

Ascension of a Gamma by C. C. Chapter 42

Chapter 42 Gamma's Pride

– Rigel –

Fuck his possessive ass if he thought he could get rid of me. I wanted to see my princess in person; it was my duty as her knight. Lexy and Gale might tell me that she was doing fine and so was Liam, but that I had to see for myself.

It'd been four days. They were hiding something from me and if I found out Anna wasn't well; someone was going to pay, preferably Gale.

"Last chance," he said as we were almost in front of her bedroom door.

"I'd like to see him try."

There was no way I was letting myself get pummeled by him. Just because he was the Alpha didn't mean he could push me around. Getting overly jealous when I was around his mate, I swear to Goddess he was the most paranoid werewolf I had ever met. Like I could help it when women were naturally drawn to me.

I might be a player, but that didn't mean I wasn't loyal to the Alpha. For fucks sake,

ight be a player, but that didn't mean I wasn't loyal to the Alpha. For fucks sake, why couldn't Lexy talk him out of it!

It's the one thing she's good at besides healing!

"He's going to kill you," Gale warned.

"In front of my princess? That wouldn't b e right. Threaten me, maybe, but kill me? Not if he wants her to stay."

I knocked on their door but there was no response.

"I told you we were too early," he muttered.

"Shut up, Gale. Liam never slept in before. Remember our training days?" I replied and he shuddered. Those days were worse than dying that they left a scar in our minds.

I placed a hand on the handle.

"What are you doing?"

"Going in," I said, then turned it and pushed the door open.

The bed was... there was only a mattress now, the bedsheets barely clinging to it.

w, the bedsheets barely clinging to it. Then we heard a universally recognized sound from the direction of the... bathroom.

I immediately closed the door and walked away. Gale was silent as he followed beside me.

"I heard nothing," I said nonchalantly. "How about you?"

"How can I hear anything when they're still sleeping," he replied. 4.

We looked each other in the eye and nodded in agreement. That never happened, and because it never happened, we could never talk about it. Best keep it that way.

My princess was all grown up now. Guess she wouldn't be needing me much now. I'd been cheering her up since I became her knight, which I volunteered to be just to annoy Liam.

She was a strong kind soul; it was easy to talk to her. She turned me into a real knight, eliciting a natural need to protect her at all costs. In many ways, she reminded me of my cousin.

reminded me of my cousin.

In my opinion, she deserved better than Liam. Then again, who was I to question the Goddess's intentions? She must've been drunk when she mated Anna to the Alpha of her previous pack though, that was undoubtedly a mistake. If I ever meet that guy, I'd punch him so hard his jaw would disconnect. 2)

Gale would do worse, no doubt about it.

That poor bastard.

Who gives a shit? If it ever goes down, it's well deserved.

Beating up our Anna until she was almost dead...

"Good morning, you two," chirped Lexy, disturbing the silence between Gale and me. "Rigel, what are you doing here?"

I raised a brow at her. "What? I'm not allowed in the mansion now? Is Liam going to sniff me out all the way here?"

"That's not what I meant," she said, laughing. "You look horrible."

"No shit." I grinned. This worrisome workaholic could use one less patient to worry about. "You don't look any better

arry about. "You don't look any better yourself."

She looked down at her outfit, dark blue jeans, and a loose cotton shirt.

"What's wrong with my clothes?" she mumbled.

"You haven't been sleeping lately," said Gale silently, stepping up to her and cupping her face.

"What?"

"You have bags carrying bags and you're getting skinnier and your lips are chapped," he said.

Quite the observant. In fact, I'm shocked they weren't mates when Gale came of age. Liam would've been alright with it and so would I.

With that, it was proven. Our relationships with each other were meant to be nothing more but familial. Just four abandoned kids who fucked up at one point or another, still trying to keep it together

'I watched them bicker back and forth

about their jobs and who needed a break.

put their jobs and who needed a break. Damn both of them, I needed a fucking break. At least one of us was on a break and having the time of his life. Ah... I shouldn't be thinking about that – she's my princess.

"Pervert," said my wolf.

"Shut up, Rain. I don't see her that way."

I wasn't the kind of guy who'd hit on anything that moved. Besides, she was my princess, not my queen. The latter was reserved.

