

The Alpha's Contract Luna - Chapter 6 - 10

-Jaxon- Chapter 6 “Have you sent Sheena to the Cross River Pack?” Out of nowhere, Keiran asked in the middle of discussing the war. “Ah, yes, Alpha. She should arrive tomorrow,” Jaxon replied. “We will get word about Alexia soon.” “Where were we?” Keiran asked, and while they were covering the matters of war, Jaxon could tell his alpha’s mind was elsewhere. “f**k! I can’t concentrate!” Jaxon understood where the anxiety was coming from. He watched as his Alpha repeatedly sighed, as if unable to decide what to do first. There was an unfinished war between Taplean and Eswen. It was affecting the coast, south of the nation. While the southern part of the land was not part of Kieran’s pack, being one of the trusted alphas under King Balthasar’s rule, he was in charge of defending the same territory. Now, he had to deal with his sudden marriage to a woman he barely knew. ‘Still, it’s not like him to be affected by a woman,’ Jaxon thought. ‘Just what is with Alexia that had riled up my alpha? And it happened in just less than twenty-four hours?’ Earlier today, Kieran asked if Alexia had eaten breakfast. When Jaxon reported that she ate with the kitchen staff, his lips twitched, seemingly disappointed. Then, recalling last night, Kieran showed a hint of concern for Alexia. He may have tried to mask it, but being his Chapter 6 long-time friend and his beta, he saw right through him. The surprising part was how Kieran had ordered Alexia to be transferred next to his room. It wasn’t just any room, but an adjoining room! ‘Why would he do that? Didn’t he dislike Alexia?’ While Jaxon asked these questions, he could not deny that he was also sorry for Alexia. After all, he was the one who brought her to the pack. He saw her genuine character and was almost certain she was not the woman they assumed her to be. The nightmare Alexia had was no trivial one. Her screams were real, and the fear behind her voice gave him chills down to his bones. Jaxon could tell something happened to Alexia that wounded her soul; one that haunted her in her sleep. “Again! Where were we?” Kieran asked. “The enemies keep coming back. Even if they had lost so many men, they seemed determined to claim territories on the southern coast,” Jaxon reported. With a sigh, Kieran ordered, “The packs on the southern coast have suffered too much. Relocate them until the war has been won.” “Yes, Alpha,” Jaxon replied. “Seek other warriors from the neighboring packs and order them to proceed to the front. Of course, this is with the king’s approval,” Kieran ordered. “Send a battalion of our men as well.” “Yes –” Chapter 6 Just then, they heard a knock on the door. Jaxon immediately knew it was his mate, Rae. “We are back!” Jaxon saw how Kieran’s head snapped in Rae’s direction. His first words were, “Where is she?” “Who, Alpha?” Rae asked, confused. “The ungrateful woman who did not even thank me for moving her

to a better room,” Kieran answered bitterly. With rounding eyes, Rae quickly replied, “Oh, Alexia? She went straight to her room? We already had dinner, so she –” Jaxon was taken aback. He watched his Alpha storm out of his office, his steps heavy against the floor. He and Rae looked at each other, trying to determine where he was headed. “Is he going to... see her?” Rae asked. “I... think so,” Jaxon replied. Minutes later, Kieran returned in a worse mood than before. Hours later, Jaxon and Rae were chatting about how Alexia behaved around the pack members. Rae’s narration of her day only confirmed his perception of Alexia. She was good with people and with children. Alexia easily won their hearts with her charm and character. “I think she isn’t that bad. She just lacked training on how to be a leader,” Rae suggested. “Maybe she can be a good luna?” “Hmmm. I don’t know. Try not to get too close to her, Rae. You know how Kieran has been working on changing the Chapter 6 king’s decision about her. If he finally wins this war, I’m sure he will ask for his freedom from this marriage. Before we know it, they might end up having a divorce. The next event we will be attending is a rejection ceremony,” Jaxon reminded. “I’ll try, but it’s hard not to like her. If you spend time with her, you will know what I am saying,” Rae answered. Jaxon did not react. He tried to reject the idea, but he knew precisely what his mate was saying. After all, he spent two days with Alexia, traveling from the Cross River Pack to the Stone Blood Pack. Resting with his mate, Jaxon was about to shut his eyes when he suddenly heard his alpha speak to him in his mind, ‘Give me all the keys to all rooms. ‘Alpha Kieran? Come again?’ Jaxon made sure he heard him right. Besides, what did he need all the keys for? ‘I. NEED. ALL. THE. KEYS. TO ALL. ROOMS. Kieran mindlinked with him. ‘What for?’ Jaxon asked back. There was a sudden pause from the Alpha, and Jaxon was unsure if he would pursue his demand. Eventually, Kieran spoke, ‘For security purposes.’ ‘And you need all rooms?’ Jaxon confirmed. ‘Are you deaf? Can you not hear me saying... ALL ROOMS?’ Kieran repeated. ‘Including ours?’ Jaxon sought. He could already imagine his Alpha grunting in displeasure, Chapter 6 but eventually, Kieran replied, ‘Fine, except your room. Give me all the keys to the rooms!’ It took a few minutes, but ultimately, Jaxon ended up in front of Kieran’s door, surrendering the box with all the spare keys to the packhouse, except for the room he shared with his mate, Rae. As he handed the box, Jaxon sought, his eyes landing on Alexia’s room, “You aren’t going to open her room, are you?” A scoff left Kieran’s room. He replied, “Why would I? I had to lock my room from the inside. I don’t want this woman climbing on my bed.” “You think she would climb on your bed, alpha?” Jaxon asked, trying to awaken his alpha of the truth. “Every single alpha daughter who has met me had tried. She is no exception!”

