

## Chapter 26 - The Lycan King's Gamma

We were almost about to land at the airstrip outside of the Opal Mountain pack. We took two planes that could hold up to 300 warriors each. I didn't care how we did it, but we were going to storm in and take back Kailen.

The pilot announced that we were starting our descent when the worst pain I've even felt before ripped through my chest. I was panting, trying to remember how to breathe. My jaw was clenched and my teeth were grinding together to stop me from screaming out.

My whole body was trembling as I grabbed the armrests of my seat. I could almost make out what Greyson and Zach were saying, but I couldn't focus on them. My entire being was engulfed in this burning pain that just wouldn't stop.

"Rex, what the hell is happening?"

"Mate is being touched by another." He whimpered in my head. I would have let out a growl if I could have focused on anything other than the pain I was in.

When the pain finally subsided, I was gasping for breath. I felt like someone had strangled me. I've never experienced anything like this before, and I never want to again.

"Hunter, what happened?" Greyson yelled out, panicked.

"He's touching her," I gasped out.

"You can feel it?" Alpha Owen asked me. He and his beta insisted on coming with us. I nodded my head.

I was still trying to catch my breath as the plane hit the tarmac of the airstrip. I was covered in sweat and my body was achy and tired. My mind, on the other hand, was racing with my fury about what I was going to do to that bastard when I got my hands on him.

We waited on the plane while all the warriors disembarked. I was still trying to get my body to catch up to my mind. We heard a commotion outside the plane. Greyson went to check it out. Moments later, he called out.

“Hunter, you’re going to want to hear this.” I disembarked to find Greyson talking with an older wolf. He had shoulder-length shaggy salt and pepper hair and a full beard to match. He was still built for his age, maybe a little smaller than my beta.

“Lycan Prince.” He greeted me, bowing his head.

“I’m on official business, but I’m sure we can set up a meeting when I arrive back in Ivory Moon.” I told him. Getting Kailen back was the only thing I had time to deal with.

“This is about Kailen.” He said before I could turn away from him.

“And what do you know about Kailen, that you think I don’t already know?” I asked him, crossing my arms over my chest. I couldn’t show that I was now interested in this conversation. I didn’t need him making demands.

“I was her father’s beta, Thomas.” he said, and I was stunned, but I quickly hid it. I didn’t expect him to still be alive after what happened to his alpha and luna.

“Start talking.” I commanded.

“Cathy is my sister. She’s the one that has been taking care of Kailen. Kailen’s father ordered me to take Kailen and run when that bastard first came to challenge him for Kailen’s mother.” He started to explain.

“But how would he have known about Kailen’s mother?” I asked him.

“Drake heard the legend of the Luna wolves of Opal Mountain. Luna’s have always been the more powerful wolves of our pack. It is said that it has something to do with how close the moon is to our pack. When the moon is full, it powers their white wolves like no other. It is also said that if a male was ever born to our Luna, he would be one of the most

powerful wolves ever to exist. I can't confirm that last part, since there has never been a male born to any luna of the Opal Mountain pack." he explained.

"Why wouldn't I know about this legend?" I asked him, skeptical about what he was telling me, even though Cathy had said something similar.

"The pack has been trying to keep the legend a secret since the beginning of this pack. I'm not sure how he learned of the legend or how he was able to kill my alpha. I still regret not being there to help him, but he commanded me to protect his daughter." He answered.

"The full moon is tomorrow night," Zach commented.

"I'm not waiting another day to save her." I told him firmly.

"Lycan Prince, Marcus will want to have the Luna ceremony under the full moon. It would give us an advantage." Thomas started to say, but Rex interrupted him with a loud growl.

"He is touching her and I'm not waiting until tomorrow night to save her." I growled out. He looked at me, stunned.

"You're her mate?" He said, and I nodded.

"Not fated." Alpha Owen growled out, and I glared at him.

"What?" Thomas asked, confused.

"Alpha Owen was her fated mate until she rejected him. She is now my chosen mate," I explained.

"Interesting," Thomas said, rubbing his chin.

"Why is that interesting?" I asked him, curious to know what he was thinking.

"That Kailen would have been fated to a normal alpha. I'm not surprised that she would reject him, no offence, but she will never submit to

anyone. Her wolf is much too strong for that. Why did she reject you?" He asked Alpha Owen.

"After Marcus took her the first time, when she came back to her former pack, she found him with someone else." I explained instead of Alpha Owen.

"It makes sense why her wolf would reject you. She felt that you were too weak for her," Thomas said, and Alpha Owen let out a growl.

"I'm not weak." He growled out, fists balled to his side.

"Maybe not physically, but mentally. You were no match for her. Even if she didn't find you with another, you failed to protect her. I was the one that paid those worthless goons to take Kailen away from that monster." Thomas told us.

"You helped her?" I asked him, and he nodded.

"It took me almost six months to find someone in that pack that would betray their alpha. But I needed to help her. He's trying to beat her down. He wants to control her in everyway and the only way to do that is to beat her into submission." Thomas explained. I was grateful that someone helped her, even if it took six months.

"Why are you here now?" I asked him.

