

SECOND CHANCE LUNA

Chapter 91

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Chapter Ninety-Two

Jason focused on the reports in front of him. After the last few days he needed the distraction. Luke and Ben had tracked down his father's

other partners. One was still a member of Blue Moon and happily mated with her fated mate. The other joined her fated mate's pack and

lived in North Carolina

It seemed that some of his father's trysts moved on. Even so he couldn't relax. For now he ordered them to be monitored but left it at that

As long as there was nothing suspicious in their activities and communication there was nothing to be done

Luke was double-checking anyone, pack member or not, that might have a vendetta against him or his father. Jason had always run his pack

fairly but there were always a few that felt slighted by policies. Thankfully his father had also been a fair Alpha. It was his private life that was

a mess

"Alpha? We have an issue."

"Oh?" Jason came to attention as the warriors monitoring the main road into the territory contacted him. He opened the link, allowing both

Luke and Ben to hear as well

"We have about a hundred warriors here from Strawberry Moon. Their captain says they've been sent to help. He was as message for you

direct from his Alpha."

"Let the envoy through with the message. Have the others wait until I

see for myself.”

“Yes Alpha.”

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“No.” Jason frowned

They had good relations with Strawberry Moon and thanks to Christina they shared familial bonds. In the past Zain sent warriors to Blue

Moon for advanced training or else requested trainers from Blue Moon to his pack for the same. It helped the pack grow into such a

powerful entity in a relatively short time. There was an unshakable bond of respect between both packs and a strong alliance. But this was

unprecedented

Zain never sent warriors without making arrangements first. It made Jason nervous that the Strawberry Moon Alpha had picked up on

rumors he hadn’t yet. Was he missing something?

He waited anxiously for the envoy not sure what to expect even when Luke ushered in the warrior. The wolf in front of him was average

height and build, perhaps a little on the lanky side, speaking to his speed and agility. Jason sensed this warrior was just as anxious as he was

having never met face to face before. No doubt he knew plenty of rumors that swirled around Jason and didn’t know what to expect

“Alpha,” the warrior finally acknowledged with a nod

“And you are?”

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“We grew up together in the same pack. She was pretty much the only friend I had and when I couldn’t stand it any longer she helped me

leave. It always upset me I couldn’t get her out too,” Dash shook his head, “but she wouldn’t leave her parents or the pups she was taking

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claim.”

Jason sucked in a slow breath. He recalled Phoebe and Chandler talking about a warrior during the princess’s birthday. That’s why this wolf

seemed familiar. Though Jason couldn’t help but be jealous, it was clear this wolf only wanted the best for Phoebe and was sincere about

protecting her

“Phoebe?”

yes

“Can I have you up to the office? There is someone here to see you..an old friend.”

“Of course!”

Jason couldn't help the little spur of jealousy at her enthusiasm but

he knew she would be happy to see an old friend and she apparently didn't have many from that time of her life. He wanted her to have as

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Talk to you soon Em & Chris

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even if they didn’t want to say too much over open channels. They said all that needed to be said. No wonder Alpha Zain immediately sent reinforcements

Aknock interrupted further contemplation and the door opened to reveal Phoebe. She looked at Jason with a note of concern. No doubt

she had felt everything through the bond. Her gaze passed over Luke and Ben before settling on the one wolf who was not immediately

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He was certainly a warrior, well-trained and disciplined. Yet he seemed

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there was also a strange longing in the warrior’s gaze...and something familiar. His scent was also familiar.

“Dash?” Phoebe suddenly exclaimed as memories long buried finally surfaced

“Hi..Phoebe,” he grinned

“Oh my Goddess!” she exclaimed immediately wrapping him ina hug

He used to be such a small, lean male but he had grown and filled out well since they last saw each other. Sensing Jason's discomfort she

kept the contact brief even as relief filled her seeing her friend so well

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I'm so glad”

“Thanks. Alpha Zain told me they saw you. You look amazing,” Dash said and meant it. After her rejection Phoebe lost so much weight and

became so morose and lethargic. Her mother's death and her father's poor health certainly didn't help but eventually she started spending

more time in her mother's garden and her mood improved

The difference between her then and now was nothing short of night and day. Phoebe had certainly gained weight. Her complexion had

always been on the paler side but she now had a healthy glow and a vibrancy that was hard to ignore

“Thank you,” Phoebe blushed. “I admit it's all still pretty new but..I wouldn't want to be anywhere else.”

She glanced toward Jason with a warm smile. He felt her love radiating through their bond and Lobo immediately settled. Since the

moment she embraced the other male his wolf raised his hackles wanting

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to renew their claim. But injuring her friend would also hurt Phoebe and Jason didn't want to bear the label of an over-bearing, jealous

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Chapter Ninety-Three

“Alpha Zain sent Dash and about a hundred warriors to help bolster our forces as a sign of solidarity between our packs,” Jason explained

“He did?” Phoebe seemed surprised. “Oh, where will we put them all? Are they here?”

“The majority are still waiting at our border,” Jason nodded to Luke who immediately sent the link to allow them entry. “Zain didn’t send any

communication prior to their arrival so I wasn’t sure why they were here

Nach had 2 maceara far ma which is why I allowed him to enter first

“Oh,” Phoebe nodded. It seemed a wise precaution considering the situation they were in. “Do we have enough rooms in the packhouse for

them?”

“Actually, it will be better to house them in the warrior barracks,” Ben interjected. “They’ll need to train alongside ours so they can be

integrated with them. We’ll also have to pair them up since we won’t be able to mindlink with them directly.”

The others nodded in agreement. Unless Dash and the others joined Blue Moon they wouldn’t be able to access the pack link. They could

mindlink with those in sight but to maintain a communication network they’d need a partner with Blue Moon’s warriors

“Who do we have that is good with coordinating and combined training?” Jason asked pulling Phoebe into his embrace allowing his scent

to cover the warrior’s that had transferred to her. He kissed her temple and nuzzled her making it clear to their visitor she belonged to him

Phoebe seemed unaware of his possessive gesture welcoming his

Chapter Ninety-Three nearness and touch. Dash; however, understood perfectly. He knew he wasn’t much of a challenge to an Alpha but if

Phoebe expressed any desire to leave he still would have done what was necessary to help her escape

But it was easy to see Phoebe was comfortable in Jason's arms and welcoming to his advancements. It was also very clear Alpha Jason

cherished his mate. His aura swirled protectively around her

"Let's see," Luke thought aloud ignoring Jason's silent territorial claim. "Chaz is probably my first choice, though Noah and Cam are both

experienced too."

It didn't surprise Jason Luke's top three picks had been part of the security team. There was a particular art for warriors to integrate and

work with those from other packs without disrupting the chain of command already established at those packs. Chaz, Noah and Cam were

veterans of such training

"Chaz is teaching a class and Noah is a patrol," Luke looked at the daily rosters. "Cam should be free for lunch."

Jason nodded as Luke opened a link and summoned the trusty warrior. Cam had already proven loyal to his Luna. He would instill that

loyalty into the newcomers and keep an eye on them for detractors

"So, I guess it's good you didn't join Strawberry Moon," Dash said after a moment looking to Phoebe who seemed completely at ease even

in the arms of arguably the most powerful Alpha on the planet

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She blushed, "I guess so. It wasn't easy but once Jason found me everything seemed to fall into place...even things I didn't understand. I'm

glad I stayed and I wouldn't change where I am for anything.”

