

Ascension of a Gamma by C. C. Chapter 66

Chapter 66 Shots Fired

+Anna

In the early hours of morning, the car came to a stop. I had slept for a few hours, having been taken over by exhaustion and the adrenaline cooling down my system. I hadn't met the warriors of the Red Claw Pack before, except for the Delta Unit.

They weren't bothered by Carson. In fact, he blended right in with them as if he belonged. The remaining members of the Delta Unit were quick to act.

Apparently, the warriors were divided into teams, based on their positions and assigned duties, and under each bracket was an assigned leader. The patrols, the spies, medic, combatants, and as an addition, a special unit to rescue the Alpha, the Beta, and the Head Gamma.

We were in a pinch. If Rigel was here, he'd say, "We're royally fucked."

Rigel went rogue. I was shocked when I was informed, but the pack didn't turn their backs on him.

"He's our Head Gamma," was all Leo, the

"He's our Head G

was all Leo, the leader of the front lines, said. He had a kind face that hid his experience in battle.

No one voiced out any rejections. When the plan was disseminated, none questioned why their Head Gamma, now a rogue, was included in the plan.

The witch was dead, which meant it was a n all-out battle between werewolves. The Blue Moon Pack had an advantage because of the terrain, and I wouldn't have given them the order if it was futile. Many of them wouldn't return. This was undeniable. They knew within themselves.

"They're ready for you," said Carson, interrupting my thoughts.

We were geared up for the impending battle, but it didn't guarantee our safety. He offered a small smile, sending butterflies in my stomach.

"The sooner you get marked, the easier it'll be for me to be around you," I remarked. 1

“Trust me. After this is over, we’re going on vacation.”

I took a deep breath to calm my nerves. I

I took a deep breath to calm my nerves. I made my way to the front, the pack’s warriors before me. There was a choking tension in the air, an unnerving tide sweeping over the ranks.

A wolf-less werewolf was leading them instead of their Alpha, their Beta, or their Head Gamma. I was simply their Alpha’s mate – one who had no inherent ability to protect them. 1

My eyes gave them a sweeping glance. Dawn was breaking from the horizon, and it was eerily silent, one could hear a pin drop

Carson squeezed my hand, assuring me he was there.

Without glancing at him, I pulled my hand away, clutching at the vial around my neck

I remember how you fought.

“Red Claw, I’ve seen you fight to defend your people...”

I remember how you grieved.

“...I’ve seen you grieve your loss...”

I remember how you kept going.

...I’ve seen your strength. I don’t deserve to fight alongside you. I cannot shift into a wolf to lead you. I’m powerless and weak, and this is why I need you. Beyond that clearing is your Alpha, your Beta, and your Head Gamma. I need your strength. I need you to fight. I’m just a wolf-less werewolf, but ask you, will you fight with me?”

I voiced the question aloud, my chest heaving. It was silent for seconds that I thought they’d back out when a unified shout broke out.

“Red Claw Pack!” shouted Leo, and as he stopped, so did the shouts.

They then straightened themselves, and in a remarkable perfect timing, placed their fists on their chests.

“On our honor!” they shouted, then they bowed their heads in respect.

This is the Red Claw Pack – my pack.

I bowed my head in respect of them.

"Let's go," said Carson and I nodded, Leo nodding back at me.

The special unit was me, Carson, Sabri, Nalia, and Ethan. They had arrived

and arrived

Nalia, and Ethan. shortly after we did.

While the pack attacked from the front, we were to enter from behind. There was a small channel, the river, that could easily be overlooked. It was a distance from there to where the packhouse was located, but with a small unit, it was possible.

With them beside me, we sped through the trees as quickly as we could, guns at the ready in case we encountered the enemy. Dawn was breaking, and soon the attack would begin.

Goddess, please keep them safe.

Soon, we heard footsteps coming. Hiding behind the trees, I bated my breaths as we waited for the man to be within reach. Ethan was to take him out silently. We were still a distance away – a gunshot would alarm them.

As soon as he was within reach, Ethan came out of his hiding place, black combo blade swiftly cutting through the air. Then he froze, taking on a defensive position. We came out of hiding, pointing our guns at him.

He was as tall as Ethan, with biceps

He was as tall as Eh , with biceps bulging through the fabric of his sleeves for he had Jaymer's arm slung across his shoulders.

"Let's just calm down," he said, holding out an arm. "Your Alpha asked me to escort him to your army. He's asleep. Look."

He shook Jaymer.

Jaymer let out a snore.

