

The Perfect Luna by Marissa Gilbert

Chapter 61

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Chapter 61. The Fox Trap

"And what do you think I should do with her?" Castiel threw an angry gaze at Roxy.

"She is a princess," the redhead tried to explain to him her brilliant idea, "Well, of sorts. But she is important in Thorn's pack! We can use her."

"Thorn's pack is now done. And not thanks to you," the leader of the foxes frowned, "So far you have been one big disappointment, Roxanne. For someone whom I personally trained. Yet all your work was done by Luna Riannon Michaels instead."

"It was just a coincidence," Roxy furrowed her brows, "She..."

"She played you to her advantage," Castiel smirked, "You were supposed to destroy her but instead she wiped her feet over you."

Roxy had nothing to say to that and she hated that. She hated that the man whom she loved so much was praising another. It wasn't just a coincidence that she was the best in her

group. She worked hard for it, trained hard... in the hope that one day he would notice her. And

she was sure that he did. He took her to his bed where her education continued. He personally showed her how to please a man and she was sure that it meant something. He never let anyone touch her and he singled her out every time. He paid her way more attention than to

other she-foxes.

But then he sent her on a mission into another man's bed. She was upset about it. Heartbroken even. But she never admitted it out loud. It was not great to be used as a tool, but she had no choice. This was her job. And this was what he had been preparing her for. She was ready to prove herself to him anyway. After all, Castiel always seemed like a man of broad

views. He only respected two things in his life – power and intellect. And if she managed to have those, nothing else would matter.

Foxes weren't like everyone else. Although they were excellent warriors when needed and could easily rival werewolves, what they actually preferred was a game of wits. Why fight anyone if you could just trick them into doing what you

needed in the first place? Or even better, if you could make your enemies fight each other while you watched? Everything was a challenge and foxes loved their victories.

But this was also why they were never on good terms with the wolves. The latter always strived for dominance and this was where the problem between the two species lay. Foxes did not like to be dominated. And wolves really did not like to be played. They took it as an insult if they caught someone trying to deceive them.

It was much easier with the werebears, where they were all muscle but could be certain bargain in the end. Whereas wolves would want blood and nothing else.

This was why they couldn't live together. So, when the foxes' population increased and the land they had in their possession became not enough, wolves did not want to share. Hence, they became a problem. A problem that the foxes needed to solve. Or better say get rid of. Whatever it cost them.

But whatever they tried was failing. And then the Union was formed to unite shifter packs under the wing of lycans from the Western kingdom. This was the worst news for the foxes. Back then, Castiel's father was the king and he was not happy with the new situation. Because since the Union was formed, if he dared to attack one pack, the rest would come for him and destroy him. So, the former fox king started thinking of ways to destroy the Union.

And this was how the most brilliant plan was born.

And it was now on Castiel's shoulders. He had to finish what his father had started.

Roxy wished she could lift at least some of the weight off him. This was all she was thinking of.

Him.

And how could she not? The fox king was amazing. Tall, handsome, clever, strong and cunning. A perfect man.

But now he wasn't happy with her anymore. He was disappointed and there was only one

person to blame for it.

Riannon Michaels.

From the very beginning, she complicated things for her. It was supposed to be a much easier mission than it turned out. When she was studying the Luna prior to her dispatch, she didn't seem like a threat at all. A chosen mate, stuck up, so

perfect that it was boring. It should have been easy to get rid of her and Castiel's order was clear on her account. Get her place and kill her discreetly.

Yet the Luna turned out to be full of surprises. She put up a real fight and Roxanne found herself outmatched.

Who knew that she would want to divorce this fast and manage to get through with it, taking half of a pack with her? That ruined a lot of their plans.

But what was worse was Castiel's growing interest in Riannon Michaels. This was probably the most painful part. At first, he was entertained by her not behaving the way they

pack as a prisoner, she could sense his growing interest with the Luna. She told herself many times that it was just her imagination under the pressure of work that was getting to her. Yet

she was still in for a surprise.

She helped him to get out as soon as she could, killing good warriors for him and risking her own life. All that only to find out that as soon as he got out, he went to see that other woman. That one hurt her. But it was what followed next that absolutely destroyed her from the inside. When the time came for their plan to go into its active phase and slaughter the werewolves, she received another order that she did not expect in the least. Castiel ordered her to make sure that Riannon wouldn't be there. This was the last straw.

She disobeyed her king's order for the first time when she didn't do anything to stop

Riannon from attending the Summit. In fact, she pushed Brayden to make sure that they went there together. And personally checked that the blonde nuisance was present, hoping that the bomb she installed in the morning would get rid of her little problem.

Yet that time, everything also went wrong and what was supposed to be the fatal blow to the heads of the alphas, turned into a slap that only made them angry. And yet again, Riannon Michaels was in the middle.

