

Chapter 51 - The Lycan King's Gamma

I think if I had known that Emily was there with them, I would have been better prepared to see that picture. The logical side of my brain is telling me I didn't feel him cheating and he would never do that. My pregnant and more vulnerable side is telling me I must kill any woman that comes near him. And I know I was being irrational, but I couldn't stop myself from packing a bag and leaving to see Hunter. I needed to be with him, and that maybe selfish, but all I was thinking about was him with someone else.

Caleb came with me even though I hated to even be around him. Usually I can put up with people, but right now I just want my small pack and my mate. And I don't know how I'm going to do another twenty-nine weeks of this. I was already anxious and nauseous. And now I was feeling overwhelmed with all kinds of emotions that I knew were in my head. Hunter would never cheat on me and my heart knew that, but this baby brain did not.

The flight felt like it lasted forever and as soon as we touched down and debarked the plane, I told the driver to take us to the pack house. Knowing they would be there, I needed to see Hunter. Maybe it was the headline and me not being Hunter's fated mate that bothered me so much. Not everyone was going to accept that their future king would take a chosen mate, and this just added fuel to the fire.

Walking into the pack house, I followed his scent until I was in front of dark oak double doors. Knocking, my stomach was in knots, waiting for someone to answer. Caleb was beside me, even though I wish I could have left him at home. I'll need to ask for Zach next time.

Greyson opened the door and I could smell that Emily was with them. Before I knew what was happening, Aurora let out a growl and Hunter had me pinned up against a wall with his body flushed with mine. I could feel the tears in my eyes as I looked up into his. I don't even know why I was so emotional.

“Everyone out.” He demanded, still looking down at me. As soon as I heard the click of the door, I broke down.

“Hunter, I’m so sorry.” I sobbed out. Before I could say anything else, Hunter crushed his lips to mine. Gasping, Hunter thrust his tongue in my mouth, tasting every inch of my mouth before he pulled away, resting his forehead against mine.

“Baby, are you okay?” He panted out.

“I feel better now,” I whispered. Hunter pulled me into his chest, wrapping his arms around me. I snuggled into his chest, enjoying his scent.

“You saw it?” He sighed, and I nodded.

“Kailen, I would never do anything with anyone else. You are my one and only,” he mumbled.

“I wasn’t worried about that. I knew you would never, and I felt nothing.” I told him, still snuggled into him.

“Then why are you here?” He asked me, sounding confused.

“Because I hate being around Caleb and I hate Emily being around you.” I told him and he chuckled.

“I was going to call you and tell you to pack a bag.” He told me. I pulled my head off of his chest to look up at him.

“Really?” I asked him and he sighed.

“I need you here to finish your investigation. I think my uncle was involved.” He told me, and it instantly intrigued me.

“But first, you need to eat and rest.” He said, and I pouted, making him chuckle.

“Have you eaten?” He asked me and I sighed.

“No, I haven’t. I wasn’t feeling good earlier and then I was so focused on getting here.” I told him.

“Because of the photo?” He asked me.

“I know I can’t control the media and what they write, but that article bothered me. I never paid attention to the media before, but now I feel I’m letting you and your father down.” I told him. He squeezed me back into his chest, and I wrapped my arms around his waist.

“Never. But to be fair, if it was you and some guy, I would have rushed home too. I know you’d do nothing, but sometimes, after reading something like that, you just want some reassurance.” He said, and I nodded against his chest.

“I’m sorry, Hunter.” I mumbled.

“It’s okay, baby. Now let’s get you fed.” He said, pulling away. He took my hand in his and led me out of the office. Greyson and Zach were the only ones waiting for us.

“Zach, before we leave, get some warriors over here to guard the office. I don’t want anyone going in there until we have time to go through everything.” Hunter told him. Zach nodded to Hunter before coming over to me. Leaning in, he kissed my cheek.

“I’m so glad that you are here.” He said before he left to do what Hunter asked him.

“Is he okay?” I asked Hunter and Greyson once Zach had left.

“We were hoping he would talk to you.” Greyson sighed.

Thinking it would have been pretty important, or maybe embarrassing, for Zach not to tell Hunter and Greyson about it. I was deep in thought as Hunter led me out of the pack house and over to the car that was waiting. He seemed fine when he left yesterday, so I wonder what would have changed.

“Did Zach’s behavior change after arriving here?” I mindlinked Hunter. Instead of answering, he turned to me and nodded.

Zach came over to the car with Emily and Caleb at his heels. I really didn’t want to deal with the two of them, but it’s better to get it over with now.

“Kailen, I had nothing to do with that photo.” Emily said to me.

“I’m not here about the photo, Emily. I want to believe that what you did was innocent, but next time have some respect for your future king and queen. I’m sure you wouldn’t like it if I did the same thing with your mate.” I told her, and I couldn’t help but notice the glare Zach gave her.

“Of course, Kailen,” Emily said.

“Caleb, why don’t you escort Emily back home? I’m safe here with Hunter,” I said, turning my attention to the delta.

“That’s a great idea. I’ll let my father know if I run into anything legal.” Hunter said before Caleb could say anything. Caleb nodded and led Emily over to the car that we had taken here.