Jason's embrace tightened even as he winced at the thought of the troubles she endured because of her first mate. Dash could see his

concern

even without feeling the protective aura that surrounded Phoebe

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“I'm glad you're happy,” Dash said, “and safe. Rimrock didn't deserve your care and attention. And I'm glad to see Blue Moon treats you

much better.”

Dash glanced at the high-ranking wolves around him with a grateful nod. It didn't make what Rimrock did better but at least Phoebe had

her peace of mind back. With a devoted Jason at her side she wouldn't suffer again

“Thank you,” Phoebe smiled. “I certainly wouldn't want to go back but I wouldn't change this.”

She leaned against Jason her hand involuntarily settling over her stomach as she thought about the news Mani revealed. Truthfully Phoebe

was still adjusting to the idea but she couldn't wait until they could see and hear the life growing inside her

“Phoebe,” Dash hesitated, “are you—”

Her eyes widened, realizing he picked up on her subtle gesture, “Oh.

yes. At least, my wolf is pretty sure. But we're not telling anyone just yet because of...everything. Please don't say anything until we confirm

it. I don't want everyone to get excited only to be disappointed.”

“Of course,” Dash assured her even as his mind reeled

Jason's embrace tightened his hand covering hers as his chest rumbled with a possessive growl. One look was all Dash needed to confirm

how protective the Alpha already was over the as of yet unconfirmed pregnancy and his potential progeny. The royal family was foolish

indeed to threaten Blue Moon's Luna

At a knock Dash jerked to attention. Ben opened the door allowing the warrior on the other side to enter. Cam nodded respectfully before

coming up short and staring at the stranger. His nostrils flared and they spoke at the same time, "Mate."

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Luke and Ben raised eyebrows, sharing dubious looks. Jason, too, seemed taken aback but Phoebe struggled to contain her mirth sensing

the bond flaring between two wolves she viewed as close friends. Dash and Cam looked awestruck as both had all but given up finding their

mates after years of searching. It was almost unfair to know now their mate had been waiting so close in a pack allied to their own

"Umm," Jason cleared his throat, "Cam, this is Dash from Strawberry Moon. He and about a hundred warriors were sent by their Alpha to

bolster our ranks. Dash, this is Cam. He'll be showing you and your warriors the ropes, integrating them with our forces and pairing them

up. Any questions or..complaints?"

It didn't seem as if either warrior was listening. Eventually, the pair slowly nodded in acceptance not that Jason thought they'd protest. Cam

suddenly jerked to attention glancing Jason's way but his gaze was on Phoebe. Dash followed the gesture a second later. He blushed lightly

Sheepishly the warriors departed to meet the Strawberry Moon warriors at their doorstep

"What did you say?" Jason asked, suspicious of his Luna

"Nothing," Phoebe chuckled, "I just let each of them know the other's favorite foods and a movie idea."

Jason stifled a laugh and hugged her tighter. No matter what situation they were surrounded by she delighted in the formation of new

bonds and was eager to see them properly completed. Was that the innate purpose of the silver wolf?

"Well, this should be interesting," Ben said

"Why?" Phoebe asked

"Cam's always had a thing for pretty boys. He's never been attracted to a fellow warrior before," Ben chuckled

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"Pretty boy, huh?" Phoebe repeated. "Maybe I should show him some pictures of Dash when we were kids, although I wouldn't want to

embarrass Dash."

"Really?" Ben pried

"We used to say he was dashing," Phoebe said. "Quite a few she-wolves had a crush on him until they found out he wasn't interested."

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Ben nodded, finding this information hugely interesting. Luke was not

nearly as amused, saying, "As interesting as this is we've gotten off topic

Like that message Alpha Zain sent."

"Message?" Phoebe repeated, looking at Jason

"You remember I told you about Ben's sister, Christina, right?"

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us now and continue your journey!

“Yes,” Phoebe nodded

It pained her greatly thinking how badly Christina and her mother suffered at the hands of her own father. Phoebe couldn't begin to

understand the amount of depravity the male possessed. Had their kind really fallen so far from the Moon Goddess that they would commit

such atrocities? And the Goddess still tried to reach out to her wayward children?

“Well, her mate is Luna Chandler's sister,” Jason continued. “They both like to travel so I've employed them as information gatherers and

sometimes spies. They sent this message to Strawberry Moon, I assume because they aren't being watched as closely as we are. Alpha Zain

passed it on to us.”

Reluctantly Jason handed her the card allowing her to read it and process the information. Phoebe frowned. She looked up at Jason

confused. What exactly did it mean?

“We're not sure,” Jason answered the unasked question. “Clearly Chris

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and Em didn't want to say too much over an unsecured channel. But whatever they found warranted this message.”

“I don't understand,” Phoebe shook her head. “for the future? I don't understand. What am I supposed to do?”

“Shh,” Jason embraced her, sensing her disquiet through the bond. We're still not sure. We'll know more when they get here. Until them,

I'm not taking any chances with your or our pup."

He pressed his forehead against hers feeling through the bond when she settled. Jason kissed her forehead. She was his future and he

would protect it at all costs

The phone blared to life startling them. Jason cursed under his breath. Couldn't they have a few minutes of peace?

Luke picked up the receiver, "Blue Moon, Beta Luke, speaking. .what? Yeah, he's here. Hold on, let me put you on speaker."

When Luke glanced his way Jason had an immediate sinking feeling

He definitely wasn't going to like this call

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Chapter Ninety-Four

Jason nodded, keeping Phoebe close and marshalling his control

~ ~) .

Luke nodded, "You are speaker, Prince Nolan. Go ahead."

"Alpha Jason?"

"Your highness," Jason answered

fact on a conference call. "Alpha Jason, greetings."

"Elder Ansel," Jason frowned wondering what game the prince was playing. It certainly wasn't his usual style

"Good, then we are all here," Prince Nolan sighed. "I am..issuing an official challenge to Alpha Jason for the right to lead Blue Moon."

"What?" Jason repeated. "Your Highness I don't think you know what you are doing and I can assure you it is not going to end well for

you.”

“I assure you..I know exactly what I was doing,” Nolan replied

“Do you accept this challenge, Alpha Jason?” Ansel asked. “You may accept or forfeit your position.”

Jason growled. His mind raced, trying to reason why Nolan would make such a challenge. The second prince had always seemed a

reasonable wolf, not prone to the drama of his siblings. He also seemed well aware of his own strength. There wasn't any way he actually

thought he stood a chance in this fight, not in a fair duel

“Alpha Jason, your answer?”

“Prince Nolan, you understand this will be a duel between the two of us. You will fight with your own strength, no proxies.”

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“..L understand and I would have it no other way.”

“Alpha Jason?” Ansel prompted again

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“I accept.”

“Very well,” Ansel sighed, “as this is a duel among alphas an arena on neutral ground shall be arranged. You both have a week to prepare

yourselves. An elder shall be sent to you in three days so that you are aware of the rules.”

“Fine,” Alpha Jason agreed, “Prince Nolan, you best make your peace with the Goddess before we meet.”

“As should you.”

“I'm sorry it came to this,” Ansel said before disconnecting

Luke picked up the receiver and set it back on the cradle, massaging his temple. This was certainly not a turn of events he could have predicted

“S000,” Ben hesitated, “that just happened. What's the plan?”

