The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya the Author

The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 212

212 Ayla

1288 Vouchers

Unable to suppress the worries about our future I had

absentmindedly started to play with the necklace Griffin gave me.

He noticed and of course, he knew the reason behind it too. Because he was amazing and he knew me better than I knew myself sometimes.

"Don't worry Darling, I know this feels so different from how we became at home. Do you know why I gave you that necklace though?" He asked.

I was about to answer him I did, after all, he told me yesterday it was a thank you for making another one of his dreams come true. But Griff silenced me with a quick peck on the lips.

"Because you are everything I ever wanted in this life. I would not have been this happy about becoming a daddy if it wasn't with you. If it had been with some chosen mate. I might have been able to learn how to love her. With you, I don't need to learn how to love you though. With you, it's as natural as shifting, as natural as breathing. Now that you're pregnant I'm not just becoming a father. Our pup will be another testimony of our love for one another. So yes, at the moment we are struggling a bit, and just like you I wish we weren't. But we are not struggling to love each other. We are just getting adjusted to this new life. And with all the shit that has been thrown at us, we are forced to adjust to all of it at the same time. Of course that is going to cause some

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212 Ayla

288 Wouchers

issues along the way. But tell me, darling do you doubt how much I love you? Do you doubt if you love me?" He ended his speech.

But he was right I didn't doubt he loved me not for one bit. I don't think I have ever really doubted it. I

believe it when Scared to we just met but deep down I always knew. That's why I accepted him long before the six months were over. That is why if it hadn't been for Hannah and David we would have marked each other long the first six months ultimatum I gave Griffin were over. He had never been as right about anything as he was now. We haven't been together that long. Even for us werewolves we moved quickly, partly because we had to. Partly because we hated being away from each other, and the distance between the Silver Moon Pack and the White Oak Pack just had been too much.

We overcame it all, so it was silly to think we could not overcome this. We would, as we did everything. Because Griffin was right it had nothing to do with loving each other less. Part of the issue was that it felt like I never saw enough of him. And when I did it half of the time spent things. Or just sitting her was o next to each other both working, where we could hardly speak because we both were so engrossed in work. Soon things wouldn't be as busy, after my maternity leave I would be able to take on a much smaller workload. When I did not have to rush my education to be at a certain point.

Griffin had abandoned work when I went missing, it was only natural. No one had expected him to just go on full speed when his mate was missing and presumably in perilous danger. He did however want to keep his promise to only work weekdays. So he

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needed to work harder than ever to catch up with the backlog of work. Even trying to get ahead a bit. He could slow down a little and still be able to play catch up. If he hadn't made up his mind to be all caught up by the time our pup would be born. He wanted to be able to take the first two weeks off so he could help me. And properly get to bond with our little one. An idea I loved, I just needed to keep **in** mind what we were doing this all for.

Griffin's date idea was perfect, both in going on a date at a time when we needed it. And the date he took me on. I swore to myself that here two towns over where nobody knew us, I would forget all about my responsibilities for a few hours. Just focus on the man I love, when we get back home I will remember this day and Griffin's words. And not get so insecure about it. I would not let my hormones rule my feelings and emotions.

"Did you kids have fun on your day off together?" Isabella asked as soon as we sat down. We did and even if we were here on official business to request them to let us invite not one but 7 humans to our wedding. Which was a big ask, I loved the fact that we were a family first and foremost. They would treat our request the same as they would everyone else. Just the way we spoke to each other was different. Not that Isabella or Rodrick were ever the type to be overly strict and businesslike. That's why they were so loved as the leaders of the pack. They never acted like they were better than the rest of the pack. When the Moon Goddess created Alpha's and Luna's she wanted them to be the parents to the pack. The strict but honest and kind father figured. And the caring, nurturing mother who always had the best advice if you

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212 Ayla

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needed it. Rodrick and Isabella knew their roles and they had perfected them.

So we chatted about our date, about the furniture we looked at. How we never found a crib that matched the style we were going for. There was a lot of whitewashed wood, or worse wood veneer. It had seemed like the more natural style Griffin and I were looking for had gone out of style with the humans.

"Oh well there is no rush to get a crib yet, it's best if you start with painting the room and put new flooring in if you want to. But you came here to request something did you not?" Rodrick almost interrupted us.

It was not like him to try and rush the conversation and I had no doubt he was delighted about becoming a Grandpa. I had overheard him talk to my father, asking if Dad would mind it if the pup would call Rodrick Pops. Trying not to pay it too much mind, I listen to Griffin tell his parents about how last weekend went. How Riven was a wolf too, how he panicked when he saw the Crown Prince. Rodrick seemed to be highly amused at the fact another wolf had often teased his son and called him names in the heat of the

moment. It was comforting because it increased the chances of them granting us permission to invite Griff's human friends and their partners.

"Well, I see why you would want to invite them to your wedding. And I agree that at the moment you had no other choice but to tell them the truth about who you are. However, your mother and I have some things to discuss before we can come to a

conclusion. I will let you both know of our ruling by the end of the

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week" Rodrick told us, practically forcing us out of his office. Something was off about him, but I was sure he would tell us if he was ready for it. And I had enough to do today, so I thanked

them both and made my way over to my office.

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213 Ayla

I had been a little bummed that Rodrick and Isabella couldn't answer us right away. But I got it, like they said it was a big ask. Maybe too big even. Now I was in Isabella's office going over all the packs, and who their leaders were. And what I needed to know about them. A good Luna knows everything there is to know about the neighboring packs. As a Queen, however, I needed to know about all packs. I had dreaded this a little bit, as I expected it to be quite boring.