Kieran answered. 'Well, I don't think this one will. Beta Jaxon thought it, but he dared not voice out his thoughts. "Again, this is for security purposes," the alpha insisted. "Go back to your room, beta." The next day, Jaxon caught up with Rae and Alexia before they left for town. He overheard their conversation as he walked over to the driveway. "I must have crawled back up to the bed. I swore I slept on the floor, but in the morning, I found myself in bed," Alexia told Rae. "You must have climbed on the bed. Stop sleeping on the floor, Alexia! This isn't your old home. Remember, this is CIC Chapter 6 better than your home," Rae encouraged. Clearing his throat, Jaxon greeted Alexia good morning. He k*ssed Rae goodbye and sent and helped them ride in a car. Thinking back to what he had discovered, Jaxon shook his head. He muttered, "Oh, great, Alpha Kieran. You are full of surprises." Entering the Alpha's office, Jaxon noticed how Kieran was in a lighter mood. He smiled, asking, "Good day today, Alpha?" Kieran simply hummed. He did not deny or confirm it. "I bet it had something to do with your security check last night, Alpha," Jaxon teased. He laughed but quickly shut his mouth, seeing the death glare coming from Kieran. "Do you want me to ship you to Eswen, Jaxon?" Kieran threatened.

Chapter 7 -Alexia- Five days had passed since Alexia had arrived at the Stone Blood Pack's main territory. Even after moving to the room next to Kieran, she avoided him at all costs. After all, she wasn't supposed to share the same air he breathed. She got up at four in the morning each day before Kieran would wake up and in the evening, she would lock herself inside her room before the alpha would conclude his meetings. Every morning, Alexia ate breakfast early with the kitchen staff. In fact, she helped whip a few dishes or two. Alexia had yet to work for her own money, but she could not do that while they were preparing for the wedding. The least she could do for now was to cook for the packhouse. "The wedding dress has arrived. Let's head upstairs so you can try it on," Rae suggested after finding her in the kitchen. "Okay," she replied. When they entered Alexia's room, two maids were quick to aid her in putting on her gown. After confirming how the dress had fit her completely, the maids and Rae were excited. "You look so beautiful, Alexia," Lydia said. She was an omega assigned to help at the pack house. A chuckle left Rae's lips. She shook her head and remarked, "I don't know if I should say this, but Kieran is going to drop his jaws during your wedding day." Chapter 7 Alexia flushed, hearing Rae's words, but she quickly soothed the fluttering of her heart, reminding herself that she was just a contract bride. She had no right to feel