Hunter opened the door for me while Greyson went over to the other car to get my bags out. He put them in the boot before taking the front seat beside Zach in the driver’s seat. Hunter slid in beside me, closing the door behind him. Snuggling into Hunter’s side, he wrapped an arm around my shoulders, pulling me close. I felt so much better being around these three than I did being around Caleb. It wasn’t Caleb’s fault, and maybe if I wasn’t pregnant and crazy, I would have enjoyed his company. We were friends, after all, but I just wanted to be with Hunter. Driving to the hotel, I could feel the tension growing in the car. I wonder what happened that would cause this.

“What happened?” I asked the car. All of them shifted uncomfortably and didn’t answer.

“Guys?” I sang out and Zach sighed.

“It’s been a long day,” Greyson answered me.

“Baby, what’s wrong?” I mindlinked Hunter.

“Nothing that can’t wait until after you’ve eaten and gotten some rest.” He mindlinked back, kissing my temple.

Zach pulled up in front of the hotel and the media had followed us here. They make it hard to enjoy my time with Hunter. Never caring about who he was with before until we confirmed our relationship. I wonder how bad it will become after they learn we are having a pup.

“Kailen, make a statement why you are here,” Hunter said before any of us exited the vehicle. I nodded, and he opened the door. Climbing out, he held out his hand for mine. When I had exited the vehicle, Hunter pulled me to his side as he led me over to where the warriors were holding back the media. Stopping in front of them, they all quieted down so we could answer their questions.

“Gamma Steele, are you here because of the photo of your mate with another woman?” one called out.

“I’m here because my investigation has led me here. I know Hunter would never cheat. And all of you should already know this. Hunter is a loyal Prince and mate,” I answered. Hunter squeezed me closer to him.

“What investigation?” Another one called out.

“After I’ve looked over the evidence and reported it to the king, I will make a statement about what I’ve found,” I answered.

“Now if you’d excuse us,” Hunter told them, pulling me with him as he walked into the hotel. Zach and Greyson followed with my bag.

Hunter led me over to the elevator, and the other two followed. Once in the elevator, Hunter’s phone chimed and he let out a sigh. Pulling it out, he read the screen before looking up at Greyson.

“We need to go look at something for my father. Zach, you will stay with Kailen, and make sure she eats.” Hunter told them.

“Hunter, what is going on?” I asked him, as the elevator stopped and the doors opened.

“My father needs me to send something over to him. Greyson and I have been looking into Andrew’s finances and my father wants to see what we found asap.” He told me.

“I can go with you.” I told him as we walked over to his room.

“Kailen, you need to eat and rest. I’ll be back soon, but in the meantime, stay with Zach.” He told me, opening the door with his keycard. We all entered, standing in his living area.

“Fine, but on one condition?” I told him, and he raised an eyebrow at me.

“When you come back, I want you to bring those files with you.” I told him. He pulled me to him, kissing my forehead.

“You are impossible,” he mumbled, and I chuckled.

“Its more like a give and take. You want me to stay and I want to read over those files.” I told him and Greyson chuckled.

“She has a point,” he said.

“I’ll bring them, but you had better have eaten by the time we get back.” Hunter said, looking down at me. I nodded, and he sighed.

“Thank you.” I whispered. Lifting onto my tippy toes, I pecked his lips. Groaning, he looked over at Greyson.

“Lets get this over with. Zach, order something for Kailen.” He said, before pecking my lips again. After he and Greyson had left, I turned my attention to Zach.

“Emily was your mate?” I asked him and he sighed.

“How did you know?” he asked me, as we took a seat on the couch.

“The looks you were giving her when I mentioned mate.” I told him.

“Hunter and Greyson don’t know?” I asked him and he shook his head.

“Do you want to talk about it?” I asked him and he sighed.

“She rejected me on the spot. She wanted to be with Hunter, and he kept rejecting her, even before you came to us. Hunter was never looking for a relationship until he met you.” He told me, leaning his head back on the back of the couch.

“I’m so sorry, Zach. Why wouldn’t you tell Hunter and Greyson?” I asked him.

“Because I was ashamed that my mate didn’t want me,” he mumbled. I leaned into him, resting my head on his shoulder.

“If she can’t see your worth, then it’s on her, not you. You are going to be the best mate,” I told him, and he rested his head on mine.

Chapter 52 - The Lycan King's Gamma

Lycan Prince Hunter

After a long evening of going through boxes and boxes of documents for my father, Greyson and I were finally back at the hotel. I had mindlinked her a few times to make sure that she was resting, and she ate something. I knew I had made a mistake not having Kailen here. If anyone can figure this mess out, it’s her.

Before we carried the boxes in, I texted Zach to let him know we were back and to unlock the deadbolt on the door. I made sure that he locked it. If Emily could get in, then anyone could and I didn’t need Kailen getting hurt. I would have mindlinked Kailen, but I could feel that she was sleeping.

“How pissed do you think Kailen will be after she learns Emily was in your room this morning?” Greyson asked while we waited for the elevator.

“Right now, she would probably kill her, but I don’t want to stress her out anymore than she already is. Nothing happened and nothing will ever happen with me and Emily again,” I told him.

“You were never with Emily?” Greyson asked me as we entered the elevator.

“We had sex once, and that was before Kailen. And I barely remember it.” I told him, hitting the button for our floor.

“And she has been chasing you, ever since?” He asked me and I nodded.

“I clarified I wasn’t looking for a relationship,” I told him.

“That’s why she made the comment about you being with Kailen?” He asked me and I nodded.

“Greyson, you know that before Kailen, I didn’t want to be in a relationship. But after Kailen, I only wanted to be with her,” I said, and he sighed.

“Probably should keep Kailen by your side until it’s official.” He said as we stepped out of the elevator.

