The 5-time Rejected Gamma & the Lycan King by Stina's Pen Chapter 15

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'Hang in there, Lucy! They're coming!' Juan's panicked link was evident. He himself tried to speed up his slaughter to get to Lucianne.

At the riverbank, Lucianne finally realized that this was a trap set up for her. The rogue she knocked into the river wasn't retreating, he was leading her to the river far away from the Alphas and the other warriors. The Lycans surrounded her, eyes glazing over as they linked each other. Lucianne put a brave front but she knew the position she was in. Her chances of survival were slim. She may be able to handle one Lycan but not three at a time.

She waited for them to make a move while praying for Raden and Tate to come soon. One Lycan stood close to the riverbank, too close. And he was the first to charge towards Lucianne. Lucianne pounced just low enough to dodge his claws and held one of his legs with her canines as she flipped him with force at the boulder in the river.

A loud thud was heard, and the Lycan was definitely dead upon the impact because its friends howled in anger, and the one in the river didn't even have the strength to scream. Like the rogue wolf before, he was swept by the strong current before hitting the same second boulder. The remaining two Lycans were growling furiously now, not that it surprised Lucianne.

'Hang on, Lucy! They're coming! I'm right behind them now! Hang in there!' Juan linked in panic.

Both Lycans pounced at her at the same time, and Lucianne swiftly rolled to the side. As soon as she was up on her feet, they pounced again and she rolled away from the river, not wanting to die the same way as the two creatures she killed. The Lycans seemed to be getting impatient. Lucianne knew better than to run and waste her energy in doing so. Lycans were faster and stronger than werewolves. She came to learn that the only way to beat a Lycan was with a wolf's agility.

Her friends were coming so she just had to hold on a little while longer.

Then, the Lycans pounced again but not directly at her. They were pouncing to her sides to surround her. Just before they landed, Lucianne leaped away but she wasn't fast enough. One of the Lycans grabbed her by her tail and threw her against a tree. She groaned at the impact and fell onto the ground. When she was getting up, she was grabbed by her neck and tossed forcefully to the ground. She felt her bones breaking but before they had time to recover, she was once again tossed against another tree with even more force than the last.

Even with the pain, she refused to whimper. She would not give these rogues the satisfaction of hearing her cry out in anguish, even if she couldn't stand up. Her head was leaning against the tree bark, and the Lycans were laughing menacingly as they strode towards her. When they were two steps away, they heard infuriated growls coming from the trees.

Tate and Raden pounced on them, catching them off guard. The Lycans were surprised but not for long. One of them grabbed Tate's leg and tossed him away aimlessly. That was his mistake, tossing aimlessly. Tate fell to the ground with no injury and got up swiftly, charging towards the Lycan running towards Lucianne again. Before the Lycan reached her, Juan knocked him out of the way. Tate then continued pouncing on the Lycan and scratching him with his claws.

Juan's black wolf looked at Lucianne's white one with worry, concern and guilt. She couldn't even stand

'I'll be okay. Help them! She linked.

The black wolf nodded, and charged at the Lycan attacking Raden. Lucianne's bones were healing but not quickly enough for her to stand back up anytime soon. The pain was unbearable but she gritted her teeth and fought through it.

Lucianne watched the fight helplessly from the ground. She hated it when something like this happened to her. Then, she noticed the Lycan attacking Tate taking something from the ground as he stood up from a fall. A knife! Along with it, a familiar scent was lingering in the air – the dreaded scent of silver.

Juan, get to Tate! Knife! She linked and panic coursed through her as Juan quickly ran towards Tate, confident that Raden could handle the Lycan on his own now that it was weakened.

A plain knife is not much of a concern. A stab from a clean knife would create a wound that would heal easily. It is a knife coated with silver that would be fatal to werewolves. The higher the concentration of silver, the quicker the death. If it enters the system, it must be filtered out if a werewolf wanted any chance in surviving.