for Kieran, and it had to stay that way, or else she would find herself in a deeper hole than she was already in. She turned to the mirror and studied her reflection. Indeed, the gown was so beautiful that Alexia's eyes gleamed at her reflection. "Wow." Kieran had warned that they would not be having a lavish wedding, but she did not care for such. Her wedding dress was simple, but the cut flaunted her slender shoulders and neck. It hugged her b*dy exquisitely, showing the curve of her hip and flat waist. "I think we chose the best dress," Rae remarked. "It still fits within the budget Kieran wanted, but it's gorgeous!" Alexia continued to smile while looking in the mirror. Hearing Rae, she said, "Thank you, Rae. You've helped me a lot." As it turned out, Rae had proven to be a good friend. As they went from shop to shop, preparing for the wedding, they formed a bond that she never expected to spark. Apparently, they liked the same things. Rae loved to read, and so did Alexia. Rae loved to swim, and it was the same with Alexia. They enjoyed tranquility, and after going around the pack, they often rested in the garden behind the pack house to enjoy simple silence. Finding a friend in an unexpected place, Alexia could not be more thankful to the Moon Goddess. She could not help but Chapter 7 express her inner thoughts. "Rae, I don't know what I would have done without you here in this new pack. Thank you again." Her words caught Rae off guard. It was apparent by the way she stared blankly at her. After a second, Rae embraced Alexia and patted her back. She replied, "You know, I've enjoyed the past few days with you, and I think I will enjoy your company even more." Just then, Alexia noticed how Rae stiffened. From giving her a warm hug, she stilled as if looking distantly. Alexia realized she was mindlinking. Rae pulled away, and with a smile, she excused herself. "I'll see you later. Lydia and May will help you out of this gown." -Rae- 'Sheena has returned from the Cross River Pack. Do you want to hear what she has to say?' Rae heard her mate speak in her head. Quickly, she answered, 'I'll be down in a minute.' She pulled away from hugging Alexia and implied, "I'll see you later. Lydia and May will help you out of this gown." Rae left the room and proceeded to Kieran's office. When she entered, Kieran was already in his seat behind the desk. Jaxon took the seat in front of the table, and she sat in front of him. Sheena, a female warrior, was sent to spy on the Cross River Pack. She acted like a lost she-wolf, needing help. Being tall and beautiful, Sheena knew her way around men. When everyone was ready to listen, she reported, "There Chapter 7 were two sides to the story. One from Alpha Roland's warriors and one from Alexia's friends, but I took it upon myself to find more information. I seduced her stepbrother and got the truth out of him." "Well?" Kieran asked. "Do tell." "Alpha Roland used to cherish his daughter Alexia, but that started to change after he remarried five years ago," Sheena resumed her report. "Drake, the stepbrother, said that his mother and

stepsister despised Alexia. They schemed against Alexia, pinning problems on her even when she did not cause them. Alpha Roland believed his new wife, taking away Alexia's freedom and privileges." Shaking her head, Sheena resumed, "Her defense training was put to a stop and as well as her education. Instead, she served her family inside the packhouse by cooking, cleaning, and doing whatever her stepfamily asked her." Sheena frowned, appearing to be displeased at what she was about to reveal. "Sometimes, her stepmother would slap her, but thankfully, nothing went beyond that. Her stepfamily was reluctant to hurt her thoroughly. Instead, they verbally abused her. Rarely was she allowed to leave the house. Whenever she had the chance, she fled to the comforts of her two best friends, Dean and Melissa." Sheena elaborated on Alexia's friends before she finally reported the eventful night that changed everything. "Three years ago, Alpha Roland's beta tried to rape Alexia." Hearing the report, Rae felt chills down her spine. Her heart ached for Alexia, and she gasped. Chapter 7 "But the beta died before he could violate her completely. To Drake's words, Beta Edward was found n*ked in Alexia's room while Alexia's clothes were torn halfway. Her b*dy was covered with bruises. The pack blamed Alexia for the beta's death, despite the findings that he died of a heart attack. Her stepmother spread rumors of how Alexia was cursed. This was only fortified

when Drake, her stepbrother, tried to rape her too," Sheena continued. "Drake claimed that he felt heaviness in his chest when he started touching Alexia." Letting out a sigh of disgust, Sheena recounted, "In his words, Alexia is cursed, for whoever beds her will die of a heart attack." "Alpha, the truth is, Alexia has been punished for something. she had no control over. Her stepfamily turned her into a villain when she was a victim," Sheena concluded. "Frankly, I wanted to beat Drake. He was so arrogant, full of himself, and was constantly groping me with his eyes." Clenching her fists, Sheena added, "If not for the so-called curse they branded onto Alexia, I am sure Drake would have already violated her." Rae noticed how Kieran's jaws were locked. He lifted a finger, suggesting to give him a moment to let it all sink. He gulped and sought, "So, her stepbrother never got what he wanted?" "No, Alpha. He said he couldn't because he felt his chest congesting and claimed Alexia's eye color changed. He recalled how the former beta died and assumed Alexia's curse was stopping him from getting his way with her," Sheena replied. "Your future luna... is still pure." Bowing her head, Sheena relayed, "Unfortunately, though. I was not able to find out the reason why Alexia was chosen to