“I’m not sure how much more official we can be? Kailen has a rock on her hand and I marked her.” I told him. Putting the boxes down, I unlocked the door. Greyson held the door open while I picked up the boxes, and we entered to find Kailen curled up under a blanket on the couch and Zach playing on his phone. Putting the boxes down, I was watching my pregnant sleeping queen.

“Anything to report?” I asked Zach, moving to sit by Kailen.

“She ate and then she fell asleep. She also showered because she hated Caleb’s scent.” He chuckled at that last part. I also hated his scent. I knew he always wanted to be with Kailen.

She may not have ever noticed, but I did. All the little touches he would give her and how close he always had to be to her. I knew something was

up, but Kailen assured me they were just friends, even before we started our secret relationship.

With the media the way it is now, I'm surprised we kept our relationship a secret for as long as we did. Now it seems they are everywhere and they will post anything that's out of context. I never noticed the media before. They would say what they want, but for Kailen, I need to protect her.

"Hunter?" Kailen yawned.

"How you feeling, Baby?" I asked her, leaning down, kissing her cheek.

"Better. Files?" She asked me and I chuckled.

"You should get more sleep." I told her and she pouted.

"I ate and had a nap. And I'm feeling better." She huffed.

"Yeah dad." Zach chimed in, and I pushed my lips in line. Kailen was giving me her big puppy eyes, and I let out a sigh.

"Fine, but you need to eat more." I told her, and she jumped up, wrapping her arms around my neck.

"I promise." She squealed. After she let go of me, she fought the blanket she was trapped in and finally got off the couch, heading over to the boxes. She was going through one of them when I turned my attention to Zach.

"You want to tell Greyson and I what's been bothering you?" I asked him and he sighed. He looked over at Kailen and she was watching him. She nodded, and he turned his attention back to me, with Greyson sitting in the other chair.

"Emily was my fated mate." He sighed.

"What?" I asked him, confused. He would have known that six years ago.

“I never told either of you because I was ashamed that my mate rejected me. She wanted to be with you, Hunter.” He told me and I pinched the bridge of my nose, cursing under my breath.

“Fuck, man. I’m sorry but you could have told us.” Greyson told me and I looked at my friend.

“Zach, I’m sorry. I never gave Emily a reason to think that she ever had a chance with me.” I told him and he sighed.

“I know you didn’t, and I never blamed you. I’m just avoiding her at all costs now and, hopefully, I’ll get a second chance.” He said, and I looked over at Kailen, who was watching us.

“And you knew?” I asked her and she shrugged.

“The signs were all there. But she doesn’t deserve our Zach.” She told us, going back to her report.

“Kailen’s right Zach. You deserve someone better than Emily.” I told him and he nodded.

“Still stings.” He said. Changing the subject, Zach turned his attention to Kailen.

“What do you feel like eating?” He asked her.

“Pizza.” She answered without hesitation.

“Oh, and a brownie.” She added, and we all chuckled.

“Cravings already, baby?” I asked her, and she just shrugged, still going through the reports.

“We’ll go get dinner,” Zach told us, and after he and Greyson left, I went to sit on the floor with Kailen. She was deep in thought as I watched her.

“What’s bothering you?” I asked her and she sighed.

“What have you learned?” She asked me.

“The more wealthy packs on this side of the border were in Andrew’s pocket. My father was concerned because Andrew was collecting more than what he was reporting.” I told her.

“Asshole.” She cursed.

“I called Thomas to ask him about what was going on and he gave me a list of packs that could resist my take over.” I told her and she looked at me.

“So, what are we going to do?” She asked me, concerned.

“I’m going to handle it while you investigate. You should not go into the field.” I told her, and she nodded.

“How are you feeling?” I asked her and she sighed.

“Tired, but being with you helps with the nausea I was feeling earlier.” She told me.

“You get to investigate until dinner gets here and then you need to eat and then go to bed.” I told her and she pouted.

“Why do you act like I just killed your puppy?” I asked her.

“Hunter, this is my job and if those packs want to come after you, I want to make sure that I have all the dirt on them before that happens.” She told me.

“Baby, nothing is going to happen to me. Just focus on your investigation into the auction house. There are a few large transactions that I think you’ll be interested in,” I told her.

“I can do both. Besides, if Andrew is involved, then the other packs are most likely involved as well.” She said.

“That makes sense, but you handle the paperwork. No going into the field.” I told her.

“Hunter, I would never put our child at risk. I’m just looking at reports. Nothing more. I’ll report everything back to you.” She told me and I wrapped an arm around her shoulders and pulled her close.

“I know, Baby.” I told her, kissing her forehead.

“I’m going to go shower. Are you going to be okay?” I asked her and she gave me a look.

“I’ll be here when you get out.” She said.

“Not coming?” I asked her.

“That wasn’t on the list.” She told me with a smirk.

“We could put it on the list.” I told her before crushing my lips to hers. She wrapped her arms around my neck and I moved the file that was sitting in her lap.

I picked her up and placed her in my lap so that she was straddling me. She ran her tongue along my bottom lip and I thrust my tongue into her mouth, tasting her as her tongue played with mine. Kailen’s taste was more intense than before, and I craved her. Pulling away, she rested her forehead against mine, panting.

“I think I can fit you in after dinner, before bed.” She breathed out, and I chuckled.

“Better not be too tired. I need more than one round.” I told her, pecking her lips.

