

Chapter 66 - The Lycan King's Gamma

Lycan Prince Hunter

I watched Kailen walk into the bathroom before getting out of bed to find something to wear to answer the door. It must be important if Greyson or Zach are knocking on the door. I'm sure they tried texting or calling, but I'm not sure where my phone ended up. It's probably still in the ballroom.

After pulling on a shirt and my boxers, I answered the door. Angled between the door so I could talk to the warrior on the other side and still monitor the room. We needed to get the hell out of this place.

"Sir, I'm sorry to disturb you. They have cleaned everything up. And Beta Greyson has asked me to inform you that Alpha David would like to speak with Princess Kailen." The warrior said.

"Did Beta Greyson mention the reason Alpha David would like to speak to my mate?" I asked him. I'm not sure how I feel about someone asking to speak to my mate after everything that has happened. She needs to rest, not make appearances.

"He didn't say, but it must be important if Beta Greyson asked me to disturb you." He said. And that made sense. It had to be important for Greyson to disturb Kailen.

"Okay, let them know," but before I could finish my orders, I heard Kailen.

"Who the fuck are you?" Looking into the room, I found the bathroom door was now closed. Kailen wouldn't have closed the door.

"If he can't have you, no one will." I heard a male voice growl out.

Panic filled me as I rushed to the bathroom door. Trying the handle, it was locked.

“Sir, what’s wrong?” The warrior asked. Before, I kicked the door in. Thank the goddess, my wolf’s strength was returning, or maybe it was my fear of someone locking themselves in with my pregnant mate.

The door bounced off the wall and almost hit me in the face as I rushed into the bathroom. Kailen let out a scream as a knife was lunged into the top of her shoulder.

Kailen was trying to hold back the stranger with one hand while she wrapped the other around her waist, protecting our pups. Her forearm had a deep gash, and her blood was everywhere.

Before the intruder could pull the knife from her shoulder, I moved across the bathroom. When I was behind him, I twisted his head, breaking his neck in a smooth movement before tossing his lifeless body to the side.

“Hunter,” Kailen cried out. Looking up at me, she was about to collapse until I caught her in my arms.

Turning behind me, the warrior was standing at the door.

“Get Greyson and Dr. Connors.” I ordered, before turning my attention back to my bleeding mate. The knife still lunged at the top of her shoulder, stopping her from bleeding out.

I pulled my shirt over my head to wrap it around Kailen’s forearm to stop the bleeding. She was panting and crying out when I tightened the shirt.

“I’m so sorry, baby. I know it hurts, but I need you to breathe. Our babies need you to breathe.” I said, taking one of her cheeks in my free hand.

Kailen was shaking as she dug her nails into my forearm as I held her close to my chest.

“Hunter, everything hurts.” She cried out, tears running down her cheeks.

“I know, babe. Dr. Connors is on her way. Tell me what happened, baby?” My voice was desperate. How the hell could this have happened? And in our room? I was right at the door.

“I don’t know. I was looking at my baby bump and then the door closed and it wasn’t you. He attacked me with a knife, going for our babies first. Everything is such a blur.” She cried, and I pulled her as close as I could without moving her shoulder with the knife sticking out.

“Hunter, we should have left. I should have got on the plane and never looked back.” She sniffled and I could hear her guilt. I felt just as guilty. I should have brought her to the door with me to speak to the warrior. She should not have been out of my sight.

“It’s my fault, baby. Please, just hang out. How are our babies?” I asked her.

“Aurora is keeping them safe.” She cried out.

“Hunter, everything hurts too much. Why doesn’t everything hurt this much?” She cried out just as Dr. Connors, Greyson, and Zach came rushing into the bathroom.

I’m surprised no one slipped on the marble floor that is now covered in my mate’s blood. Dr. Connors rushed to Kailen’s side. When her eyes landed on the knife, I could see her panic.

“We need to remove the knife.” Dr. Connors said, trying to stay calm.

“Everything hurts.” Kailen cried out, and Dr. Connors cursed.

“Find out who the bastard is and where the fuck he came from!” I yelled out to Zach and Greyson. Kailen let out a whimper as Dr. Connors examined the knife.

“Prince Hunter, you need to stay calm.” Dr. Connors said through gritted teeth. I know she didn’t want to scare Kailen, but I could see this was serious.

“Prince Hunter, I’m going to sit Kailen up and you will move behind her and hold her tight.” She said.

Once, I was behind her, holding her tightly, Dr. Connors turned her attention to Kailen.

“This is going to hurt, and I’m so sorry. But we need to remove the knife.” She told her calmly.

“It hurts so much. Everything hurts.” Kailen cried, her body tense under my hands.

“Kailen, look at me.” Dr. Connors said, holding on to Kailen’s cheeks.

“I need you to trust me right now. I’m going to do everything in my power to save you and your babies.” She pleaded with her and I knew it was bad. Kailen nodded in her hands.

