

Chapter 11 - The Lycan King's Gamma

Lycan Prince Hunter

After meeting Cathy, I followed Kailen back to her SUV. She opened up the back hatch and threw her backpack in. I slid my backpack off and placed it on the ground beside me. I sat down on the bumper and reached out my hand to hers.

She looked down at my hand touching hers and then up at me. I tugged on her hand so that she would come to me. She sighed, but she moved closer to me. I pulled her in between my legs and wrapped my arms around her waist. She rested her head on my shoulder.

“I should have listened to you Hunter, I should never have come back here,” she whispered. I could hear that she was on the verge of tears again. I squeezed her close to me.

“You will get through this. And I’m right here, Beautiful. I’m not going anywhere.” I told her. I sat there holding her until she was able to calm down. She was taking deep breaths.

“I’m sorry you heard my argument with Owen. I didn’t mean to hurt you.” She whispered, snuggling closer into my neck.

“There’s nothing to be sorry for. I know he will always be a part of your past. But I’m your future. I want you to know that I would have fought for you. I would have looked for you every damn day until I found you. Even if you left me a stupid note. I still would have hunted you down and claimed you.” I told her, squeezing her tight.

I thought I said something wrong when she moved her head off of my shoulder. She took my cheeks in her hands and stared into my eyes. I could see the tears building in her eyes. And I was about to say something until she pushed her lips into mine. I didn’t hesitate to kiss her back. I held her impossibly close and kissed her like my life depended on it.

She pulled away from me when we heard Greyson clear his throat beside us. She buried her face in my shoulder while I glared at Greyson. Could he not see we were sharing a moment? Greyson smirked at me before he explained his reason for the interruption.

“The Alpha and Beta are waiting in the Alpha’s office. They have all the files that we need. The doctor has also locked up the cooler, and I have the key.” He told me.

“We’ll be right in,” I told him and he nodded before he turned around to walk towards the pack house. As soon as Greyson started walking away, Kailen started to suck on my earlobe, causing me to let out a soft groan.

“That’s not fair.” I whispered to her. I was already painfully hard from the kiss we just shared.

“I know I can feel it.” She whispered before licking from my collarbone to my ear. The action caused goosebumps to erupt all over my body, and I shivered. She tried to push away from me, but I just pulled her closer to me.

“You are fixing this when we get back to our room.” My voice came out husky as I rubbed myself against her thigh.

“Promise.” She smirked before pecking my lips. She started to walk towards the pack house, but I reached out and grabbed her hand before she was out of reach. Kailen turned back to look at me.

“I’ll be in the Alpha’s office if you need me.” She nodded after I told her. I reluctantly let go of her hand. I watched her until she entered the pack house and I couldn’t see her anymore.

I didn’t notice that Zach was standing beside me, watching me watch her until he clapped me on the back, making me jump.

“Dude, did you see the look on the Alpha’s face when Kailen kissed you? He even let out a growl before he stormed back into the house.” He exclaimed. And the fact that the Alpha was pissed made me happy.

I heard the pain in Kailen's voice when he admitted to cheating on her. It broke me to hear that level of pain in her voice. And I'm glad that it pissed him off about our relationship. Now maybe he'll know how it feels.

"So what does this mean?" Zach asked me while I placed my backpack in the back and closed the hatch.

"I'm not sure, but hopefully now she'll let me claim her." I told him.

"Finally!" He breathed out. "We should have come here sooner," he exclaimed.

We walked into the pack house, and Zach led me up the stairs to the first floor. The house had six floors and I assume the offices were located on the first floor.

We walked up to a set of doors, and Zach knocked. Beta Finn opened the door for us and we entered. Greyson was already sitting on one of the couches in the sitting area. They stacked the coffee table with files. I sat down beside him and he passed me the file he was reading. Zach sat on the other couch with Beta Finn.

"Beta Finn, I need the purchase order for the cabin on the reservoir?" I asked him. He looked up from his file.

"That doesn't have anything to do with this investigation." He told me and I had to resist the urge to roll my eyes. This beta was really testing my patience.

"Fresh evidence has come to light that says otherwise. Pull the file." I demanded. He stood up from the couch and walked over to the filing cabinets.

"What are you thinking?" Greyson asked me. When Beta Finn handed me the file,

"Alpha Owen mentioned that yours and his father had stock in the company that built it?" I asked Beta Finn.

“I think they do. Why?” He asked me, confused at my interest in this company.

“Can I speak to your father?” I asked him, and he nodded.

“I’ll give him a call.” He told me and I nodded. I went through the purchase order and I noticed that the Opal Mountain Pack owns it. I’m not familiar with that pack or their alpha.

“Have any of you heard of the Opal Mountain Pack?” I asked Zach and Greyson. Beta Finn had left the office to call his father.