"I have informants in the pack. They informed me that Kailen was back and needed help. I had just arrived when your plane landed. As soon as I saw all the warriors, I knew that it had to be Ivory Moon. I can help you. I know these mountains and you have an army. But you will need to be patient. There is a tunnel that is hidden. It will take us all night to reach the exit that opens up into the backyard of the pack house. That is where the ceremony will be held. It will provide us with the distraction that we need to attack. And the full moon will give Kailen the power to fight him." Thomas explained. I felt defeated. How can I just knowingly leave her there with that monster, but how do I ask my warriors to put their lives on the line for hers? It was a good plan and if it was anyone else, I would be all over it, but this is Kailen and he is hurting her.

“Hunter, it’s a good plan. I know that you are anxious to get her back. We all are, but he knows these mountains and it will give us an advantage.” Greyson told me, resting his hand on my shoulder. I growled out in frustration. I felt trapped.

“Fine, we will go with your plan, but if I feel him hurting her again, I rush in.” I huffed.

“I understand. Can your wolf reach out to hers?” Thomas asked me, and I nodded.

“Tell her wolf that you are coming.” He said. I knew that Rex had already told Aurora that we were on our way. There was no way I was leaving here without her.

“So what’s the plan?” I asked him.

“We should take half the warriors through the tunnel and leave the others to spread around the border to the south of the pack. That way we could surround them if need be. But I have a feeling that once their alpha is dead, no one will fight.” he said.

“How can you be sure?” Greyson asked him.

“He’s a tyrant. He’s only in power because no one has challenged him, not because his pack respects him.” He explained. And I wonder why no one has ever reported him to the crown. We would have investigated. No pack member should have to live their lives in fear.

“That’s a good plan. Zach, I want you to lead the warriors to the south. Greyson and I will take some warriors with us through the tunnel with Thomas.” I told him, and Zach nodded.

“Try to stay in wolf form so we can mindlink. I’m sure there won’t be any phone reception,” I added.

Thomas took out a map, and we spent about an hour planning what we were going to do. It was way past sundown by the time we were ready to shift and take off towards the waterfall where the entrance of the tunnel was hidden. All of us had our bags in our mouths with our clothes and

weapons. Rex prefers using his teeth, but if anything happens, I have a way of protecting us.

Thomas left one of his warriors with Zach so that we could all mindlink. I guess Thomas started his own little pack. He refuses to be called alpha. And all of his pack members were once members of the Opal Mountain pack. Their only mission was to keep Kailen safe, to one day bring their true Luna home.

We ran towards the waterfall, and I was anxious. I just needed it to be tomorrow night, already. I needed to storm in there and kill Marcus and take back my Queen. After about an hour, we made it to this beautiful waterfall. The water sparkled under the almost full moon. It was truly a magical place. I made a note to take Kailen after she was safe. Thomas shifted, and I followed suit.

“We will need to shift to get behind the waterfall. Once behind, we can stay in wolf form until we make it to the exit,” he said, and I nodded. All the warriors shifted, and we followed Thomas along the narrow passage along the side of the waterfall. It was barely carved into the side of the mountain. Only my toes fit on the ledge and I found that you needed to balance your weight towards the mountain or you’d fall into the pool below. And to top it off, the ledge was also slippery. This passage was indeed hidden and dangerous. There were sharp rocks below the thunderous falls. I wonder how Cathy managed to do this with a four-year-old child.

## **Chapter 27 - The Lycan King's Gamma**

Lips touching my hip woke me from whatever sleep I was enjoying. It was restless and exhaustion must have taken over. I was lying on my back. Marcus had lifted up the shirt I was wearing and was planting kisses down my hip tattoo.

“I love your tattoo, Babygirl.” Marcus mumbled against my skin. I didn’t expect him to still be here when I woke up. Before, he was always gone. It was weird that he was trying to play house with me. Pretending that we are this perfect, loving couple. I felt more prepared today, mentally,

to deal with this. Aurora had assured me Hunter was close and that I just had to fake it a little longer.

“How was your sleep, Babygirl?” He asked me, moving his way up my body until he was at eye level with me.

“It was okay. How was yours?” I asked him.

“The best night’s sleep I’ve had since they took you from me,” he answered. I thought I would take advantage of his good mood.

“Marcus, can I ask you a question?” I asked him shyly.

“Anything, Babygirl.” He rested his head on my shoulder and started kissing my neck. I had to hold back the gag. Hunter is coming, I kept repeating in my head.

“The girl that was found at Blue Crescent.” I started to ask, and he let out a sigh.

“She was nothing Babygirl.” He said.

“She was carrying your child.” I said, before my brain could register what my mouth had just said. I was preparing myself for the blow, but it never came.

“That was unfortunate. The auction house decided to start drugging the girls. I was unaware, and she became pregnant. Then she went crazy, and I killed her. You are the only one I want to carry my pups.”

“If I have meant so much to you before, why didn’t you come back for me?” I asked sorrowfully, playing on his apparent love for me. I looked at him with tears in my eyes, putting on the best act possible. I wanted answers.

“I had to take care of pack business. It’s not that I didn’t want to come for you.” He said, kissing my cheek.

“The last four years have been hell without you.” he mumbled, moving his hand under my shirt up my bare stomach. I wince out, playing up the part.

“What’s wrong, Babygirl?” He asked, concerned.

“Its just my stomach hurts. I’m not sure why it’s taking so long to heal.” I told him with tears running down my cheeks.

“It’s okay, Babygirl. Let’s go see the doctor and then we can get ready for your Luna ceremony tonight. I want you to feel better when I mark you tonight.” He said, pulling me into his arms and kissing my forehead.