“I think I can make that work.” She giggled, licking my lips. I shivered as goosebumps erupted all over my body.

“That was mean,” I groaned, squeezing her ass.

“Gives you something to look forward to.” She smirked, climbing off of me. Now, I just wanted to throw her perfect ass in bed.

I stood up, stretching before I made my way into our room to shower. The floor is so uncomfortable, but Kailen always sits there when she is going through files. I half expected the entire investigation to be solved by the time I got out of the shower. One thing Kailen was good at was piecing things together. Now that she has more information, this case will be solved in the next week. And hopefully, we can find some victims. I wonder why Alpha Evan mentioned nothing about what Andrew was doing?

“Maybe he thought the crown was involved,” Rex said.

“We will have to make a trip there, but first I need to come up with a plan to keep Kailen safe.” I told my wolf.

“I only trust Greyson and Zach with her and our pup.” He said, and I agree. I should never have left her with Caleb.

After I was done in the shower, I threw on some sweatpants and a shirt before stepping out into the living area to find Zach and Greyson were back with pizza. Kailen was already munching away as she continued to look through the financial reports.

Chapter 53 - The Lycan King's Gamma

Gamma Kailen Steele

“Did you solve this case already?” He asked me, sitting on the couch. There were a few pizza boxes on the coffee table. I was trying to eat and work at the same time.

“Not quite, but I’m getting there. So, the Fire Forest pack, Dark Shadow pack, Raging River pack, Blood Moon pack and Sapphire Lake pack are all involved with Andrew. They hold the most money on this side of the kingdom. Those large transfers were to the Dark Shadow pack.” I told him.

“How do you know that? We haven’t received word back from the bank yet?” He asked me.

“The accounts are the same. I first looked at the transfers from these five packs. They were transferring their monthly payments, and I noticed sizeable sums were being transferred into the account that belonged to the Dark Shadow pack.” I told them.

“This is why you are gamma.” Zach told me, and I giggled.

“You are as well, dork.” I told him.

“Didn’t Thomas say there were six packs?” Greyson asked.

“Maybe they weren’t reporting everything and Andrew was covering it up? Do you have the name of the sixth pack?” I asked them. Greyson glanced at his phone before answering.

“Snowy Mountains pack.” He said.

“Fuck, that’s Mr. Carter’s pack. And Mr. Cooper’s pack is Dark Shadow.” I sighed.

“So, what do you want to do?” Hunter asked me, and I sighed.

“I really hope neither of them are involved in any of this,” I told them.

“Dark Shadow borders Alpha Evan’s pack,” Hunter said.

“It’s easy access. But why would they start killing the girls?” I wondered out loud.

“You found all of this out while I was in the shower?” Hunter asked me.

“I also ate,” I said with a smile.

“And are you feeling okay?” He asked me, and I nodded.

“What did your father say?” I asked him.

“He wants me to set up a meeting with all the packs to get contracts signed about future payments and such,” Hunter said.

“Well, the semester is almost over and I can work from home until the break, and then we can visit some of the packs.” I told him.

“Kailen, do you think it’s safe?” He asked me.

“The safest place for me is by your side,” I told him.

“Hunter, she’s right. And Zach and I will be with her the entire time. But you both need to show a united front,” Greyson said, and I agreed.

“Tomorrow, after we pack everything up, we will head home.” Hunter said, and I nodded.

“But before you go anywhere, the doctor has to approve your travel.” He told me.

“Yes, sir.” I saluted him, making Zach and Greyson chuckle.

“Was that really necessary?” He asked me.

“It was Lycan Prince.” I said, grinning at him.

“I also found out that he’s been charging the smaller packs almost fifty percent of their monthly income, and those five packs have been paying only around twenty percent. So, according to my math, Andrew has stolen almost a billion dollars from his side of the kingdom.” I told them, changing the subject.

“How long was I in the shower?” He asked me and I chuckled.

“Oh, and Andrew put all of this in Jake’s name so it wouldn’t become public.” I told him.

“But what about Snowy Mountains?” Zach asked me.

“They were also getting charged almost fifty percent. I’m not sure about them yet.” I told them.

“And that is why she should have been here yesterday,” Greyson said, and Hunter sighed.

“I get it. We will stick together from now on,” Hunter told us. I let out a yawn, and Hunter gave me a pointed look.

“No, I’m sorry.” I pouted. Zach and Greyson let out a chuckle.

“I think it’s time for bed.” Hunter said, and I crossed my arms, pouting.

“But I’m not done.” I whined.

“How can you say no to that face?” Zach chuckled, and Hunter glared at him.

“Both of you, out.” Hunter commanded, and I sighed.

“Fine.” I whined, putting my file away.

“Goodnight, you two.” I told Greyson and Zach before I entered the bedroom. I found one of Hunter’s shirts before I climbed into bed.

I was lying on my stomach when Hunter came into the room. My eyes were already closed, and I didn’t realize how tired I was until I laid down in bed. The bed dipped, and I knew it was Hunter. He surprised me when he sunk his teeth into my left ass cheek.

“Hunter!” I yelled out, and I heard him chuckle.

“Don’t you dare fall asleep.” He mumbled, kissing where he had just bitten me.

Hunter grabbed my hips, pulling my ass into the air. He rubbed his fingers through my folds as he kissed his bite. Gripping the sheets, I moaned into the mattress.

“Hunter,” I moaned out, rolling my hips. Sleep was forgotten as he circled my clit.

