

Ascension of a Gamma by C. C. Chapter 68

Chapter 68 Not Alike

–Anna

He should understand me out of everyone here! I lost everyone I loved because of the man behind those doors – it was proper that he pay for what he did. Even the Goddess would judge it to be just.

The gun cool in my hand, and heavy; I positioned myself beside Nalia. Carson was beside Ethan. The rest had no other choice. Liam stood beside me, and the group divided between two sides.

Nodding to Ethan, he and Nalia pushed open the doors. Quickly, they entered with their guns aimed. From where I was, I could see Ethan scanning the right side. I was about to follow when Liam squeezed my hand

“Wha

I was interrupted by the ringing gunshots that shot through the entrance. Bullets pierced through the wooden door.

Liam pulled me back into the safety of the concrete wall before I was full of holes.

Ethan!

I looked to where he was and saw him sprawled on the floor. My heart jumped, my breathing rapid as the ringing in my ears shut me from the world around me. While a part of me hoped that Nalia was still alive, my mind knew for a fact that she was already dead.

I fought it. They couldn't be dead – there was still time. I could heal them.

Someone forcefully turned my head. I glared at Liam. He pressed his forehead to mine, his breath fanning my face.

No more deaths.

Myron! He was the root cause of everyone's suffering, but no more. No more victims.

Roaring laughter came from inside the room, taunting and mocking, loud and clear amidst the continuous shooting. My blood boiled. He deserved more than a quick death.

The shots eventually ceased. I pulled away from Liam and entered the room – a throne room. Pillars lined the sides, and

chandeliers hung above the red carpet that led straight into a platform, of which sat a throne, a wolf's skin draped over the armrests with wolf heads sitting on top of its ends. My stomach felt sick just looking at it.

He sat on his throne like a king, a smirk on his face as he tossed three shotguns to

the floor. Crossing his legs, he leaned back and scratched the heads.

I kept the gun pointed at him as I stepped closer and closer until I was only five meters away.

"It's nice to see you again –," he said casually before adding, "–Anna."

His cold gray eyes eyed me up and down like the day I first met him, and a wave of disgust washed over me.

This wasn't how I pictured it. He should be begging for me to spare him in his last moments.

I had already taken lives. His would be the last. His life would pay for all his sins and everything would be alright. The lives he had taken, the people he made suffer – I'd have the honor of returning

the favor. But first, he'd beg, fearful eyes showing my reflection.

I squeezed the trigger. He bit back a groan as a bullet hit his right shoulder.

"It's nice to see you too, Myron," I replied with a smile.

He chuckled. "You're different from when I last saw you. I doubt Daddy will approve."

I shot him again, this time on his left shoulder.

"Bitch!" he cursed, and the smile on my face grew

Blood oozed from the wounds. They weren't healing, the bullets were silver and laced with wolfsbane.

"You deserve to suffer for everything you've done," I spat as I lowered my arm, and shot his right foot. He cursed aloud; his breathing was now heavy, but he still managed to laugh.

"Everything I did?" he asked exaggeratedly. "You speak like I started the game. You and I are alike, Anna. We're both victims of this awful, awful game of power."

I shot his left foot and I watched in satisfaction as he breathed deeply, sweat glistening in his face.

"I don't understand what you keep blabbering about," I said in a bored tone.

"Anna!" shouted Liam as I heard his footsteps draw near.

"Don't do this," he said, placing a hand on my arm, asking me to lower it.

Myron laughed. "Listen to him, Anna. Don't do this..."

I glared at Liam. "He killed your mate and child!" I screamed. Pain flashed in his eyes and I bit my tongue.

"He killed Mr. and Mrs. Rose. He poisoned you. He planned the rogue attacks," said Myron in a girly voice with a smile, finding the matter amusing. For that sound to come out of a middle-aged man made it more disturbing.

Liam growled at him. "You were taken in by the pack. He treated you like a brother!"

His eyes flickered from brown to black as he fought to keep Luca in control.

Myron scoffed. "Exactly," he said in a matter-of-fact tone, amusement in his face replaced by a cold, hard stare. "I remember the day your grandfather attacked my pack. Seeing my father die while protecting my mother and me, then my mother dying while protecting me. I remember the sickening flares and the flags of four packs – the Blue Moon Pack, the Red Claw Pack, the White Lake Pack, and –" he paused, shifting his gaze to me then adding, "–the Black Mist Pack."