Moreover, when Castiel found out that she was there and not back in her pack as he wanted, he got furious. The man, who always remained calm, got furious over a little and insignificant matter like that. She couldn't stop thinking about it.

And when Riannon mentioned him coming to her again after the pack split, Roxanne

absolutely lost it.

What she did wasn't a well-thought through plan and she knew it. But she had to try to get rid of that woman once and for all. Even if it would make Castiel angry. She could survive

his wrath. What she couldn't survive was him being interested in another. For whatever

reason.

So, she contacted warriors that she knew from her training and talked them into helping her to attack the wolves. She lied to them, saying that it was the order of their Alpha. And then

she attacked. Roxanne did what she could. But her team still lost. And now their secret was

out. Now the wolves knew that all the talks about foxes and the bears weren't just empty words. She knew that it was a grave mistake and she could only pray for her king to forgive

her.

This was why she brought him a gift.

sounds away. Her legs and wrists were chained in silver-plated chains and she did not look her usual polished self. Roxy figured her out first with her unrequited love for Ash. She liked the

girl because she could relate to her. This was also the reason why it was so easy to make Harper do what she wanted her to do.

Roxanne felt guilty for doing this to the girl. If she had a choice, she wouldn't stoop so low. But these were desperate times... And she couldn't come up with anything better in such a short amount of time.

"And what would I do with her?" Castiel rubbed the bridge of his nose as if he was

already annoyed and tired with the whole conversation. Which he probably was.

"Use her as a hostage," Roxy suggested, "Brayden doesn't have anyone but her now. He would do anything to get his little sister back."

"Shame I do not need anything from him anymore," the fox king chuckled.

"Riannon Michaels would try to save her too if she found out about this," she heard herself saying, not quite believing in bringing this name up.

"You told me that they hate each other," Castiel ran a hand through his hair.

"Hate is a strong word," Roxanne tried to smile but her leader remained unimpressed, "They are not the biggest fans of each other. But I am sure that she would come to her sister-in-law's rescue."

"Why did you do it?" the king before her asked finally, "Why did you risk everything we have built like an j***t?"

"The situation required it," she lied uncomfortably. She hated lying to him, but today her life depended on it.

"Anything else you want to tell me?" Castiel shot his brow up and looked at her intensely.

There was something important that he needed to know. That Riannon could shift and that her wolf glowed when she did. But telling him that wouldn't change anything for her. She would still be punished for her mistakes. And drawing even more of his attention to the werewolf Luna was beyond her.

"No," Roxanne said meekly and immediately received a backslap, which made her fall to the ground. She touched her cheek which already started to swell and looked up at her king.

"Liar!" he spat and her heart clenched painfully, "Still thinking that you are more clever

than anyone?!"

recognised him at once as one of the warriors she took with her to try and kill Riannon. Now she knew that she was in trouble.

"I don't know what you were thinking," Castiel sneered, "But lying to me would cost you!" "I am sorry," she fell to her knees, mumbling, "I..."

She didn't have a good explanation.

"As I thought," the fox king smirked and motioned to his people, "Take them both to the dungeon. I think Roxanne needs some time alone there to understand that lying to her superiors is bad. And while you are at it, remind her why discipline is so important. Show her hell."

Two men grabbed her and started pulling her away. At the same time, a third one threw Harper over his shoulder, to which she made a few pitiful sounds.

"Castiel, please!" she begged him, but he already turned his back to her. She knew that if she didn't do something now, she would probably be dead in the next few hours. "There is something else I know!" Roxy screamed, "Something important! It can help you! I swear it's important."

The men next to her stopped and she realized only now that she was panting profusely. Castiel walked towards her and grabbed her chin, making her look at him.

"Then tell me," he sneered, "And remember that it's better to be good. Your life depends on it, after all."

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Chapter 62. Give Me Strength

"I hope you are not meaning to tell me that you are with a child," Castiel sighed, as if he was already bored and Roxanne was hesitating to start talking. However, he stopped the men who wanted to take her back, and Roxy knew that this was her chance. "I am already aware. You don't seriously think that you are the only spy I sent there," the fox king added.

"This may be your child," she still said out loud in the hope that it could change anything in his eyes. But they still remained the same stormy grey colour she fell in love with. And not a muscle on his face flinched.

"Highly unlikely," he said, and her face fell. "But it's good that you are pregnant."

His last words suddenly gave her hope and she looked at him again through her lashes. "You think so?" Roxy forced a little smile and saw him smirk.

"Of course," he let out a laugh, "If it's a wolf, then we can use him in a when it's born to claim Thorn's pack and territory if we can't do that now. But if we are particularly lucky, it will be a hybrid like you are. And this opens a window of possibilities for us. Especially if the baby inherits your siren genes. Those are the most useful for us, don't you think? Every fox can imitate a scent given to them, but only a siren can seduce a person in a way that they never even suspect a thing. Your work with Brayden Thorn was not bad in the first phase. He never even doubted that you were his mate."