“I haven’t,” Zach answered.

“I think they are a northern pack, but I’m not positive,” Greyson answered.”

“It looks like they own the company that built the cabin on the reservoir and the one that Marcus held Kailen in. We should give them a call when we get back, see if we can get the name of the person who purchased the one Kailen was in.” I explained.

“I grabbed Kailen’s file before we came in.” Greyson handed me a thick folder. I opened it and was shocked at what I was reading.

She was always in and out of the hospital with different degrees of broken bones and bruises. It was definitely a monthly occurrence. She never talks about her childhood and now I know why.

“Did you read this?” I asked Greyson, and he nodded.

“Not all of it, but I did look over her medical and she was always in the ER for something.” He says.

“What’s wrong?” Zach asked.

“She was in the hospital at least once a month with broken bones or concussions or stitches. It eventually became less and less the older she became. But I think we need to speak with her guardians.” I explained.

“How did that level of abuse go unnoticed? She was a small child.” Greyson exclaimed, and I had to agree with him. This was unacceptable. No child should ever have to endure what Kailen went through.

I started to flip through the papers. I wanted to find the evidence they had that Kailen ran away and wasn't taken, but I found nothing.

“Did you find anything about her running away?” I asked Greyson, and he shook his head.

“I didn't find anything, nothing about her disappearance or even when she came back. It's like she vanished and no one cared that she was gone.” Greyson explained. And I pushed my lips into a line. How can that Alpha claim to have loved Kailen when he didn't even look for her? He didn't even care that she had left?

Beta Finn entered the office and took a seat.

“My father left the territory early this morning and I haven't been able to reach him,” Beta Finn explained.

“Is this normal behaviour for your father?” I asked him. I was now suspicious of the former Beta's involvement in the kidnapping of Kailen. His daughter is now the Luna of the pack, a title that was meant for Kailen.

“No, it's not,” he admitted.

“What do you know about the Opal Mountain Pack?” I asked him.

“Alpha Marc runs that pack. He took it over from his father a few years back. We do some business with his pack, but I haven't seen him in a few months. Why?”

Chapter 12 - The Lycan King's Gamma

Gamma Kailen Steele

I was feeling overwhelmed by what Hunter had told me when I walked into the pack house. I knew that he meant every word he spoke.

“He loves us, Kailen. Now, can you please claim him?” Aurora chimed in.

“I will tell him the truth and then if he stays, I’ll claim him.” I told her.

“He’ll stay and you better.” She huffed.

I was so lost in my thoughts that I didn’t notice that there was one of our warriors following me.

“Warrior Noah?” I asked him when I stopped at the library door.

“Gamma.” He nodded.

“What are you doing?” I questioned.

“Orders, Gamma Kailen,” he answered firmly. I knew this was Hunter’s order.

“Man the door.” I told him and he nodded. He opened the door for me and I stepped into the library. Warrior Noah closed the door behind me.

As I walked over to the sitting area, I noticed that the former Alpha and Cathy were seated on the couch. Owen was also here. He was sitting in one of the armchairs across from them. I greeted everyone and took a seat in the other armchair.

Alpha Landon handed me a cup of tea. He makes the best tea. I immediately took a sip and memories of all our times we had tea in the library came floating back. I really enjoyed Alpha Landon’s company, and he never made me feel like a worthless omega.

I looked over at Owen, and he was watching me with a frown. I placed my cup on the coffee table that separates the couch from the armchairs.

“So how long have you and the Lycan Prince been together?” Cathy asked me. Owen let out a low growl.

“It’s been almost four years now,” I told her, and her face lit up.

“That’s wonderful, my dear. I hope there’s a wedding in the near future for the both of you.” She exclaimed, and even Alpha Landon looked happy about my answer.

Owen, on the other hand, growled out louder than before and stood up, pacing the library. I’m not sure why he would even be upset. He has his chosen mate. I’m literally nothing to him now.

“We are so proud of you, Kailen.” Alpha Landon spoke.

“Thank you, Alpha.” I told him with a smile. Owen continued to pace in front of the fireplace.

“Alpha Owen, is something wrong?” I asked him, taking another sip of my tea before setting it back down.

“Really, Kailen?” He huffed, throwing his hands in the air.

“Owen, what the fuck do you want from me?” I asked him, getting angry at his tone. Alpha Landon and Cathy were sitting quietly on the couch, watching the show.

Owen didn’t answer my question, instead we just stared at each other until I spoke again.

“You moved on, Owen, and I’m allowed to do the same,” I told him, standing from my seat.

“I may be with Maya, but I didn’t move on.” He told me. And I was stunned by his confession.

