

Ascension of a Gamma

Chapter 22 Be Worthy

,
in front of what I would describe as Castle-like mansion. The gray stone walls of the exterior coupled with the white window casings of the tall glass windows and light blue-gray shingles gave off an air of elegance and style. My eyes widened slightly at the sight of his abode which was bigger than back at my old pack

I turned to him and blurted, "You live here?"

The smile on my face disappeared. He was looking ahead with a serious expression on his face, not answering me. Gale wasn't saying a thing too and that was when I realized that the atmosphere had suddenly gotten in imposing one

"Taken to three conditions.

1. Abide with

you'll

The Liain I was facing now sat with his back straight and his hands clasped in front of him. His features hardened at the mention of his name, and my palms began to feel warm. What had I gotten myself into?

First, you will address me as Alpha or Sir. And second,

You will respect my decisions as my Luna." 1

What is he talking about? This can't be

What's going on? Volt a little

Lashed, raising my

higher than usual "Is this some sort of a prank? Gah, say something."

Gale didn't answer me, but I noticed his hands grip the

steering wheel I faced Liam. He was looking at me with stone-cold eyes. It

scared me. He scared me. Last night, he was this sweet sulking baby with anger

management issues and now he was acting authoritarian. He was acting the way he

was – an Alpha... the Alpha,

I tried to smile to hide my nervousness, but my voice was

shaky as I spoke

Eyes, petting him to him. Instead, I felt myself getting it off the

water and when I looked them, I found myself in the same position as last night

– on his lap, again. A hand on my own back to support me, he rested his chin

on the top of my head.

"Breathe," he said, and I let out a breath. He pulled me closer to him, cradling me

like a baby, and somehow, I knew that something was troubling him. It violated the

first condition, but I wasn't so heartless as to push him away now.

"Liam?"

"Do we have a deal?"

"What's going on?"

"I'll tell you in time, I promise. Please

don't mention her. His story with this

is the back of my mind.

I will learn the truth about them.

I didn't trust him enough to consent to whatever he just asked of me. And his first condition – I might consider calling him "Alpha" but I refuse to call him "Sir".

Tell me now," I said. "And I'm not calling you "Sir"

Keep dreaming."

Agrowl rippled from his chest. I kept forgetting that he was Alpha Liam Rose that I kept running my mouth. If this was back in the White Lake Pack, and I didn't know that I was

Me shared each other's Jür and pini and stand lry Gith other at all time, cherished and loved each other, and the bond randerjar than physical mods.

A Luna was equal to her Alpha. I'd accepted that he's my mate, I'd accepted that he's nty Alpha now that I was to live with his pack, but I was yet to come into terms with being a Luna.

I could feel our connection. I was constantly reminded of it by his unique calming scent, with the jolt of electricity that zaps through my being when he touches me, and the way my heart skips a beat when his eyes settle on me.

Chaw Park's im. To be the mate that wall-las. He greed to give me space, bain my trust, and respect any will If he wanted my affirmation, he didn't have to make a deal with me just so I would call him "Alpha If he wanted me to respect hilis 11 decisions, I would've done it on my own. There was something wong here, but as my mate, I trust that he would let me know sooner or later. However...

"I'm your mate. I'll stand by you I'll be here when you

need me," I said, "I understand that you won't tell me now, but I hope after some
i

time, you'd share your burdens with me."

I looked up at him and raised a hand to -his cheek Now

A stop the drama and welcome me home –"

His lips crashed on mine, and it hurt like a punch. Slow

then needy, he broke the kiss leaving me breathless

We stared at each other's eyes and the coldness in them was

gone, replaced with my reflection. He opened his mouth to speak, but a shrilled
voice interrupted.

"Liam, you're back!"

He raised his head to look out the window and I did the

same. Walking over to us in graceful steps was the most stunning woman I'd
ever

seen in my life. Her heart-shaped face framed hooded

olive skin

. The

Erin and her shorts the hit nothing to the imagination S

Hence and I myself

Fengels the most

"A," Linn said, pulling me away from my thoughts. "You'r

He placed me back on my seat, before he could act, he was

already outside the car.

This is totally unfair!