She swallowed. The future that he pictured for her child wasn't the one she wanted. But his cold gaze made her forget about all that quickly. Right now, her own survival was more important. Castiel wasn't the most forgiving leader. And she made a big mistake today.

"So?" he raised his brow to demonstrate to her that he was losing his patience.

"I have access to all the money of the Silver River pack," Roxy reported, "Moreover, Brayden made sure that his ex didn't even get a penny for her pack. She would be done very

fast."

"Is that so?" Castiel chuckled, "I think you are underestimating Riannon Michaels again. But never mind. Let's go."

He motioned for her to follow him into his office, and she tried to match his pace. There, he opened the laptop on his desk, and she knew at once that he didn't want her to waste any more of his precious time.

With shaky fingers, Roxanne logged in to Brayden's internet banking account and stepped away.

"Is that it?" Castiel took the laptop back and circled the table to sit in his chair. He

"That's all there was after their divorce," she told him, and he looked at her curiously, but a few seconds later he burst out laughing. He laughed and he laughed, wiping his tears with his hands. All the while she stood in front of him, trembling. She never saw him like that. And it

was scary.

"After the divorce?" he repeated as he ran his hand over his hair, "You must be kidding

me!"

She instantly knew what he was thinking. And she wasn't so sure anymore about anything.

"I bet she took care of it prior to the Summit," Castiel said nonchalantly as he was typing

something on his computer.

"You give her too much credit," the words slipped off her tongue before she could stop

herself.

"I see her for what she is," the fox king retorted, "That amount is hardly enough to run a pack of their size. There is no way their budget was this bad..."

Roxy gritted her teeth. This could only mean one thing potentially. That Riannon already

took care of that. And that she and her pack weren't in trouble at all.

"Anyway," Castiel closed his laptop, "that was something. But it doesn't change much for you. You disappointed me, Roxanne. Your reckless behaviour cost me my plan. And for what? Did hormones make you stupid all of a sudden?"

"apologise, my king," She dropped to her knees. But this time she didn't cry. Castiel wasn't Brayden. He would never buy that. And letting out her siren pheromones on him could be deadly, since he wasn't a fool and would know what was happening. She tried that with him once and it almost cost her her life. So, she was aware that her best chance was to offer him her loyalty and submission.

He could still use her and this was her best bet.

The fox king stood up and walked towards her, lifting her chin in his warm hand. She leaned into his palm with her cheek, closing her eyes just for a second and then looking back at

him.

"Why did you really do it?" he asked, and she knew better than she couldn't tell him the truth about how Riannon made her feel jealous. So, she went for a lie that sounded appropriate

given the situation.

wanted to bring her to you. The trap was perfect. But it went to hell when the lycans appeared.

"Is that so?" he traced her lip with his thumb, and she was tempted to suck it in and try to seduce him. But it was still too risky, considering his mood.

"Of course," she nodded and in just a second he was already grabbing her neck and squeezing it so tight that she had no air to breathe.

"Then why did you forget to mention such a small detail that her wolf is back and that it's f***ing glowing!" he snarled at her and a single tear trickled down her chin.

She didn't tell him that, because as long as Riannon had no wolf, Castiel wouldn't consider her for anything serious. She didn't tell him that because she knew that wolf was a special one. And Castiel would want to have her now. Everyone would want her if they knew.

But she couldn't say that.

"I thought you knew," she let out a weak squeak and he let go of her, throwing her to the

ground.

"And as you can see, I do know," he chuckled. He seemed to be in a good mood just from talking about the Luna and Roxanne hated it.

"I am so sorry," she muttered, looking at the floor and hearing him sigh.

"You are lucky that you still have some use for me," he told her and she did her best to hold back her tears, "You are still going to help me to get what I want..."

Maya was curling up in her chair, hiding her head somewhere in her knees. She couldn't bring herself to go down and look at her brother's body. She couldn't believe that he was simply lying there, no life left in him.

"You need to eat something," Reid knelt before her and she refused to look at him. Everything was wrong. His every touch was bringing tingles to her body, tingles that were tempting her to close her eyes and give in to her desires.

But how could she be happy now when her baby brother was dead? Dean was the only real family she had left and she didn't protect him. Riannon warned her about Roxy, but she still didn't pay everything enough attention. And she even fell for a trap, which left Dean alone in the clutches of the evil omega. . It was all her fault...

hard, yet he stayed by her side, trying to help her the best he could. He wasn't giving up on her and she did not feel like she deserved it.

"You need to eat for your strength," Reid told her and brushed his hand over her leg

softly.

"You don't understand," she said quietly, hiding her puffy face from him.

"Maybe I don't," he sighed, trying to find her eyes to look at, "But I can imagine. Just like you only had Dean, my only family that is left is my nephew Kyle. The one that your friend Riannon saved."