Of course, Isabella made it fun, aside from all the regular files. With all the static information about the packs and their leaders. Isabella had her own little notebook. It was filled with inside information. Not in a vicious way even if she had some choice. words to say about one or two Alpha's and Luna's. No, it was little things like "Alpha Mike has a wandering eye" or "Luna Bella loves. the jasmine tea from that small shop in the human mall" Those little snippets of information, and using that when she could. Like getting the jasmine tea if Luna Bella was about to finish. This is what made the leaders of the pack around the country feel so welcomed every time they visited the

Silver Moon pack. Now when I take over from Isabella in a few years I would be able to provide the leaders with the same details. The same eye to attention as Isabella had.

If nothing else it would show the leaders how much Isabella supported me as the new Queen of the United States wolf packs.

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It also saved me a ton of time in figuring out what every leader liked. Packs would change, and new leaders would take over between today and the day I would take over as the Queen. As they would all during my reign. It would only be adjusting it on **the** go. Which still would be a lot less hassle than reinventing the wheel would have been.

"Sweetheart, are you ready to go to the meeting hall?" Isabella asked me. Forcing me to give her back the notebook I had been. intently reading.

My neck cracked as I moved my head from right to left. I always find myself in the weirdest positions when I am reading. Now that my neck didn't feel stiff anymore, I nodded and got out of my chair. If it was not for Isabella I had forgotten all about the meeting we were about to go to. A meeting with Rodrick, Griffin, our Beta's and Gemma's, and lead warriors. It had been put on the back burner for a little while. But we needed to make some changes to the laws of this Kingdom, to assure things like what happened to the Blood Moon pack and the wolves living in it would never happen again.

"Thank you for joining us ladies, please have a seat" Rodrick spoke formally. It was not just the four of us now. It meant we needed to be more professional. Of course, everyone present here knew we were close. Still, this was an official meeting about the fate of the country. The Council of Elders would receive the records, not only would they be the ones to organize the trials if a leader would break these new rules. They had a veto right if they

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found our new laws to be unfair. So all in all we needed to do this right. Because we were all more than motivated to make this better.

If Alpha Phillip would not have been able to get away with how he ran his pack for so long. If anyone had noticed he would drive away omega's only keeping high—ranked members in his pack. If it had been clear he did not even let some pack members travel to go see family. Maybe he could have been stopped before, stopped before his son lost his mind. Hindsight was twenty- twenty, all we wanted to do now though was to make sure that things like what I went through never happened again.

"So we keep track of moves to other packs, but write down how big or small the involved packs are now. You know like a general head count. They don't need to include much personal info. I'm thinking just age, gender, rank." I suggested it was the first time I was in a meeting about changing the laws of our country. And I thought a lot about how I think we could improve the situation. Still voicing it out loud in such an official setting was **a** bit nerve- wracking.

"That would surely give us a lot of insides, are you sure about including the gender in that list of needed information though?" Rodrick asked me.

I got where he was coming from, after all normally gender would not have anything to do with moving to other packs. Nor would gender influence your rank, and this system was mostly set in

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place so that we could see if all packs welcomed all ranks. To prevent another small pack only consisting of high–ranked wolves. and their offspring. So it would just wither away. So I told Rodrick

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"I get your point, but some leaders still have archaic ideas about genders. I mean even from my own experience. Alpha Philip was far more willing to let a she—wolf omega join our pack. Because according to him she—wolves were weaker anyway. He would not let them apply for all positions either."

"Princess Ayla makes a valid point if a pack never accepts new male wolves into their pack. Or if we can see they never have a higher ranking she—wolf for example. It could give us cause to go and visit the pack. To at least check out what is going on?"

Isabella supported me before I had the chance to further explain my reasoning.

"If I may, my daughter is very IT savvy, as you know he went to study ICT at the human college. He has his degree now and is gearing up to come back to the pack permanently." Saphira, Isabella's Gemma spoke..

Going off to attend a human college, not living with your pack. With hardly any chances of meeting your mate was uncommon. for wolves. Saphira's pride about her son choosing this difficult. path was evident, though for a moment I did not understand what it had to do with the topic of our meeting.

"From what he told me, he should be able to create a program that will spot consistencies that we want to notice. If a pack has

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213 Ayla

1288 Vouchers

an extraordinary amount of wolves they will cast out leaving them to be rogues. Or if they never let she—wolves leave the pack." Saphira further explained, and it honestly was a good idea.

Griffin however was the one that got excited.

"I personally believe we should set up a meeting with John, as soon as he gets back here. I have been saying how we need to modernize some of our work. He could help with that, he could be in charge of it. And one of the things we could modernize would be this. We miss things when we are pouring over the details ourselves." Griffin stated.

There was something off about his voice, and I knew exactly what it was. It was the speaking. He poured over all the information known about the BloodMoon Pack when I

was missing only to come up empty–handed again. And I knew he still wasn't over it. Let's just hope the others either do not notice or do not mind. Because his idea is valid.

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214 Ayla

"Well, it is settled then, as soon as the Council of Elders has approved of it we will change the law. So every pack needs to provide us with monthly reports with headcounts of their pack. Including, rank, age, gender, and reason for moving. As soon as John moves back in we will set up a meeting with him to offer him a role as our IT specialist. Crown Prince Griffin, since you seem to have very set ideas as to what his role would entail. Can you draft up a job description, and figure out a pay and housing. situation? Please email it to the Queen, Princess Ayla, and myself so we can agree on it?" Griffin seemed eager to take on the extra load. Probably because it was a passion project for him.

We said our goodbyes and all walked out of the meeting room to retreat to our offices to get some more work done.

"Mom, do you still need Ayla with you? Because I wanted to grab a bite of lunch with her back at our place?" Griffin asked Isabella, my stomach rumbled loudly at that exact moment.

