

Chapter 16 - The Lycan King's Gamma

After Kailen left, I never thought I would see her again. I kept up with her life, but I knew she hated me after the way things went down. I still regret that day, and I will never forgive myself for letting her go.

I shouldn't have listened to all the talks about her being an omega. I should have known that she was a Luna, there is no way the moon goddess would have blessed an alpha with anything less than a luna.

And I fucked it all up by believing that I could be happy with Maya, that Kailen left me because she found out I had cheated. And then I found out that Maya drugged me before I would even touch her. That night was such a blur. I don't remember the act. I just woke up very early in the morning with Maya beside me. We were both naked.

I immediately left and went home to get her scent off of me. Then I went to see Kailen. I should never have gone to that party. And then after she was gone, everyone was telling me that she ran because she knew that my birthday was coming up and that she would never have been my mate.

I was such an idiot to think that she was anything less than what I believed her to be. She is a luna, and she was mine, and now I'm sitting in her hospital room watching her with the Lycan Prince, slowly dying inside. I should be the one that holds her, that comforts her, but I let her go.

After watching her have a night terror, the realization of what she had been through hit me. She was still recovering from what had happened to her. And Maya knew something, but I couldn't see her. I'm afraid I'd actually kill her if I stepped into a room with her.

Then I heard the doctor mention that she suffered from abuse as a child. We had been friends since we were ten years old and I don't remember anything like that. I remember her being klutzy, but she never mentioned anything about being abused. I was furious.

I stormed out of the hospital on a mission to read her file and to get to the bottom of all of this. If this had been going on for years, why the hell didn't the former doctor report it to my father? All of this didn't make sense.

I stormed into my office to find my Beta and the Lycan prince's beta and gamma, looking through files.

"I want to see Kailen's file." I demanded.

"What happened?" My beta asked me and I glared at him. He never liked Kailen, and I never knew why. Even if she was an omega, she was still a wonderful person.

"Why the fuck do you hate her so much?" I yelled at him and he blinked at me, stunned.

"What the fuck are you talking about?" He stuttered out.

"You know what the fuck I'm talking about? Don't fucken play dumb! Why the fuck have you always hated Kailen?" I screamed at him.

"Alpha Owen, you need to calm down." Beta Greyson spoke to me. They were all standing now.

"No, this fucker needs to explain to me why he was always against my relationship with Kailen." I growled out.

"Dude, she's an omega." He answered, and I punched him in the face. The Beta and Gamma were both holding me back from beating the shit out of my beta.

"She's not a fucken omega, you piece of shit! And even if she was, I love her. You're supposed to be my best friend. What the fuck is wrong with you?" I screamed at him. He was leaning on my desk, rubbing his jaw.

"Owen, I just thought you could do better. You could have picked anyone in this pack and you chose her. Yeah, she's fuckable, but she's not a Luna." He answered me and I was so ready to kill him. My wolf, Chase, was ready to shift, and I was barely holding myself together.

“But your sister is Luna material?” I asked him and he pushed his lips into a line. He doesn’t even like his own sister. I don’t even know why I was with her.

“Did you help your sister that night?” I growled at him and he looked at me, confused.

“What are you talking about?”

“That party a few weeks before Kailen was taken. Maya admitted to drugging me to get me to sleep with her. Did you help her?” I asked him again.

“Wait? What the hell is going on?” Beta Greyson asked me. I broke out of their hold and flopped down on one of the couches.

“Before Maya attacked Kailen, she admitted that she drugged me to get me to sleep with her. That she wrote the note that I thought Kailen left.” I told them, leaning forward, resting my elbows on my knees.

“Owen, I would never have allowed that to happen. If I had known, I would have stopped Maya.” Finn said, sitting down on the couch across from me. I looked at him before I looked at Beta Greyson.

“I want to see her file. And I want her case file from Ivory Moon.” I told him. He reached into a file box that they were collecting files in. He pulled out her file and handed it to me.

“What are you looking for?” Finn asked me.

“I’m looking for her medical records. The doctor that is treating her wounds now said that he believed that she had been abused as a child. And I want to see what he saw.” I answered him while I was flipping through her file.

“Abuse?” Finn asked me, confused, and I nodded.

“We noticed that pattern as well,” Beta Greyson told me. I noticed that he and the gamma were sitting on the love seat.

“Owen?” Finn breathed out.

“Yeah?” I was still flipping through the pages. Her file was quite thick.

“I think my father was involved.” He stuttered out, and I immediately looked at him. He was watching me flip through her file.

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

“It was the former Beta who was connected to both cabins. And he is also missing,” Beta Greyson explained. And my mind was racing with all this new information.

“Do you think that your father and sister planned this so that I would make Maya Luna?” I rushed out, looking around the room at all three of them.

“It definitely could have been possible. Maya admitted to the note and to drugging you. I know you don’t want to speak to her, but she is coming back to Ivory Moon with us. And the best thing that you can do before we leave is to confront her.” Gamma Zach told me.

“Wait, you are taking Maya?” Finn rushed out.

“She attacked a king’s gamma and now she has admitted to drugging an alpha. She will be tried and sentenced for her crimes.” Beta Greyson answered him and I agreed. She needs to face the consequences of her actions, even if that means death.

She didn’t care that she was sending Kailen to her death, to a horrible death. She just underestimated how strong Kailen actually is.

“You’re not going to step in?” Finn growled out.

