

The Perfect Luna by Marissa Gilbert

Chapter 70

Chapter 70. Darkness Before Th...

Riannon didn't even gasp when Gideon lifted Brayden up in the air, growling fiercely. She expected for it to go this way between the two of them at some point.

"If you think that I am leaving my mate with a piece of garbage like you, you must be crazy!" he snarled. The werewolf tried desperately to fight the clutch of death but was

unsuccessful.

"Gideon," Ria placed her hand on his chest, calming him down instantly. "Please... Just let him go. Not now, okay?"

The lycan unclenched his fingers and the other man fell all the way down to the ground.

However, he got up quickly, baring his teeth at the opponent.

"Bray!" his ex-wife warned him, "You asked for our help, remember? Not the other way around! Be grateful we do this for you in the first place and behave. Remember our deal."

He took a step back, still panting and looked at her. "I asked for your help. Not his!" "Well, too bad," she folded her hands on her chest, "We come as a pack now."

She could swear she heard him grit his teeth. But decided to ignore all that. None of this was important now.

"They will kill Harper the moment they see him!" he said spitefully.

"Plainly speaking," Gideon interjected, "I don't care about Harper. If you don't like something, I am taking my queen back and we are leaving this very moment. Good like getting

your sister and fake mate out on your own."

Another growl emerged from the Alpha's chest but this time someone else interrupted them.

"Why leave if we are all already here?" Castiel's voice echoed through the forest, and they all turned to see him in the company of two bulky warriors and Harper with tied hands. She

was typical of her.

There was no sign of Roxie, though.

"You!" Bray recognised the man and his lips parted as he was stunned. But the next second he furrowed his brows as he realized that he was tricked.

"Me," Castiel grinned wickedly, "Long time no see, Alpha. And such different circumstances. Don't worry, I treated your little sister and the mother of your future child better than you did me. One might say they enjoyed staying with me."

The fox chuckled and the wolf snarled at him.

on!"

"It's indeed not what we agreed on," the fox king confirmed with ease as a sneer formed

on his handsome face. "You brought one more person and I brought one less. It's only fair."

Brayden turned to glare at Gideon as if blaming him for what was happening, but the latter didn't give a care in the world.

"No," Ria smirked, "You were supposed to bring three. We counted the baby too. So...." "Riannon," Castiel smirked, "always a pleasure." "Can't say the same," she retorted, and his lazy grin only grew wider. He enjoyed this

game.

"Cut the small talk!" Brayden grunted, "Where is Roxanne?!"

"Oh, she is here," Riannon sniffed a few times and pointed to the East, "And not that far. I would recognise that scent anywhere."

With that, she let Ash and Maya know the location via the mind link.

Bray snapped his head at her. She knew where Roxanne was, while he didn't feel anything. Surely, he was supposed to feel his mate's closeness. Or at least her scent like Ri did. Yet there was nothing. His wolf Ragnar wasn't restless, he was only thinking about the future fight now. And everything together made him wonder if Riannon was right all this time... She was always right before... What if Roxy wasn't his mate after all?

“Excellent,” Castiel clapped as if they were in a theatre, each clap louder than the other. “I have to say, that you don’t stop to impress me. I placed her at a distance that would be far enough for any alpha or lycan to sense her. But you did... I wonder why.”

“And I have to say that you are disappointing so far,” Riannon cocked her brow, trying to change the subject. She wasn’t aware of all her powers and abilities herself and had no desire to share that information with strangers. “Why don’t we get to the part where you tell us why we are all really here?”

“Ouch,” the fox touched his heart with a smirk. “But you are right. Why don’t we? So, want the lycan king to denounce himself from the throne and free the lands of Crimson Fang, Silver Stone, Fenrir’s Eye and Moon Wisdom packs.”

“And I want you to stab yourself in the heart right now to save me the trouble,” Gideon scoffed. “Those two girls are not worth it. And considering that you’ve brought only one anyway...”

were the impossible conditions. “Their Alphas aren’t even here!”

“They can go to your land,” Castiel sneered and tilted his head. “After all, you still have a vast territory and no money to sustain it. You can charge them. It would be a win-win. You already figured out you are bankrupt, right?”

“What?” Riannon’s head snapped in the direction of her ex-husband, but he looked just

as surprised as she was.

“Oh, you didn’t know?” the fox gave them a sly smile. “Your pretty mate and sister gave

You are not that great at book keeping, are you?”

Brayden got pale. His whole world was crumbling under his feet. His ex circled him angrily but whispered, “You will deal with this later. Concentrate now.”

Her words gave him strength just like they always did before. He realised that he missed this. But this wasn’t the time for thinking about them now.

“He can’t give you those lands and you know it,” Gideon intervened, a mask of boredom on his face.

“But you can,” Castiel looked as if he was having the time of his life. Riannon tried to figure out his plan. Did he want to simply kill them all? Or was there something else? He sure

personality now.