"No, you guys go ahead, have lunch and Ayla can meet me back **in** my office in an hour. I am going to see if your father wants to join me for lunch." Isabella answered looking for her mate who had already rushed off. It was not like him, he would normally stick around a little longer and chat for a bit. He might have perfected the art of being professional with us. He didn't like it all that much. That meant he would normally linger behind a little bit

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214 Ayla

to be able to catch up with us.

288 Vouchers

Then again, he was a busy man and we had spoken this morning. In a much more casual setting. He might not have seen the importance of staying behind this time. Rodrick was a sweetheart, and he loved his family myself included. But he was

ambitious and he loved being an Alpha and the King. He took pride in doing the best job he could and like his son, he needed help not to overwork himself.

"Okay so I know, mom and Dad have yet to decide if we can invite my gaming friends and their ma.. partners. But I figured maybe we could look at wedding invitations online. I will make us something to eat. Griffin suggested as we made our way to our apartment.

Of course, I loved the idea, planning for my wedding had become one of my favorite things. Since our date yesterday, and with Griffin making a conscious effort to not worry about our safety so much anymore. We finally were at a good place again and I loved it. So now spending time together eating something simple while we planned for our wedding some more, it was the perfect break from working. Funny how days ago I had been tired of how busy I was. And now looking at wedding invitations seemed like a break from all the actual work I was doing. I guess it was all about putting things into perspective.

Yesterday made me realize that it wasn't just Griffin who was to blame for how rocky we had been. I went from not trusting

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anyone because of my past, to constantly waiting for the other shoe to drop. To deem Griffin perfect and expect him to be near perfect all of the time. I mean he was still perfect for me as I hoped I was for him. That did not take away from the fact that we were both still flawed.

"I love that idea, but you are full of good ideas. Like when you told me I needed to go back to therapy. It has really been helping me out a lot." I confided in him just as we reached our door and he opened it.

He spun around grabbed me by the waist and pushed me against. the door he had closed again.

"I'm happy to be of service, in fact, I could be of service about your physical therapy tonight." He smirked eyebrow raised seductively.

There was no mistaking what he meant, but I was going to take. him up on his offer. Just not quite how he liked it. Pushing up. against him, batting my eyelashes I purred.

"I would love that Alpha, maybe tonight you and me can strip. down together" I almost lost my composure when I saw hist Adam's apple bob in his throat as he visibly swallowed. Almost like one of those cartoon characters.

"And then we can go on a run, to see if I can still outrun you. It's been a while since I went on a proper run" I finished talking, voice. still sweet, eyelashes still bathing.

A boisterous laugh burst out of Griffin, he wiped the tears from

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214 Ayla

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his eyes as he told me. "We will you little tease, but just for this I will try extra hard not to let you win" With that he packed my forehead and made his way to the kitchen. I made my way over to the living room where I had left my private laptop. At first, I found it wasteful to buy a work laptop when I still had a good private. laptop. Isabella had insisted, saying it was important to have a good work—home balance. And I had come to learn that she was right. Now I could just look at wedding invitations and eat my grilled cheese without all the notifications that had to do with work popping up.

"Baby, are you ready to" I had just cleared away the dinner plates and was about to ask Griffin if he was ready to go on the run. We said we would go on during lunch. I hoped he still wanted to go because we both had been too busy to talk about it after lunch. But I couldn't answer that question as I was interrupted by someone knocking on our door.

"I'll get it, Darling, hopefully whoever it is won't be long so we can go on our run soon" Griffin answered the question I couldn't finish. I dried my hands, so I could walk over to the front door to see who was there when I heard it.

"That is **no** way to speak about your parents, son. We really need to talk to both of you" I shook my head smiling. I probably would not be able to go on a run anytime soon, whatever it was Rodrick and Isabella wanted to talk to us about. It had to be important for them not to be able to wait until the next morning. Knowing it might be a long night I go over to the coffee maker to get some

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214 Ayla

1288 Vouchers.

coffee started. Before I make my way over to the living room where Rodrick and Isabella have set down on the couch. I am surprised to see something big covered by old blankets standing next to the couch close to where Rodrick is sitting.

"Ahh Ayla, good that you are here too, this topic concerns the two of you. Please have a seat." Rodrick smiled at me but it was almost like he was nervous. And so seeing someone so confident feel nervous about something instantly made me nervous too for what he was about to tell us now. My entire body tingled as I sat down, preparing for the worst.

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215 Ayla

"When we spoke this morning you told us that both of you

wanted a more natural crib for your pup. Unlike the modern styles you find at the baby store. So we hope you guys like our idea and will accept our gift." Rodrick states, making it clear this was his idea.

I was beginning to suspect what was wrapped up in old blankets. I just wasn't sure how they managed to find the perfect crib when we didn't. All I knew was that it was most likely why Rodrick seemed in such a rush after our second meeting of the day.

"First off, Mom and Dad, I'm so thankful you went out of your way to help us. But I have to say I am a little curious about what it is you brought us." It was Griffin who answered his parents. He voiced my thoughts as well as his own. Because I too was very curious about what kind of crib they brought into our living room. I just hoped I or better yet we would love it. Because I would feel awful rejecting a kind offer from my in–laws.

"Well then unwrap it, that is what you do with gifts right?" Before Griffin and I could stand up to walk over to the gift. Isabella added "Preferably together" So we did, we walked over to what we both knew was the crib together, we just didn't know what kind of crib it was and how they got it. I still didn't when we removed all the blankets, it was an older style crib, but it still looked brand new there was not a scratch on it.

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215 Ayla

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"Mom, Dad, are you sure?" Griffin mumbled something about this crib had made him feel emotional. I could only imagine him. reacting like this because it was a family heirloom of sorts. But again the state this crib was in seemed to contradict that idea.

"Well when you outgrew the crib, your father and I had it restored. There were some dents and scratches in the wood. But you know, we never got to fulfill our wish of putting a second baby to sleep in that crib. We're not sad about that anymore, not when we look at what we do have. But feel free, to be honest, if that's not ooomphhf" I knocked the air out of Isabella's lungs with how had I hugged her. Or maybe it was because it was so suddenly, as she was still explaining why they had gifted us Griffin's old crib.