“Nope, if she stays here, I’ll kill her myself. She drugged me so I would cheat on Kailen. She made me believe that Kailen had run away. Ivory Moon can fucken have her and I hope they throw the book at her.” I told him, firmly and without question.

“I understand that she is your sister, Beta Finn, but we have laws for a reason. She may have been under age for the drugging but she’s an adult now and she tried to kill the Gamma.” Gamma Zach told Finn, and he let out a sigh.

“I know, but now I have no one. My father is going to die and so is my sister.” I looked up from the file to look at my defeated friend.

“I’m sorry, Finn. There is nothing we can do about their actions.” I told him and he eventually nodded. I know this is going to be hard on him.

I finally started to read over her medical records, and what I found was disturbing. About a month after she arrived here with Cathy is when it started with the monthly trips to the ER. She has had multiple broken bones, broken multiple times. Bruises, concussions, stitches, you name it.

I noticed that the older she got, the less the visits became. They eventually stopped after she and I started dating. Whomever was abusing her was clearly afraid that I would find out about it. Then it clicked.

“Finn, pull Jim Miller’s file,” I ordered.

“Jim? Cathy’s mate?” Beta Greyson asked me, and I nodded.

“It doesn’t make sense that Cathy would abuse her. She brought her all the way here. If she didn’t want her, she would just have left her to die in her old pack.” Gamma Zach said, and I looked at him confused.

“What are you talking about?”

“Kailen’s father was killed in a claim over his pack and mate. When he lost and was killed, Kailen’s mother killed herself and her friend Cathy fled with Kailen.” He explained, and I was shocked. Kailen never told me where she came from. She would always say she didn’t remember since she was so young.

“Finn, call my father. He should see this as well.” I asked my beta when he passed over Jim’s file. I was looking through his finances when Finn returned with my father.

“Read this. And then explain to me why our former doctor didn’t report the abuse.” I told my father. He sat down beside me and I passed him Kailen’s file.

“Son, what is this about?” He asked me, not opening the file.

“Kailen was being abused and the former doctor never reported it.” I growled out, and he cursed. All eyes were on him now.

“Alpha, what is it?” Beta Greyson asked him.

“The former doctor was Jim’s grandfather. He passed away six years ago.” My father told us and I let out a growl. That’s why the abuse went unnoticed. Jim’s grandfather was covering it up.

“Father, how the fuck didn’t you notice?” I screamed at him.

“The same reason why you didn’t. Do you think I like finding out that a former member of my pack was being abused and I, her alpha, wasn’t there to protect her?” He yelled in frustration.

I didn’t notice that Beta Greyson left the office until he reentered.

“Alpha, we are leaving in a few hours. If you want to confront Maya, you better do it now.” He told me and I looked at my father. I passed him Jim’s file.

“Find Jim and get him in here. Also, see if you can find anything that would prove that he was involved in Kailen’s kidnapping.” I told him and he nodded.

“I know a few months ago, Kailen paid off their mortgage.” My father told me while I was standing from my seat on the couch.

“What? Why would she do that?” Gamma Zach asked him.

“I’m not sure. Kailen called me a few months ago and told me that she was paying it off for Cathy.” He explained.

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Alpha Owen

I headed out the back of the pack house and I heard the sound of the helicopter. I looked over to the back of the hospital to see that the helicopter was just taking off. My heart sunk knowing that Kailen was on that helicopter and she was going back to her home.

“We had better get this done. Prince Hunter has given us an hour before we have to head out.” Beta Greyson yelled out over the noise of the helicopter. I nodded to him and hurried to the far side of the backyard, to where the concrete bunker led to the cells.

One of the warriors on duty punched in a number code on the panel and the thick steel door unlocked. He then pulled the door open for us to enter. The door opened to a small landing and then you had to walk downstairs to enter the actual cells.

When we reached the bottom of the stairs, there was a barred door and a warrior on the other side had to buzz you in. We heard a buzz and then the door slid open. We walked through the door frame and the warrior in the booth that houses the monitors and equipment pointed down the hall.

“She’s in block 2, cell 1.” He said and I nodded. I’m sure it was weird for them to be housing who they thought would be the future Luna.

I hadn’t even made it to block 2 yet and I could already hear Maya screaming at the top of her lungs. The others were following me when I walked right up to her cell. She didn’t notice us at first; she was just screaming at nothing.

“You finished?” I finally asked her when she stopped to take a breath.

“Owen, I knew you would come for me.” She rushed over to the bars and tried to reach for me, but I stepped back out of her reach.

“Owen, please. Everything I did was for us, so that we could be together.” She pleaded, with tears running down her face. She really was an ugly person. I just never saw the true depths of it before.

When she knew she wasn't getting anywhere with me, she turned her attention to her brother, who was standing beside me.

“Finn, surely you believe me. I had to get rid of her. I had to make sure that we didn't get an omega for a Luna.” She cried out. And I'd had enough of all her bullshit.

“Maya, tell us the truth, the whole truth. Who's plan was it to kidnap Kailen?” I asked her.

“Kailen, that's all you have ever cared about! I'll never be good enough for you?” She screamed at me, but I didn't even flinch.

“Never, now tell me who orchestrated the plan?” I growled out. We were locked in a glaring match until she finally broke.

“It was father's. He paid her uncle or whatever to drug her so that she could be taken. She was supposed to be sold off and never heard from again.” She huffed out, crossing her arms over her chest.

“And you drugging me and the letter? That was your plan?” I asked her, and she nodded.