Jason breathed in slowly shoving away his doubts. His questions would solve nothing when there were things to do and tasks they needed to accomplish

“I want you to increase patrols and surveillance. Recall non-essential pack members to seek shelter in designated safe houses.”

“Right,” Luke nodded before he and Ben departed

For years they had developed emergency plans in case the pack was attacked. Never in a million years did they imagine ever enacting them

but now was definitely the time. They had allowed the pack to continue as is despite the threat because they didn't want to raise alarm but

now it was time for all to prepare to protect their Luna

“Jason, why is this happening?” Phoebe shivered. “Is it because I'm a

Chapter Ninety-Four silver wolf? It is, isn't it? Am I not even allowed to be happy?”

“Phoebe, shh-shh,” Jason gathered her into his arms and quickly settled on the couch to hold and soothe her. “Shh, shh-shh, angel.”

She shivered in his arms. The feeling through the bond was one of devastation and fear. Her unknown destiny was crushing her under its weight

“Let me tell you something, angel. You deserve all the happiness life can give you,” Jason intoned. “And I’m going to make sure you have every moment you are entitled to.”

“But if it weren’t for me.”

“If it weren’t for you I’d never known happiness or the joy of being complete, of being a father. You brought all of this to me. And to my pack.”

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“But..I’ve put them all in danger

“No. You haven’t. Do you know how many of them have found their fated mate because of you? Noah, Shannon, Cam, your friends Bridget

and Dash. And that is just the tip of the iceberg. Have you forgotten Will and Lily?”

Jason stroked her cheeks wiping away tears

“That’s what you do. You bring wolves together. And anyone who can’t see that is a fool. I won’t allow anyone to disrupt your mission or

our family. I will keep you safe.”

“But this duel..”

“I don’t know what Nolan is thinking. He knows he can’t win,” Jason shook his head. “Not in a fair duel.”

“I don’t understand,” Phoebe shook her head, snuggling into his chest

Chapter Ninety-Four if

“I’m stronger than him, a lot stronger. I promise you, he can’t win this fight.”

“Really?”

“I already stipulated no proxies, which means he has to fight on his own. The ledges will ensure a fair duel, probably line the arena with

silver so we can't receive help from outside. We will monitor security to ensure no one can interfere. I promise you, there is no scenario in

which I don't win.”

Phoebe huddled against him slowly calming under his caresses and surrounded by his scent. Jason sighed. He wasn't sure what the royal

family was thinking, picking a fight they had no chance at winning

Regardless of how they felt about silver wolves they had to know they were

heading down the path of destruction by challenging him and his pack. At the very least, he thought Prince Nolan was smarter than that

“Jason?” Phoebe asked, sensing his wandering thoughts

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“I just wish I knew what the prince was thinking. He knows he can't win. I always thought he was smarter than his brother. This challenge

isn't like him.”

“Itisnt?”

“No. Nolan has always been straightforward. He doesn't like playing games. That's usually his brother's purview. This challenge stinks of

Achan

In fact, the more he thought about it the more it felt like the first prince had taken control of the chessboard. Right now he was arranging

his

pieces and preparing his attack

“Achan likes games but he also hates direct confrontation. He prefers to stab you in the back and he hates getting his hands dirty,” Jason

explained. “He probably put Nolan up to this somehow, maybe forcing his

Chapter Ninety-Four _ hand.”

Phoebe frowned. She didn’t know much about the royal family and what she did know left much to be desired

“This could also be a distraction,” Jason said, “a smoke screen to keep us busy while he does something else.”

“What else could he do?” Phoebe asked

Jason growled holding her tight as the rumors swirling around the first prince ran through his mind. It was well-known no one survived a

night with him and the condition of the remains of those same unfortunates was a thing of nightmares. Just imaging Phoebe’s body so

mangled that it was unrecognizable cause his aura to spike. He would not allow such a depraved soul anywhere near her

“Jason?” Phoebe stroked his cheek hoping to calm his wave of possessiveness swirling around them. She knew it was from fear of losing her

but she hated to see him in such a worked up state. “Jason?”

“Sorry angel,” Jason sighed, trying to marshal his control. He hugged her close and breathed in her scent to chase away the phantom

images in his mind

Phoebe leaned against him, stroking his cheek with her fingers

“Promise me, you won't take any chances and you won't go anywhere alone,” Jason said

“I promise.”

“Good. I don’t know what the royal family is planning but I will protect

you

"I know you will"

Chapter 95

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Chapter Ninety-Five

Jason waited at the door for their guest. Border patrols alerted him several minutes ago that the escort vehicle had arrived. He was too

anxious to remain in his office so stood beside Luke to meet the arrival

The past four days had been one of turmoil for both him and Phoebe

His anxiousness was transmitting through their bond affecting her. During the day she kept herself busy but at night she clung to him,

needing his warmth and reassurance. He was certainly willing to provide all she wanted

but he worried her stress would affect the pup

Doctor Evans assured him it was still early and that the pup would be fine. Werewolf pregnancies tended to develop faster than with

humans

till the first trimester progressed at about the same rate, which meant Phoebe's first scan wouldn't be for another few weeks. The doctor

also took blood samples to run tests on her hormone levels, which she said were inconclusive

However, she also assured him that Phoebe's wolf was the surest gauge of her pregnancy. She had yet to see a pregnancy confirmed by a

wolf proven false. So though they hadn't yet confirmed it medically he was nonetheless assured they would be welcoming a pup very soon

Monitoring Phoebe's well-being became his greatest distraction. He made sure to attend every meal to ensure she ate properly. And he

wasn't alone. The change started subtly but the kitchen staff was making concerted efforts to ensure all her meals had proper vitamins and

minerals to support the growth of a healthy pup. Phoebe thought it was too much

special care but nothing she said dampened their enthusiasm

Blake and Emma had been quick to pick up on the changes and once

Chapter Ninety-Five _ Norah informed them Phoebe was expecting they quickly jumped on the bandwagon. They had a never-ending

stream of questions about the pup and when it would be born. When they weren't asking questions they were making suggestions.

Goddess only knows where they heard such things

They were sponges and now that they knew a sibling was on the way their ears were tuned to every conversation mentioning babies

Phoebe was exasperated by all the extra attention but it also helped to distract her from the challenge looming over them. It distracted

Jason, too, thinking about what it would be like once she started showing and he would be able to caress her round belly. He couldn't wait

until he could hear the pup's heartbeat and her scent changed

While Phoebe and her wolf would be able to bond with the pup as it developed Jason would have to build his connection later. The first

step was when her scent changed. It would take on notes of the pup's scent so he would be able to recognize it from the moment it was

born

Lobo was already wondering what delicious scent would alert them to their pup's presence: perhaps a citrus scent that would compliment

Phoebe's. In fact his wolf grew less and less concerned about the challenge every day preferring to focus on their pup

But Jason couldn't completely forget about the royal family's plans and the more he thought about them the more concerned he became.

No matter how he looked at it, Delilah's sudden appearance and Nolans challenge seemed to be part of a larger plan. He was also quite

certain it wasn't the king's doing

The king simply didn't have the patience or constitution for such a layered attack. He was far more emotional and impulsive. However, there

was one wolf close to the king that was uniquely predisposed to

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conspiracies: Prince Achan

Chapter Ninety-Five But why? Prince Achan had no respect for his father so Jason highly doubted he

was motivated by filial loyalty. Achan didn't respect anyone or bond and

thrived on causing strife. Was this just another game to get under Jason's skin?