“Okay,” I whispered into his chest. We laid there for a bit before I asked him a question that had really been bothering me.

“Marcus, if this was my parents’ pack, I don’t suppose you have a picture of them?” I stuttered out. I noticed that he liked it when I was shy and submissive.

“I could get someone to look, Babygirl. This is your home now, and I want you to feel comfortable here,” he answered, and I nodded against his chest.

“Come on, Babygirl, let’s get ready and head to the clinic.” He said, kissing my forehead and moving from the bed. He walked over to the closet.

I sat up and waited for him. I only had the clothes that I came in. He came out of the closet dressed in black slacks and a white button-up shirt. He passed me an ivory sweater dress.

“Get dressed. I’ll be in the kitchen, making us coffee.” He said before he left the room. I rushed into the bathroom, and I noticed that there wasn’t a lock on the bathroom door. Fuck.

There were hair ties and a hairbrush on the counter. I brushed out the rat’s nest and pulled it back into a messy bun. I pulled the shirt off and slipped on the sweater dress. It was off the shoulder, and it was cute, but I wished it was longer. My hips were wider, causing the dress to be



shorter. I felt like my bare ass was hanging out. I went through the hamper in the bathroom and pulled out my underwear and slipped them on. It was better than nothing. I took a few deep breaths before I left the bathroom and walked through until I found Marcus sitting at the little table in the kitchen area. He was drinking his coffee and looking at his phone.

“You look beautiful, Babygirl.” he told me as I sat down in front of the second coffee mug.

“Thank you.” I whispered, taking a sip of the coffee.

“There are shoes at the door for you. I just need to finish this email and then we will head out.” He told me.

“Okay.” I answered him. I stood up and walked over to the door and found a pair of black flats. I put them on before I headed back to the table to wait for Marcus. When Marcus was ready, he led me out of the room and into the rest of the pack house.

He led me the opposite way we had been yesterday. We walked to the end of the hallway and it ended at a staircase. We descended, and I was taking in my surroundings. Marcus had two warriors posted outside the room he was keeping me. There was also one station on every landing. There was no way I could sneak off without getting caught by one of them. I knew I was strong, but I didn't think I could take on an entire army.

We exited a door on the opposite side of the pack house from where we had entered yesterday. I assumed we were in the backyard. I let out a gasp as I looked around. A huge mountain range surrounded us, with trees all around the edge of the mountains. The sun had just started to peek between two of the mountains. This place was truly beautiful.

“I can't wait to show you how this place looks under the moonlight.” Marcus whispered in my ear, pulling me back to reality.

“This place is beautiful.” I told him when we started walking. There were warriors stationed all around the pack house grounds.

“Should I be worried?” I asked him cautiously. He stopped walking and turned his attention to me. He gave me a suspicious look before answering.

“Are you asking about the warriors?” He raised an eyebrow, and I tried to make myself small and weak.

“I’m just worried that something might happen to you,” I whispered. He grabbed the small of my back and pulled me into his chest.

“You have nothing to worry about, Babygirl. They are there for your protection. Just in case.” He said, and I nodded.

We started walking again and I couldn’t shake the feeling of being watched. I gazed around the clearing, but I couldn’t see anything.

Marcus led me into the clinic, where a nurse greeted us and showed us to a room. Marcus didn’t leave my side, and I wasn’t surprised. The nurse asked me to change into a gown and informed us that the doctor would be in soon. Once she left, I changed into a gown and sat down on the table, waiting.

The longer we waited, the more my anxiety built. I thought I was here to get my back and stomach checked, but I had a bad feeling in the pit of my stomach. The doctor finally entered and greeted both of us.

“Alpha, what seems to be the nature of your Luna’s visit today?” He asked Marcus. Not the person who he would be examining.

“I would like her fertility checked. Also, she has some wounds on her abdomen that need to be looked at. She is still experiencing some pain.” He told the doctor. I was trying to slow down my breathing. I knew he was going to kill me when he found out I couldn’t have kids.

“Alpha, would you mind stepping out?” the doctor asked.

“I do mind, just do what you need to do,” he commanded. The doctor nodded his head.

“Let’s check your back first,” he said, and I nodded. He pulled the gown open at the back. He pushed on some of the areas and I winced every time to show that I was indeed in pain, but it actually didn’t hurt as much as I was hyping it up.

“Alpha, I’ll give her some painkillers for the pain. She needs to rest for this to fully heal.” He told Marcus.

“Now, please lay down Luna. I’m going to check your stomach and then I can check your fertility.” I laid on my back as the doctor checked my stomach.

“Much of the same, Alpha. Luna needs to rest.” The doctor told Marcus.

“I’ll make sure that she rests before her Luna ceremony.” Marcus spoke. The doctor then moved to the end of the table and moved my knees apart. I was on the verge of a panic attack. My mind was racing trying to find a way I could make it out of this alive. How the hell was I going to take on not only an alpha but his pack?

When the doctor was done, he informed Marcus that he wanted to take some blood and then he would give him the results when he received them. But as far as he can tell, everything looks good to carry a pup. I let out the breath I was holding in. I can’t believe that the doctor just lied to his alpha, but for whatever his reasons are, I was grateful.

After the doctor left us, I put my clothes back on and Marcus walked me back to the Alpha floor of the pack house.

