

The Luna Trials by Marissa Gilbert

Chapter 31 - 32

1. 31. You Saw Nothing

Kyle knew what he had to do very well. He might have been the good guy who loved joking around and having fun, but at the same time, he *came* here with one purpose and one purpose only – to protect his best childhood friend at all costs. And this time blogging as the Truthteller wasn't going to cut it.

He knew it the moment he saw that piece of garbage in the hall and had to pretend that nothing was happening. But the more he observed Zack Morgan, the faster he came to the realisation that he would have to deal with him personally. He had already seen his friend in the pit of despair, and he wasn't going to let that traitor push her back again *right* when she started to

return to her usual self. It was surprising that the North influenced Savvy in such a way, but Kyle was ready to take it. Whatever made her happy. They grew up like siblings since their parents died at about the same time, and other than her, Reid and Gideon, Kyle had no one else.

It was easy to find Zack's room. He already knew where the guest wing was, and *from* there, he relied on the asshole's scent. The stench of revolting mint led him to the door, and he heard moans coming from the inside. He was doing it again. Even after seeing his mate tonight! Knowing what it would make her experience far too well.

Kyle's fists clenched involuntarily as he heard a loud slap and more moaning.

"Yes, baby, like that!" Zack grunted on the other side of the door, and the next moment Kyle knocked the whole thing out with his foot. The girls in the room screamed and ran in opposite directions from the luxurious bed in the centre, leaving Zack alone with the one who didn't manage to get away as he was still holding her hands crossed at her back and barely managed to

pull out.

"What the..." The werewolf didn't even get a chance to finish his sentence as the lycan stormed his way and grabbed his throat, throwing him against the wall. He could hear the sound of a few bones crushing at impact, but it wasn't even nearly enough.

Three girls. He planned to have sex with three girls tonight just to hurt Savvy. Kyle never had a mate, and he couldn't even imagine what kind of pain that was. However, he heard some things. Muscles being torn from the bones, skin peeled, thick needles pierced into each inch again and again... Those were just a few comparisons that came

to his mind now. And he wanted Zack Morgan to experience each of those. He got one of the best mates possible, and this was what he was doing to her. Unbelievable!

The rage went through every cell of the lycan's body.

The girls hectically tried to gather their things and leave. They were all werewolves. Probably maids or someone of lower ranks. There was no way a lycaness would participate in something like this with a mere werewolf like Zack. Not thinking twice, Kyle closed the distance between the two of them and, lifting Zack up by his hair, started punching him again and again until his fist was properly bloodied.

The pathetic being tried to block a few punches and then tried kicking Kyle in the chest, probably to push him away. But the lycan only chuckled when he grabbed the prick's fist and

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twisted it to ensure it was broken too. Zack’s painful groan sounded like music to his ears.

Another punch – and his lip was split, blood gathering in the corners of his mouth, One more – and the eye was so swollen. He probably couldn’t see with it anymore.

Kyle didn’t wish to stop. In fact, he wanted to continue until this man was erased from the face of the planet

It should have been Savvy’s kill, but something went wrong today and she didn’t finish him off. However, Kyle did not intend to let continue her suffering. She would forgive him sooner or later. She always did. But that piece of trash would be dead and wouldn’t be able to hurt her anymore

“Stop!” he heard a voice, and someone’s hand grabbed his. Yet Kyle didn’t plan to stop, so he just snapped his head to that person and snarled at... her.

Petra's mentor, Evelynn, didn't even flinch. Out of everyone in this castle, she was the last person he expected to see.

"Go away," Kyle growled loudly, his wolf barely holding back. They both wanted Zack's blood. All of it

Evelynn's grip on him became tighter, and he felt her claws elongating, digging into his skin until it bled too. Surprisingly, that brought him back to his senses, and this time he furrowed his brows at her.

"Trust me, he deserves this!" The lycan clenched his lips.

"I have no doubt," the she-wolf in front of him released him and fixed her perfect hairdo, her chocolate hair shining in the light of the candles in the room.

Candles! The asshole lit up candles for his fours*me!

One of the girls was ready to leave, but Evelynn turned to her and commanded, "Stay right there! Everyone!"

Surprisingly, all three she-wolves froze on the spot.

"Just pretend you didn't see anything." Kyle told her and turned back to Zack, ready to connect with his nose again. It still wasn't broken, and this just wouldn't do.

"if you kill him, your girl will be eliminated!" Evelynn said calmly and went to close the now crooked door. "If that's what you want, then be my guest."