Trying to figure out Achan's true aim was far more difficult than the king. Jason still wasn't sure why the king was so fixated on Phoebe but

he would know soon. They had received a message from Christina that she and Emily landed safely and were on their way. He expected

them any day now hoping their movements were still under the royal family's radar. Once they arrived with their report the mystery

surrounding the king would be solved and he could focus solely on Achan

"Jace," Luke prompted drawing his attention to the approaching vehicle

It pulled up beside the packhouse and the escort exited allowing their occupant to disembark. Jason wasn't certain which elder they would

send but felt a note of relief when he saw the familiar visage of Elder Ansel

Though he had a good relationship with most of the elders, Jason had to admit his rapport with Ansel was better than most

Each elder generally focused on certain regions and often became very familiar with the packs living within that region, attending special

events and officiating many. That meant Ansel was a familiar presence since Jason could remember. Or perhaps it had to do with the fact

Ansel was originally a Blue Moon pack member from before his grandfather's time. After he lost his fated mate he devoted his time and

energy to the werewolf community

"Elder," Jason reached out to shake his hand

"Alpha Jason, I am sorry it came to this."

Chapter Ninety-Five T

"Let's discuss it in my office," Jason turned leading him down the halls.

"So...how is Rimrock doing?"

Ansel raised a brow at his attempt to make small talk. It was an odd subject to choose but he also had no reason to hold back information,

Beta Michael, is now Alpha Michael. And he has found his fated mate. His newly appointed Beta and Gamma are helping him regain control

of the pack."

“Is that a fact?”

“Indeed. It will be a while before Rimrock can recapture its status but it should recover,” Ansel nodded

“Good. If he needs any help: warrior training, even a loan, I don’t mind

“I shall pass your words on to him. He will probably be happy with the training but I don’t think he will take a loan. He said he wanted to

reestablish Rimrock’s businesses without incurring debt. But he will be grateful for the offer.”

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us now and continue your journey!

Jason nodded ushering him into the office and directed him to one of the chairs before taking his own seat. He had been anxious to begin

but now that the Elder was there he was hesitant. Luke poured drinks before taking a station by the door to ensure they weren't interrupted

“Luna Phoebe is not joining us?” Ansel asked

“Shes teaching a music lesson at the moment,” Jason said feeling her contentment through the bond. “She hasn't been sleeping well with

everything that is happening. I'd rather not disturb her if it is not necessary

Ansel nodded. He could understand Jason's reluctance. After waiting for his fated mate for so long Ansel had hoped Jason would be able to

simply enjoy his new status. In fact, he hoped the next communication he

Chapter Ninety-Five — received from Blue Moon was an announcement on the birth of pups

“So what has been decided?” Jason asked

“We've rented a stadium from the humans,” Ansel said. “It was a lot easier than building our own. It's in Calgary, neutral territory for you

both

The arena will be prepared with a ring which will be lined with silver to ensure neither of you will receive aid from outside during the actual

duel

As the challenged party you will have to decide whether you two will fight in your human form or as wolves.”

That was nothing Jason didn't already expect. He had already stipulated no proxies no Nolan would have to fight for himself

“Once the duel starts it can only end in one of three ways. Either one of you yields, is too injured to fight or..death.”

Jason nodded. Once again it was no secret to him

“As this was an officially sanctioned challenge there will be no repercussions leveled against you or Blue Moon in the event of Prince

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Nolan's death.”

Jason raised an eyebrow at that. He had forgotten there were laws protecting the royal family's health and safety. However, all such rules

were

null and void when it came to official challenges and duels

“So there is no reason to hold back,” Ansel said, “now, in the event Prince Nolan wins...”

“He won't.”

“In the event that he does...”

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“He won’t.”

“In the highly unlikely event the prince is the victor,” Ansel said, “your pack will have to swear fealty to him immediately which is why your

high-ranking members must be present. You obviously cannot leave your

Chapter Ninety-Five

territory unguarded so you can choose whether your Beta or Gamma will be there.”

Jason let out a slow breath

“In addition to your Luna, of course.”

“What?” Jason snapped to attention

“Luna Phoebe must be in attendance.”

“Phoebe is not going anywhere near this duel. She's not leaving our territory.”

“Alpha—”

“She’s not going,” Jason glared, his aura suddenly flaring

“Alpha,” Ansel winced. “You can assign her as many guards as you like

“She’s not going!”

Luke frowned, wondering if he should intervene. Could he even rein in his Alpha? Perhaps it was best to call for Phoebe. Suddenly he was

thrown forward as the door burst open

“I don’t care what meeting the Alpha is in this has to do with the fate

of werewolf kind!” Christina declared as she pushed her way in only to stop short when she saw Jason's company

ee ET. Watson u*

Sorry for the late update. This week has been hectic. I will probably have to only do one chapter updates for the next couple days and catch

up after the weekend. But we are definitely heading into the homestretch so hold on tight! It's going to be a wild ride right

Chapter 96

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Chapter Ninety-Six

“Chris,” Jason said evenly, “you remember Elder Ansel. Hello, Emily.”

as “Alpha,” the other she-wolf greeted shooting her impatient mate a look. “We're sorry for the intrusion. We'll come back later.”

“Wait, please,” Ansel stood, “did you just say you have information on the fate of wolfkind?”

Emily and Christina hesitated, glancing at Jason. He rubbed his temples considering his next words carefully. This was his territory and they

ware nark mamhars an a canctinnad fact-findina miccinn 50 he was well within his right to order Ansel out. It was pack business yet

ring. What if the implications were far beyond just his own pack? If so, he would

. _ ed to the couch. They sat side-by-side apprehensive at the way his aura fluctuated

He glanced at Luke reaching out for Phoebe, “Phoebe?”

“Jason? Is something wrong? Your aura is all over the place.” “Could you join me in the office, please?” “Of course.”

Jason let out an uneasy breath. He had no idea if he was doing the right thing but he knew he needed his Luna. Lobo was prowling his mind

like a caged animal and they needed Phoebe's presence to calm them or they wouldn't be able to think straight. Jason pinched the bridge

of his nose trying to stave off the beginning of a headache

Chapter Ninety-Six bo

The door opened and the smell of lilac and sage wafted toward him as Phoebe entered. She glanced quickly around the room recognizing

Ansel but most concerning to her was Jason's aura. He had been anxious for days and his wolf restless. No doubt the elder was here to

discuss the approaching duel but first thing was first

Without a word she went to Jason embracing him as his arms wrapped around her. He bowed his head breathing in her scent as his wolf

finally relaxed. They stood forehead to forehead letting his aura settle

Once he took a breath he sat and pulled her into his lap. She didn't protest knowing he needed her close to keep him and his wolf calm

"Phoebe, you remember Elder Ansel," Jason slowly reclaimed his control. Phoebe acknowledged him before turning her attention to the

she-wolves. "You haven't met yet, but this is Christina and Emily."

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"Oh Hello," Phoebe smiled at them. "Ben and Lucy have told me so much about you!"

"Luna," the pair smiled in return, studying their Luna

She was as petite and pretty as they had been told. But it was her aura that rendered them speechless. It was calm and all-encompassing. It

swirled around them like a gentle breeze. Their wolves curled up enjoying the peace resonating within

“Chirst and Em like to travel so they often gather information for me,” Jason said as some sort of explanation to Ansel. “Chris, Em, Elder

Ansel is here to discuss my upcoming duel.”