“I knew that you would have looked for her if I hadn't done something drastic, so I made you think that you had cheated and then wrote that note to you.” She confessed.

“Wait, we didn't sleep together?” I asked her, confused. And she sighed.

“No, you passed out, and I just made it look like we did. I knew you wouldn't remember.” She said, and I immediately saw red. Finn jumped in front of me before I could pull Maya into the bars.

“Are you fucken kidding me?” I screamed at her. My full aura was out, and she was trembling with fear. Everything was a fucken lie, four

fucken years of my life I'll never get back. I'll never get my fucken mate back.

"I fucken hate you, Maya. I hope they fucken kill you!" I screamed at her before I stormed out of there. I needed to get some air. After everything she had just admitted to me, I felt like I couldn't breathe.

I rushed out of the bunker, taking the stairs two at a time, until I reached the top landing. The lock clicked open after I punched the number code. I pushed open the door, thankful to be finally outside. I took deep breaths while I waited for the others to make their way out of the bunker.

I still hadn't calmed down by the time the others exited. I was pacing in front of the door, trying to figure out how to fix the mess that Maya had created.

"Some of the warriors are getting her ready for transport. We will be leaving in 30 minutes." Beta Greyson informed me.

"I will be coming to Ivory Moon." I told them while we walked back to the pack house.

"What?" Gamma Zach asked me.

"Finn and I are going to Ivory Moon," I told them, and Finn grabbed my arm to stop me.

"Owen, I know you are upset, but what are you planning?" He asked me.

"My father and Gamma Xander can handle the pack. You and I are going to go to Ivory Moon. I need Kailen to see the truth. Maya fucked up my life and I'm not just going to sit here. I need to fix this mess." I told Finn, shaking his arm off.

I headed towards the pack house to inform my father and gamma of my leaving. My father was waiting on the front porch and he didn't look happy.

“Son, we found Jim. He is waiting in the basement with a few warriors. He did not come in willingly.” My father informed me. The others were climbing the stairs behind me.

“You want to stay to hear what Jim has to say?” I asked the beta and gamma.

“I’ll text Hunter to let him know that we will be staying a little longer. I have a feeling he’ll be coming back with us as well.” Beta Greyson answered me. He pulled out his phone to text the prince.

“Let’s go see what he has to say for himself.” I spoke, walking off in the direction of the stairs to the basement. We build our interrogation rooms in the old cells. This way, my office needed fewer repairs.

I led the way down the stairs into the basement. We replaced the bars with sound-proof glass. I could see that the warriors had cuffed Jim to the metal table that they seated him at. Two warriors stood outside the room and one was standing inside the room. I could tell that Jim had put up a fight. All my warriors had marks on their faces and Jim’s face had seen better days.

“Has he said anything?” I asked the two warriors as I approached the door.

“Nothing of importance. Just that he’s innocent of whatever crime he is being accused of, Alpha.” One of my warriors reported. I nodded. I turned to face the others.

“Who’s coming in?” I asked. Beta Greyson and Gamma Zach immediately stepped forward. I told my father and beta to watch from the surveillance room.

One of the warriors opened the door, and I stepped in to find a furious Jim. Beta Greyson and Gamma Zach followed behind me. I took the seat across from him and the beta and gamma stood at my sides.

“What is the meaning of this, Alpha?” Jim growled out.

“We are here to talk about your relationship with Kailen.” I told him and he huffed.

“Fucken pain in the ass, she was. Cathy should have sent her to the orphanage.” He said. I pushed my lips in a line and balled up my fists.

“And what was wrong with Kailen?” Beta Greyson asked him.

“Who the fuck are you two?” Jim asked bitterly.

“Beta and Gamma to the Lycan Prince. Now answer the question.” I commented. And he let out a huff. He knew he couldn’t fight my commands.

“She wasn’t my fucken responsibility. I didn’t sign up to raise a child that wasn’t my own!” He growled out.

“So you blamed an innocent child for what your mate brought into the relationship? You put her in the hospital more times than I can count, you fucken piece of shit! She was a fucken child!” I leaned over the table and yelled in his face. I was furious at his lack of empathy towards a child.

“She wasn’t my kid.” He shrugged his shoulders. I grabbed his head and slammed it onto the metal table. How the fuck could this piece of shit even be a part of my pack?

Beta Greyson and Gamma Zach pulled me behind them and turned to face me.

“We need to know what happened with Kailen’s kidnapping, and killing him won’t help us.” Beta Greyson whispered to me. I pushed my lips into a line and nodded.

I looked over at Jim and his nose was bleeding and it looked broken. I started pacing the room while the other two started to ask their questions.

“Were you involved in the kidnapping of Gamma Kailen?” Beta Greyson asked Jim.

“Kailen isn’t a fucken Gamma, she slept her way to that position, just like she was sleeping her way to the Luna position.” He scuffed out, and I stopped pacing. I was ready to kill him.

Both Beta Greyson and Gamma Zach let out a growl. Both of them were balling up their fists, and I knew they wanted to hit him just as badly as I did.

“I don’t care what you think of her. I asked you if you were involved in her kidnapping?” Beta Greyson growled out.

“You can’t prove a thing,” Jim growled out. I stepped towards the table and glared down at my former warrior.

“I, your Alpha, command you to answer the question!” I demanded, letting my aura fully out. This bastard was going to talk. I needed answers.