“Prince Hunter, place this over the wound as seen as I remove the knife,” she told me, handing me a towel and I nodded.

“Okay, Kailen, on the count of three. One, two,” and before she said three, she pulled the knife out. Kailen let out a scream as I replaced the knife with a towel to stop the bleeding. She cried out again as I applied more pressure.

“It’s okay, baby. I got you.” I whispered in her ear as she whimpered.

“Is the pain getting any better?” The doctor asked Kailen, and she nodded. I let out a breath.

“We aren’t out of the woods yet. We need to get her to a hospital so we can monitor the blood loss and the pup.”

“Pups.” Kailen corrected her and her face twisted in confusion.

“Kailen, there’s only one baby.” She told her and she shook her head.

“Her brother is hiding behind his sister,” Kailen breathed out.

“Okay, let’s get you and the pups to the hospital. Try to stay awake. The ambulance is waiting outside.” Dr. Connors said.

Kailen’s body relaxed in my arms and I knew she was about to pass out. She had lost too much blood and Aurora is taking care of the pups.

“Kailen, stay awake.” I whispered. Dr. Connors took my hand’s place on the towel that I placed on Kailen’s shoulder.

“Prince Hunter, pick her up. We need to get her down to the ambulance.” Dr. Connors said, and I didn’t hesitate to lift her into my arms, standing with her while Dr. Connors applied pressure to the wound.

Kailen screamed out from the movement of her body, and I was terrified. Were there more cuts causing all this blood? Dr. Connors must have been thinking the same thing as I rushed fast with her beside me and Kailen in my arms.

Kailen’s body was going more limp with every passing second and I knew she was having a hard time staying awake. I finally hit the main floor and there were warriors, alphas, and betas everywhere.

I ignored all the gasps, and the doctor, and I rushed outside to the waiting ambulance. Cathy and Thomas came rushing up behind me while I laid Kailen down on the gurney. Her eyes were no longer open and her breathing was shallow and her heart rate was low.

“What the hell happened?” Cathy cried out, trying to reach for Kailen.

“We need to go,” I said.

“We’ll follow.” Thomas said, pulling his sister away from the ambulance and Kailen.

The doctor and the paramedics were already working on Kailen as I entered the back of the ambulance and the driver closed the doors behind me. My mind was in a blur as I held Kailen’s hand while they worked to stop the bleeding.

I didn't even notice that we had pulled up beside the hospital until the doors to the back were thrown open. I moved with Kailen as they pulled the gurney out of the back and rushed her into the emergency department of the hospital.

Kailen's doctor stopped me before I could rush back with Kailen and the others. My hand slipped from hers and I panicked, thinking that this was the last time I'd see her alive. I can't lose her. I know I couldn't live without her.

"Prince Hunter, I'll come get you when I have news. But for now, let me do my job." She said with her hand on my chest before she disappeared behind the doors where they took Kailen.

I'm not sure how long I stood at the doors, willing them to open. How could I have let this happen? I'm never going to let her out of my sight again. She is going to need round-the-clock protection, even after the pups are born. And then it hit me.

What if we lose them? What if that's why there was so much blood? My stomach and heart twisted painfully at the thought of losing my mate and our pups. Greyson interrupted my terrible thoughts, grabbing my shoulder. Turning, I found not only Greyson, but Zach, Thomas, and Cathy. I felt like I was going to fall apart at any moment.

It wasn't until Cathy moved over to me, tears staining her cheeks as she looked up at me. She took one of my bloody hands in hers, squeezing it.

Chapter 67 - The Lycan King's Gamma

Gamma Kailen Steele

An excessive beeping pulled me out of dreamland. My head was pounding, and I just wanted the beeping noise to stop taunting me. What the hell was beeping? Whatever it was, I was going to kill it. Smash it into a million pieces for waking me from such a peaceful sleep.

But why was I sleeping? I was trying to remember how I even got into bed. I remember running a bath and then everything is blank. Did Hunter

carry me to bed? But if we are in our room, where is he? I couldn't feel the warmth of his body. And what the hell is beeping?

I could hear Aurora snoring and I didn't want to wake her to answer all of my questions. It must have taken so much out of her to command so many people. I figured I'd go find Hunter and he could answer all of my questions. I heard my tummy growl. And he can feed me and his babies.

I let out a groan as I opened my eyes. The room was bright, with the sunlight shining into the room from the open window. The room being in all white only made the room brighter. I tried to lift my left arm but found that I couldn't move it far and I cried out in pain as I tried to move it further.

"Kailen, don't move." I heard Hunter say. I tried to speak but my throat was so dry, I couldn't get a word out. The room was so bright I couldn't open my eyes.

"Take a drink, baby." I heard Hunter and felt a straw placed between my lips. I drank the cool water until I could no longer get anymore water from the straw. The water felt amazing on my dry throat.

"Better?" Hunter asked, pulling the straw from my lips. I just nodded.

"Can you open your eyes, baby?" He pleaded.