"Why would Alpha trust you?" asked Sabri raising her Glock, aiming it at him.

He didn't look scared. Rather, he seemed amused. His eyes scanned all of us, then his eyes landed on me.

"Hey, Bella," he said casually. "I'm sorry about your Father."

"You know him?" asked Carson.

"No," I said. My hands gripped my arsenal of choosing, the M4A1 Carbine." How do you know about Father?"

"Didn't he tell you?" he asked, raising his brow.

My eyes widened in surprise. "Andrix?"

"Woah... woah... woah." Sabri moved

Sabri moved

"Woah...woah... closer to him

"He's my uncle," I said, and she stopped. "If Liam trusts him with Jaymer, I see no reason why we shouldn't."

"If Bella says so," said Carson, lowering

his M4.

"The Alpha, mangoes, and the rogue are over that way," he said, pointing at the direction from which he came from.

"Why aren't they with you?" asked Sabri, narrowing her eyes at him.

"Sabri," warned Ethan.

"It could be a trap," added Nalia. She had a push dagger protruding from her left fist, her body a little twisted to the side to discreetly hide it from view.

"They're going to rescue some other guy named Flynn," he said. "He... was detained somewhere else."

He adjusted Jaymer to keep him upright.

"Let him go," I said. "We'll deal with him later... after we finish the mission."

Sabri lowered her arm while Nalia narrowed her gaze, her guard still up.

"Thank you," said Andrix. He moved towards me, stopping when Ethan aimed at him again.

"That's far enough," Ethan warned.

"You look just like your mother," he said with a smile.

I returned it. "We'll talk it over a barrel of beer... later."

"And just as brave."

Jaymer chortled and he chuckled. 1

"Bring her back," he said, addressing them but looking at me.

"You can count on it," said Carson with a

grin.

"Let's get moving," said Ethan

We continued towards the direction Andrix led us to, quicker than when we started, hoping to catch up with Liam and the others.

What were they thinking! Rescuing Flynn on their own when they needed rescuing themselves!

Howls soon sounded from the packhouse. It had begun. Alarms sounded and

It had begun. Alarms sounded and werewolves started to descend. Soon, the woods would be crawling of them.

A powerful growl came from where we were headed. The Delta Unit remained unfazed and continued, going faster.

"They're close!" shouted Ethan.

Liam...

Butterflies exploded in my stomach at the thought of seeing him again.

We came upon an ongoing fight. Three wolves against three. The black wolf turned his head to me, and the enemy wolf lunged at him, pinning him to the ground.

Instinctively, I raised the gun and aimed. Then the enemy wolf fell on top of him. Two more gunshots followed, and the other two were no longer standing. My beautiful black wolf shifted back into his human form, and Liam stood there with a shocked expression.

Two. I'd taken two lives. And I doubt that'd be the last. 1

In an instant, the gun in my hands was thrown to the ground and he had an arm

thrown to the ground he had an arm wrapped around my waist. He stared into my eyes for a few seconds then his lips pressed into mine. I moved in sync with him, explosions happening in my head.

"What are you doing here?" he whispered, tugging on my lip.

"Rescuing you," I replied breathlessly.

Carson cleared his throat, garnering our attention. Liam growled at him and pulled me to his side possessively.

I missed you, too, my jealous Alpha.

I molded my hand with his, hoping the sensations we shared would get his head back in the game.

He grinned.

"There will be more of them," he said. "Any idea how we can get up there?"

If anything, we were still at the base, with a clearing right in front of us and an uphill fight ahead.

"Not a clue," replied Gale. "Did you, by any chance, meet some_."

"Yes," I answered, cutting him off. "He called you mangoes."

Gale blushed. That was weird.

Sabri stomped her way to Rigel and slapped him, twice. Aiming the gun at him, she spat, "Give me one good reason not to pull the trigger."

Rigel looked at her calmly, but his Adam's apple bobbed up and down as he swallowed

"Because I want to be Dad," he said.

Sabri's eyes widened, her mouth slowly shaping into an "o". She lowered her arm, and he took advantage of her distraction to kiss her. The rest of them groaned while I stared in shock.

"They're mates," said Liam.

I can see that!

"I'm sorry, Sabri, baby," said Rigel. "I didn't know _"

"Shithead," she said bitterly.

"I'm sorry..." he whispered.

Howls suddenly came from all directions.

"You two, talk it out later," said Liam firmly. "Gale, Ethan, Nalia, you're with me."