“Yes, I was involved.” He said through gritted teeth.

“How?” Gamma Zach asked him and he let out a growl. Sweat was beading down his forehead as he tried to fight the command.

“Now, Jim.” I growled.

“It was my job to drug her and make sure Cathy was out of the house.” He growled.

“Who?” I asked him and he shook his head.

“Answer me now!” I yelled, smashing my fists on the metal table.

“Beta Stuart.” He whispered, and I was stunned. Maya had said that he was involved, but it was still shocking to hear it.

“Beta Finn’s father?” Beta Greyson asked him, and he nodded.

“What did you get for your cooperation?” Beta Greyson asked him.

“The Beta paid off my debts.” He admitted, and I punched him in the jaw. This was over money and power. Kailen and I were just pawns in this fucken game they were playing.

“I’m transferring you to Ivory Moon.” I growled out. The others were on my heels as I left the room. My father and beta met us in the hallway. Both looked sympathetic to my situation.

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Lycan Prince Hunter

Kailen slept the entire way back to Ivory Moon. My stomach was in knots after I received a few texts from Greyson. He was explaining the latest developments in Kailen’s case. I wasn’t surprised about not Luna’s involvement or the fact that Cathy’s mate was involved. She had been abused for years, and someone in that house had to do it.

It surprised me to learn that the Alpha and his Beta were accompanying my people back to Ivory Moon. Greyson did warn me that the Alpha was after Kailen and that he was on a mission to make her see that she had made a mistake in rejecting him.

I was worried about what she was going to say about this whole situation. Would she choose to go back with Alpha Owen? Just the thought of her leaving made me want to rip my heart out. I couldn’t lose her and not to someone who doesn’t deserve her.

She is so much better than that alpha and his pack. Kailen proved that when she rejected him and worked her way to the top. She knew she was a luna, and she wasn’t going to let others tell her otherwise. She’s the strongest wolf I know and she deserves to be happy after the hell of a life she has had.

We are now back at Ivory Moon. They placed Kailen in a hospital room, and I was sitting beside her holding her hand. A doctor was in earlier, after we arrived to check out her back wound.

It's almost all closed up now, but they still have her on her side to take the pressure off her back so it can continue to heal. I was deep in my thoughts when Kailen squeezed my hand. I looked over at her and she was staring at me with a small smile.

"What are you thinking so hard about, handsome?" she smiled, squeezing my hand again. I gave her a smile, before leaning over and kissing her forehead. I could feel gentle tingles where my lips touched her skin. Kailen let out a gasp.

"Hunter." Kailen breathed out. I rested my forehead on hers.

"Baby, did you feel that?" I whispered.

"But how?" She breathed out.

"Aurora and Rex have accepted each other. The bite I gave you and the one you gave me is turning into our mark." I explained. Her breathing immediately became laboured, and I pulled away from her to look down at her.

She had her eyes closed, and she looked like she was about to cry. I couldn't help the pain in my heart from her reaction to us being chosen mates.

"Kailen, what's wrong?" I asked her.

"Baby, please don't be upset. I need to tell you something, I need to explain. It's not because I don't love you and I don't want to be with you. I want you more than anything." She cried.

"Then you need to explain because I didn't expect you to look so hurt that Rex claimed you and Aurora accepted." I told her. I was hurt, and it was coming out more angry than I expected.

I instantly regretted my tone. I looked down at her and she looked like she was ready to break.

"I'm sorry, Hunter. I didn't mean to hurt you. I just haven't explained. Before you make that decision, I need you to know everything." I moved

out of the chair and knelt down beside her bed. I rested my head against hers and started to play with her hair.

“Nothing you have to tell me would ever change my decision to be with you.” I mumbled into her forehead. She placed the hand I was holding earlier on my cheek and I leaned into her touch.

“Can we just go home, please? I promise I’ll explain, but I would feel more comfortable doing it at home. That way, if you choose to leave, I’m not stuck here by myself.” She whispered, and it broke me to hear her, so convinced that I could ever leave her.

“Beautiful, do you love me?” I asked her, holding her cheeks in my hands so that she would look at me. She moved her hand over one of mine.

“More than you’ll ever know.” She breathed out. And I rested my head against her forehead.

“Then that’s all you need to tell me. I love you and that’s all that matters. Our love for each other is all we need.” I told her and she nodded.

“Let’s get the doctor in here and then we can go home, okay Beautiful,” I asked her and she nodded.

I hit the call button, and we waited for a nurse to come in.

“How are you feeling?” I asked her. I was back to sitting in the chair, holding her hand.

“I’m okay. Hunter?” She stuttered out.

“Beautiful?” I asked, leaning forward.

“If you didn’t need an heir, I would have marked you three years ago.” She whispered and before I could say anything, the nurse came in. She was checking over Kailen when the doctor entered.

Most of her wounds were closed up, so the doctor okayed her to leave but to stay close to the hospital, and to take it easy. The more she rested, the faster she would heal. I just hope Kailen got the memo.

After we were home, I would ask her what she meant. I think I knew what she was saying. We have never had a kid talk before. I don't even know if she wants them. I just assumed that one day I would have them. She was right. They would expect me to have an heir, but I would never ask her to have a child if she wasn't ready or didn't even want one.

The nurse pulled out Kailen's IV and helped her have a shower. Her torso was still heavily bruised and I could tell that the movements she was making were causing her pain.

She was out of breath by the time she came out of the bathroom. They dressed her in a sweatshirt, pants, and some fluffy socks.