## **Chapter 28 - The Lycan King's Gamma**

We ran all night and finally made it to the exit by mid-morning. The entrance was well hidden, and all the warriors had cover until we needed to attack.

Thomas and I made our way out of the tunnel. We were looking at the back of the pack house. The wind was blowing toward us, so I knew the warriors wouldn’t be able to smell us. We were just scouting out the area

when Kailen was dragged out of the house by Marcus. I wanted to rush in, but Thomas put his hand on my shoulder.

She was dressed in a short sweater dress that didn't cover enough and I could almost see the bottom of her ass. Marcus pulled her into another building, and I wondered where he was taking her.

"That's the clinic," Thomas whispered. And I started to panic. Why would they need to go to a clinic? She looked okay, from what I saw. I know he touched her but I couldn't see any bruises, but we were pretty far away.

We sat there and watched until they came out of the clinic and walked back into the pack house. Thomas grabbed my shoulder, pulling my attention to him. He motioned me to head back, and I reluctantly left with him, back to the tunnel. It was killing me slowly, not rushing in there and killing that bastard who touched my mate.

When we were back in the safety of the tunnel, I was finally able to speak with Thomas.

"Why was he taking her to the clinic?" I asked him and he sighed.

"He wants her to have his pups. I can speculate that was the reason why he took her there." He said. And my heart was pounding in my chest.

"What if he finds out she can't have pups?" I rushed out.

"The doctor is a good friend of mine. He would never give that information. He knows his alpha is a piece of shit." He told me.

"He would lie to his Alpha?" I asked him skeptically.

"He would for his Luna, yes." He told me. I was praying that Thomas was right and that Marcus would never find out the truth. I'm sure he would kill her.

"Prince Hunter, you should try to get some sleep. It's going to be a long wait until we are able to move out." Thomas told me. Almost all the other men were sleeping. We weren't sure what was going to happen when the moon finally rose and we could finally rush in.

“I’m not tired,” I told him and he sighed.

“You need your strength, Prince Hunter. You are no good to your mate if you don’t keep up your strength,” he said.

“Only if you inform me if anything changes,” I told him, and he nodded.

“I’ll wake you if anything changes.” He promised. I hesitated before I moved further back into the tunnel. I knew what Thomas was saying, but I didn’t think I’d be able to sleep until Kailen was safe in my arms, sleeping beside me.

I stripped off my clothes and shifted. There was no way I would ever be able to get comfortable on this hard, damp dirt. Circling a few times, Rex finally got comfortable and laid down, curling up into a fluff ball. Closing his eyes, I found myself thinking about the first time Kailen and I met.

She and my father walked into the Royal house while Greyson, Zach and I were racing down the stairs, heading right towards them. Kailen hid behind my father as we all came to a screeching halt in front of them.

“Son, boys. I’d like you to meet someone. She will be staying in the Royal House,” my father said. This beautiful, timid woman stepped out from behind him. The moment her gorgeous hazel eyes met mine, I knew she was mine.

“Kailen, this is my son, Hunter. His Beta, Greyson, and his Gamma, Zach.” My father introduced us.

“Hi.” She said shyly to us. She refused to make eye contact for more than a few seconds with any of us. She was so timid and shy, but I needed to know her.

“Hunter, can you please take Kailen shopping? Get her everything she might need or want.” My father commanded, and I nodded to him.

“My king, you don’t have to do that.” She said to my father.

“Kailen, you didn’t bring anything. And you are my guest. Hunter will take you shopping and I’ll make sure a room is made up on our floor.” He

told her and I was surprised by how my father was treating her. I wondered where he knew her from. She must be a daughter of someone important.

“My king, I don’t want to be a bother.” She whispered.

“It’s okay, Kailen. No one will hurt you with these three around. I promise, you are safe with them.” He told her, and she nodded. My father walked over to me and leaned into my ear.

“She also needs a phone. She has been through a lot, so be patient and no sudden movements towards her.” My father said, and I nodded.

“Kailen, I have some meetings to attend but if you need me, ask Hunter and he’ll call. Okay?” He turned his attention back to her. She nodded, giving him a small smile, and my heart melted.

My father walked out of the Royal House. I assume he was headed to his office at the pack house.

“Kailen, we were just about to go to the mall. Do you want to come?” I asked her. She shifted on her feet.

“I wouldn’t want to impose,” she said. I looked at both Zach and Greyson and they both shrugged.

“You can never impose, come.” Greyson told her.

The drive to the mall was awkward. Kailen was just staring out the window.

“So, Kailen, what pack do you come from?” Zach asked from the back seat. I was driving, Kailen was riding shotgun, and those two were in the back of my SUV.

“I’m from Blue Crescent.” She stuttered.

“How old are you?” He asked her.

“18.” She answered him.

“My father seems to like you,” I commented.

“The king has been very supportive,” Kailen said, looking out the window. I wondered what she meant by that but I didn’t press her.

“So, are you staying here?” Greyson asked.

“I think so. I don’t have anywhere else to go,” She answered.

“You can’t go back to your pack?” I asked her, and she looked over at me. I could feel her eyes on me while I watched the road.

“I can’t go back there.” She answered and I could tell that she was uncomfortable. She stared back out the window again.

“Well, what do you like to do for fun?” Zach asked her.

“I like being outdoors.” She answered.

“Like camping, hiking?” I asked her.

“Yes, I enjoy being in nature and reading.” She said.

“What do you enjoy?” She asked.