Chapter 7 be your wife, Alpha. Drake did not seem to know as well.” There was a moment of silence in the room. Rae observed how the air around them felt frigid. She and Jaxon studied Kieran’s seething temperament, and, eventually, she heard him give his command, “Go back to the Cross River Pack. Bring ten other men with you.” “Yes, Alpha,” Sheena confirmed with a smirk on her face. “Beat the shit out of Drake!” Kieran added. “Gladly, Alpha,” Sheena confirmed. “Tell Alpha Roland he no longer has the right to his daughter. And for abusing my future wife, he will send compensation amounting to two million dollars by the end of this month! If he fails, I will conquer his pack!” Kieran instructed. “Yes, Alpha,” Sheena confirmed. Meanwhile, Rae froze in her seat, and she saw her mate do the same. They both mindlinked with each other. ‘Did he just say... future wife?’ Among all the words Kieran said that night, those two stood out in Rae’s head. ‘Future Wife.’ Yes, it was true. Alexia will be the alpha’s wife in a few day

but to hear the words leave Kieran’s mouth utterly surprised, Rae and Jaxon.

Chapter 8 -Alexia- “Alexia!” Rae called her name in the hallway. When Rae caught up to her, Alexia was about to have her quiet time in the packhouse’s backyard. Immediately, Rae hugged her tightly. Alexia could not keep count of how many times Rae repeatedly breathed in and out. In each second that passed, Rae’s embrace strengthened around her. “Everything okay, Rae?” She asked, utterly bemused by her sudden emotional hug. Pulling away, Rae replied, “I’m glad you are in our pack now. Maybe it was, in fact, your fate to join us. You shall never return to your previous pack – I won’t allow it! I’m so sorry for what you have experienced, Alexia.” Alexia froze in her stance. Her brows meeting, thinking. “Did.” She gulped and looked around. “Did you – did you find out about my curse?” Rae had dragged Alexia out to the backyard and found a secluded place to talk. As they sat on a wooden bench, Rae admitted to Alexia, “Look, Alexia. I’m sorry to tell you this, but yes. We learned about how your family treated you. Kieran had your past investigated.” ‘They know.’ Alexia felt chills down her spine. She looked down, frightened as she thought, “They must know about that night too. Alpha Kieran knows. Rae must have noticed her silence that she explained. “It was 1/8 Chapter 8 important that Kieran learn about you. The king gave our alpha your file, but that same document suggested your father spoiled and loved you.” Holding Alexia’s hand, Rae added, “I hope you understand, Alexia. Alpha Kieran might not have said it in words, but he simply wanted to prove your claims.” “Or disprove?” Alexia pointed out. They both stilled. After some time, Rae suggested, “On the bright side, he knows you are innocent.” Faintly, Alexia responded, “And he knows that I am dirty and cursed –” “Whatever made you

think it was a curse? It was just a coincidence! The former Beta died out of his own misery. His lust probably got the best of him!" Rae countered. "And no!" Alexia saw how the corners of Rae's eyes watered. She hugged her from the side and claimed, "You are not dirty! Don't ever think that of yourself." While pondering on Rae's words, she breathed deeply. Alexia did not know how long she stayed that way. Minutes passed with Alexia hardly noticing the time. She looked remotely into the vast lawn and then to the pines that fenced the estate. After some time, Alexia took a deep breath. Softly, she said, "Thank you. Thank you for telling me this." She sniffed and resumed, "This means a lot to me, Rae." Alexia and Rae lingered in the garden for another half an hour, discussing her stepfamily's maltreatment. Rae Chapter 8 mentioned, "Your stepbrother probably rode on that curse too, just to give you a bad reputation." Letting out a sigh, Alexia weakly replied, "I don't know, Rae. To be honest, Drake would rather get his way with me. I don't think he faked it when he reacted. It was the same with the former beta. I could not explain what happened to him, either." Alexia was looking distantly into the garden, when Rae sought, "Do you want to talk about it? I mean, it's okay if you don't, but maybe talking about it helps?" For seconds, Alexia stilled in silence, contemplating. Nearly a minute passed, and she faintly answered, "I'll – I'll tell you." FLASHBACK: THREE YEARS PASSED The storm has reached its full strength. Alpha Roland and some of his warriors were helping those affected by the storm. Beta Edward made an excuse, saying he was feeling unwell. The packhouse had long accommodated the Alpha and his family, including Beta Edward. Since Alexia had turned seventeen, she observed how Beta Edward often stared at her longer. His eyes roamed her b*dy in a way that made her feel he was actually touching her. When their eyes would meet, Beta Edward would grin at her maliciously. It made Alexia's skin crawl. She reported her fears to her father, but Alpha Roland ignored her. Instead, he scolded her, allowing Beta Edward to think he could do anything to Alexia and not be punished. Chapter 8 Alexia saw it. With each day that passed, his confidence grew. It started with Beta Edward waiting outside her room, to constantly following her around and spanking her behind. One day, the beta lost control and took advantage of the fact that the entire pack was busy attending to the storm. That night, Alexia was getting ready for bed. She wasn't allowed outside the packhouse, so she wasn't needed yet. However, just as she was about to climb into her bed, she heard a knock on the door. T When she opened it and realized it was Beta Edward, she tried her hardest to slam it shut, but the man was too strong compared to her little frame. "What are you doing here?" Alexia asked. Beta Edward closed the door behind him and began stripping off his clothes. He hissed and said, "I've been dreaming of this for too many nights. I can't hold back anymore. I just had to come for