Juan pounced on the Lycan, and the knife flew, dropping on the ground near to where the other Lycan was with Raden. Swiftly, the Lycan threw Raden right at Tate and Juan who was charging towards him. The three wolves fell to the ground and the Lycan who initially had the knife blocked the three wolves from getting to the other Lycan who now had the knife and was dashing towards Lucianne.

Lucianne's heart raced but externally, she showed no fear. She still couldn't get up. The Lycan stabbed the knife in through her side and plunged it mercilessly into her rib cage, destroying the slow progress of her bones that were healing. Lucianne gritted her teeth and showed nothing on her face. But she couldn't help yelling in pain through her mind-link with Juan.

Juan growled furiously and ferociously as he kicked the Lycan stopping the three of them in the head, and was running towards Lucianne. But the Lycan caught hold of Juan's tail and pulled him back towards him.

Lucianne breathed heavily to cope with the pain and locked her murderous eyes with the

rogue Lycan, who was smirking with victory. He just stood there, like he wanted to watch her die. He held onto the knife in her body, not giving her a chance to pull it out. She started to feel weaker than she already was. If the knife wasn't out, there was no way she could survive. But she didn't have the strength to push away the beast in front of her right now.

I am

When she started getting dizzy, the loudest and most ferocious growl she ever heard came from a mere few feet in front of her. The Lycans looked at each other like they just heard the unexpected. The Alphas pounced on the distracted Lycan at the same time to push him to the ground. Raden kicked the Lycan next to Lucianne away.

To e*ver*yone's surprise, the owner of the loud growl they heard entered the battlefield, along with his second-in-command.

The 5-time Rejected Gamma & the Lycan King by Stina's Pen Chapter 16

/ The 5-time Rejected Gamma & the Lycan King by Stina's Pen Chapter 16

Xandar and Christian both appeared bare-chest, only in shorts. They only took a microsecond to take in the scene before them, and without shifting, Christian went after the Lycan attacking the Alphas, and Xandar charged at the one near Raden and Lucianne before knocking him further away from his mate.

Raden stood in front of Lucianne's lying body, shielding her from any possible attack. With the rogue Lycan gone, Lucianne gathered the little strength she had left and pulled the knife out of her body with her canines, and threw it on the ground next to her. Her eyes started tearing from the pain but the dizziness subsided. 'Good', she thought. There wasn't enough silver in her body to kill her.

Xandar and Christian made breaking the rogue Lycans' limbs look so easy. For the next few moments, the rogues' whimpering and the sound of bone-cracking filled the air.

Xandar had already broken the limbs of the rogue he had over and over again, not giving it any time to heal or recover completely. Just killing the rogue would've been too merciful. The idea was to torture them for as long as possible

before offering them a ticket to their death bed. Xandar tossed the rogue at a tree once, twice, three times.

Lucianne linked Juan as she endured the pain, 'Get...Xandar. Keep...rogue...alive. Interrogate... Ask who sent...'

Juan shifted into his human form in an instant, and went to kneel by Xandar's side before telling him Lucianne's request. Xandar's angered eyes locked with Lucianne's pleading ones. He growled furiously before knocking the rogue Lycan's head against a tree to make it lose consciousness. He made sure he broke another few more bones before he was satisfied.

Then, everyone heard a high-pitched whimpering which stopped at the distinct sound of a crack. The other rogue Lycan fell lifelessly from Christian's hands. Xandar strode towards his mate, and Raden stepped aside. The King knelt next to Lucianne's wolf. His eyes were

glistening but he was still boiling with anger as he looked at the blood stained white fur Lucianne's paw was covering. Everyone heard quick footsteps approaching but they were not worried because it was just the other members of their alliance.

"Here," Sylvia appeared with a large towel, covering Lucianne's body so that she could shift back. Everyone else was shifting back into their human forms as well.