"Calm down, man. I'm your wolf," he said, yawning

"Get your sleep. There might be more of them later, and who knows when packs will start attacking."

"Gladly," he said and retreated to the back of my mind.

We had almost no time to recover since the attack that night. It didn't help that Jaymer went back to sleep. My men were getting exhausted by the day and with more of them getting sent to Lexy's, she and her team had to work double.

and her team had to work double.

While the news of our Alpha waking up was a huge relief, the loss of his memories rendered him unable to perform his Alpha duties. So now, it was up to the three of us, and for Anna to look after him in hopes that something would trigger his memories to resurface.

"I have to go back to the borders," I said calmly, interrupting the two.

They stopped in their game of stretching each other's cheeks and gawked at me.

"We'll see you for lunch?" asked Lexy.

I nodded. If I talked, she'd notice that I was lying.

"Be safe out there," said Gale.

"That's your job, isn't it?" I said, waving a hand in the air as I pushed the doors open.

He coordinated all our forces, including the rest of the pack. The brains behind every plan, he had to disseminate information and orders quickly, most of which only between the special units, including me, and the rest, to the entire pack.

For now, everyone blocked out Liam's link. His was constantly a sharp static that would make one's ears bleed. Until that stops and until he's back, we'd have to keep him in the dark.

I jogged to the borders, joining my men who were assigned in the northern section. There were only six of us, including me. Every single one of them, personally handpicked from the rest for the simple reason that they were needlessly loyal to me.

I saved them from whatever miserable life they had before in their packs, the names of which I'd forgotten. And though I tried to get rid of them, they stuck to me like glue.

"Rigel, the scouts are back," said Nalia. She was tall with a slender figure that she looked out of place. It had its merits. Fearless is what she was. As a last resort, when all else fails, she was bait. She picked the shortest stick, and she just laughed it off.

Two scouts, both still nineteen, came running towards us. They shifted back into their human forms as they

took their human forms as they approached, stopping right before me.

"Gamma, there are rogues coming from the northwest, twenty in total. Another twenty to follow. Three kilometers."

Although there was no pattern or any discernable motive besides the usual, these rogues were too many in number. Someone was coordinating these attacks, and we had no idea who. 1

"Good work. Continue with the rotation. Make sure to get your rest."

"Yes, Gamma," they said in unison.

No sooner did they take a step did the other guy collapse. Luckily, his partner caught him before he hit the ground.

My men were quick to assist. They brought out a stretcher for him to lay.

"Ethan, Ty, get him to Lex," I ordered, and to his partner, I said, "Don't get distracted. If you're scared go back to your Mom. No one will blame you for it."

I turned my back on him, ignoring his glare.

"We'll return asap," said Ethan.

We'll return asap," said Ethan.

When they left, Reese spoke. "They're doing what they can. Your strictness might demotivate them and we need everyone, especially right now."

He was the youngest in our team, having turned eighteen last month. Skinny as fuck, but the pup can fight. His wolf was vastly different from his human form, I mistook him for a stray when he jumped me as a wolf and almost choked him to death when he shifted.

"Nalia, what's the number?"

"We lost eight scouts today, all from exhaustion."

If we start losing more than ten, we'd have to restructure our forces just to fill the gaps. However, it would only cause more damage on our side. Losing one's comrades, only to be replaced by a higher rank. It didn't help that some of our men were taken out.

"You're ignoring me again," Reese muttered.

"I need warriors, pup. Skilled, focused warriors who'd give up their lives to

warriors who'd give up their lives to protect this pack and the man right next to him. Those who run to their mothers with their tails between their legs have no place in our ranks, not even as an Omega."

He turned away with a tsk, and I held out my hand to stop Nalia from knocking some sense into the kid.

“Forget it. Disruptions on our side are advantageous to the enemy.”

“But he ”

“Nalia,” I said firmly, and she backed off.

“I don’t need my team fighting now. Settle your shit when this is over.’

“Any news with the Alpha, Rigel?” asked Sabri. She was almost as tall as Nalia but on the thicker side. She was wild with guns – all kinds of guns and knows how to use them. Our marksman: never missed since the day I crushed her pride and humiliated her in front of everyone in the pack. Fond memories.