Kyle wanted to crush the bastard's skull; however, he knew very well that he couldn't make such decisions on behalf of Savvy. She did not want to be eliminated. That was for sure.

His eyes locked with Zack and the werewolf smirked at him, "See, you can't do anything, boy!"

This earned him yet another punch. Not a fatal one, but enough to knock a few teeth out of his mouth and send him to the floor where he belonged.

Kyle was breathing heavily, not knowing what to do now and how to calm his nerves. Luckily for him, Evelynn placed her delicate hand on his shoulder and gestured to the exit.

"Let's go," she said calmly, and he followed her. But the woman stopped at the door and turned to look at the three girls in the room. "No word of this to anyone. If you say anything, it will be your word against mine. And trust me, the King, the Princess and

literally everyone else will believe me over you. That includes you too, Alpha. You are a stranger in the North. A stranger who

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no one likes. I have a backup of at least four Northern Alphas behind my back. Don't test me."

"Not planning to," Zack spat blood on the floor and wiped his mouth angrily. He could barely stand on his feet

"Let's go," Evelynn grabbed Kyle and pulled him out of the room.

She was walking firmly, and for a while, he wasn't sure where she was taking him. Until she pushed one of the doors, and they found themselves inside cosy chambers in green and beige tones. The space was much bigger than what was offered to him, Zara and Savannah.

"Is this your room?" Kyle wondered, and she nodded affirmatively, getting fresh towels out of the wardrobe.

"To the bathroom," she ordered curtly, and now he was intrigued. "What is this, foreplay?" he chuckled as he followed her order.

"In your dreams!" She rolled her eyes and placed the towels on the sink. "Strip and get into the shower."

Now he looked at her with a smirk, "I am getting some really mixed signals here, Lynn."

"It's Evelynn to you," she corrected him with a sneer. "Hand me your clothes and wash off the blood. Clean the shower after yourself too, as I am not doing it. And don't think for a moment my help to you is free of charge."

"Oh?" he cocked his brow and unbuttoned his shirt quickly. "So, you want something from me then?"

"Of course, I do." She didn't even flinch when he got rid of the shirt entirely and started unbuckling his pants. "Otherwise, I'd push you off that hypothetical cliff now and call Princess Elene myself. Then watch you and your girl burn in her wrath while sipping my wine."

"How cruel!" Kyle lost his pants and stood before her, waiting for a reaction, but only heard a laugh as Evelynn turned on her heels.

"Get it done fast! You are going to get Petra out of today's mess before you leave my room," she warned him, walking away.

“Seriously?” he scoffed, following the woman with his gaze and finding her incredibly attractive in this boss mode of hers. “You think Petra still has a chance to marry Kai?”

“She doesn’t,” Evelynn shook her head and turned to glare at him. “Neither do I want her to. She was never a candidate. But believe it or not, her performance here will impact her whole life. If she doesn’t meet her mate, and not everyone is so lucky, she would have the best Northern Alphas asking for her hand. If she fails, she will be a laughingstock. I can’t afford that.”

“You really love her, don’t you?” Kyle leaned against the doorframe with his hands folded on his chest. Still bare to her gaze.

“She is all I have,” Evelynn confessed unexpectedly and then erased emotions from her face in less than a second. “So, chop-chop! You have a lot of work to do!”

Savannah wiped her eyes again to make sure it wasn’t some kind of illusion.

“Now?” she giggled and looked at Kai’s excited face. “I am a little underdressed, don’t you think?” “Don’t tempt me, woman,” he growled, and while she expected him to push her back on the

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bed and have his way with her, she saw him taking off his jacket, only to wrap it around her shoulders. The King then went to the wardrobe to find something she did not anticipate. Good hiking boots

“Really?” Sawy arched her brow at him as he knelt in front of her to help put them on, clearly in a hurry, lacing the shoes up.

“Really,” he confirmed with a grin as he took her hand and pulled her after him. He was wearing a grey wool sweater and jeans; somehow, she liked it more than the suits he had to put on for the official events. It suited him more.

As he led her out of the castle, the night sky was dusted with the stars. It seemed that not a soul was around except for the guards on their usual posts.

“Where are we going exactly?” she wondered and saw the corners of his lips curling into a smug smile.

“It’s a surprise!” he said as he brought her to a huge car next to the gates. This was already not what she expected at all.

Kai took the driver’s seat, and she was right next to him when they drove off. He was taking her to the mountains surrounding the castle. She always wondered what was up there.

Well, now she had a chance to see for herself.