"Are you okay?" I asked, worried. I wrapped an arm around her shoulders and she leaned her head on my chest.

"She's going to be tired for the next few days until her body fully heals. She needs rest and food." The nurse answered.

"But can I go home?" She asked the nurse.

"You can go home, but just take it slow. You're on a liquid diet for the next two days until you come back for a checkup. The glass ripped through your stomach, so eat small meals to start." She explained to her, and she nodded.

"Is that everything?" I asked the nurse.

"Just make sure she rests. I know she's busy, but stay in bed and binge watch something." She answered. We both thanked her, and she left the room.

"You ready?" I asked her. She already had her eyes closed and was ready to sleep. I leaned down and scooped her into my arms. She let out a small scream, not expecting me to pick her up.

"Hunter, I can walk." She breathed out.

“You can barely keep your eyes open. And it’s just across the street,” I told her. She wrapped her arms around my neck and rested her head on my shoulder.

“Fine. But just this once.” She yawned. Making me laugh.

I started walking out of the hospital. The pack house was across the street and our house was behind the pack house. It was a really short walk, but I knew Kailen was tired and, honestly, I just love having this moment of having her in my arms for everyone to see.

Before I even made it out front of our home, Kailen’s breathing evened out and I knew she was sleeping again. I entered the Royal house and my father was in the seating area just off the foyer.

“Dad?” I asked him. I was wondering why he was in this seating area and not the one on our floor.

“Hunter, how is she doing?” He asked me, getting up from his seat.

“Tired, but she’s healing.” I answered, and he let out a sigh.

“I’m glad that she is okay, son, but I think we need to talk about the rumors that are going around.” He told me and I furrowed my eyebrows.

“Dad, if you want to talk, then you can come up with me to Kailen’s flat. She needs to get some rest, and I’m not leaving her alone.” I told him. Before he even answered me, I started to make my way to her floor.

I had to juggle, but I managed to get my keys out of my pocket. My father, who followed me, took them and opened the door for me. I walked in. And my father followed me in, closing the door behind him.

I told him I’d be back as I walked into Kailen’s bedroom. I laid her down gently and was about to pull my arms out from underneath her when she grabbed my arm.

“Please stay?” She breathed out. I leaned down and kissed her forehead.

“My dad wants to talk. I’ll be in the living room. Then I’ll be in, okay?” I asked her and she nodded while she let out a yawn. She rolled over off of my arms and went back to sleep.

I covered her up with a blanket and exited the room, closing the door behind me. I didn’t want to wake her if our conversation became heated.

I walked into the living room, and my father was sitting on the couch.

“Can I get you anything?” I asked him.

“I’m fine, son.” He answered. I walked over to the mini fridge and took out some water for me. Then I sat down in the chair across from my father.

“So you’re worried about rumors?” I asked him before I took a drink. He let out a sigh, leaning forward and resting his elbows on his knees.

“It’s not just rumors. I heard that you marked Kailen.” He said.

“And? What’s the problem?” I asked him, placing the bottle on the coffee table.

“You could have given me a heads up. I know that you two have been together for sometime. I’ve noticed that you are never on our floor. But son, this is a big step, one I’m not sure you are ready to take.”

“Dad, what are you saying? I thought you loved Kailen?” I asked him. I was confused about this entire conversation.

“I do, son. I know her better than you think I do. But she will not be able to give you an heir to the throne.” he said sorrowfully.

“Dad, I don’t care about heirs or the crown. I love Kailen and she is going to be my chosen mate. Rex has already claimed Aurora, and I’d never reject Kailen.” I told him firmly.

“And what about her fated mate?” He asked me and I growled.

“She rejected him. Why are you bringing him up?” I asked him, angry that he would even bring him up. My father knew the story about her mate.

“Son, I’m only asking because I heard that he was going to take back his acceptance of the rejection. I want you to be happy and to be with someone that you love. But I don’t want to see you get hurt if she chooses to be with her fated mate.” He explained, and I sighed.

“Dad, I’m not going to lie. The thought has crossed my mind, but I love her and I’m going to fight for her.” I told him.

“I understand, son. I hear that this Alpha is coming here with the prisoners?” He asked, and I nodded.

“I can get you all caught up tomorrow before they arrive. Greyson texted me and said that since they needed to gather additional evidence, they are going to leave tomorrow morning.” I explained, and he nodded.

“Let’s meet in the dining room in the morning for breakfast, and please bring Kailen.” He asked, and I nodded. We both stood up from our seats. I walked over to the door and opened it for him. He stopped and turned to face me.

“Hunter, if Kailen is who you want, then fight for her. I know she can’t have children, but there are other options.” He told me.

“Dad, how do you know that she can’t?” I asked him and he sighed.

“Talk to her. I know she’s scared to talk about what happened, but she’s the only one that can tell that part of her story.” He said. He grabbed my shoulder, giving it a squeeze, and then he left.

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I woke up snuggled into Hunter’s bare chest, my arm was draped over his waist. Yawning, I sat up on my elbow to look up at him. I winced at the pain in my torso from the movement, but the pain quickly subsided. It’s

hard to believe that I almost died a few days ago. I never should have gone back to that pack.

Hunter was softly snoring, so I knew he was still asleep. I couldn't help but smile at the man sleeping beside me. I could see the bite that Aurora gave him before we left. It was turning into a scar. It was red and raised.

