

Chapter 101 - Selling Myself To The Alpha

Liana POV

“Home, sweet home,” Axel says drily as we park in front of the mansion. Our majestic week at the beach house has come to an end, and like him, I wish we could have stayed longer.

“Try to not sound so depressed,” I comfort him. “We’ll go back. Besides, Connor hasn’t seen your office yet.”

“Our his room,” Axel chuckles before he sighs. “All true, but I already miss the serenity and the quiet.”

“Me too,” I reply dreamily as I remember the view from our bedroom. “And speaking of missing quiet, here comes your dad.”

The backdoor opens before Axel can get a word in.

“Hello, my big boy,” Grant coos as he reaches for Connor.

“Hello, Dad,” Axel smirks as he opens his door.

“Yeah, yeah, hello,” Grant replies absentmindedly as he picks up Connor.

“Where’s Mom?” Axel asks as he opens the door for me.

“In my office,” Grant replies. “But be warned, she’s not in a good place.”

“Why?” Axel asks concerned as we walk inside the mansion. “Has something happened?”

“It’s Angela,” Grant sighs. “They’re turning off her life support today.”

“Oh, no,” I mumble softly as I look at Axel’s paling face and I know he is upset.

His history with Angela is taking a toll on him. She went from a friend to a sweetheart, to a stalker and when she ended up on life support, it felt like her presence would be never-ending. Switching off the machines will not only end her life, but it will also end the entire drama.

“Take care of Connor,” I rest my hand on Axel’s arm. “I’ll go talk to her.”

He smiles gratefully at me, and I quickly kiss him.

I cannot help feeling slightly nervous as I walk to the office. Honestly, I do not even know why I said I will talk to her. For heaven’s sake, she is mourning the woman I replaced. I am so the wrong person to do this, but I did not have the heart to let Axel deal with this. And I guess Grant has tried which could be the reason why he stormed to our car like his oxygen is in there.

The woman crying on the couch is nothing like the woman I met. She is stripped of all her arrogance and pride. Now she is simply a grieving woman.

“Hi,” I say softly as I close the door behind me. “Can I get you anything?”

“Thanks for not asking how I’m doing,” she sniffs.

“Well, I figured it would be redundant,” I reply as I sit across from her.

“I don’t expect you to understand,” she looks at me, and there is no anger or resentment in her eyes. Only pain. “I was there the day Angela was born. Jack was away on a business trip and couldn’t make it in time. I was there with her in the delivery room, holding her hand. I never missed a birthday or a school recital or any milestones in her life. I’m not blind to her mistakes. I knew she was entitled and spoiled, but I didn’t pay much attention to it. She was always respectful and loving towards me. So, yes, I would’ve loved for her to marry Axel, and when he proposed to her ... that’s why I was so mad. We didn’t know about you or any of the drama. We thought it was a real proposal and I got excited. When the truth came out, I was hurt and disappointed. And now she’s dead. I mean, I knew this day would come, but I hoped and prayed so hard for a miracle. Angela might be a thorn in your side, but to me ... I love her as if she’s my own child.”

The more she speaks, the sadder I get. She might have been horrible to me, but not more than my own mother. If I can forgive my mother, the woman that gave me life, I can forgive her.

“I actually do understand,” I clear my throat. “My brother, Leon, was a flawed person and my mother overlooked it. For years, he has caused me so much pain and hardship, but I still loved him. He was my brother. When he died, my parents blamed me. The child my mother wanted and loved most, died and she was stuck with the one she didn’t want. So yeah, I get it. I get that I’m the person you didn’t want, and I get mourning a person that caused more havoc than good. You should mourn her because you loved her and knew her good side.”

For a long time, she only looks at me before she shakes her head and looks down at her hands.

“I hate it,” she finally says as she looks at me. “I hate that you’re so understanding and kind towards me. It makes it hard to dislike you. And if I like you, it means I was wrong about you and I hate being wrong.”

She smiles at me through her tears, and I smile back at her.

“Don’t worry, we all make mistakes,” I tease, and she rolls her eyes.

“And to be fair, it was a lot meeting me and learning you’re going to be a grandmother in one day,” I take her hands in mine. “But you should also know that I really do love your son and I’m sorry it took us so long to tell you.”

“Thank you,” she squeezes my hands.

Axel POV

“Have you spoken to Jack?” I ask as Dad and I walk to Connor’s room.

“No,” he sighs. “Our friendship died when Angela went into a coma. Actually, all his relationships died that day. According to Mary, he does nothing but eat, sleep and overindulge in alcohol.”

“But things between Mom and Mary returned to normal?” I take Connor from Dad and lay him down in his crib.

“More or less,” Dad sighs. “Mary still blames you and it’s hard for her to separate her feelings between you and your mother.”

“Then I think it’s best if I skip the funeral,” I look at my sleeping son. I remember my fight with Liana about life and death. And I remember thinking her human heart makes her weak. I remember thinking Jack was weak when he broke down when Angela was injured. All of that changed when Connor was born. I did not like Angela, nor am I fond of her parents, but I do get the bond between a parent and a child. “I don’t want to make things harder on Jack and Mary with my presence.”

“As noble as that is, you should go,” Dad rests his hand on my shoulder. “You’re the alpha, son. It’s your responsibility to represent the pack. Not to mention, you were engaged to her. It might’ve been fake, but the pack don’t know that.”

“It’s going to suck,” I sigh as I rest my hands on the crib. “For me and them.”

“Trust me,” Dad pats me on the back. “It’s going to be much worse for them.”

I sigh heavily and sit down in the rocking chair.

“How are Gwen and her kids doing?” I change the subject.

“Just fine,” Dad’s face lightens up. “After Gwen heard the news, she poured all her energy into getting healthy. And don’t let me get started on Carol. Man, she loves taking care of the kids. It’s going to be tough on her when they leave.”

“We should renovate the cottage next to Drew and Carol,” I smile, relieved that there is something that I can fix. “Gwen and the children can live there, and Carol gets to see them every day. It will also help Gwen. If things get too intense for her, help is right next door.”

“First discuss it with Carol,” Dad warns subtly. “It could be something she doesn’t want to sign up for.”

“I know, I know,” I mumble as I reach for my phone when it chimes.

“It’s an email from Michelle,” I smile as I read it. “She got a place for Liana’s mother at a hospice. She’ll be transported there tomorrow, and I will have her dad come and live in Liana’s old cottage.”

“I still can’t believe Liana wants to help her after everything you told me,” Dad shakes his head.

“That’s Liana,” I grin as I put my phone away. “I learned a lot from her about compassion.”

“Does she know that she’s starting to train this week?” Dad asks cautiously.

“Dad, I’m not keeping anything from her,” I smirk. “By now I know I can’t win a fight with her. Since you asked, she’s extremely excited about it. She wants to explore her wolf side. And wow, her wolf is the most majestic and beautiful creature I’ve seen in my entire life.”

“I can’t wait to see her in action,” Dad smiles. “I’m so grateful you’re happy, Axel.”

“I am, Dad,” I smile. “I am.”

Chapter 102 Liana's Training

Chapter 102 - Selling Myself To The Alpha

Liana POV

“Okay, remember what I taught you,” Adele says as we walk to the training ground. “Today we will test everything with real combat.”

“Real combat,” I gulp. “What exactly does that mean?”

“It means our strongest fighters are going to attack you,” she replies nonchalantly. “I’m not going to lie, there will be cuts and bruises, but it will heal in twenty-four hours. There’s only one rule, no biting or deep lashing. In other words, no serious injuries.”

“Well,” I inhale deeply. “There goes my optimism and good mood.”

“You’ll be fine,” Adele laughs. “This is the only true way to know how much you’ve learned and retained. You’re going to start in human form, and you can shift whenever you feel the need.”

I take a deep breath and shake my fingers to calm my nerves. I have been enjoying my training immensely, but this! This is scary. I have never been in a physical fight with anyone. Not even with Leon when we were kids.

“Am I fighting them?” I ask terrified as I look at David and Mike.

“And them,” she points to two more guys whom I do not know.

“Adele, no,” I protest softly and grab her by her arm. “I’m not ready for this.”

“That’s why we’re doing it,” she says patiently. “To see where you are. Luna, you’ve been attacked twice already. There’s no guarantee it won’t happen again. Hell, it could happen tonight. And your attackers will not ask if you’re ready. They are not going to come at you one by one. They’re not going to use the no-biting rule. They’re going to come at you with everything they have to get what they want.”

“Is somebody after us?” I look at her in shock. “Do you know something? You’re my security. You will know if there’s a threat.”

“No, no, nothing like that,” she says hastily. “But if something happens, you should be prepared.”

“Okay,” I nod and inhale deeply. “But if there’s something ...”

“I will tell you,” she finishes my sentence. “Just calm down and relax. There really is nothing to worry about.”

I nod and loosen my shoulders as I walk to the centre of the training grounds. I am not even going to pretend that I am calm and collected. I am terrified and nervous.

“Are you ready, Luna?” Adele shouts and I give her a thumbs up. “Alright guys, you know the rules, and don’t hold back.”