“Duel?” Emily repeated. That was news to them

“Prince Nolan challenged Jason for his title and control of Blue Moon,” Luke told them, letting the implications sink in

“Yes, and as I was explaining, because this duel is for the alpha title Blue Moon’s high-ranking members have to be present, including his

Luna

Chapter Ninety-Six

Jason growled, “Phoebe is not going anywhere near it.”

“Shh, shh,” Phoebe hushed running her hand through his hair

Jason sighed leaning into her touch letting her sooth him and his wolf

Ansel watched, slowly relaxing. Only moments ago Jason was practically enraged and now he was docile as a kitten. Well... maybe not quite

that docile

“If Jason is risking his pack what is the prince risking?” Emily asked

“Well.”

“I mean, fair is fair, she looked to the elder. “I don’t think you appreciate the gravity of the situation at all.”

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“I'm afraid I don't understand,” Ansel said

“Chris and Em have been gathering information for me and apparently an informant of theirs told them about a rumor concerning the royal

family...certainly one I never heard before.”

He nodded for them to continue. Being of calmer mind, Emily explained, “A few generations ago the wolf king sought a consultation with a

witch seer. Supposedly his grandmother had made a future prediction and he wanted to confirm it.”

Ansel raised an eyebrow at that but didn't interrupt

“There is almost no record of this happening but we did manage to track down the Coven he most likely visited. When we got there the

Reverend Mother confirmed the rumor is based on actual events. In fact, her grandmother was the seer he saw. Apparently witches don't

record their predictions so what she told him was never written down; however, after he left she made another prediction and instructed her

daughters to

Chapter Ninety-Six pass it down

“She said there would come a day that other wolves would visit asking about the king and when they did they were to be told: the /ine will

end in white and a new one will begin in silver.

“What is that supposed to mean?” Luke snorted

“That was my reaction,” Christina seconded, “but Em thinks she figured it out.

“It was a prediction made to wolves so I believe it is about us,” Emily explained, “specifically white and silver wolves. Both are rare so what are the chances for there to be one of each at the same time?”

“So you think it's about Selena and me?” Phoebe said, “but what /ine are they referring to?”

“I think it means the royal line,” Emily said. “Selena is the last of the king’s progeny and none of her siblings have pups of their own. Hence, the royal line ends with the white wolf.”

“And a new one begins in silver,” Phoebe repeated her hand settling over her stomach. Could it be?

“Mani, is what she said true?”

“Maybe. I don’t know.’

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Phoebe could feel her wolf’s uncertainty and knew there was no deception. But how? Why? Was this the Goddess’s plan? Instead of

replacing werewolves with another creature as she did Lycans she intended to replace the royal lineage? Just start over?

“Now, let's not jump to conclusions,” Ansel advised, “after all, this could be considered treason.”

“Treason? Are you f****g kidding me?” Christina snapped. “You think tossing out scum is treason? What about a king that kills his own

mate

amp;

Chapter Ninety-Six because he’s impatient to have another pup and steals another wolf’s mate? What about a prince that tortures his bed

partners and kills them for kicks including his own mate? Are you telling me that sick and depraved family deserves to sit on the throne they

built out of blood? I say it's time they were tossed out. The Goddess herself declares it's time to start over

So let's wipe the slate clean and get on with it."

sGhris.

"No, I'm tired of all these kings and princes and alphas who think they can do whatever they please and there are no consequences. They

torture their mates then reject them and cast them aside like garbage when the only real trash is them! Are we wolves or aren't we? Do we

follow the Moon Goddess or don't we?" Christina suddenly leapt to her feet. "I say, let's go Jace. You're one of the few alphas who isn't a

raging d**k. You got my vote

"A counter challenge," Luke suddenly spoke. "If they want your Alpha title then they can put up their crown. Whether they do or not when

you beat Nolan they are going to lose face so why not make them bleed?"

"Can Jason really do that?" Phoebe asked

"It's not completely without precedent," Ansel said, "I believe humans call it upping the ante, but it's a risk."

"Riskier than taking his Luna into neutral territory where the wolves threatening her life are waiting to pounce?" Luke asked

Jason's aura spiked. Phoebe continued running her fingers through his hair. She leaned close kissing his cheek. Her presence soothed him

and

he relaxed

"It's your call, alpha," Luke said, "what do you want to do?"

Chapter 97

Chapter Ninety-Seven

Situated well beyond busy downtown was a community of exclusive estates and manicured lawns known as Mount Royal. It was the

sanctuary for the city's most elite residences and included numerous vacation homes for the upper crust of society. Some homes looked

almost like castles while others were sleek modern homes. Among these was a quiet estate tucked in the south-east corner. It was a

particularly large estate surrounded by an imposing stone wall and encompassed not just the house and a large yard but also quite a few

trees, almost like a mini-forest

For as long as anyone in the neighborhood could remember the gate had always been closed though they occasionally noticed the small

staff going about its business to maintain the property. High-tech cameras maintained surveillance and very rarely a neighbor sometimes

spotted a lone figure patrolling the grounds. Every now and again they heard howls and sometimes found a paw print in the snow

indicating their security patrols also utilized attack dogs

One neighbor claimed to have seen a dog but most thought he was crazy claiming the beast was as large as a man. It was just one more

story to be traded among the neighbors and the legend of the estate continued to grow as it stood empty season after season. More than

once perspective buyers approached hoping to make an offer but they were turned away at the gate. Once or twice particularly stubborn

solicitors attempted to climb the wall. Those that managed the feat were soon sent running and later told stories of monstrous beasts and

murderous figures with glowing

eyes

%

Chapter Ninety-Seven

Some even claimed the place was haunted. Many neighborhood kids enjoyed passing along stories of murder, lust and revenge. Each story

more elaborate than the last to entertain themselves as they speculated why the

house remained seemingly abandoned

Then, suddenly, the estate became alive. Windows were opened and stagnant air chased out. Groundskeepers and security personnel

descended on the area checking every inch of the perimeter wall

Neighbors watched wondering if this flurry of activity meant the master of the house would finally make an appearance

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They didn't have to wait long. Two hours after the activity began a motorcade of identical, black SUVs arrived pulling up to the estate's

front door. A few moments later a young man exited the second vehicle. He was the epitome of tall, dark and handsome and the dream

figure so many women wished to sweep them off their feet and carry them away. Several women watching him now wondered if they would

be able to meet him if they brought over a welcome to the neighborhood dessert

Their hopes were dashed moments later as he circled the vehicle and helped a petite young woman exit next. Her mane of wavy, dark hair

flowed out from under her cream beret. She smiled prettily at him as he pulled her close and kissed her deeply with no shame in front of

their audience. The smile on his face made it clear he was completely smitten with his young bride

If there were any lingering doubts he swept them away as he suddenly lifted her off her feet and into his arms, carrying her across the

threshold like a new bride. Her laughter echoed in the cool air and she didn't seem the least bit embarrassed by the staff and escort

watching them

kee

"Welcome to Calgary," Luke said as they entered the foyer

Chapter Ninety-Seven

Christina and Emily trailed a step behind watching their Alpha carry his Luna like a newlywed bride. Neither had ever seen him smile as

broadly or as much as he when he held his Luna. There was no sign of his usual melancholy even with the duel hanging over his head.