you tonight!” “No. Don’t come near me,” Alexia pleaded, her heart racing in fear. Hurting her was one thing, but taking her purity was another. “No! Stop!” The Beta rushed to grab her arm and slammed her into the bed. He started touching her and tearing off her clothes. He punched her whenever he had the chance, hoping she would lose consciousness. “No! How could you? Stop!” Tears flooded her cheeks as Alexia defended herself. She tried kicking him off, scratching his skin, but it was useless. He was much too strong for her. “I beg you! Stop! Stop!!!!” Screaming at the top of her lungs, Alexia felt there was a sudden change in the way she cried. It 4/8 14:57 Chapter 8 echoed in her head as if her voice doubled in strength and number. “Get away from me! Stop!” Alexia could feel her blood boiling, her anger surging in waves. Out of nowhere, she found the strength to push him away. Edward’s b*dy flung to the wall, his hand clenching his chest. Alexia saw him gasp as if the air was not reaching his lungs. While she saw the life of Edward fading away, she had no remorse. She hated him for touching her. He was this close to taking her virginity! She did not care how he wound up lifeless in her room, completely n*ked. The next thing she knew, the door to her room swung open. Her father and stepfamily were at the door. They were shocked by what they have seen. Matilda, her stepmother, first declared, “What a whore you are! You tried to seduce Beta Edward!” “What? What are you saying? He tried to rape me! Can’t you see how my clothes have been torn?!” Alexia retorted, but the more she reasoned, the more she felt her father’s disapproving stare. After she changed her clothes, Alexia was locked up in the attic. The same had become her room. Since then, she has slept on the hard surface of the floor. She had nothing but a pillow and a torn blanket to warm her at night. In the days that followed, rumors spread of how Alexia was bewitched – c



ursed, and that she may have killed Beta Edward. Since then, Alexia has lost her father completely. END OF FLASHBACK Chapter 8 After Alexia’s tale, silence stretched between her and Rae. Rae embraced Alexia again and wept. She said, “Forget your family. Forget your father. I will be your family, me and Jaxon. Lydia and everyone in the pack.” “How could they name it as a curse? It was obvious that you were fighting for your life! Your adrenaline powered up your strength and pushed him away!” Rae put her hands on

Alexia's face. She described, "Helping Kieran deal with those affected by the war, I've come across many victims of violence and abuse. When the abuse happened, it clouded their judgement and they saw things, differently."

"Alexia, you are not cursed! Someone so pure, so gentle, and kind could not be. You were not in the wrong, but your family was!" Rae concluded. It was because of Rae's words that Alexia cried too. Hearing such encouraging words from a stranger warmed her heart. Who knew she would find a friend in The Stone Blood Pack? Who knew her contract marriage would grant her friendship? Even if she would endure a loveless marriage, Alexia still felt the Moon Goddess gifted her. Alexia and Rae spent another hour in the gardens behind the packhouse. Afterward, they had a late dinner before heading to their rooms. Arriving at her room, Alexia hastily opened the door. She was sure Kieran was in his room, for Alexia had mentioned Jaxon was already resting. Chapter 8 She was certain she had already escaped Kieran's presence that day, but alas, he heard him clear his throat behind her. Alexia gulped and turned to the man. She bowed and greeted, "Good evening, Alpha Kieran." "Alexia." Kieran spoke. "Look at me." Lifting her face, she was surprised to find Kieran's eyes were not cold on her. She heard him say, "I am an alpha, and I acknowledge how I am stern with my leadership. I am ruthless, it's true, and I am unforgiving towards my enemies." "However, I am righteous." He added. "I don't believe in curses, the same way I don't believe in luck. A man's downfall is caused by his lack of better judgment. And that's what happened to Beta Edward... I promise you; I will give you the justice that you deserve." Alexia was taken aback. 'Did I hear him right?' Tears welled in her eyes, observing how Kieran never looked away from her. Her lips trembled as they thinned into a smile. She said, "Thank you, Alpha Kieran." Lowering her head, she added, "Thank you for giving me a chance." He nodded. For the first time since they met, his voice was calm. Alexia watched as he held the knob to his room. Kieran was about to enter his chamber when he retreated his steps. He reminded her, "This doesn't change anything in our contract, Alexia. Remember the rules."