She sniffed, trying to control her tears. Although that didn't seem possible anymore.

"That day, I wasn't there," he continued, making soothing circles over her bare skin with his thumbs, "When I heard about the attack, I was blaming myself for leaving him in that school. For not being there when I had to be. But you know what Riannon told me back then?"

Maya looked up at him so that she could see his face.

"What?" she asked.

"She said that we cannot blame ourselves for what others did. It wasn't my fault that the rogues decided to attack the school that day," Reid stretched his hand to caress her cheek and was pleased when she did not flinch away from him, "And, Maya, it wasn't your fault that this fox tricked and killed your brother. You cannot hold yourself responsible for that."

"She warned me about her," the girl muttered, "But I..."

"You couldn't know what she would do and when," her mate stopped her, "You did your best. And I am sure that if your brother was here now, he would tell you the same."

"I don't know what to do next," she confessed weakly and bent towards him. Reid did not let that opportunity slide and caught her in his arms, pressing her tight against his body and lifting her up.

"Of course, you know what to do next," her mate assured her, "You are a Beta. And you are strong."

She locked her eyes with him for the first time and the determination in him made her

believe in what he was saying. He was right.

"First, you will get your strength back," he murmured as he moved her to the bed, "And then you will help your Alpha to avenge your brother and stop that b*tch once and for all. So that no one suffers the same destiny as him from her filthy hands."

and she couldn't afford to be a mess now. She couldn't afford to fall apart and she sure as hell

couldn't let Roxanne keep hurting the people that she loved.

"I'll bring you something to eat." Reid smiled at her, caressing her cheek and neck, "You need your strength."

He stood up and was about to leave when she caught his arm. He turned to look at her, doubt evident in his eyes. But she pulled him closer and he obeyed her at once.

"Then give me strength, Reid," she stood up before him and tore the fingers off the shirt that she was wearing, not bothering unbuttoning it properly, "The way only a mate can."

"Are you sure?" he swallowed the lump that formed in his throat at the sight of her. All they shared before that was a passionate kiss. And now she was offering herself to him. "I don't want to use your moment of weakness to my advantage. You are vulnerable now..."

"And you are my mate," she took a step closer, placing her palm on his chest right where the heart was. "If anyone can make me strong now if anyone can heal me... if anyone can make me forget... It would be you, Reid. Give me the strength. Be with me."

"You don't need to ask me twice, kitten," he picked her up gently and placed her back to the bed, climbing on top of her, "I was born to cherish you... And this is what I'll be doing my whole life."

Riannon was lying in Gideon's arms, exhausted from what seemed to be a never-ending day. They did not talk but the way he pressed her against his body and was stroking her hair and arms was telling her more than any words could.

She felt Onyx shift inside of her every time his fingers were touching her skin. It was the true mate bond, and it was so new for her. Despite being madly in love with him, only now she realised that she couldn't experience all the intensity of their connection before her wolf was

back.

Yet before she could explore that more, Ria knew she had to do one thing.

"Onyx," she called for her wolf mentally and this time she responded at once, "*I want you to tell me who killed me and everything else that the Moon Goddess told you.*"

NOTE: Hi, sorry for the late update today. I think I mentioned already that I am back to my studies after covid and because of that updates will probably be at random times now. But will try to keep them daily until the end (hopefully this month). Would you help me to name this chapter as well?

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Chapter 63. Tea Time

"I can show you instead," Onyx said, and Riannon felt herself drifting off to sleep. "This is what the Goddess told me to do..." her wolf whispered.

She trusted Onyx with her life and knew that her better half would take good care of her.

But she did not expect what happened to her next as she found herself in the one place she never wanted to see ever again.

It was the day she died. But not the right time. It was hours before the tragedy happened.

She remembered that well and a dull throbbing pain seized in her chest. This was funny ... She thought she was already done with all that. Yet now, seeing how her pack was gathering once again for what Brayden told them was a blessing ceremony for his future heir,

was painful for her.

"Onyx, can we fast forward to..." her voice broke. Did she really want to see herself being killed? Was it really that important? She had her suspicions and at least she knew that it wasn't Dean. It was good enough.

"No," her wolf replied, "You need to see the whole picture."

"I am not sure I want to," Riannon confessed, slightly embarrassed of her momentarily

weakness.

"Too late now," Onyx chuckled in her mind, "But know that if you look carefully, you will find out more than you asked. And not only about yourself."

This gave her strength. It wasn't only about her. She wasn't the only victim. If she could get an important piece of information from being here then she owed it to all the people she loved to try and endure.

She quickly realised that she wasn't actually there. She could walk among the people and see what they were doing, but none of them saw her. Riannon was just a spirit observing them all and they could even walk through her, not affecting her at all.

This also helped her to calm down. She wasn't actually reliving the day. She was just watching. A guest who was only there in spirit.