"Bright." I choked out. I heard him curse. And a moment later, the room was darker. I could tell, looking through my eyelids.

"Okay, it's darker, baby. Now can you try?" He asked, sitting beside me on the bed. His palm touched my cheek, and I leaned into his touch.

My eyes fluttered, and I blinked a few times until my eyes opened to see my mate's handsome face. Hunter was gently caressing my cheek with his thumb as he stared down at me with a smile.

"Where are we?" I whispered, my voice still scratchy.

“We are at the pack hospital in Ivory Moon.” He said, and I tried to sit up, but hissed at the movement. Looking down, I found my left arm in a sling and my right had a thick bandage around my forearm.

Panic settled in as I tried to remember what could have happened. When did we get back to Ivory Moon? I can see why I’m in the hospital, but why? What happened? My mind kept racing, even when Hunter grabbed my cheeks in his hands.

“Kailen, breathe baby. Me and our pups need you to breathe.” He whispered, and I gasped.

“The babies,”

“Kailen, the pups are okay, and you are okay. I’ll explain everything. Just please breathe.” He pleaded, and I could see his worry.

“Water please?” I whispered, finding my throat hurt again. He nodded and when he came back with more water, I had calmed down.

Hunter held the glass while I drank it with a straw. My head was still pounding, but I’d calmed down enough to focus on the moment. Our pups are safe and I am. But what happened? I was searching my memories for answers but came up with none.

“Do you remember what happened?” He asked, placing the glass on the table beside the bed.

“I remember going to have a bath and then nothing. What happened?” I whispered.

“Your memory loss is because of a concussion you suffered.” He sighed.

“A concussion? When did I hit my head?” I asked him.

“Someone attacked you in the bathroom. I was standing at the door, talking with a warrior. We found a secret passage just on the other side of the bathroom door,” he said.

“What was behind the door?” I asked him and he looked away with misty eyes.

“It was a room where Andrew held his victims.” He whispered, and I gasped.

“The person hid in that room until he was able to attack you. He smashed your head against the tile wall. You protected our pups, and then he slashed your arm, they covered the blade in wolfsbane. The bleeding helped flush the wound and the poison from your system,” he explained.

“And my shoulder?” I asked him. He squeezed the hand he was holding.

“He did that before I could break his neck. Kailen, I’m so sorry for all of this.” Hunter rushed out.

“How long have I been out?” I asked him, changing the subject.

“Three days now. After Dr. Connors had you stabilized, we flew you back here.” He answered.

“The pups are okay?” I whispered. Wolfsbane and wolf pregnancy are no joke. My pups should be dead right now.

Hunter surprised me by moving the blanket that was over my body and pushing his ear into my lower belly, looking up at me. A smile spread across his lips as he listened.

“Both are going strong. But you can also ask Aurora.” He said, not moving from my belly.

“She’s sleeping. I thought it was the commanding, but it must have been fighting the effects of the wolfsbane,” I told him.

“Goddess, I’m so sorry, Kailen. We never should have gone back to that room.” He said, moving to sit up.

“Hold me, please?” Without saying a word, Hunter moved to the other side of the bed. I tried to move over to give him more room on the bed.

He laid down, his head rested on my unwounded shoulder. Hunter pulled the guard rail up and it smashed him between me and the guardrail. He rested his arm over my waist and let out a sigh.

“That can’t be comfortable.” I said, turning my head to kiss his forehead.

“I’m just so thankful you and our pups are alive.” He whispered, kissing my shoulder.

“Hunter, please stop feeling guilty. It happened and there’s nothing we can do to change any of it. I can’t even remember the attack. You were there to help protect me. And our family is okay.” I told him, rubbing my cheek against his forehead.

Hunter squeezed my waist as I looked around the room. I was so focused on Hunter, I didn’t notice that my room looked like a flower shop.

“What’s with all the flowers?” I asked Hunter.

“The enormous bouquet of red and white roses are mine.” He said, pointing to the table beside me.

“Of course. Yours is always the biggest,” I said with a smirk.

“And don’t you forget it. And the others are from your students, alphas and betas. Everyone knows you took a huge risk to save them.” He said, and my stomach churned with guilt.

“I was trying to save you, Hunter. I don’t deserve these,” I said, and he squeezed me again, kissing my shoulder.

“You risked so much, baby. And they know you were saving your mate, their future king. But you saved everyone else in the process of saving me.” He said, and I sighed.

“I don’t feel like a hero.” I shrugged, hissing in pain after. Stupid shoulder stab wound.

“Baby, you are my hero. You saved me and our pups. And I’ll spend the rest of my life making up for it. Proving to you, I was worth saving.” I

turned to look at him and he was sitting up on his elbow, watching me. I could see the unshed tears.

“I love you so much.” I told him, tears in my eyes. I wish I could move so I could snuggle into him. Leaning in, he pressed his lips to mine.