"The Old Alliance betrayed my father," I spat, and he laughed, humorless.

He grinned at me with a knowing look in his eyes. I aimed the gun between his eyes. "Talk!"

"Or what?" he challenged. "You're going to shoot me?"

"Yes," I replied and lowered my arm to shoot his right knee. "The last bullet's in your head. Talk!"

"Aren't you going to stop her?" he said to Liam as he raised a brow.

He crossed his arms and clenched his jaw.

"Fucking Alphas, always giving in to their mates."

"Can't you just shoot him?" asked Salina from behind us, sounding annoyed.

Myron rolled his eyes. "Like father, like daughter, huh, Salina? See, Anna. It's our own kin who's quick to betray us. I told you, we are alike in many ways than you think."

"You and I are not alike!" I spat. "No one betrayed me. Your daughter's betrayal is none of my concern."

"Then why did Aiden and Fraser hide the truth from you?" he asked, smirking.

He groaned as he forced himself to sit upright. "That Anabella was a fucking beauty. Too bad she couldn't protect Emery from me."

I breathed deeply at the mention of my parents. "What did you do?"

"Simple. It's fairly easy to make anyone believe that the Alpha is up to no good when so many Alphas out there do the same thing. Rape, abuse, outright slavery

... and with the Black bloodline having such a reputation until your father and the alliance, there wasn't a shortage of evidence... or a better term perhaps, witnesses."

"My father was a good man," I whispered.

My heart sank at the thought of the Black Mist Pack suffering under the hands of a cruel Alpha – how many of them had gone through what I did and worse?

Father...

"Not good enough for your mother," he replied. "And it was easy convincing your father," he said to Liam.

Liam narrowed his eyes at him. "You tricked him."

Myron shook his head. "He heard what he wanted to hear – an opportunity to expand the pack's territories. Your 'father', my so-called 'brother', was a slithering snake and a starved leech when need be. Playing the hero to the packs the alliance saved while he robbed them of their lands."

He faced me. "Why do you think the Black Mist Pack weakened, huh? Because the alliance attacked? Because of the rogue attacks? Stupid girl... your boyfriend's father made Emery give up his lands under the guise of protection, which of course, he never fulfilled."

"Can somebody please just kill him!" shouted Salina.

I looked back to see her glaring at Myron. Flynn met my gaze and lowered his head apologetically. His father was also involved in this

"I saw the game. And the more I observed, I realized that there is only one way to make it end. If I had all the power to myself, I could change everything. I never wished to inflict upon anyone that which happened to me, but the game required certain... sacrifices."

He took deep breathes. His face paled. He smiled at me. "You and I want the same thing, Anna. We just want it to end. Isn't this what you came here for?"

Was it? I came here to avenge them, to end it all.

End what? This circle of violence and hatred? This game that he talked about?

"You're right," I replied, shooting his right knee as I stepped closer to him.

He screamed in pain, his face twisting as he let go of a breath. I went up the steps of the platform, pointing the gun at him – right between the eyes.

All it needed was one bullet and it would all end – the suffering, the pain, the anger. I could finally have peace and so would everyone he wronged. His sins would've been paid. "It'll end with you."

"Don't... do this, Anna," said Liam, coming up beside me.

"It can end here, Liam," I said, annoyed. "When he's dead, our packs would be safe. They can all be avenged. Don't you want Sarina to rest in peace?"

"Anna – Anna, look at me!"

"What?" I shouted as I turned to him.

The words died in my mouth as he looked at me with a soft expression on his face. He smiled a little.

"We can't turn back time, Anna. What's done is done. We both lost people we care about."

"Then, why are you stopping me?" I asked, holding back the tears.

It's just a bullet away...

"You're right. He deserves what you did to him and more. He deserves to die. But if you think

killing him will make the pain go away, it won't. They're gone, Anna. Killing him won't change what you feel," he said gently, a hand cupping my cheek. 1

I leaned into his hand, closing my eyes to feel his warmth. Then I stepped back and pointed the gun at him.

"You're defending him. Why? Is it because he's Sarina's father? You've always known he killed your mate, but you never came after him."

Myron chuckled then stopped when I pointed the gun at him.

"I'd kill him. Goddess knows I wanted to, and I still do."

"Then, why?" I asked exasperatedly.

Why won't you let me?"

"Because you're not like him," he replied. "You're not a coward who hides behind his walls while flaming the embers of wars. You're not blinded by a selfish ambition. You're not a slave to power."