She noticed herself sitting in the summer house in the garden, right where they had the voting the other day. Riannon from the past did not look that well, with hollow cheeks and a pale complexion. She was also thinner than usual and it did not look good at all. The year of

stress and pain took its toll on her.

She wanted to tell herself that it wasn't worth it, that something bigger and better was waiting for her but noticed a friendship bracelet in her hands. Maya made it for her when they

seeking the warmth and support that her friend used to give her and this little trinket was her

anchor.

"Luna," an omega appeared next to her with a tray in her hands, "I've brought some tea for you."

"I didn't ask for it," Riannon from the past replied, but the girl still placed the tray on the bench next to her.

"The Alpha sent it to you. It's cold and you've been sitting here for hours," the omega smiled at her, "It's herbal tea, one of your favourites."

"Thank you," she stared at the cup and Riannon from the present remembered how she felt a little glimpse of hope that maybe he was at least sorry for what he had been doing. She took the cup in her hands and slowly drank the tea, looking around at the busy pack. She was so broken inside by this point that she didn't even feel the taste of her drink.

"Ria," Ash appeared next to her, holding a huge pile of folders in his hands, "Are you okay?"

"I am great," she took another sip without looking at him, "Don't you see?"

The present Riannon noticed that he wanted to say something else but changed his mind at the last moment and walked away.

"Everything is for the best," he muttered, "You will see."

She knew his motivation now and knew why he made those wrong choices. But it didn't make her feel any better. The past Riannon finished the tea and placed the cup back on the tray. Immediately, the same omega appeared and took it, rushing away.

Abad feeling rose in her chest. She remembered very well that she did not ask for tea. She didn't eat or drink much these last few days. And since she knew that nothing important

would happen to her before the ceremony, she decided to follow that omega instead.

The girl was clearly in a hurry even though she tried to pretend that she wasn't. And that made Riannon even more suspicious. But it was when she turned in the opposite direction from the kitchen and went all the way behind the mansion that she knew her hunch was

correct.

She sped up and caught up with the girl right when she made a turn and almost bumped

into Roxy.

It was a perfect hiding spot because it was close to practically everything but no one was

Roxanne was wearing an expensive black silk maternity dress and caressed her belly every three seconds. But when she saw the maid she got a little plastic bag out of her pocket and opened it, gesturing for her to drop the cup inside.

"Did she drink all of it?" Roxy asked with a gentle smile on her face.

"Yes, Luna," the girl nodded and Riannon cringed. Roxanne wasn't a Luna yet. Not that it was the most important thing right now. This little omega girl, someone who lived in her pack and was using her protection, without which no omega could survive in their cruel world, was the one who poisoned her with aconite. Now she had no doubts.

"Good," Roxanne stretched her hand and squeezed her shoulder, "Do not worry. All is for the best. I just don't want her to make a scene tonight. This will weaken her a bit and we will have a calm and fun night. And tomorrow you will be the personal helper of the new Luna."

"Thank you!" the girl beamed, not bothering too much about the details of her promotion.

"Alice," Roxy gave her a smile that looked so sincere that Ria would probably buy it too, "We are almost at the finishing line. Just remember that she will need one more doze in an hour or so for it to go smoothly."

"Everything will be done, Luna," the omega bowed and Roxanne waved her off.

"Go now," she said calmly, "People shouldn't see us together yet. But in the evening, we will celebrate. Come to my room for a glass of champagne."

"Can't wait, Luna!" Alice giggled and ran away quickly.

Riannon decided not to follow her. She knew what the girl would be doing for the rest of the day. And she chose to stay face to face with her mortal enemy who was still a mystery to her. Roxanne caressed her bump. She wondered if it was even her ex's child...

A dark figure appeared from the nearby bushes and Roxy didn't even flinch when one of Brayden's warriors, Marcus, leaned over the wall next to her lazily. She handed him the plastic bag and he took it, clearly knowing what was inside.

"Get rid of it," the fox said coldly and nodded even though she stood with his back to him. The woman sighed and then added, "And after Alice is done, make sure to get rid of her too. I don't want any traces. It's not the time yet."

"Will be done," the man assured her, while Ria tried to remember what colour his wolf was. Was he the one who killed her? Or did Roxanne have more accomplices on their territory?

"Will you need me to accompany you in the evening?" Marcus asked before leaving.

no one disturbs us and everyone stays at the party."

"Fine," he grunted and walked away back to where he came from.

The fox stood, looking in the same direction and soon Riannon realised that she was watching the past her. Her lips curled into a smirk and eyes glowed red just for a second, but she took it under control fast.

Riannon followed her as the day unfolded, however, nothing was happening for a while other than Roxy being Roxy. By this time she already stopped pretending that she was a weak omega and positioned herself as the Luna of the people. She was throwing herself to help everyone she met but, of course, her huge belly prevented her from doing anything and won her the sympathy vote from everyone.