“Baby, you smell delicious.” Hunter groaned. Moving onto all fours, I turned my head to look at him.

“Stop teasing.” I moaned, watching him. Hunter was already naked and ready to go.

He positioned himself behind me on his knees, pulling my hips back against his hips. His hard cock moved into my folds, his tip pushed up against my clit. Moaning, Hunter rolled his hips, coating himself in my wetness.

“Fuck, Baby.” Hunter groaned before he positioned his tip at my entrance, slamming his cock into my pussy.

He felt so good being buried deep inside me. My pussy pulsed around his cock as he pulled out almost all the way, just to thrust back into me. Moaning and gripping the sheets, I pushed my ass back into him.

“Hunter,” I moaned out when he picked up his pace. Reaching forward, Hunter placed his hand on my chest, pulling me up against his chest.

“Baby, you feel so good.” He groaned, thrusting hard.

Sucking and kissing my neck, Hunter moved the hand holding my chest down to my clit, rubbing circles around my sensitive bud. One hand gripping his forearm and the other gripping his hip. My orgasm ripped through me.

“Baby,” I screamed out, digging my nails into him while my pussy throbbed, squeezing Hunter tightly.

Every thrust after felt like a new high as Hunter chased his own release. My pussy was over sensitive and Hunter was hitting places I never knew existed.

Nipping my neck, Hunter groaned, cumming deep inside of me.

“Hunter,” I panted, my entire body feeling heavy.

“Fuck, Baby.” Hunter mumbled, licking my neck.

“You okay?” He whispered as he reached my ear.

“More than okay.” I giggled, still trying to catch my breath.

My legs and arms were trembling as Hunter let me go and I lowered myself to the mattress. I was now exhausted as I snuggled into my pillow, closing my eyes. I felt Hunter move beside me. Placing his arm over my back, he kissed my cheek.

“Everything okay?” He whispered, as he rested his head on my shoulder.

“Everything is perfect.” I whispered, smiling, with my eyes still closed.

“Baby?” He asked me and I could hear his concern.

“Growing.” Aurora told me. I shifted my body, opening my eyes. I rested my hand on his cheek as I looked into his deep blue eyes.

“Growing.” I told him, and he pulled me closer to him, pecking my lips.

Before I could snuggle back into him, there was pounding on our hotel door. Cursing, Hunter got out of bed and threw some shorts on before exiting the bedroom. I got up, pulling on a pair of sweatpants, before I walked out into the living area to find Greyson talking with Hunter. Both of them didn't look happy.

“What happened?” I rushed out.

“Alpha Evan is here. There's been another attack.” Hunter sighed.

“Give me ten minutes.” I said, before heading back to the bedroom to get changed.

If the attack had just happened, then everything was still fresh and maybe we could track down whoever was involved. But why was Alpha Evan's pack being targeted? All of this made little sense to me. Everything was telling me to follow the money, but why the attacks? Kidnapping made more sense.

Hunter came into the room when I was pulling on my jeans. I was almost ready to leave as he sat on the bed and watched me. I could feel his worry through the bond, bleeding into me.

“Hunter, get dressed.” I told him and he sighed.

“Kailen.” He started, but I interrupted him.

“Hunter, this is our chance to follow a fresh lead. And I need you there. Now get dressed.” I told him. We stared at each other for a moment before he finally nodded.

“Hunter, I would never put our child at risk. Our people are suffering and we need to put a stop to it.” I told him as I pulled on a hoodie. He moved towards me and wrapped his arms around my waist.

“I need you both safe.” He told me and I smiled, looking up at him.

“And the safest place for us is beside you.” I told him, moving onto the tips of my toes, I touched my lips to his.

“Fine, but no field work.” He breathed out when I pulled my lips from his.

“I’ll leave that to Zach.” I told him. Hunter was getting dressed when I moved to the bathroom to fix my hair.

When we were both ready, Hunter led me down to the main lobby where Alpha Evan and his men were waiting. The alpha was our age, so I didn’t get the pleasure of teaching him. I could tell that he was worried and I’m glad that we were close by when this happened. His pack is only three hours from us as we landed in the capital of this side of the kingdom. Technically, we are still in Ivory Moon, but this part of the pack was located on Andrew’s side of the kingdom.

“Prince Hunter, Gamma Steele.” Alpha Evan greeted us.

“Alpha Evan, what happened?” I rushed out.

“A she-wolf was taken.” He told me, handing me a file.

“She’s alive?” Hunter asked him and he nodded.

“As far as we know,” he answered.

“How long ago was she taken?” I asked him.

“About six hours now. My Gamma is still at the pack investigating. I heard that you were here, Gamma Steele, and I took a chance.” He told me and I nodded.

Opening the file, shocked at what I found. The victim looked like me. I looked over at Hunter and he was looking at the picture as well.

“She looks like the other victims,” Zach said. He was standing on the other side of me.

Looking at Hunter, I knew what we had to do. He was staring at me and I could feel his worry through the bond. Looking at me, he pushed his lips into a line.

“Kailen, no.” He huffed.

“One sec.” I told Alpha Evan, before grabbing Hunter’s arm and moving away from the others.

“Hunter, please? We could save her.” I pleaded, mindlinking at him.

“And I could lose you and our pup.” He mindlinked back.

Chapter 54 - The Lycan King's Gamma

Lycan Prince Hunter

After heading to Alpha Evan’s pack, Kailen found nothing. I knew she was feeling guilty about letting the victim down, but whoever was doing this didn’t leave a trace. Kailen hoped the victim was alive, but it was two weeks since she was taken.