He held out his hand.

"You're my Luna. You're the Alpha of the Black Mist Pack. You protected our pack, lead our pack to victory to prove yourself worthy when you could've done nothing and still have it all. I want it to end, my love... but not like this – not when you'll become like him."

"For fuck's sake, just kill me!" shouted Myron. Sweat ran down his face and his breathing had labored.

I aimed the gun at him again and he smirked.

"Go on. End it. Don't I deserve to die? After all of the horrible things I did?"

I aimed the gun between his eyes, right where I promised the last bullet would go.

Liam turned his head away.

I looked into his eyes, the very eyes that revealed in our suffering, the very same pair that witnessed everything.

I saw light blue eyes that looked at me with love. I saw deep blue eyes that looked at me with hope. I saw deep brown eyes that looked at me with joy, lose their light. I saw gorgeous brown eyes tinged with golden orange that looked at me with pure adoration. And as I closed my eyes, I saw black eyes reflecting flickering yellows – the eyes of a stranger, b

urning with fury, a twisted smirk on his face at the thought of my death, his action fueled by unquenchable hatred.

I opened my eyes to see my reflection in his eyes, and what stared back at me wasn't the person I was, but that man – that same man consumed by the torments of his pain.

A sudden calmness washed over me as I stared back at him – an odd sense of peace that I hadn't felt before. Then there was no pain, no anger, no desire to kill. Instead, there was a lightness in my chest, as if the iron chains that bound my

heart disappeared into nothingness.

I looked at his entirety and I saw a man too scared to face the world, too selfish to share his heart – a man who once knew love but had forgotten it. A sad, sad man.

"I'm not like you," I said, lowering my arm, the gun dropping to the floor in a clatter. A warm hand held mine and intertwined our fingers. I smiled up at Liam and he smiled back.

We went down the platform towards Gale, Rigel, and Sabri.

Carson smiled at me

Lexy, please mark him ASAP!

Flynn avoided looking at me while Salina openly glared.

Nalia and Ethan had their backs against the wall as they leaned against each other, sharing a flask.

"Bulletproof vests," said Ethan with a smile. I swear the guy was the definition of tough. They were both bleeding from their legs and arms, but they'll make it through

"You alright?" Liam asked Rigel, who was still looking at Myron.

He looked away. "Yeah..."

"So... my knight has a real princess, now?" I teased, nudging his side. A grin stretched on his face as he looked at Sabri.

"A queen –," he said as he placed a hand on her lower abdomen before adding, "and maybe a little prince."

Sabri raised a brow. Rigel stepped back, his arms in fake surrender. "Or a little princess –," he defended. "I already love him... or her. I don't care either way."

Look at him. Already tied around her finger.

Liam wrapped an arm around my waist, pulling me to him.

Someone wants attention.

He kissed the top of my head, then leaned down to whisper into my ear, "I want to work on our little prince, too."

"Liam!" I scolded, slapping his chest.

I could feel the heat creep up my cheeks at

the thought of what it entailed.

"Or princess," he added then kissed his mark

"I'll think about it," I said, pulling away from him and holding his hand. "For now, I want to go home."

His eyes lit up as he smiled.

"With all due respect, can we please get out of here before you all start fucking?" said Gale, already heading out the door.

Rigel and Sabri followed.

I looked over at Ethan and my eyes widened for he and Nalia were making

out.

When did that happen?

Liam chuckled. "Come on."

"But... she's mated to someone from my pack," I said. "She's mated with Chuck."

He shrugged. "Must have two mates. The Goddess does whatever She wants," he said, dismissing it easily.

"Alpha Liam," said Carson, joining us.

We left Flynn and Salina behind to sort matters between them. Also, if she still wanted her father dead, she could just let him bleed – he had already passed out on his throne.

"I hope this isn't too soon to ask, but "

“Whatever makes my sister happy,” Liam said, cutting him off. “Don’t screw it up.”

Carson smiled from ear to ear then bowed slightly at him. “Thank you, Alpha!”

“Call me Liam,” he said coolly.

I couldn’t help but smile. My knight was going to be a father, Gale was mated to my uncle, and my male best friend was mates with my female best friend!

I looked up at my mate, then leaned into him as I wrapped an arm around his waist. We still had things to talk through, but they could wait for later. I took in his scent, letting it cloud my head.

We heard heavy footsteps approach. Soon, our warriors were spilling out into the hall, with Leo in the lead. They stopped when they saw us, then placed

their hands on their chests and bowed deeply.