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"I love it, and seeing how my mate practically jumped in your arms I feel safe to say she loves it too" Even without looking at Griffin I knew he was smiling I could just hear it in his voice. Rodrick smiled at me, winking I knew he found what Griffin told them amusing. Since it was true. That didn't stop me from thanking them myself. This time not with hugs but by using my words;

"Griff, is right I love it both how it looks. And the idea behind it and the fact it used to belong to Griffin" I told them. Of course, Rodrick still wanted a hug, like his mate had gotten. It was all in good fun, and we spent the rest of the night chatting about our future and our plans for the baby.

"Oh before we go, feel free to invite your human friends to the wedding. We trust the two of you. And the judgment you made" Rodrick told us, he winked and I was sure he knew this before. He

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1915 Ayla

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just needed to keep up his appearance as he would with any pack member. I'm still baffled some days by how I went from never wanting to find a second chance at love.

Comforting myself with the fact I would at least get to stay close to my parents. To finding a second chance mate, and a second family. That night. when I got into bed I felt a little lighter. The night had been a testimony to how good my life was slowly but surely becoming.

The past two weeks have flown by, now it was time to tell the rest of the pack I was expecting. It has been quiet for the last two weeks, with no drama, Griffin seemed less worried about everything. I just hoped that Cynthia would not come to the pack meeting. She hadn't ever since we banned her from the castle for two weeks a little while back. Or if she did, that she would not comment on the pregnancy news. If she did not make a scene during this meeting. Griffin might finally be fully convinced we were no longer in danger.

Despite getting some maternity clothes, I still mostly wore dresses because by now most of my clothes didn't fit. And I was scared that my shirt would rise up revealing the fact I was wearing pregnancy clothes. Now with this meeting, it was the first time I felt comfortable wearing it to a pack meeting. By the end of the night, they would all know I was pregnant, and I was sure they would be happy for me.

"Ready, Darling" Griff hugged me from behind, inhaling my scent. He was the one asking me if I was ready. I knew that question by

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215 Ayla

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now, it was not just asking if I was ready to go. He was asking if I was emotionally prepared. I used to need questions like that, I used to need some reassurance back when I was still timid and insecure.

Now with the way he was sniffing my mark, it seemed like he was the one who required the reassurance. I turned to face him, not wanting to let on I knew how much he needed me. Because honestly, I did not get it. I was more than sure he was happy with the fact that I was pregnant. Not only had he told me more than once. He showed it to me with everything he did. So it made no sense he seemed hesitant to tell the rest of the pack about it.

We had talked about finally being able to get started on the nursery this weekend. To match the aesthetic of the crib we scoured Craigslist for a rocking chair I could use as a nursing, chair. Shelves for storage and a dresser to change diapers on and to put

clothes in. We decided on a theme for the nursery. Every bit of furniture we collected from humans, Griffin told them that it was for a nursery. Griffin was the one to suggest that we would ask one of the kids in the pack if he would make a wall painting. I know the kid, but I hadn't seen much of his art. According to Griffin, he was more than talented. We wanted a mural with the White Oak from my old back and the silver moon from our pack. A bit like the necklaces Griffin gave me, to thank me for giving him a family.

"Are you ready, baby?" I ask him to see if he wants to open up to me and tell me what's on his mind. He doesn't he just gives me a fake smile, lying to me that he is excited to tell the pack that we are expecting. I want to know why he is lying but I have no time to

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try and figure it out. Because we have to leave for the pack meeting.
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216 Griffin

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Of course, Ayla figured out something was wrong. That's the problem with having a mate who is as intelligent as she is kind. She knows when something is wrong with me, and she cares enough to want to know so she can try to make it better. Try and make me feel better about whatever it is that is bothering me. Only I know she can't and I don't want to take away from this moment. I need to get my head out of my ass. This way it looks like I am not excited about telling the pack that we are pregnant and I am.

Every single member of our pack will be happy about this news. Well, all but one, but I don't think she will be present tonight. She never goes to pack meetings anymore. In fact, she hardly spends time with the pack. If she is not working her human job she is spending time with her human friends. Going as far as to spend some nights there. From what I understood she always asks Sam if he is okay with her going out and spending time with her friend. Only Sam still has a blind spot about his daughter. Now that she seems to be doing so much better on the surface who can blame him for letting her have some fun with friends? Especially since her behavior left her without any friends in the pack.

Even Anna no longer wants to be seen with Cynthia, turned out Aaron a member of our pack who went to college to get a law degree because he wanted to be the pack's lawyer is her mate. He still was involved with the pack business, he even came home during all the breaks from college. Breaks Anna and her parents would spend at her father's old pack, with her paternal family. That's why it took them so long to find out they were mates. Anna was elated to find out Aaron was her mate,

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216 Griffin

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and I get why. He is a good guy, most she—wolfs find him attractive, I can even say as a straight guy that he is a good—looking fellow. They went to pack high school together, shared some classes and they would always get along great.

Aaron on the other hand, has so much loyalty to the pack, and he has accepted Ayla without a shred of doubt. That he was disappointed that his mate had behaved like she did. He had asked Mom for her advice as the Luna. He loved her, he loved the girl he knew she could be, the girl who could be the perfect mate for him. The girl that he wanted to accept. as his fated mate in a heartbeat. But the thought of his fated mate, his marked mate being someone who did not respect the leaders of his pack like he does, stopped him from making a decision.