"Yet I won't," the lycan chuckled, looking down on the fox. "I just wanted to finally see your face. You've been hiding well in your fox hole all this time."

"Why thank you!" Castiel bowed mockingly. "It was hard after your father killed mine. But staying incognito helped me to do so much. It was essential to uniting fox clans and creating our own kingdom."

"I don't remember my father killing a fox Alpha," Gideon narrowed his eyes at the enemy.

"Who said that my father was an Alpha?" Castiel chuckled and looked straight at Riannon. "See? There is no imagination! Such predictable way of thinking! How do you even live with him? You must be bored to death!"

The king growled so loudly that the ground shook underneath their feet. "Bray!" Harper squeaked through tears, "It's a trap!"

was a trap.

The fox laughed menacingly and wrapped his hand around the tied girl, pulling her closer, "Sweetie, don't you see that they already know? They've been preparing for me! They really did want to save you. Too bad that the plan wasn't too good."

They heard sounds of approaching footsteps and in a few seconds huge warriors arrived holding their people hostage. The ones who were hidden in the places Ria practically pointed out to Alice.

Ash was one of them. They had to make it believable after all. And Harper started crying louder when she saw him, the desperation evident on her face. She really did have feelings for

him.

"See?" Castiel smirked, "I got them all. And also, I am a bit insulted you didn't take many fighters. I am a far more serious threat than you imagine."

"We did," Riannon said, and he looked at her with interest.

"You did what?" he asked and this time her lips curled into a sneer instead of his.

"We did bring more," the Alpha female informed him, and at the same time contacted her Beta to start via the mind link. Howl after howl was sounding in the distance, signalling to their groups of warriors that they had ready and waiting for that moment, that the moment had

come.

"Release the girl and surrender quietly," Gideon suggested firmly, stepping forward. "Then we'll consider..."

"No, thanks!" Castiel only pulled Harper closer, covering himself with her body as a

shield.

"How manly!" Riannon couldn't help but snort. That, somehow, made his eye glow just for a second. Her words definitely had an effect on him.

"Kill them!" he made the order to his people and gritted his teeth. But the very same second, every hostage, with the exception of Marcus, who was released on his own, because he was an accomplice, started fighting back. And each of them had a little surprise carefully prepared by Riannon personally.

Concentrated aconite injections. The dosage was the biggest they could fit in a small syringe.

Ash was the first to pierce his captor with the short but thick needle in the leg. The

warriors followed his example, but it didn't work the same for everyone.

"Useless!" Castiel shouted, "I have more people in..."

"In a ravine nearby," Gideon scoffed, taking off his jacket and throwing it to the ground. "We know. My Beta Reid is dealing with those right now together with my syster Savannah."

"Now!" Ria commanded and the three of them went into the fight well. Brayden was helping the warriors that were his just a day ago. He couldn't see them getting hurt. Riannon did the same, while her mate tried to get to the fox king. His path was blocked by the two guards, who shifted before his eyes into two huge werebears.

Swearing under his breath, Gideon shifted as well, tearing one of them into two parts with

ease the second he took a form of an enormous wolf. The second one turned out to be more

work. His gaze was following the fox who was trying to escape with his hostage.

Riannon saw that too, but the remaining warriors turned out to be bears as well. And the bears were all muscle. Very strong opponents. She was already thinking about shifting. After all, Onyx was eager to go into battle. But she did not want to give away all her cards yet.

Luckily, before she had to, their second wave of warriors arrived, circling them. They submitted the enemies easily now that the numbers were on their side.

"Keep them alive!" Ria ordered and saw her mate killing one of the werebears. Their eyes met and she shook her head in disbelief. They agreed to capture as many as they could alive.

"This one was very stubborn and did not want to surrender," he told her apologetically via the mind link and she rolled her eyes. "Ria, I am going after that fox. Stay here and make sure that everything else goes smoothly."

"Fine," she said, and watched him sprinting away in the direction where Castiel left with Harper. In a few seconds, Brayden followed them too.

She stayed with the warriors, hoping that they would be able to get Harper. This wasn't the most important part of the plan for her. But she still did not want her dead even after everything.

"Not a bad operation for your first days as an Alpha," Ash chuckled as the two of them watched the werebears getting cuffed. The two foxes that were with them were properly drugged on aconite. It affected every shifter, but it had less effect on bears than on wolves, cats, foxes and others.

such a bad feeling inside. It felt... as if something was off...

"Where is Maya?" she asked her Gamma and he paused, "Wasn't she supposed to come with this group?"

"She was," Ash confirmed and then looked at the warrior next to him, "Mick, where is

Maya?

"She sent us alone," the guy replied, rubbing the back of his neck, "She said there was

something important she had to do."

"s**t!" Riannon swore and turned on her heels, running in the direction of the East. There was only one thing that her best friend could be doing other than aiding her. And that was finding and killing her brother's murderer.

"Ash," she mind-linked her Gamma, "See to the prisoners being locked properly and guarded heavily. And send a group of warriors to the East as well. Lycans, if you can find any. They are faster."