Beneath the towel, Lucianne gritted her teeth and shifted back, enduring the pain. This was, by far, the most painful shift she had to endure. When she was fully human again, she let out a sigh of relief before continuing to grit her teeth to fight the pain. Watching his mate's gritted teeth and cold sweat made Xandar feel angry and helpless. 'I was supposed to protect her', he thought to himself.

"Lucianne?" Xandar called out in a low voice, worry radiating from his eyes. Juan and Tate

were right behind him.

"Fine...need...minute....to...recover." She responded as she fought through the pain.

Xandar held her hand, and she gripped his tightly as she coped with the pain. The sparks erupted from her hand and flowed through the rest of her body. She felt her bones recovering much quicker. The silver which was disappearing slowly before suddenly sped up in vanishing from her bloodstream. When she was fully recovered, she let out an exhausted breath and uttered, 'Clothes.'

Xandar noticed that she was trying to get up and helped her, being as gentle as he could. Sylvia came with Lucianne's clothes. Luna Lovelace then demanded, "Gentleman, turn."

All the males turned instantly without argument. Xandar looked at Lucianne for one more second before turning around with the rest. Sylvia and Lovelace helped

Lucianne with her inner wear, tank top and shorts. Lucianne moved her limbs slowly and cautiously, not wanting to risk breaking anything. Sylvia re-tied Lucianne's hair, twisting it into a bun.

Luna Lovelace checked her one more time before declaring, "Alright. You can all look this way now."

Lucianne was still weak but she managed to stand on her own and looked at the Alphas, Christian and Xandar as she said, "Thank you for saving me. All of you."

"Any pain?" Xandar asked as he hovered over the part where Lucianne was stabbed earlier, not sure whether touching it would instigate the anguish for her.

"No. I'm just weak now. The mate bond sped up the healing. Thank you." She said gratefully.

The worry in Xandar's eyes was quickly replaced with anger, "What the he*l were you thinking when you left without telling me?!"

Lucianne was taken aback. "I called you and left you a text. And I told Benjamin."

Xandar's voice got louder, "Why the he*1 didn't you come and bang on my door?! You know where I live! And what was telling the guard going to do, huh?! He wasn't going to come defend you!"

"Cuz, cool it." Christian said cautiously from the side but Xandar growled at his cousin, obliging him to stay silent before Xandar turned back to Lucianne

Lucianne's eyes were glistening, not with gratitude or sadness but with hurt and anger. Her voice was significantly softer and weaker when she spoke, "You're blaming me for not telling you? You expected me to go find you before I came here? Do you have any idea the damage they could've done to this pack if we were just two minutes behind?! Did you know that they've already lost eleven warriors in the first attack just hours ago?!"

When he saw her tears, his heart felt like it was getting stabbed painfully slowly. It was then he realized that he wasn't angry at her. From the moment Christian told him where she was going, he was beyond furious but it was only after making his mate tear-up in front of him did

he realize that his infuriation was towards himself for failing to protect her. It was him that h

e was angry at, not her.

Ignoring her blurred vision from her tears, Lucianne continued to speak in her weakened voice angrily, "I did everything I could to tell you where I was going. Blame yourself for not getting the memo on time. If you think that I should not have left without making sure you know first, you are a selfish, inconsiderate,

self-entitled animal! We took our positions for less than two minutes and the rogue attack started. Now you want to make me apologize for not pleasing you? Do you even think that I will feel bad about this?!"

Xandar's animal was already whimpering in his head, filled with remorse at how they yelled a t Lucianne when they should have been yelling at themselves. His animal just wanted to hold her, apologize and beg for her forgiveness. But the human part of him froze on his spot, unable to digest and accept what he just said to her, shocked that those words could even come out of his mouth in that inhumane tone. This was his mate, the most precious person in his life! How could he have said those things to her?

Taking advantage of his silence, Lucianne stood closer to him and looked him dead in the eye, "I don't care what you do to me. I will NEVER regret what I did." She panted after exerting herself at the word 'never'. She then turned around slowly, wiping away her tears with the back of her hands before swallowing a sniffle and looking up to face the wolves.