“Not as much as I love you.” He said, nudging my nose with his. My tummy growled loudly, and he chuckled.

“You can get me and your babies some food.” I said, nudging him.

“My pleasure, baby. I’ll get the nurse and Dr. Connors. And while they are checking you over, I’ll get you some food.” He said, kissing my nose.

“But first I have to figure out how to get this rail down.” He huffed, rattling the rail. I couldn’t help but giggle. My poor hulk of a man was stuck between me and the rail, and I couldn’t do anything to help him.

“Should I call the nurse to help you?” I teased. Something made a popping sound.

“Nope, got it.” He said proudly.

He swung himself off the bed and hit the nurse’s call button before taking a seat in the chair beside my bed. He leaned forward, taking my free hand in his.

“I’m so glad you’re awake, baby.” He said, kissing my hand.

“I’m glad that I got to wake up to you.” I smiled. Hunter warmed my heart. And he didn’t need the mate bond to make me feel loved and wanted.

He has always wanted me, and always found ways to make me feel special and loved. So very loved. After everything I had been through, this man made it all worth it. I never would have met him if it wasn’t for being kidnapped and sold. And yes, it was hell, but I couldn’t imagine being mated to Owen. He never made me feel the way Hunter does.

“Thank the goddess, Kailen. You’re finally awake.” Dr. Connors said as she entered the room, pulling my thoughts away from my mate.

“How are you feeling?” She asked when she was standing beside me.

“I’m okay. Sore but okay.” I answered her.

“That’s good to hear. You are healing. Can you hear your wolf?” She asked me.

“Yes, she’s snoring.” I answered, and she chuckled.

“She is one badass wolf. She kept the wolfsbane away from the twins and also helped you not to bleed out. She deserves her rest.” Dr. Connors chuckled. Hunter squeezed my hand. It must be hard to hear that I should have died.

“But everything is good with the babies?” I asked her, worried.

“Kailen, they are growing strong. And you were right. Her brother was hiding behind his sister. Their heartbeats were even in sync. And your belly should pop out any day now as they grow bigger. There are two of them.”

Chapter 68 - The Lycan King's Gamma

Lycan Prince Hunter

Kailen was finally awake and could leave the hospital this morning. It’s been five days since the event, and I’ve been working nonstop with my teams to solve this. The entire case was a mess, but the pieces were finally fitting into place.

Kailen and I were lying in our bed. I snuggled her into my side. She was asleep as I did some work on my phone. Zach was on the ground, trying to collect all the evidence. Greyson came back with me to help protect Kailen. When my eyes weren’t on her, my anxiety was high and I couldn’t focus on anything else. I couldn’t even shower in the next room without

having Greyson sitting with Kailen. The guilt of her attack ate away at me, like a sickness. And I would never let it happen again.

Kailen was the true hero that day. Not only did she save my life, but everyone at the event. And then she saved our pups. She and Aurora are the strongest wolves I've ever met.

"And she's ours." Rex purred in my head, coming forward to watch our mate with me.

"And she is all ours. The mother of our pups. Our heart and soul." I said, looking down at my sleeping mate.

Since she woke up yesterday, she's been sleeping more, so her body is trying to heal. If her wolf had been at full strength, she would have been healed. But Rex and I could feel Aurora sleeping. They both deserve their rest. Kailen's forearm gash is almost healed, but her shoulder still has a few more days.

My phone chimed in my hand as I was reading through emails. All the other alphas were on high alert after hearing what happened on the other side of the kingdom. My father is even there to help clean up the mess his brother left.

All the children Andrew bought were human and even some women that were sold were human. We've been handing out deals to anyone that could tell us where the bodies were. There were a lot more victims than even I expected. And all the gammas have been working around the clock to find them. And the deal would be life in jail and not death.

Cathy: do you need anything, Prince Hunter?

Cathy came back when we had Kailen transferred, and she has been helping with her care and mine. She and Greyson are the only reasons I actually ate. If I'm not sleeping, I'm working beside Kailen.

Me: I'm good, Cathy. Thank you. I'm going to wait until Kailen is up.

Lost in my work, I didn't realize Kailen was awake, watching me.

“That bad, huh?” She whispered. I immediately put my phone down. Everything could wait until Kailen was back sleeping.

“It’s better now that you’re awake, beautiful.” I smiled, not wanting to worry her about this mess.

“Hunter, you will have to tell me, eventually. This is my case, after all.” She pouted.

“I passed this case on to the other gammas. And before you protest, please hear me out.” I said. She looked up at me through her eyelashes, ready to protest.

“You can review the findings. But I think it’s for the best if you take a back seat until after the pregnancy.” I said, and she sighed.

“Would you be leaving?” She asked me and I shook my head.

“I can’t even shower in the other room without you. There’s no way I could leave you here without me. I just want you to focus on teaching and growing our pups.” I told her. Her face softened as we stared at each other.

“Okay, baby. I understand. But I’m still curious about the case. And you need to come to therapy with me so you can get over this fear of leaving me.” She said.

