

Chapter 56 - The Lycan King's Gamma

Lycan Prince Hunter

When all the meetings were over, I just wanted to go home to relax with my mate, but walking into our home, I knew it was going to be another long night. Kailen and Zach were buried deep in more files and records, and I let out a sigh.

“Baby, how was your day?” Kailen greeted me. I walked over to her, leaning down, I gave her a kiss.

“It was long. Can Zach go home now?” I asked her, and Zach chuckled.

“First, don’t you want to know what we found?” Zach said, and I grumbled.

“Fine, let’s hear it.” I said, sitting beside Kailen on the couch. Zach was sitting in the chair.

“We believe that the payment Andrew sent to the Dark Shadow pack was blackmail money.” Kailen told me.

“But why?” I asked her.

“I’m not sure. But if he was buying girls, where are they?” She asked me.

“Interesting. So how do we prove it?” I asked her and she sighed.

“After the event, we are going to storm the pack.” Zach told me. I looked at Zach and then back at Kailen.

“Zach, leave.” I growled out.

“Hunter,” Kailen exclaimed, but I waited until Zach had left before I said anything.

“Kailen, whatever the plan is, the answer is no. You will not be there.” I told her. Getting up, I headed into the kitchen to get a drink. I swear this woman just likes to push my buttons.

“Really, Hunter? You aren’t even going to hear the plan first.” She huffed, following me.

“Does this plan involve you storming into Dark Shadow?” I asked, and she sighed.

“Yes.”

“Then the answer is no. You are carrying our child, and we do not know how this pack is involved with Andrew or what they are hiding.” I told her.

“You’ll be with me.” She told me and I just shook my head.

“It’s not good enough. I’m not risking our child or you. If this case has to wait until after our child is born, then it waits.” I told her firmly, moving to the bedroom.

“Hunter, that’s not fair. These girls are terrified and we can help them.” She argued.

“Kailen, I know you want to help them. I want to help them, but I’m not risking you or our baby. A baby you never thought you could carry.” I told her, grabbing her shoulders, looking down at her.

“Hunter, I can’t just do nothing.” She said, with tears in her eyes. I pulled her against my chest, holding her tight.

“I’m not asking you to do nothing, baby. I’m asking you not to run in there when you can’t shift. Aurora wouldn’t let anything happen to you.” I told her. She nodded against my chest.

“I need you close and with our warriors until this is all worked out. If this is about money, we are about to shut it off and they will go after the one thing I hold above everything else.” I told her. She pulled away, just enough to look up at me.

“Me.” She breathed out, and I nodded.

“I won’t lose you, baby.” I told her, pulling her close again.

“Can I at least have Thomas send someone in or hire someone to sneak around?” She asked me and I sighed.

“He was able to get me away from Marcus the first time.” She mumbled, and I groaned.

“Fine, I will call Thomas and talk to him about this. Also, him and Cathy are coming to the event.” I told her.

“Thank you.” She said, and I felt guilty about telling her no. I know she just wants to help, but right now, I need her safe. And that may be selfish, but I don’t care.

“Did you eat?” I asked her, still holding her as we both stood in our bedroom.

“I had a snack when I got home,” She answered.

I moved to the edge of the bed, sitting down. I moved her in between my legs. Moving her shirt, I kissed her belly as she ran her fingers through my hair.

“I love you Hunter.” She told me and I sighed.

“I love you, and I need you safe. Both of you.” I told her, looking up at her.

“I know. I just feel so useless. They must be so scared and I know that feeling. The feeling of knowing no one is coming to save you.” Her voice cracked. I knew this was going to be emotional for her.

“Kailen, after the event, I will have a team sent in. Not you, but a team to collect and search.” I told her and she wrapped her arms around my neck.

“Thank you.” She cried.

“Now, get ready. I have a surprise for you.” I told her and she pulled away.

“Is it food?” She asked me and I chuckled.

“I’ll get you food, but that’s not the surprise,” I told her.

“I’m not closing my eyes and sticking out my hands.” She huffed, crossing her arms across her chest.

“We can do that later.” I laughed.

“Now put something on that you can walk in and something warm. It’s a little chilly tonight.” I said, and she gave me a look but said nothing as she went to go get ready.

Changing myself, I put jeans and a hoodie on before meeting Kailen in the living room. She was wearing black leggings and a cream coloured sweater. She was cleaning up some of the mess she and Zach made.

I found myself watching her as I leaned against the door frame. She had braided her hair, and it fell over her shoulder. Kailen wasn’t wearing an ounce of makeup and she was glowing.

“Are you ready to go?” She asked me, pulling me from my thoughts.

“Are you ready?” I asked her, pushing off the wall and walking towards her.

“I’m excited to see my surprise. What could be left to surprise me with?” She asked me as we left our apartment.

“You’ll just have to wait and see,” I told her.

Taking her hand, I led her out of the Royal pack house. The sun was just setting as I led her down the path leading to the lake behind the royal pack house. The lanterns lining the path were turning on, enhancing the experience. Before we entered the forest, I told Kailen to close her eyes.

“Hunter, we are in public.” She huffed, and I chuckled.

“Like that has ever stopped us.” I told her, wrapping my arms around her waist from behind, kissing her cheek.

“Fair. Fine.” She said, closing her eyes. I covered them with my hands from behind.

“Start walking, I got you.” I told her. She started walking, and we made our way to the surprise that I was excited to show her.

My last stop today was the architect that was designing our house. The plans were done, and I was going to show her the plans and the location where they would break ground next week.