Ignoring Xandar, Lucianne asked in a flat tone, "How are Alpha Frederick and the warriors with him?"

Juan answered softly, "I told them it was safe to come out of the cellar a minute ago."

Lucianne nodded meekly. "Okay. Good. Any casualties?"

The Beta stepped forward and said with a smile, "None, Gamma Lucianne."

"Alright, that's...good news." She said between breaths, still weak.

"Thank you, Gamma Lucianne. The Jewel Pack owes you." The Beta said with gratitude, and offered a slight bow.

"No." She shook her head gently and managed a smile. "I couldn't have done it without everyone else here. As children of our Goddess, it's our duty to protect each other." She glanced at Tate after she said that, and he was smiling broadly as they both recalled their conversation on the plane.

"Are you sure you're alright?" Xandar's deep, remorseful voice came from behind her as he placed his hand gently on her.waist where she was stabbed, making her body stiffened in response. 1

no

She turned reluctantly, and their eyes locked. The anger that was there before had vanished, now there's just guilt in his glistening eyes. "I'm fine." She responded flatly. He looked at the wolves and his expression turned serious, like he was contemplating on

something. Lucianne moved to block his line of vision. She growled, albeit weakly, "Leave them out of this. They're only here because I asked them to come." 1

Behind her, Juan said in a clear voice, "That's not true, your Highness. If I hadn't mind-linked the Alphas and Lunas, and given out the order, none of us would be here. This isn't Lucy's fault. It's mine." And Juan fell on one knee before the King.

Lucianne hissed, "Juan, shut up and get up. You still have Hale AND a pack. Let me deal with this." She turned back to face Xandar, and said in her weak voice firmly, "I asked for the wolves. Juan was just the messenger. Do not touch him or the others."

"We're not letting you leave us out of this, Lucy." Tate's voice came next as he knelt next to Juan. One by one the wolves knelt side-by-side.

Luna Zelena knelt alongside the others and said confidently, "We stand with her."

Lucianne was angrily lecturing the leaders and Gammas of how irrational and reckless they were being for wanting to be punished to keep Xandar from doing anything to her. She kept giving them reasons to let her take the blame. They had packs to lead and protect, and mates and pups to take care of and live for. They all just looked at the King emotionlessly. They were taking in Lucianne's words but were firm in their collective decision to forbid the King from punishing her for leading the alliance without punishing them first. Lucianne's voice was getting even softer, weaker and more strained as she went on.

For once, Xandar couldn't hear a single thing Lucianne was saying. He had to move his line of vision to the ground because the sight before him was too painful to look at. He felt like a ruthless dictator with all these pack leaders and Gammas kneeling before him when they did nothing wrong. In a low and pained voice, he commanded, "Please stand up, all of you. Don't ever kneel to me like that again."

They looked unsure until Lucianne hissed in an angry whisper, "Up! All of you! Now!" They then got up and stood in the spot where they knelt.

When Lucianne was still facing them, Xandar took one of her hands gently and pushed away any small dirt on her right palm before lifting it up to lick it lovingly.

"What are you doing?!" Lucianne whispered angrily but she didn't have the strength to retract her hand so Xandar held onto it with ease.

He smiled sadly but said nothing. Then, he lifted up his own arm, and with his canines, tore his skin there with force. Blood started trickling from his self-inflicted wound. The sight made Lucianne flinch a little. Furrowing his eyebrows in concern, Xandar glanced at Lucianne before he extended one of his claws, and scratched a fine line on her palm. Blood started trickling from that area, and Xandar placed her bleeding palm on his already-healing bleeding arm.

Both Lycans and werewolves have quick healing abilities, with Lycans normally healing faster than wolves.