Reluctantly Jason set Phoebe on her feet. Regardless of the reason brought them he was happy to be there with her

"So how many estates does Blue Moon own?" Phoebe asked letting her gaze drift taking in the stonework and tapestries featuring wolves

and forests. It had a stately feel and yet also a modern esthetic, which made for an interesting dynamic

"I have no idea to be honest," Jason chuckled holding her close

Over the centuries Blue Moon had invested and collected numerous properties around the world. Some were safe houses and emergency

bunkers. Others were extended pieces of the pack providing housing for wolves who preferred a smaller pack environment while also

ensuring the home territory didn't become overcrowded. The estates also made for vacation homes allowing high-ranked members to relax

in a secure environment away from the pack for a time

"Once all of this is over I'll take you and the pups to one..some place warm. A real island getaway. Just us."

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"Sounds good," Phoebe smiled snuggling into him

Jason sighed a possessive growl rumbling in his chest. He hoped to take Phoebe and the pups to one for a special holiday getaway. It had

been

disheartening to leave them behind a second time but with the duel and threat posed by the royal family he couldn't risk it. Bad enough he

had to bring Phoebe, he couldn't place their pups in danger too. Lucille and his mother had orders to protect them at all costs and make

sure the pups

escaped unharmed if things went south

Chapter Ninety-Seven —

Jason knew he would win this fight but he still wasn't sure what Achan was planning. With Jason and Luke away the pack territory was

vulnerable to attack as did the fact they took a portion of their forces to secure the Calgary estate. Luckily the extra warriors from

Strawberry Moon helped in that regard. But he still didn't know from which direction to expect attack

His instincts told him Achan would focus on Phoebe. The prince had little interest and even less skill when it came to managing a territory

or pack. There was only one thing Achan was interested in and Jason would be damned before he let the prince lay a finger on Phoebe. He

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couldn't let himself be distracted so measures were in place to ensure he wouldn't need to be consulted before action was taken. Now he

could focus entirely on Phoebe

To that end every member of her personal guard was in attendance as well as Cam, Dash and half of the Strawberry Moon warriors along

with their Blue Moon partners. Luke and Mona were with him as well as Christina and Emily. All four were capable warriors with tested

loyalty. They would not need to be told how to react in the moment. They would think

for and act for themselves

And all had one imperative: protect Phoebe

kk

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Jason lay in bed with Phoebe tucked against him. Her breathing was even and she was relaxed in a deep sleep. He nuzzled her and breathed

in her calming scent. His hand gently caressed her stomach. Two more weeks and they would finally have definitive confirmation. By that

time her scent should also start changing and the pup would seem that much more real

Emily's revelation replayed through his mind. Could it really be true?

Chapter Ninety-Seven He had to admit her interpretation had its attraction

Jason never thought about being king. It was more responsibility and work of which he had enough. However, if it would protect Phoebe

and ensure their pup's future he wouldn't hesitate to snatch it. He would take everything away from the royal family including their lives to

protect his Luna, prophecy or no prophecy

Phoebe sighed. She stretched and leaned against him before settling back to sleep. Jason tightened his embrace and snuggled her close.

She

was his life, his world and no one would take her away from him

Lobo stirred with a growl, "Yes Mate ours! They will regret coming after

her

Chapter 98

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Chapter Ninety-Eight Chapter Ninety-Eight

The motorcade arrived at its destination but the occupants didn't disembark immediately. Warriors preceded them securing the area before

giving the all-clear. Jason exited first, assessing his surroundings with a critical eye before reaching in and helping Phoebe out. She was

nervous and gripped his hands tightly as they headed inside

Garrison preceded them and Luke followed behind but they weren't the first pack members to arrive. Christina and Emily arrived several

hours ahead with a team to recon the area. Where they were now Jason didn't know but he also didn't need to. They had their mission as

did the spotters covering the arena and surrounding area

Jason only needed to worry about one thing

Ansel met them at the entrance to the grandstand and led them into the large area in front of the tall, covered bleachers. This was the sight

for many exciting events including the annual rodeo stampede. But today was a unique spectacle reserved for wolves alone. The grandstand

was filled with onlookers and witnesses from various packs, even quite a few alphas

Everyone wanted to be there to witness the outcome

They stepped out into the arena where two booths had been set up for the opponents. Between these boxes was a circular area mapped

out and prepared for the combatants. Phoebe nervously glanced at the circle but Jason barely acknowledged it as he escorted her to her

seat

Instead of having her sit he continued to hold her savoring every last moment he could before the start of the duel. He nuzzled her,

breathed in

her scent and held it deep in his lungs

"Jason, promise me you'll win," Phoebe whispered

Chapter Ninety-Eight =

"I promise," Jason smiled resting his forehead on hers and rubbing noses. "I'll win. And after 1 do we'll take a real vacation. You, me and the

pups. Just us."

"Sounds good," Phoebe smiled

He stroked her cheeks. There were other surprises back at the pack he was eager to show her. Her room was finally completed. Phoebe

would have a special room all to herself to relax and read away from the pressures of the pack. The second surprise he was even more

excited to reveal

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When she was preparing the music room for the pups she had gone through all her belongings that had been stored since her arrival. The

piano and lesson books had naturally been moved into the packhouse and she debated keeping the books not knowing Jason was working

on her special room. The one thing she wasn't attached to was the furniture and suggested they donate it. Jason had agreed though

secretly kept every last piece for his special surprise. Before they left for Calgary he had been informed it was all ready. He couldn't wait to

surprise her

"Alpha Jason."

Jason growled at the interruption but he raised his head and kissed Phoebe's forehead. He kept his thoughts focused and his aura under

control as much to keep himself calm as to reassure her. This was just another day, just another task

"Luke

"she'll be safe, Alpha," Luke assured him

Jason took one final look at Phoebe with a reassuring smile before stepping away. As he turned he shoved away his concerns to focus solely

on the task at hand. He hated to do it but it's what he needed to do to get through it

He approached the prepared area and stood on the edge. His mind

Chapter Ninety-Eight ~~

buzzed sensing the silver. He looked to the opposing booth where the royal family was enthroned. Jason barely noted the king and queen.

His gaze swept over them and settled on Achan

The first prince smirked sensing his scrutiny. Jason narrowed his gaze before shifting it to Nolan as the second prince stepped out of the box

and approached. Surprisingly, the prince didn't seem nervous. In fact, he looked forlorn, resigned. Jason was fairly certain the prince didn't

expect to survive this. Was he really willing to throw his life away for this?

"Nolan! Make me proud," the king called

"Jason!" Selena waved, coyly smiling

Jason didn't spare her a single glance turning his attention to Ansel who stood between him and Nolan. Since this was his region of

expertise it seemed he was chosen as the official MC for the event. The elder spared each of them a glance before looking to the audience

"We are here to witness a duel for the Alpha title of Blue Moon. Alpha Jason has accepted the challenge of Prince Nola. Is that correct,

Alpha Jason?"

"Yes, although I do have something to say," Jason said. "It appears to me that I am risking far more than his Highness: my title, my pack, my

Luna and my life. His Highness only risks his life so why not make it even? I'm placing my title on the line the king could at least put his

throne on the line. What do you say, your Highness? The winner becomes your successor

Ansel maintained a veneer of surprise and looked to the king, "What say you, your Highness? A challenge has been issued."