Between classes and forcing her to rest, Kailen has been going non-stop working on this case, trying to follow the money and the victims. Our living room had turned into her office and maps covered the walls and files scattered around the floor. But Kailen refuses to give up. I

understand that this is her job, but right now her job should be to grow our baby and not stressing herself out.

I only left her side for work and Zach or Greyson were always with her if I wasn't. My father was right about the need to protect her. It was growing stronger with each passing day. Three weeks into the pregnancy and I'm ready to kill any male who looks at her. And it's going to be worse when we go back to my uncle's side of the kingdom, now my side. In a week, we are planning a black-tie event for all the alphas on that side. We decided it would be safer to have everyone come to us so we could have the army with us.

Kailen will, of course, be by my side and I'll have to deal with all the unmated alphas looking for a luna. I invited Thomas and Cathy to the event as well. The more alphas we have, the better. My father took on planning the event so that I could focus on finishing up the takeover and Kailen has been investigating the missing and murdered pack members. It's been a long two weeks and I can't wait to take Kailen back to the beach house for some much needed rest and relaxation.

Kailen has a doctor's appointment before class this morning and we are just waiting in a room for Dr. Connors to come in. I've been trying to ignore my phone that has been vibrating in my pocket since I woke up this morning. I was excited to hear the baby's heartbeat. We weren't able to hear it last week and I'm praying that it's there.

Kailen was lying on the exam table, waiting. Her grabbing my hand pulled me from my thoughts as I turned my attention to her. She was watching me intently while I shifted through my thoughts.

"You okay?" She asked me and I sighed.

"Just a lot on my mind," I told her. Leaning down, I kissed her forehead.

"I'm sorry, Hunter." She mumbled.

"It's not just you, baby. I still have so much work to do." I told her when Dr. Connors knocked on the door.

“Come in.” Kailen called out, and she entered.

“Prince Hunter, Gamma.” She greeted us, taking a seat. As she got Kailen ready for the ultrasound, she was asking her questions.

“How you feeling?” She asked her and Kailen sighed.

“I’ve been busy.”

“Kailen, I know your job can be chaotic, but you need to rest right now. Your body and wolf are doing so much.” Dr. Connors told her and she gave her a nod.

“Any more morning sickness?” She asked, pushing the machine wand into her lower belly.

“Not since the first week,” Kailen answered.

“I believe it’s because Prince Hunter has been near you,” She said.

“We’ve been sticking together.” Kailen told her, squeezing my hand.

“That’s good to hear. Now let’s see if we can hear baby.” She said, turning a dial on the machine.

The sound was faint but soon we could hear the thump thump thump of our baby’s heart.

I looked down at Kailen and she had tears in her eyes as she listened to the life she was growing.

“That’s our baby.” I leaned down to whisper to her, nudging her cheek with my nose. The doctor turned the screen so we could see our little bean, who was looking more like a tiny baby.

“Baby is growing at an excellent pace. Measuring around nine weeks now. And you can see their strong heart beating.” Dr. Connors said, zooming in.

“And everything looks okay?” Kailen whispered, watching the screen.

“Kailen, everything looks good. Baby is still tiny. Things may change when the baby grows and more pressure is placed on your cervix. It means that you will need to be on bed rest, but I don’t see why you could not carry to term. You and your wolf are doing an excellent job.” She answered, and I squeezed Kailen’s hand.

“Dr. Connors, Kailen and I will be at the event next week,” I told her.

“I’ve cleared my schedule to come with you. It’s going to be very stressful,” she answered.

“Thank you.” Kailen said. She was still watching our baby, not taking her eyes off the screen.

“Kailen, I’ll be with you every step of the way. Just focus on growing our next king or queen.” She told her.

“When can we know if it’s a boy or a girl?” I asked.

“I don’t want to know.” Kailen rushed out.

“Not for a few more weeks, if you want to know,” the doctor answered.

Dr. Connors shut off the machine and wiped the gel off of Kailen’s belly. She handed a photo of our baby to Kailen before standing up from her seat.

“If anything is feeling off or you cramp or start bleeding, you come in immediately. And good job, momma wolf.” The doctor said before leaving the room.

“Baby, are you okay?” I asked her. Kailen was staring at the photo, smiling.

“They’re getting bigger.” She whispered, as I helped her to sit up. I moved around the table and settled myself between her legs.

“You got this momma wolf.” I mumbled, my lips against her forehead, my hands resting on her thighs.

“Hunter, this just became really real to me.” She said, looking up at me.

“And you got this, baby. About twenty-five more weeks and our baby will be here.” I told her. She nodded, looking back down at the photo.

“Come on, my queen. You have one more class and then you can take a break.” I told her, helping her off of the table. She placed the photo in her purse before we left the exam room.

“What’s your plan for today?” She asked me as we walked out of the pack hospital.

“First, I’m walking you to class and then I have a few meetings with the lawyers.” I answered her as we walked hand in hand to the campus.

The media has calmed down since the takeover and most of the packs made statements about accepting me as the new alpha. My father won’t be taking over until I have signed all the paperwork and all the packs agree to the terms. He was also going through Andrew’s financing and giving back all the money that he stole from the packs. Andrew indeed left a massive mess for my father to clean up.

“Did you need me for any of the meetings?” Kailen asked me, pulling me from my thoughts.

“I need you to go home after class to get some rest.” I told her and she sighed.