“You’ve been with Maya for over four years now, and you haven’t claimed her? But you trust her enough to help run your pack?” I asked him, confused.

“It’s complicated,” he said.

“It’s not complicated, Owen. You cheated on me with her and then you just moved on with your life as I was fighting for mine. I was fighting to get back here to you. I thought you loved me as much as I loved you.” I yelled and I could feel the tears building in my eyes.

“You left a goddamn note. What the hell did you want me to do?” He yelled in frustration.

“I wanted to be worth fighting for. You didn’t fight my rejection, you accepted it without a fight and then you claimed Maya. Was I just some sick joke? See if you could get the stupid omega to sleep with you? To fall in love with you and then break her heart?” I screamed at him.

“Kailen, you know that’s not true. I love you.” He said calmly.

“If that were true, you never would have accepted my rejection. You would have fought for me, for us. I fought every damn day I was gone to get back to you.” I cried. I couldn’t hold back my emotions any longer. I looked over at Cathy and Alpha Landon.

“I need to leave. It was nice seeing both of you.” I told them before I turned around and made my way to the library door. But before I made it to the door, Owen grabbed one of my arms, turning me into him, holding me against his chest.

“Owen, stop.” I tried to push him away.

“Kailen, please. I’m sorry. I’m so sorry.” He said, resting his forehead against mine. I hate that his scent still feels like home. He gently started to wipe away the tears that were falling down my cheeks.

“This is hard for me. Seeing you again. I should have fought for you.” He whispered.

“Owen, you have your Luna.” I whispered and even saying those words out loud broke my heart. It’s hard to look at your fated mate and know that they love someone else. That you were never good enough for them.

“I haven’t claimed Maya, she is acting as Luna, but I haven’t claimed her.” He whispered to me. I moved my head and looked up at him.

“That doesn’t change the fact that you didn’t fight for me,” I told him. Before he could explain, the library doors were thrown open, and a very pissed off Maya stormed in.

“Owen, what the fuck are you doing?” She yelled. I moved away from Owen and he stepped around me.

“Maya, we will talk about this later.” He told her firmly, and she crossed her arms over her chest.

“No, Owen, we will talk about this now! She has always been the reason why you haven’t claimed me and I’m done playing this fucken game with you. You are mine, and that bitch was supposed to stay gone.” She screamed.

“What the fuck do you mean by stay gone?” Owen demanded, and I was stunned by what she said.

“You’re so gullible, Owen. Never questioning that note that she left for you. The hard part was seducing you. I had to drug you before you would even let me touch you that night. But you did.” She growled out.

“You fucken drugged me?” Owen growled.

“I’m the Beta’s daughter. I was born to be Luna of this pack, not some stupid omega!” She yelled at Owen.

“Maya, what the fuck did you do?” Owen let out a murderous growl.

“You stupid fucken omega, all you had to do was stay gone!” Maya screamed out, lunging at me. She threw me back into a glass bookcase and the whole thing shattered with the force of my back hitting it.

Before I could even register what was happening, Owen ripped Maya off of me and my warrior rushed in to see me leaning against the wall with glass and books around me.

My warrior’s eyes went wide in horror as we looked at each other. Owen was trying to keep Maya under control. I touched my stomach with my hands and winced. I looked down to see a piece of glass sticking out.

Cathy and Alpha Landon were now standing, watching in horror at the scene that was playing out in front of them.

Shock set in while I felt my blood running down my legs to the floor.

“Owen.” I choked out. I could feel blood running down my chin. The metallic liquid was filling up my mouth, and I knew I was dying. There was no way to stop the bleeding in time. He turned to look at me in horror. He threw Maya at my warrior.

“Hold her. Father, lock her up.” He commanded as he rushed over to me. I was bracing myself against the wall with my legs, and I’m not sure where I found the strength to stay standing. My world was spinning from the blood lost, and I knew this was it.

“Kailen, stay with me.” He rushed out. He ripped my hoodie from where it was ripped from the shard, exposing a larger piece of glass. My hoodie was covering most of it, but now that I could see it, I knew it was worse than I thought.

“Kailen, it’s going to be okay.” Owen rushed out while he scooped me up into his arms. I screamed out from the pain of the glass shifting inside of me.

Chapter 13 - The Lycan King's Gamma

Lycan Prince Hunter

Alpha Owen was placing Kailen on a gurney when I entered the hospital. The doctors rushed her away when I tried to get to her. I looked beside me to see the Alpha covered in Kailen’s blood and I was furious.

“What the fuck did you do?” I yelled in his face. Rex was ready to shift and rip this Alpha apart.

“I didn’t do anything!” He yelled back.

“Then why the fuck are you covered in her blood?” I growled out. Just then, Warrior Noah, my Beta, and Gamma ran into the ER.