Anna was never the one who started things, she seemed to get swept up in Cynthia's plans. Mom told Aaron as much and convinced him to give her a chance. He did, he never told Anna to stop seeing Cynthia either. He would just make it a point not to spend time with Anna if Cynthia **was** there too. Already fed up with the problems it caused her, one day Anna had told Cynthia they were no longer friends. It was nasty half the pack saw the fight. A fight that Cynthia had once again started. Ever since that fight, she started spending more and more time outside of the pack. And every time she did and did not cause any issues Sam saw it as change. Most other pack members did too.

Cynthia was still **a** bit of an outcast and she would never not be. She had done too much harm to the pack before. But everyone figured she had finally learned her lesson. Most were nice to her. Not kind, it was a little distant but nice enough. Everyone figured Cynthia had her fill of social interactions with her human friends. To me, it didn't add up though. She could not go on a run with her human friends. Not unless she had told them what she was which would cause a whole other set of issues. There

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216 Griffin

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was just something wrong about how well-behaved and guiet she had been lately.

I did not want to but ever since Ayla told me Hannah works in the human mall, my mind had been racing. I tried to push those thoughts down, after all, I promised my mate and my family I would not stress out so much about our safety anymore. Last night when Ayla was sleeping peacefully beside me, I finally caved. It had been another three hours of staring at the ceiling hoping I could fall asleep, as my mind kept buzzing with questions about Hannah Cynthia and their connection. I

remembered Hannah telling Cynthia something when she was banned from the castle grounds. But for the life of me, I could not remember what it was.

In the end, when I was sure I wouldn't fall asleep I got out my laptop. Pulled up the security camera records of when the two she—wolves were locked up together. They both had their own cell. We believe even prisoners need to be treated fairly and have some privacy. I knew their cells had been across the hall from each other. Having looked back at the camera records last night. I could see they spent most of their days chatting. There was no sound so I could not hear what they had been saying. But in the hours between closing my laptop and now making my way to the pack canteen for the big meeting. I had thoroughly convinced myself of the fact that Hannah and Cynthia were planning something together.

Ayla said she saw Hannah startle, and she could tell it was genuine. And I don't doubt that, but seeing the person you are plotting against walk into your place of work must be a bit daunting too. It could very well be that Hannah just had a jump scar thinking she and Hannah were caught

in the act.

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216 Griffin

1288 Vouchers

We had reached the canteen now, and after a quick sweep of the room, I saw Cynthia was a no—show indeed. It meant that tonight we would have one more peaceful night. A time to enjoy the best news I had gotten since Ayla accepted me as her mate. I would enjoy celebrating it with my pack, and my loved ones. Telling myself not to let the fear of the known and the unknown ruin this special night. We had too many special moments ruined already. Tomorrow I would look into Hannah and Cynthia more to be sure that I was keeping not only my mate and unborn pup safe, but the rest of my pack too, and with it the nation. I just had to make sure Ayla would not find out about it. Not until I was sure something was wrong, or maybe I was wrong and in a week from now I could tell her she had been right. Confess to her how I had tried to find another danger lurking around the corner, but that there wasn't any. She might be mad at me for a few days but I would always prefer that over not keeping her and my pup safe when my gut told me that something was wrong.

83.65%

The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 217

217 Cynthia

Another boring meeting I would not attend, I already knew that bitch was pregnant. That's what my "job" amongst the humans had brought me. Just like I knew she was holding Griffin back again. She was almost gaslighting him. So she went through a bit of trauma, BIG DEAL. I honestly do not get why everyone keeps saying what she did to Griffin was normal. Why she was so well—loved amongst the entire pack. She was right in the beginning the Moon Goddess did make a mistake when she paired my Griffic and that bitch together.

I can still hear Dad blabbering on about how we should not meddle in the relationships of others. But that if I was so adamant to form an opinion on someone I hardly knew. "Throwing" around terms like narcissistic or gaslighting as he had called in. Giving me another lecture on how those are serious medical issues. You should not just use it as a label if you do not like someone. Only to then go on and on about how what Ayla went through was one of the hardest things a wolf could go through, and how much that kind of betrayal hurts. How it feels like someone pulled the rug out from underneath you.

Even Anna had started seeing it that way, then again that whole mess started after she found out Aaron was her mate. He was about to become the pack's lawyer and he didn't

look half-bad. But for me, I would never want a mate that weak. Adoring the pack leaders, wanting to do anything for them. Like how my dad always would. I hated that mentality. As I hated the idea of fated mates, who was the Moon Goddess to tell me what my rank in life should be.

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217 Cynthia

1288 (Vouchers

Something she decided the day I was born when she didn't even know me or who I was. It was utter bullshit. Look at my parents both average- ranked wolves, and when my mom, dad's fated mate died he almost lost. it. I was the one that saved him from hurting himself, he told me so often. I was his little Princess, his savior. He gave me most of the material things I ever wanted. But even with hardly being home because of how much he was working he did not manage to get me everything that I desired and deserved.

Griffin not having a fated mate was a sign, this country needed a real Princess. One that would help the country grow. A Queen that would look good standing next to someone as handsome and impressive as Grillin. He would lead the country and I would make sure we would have great parties. We would be the best–looking couple. Our pack would be thriving and we would be renowned for our parties. I was sure he would see how much I could offer him. The best thing was since we were both chosen mates we would not have to deal with all that lovesick shit mates deal with. Only for him to prefer a small problematic she—wolf above me.

All I wanted to do in the beginning was to drive her away. I did not. believe she truly loved Griffin. And if I had been successful I just would have spared our future King the heartache. That alone should have been enough for him to want to mate with me. Even if the idea of getting pregnant did not sit well with me. Giving birth to me was the reason my mother died, and I was scared it would happen to me too. I was just convinced we would be able to find a way out of that mess.