The narrow icy serpentine roads made Savvy remember a few old prayers to the Moon Goddess, but the view of the castle, the small towns down below with their glimmering lights and the northern woods that stretched for miles and miles made up for pretty much everything. However, mostly it was thanks to the fact that he just came back from a battle and went straight to see her and take her to... Moon Goddess knows where. This was the most romantic thing that anyone had ever done for her,

Unless he was going to push her off that mountain, of course, but the pure excitement on his face told her it was nothing of the sort.

“Is it really safe for us to go outside alone again?” she asked and bit her lip at once, knowing that it was a sensitive topic for him.

“No worries,” he assured her with a chuckle, “every inch around the castle is heavily protected. My warriors are everywhere here. You will not see them, but they are close.”

“Nice to know,” she mumbled and looked at him apologetically. However, the Lycan King only placed his hand on top of hers and gave it a light squeeze. This little gesture of reassurance brought peace to her at once.

Soon the car stopped at a place Savvy would never have predicted it could stop. She looked out of the window again and realised that only two feet from the door of her car was a steep hill descending into the white mist. She couldn’t even see the ground behind the fog.

“Come this way,” Kai offered her a hand and helped her to get out through the driver’s seat, which she gladly accepted as she wasn’t a big fan of heights.

Savannah noticed that he took her into what looked like a cave. He had an old camping lantern in his arm, which he switched on almost immediately to illuminate their way.

Savvy gasped when she saw the cave’s walls covered with carvings. Intricate patterns revealed the pictures of wolves and people, lycans and bears, each chisel mark crisp and

well-formed. She quickly realised that they weren't just images. They were stories and she had never seen anything like it.

But Kai ignored all that and kept walking, tugging her after himself. "Wait," she tried to stop him. "What is this place? Is that... Fenrir?"

She pointed at an image of a huge wolf who was carved and then painted black all over. Next to him stood a woman in a beautiful dress, with a crescent in her hair.

"And is that the Moon Goddess?"

"That's just some maiden," the King stopped for a moment and then pointed at a picture of a woman with a crescent crown and on a throne, wearing armour and with a sword in her hand, "That is the Moon Goddess."

"Huh," Savvy stopped. "We paint her differently in the West."

"Yeah, I know," Kai snorted, finally making a stop and letting her admire the ancient art. "You paint her in pretty dresses."

"You are saying that as if there is something wrong with that!" Savvy looked at him with a challenge, waiting for his answer.

"It's just ... she is the most powerful woman and goddess. *We* see her as a warrior deity. That's all."

"So?" Savannah let out a little laugh. "Do you think a pretty dress will suddenly make her less powerful or less of a warrior?"

"I feel like it's a trick question and choose not to reply to that!" The Northern King made a wise choice and grasped the Princess' hand again. "Come on! I don't want us to miss it!"

They walked through a tunnel with carvings until Savvy saw a round opening in one of the walls. This one also went straight to the cliff, and she hoped that this wasn't their final destination

The flicker of hope, however, was soon extinguished by Kai, who threw a blanket on the ground right next to the edge and placed the lantern nearby, gesturing for her to join him.

"Come, Savvy, it almost started."

Chapter 32

“Okay” she sat beside him hesitantly, unsure what to expect. “You are intriguing me, Kai Fionnlagh.”

“Savannah, I haven’t even started yet,” he winked at her and wrapped his large arm around her frame. She fitted nicely under it. Just as if they were made for each other,

They sat like that for a while, and absolutely nothing was happening. Except for the two of them hearing their hearts beating in unison and the stars shining brightly above their heads.

Savvy giggled, remembering something. “What is it?” Kai asked, and she tried to avert his gaze. “It’s nothing,” she lied.

“It’s something,” the King insisted, pulling her closer and enjoying her warmth mixed with that intoxicating bluebell scent

“Well,” Savvy snorted because she couldn’t hold it back anymore. “I just remembered that you call yourself the North Star.”

“First of all,” Kai tapped her nose gently. “I am not calling myself that. People call me that”

“Changes everything!” the girl snickered, and he tightened his grip on her. He always wanted to have her closer

“And it has a meaning behind it,” he pointed out, shooting her a mischievous look. He said nothing else, and Savvy lost patience. “Don’t stop now!” she jabbed him with her elbow, and he pretended it hurt. “Ouch!”

Savannah’s face faded when she realised he could have been wounded after all. Kai read her worried gaze correctly. Her concern warmed his chest slightly.