“Prince Hunter, the Luna attacked Gamma Kailen,” Warrior Noah reported. I turned to the Alpha and punched him in the jaw. The force threw him back into the wall.

All three of them were on me now. They were trying to hold me back from killing this piece of shit, Alpha. He was leaning against the wall, rubbing his jaw.

“She isn’t the Luna.” He growled out.

“I don’t give a fuck. If Kailen dies, I’ll rip this entire pack apart!” I screamed.

“Hunter, I know you’re upset. We all are, but I need you to calm down.” Greyson told me. I pulled away from the three of them and started to pace the waiting room.

“You aren’t the only one that loves her! She is my mate!” Alpha Owen growled out, and I could see Greyson glaring at him.

“Do you have a fucken death wish?” Greyson asked the Alpha.

“Love her? You fucken love her? So where the fuck have you been for the last four years?” I yelled at him. He couldn’t argue. He knew I was right. If he loved her, he would have fought for her. I never would have met her if he had done what he was supposed to do. He was supposed to take care of her, protect her, and he failed.

“You don’t get to say that you love her. You broke her, and I was the one that has been helping her pick up the pieces.” I growled out.

The former Alpha and Cathy entered the ER. They looked between the Alpha and I.

“Is she okay?” Cathy cried out.

“We don’t know. They just rushed her back.” Alpha Owen answered. His father was consoling Cathy, and they both took a seat.

I was still pacing when an angry-looking Beta walked into the ER.

“Why the fuck is Maya in the cells?” He growled out. Greyson and Zach were in front of me, holding me back.

“She attacked the King’s Gamma.” Alpha Owen told him.

“We also have reason to believe that she was involved in Kailen’s kidnapping,” Alpha Landon said. We all looked at the former Alpha, stunned.

“What?” I growled out. And Alpha Owen sighed.

“Hunter, we can worry about that later. One thing at a time,” Zach said.

“Hunter, Kailen would want you to be calm,” Greyson said, and as soon as these words left his lips, Zach let out a laugh.

“She would have already burnt this place to the ground.” And that made Greyson laugh. I pushed my lips into a line. Kailen would be in the OR with any of us if the situation was reversed.

Just then, a doctor came out to speak with us.

“Lycan Prince, Alpha’s.” He greeted.

“How is she?” I rushed out.

“She lost a lot of blood. We are still stitching everything up. We are still not sure if she will make it. We are giving her blood and working as fast as we can to get everything closed up.” He explained.

“So what are you saying, Doctor?” I asked him. I wasn’t sure I wanted to know that answer.

“It means she won’t be out for a few more hours if she does pull through. Prepare yourself for the worse, Prince Hunter.” He answered. He bowed his head and then headed back through the doors that led to the OR.

I turned and punched my fist through the concrete wall of the waiting room. She can’t die, please goddess, don’t let her die. I pulled my now

bleeding fist out of the wall and shook my hand out. I turned to face Alpha Owen.

“If she dies, your fucken Luna dies.” I growled out.

“Kailen is my fucken Luna.” He yelled. And the three of them were back again, holding me from killing this Alpha.

“Kailen is my mate, and the sooner you figure that out, the less dead you’ll be. You fucken touch her again, and I’ll kill you myself.” I yelled. He stormed out of the building, but I knew he hadn’t gone far.

I shook my Beta, Gamma, and Warrior off and took a seat.

I was anxiously waiting for any kind of news. The hours dragged by until it was six hours later and the same doctor came out to speak to us. Alpha Owen was waiting with his father and Cathy. He came back after he got himself cleaned up. I ordered Warrior Noah and the other warriors back to the hotel to pick up our things. Greyson and Zach were both sitting beside me.

I stood up as soon as the doctor walked through the doors. He greeted us, but I didn’t care about formalities. I just want to know if Kailen pulled through.

“Is Kailen okay?” I breathed out. We were all standing around the doctor, waiting for him to answer.

“It was touch and go there for a bit, but we managed to get the bleeding to stop and her blood pressure back up. Her fight is far from over and as soon as she is stable enough, we will transfer her to the pack hospital in Ivory Moon.” He told us, and I let out the breath I didn’t realize I was holding.

“Can I see her?” I rushed out.

“We are just moving her now. Someone will be with you shortly to escort you to her room. But I do have a question. Is Miss Steele marked?” he asked, and I’m sure I was looking at him like he had three heads.

“What are you talking about?” I asked him.

“Miss Steele has a bite on her shoulder. It’s not in its usual place for a mark, but it’s healing like one. Her wolf has accepted whomever bit her.” the doctor explained.

“That’s my mark.” I told him and he nodded.

“A nurse should be out shortly to show you to your mate, Prince Hunter.” He bowed his head before he headed back again.