“Anything, really.” I shrugged, pulling into the mall parking lot.

I remember walking through the mall. Kailen looked so uncomfortable with so many people around her. She was very jumpy and scared. I was wondering what she had gone through to be like this now. I also wondered how she was before, if she was different from how she is now.

The memory shifted to the first time Kailen and I were together. Kailen was now in her apartment, as it was now finished. The guys and I went out drinking. Kailen never really cared about going out. I think that being around drinking men made her uncomfortable. We were at this bar and the guys were hitting on this group of girls. I was just the wing man. I had no interest in being with any of them.

A few drinks in and I was feeling buzzed. One of the girls decided to sit in my lap and start kissing my neck. I immediately stood up and walked out. I didn't want anyone touching me unless it was Kailen.

I found myself outside her door, and I knocked. She answered in her fleece pj pants and a tank top.

"Hunter, what are you doing here?" She asked me. I pushed past her and entered her living room.

"Is everything okay?" She asked me, concerned. I turned to look at her. She looked worried about how I was acting. I crept closer to her, not breaking eye contact with her. As soon as I was standing in front of her, I wrapped my arms around her, pulling her into my chest. Before she could say anything, I crushed my lips to hers.

Her taste engulfed my senses as I pushed my tongue into her mouth, tasting every inch. She wrapped her arms around my neck and I pulled her even closer. I didn't pull away until my lungs were begging for air. I rested my forehead against hers as we both were trying to catch our breath.

"Hunter." Kailen breathed out.

"Kailen, I want you." I confessed to her.

"Hunter, I'm broken. You don't want me." She said, trying to pull away.

"Do you want me?" I asked her, pulling her back against my chest.

"Hunter, you deserve better than me," She whispered. I picked her up, grabbing her ass, she instinctively wrapped her legs around my waist. I walked over to her couch and sat down with her straddling me.

"It doesn't matter what you think I deserve. I want you, Kailen. I've wanted you since our eyes met. Please, say you feel it too?" I asked her.

"Hunter, I don't know if I can give you what you are asking," She whispered.



“We can go as slow as you need. I just can’t pretend that I don’t care about you. I can’t just be your friend anymore. I need you.” I told her.

I must have been dreaming. I was awakened by Thomas, shaking Rex’s shoulder. I immediately shifted and started to pull on my clothes.

“What’s wrong?” I asked him, worried.

“It’s almost time for the ceremony. We are starting to get into position,” he answered. I can’t believe I’ve slept for that long.

I followed Thomas out of the tunnel and over to where we were hiding before. I could see everything clearly, with the moon shining so brightly in the sky. There was an archway set up, and Marcus was standing under it. There were pack members all around waiting for Kailen.

As soon as she came into view, I was in awe of her. She was wearing a white, off-shoulder, full-length dress covered in white lace. She looked beautiful, and I hated the way Marcus was staring at my mate.

I was about to run in, but Thomas grabbed my shoulder, giving it a squeeze. I looked over at him and he shook his head. We watched as my mate and her captor held hands like they were a happy couple.

Before Marcus could cut Kailen’s palm to unite her with her pack, Aurora shifted. It was so sudden that if I hadn’t been watching the entire scene intently, I would have missed it.

Aurora’s beautiful white fur coat sparkled in the moonlight, changing from purples and pinks. She looked magnificent, standing taller than I’d ever seen her. She lunged her body into Marcus, ripping out his throat, coating herself in his blood.

His lifeless body fell to the ground with a thud, and the surrounding air became eerily quiet. Kailen had just killed their Alpha. Technically, she is now Alpha and the pack will now follow her.

Before I realized what my body was doing, I found myself running over to Aurora. I could hear her panting, and I wasn’t sure what was happening.

Aurora collapsed and shifted back into Kailen. She was on her hands and knees, covered in Marcus' blood.

"Kailen!" I yelled out, making my way over to her.

"Hunter?" She sat back on her knees. I pulled off my hoodie I was wearing and pulled it over her head before I pulled her into my chest, wrapping my arms tightly around her.

"Hunter, you came." She whispered. I could hear she was on the verge of tears.

"Kailen, nothing could ever stop me from being with you." I told her and she started to sob into my chest.

"I'm so sorry, Hunter." She cried out.

"Beautiful, you have nothing to apologize for. I love you so much and I'm so thankful that you are safe." I told her, kissing her temple.

"Prince Hunter, everyone has surrendered. Everyone is willing to stand with their new Alpha, Kailen.", Thomas informed me, while I held Kailen in my arms. I was sitting cross-legged on the ground and she was straddling me.

"Good, can you please find accommodations for the warriors? We should be able to head out tomorrow." I ordered, and he nodded.

"Kailen, we should get you inside and clean up." I whispered to her.

## **Chapter 29 - The Lycan King's Gamma**

As soon as Marcus locked the door behind me, locking me inside the room alone, I was finally able to breathe. I walked over to the couch and flipped down, resting my head on the back. I was finally able to relax a little since I was now locked in here alone.

"Kailen, you need to get some sleep." Aurora told me.

“I’m not going back into that room.” I told her.

“Then sleep on the couch. Just get some rest. You are going to need it.” She said before retreating to the back of my mind. Sighing, I pulled the blanket that was folded off the back of the couch and curled myself up to have a much needed nap.