I grinned. “He’s good. Our Luna’s keeping him company.”

neepmg

company.

A link tried to connect just then.

“Yeah?”

“Head Gamma, the rogues split. Fifteen coming in your direction. Assistance is on their way.”

“We don’t have reserves for assistance,” I replied.

“Thirty percent from the south, Head Gamma. Beta’s orders.”

Thirty per- What the fuck is he using percentages for! Our men weren’t statistics he could measure in a fucking chart! Thirty percent... how many the fuck was that!

I addressed my team. “Fifteen coming our way. Do you need assistance?”

I heard knuckles crack and guns load.

Keeping my anger under control, I replied, “Tell Beta to hold off assistance. We can handle it.”

My team joined my sides, already preparing themselves, their game faces on

“But Head Gamma, Beta said -“

"Fuck what Gale said," I said proudly. "Send them back. We can handle things from here. Order the northwest unit to not fuck up on their side."

I cut the link then.

Howls came from the distance. I stepped forward and my men followed, smirks on our faces.

"Leave one alive."

Gale might appreciate a gift to calm him down.

"Yes, Head Gamma," they replied, excitement in their voices.

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Chapter 43 Recognizing Mirrors

Anna

He settled his head at the crook of my neck and inhaled my scent. It sent shivers down my spine and his teasing soft lips on my skin made me smile.

"We have to shower again," I said, giggling

"We can shower later," he whispered as he trailed kisses along my jaw.

Sighing, I turned to my side to face him. I traced a finger on his stubble, rough and prickly. "Aren't you hungry?"

"We can eat later," he said, taking my finger into his mouth and sucking it. This man was dangerously seductive; I could feel my core ache for him, again.

I took my finger off his mouth and sat up, sheets covering me.

"I have to check up on them, Liam. They didn't come by today."

"Aren't you glad they didn't?" he asked, smirking

irking

"Come on. Help me out of this. Get up," I urged before he managed to change my mind, again. I pulled the sheets from him to force him to get up, but he pulled it back to him.

"Oh no, you didn't-" I said, gasping.

"Yes, I did."

I was rolled on my side of the sheets but his was just on top of him.

"Get up, now," I said firmly.

He laid back with both hands behind his head.

Mm... Anna likes.

"I know. You can't resist me," he whispered

"Watch me," I replied, rolling on the bed to get the sheet off. Just as I reached the edge, he caught me with an arm around my stomach. His chest pressed on my back and... something else.

"Liam, I need a break." As much as my body wanted him, I was getting worried as to why neither Lexy nor Gale came to

check on him, especially since Liam just expelled the poison yesterday. He was in excellent condition, too good actually, but I couldn't help but feel something was wrong with those guys.

"What's wrong?" he asked, sounding concerned. "Did I upset you? I'm sorry. You're right. Here, we'll take a shower and then we'll eat and then we'll see those two. I'm coming with you. That cheap half-naked stripper might try something when you're alone." 1

I burst out laughing at how ridiculous that sounded!

"Liam... did you just... aha... call your... haha... Gamma..."

"Show off your mark. That'll tell him to back off. Or don't. Either way, you smell like me now."

I suddenly stopped and blushed. That came off a bit strong, but I liked it.

Goddess, I love this man.

"Carry me to the bathroom, one who rubbed his scent all over me."

Tubbed 1115 scent all over me.

"You could be so dramatic," he said, carrying me bridal style. I couldn't even grab onto the sheets, so I was keeping his eyes fixed in front by pushing up on his jaw.

He strained to talk. "I've already... seen you... and more."

“Doesn’t mean I can just let you see me naked!” I gasped.

“We’re about to... shower together.” He reasoned. Good point, but still!

After shower, breakfast, and resistance, I finally got him out of the room. Holding his hand, we went out together, and into Lexy’s. I wasn’t going to bother her or anybody else, I just wanted to see how we were doing for ourselves – I had a feeling they weren’t telling me everything. The warriors that passed us by recognized their Alpha and stopped for a moment to greet him and me. They called me Luna...