After the doctor had left, Alpha Owen tackled me to the floor of the waiting room. We were both hitting each other and rolling, trying to get the upper hand. It was pure chaos in the waiting room. Someone finally pulled us apart and both of us had blood on us. I knew my lip was split and I could feel the bruises starting to form on my jaw and cheek.

“Do you honestly think you can beat me?” I asked Alpha Owen. His father and Beta were holding him back.

“She is my mate, not yours! That mark is fucken bullshit!” Alpha Owen growled out.

“If you fought this hard for her four years ago, maybe she’d still be yours. But she is mine now. You had your fucken chance. You only want her now because you know for a fact that she isn’t an omega.” I growled.

“And you only want her because she is a luna.”

“I’d gladly give up my title for her and she isn’t just a Luna. She’s a gamma of the highest order. She will always stand above you.” I pointed out.

A nurse walked through the doors and stopped in her tracks. She looked at everyone nervously.

“Miss Steele is in her room, if you’d like to follow me.” She turned on her heel and made her way back through the door. She held the door open for us to follow. I shook Greyson and Zach off and headed towards the nurse. I needed to see Kailen. I could deal with this Alpha later.

Walking into her room, I wasn't prepared to see her in the condition she was in. She was lying on her back with an IV in one arm and a blood transfusion in the other. She also had a breathing tube in. The nurse pulled back the blanket that was covering her body, exposing her torso, which was now covered with a thick bandage. She then covered her back up and turned her attention to me.

"I was just making sure that she wasn't bleeding," she told me, and I nodded. I was still standing by the door. I felt frozen in place.

"Take a seat beside her bed. One of the nurses on duty will be in here every hour to make sure that she is healing. We are all praying that Miss Steele pulls through." the nurse said before she left the room, closing the door behind her.

Chapter 14 - The Lycan King's Gamma

Lycan Prince Hunter

I was awoken with a start the next morning. I was laying my head down on Kailen's bed, holding her hand. I don't remember falling asleep. I sat up and my back and shoulders cracked with the movement. My whole body was stiff. I must have been out for a while.

I looked over at Kailen and noticed that they had removed the breathing tube and she was now breathing on her own. How did I not hear the doctors removing the tube?

I looked over at the monitors and I could tell that her blood pressure was higher, closer to normal range, and her heart rate was strong. The colour had returned to her skin, and she was looking more alive than dead.

I squeezed her hand and noticed that she was no longer cold. She was getting better. I let out a breath that I didn't realize I was holding in.

"She'll make it." Rex said in my head.

"And how do you know?" I asked him.

“Because Aurora has accepted our mark, it’s making her stronger.” He purred in my head. He was happy that he finally had the mate he wanted.

“So the bite mark will stay?” I asked him, confused.

“It will until you claim the spot it should be in. Usually it would fade, but Aurora and I accepted each other and refused to heal either bite mark. That’s why yours will also scar.” He explained. I reached up to touch the place on my shoulder that Kailen had bitten a few days ago, and the spot was still tender.

“So this means that she is ours?” I asked him hopefully. His tail started thumping in my head and he let out a loud howl.

“She is ours.” He purred. And I couldn’t stop the smile that crossed my lips. She was finally ours, and I was never letting her go.

I sat there holding her hand, thinking about the life we were finally going to have together. I was planning on having our house built out by the lake. She loved sitting out on the deck in the morning with her coffee and the evening with her tea.

We could finally build this life together, we could finally move on from the past and step into the future, our future.

Kailen, squeezing my hand, pulled me from my thoughts. I looked down at our hands and then at her face. She was looking at me with a small smile on her face.

“Kailen!” I exclaimed, getting up from my seat. I placed my forehead against hers, cupping her face with my hands. I could feel tears of joy falling down my face. I couldn’t help it. I was just so thankful that she was finally awake.

“Hunter.” She whispered, her voice raspy. I looked around and saw a cup of ice water. The nurse must have brought it in after they removed the breathing tube.

I reached over, taking the cup from the side table, and brought the straw to Kailen's lips. All the water was gone before she was satisfied. I placed the cup back on the table and looked down at her beautiful face.

"How are you feeling, Beautiful?" I asked her. She gave me a small smile.

"Better," She whispered. Her voice was less raspy after the water she just drank.

"Are you in any pain?" I asked her, sitting on the bed beside her.

"It aches, but I'm okay. What happened?" She whispered out. She winced when she tried to move.

"Hey, be still. I'll explain everything, but I need you not to move." I told her.

"I'm just trying to get comfortable." She sighed.

"I'm sorry, Beautiful. Let's get the doctor in here to get you all checked out. Then, after we can talk." I leaned over and hit the call button. Then I rested my forehead against hers until the nurse walked in.