“I’ll do therapy if you focus on your students and our babies. Eli and Damion are going to have a hard semester after what just happened,” I said, and she sighed.

“It’s going to be a hard semester for all of us. Both of them are going to have to step up into the alpha position before I believe them to be ready. I know they will do a great job running their packs, but I worry about the stress they will be under.” She confessed.

“I could always ask some of the other alphas to help them. We are all in this together. And their fathers may not be there or their grandfathers, depending on what we find. But I could even ask Greyson and Zach for their help.” I told her and her face lit up.

“Thank you Hunter. And I’ll help with some extra classes.” She smiled.

“See, busy already. And the teams are doing everything they can to find the victims. But you should focus on the people you can help right now. Classes will start soon and I don’t want you under any unnecessary stress. You are growing our pups, after all.” I told her, snuggled her closer, avoiding her hurt shoulder. She rubbed her cheek against my chest, as she got more comfortable.

“Hunter, is your dad home? I’d like to tell him about the twins.” Kailen said, and I pushed my lips in a line. Not that she could see.

“He’s organizing everything on the other side and bringing the two kingdoms together. And he knows. Kailen, everyone knows you are pregnant and we are having twins.” I sighed. And she let out a breath.

“I thought that might happen. I was hoping to tell your father in person. I hope he was okay with hearing the news after so many others.” She sighed.

“He was ecstatic to find out he was getting two grandpups. My father never cared if we had a boy or a girl. He even changed the law, so if we had a daughter, she could take over without having to mate. Our daughter will be strong, brave, kind and beautiful, just like her momma.” I said, and I heard her sniffle. The hormones were making her super emotional and I probably shouldn’t have said what I said right now, but I want her to know how wonderful she is.

“Please don’t cry, baby.” I whispered, moving down, so her head was resting on my shoulder now.

“That was just so sweet of him and of you. I’m so happy our daughter has such wonderful men in her life. And her brother is going to grow up to be just as wonderful as his grandfather and father.” She cried.

“Oh my love, are you hungry?” I asked her, changing the subject. I found when she was hungry, she was more emotional. Before classes resumed, I was going to have to fill her desk with snacks.

“Yeah,” she sniffled.

“Okay, baby. Let’s get you fed and then we can relax. I’m sure there are some new shows we can watch or movies.” I said, sitting up.

“Or we can go over the case?” She asked, looking up at me, playing with her lips.

“What, do you think just because you are irresistible, I’ll just give in to your demands?” I chuckled, and she shrugged.

“I am pretty fantastic.” She teased.

“If you can stay awake after lunch, I’ll fill you in on some things we have found.” I sighed, and she sprung off the bed, causing me to laugh.

“Be careful babe, you don’t want to end up back in the hospital.” I tried to scold her.

“It’s fine, Hunter. It doesn’t hurt. I’m feeling better.” She huffed, moving to the closet to get dressed.

“So how bad is the media right now?” She called out, and I moved to the doorway of the closet. Leaning on the frame, I watched her as she got dressed.

“Well, the media is officially on your side about killing Jake. He had a lot of skeletons in his closet that came to light, and the people were furious. Which I can’t blame them. They started looking into me, just in case I’m like Jake.” I told her.

She walked over to me when she was dressed and pulled on her cardigan. She stopped in front of me, her hands on my chest. Breathing in her scent, hers mixed with our babies, brought a smile to my face as I looked down at my mate, who was looking up at me.

“But you’re such a good boy, my king.” She said with a smirk and my cock jumped to life.

“Baby, it’s been too long. Stop, I don’t want to hurt you.” I groaned, and she giggled.

“Maybe after you feed me, you can play with me.” She whispered against my cheek before pecking it. Kailen moved past me, into the bedroom. While I stood there ready to throw her on our bed and rip her clothes off. I was in a battle with myself in my mind about what to do until Kailen called out from the living room. Anxiety replaced my horniness, as Kailen was too far away and out of sight.

“Are you coming?” I rushed into the living room, and Kailen was sitting on the couch, holding her phone. She looked up at me, concerned, as I rushed to sit beside her, pulling her into my arms.

“Hunter, I’m okay. I ordered lunch. So now I can help you with the case before lunch gets here.” She mumbled against my chest.

“I’m sorry, Kailen. This is just hard for me.” I breathed out against her neck where my face was snuggled into.

“It’s okay, baby. I understand. But I’m okay. And I know we have no secret rooms in this place. No where for anyone to hide. It’s why I feel safe here. And I feel safer when you’re here.” She confessed.

“I love you so much, babe. I could never lose you.” I mumbled against her neck, planting kisses up to her ear.

Chapter 69 - The Lycan King's Gamma

It’s the first day of the second and final semester for my alphas and betas. My body is all healed, but it’s my mind that is still healing. This was going to be a hard day for Eli and Damion. When this semester is over for them, they will be officially taking over their packs.