Sceptically, I watch them walking closer to me. Surely, they will not really attack me. I mean, they protected me at one point. How can they hit me and stuff? But I quickly change my mind when Mike and David storm towards me.

Dumbstruck, I watch them coming. Frozen to the spot and unable to move. I cannot recall anything Adele has taught me. Think, dammit, think, I reprimand myself, but my body refuses to move, and my mind is blank.

My eyes widen as the two men get closer and seconds before they reach me, I jump to the side, and they collide with a thunderous clash.

“Nice, Luna,” Adele laughs, and the men give me a puzzled look before they shake it off.

The realization that I have won the first round – even by sheer luck - restores my confidence just enough to calm down and get ready for the next attack. I might just survive today.

They storm at me again and I decide to run towards them. David is the first to reach me and he stretches his hand towards me, and I grab him by the wrist. I use our momentum to swing him around and in front of me, using him as a shield and Mike’s fist connects solid with his jaw. I step backwards and kick David in the back straight into Mike’s arms and immediately I move out of their reach.

In the distance, Adele clutches her stomach laughing.

“Again,” David glares at me as he rubs his jaw and I steel myself.

I gulp as I watch the other two men join them. Four against me. There is no way in hell I am winning this round.

I do not move as I watch them walk closer to me. Their eyes are fixated on every move I make as they spread out and start circling me. Contrary to the first two attacks, this is close to reality. If a group of men want to attack me, this is the way they would do it. Blocking all my exits and boxing me in. There is nowhere to run, I must stay and fight.

David grins as he reaches for me from the front but at the same time, Mike’s arm goes around my neck. His grip around my neck tightens and I dig my nails into his arm as I lift my legs and kick David in the gut. He stammers backwards but the other two immediately come for my legs.

I squirm and wiggle for all that I am worth, but Mike tightens his grip, and my breathing gets shallower as he cuts off my air supply. I am not allowed to stick my fingers in his eyes or bite his arm and my feet are being held down firmly. I am stuck and wide open for David’s attack.

Desperate, I move my hands along Mike’s arm until I reach his hand. With all my might, I get hold of a finger and mercilessly yanks it backwards breaking it. He yells out in pain and relaxes his grip. I twist my body and David punches me painfully hard in the side.

Pain radiates through me, but adrenaline keeps me going. I reach for David and clutch my hands around his neck. Instantly, he gets hold of my wrists but with an upwards motion I head butt him on the nose and he releases me.

I quickly kneel and bring my elbow down hard onto one of the other men's backs and he releases my foot and I kick the other one in the face. I jump to the side and turn towards them.

My chest is heaving from the strenuous activity as I watch them and try to anticipate their next move. I would much rather run away, but they could catch up and I doubt that I would get away.

Their eyes widen in surprise when I charge them and shift midair. With my claws retracted, I slap them with my front paws and kick with my hind legs until they are scattered around me.

One by one, they stand up and shift, growling at me. The earth starts vibrating as they run towards me. I sidestep the first one and he tumbles in the dirt before regaining his footing. In less than a second, I am on my back and the next one is on top of me. I place my hindlegs against his stomach and kick with all my might and he crashes into Mike. I get onto my feet and start running towards the nearest tree with them right on my heels. I jump against the tree, twist around and land on David's back. I dig my claws into his side, and he howls in pain as he tries to shake me off, but I cling for dear life.

Mike jumps towards me and I let go and roll off and he flies over David, missing me completely. I am on my feet again and ram the closest wolf against the tree before swinging around and clawing another through the face.

David jumps into me from the side, and we roll entangled over the grass as we claw and snap at each other.

I end up on my back with David pinning me down. Exhausted I glare at him as he bares his teeth at me.

Submit, Luna and all of this is over, he mind-links me.

I try to wiggle out from under him but Mike and the other two place their paws on me and there is no way I am getting out from under their combined weight.

Bare your neck and we all can go home, David mind-links again.

Never, I reply and lick him across the face.

Instantly, he lets go of me and the others follow their lead. I stand up and shake the dirt off my fur.

A loud, high-pitched whistle pierces through the air and we turn to Adele waving us to come back. Together the five of us return and I am surprised to see Axel next to her.

When did you get here? I mind-link him.

Since you walked onto the field, he replies.

“Training’s over,” Axel announces aloud as he walks to me and rubs my fur.

I trot to the locker room and shift back before getting dressed.

“That was as impressive as it was terrifying,” Axel says as he walks closer and pulls me into his embrace.

“I know,” I sigh as my arms go around his waist. “I still need a lot of training.”

“Not what I meant,” he leans over and kisses me. “With more training, you’ll be unstoppable. I just pray you’ll never have to use your skills. I had to restrain myself from not jumping when they were all on top of you.”

“Come on,” I take his hand. “Let’s go home. I stink and need a shower.”

“I’ll wash your back,” he grins mischievously.

Chapter 103 Angela's Funeral

Chapter 103 - Selling Myself To The Alpha

Axel POV

“You’re not even up,” Liana rolls her eyes as she puts on her earrings. “We’re going to be late for the funeral, Axel. Get up and get into that shower.”

“But look at him,” I pout as I look at Connor sleeping next to me in the bed. Liana wanted to take him back to his crib after she fed him, but I highjacked him for a cuddle. “How can we leave him?”

“It’s only for a couple of hours,” she sighs as she takes a seat in front of her dresser. “Believe me, I hate it just as much, but we can’t take him with us. There’s going to be crying and sadness. He’ll be safer and more comfortable here.”

“I’ll be more comfortable here,” I grunt as I reluctantly get out of bed and walk to the shower.

She only smiles at me as she touches up her lipstick. I know she agrees with me. Both of us would much rather stay, but we are doing this not only because it is our duty as Alpha and Luna, but we are also supporting Mother.

“Are you sure Nina and your dad will be fine watching Connor?” I ask as I get out of the shower.

“You also hired a paediatric nurse for the day,” she says patiently. “They’ll be more than fine.”

“Can you think of any other excuse to get out of this?” I give her a pained look.

“You’re a big, strong Alpha,” she smiles as she walks to me and cups my face. “You don’t back out from a challenge.”

“Keep it up,” my arms go around her waist, and I kiss her mark. “Then we’ll really be late.”

“Thanks for the warning,” she laughs as she wiggles out of my arms and picks up Connor. “I’m going to freshen up this little man for his grandfather while you finish dressing.”

“Yes, dear,” I sigh theatrically and reach for my shirt.

Liana POV

I cling to Axel’s arm as we walk through the private cemetery towards the tents that have been set up for the occasion. It felt like all eyes were on us but once we sat down and I looked around I knew it was my imagination. Nobody cares that we are here.

I do find it a little odd. Angela might have attacked Axel, but it was his hands that placed her in a coma. Knowing Jack and Mary, they would have twisted the truth to suit them. How is it that nobody even blinks that Angela’s ‘killer’ is at her funeral?

I pretend to look around absentmindedly, but I survey everything and everyone. The security present is overwhelming. This is understandable, there are numerous Alphas present. David, Adele and Mike are also among them.

I lock eyes with a beast of a man, and he stares at me with cold black eyes before he turns away. I shudder involuntarily. It might be my imagination, but it was creepy as fuck.

“What’s wrong?” Axel whispers in my ear.

“Nothing,” I reply softly. “Just eery vibes.”

“Well, we are sending Satan’s sister back to the underground, it’s to be expected,” he replies dryly.

“Axel,” I pump him in the ribs. “You’re going to make me laugh and it’s inappropriate.”

Bagpipes start playing loudly and I slightly jump in my seat from the sudden noise.

“Are they Scottish?” I ask as we stand up along with the other guests.

“No, they’re pretentious,” he whispers. “It’s a different country.”

I bite my tongue and lower my gaze as six men carry the coffin towards us, followed by Jack and Mary. The humour that Axel stirred inside me dies a quick death when I look at Jack. I remember how devastated Dad was when Leon died but that was nothing in comparison to Jack.

I have only seen him once when he visited Axel’s office, but that man no longer exists. Jack is a skeleton. His eyes are sunken deep into his face, and he looks rundown. Instantly, my heart goes out to him. There is no grief bigger than the loss of a child.

Mary is pale, but she holds her head high. As grief-stricken as Jack is, so angry is she. It radiates from her blazing eyes to the tension in her shoulders and hands.

These people need counselling, I sigh inwardly. Neither of them can deal with the loss of their daughter and both are on a path of self-destruction.

We take our seats once the coffin is placed in front. A man in a deep, dark purple robe steps forward and starts talking. But I cannot bring myself to listen. My eyes are fixated on Jack and Mary.

They are not innocent in all of this. They gave Angela everything she wanted but not what she needed. Lack of discipline and guidance created a monster with no regard for authority and other people’s feelings. And it will never be proven, but I suspect Angela had a mental disability and she needed medication. Even with all of that, I cannot help but pity them. They are feeling the loss of their child.

The ceremony finishes and people around me are crying and sniffing as we stand up and follow the family and coffin to the burial spot.

Jack wails like a wounded animal as the coffin descends and falls into the dirt. Mary does not even look at him. She simply stares dry-eyed at the coffin, but she is biting so hard on her bottom lip that I can smell blood.