"I can come and..."

"No, you have your own task now. Until me, Brayden or Gideon return, our captives are your responsibility."

She did not shift, running as fast as she could. Finally, she reached a clearing in the woods and heard the sounds of a fight.

Before her eyes, a fiery red fox and her Beta were fighting. At the same time, she couldn't ignore the bodies of a werebear and another fox lying on the ground. Maya must have taken them down first.

She noticed now that her friend was bleeding in a few places already, but kept trying to

get the fox. That Beta of hers was stubborn.

Ria was ready to shift when someone grabbed her from the back, grasping her hands painfully and placed a cloth over her face. Instinctively, she tried to take in a deep breath and felt something strange happening. It was as if her whole throat was on fire. The more she tried to get air, the worse it felt.

"I am sorry, I have to do it like this," Castiel whispered into her ear. "I really imagined it differently in my head. But you are not the only one who likes to play with aconite..."

The fox charged at the wolf, going for the side and digging her canines as deep as she could into the rival's flesh, making Maya howl from pain.

And this was the last thing Riannon saw before the world went blurry...

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Chapter 71

Chapter 71. Mind Games.

Gideon was following the scent of the fox king, wishing for nothing more than tearing his head off. This would solve most of his problems, as the sly bastard was the brain behind everything and eliminating him would be crucial for the victory.

He sped up, letting Mars take the control. Soon they saw the red blur ahead of them. Castiel's scent was evident. And they didn't hesitate to charge at the fox, knocking him off his feet. His beast was huge, but not a match for a lycan wolf. Gideon would have overpowered him easily if not for the two bears that joined his enemy. Those were extremely big and aggressive. So, it took him a bit longer to rip their necks off. And now two things worried him. First, he did not see the girl that Castiel took hostage anywhere close. And second, they were watching the area and these two bears came out of nowhere.

It was a bad sign. Very bad. The fox started running again but he managed to catch up with him and dig his canines

into his side to make him stop. The red beast whimpered and in no time the lycan king

managed to submit him. A few slashes of sharp claws here and there and the fox under him

whimpered from pain, shifting back into his human form.

And this was when Gideon snarled in anger.

Before him was a young man in his twenties with red curly hair who was trembling in

horror.

It wasn't Castiel. It wasn't the fox king. "What the hell?!" Gideon gritted his teeth, talking to his wolf. "How did this happen?!"

"We've been tricked," Mars was furious. "He has the king's scent on him! It's identical! The foxes are the only ones who can do this type of thing!"

He was angry at himself for falling for this. Of course, he shouldn't have relied on the scent when dealing with this sly kind...

"Reid," he called his Beta via the mind link, "I lost the king. Anything from your side?"

"We got the whole group and I just sent them to the dungeons of your Queen's pack," his friend replied.

"Good. Keep your eyes open. Don't trust the scents too much." Gideon told him and then tried to connect to his mate, "Riannon."

She did not reply and he got tense. It wasn't that far. He was supposed to feel her. And now, trying to sense his bond, he couldn't.

"Riannon!" he called again and again, only to get no reply. Two of his warriors

"Reid! Do you see Riannon?" he asked while taking a huge leap.

"No," the reply echoed through his ears, and now he was really worried.

"Can you connect to your mate?" the lycan king still tried thinking rationally.

"No, I haven't marked her yet..." Reid sounded apologetic. "But I am going there now. If I find out anything..."

"Good," Gideon stopped him.

Yet nothing was good. He couldn't feel Riannon anywhere nearby.

Finally, he picked up her scent and started following it. It led him to a small ravine and from there Ria's traces were going in five different directions.

A loud growl emerged from the depths of the lycan king's lungs and it made the flocks of birds fly away from the trees.

They used her scent to cover their tracks. The foxes copied her scent and left it all over this part of the woods, so it would be impossible to trace them.

But the worst thing was that to copy her scent, they had to have her... Just how did they do it? The plan worked perfectly! She was safe! They won!

He was running all over the forest trying to find her and growling loudly, howling in the

loss of his mate. Desperate, angry, broken...

"I don't feel her anywhere nearby," Mars told him, "We are wasting our time here."

. It was true and Gideon knew this. He raced back to the packhouse, where everyone was already waiting for him with stern faces, shifting in one breath.

"What do you know?" he asked through gritted teeth when he saw Reid walking out of the

mansion at the same time as Maya, who did not look great, bleeding in a few places.

"I am taking her into the infirmary," his Beta told him, covering her with his body as if to

defend her.

"What happened?" he still insisted. "Where is Riannon? Who saw her last?" "I did," Maya lowered her head, and he knew that he wasn't going to like what he heard

next.

He clenched his fists and growled loudly, making Reid step in front of his mate. But she pushed him away carefully and looked the lycan king in the eye.