It was painful for Riannon to watch this. Yet she forced herself to. Since if she was to get useful information from anyone, it had to be Roxy.

Finally, the fox went to her room to change for the event but once she was inside, she just sat in a huge armchair with her phone in her hands. After a while, the phone rang and she immediately picked up so that Ria had no chance to check the caller ID.

"Cass," her voice became sweet and Riannon sat closer to be able to listen to the phone call on both ends.

"Is everything ready for tonight?" the familiar voice sounded, making her cringe. Of

course, he was the mastermind. Not Roxy.

"Yes," his subordinate replied, "Brayden is ready. And his Luna will go tonight."

"Good," Castiel sounded indifferent. Like it wasn't a big deal for him at all. And this made her furious. He was deciding their lives and didn't even seem to care.

A smile formed on Roxanne's face at the little piece of praise she got.

"Make sure there are no delays," the man added, "I need this pack by the end of the week. A lot depends on it. It's crucial for killing the western lycan king. He is our last obstacle on the way to victory. And he is this close to making a deal with the northern king. If that happens..."

Riannon's world froze at the mention of her mate. Those bastards didn't just want her pack. Gideon was their aim. While the pack was just a tool. And now that she thought about it, of course, he was. If they wanted to destroy the wolves, then the leader of the lycans would be

their target number one.

"I know," the pregnant girl sighed, stroking her round belly, "It will be done. Just tell me

"End of the week," Castiel said calmly, "And make sure there is no one to lead the pack. Luna, Beta and anyone else who may take Alpha's place in case of an emergency. They all have to go."

"Got it," Roxy agreed easily as if they were discussing a grocery list. Riannon noticed that she was fidgeting with her hair and stood right in front of her trying to read her facial expression. "Castiel," the woman changed her tone to a more seductive one, "I miss you..."

"Gross," Ria muttered to herself. To her, it was already clear that the two foxes had

something going on between them. Yet the man's reply startled her.

"Just concentrate on the mission," the fox king cut her off, "And don't you dare to use your siren powers on me. Even over the phone."

Roxanne's facial expression dropped at once, while Riannon covered her lips with her palm as if she had to stay quiet.

A siren! Of course... That explained so much and yet it was hard to comprehend since she hadn't heard about anyone seeing them for the past few decades. Not to mention that she knew for a fact that Roxy was a fox too. All this made her a hybrid. And very dangerous.

"I am sorry," the glint in Roxanne's eyes disappeared as if someone sucked the life out of her, "It's hard to control myself now due to hormones."

She wanted to say something else but then took the phone away from her ear and Ria realised that he had hung up on her.

The girl's eyes filled with tears. A usual sight for her. Yet this time it seemed sincere.

"You really like him, don't you?" Riannon chuckled to herself when the door opened and Brayden walked in. He was wearing grey trousers with a grey waistcoat and a white shirt, looking good.

"I thought you were going to change," he looked his 'mate' up and down.

"I wanted to, but your heir is so strong. He keeps kicking me," Roxy used that sweet tone again and stretched her hands to Alpha, "Here, help me to stand up."

"Are you ready?" the man did as he was asked and she gave him a soft smile.

"I can't wait!" she giggled, making Riannon want to throw up a bit.

The two of them walked out of the room and she followed them closely with a smirk.

Unknowingly, they gave her an idea of how to win that war. And the evening was only

starting...

The Perfect Luna by Marissa Gilbert

Chapter 64

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Chapter 64. Betrayal Hurts

"As you know, we live in a world where only the strongest and the fittest survive," Brayden started his speech, "This is why it is so important for us to continue our bloodlines and create heirs. So that when we get weaker, they can step up and take our place! For us wolves this is

crucial. Otherwise, our pack will be done!"

Riannon stood and listened to his speech next to her former self, remembering almost every word. One could never forget when they were humiliated like that. But looking at her old self now, she was proud of her for not breaking down in front of everyone. By that time, she didn't have anyone close for support.

"My legal wife Riannon and I have tried to have pups for some time now," he continued his grand speech. (This novel will be daily updated at)It was a lie. They didn't try to have children and actually planned to have them later. But he was now using their absence to justify what he was doing. And it was working because he was receiving sympathetic glances from the crowd. "But we were unsuccessful," he even let out a heavy sigh. She wanted to slap him. Ria also realised that if she was made of flesh right now, she would have said something, would have fought for her honour and defended herself against all odds. She changed a lot even though not much time

passed.

But she was just a bodiless spirit now and couldn't change anything in what was happening. She was here to learn.

"You also know that the Moon Goddess blessed me and helped me to find my true mate,

Roxanne! I didn't understand the will of the Goddess from the beginning. But Selene is wise and she knows what she is doing. So, my beautiful mate with the

kindest heart in the world became pregnant with my pup and ensured our pack's future! And after very careful consideration, I realised my mistakes. I was worried that Roxy here was just an omega, but she taught me a valuable lesson and proved the importance of mates."