"Well." the king hesitated, "this is highly irregular. The challenge has already been accepted."

"I believe humans call it upping the ante," Ansel said

Chapter Ninety-Eight —

"Of course, if the king refuses I understand," Jason taunted, "after all his line is not known for their courage."

Nolan stared incredulously at Jason who he always viewed as a reasonable wolf. Why would he deliberately taunt the king who was not

known for his patience?

Snarling the king leapt to his feet, "You dare! Fine! I declare the winner of this duel shall be my successor!"

Jason's mouth twitched with a smile as his gaze shifted to Achan. The first prince seemed genuinely perplexed by Jason's sudden challenge.

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It appeared he wasn't expecting it and had not planned for it

Good

"The challenge has been accepted," Ensel said. "For this duel the winner shall be Alpha of Blue Moon as well as the rightful successor for the

throne of the Wolf King."

Murmurs trickled through the crowd but Jason felt no resentment or push back from it either. The crowd certainly seemed more invested

now that the stakes were higher but that hardly mattered. Jason still wasn't sure what the alleged prophecy was really about but there

wasn't anything he wouldn't do to protect Phoebe and their pup. If that meant being king.

then he would be king

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“Alpha Jason, do you wish to battle as wolves or in human form?” Ansel asked

“Wolves,” Jason answered without hesitation

That was the one point he had never wavered or wondered about

When they fought in human form they could call on their wolves for added strength and agility but it was only in their wolf form that their

true power was unleashed. If anyone wanted to challenge him it would be at his full strength. There would be no room for debate in the

outcome

Chapter Ninety-Eight

“Just a moment,” the king said gesturing a servant who brought a tray with a pair of wine glasses. “Let's drink in solidarity.”

Nolan accepted his glass and the servant moved to Jason and offered the other glass. Jason looked at it with no emotion knowing exactly

what the king was attempting to do and it had nothing to with solidarity. Picking

up the glass he looked at it. His gaze went back to the king who held up another glass. Without a word, Jason tipped it upside down and

poured the contents on the ground. Lobo snarled in his mind sensing the trace amounts of wolfsbane mixed within it

The king frowned at Jason's open dismissal. Their audience as well was surprised; however, most agreed with Jason's action. They knew all

too well the king never served drinks that were wolfsbane free. Jason needed to be at the top of his game and could not allow any

weakness

He removed his jacket and shirt tossing it to one of his warriors waiting on standby. Kicking off his shoes Jason stepped into the ring

Chapter 99

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Chapter 99

As Jason removed his jacket and shirt Phoebe felt their mindlink open, "Angel, / am going to do everything to win so / can't let myself to be

distracted. I love you with everything I have."

~

Phoebe struggled to hold in a gasp as his love poured through their bond until it practically pulsed. It radiated through her like a warm light

before suddenly shutting down. She could feel nothing through their bond

It was like a door suddenly slammed shut and now an insurmountable wall separated them. Phoebe wanted to reach out but Mani stopped

her

"No, we mustn't. Mate said he was going to do everything to win. We mustn't distract him!"

'know, I just...hate feeling him shut himself off' Phoebe fought a shudder

It wasn't just their bond he was suppressing. He was shutting down every emotion, every connection and she couldn't stand it. Jason was

so warm, so caring. She couldn't stand him shutting everything and one out

"It's okay," Mani whispered. 'Mate loves us. You felt it. He is doing this because he loves us and when he is done he will let us feel it again.'

“Right.” Phoebe held onto that. Yes, Jason was only doing what he felt was needed to win the fight and after that he would come back to

her

“Luna,” Luke gently directed her to her seat

Phoebe sat beside Mona trying to keep herself calm but it was a struggle. Without a word, Mona gripped her hand and squeezed while they

Chapter 99 watched

“Nolan!”

Phoebe gave a startled jerk at the harsh shout. Her gaze fell on the king then to the second prince. Like Jason he was removing his jacket

and shirt but much more deliberately and reluctantly. Despite the fact he initiated the challenge he clearly didn’t want to be there. He

looked up at his father's beckoning

“Win this!” the king bellowed

Nolan gave his father a short, curt nod. His gaze lingered on those in the royal box before he turned and entered the ring, the crowds

energy spiked in preparation. For decades everyone wondered what a fight between Jason and one of the princes would be and now they

were finally going to bear witness. It was the Battle Royale they had all taken bets and discussed on more than one occasion

Phoebe’s attention remained on the royal family. The queen was pale and grim watching her son with a note of sadness. Beside her, the

princess didn’t spare her brother a glance and kept waving in hopes of attracting Jason's attention. The king, on the other hand, turned a

venomous glare on her but she expected that and it didn’t bother her as much as it once did. After hearing Christina and Emily's reports

she thought she understood the king better. Now that she understood where his hate came from she could ignore it

The royal family really had no one to blame but themselves. For centuries they lived decadently, neglecting their fated mates with no

remorse. What else could they expect? Did they really think the Goddess would ignore it? If they were worried about a prophecy why didn't

they take measures against it? It was the definition of a self-fulfilling prophecy

Chapter 99 f

Her gaze passed over him and landed on the first prince who smirked when he noticed her attention. He licked her lips and even kissed the

air as if that was somehow appealing to her. She frowned and her gaze did not linger on him a moment longer shifting to the final presence

in the box. He had a darker complexion and didn't seem to be a part of the royal family

"Luke?"

"Luna?" he glanced at her questioningly not sure why she

wanted to talk when the fight was about to begin

"Who is that standing beside the first Prince?" Luke glanced at the royal box, "Beta Corwin." "Beta?"

"Yes, He's the son of the king's Beta. I believe he is one of the princes' assistants."

"see." Phoebe nodded turning her attention to the ring as the second Prince stepped in. 'Mani, you felt it, right?'

"Yes. There is definitely a connection."

"But I thought the prince hadn't found his mate.

"Maybe that's what he wants everyone to think.'

“And maybe someone found out that shouldn't,” — Phoebe’s gaze flickered back to the first prince. Yason said he was conniving and dangerous.”

“Mate is not wrong,” Mani growled. * His wolf is dead. He no longer has a sane mind. He is unhinged.”

“Luna? Are you all right?” Luke asked sensing her anxiety spike

“I think the Beta is the second Prince's mate,” Phoebe said. * And/

Chapter 99 think the first Prince knows.” Luke's eyebrow shot up as did Mona's. For security, she and Luke maintained an open link allowing

Phoebe’s communication to reach her

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“That explains a lot,” Mona said. “The king would never allow a union that wouldn't bear pups.”

“They could adopt.

“According to law adopted pups can't be named successors or be included in the family lineage.”

“Why?”

“If remember correctly, I think it was an issue several generations back with a half-sibling suddenly appearing to challenge for the throne.

After that, the laws changed so only those borne of the king and reigning queen could succeed the throne, barring a challenge like this one,

of course. It's a matter of historical record of course so Luna Kleio probably knows all the details."

"Mona is right, the only reason the king hasn't named a successor is because none of his progeny has produced a viable heir," Luke agreed

Bloodline is all that matters. If he knew what you suspect he'd put the Beta to death right now."

"What about the fact the first Prince killed his own wolf?" Phoebe asked

"What!" Mona suddenly jerked to attention. "Are you sure?"