“I don’t think I’ll ever get used to this.”

Liam chuckled. “I’ve been planning how to attack the Blue Moon Pack in years, and you came up with a plan in less than a day. How?”

“I’ll never tell,” I said smugly.

There was a little someone who had been sneaking into his office when he was out for stuff. I couldn’t help it. I got bored in my room and playing with my phone was getting lame. It was more exciting there – he had all these maps and guns. I also found out where he hid his alcohol.

“I think I can make you,” he said confidently.

Not a chance.

Leo raised his head at the same time Rigel looked back. Their eyes both widened. The next thing I knew, Rigel had gone past me and a gunshot echoed in the hall. More gunshots followed, as our warriors shot someone behind me.

Then I heard a scream – Sabri’s. A feeling

of dread washed over me, and as I slowly turned to look back, time froze.

Rich was falling on his back, shards of glass stuck all over his body. Rigel was on the floor, bleeding from his chest, wheezing as he coughed up blood.

They surrounded him, Sabri crying as she screamed something at him.

My legs carried me forward. Kneeling beside him, I placed shaking hands on his chest. I felt Liam's presence beside me. I felt the tears roll down my cheeks.

Rigel coughed up blood and held Sabri's hands tightly.

Not this time.

I took a deep breath, then I closed my eyes and focused. My mind conjured images of Father, holding my hands and refusing to let me heal him; of my hands glowing then stopping,

No more.

I was wolf-less, but I was a healer, just like mother. I couldn't save my fathers, but if my blood could save my mate, it could also save my knight.

I'm not giving up on you.

Feeling the warmth all over my body, I pulled it all into my hands. I felt a strange sensation run through my skin, like electricity shooting through me. My palms felt warm as more warmth gathered, then it began to heat up more.

I couldn't hear anything anymore. I focused on my hands, the sensations getting more and more prickly until it felt like a thousand needles were pricking my skin, but I didn't give up.

He was going to be a father. He was going to have a daughter, or maybe a son, or both, or more. I wasn't going to rob his child of a parent.

Not yet. It isn't your time yet.

My hands felt like they were burning, scalding hot, but I kept going. As more warmth went into my hands, the rest of me started to feel cold and numb. My head began to throb as if it was a drum and the beats were getting louder and louder.

Finally, the last of the warmth went into my hands, and I felt myself falling.

Someone caught me. Somehow, my mind still registered what was happening.

I shivered from the cold.

Forcing my eyes open, I saw Liam's jaw through my lashes. So... cold.

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Chapter 69 The Unforgiven

–Flynn

I sighed. “Father, please take your meds.”

He turned on his side with his back to me. After what happened in the Blue Moon Pack, I told him everything, and he hadn’t talked to me since.

His wolf had weakened. He was dying, but he refused to take his medicines and he wouldn’t eat.

The pack healer said he could die at any moment. It wasn’t helping that he was being stubborn. He even refused to look at me now. This must be what Anna felt like all those years. I was paying for what I did to her.

“Father, if you take your meds, I’ll give the Red Claw Pack a call and ask for Anna.”

I could tell he was thinking about it. The last time he spoke to a person was when Anna came to visit him. She left teary eyed, and I didn’t dare ask her what they talked about. Hopefully, she at least

forgave my father for hiding the truth from her.

When they found out that Myron lied, they were risking their alliance with the Red Claw Pack and the Blue Moon Pack. Father and Head Gamma Aiden knew about their real intentions and couldn’t let the pack undergo the same fate as the Black Mist Pack.

Myron was right. It was an awful, awful game. We were all players whether we wanted to be or not, but we could change the course of the game to ensure a better future, where no other child would have to go through what he did, what Anna did, what other children out there did.

No more victims.

Liam kept his promise and convinced Anna to talk to me. We talked in private and I told her all that I kept from her for two long years and more. I asked for forgiveness, for a second chance, to be her friend again, but she wasn’t ready to forgive me just yet and asked me to give her time. Hopefully, the day would come. I’d wait until my last.

“Thank you for letting me talk to her, Alpha,” I said to Liam.

“I gave you my word. But it wouldn’t have worked if she hadn’t agreed. You should be thanking her instead,” he replied.

I held my hand out and for a handshake and he accepted. It was at least a start. Our short truce was over, but there was a mutual understanding between us which was better than a fragile alliance.