In a low but sure voice, Xandar uttered the words, "I, Alexandar Thomas Claw, offer you,

Lucianne Fressia Paw, a link to my mind." 1

Despite her fatigue, Lucianne's eyes widened in shock. Mind-links were only possible between members of the same pack, unless you're an Alpha or Luna, which would enable you to link other pack leaders. Even mates of different packs couldn't mind-link each other until they were mated and marked. Government officials also had the privilege of mind-linking each other since their jobs may sometimes concern national security which required their immediate attention. A mind-link outside pack relationships, mate ties and government functions was rare.

"Anytime now, sweetheart." Xandar said as their blood started drying up and their wounds started closing. The only way he could make sure that she could reach him at any time and place is through a mind-link. There was no other way. But why was she hesitating? Did she not want to link him? Was she already trying to cut ties with him for what he said? Would she reject him?

These thoughts ran through Xandar's mind until Lucianne, who still had a look of confusion, stammered, "I-I, Lucianne Freesia Paw, accept your offer." There was visible relief on Xandar's face right after she said that.

Xandar, disregarding his own wound, then licked away the excess blood from Lucianne's palm. When her wound was clean, his own wound had finished healing. After her wound closed without a trace of the scratch he made mere moments ago, he kissed her palm deeply before pulling her body into his chest and holding her tightly. Lucianne had no idea what was going through his mind. And she was still weak, so she couldn't push apart their bodies to ask.

Xandar's voice laced with regret pleaded into her ear, "I am so sorry, Lucianne. This was my fault. I should've been more alert. I should have never yelled at you. I am so, so sorry." He held her tighter, and Lucianne was finding it more difficult to breathe. He was a Lycan, so his strength could suffocate her if he exerted enough force.

"Xandar, let...me go." She muttered in a weak voice. 'No no no! She wants me to let her go! She wants to leave me. Accepting the mind-link didn't mean accepting me. I'm going to lose her', he thought.

"No!" He whimpered in fear and squeezed her even tighter. "I'm so sorry, Lucianne, please. Don't leave me. D-Don't reject me, I'm begging you. I'll be better, please." He didn't care if he was begging before an audience. He didn't care how humiliating it looked. He just didn't want to lose her. 1

"Can't...breathe" Lucianne managed to cough out.

Xandar realized he misunderstood her, and loosened his grip immediately. Lucianne took a few deep breaths as Xandar supported her by her waist and arm. He felt even guiltier than he already was. He almost suffocated his mate. What was he thinking?!?

When Lucianne could stabilize herself, she looked at the unconscious rogue Lycan and said,

We should head back now."

Xandar smiled meekly and nodded. Christian, upon hearing what she said and getting his

cousin's nod, carried the body over his shoulder voluntarily, and that was when Alfred Cummings and Pierre Whitlaw showed up, along with Sebastian Cummings.

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The 5-time Rejected Gamma & the Lycan King by Stina's Pen Chapter 17

/ The 5-time Rejected Gamma & the Lycan King by Stina's Pen Chapter 17

"Bad air traffic, ministers?" Christian asked sarcastically.

Alfred spoke nonchalantly, "Apologies for our tardiness, your Grace. The order did come on very short notice."

"Lucy! What happened to you? Are you okay?" Sebastian cried out in concern as he took a step forward but stopped abruptly when Xandar growled at him and took Lucianne protectively by her shoulders.

Lucianne looked at Sebastian indifferently as she spat weakly, "Fine."

Xandar's worried voice then rang through her ears as he cupped her cheeks and stared deep into her eyes, practically begging her, "Baby, please don't speak. Save your strength. Use the mind-link if you need to say something, okay?"

Disregarding whatever Xandar just said, Sebastian commented frantically, "You don't seem fine. Why do you look so pale and sound so weak? Lucy, what's going on? What hap—"

Xandar growled at him again, louder and fiercer this time. He then said in a low, menacing voice, "Our Queen is recovering from fighting off rogue Lycans, which your father and his deputy have lamentably failed to track down." Everyone, including the wolves, threw berating glares at the ministers.