The moment we are allowed to, we turn around and walk to the house for the wake.

“I tried,” Axel says next to me. “I really tried but I have no sympathy for them.”

“That’s okay,” I take his hand. “I don’t think they’re interested in your sympathy. Just as they’re not interested in my pity.”

“I’m surprised they didn’t kick us out,” he frowns. “If I were them, I wouldn’t have even told us about the funeral.”

“I think it’s more about your parents than us,” I reason. “Your mother and Mary are holding on to what they used to have. I thought that it would be over after our wedding, but I guess I was wrong.”

“Well, we were here and thank goddess it’s over,” he sighs relieved. “We will pay our respects and get out of here as soon as it’s appropriate.”

Axel introduces me to neighbouring Alphas and their Lunas. I can feel Mary’s eyes on us as we socialize with them, and this time it is not my imagination. Every time I look her way, she glares at us.

“Mary is creeping me out,” I whisper to Axel when I cannot take it any longer. “When can we leave?”

“Right now,” he smiles at me. “Let’s get my parents and say goodbye.”

I inhale deeply as I follow him towards his parents who are talking to Mary.

“Mary,” I say politely as I intertwine my fingers. “Our deepest condolences and thank you for having us. Unfortunately, we have to go.”

“So soon?” Her voice is emotionless as she looks from me to Mary. “I was hoping we could talk some more once we are alone.”

“We can stay,” Grant says quickly as his arm goes around his wife’s shoulders. “But I think Axel and Liana are eager to get back to Connor.”

“Right,” Mary smiles stiffly. “I was hoping to meet the little guy today.”

“We did not feel it would be appropriate to bring a three-week-old baby to a funeral,” Axel replies coldly.

“Then I won’t keep you,” she replies. “Thank you for coming. I mean, it’s the least you could do after you killed her.”

Axel stiffens next to me, and I grab his hand.

“He didn’t kill her,” Grant hisses. “She had a death wish when she attacked our son.”

“Oh please,” Mary sneers. “Keep telling ...

“The pleasure was ours,” my words are icy as I interrupt her. Mary’s cheeks turn red and her eyes blaze at me. “Good luck for the future.”

“We should go as well,” Grant growls. “I don’t think you and my wife have anything to talk about anymore.”

I turn around and drag a fuming Axel with me.

“I know you want to rip her head off,” I say softly as we walk to the car. “So, do I, but we will not give her that satisfaction, okay? She deliberately said that to provoke you. If you lashed out at her right now, she would’ve had witnesses.”

“You’re right,” Axel grunts. “But I would’ve felt so much better.”

“You know what else would make you feel better?” I smile at him. “To go home and hold your baby.”

“And smell his head,” Axel grins sheepishly.

“Let’s go,” I laugh as I take his hand and continue towards the car.

“Is Drew sleeping?” I frown as we get closer.

“That would be a first,” Axel chuckles.

“Hey, Drew,” Axel taps against the window, but he does not move. “Wake up, old man.”

“Axel,” I mumble as I feel the blood drain from my face. “He’s not sleeping.”

“Look,” I point to the blood on his collar, and frantically I start looking around. “Where are your parents?”

Chapter 104 Saving The Alpha Family

Chapter 104 - Selling Myself To The Alpha

Axel POV

“Shit!” I rip the door open and reach for Drew’s neck. “He has a pulse.”

“Your dad’s driver,” Liana says with wide eyes as she runs to their car.

Dad, where are you? I mind-link him as I inspect Drew’s head wound.

Sorry, son, we’ll be out soon. We’re talking to Alpha Renolds, he replies calmly.

Stay there! I will explain in a minute but whatever you do, do not isolate yourselves, I mind-link urgently.

Is everything okay? Dad sounds concerned.

No, so stay among people, please, I reply brusquely.

“He’s dead,” Liana is pale as she looks at me. “It seems ... Axel! At your left.”

Before I can turn around, she leaps towards me and shifts midair.

Fear for her safety grips my heart as I watch her sink her teeth into a man’s shoulder. He screams in pain as Liana jerks her head and rips his trapezius muscle to pieces. Another man jumps out from behind the car with a silver blade. I grab his wrist and twist his arm behind his back before I slam his face into the car. I grab him by the hair and swing him around before my fist connects hard with his already bleeding nose. He drops to the ground unconsciously and I turn to Liana.

She still has the man’s shoulder between his teeth and every time he attempts to move, she jerks her head. By now all his muscles and nerves in that shoulder are torn.

“Keep your hold,” I say to Liana as I run to the back of the car. “We have silver ties in our emergency kit.”

Quickly I open the trunk and fetch the ties before running to her. First, I tie up the man I knocked out before I move to Liana’s victim.

“Too late,” I kick him in the side. “He bled out.”

“He’s wearing Drew’s uniform,” Liana points to the man I knocked out as she walks to the trunk and pulls out a t-shirt. “And that one is wearing your dad’s driver’s uniform. I think they were going to replace our drivers and take us fuck knows where, but we caught them off guard.”

“This is so much worse than I thought,” I mumble as I run scenarios through my head while checking on Drew.

“Let me,” she pushes past me with a medical kit. Drew moans softly as Liana puts on a bandage and stops the bleeding.

“He should get to the hospital immediately,” I grunt as I move Drew to the backseat.

“I agree,” Liana replies. “I already tried mind-linking Adele, David and Mike. I can’t get hold of them. Your parents ...”

“My parents are safe,” I say, and she relaxes a little. “Do you recognise them by any chance?”

“No,” she shakes her head. “And believe me, I took my time to look at everybody during the funeral.”

“Which means these two can belong to any of the packs present,” I grunt as I push my fingers through my hair. “They’re wearing our pack’s uniforms and not their own. This isn’t necessarily Jack’s doing.”

“Mary’s openly hostile towards you,” Liana reasons. “And it’s their territory. No Alpha in his right mind will attack someone on other people’s borders.”

“I agree,” I sigh. “And we don’t have any enemies that I’m aware of, but right now, I’m keeping all options open.”

“Why would anyone ... Axel,” Liana is as white as a ghost when she looks at me. “If they succeeded, they would have captured our entire alpha house, except for Connor.”

“You need to get home,” I say urgently. “Get Drew to the hospital and Connor to safety. Leave your phone here, we don’t know if they’re tracking our phones. I’ll call you on Nina’s phone as soon as I can.”

“What about you?” She asks concerned.

“I’m getting my parents out. Liana, please,” I plead with her. “You must save our son.”

“You better come back to us,” her bottom lip quivers as she kisses me.

“I love you,” I hug her tightly before she gets behind the steering wheel.

I say a silent prayer as I watch her speed off. I do not care if I do not make it out alive. All that matters is Liana and our son. I try mind-linking David and Adele again, but there is still no response.

Whoever is behind this, did not hesitate to kill our drivers. They sure as hell will not mind killing our security. I have no idea where to start looking for them. And even if I find them, they could be dead. As much as it pains me, I cannot prioritize them. I still can get my parents out of here safely.

I untie the unconscious man and take off the driver’s jacket before putting it on. I secure his ties again and toss him in the back of the car. Once he regains consciousness, I will make him sing like a bird. I want the bastard who is behind all of this.

I drag the man Liana killed deep into the bushes and camouflage his body with branches. Sweat is running down my forehead as I lay Dad’s driver gently down next to the unconscious man in the trunk.

Dad, say your goodbyes and get to the car, I mind-link and wait for them.

Anxiety builds in me as I watch them coming towards the car. I am dying to call Liana and hear if she is okay, but I cannot risk it.

Liana POV

“Hang on, Drew,” I mumble as I drive at an alarming speed.

I am sick to my stomach. All our ranks are missing. How do I tell Nina and Luther that their mates are missing? What if Axel and his parents cannot get away in time? What if I get to Connor and it is too late?

The last thought pushes bile up my throat and I swallow hard. I should not think such things. I will lose my mind and right now, Drew’s life depends on my state of mind.

I am on the verge of tears when I enter our borders. I turn on the hazard lights and lay on the horn as I speed towards the hospital.

Michelle, get a gurney and trauma team ready, I mind-link her.

I sigh relieved when I reach the hospital and notice the team waiting for me.

“Trauma to the head,” I shout as I jump out of the car and yank open the back door.

“We got him,” Michelle replies as they pull Drew from the car.

“Are you hurt?” She turns to me.

“No,” I get back in the driver’s seat. “But all hell is loose.”

Michelle opens her mouth as if she wants to say something, but my foot is already on the accelerator, and I speed off towards the mansion. I mind-link Carol and Nick to meet me at home. I know he is retired, but with all our ranks missing, we are going to need him. We need to increase border security and put the pack in lockdown.

I rush to Connor’s room and Nina looks at me with big eyes when I burst through the door.

“Thank goddess, you’re okay,” I sigh and close my eyes for a brief moment.

“Of course,” Nina laughs awkwardly. “I am capable of looking after a baby.”

“Listen, Nina,” I say urgently as I close the door behind me. “I don’t have time to explain, but you need to go home and pack a bag. You’re one of the few people I trust, and I need you to take care of Connor.”