I spoke with Damion’s father, Alpha David. He confessed to knowing about one of the children Andrew bought. He didn’t know how high up the ladder the knowledge went, and with Andrew bleeding the packs dry, he blackmailed him instead. He also warned the other alphas not to bring along their lunas.

Blackmail itself is a crime, and I understand he was dealing with a prince. It could have been a coverup and if he exposed Andrew, it could have had repercussions for his pack. I decided not to press charges against Alpha David. The king and Hunter agreed with me. Enough damage has been done already and the most evil are waiting for their deaths.

When he found out about the child, she was already dead. Nothing he would have said could have saved her. It may not have been the right thing to do, but to me, he was protecting his pack. And I clarified that whatever Andrew and Jake were doing, the crown did not know about it. I know for a fact, our king would never have protected his brother. There are just some things you can't turn a blind eye to.

Alpha David also agreed to hand down the pack to Damion as soon as he graduated. Which I encouraged. Damion did the right thing by helping me and my babies and he will make a great alpha. One that can right the wrongs of his father.

Then there's my poor Eli. His father is facing death and no amount of confession will change what he had done. Using wolfsbane against Hunter alone is a death sentence. Then he was kidnapping and selling human women and children. Kidnapping and killing female wolves. The charges could fill a book at this point. I'm not sure how such a wonderful teenage boy came to be when he was raised by such a monster.

There was also the hiring of the assassin, and the attempt on my life and my unborn babies. Alpha Ivan was a horrible man and he would die for his crimes. Hopefully, now the families of the victims will find some kind of closure.

The gammas are still sorting through the bodies of victims to identify all of them. It's going to take months for all the DNA to return. Hunter and I have been going through the paper trail to identify which packs they sold the girls to. And we put the five packs on lockdown until everything can be cleaned up.

All the alphas are facing death for the attempt to take over, but how far the corruption goes is unclear. There was still so much to go through and

track down. It's a lot of work and the king's gammas are working overtime to piece everything together. I would probably be working overtime as well, but my future father-in-law has asked me to step down. I'll be brought on as a consultant, but I won't be working in the field anymore.

I took him up on the offer. Given everything that has happened, I know it would be better not only for Hunter but for me if I stayed around home. I have other things to focus on now and I can't be running into danger. Hunter is already having a hard time leaving me for more than five minutes. And I need to focus on my mate and our family. I'm sad to see my position go, but it's something I can always say I achieved.

My students started to enter as I was sitting at my desk, going over my lesson for today. My two personal warriors were standing on either side of my desk. It made Hunter feel better, so I didn't fight him about it. I knew me going back to classes and him going back to meetings were going to be hard on him. And we needed to get back to normal.

Today was going to be an unusual lesson. Not a topic I would have gone in depth before. But with everything going on, I think my students deserve the truth. They will be stepping into a powerful position and clarity will only help them grow as alphas, betas, and men.

I moved from my desk to sit on the edge of the platform. Waiting for my students, it wasn't until Eli entered and my heart broke for him. He didn't look like himself. The cocky goofball I had met only four months ago. He had dark bags under his eyes and was less bulky than the last time I saw him.

"Eli, come here." I called out to him before he took his seat. He did what I asked and when he was close enough, I pulled him in for a hug.

"Thank you for saving not only me, but my babies. I could never repay you for the sacrifice you made that day." I whispered to him. I knew he was about to break down, so I held him tight.

“I know things are hard now, but it will get better. And I want you to call me whenever you feel like it’s too much. Okay?” I asked him. He nodded against my shoulder.

The class was quiet as I comforted Eli. This wasn’t the time for jokes about grown men crying and having feelings. This was a bittersweet moment. Eli’s life was falling apart because of what he did for me and Hunter. He was loyal to the crown above his own father. And the guilt of his father’s impending death hung in the air.

When Eli was ready, he pulled away and took his seat. His eyes were red and puffy. And I wish I could do something to ease the pain he was feeling. Dealing with grief can become very lonely and that’s the last thing I want him to feel. He will always have me.

“Mr. Evans, how are you doing?” I asked Eli’s future beta. We were still unsure if his father was willingly involved or being commanded.

“It’s just a lot.” He breathed out, looking at his friend and alpha.

“I’m here if any of you need to talk. This is very overwhelming, but none of you are alone. And Hunter and I have asked a few of the alphas from surrounding packs to be mentors. And I’ll also help with anything I can help with. This is a lot to learn all at once, and it’s different when you are actually running your packs.” I said, and Mr. Evans gave me a nod.

“Okay, class, today is going to be a different kind of lesson. With what half of you have heard and the other half has witnessed, I’m going to tell you the legend of my pack. The one that caused some of the events to happen at the event. As you all know, my pack was the opal mountain. My parents were the alpha and Luna. This pack is run differently than other packs as they pass the pack down to the daughters and the Lunas run and protect the pack with their alphas by their sides. The moon is said to give the lunas great strength and I’ve even experienced it.” Damion Carter raised his hand.