“Hunter, I’m getting dizzy. Are we almost there?” Kailen asked me after about five minutes.

“Almost baby, I promise.” I leaned down and whispered into her ear. She shivered before she huffed.

“That was not nice.”

“But you love it.” I chuckled.

After about five more minutes of walking, we were there. Well, almost. The path doesn’t lead all the way to the location and we will have to change the path so we don’t have random people at our house, but it’s all in the plans.

“Okay, baby, open your eyes.” I whispered, removing my hands from the front of her eyes. It took her a moment for her eyes to adjust.

“Hunter, it’s the lake?” She asked me, turning in my arms.

“It’s not just the lake.” I told her, pulling out my phone. Opening up my photos, I showed her the computerized image of our home.

“Hunter, is that our home?” She gasped, looking at the screen.

“It will be. It will be built right over there,” I told her, pointing over to the lake.

“Hunter, it’s beautiful.” She said, with tears in her eyes.

“I’m hoping it will be done before our pup arrives,” I told her.

“Where did you find the time to design a house?” She asked me, going through the photos.

“I’ve been planning this for the last four years.” I shrugged, and she looked up at me.

“I love you so much.” She cried, wrapping her arms around my neck. She crushed her lips to mine.

I forgot everything else as we stood under the rising moon. Kailen ran her tongue along my bottom lip and I thrust my tongue into her mouth, tasting every inch. Kissing her until my lungs were screaming, and I still didn’t want to pull away.

Kailen pulled away first. Both of us were panting as I rested my forehead against hers.

“Happy?” I panted out.

“Baby, I can’t even describe how I’m feeling right now. You are just so perfect.” She answered, and I chuckled.

“Only for you, beautiful,” I told her, wrapping my arms around her, pulling her close. I kissed her forehead.

“We can go over the design after dinner. I’m sure you’re starving.” I told her.

“I’m sure the design is perfect, but I am starving.” She told me.

Taking her hand, we made our way back to the Royal pack house. Even with all the mess Andrew left, my life couldn’t be better. And hopefully, after the event, everything will calm down and Kailen can just focus on growing our baby.

I knew she felt anxious about finding the girls and the culprit, but she needed to take a step back and let others handle this case. Soon her pregnancy is going to be obvious and I know people will come after her

to get to me. Whatever my uncle was involved in, he did not want my father to know. And with the amount of money he was paying, it had to be terrible.

“Hunter, what do you feel like eating?” Kailen asked me, pulling me from my thoughts.

“I should be asking you that question,” I said.

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Hunter surprising me with the perfect home was one of the best moments in my life. He knew everything about me, and the house had been perfectly set up. The builders should be almost ready to break ground as we are heading to the other side of the kingdom for the event.

It has been a very busy week, and I was glad I didn't have class to worry about. I had to get a dress and prepare all the evidence we had found on the five packs. I would not be there for the raids, but I still wanted to confront the alphas.

Everything that was happening on that side should have been reported to King Henry. Packs have been suffering because no one wanted to come forward until Alpha Evan. I was feeling less guilty about killing Jake every day with all the additional evidence we had been finding. There were so many missing people that had been covered up, and I had so much work to do.

I'd let Hunter handle the alphas and I would just follow the evidence and the missing people. It wasn't just women and girls going missing and being killed. And I was determined to find whoever was behind this.

Zach and I have been working all week, when I didn't have to go find a dress to wear. He was determined to keep it a surprise for Hunter. The dress was beautiful and the king even lent me some jewelry. I didn't ask, Zach did. I was more worried about confronting the alphas than about the dress I was going to wear. But being the future queen, I had to play the part.

Now it was time to leave, and I was waiting on the plane for Hunter. He was organizing the warriors that we were bringing with us, even though he had been moving warriors all week. I'm not sure what he was expecting, but we had almost half the army with us. Zach was sitting across from me on the plane, looking at his phone while I looked out the window.

Feeling nervous about the event and what was about to happen. I rubbed my still non-existent baby bump while trying to calm myself down. I thought I was ready for this, but the unknown scared me.

"Kailen, what's wrong?" Hunter asked through our link.

"I'm okay." I answered.

"I can feel your worry. What's wrong?" He asked again.

"Just nervous. Are you almost done?" I asked him.

"Five minutes," he answered.

Sighing, I closed the link and went back to looking out the window. I started thinking about the case and everything we know for sure. We knew Andrew was being blackmailed, but we still didn't know why. We also knew that at least five packs were involved with black market deals. I wish I could make this case make sense. I still didn't understand why none of the other packs had reported this to King Henry. Or why didn't the families come forward to alert us of the situation? They could have made an anonymous complaint and we would have investigated.

There has to be something more at play here and it frustrated me that I couldn't figure it out. Blue Crescent is on King Henry's side, so how did the beta know to talk to Marcus? Or was it Marcus that went searching for me? But then why did I end up at the auction house? Or was it just a coincidence that I ended up there when Marcus and Jake were there? But then why were the people who owned the auction drugging the girls?

There were still so many unanswered questions and I felt like I was losing my mind trying to put this puzzle together. I know that money is the motive, but I was having a hard time with the why and who.

I was so lost in my thoughts that I jumped when Hunter touched my thigh. He was now sitting beside me and Greyson was sitting beside Zach. All of them were looking at me, concerned, while I panted.

“You okay?” Hunter asked me.

“Yeah, I’m okay.” I breathed out. Hunter wrapped his arm around my shoulders, pulling me to his side. I snuggled into him, chasing the feeling of peace that he gave me.