Only I had found myself in a whole other mess. I hated how strict Dad had become with me. Forcing me to pay rent and help pay for the groceries. To make matters worse he started dating again. His new girlfriend had plenty to say about my behavior. Like she had anything to

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217 Cynthia

1288 Vouchers

say about me. Now they had plans of moving in together. Telling me I could stay behind in my Dad's cottage. Not if I wanted to, Dad did not ask me permission to go live with that bitch. No, they told me, left me to deal with the consequences of their choice. For a few days, it had all felt so hopeless. The only thing I had going for me was my job at the clothing store. It was a lousy job but it paid the bills. And it got me out of the house because more and more I hated it.

I had been so desperate that I even considered reaching out to my fated mate. I had blocked him on all social media. I had even blocked his phone number when he didn't even have mine. He had written his down on a piece of paper. Hoping or maybe even expecting that I would give him mine. Of course, I never did, I still didn't want to, I just needed a way out. My plans to drive Ayla away and to become the country's next. Queen had failed. Now I needed a way out, I did not want to live in the Silver Moon pack anymore.

Just as I was desperate enough to reach out to him, someone else reached out to me. Not only did that mean I did not have to try to convince my fated mate I wanted to build a life with him. It meant I could have my revenge and end up living the life I had always wanted. Griffin had always just been the easiest way for me to get there. Or so I thought, but if I was offered another solution I would not hesitate to take it. The plan seemed to be very risky though, and I couldn't lose even more than I already had. Until my new friend showed me just how easy it would be. More so now that Her Royal Bitchiness Princess Ayla was once again belittling Griffin. Telling him to stop doing the things he had every right to do.

Well, her funeral I guess, literally even, she thought she had it bad before. Because David had wanted to be with her. His fated mate, regardless of what I felt about the whole fated mate bit. She would

61.19%

10:55

217 Cynthia

1288 Vouchers

someday soon, regret that she had rejected him. Shame I needed to wait until after the marriage, which honestly did not make sense to me. But fair I was not the one leading this mission as long as I would get my revenge and my title I would just do as they asked and not get too involved.

The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 218

218 Ayla

This doctor's appointment feels different. A week ago we told the pack I was expecting, that we were expecting. As we figured they would the pack was over the moon for us. Every single pack member came up to us to congratulate us. Krystel and Dean suggested a baby shower. They would plan it with Isabella and her Gemma and Beta because it needed. to surprise me. I would have been fine without a baby shower. That didn't mean I did not like the fact I would get to see my family again. And I knew how much the pack wanted to celebrate us and the life growing inside me. That is what makes this appointment feel different.

The first two times, I had to sneak around and make it look like I was there for business. Everyone would be too concerned if they saw their future Luna visit the doctor let alone frequently. Now Griff and I could walk to the pack hospital and have a seat in the waiting room like a normal couple. The wolves we passed smiled at us, some wished us good luck. But they all had an idea as to why I was about to get seen by a doctor and I could tell it made them smile. Just being able to be proud, to enjoy moments like this where we would hear our pup's heartbeat was amazing. Whatever it was that had been bothering Griffin the night of our announcement, it had nothing to do with him not being proud about becoming a daddy. That much was clear now, I still don't know what it was that made him so worried. But I let it go, he has to be the one that comes to me with his worries. I want to show him that I trust him now and that even when I feel he is keeping something from me, I will respect and support his decision.

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218 Ayla

288 ¡Vouchers

I hiss at the feeling of the cold ultrasound gel on my stomach. It's warm outside, and I did not expect the gel to be that cold. It doesn't matter though because it is only a minor inconvenience, and it means we will get to see our pup for the first time today.

"Here we have a head, the spinal cord, and here we see another head, this one is resting their head on their fist," The doctor says with a knowing smile.

She said this one, I know what this means but it's like I'm not processing the information. Like the explanation of what she means is hidden behind thick clouds.

"What do you mean this one doctor?" Griffin is able to voice the question that is on my mind too.

"Well, Princess Ayla, Crown Prince Griffin, the two of you are expecting twins" The doctor's smile goes wider as she tells us.

"Thank you so much, Darling, you are amazing and I love you so much" Griffin hugged me and thanked me before the doctor even had the chance to wipe the gel off my stomach. She didn't seem to mind though. And neither did I, I was just as happy as Griffin was to hear we were going to have not one but two pups in our lives soon.

"Do you want to go over and tell your parents? We can ask them if they have any

idea how we can get a second crib that looks like your old crib. Maybe they had it custom—made by someone **in** the pack?" Griffin smiles down at me as the doctor wipes the gel off my stomach.

"I am sure they will be excited to hear, and you're right we need a second crib now maybe they can help figure it out."

26.18%

218 Ayla

288 Vouchers

"Oh, Sweethearts, that is amazing news. I am so happy. And don't you worry about the crib, Christian was the one who restored our crib. I will commission him to make a second one. I am sure he can, it will be our gift to you" Isabella squealed, she kept hugging us. I always enjoyed seeing Rodrick watch Isabella get so excited. He would just stand back smiling at her, his face lit up with adoration. And just as he is doing now when he agrees they will give us a second crib. He will always calmly agree to everything his mate suggests.

"Mom, Dad; I appreciate the offer, but you really don't have to. All we wanted was some advice on where to get a similar crib" Griffin again voices what was on my mind.

"I know we don't son, we want to that's the difference. We gave our first grandchild their crib, we want to do the same for our second

grandchild." We can't compete with Rodrick's logic, we end up just thanking them before we have to leave to finally get started on all the work we still need to do.

"Shit, Darling I overslept I have a meeting in fifteen minutes, I am so sorry I cannot make your coffee this morning. I'm going to hop in the shower I love you" Griffin says before rushing out of the bed.

Deep down I know it is not his fault, we have been busy with our jobs, preparing for our pups especially since we found out we are having twins months ago, and the wedding planning. We are marrying a week from now, Tonight we have our bachelor and bachelorette party. It will also be the first time Griffin's gamer friends are visiting the pack.