"Miss Steele, you're awake? How are you feeling? How is your level of pain?" The nurse asked.

"I'm okay, a little uncomfortable. I feel like there is something digging in my back." She answered. I moved back to my chair and took her hand in mine.

"Okay, Miss Steele, I'm going to check the bandages on your front first and then I'll help roll you onto your side so I can check your back. Okay?" She asked Kailen, and she nodded.

The nurse lowered the bed and pulled down the blanket that was covering Kailen's torso, exposing the thick bandage covering up her wound. Kailen couldn't see the wound over her breasts and I was thankful for that. I didn't want her to worry about how bad it might still look.

The nurse pulled the bandage back to expose an angry red scar vertically down her stomach. It went from her sternum to her belly button and I was so thankful that he didn't go through her spine.

Her abdomen was heavily bruised and I'm sure her back was as well. At least the wound had closed up. Kailen squeezing my hand made me take my eyes off of her stomach, looking at her face.

"You okay?" She asked me and I felt guilty that she was worried about me when she was the one lying in the hospital bed.

"Yeah, and the wound is now closed up from this side." I informed her, and she nodded.

"Okay, Miss Steele, everything seems to be closed up. Let's roll you onto your side so I can check out the back wound, okay?" The nurse asked her, and she nodded.

"Lycan Prince, would you be able to help her roll?" The nurse asked me, and I nodded. I stood up and placed my hands where she instructed me.

"Miss Steele, this may hurt, but the pain will be quick once you settle into the side position, okay? We will take this slowly, and don't fight, just move with our movements." The nurse instructed, and I could see the worry on Kailen's face.

"1,2," the nurse counted down. Before she said three, we rolled Kailen on her side, facing me. Kailen let out a hiss and a groan. Her breathing became laboured as she tried to breathe through the pain. I leaned down closer to her while the nurse was bending her legs to help stabilize her in this position.

"I know, Beautiful, just breathe." I whispered, kissing the tears off the cheek that wasn't resting on the pillow.

When the nurse instructed me that I could let go, I kneeled down beside her bed and rested my head beside hers. I would give her gentle kisses when she winced out from whatever the nurse was doing. It was hard to watch her in pain and not be able to help ease it.

“Miss Steele, I’m just going to go get the doctor. I’ll be right back.” The nurse spoke while covering Kailen’s back with the blanket. I didn’t see how bad the wound on her back was. I was just so focused on making Kailen feel better.

Kailen yawned and closed her eyes, even before the nurse left the room. I knew she was now exhausted. That movement looked like it hurt like hell.

I was still kneeling beside the bed, brushing my fingers through her hair, when the doctor and the nurse from earlier finally walked in. Kailen was now sleeping again, and I was just watching her sleep.

“Lycan Prince.” The Doctor greeted me. And I nodded. I watched him pull back the blanket that was covering Kailen and I noticed that his face fell.

“What’s wrong?” I asked him, worried.

“Nothing to be concerned with, Lycan Prince. Her wound on her back isn’t closed up yet. There are still over half the stitches that haven’t dissolved yet. So I would like to keep her on her side so that we can keep an eye on the wound. The nurse here is just going to get the wound cleaned up and redressed. She should be able to leave tomorrow, or if you’d like, we can airlift her back to Ivory Moon.” He explained.

“I would like to have her airlifted,” I told him, and he nodded.

“I’ll make all the preparations and let you know when the chopper will be arriving.” He bowed and left the room.

The nurse started to clean up the wound on her back and, to my surprise, Kailen stayed asleep. I was glad that she wasn’t awake to feel the pain that I’m sure the nurse was causing.

I stood up and looked over Kailen’s body to see how bad her back actually was. And it was indeed bad. The wound was red, angry, and swollen. Her whole back was black and blue with bruises, and it was hard to even see if the wound was actually clean or not.

When the nurse was done, she covered Kailen back up. She replaced her cup of water with a full one and made sure to check all her vitals before she left the room.

I flopped back into my chair and let out a breath. I felt exhausted, and I hadn't even done anything. I pulled out my phone to call Greyson. I needed him to get everything packed and everyone ready to leave when Kailen and I left in the chopper.

"Hunter, how is she?" He answered his phone.

"She was awake there for a few minutes, but now she is sleeping again. The doctor okayed her to be flown home, so can you get everything that we need to take back with us for the investigation and have the warriors ready to leave when we take off?" I told him.

"Yeah, I'll get everyone organized. Zach and I are just in the Alpha's office going over files as we speak." He told me and now I was curious.

"Have you found anything?" I asked him.

"I think the lack of evidence here is more suspicious. And we still haven't been able to locate the former Beta." He informed me.