Sebastian remained stubborn. He was opening his mouth when Christian stood in front of him to block his view of Lucianne and said in an authoritative tone, "Stop trying to get the Queen to speak. She needs to rest. But since the three of you are now here, you should make yourselves useful." He looked at his cousin and they mind-linked each other for a moment. When they were done, Xandar nodded and Christian bowed slightly in his cousin's direction

with a smile.

Christian looked at Alpha Frederick and his Beta as he said, "Pack leaders, please give these ministers the quotation for border restoration and the other form of damages caused by the rogues. After that, take them to where the sacrificed warriors are to be buried. These three men will help with the burial. And tell them how many family members are now affected by the loss." He took a deep breath before saying, "And the King and I are deeply sorry for the eleven warriors lost in battle this morning. Do let us know if we can do anything else to help." The leaders were shocked at how aid was offered without having to go through the tedious application processes so they just stared at Christian in shock.

Christian then glared at the ministers who already had their heads down and Christian barked, "I will personally be questioning you two about what you've learned. One mistake and you're both out. Is that understood?"

"Yes, your Grace." The two uttered.

"Okay. I'll tell them." Xandar's soft and gentle voice came from the side. Christian turned to see his cousin looking into Lucianne's eyes as he kissed her fingers tenderly before turning t o face him.

Christian awaited his instructions. Xandar said, "Lucianne says Gammas Brighton and Sylvia should stay with them. It does help with fact-checking."

Christian threw a smile in Lucianne's way and bowed in compliance, "As you wish, my Queen."

Lucianne looked towards Brighton who said, "I'm more than happy to stay, Lucianne." And then at Sylvia who smiled and assured her, "No issue at all, Lucy." Lucianne smiled in return to signify her thanks. She was getting weaker. She needed to sleep. She was exhausted. Whatever little strength she had, she used a large portion of it to argue with Xandar.

"Cuz, I'm taking this one with me." Christian pointed at the rogue Lycan he was carrying, still unconscious. "Perhaps it's safer for everyone else to return in your jet, just in case this rogue wakes up."

Lucianne's eyes instantly widened in fear. Christian caught this, but he smiled as he tried to assure her, "Don't worry, my Queen. I will break his limbs and throw his head against a wall again before I board the plane. It'll be fine. We're just taking some precautions."

Lucianne nodded slowly with uncertainty, and Xandar cooed, "Hey, hey. It'll be alright. He won't wake up until we want him to. It'll be alright. Don't worry, okay?" She nodded again with a small smile, feeling more assured this time.

When everyone was leaving, Lucianne realized she couldn't even walk on her own. Her legs wobbled in fatigue. Without hesitation, Xandar lifted her up by her legs and carried her horizontally, bridal-style, and held her close to his chest. She leaned into him, taking in his scent.

When they were seated in Xandar's jet, Lucianne was still in his arms. He had no intention of letting her go. After planting a kiss on her forehead, he looked affectionately into her eyes with an assuring smile and said, "Sleep, baby. You'll be safe now." 1

She shook her head stubbornly, and mind-linked Xandar, 'I'm...okay.'

'She can't even form a coherent mind-link. How is she okay? Does she not feel safe with me?', he thought to himself.

Gently, he asked, "Lucianne, what's wrong? Why don't you want to sleep?"

She averted her eyes and played with her fingers for a moment before she mind-linked him again, 'What are you...going...to do...to them?' When she finished, she bit her inner lip and her neck stiffened as she anxiously waited for his response.

Xandar felt a pang in his heart. Did he really seem so heartless and ruthless to her? The thought that she would sacrifice her own well-being just to make sure none of the members of the alliance were harmed by him was excruciatingly painful.