I found myself thinking about the first time I met Hunter. I was just walking into the royal house with the king. Greyson, Zach and Hunter came barrelling down the stairs like they were trying to win a race. I hid behind the king as they came to a sudden halt once they reached the bottom.

Nervously, I moved from behind the king as he introduced me to them. As soon as my eyes met his beautiful deep blue eyes, my heart skipped a beat. I immediately looked away. There was no way I could ever think about being with someone else, especially not the future king.

The king surprised me by asking the guys to take me shopping. I didn’t have any money, and I felt guilty taking from the king. But he wasn’t having any of my excuses and assured me that I was safe with his son and his friends.

The car ride to the mall was awkward. They kept asking me all of these questions, but I didn’t know how to answer. I felt like the fourth wheel and the mall did nothing to ease my anxiety. I was never the one that could accept other people paying for or buy me things.

We went into a store. The guys would pick out ten more after I grabbed one shirt. It mostly embarrassed me about having to have the king’s son buying me things, but I really didn’t have a choice. I had nowhere else to go, and the king insisted that I’d come back to Ivory Moon.

The memory shifted to the night Hunter, and I first got together. I was sitting in my new apartment. The king had a few rooms on the gamma floor renovated, so I would have my own place. It was something my therapist had suggested and when I told the king, I would like to look for a place to live; he started the project the next day.

The king has always made me feel safe from the first moment I met him. And he has been like a father to me, even if I'd only known him personally for the last six months, at this point.

I was sitting on my bed when I heard pounding at my door. I looked over at the clock and found that it was after midnight.

"Who could that be?" I wondered out loud to myself as I made my way to the door. Opening it, I find Hunter.

"Hunter?" I said, confused. He pushed past me and entered my living room. I could tell that he was agitated. I closed the door behind him and turned to look at him.

"Hunter, what's wrong?" But before I could even register what he was doing, his lips were on mine and my arms were around his neck.

I didn't realize how much I wanted him until I tasted him. He lifted me, his hands on my ass, and I wrapped my legs around his waist, refusing to part with his lips. I only let go of him when my lungs were screaming for oxygen.

"Kailen, I want you." His voice came out husky with lust. After everything I had been through, I never thought about any man turning me on, but his voice instantly made my panties wet and my pussy pulsating with need. A need I never thought I would ever experience again.

"Hunter, you don't want me. I'm broken." I whispered. He rested his forehead against mine as I straddled him on my couch.

"Beautiful, do you want me?" He asked him and my heart ached to say yes. Of course, I wanted him, but even if my body wanted him, I don't think my mind would go along with it.

"Hunter, I don't think I can give you what you want." I told him, looking into his eyes.

"We can take this as slow as you need. I just can't keep walking around pretending that I don't care about you," he said. My heart was racing

with love for him. He has been nothing but patient with me since I arrived here.

He would change his entire schedule if I had an appointment, and I didn't feel comfortable going alone. The safest I've ever felt has been with this man, this god of a man who was destined to be my king.

I knew from the moment I met him that I felt something for him, but I was in no position to be with anyone. I was a mess and I'm still recovering from the trauma I endured, but being with Hunter just felt right.

I crushed my lips to his, wrapping my arms around his neck, pushing my body impossibly close to his. I ran my tongue across his bottom lip, asking for entrance. His lips parted, and he thrust his tongue into my mouth, playing with my tongue and tasting every inch of my mouth.

I found myself grinding against him. He had my body on fire and I wanted him. I wanted him to touch my body, and knowing that I was in control made me feel even more comfortable with him.

My back hit my bed before I realized that Hunter had carried me into my bedroom.

He started kissing down my neck, causing me to let out a small moan.

"Beautiful, if you need me to stop. Tell me. I don't want to do anything you're not ready for." He mumbled into my neck and I nodded.

"Words, Beautiful." He said, he pulled away to look at me.

"I promise." I whispered.

Banging on the door startled me awake. I must have been dreaming. Yawning, I opened my eyes to find that I was still trapped in this nightmare. Sighing, I stood up and stretched out my stiff body.

The door opened with a bang, causing me to jump. A warrior entered and placed a garment bag over a chair.

“Luna, it’s time to get ready. The moon will be at its highest point in just over an hour.” He told me before he left, locking the door behind him.

I walked over to the window to see that it was indeed night time and the moon was just rising over the peaks of the mountains that surrounded the pack house. The sight from the window was beautiful, and I found myself in awe of the beauty of this place. I hope I’ll be able to share this with Hunter.

“It’s okay, Kailen. Just get ready.” Aurora told me, and I sighed.

“You better know what you are doing?” I told her before I picked up the bag and walked into the bedroom. I placed the bag on the bed and decided to have a quick shower before I got dressed.

Even the hot water couldn’t relax away the dread I was feeling over what was about to happen. Marcus was going to try to make me his Luna, and the thought of being stuck with him forever made me feel sick. I tried not to think about it as I washed away his scent on my body.

“Kailen, Hunter’s mark, has healed. Marcus could never mark us unless I claimed him. And I would rather us dead than ever accept his crazy ass.” Aurora huffed in my head.

I hopped out of the shower and wrapped a towel around myself before I stepped in front of the mirror that hung above the sink. Hunter’s bite had indeed healed. I wondered if mine had healed on him.

“Since you both weren’t with each other when your marks healed, the bond will be complete when you meet his eyes.” Aurora explained.