“Just kidding,” he snuggled the princess, kissing her temple and then pointed at the sky. “Look, it’s over there. The North Star. Since ancient times it had been of special significance to us northerners. Not only it’s one of the first stars to appear in the sky, but it’s also one of the brightest. Wherever a northerner finds himself, he or she can always find the way back to the North just by walking towards this star. It will always lead them back home.”

“Kai,” Savannah breathed out with a gentle smile on her lips. “This is actually beautiful.”

“I think so too,” he chuckled, brushing his nose over her cheek. “This is why each King here is called the North Star. He is supposed to be the guide to his people and to make sure North always remains their home.”

"It makes much more sense now," she turned to look at him but found their lips way too close to each other all of a sudden. His warm breath was caressing her skin, and she couldn't help but inhale his scent of fresh forest and pine, He pecked her lips gently, and she responded to

him, leaning, forward and doing the same, luring him in. She didn't want to pull away and was glad when he finally tugged her closer, burying his free hand in her hair and deepening the kiss.

Pleasant goosebumps rippled all over her. They couldn't have enough of each other, and it was so obvious now. Too obvious...

Something cold landed on her cheek, and she winced at the new sensation, trying to ignore it. But then it happened again, and she had to blink it away from her long lashes when she suddenly realised and broke the kiss.

"Snow!" She gasped and looked at Kai, who seemed to be mesmerised by her instead. "It's snowing!"

A knowing smile formed on his lips as he watched her excitement, and she realised that this was what he had brought her here for.

"The first snow..." The words stuck in her throat. He brought her to watch the first snow... An event of significant importance to the northerners.

"First snow," he confirmed her suspicions with a nod and locked her in his arms again. "Savannah, here in the North, you only greet First Snow with a person who has your heart. In the olden days, winters were harsh, and often people couldn't move around much during the coldest months. Meeting the First Snow together was a promise to spend the winter together, however good or bad it was. It was a promise to love each other even during the darkest days and to stay together through all the hardships. It meant that two people loved and trusted each other with their lives."

She sucked in a deep breath, feeling her heart racing in her chest. He was so serious about all this. It was slowly sinking in ...

"Savvy," he took her hands into his, "I want to spend many winters with you. I ... want to spend all my winters with you."

His hand went for the pocket of his trousers, and Savannah got scared. Everything was happening so fast!

Kai got out something silvery and sparkling, making her gasp again at the sight of a beautiful pendant on a delicate chain. She understood what it was at once as the little diamonds were glimmering in the light of their little lantern, She saw that pendant in all those history books

she was reading here. The northern Lunas of the past were wearing this around their necks on the old paintings.

A scattering of diamonds adorned a four-pointed star with four smaller rays between them, and one larger diamond flaunted precisely in the centre of the exquisite pendant.

“The North Star necklace,” the King confirmed her thoughts. “Only my Queen can wear it, and today I want to give it to you.”

“Wait!” She grasped his arm, and he froze with a tense puzzled expression on his face, his lips clenched so tight they formed a thin white line.

“Why?” He said only one word, but there was so much in it. She hated herself for ruining this moment, but he was talking about trust, and she had to ensure nothing was hidden between them.

“Before you decide whether to give this to me or not, I have something to tell you.” She sighed heavily, watching him lowering his hands with the pendant, realising one thing... she wanted nothing more than him placing it on her neck. She wanted something else on her neck from him as well... she wanted everything he could have given her.

“Speak,” he said, his voice hoarse to the point of being unrecognisable. “Please, Savvy, speak!”

Do you remember how I told you about my mate?” She asked and saw his Adam apple twitching

“You said it didn’t work out,” Kai replied dryly.

“That’s true. It did not.” She admitted this without regret and noticed a trace of relief on his face. “I trusted him because of our bond. I believe that the true mate bond is sacred for everyone ... but I was wrong. He betrayed me on the very night we met.”

Kai’s fists clenched tight, and for a second, she was worried he’d break the delicate chain he was holding. However, she had to go on.

“We were preapring for the war with red foxes and bears, and I heard him talking to the Fox King Castiel over the phone,” she continued. “They discussed how they would kill Gideon and share his land and power. My so-called mate promised to that fox that he would take care of me, that I would be nothing more than his breeding machine producing royal pups for him.”

Kai swore in a momentary fury. She didn’t know that word because it was something in the ancient northern language, but she knew a curse when she heard one.