"I missed you, Liam!" that woman exclaimed. I regretted

looking outside

My mate had his back to me. The woman's legs were locked

around his waist, and her slender arms were on his shoulders.

Chapter 23 Truthful

the man who has just kiused me to me that I was his luna. The man I just mlade a promise to be worthy of. And her was letting it happen.

They appeared like lang time lovers, completely comfortable in their public display of affection, and I couldn't look away. I could hear her giggling, and they Semel to be engaged in a conversation, 1 n their own world. And I felt a ping in my

heart

I'm sorry," said Gale, and I replied with a himin.

"He has no choice," he said.

Liam started to walk towards the castle with her still clinging onto him, and I remained frozen in my seat as I watched them disappear past the tall white pillars, and into the front door, which closed once they were inside.

him in my wat higher th a n fele ang inside me. "Who is ste,

"His dance," he replied, and my bralt lagod.

He...died?

A tap came on the window and looking P.I saw Lexy, smiling at me. Come on, She said

My hand was shaking as I gripped the handle and opened the door. She steppedt o the side, waiting for me, and I stepped out. When I looked at her again, Gale was already beside her with an unreadable expression on his face.

Lexy linked her arm with mine. "I'll take you to your room," she said, still in high spirits like she didn't witness the same scene as I did. "You're going to love it! Gale personally had it done for you, and he's the best!

en Thiery from the burning lhe of the inerming Sun with Galetowing close behind. Towards the same dor, the Name Huse that my mate and his fiance live in

Tforcefully came to a stop, startling her

They tricked me?

I unlinked my arm from hers and began to walk away without saying a word. The cars were being driven away by the warriors, but I had no intention of using one anyway – not like they'd let me.

"Anna?" called Lexy, and I ignored her.

He brought me here because I was his mate – his Luna by default. He could've just rejected me instead of having to pretend he actually cared when he was already engaged with someone else! I'm his Luna? What a great actor! They all were

I won't let myself be ridiculed further. This had gone far enough – I'm leaving.

Tweni wanita behindrance to his

I took my phone from my pocket, a prescn Gion gave me Last night le was my first time to own Utle, Father didn't want me to fet hooked on cellphones and slacking off in training

A hand gripped my wrist, and I turned to face... Lian His voice had a hint of anger as he spoke. "Where do you think you're

The nerve!

"Let me go," I said firmly, meeting his cold gaze.

"No." His eyes shifted to the phone I was holding, and he raised his free hand to show an open palm. "Give it to me."

Is he insane!

"No," I replied. This is mine."

He pulled on my wrist, bringing me

Y head to myself from his disgusting lips. Hut he held the back olm y head with a hand to keep me in place and he wouldn't budpe. As I struggled, mi y mouth parted slightly, and he plunged his longue inside

I don't like this. I don't want this. I don't want to be used.

Thit down hard on his tongue and he let in e go, Raising an arm, I wiped my mouth with the sleeve as I gave him a disgusted look.

"Jerk!" I screamed, then kicked him where the sun doesn't shine 1

He let out a pained oof and his hands went down there as he bent over on his stomach. Laughter erupted from behind him and saw that Lexy and Gale were enjoying this. But when they noticed that I was glaring at them, they immediately

aim by none other than the lying

a ling Lawach him slowly and

W

His plan was scary, No1 glated luck at lum. "Are you trying to kill our pup, matche asked.

Escoffed and rolled my eyes athu. "LE

Who due he think he is?

His grip tightened, hurting mhe. Then was suddenly slung across his shoulder, with his art wrapped around my thighs. My fists prinded on his back and I fluttered my legs.

Stop struggling!" he ordered.

"You jerk! Put me down this instant!" 1 said in an equally authoritative tone.

He adjusted me on his shoulder and wrapped an arm around the back of my knees. "Keep struggling and you'll fall."

Tou are going to your room, I'll tilho you around later, and tonight, the pain will welcome you asihir Luna

"Luna? | scolted. "Introdne them to your fiance, you lyim crk! You.. you jurk of an Alpha! You jerk ufa mwe!

Why can't think of anything other than

He didn't respond to my insults which were just fine, "Put me down, you jerk! Don't you have your girl to go to You Tiar!