"I was fighting Roxy when I thought I saw her," she said firmly, taking the responsibility. "I felt my Alpha's presence during my battle and then I saw a man taking her away. I think it was

"Taking her away?" Gideon's breathing fastened. This was the worst thing that he could ever imagine. His beautiful Ria was in his enemy's hands. "How the hell did that happen?!"

"She seemed unconscious," Maya admitted. "He was holding her in his arms. I was in the middle of the battle and couldn't do anything. By the time I won, they were gone, and her scent was all over the place. This was when Reid found me."

"She was heavily bleeding but still searching for her Alpha," his Beta chimed in, clearly

trying to protect her, which only made him more suspicious.

"Why were you far away from other warriors? None of us should have been alone!" Gideon narrowed his eyes at the girl, who lowered her head in submission again. "Who were you fighting?"

"Roxanne," her voice was barely a whisper, but he heard it loud and clear. "Roxanne the fake mate?" he snarled. "You went for her alone and Ria followed you. Isn't

that right?!"

"That's correct, my king." She acknowledged his title for the first time since they had known each other.

"You didn't follow the plan! She went to help you but because of that got captured!" Mars was trying to get out. For a lycan wolf of his rank, he wanted to punish the Beta. But Reid

covered her with himself again.

"Gideon! She made a mistake! It happens..." He pleaded.

"This mistake cost me my queen!" the king roared, not being able to hold his anger. "Your best friend!"

"I know..." Maya muttered under her breath, shaking visibly.

"And we need clear heads now to get her back!" Reid reasoned with his Alpha. "Get yourself cleaned and we'll get to work. It's not the end. It's only the beginning. They will not hurt her. Not with the current situation. But we need to find her as soon as possible. Luckily, we got many captives today. And Roxy is one of them. She sure as hell has some valuable

information for us."

Gideon stormed past the two of them, growling, "I expect you two in the dungeons

within one hour!"

Riannon slowly opened her eyes, blinking a few times as she tried to adjust to the Mind Games unfamiliar and for a few seconds, she thought that maybe Gideon took her back to his mansion. Maybe it was a surprise and he prepared a new room for her.

However, when the door opened, she was back to reality as her eyes locked with Castiel's. He had that smug grin plastered all over his face that told her that this was his house. He was too comfortable here. Another thing that she realised quickly was that there were cameras installed in this room. Otherwise, how did he know that she was away?

closed the doors behind them and she heard the lock click.

"That would be an overstatement," she lifted her chin high, assessing her clothes. To her relief, she was still fully dressed. Only her beautiful leather jacket and boots were missing. At least that was good news, nobody violated her in her sleep. This was giving her hope. "You drugged me, remember?" She moved to the edge of the bed and sat on it.

"I do and I am sorry," he shrugged his shoulders. He wasn't sorry at all. But he was

"You are not." Riannon stated plainly, rubbing her forehead. She never had a headache

this bad.

"True," the fox smirked. "I would have done it differently if there was a chance. But there was not, so, don't blame me. I wanted us to talk for a while."

"We live during sad times if men have to drug women to simply talk to them," she scoffed, but he did not give her any reaction, walking deeper into the room and taking a seat in one of the armchairs next to the window.

Ria decided not to waste any time and stood up, pacing slowly around the room and

looking around. Any detail here could be an important piece of information to use in the future.

But the more she looked, the more disappointed she became. This room had no character in it.

"It's all brand new," she heard the fox king chuckle behind her back. "I had it prepared specially for you after our first meeting in person. You will not find anything here."

"Who said that I am looking?" she raised her brow at him and went to sit in the opposite chair, placing one of her legs on top of the other. "Maybe I am just admiring the design."

"Yeah. Sure," he let out a little laugh, tapping the armrest with his long fingers while eyeing her. He was enjoying all this and she hated the fact that she was providing this satisfaction for

him.

mood and that arrogant smile dropped off his lips.

"The question is whether I lost them or simply sacrificed them?" he was back to sneering in less than a second. But this time she knew that it was an act.

"Why don't we get to the point and you just tell me what do you want from me?" Ria cut straight to the chase. Foxes hated that. They loved their mind games.

"Who said that I want anything?" Castiel winked at her as if they were good friends.

"Well, you did prepare a room for me," she pointed to everything that was surrounding them and he nodded, giving up on that one little lie.

"Oh, Riannon," he sighed, looking her straight into the eyes, "I want so many things from you! You have no idea."

She cringed a bit, hearing that, but did her best not to show it.

"I am not sure I want to hear this," she parried and heard another chuckle of his. Menacing

this time.

again...

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Chapter 72. Underestimated

Riannon tried not to display her emotions in front of the fox king, as his men dragged

Harper into the room. Not that she experienced a lot of emotions. For a second there, she was afraid that it could be *Maya*. But seeing her ex's sister actually made her feel relieved. That was the sacrifice she was willing to make if she absolutely had to.