When we mark our mates, the mark is our bite mark. No two are alike and it's a unique mark to let all the other wolves know that this wolf has been taken. Usually the mark would be located where the neck meets the collar, but the bite I gave him was a little further down his collar bone.

I reached up and touched my fingertips to the scar. The tingles were stronger, and Hunter let out a groan as I gently ran my fingers along his collarbone.

Hunter rolled into me, wrapping his other arm around me, holding me to his chest. I moved my arm, so I was lying down on the bed again. I hissed out from the pain, and Hunter immediately opened his eyes.

"Beautiful, are you okay? I'm not hurting you, am I?" He rushed out, his voice still thick with sleep.

"It's still sore, but I'm okay. Just the movement, and no, you aren't hurting me." I answered him. I snuggled into him and he rested his head against mine.

"Hunter?" I whispered. I was nervous, but I needed to tell him. I love him and I want this. I want us. But I need him to know the whole truth.

"Kailen, I know. You don't have to explain anything. I'm not going anywhere."

"What?" I hissed out from the pain of moving away from him so that I could look at his face. He was staring down at me.

"I know that you can't have kids, and I'm not worried about that. As long as I have you, nothing else matters." He said, kissing my forehead.

“It’s not just about giving you an heir. Do you realize what you would be giving up? Your family has had a ruler for almost 200 years and your family line will end with you. Are you willing to give up your family’s legacy? To hand off the throne to someone else?” I asked him with tears in my eyes.

I should have known better than to get involved with him, to fall in love with someone with so many responsibilities. I could never ask him to give up his whole life, but I have no idea how I’d live without him.

He instantly sat up and I knew that he was leaving. I knew he wouldn’t be able to give up his entire life for me. And as much as it hurt, I understood, and I tried to be strong.

He surprised me by leaning over and pulling out his tablet. He sat up against the headboard, unlocking the screen.

“Pick a country.” He turned to look down at me. I hissed and groaned as I sat up to lean against the headboard beside him.

“What?” I stuttered out, trying to get comfortable.

“Pick a country.” He asked again.

“Hunter, I don’t understand. Are you sending me away?” I asked him, confused. He stopped what he was typing and looked at me, confused.

“What? No, why would I ever send you away?” He answered. And I shrugged.

“I don’t know. You didn’t answer me. When you got up, I thought you were leaving.” I must sound so pathetic, and I was internally scolding myself for being so needy. I knew what this was when it started.

“Baby, I’m coming with you, silly. I would never send you away. And I don’t care about the throne or family legacies. If the council doesn’t accept our relationship, I’ll step down and Greyson can take the throne. You can be his gamma and I’ll just train.” He told me and I was stunned that he had this all planned out.

“You’ve been thinking about this a lot.” I sighed out. He wrapped an arm around my shoulder and I rested my head on his shoulder.

“I’ve been planning this for the last four years.” He told me, kissing my temple.

“And what about the media? They are going to rip us both apart,” I told him.

“Let them. People are always going to talk. There’s nothing we can do about that,” he answered.

“But what if the people don’t like me?” I whispered. I was scared of being in the spotlight. It was hard when I became gamma and there was a lot of talk, interviews and parties, but it eventually stopped. Being Queen would mean that I would always be in the spotlight, talked about and judged for doing everyday things.

“You can’t make everyone happy. So just focus on making me happy and I’ll focus on making you happy. I almost lost you and I’m never letting you go. You are officially stuck with me,” he said.

“But Kailen, what’s really bothering you? Does all this hesitation have to do with your ex-mate?” His voice turned serious, and it surprised me that he was bringing Owen up.

“Hunter, how I’m feeling has nothing to do with Owen. I just don’t want you to start resenting me because I couldn’t give you a child or because of something the media said. They are going to dig up my case. They are going to say that it was my fault, or that it was a lie. That I’m just some stupid omega, sleeping her way to the top. She rejected her Alpha mate so she could con the future king into marking her.” I was rumbling on and on.

Hunter had finally heard enough and crushed his lips to mine. I couldn’t move because of my torso and he couldn’t climb on top of me. So, with our necks turned at a weird angle, he kissed me until I needed oxygen.

He pulled away, and we were both breathless. I could feel the tingles on my lips and tongue and heat was pooling in my core. I knew I was wet, and I knew that Hunter was hard, but I knew I wouldn't be able to enjoy anything more sexual with the amount of pain that I was still in.

"That was mean." I breathed out.

"Yeah," he groaned. I leaned my head on his shoulder and he snuggled me into him with the arm that was still wrapped around my shoulders.

"Beautiful, I want you. All the other bullshit, we can figure it out together," he said. I reached up and, with my hand on his cheek, I turned his head so that he could look at me. I could feel the tingles start to build under my palm.

"I want you, Baby." I told him and his face lit up.

"What are you saying?" He rushed out.

"I'm saying, let's go to the lake for the weekend and spend some time together. Hopefully, I'm all healed up by then." I smiled at him.

He turned my body into his and lifted me on to his lap so I was straddling him. I was hissing and panting through the pain of the movement, gripping his shoulders.

"Shit, I'm so sorry, Babe." He told me, concerned. He rested his lips on my forehead until the pain settled.

"It's okay baby, I'm excited too." I breathed out.

"Is it terrible that I don't want to wait?" He asked me, while leaning in, kissing my neck. I let out a soft moan, wrapping my arms around his neck.

