

# Ascension of a Gamma by C. C. Chapter 71

## Chapter 71 Loving Alpha

I crossed my arms and huffed. "No.

\*No?" he asked, raising a brow

"No," I repeated

I felt a slight thug then the bedroom door slammed behind me.

You have to stop doing that!" I shouted:

"Doing what?" he asked, smirking, then my back was hitting the mattress.

That super-fast thingy!" I blurted:

What did I say?

He laid beside me then leaned forward. "You like it when I get fast... super fast...." he said, his voice husky. His voice alone was making me doubt my own words.

"Liam...." I whined. "Can't you hold back for just this once?"

His tongue swiped over his mark and as he sucked on the skin. My hands instinctively found their way behind his head.

"No," he replied, trailing kisses up my neck then my jaw.

I felt my dress being raised as his hand slithered up my thigh, then pushing my panties to the side, he slid two fingers right in. I gasped at the sudden intrusion. "You're so wet for me, babe," he said as his fingers sped up, curling inside me.

His mouth muffled my moans and he quickly brought me to orgasm. My body shook and my juices came out of me as his fingers continued to fuck me, prolonging my orgasm for as long as possible.

My chest heaved as I panted for air, my walls clenching around his fingers. He pulled them out and I whimpered at their loss. His lips came crashing down on me, and I moved mine along with this.

He had me under a spell – his spell. I was powerless under the assault of his touch, and I wouldn't want to have it any other way. I was his as was he mine, in every way.

Kneeling on the bed, he pulled me down to him. My eyes took in every bit of his gorgeous body – from the bundles of muscles in his arms to his chest, down to his abs that I drool over.

"No?" he asked as he unbuttoned his jeans.

I raised myself on my elbows and bit my lower lip. How could I say no when he was teasing me like that?

Take this off," he said, pulling my dress up to my waist.

"No," I said, crossing my legs and leaning back a little, sinirking at him. His gorgeous brown eyes darkened.

"No?" He growled, crawling on top of me.

"No," I said firmly.

I felt myself getting lifted then brought back down. Looking down, I was already in my black two piece lacy lingerie. I learned a few tricks. He growled then crashed his lips on mine as his hands unclasped my bra.

"You're fucking beautiful," he murmured. I laid back down as his mouth closed on my right breast while his hand and fingers gave equal attention to my left. His tongue teased my nub repeatedly, grazing it with his teeth before sucking to soothe the pain

My thighs rubbed against each other at the mix of pleasure and pain

"Liam," I breathed, feeling the need to have something down there, again: As if reading my mind, he trailed wet kisses down my stomach before ripping my panties off and flicking his tongue over my clit.

I gasped at the contact. His delicious tongue licked my clit in circles, making my toes curl in delight. As his tongue worked on my clit, his fingers pumped me faster. I pushed his head closer...

That same feeling was returning. Heat pooled in my lower region, and I was shaking. Liam had to push down my right thigh to keep me still. My mind turned to mush as I drowned in pleasure.

"Liam!!!" I screamed as I came. I was a panting mess as he lapped my sticky juices.

He fixed his gaze on me as he pushed inside. My walls stretched to welcome his girth, feeling every bit of him as he pushed slowly, pushing more of him as he pushed in. We both let out a breath when he was all the way in.

Raising my tired legs to his shoulders, he began to thrust, slowly, making me feel all of him, my walls contracting around him. He thrust in and out of me, faster and faster, until my breaths were in sync with his rhythm. As he hammered into me like there was no tomorrow, my hands searched for his solid planes. The muscles tensed and relaxed under my touch, as I glided my palms down his arms then up again. He sucked and nipped at his mark while my nails dug into his back.

I was going delirious with each thrust. I'd already lost count of how many times I came, but he was nowhere near finishing. As he breathed on the crook of my neck, occasionally capturing my lips, I closed my eyes and relished the moment.

Moans left my mouth – and I screamed his name over and over and over.

Liam — my mate, my Alpha, the only man I'll ever love for a lifetime and more.

He shuddered as he groaned, then he came inside me, uttering my name repeatedly. His thrusts slowed down, but he didn't pull out. My walls clenched around him, throbbing and hot from his seed.

My heart raced as heaved for air. Our bodies slick with sweat, he pressed closer onto me but not too much as to crush me with his weight.

"You're amazing," he murmured, looking into my eyes.

I pulled him into a kiss, smiling as I did.

"iloveyou," linking his forehead to mine, our foreheads touching, our lips pressed together.