I raised my head to see Lexy and Gale trailing behind us. "Traitors," I Screamed, and she just smiled.

Bro deserved that. kick him, there again next time you get the chance," she chirped, which shocked me.

"Sure," I replied. "I'll kick him down. there the moment he puts me down."

No, it wasn't," Lian vid, making me laugh harder

"You should've seen your face

"So what do you think?" asked Lexy, and I raised my head again to survey my surroundings. The polished marbled tiles showed a distorted reflection and looking up, there were glass chandeliers hanging from the high ceiling. Liam walked up a set of wide stairs in the middle of the entryway, giving me a better look at the empty room, which now seemed like it was purposefully made for huge

Satherings.

"Do you hold a ball here or something?" I muttered.

"Something like that," answered Lexy. "On special occasions, the pack would gather here. Tonight is one of those Occasions."

"Would anyone care to explain to me

inside the swiftly turned and closed the door on their face and locked it. Then he threw me on the bed. It didn't hurt at all, and I bounced a few times the soft mattress

But I couldn't breathe yet not could I protest, for he was instantly in my face, and I was pinned to the bed with his legs on both sides of my waist. As a result, my body began their weird reactions and I felt butterflies in my stomach.

His hands slid down my arms and he interlocked his fingers with mine. Then he slowly pushed them upwards, his eyes never leaving mine as he held me captive beneath him. My breathing came in short but fast intervals, and it didn't help that my core began to get excited.

I gulped when I felt his hot breath on my neck and gasped when his tongue swiped over my marking spot then kissed it. You're my girl," he whispered. "No one

live Lachome

,

Trailing butterfly kisses up my neck, he answered. "I'm not choosing Terreny

You don't have to keep lying. You don't have to touch the hand.

"Liam, stop!"

His lips left my neck and he raised himself to look at me. "I can smell you," he said in a low, sexy voice that made my knees water for him.

Focus, Anna!

You can stop here, for both our sakes.

I pulled on my arm and he released it, and I cupped a side of his handsome face. Tears threatened to rise to the surface, but I held them back, preparing myself for the unimaginable pain I was about to put myself through. Last night, I believed that these words wouldn't find their way out of my mouth again. How cruel, to

His jaw clenched as he understood what I was about to say. He smiled at him and continued.. " __ reject you, Alpha Lam Hase, as my mate."

I felt his other hand free mine, and he went up straight. I looked to the side, waiting for the pain to come.

"I don't accept," he said simply, and I looked at him, confused.

Why not? He's engaged, he doesn't have to be obliged to make me his Luna just because I'm his mate. She's a perfect fit for him, I don't begin to compare. So why .. why won't he accept? And why is he looking at me strangely?

"I've been waiting for you for a long time. Why would I let you go now that you're here?" he said, "Why would I let another man claim you?"

He smiled at me, sending my heart racing "I already told you, you belong to

He sighed, then got

t

he "Try in

I immediately got up and stomped past her and Gale, out the door, shouting. #
Lain! He turned to face me with a confused look on his face, I stopped short of him, cocked my head to the side as I smiled sweetly, then kicked him down there again, harder, as per Gale's request because I'm a good friend.

He glared at me as he tried to keep himself grounded, and I turned around and sprinted back into my room, closed the door with a loud bang, and hurriedly locked it. The two were laughing behind me, and from outside, I could hear the concerned voice of his fiancé.

I felt something warm slide down my cheek, and my knees gave away. I sat sideways to the floor, wiping the tears that fell. Lexy sat beside me, and hugged me close to her, whispering to me that

close to her, whispering to me that it'd be alright as she patted my back.

Nothing's alright.

"Lexy," I said, looking up at her. "Tell me the truth."

Chapter 24 Partially Different

Lensed her lips and looked

I heard him sigh and said, "Don't"

"Why not?" I shouted in his direction. "I deserve to know

what's happening! Why is my mate engaged with someone else? Why didn't you tell

"How could you keep this a secret from me, Lexy?" I asked,

looking at her through tear-filled eyes.

"I'm sorry," she said, bowing her head. "If you knew, you

wouldn't have agreed to come with us.¹⁷

"What am I even doing here then?"