“O ... okay,” she replies confused.

“And I need your phone,” I hold my hand out. “Sorry, but things are a mess. Please.”

“Sure,” she hands over her phone. “But you’re scaring me right now.”

“I’m sorry,” I inhale deeply. “I’m just in a hurry. Stay with Connor until I’m dressed. Then go pack a bag and come back.”

“Where’s David?” she asks and everything inside me stills. “And Axel.”

“I don’t know,” I look her dead in the eye. I cannot lie to her, but I am not ready to upset her with the truth. “Something happened to Drew, and I came back. Everybody else is still at the funeral.”

Stunned she looks at me and I turn around to get dressed. By the time I am back in Connor’s room, I can see Nina is close to tears.

“I’m sorry,” I hug her tightly. “I know you’re worried, I’m too. But I need you to be strong, okay? Axel will phone me as soon as he can, and I promise I will tell you the moment I know something.”

“I’m a Beta’s mate,” she nods as she pulls away. “I will behave like one.”

“Go pack,” I say softly. “I’ll be in the office when you return.”

Nina hurries out of the room, and I pick up Connor. I hold him close to my chest and fight the tears. Holding him is such a relief but I do not know if Axel is safe or not.

Please, please, please, I beg the goddess, don’t let my son grow up without his father.

Chapter 105 Making An Escape

Chapter 105 - Selling Myself To The Alpha

Liana POV

I am an emotional wreck as I walk to the office with Connor in my arms. No way in hell am I letting him out of my sight. I know I am the Luna, that I should be strong and that I am responsible for so many lives right now, but I do not know if I will be able to keep my composure much longer.

I am sick to my stomach with worry about Axel, his parents and our ranks. Not to mention Drew. Michelle mind-linked me an update and it does not sound good.

“Liana,” Carol jumps up when I walk into the office. “Why am I here? What happened?”

“Carol, please sit down,” I say stiffly as I put Connor down in the infant rocking chair.

Carol looks at me with anxiety as I sit next to her.

“Something happened to Drew,” I say softly as I take her hands in mine. “We don’t know exactly what happened, but he sustained a blow to his head and has a skull fracture. He’s in surgery.”

“Surgery?” Carol’s eyes fill with tears.

“He has a brain bleed, and the surgery is necessary to relieve pressure on the brain,” I recall Michelle’s words the best I can. “But Michelle said she has full confidence in the neurosurgeon. He’s one of the best in the state. If anybody can save Drew, it’s him.”

“I ... I need to get to the hospital,” Carol mumbles as she pulls her hands from mine.

“In a minute,” I say softly. “You need a moment to process everything and then you can go. You can’t see him while they’re operating.”

“Liana, I can’t lose him,” she looks at me with desperation in her eyes. “He’s all I have.”

“I know,” I hug her tightly and do not fight my tears anymore. “I love him too.”

We are still crying and clinging to each other when there is a knock on the door and Nick walks in.

“Sorry,” Nick looks awkwardly from me to Carol. “Should I come back later?”

“No,” I sniff and wipe the tears from my face. “We have urgent business. But before we start, please arrange for Carol to get to the hospital.”

“It’s okay,” Carol stands up. “I’ll drive myself.”

“Not in this condition,” I shake my head adamantly. “Go home and freshen up. A car will be there for you in a minute.”

Carol nods as fresh tears pool in her eyes before she turns around and walks away.

“I can’t get hold of Axel or Grant,” Nick’s brow furrows as he crosses his arms in front of his chest. “And now I find you here crying. How bad is it?”

“Very bad,” I sigh as I tell him everything that happened. “You need to put us in lockdown and increase border security. I need ten of our best guards and three drivers. They should be ready to leave in thirty minutes. And absolutely no phones. Buy a burner phone and give it to Nina.”

“Who will be in charge when you leave?” Nick asks.

“Who said I’m leaving?” I say sternly.

“Luna, you can’t be serious?” He gapes at me. “You need to protect Connor.”

“I am protecting him,” I growl. “That’s why you’re getting warriors and cars ready now. Whoever is behind this will search for me to find Connor.”

“Yes, Luna,” he nods and walks out of the office.

Tired to the bone I sink down into a chair and close my eyes. Goddess knows the very last thing I want to do is separate from Connor, but it is the safest option. If Mary is behind this – and I strongly believe it is her – she will be able to get into these borders with ease. She has been a friend for decades and knows these borders better than I do.

“I’m packed and ready to go,” Nina says as she enters the office. She is as white as a sheet, and I can clearly see that she has been crying. “Are we going to the lake house again?”

“No,” I pick up Connor and cuddle him to my chest. “Few people know that Axel bought us a beach house. It’s safer there.”

“Liana, what’s going on?” Nina looks pleadingly at me. “Not knowing is killing me. I keep on imagining the worst.”

“I don’t know where David is,” I say softly as I rock Connor. “I didn’t lie. Drew was attacked and I brought him here. Axel stayed behind to find them.”

“Them?” Nina croaks.

“Adele and Mike,” I sigh. “Everything points to wiping out the alpha family. That’s why I’m entrusting Connor into your care. He’s not safe with me and I know you’ll love him like your own if something happens to us. Nick will give you a burner phone and you must call me on your cell as soon as you can.”

“Liana, this ...”

“You should take this,” I cut her off as I sit down behind the desk and start writing. “These are my account numbers and passwords. If we don’t make it, drain the accounts and disappear. Don’t let them get my son.”

“I ...”

“Promise me, Nina,” I say urgently as I hand her the paper.

“Okay,” she nods after a moment and takes it from me. “But please come back.”

I hold Connor tightly before I lovingly kiss him and hand him over to Nina.

Axel POV

“Come on, come on,” I mumble under my breath as my parents make the way to the car.

The second they close the door behind them, I speed off.

“What the hell is going on?” Dad bellows.

“I need to get a phone and call Liana,” I say after I informed them. “It’s too risky to use ours.”

“That’s the least of your concerns,” Dad grunts. “We’re being followed, and they’re closing in fast.”

“What are you doing?” Mom shrieks as I take a sharp left. “That’s not the way home.”

“We’re not going home,” I growl. “I need to keep them occupied and away from our borders until Liana and Connor can get out of there.”

“Do you at least know where you’re going?” Mom asks panicking.

“To the city,” I reply.

“I can’t believe that Jack and Mary would do such a thing,” Mother mumbles.

“Believe it,” Dad grunts. “It’s their crest on the cars.”

Suddenly, cars are coming towards us from all sides, and we are surrounded.

“Where the fuck do they come from?” I grunt as I swerve between two cars and knock one’s side mirror to pieces.

“It’s their valley,” Dad fastens his seatbelt. “They know all the backroads and have the luxury to mind-link each other.”

“We need to call for help,” Mom sounds close to hysterical as she searches for her phone.

“And say what?” Dad snaps. “By the time they get here, we’re either captured or in the city.”

“Do you have a better idea, Grant?” Mother shouts at him.

“Yes,” he barks. “Fasten your seatbelt. It’s going to get bumpy.”

I do not pay much attention to their bickering. I need all my wits and focus to get us out of here. There are four cars behind us and one on each side. Forward is the only way.

“Hold on!” I shout as the car on our left moves closer, forcing us to the right. I yank the steering wheel to the left and collide with their front wheel, sending them swerving in front of us. I keep left and go off-road to pass them.

“That slowed them down,” Dad exclaims excitedly.

Alpha! David mind-links me.

What the fuck? Where are you? I link back in surprise and relief.

We’re in the trunks of the cars, I overheard their conversation, do not go towards the city. They have more cars waiting there, David replies.

Thanks, I link back and make a sharp U-turn.

“Axel, what are you doing?” Mom asks frantically as I accelerate towards the oncoming cars.

“Playing chicken, what else?” Dad replies.

“Our ranks are in those cars,” I explain. “They’re close enough to mind-link. David just told me there are more cars towards the city. So, we’re going the other way.”

“We’re going to die,” Mother starts crying as I burst through the cars as they make way at the last second.

“Chickens!” Dad yells at them as we speed the other way.

“How can you enjoy this?” Mother cries.

I look in the rearview mirror and watch the cars turn around and follow us. My options are limited, and I must decide who is worth saving. If I go left, they will follow me home towards Liana and Connor. Should I go right, I am back at Jack’s house. Continuing straight means we are going to run out of fuel before we reach the next town.

David, are you guys capable of fighting? I mind-link him.

If you can get us out of the trunks, yes, he replies.

Be ready, I grunt.

Chapter 106_Smashing Cars

Chapter 106 - Selling Myself To The Alpha

Axel POV

“Mom, dial Nina’s number and hand me the phone,” I order as I keep going forward.

“I thought you said it’s too dangerous,” she mumbles as she dials.

“Things changed,” I grunt and take the phone from her. It does not matter which way I debate this; we are on the losing end.

“Luna, are you okay?” Liana eagerly answers the phone.

“It’s me,” I say and hold the phone tighter. There is nothing in the world that I want more than to be with her and Connor, but my prospects are bleak.