“Hunter, this case is driving me crazy.” She told me, and I pulled her to my side, my arm around her waist.

“And sleep will help you clear your mind. If anyone can solve this, it’s you.” I told her.

Zach was waiting out front of the building where Kailen’s classroom is located. When we approached him, he handed her a coffee. I knew they were both tired. Zach has been up most nights with Kailen trying to piece together this case.

“Zach, home after class.” I told him, before turning my attention to my queen.

“Everything will work out, my queen.” I mindlinked her. Leaning down, I kissed her.

“I know, Baby. I’m just scared about the victims. I know how it feels when you believe no one is coming for you.” She mindlinked back, wrapping her arms around my waist, snuggling into my chest.

“I love you.”

“I love you.” She said in my mind, looking up at me. Giving her one last kiss, I watched as Zach led Kailen into the building.

Sighing, I made my way back to the pack house. I needed to go see my father and the lawyers to get this all handled. Greyson was meeting me there to help me go through all the paperwork. I just needed this all to be over.

“Hunter, be happy. We are having a pup.” Rex said in my head. His tail had been wagging the entire time.

“We are having a pup,” I said to him, with a smile on my face.

After this, I need to go see the architect that will build our home. Our family is growing and we have just over twenty weeks to get it built. Hopefully, the plans will be finished, so I can take them home tonight to show Kailen. My father is also remodeling his floor, just in case our house isn’t ready for when the baby arrives. I know he was trying not to get his hopes up, just in case something happens, but now I can tell him that the doctor is hopeful everything will work out and he should have a grandpup in the next six months.

Greyson was waiting out front when I walked up to the house. He looked exhausted, and we all needed a much needed vacation after this is all wrapped up. He followed beside me as I walked into the pack house to my father’s office.

“How was it?” Greyson asked me.

“It was good. We heard it.” I told him, talking in code.

“And Kailen?” He asked me.

“Hopeful,” I answered.

“Yes.” He exclaimed, grabbing my shoulder.

Walking to my father’s office, I knocked before he called out for us to enter. My father was alone as I opened the door and Greyson and I entered.

“How is she?” He asked me. Greyson closed the door behind us.

“We heard the heartbeat.” I told him and his face lit up.

“That’s wonderful, son.” He said, grinning.

“The doctor is hopeful Kailen will carry to term. She may have to go on bedrest, but as of right now, Kailen and baby are doing well.” I told him. He went around his desk to give me a hug.

“That’s the news I wanted to hear today.” He said, pulling away.

“Where is everyone?” I asked him.

“In the conference room. I wanted to speak to you first,” he answered.

Chapter 55 - The Lycan King's Gamma

After hearing our baby, I was on cloud nine as Hunter walked me to class. I wasn’t even sure how I was even going to finish this semester. Being our last class, I wanted to talk about something important to give them something to think about over the break, but now my brain is full of thoughts of our baby. The pup my body could keep growing.

I said goodbye to Hunter and Zach walked me into my classroom. I was thankful that he brought me a coffee. Sleep hasn’t been easy lately, as this investigation has been driving me mad. Whoever it was knew I was coming, and they were trying to cover their tracks. I was determined to

find the victims, but maybe Hunter was right. Maybe some rest would help clear my mind to find something I have missed.

Sitting at my desk, Zach pulled up a chair as I sat there sipping my coffee. With everything going on, I couldn't help but smile, thinking about our pup.

"We are going to be a momma." Aurora purred in my head. Her tail has been wagging since we heard their heart beating.

"Kailen, how are you feeling?" Zach asked me, pulling me away from my wolf.

"I'm doing okay, Zach. We heard it today." I told him. He grinned, giving me a side hug.

"That's fantastic, Kailen," he exclaimed.

"I can't believe this is happening." I told him. This whole thing felt surreal to me. I don't think I'll actually believe it until I'm holding them in my arms.

"You are going to be wonderful." He said, still squeezing my shoulders. When the doors to my classroom opened, Zach let go of me and we made our way to sit on the edge of the platform as usual. I started my lesson after everyone was settled in their seats.

"I know today is our last class of the semester and you all must be excited about going home to spend some time with your friends and families. So, I wanted to hear if any of you have concerns or questions. Anything you'd like me to clear up before we move on to the lesson?" I asked them.

"Miss Steele, what's going to happen with the takeover?" Mr. Cooper asked me. His and Mr. Carter's packs were on that side of the kingdom.

"Hunter has been working hard to get everything organized so that we can be under one rule, King Henry," I answered.

"Will you be at the event that's being planned?" Mr. Carter asked me.

“I will be, yes. Will you be there with your father?” I asked him, and he nodded.

“I’ll be there as well.” Mr. Copper said.

“This take over directly affects your two packs. From everything that I can see, things will be better.” I told them.

“I’m glad about the takeover,” Mr Carter said. And as much as I wish I could ask him more, I couldn’t without a parent or lawyer present.

“Mr. Carter, you can tell me all about your reasons when there is a parent present. Legally, I can’t ask you questions about what you mean. You might be the future alpha, but you are still a minor.” I told him.

“Why can’t we make a statement?” Mr. Pierce asked. He would be Mr. Carter’s beta.

“There is an ongoing investigation into Prince Andrew. I’m not allowed to say anymore and they could use your statements as evidence. Legally I can’t ask. And I can’t tell you more,” I answered.

“Miss Steele, you’ve been honest with us from the beginning. I’m sure you would tell us if you could.” Mr. Carter said.