He looked at Carson next. "I take it you're coming?"

"He's my Alpha," Carson simply replied.

"What about me?"

"You're going back with Rigel and Sabri."

The pack was out there fighting!

"I will not turn my back on you and run!" I replied, looking him dead in the eye. I fixed the gun on my arms. "I'm a trained warrior... and I got a score to settle."

I turned my back on him and shot down an approaching enemy wolf. It whimpered before its legs folded.

"So, how do we get up there?"

"Use the tunnels," said an all too familiar voice. I looked to my left and there was Salina, wearing a tank top and shorts like she was taking a stroll and there was no pack war happening

"Where's Fynn?" I asked, aiming my gun at her.

She scoffed. "Locked in Daddy's study. He's using your ex as bait."

"What are you doing here?" asked Rigel,

What are you doing here? asked Rigel, growling as he pulled Sabri behind him. She rolled her eyes and stepped beside him.

Salina raised a perfectly shaped brow at them. "I see you're over Maya."

The howls came again. Gunshots sounded in the air and explosions shook the ground. "Follow me or you all die here. I don't care either way."

"Why are you helping us?" asked Rigel. "We won't hesitate to kill him."

She smiled sweetly, but there was no innocence in her smile. It was a beautiful smile that hid an evil intention.

"Believe me, couz," she replied. "I'm counting on it."

Minutes later, Liam held my hand as we ran through a dark secret passage, single file, with Salina in the lead. If it came to it, we could use her as bait too. What she was after was none of our concern. In my mind, it was the Alphaship.

Typical

"We're here," she announced. "Step back a little."

We did as instructed then the walls before us parted slowly, revealing a luxurious bedroom that looked like it came straight out of a fairytale book. Every part of the room screamed royalty, princess; it made me cringe.

The Delta Unit, including Rigel and Carson, stepped into the room immediately, guns at the ready. Gale peered out the blinds while the others checked the closets, the bathroom, and the rest, guarded the door. Until they gave the signal, Liam kept me inside the passage

"I found this tunnel when I was little. Used to escape to the back because Daddy won't let me out," she explained. "He should be in the 'safe room' by now. Daddy handles business from there."

"His pack is under attack and he leaves his daughter unguarded," said Liam, stepping in front of me. "Why?"

"This pack hasn't lost a single war," she said with pride. "Daddy's confident -," she paused, sneered at me, then added, " - that your warriors will die."

Liam growled.

She rolled her eyes.

This stunning little...

"What are you still doing here? Go do what you do... you know, killing..."

She waved her hand at them like they were peasants.

My fist was shaking in anger. She deserved a hit from me. Just... one hit!

"Why?" asked Liam, holding my fist tightly.

I inhaled his scent to calm me down. Never would I ever want to have her scent on him again. He was mine!

"Can't you tell?" she asked, folding her arms. "Daddy's getting old. It's time for a new Alpha and he doesn't want me because there's never been a female Alpha'."

Salina smiled sweetly again.

I'm going to be sick.

"So, if you kill Daddy, the pack won't have a choice. I'm the only heir!"

"You're sick," I spat

Myron might have been a horrible person, but he was still her father, Karma was a bitch – they had the same rotten mind.

She fluttered her lashes prettily.

I'm gagging...

"Daddy's study is guarded. It's off-limits to me."

"You can still be Luna," said Gale. "You're mates with Alpha Flynn, aren't you?"

"Daddy won't allow it," she whined, pouting

Liam held a stony face.

Good Alpha...

"He has him locked up so he could blackmail him into giving the White Lake Pack to him. My stupid mate would rather die, and I don't want that happening."

"Liam..." called Gale.

Can we trust her?

"Ethan, Nalia, and Carson, you three go with her. Rescue Flynn, then escape through the tunnel," he ordered.

through the tun

dered.

"Yes, Alpha," Ethan and Nalia said in unison. Carson nodded in response.

"Where's this 'safe room?'" he asked.

Salina smiled evilly. Beauty only is skin-deep.

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Chapter 67 Smoking Ghosts

– Liam

Salina, along with Carson and the Delta Unit went to save the kid. They went to the left-wing and the rest of us, to the right-wing. The place was built like a castle, and surprisingly, there weren't too many guards.

Gale guarding our backs, with my girl on the right and the couple on my left, we made our way through the halls, then up the stairs.