“Damion?” I called on him.

“So the five alphas wanted a stronger mate?” He asked.

“I wouldn’t say that the lunas are stronger outside their pack. It’s the moon that gives us our strength inside the pack. The legend is if a boy is ever born to a Luna of the opal mountain pack, he will be the strongest alpha ever known. Lunas have only ever given birth to girls,” I answered.

“And you’re having a boy?” Damion asked, and the other gasped.

“I’m having a girl and a boy. Which I’m sure you all have heard already. I’m not sure if I believe in the boy part of the legend. A boy has never been born, to my knowledge, but it could just be a story,” I said.

“But the alphas believed it to be true, and that was the reason for the takeover and hurting you?” Mr. Pierce asked.

“They weren’t the only ones to believe it. But I had never heard of it before until I went back to my pack. It was supposed to be a secret to protect the Luna, but it would seem that is no longer the case.” I answered.

“So what now?” Damion asked.

“I don’t know. Both the king and Hunter have asked me to step down as gamma.” I started but didn’t get to finish.

“What?” they said in unison.

“I’ll be more of a consultant. And if any of you need help with anything, I’m only a phone call away. I’m just stepping away from the field and into another position, which is to be by Hunter’s side. Also, I’m sure the twins will keep me busy enough. And I’ll still be teaching,” I explained.

“Miss Steele, can I ask you a personal question?” Mr. James asked me.

“Why not? I may not answer, but you can ask it.” I said with a chuckle.

“Why did it take you and Hunter so long to claim each other? You seem like the perfect couple, but four years? That’s a long time.” He said.

“Did you not want to give up your position as gamma?” Mr. Davis called out.

“Truthfully, I was scared. Hunter has so many responsibilities, and the notion that I wasn’t his goddess-given mate made me feel guilty. And after everything I had been through, I wasn’t supposed to be able to get pregnant. And a king needs an heir,” I answered.

“And now he gets two.” Damion chuckled.

“And now he gets two.” I smiled.

“I know this semester is going to be hard, but I have no doubt that all of you will become great Alphas and Betas. And remember, kindness goes a long way. You never truly understand what someone could be going through.”

Epilogue

Future Queen Kailen

6 months later..

The twins arrived a week ago. Hunter and I are settling into parenthood. Our little family is just perfect with our daughter, Gemma, and our son, Archer. Archer may have been hiding behind his sister, but he was first to make his entrance into the world. Gemma wasn’t far behind her brother. Both came out with Hunter’s brown hair and blue eyes.

It was an adjustment having two babies and not one, but I think after our first week, Hunter and I finally have a handle on this parenting thing. Our lives have settled down in our work and the media. I officially stepped down as the Lycan king’s gamma and into the role of princess and mother. I thought I missed being a gamma and everything I worked so hard for, but being a mother has made me feel complete.

Nothing could ever prepare me for meeting my babies for the first time. The love you feel. I knew there was nothing I wanted to be more than a mother and a wife. I’ll still be a teacher, but being a mother for this past week has made me the happiest I’ve ever been. Even with breastfeeding and late nights. Maybe it’s because I never thought I’d have this chance to be a mother and to also have Hunter as the father of my children.

He is so wonderful and when I see him with our babies, my heart swells with so much love for him. I thought I loved him before, but nothing compares to seeing your baby daddy taking care of his babies. And Hunter is so much more sexy, holding our babies.

This afternoon we are taking the babies for a walk to our new house. It's moving day, and I couldn't wait to see all the work Hunter put into our home. I told him he could choose anything. I wanted it to be a surprise. And he knows me well enough that he didn't need my approval. I'm sure everything will be perfect.

Archer and Gemma are sleeping peacefully as Hunter and I walked out back of the Royal pack house to our home. It's nice to have a moment for ourselves. Everyone wanted to meet the twins, and we had to up security around the Royal house. Even now, we have warriors all around us. They are keeping their distance to give Hunter and I some space, but it's still weird. Nothing is more dangerous than a momma wolf. If Aurora felt her pups were in danger, goddess have mercy on whoever that was.

"Whatcha thinking so hard about?" Hunter's voice pulled me from my thoughts.

"I'm just thinking about how wonderful my life is with my mate and our babies." I said, looking over at him with a smile.

I was pushing the stroller, and I looked down to see our babies cuddled up together, sleeping soundly.

"We do make perfect babies, don't we?" He chuckled, looking down at them with me.

"Perfect like their momma." Hunter said, wrapping an arm around my waist.

"Awe, aren't you just the sweetest?" I giggled.

"Not only did I get to claim the love of my life, but she gave me two beautiful babies. I'm one lucky man." He mumbled, kissing my temple. I stopped walking and Hunter looked at me, concerned.

“I’m the lucky one. I was broken, and the prince put all my broken pieces back together. And loved me regardless of my flaws.” I told him with a smile.