“Everything will work out.” He said in my mind, kissing my forehead.

I wanted to believe that everything would work out, but Zach and I were uncovering new victims every day and solving nothing. The evidence was all over the place and we couldn’t trace it back to one pack or one area. It was a pattern, but I couldn’t figure it out.

“Aurora, how is baby doing?” I asked my wolf, trying to focus my mind on something else.

“Growing big. Are you sure you don’t want to know what we are having?” She asked me.

“I’m sure. I’m sure it’s a girl. Thomas said that the lunas of the Opal Mountain packs have never had a boy.” I told her and she sighed.

“I’m okay either way,” I said. She laid down, her tail thumping against my head.

I didn’t realize I had fallen asleep until Hunter was gently shaking me. I have been even more tired lately.

“Baby, we are here.” Hunter whispered, and I yawned. Sitting up, I found we had already landed.

“Are you feeling better?” He asked him.

“No, now I’m hungry.” I sighed, and he chuckled.

“Come on, babe. Zach and Greyson are waiting by the car for us.” He told me, standing from his seat.

Taking his hand, we exited the plane to find a car waiting for us. There were warriors all around the small airport and Greyson and Zach were talking to a few of them.

“Some alphas will arrive this evening for the event tomorrow. They are staying in the pack house. I had the alpha suit on the top floor renovated.” Hunter told me as we walked to the car.

“Anyone we should be concerned about?” I asked him and he sighed.

“I’ve upped security and I would like you with me or in our room at all times.” He answered.

“Not even with Greyson or Zach?” I asked him, getting into the car. Zach was now in the driver’s seat and Greyson was sitting in the passenger seat. Hunter slid in beside me.

“It’s for your safety. The more people around you, the better,” Greyson answered.

“Aren’t you worried about your safety?” I asked Hunter. Because now I am more worried about his safety.

“I can shift, baby. You can not. And I don’t think you want to announce your pregnancy just yet.” He asked me and I sighed.

“No, but people are going to ask questions about why I’m not drinking.” I told him.

“We actually thought about that. We purchased some alcohol-free sparkling wine for you. This way, it won’t be suspicious.” Zach chuckled.

“Have you guys thought of everything?” I asked them and they all chuckled.

“Pretty much. We also have a few hours before the first alpha arrives,” Zach said, pulling up to the pack house. I was dreading staying here. This was Jake’s home.

“It’s okay, baby.” Hunter said in my head, pulling me close to him.

After Zach parked the car, we all got out and headed into the pack house. There were people everywhere trying to get the place ready for the event and the guests. I was feeling nervous as we made our way up to the top floor, the alpha floor.

There were warriors on every landing, and they were also outside the doors leading into our room. I was a little on edge about having this many warriors around. I knew it was just in case something was to happen, but this seemed excessive to me.

“Nothing is too excessive, baby.” Hunter said as we entered the suit. Once we were alone, Hunter could speak his mind.

“I know you think that this is all over the top, but I need to keep you and our pup safe.” Hunter said, wrapping me in his arms.

“I know. It’s just a lot of people and I’m feeling a little overwhelmed with everything.” I told him, wrapping my arms around his waist.

“How about you go take a bath and get ready to meet our first guests and I’ll go find us something to eat?” He asked me. Sighing, I agreed, only because a bath sounded amazing right now.

After Hunter left, I found the bathroom that was off of our room. They had already brought our bags up. Our suit reminded me a lot of the Lycan King’s floor at the royal pack house. Everything was simple and elegant. They made up our room in white and dark blue.

The bathroom was done in white marble, with a glass shower and a corner jetted tub that could fit a few people. Starting the tub, I then turned my attention to the mirror. Stripping off my clothes, I was looking to see if you could see a bump yet. The dress that Zach picked was tight in the hips.

Still no bump and I wondered when it would become apparent that I was pregnant. I was glad that I could hide it for now, but when it became official, it scared me that someone would come after me and our child.

I will have to talk to the King about how he felt after having Hunter. Did he face these threats as well? Maybe I'll ask Hunter. This all just seemed over the top, even for royalty. Hunter never had warriors around him.

Sighing, I climbed into the tub after shutting off the water. The water felt amazing on my achy body.

"Kailen, Hunter, just wants to keep us safe. His mother didn't kill the second in line to the throne," Aurora said, and I sighed.

"I know, but all of this attention is overwhelming," I told her.

"I'll keep our pup safe. You just focus on the case. And being your charming self." She said, and I chuckled.

"You mean blunt self." I said.

"Just try to be more queenly," Aurora told me.

"Fine, I'll try, but no promises. I'll be in a room full of dominant men, and I will never submit to them." I told her.

"Don't make it too difficult for our mate," she said.

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Lycan Prince Hunter

Going to get Kailen something to eat turned into a nightmare as soon as I stepped off the last step onto the main floor. Everyone had questions about something and then I was told one alpha we were expecting would arrive earlier than expected. Sighing, I pulled out my phone to call Zach to ask him to bring something to Kailen. After insuring me he was on it, I ended the call and went back to everyone's questions.

Alpha Ivan and his son Eli Cooper from the Dark Shadow pack were arriving early, and I was feeling anxious about their arrival. This alpha was the one I was most worried about. His son and Kailen didn't start out on great terms and I could tell that he came from a pack that showed little respect to women.

"Baby, Zach is bringing you something to eat. Alpha Ivan and his son Eli from Dark Shadow are arriving earlier than expected." I linked her.