"I had to run first thing in the morning to deliver the information about the traitors to my brother, and he was chasing me with his pack. They would have killed me if they could back then. Of that, I am sure." She stopped just for a second to gather more strength. It wasn't easy to share this part of her story. "I got to the werecats' territory and asked for Asylum. They helped me. Naya was there. This was when I tried to reject him

"Tried?" Kai was barely controlling the rage of Asgard inside of him. The wolf was already asking for blood.

"He did not accept my rejection," she gulped and looked him in the eye.

"Where is he now?" The Northern King gritted his teeth, already planning how he would kill that man. "I am sure I can help him to find the right words."

"That's the thing, Kai," Savannah sighed. "He is here. Zack Morgan, the werewolf who is your important guest now, is my mate."

It all hit Kai at once. Of course! He knew that this man was the traitor in the West. He should have guessed when she first mentioned the betrayal. He felt like an i***t for welcoming this basterd into his house, for parading him in front of Savannah and asking her to tolerate him. But he also experienced an irresistible wave of jealousy toward her. He thought that Savannah and her mate mutually rejected each other, secretly hoping the guy had already been dead. Yet here he was. The man who technically had more rights to her than he did. And he hated that fact alone. Something dark was growing inside him at the simple thought that Zack could still be thinking of exercising his rights.

He clenched the silly necklace in his palm, feeling now that it wasn't enough. "Elene," he mind linked his sister. "Where are you?!" she demanded at once. "We"

"Out," he cut her off as he wasn't ready for a heart-to-heart conversation with his sibling now of all times. "I need Zack Morgan held in his room until I get back. He cannot leave. If he

tries, you can use force. Just keep him there and alive."

Kai, what is." Elene wanted to ask something else, but he closed the link, knowing that just an order would be enough.

His attention got back to Savannah, and he noticed that her eyes glistened with a few tears threatening to fall down her cheeks at any moment. He had been silent since her important confession, and she could have taken it wrong.

"Savvy," he tried to find the right words to reassure her.

"It's okay," she wiped her eyes quickly, pretending that it was nothing. "Whatever you decide is okay. I had to tell you. That's all, so, if you changed your mind"

“Changed my mind?” A nervous laugh escaped him as he cupped her chin, making the western princess look at him. “Changed my mind, Savvy? I am in love with you. So is my wolf. We have never experienced this, and I know only one thing. Changing my mind about making you mine is definitely not an option for me.”

“We barely know each other,” she protested weakly, more tears streaming down her cheeks to her own surprise.

“Who cares when it feels so right?!” he chuckled, inclining towards her. “When I want only you ... when I choose you ...”

He covered her lips with his in a greedy possessive kiss which was like staking his claim on her. He would kill for that woman; he would wage war for her if he had to. She was his from the moment they met, and he wouldn't have this any other way. He knew that now. He had known that

for a while...

“Kai,” she whispered when they broke their kiss and rested their foreheads on each other.

“Do you choose me, Savannah?” he asked, embarrassed at his own trembling voice. His whole body was shaking because he needed to hear her answer on a physical level. He knew that this was the moment she could make him the happiest man alive or break him beyond repair. “Do you agree to be mine? My Luna, my Queen, my chosen mate?”

She looked him in the eye just for a few seconds, but it seemed like forever to him.

“I will spend all my winters with you, Kai Fionnlagh,” she smiled through tears, and he felt as if a heavy weight was lifted off his chest. “I choose you too. Now and forever. .. I love you too.”

He got the necklace to her neck again, trying to control himself as all that he wanted now was to devour her here and now. Savvy turned her back to him and lifted her hair to give him better access.

When he was done, and she turned back to him, he had to admit that the North Star looked beautiful on her neck. It looked as if it always belonged there.

“Come here!” He pulled her back into his warm embrace, and they both started watching the beautiful snowflakes dancing and curling in the frosty air. Slowly, the tops of the trees, the roofs of the castle towers and the towns below were powdered with white crispy shimmering snow.

Savannah noticed many lights on now, although it was the middle of the night and realised

that these were other couples greeting the First Snow together and making promises to each other

It seemed like they spent hours like this, Savvy on Kai's lap, leaning over his broad chest and enjoying his hands wrapped tightly around her. He was kissing the top of her head from time to time, and this meant more to her than any words he could say.

She noticed how a thick white blanket covered everything around them.

"There is so much snow," she raised her hand to catch a few beautiful snowflakes. "How are we going back down these narrow mountain roads?"

"Go back?" she heard the king snort. "Savvy, travelling down these roads is impossible during snow, and a blizzard is about to come in less than an hour. I am afraid we are going to be stuck here for days."

Savannah's lips parted in shock...