“You may have arrived at this pack broken, but look at you now. You could run this kingdom with your eyes closed. And the people love you. You brighten any room you walk into.” He smiled, wrapping his arms around me, pulling me into his chest.

“Awe, aren’t you two just adorable? Now move over, I want to see my niece and nephew.” Zach said before pushing past us to see the twins.

“It’s nice to see you too, Zach.” Hunter rolled his eyes, and I chuckled. Greyson was also with him and they were both watching over the twins in awe. Both of them are going to make wonderful dads.

Hunter and I walked hand in hand while the two uncles pushed the stroller together like a married couple. As we walked up to our house, the movers were still moving in some of the furniture Hunter had ordered. The house was beautiful. It was two stories, navy blue with white accents. The wrap-around porch was also white. And the lake out back was my favorite part.

Hunter designed a balcony off of our room so we could watch the sunrises and sunsets. We still had the dock, but this way I was closer to the kids. He truly thought of everything.

“Why don’t you show her the house, Hunter? We have the babies.” Greyson said.

It surprised me when Hunter led me towards the house. As soon as we made it to the front door, he leaned down and scooped me into his arms, making me squeal.

“Hunter,” I gasped out, making him chuckle.

“I have to carry my queen into our new home.” He smiled.

“I will allow it because you are so adorably cute.” I giggled, kissing his nose.

Hunter opened the door, and he carried me into our home. Everything was perfect. He did the entire house in different shades of white and blue.

“Did you forget we have kids? White?” I asked him with a smirk.

“We can always paint. And how messy can they be?” He said, and I laughed.

“You are in for a surprise.” I shook my head, thinking I was going to need a maid to help with the mess from the three of them.

“Should I show you our bedroom, my queen?” He asked, still carrying me. He headed for the stairs.

Photos of Hunter and me hung along the wall as we climbed the stairs. It brought tears to my eyes as I watched me and Hunter grow into the people we are today. We looked so young and carefree. And now we are parents, mates and forever a family.

Entering our room, it was done in soft purple and cream. It was beautiful, with lilacs and lilies in a vase on a table by the balcony. It felt magical in here, with the sun coming in and warming up the room. Looking over the lake, this was instantly my favorite room in the entire house. There was also a fireplace and a window seat.

“Hunter, it’s beautiful,” I breathed out. He finally put me down, and I walked around the room. I could feel his eyes on me.

“This isn’t even the best part,” he said, and I turned to look at him. He was standing by another door. Walking over to him, he opened it to a bathroom out of a home magazine.

The bathroom was done in black-and-white marble. There was a bathtub that could fit all of us. Even the shower could fit us all, and even Greyson and Zach as well.

“Hunter, this place is wonderful.” I stood on my toes to kiss his lips. Hunter wrapped his arms around my waist as I reached mine around his neck.

“You’re wonderful. And as soon as our babies are sleeping, we are having an in home date. I’ve planned everything. And you should probably nap. You are going to need it.” He chuckled.

“Oh, I like where this is heading. Does our date end with you and me naked in our bed?” I purred.

“Zach and Greyson should be able to handle the kids for a few more minutes.” He mumbled, kissing down my jaw. There was a knock on the door, and Hunter let out a groan.

“Five minutes. That’s all I’m asking for.” He grumbled, making me giggle.

“Hunter? Kailen? I think Archer’s bum exploded.” Zach called out, sounding panicked.

“How can such a little baby be so full of poop?” Hunter asked, and I started laughing.

“Not it.” I blurted, and Hunter cursed.

“Zach, you’re helping,” Hunter called out. He pecked my lips before leaving the room to clean up our son.

Taking a moment for myself, I stepped out onto the balcony. The sun shimmered off the lake, and it truly was the perfect view. Evergreens surround the lake, making this our private paradise. After everything that has happened over the last six months, I feel I can finally breathe.

Leaning forward against the railing, I thought about everything that had happened. It was a hard six months for a lot of our people. Everyone was still waiting for trials and evidence was still being uncovered. But we could locate almost all the victims that were still alive.

I’ve been working with them here. They have a long, hard battle ahead of them and I’m glad I can be a part of their recovery. They deserve all the support they could ever need.

As for the not so lucky ones, we are still sorting through DNA, but they have identified about seventy percent of the victims. There are hundreds

of victims and the magnitude of this case was unexpected. I'm hopeful in the next six months this case can finally be closed.

Hunter came up behind me, wrapping his arms around my waist. He rested his chin on my shoulder and let out a sigh.

"Now that Archer is empty, he's hungry," he said. I leaned back into him and we both looked out onto the lake for a moment.

"And how is our princess?"

"She's sleeping in Uncle Greyson's arms. I don't think he's giving that one back." Hunter chuckled.

"I'm pretty sure his nipples don't work." We both laughed.

"Zach's might." He shrugged, and I shook my head.

"Dork." I giggled, turning in his arms.