“Oh, goddess, you’re okay,” she sounds like she always does when she is fighting her emotions. “What about your parents and our ranks?”

“Liana,” my words are calm and steady. “I’m sorry I was such a jerk to you when we met, and I want to thank you for showing me what love is. I ...”

“Axel, stop,” she all but shouts in my ear. “Why are you saying this? It sounds like you’re saying goodbye, and you can’t do that, okay? You need to come back to us.”

“I’m trying,” I smile sadly. “But things aren’t looking good, and if I don’t make it, you must know how much I love and appreciate you.”

“If you love me, you’ll tell me in person,” she says adamantly. “Where are you?”

“We are speeding on the highway, surrounded by their patrols,” I explain. “They’re forcing us into a direction. Our ranks are captive in their trunks. I’m going to do an emergency break and try to free them. That’s our only chance.”

There is a moment of silence and for a second, I fear we lost the connection.

“No, it’s not,” she replies fiercely, and it sounds like she is running. “Come home, I’m sending warriors to meet you halfway. You can’t give up, Axel.”

“I can’t come home,” I sigh heavily. “I’m not leading them towards you and Connor.”

“Connor has left our borders already,” she sounds breathless. “He’s with Nina and an army of guards.”

“Wait, are you still at home?” My fingers tighten on the steering wheel.

“Yes,” she replies and in my mind I can see how she squares her shoulders, ready to fight me on this. “I got Connor to safety, now it’s time to safe your ass.”

“Liana, Connor needs his mother,” I say reasonably. “You ...”

“And he needs his father,” she cuts me off. “Axel, if they kill you, they will come after me and Connor. Nina knows what to do if we don’t make it. They will never find him. Now, stop wasting time and come home. We are already on our way.”

“We?” I ask.

“Yes, love,” she says firmly. “We, I’ll see you soon.”

She disconnects the call and I drop the phone.

“Hold on,” I say as I make another sharp turn.

“This is worse than a merry-go-round going off its tracks,” Mother mumbles.

“What’s the plan, son?” Dad asks.

“We’re going home,” I grin as I accelerate and turn towards our borders.

Liana POV

“Go faster,” I order irritated as we exit our borders. I ordered every available guard to join while Axel was still explaining his suicide plan to me. I also arranged a car with medical personnel. I am not leaving anything to chance.

“I’m already doing a hundred and twenty miles,” Nick protests.

“It’s a BMW, not a horse-cart,” I argue. “It can go one fifty, so step on it.”

“Do you want to kill us all?” Nick grunts as he accelerates.

“If my husband dies, I will kill you myself,” I snort. Axel scared the bejesus out of me when he started saying his goodbyes. I know he is only protecting me and Connor but if he dies, he cannot protect my heart from breaking.

“Alpha Grant would never allow such behaviour from his Luna,” Nick’s lip curls up like he smells shit. “This is highly inappropriate and disrespectful.”

“Well, you can suck up to Alpha Grant once this is over,” I sneer. “I couldn’t care less if you dislike me because I was a human or because you have a problem taking orders from a woman. Or if you simply don’t like my face. Just keep in mind, we’re saving Alpha Grant as well.”

That seems to shut him up and I keep my eyes fixated on the road ahead.

“There!” I exclaim. “That’s them.”

Axel! I try to mind-link him, but we are too far apart and not within our borders. I take out Nina’s phone and call Axel’s mother.

“I can see you,” Axel answers the phone.

“Good,” I smile. “How many cars are following you?”

“Six,” he replies.

“We’ve got fifteen,” I smirk. “Mind-link the ranks to brace themselves. We’re going to go around and behind you. We’ll take out the cars that don’t swerve away with a PIT manoeuvre.”

“Good luck,” Axel inhales deeply.

“Don’t worry about us. Get your parents to safety,” I reply before disconnecting the call.

Can everyone hear me? I mind-link the guards and await their reply before repeating our plan.

The tension is tangible as we charge towards the cars. I close my eyes and send a prayer to the goddess. In theory, it sounded bulletproof but at this speed, I am starting to doubt my idea.

Make way, I mind-link our convoy and they move to the sides, clearing a path for Axel. The second Axel is behind us, we move towards the centre and Jack’s convey goes offroad, spreading dust all over to avoid colliding with us.

“Holy shit,” I mumble as I look back at the two cars that rolled. Another three have recovered and are following Axel as the last one tries to recover from driving into the bushes.

Nick slows down along with our convoy, and we turn around.

Follow Axel, I mind-link the order to four cars as the rest of us pull over and run towards the nearest car that rolled.

A huge man crawls out of the wreckage, and I immediately recognise him from the funeral. He looks disoriented as he stumbles away from the car.

“Hello, sweetheart,” I sneer as I punch him with all my might in his groin. He groans and doubles over in pain. I grab his hair with both hands, lift his head and pull his face mercilessly

down as I raise my knee. Pain radiates up my leg as his nose connects with my knee. With all my might, I bring my elbow down on his back and he collapses into the dirt.

“Luna, silver ties,” a guard shouts and throws it at me. I catch it and quickly tie up the beast.

“Fucker,” I grunt and kick him in the stomach.

I turn around to attack the next wolf but there is no one left. In astonishment, I look at the scene. The people who survived the accident, are all bound and lying in the dirt.

“Luna,” Adele calls out and I smile relieved as I run towards her.

“Are you okay?” I frown as I look at her face which is covered in dust and blood.

“Just scrapes,” she grins. “And possibly a mild concussion, but the trunk seems to be the place when you’re in an accident.”

“Where are David and Mike?” I look around.

“Here,” Mike shouts where he is sitting next to the road as an EMT takes care of his wounds. “My trunk wasn’t as awesome as Adele’s.”

“David must’ve been in one of the cars that followed Axel,” she murmurs.

“Check in with medical,” I shout over my shoulder as I run towards our car.

“Luna, what the hell are you doing?” Nick yells as he runs after me.

“Saving my husband,” I reply as I get in behind the wheel.

“I’m coming with you,” he grunts as he gets in next to me. “Axel and Grant will both skin me if something happens to you.”

“Adele,” I look at her. “Are you capable of taking care of this mess?”

“I got this,” she waves.

I nod and pull away with screeching tires.

“You know, Luna, it’s not that I dislike you,” Nick says as he holds on tightly. “It’s that you’re reckless with your own safety. You’re not supposed to do this.”

“So, I should sit at home and knit?” I grunt irritated.

“No,” he sighs. “But you ...”

“Tell me, Nick,” I cut him off. “How would Axel or Grant do things differently? Are you telling me they would sit at home and leave the fate of their loved ones in the ranks’ hands?”

“No,” he clears his throat. “But they’re men, and ...”

“And my life is worth more than theirs?” I challenge him. “It’s reckless for a woman but brave for a man?”

“That’s not ...”

“Listen, Nick,” I interrupt him again. “I appreciate your concern, but I’m not reckless or suicidal. If I were, I would’ve done this shit on my own. I wasn’t blessed with an alpha wolf to sit at home and bark orders. I will protect my family at all costs.”

Nick’s only reply is to shift uncomfortably in his chair, and I ignore him as I keep my eyes on the road.

Chapter 107 Make Them Walk

Chapter 107 - Selling Myself To The Alpha

Axel POV

“Dear goddess,” Mom gasps as we fly past the cars.

“Are we in the clear?” I ask, not daring to look back at this speed.

“Nope,” Dad sighs. “Keep going, there are still three cars behind us.”

“But four of ours are behind them,” Mom says excitedly.

I keep my eyes on the road as I continue forward. If it were not for my parents, I would have turned around and joined the fight. Dad surely will enjoy it, but Mom has never fought a day in her life. She never had to.

In the rearview mirror, I watch two cars closing in on me from the sides. They either want to box me in or one of them is going to attempt the PIT maneuver.

Alpha, we are right behind them, one of my men, Chris, mind-links me.

I'm going to slow down. Ram them from behind, I'll get out of the way, I reply.

Just don't hit my car, David quickly replies.

Which one is yours? Chris asks.

I'm in a Volvo, David says.

They're all Volvos, Chris grunts irritated.

It felt like we turned left a moment ago, does that help? David asks hopefully.

Actually, it does, it means you're next to me and not behind, I mind-link.

Gradually, I decreased my speed, and they followed my lead.

Now, Chris, I mind-link and my car's engine roars as I step the accelerator down all the way.

My car speeds forward as Chris and the guys do the same. The sound of metal on metal is screeching into my mind as our cars ram them from behind. The momentum pushes a car towards us with tremendous force and I swerve to the right.

Dust and grit surround us as I go offroad and hit the gravel. The sound of a tire rupturing and Mom's screams are deafening. I tighten my grip on the steering wheel as I fight for control. It takes every bit of strength to keep the car from swerving as we slow down. Helpless, I watch as we approach a pile of rocks. Swerving away at this speed with a busted tire is almost a guarantee that I will roll the car. Hitting it at this speed will either flip or stop us.

"Hold on!" I shout to my parents as my fingers cramp around the wheel.