"I'll be ready. Give me an hour." She answered.

After making sure all the rooms were ready, and that dinner was going to be ready on time. And all the staff and warriors had their orders. I made my way to the front door to meet the alpha.

"Kailen, you ready?" I linked her.

"I'll be right there." She answered.

A staff member opened the door and the Alpha, his son, his beta and the beta's son all entered the foyer.

"Alpha Ivan, it's good to see you." I greeted the alpha, shaking his hand. It surprised me he didn't bring his Luna with him.

Kailen, walking down the stairs behind me, was a wonderful interruption.

"Damn," I heard Eli say before turning around to face my mate, as she walked down the stairs in a silver-sequin fitted dress with three-quarter sleeves. The dress fell above her knees and the cut was dangerously low, exposing more cleavage than I would like. Her hair was curled in waves and her make-up was done to perfection as she made her way down to stand next to me.

"Damn, baby." I linked her, and she gave me a smile.

"Kailen Steele, I presume." Alpha Ivan said, sticking out his hand.

“Alpha Ivan, it’s nice to finally meet you. Your son is such a pleasure to have in my class,” Kailen said, shaking his hand. I was standing next to her, with my hand on her lower back.

“I heard he lost to you in training.” The alpha said.

“Not a loss. Your son is an excellent warrior and you should be proud.” She said, trying to keep the peace.

“Mr. Cooper, it’s good to see you.” She greeted his son, shaking his hand.

“Miss Steele, you’re killing it in that dress.” Eli told her, and I was about to growl until Zach came up behind us and whistled.

“Damn Kailen,” he exclaimed.

“Gamma Zach, why don’t you show the Alpha, Beta and their sons to their rooms.” I told him and he gave me a smirk.

“Of course, Prince Hunter,” he said.

“We’ll see you all at dinner,” I told them.

“Bye guys.” Kailen said to her students before I led her out of the foyer.

Kailen’s heels clicked on the marble floor as I pulled her along until I found the library. I knew no one was in there as I opened the door, pulling Kailen inside with me. Closing the door behind her, I pushed her up against the door before locking it.

“What are you wearing?” I asked her, and she grinned up at me.

“I’m playing the part of the good little princess.” She purred and my cock twitched to life as she smirked at me.

Grabbing onto her hips, I crushed my lips to hers. She wrapped her arms around my neck, licking my bottom lip. I thrust my tongue into her mouth, tasting every inch while her tongue played with mine. Pulling away, we were both panting as I rested my forehead against hers.

“You look beautiful, baby.” I breathed out, and she smiled.

“But you shouldn’t have walked down the stairs alone.” I told her and she pouted.

“There are warriors on every landing. I was perfectly safe.” She answered.

“How are you feeling?” I asked her.

“Like I want you to rip this dress off and fuck me against this door.” She purred before running her tongue up my neck.

“Fuck, baby.” I groaned, squeezing her hips.

“You want to go upstairs?” She whispered in my ear, causing me to shiver. My phone rang in my pocket and I cursed the son of a bitch who was interrupting me with my queen.

“I guess I’ll be your dessert.” She said, kissing my cheek.

Groaning, I pulled my phone out of my pocket to see that Greyson was calling. Noticing the time, it was almost time for another alpha to arrive.

“Greyson?” I answered.

“First, Kailen is with you, right?” He rushed out.

“Yes, why? What happened?” I asked him.

“Nothing, I was just making sure,” he said.

“Are you calling me just to check up on Kailen?” I asked him.

“Well, it’s not like she can hide her phone in that dress.” He chuckled, and I groaned.

“Another Alpha is arriving, so get your ass to the foyer. And Thomas and Cathy should arrive shortly.” Greyson said before ending the call.

“Come on, my naughty princess. We have more guests to greet before dinner.” I said, pecking her lips. She turned around and rubbed her ass into my still hard cock.

“That wasn’t nice.” I growled in her ear as I grabbed her hips.

“You can punish me after dinner, my king.” She said, looking over her shoulder at me. She licked her lips.

Grabbing her hands, I pushed them above her head as I pushed my chest against her back, pinning her to the door. She has been like this for the past week and it’s been great. But having all these alphas around will not make this easy for me. Kailen’s dress has my mark on full display, but her scent has changed with her pregnancy. Zach and Greyson have told me they have even noticed it and their wolves seem to be more on edge around her.

I didn’t tell her because I didn’t want her to worry, but Rex wanted me to rub my body and scent all over her to claim her. She is carrying our pup and our mark, but that wasn’t enough for my wolf.

Her rubbing her ass into me pulled me from my thoughts as she let out a soft moan.

“Do you want to take me upstairs or go meet our guests?” She breathed out. Pulling up her dress, I exposed her ass cheeks before I smacked one of them with a loud cracking sound. Kailen’s gasp turned into a moan as my hand kneaded over the mark I had just given her.

“Hunter.” She moaned out, and I leaned into her neck.

“When this event is over, we are going to the beach house.” I whispered, licking her neck. She shivered as goosebumps covered her body.

Pulling down her dress, I let go of her hands before unlocking the door. Kailen turned around to kiss me before we walked out to the foyer to meet the alpha and his party that were already waiting for us. This was going to be a long evening, I thought, as I greeted everyone and a staff member, then showed them to their rooms.

Most of the alphas were bringing their betas with them. And some of them were also bringing their sons to the event. There was only one more alpha after Thomas and Cathy. Then the rest would arrive tomorrow morning or early afternoon. Those who had further to travel are arriving tonight.