"You're our Luna," Gale said in a matter-of-fact tone. "He

told you himself and it's the truth."

remaining weakly stool

ness in my eyes, and

"Tell me the truth right now or I'm

"Don't

said Lexy, scrambling to her

She took my hand between both of hers and pleaded, "You

Can't leave us. You're Liam's mate. You're our Luna

"Liam is engaged, Lexy. She's your Luna," I spat.

She looked at Gale again, with a worrisome expression, silently

asking for his permission to talk

"We can't tell her yet," he said.

"She deserves to know!" she said angrily, letting go of my hand and stomping her foot. "I'm not going to lie to her, and neither are you." He will tell her himself, just as he promised," he said calmly. "Anna, for now, just please bear with us, Everything he told you was the truth, though I understand if you refuse to believe it. He brought you back here because you're his mate, and thus, his fated Luna – not the woman you saw earlier."

She was beautiful, the most beautiful woman I ever saw.

And she seemed to care about him too. They must've been engaged for who knows

how long and now I came along and ruined it. I've lost a mate, the man I wanted to be with. If my second mate was happy with someone else, then I would gladly give him up because no one deserves to be rejected, even if it was by the Goddess's will that one must let go of a lover.

T

Heed a smile on my face and looked at

Wanted to force him to marry me. She

Seems like a good woman; she'll take care of your Alpha. It's for the best that I leave so they could carry on in peace."

I laughed a little, then jokingly said, "It's one of you

told me about this back at my old park, I would've understood. We didn't have to go through all that drama!"

Lexy was frowning, sending a wave of guilt over me "Lexy

I really am grateful to you for saving me that night. I might've died if it wasn't for you."

I engulfed her in a tight hug and said, Thank you for healing Flynn, too. I was really worried after their fight,

She hugged me back tighter. "Bro needs uw voice. "If you leave, he will - . ll

"Lexy!" Gale hooned, cutting her off. It i Snoor place to tell her

She pulled away and glared at him. I'm telling her a part of it, so she won't leave. I won't let bro marry salina! Bя

That must be her name. It suited her perfectly; it sounded as graceful as she. Everything would be fine. I had no place here.

Gale sighed deeply then sat on the foot of the bed.

"Fine," he said and Lexy's face brightened. "But not everything."

She nodded at him, and with a big smileo n her face, she

led me to sit on the bed, beside her. Gale lied right next to us with his arms

behind his head and his eyes closed,

istening lahir conversation.

"Schwa Islari" sald Lexy

Gale

"Are you... Serious right now

She stuck her tongue cut at him then said, "Shut up, Gale.

I'm thinking."

"Did he tell you alwut his first mate inquired.

he

"He told me he had a first mate," I replied, "I think he wanted to clear the rumors about him, so I won't get scared of him. It's well-known that he killed his parents and mate, but he denied both and told me he might tell me what really happened Someday."

The temperature in the room suddenly dropped, and neither of them spoke for a while. My hand flew to cover my mouth, but we haven't really gotten to terms with it yet. He's having it the war among us."

Lexy tapped my arm and smiled. "It's alright, Anna One day you can ask bro about it," she said. "Ah! I know where to start!"

"Good," said Gale.

She rolled her eyes at him before facing me again. They were like... children. If it wasn't for the current mood, I would've laughed at their bickering

"Bro had a first mate, but she wasn't from our pack. She belonged to the Blue Moon Pack, the thirsimonopgt nick in the continent specifically, she was the daughter of the Alpia. "There was a meeting between our parents and the Alpha of the pack one day and that was how they met..."

She paused and I nodded to tell her that I was following

"... But when Liam asked for her hand, her father wouldn't allow it. My parents and bro negotiated with him, and in the end, he agreed to let Liam marry her on one condition – that his pack would become an ally of the

Red Claw Pack the moment he marries only his daughter unless he finds his true mate.”

Gale turned to his side, propped an elbow to support his head, and though his eyes were closed, it was as if he was paying more attention now

“Of course not,” she scoffed. So, as you can already tell, bro agreed. He was the next Alpha anyway. So our parents supported him. They were happy together and we were all happy for him. I swear you could never separate those two!”

She smiled at that; those must’ve been really fond memories. I wondered if I could make him that happy too.