I was channeling Luca's energy to sharpen my senses. I wasn't taking any chances. My mate, my brothers, and my sister-in-law were all here. 1

Walking through a wide hallway, the thick wooden double doors, reinforced with iron, ahead was the "safe room". Scanning the top of the door to the bottom, it was either a trap or what Salina claimed it to be. There were no cameras in the corners of the walls.

And yet, as if they knew we were present, the doors cracked slightly open and four young men stepped out. Each wore combat uniforms that were all too

combat uniforms cre all too familiar. The sigils embroidered on their uniforms belonged to packs that hadn't existed for years.

"Well, fuck me," muttered Rigel. This was rather unexpected. Everything was starting to fall into place now – the coordinated rogue attacks, the sudden stop of those attacks after my mate's kidnapping, and those darts.

All four of them had a well-built physique, their eyes hungry for blood. They wanted vengeance, and we were just who they wanted

Anna fearlessly aimed at one of them, and the kid smirked.

This was bad... for her. We weren't facing ordinary rogues. They were all rogue Alphas, heirs of the Alphas that the Red Claw Pack had taken down. This wasn't her fight. It was ours.

"Stay behind me," I said firmly as I pulled her behind me.

"Ain't this a sight," said sandy blonde and blue eyes. "Do you remember me, Alpha? Alpha Jared, son of the late Alpha Jackson of the Waning Moon pack."

"And I, Alpha Rich, son of the late Alpha Richard of the Blue Lake pack," declared beach blonde and blue eyes.

Gale had moved beside us, but he was still keeping watch of our backs. The couple had let go of each other's hands, Rigel preparing to shift and Sabri to guard him.

"We have a score to settle, Alpha Liam. I am Alpha Xander, son of the late Alpha Xavier of the Black Lake pack," said black hair and black eyes.

Finally, it was auburn hair and gray eyes' turn. He was the only one wearing a hip holster.

To think he'd go down this path.

He was going to die first for sticking a fucking dart in my neck. He missed his chance to kill me when he shot me with an ordinary bullet.

Should've at least shot the heart, pup.

"I am Alpha Connor, son of the late Alpha Colton of the Platinum Crest pack. This is the end of the line for you, Liam."

That was rude.

I smirked. "Don't flatter yourselves. Trash isn't worth remembering."

All their fathers were abusers. Their lives were short payment for the abuse those young girls suffered. The only reason I spared these four because they were kids. They had the potential to choose to stray from their father's ways. But they didn't.

They growled at me, canines coming out. There wasn't enough space to accommodate five Alpha wolves. They weren't stupid enough to shift.

"Black eyes have been eyeing my mate. He's mine," said Rigel, growling.

Black eyes chuckled, licking his lips.

"Revenge and a woman," he replied in a low tone. "How loud can you scream, sweets?"

In a split second, Rigel went flying across the hallway to the other end. The wall caved around him, and he groaned at the impact.

"Rigel!" shouted Sabri, interrupted when black eyes held her wrist, his face too close to her.

Before I could make a move, gray eyes charged at me at inhuman speed. Gently

charged at me at an speed. Gently pushing Anna to the side, I grabbed him by the throat then slammed him headfirst into the floor. Satisfied that his head was now

buried beneath the marble tiles with his body sprawled on the floor, Luca howled in delight at the shocked faces of two self-proclaimed Alphas.

Sandy blonde signaled to the other, and he came charging at me but was intercepted by Gale. My Beta tackled him to a wall, before throwing him behind us. I didn't have time to watch further as Jared casually strolled towards me with a grin on his face.

"I have to thank you for killing my shitty old man, Alpha Liam," he said. "He was too perverted to be an Alpha, anyway. Disgusting shit."

A bullet near his foot stopped him.

"That's far enough," Anna warned.

I'm seeing a side of her I haven't seen before. She never told me she can handle firearms. It looked hot.

Jared flashed her an amused look. "The wolf-less Luna... aww... look, Liam, she's protective of you," he mocked, laughing at his own joke,

Somehow, his laughter sounded louder than the growls and gunshots from behind us.

"You heard the rumors, haven't you? How Alpha Liam destroys packs?"

"He saved those packs from their cruel Alphas!" she replied confidently, and a slight shiver of guilt ran in my heart. "If you had a heart, you would've saved your pack yourself!"

Jared growled, his nails sharpening into claws.

"Babe, I love you, but you have to stop talking," I said as gently as I could.

He was directing his attention on her, placing her in more danger than she already was.

"I'm not afraid of him," she said coolly.

Who is this Anna?

He chuckled at her reply, then shifted his gaze to me.

"A mate for a mate," he said in a cold tone, then he came at... her.