As soon as Cathy entered the foyer, she wrapped Kailen in a hug. Thomas came up behind his sister and I shook his hand.

“Kailen, you look stunning. And look at that ring.” Cathy exclaimed, holding Kailen’s hand in hers.

“Cathy, Alpha Thomas, it’s so good to see you both.” She greeted them. She gave Thomas a hug, which he returned.

“Alpha Thomas, I’m surprised they invited you to this event.” Alpha Ivan said behind us. Turning around, he was standing on the first landing with his son.

“Alpha Ivan, Alpha Thomas and his sister Cathy are here as my guests.” I told him and he nodded.

“I didn’t realize this was a social event,” he commented.

“It’s not,” Alpha Thomas growled out, and Kailen grabbed his hand. Which did not go unnoticed by Alpha Ivan.

“Miss Steele, I can see why you handed over your pack without a challenge.” Alpha Ivan said to my mate.

“Mr. Cooper, would you like to explain to your father why I was legally allowed to hand over my pack without an official challenge?” She asked his son, and Eli cleared his throat.

“When the death of the alpha wasn’t because of an official challenge but in the act of a crime, the new unofficial alpha can hand over the pack to someone ranked within the pack. And in this case, Alpha Thomas was the beta of Kailen’s father of Opal Mountain.” Eli answered her.

“Very good, Mr Cooper.” Kailen praised him.

“You discussed this with your students?” Alpha Ivan asked her.

“They asked me about it and I told them the truth. I don’t lie to my students. When I can’t answer their questions, I say no comment.” She told him.

“Interesting. Well, I guess we will see you all at dinner. Come along, son.” Alpha Ivan said before he left the room with Eli.

I noticed Kailen was shaking as she watched the alpha leave. Thomas wrapped an arm around her shoulders and pulled her close, kissing her temple.

“It’s okay, Kailen. He can’t hurt you.” Thomas whispered to her, and she nodded, still watching where the alpha exited the room. Finally, she snapped out of it, shaking her head.

“Hunter, is there a place where we can all talk in private?” she asked me and I nodded. Taking Kailen’s hand, I led them to the library that Kailen and I were just in before they arrived.

"Baby, are you okay?" I asked her through the link.

"I get a bad feeling from that alpha." She answered.

Once the door to the library closed, Cathy wrapped Kailen in another hug. She had tears in her eyes as she held onto my mate.

“Congratulations, Kailen. I’m so happy for you both.” She gasped out, pulling away. I could tell that Kailen was confused.

“On the engagement?” Kailen asked her and she shook her head.

“On the pregnancy. How far along are you?” Cathy said and Kailen gasped, looking at me, shocked.

“Wait, how do you know?” I asked her.

“Her scent and aura have changed. Kailen’s mother’s did the same when she was pregnant with Kailen,” Thomas answered.

“But yours is much stronger,” Cathy said.

“Hunter, do you think anyone else has noticed?” Kailen asked me, and I could hear her panic.

“Kailen, it’s okay. We noticed because we were around your mother. The others will think it’s because you are marked and mated to the prince,” Thomas said, and Kailen let out a breath.

“Don’t worry Kailen, Thomas and I will let nothing happen to you or your child.” Cathy told her.

“Thank you, Cathy. I’ve missed you so much.” Kailen said with tears in her eyes.

“Don’t cry, sweetie. You’ll ruin your makeup.” Cathy told her and she giggled.

“Please, keep the news to yourself. It’s still early.” I told them and they both nodded.

“Does the king know?” Thomas asked me.

“He’s excited to be a grandpa.” I told him.

“Do you know what you are having?” Cathy asked, and Kailen shook her head.

“I want it to be a surprise.” She told them.

“And I’m just happy,” I said, wrapping my arms around her waist from behind.

My phone chimed in my pocket, and I knew another alpha had arrived.

“They need us in the foyer.” I told Kailen, not even bothering to pull my phone out.

Chapter 59 - The Lycan King's Gamma

Gamma Kailen Steele

There was something scary about Alpha Ivan. The only other person who gave me this feeling was Marcus. Not even Jake scared me like Alpha Ivan did just now. He knew something, and I was going to uncover what it was. He may scare me, but I've been scared before and I will never back down. I needed to find the victims and shut down whatever they were planning.

But nothing prepared me for what Cathy said to me in the library. How can my scent and aura be changing? She said it was stronger than before. Did everyone else notice it as well? I didn't feel stronger or more in command of others. But I wasn't paying attention either.

"Aurora, what is happening?" I asked my wolf before we had to head to dinner.

We had just met with the last alpha and his party, and now it was almost time for dinner. I followed Hunter into the kitchen so he could make sure everything was almost ready while I was lost in my thoughts.

"Kailen, it's our pup. They are strong." She answered me.

"It's a boy?" I asked her.

"You didn't want to know," She answered.

"Yeah, but now I'm scared. Cathy said that my scent and aura is much stronger than my mother's when she was pregnant." I told her.

"So, does that mean you want to know?" She asked me and I sighed.

Before I could answer her, Hunter wrapped his arms around my waist, pulling me from my conversation with my wolf.

"Baby, are you okay?" Hunter whispered, leaning his head down into my neck.

"I'm just worried about what Cathy and Thomas told us." I said through the link.

“Are you worried it’s a boy?” He asked me through the link and I sighed.

“Maybe. I don’t know. Aurora asked me if I wanted to know and I said that I didn’t. And knowing will change nothing. But now I’m worried that they may come after our son.” I told him and he pulled me into his chest, holding me tightly.