“I appreciate the faith you have in me. And once the event starts, hopefully I’ll be able to answer all of your questions on the matter.” I told them.

“Now let me give you all something to think about over the break. When you go home, look at how the pack is being run. Ask lower members of the pack if they are happy? I understand you can’t make everyone happy, but just trying will make all the difference. See if you can solve some issues that they are having. Also, pay attention to the issues. If many have the same issues, try to fix the problem from the top. These will be your packs soon enough.” I told them.

“What issues would you have wanted solved in your old pack?” Mr. Clark asked me.

“Honestly, I’ve never given it much thought. I was just happy to get the hell out of there. But one thing that comes to mind, maybe not a pack issue. But when I was working, none of the ones born into a title ever said please or thank you. It always bothered me, as being kind costs nothing. You never know what someone is going through, and your kindness could make all the difference in that person’s life.” I answered.

“I can’t believe they treated you like shit, even dating the future alpha.” Mr. Cooper huffed, crossing his arms over his chest.

“Clearly they have no taste.” Zach huffed beside me.

“Never judge a book by its cover.” I told them.

“But you’re a hot book,” Mr Cooper said. Zach let out a growl, and I started laughing.

“Regardless, Mr. Cooper, don’t just listen to hot people.” I giggled, shaking my head.

“Outside, beauty will fade with time, but it’s the person’s actions that will win you over in the end. I’d like to think that I’m a good person. If I saw someone who needed help, I would help them. I would like all of you to do the same. One thing that has been constant throughout pack history is the alpha’s lack of?” I motioned for them to continue my sentence. Too bad I have nine blank faces looking at me.

“Really, Zach?” I asked him and he shrugged.

“Empathy. All the alphas lacked empathy. And when the alpha doesn’t care, the rest of his pack doesn’t either.”

“Oh, that makes sense.” Zach chimed in, and I pushed my lips into a line. The class laughed while I gave Zach a pointed look. He had been teaching my class this semester.

“Alright, I’m sure you all want to get out of here. So, my last note of advice is just to be kind. Half of you I’ll see next week and for the other half, have a great break and I’ll see you in a few weeks.” I said, excusing my class.

Packing up my things after my class had left, I found myself more tired than usual. I knew I needed a nap, but I also needed to find the latest victim, who was still missing. Hunter was right when he told me I should just be focusing on growing our pup, but I couldn't shut off the need to help others. I knew firsthand what these victims were going through and I needed to be the hope that they were holding on to.

"Kailen, I know you want to help, but you need to keep yourself strong to help them," Aurora said.

"Kailen, are you okay?" Zach asked me, when I took a moment to breathe.

"Yeah, I think I just need to rest." I told him. He took my bag and when I found the motivation to walk home, Zach led me out of the building.

The fresh air of the afternoon was helping calm my racing mind. Knowing what you need to do and doing it, were two different things. I know I need rest, but let's see if my mind will actually give it to me.

When we finally made it home, I went to the kitchenette to get a granola bar, an apple, and a bottle of water before I went to lie down. I've been doing everything I can to stay healthy except sleeping. My mind would just play the events of that day repeatedly, unable to find anything new. I was trying to find the missing link between these cases and the packs that were paying less to Andrew.

When I was done eating, I laid down, snuggled into Hunter's pillow. Breathing in his scent, I instantly felt better. Closing my eyes, I thought of the things that we know about the case.

Following the money, we knew that five packs were in his pocket, but why? And what is with the sizeable sums being transferred to Dark Shadow? If Andrew was buying girls, where were they? This event was being held to avoid me going to these packs, but there's no way around this. After the event, we are going to have to storm these packs, starting with Dark Shadow. They are all hiding something and I was done playing this game of cat and mouse with them.

Before I could get out of bed, Hunter was in my head.

“Baby, what’s wrong?”

“This case is just bothering me,” I answered.

“Kailen, get some rest and I’ll be home soon. I love you.”

“I love you.” I told him before I closed the link.

Instead of resting, I went out into the living room to talk with Zach. The money isn’t adding up, and I needed someone to talk this out with. Zach was sitting on the couch, actually looking through some files.

“Look at you.” I giggled, sitting in the chair beside him.

“Shouldn’t you be resting?” He asked me, looking up from the file.

“Probably, but the money isn’t adding up, and it’s bothering me,” I told him.

“Okay, let’s talk it out.” He said, closing the file he was reading.

“If Andrew was buying girls with sizeable sums of money, where are they?” I asked him.

“Are you thinking that the money was for something else?” He asked me and I shrugged.

“The money that Andrew was paying was almost triple the amount that Dark Shadow was paying him. But why was Andrew paying?” I said.

“He was paying for something. What would be worth that much money?” Zach said. And it was like a light bulb turned on in my head.

“Blackmail.” I breathed out.

“Blackmail? But what would Dark Shadow have over Andrew?” Zach asked me.

“It has to be something terrible for him to be paying that much to cover it up. And it would have to be awful, since he didn’t think that lawyers would bury it or that King Henry would help me.” I told him.

“This could be bad,” Zach said.

“After the event, we need to storm Dark Shadow. I know that’s not something Hunter wants to hear, but we need to follow the money.” I told him.

“Maybe he will come clean at the event. Maybe he will share the dirt to avoid us going into his pack.” Zach said.

“But we need to find the girls. And if that means we have to storm them all, then that’s what we do.” I said, rubbing my lower belly.