A glimmer of hope shone in their eyes when they saw him, but one look with mine shared a piece of disappointing news, one that snatched that light. My stomach tightened every time, and I

found myself asking if it would really be alright even if he didn’t remember. The pack needed him, now more than ever.

As we spotted the facility, I froze. Men carrying an unconscious warrior arrived almost the same time. It hadn’t been five minutes yet when the doors opened and they went out and headed back to where they came from, hurrying.

“Are you alright? Anna, you’re shaking.”

I hadn’t realized it until he pointed it out. My hands visibly shook, and I couldn’t get them to stop. My throat felt dry. I licked my lips before responding

“I’m fine.”

“You don’t look -”

“I said I’m fine!” I snapped, shocking me. “I’m sorry. I... It’s just that... I was reminded of something.”

He rubbed small circles on my hand with his thumb

“Do you still want to go?”

I nodded.

I nodded.

We were almost at the doors when two more men, carrying someone on a stretcher, emerged from the woods. A bloody arm hanging from one side; his comrades had stern look on their faces. My eyes widened when they got closer and I finally recognized who it was – Rigel!

They looked shocked when they saw us but immediately headed inside, with the two of us following them. A wave of antiseptic, metal, and death crashed through

me upon entering. Medics paced back and forth; patients lined in the waiting room.

Spotting Rigel, I dragged Liam across the busy floor into the hallways, which was worse than the waiting area. Thankfully, although it was crowded, everyone made way for the medics who were rushing to get Rigel in the... emergency room.

"Send me anyone available," said a familiar voice.

Lexy was walking towards us, surprised that we were there. I must've looked like 'I'd seen a ghost seeing as how deep she

frowned.

Trowned.

"We'll do what we can," she said, before pushing the doors open.

"Alpha, Luna, we are from the Head Gamma's team," said one of the men who carried him here. He looked to be a teenager, tall and lanky. If appearances were the criteria for a warrior, he wouldn't make the cut.

His hands balled into fists, and he blinked rapidly to hold back tears." Gamma Rigel saved our lives. We... I... I promise I'd get stronger. I promise I'd get stronger and surpass even you...," he said aloud, pointing at Liam.

His companion, bulkier with heavysset muscles, and three small X scars right under his left eye, nudged his side and forced him to lower his hand.

"...then I'd kill off all those rogues in the blink of an eye that he wouldn't have to risk his life for me."

The tears fell. He covered his eyes with his forearm, shoulders shaking as tears streamed down his cheeks.

His companion looked at us with a

companion looked at us with a passive face.

"I apologize for my friend here," he said a she smacked his back sharply. "We'd best be going back to the borders. Please take care of Rigel."

He spun the teenager around, guiding him back.

"I'm sorry," Liam said suddenly, his voice clear and loud like he was addressing everyone present.

Alpha voice.

They stopped what they were doing, and all heads turned to him. I looked up at him, mouth gaping, and eyes wide.

"I'm sorry it took me this long. You all did your best up until now. Please let me handle things from here onwards."

His face was stern, shoulders tense, anger rolling off him in waves.

"Yes, Alpha!" they all answered, eyes hopeful, and furious

He looked down at me and his eyes softened. He smiled a little, then cupped my face. It took me a while, but I found m

face. It took me a while, but I found m y voice.

"Wh-When did you... re-rem

He kissed my forehead and my mouth shut.

"We'll talk when I get back. Trust me."

I remained frozen on my spot as I watched his back disappear into the

crowd. The loud thumping of fists on chests bounced off the walls, ceding only when he was gone. My mind was a mess o f questions that demanded answers, and indiscernible emotions swirled in my heart. 1

Rigel was fighting for his life. Liam was heading to the frontlines. And here I was, rooted in place, unable to move my legs. Unable to catch up to him... to hold on to his shirt and beg him to stay...

I was rooted in place just like that day when I couldn't run to save myself. When Head Gamma Aiden turned his back to me for the last time, and the last I saw was the fleeing figure of Alpha Fraser's wolf.

I was rooted in place, clutching at the vial that hung in my neck, my mind blank and

TUOLITIK t hung in my neck, my mind blank and the world fading...

I'm still the same Anna as back then...

I don't know how I found myself back at the mansion, in our room. Night had already fallen and he still hadn't returned.