I saw Anna over his shoulder walking over to us. There was something different about her now. I suspect it had a lot to do with Liam. I was glad to see she was happier than when she was with my pack.

"Thanks for taking care of her," I said.

"Don't worry about her now," he said. "Congratulations on finding your mate."

"Right."

I turned around and opened the door to my car.

"Flynn," he said as I got in. "Take care of her." 1

"I will," I said then drove away.

Father turned to his back. Then he slowly sat up, took the pills and the glass of water on the nightstand, and washed the pills down with the water. He didn't look at

me.

I forced a smile.

"I'll let you know how it goes," I said.

He lied on his back and closed his eyes.

The man that I admired and dreamed of surpassing – even on his deathbed, I was still beneath him. He made mistakes, he had his fair share of sins, but none of them were greater than mine. His impending death loomed on my mind, every corner of the mansion reminding me that I wouldn't have these moments of outright rejection.

Still, a part of me hoped that he'd at least hug me one more time. Strangely, these brief painful encounters brought about a small comfort – he was still alive.

I quietly left his room, then made my way out where my mate was waiting for me.

It was definitely a surprise. I hadn't

expected the Moon Goddess to bless me with another after what I did. I took it as a second chance – maybe She saw something in me and believed that I was worth a mate.

When Salina and I got talking, I learned that she was in many ways like me. We were fair reflections of one another, and so we felt a deep connection. I'd fallen for her, and now I wish happiness for her. I hope she felt happy around me. She always had this smile only when she was with me, like right now. 1

"Hello, beautiful," I said, kissing the top of her head.

She wore comfortable clothes – my sweatpants and my shirt that was too big for her. She smelled like lilacs and sunshine. It suited her.

"Hello, handsome," she replied, kissing my cheek.

We decided to take things slow – get to know each other more and just be there for each other until we were both ready to fully commit.

Farrell wanted to mark her, claim her as

ours. After a long discussion, he gave in.

He actually started talking to me again, and we were repairing our broken relationship. I missed my wolf. My head was lonely without him. Getting him back made me happy beyond belief.

"Are you sure you want to do this?" I asked, looking into her beautiful emerald eyes.

"I'm ready," she said.

She discussed her plans with me after Liam declared her as the new Alpha of the Blue Moon Pack. He could've taken whatever he wanted, took over the pack, did anything he wanted. Instead, he left the pack alone and relinquished control to her.

The pack was still recovering from the battle, but her people accepted her as their leader. I couldn't be prouder. My mate was an Alpha. 1

The drive to her pack was silent. She fell asleep on the way, allowing me about an hour to admire her beauty. The more I spent time with her, the more I told myself that I didn't deserve her.

When we reached her pack, she led me down into the dungeons. The smell was atrocious. She didn't seem to mind.

"Leave us," she ordered the guard on duty. He left immediately.

I held her hand as we went inside a cell.

"Well, isn't this nice," said a hoarse voice. "A visit from the Alpha herself. I'm honored."

"I thought about forgiving you," she said. "I thought about it day and night, Daddy. I really did."

Myron scoffed. He was constantly sedated with wolfsbane – the effect must've worn off.

"Don't tell me you're getting soft, Salina. Is the Alpha going to pardon this lowly prisoner?" he mocked.

"No," she said, pulling off a handgun from its holster which was strapped to her right leg. "I can't, Daddy. I tried, but I really can't."

"Don't cry, sunshine. You should save your tears for the future. When you're all alone at night and all your sins come to

haunt you."

Her hand shook and she swallowed, hard. "I didn't want to do them, Daddy. You know I didn't."

Myron smirked. "But you did, sunshine. You were a part of it all. You could've said 'no' but you didn't. You could've defied me, but you didn't. You could've asked for help, but you didn't."

"I was afraid of you," she replied, her voice breaking. "You would've killed me."

"But your conscience would've been clean," he said in a bored tone. "Go on. Convince yourself that you had no choice. Tell yourself that you did it because I told you to. You didn't want to do any of it?"

He laughed mockingly. "You loved Liam. You were jealous of Sarina. Admit it, sunshine. You wanted to take her place so badly you wanted her dead. Why else would you lead her into the woods, far from the safety of the pack? I almost thought you betrayed me when you gave her the antidote."

"I couldn't –

"That sickening Rose... hypocrite! And that Fraser and Aiden... nothing ever washes the stink of blood, sunshine. You have to kill that bitch."