“Boy or girl, it doesn’t matter, baby. And for now, we have made nothing public.” He said, and I nodded against his chest, enjoying the feeling of being in his arms.

I may look confident on the outside, but on the inside, I was ready to throw up. Playing the part of a pretty princess was a lot harder than I thought it was going to be.

Someone cleared their throat pulled me from my moment with my mate.

“Prince Hunter, dinner is ready.” A staff member announced to him.

“Please escort the guests to the dining room. We will enter after everyone has been seated.” Hunter commanded, while I snuggled into his chest, my arms around his waist.

“You ready, my queen?” He whispered, kissing my head.

“No, but let’s get this over with.” I told him, pulling away to look up at him.

“Everything will be okay. I promise.” He said, kissing my lips before leading me out of the kitchen.

We waited outside the far dining room doors until they informed us all the guests were seated until we made our grand entrance. My stomach was in knots as we walked in. Hunter’s arm was wrapped around my lower back, his hand on my hip. Hunter was such a pro at this, where I would have snuck in the back to be unseen.

Everyone stood up from their seats until Hunter and I sat down, Hunter making sure I was comfortable first before taking the head of the table. I was seated to his left, with Cathy beside me and Thomas beside her.

Greyson was seated beside Hunter to the right of him, and Zach was beside him.

I noticed all the packs we were investigating were on the other side of the table from me. There were also warriors standing against the walls of the dining room. Before, I felt like this may have been overkill with the number of warriors, but after learning about my scent and aura, I wished there were more.

Dinner was served, and there were some light conversations happening between our guests. I was trying to listen in to see if I could hear anything that could help our investigation. I was definitely not prepared for the question Alpha Ivan was about to ask me.

“Kailen, how does it feel sleeping your way to the top?” He asked me, like we were old friends. I heard a few growls around me, but the growl his son let out surprised me.

“Dad. It’s Gamma Steele.” He growled at his father.

“Alpha Ivan, I’m not sure what you mean? Even if Hunter and I weren’t together, I would still be second in command here. I’ve been through military training. I don’t think I saw your name on the plaque.” Before taking a sip of my sparkling wine, I told him. Alpha Ivan gave me a smirk.

“Prince Hunter, I can see why you chose this one. She’s feisty,” he said to Hunter.

“And did your luna sleep her way to the top?” I asked him and he growled. Seems I hit a nerve.

“She’s my fated.” He growled.

“I mean no offense to her, as she is Eli’s mother. I just find it strange that when a woman works her way to the top, she must have achieved it on her back. Do strong women intimidate you, Alpha Ivan?” I asked him.

“Women don’t intimidate me, but you killed Prince Jake without consequences, which I found to be suspicious.” He said and Hunter

slammed his fists on the table, making me jump. He stood up from his seat, looking murderous as he glared at Alpha Ivan.

“I’m only going to say this once. My mate was protecting herself from Jake. And if she hadn’t killed him, I would have. He had no right to touch my mate or to bite over my mark on her neck. And all of you will respect her or I will rip you and your packs apart. Do I make myself clear?” He growled out.

“I meant no disrespect.” Alpha Ivan tried to say, but Hunter interrupted him.

“You will address my mate as Princess Kailen or Gamma Steele. Don’t think I didn’t notice earlier.” Hunter growled out. Alpha Ivan finally nodded and Hunter sat back down in his chair before taking my hand in his that was resting on the table.

“I’m sorry, baby. I didn’t mean to scare you.” He said in my mind.

After that, dinner was uneventful, but I could still feel Hunter’s rage through the bond. He was called away as I sat with Cathy and Thomas. Zach also stayed, but Greyson went with Hunter. I was getting caught up with Cathy when Eli kneeled down beside me.

“Miss Steele, I’m sorry about my father.” He whispered.

“Mr. Cooper, it’s not your place to apologize.” I whispered, leaning closer to him.

“No matter what happens, I am loyal to you and Prince Hunter.” He whispered before getting up and leaving the dining room.

“Kailen, are you okay?” Thomas asked me as I stared after Mr. Cooper.

“Yes, sorry. He’s one of my students.” I told them before going back to our conversation.

Not that I didn’t love talking with Cathy and Thomas, but I was so thankful when Hunter came back to escort me back to our room for the evening. I was mentally exhausted and my feet were killing me in those

heels. I just wanted to have a warm bath and a snuggle with my mate. Entering our room, I could still feel Hunter's anger as I kicked off my heels and headed into the bathroom to start the water.

"Baby, you okay?" I asked him, leaning against the doorframe of the bathroom. Hunter was unbuttoning his shirt and cuffs.

"No, Kailen. I'm not okay. Rex and I want to track down that fucken alpha and rip him apart." He growled out. He had his back to me when I walked over to him, wrapping my arms around him. Resting my head on his back, he let out a sigh.

"Come," I told him, taking his hand. I led him into the bathroom.

First, I shut the water off. Then I put my hair in a clip before unzipping the side zipper of my dress. I finally felt like I could breathe as the dress fell off of me, landing at my feet. I was now standing in my black bra and thong with my beige thigh high tights. Turning around to face Hunter, he was watching me as I placed one foot on the edge of the tub and rolled the tight down my leg. Hunter still hadn't moved after I finished taking off the other tight, so I moved towards him, running my hands down his bare chest, as I lowered myself to my knees.