"Have you talked to the not Luna?" I asked him. And he sighed.

"Not yet. She is refusing to speak to anyone but Alpha Owen, and he is refusing to have anything to do with her." Greyson said, and it was my turn to sigh.

"What do you think we should do?" I asked him.

"I think we should take her back with us to Ivory Moon. She did attack the king's gamma, and that offense is punishable by death." Greyson told me, and I had to agree with him.

"Okay, ready the prisoner for transport as well. I'll let you know when the helicopter is scheduled to arrive." I told him before ending the call.

What the hell is wrong with this pack? I'm going to have to launch an investigation when I get back to Ivory Moon. There is no reason that a pack member should have been abused like Kailen was as a child.

The doctor came in a few hours later, while I was checking emails on my phone, to inform me that the helicopter would be arriving in about an hour. I thanked him, and then he came over to check on Kailen's condition.

"Has she been sleeping this whole time?" He asked me.

"Yes," I answered him.

"That's good. The more she sleeps, the faster this wound will close up. It's definitely looking better." He informed me before covering her back up.

"We'll be in before the helicopter arrives to prepare Kailen for transport." He bowed his head before he left, closing the door behind him. I sent Greyson a text, telling him that we should be leaving in about an hour.

I then pocketed my phone and leaned down, resting my face in front of Kailen's face. I could feel her breath on my lips. She was sleeping so peacefully and I love watching her sleep.

The moment was rudely interrupted when the door to her room was thrown open. The door hit the wall with a bang. I stood up from my seat, ready to attack whoever came through the door.

Chapter 15 - The Lycan King's Gamma

"Get the fuck out." I growled at Alpha Owen. I was done with his shit. He had no authority to barge in here and demand anything from me. Kailen was going home and there was no room for debate.

"You legally can't take my mate, prince or not." Alpha Owen countered. I pulled back the collar of my v neck shirt to show him her bite mark on me. He's eyes went wide and his mouth went open in shock.

“That can’t be legally recognized by the council. It isn’t in the mark spot.” He huffed, crossing his arms over his chest.

“Hunter.” Kailen whimpered out. I turned my attention back to her. She was still on her side, but she was shaking. I ran back over to her and she still had her eyes closed. That bang must have triggered a night terror.

I knelt down beside her again, hoping my scent and presents would help wake her out of it. I grabbed her cheek with my hand and started to whisper to her.

“Kailen, Beautiful, wake up. It’s just a dream.”

“What the hell is going on?” Alpha Owen asked. He was standing on the other side of her.

“She’s having a night terror, probably brought on by your grand entrance.” I growled.

“Hunter, help. No, please stop.” She yelled out. She threw herself onto her back and woke up with a start, sitting straight up. Kailen was gasping and panting, and I could tell that she was in pain.

“Beautiful, it’s okay. It was just a nightmare. I’m right here.” I told her, sitting beside her on the bed. She rested her forehead on my shoulder and started to sob. I was rubbing her shoulder, whispering in her ear.

“It will be okay, Beautiful, we are going home soon. Okay?” I told her, and she nodded.

“Hunter?” She soded out.

“What’s wrong, Beautiful?” I asked her, worried.

“Everything hurts.” She cried out.

“I’ll get the doctor.” Alpha Owen said before he left the room.

“Why is Owen here?” She hiccuped.

“I’ll explain everything once they get your pain under control, okay?” I whispered to her, and she nodded on my shoulder.

She was leaning forward, resting her cheek on my shoulder while I rubbed her back, when the doctor came in. I don’t think she was supposed to be up yet because of the look of horror on his face.

“Miss Steele, you shouldn’t be sitting up.” He rushed out, concerned. He went over to her and I noticed that Alpha Owen was back in the room.

“She had a night terror.” I told him and he nodded.

“How’s the pain in your stomach?” He asked her.

“It’s okay, but my back is what hurts the most.” She answered. He pulled back the blanket and sighed.

“What?” I asked, worried.

“Her movements ripped out about half the stitches that were still healing. I need to restitch her and get this bleeding under control. But first I’ll get something for your pain.” He told us and we both nodded.

“I’ll be right back,” he said before he left the room.

“Kailen, when did the night terrors start?” Alpha Owen asked her, pulling up a seat on the other side of the bed.

“I don’t know.” She answered him.

“I noticed them about three and a half years ago,” I sighed.

“It’s because of what you’ve been through.” He asked her, leaning over in her chair so that he could look at her face.

“Yes, Owen.” She nodded.

“I’m sorry for what Maya has done. And I’m sorry for causing you to have that terror.” He told her and she just nodded.

The doctor finally came back with a nurse following behind him. He injected a pain killer into Kailen's IV.