“And how do you know? I’ve never heard of this ever happening.” I asked her.

“I’m the wolf. It’s my job to know.” She answered me sarcastically. I rolled my eyes, even though she couldn’t see me.

I brushed my hair and braided it down my back before I headed back into the bedroom to get dressed. I unzipped the bag to find a beautiful white dress covered in lace. The thought of a wedding dress had me in knots.

The only one I want to marry is Hunter. He's the only one I want to ever touch me. He's the only one I want to spend the rest of my life with. Guilt started to eat away at me because of what Marcus did last night. I pray to the mood goddess that Hunter wasn't able to feel what he was doing to me.

I found a pair of white lace panties in the bag as well, so I slipped them on and then I pulled on the dress. I walked back into the bathroom to admire myself in the mirror. The dress was full length, and it hugged my curves nicely. I wish it was Hunter who I was getting dressed up for. Sighing, I found the black flats that I was wearing earlier and slipped them on. I walked over to the window and stared out into the freedom I wish I had. I wish I could shift and runaway from this place.

The lock clicking as it was unlocked pulled me from my thoughts. Time to get this over with, I thought, as the door opened and in walked a warrior.

"Luna, the alpha is waiting," he announced, bowing his head in respect. I nodded and followed him out. The two warriors watching the room followed behind us as we made our way out into the backyard.

As soon as I stepped into the moonlight, I felt instantly at peace. I felt calm and ready. Ready for what? I wasn't sure. It was the weirdest sensation. I felt stronger and more in control of myself than I ever felt before. The warrior that I was following moved aside, and I now had a clear view of Marcus. He was standing by an archway covered in fairy lights. The warrior motioned for me to walk towards Marcus, and I nodded to him.

I walked between what I assume was the entire pack as I made my way to Marcus. He was smiling at me like he had just won a prize as I tried not to show too much emotion. Even faking being happy was difficult. I felt like I was going to be sick, looking at this man that I was now in front of. He grabbed my hands and lend in to kiss my cheek.

"You look beautiful." He whispered. I gave him a small smile, as I didn't want to anger him in front of the pack. I didn't know where their loyalties lied and I wasn't about to anger an entire pack. Before I heard Marcus say a word, Aurora shifted, and I must have blacked out.

I found myself on my hands and knees, covered in blood. I was breathless, and my entire body throbbed. Hunter ran up to me and pulled something over my body while I was trying to find my bearings.

“Hunter, you came.” I whispered, about to breakdown.

“Kailen, nothing could ever stop me from being with you.” he told me, and I started to sob into his chest. I wrapped my arms around him and held on.

“I’m so sorry, Hunter.” I cried out, guilt overcoming my senses.

“Beautiful, you have nothing to apologize for. I love you so much and I’m so thankful that you are safe.” Hunter told her, kissing my temple.

“Prince Hunter, everyone has surrendered. Everyone is willing to stand with their new Alpha, Kailen,” a man informed Hunter.

“Good, can you please find accommodations for the warriors? We should be able to head out tomorrow.” he ordered the man.

“Kailen, we should get you inside and clean up.” He whispered to me.

“Is he really dead?” I whispered. He grabbed my cheeks and lifted my head so I was looking into his deep blue eyes.

“He’s dead, Baby. You killed him.” He said. I crushed my lips to his, thrusting my hands into his hair.

## **Chapter 30 - The Lycan King's Gamma**

It’s been three weeks since I killed Marcus and became the Alpha of the Opal Mountain pack. I decided to leave my father’s beta, Thomas, in charge of the pack until I could figure out what I was going to do. When we were leaving the pack, Owen and Finn both found their mates. And as much as I didn’t want to feel anything for Owen, I was happy that he finally had a second chance at love. I was never going to be his Luna. And the fact that he followed Hunter to Opal Mountain to help save me really



surprised me. Hopefully, after finding his second chance, he won't waste it.

I learned that Cathy is Thomas' sister, and they were both ordered by my father to protect me. Cathy moved back to Opal Mountain, and she was devastated to learn about the abuse I had suffered at the hands of her mate. She sold her house at Blue Crescent, and they informed her that I had paid it off. She tried to give me the money from the sale, but I told her to use it to start a new life. If Jim wasn't already marked for dead, Thomas said that he would have killed him on the spot. And I also learned that Thomas was the one that got me away from Marcus the first time. He felt guilty that he took him so long to get me out, but I was just so grateful that someone cared enough about me to help me.

Maya and Jim were both tried and sentenced to death. They were still looking for the former beta, but I have a feeling he is already dead. I thought I'd feel bad for their deaths, but I felt relieved that justice had finally caught up to them. It seemed that the only thing that we had to do now was to track down where the human sales were happening. Thomas was working closely with another gamma of the king, to hopefully shut it down. I hope we can track down the rest of the people that were branded and sold. I was taking a backseat on the case because my therapist thought that would be best under the circumstances.

I had to start daily therapy again and my night terrors had started up again. I found myself wandering, not really sure where I belong in my own life. Overwhelmed by all my newfound responsibilities. Some days are easier than others. Some days I wish I could run away and some I wake up with a newfound determination to be the best version of myself. The therapist assured me that how I was feeling was normal after everything I had been through. It was like ripping the band aid off a wound that wasn't fully healed. And now I had to work harder to seal it up again.