My hands balled into fists at what she was calling Anna. My jaw clenched so as not to interfere.

"You are a good girl, Salina."

"I didn't know you would kill her! I—"

"A—a—ah... you knew very well."

"She was pregnant with your granddaughter, Daddy," Salina cried. "I didn't think you'd be so heartless as to kill her."

His lips curved into a frown. "Ah... well, the sacrifices we make... for the sake of a better world."

"You did it for you, Daddy," she whispered. "Was Mommy Julia a sacrifice too? I thought you loved her. She accepted Sarina and me – we saw her as our mother."

"Julia..." he drawled. "Sweet innocent Julia. It was for her own sake, sunshine. She didn't understand my dreams. She

would've betrayed

me given the chance. Just like how you betrayed me... like how that bastard Myron betrayed me. Haha! He killed my men to protect your mate's Beta? Ha-ha! Hypocrites! Who would've thought his daughter was Rose's Luna, huh?" 2

Salina placed a hand over her mouth, her hand shaking.

"You're different, sunshine. Unlike our innocent Sarina, you're more like me. You're Daddy's good little girl."

"Don't call me that," she spat. "You're a nevil man."

"It don't matter now, sunshine. Pull the trigger if you think it'll help you sleep. The deed is done. Seducing Liam, getting into that bitch's head, successfully getting her out of Liam's hands –." Myron let out a laugh then continued, "you're such a good girl, Salina! I'm not mad at you for betraying me. You know what they say, 'an apple doesn't fall far from its tree'."

Salina let out a breath. Then she fired. Myron grunted.

That's for Mommy Julia," she said firmly.

Myron laughed hysterically. "Go on, sunshine."

Another gunshot. "That's for my niece."

He

muffled a scream, the chains holding him rattling. Then he let out heavy breaths.

"Be a good girl and kill your Daddy," he said, growling.

She sniffled as more tears fell on her cheeks. "I can still remember who you used to be, Daddy. I remember you spinning me around and cooking me waffles and br

aiding my hair. I remember you reading us bedtime stories and tucking me in bed. I remember all the good you've done, Daddy."

"All the good I've done..." he repeated, his lips curving into a smirk.

"Please... Daddy... let me talk to him..." Salina cried.

Myron shut his eyes, seemingly remembering the things she mentioned. When he looked at her again, his face

softened, and he smiled genuinely as a proud father would

"You've grown, Salina. Have I ever told you, you look just like your Mom? Your real Mom, Janice."

Salina shook her head.

"Ah... well, I'm in for one of her cold treatments," he said, chuckling,

"I can't watch you die slowly, Daddy. The world doesn't want you anymore. You have to go."

"Hold the gun steady, sunshine," he said softly, no trace of the man he was moments before. "I taught you better than that."

"I'm sorry, Daddy," she said.

My heart was breaking from their words and her tears. I could stop her now, but it wasn't my decision to make. Watching her father suffer a slow death was torturous, and I couldn't let her go through the same.

"Don't cry, sunshine. Don't waste your tears on me," Myron said, smiling, "Take care of my daughter, kid."

I held her hand. "I will," I promised.

She held my hand tighter. "I love you, Daddy," she said.

"I love you, too, sunshine."

She pulled the trigger.

It was a straight shot to his heart. The gun fell on the floor and so did her tears. Her knees gave away and I caught her in my arms. For the next hours, I held her in my arms, comforting her as best I could until she passed out.

I carried her out the dungeons then to her room. I laid her on her bed, and sat beside her, stroking her hair.

Me and my mate – there was just the two of us now – two Alphas who had nobody else but each other.

Carson left me. He deserved better and I was happy for him. The pack understood. He left with no hard feeling between us. We were still friends, but some things just couldn't be fixed.

I laid beside her, staring at the ceiling as I thought about my life and what was next for me.

While it troubled me that she used to be in love with Alpha Liam, she still recognized the bond between us. Both of us shrouded in shadows, and there was no one I'd rather be with than her. She stirred hours later when it was dark outside and so was the room.

Her arm fell around my waist and she rested her head on my chest. I kissed the top of her head.

"How are you feeling, beautiful?"

"Not good," she replied.

"Do you want me to get something for you?"

"No, just stay here," she said, taking a deep breath then relaxing.

"What are you thinking of?" she asked, minutes later.

"Of us," I said. "What do you think?"

"I think we should merge our packs."

That would pose new problems. Our packs used to be in alliance with each other. Conflicts might arise from within, weakening the pack instead.