She remembered how every word of his was punctuated with the beating of her heart in her ears and she touched the hand of the past her as she stood there. Even knowing that it wouldn't help.

"This is why I had to take a very hard and drastic, but very important decision for the sake of our pack. Today I received approval of my divorce and our ways with my wife Riannon Tho... Michaels part. Riannon Michaels, I reject you as my chosen mate. And with a heavy heart, I denounce you as the Luna of this pack, but as my dear friend, you are always welcome to stay here as a regular member of the pack and I promise to take care of you as I do of

"No thanks," the present Ria snorted to herself.

People around them were whispering and gasping, but a lot of them were nodding in approval. Ria tried to remember the faces this time. Anything could be crucial.

"Moving on from the sad news," Brayden raised his voice, "Let me introduce the new

Luna of the Silver River pack! Roxanne Belgrave!

He stretched her head and Roxanne walked out in a golden maternity dress. Just as

tacky as she remembered.

"She will become Roxanne Thorn in the nearest future," Bray went on, looking at the fox with gleaming eyes, "But she starts her Luna duties today. Roxanne, do you swear to serve as Luna of this pack and always have the best interest of our people in your heart?"

"I do, Alpha," the vixen said proudly.

Lies.

"Do you promise to devote your life to the pack's safety?"

"I do." More lies. "Do you swear that you will work hard every day for the pack's prosperity?" "I do, Alpha." Lies again.

"Roxanne Belgrave, by the will of the Moon Goddess Selene,(This novel will be daily updtaed at) I announce you the new Luna of the Silver River pack!" Brayden growled and wolves around them started howling in celebration. This was the moment when the past her wanted to leave, but then she heard something else.

“And I want to seal this joyful day with a promise of my eternal love for my beautiful mate, Luna and future wife!” Brayden announced, walking behind Roxy. He carefully took all of her hair to one side and placed a soft kiss on her exposed neck. She moaned lightly and Riannon

remembered how it made her stomach turn.

The Alpha extended his canines and grazed them over the girl’s skin. She let out another moan and that seemed to do the trick as he sunk his teeth into her flesh, marking her for life.

And this was where the past Riannon finally run away, pushing through people who did not care about her anymore. It was funny how fast they were changing their sides and switching their loyalties. Ria noticed from the corner of her eye, Alice offering her old self a drink. Something with alcohol this time, which the former Luna drank in one gulp and walked away. The omega who served her looked guilty but in just a few seconds she was approached

Ria got closer to the two of them, observing them carefully.

“I’ve been watching you for a while now, Alice,” Marcus smiled charmingly at the young maid, whose cheeks flush at his words. She was clearly inexperienced, and he was a player. And an elite warrior at that. Dating someone like him was probably beyond her dreams.

“You know my name?” she raised her eyes at him and for a second there Riannon felt sorry for the girl, who was falling into the big bad wolf’s trap. But then she noticed the glass that probably still contained the traces of aconite with which the omega poisoned her. It made the pity fade away as she watched the man taking the girl away from the party that started.

She followed them into the woods where they started making out passionately. Marcus roughly turned the girl to face the huge oak tree and lifted the skirt of her summer dress up. He didn’t even bother taking her underwear, just moved it slightly to get access. He took her not in the nicest of manners but she seemed to enjoy it. Even when he laced his fingers around her neck while pumping into her from behind. Riannon turned away as this was the last thing she wanted to see. But very soon she heard him grunt which probably meant that he was done. Alice moaned. Not very believable. After all, the whole thing lasted just a minute or two. But then Riannon heard a sound of a snap and turned back to see the girl already lying on the

ground with her head in an unnatural angle as he tucked his member back into his jeans.

He lifted the girl’s feet and started dragging her away while no emotions were evident on his face. This was the moment when she promised herself to kill him as soon as she was back.

People like that didn’t deserve a second chance.

But she did not follow him as he dragged Alice's body. She knew that she had to be in a different place to learn what she really came here to learn.

She came back to the party and found Roxy celebrating as the new queen B of the pack. She had a lot of people around her but soon she started sighing a lot and complaining about

how tired she was.

"It's hard to carry an Alpha baby," she giggled, "He is so strong and healthy. He kicks me every day and so hard. It's exhausting."

"You need rest, my dear," Harper gave her a hug and caressed her stomach, "The future of our pack is literally inside you. Maybe it's enough celebrations for tonight? I think it's time to take your vitamins."

"You are right," Roxy nodded to the disappointment of the others around them, (This novel will be daily updated at) "I'd better listen to my sister-in-law. You are the best, Harp."

Until you."

That was a jab at her, but Riannon didn't care anymore.

She followed them as they went back into the house and all the way back to Brayden's bedroom, which Roxy was sharing with him tonight. Harper helped her to sit in a comfortable

chair, which was new. Just a week prior, Roxanne ordered a complete makeover of their house

and threw away everything that Ria ever touched. Or loved.