Harper looked even worse than the last time she saw her. It had probably been hours since she switched off in the woods. And Ria guessed that Castiel didn't have a luxurious room

"What is this?" she cocked her brow and stared at the fox king, absolutely unimpressed. "Riannon!" Harper whimpered, but she ignored that. The less attention she paid to her,

the better. She couldn't show Castiel that she cared even one bit. That would seal the girl's

"You know exactly what this is," the man in front of her sneered, brushing his head over his medium-length hair.

"What does Brayden's sister have to do with me?" she shrugged her shoulders.

"You came to save her, remember?" he reminded her and she let out a little laugh.

"Seriously? That's your leverage?" she scoffed. "You know very well why I came there.

Not for her."

"You b*tch!" Harper screeched and Riannon rolled her eyes. "I knew you were like this!

You worthless..."

"Then if she is this insignificant and has no use for you, I don't think I have use for her as well anymore. She played her part." Castiel clicked his fingers and one of the warriors hit the back of Harper's knees, making her fall down. The other grew his claws and grabbed the girl's hair with a free hand, digging them into her flesh almost to the point of bleeding.

Ria pursed her lips. She did not owe anything to Harper. Especially not after what she saw in her past.

But she wasn't a murderer. And Harper hadn't done anything yet. Maybe... just maybe

there was still a way to save her.

However, letting Castiel think that Harper meant something to her would be a mistake.

He would then use the girl against her again and again. And she didn't even know yet what he

wanted from her in the first place.

Everything was a game to him. The smirk on his face was the proof of that. So, she decided to try and play with him as well.

indifferently. "But I am surprised you think that she played her part already."

Her opponent chuckled and she locked eyes with her ex-sister-in-law just for a second. The girl clearly wanted to say something but clenched her lips as the claws dug a bit deeper into her neck.

"Elaborate on that, please," Castiel encouraged her.

"Just because she doesn't mean much to me, doesn't mean she has no use for you." She was choosing every word carefully. "She is still Brayden's sister. And Brayden is still the Alpha of The Silver River pack."

"Which is bankrupt now. How long is it until his own people turn on him or other Alphas come to claim his land?" the fox king smirked, looking at her with amusement.

"My Beta or Gamma will give him the money due after our divorce," Ria lied calmly. She was thinking of it but did not give such an order yet. But those were insignificant details now. "His pack would be thriving in no time. And no one would start a war, knowing that we have

another one looming over us."

He watched her as she spoke and she did not like his gaze on her. She did not like his

interest. She did not want it.

"Take her back to her cell," Castiel commanded, and his men obeyed, yanking Harper back to her feet. She had tears rolling down her cheeks that ruined the remnants of her mascara. But at least, she wasn't shouting any insults anymore. And the last look she exchanged with Ria was perplexed and lost.

The door behind them closed and only now had Riannon released that the two of them had been alone in this strange room.

"Onyx, are you there?" she called her wolf even though she felt her inside. But she needed to hear her voice inside her mind, she needed the confirmation that what happened last time wasn't happening again.

"Present," Onyx replied immediately. "Do not worry, I am never leaving you again."

"How are you feeling? Are we..."

capable of taking care of ourselves.”

It was good and she let out a sigh of relief, which Castiel took differently.

“SO,” he taunted her with a vague smile on his lips. His eyes were travelling around her

However, she did no such thing and only straightened her back instead. “What do you want from me?” she narrowed her eyes at the arrogant man next to her.

“Isn’t it obvious?” a sneer formed on his handsome face. Even now she couldn’t deny that he was ridiculously good looking.

“Nothing is obvious until you say it out loud,” Ria rolled her eyes and watched how the fox king stood up and started pacing around the room slowly. He wasn’t nervous though. It was another game for him. So, when he turned sharply to face her and his stormy grey eyes almost pierced her, she gulped, feeling uneasy.

“I want you,” Castiel said plainly, but in such a tone that there could be no misunderstanding between them.

“Don’t be ridi...” She started saying, but he was the one to interrupt her.

“You asked me and now you will listen,” he stepped closer, and she wanted to leave that chair to be able to walk away from him. Yet the fox king bent lower, towering over her and pinned his hands at both sides of her. “I have been looking for a worthy woman for quite some time. You see, I need a Luna myself. Someone who I can admire and rely on. A partner.”

“Then it’s definitely not me!” she snorted, but instead of backing off, he grabbed her chin

to make her look at him.

“But you could be.” His eyes lingered over her lips as his thumb brushed over the lower one, parting them. She yanked her head away and to her surprise, he didn’t insist, returning to the armchair next to her, only a sigh of disappointment leaving him as proof that he cared.

“Hardly,” she turned away from him.

“I was watching you and I have to say that you surprised me more than once.” He said

while rubbing his chin. “I’ve never met anyone so... captivating.”

“Is this why you cancelled your order to get rid of me?” Ria taunted him but he didn’t

"Yes," he replied honestly. "I saw you as an obstruction before. But after I actually met you, I changed my mind. I am rarely this interested in anyone. And the more I find out about you, the more I want you by my side."