Looking up at him, he was watching as I undid his belt, then his button and finally his zipper on his slacks. When pulling down his slacks, I gently bit down on the shaft of his hard cock through his boxers. Groaning, one of his hands found the back of my head, and his hips bucked.

"Fuck, baby." He breathed out.

Pulling down his boxers, my mouth was open as his cock sprung free and my tongue touched the tip, licking the pre-cum. I moaned as I took the tip into my mouth, looking up at Hunter through my eyelashes. He was watching me as I took his full length into my mouth. Firmly gripping my hair, Hunter pulled his cock almost all the way out of my mouth, thrusting it into my mouth. I swirled my tongue around his tip and shaft as he took control and fucked my mouth.

I loved the way he used me, as he took what he needed from me. My thong soaked with my wetness as he groaned out from what I was doing to him. It turned me on, just to turn him on as he fucked my face. I knew he was close when his cock twitched and I moaned as his hot cum filled my mouth. Almost exploding myself from the taste.

Hunter grunted and groaned until he was done, and I licked him clean before licking up his body. He had removed his shirt and was kicking off his pants as I licked over the contours of his abs.

“You feel better, my king.” I purred at him. His heart was pounding in his chest as he tried to catch his breath.

“Fuck, baby.” He breathed out, wrapping his arms around my waist, pulling me to his chest.

“You ready for a bath?” I asked him. He nodded, unclipping my bra and I slid it off before pulling down my thong.

Hunter climbed into the tub first and he helped me step in and I settled between his legs, resting my back against his chest. He wrapped his arms around me, with his head resting on my shoulder. Snuggled into him, I was enjoying the warmth of the water that was still warm.

It wasn't until I felt his anxiety through the bond, did I turn back to look at him. He looked deep in thought.

“Baby, what's wrong?” I asked him. He looked at me and I could see his worry in his eyes.

“Kailen, I didn't tell you earlier because I didn't want you to worry, but both Zach and Greyson say that their wolves are more on edge around you.” He told me.

“When did this start?” I asked him and he sighed.

“Last week, just after classes ended,” he answered.

“How does Rex feel?” I asked him.

“He’s worried. Something is going on. None of the alphas brought their lunas. Why? None of this makes sense to me.” He said, sounding defeated.

“Do you want me to go home?” I asked him, resting my cheek on his chest.

“I don’t know what I want to do.” He breathed out.

“Do you want to hear what I think?” I asked him, and he snuggled into me, burying his face into my neck.

“Of course, baby. How are you feeling?” He mumbled against my neck.

“I think, when all the Alphas are here, we should have teams sent in to investigate the ones we suspect to be involved in the disappearances.” I told him.

Chapter 60 - The Lycan King's Gamma

Lycan Prince Hunter

Even Kailen sucking me off couldn’t rid me of my worry. Something was being planned, and I had a bad feeling. Kailen made a good point about if they are here, we should send groups in to look around. And I was going to talk to Greyson and Zach about it when Kailen was sleeping.

“They are planning something. We need to keep mate and pup safe.” Rex growled in my head. He has been on edge since we arrived here. Kailen, yawning, pulled me from my thoughts.

“Let’s get you to bed.” I told her, before getting out of the tub. I helped her out before wrapping a towel around her.

“Everything will be okay, baby.” She said, pecking my lips before she left the bathroom.

I wrapped a towel around my waist before I followed her into our bedroom. She was pulling on one of my shirts before she climbed into bed.

“How are you feeling?” I asked her, sitting on the edge of the bed, still in my towel.

“Tired.” She yawned.

“Get some sleep, baby. I just need to talk with Zach and Greyson and then I’ll be in bed.” I told her, leaning over and kissing her forehead.

“Be safe.” She mumbled. Her eyes were already closed. I walked over to the closet to get dressed.

“I don’t like leaving her,” Rex said.

“I don’t either, but I need to speak with them.” I told him.

Kailen was fast asleep when I walked out of the closet, dressed. I quickly grabbed my phone and moved into the hallway. Two warriors were standing guard. I texted Greyson and Zach to meet me in the office on this floor, and then I turned my attention to the warriors.

“No one is to enter this room.” I ordered, and they both nodded before I made my way down the hall to the office.

I had cleaned out the office and everything in this room, and on this floor, was new. I didn’t need any reminders of my uncle or my cousin. It was bad enough I had to stay in this pack house with all these alphas. Alphas I couldn’t trust. All the alphas and packs on my father’s side are loyal to us, but I don’t know these packs like I should.

Finally, there was a knock on the door, and I called out for them to enter. I was sitting at the desk, trying to figure out what I should do about all of this. Greyson and Zach entered and took the seats in front of the desk.

“Dude, you look like shit.” Zach exclaimed, and I glared at him.

“Thanks, asshole.” I told him.

“Hunter, what’s wrong?” Greyson asked.

“Kailen thinks after all the alphas arrive, we should send in teams to investigate.” I explained.

“That’s a good plan. So what’s the problem?” Zach asked.

“The problem is, Thomas and Cathy figured out that Kailen is pregnant because her scent and aura is changing. And I’m worried that others have figured that out.” I sighed.

“Fuck. Okay. Did they say how they knew?” Greyson asked.

“Kailen’s mother’s scent and aura did the same, but Cathy said it wasn’t as strong. So now Kailen is more worried,” I told them.

“So, what do you want to do?” Zach asked me.

“I was hoping you guys would tell me. Kailen offered to go home, but that’s not safe either. So what do we do? We already have half the military here. I just can’t figure out why none of the alphas brought their lunas with them.” I said.