"So mean, Baby." I moaned out. I could feel how hard he was. It was digging into my thigh and I really wish I was healed.

"Maybe this will motivate you to stay in bed and to heal." He mumbled into my neck.

“If I stay in bed all by myself, I’m afraid I’ll just end up playing with myself.” I whispered into his ear before I took his earlobe in my mouth. He let out a groan and bucked his hips.

“Now, who’s the mean one?” His voice came out husky with lust.

“You started it. Don’t think I’m any less turned on than you are.” I kissed his cheek, and he sighed.

“You haven’t been waiting for years for this day and you just have to be hurt. It’s just my stupid luck.” He pouted and I let out a giggle, followed by hisses.

“Don’t make me laugh. It hurts.” I groaned out, wrapping my arms around my torso. His phone chimed on the bedside table, and Hunter let out a sigh.

“Do you feel up to coming to breakfast with dad? I told him yesterday that I’d meet with him and he asked for you to join us.” He asked me, and I nodded.

“Of course, I need to head to class after,” I told him.

“No, you need to get better so I can rip your clothes off and sink my teeth into you.” He purred, and I crushed my lips to his, wrapping my arms around his neck again. I stopped caring about the pain in my body. I wanted him. He slid his hand under my shirt and up my bare skin, causing goosebumps to erupt all over my body, and I shivered at the sensation.

Hunter’s phone chimed again, pulling us out of our moment. We were both panting, and we both wanted more. Hunter leaned over and was about to reach for his phone until he noticed his palm had some blood on it.

“Babe, you’re bleeding.” He looked back at me and I groaned. I stood up from the bed and turned around so the Hunter could inspect my back. I was not going back to the hospital unless there was a chance I could bleed to death.

“It looks like a few of your stitches are ripped out. Let’s get you in the shower and then I’ll bandage it up. Okay?” He explained, and I nodded.

“Go get the shower started, I’m just going to text dad back. Let him know that we are on our way.” He told me. And I headed to the bathroom to have a shower. I turned on the water and started to get undressed while I waited for the water to warm up. It was hard to get the sweatshirt over my head, but I managed to get it off. The blood had soaked through. I reached behind me and touched the wound with a wince. I pulled my hand back to inspect it and noticed that there wasn’t much blood. It must have happened last night in my sleep. I kicked off the sweatpants and stepped into the hot shower. I felt so much better after standing in the water.

Chapter 20 - The Lycan King's Gamma

Hunter and I were walking down the stairs, heading to the dining room to have breakfast with his father, the king. I was feeling anxious about seeing the Lycan King. He knew that I wasn’t able to have a child, and I was nervous about hearing how he felt about my relationship with his son.

Before we left my flat, Hunter bandaged up my back and I got dressed in leggings and a flowing, long sleeve blouse. I braided my hair while I waited for Hunter to get ready. I needed to head to class after. I couldn’t just sit around doing nothing.

Now, as we headed into the dining room, my stomach was in knots. Not only did I have to tell the Lycan King about Hunter’s and my relationship, but Hunter informed me before we left that Owen and Finn would be arriving soon. I was not looking forward to seeing either one of them again.

We approached the table; the king seated at the head. He looked up from his paper and gave both of us a smile.

“Son, Gamma Kailen, or should I call you Princess Kailen?” He asked me and I was shocked.

“You know?” I asked him, and then I looked over at Hunter. He was standing beside me with his hand on my lower back.

“My dear, I know where my son has been sleeping for the past year.” He winked at me, and I could feel my face heat up.

“And I’ve enjoyed every minute of it.” Hunter leaned in and whispered. And I nudged him in the ribs with my elbow.

“Stop,” I looked over at him and mouthed. He just gave me a grin, and I shook my head.

“Come, sit. We have plenty to discuss.” The King told us.

Hunter pulled out the chair beside the king and motioned for me to sit. Always the gentleman. He sat on the other side of me, resting his hand on my thigh. I tried not to make a sound when I sat down. I didn’t want them both to know how much pain I was in.

“So, Kailen, how long have you been with my son?” The king asked me, taking a sip of his coffee.

“It’s been almost four years now, my king.” And he looked stunned.

“Really?” He asked, and I nodded.

“Now, that explains a lot,” he said.

“How so?” I asked him curiously.

“Well, for one, it explains why Hunter never wanted to go to any more mating balls. He stopped caring about finding his fated mate. And he would never tell me why. Now I know it was because you two were together.” He explained, and I now felt guilty for not telling him the truth.

“I’m sorry, my king. I’m the one that didn’t want to make our relationship public, but I should still have told you.” I told him.

“My dear, you forget that I understand you. I understand why you kept it a secret, but I’m glad that you are finally accepting my son.” He told me and I couldn’t help but smile.

“So you’re okay with us being together? Even after knowing what you know about me?” I asked him. And he nodded.

“Kailen, you have made me so proud. And it would honor me to have you be part of our family.” He told him and I could feel the tears in my eyes.

“But what about an heir? You know the chances are very low.” I stuttered out.

“And there are always options. Do you love Hunter?” He asked me.

“More than anything.” I answered, and Hunter squeezed my thigh.

“Then that’s all that matters. I can see how happy you both are when you are together. And I can see how much good you bring out in my son.”

“Thank you.” I told him with a smile. I rested my hand on Hunters.

“My dear, can I ask you a personal question?” He looked at me, and I could tell that he was serious.

“Dad, I don’t think that is necessary,” Hunter spoke.