"Too bad that I have a mate," she interrupted him. She did not need any confessions from the enemy. Although she suspected that he had been interested in her for a while already.

would lose their advantage and influence. The era of wolves will be over."

"Charming!" she dug her nails into the fabric of her chair, almost ripping it.

"But for you, I am willing to make an exception," he stretched his hands towards hers, but she jerked it back. He took it well, not pushing further. "Become my Luna and I will make sure that your pack survives. Your little feisty friend and even your Gamma too. They will all keep their lives if you are next to me. Just imagine what the two of us could do together!"

"How tempting!" she didn't even try to hide the poison in her words.

"I will make it more tempting when you are more accustomed to me," he smirked, and that smirk sent a chill down her spine.

"If you so much as..." she started speaking, but Castiel interrupted her.

"I am not going to force you to do anything. I don't need that," the fox king chuckled lightly. "I will find a key to your heart now that you are here. And we..."

"In your dreams!" she wanted to let Onyx out now simply to shut him up, but managed to stop in time. Attacking him could ruin everything!

"It's enough for now," Castiel stood up again and walked to the door, placing his palm on the doorknob and ready to leave. But at the last moment, he turned to look at her again, "I will give you as much time as you need to accept me. I am not in a hurry."

She wanted to slap him, kick him... rip his throat out.

"This will never happen!" she told him firmly.

"Never say never," Castiel laughed openly, "I take it as a challenge and only want you more. I still remember how you touched me for the first time and called me handsome. And I sure as hell remember you in that little silky thing in your bedroom. Don't get me wrong, but do

not provoke me. It's already hard to stay away from you. And I detest forcing women into

anything."

“Then don’t!” Riannon stood up as well. “Let me go.”

His gaze traced her from head to her feet and a lazy smile danced on his lips, “No. You will stay here until you are ready. I am not in a rush. I want quality.”

“Are you seriously going to keep me locked in that room?!” she scowled.

“Of course, not,” he gave her a sly grin, “You are welcome to roam freely around this house. Meet its residents. I am sure some of them will help you speed up your decision.”

This was exactly what she needed, so she did not object this time. “You are also free to

weapons, of course. But other than that – no limits.”

To that Riannon nodded quietly. She definitely could use that too.

“In the evening I would want us to have dinner together. We have a lot to talk about,” Castiel informed her, “Change into one of the dresses I got for you. You will look lovely...”

“And if I don’t?” she raised a brow but it only widened his grin.

“Then Harper’s stay here will be way less comfortable.” That was a pure threat and he left the room before she managed to form a snarky reply. So much for not trying to force her...

Gideon was wiping out his bloody knuckles after yet another unsuccessful interrogation

when he saw the pack’s doctor.

“My king,” the doctor bowed politely, “The pregnant girl is properly healed now. The baby

is in no danger and she is feeling better. You can talk to her if you like...”

The Perfect Luna by Marissa Gilbert

Chapter 73

Chapter 73. See Through

Gideon walked into the interrogation room and understood at once why they called it a VIP room. It wasn’t a dirty cellar like the other cells he had been inside in the past 24 hours. This room had white matte glass walls and ceilings and even

floors with a mounted desk and chairs in the middle. He knew at once that this was a place she built. Everything around him

screamed her name. And he cringed seeing the redhead fox in that space.

It was as if she was insulting everything that Riannon touched with her mere presence.

But the moment she looked in his direction, he felt a wave of... something.

Gideon took a deep breath and he could swear that her lips curled a bit.

"Your majesty," she mumbled in the sweetest tone, tilting her head so that one of her shoulders was bare to his sight as the oversized hood she was given at the hospital fell off it.

"Luna Roxanne, so we meet again," he said indifferently as he took a seat in front of her. (This novel will be daily updated at)She wrinkled her little nose, lowering her eyes.

"I don't think people should call me Luna anymore since I am in this place," she sighed and stretched her cuffed hands to touch his palm that was resting on the desk. He did not jerk that hand back and she quickly squeezed his fingers with hers. "Please, tell me what is going

on! No one is telling me anything."

He wasn't looking at her when he heard the sound of tears falling on the surface of the desk and he felt another wave of... that odd something. He couldn't quite decipher it but he had an urge to look at the girl who sat opposite of him.

Roxy was crying, all her face already wet. "Please," she squeaked helplessly. "I'll see what I can do..." Gideon said in a hoarse voice and squeezed her hand back.

"Really, my king?" She fluttered her lashes, blinking away tears and one of them landed on his skin. It was calling him to do something and he bent a bit closer to her.

"Of course," he said, "You and your baby will be safe." She smiled at him, "You are so kind, your majesty. How can I ever repay *you*?" She leaned forward too, her fingers running up his arm as their lips almost touched.

"You can start by telling me where your damn fox lover would take my mate," he gritted his teeth and then pushed her away. The look of astonishment was evident on her face as she

stared at him.

"Wh-what?" the girl mumbled. "Why..." aware of who you are. Or maybe because I am a freaking LYCAN KING!"