I bit on my nails, hands shaking, and an uncomfortable knot in my stomach. My nerves on edge, my mind an anxious mess. There were so many things I wanted to tell him, ask him; I was beyond furious that he kept this from me but also worried

that I wouldn't get a chance to. The lights turned off, and the absence of it from outside worsened my agitation.

Howls came from all directions. They had been for hours on end, suddenly disappearing only for me to hear them again after a few minutes of intervals. Every time, my heart shrank, for it could be his howl that was suddenly cut off.

How long had it been? My swollen eyes stung, and his pillow was drenched. I hugged it tightly to my chest, letting his scent cloud my mind to distract me.

Not another one...

Not another one...

I pleaded with the Goddess to watch over him, although I wasn't entirely sure she would be with the new moon. Clouds blocked the stars tonight. Nothing was helping...

I needed him – his breathing, physical presence beside me. I needed his warmth to engulf me, for him to whisper that it was alright. It made me hate myself more. He was risking his life... everyone was risking their lives... and all I could do was sit on my butt and cry and worry. My fingers brushed past his mark – I shouldn't have let him mark me. He was a strong Alpha; he led a strong pack. Gale, Lexy, Rigel... everyone.

I was a useless Luna. I didn't deserve his mark. I shouldn't have marked him. He deserved someone else's mark. Someone stronger, someone who had a wolf, someone who could help him lead, and fight. That wasn't me. I was nothing but a scared human who didn't belong. A baggage to everyone here.

Salina was right. She was right about everything. I could never measure up to her sister.

her sister

The door swung open, ever so slowly. He stood there with the light behind him casting a long silhouette. His breathing ragged and his scent instantly filling the room but with a tinge of blood. Scrambling out of the bed, I ran towards

him.

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Chapter 44 Full Counter

– Liam

Memories came flooding back to me as I watched her sleep. Everything... a blur, a flash, a series of images on play. I remembered everything... but was still a scramble. 2

An arm flung around my waist, and her leg came over my thigh. She was anything but a still sleeper, but she looked adorable with her hair messy. My Anna, I remembered her then, as with everything else that preceded, and I understood what was happening with the pack.

Luca wasn't responding, yet. Even when I marked her and she marked me, he didn't make his presence known. I knew he was still with me, but he was keeping himself shut off.

He tried to poison me and succeeded; Luca must be in a worse condition than m

She mumbled my name and I smiled. Was she dreaming about me? I couldn't be any happier. It felt right, and with our marks

dreaming about me? I couldn't be any happier. It felt right, and with our marks, I felt complete. Goddess, I love this woman.

I adjusted the sheets to cover her back. Then, pulling her close to my chest, I kissed her head and drifted to sleep.

"Alpha, the eastern borders request assistance," said a communicator via the mind-link, snapping me out of my thoughts. I issued orders as I darted to the east, hearing a "Yes, Alpha."

As the night progressed, the rogues were getting more aggressive in their attacks. Their numbers had no pattern, and their careless attacks were just a means to throw us off. We'd been cautious in going offensive since we couldn't figure out their plan and focus on the defensive instead. They didn't have a plan, at all. These attacks were meant to weaken our forces.

On the defensive, we isolated ourselves. Food had to be conserved and medical supplies would soon need replenishment. Outside help was coming, but until then we had to advance as far as we could. It was time to go on the offensive. 1

TC U U U UTEUITERISIVE.

Information passed in my head like lightning, and I had to sort and analyze each one and come up with a decision. Even for regular werewolves, this would easily drive them insane and they'd lose their sense of self. The numerous voices that chattered, the ongoing fight on the outside – even to us Alphas, this was a daunting and heavily exhausting task. I had to. I was trained to take the strain of keeping too many links open; so were my Beta and Gamma.

Under Anna's leadership, they held back the first wave with the least number of casualties, effectively buying them time to prepare for the next. Lexy was pushing past her limits to keep up with her work – sooner or later, her excessive use would take its toll on her. Gale was now on the frontlines. He was on the

south, and he covered both the south and western borders. Rigel did an excellent job at guarding the northern borders, considering his team was the smallest in number. They all did well. Amazingly well. Now it was my turn.