Her voice dropped as she continued. “Not long after that, our parents died. Then she suddenly fell ill and died too. And the deal had to be honored, for it was bound by the Alpha Word.”

“It changed him,” said Gale in a voice so low as if he We were devastated, and he was never the same since. Then her father came to visit us and demanded bra’s marriage to his daughter.”

“Salina,” I whispered.

“Yes,” she said. “Bro had no other choice.”

But she isn’t his mate!” i blurted. Isn’t the deal to marry his daughter, who was Liam’s mate?

Lexy slowly shook her head. “We misunderstood. We didn’t think too much of it at the time. You see, the deal was that bro marries only his daughter unless he finds his true mate. ”

"He didn't say which," I breathed, realization dawning on

1. me.

We assumed he was playing with us and

that he'd hurt his Wordbro insister

that he'd lock for hisnate. In the end, he Was given two years."

And that's how you ended up here, and why you should

marry him," said Gale.

So, the only reason he went through all that was because

I could get him out of that dral?"

Lexy bit her lower lip. "Yes, but – #

"You just want to use me." I got off the bed and paced

around the room, taking in all the information they had just told me.

"I think it's more than that," said Gale, sitting up

Why don't you want to ally with the Blue Moon Pack?' I

questioned. "The first strongest pack and the third – no other pack would be

able to cin

e r. And why d

#Herather himayed our previous Alpha, "Gale explained

"We can't trust him. And who's to wy he Wasn't responsible for Sarina's

"We don't know that for sure. Lexy said weakly.

Gale glared at her.

"Not yet," he said then turned to face me.

He took steps towards me with a hardened look on his face

and I distanced myself from him.

This pack will be in danger when he marries Salina. You are his mate and that makes you out Luna, and as Beta, I will make sure that you secure that position. For the pack, and for him.”

“I’m sorry, Ann,” he said slowly. But can’t leave this place. We’ll always be

After that warning, he left the room. I slumped to the floor, my thoughts all a mess. They would do everything in their power to keep me in here.

Anna?” Lexy asked worriedly.

“Lexy, am I only here because of a deal?”

“I don’t think so,” she said.

Tell me the truth, Lexy.”

She sat beside me, hugging her knees, and leaning on me

“Bro is good at hiding his emotions. He never lets me see

“his vulnerable side. Even when our

parents died, and when his mate died, I

“He

r

ally madai Flynnii that night,”

remembered how furious he was Carson his deleted figure when

Lilium at home but

it to myself.

+He was an idiot when you went missing. and that was the

first time he shouted at me.”

She snickered, "He was pissed when I tried to protect Alpha Flynn. I know my brother: he would've killed him then if you hadn't interfered."

"I had a feeling"

It was really brave of you, Anna," she said, "You stood up to an Alpha and won. And I was convinced then."

**Convinced of what?

That my bro wants to work things out

My brain took a second longer to process her words

blurted out, laughing loudly. "That's –

"He doesn't love Salina. He never did and he never will.

If he told you that you're his Luna, I believe him."

This was too much information to process in one day.

"I'm glad he found his mate. I have a sister now!" she

exclaimed.

Then she got up and held out a hand for me to take. "Come

on, I'll show you around. Bro planned to introduce you tonight, but I can tell

him to move it to... tomorrow. I trust you'll be decided by then?" 1

For now, I could use a distraction. I'd have time to think

about all these later. Taking her hand, she helped me up. I smiled at her and

she grinned.

Then she linked her arm with mine, and happily skipped as

we left the room. She was like a little kid, it was cute. One wouldn't think

she was a skilled healer.

“Will Gale be alright?” I asked from out of the blue

I should really think before I say something

“He’ll be fine,” she said. “He’s Bra’s best friend since

they were little but they’re more like brothers. Gale looks out for him,

especially since that happened. He’s a really good person, he didn’t

mean to scare you earlier.”

An Alpha with dark secrets, a Beta who was protective of

him, and a little sister who could read a

man, and a little sister who could read a person like a book – all three with a

shared past only Liam could share with me Achill ran up my spine at what his
Head

Gamma might be like. I knew very well what it was like to lose the people I

love. Behind the secrets and lies, maybe we weren’t so different after all.