Chapter 9 -Alexia- "Frittata coming up!" Alexia announced as she took out the dish from the stove. She served the slices on several plates and paired them with the garlic bread she had earlier made. "Ooooh! That looks so delicious!" Rae walked in, acting to have drool on her mouth. "How in the world did you learn to cook like this?" Alexia chuckled and replied, "I had to learn. Or else I would go hungry." Back at her pack, Alexia realized that she could only get a decent meal if she worked in the kitchen. She tried to learn numerous dishes and proved to her father that her cooking was better than the maids. Over time, she was in charge of the kitchen, among other things. Nonetheless,

cooking for the packhouse allowed her to pocket food for herself. Rae tried to find meaning in her words, but Alexia dismissed her probing eyes and said, "Go ahead, and eat. I'll eat with Lydia here in the kitchen." "Can't eat with him, remember? Can't breathe the same air?" She reminded, referring to the great alpha, Kieran Stone. "You know what? Kieran and Jaxon are having an early meeting with the king on a conference call. Tomorrow's your wedding, remember?" Rae revealed. "Why not eat with me?" Her brows furrowed. Alexia sighed, realizing that tomorrow was the big day. Chapter 9 "Come on! Eat with me," Rae urged, and since Alpha Kieran would not be having breakfast that early morning, Alexia conceded. She and Rae chatted merrily over breakfast. They talked about the plans for the afternoon. "So, since the wedding is tomorrow, you must attend the rehearsal later. It's just for an hour, maybe. The coordinator will guide you and Kieran through the flow," Rae revealed. Just then, they heard a familiar tone a man clearing his throat. Alexia turned to find Kieran and Jaxon standing behind them. "Our meeting has ended. We have come for breakfast," Kieran conveyed. Recalling how Kieran reminded her of their contract, Alexia sucked in a breath. She grabbed her plate and stood up. She excused herself, saying, "I'll eat with Lydia in the kitchen –" "Stay." Kieran's orders were firm, yet they did not have the glacial feel as when they met a few days back. Alexia looked up and met his intense brown eyes. Seeing they bore no disgust on her, she looked at Rae and Jaxon, as if asking for confirmation. "Alpha said you can stay, Alexia," Jaxon echoed. Gradually she settled back in her seat, but despite that, she noticed how the man was still looking at her. She peered back up in Kieran's direction, and he said, "Sit next to me." "Sit next to me. His words echoed in her head, and she blinked again and again. 9/6 Chapter 9 It made little sense to her until he suggested, "Tomorrow, we will be joining the King and Queen for dinner. You need to get used to sitting next to me – just until tomorrow ends." "Oh," Alexia said. She grabbed her plate and sat next to where Kieran usually ate. Kieran often took the single space to the left of the long table. Jaxon took the seat to Kieran's right, and Rae sat next to Jaxon. Minutes went by, and they were enjoying their breakfast. Jaxon could not help but remark, "Just the best breakfast ever." "Hmmm," Kieran said. He swallowed the last piece of his frittata and remarked, "I did not know we hired a new chef. I've enjoyed my meals recently." Silence. There was nothing but silence coming from Jaxon and Rae. They were the only ones who knew Alexia had been preparing the meals for the past few days. "Well, where is the new chef?" Kieran sought. "I'd like to meet him." Alexia's ears were burning, her gaze fixed on her plate. When she thought of how to address Kieran, Rae beat her to it. "Actually, Alpha, it's Alexia. She has been cooking a dish or two for our meals whenever she could," Rae reported. Alexia gasped. Steadily, she turned her head in the

direction of Kieran. Her honey-colored eyes met his brown orbs, making her heart skip a beat. "Hmmm." Kieran said, his gaze landing on the wall in front of her. She waited. Heck, Rae and Jaxon studied his potential reaction, but that was all Kieran gave. Disappointment flashed over Alexia's face as she repeated in her head, the only sound that left his lips. 'Hmmm.' The stillness stretched to a minute, and Rae first broke the ice. She said to Kieran, "