He lifted her chin with his forefinger to lock gaze with his beautiful mate, whose eyes were

filled with anxiety. But in his eyes, there was only hurt and pain, pain of being misunderstood. He then said in a clear, soothing voice, "I am not going to do anything to anyone. None of you did anything wrong. I told you that it was my fault, and I mean it. Please, don't worry." He kissed her nose before he pressed their foreheads together and locked eyes with her as he pleaded, "Please, Lucianne, let yourself rest. I won't hurt you or anyone else here. Just sleep, okay?"

She nodded twice before leaning into his chest and snuggling into him. Her breathing slowed, and she fell into deep sleep as Xandar stroked her forearm throughout the flight back. The trip was quiet despite the many people on board. Everyone was still worried about Lucianne. They fought alongside her tonnes of times but never did she come out this drained or this injured. Then again, none of their previous battles involved rogue Lycans.

Juan was still blaming himself for letting her follow that rogue wolf alone. If he had followed her, or had someone else followed her, she wouldn't have had to face the Lycans all by herself when they appeared. But Lucianne mentioned that

there were three of them. When he, Tate and Raden got there, there were only two, which meant that Lucianne killed one on her own. Glancing at his Gamma from time to time who was fast asleep in the arms of her mate, he knew he wouldn't feel at ease until she woke up. And judging from the looks on everyone's faces, it was clear that their minds won't be at ease until their leader of the alliance was okay

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Xandar insisted on getting his personal doctor to examine Lucianne. Not wanting to risk upsetting her when she woke up, he decided against bringing her to his villa and instead got the doctor to come to Lucianne's room in the hotel. The guard she mentioned, Benjamin, was there. He looked at the sleeping Lucianne in Xandar's arms in dismay. He knelt on one knee and bowed even before they reached the front door.

"I'm sorry for not informing you sooner, your Highness." Benjamin said in remorse.

"Stand, Benjamin. Our Queen is fine. She just needs rest. You did everything within your reach to inform me about where she went. Thank you." The guard stared at the King in shock at the gratitude he expressed. He took a moment to digest what he just heard before slowly standing back up.

Lucianne didn't even wake up from her deep slumber when Lunas Hale and Felicity came to clean her up and change her clothes. After they were done, Xandar stayed by her side while h e waited for his doctor to arrive.

The doctor, Dr Yeil, arrived shortly after to examine Lucianne. When he was done, he told Xandar that she was alright, and that she just needed a few more hours of deep sleep. When Xandar asked about the silver in her bloodstream, the doctor looked at him in bewilderment." Your Highness, I can assure you, there's no silver in the Queen's system. In fact, it doesn't seem like any silver had entered her system at all."

Xandar argued in a hushed tone, "That's not possible. I saw the knife myself. It was clearly coated with silver, and the knife was extracted from the side of her body."

Dr Yeil's eyebrows furrowed in confusion as he looked at Lucianne on the bed. He muttered under his breath, "Strange. Hmm..." He then turn back to Xandar and suggested, "If you allow it, your Highness, I'll extract a syringe of her blood to have it further analyzed."

"Please, do." Xandar approved without hesitation. He needed her to be okay.

After Dr Yeil took the blood and left, Xandar went to the bathroom to call Alpha Juan to give him an update.

"I should mention something, your Highness." Juan's voice rang through cautiously.

"Please." Xandar said encouragingly.

"Lucy has always been more... tolerant to silver. When we were kids and didn't know any better, we played a game with some other children our age which involved silver. The game was to see which one of us lasted the longest as we ingested silver paint we found in human territory drop by drop. When we all fainted, Lucy was the one who went to get our parents, thinking that she had won the game. When the adults found out what we did, they rushed us to the hospital to get the silver out of our systems. And we were all hospitalized for a week. All

of us were, except Lucy The doctors couldn't find any silver in her system. Her parents were s o worned that they had her blood screened three times but the results were no different."

Xandar was pinching the bridge of his nose. He was trying to hold back the urge to recite the long list of judgments and criticisms he had for their childhood game and finally asked, "Are her parents like this?"