He let out a mighty growl, making the girl fall off her chair and crawl to the furthest corner away from him. She was visibly shaking and he knew that he had achieved the desired effect.

"Did you ever think why he never sent you to seduce a Lycan? Let alone me?" Gideon smirked. "Why waste your time on some Alpha when you could have already been in the Lycan kingdom, ruining it from the inside?"

He circled the desk and looked down on her from where he stood with his hands folded on his chest. "That's because lycans, and especially royal lycans, have the strongest metal shields. A cross-breed siren wouldn't be able to affect us."

She stared at him but not a word about who she really was left her mouth. Not that he

needed any confirmation.

"I don't know what you are talking about, my king," she sniffed pitifully, and he rolled his

eyes.

"I don't care about that," he shrugged. "Just tell me where would your king take my mate?"

Her head snapped at him and her lips twitched slightly, but she quickly went back into her ignorant mode.

"You are my king," she said weakly and started sobbing again, "I don't know what you are talking about! Please, let me out!"

He was right next to her in one moment, yanking her back to her feet and lifting his hand

with prolonged claws to rip her neck.

"What the f*ck?!" the door opened and Brayden growled loudly, storming in. "You don't have the right to even touch my Luna!"

"Is she even your Luna? Did you acknowledge her? Did you mark her?" Gideon snarled angrily. "And even if you did, you can't stop me from snapping her neck if she doesn't start talking!"

"But The Alpha Council can!" Bray stepped forward with clenched fists. "I just summoned a new Alpha Summit! They all know what happened and that you hold my Luna hostage."

"I don't care about your Luna!" Gideon let the girl go and was head to head with the werewolf in less than a second. "All need is information! Get it for me and the two of you are

free to go!"

"You have one hour!" the lycan king grunted and left, slamming the door behind his back.

He took a deep breath. The room was soundproof and he couldn't hear what the couple was talking about. So, he didn't waste any time and opened the very next door, walking into the

observation room.

His queen was indeed wise because that wasn't just a fortified matte glass in there. One

wall was a hidden window and at every angle behind that glass, cameras were installed so that it was easy to observe every move inside of the interrogation room on big screens inside the observation one. The first thing that he would do when all this was over, was build a room just like that in his palace.

Then again, who was he kidding? The first thing he would do would be take his mate over and over, and over again.

"You did well," Ash praised his acting and he frowned. This wasn't what he wanted to be doing. This wasn't how he was used to handling things. But since it was Riannon who was in danger and this little annoying redhead hybrid was the only one who could help him find her, he was willing to try and do anything. He wasn't above even humiliating himself for her sake.

SO

There were other ways to get information out of her, but she was pregnant. And it seemed too cruel to interrogate her properly in that state.

He looked at Riannon's Beta standing in the corner and eyeing Roxanne behind the glass. She was surprisingly calm with her arms folded on her chest. As if she didn't commit a grave mistake that cost her an Alpha.

But now wasn't the time to think about her and he turned to see the show.

"Are you okay?" Brayden was still standing where he left him a few seconds ago.

"Bray!" Roxanne started crying again as she threw herself in his arms, tucking her head in his neck. She was smearing her tears all over his skin and Gideon knew that it was a trick. From the quick research on sirens' abilities he did with Ria, they found out that sirens were seducing creatures not only with their sweet voices and good looks. The females were

secreting pheromones that could drive almost any male crazy with lust very quickly. No

wonder that i***t Brayden thought she was his mate. It was unusual to want someone that much when you were already mated. But those tears of hers were especially dangerous. They were the concentration of those pheromones and her own DNA. Every time it was touching a male, that liquid was marking them. Temporary, but it was a bond of sorts and it was easier to make them like her. The mating was sealing the deal. But all that was wearing off, so she

"I was so scared!" she whined, "First, I was kidnapped together with Harper! I was so scared! Then, I was attacked by Maya for outing her earlier! She wanted to kill me, Bray! And now this! The lycan king thinks that I know something! Thanks to the Moon Goddess that you

are here!"

"Of course," Brayden kissed the top of her head, stroking her hair. "Don't worry anymore.

You are safe now. You are with me. Just tell me everything that you know and we will walk out of here. I promise."

She distanced herself and looked wearily at him, "But I don't know anything."

"You need to give us something," he insisted calmly while he sat on the top of the desk and pulled her closer. "They think you are a traitor. They will not let you out if you don't provide any valuable information."

"But wouldn't it be proof of me actually being a traitor if I did?" Roxanne flapped her long

"Of course not," he brushed his hand over her cheek. "Just tell us where they kept you. (This novel will be daily updaed at)Remember, *you* were telling me that something is happening to your wolf and it's getting stronger. That you can memorise things easily and it will help you to be a better Luna. Now is

the time to use all that. I am sure you can find the place where they held you and Harper. If we find her, we will be able to leave and get married. And our baby will be safe."

He placed his hand on her flat tummy that wasn't even visible yet. "Bray, I don't remember a thing!" Roxy lied and he sighed.