"Don't you want to be an Alpha?" I asked.

"I just want to be with you," she whispered. "Do you see me differently now?"

"No, beautiful. You did what you had to," I said, pulling her closer.

"He's gone now."

"Do you regret it?"

"No," she said, propping herself on her elbows. "I think he's happier with his family."

I smiled, even though she couldn't see it.

A family, huh.

"What do you want to name our pack?"

"Mm... it's really dark in here," she said.

"That's a long name," I said, chuckling.

"Turn on the lights."

"A little shorter."

She slapped my chest. "Flynn!"

"It's a new moon, beautiful," I said. "It's a moonless night."

That's it!" she exclaimed.

"That's what?"

"New Moon Pack," she said.

I repeated the name.

"You don't like it?"

"It's perfect," I said.

I felt her breath on my face, then her soft lips pressed against mine. I turned us over, so she was under me. "Just perfect."

She giggled. "Not tonight, handsome," she said, pecking my cheek.

"I understand," I said then I captured her lips again. I rolled off her and pulled her close to me.

"Are you sure you want to do this?" she asked. "Daddy has done a lot more, and he has more rogues under his command. I don't know if they'd obey me... or you."

"We'll make it happen, my lilac... together," I said.

She yawned and stretched.

“Together,” she said, rubbing her face on

my chest

Maybe... even if just by a little, we could change the course of the game.

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Ascension of a Gamma by C. C. Chapter 70

Chapter 70 Miracles Happen

Liam squeezed my hand. I leaned into his chest and he hugged me to him. Beside me was Carson, and I at the seats opposite us, Gale and Sabri. We were in the lobby, waiting for Lexy or any of her staff to inform us of the result of the operation.

When I passed out, so did Rigel. The wound had closed, and he expelled the poison, but how he was still alive with a silver bullet inside him, was a mystery. In a way, my own gift scared me. If word about it spread, the pack might make more enemies than before and would suffer more attacks.

Liam told me he had to keep it a secret even from the pack, so when Rigel's wound closed, they somehow made it appear like I only expelled the wolfsbane.

None of them would tell me the details.

| It didn't settle well with me.

Can't we trust our own pack with a secret?

He said he didn't want to risk it. We left it at that. There was a bigger issue at the moment, which was again related to me. Liam and I talked about it – we weren't merging our packs, but the Red Claw Pack would help the Black Mist Pack recover. Between Alphas, we formed an alliance.

I was glad he took it so well. He'd been very supportive of my decision. I was the first female Alpha and the first to be both an Alpha and a Luna, although the latter was yet to be made."official".

Alphas of other packs quickly heard about me that they demanded a meeting. They were quite civil of their hostility and were aware that I was wolf-less. However, they couldn't do anything about it. – none of them nor any other alliance could force me to choose a side. The Red Claw Pack and its alliances were allied with the Black Mist Pack, and although not an official ally, the newly formed New Moon pack voiced out their support.

It was difficult seeing Flynn and Salina. Then again, they themselves were breaking the norm= an Alpha allowing his Luna to attend an Alpha meeting. Perhaps he had changed, and he wasn't the Flynn I knew before. Perhaps someday, when I could face the scars that he gave me, I could also learnt o forgive him, just like how I learned to forgive my fathers and Alpha Fraser.

They kept the truth from me, but they raised me as one of them. Alpha Fraser was a compassionate Alpha. The fact that my Mother was treated well with them, and that he gave me a place in his pack I couldn't simply waive these. I'd always be grateful to him and Beta Colton.

Aiden stood as my father in every way. We weren't related by blood, but we held a stronger bond. He'd always be my father, and I was so, so proud to be the daughter of a brave and kind man.

It felt like pushing them around, and it reminded me of Myron. However, unlike him, I wasn't going t ouse this power to force the other packs to submit or to wage war upon them. Instead, it'd be used in forging a future that Father envisioned where the burden of our generation didn't have to be passed unta the next

Liam and I talked things over – everything from what happened that night I caught them. I was really

stupid to let her get into my head. 2

So far, things were going well between us. Despite everything that happened, I was happy, and there was so much to look forward to.

"Alpha, Luna."

We all stood as a nurse came over to us. She smiled and broke the news. "The operation is a success. Head Gamma will be moved to the recovery ward. You may visit him there."

Sabri started sobbing, Gale assisting her as she sat back down.

Thank you, Goddess.