50.42%

218 Ayla

1240 Vouchers

Another thing that is stressing Griffin. Still him not being able to make me a coffee in the morning for a second day in a row hurts me.

"You know what, Griffin you never have to make me coffee ever again if it is too much of a bother" I scream at him crying, it's like I am losing control and I hate it. It is only making me cry harder and making me feel angrier. I rush to the kitchen where I start to make myself a coffee. Slamming the cabinet doors, and the cup on the counter. I'm not even sure if I want to make sure that Griffin hears what I am doing. Or if it's still just all the anger about everything.

"Darling. I love you but you know how hectic things have been lately. So while I am so sorry I overslept, there was no need for you to scream at me like that. Just know that while I will go into the meeting angry with you and hurt by your response I still love you and I will see you during lunch okay." Griffin tells me, his voice cold, nothing like how he normally speaks to me.

A ball forms in my throat as my bile rises. I feel so lost, he is reassuring me, doing the one thing to reassure me. Still, I am angry with him, sad he will be busy for the rest of the morning working when he is mad at me. My coffee is long forgotten, I need a good long ery in the shower and then I need to eat something and get ready for my work.

And it's only during that cry in the shower that I realize what just happened, and what made me react like I did. I also realize that this cannot go on like this, and I know just what to do to make sure it doesn't

The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 219

219 Griffin

"What's the matter son, you look like someone pissed in your cereal?" Shit, if Dad is asking me why I look so upset. Everyone must see it, it's probably written on my face. It must be so obvious to everyone.

Honestly, I was bummed out about not being able to get Ayla her coffee in bed. I have just been so tired lately. But she did not need to blow up on me like that. I apologized the second I opened my eyes. Only to have her scream at me, she never wanted me to make her a coffee again. She took it all out of proportion, I love making her coffee in the morning spending that little moment of quiet before we needed to get out of our bubble. How can she think, it is a bother to me? Does she still not know me better than that? Instead of trying to rip the cabinet door off its hinges to make a point. She could have offered to make me a cup to go.

"Ayla and I fought this morning. I always make her a coffee in bed, I overslept this morning and she was so mad at me for not making her a coffee. I hate to say this about her, but she was so unfair. So yeah I am pissed off and a little hurt." I confess to my dad, and maybe I shouldn't, but I need to get it off my chest before this meeting begins.

"I get that, and it sounds like she was in the wrong. She probably will realize that soon. I remember when your mother was pregnant with you. Never tell her I said that, but her hormones had her acting a little crazy every now and then. To her, you not keeping a promise most likely was a big deal." I love how I can always turn to Dad for advice. Even when I didn't even realize I needed it.

219 Griffin

1288 iVouchers

When I think about it, I was annoyed when I woke up, so I probably

wasn't as calm and kind in telling her that I could not make her coffee. As I thought I was, and to be honest snapping like this over something wasn't like Ayla at all. Not even when she still was too scared to trust me. When she tried to push me away, she would blow up small things. As a way to pinpoint the differences between us. Like she wanted to prove to herself that she was right. That I would never go for a she—wolf like her. Ever since she told me, I had healed her, ever since she told me that I gave her, her faith

back when it came to love and mates. We had some small arguments as every couple does. But never that bad anymore, and the fight this morning had been worse. She just cried unwilling or maybe just unable to listen to what I was telling her.

And now I told my pregnant mate that I was hurt by and angry with her. Thinking back I don't think me telling her I still love her and will meet her for lunch would not help a lot. Fuck, as soon as the meeting is over I need to find a way to make it up to her.

Finally, the meeting with the Council of Elders was over. We presented the new laws to them, laws to make sure that there wouldn't be another pack ruined by their leaders. That no one would have to suffer the same constant fear as the members of the former BloodMoon pack had. We even added in some laws that packs could not cast out members for having a same—sex mate, or for being non—binary. And that both Luna's and Alpha's were roles in the pack decided by Blood bonds, family trees, and mate bonds. All things I found incredibly important. Things that made me love being the Crown Prince. Because with laws like these, I felt like I was helping the country change for the better.

Being a good mate to Ayla was far more significant to me though.

219 Griffin

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Focussing during the presentation had been incredibly hard. And that was with Dad knowing what was on my mind and picking up some of my slack. I would have drowned in my own thoughts if it had not been for him. Luckily enough it was an online meeting, so I did not have to act politely with the Council of Elders, as soon as they logged off the meeting was over. Normally me and Dad would chat for a little bit.

"Go see your mate and make it up to her" He urged me instead of making. me hang back to chat with him. To be fair I know he would have done the same if Mom was mad with him. It had only happened a few times. from what I can remember. Still, it was clear how much Dad hated it. He would always do something sweet to show her how sorry he was.

As I was walking to my office I was wracking my brains on what I could do to make it up to her. I was going to tell her how sorry I was. That bit was obvious but I knew Ayla deserved more than just my words. She deserved to know how truly sorry I was for treating her like I had. I would just have to explain I was just moody about the entire situation. I was thinking about taking her out for lunch, but both our schedules were jam–packed again so that would be practically impossible.

I could always ask Dillion to come up with ideas, he was a lot more creative than I was. And he was present at the meeting and heard me tell Dad all about the fight. He agreed with the general consensus that Ayla's hormones had probably made it all feel worse for her than it actually was. I had often fallen back on Dillion's help with surprising Ayla. Now to make things right with her again though I felt like I should come up with my own idea. She deserved that much.

But when I entered my office, I noticed it smelled like her. It usually does a little bit because she spends time here. As I spend time in her office, anytime we both have to work on the laptops, without any

219 Griffin

1288 Vouchers

meetings. Now the smell was so much stronger like she had just been here. I noticed a white envelope on my keyboard, placed so that I could not miss it. I was sure who left the envelope on my desk.