"It's for our baby, my love," he said gently. "Give them something priceless. Tell us the location and we will leave today. You will live like a queen."

"But Harper told them about your accounts," the girl sniffed. "Bray, did you even check

them?"

"I did and I have already sorted this. Do not worry. My Luna will ask for nothing, you will have everything. And our son will be the next Alpha." He coaxed her, but Gideon could tell that it wasn't working.

"I am sorry," Roxanne lowered her head. "I already told Ash everything I knew. I don't remember anything else. But I am sure that my strong Alpha will save me anyway. Right, Brayden? You will not leave me and your baby alone?"

She looked at him pleadingly and he took her hands off her and walked a few steps away.

"Bray," She mumbled, "what is going on?" "Shift," he ordered her in a cold voice, making her lips part in shock.

"Bray!" her tone was begging for mercy as she stared at him helplessly. "What are you saying? Why?"

"I want to see your super special wolf. That's all," a smirk appeared on his face and Gideon watched curiously. This wasn't a part of their plan. But then again – their plan just failed. She did not fall for it. So, they would have to try something else.

Maybe that Alpha wasn't that useless after all?

"Shift," the stone-cold voice made the little fox shiver. She knew that it would be over for her if she did.

"Shift. Now." He wasn't reacting this time. If the person who was being seduced was aware, it lessened the effect. A lot. This was how sailors were surviving on the sea in the olden days. They knew exactly what kind of monsters sirens were.

"I can't shift!" Roxy sobbed, "I am still an omega! It can hurt the baby. Your baby!"

"It seemed to be fine just a while ago," he got out his phone and quickly swiped the screen. (This novel will be daily updated) Then he shoved it into her face and Gideon could see a video playing. "You shifted into a fox to fight Maya. I hate to break it to you, my love," this time every word was coated in

"Brayden!" she burst into tears loudly and ugly, throwing herself at him again. "I am still your mate! I couldn't tell you that I was a fox! You would never accept me... So, I lied about

The Alpha was looking at her now and a storm of emotions was raging inside of him. How could he be so stupid? Why didn't he see that before? He lost everything because of the deception of that woman and all he wanted was to snap her neck. Moreover, he even knew already that the baby wasn't his. The doctor ran some tests on Roxy and the baby's blood type meant that he couldn't be his father. Because that child, however small, didn't have the Alpha marker in his or her blood. And by the next morning, he would have DNA test results to confirm his suspicions once and for all. But looking at her now, he already knew that he wasn't the

father.

"That child and you will be dead by the end of the week if you don't start speaking," he

"Brayden! Brayden!" she screamed, but he stopped hearing her as soon as the door closed behind him. He went to the bathroom and washed his hands, face and everywhere else she touched with her tears. He didn't want any of that on him anymore.

"How the hell do you have the footage from the woods?" Gideon growled behind his back as he walked in. His eyes were glowing now and Bray knew that the lycan king would rip him apart if he could

installed in a few places to spot intruders. I was lucky that Maya ended up fighting her right under one. That's all. I have already checked everything else. There's nothing useful."

"Can you see her in the video?" Gideon interrupted his speech.

"Just a bit," Bray admitted.

"Give it to me! Now!" the lycan snarled at the Alpha. Brayden handed him the phone and Gideon started watching the short extract of what surely was a long recording before.

He saw a bear, a fox and Roxanne in her human form. Then he saw another wolf

attacking them, who was probably Maya. She was outnumbered but fought fiercely and when she was done with the first two beasts, Roxy shifted into a huge fox right in front of her. A few moments later he saw her, his Riannon. She appeared from the depths of the forest and watched her friend fight. One breath – and a dark figure appeared behind her. He placed some kind of fabric over her nose and mouth and held her tight while she... did absolutely nothing to fight him. Ria did not struggle at all.

Maya was done with Roxanne when she could still see the man taking his mate away. But she did not move either, watching how the fox slowly shifted back to her human form instead and only occasionally glancing at her Alpha being taken.

So many things were wrong with that video. (This novel will be daily updated at)The whole finale took a few seconds but an Alpha and a Beta were supposed to have better reactions.

"Bring me the rest of it!" Gideon ordered, sending the video to himself via messenger and turned his back to the Brayden. "All of it!"

He went to the observation room, where Maya, Reid and Ash were still watching Roxy cry hysterically in the corner. :

“So noisy!” Reid rolled his eyes, pointing at the fox behind the glass who couldn’t see

them.

or if it was some kind of a joke. However, when he growled loudly and menacingly, they all

stood up and headed for the exit.

“Not you, Maya,” the lycan king motioned for the Beta to stay and his own second looked at him questioningly. “We need to talk.”

just like Ash, not defying his king’s command.

Maya did not seem worried or phased at all even when Gideon handed her his phone with

the very same video. She watched it, unbothered. Just the way she watched Riannon taken

“So,” Gideon snarled, “would you explain to me what the hell that was?!”