I steer to the side, trying to avoid the rocks without jerking the wheel but we still partially connect with the side of the rock pile. Everything turns into slow motion when the car goes airborne. Mother is screaming at the top of her lungs as the horizon turns upside down and rolls once before laying on its roof.

"Everybody okay?" I pant.

"Define okay," Dad grunts painfully. "We're all hanging upside down like bats. That's not okay. But if you want to know if we're alive, the answer is yes."

Mother's only response is to cry uncontrollably.

"What the fuck?" Dad shouts when the car starts rocking.

I cover my ears as the squealing sound of metal bending irritates my hearing. My door gets ripped open, and I look up into the clear, blue eyes of Liana's wolf.

Liana POV

In horror, I watch our convoy ram into the Volvos and Axel goes offroad.

“Goddess, no!” I shriek as his car rolls through the air.

My heart is in my throat and my ears are ringing as I push the BMW to its limit.

Don’t let anyone get away, I mind-link as I watch the cars recovering from the ram and trying to escape.

“Luna, watch out!” Nick warns as I zig-zag through the crash site. “You can’t see him if you’re dead.”

“I know how to drive,” I grunt as I pull over and jump out.

Anxiously I run towards Axel’s car. It is lying on its roof, hissing and I can smell gasoline. I do not waste a second as I yank the door handle, but it does not want to open.

“Fuck it,” I grunt and shift. I dig my claws in at the side and tear the metal away. Nick joins me and together we rip the door open.

Eagerly I look inside and relief surges through me when I see Axel alive and breathing. Overjoyed, I lick his adorable and loving face before stepping back. As happy as I am to see him unscathed, I need to get them out of the wreck.

Cautiously, I crawl into the car in front of Axel and press my back against his chest.

Undo your safety belt, I will lower you down, I mind-link him.

Axel groans softly as he loosens his seat belt.

Are you hurt? I mind-link him concerned as I lower him.

“Nothing that won’t be gone by tomorrow,” he replies. “The safety belt might’ve saved my life, but it did a real number on my chest.”

I crawl backwards and make space for Axel to get out.

“You’re the best wife,” he smiles lovingly at me as he rubs my fur. “Nick and I will take care of my parents while you get dressed.”

Fuck that, I’m going to help our warriors, I huff and turn around.

“Be careful, love,” Axel shouts as I run off.

It looks like a mechanical massacre when I get to the road. Cars and parts are scattered all over. Jack's people are bound and laid down on the road like sardines.

Why do I only see four cars? I mind-link the warrior next to me, as I look at two BMWs and two Volvos.

"Chris and Brandon are still following the car with David inside," he replies. "We couldn't ram it."

Just following or do they have a plan? I ask irritated.

"Chris is forcing them towards the border," he replies smiling. "And our border patrol is waiting. They're not getting away."

Do we have any operational vehicles left? I look at the damaged cars.

"Not for the purpose you're thinking of," he grins. "We will be lucky to get back home with these wrecks."

Lovely, I snort as I run to the car Nick and I have driven. I shift back and grab a t-shirt from the trunk before going back to Axel.

"Everyone okay?" I ask as Grant helps his very pale wife to walk.

"A little traumatized," Axel grins as he puts his arm around my shoulder.

"They still have David," I sigh and inform him about what I know.

"Let's go home," Axel says adamantly before looking at his parents.

"Fuck that," his mother huffs. "I'm walking."

"Mom, it's like ten miles," Axel chuckles.

"Then I'll shift and run," she lifts her chin. "But I'm not getting back into a car with you maniacs."

"I'll run with her," Nick steps forward.

"So will I," Grant looks lovingly at her. "We haven't done that together in ages."

"Okay," Axel nods before looking at me. "Let's go finish this."

"Remember that fight about death we had at the lake house?" I ask as we walk to the car hand in hand.

“Not something I will forget,” he snorts and opens the passenger door for me.

“Well, I’m not arguing today,” I grunt as I get it. “Mary and Jack tried to take everything from us, and now I want to take everything from them.”

“I cannot agree more,” he smirks before closing my door.

I take Nina’s phone and call Adele.

“What’s going on?” I ask.

“Everyone from Jack’s pack is either dead or tied up,” she replies. “No casualties on our side. We’ve loaded the dead into the trunks, but we don’t have enough space for everyone. I’ll call for transportation ...”

“No,” I cut her off smiling. “Tie their hands and make the fuckers walk. We’re not wasting any more resources and fuel for their convenience.”

“Making them suffer,” Adele chuckles. “Our guys will enjoy this.”

“See you at home,” I smile. “Good work, Adele. I’m happy you’re still with us.”

“So am I, Luna,” she says before disconnecting the call.

“Geez, you are pissed off,” Axel chuckles as we drive home. “Not even compassion for the help. You know they only followed orders.”

“They’re alive, aren’t they?” I grin. “Except for the bastard that injured Drew. Him I personally want to kill.”

“So, do you think a surprise attack on Jack?” Axel glances at me.

“Nope,” I shake my head. “They’ll know we’re coming since their plan failed. But I want them to see us coming, and there’s nothing they can do to stop us.”

“You know we’ll be outnumbered?” Axel frowns.

“And we’ll outsmart them,” I smile confidently. “But I will look that bitch Mary in the eye when life leaves her body. Nobody threatens my family and lives to tell the story.”

“Mary?” Axel raises his eyebrows. “Not Jack?”

“Have you seen that man, Axel?” I shake my head. “He’s incapable of wiping his own ass. Think about it. What has he done or achieved since Angela’s accident?”

“You’re right,” Axel mumbles thoughtfully. “Since the incident, it was Mary who has maintained communication with Mother. He didn’t even get involved during the altercation at our wedding. So, you want to spare Jack?”

“He didn’t plan this,” I sigh. “But killing him would be sparing him. It’s like you’ve said, there’s mercy in death.”

Chapter 108 Crossing The Border

Chapter 108 - Selling Myself To The Alpha

Axel POV

There are people everywhere when we arrive at our border. Our guards are gathered around four men who are tied up and sitting on the ground next to the Volvo.

“At least two cars survived,” I grin as I look at the BMWs that are parked next to them.

“Hey,” Liana protests indignantly. “We only lost two.”

“Three,” I sigh as I park. “Mine.”

“But not on my order,” she teases as she leans over and kisses me before we get out.

“Alpha,” David emerges from the crowd and walks towards us.

“Welcome home,” I say jovially as I shake David’s hand. “You had us worried there for a moment.”

“Sorry,” sheepishly he rubs his neck. “We were having drinks when this huge guy walked to us. He told us some teenagers are messing with our cars. When we came outside, they overpowered us with wolfsbane. I only came to when the car started moving.”

“Do you have any idea who attacked our drivers?” Liana asks hopefully. Her hands are itching for payback.

“No,” David shakes his head. “We never made it to the cars.”

“Dammit,” Liana grunts. “I’m going back to the car. I want to check up on Nina and Connor.”

“I’m just glad you’re okay,” I smile at David as Liana walks to the car. “Put these guys in lockup and double the guards. Adele will be here shortly with the rest. Oh, and organize a cleanup crew. The cars will have to be towed in.”

“Yes, Alpha,” David nods and I walk back to the car.

“Connor is fine,” she sniffs as I get in. “I miss holding that tiny body so much, but they cannot come home until Mary is six feet under.”

“I miss him too,” I reach over and squeeze her hand.

“I want to reckon with Mary today still,” she says adamantly. “Before she retaliates or tries something else. We should go now.”

“I was thinking the same thing,” I tap with my fingers on the steering wheel. “But our ranks have been poisoned. We don’t know how strong the dosage was. They might not be able to shift.”

“It’s better if they stay,” Liana says firmly. “Your Dad will be back soon and can take control of the pack. The ranks can sort the captives. All we need is a bunch of warriors who can fight.”

“Do you have a plan?” I look at her. “You know they’ll attack before we get across the border.”

“Not if we arrive in a Volvo with their emblem,” she grins as she looks at the car in front of us. “And if their own people drive the car.”

“I’m listening,” I turn in my seat and look curiously at her.

“We take two captives and pump them full of wolfsbane,” she explains. “Before we reach their borders, we put them in front and tie them to stay upright. With sunglasses, their guards won’t see that they’re unconscious. We put the car in cruise control, and I will squeeze in at the front passenger’s feet and control the steering wheel. You’ll be my eyes in the back. We only need to get through, Axel. We don’t need to make it all the way. Once we’re across the border, our warriors arrive, and their border patrol would be too busy with them to pay attention to us.”

“Do you have any idea how many things can go wrong with that plan?” I push my fingers through my hair.

“Do you have a better idea?” She raises her eyebrows and crosses her arms in front of her chest.

“No,” I sigh heavily. Liana’s plan is a dangerous gamble, but if it works, it will be the easiest and quickest way to get across their borders. Sneaking in or planning a ruse with Wolfsbane will take time. Time we do not have. And Mary will soon know her plan has failed. She will either plan a counterattack or flee. But she will most definitely increase border patrol making it twice as hard to get to her.

“So?” She looks at me in question.

“So, we’re doing it,” I exhale defeated. “I’ll rally the men and get the wolfsbane. You get dressed.”