I just feared what was in it, because the way Dad and Dillion had spoken about pregnancy hormones had led me to believe that anything could be possible when your mate was pregnant and hormonal. And I was scared Ayla might have done something rash because I decided to make the fight even worse by talking to her like I did when I said my goodbye. Slightly nervous I opened the envelope it only had a handwritten letter in it. So I started reading it;

"Griffin,

This morning should have never happened, not the way it did at least. In I want you to know I thought a lot about what happened and what we said. And because of it I no longer want you to pick me up from my office during lunch.

I sighed as I read the letter, but I had to keep on reading.

The Prince's Unwilling mate by Mutya Chapter 220

220 Ayla

I hope Griffin would like the note I left him, and that he would come to our chambers. I had to stop working a bit sooner than expected to make him lunch. Fresh spicy beef taquitos, nothing fancy. But one of the first things we found out we had in common was our love for Tex–Mex food. Ever since that moment we would make each other Tex–Mex foods on special occasions. So I hoped by cooking him something like that again

would show him how truly sorry I was. Show him I gave a lot of thought to how I would make this up to him.

"Darling, I found your note, are you okay?" Griffin bursts in sounding worried. When in the letter I left him I told him I was going to make it up to him. Why would he be worried? I don't know if it was the letter or if he just regretted that silly fight we had as much as I did. But when he walked in he pulled me into a hug that was so tight that it almost left me breathless.

"I'm sorry Griff, I know you didn't oversleep on purpose. I am just so emotional, I don't want to use my hormones or pregnancy

as an ex Believe me I am truly sorry for how I reacted but I felt so out of control when I did. I promise you next time when I feel like me feelings are out of control I promise you to take a break and not go off at you as much as I did." I told him in between kisses. He acted like he missed me and I loved it.

"I know darling, and I will try to keep in mind that sometimes your reactions are not your own. To be honest I was a bit annoyed with myself and the entire situation. I could have handled everything a little

220 Ayla

288 IVouchers

better too. But here we are" Griffin had stopped kissing me to answer

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We enjoyed our lunch, never mention the fight again. We made up, we both were a part of the problem. That is being in a relationship though, if my time with Selene when I was supposed to be in a coma showed me one thing. Then it would be the fact that the mate bond was not a magic fix to it all. Finally, I recognized the mate bond and having a mate for what it was. A gift from the Moon Goddess to help us find the wolf that would be able to love us,

no other. To find the one wolf on this earth.

that could help you grow and accomplish your dreams. As you would be able to help them and love them like no one else could. It wasn't a mistake. Or **a** lifetime sentence, it wasn't a fairy tale that would have a happy ending regardless either. It was gift and like any other gift you needed to treat it with care to let it thrive.

"Darling, wake—up Kate, Tim and Daya will be here in an hour but this time I made you a coffee" The aroma of freshly brewed coffee and the scent of my mate filled my nostrils. Making me wake—up with a big smile on my face. Both for two of my favorite smells greeting me before I even opened my eyes. And because I would finally get to meet my baby niece today. By the time Kate delivered I wasn't able to travel by airplane not with being pregnant with twins. Kate and Tim had combined Dan and my name to make up the name of their pup. I never felt so honored as at the moment when Kate and Tim video called me to introduce me to their pup and tell me what her name was. Tomorrow we have

"Not to dwell on yesterday, but I plan to make it up to you that I broke my promise. I know we talked about it and the issue is resolved. It has nothing to do with that though. I just love making you feel special.

220 Ayla

"Griffin promises me

288 Vouchers

He doesn't need to but telling him so won't stop him, I just hope that with all Kate, Tim and Daya arriving today and the gamer friends. arriving tomorrow. Griff and I won't get sucked in by all the work and socializing with our guests. Not to the extent where we forget about each other. Not so close to our wedding day. I mean that is why we had so many guests over at once. Next month we would get married, we had decided it would be better to have Mike and the others over for a trial.

run.

Staying with the pack for a few days, so that they and the pack could get used to each other. Kate and Tim had planned a trip to surprise us. They knew how much I wanted to see, hug and hold Daya. They didn't know the weekend they decided to come over was the weekend that Griffin's gamer friends were here. In the end having wolves from other packs over did something to pack life. And it would be the same on our wedding day.

"Uggh I don't know what it is but I am so jittery. You would think I made my coffee with an en energy drink" Dean huffs.

Ever since his almost breakdown when he took me to the airport he has been back in his function as my Gemma. Not only did we become friends, like I hoped we would be. And he was so good at his job. With him and Krystel getting along great too, it had all worked out perfectly. And I was glad I could have convinced him to stay on board. And while I of course hoped he would find a mate that would be willing and able to move in with the Silver Moon Pack so I could keep him on as my

220 Ayla

Gemma. His happiness would always come first.

288 Vouchers

"Maybe, it's because we have a lot of guest over this weekend. Most even human?" I suggest because I wanted him to know that I would not blame him if he was. To most wolves, if their leaders invited others to their pack. They wanted to welcome the leader's personal guest, make their leaders proud. That is what our pack would feel about the gamer friends and their partners since personally had invited them. Both Griffin and I knew that this was a bit different thought. The guests we had personally invited were humans. And humans don't always deal. well with wolves or other creatures they consider to be mythical. So we did not mind our pack, not even our close friends or direct employees to be a bit hesitant.

"No, it's almost like they are happy nerves. You know the feeling you get when you know something good is about to happen? Only this time I have no idea what the good that is about to happen is going to be" Dean, shrugs as he answers me, before we both get back to work. We have enough to do as it is.

"Shit, Ayla, do you smell that, we need to, no I mean I need to you don't. How can this be, tell me this has got to be a mistake right[®] Dean suddenly jumped from his chair and I can't tell if he is excited or scared.