I pulled her behind me, grabbing his

I pulled her behind, catching his wrists in the air. Luca was urging me to let him take control, but he'd go all instinct on him and not think about protecting our mate. I growled, threatening him to back off.

No one touches my mate.

His eyes flickered from blue to a deeper shade. I pushed him off, and he crouched on the floor on all fours.

Anna went in front of me and fired at him. He ran to the right, avoiding the bullets which broke the glass windows,

Using his claws, he climbed up a wall and then jumped to a chandelier. Anna and I backed up as she continued to fire indiscriminately at him, angering him further. He dropped to the floor; eyes now pure black as his fur began to come out of his skin.

The gun finally ran out of ammo and all that followed was clicking sounds.

"Stay behind me!" I ordered her. Thank the Goddess she obeyed.

I growled at him as he carefully stalked us, snarling. The last bits of his shift took place, and he was now a huge black wolf,

place, and he was huge black wolf, snarling and baring his teeth. His stench grew. As I was thinking of shifting, he was suddenly thrown back. Black eyes bumped into him, and the two were sent rolling on the floor before colliding into the door.

"Keep your hands off my woman," said Rigel, growling. His head was bleeding, and he had deep scratches in his arms and across his chest. Sabri came right up to him, throwing her Glock on the floor then kissing him.

I smiled.

It's been a long time since I saw him as happy as he is now.

A whimper, then it was gone. We turned to see Gale holding Gray eyes in a headlock, an arm around his neck. Within seconds, the rogue had his eyes closed, body limp as Gale rolled him off him. Panting and sweating, I offered him a hand to pull him up.

"You look like you're out of shape, commented Rigel, smirking.

"Wait 'til the baby's out and you have a dad bod. Then we'll see who's out of shape," snapped Gale.

We had smiles on our faces, just like old times. Fighting alongside each other, looking out for each other – we were brothers born from different parents.

"Brothers 'til the end?" asked Gale, extending a fist.

Rigel met it with his own. "Brothers til the end."

That's right.

We were brothers long before we were born, and nothing was changing that.
Nothing

"Brothers 'til the end," I said firmly, meeting their fists.

I felt a small squeeze on my hand.

"Let's get this over with and go home," I said, smiling at the most beautiful woman in the world.

A loud growl interrupted our moment. Jared and gray eyes were back on their feet. I flexed the muscles on my arms, growling back at him. Gale took my left, ripping his shirt off, a smirk on his face. Rigel took my right, running a hand through his hair. Anna and Sabri were behind us, each holding a Sig Sauer M17.

She fucking looks hot.

Keep your dick out of this," snapped Luca, making me chuckle.

Gray eyes started shifting too. Two Alphas, two black wolves, each hungry to rip each of us into pieces.

"I'm thinking scotch," said Rigel.

"Liam's collection?" asked Gale.

I chuckled. "Help yourselves."

Gale whistled. "I'm bringing a plus one." 1

"Fine by me, bro."

The two wolves charged at us, howling, and I immediately shifted into my wolf. The girls would need a clean shot, and we were not about to be upstaged. It was bad for our reputation.

Rigel and Gale took on gray eyes, their canines and claws out.

Jared and I went around in a circle. When he lunged for me, I lowered my head to the side and quickly latched onto his throat. Growling, I bit harder, tasting filthy blood on my mouth. He snarled at me and leveraging himself, bit onto my back.

I let go of his throat and he backed away. Then he ran towards Anna, shifting back into his human form.

Anna and Sabri fired at him, hitting him on the shoulder, but he was too fast for them. I set chase, changing back into my human form, and tackling him to the ground before he got his hands on her.

Sabri pulled Anna to the side to get them both out of the way. Straddling him, I landed two solid punches right in his face before he used his strength to throw me off him.

My back hit a wall. Still plastered between cement, he landed a kick on my stomach, then by the neck, pulled me out, and threw me across the floor.

“Liam!” Anna screamed.

Don’t worry about me.

I raised my body off the floor only to lie back down on my back as he kicked me in the stomach. I might have supernatural prowess, but it didn’t mean I was immune to pain. It hurt like a bitch since I was in human form, and he was channeling his wolf’s strength.

Blue eyes lit up as he watched over me.

“You don’t deserve a second mate,” he spat as he stomped on my stomach. “The great Alpha Liam Rose! Defender of helpless packs –” he exclaimed, then lowering his tone, added, “- and murderer of mates.”