“That seems odd. You would think that they would be jumping at the chance to meet their future queen,” Zach said.

“And with what Alpha Ivan said to Kailen at dinner,” Greyson chimed in and Rex growled.

“Rex was ready to kill him. But what would he gain from getting me all rallied up? He knows I could kill him. What angle are they working here?” I asked out loud.

“This is something for Kailen to solve,” Zach said.

“I don’t want her involved with those alphas. If she wasn’t pregnant and could shift, I wouldn’t be so worried. But they are planning something,” I said.

“Eli went over to Kailen after you two left the room. He apologized for his father’s behavior. He said something else, but I didn’t catch it.” Zach told us.

“Maybe we should talk to her students. I know they are underage but this could be a life or death situation,” Greyson said.

“But if it goes to trial, everything they told us would be thrown out. But it could help us figure out why none of them brought their lunas. Eli would know why his mother didn’t come with his father,” I said.

“I’ll see if I can catch him alone. That way it won’t look suspicious,” Zach said, and I nodded.

“Also, get the teams ready. When the other alphas arrive, I want them sent in.” I told Zach, and he nodded.

“Hunter, help.” I heard Kailen in my head. Panic rushed through me as I threw the chair against the wall behind me and ran out of the office with Zach and Greyson on my heels.

“Hunter?” I heard Greyson yell out.

As soon as I made it to the door, the warriors looked confused as I threw open the door. I heard Kailen whimper as I ran over to the bed. She was sitting with her knees against her chest and her arms wrapped around her legs.

“Baby, what’s wrong?” I rushed out, sitting beside her.

“They know.” She whispered, and then she sobbed on her knees. I pulled her into my chest. Grayson and Zach had rushed in behind me, and the warriors were standing at the door, confused.

“Hunter?” Zach said, and I lifted my head to look at him. He had a note in his hand.

“You two out!” I demanded. When they were gone, Zach handed me the note and both he and Greyson took a seat.

The note said "we know about the baby" in magazine cut out letters. How the hell did someone get in here? The warriors looked confused when I rushed in here.

"Kailen, baby, what happened?" I asked her, rubbing my cheek against hers. She lifted her head and wiped her tears away.

"Aurora felt someone in the room. She woke me, but they were gone and they left this on the pillow." She sniffled.

"Someone was in this room?" Greyson asked, and she nodded.

"Hunter, someone knows. And what if they are coming after our baby?" she cried out, and I held her against my chest.

"Nothing is going to happen. I promise, baby." I whispered.

"Search the room and then question the warriors. Get the patrol to search the grounds. They didn't just disappear." I ordered.

Both of them searched the room but found nothing. They left to question the warriors while I held my mate. Kailen was shaking, and I held her tightly as I leaned back against the headboard.

"Hunter, I'm scared." She breathed out. And I was also scared. How did someone get so close to my mate without me knowing?

"I won't let anything happen to you or our pup." I reassured her, squeezing her as I held her in bed.

Lost in my thoughts, I finally noticed that Kailen had fallen asleep. Breathing in her scent, it was much stronger, but with something else that wasn't there before. She even tasted different. It was hard to explain. But I think it's more obvious to others than to me. Their wolves are picking up on something and letting their human side know.

"It's our pup. Boy or girl, they will be strong. Kailen is a strong Luna by birth, and you are the next king." Rex chimed in.

“And how do I protect her and our pup?” I asked him, feeling so defeated and exhausted.

“We keep her by our side. Wherever we go, she goes. That’s the only way she can keep them safe.” he said.

“Fuck, I wish this was over already. I’m ready to cancel everything and send everyone home. I thought this would be safer with our army here, but I was wrong,” I said.

“We will figure everything out in the morning. If we need to just meet with each alpha one on one and then send them home, that’s what we do. We can’t risk our mate or pup.” Rex said.

“Good idea, Rex.”

“I’ll stand watch. You sleep.” He said, and I closed my eyes. It didn’t take long before exhaustion took over. I knew Rex would alert me to anything or he would just force the shift.

When I awoke, Kailen was still holding onto me like I was her lifeline. She snuggled into my chest when I tried to move, to pull my phone out of my pocket. Looking at my phone, I had texts from Greyson, Zach and Thomas.

Greyson said the warriors heard and saw nothing. Zach said patrol also picked up nothing. And Thomas was worried about what was happening. He said he felt like something was wrong. And he’s been around long enough to know when something doesn’t feel right.

“Hunter?” Kailen whispered, and I jumped, not expecting her to be awake.

“Baby, how are you feeling?” I breathed out.

“Hunter, I need a gun.” She sighed, and I stared down at her in shock. We knew how to shoot from training, but it’s not something that we needed since we have our wolves. Then it clicked.

“To protect yourself,” I said, and she nodded.

“I can’t shift without hurting our baby, and I need to protect us if anything was to happen. I don’t like this. I feel trapped.” She rushed out, sitting up to look at me. I knew she was scared, and it scared me too. If anything happened to them, I would rip every pack apart. Nothing could stop Rex.

“Kailen, what do you want to do? Do you want to leave?” I asked her.

“I can’t leave without you, Hunter. If anything were to happen to you, I think I would finally break.” She said with tears in her eyes.

“Baby, what did Eli say to you after dinner?” I asked her.

“He apologized for his father’s behaviour and then said he was loyal to us.” She sighed.

“Loyal to us?” I asked her, and she nodded.

“What do you think that means?” I asked her.

“I don’t know. But whatever it is, it can’t be good if a son will go against his father,” She answered.