“Of course, my king. Anything.” I answered him and Hunter sighed. He must know what the king would like to ask me.

“Your fated mate, what’s going on with that?” He asked me, and I was a little taken aback by the question.

“I’m not quite sure what you are asking. There is nothing going on with Owen and I and there hasn’t been since I rejected him.” I told him. I was a little confused by his question.

“Dad’s concerned that you might go back to Owen, since he is planning on taking back his acceptance of your rejection.” Hunter said, and I looked at him.

“Do you think that?” I asked him, and he let out a sigh.

“You do, don’t you?” I was stunned.

“My king, I want you to know that I’m never taking back my rejection. I’m not the same person I was four years ago. I would never want anything bad to happen to him, but I don’t want to be with him. I want to be with Hunter.” Looking at the king, I told him firmly.

“Kailen, I didn’t mean to imply that I don’t trust you,” Hunter said, and I looked back at him.

“Hunter, I understand. But I’m telling you right now that my rejection will always stand.”

“But what if you didn’t know the whole truth?” He asked me.

“Hunter, what don’t I know?” I asked him. I’m worried now. He didn’t answer right away, and my stomach was in knots again.

“Son, you need to tell her the whole truth.” The King told his son.

“It’s about you and Owen.” He started to say, but I interrupted him.

“Let me guess. Owen is claiming that I rejected him because of a lie. He wants me to take back the rejection, or he’s going to get the council involved. I’m I close?” I asked Hunter, and the king let out a laugh.

“And that is why you are one of my gammas,” he said with pride before drinking more of his coffee.

“I have a feeling that Maya was also involved somehow, but she would have been too young to put the entire plan in motion. If you give me some time to go over everything, I’m sure I can figure it out.” I answered him and he pushed his lips into a line.

“We already know the people involved. And yes, everything you said is true.” Hunter told me.

“Who are the other people?” I asked him curiously. I’ve been working on my case for so long and I never had a reason why I was kidnapped.

“It was the former beta and Jim,” Hunter said, and it all made sense.

“He wanted his daughter to be Luna, and I’m sure he paid Jim for his help.” I told him.

“How do you always know?” He asked me, stunned.

“Because it makes sense. With me out of the way, Maya could get her claws into Owen. And Jim has always hated me.” I answered him.

“We read your file.” Hunter told me and I sighed.

“Then you know how bad it was,” I told him.

“Why did you pay off his house?” He asked me curiously. And I really didn’t know how to answer that question.

“I mostly did it for Cathy. Jim would call me every few months asking for money. And I would always give it to him. I didn’t want Cathy to get hurt. So when he called me a few months ago asking me for money again, I called the former Alpha and asked him to pay off their house and to ask him not to let Jim take any loans out on the house.” I explained. Hunter wrapped an arm around my shoulder and squeezed me into him. He kissed my temple, and I blushed. I wasn’t used to public displays of affection.

“You really are the best.” He mumbled into my temple.

“I’m sorry I didn’t tell you about my childhood. There was just a lot of bad, and I didn’t want to relive it.” I told him.

“You don’t have to apologize, I understand.” He told me before his phone went off and he groaned. He excused himself from the table to answer it. I’m sure it was Greyson.

“My king, May I ask you a question?” I asked when Hunter was out of the room.

“My dear, please call me dad.” He told me and I nodded.

“Okay, Dad. That will take some time to get used to,” I told him.

“But anyway, Hunter and I would like to mark each other after I’m more healed up. Do you have any concerns?” I shyly asked him. It was weird asking him to mark his son. Marking almost always included sex, so I felt weird talking to his dad about this.

“Are you asking for my permission to mark my son?” He asked me with a smile.

“I guess, I am. I just want to make sure that you are okay with me being your son’s chosen mate?” I asked him.

“Would my answer change your mind about being with Hunter?” He asked me and I sighed.

“No, it would just make living with my decision more difficult. I would never ask Hunter to abandon his responsibilities to the crown.” I told him.

“Kailen, I’m okay with it, and I have no concerns. You make Hunter want to be a better person.” The king told me. I rose from my seat to give him a hug.

It was kind of weird, since he was my boss and future father-in-law. But he was also a father figure to me. He has helped me more than he should have over the last four years. And I will be forever thankful for his kindness.

Hunter walked back in just as I was pulling away from his father. I looked over at him and smiled. I was truly happy at that moment.

“Is everything okay?” Hunter asked, walking over to the table.

“Perfect, son. What was the call about?” The king asked.

“It was Greyson. They will be here in about ten minutes. They are just crossing the border.” He told him and that was my queue to leave. I did not want to see Owen, and I had a class to teach.

“I guess that means I’ll head to class,” I told Hunter, and he sighed.

“You should really go back to bed. You need your rest to heal.” He told me. I walked towards him and wrapped my arms around his waist.

“I’ll take it easy, I promise. I’ll just sit there and talk, nothing more.” He wrapped his arms around my shoulders, giving me a gentle squeeze.

“Fine, but I’m coming to get you after class. And then you are going straight to bed.” He scolded me.

“Yes, Lycan Prince, sir.” I pulled away and saluted him, and he rolled his eyes, making me laugh.

“Go before I change my mind.” He told me before he grabbed my cheeks. He leaned down and gave me a kiss, which I returned. I could feel the tingles on my lips and face from his touch.

“Going.” I told him when he pulled out of the kiss. I walked back over to my chair and picked up my purse.