"Thank you," the fox accepted the pills and the glass of water handed to her, "You are so sweet. Did you manage to talk to Ash already?"

"No," the girl sat in the next armchair, frowning, "It feels like he is avoiding me."

They sat in silence for a while until Roxanne spoke.

"I already told you what the problem there is," the fox started playing with her hair

innocently.

"She will be leaving the pack soon," Harper folded her hands on her chest and her nostrils flared visibly, "And then we will finally have a chance. Ash wouldn't leave his Beta

position for her.”

“Oh, Harp,” Roxy sighed and it didn’t look natural at all, “I don’t know how to tell you... But I heard rumours between the omegas that he is going to propose to her tonight.”

“What?” Brayden’s sister shifted uncomfortably in her seat and looked at her so-called friend in shock, “It’s impossible!”

“I am sorry,” Roxanne put her glass of water onto the coffee table, “People saw him buying a ring and bragging to his friends about it. She will have his mark on her neck tomorrow. And I just... I don’t want you to suffer. You know I would do anything for you. You are really like a real sister to me!”

“What shall I do?” Harper was tearing up now, her lips trembling, “I love him so much. I... I waited for him to notice me for years.”

“And I think he likes you... a lot,” Roxy placed her palm on top of hers, “When I see you two together, you look like a perfect couple. But Riannon... She has her way with men. Sometimes I think that she is a witch or something. There couldn’t be any other explanation.”

“Right,” her sister-in-law nodded, “Ash is not his usual self when he is with her...”

“I hate it, Harp,” Roxanne squeezed her arm tighter, “I think this was happening to your brother as well. And only the power of true mate bond helped to get rid of that... unhealthy

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“It’s of no help to me though,” Harper threw her head back, “we aren’t true mates.”

“But it’s still true love,” the fox was weaving her web, “And you have to fight for love. Just

imagine how your life would change if Riannon Michaels is not in it.”

“Don’t tempt me,” Harper let out a laugh and then she got quiet. “Oh, no,” slipped off Ria’s lips, “It can’t be you!”

She knew that Harper did not like her, hated her even. But this was too much. She couldn’t... She didn’t have it in her.

“I can’t do anything about her,” her ex-sister-in-law muttered, “She is way stronger than

me.”

Roxanne stood up from her chair and went to Brayden's bar. (This novel will be daily updated at) There she found a bottle of Irish cream and poured some into a glass, throwing there a few ice cubes from the mini-fridge as well. And while she was bending, she got out a little vile from out of a pocket of her dress. Ria watched as she added the whole little bottle into the drink and mixed it quickly, offering it to Harper afterwards.

"Drink it," she smiled, "You will feel better." She watched the girl as she slowly made gulp after gulp.

"You know, if you were to consider doing this after all," Roxy sat on the armrest of the chair to be closer to her victim, "then today would be the best day."

"Why?" Harper looked at her with eyes that had a problem focusing.

"Because she is vulnerable and weak after the rejection today," the fox smirked, leaning to the she-wolf's ear, "And because she was given sedatives today to make her weaker and slower. There wouldn't be a second chance like that to get rid of her..."

"Then you do it!" Harper snorted.

"I can't," Roxy shrugged her shoulders, "Shifting may harm the baby. But I can provide you with an alibi. And I can be with you when you do it..."

"Brayden will find out... and Ash..."

"I will take care of Brayden," Roxanne assured her, "And as for Ash... you could be the one to make him forget about everything."

"I don't know," Harper mumbled and she didn't look her usual self. She tried to focus her

vision but struggled with it.

"Fine," Roxy stood up, sighing in disappointment, "Forget about it. Maybe this is why he

chooses her... She has the guts. If it was the other way around, she would have killed you without hesitation. I guess Ash loves stronger women. I'll probably need to start looking for a cottage for the two of them tomorrow. He would want to start a family as soon as possible..."

Riannon stood in front of Harper, still not believing in what was going on. Harper's wolf

wasn't even brown! It was red!

But... in the light of the moon and dying from poisoning, could she really tell the correct shade? Red wolf fur could have been easily mistaken for brown in dimmed lighting.

"Do you think the house that Petersons were occupying will do for a Beta and his wife? Or would they want something bigger?" Roxy kept torturing the girl next to her.

"No, stop," Harper said in a hoarse voice, "I will do it. Just... help me." "No," Ria whispered helplessly.

"Of course," Roxanne giggled, "Let's go. She must be ready by now. (This novel will be daily updated at) All you need to do is shift and finish her off. I already did half of the job."

They went out of the room, leaving Riannon alone. She did not know whether to follow them next. She already knew what she came here to find out. And the pain in her chest was enough...

However, after careful consideration, she ran after the two... she didn't even have a word

for them.

She had to see it to know for sure...