Alpha, don't forget to rehearse with Alexia later. It's a combined initiation ceremony and wedding at the same time." "Initiation?" Alexia asked, surprised. She knew of the wedding but did not know she would be accepted into the pack. "Of course, Alexia. You will be our luna, so it must be done," Rae added with a wink. Alexia turned to Kieran again and hoped for words of encouragement from him. Instead, the Alpha said, "I can't have the king thinking that you aren't welcome into my pack. It is a necessary procedure." "Oh." She said, her hopes dying down in an instant. 'He did it. out of obligation.' 'Don't be disappointed, Alexia. At least the alpha turned from cold to somewhat neutral in a week. It's not so bad,' she reminded herself and reflected a smile. "Thank you, Alpha Kieran." Alexia and those part of the wedding entourage participated in the rehearsal. A wedding coordinator guided them to how the ceremony will start, starting with Alexia's initiation. Alexia was already aware of the blood compact procedure. 4/6 Chapter 9 Thus, she simply needed verbal instructions. There was no need for Kieran's presence then. However, during the last and final stage of the practice, Kieran arrived, and instantly Alexia felt her heart going wild. Of course, some parts of the wedding required him to hold her hand. It would be... the first time they would touch. Throughout the practice, Kieran maintained his poker face. Alexia could not read him, not one bit. She stole glances at his handsome features, his unique scar that added to his allure, and the tattoos on his arms. Alexia thought he was supposed to be afraid of this man, but here she was, struggling to tear her eyes away from him. When the time came for them to march forward to the front, Kieran stretched his hand to her, and for the first time, their skins touched. Happy tingles ran through her body, and her heart drummed faster. Her hands turned cold and sweaty under his touch. As her face burned, Kieran appeared unaffected, merely looking straight at the front, his eyes on the supposed officiant. The wedding coordinator gave them a rundown of what the officiant would say, and at the end, the woman declared, "And of course, the last part of the wedding is... you may kiss the bride!"

Alexia's eyes widened in horror. 'Of course! How could I forget this part of the wedding? How am I ever going to k*ss this man tomorrow?' She wasn't supposed to breathe the same air as him, but as it turns out, their l*ps would lock as part of the wedding! 14.570 Chapter 9 Seeing Kieran peer in her direction, his expression impassioned as ever. She assumed the worst. 'Now he is really upset with me again.'

-Alexia- Chapter 10 "Make her so beautiful that Kieran's jaws will drop!" Rae suggested as a stylist began with the hair and makeup. The stylist giggled with Rae as Alexia glared at her friend. She said, "Not helping, Rae." "Trust me, Alexia, I am helping," Rae said before another chuckle escaped her l*ps. An hour passed after carefully doing her hair and makeup; Alexia was done. Rae and the stylist rushed her to wear her gown and her shoes. After which, she faced the full-length mirror inside the guest room. Kieran did not want guests to enter the fourth floor. All wedding preparations were made on the second floor of the packhouse. "Oh, my Goddess!" Alexia could not believe her eyes. She looked like a princess, no, more like a queen! Her hair was tied into a gorgeous bun, with little strands falling into her face. A small crown sparkled over her head. She wore light makeup, but it was enough to put a glow on her face. "So beautiful!" Rae exclaimed. "I'm so happy for Alpha Kieran. The king chose a beautiful luna for him," the stylist expressed. Behind Alexia, Lydia and the other maids voiced their contentment, seeing her in her gown and makeup. 1/6 Chapter 10 After everyone in the room had praised Alexia, Rae walked up to her, fixing every inch of her gown. She chuckled and suggested, "Alpha Kieran is going to fall in love with you for sure." Her face turned tomato red as she scolded, "Rae, please. Stop it. If Alpha hears you, I'm in big trouble." With a sigh, she added, "You are going to be the death of me." "Haha!" Rae scoffed and answered, "I'm telling you, he is the one in big trouble." Alexia was left with perplexity throughout the rest of the preparation. Thanks to Rae's suggestion, she wondered if it meant she could have a real marriage with Kieran. Of course, whenever she thought about it, she would be reminded of how this was all a sham, a mere show for the king. Very quickly, she realized the king would grace their wedding. Her eyes lit up with the realization that she could ask the king why he chose her for Kieran, that and many more questions that dawdled in her head. The ceremony proceeded as scheduled. The event began with King Balthasar and Queen Helen being welcomed. The wedding was held on the green lawn that extended behind the packhouse. Lush pines bordered the estate and gave the surrounding air the refreshingly sweet scent of nature. Huge tents covered the seats and tables that were scattered precisely across the yard. A stage was set up at the very front. To the left, a unique table was designated for the king and queen. Alexia

