## Luna On The Run: I Stole Alpha's Sons by Jessica Hall

## Chapter 11

Axton

A few hours earlier

Derrick got me good, yet it didn't save him from Khan. He knew it was all over the moment I shifted. Khan is a savage and feared by most Alphas in the city, and now Derrick knows why. I've put up with his shit long enough, but to do that to his own daughter? My mate? He had to know it was coming.

"Will you sit still?" Eli hisses at me as he tries to stitch my arm.

We are currently at the council. I have been placed in an antechamber after the fight broke out with Alpha Derrick. I got escorted out back while he got escorted to the hospital. Luckily for him, Elena was not in the same hospital because I would have finished what I started; I would have let Khan end him, taken his pack, and banished his mate from the city.

"It's just a scratch," I tell him, looking at my arm, the tissue protruding out like it's been opened with a can opener.

"It's too deep to heal on its own. Fucking stay still."

I roll my eyes at him. I have had worse, and I am anxious to get back to check on my mate. I'm hoping to take her back to the packhouse tonight.

Hearing the door open, Elder Stiles, former Alpha of the Crident Pack, steps inside. He's wearing his black robe, which I find rather outdated. No way would they catch me wearing those old robes. I don't give a fuck about their boring traditions. That dusty old robe looks older than him, and that is saying something.

He looks as if he already has one foot in the grave, and his skin reminds me of moth-eaten silk. His complexion would make Casper the Ghost jealous, with its transparency, every vein prominent beneath his skin, to go with the white hair barely hanging onto his scalp. Werewolves age way slower once hitting adulthood. When we moved to the city, Eli told me Stiles was one hundred and eighty-three years old, and he fucking looks it.

"Alpha Axton," Elder Stiles says, stepping into the room with hands clasped before him.

"Elder." I nod respectfully.

He sucks in a deep breath, letting it out slowly. "Neutral territory, son," he says, letting those words sink in.

"He swung first."

"I know, but we have rules for a reason. Neutral ground is a safe place for packs to convene. Alpha Derrick was being removed from the council, not just for Elena's involvement with you, but because of the punishment he bestowed on her, and now you must be punished for your part."

Eli stops and sits back.

"We own most of the city now. You can't remove my title or sanctioned land," I tell him.

Elder Stiles shakes his head. "Not my intention. This city has been run by us for decades, by the council, and I appreciate your desire to, as you young ones say, 'get with the times.' My son has been saying the same thing for years.

"So, after much deliberation, we don't want the punishment to extend or ruin your chances with the council. You still hold your rights and title within the city and will lead the council, but justice must be served. It doesn't look good if the council members aren't punished for their indiscretions, Alpha."

I nod, relieved I won't have to challenge the other Alphas to keep the title.

"So, what's the verdict?"

"Twenty-one day suspension, the land tax on your recent purchase shall be doubled, and you can't take on your title in the council for those twenty-one days. You can elect to appoint someone on your behalf to fill the spot until you can move into the official title. You can appeal the decision, but twenty-one days isn't that long, Alpha," he says, motioning toward Eli.

I look at Eli. He nods quickly, but I know expecting him to step into my role as Alpha for the next twenty-one days is a big ask. However, I can still pull the strings, but only from the sidelines for now, not in public.

"I accept," I tell him.

Elder Stiles bows his head. "We'll handle all the legal processes upon your return. All council meetings have been suspended until then, Alpha."

"What about the vampire issue? Is that meeting still not going ahead?" I ask him.

"It isn't an issue here yet. Surrounding cities, yes, but no sightings here. If one is made before that time, it would be a matter of emergency, and rules will be overturned in that

case. And you have fourteen days to pay for the title change-over."

"It'll be paid by morning," Eli tells him.

"Very well. Beta Eli. Alpha Axton," he says before leaving, and I sit back as the door closes.

"I was honestly expecting a worse punishment." I admit. Eli raises an eyebrow at me. "Really? You are the head of the council in twenty-one days. Would you want to piss off the man that controls the city? I expected worse, honestly, especially after what Khan did in there."

Once Eli is satisfied with his patch job, he finally allows me to leave. Khan is still a little butthurt about being suppressed by the sedative darts I had to pry from my damn ass. However, he is excited to be heading back to our mate.

Once we arrive at the hospital, though, my men stationed there are in complete disarray as they race around the premises, making me wonder what is going on. I curse the sedatives when because they've stunned the mind link temporarily, and I

look at Eli to see what is going on. He stiffens, knowing something I don't, as we enter utter chaos.

The guard stationed at the end of Elena's ward looks around nervously before his shoulders drop. "Alpha, we have come across an issue."

Eli grabs my arm and growls at the man. "You didn't think to use the link or fucking call us over this?"

"We thought we would find her. She couldn't have gotten far," he retorts.

"What are you talking about?" I ask them, my heart racing, knowing this has something to do with Elena.

"After her ultrasound, she went straight back to her room; she never left. I saw her friend leave, but she was in the room. I checked on her half an hour later, and she was no longer in the room." He cringes and staggers back as Khan overrides the wolfsbane burning in our system and snarls a growl at him.

"I'm sorry, Alpha, but I think our Luna has run away."

I look at Eli, turning toward the stairs leading to the ward where she is supposed to be when I stop.

"Wait, why was she having an ultrasound done?" I ask Eli, and he shrugs, looking unsure. Shaking my head, I race up the steps when I see the doctors in a discussion in the middle of the ward, looking as if they are about to go through a shift change. One of our pack doctors stands in the center, and the moment he sees me, he drops his head. Doctors are the only people within a pack that have the power to override an Alpha.

The council has laws to protect pack doctors; they are to serve and protect pack members, and being ordered by Alphas could damage patient care. Normally, I would agree wholly, but then I see him pale and about to run.

"Doc!" I growl.

He sighs, turning slowly to face me as Eli finally catches up with me before putting himself between the doctor and me, making me look at him. I tilt my head to the side, looking at my Beta.

"Eli?"

"Not here," Eli says when murmurs break out amongst the nursing staff. People move toward their doors in the ward to look at me standing in the main foyer. I glance around, wondering what is going on when my eyes dart to the waiting area and the TV high up on the wall.

Pushing past Eli, I move toward the small sitting area and peer at the TV. The heading reads: "Luna on the run, and she stole Alpha Axton's twins."

I blink at the screen, praying for this to be another Alpha with the same name. However, I have yet to meet one who shares the same name. My stomach sinks, and I turn to face the doctor, who cowers behind Eli.

"Axton?"

"Is it true?" I ask him.

"Yes, we can't find her anywhere."

"What about—" I can't say it, instead staring at the screen over my shoulder. "Is Elena pregnant?" I ask him.

The doctor pales before nodding. "She said she wanted to tell you. Had I known she was going to run—"

I growl, my entire body shaking with the urge to shift. "Fucking lock it down," I snap at Eli.

I have no fucking rank right now, and he has to do it.

"We have already locked down the hospital, Alpha," the doctor blubbers.

"Not the hospital. Lock down the fucking city!" I growl, looking at Eli, who nods before rushing off.

"You'll be dealt with later. Report to the fucking packhouse after shift," I tell him before stalking out after Eli.