His foot came close to my head and I caught it, then pulled him down. Quickly maneuvering my body, I wrapped my legs around his lower abdomen, then locked his head between my arms.

“How’d... it... feel...,” he said, struggling to free himself.

It was my fault. I didn’t mean to, but it was my fault. He had every right to be angry, to want to kill me, but I couldn’t give him a second chance again. During the raid, his mate tried to kill me. I didn’t hesitate to kill her. He’d never stop hunting me down, he’d never give up until my Anna was dead.

A grin etched across his face, despite his weakening attempts.

“Killing... Sarina...”

My grip loosened a little at the name.”

al ure nante.

Nymptuosen What did you say?

He chuckled. "A mate for a mate," he spat, and I choked him harder.

He struggled to breathe, the smile never leaving his face. In a few seconds, his arms fell to his sides.

He killed her, to avenge his mate. If I didn't let him live, Sarina, my baby, they'd still be alive.

Luca growled.

This ends here.

Anna looked at me with an unreadable expression on her face.

No more ghosts.

Fear flashed in her eyes, fear of me... of the man she was seeing. The rumors were true, to a certain extent. I was ruthless, in a way that I wouldn't hesitate to take the lives of anyone who dared to even think of harming the ones I care for. I took a step towards her and she backed away. Sabri shook her head slightly.

A scream echoed through the halls, sounding more distant as gray eyes fell to the ground. Carson and Rigel had thrown

the ground. Carso, him out the windows.

Rigel had thrown

Red flares suddenly went up the skies and howls erupted.

"Fuck me...", said Rigel, looking at Anna. "What'd you do?"

Gale and I were surprised, too. Neither of us could connect with Leo nor with anyone on the pack. And in the open pack channel, it was only the usual gossips.

"Luna, they've breached the pack's area," said Sabri, watching out the windows

That meant... soon, this castle would be overrun by our own men.

The pack was winning, against the Blue Moon Pack, without the Alpha, the Beta, or the Head Gamma in command. Anna couldn't have followed through the plans they made since she was wolf-less, and she was with me all this time.

She blushed and looked to the side. Luca was in awe and so was I.

"They did it!" shouted Carson, hugging her from behind.

I growled and he immediately let go."

I growled and he Sorry.”

ately let go

Ethan and Nalia joined us. Salina and Flynn walked in with their hands together. He looked like he was beaten up, with bruises and cuts on his face.

Anna stepped away from him and went to me. I pulled her to my side, assuring her I wouldn't let him do anything.

“Daddy didn't approve?” mocked Rigel, raising a brow at Salina.

She glared at him and asked, “Is he dead

yet?”

“Not... yet,” said Anna in a tone I hadn't heard from her before.

She turned to face the door, cold anger in her eyes. I nodded to Rigel and Gale. Carson went beside her and handed her a

pistol.

“Mark XIX Desert Eagle,” she said with a smile. “How many do I have?”

Who the fuck is she!

“All seven,” he answered.

“Father's favorite.”

“And if I remember correctly, so is

yours.”

Her fingers wrapped around the rubber grip as if it was made for her.

Flynn looked at her like a lost puppy while Salina smirked at me. Ethan and Nalia were already by the door, awaiting my signal.

She proved herself to be a trained warrior and a great leader. 2

I'm sorry. I'm sorry I made you feel like you aren't enough when you mean the world to me.

She killed an enemy wolf in front of me with neither hesitation nor remorse in her eyes. This was certainly a side of her I hadn't seen before, and it took me by surprise. She didn't have to. I would've loved her the same and respected her.

My chest swelled with pride.

This is my Luna... fearless and cunning... and beautiful.

I was in awe of her, but... the thought of her taking Myron's life... didn't settle well with me

She was a strong woman, and like me, she'd protect those she cared for, but her

she'd protect tho. cared for, but her eyes... her eyes were similar to Jared's – burning with cold fury and justified hatred.

I grabbed her arm to stop her.

"Don't stop me," she said coldly, and my grip loosened.

"Don't let her do this," warned Luca.

"This isn't you," I said softly.

"She needs this, Alpha Liam," said Carson firmly.

I understood. I understood it better than anyone else, and I wanted it, too. I wanted my vengeance on Myron. He gathered all my ghosts and pitted them against me. I lost my parents, my first mate and unborn child, and warriors. I almost lost my life, and I almost lost my mate. My hands itched to feel his life slowly leave his body, but... even after killing Jared, the pain of losing them still lingered.

I can't do this to you. You're not a monster.