could only watch from a window inside the packhouse Chapter 10 as she was yet to make her grand entrance. Little by little, guests arrived, taking their respective seats. After everyone was settled in their places, Kieran appeared before the crowd. He held his chin up as he walked gracefully to the front, his hand buttoning the black suit that hugged his broad frame perfectly. "That's your cue, Alexia! Get ready!" Lydia, the omega, guided her to the packhouse's backdoor. Finally, when it was time for the bride to march, the double doors opened, and Alexia made her slow entrance. At first, Alexia held her head down, but recalling Rae's reminder, she forced a smile and lifted her face. Immediately, she locked eyes with Kieran. Her heart fluttered. There was tenderness in his eyes that she did not recognize. More than that, she thought he looked very handsome that day. She felt her ears burn at the strange thrill that ran down her b*dy, but admitting her place, she cautiously looked away, attending to the calls of the pack members around. Alexia did not want him to think she was affected by him. She reminded herself that she wasn't supposed to like him. Alexia smiled and waved at those she met during the days. when Rae brought her around town. When she directed her gaze to the unique tables at the front left, she bowed in recognition of the king and queen. King Balthasar smiled at her. She turned to his wife and saw Queen Helen strangely seem unhappy, raising a brow at Alexia. In fact, the queen's stares made her skin crawl. Alexia speculated why. Chapter 10 Ignoring her senses, Alexia returned her attention to Kieran. She walked straight to the front and accepted his hand.

Just like it felt yesterday, they were rough, with signs of marks, yet his hand held her firmly, making the butterflies in her stomach go wild. At that moment, his woodsy and spicy scent engulfed her. She tried her best to ignore his intense gaze. For one, she was skeptical of why he was even staring at her that way. Under his watch, she felt like melting altogether. The initiation began with Alexia slashing her hand with a knife. Before taking Kieran's hand, the man asked, "Do you promise to serve me as your Alpha from now till the day you die?" "Yes, Alpha Kieran. I do, till the day I die," she acknowledged. Kieran did the same, cutting his hand, and then took Alexia's hand, accepting her bond into the pack. Moments later, she smiled, hearing the voices in her head. She turned to Rae, who was mindlinking with her. 'Welcome to the pack, Alexia!' 'Welcome our Luna,' she heard the child named Cindy greet her. Lydia greeted the same, including the kitchen staff inside the packhouse, preparing for that evening's special dinner. 'Welcome, Alexia,' Jaxon

mindlinked with her as well. The last person who welcomed her was none other than her husband-to-be, Alpha Kieran Stone. He said out loud, "Welcome to the Stone Blood Pack." Chapter 10 "Thank you," she said to each that welcomed her into the pack. She smiled and looked into Kieran's eyes, saying, "Thank you, Alpha Kieran, for allowing me into your pack." He nodded. He did not smile but did not show a hint of hate either. As they turned their frames to the officiant, Alexia was stunned when Kieran said in her head, 'You are welcome.' It made her smile, but Alexia masked her excitement. Ultimately, the wedding resumed. Many words were said coming from the officiant. Kieran and Alexia exchanged their vows, following standard verbiage. Alexia's heart began to race as they put on their wedding rings. She recognized what was next and wasn't sure if she was ready for it. 'Oh, my Goddess! Help me!' "Let us welcome!" The officiant announced. "Mister and Misses Stone! You may k*ss the bride!" Applauses and hoots could be heard across the garden, and all Alexia could do was blush as she peered into Kieran's brown orbs. She gulped at how Kieran gazed at her intently. Thrilling electricity ran through her b*dy as soon as his hand gently landed on her cheek. He lifted her chin, and fireworks erupted in her stomach when their l*ps met! He brushed his l*ps against hers. He bit her bottom l*p before nibbling it gently. He forced her mouth open, simply exchanging their flavors without involving their tongues. The k*ss lasted not just for one, not for two, but for five seconds long. Alexia did not realize when she closed her eyes, but 5/6 Chapter 10 apparently, she did. When Kieran pulled away, she was still in a daze. When she opened her eyes, she caught him staring at her l*ps as if... he wanted more. He was still impassive when he gazed back up at Alexia. He said nothing. He took her hand, and with his other arm stretched to the crowd, he announced, "Welcome, your luna, Alexia Kieran Stone!"