"No. They were both killed by hunters with a silver blade." It was only then that Xandar found out that his mate had already lost her parents. He claimed to love her but he didn't even know such a basic fact about her. 1

Xandar then asked in embarrassment, "Does she have any siblings?"

"No, which is why we've always been close. Neither of us have siblings. After her parents were killed, my parents decided to take Lucy in since the two of us have always been inseparable."

"I see. I'll let you know when she wakes up, Juan. You should get some rest."

Juan chuckled sadly, "She has been my sister for as long as I can remember but I didn't protect her, your Highness. She never failed to look out for me, my Luna and our pack as a friend and as our Gamma. This was the one time she needed me, and I let her down. I won't be able to sleep until she wakes up."

Xandar nodded in understanding from his end and said, "I know I've only known her for two days but..." he sighed in frustration as he continued, "I've let her down just as badly, if not worse. I can't believe I said those things to her back there." His voice shook as he fought back the tears when he recalled what Lucianne called him after he yelled at her. Selfish. Inconsiderate. Self-entitled. He swallowed a lump in his throat before telling Juan in a cracked voice, "I have to make it up to her."

"Your actions after that showed that you were just worried about your mate, your Highness. She'll come around to see that, too." Juan's sincere voice rang through the line.

Xandar sighed again. "Did you know that she refused to sleep because she thought I was going to do something to the members of the alliance? I mean..." he punched the wall in front of him and said, "She must think that I'm a monster."

Juan chuckled. "With much respect, your Highness. Lucy wouldn't have slept so well in your arms if she thought you were a monster. She was mad at you, yes. But none of us would say that she hates you. We know her. She wouldn't have let you hold her or touch her if she thought you were, in your words, a monster."

Xandar clarified, "I'm not going to do anything to any of you, by the way. If anything, I owe everyone in the alliance an unquantifiable gratitude for the sacrifice you've all made."

Juan replied casually, "Yeah, we pretty much heard everything on the plane when you spoket o her. Luna Zelena was very pissed-off when she heard that Lucy refused to rest because she was worried about us. She used every curse word within her vocabulary in our pack leaders'

group-link. Even Alpha Zeke was too afraid of her anger to stop her, despite being her mate."

Xandar chuckled as he pictured the incident. "Well, at least someone was sharing the frustration with me."

Juan then said, "And I share your guilt, your Highness. So you're not alone either way." He chuckled again before saying in a serious tone, "Thank you for staying with her and offering t o take care of her, your Highness."

"There really is no need to thank me, Juan. I'm here for purely selfish reasons. I just wanted to be with her." Xandar admitted shamelessly.

Juan then responded, "I won't keep you now. And I'll wait for your call."

"I'll make that call as soon as she's up. Take care, Juan." Xandar answered and hung up. He then went to sit on a stool at the side of Lucianne's bed. He kissed her deeply on her forehead before whispering, "Please be okay." Then, his fingers laced with hers before he linked Christian.

Christian already placed the rogue Lycan in a prison cell. And the rogue was, thankfully, still unconscious. The medical team said he wasn't dead, and should regain consciousness by tomorrow afternoon so there was nothing to worry about until then. Christian must have caused quite the damage he promised he would before boarding his flight. 'Not that the roque didn't deserve it', Xandar thought to himself. Christian then asked about Lucianne's condition, and he was not comfortable with the fact that she was still asleep.

'What happened to her was just...unfair. It wasn't even a fair fight.' Christian complained.

'Yeah, well. Now we have one of them. It's time to give him back ten times what he and his friends did to Lucianne.' 1

'That, we will definitely do with great pleasure. I should go tell Annie about it now. Link me if you or the Queen need anything, cuz.'

'Yeah, okay. Thank's, Christian. And say "hi" to Annie for me.'

'Will do.'

He stared at his mate. She was so beautiful even when she was asleep. Her breathing was like the sound of a warm summer breeze on the shore. He continued to hold her hand as he whispered into her ear, "I love you."