Liana POV

I am anxious and excited as we drive to Mary’s borders. This better be working. I want to reunite with our son. I want our happiness back to before Angela’s funeral when my biggest problem was my mother-in-law’s disapproval.

We pull over and get out. Chris, Martin and Axel drag the two unconscious men from the trunk and duct tape them underneath their shirts to the seat. I put sunglasses on their faces and worm myself in at the feet.

“Good thing you’re tiny,” Axel smirks as he moves the seat all the way back to make more space for me. “Chris would’ve never fitted there.”

“I’m grateful, Luna,” Chris looks distressed at the space. “I can’t bend like that.”

“Yeah,” Martin chimes in. “Riding in the trunk suddenly doesn’t look so bad.”

“When you’re done flattering me, can we please get a move on?” I grunt as I partially lay across the man’s legs. “Being so close to his groin is not on my wish list.”

“Yes, dear,” Axel winks at me before he runs around and climbs onto the driver’s lap. “If anybody ever mentions me sitting on a dude’s lap, I will kill you.”

“Yes, dear,” I throw his words back at him and he gives me a deathly stare before starting the car.

Tediously slow we start moving forward. Axel turns on the cruise control and clumsily climbs over the seat to the back. I hold the steering wheel tightly and he moves the chair forward into position.

“Fuck,” he grunts. “That was not as easy as I thought it would be.”

“So far the plan’s working,” Chris grins.

“Are you in control, Liana?” Axel looks at me. “Can I turn up the speed?”

“I’m ready,” I nod. “The faster the better. It will give their border patrol the impression we’re running home.”

Except for the occasional order of left or right from Axel, nobody says a word.

“I’m going to countdown,” Axel says as he reaches between the seats and places his hand on mine. “On one, we will make a sharp left. I’ll assist.”

“I’m ready,” I mumble.

“Three ... two ... one.”

I turn left and Axel ensures that the car faces the centre of the gate before he sits back. Chris opens his window just enough for his eyes to show.

“Behind us!” He shouts as we charge through the gates and closes his window.

“It worked,” Axel exclaims. “They’re all concentrating on our oncoming convoy.”

“Before you pop the champagne, a little help, please,” I grunt.

“I’ll take it from here,” Axel replies as he leans over and takes the steering wheel before decreasing the speed rapidly.

“Thank goddess,” I complain as I wiggle out of my hiding place onto the man’s lap. “That was not nice.”

“Get ready to hit the brakes,” Axel orders.

“Fuck me,” I moan as I lean over and dive between the man’s legs to get to the brake.

“Now,” Axel shouts and I press the brake with both of my hands steadily until we stop moving.

I get up and put the car in park before pulling up the brake and turning off the engine. Axel is first out of the car and yanks the passenger’s door open before helping me out.

“That was the first and last time you’re allowed to sit on another man’s lap,” he growls softly before kissing me.

“I can say the same to you,” I grin as the four of us run towards the house.

“We better hurry,” Martin says hastily. “Guards are on their way.”

Two guards look wide-eyed at us when we enter the house but before they can utter a word, Axel and Chris knock them out.

“Hide them,” Axel orders.

Martin and Chris tie and drag the men into the coat closet as Axel takes my hand and we run deeper inside.

We peek our ears for any noises and are not disappointed when we hear Mary shout from the office.

“Stop them,” she rages. “Do not allow them into our borders.”

“It’s too late,” I smirk as I enter the office with Axel behind me. “We’re already here.”

She swallows hard and turns pale as she looks from us to Jack. But he might as well not have been there. He is staring absentmindedly into his drink.

“Not for long,” Mary regains her composure. “The two of you are no match for my guards.”

“Who said it’s just the two of us?” Axel smiles slyly.

There is a scuffling and growling in the background.

Don’t worry, we got them, Chris mind-links.

But there are more on their way. You should hurry, Martin advises.

Let them come and keep yourselves alive. They won’t touch us if they want to keep their Alpha and Luna alive, I reply.

“Aren’t you going to offer us a drink?” I ask sweetly as I sit down next to Jack.

Chapter 109 Ending It

Chapter 109 - Selling Myself To The Alpha

Liana POV

If looks could kill, I would be decomposing right now. Mary is furious and I am fairly certain she has never hated anybody more than she hates me right now.

Axel takes a stand behind Jack. I know he is ready to use him as a shield when their guards arrive. But we should get closer to Mary. I have this sickening feeling that she would happily sacrifice her husband to get her way.

How’s it going, Chris? Axel asks.

It’s turning into a bloodbath, but we’re winning, he replies.

Fall back, but don’t go home. Be ready if we need you, Axel orders him.

“That ship has sailed, don’t you think?” Mary snorts as she takes a seat. “Politely offering drinks and pretending to get along.”

“You sent that ship on its voyage the second you tried to kill us,” Axel sneers.

“Axel, dear, you have it completely wrong,” Mary smiles. “I never wanted you dead. But you insisted on leaving early before we could have a proper conversation. My people were only going to keep you occupied until the other guests leave and then bring you right back.”

“So you decided to kill our drivers?” I stand up and go stand in front of Mary.

“Well,” she shrugs. “That was unfortunate, but they’re Omegas. There are plenty to replace them with.”

“Bitch,” I grab her by the throat and squeeze until her eyes go wide. “Drew is my friend. He walked me down the aisle, for goddess’ sake. And nobody is just an Omega. They’re people with families and lives.”

“Let her go,” Jack says with a monotone voice.

I am so surprised that he talked, that I release my hold and turn to him as he stands up. He has been so apathetic since Angela’s accident that I did not think he cared what was happening around him.

“Alpha, we pushed back the intruders,” a man bursts into the office but goes silent the second he sees us.

“No, you didn’t, Alfred,” Jack sighs. “They were a decoy, keeping you occupied while I’m handling the real threat. Get out of here.”

The man lowers his head in shame before he scurries away.

“And stop lying, Mary,” he walks to his wife’s side. “You’re only making it worse.”

I look at Axel and he seems just as confused as me. Is Jack helping us or Mary?

“I’m not lying,” Mary protests unconvincingly. “Our drivers were going to bring them back here.”

“Lying by omission,” he smiles sweetly at her, and I am flabbergasted when I notice her blush.

I know it would be a redundant question, but what the actual fuck? I walk to Axel and seek comfort from his presence. Saying these people are crazy would be the understatement of the year. Five minutes ago, Jack was a mindless zombie and Mary a cold-hearted bitch. Now he is all Casanova and she a blushing virgin.

“It really doesn’t matter,” Axel’s voice is filled with authority. “You know our laws. You threatened our safety, we have every right to kill you.”

“Always so quick to kill,” Jack looks at Axel emotionlessly. “It’s a pity your father didn’t teach you not to act in anger. Take me for example. I was so furious at you for taking our daughter from us, but I didn’t act. I took my time to properly mourn her. I don’t think the hate and resentment I harbour towards you will ever go away, but I’m at peace, son. And you’re right, our laws do state that we’re allowed to protect our pack with any means necessary. But you draw blood first. I know she attacked ...”

“She was provoked!” Mary hisses.

“Mary,” Jack looks patiently at her. “She did attack, dear. She made a choice.”

Mary lowers her gaze and Jack looks back at us.

“As I was saying,” he continues. “She attacked first, and you left us childless. You owe us a child; you owe us Connor.”

“You’ve lost your fucking mind!” I explode. My blood is boiling, and I am on the verge of shifting. I have no desire to stop the shift. I want to kill. “I’ll die before you even see him.”

“Acting like a true mother,” Jack smiles eerily as he walks towards me and Axel. “I didn’t expect anything less. That’s why we wanted you to stay behind. We wanted to have a civilized conversation and talk things through and come to an arrangement that will suit us all.”

Jack pours two glasses of whiskey and hands the one to Axel before taking a sip from his glass.

“It’s not poison, son,” Jack grins.

“I respectfully decline,” Axel puts his glass down. “And my son will never be part of any negotiations. My wife is right, I’d rather die than give him to you.”

“You’re young,” Jack looks at Axel with cold eyes. “You can have more, we can’t. This is a win-win situation for all of us.”

“I liked you better when you were a mute moron,” I grunt and cross my arms in front of my chest.

“How about now?” Jack pulls a pistol from his back and points it to Axel. “Do you like me better now?”

I swallow hard as I look from the pistol to Axel. The muscle in his jaw is working overtime as he fights his wolf.

I’ll go for the gun, and you get out of the way, I mind-link him.

Not yet, we don't know if Mary is also armed, Axel replies.

"Nope," I shrug. "Still don't like you."

"I know a mother won't give up her son," Jack keeps his eyes and pistol fixated on Axel. "But what if you had a choice? On the one hand, you lose a son but have your husband and the prospects of more babies. Or you keep your son and bury your husband."

Don't say or do anything until I distract him, I mind-link Axel.

"You don't know me at all," I burst out laughing. It throws Jack off guard, and he looks at me like I am the crazy one. "Or Axel for that matter. We'll gladly sacrifice each other for our child."

"You know, Jack," I reach for the glass that Axel put down and walk towards a couch. "As a father yourself, I thought you would understand the bond between a parent and a child."