Hunter has been completely understanding, which makes me feel even more guilty about how I've been feeling. Before, I was alone at the beginning of my recovery. I shouldn't be ashamed of my feelings, but it's hard to explain them to someone who has never experienced what I've gone through. No matter how hard he tries. I love him and I thought of

coming back here should be easy. I had Hunter this time, but for whatever reason, it seems harder.

I was sitting at my desk in my classroom. I've been back at work for the last two weeks now. Sitting around was making me go insane. My students hadn't arrived yet, and I was looking over my lesson plan for the day. I think the worst part of coming back this time was that everyone seemed to be walking on eggshells around me. They were treating me like I would break at any moment, not the King's Gamma that I worked so hard to become. Even my students treated me differently and I hated it. Before I was a nobody here, and it was easy to hide.

The door to my classroom opened up, and I thought that some of my students had arrived, until I looked up to see Hunter walking down the stairs towards me. I gave him a smile as he approached my desk.

"Hunter, what's up? My class is about to start." I told him, looking at my phone, checking the time.

"I canceled class today." He told me, leaning on my desk beside me.

"Hunter?" I asked him suspiciously.

"Beautiful?" He leaned down and kissed my forehead.

"What is going on?" I asked him. We still haven't remarked each other. The bond was there, but it wasn't as strong as it should be.

I still haven't been able to mate with him. He told me that he felt what Marcus did and the guilt was overwhelming. I should have let Marcus beat me. At least that way, Hunter wouldn't have felt it. He reassures me that he doesn't blame me, but I didn't tell him that I didn't fight him off. I just went along with it and the thought of what I did made me want to be sick.

"Hunter, what is going on?" I asked him.

"Kailen, we are going on vacation." he said, but before I could interject, he continued.

“I know you said that you didn’t need one, but I need one and I want you to come with me.” He told me with a smile.

“Uh, huh? And what do you need a vacation for?” I asked him, leaning back into my chair, crossing my arms over my chest.

“I have already packed and my truck is waiting out front. All you need to do is get your perfect little ass up and ride shotgun.” He said, pulling me up from my chair and into his chest.

“And are you going to tell me where we are going?” I asked him, looking into his eyes.

“Does it really matter?” He whispered into my ear, causing goosebumps to erupt all over my body. Hunter grabbed my hand, but before he could pull me away, I pulled back.

“Beautiful, what’s wrong?” He asked me, concerned, and I could tell that he was a little hurt.

“I didn’t fight him.” I whispered, with tears in my eyes.

“Babe, is that why you have been so distant?” He asked, grabbing my cheeks, and I nodded.

“If you need to reject me, I’ll understand.” I told him and he crushed me into his chest, holding me tight.

“Kailen, I would never reject you. Why would you even think that?” He asked me and I shrugged.

“Because I cheated. I didn’t fight him, I just let it happen.” I mumbled into his chest, holding back my sobs. He pulled away, grabbing my cheeks.

“Hey, you did not cheat. You were doing what you had to do to survive, and I would never blame you for that. But you need to stop blaming yourself. I love you more than anything. And I would endure that pain every day for the rest of my life, if it meant that you were safe.” He said with so much conviction.

“Please, stop blaming yourself. You did nothing wrong, and you are not doing anything wrong. You are recovering from something unimaginable, and I’m not going anywhere, no matter how broken you believe you are. I’m yours until the day I die.” I couldn’t stop the tears from escaping my eyes.

“I love you, Hunter.” I told him through my tears.

“I love you, Kailen. Now, let’s get out of here.” he told me, and I nodded. He held my hand as we made our way to the parking lot where he parked his truck.

“Who did you get to cover my classes?” I asked him. He opened my door for me, helping me into my seat.

“Greyson and Zach.” He shrugged, and I rolled my eyes.

“Really?” I huffed when he closed the door. He rushed around the front of his truck and hopped in behind the wheel.

“I know you would never come if you knew I left those two in charge.” He laughed, starting the truck. I just shook my head while he started to drive. He grabbed my hand, entwining his fingers with mine.

“So, how long is this trip?” I asked him curiously.

“That depends on you.” He said mysteriously.

“What does that even mean?” I laughed.

“That, right there.” He said, smiling while he watched the road.

“I understand what you are saying. It’s just hard,” I sighed. He brought our hands up to his lips, kissing mine.

“I know, Beautiful. That’s why I have planned everything, or nothing. Whatever you want to do, I’m game.” He looked at me before turning his attention back to the road.

“And where are we going?” I asked him.

“Our vacation house, of course,” he answered.

“Oh, our vacation house, and where is that again?” I asked him, playing his little guessing game.

“It hurts that you don’t remember, Baby.” he laughed, and I rolled my eyes.

“Come on, tell me, please?” pouting. I unbuckled so I could lean over the consol that separated our seats. I ran my tongue up his neck to his ear while my hand found his cock.

“Not fair.” He moaned out, and I knew I had won.

“You going to tell me?” I whispered, sucking in his eye lobe.

“No, but I am going to pull over and take you in the back seat,” he groaned.

“Oh, I think I need something in the backseat.” I said, and he let out a breath. I leaned into the backseat, pushing my ass into his face, and he took that moment to smack my ass with a loud crack, making me jump.

“That wasn’t nice”, I pouted, sitting back on my seat and buckling back up.

“And what you did was?” he said, readjusting himself.

“You could just tell me?” I shrugged.

“Or you could just enjoy the ride,” he countered.