"I'm just going to clean the wound. I won't start stitching until the painkillers have started working." He told her, and she nodded.

The doctor started to dab a damp gauze on her back, and she let out a hiss. Her breathing became laboured and I knew that it hurt.

"It's, okay. Just breathe. The meds will start to work soon." I whispered to her, giving her neck a gentle kiss. Her tears soaked my shoulder before the pain meds finally kicked in. Then she fell asleep while the doctor was stitching her up.

"How long have the night terrors been happening?" The doctor asked me.

"She's had them ever since we've been together." I answered him, and Owen let out a low growl.

"Do they happen often?" He asked, still stitching away.

"In the beginning, they were almost nightly. Then she started at the academy, and then they would happen weekly. And for probably the last six months, she hasn't had one." I told him.

"And do you know what triggered this one?" He asked.

"I think that was my fault. I caused a bang with the door and she instantly went into a terror." Alpha Owen admitted, and the doctor sighed.

"This poor girl has been through so much. It was definitely better for her to stay away." He said, but I'm not sure if it was to us or to himself.

"Why would you say that? She's my mate." Alpha Owen growled out.

"It's no offense to you, Alpha. But I've read over her file here. She was clearly being abused, well before she was taken." The doctor told his Alpha.

“I want to see her file.” Alpha Owen stood up from his seat.

“I’ve read her file, and it’s true.” I told him before he could storm out.

“What?” He stuttered out.

“Kailen never talks about her childhood and I never knew why until I read her medical records from this hospital. She was being abused, and no one helped her.” I told him. He rushed out and I let out a sigh.

“I wasn’t the doctor back then, but whoever they were failed this poor girl.” The doctor said. I didn’t answer him. I knew that he was right. Kailen had a miserable time in this pack and the only bit of light she had was an Alpha who abandoned her.

What Alpha Owen doesn’t know is that Kailen used to call out for him to help her. It broke my heart every time she would call out for him. I know she never meant to. He was her person, the one she trusted subconsciously.

But after a few months of us being together, she started to call out to me. She knew I would help her and I have every step of the way. She became my whole life the moment she stepped into our pack house.

After the doctor was done restitching, he placed a bandage over her wound. Then we laid her down gently on her side like before. I took a seat in the chair, but I was still holding her hand. My leg had gone numb, sitting with my leg bent for so long.

“The chopper should be here within the hour.” The doctor told me. I thanked him before he left the room. I pulled my phone out to give Greyson a call.

“Hunter?” He answered.

“We should be leaving in about an hour.” I told him.

“Sounds good.” He told me before a commotion and yelling came through on his end.

“What the hell is going on?” I asked him. He didn’t answer right away, and I assumed he was finding a quiet place to explain.

“Hunter, Alpha Owen came into his office demanding Kailen’s file. I handed it over and then he sat down to look it over. He went from angry to full on rampage. He called his father into his office, demanding why Kailen’s childhood abuse was left uninvestigated.” Greyson sighed.

“If you can, speak with Cathy before you leave. I want to know why Kailen was always in the hospital.” I asked him.

“I’ll see if I can find her. How is she doing?” He asked me and I pinched the bridge of my nose.

“She had a night terror and ripped out a bunch of her stitches. She’s sleeping again now, and the doctor is all done stitching her back up.” I informed him and I heard him sigh.

“I’m glad we are going home soon.” He said, almost sounding defeated.

“Me too.” I told him before I ended the call. I moved my attention to my sleeping mate. I moved my chair closer, so I was able to rest my head against hers. She was sleeping so peacefully now. Her heart rate had stabilized, and her breathing was slow and steady.

If this trip didn’t add anything to Kailen’s investigation, hopefully it will solve the case of her abuse. I’m glad at least Alpha Owen is taking that seriously in this ridiculous pack.

Alpha Owen may be a coward for not accepting Kailen because everyone thought that she was an omega and didn’t deserve to be Luna, but he does seem to care about her in his own way. I don’t think it’s good enough, and he was never good enough for Kailen, but I’m glad she got the hell out of this pack.

A nurse came back about 45 minutes later to inform me that the chopper had landed and that it was time to get Kailen ready for transport. She was still sleeping, and I was glad about that.

The nurse checked her back. It had stopped oozing, but it was still in rough shape. The area with the new stitches was red and angry.

“Our helicopter pad is out back. We are going to take her to the door leading out back. There we will move her on to a board. That board will then be lifted onto the helicopter. We are keeping her IV and we will be sending some pain medicine with her, just in case. The paramedics will be able to administer the pain meds if her pain becomes too much for her.” The nurse informed me while we made our way down to the back of the hospital.

I sent Greyson a text to let him know that we were leaving, and that I wanted them gone within the hour. We all needed to get the hell out of this pack.