Thank you," said Liam.

The nurse nodded then left. He let out a relieved sigh then slumped on the chair. He'd been worrying about Rigel though he tried his best to hide it. Unfortunately for him, Lexy taught me well and I learned fast. I even picked up new ones, but these were just between my Alpha and me.

I kissed his cheek and smiled up at him. The minimal noise in the lobby was interrupted when Aunt J came running in. "Is it over?" she asked, more like screamed. For someone who was always appeared to be in control, she was a panicking mess today. "He's fine, Aunt J)," I replied, walking over to her, and giving her a hug. "They're moving him to the recovery ward. We can visit him later."

"Thank, Goddess!" she exclaimed.

She pulled away and went to Sabri. It was heartwarming to see a more human side to Aunt J. She was like a machine in the kitchens, but outside, she was a mother... who was about to become a grandmother!

"We're going for now, Aunt J, Sabri," said Liam, getting up. "We'll come by again later."

"Of course," said Aunt J), hugging him. "I'll have them prepare a hot meal for you two.

Thank you, Aunt J."

I'll have to leave for now, too," said Gale.

He looked the worst among us. There was something bothering him, and I had a hunch it had something to do with my Uncle, but if he didn't want to talk about it, I figured it'd be best to let him b

I have something to pick up from the mall today. But I'll be back for my brother."

I'm staying," said Carson when we all turned to him. "You know why."

"See you later, Car," I said, waving to him. After he left the White Lake Pack to be with Lexy, I offered him the Beta position. Being my best friend and impliedly the husband of my, hopefully, sister-in law, he accepted

What can I say? He loves me.

"See you, Bella."

döcomo

On our Way Out, Ethan and Nalla walked in. After a brief recharge, they joined up with Sabrand Aunty L. We bid goodbye to Gale, then we headed back to the castle.

The surrounding trees provided shade, and it'd been some time since we went out for a walk, just the two of us.

"Won't you tell me how you planned the attack?" he asked.

I giggled, grinning up at him. There was no way I was telling him.

The Blue Moon Pack, deemed to be an impenetrable pack, was taken down under the leadership of my wolf-less mate," he said, sounding awed.

"Yes, it was," I replied.

"How?"

"I'll never tell."

"My grandfather used to speak highly of 'The Phantom General'. He said the General's plans secured their victories. It was during his years and he told me this when Dad had already taken over and the Old Alliance was disbanded."

Alpha Fraser called Father with the nickname once, but Father warned him not to use it again. I dismissed it as a joke and hadn't thought about it since.

"You take after him, don't you?" he asked, holding my hand.

"I don't know. He taught me... things... but it was all part of my training," I shrugged.

He suddenly pulled me to his side then kissed the top of my head. "You are fucking amazing, babe. I should have Rigel train under you," he said, chuckling at his own words.

"Actually... I was thinking... that maybe I could train with you?" I asked, hoping he'd say yes. Being in the frontlines was dangerous as it was exhilarating, but if I could protect my pack by doing so...

"I'd love to see you in action, babe," he replied, grinning.

"Yes!" I exclaimed. "Thank you!"

"Don't misunderstand, Anna. I meant action as in training. I won't let you put yourself in danger again," he said firmly.

But

"No buts, babe. Besides, I'd rather have you in Command," he said, inhaling deeply. "I shouldn't have underestimated you."

I rolled my eyes at him, "I was raised to be the Head Gamma. Give me a gun, and I'll shoot. Give me a team, and I'll plan and lead."

"You.. didn't strike me as the type," he said, laughing "My Luna won us a pack war: You're getting famous, you know."

Hal Didn't think I'd have a feared reputation."

He tipped my chin up.

Cooooo

Not fear, my love Admiration," he said, kissing my forehead.

I wouldn't have realized it if it wasn't because of you, Liam," I replied, crossing my hands around his neck. Thank you."

Lain leaned closer until our lips met. Dizzying, as his tongue danced with mine, as his teeth tugged on my bottom lip. We parted for air, sharing smiles and pure adoration.

Fuck, you've no idea how hot you looked then," he murmured, pecking my lips.

He held his hand, walking towards the castle before he made a move.

With him on my side, even silence was comfortable. These days have been peaceful and emotional and I was beginning to adjust to my new life now.

In no time, we reached the castle. As soon as the door closed, Liam swept me off my feet, making me yelp.

"Alone at last," he said, a mischievous glint in his eyes.