Upon reaching the eastern borders, Nalia and Sabri were already there.

alla Sant were already there.

Luca growled; the stink of rogues left a bad taste in the mouth. "Liam..."

"You don't have to say it," I replied, slipping back, and giving him full control. When we switched, he gave out a howl and sped faster. With him controlling his own body, I had more leeway on my side.

Isolating the links of everyone in this area, I grouped them together to create our own channel and focused my attention on it.

They responded fast as I issued orders. Dividing the warriors into the three of us allowed us to cover a wider area. These she-wolves were extraordinary and were more than capable of leading a team of their own. Gunshots rang and blood spurted.

Rigel really smoothed their edges. His team was as crazy as him. 1

Luca took out as many as he could and assisted those who almost met their end. None of my men were dying – not on my watch.

A rogue launched itself on us. Luca

Aogue launched itself on us. Luca grabbed him by the neck and swung his body to the side, to be finished off by our warriors.

A bullet went past me before my paws hit the ground. A wolf whimpered then fell, blood seeping out from the hole in its head. Luca growled at Sabri. She smirked at us as her team regrouped with ours.

"Clear on our side, Alpha," she reported, now beside me.

"How much do you have left?" I asked via mind-link

She loaded her Glocks then tossed her braided hair.

"Enough," she answered.

More of the rogues came running towards us.

Nalia and her team arrived. Pure white wolf shone beautifully in the night.

"Clear on our side, Alpha," she said via mind-link

The stink intensified. I mind-linked the group.

"Keen your guards in There are more

soup.

"Keep your guards up. There are more coming."

Someone tried to link. I lifted the barrier.

"Welcome to the party," I greeted.

"What news from the north, Alpha?" asked Nalia at the same time a red flare went up the sky.

A group of wolves approached us from the left flank, a woman donned in ankle length robe riding one of them. She held a crossbow and a sling of arrows on her back.

They came to stop before me.

"Alpha Liam, we are the sisters of the Red Circle, here to be of aide," she said aloud as she got down. She smelled like one of us, but she was the only one still in human form from their group, and she kept her eyes closed.

"I am blind, Alpha, but I won't be a burden," she said, smiling.

Helia had shared the new recruits this year.

I didn't think you'll be a burden. Luan

"I didn't think you'll be a burden, Luan," I said firmly.

"Thank you, Alpha."

They joined our ranks like they had always been a part of us. Then again, they were our sister pack.

Another set of flares lighted the skies, coming from all four directions. The color was green.

I grinned and sent another message, this time to the whole pack. They dared attack my pack, dared harm my Luna, and dared kill my warriors. Whoever was behind this would pay tenfold and more.

"Red Claw Pack, our sisters from the Red Circle has answered our call. The Moon Stone Pack has come to our aide. It is our turn to fight back!" I exclaimed, then grinned. "Show them why we're called the Red Claw."

Howls erupted from all directions, and more red flares, quickly followed by green flares, from the south and from the west, lit up the dark skies.

"Show them what happens when they

"Show them what happens when they dare spill blood on our lands."

The warriors with me charged forward, keeping up with my pace. I was sending orders, filtering information from the different units, and checking up with Gale on how things were on his side.

"Quite a speech there, Alpha," she said teasingly

"I had a great teacher," I replied, hearing a laugh from the other line. "Thank you for coming, Helia."

"Always a pleasure to be here, Liam. Now let's clean up quick so we can catch up. I heard you found your mate."

Never missed a single news, to this day.

"You'll love her, Helia."

She laughed a little as she replied, "I'm sure I will."

I sensed someone nearby and commanded them to stop.

A ball of fire came from behind us, crashing unto the oncoming enemies. Pained howls and the smell of burning

meat...

incat...

I growled in annoyance and found that one particular link.

"This isn't a barbeque, Jaymer."

Fuck. It stinks.

"Why the fuck did you show up now?"

He was now beside me, clothed in a long robe with a large hoodie that hid his face. He raised his hands and the sleeves pulled back a little. Purple electricity danced in his fingers.

"I felt Mom," he replied.

"Keep up and no friendly fire this time."

Luca howled. He was getting impatient.

With a howl, Luca led them into nothing short of victory.