"My wolf is. She says he is unhinged."

"Shit." Luke cursed. They knew Achan was dangerous but this was a much more serious situation. If his wolf was truly dead than the prince

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no longer operate logically and he would not be easy to predict

Chapter 99 f

"It makes sense," Mona said. "Rumors have it he killed his own fated mate. The shock alone could have killed his wolf not to mention his

nightly escapades. Only a wolf gone completely insane can do what he has done to so many."

"He shouldn't even be functioning," Luke frowned. "Without a wolf he shouldn't be thinking rationally."

"You think he is rational?" Mona scoffed. "He's fixated but nothing he does is logical except to him. He is psychotic and he'll keep going

until he reaches his endgame or he is stopped."

"What is his endgame?" Phoebe asked

"Jason," Luke sighed, "if there is any wolf he is gunning for it is Jason and he won't stop until he takes everything away from him."

"We have to warn him."

"We can't," Luke shook his head, "he's in the ring. We can't reach him

"Mani, can we?" Phoebe asked hoping their immunity to silver applied to mindlinking

"Yes...but we can't distract him now."

Phoebe looked to the ring to see Jason shift, becoming his massive, brown wolf. She felt Mani surge forward eager to see and appreciate

her mate's physique

On the other side of the arena the prince also shifted into a tanish-gray wolf. It was not nearly as large but had a wiry looking frame, which

meant he was quick and agile. No sooner had their paws touched the ground they were leaping on the attack

Phoebe winced at the impact. The prince swiped a paw at Jason only for him to tear into his shoulder. It had only been a few seconds and

Chapter 99 bad already they were spilling blood, staining the dirt of the arena floor

"We have to stop them!"

"We can't," Luke placed a hand on her shoulder

"But the Prince is being forced to fight. His mate is being held hostage!"

"Phoebe," Mona gripped herhand. "The challenge was issued and accepted. It doesn't matter why. If we interfere Jason loses automatically."

"Mani."

"She's right. We have to let this play out. Trust in Mate. He will win

"But if he kills the prince...'

Chapter 100

Chapter 100

As soon as Lobo's paws touched the ground he was out for blood and Jason wasn't holding him back. Once the prince's wolf was on its

feet, it leaped forward and attacked. The prince swiped at him but Lobo barely felt the claws through his thick fur as he sank his teeth into

the gray shoulder

Though they had shut down their bond and turned off their emotions, Jason still felt Phoebe's rising anxiety even after he stepped into the

ring

The silver should have cut them off completely but somehow he still felt her. He wasn't sure if their bond was simply that strong or if it was

She was worried. She wanted to reach out to him for reassurance but she was holding back and he couldn't afford to split his concentration.

It was killing him to keep this distance between them but he had to focus

This was about protecting her. He was counting on Luke and Mona to be there and support her

Be patient, angel. I'm coming back to you

Jason could only hope she would forgive him

Lobo shoved the prince aside and they circled each other before charging in again. The prince was smaller with a lanky build that spoke of a

wolf focused on speed. It was clear his goal was short quick strikes trying to wear down Jason's stamina

Lobo snarled at the thought they would crumble so easily. They were a big wolf but they were also fast. As they charged Lobo suddenly

veered and spun around to grab at the scruff of the prince's neck then threw him to the ground. They were rewarded with a pained yelp

Chapter 100

He lifted the prince up and slammed him down again hearing a satisfying crunch and knew he succeeded in breaking ribs before wringing

him into the ground before he tossed him aside. The prince yelped again before dragging himself to his feet to face Jason again

Lobo prowled the perimeter of the circle watching with shining amber eyes. There was something off about his opponent. The prince didn't

seem to be fighting for his life in the slightest

As soon as he was on his feet the prince charged again. Lobo pulled back at the last moment then sank his teeth into the prince's haunches.

He dragged him back into the center of the ring. Lobo would not allow the prince to set a single claw outside the ring until he was finished.

He slammed the prince into the ground again and wrung him before flipping him over and tossing him aside again. Lobo backed off

watching his enemy as the prince struggled to rise to his feet

"What is wrong with him?" — Jason couldn't help but wonder. Why wasn't the prince taking this seriously? Did he not want to win? What

was the point of challenging him if Nolan simply intended to throw his life away? Did he even want to survive?

The prince struggled to get his feet under him for another charge as his gaze looked longingly at the royal box. It was only a moment but

nothing was lost to Lobo's gaze. Despite the risk he also glanced at the gathered royalty. Why was the prince fixated on them?

The king wasn't even looking at the fight. His hate filled gaze was centered on Phoebe a fact he would pay for once this duel was over. The

queen kept her head hung low while the princess acted like she was on holiday, waving to Jason whenever she thought his gaze lingered in

her direction. Behind them the first prince had his leering gaze trained in the same direction as the king. He was another that would have a

short life

i

Chapter 100 There was only one person watching the fight and that was Beta Corwin

The beta was watching with the intensity of a lover..or a mate

The realization made Lobo stumble and he almost missed the prince's

next attack. Luckily he recovered quickly and ducked at the last moment, snapping at the prince's leg and sinking his teeth into flesh. With a

growl, Lobo yanked him around and whipped his head to snap the prince's limb before backing off again

Mates? Were the second prince and beta mates? Was that the hold the first prince had to force his bother to challenge him? If the king

knew the beta would not still be alive. So it had to be the prince

Phoebe. Yes, that was why she was so anxious. She had the innate ability to sense the mating bonds of others, even broken ones. There was

no way she would have missed this connection. If the prince died the beta would crumple as the bond, even incomplete, severed. If the

prince didn't die the beta certainly would. The first prince was at least as ruthless as his father and would not tolerate failure

Lobo allowed a moment of pity for them as the prince struggled to his feet one paw hanging. The prince would not forfeit. He was willing to

trade his life for his mate. Jason could respect that, but he was also fighting for his mate. He would not lose. There was only one way to end

this, only one way he would allow it to end

And it was time to end it

The prince staggered as he gasped for breath and gathered himself

There was a pained look in his gaze as the crushing reality of never being able to claim his mate fell on him but in order for his mate to live

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and have a second chance he had no other choice. He had managed to warn Corwin beforehand and told regardless of the outcome of this

duel to run

Run and live

Chapter 100

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Gathering himself Nolan lunged once again going for Jason's throat and praying the Blue Moon Alpha would make it quick for him and his

mate. Lobo stood as still as a statue watching the prince' final rush. It was practically in slow motion and almost as laughable

Lobo barely moved as he dodged the haphazard charge and sunk his teeth into the prince's neck. He shook him like a ragdoll and then

threw him to the ground only to pick him up and repeat the savage gesture. The prince cried out sharply then lay unmoving

Lobo backed away as Ansel hurried into the ring. Checking the prince, Ansel stood and announced, "He breathes."

Ansel stepped back as another elder brought a large hourglass

Together they flipped it and waited as the sand ran down. It would take three minutes for the time to run out. That was how much time the

prince had to rise and continue the fight. It was also three minutes he would have to recover without medical assistance. He could easily

expire in that time as his breath rattled in his chest

Lobo moved back waiting for the prince to either expire or stand again. But he wouldn't. He kept a wary eye on the first prince waiting for

any sign or gesture he would enter the fray as time slowly ran down

As the last grains fell, Ansel straightened, "Prince Nolan is unable to continue. The victor is Alpha Jason!"