Satisfied I watch his eyes follow my every move as I take a sip from the whiskey and sit down.

Keep going, it's working, when the time is right, I'll take him, you take Mary, Axel encourages me.

"Especially since you buried yours," I continue, and he turns red in the face. "There is nothing as pure and fulfilling as a child's love. I love my husband dearly, but that can change. But your child is your blood, and nothing can change that. Not even death."

Now! Axel orders.

I toss the whiskey into Jack's face as I jump up and leap towards Mary. Her eyes widen as I tackle her to the ground and land on top of her.

"Jack!" She screams as she claws at my face. "Help me."

"Not today, bitch," I grunt as I lift my fist and her head jerks sideways as I punch her in the face.

"My regards to Angela," I hiss as I take her head between my hands and sit on her chest. I master all my strength as I stretch her neck and twist it. There is a soft popping sound when I break her neck and I let go of her.

Axel POV

Jack flinches when Liana tosses the drink at him. I bend forward and storm him like a bull. I dig my head underneath his arm and throw my arms around his waist. I grunt out loud as I lift him and toss him over my shoulder. Jack screams when he lands with a thud on the floor and the gun glides away from his reach.

In an instant, I grab him by his shirt and lift him from the floor. I ram him backwards until he is pinned against the wall.

“I’m keeping my son,” I grunt as I punch him in the gut and he groans as his knees go numb, but I keep him upright against the wall. “And I will reunite you with your daughter. Now that is a win-win situation.”

“Negotiations are over,” I extend my claws and he gasps for air when I stab him in the gut. He grabs my wrists with both hands as I slice him open upwards. I look into his eyes until they glaze over before I retract my claws and stand back.

Jack drops like a bag of cement to the floor and quickly I turn and my eyes search for Liana. I exhale relieved as she gets up from the floor.

“Are you okay?” I rush over and pull her into my embrace.

“I should ask you that, I’m not the one covered in blood,” she smiles, and I lean over and kiss her tenderly.

“Let’s go fetch our son, Luna,” I pull her close to me as we walk away.

Chapter 110_Reunite As A Family

Chapter 110 - Selling Myself To The Alpha

Axel POV

The entire pack has gathered in front of Jack’s house as Liana and I walk outside.

“Should we worry?” Liana whispers to me. “Are they going to attack us?”

“No,” I reply softly. “When two alphas fight, and one dies, the other gains the loser’s pack. I’m now their alpha.”

“Now what?” Liana looks up at me with big eyes. “Do they all have to move within our borders and abandon everything they know?”

“I don’t want that,” I look at the sea of faces. “Such a move usually involves feelings of hatred and resentment which can cause trouble. I would rather inaugurate a new alpha.”

“Do you have anyone in mind?” She whispers.

“No,” I sigh heavily. “My dad knows this pack better. I’ll ask his advice. In the meantime, they’re waiting for my orders.”

I let go of Liana and walk towards the crowd.

“Good evening,” I greet, and everyone mumbles a form of acknowledgment. I have never been in such a situation, but I can only imagine how hard it must be for them.

One moment you are at home, living the life you are familiar with and the next the entire alpha family is wiped out and your fate is in the hands of a stranger.

“Where’s your Beta?” I ask but nobody says a word.

“In captivity,” a man that I recognise as Alfred steps forward. “He was part of the group that followed you today.”

“What’s your rank, Alfred?” I ask as I walk toward him.

“Delta, sir ... uhm, Alpha,” he replies awkwardly.

“I know this is a confusing time,” I address the crowd. “But I want to assure you that your lives will not be disrupted. Please continue as normal. Alfred will be in charge until I return.”

“Seriously?” Alfred gapes at me.

“What?” I raise my eyebrows. “You’re not up for it?”

“N ... no, I mean yes,” he stutters. “Yes, I can do it.”

“Good,” I nod. “Take care of Jack and Mary’s bodies. They will receive a proper burial. We’ll return in a day or two.”

“Yes, Alpha,” Alfred nods and turns towards the people. “You heard the Alpha, nothing has changed. Go home. You’ll be notified about the next meeting.”

I turn to Liana and take her hand before walking to the car.

Liana POV

I am out of the car and into the beach house before Axel can turn off the engine. It has not been twenty-four hours and it already feels like an eternity since I have seen my son.

“Oh, thank goddess,” Nina exclaims when she sees me. “You’re alive and here. And before you ask, Connor is fine and sleeping.”

“Thank you for taking care of him,” I hug her tightly.

“Is David okay?” Nina sniffs. “Don’t you ever do that to me again, you hear? Giving me passwords and orders. It’s scary and ...”

“It’s over,” I cut off her rambling. “And David is alive and well. We can all go home tomorrow.”

“Can I at least call him now?” Nina asks hopefully.

“You may,” I smile as I walk to Connor’s room.

For a moment, I only stare at my sleeping boy before a sob rips through me and I cover my mouth with my hand. I cry because I am so incredibly relieved that he is safe and unharmed. I cry because I know that things could have worked out so differently and that I have the privilege to see him again.

Axel gently places a hand on my shoulder, and I turn into his embrace. I put my arms around his waist and simply cried until I had no more tears left.

“Feeling better?” He murmurs.

“Yes,” I nod and wipe the tears off my face. “I’m going to take a shower and wash the evil off of me.”

“I’m going to stay with him a little longer,” he replies with his eyes fixated on Connor.

I smile and walk to the bathroom. I scrub myself until my body is glowing red before I get out. I pull a t-shirt over my head just as Axel enters.

“Should I arrange something to eat?” I ask.

“I’m not hungry,” he replies tiredly.

I walk to the balcony and inhale the ocean breeze as I go stand by the railing. This is my happy place. It is filled with only happy memories.

“This is why I bought the house,” Axel stands behind me and his arms go around my waist before kissing my mark.

“The view is to die for,” I agree.

“No,” he moves my hair away from my neck and leaves a trail of kisses from my shoulder to my ear. “You in the moonlight. La Luna, my Luna. You’re my light in the darkness.”

I lean into him as his hand glides over my stomach and underneath my shirt. My fingers tighten on the railing when his hand slips between my legs and gently starts rubbing my clitoris. I close my eyes as desire pulses through me.

Swiftly, he swings me around and pulls my t-shirt over my head. My nipples harden instantly in the cool night air, and I push my chest against his.

“Hmm,” I sigh as his body’s heat flows over to me.

Eagerly, I kiss him as I get rid of his shorts with fumbling fingers. He picks me up and I wrap my legs around his waist as he carries me to the bed.

“I love you,” I sigh as I push myself closer to him. I kiss his neck while my hands are roaming his bare chest. My lips find their way back to his mouth and I pour every inch of love I have for this man in that kiss.

Gently, he lays me on the bed before his lips crush mine.

My breath hitches in my throat when he sucks on my mark and my fingers cramp into his hair. A thousand fires ignite inside me as his lips move lower until his warm mouth sucks on my breast as his hand starts playing with the other nipple.

I grab onto his shoulders as desire grows deeper and stronger within me. I push him back onto the bed so that I can get a turn exploring his body. I return every kiss and every caress on his body just like he did mine.

A deep growl escapes from him as I reach his navel and I scratch my nails down his chest. His breathing gets heavier and shallower the lower I go.

I graze my nails over his skin, moving inwards from his hips to his v-line. Down along the insides of his thighs. Axel pants as my fingers move down to his knees and back up.

“Liana ... ahhh.” His voice echoes around me as I take him in my mouth. The feeling of his most delicate part in my mouth is turning me on and I cannot control my moan of pleasure as I suck, moving my head up and down. He grabs my hair, holding on tightly as I continue my onslaught.

“Liana,” he pants and the knowledge that I have this magnificent man begging for me, encourages me to go faster, taking him deeper into my mouth.

He grabs me by the shoulders and pulls me on top of him. His lips are instantly on mine, and he flips me on my back. My body is in sensory overload as his hands work their magic on my breasts while his lips leave a hot trail down my stomach.

I gasp for air when he lightly bites into my thigh, before sucking and kissing the spot. I am a complete hot mess by the time his hands abandon my breasts, and his lips take over again.

Tension is rapidly building within me and increases by the second. I wiggle myself out of his hold and straddle him, pulling him into a sitting position. Yearningly I kiss him before I pull away. We lock eyes as I lift myself just enough so that I can position him at my entrance.

“Hold me,” I whisper as I close my eyes and bury my face in his neck. I revel in the feeling of his strong arms covering my naked back. It makes me feel safe and secure. Slowly I lower myself onto him and I sigh contently as he penetrates me. Gradually, I increased the rhythm.

Axel gets hold of my hair and pulls my head backward, giving him access to my neck. I can feel that I am close, that I am reaching to point of sheer ecstasy and by the way Axel’s breathing, I know he is with me.

“Axel,” I pant his name as my climax builds until I reach sweet release. He grunts as he thrusts hard into me twice more before he finds his release.

Breathless we cling to each other before collapsing in the bed. Axel pulls me impossibly close to his chest and I close my eyes.

“I love you,” I mumbled before drifting off to sleep.