her brother

holding Roxy gently in his arms while she clung to him, sobbing. They would definitely have to speak of this later. .

The two of them were silent all the way to the Alpha's office. And only when Brayden closed the doors behind him, a loud growl escaped him.

"What the hell was that Riannon?" he looked at her as if he was accusing her again and

she knitted her brows.

"Clarify that one, please," she sat in one of the chairs, "I am starting to have a headache here."

"Why didn't you take my hand in front of everyone when I chose to protect you?" he

asked spitefully, "I didn't know how to do it before but luckily Ash gave me a good idea with

"But logic does exist, Brayden," she threw her head back and closed her eyes. It was morning and she was already tired, "If you wanted to protect me, you could start with not accusing me in the first place. I did not touch your mate. She is crazy. It is what it is."

He exhaled through his nostrils.

"I am sorry, it just did not look credible at first!" he confessed, "But I would have never punished you even if I... I mean... I understand where your aggression could come from."

"Only that there is no aggression," she looked him straight in the eyes, "You and your little mental miss can do whatever you want. I am not going to dirty my hands by touching you."

That's your prerogative. But do me a favour, handle her properly so that she doesn't pull stunts like this anymore! I demand at least this little respect!"

"Ri," he knelt on one knee before her, "I am sorry about yesterday. My wolf..."

"Oh, my Goddess," she snorted, "Please, not this again! I just can't listen to this anymore. Sleep with her as much as you want. Whatever. Just don't feed me those wolf stories."

Brayden clenched his lips and stood up.

"You changed so much, Ri," he said, distancing himself from her and not looking at her

anymore.

"That makes two of us," she scoffed.

"You know, given recent events, I think you and I will need to spend some time alone. We need to work on our marriage." He went to the window with his hands clasped behind his back. "We can even go for a vacation if you like."

"There is no need," she said, "You and I have too much work to take vacations."

She hated the idea of staying alone with him now. And there was no marriage there anymore to work on. Only that she couldn't afford to say it out loud for now.

"That's the problem," he chuckled, "Too much work. I believe I need to unload you. Maybe Maya could help you with the papers more."

"She will," Riannon decided to agree with him at least on something. Alphas needed that.

"And speaking about work, I don't think that you going away for a week to the Lycan kingdom is such a good idea now."

Now, this was bad for her. She needed to go there. She needed to see Gideon! For work... purposes. Not because she couldn't stop thinking of it.

"And how do you imagine refusing the Lycan king considering that we already agreed on

that phone call!"

"Fine!" Bray snapped, "I will make it! I will tell him that there is no way in hell I am letting my beloved wife go to his kingdom alone for a whole week!"

"And why the hell not?" a metallic voice sounded right behind her back, creating goosebumps. She couldn't believe that he was here! He only said that he would send a car for

her.

But when she turned, her eyes met with the Lycan King's.