"I love you, my Alpha." "My Alpha," he replied, smiling into the kiss. "Let's do it again."

My eyes widened. "No!"

He chuckled as he ground his hips against me at the sensation.

"Let me test," I whined. "I'm tired, Liam"

prouted at him and butted my lashes. He sighed and turned his head as he thought about it.

"I'll make you brownies later?" he asked, smirking

My mouth watered. Who knew the bad scity Alpha could bake brownies better than me?

"No?" I replied, thinking about it.

"I'll make you hot chocolate," he added, thrusting at the same time my walls clenched.

A moan escaped his lips. If there was anything that could turn me on in an instant, it was that beautiful, beautiful sound. However, I wanted to hear something else.

"No," I said, firmly, untangling my legs from his back and pressing them together for as close as [Possible. His eyes shut tight as his brows knitted, another moan escaping his lips as my walls Lightened even more around him.

I also had him under a spell – my spell. I could just as easily place him under my mercy and make him beg for what we both want.

What are the words?" I teased, tracing kisses along his jaw. His stubble pricked my lips, but I didn't mind it.

As I tightened and eased around him, he bit his lip and groaned.

Please...", he said breathlessly.

"Please... what?" I asked softly. "Brownies, hot chocolate, and?"

He stared at me with lust-filled eyes, golden orange flecks glinting,

Please... Alpha."

I craned my neck and kissed him hungrily. Our tongues danced in heated passion, sliding over the smooth muscle seductively, teasingly. He growled.

"Good boy." I praised, locking my legs around his back.

I love you," he murmured, thrusting in and out of me

We went at it again until he was spent, and I, exhausted.

After a warm and relaxing sex free shower, I took a nap as he worked on his promise. Soon, I was pulled out of sleep by the smell of hot chocolate and freshly baked brownies. I sat on his lap, my legs tucked under me with the plate on my lap as I sipped my drink.

Thank you, Liam." I said, resting my head on his chest. He kissed the top of my head then took a

brownie from the plate.

"If this keeps up, I'm going to lose my abs," he said with a smile. "If lose my abs, I'll have a gut."

I giggled. "If I have a gut, you won't have an eye candy, babe."

I rolled my eyes. "You can work out more."

"You know that's not how it works."

I patted his boulder hard abs. "Always stay this way." I whispered, and he chuckled.

Work out with me," he said.

"No, thank you," I said. "I'm good. I'm not bod obsessed like you."

"Babe," he said, placing his empty mug on the nightstand. He also took the plate off my lap, then my empty mug. "I can't feel my legs."

Islapped his chest and he fell back onto the bed laughing

"I'm not that heavy!" I exclaimed, jumping off the bed and walking into the closet. In front of the mirror, I raised my shirt and studied my stomach. I pinched at the sides, then the front. I hadn't worked out since I left my old pack!

"Babe...I whined as he entered.

"Let me see," he said, kneeling in front of me. Without warning, he pinched my side and I squealed. I swatted his hand away.

"Oh?

He smirked.

I stepped back.

"No," I said, then I was slammed into the drawers. He tickled me at my sides, laughing

"Ha-ha... S-S-Stop... ha!" I screamed as I laughed. My middle hurt. I was in tears.

He finally let me go and I pushed him hard. He fell to the floor, laughing. I sat beside him, waiting for him to calm down.

"You're adorable," he said, kissing the top of my head.

I pouted

't like it."

I raised a brow at him.

"I'll maintain my abs, babe. You just keep gaining weight for me."

"What?" I said in disbelief. I was starting to think about working out...

"I don't care if you have abs, or a flat stomach, or a muffin top. I'll still love you."

I smiled and kissed him, tasting sweet chocolate. Then I got up and headed to the bathroom to brush my teeth.

Wait. What if I have a gut? Will you still love me then?"

I giggled. Seeing Liam with a gut, in my head, he looked really funny

"Why are you laughing?" he asked, pretending to sulk.

Ah! You big baby. "Do you only love me because of my abs?" I shook my head. Couldn't this wait until I finished brushing? He didn't say anymore as he brushed his teeth

I went out of the bathroom, yawning.

"Anna? Is it because of my abs?"

I giggled as I slipped under the covers. Soon, he was beside me, wrapping an arm around my waist.

Gut," he whispered in my ear and I giggled. The picture was too funny!

"Big, jiggle gut." I muffled a laugh with my pillow.

He wouldn't let it go!

"Jiggly, jiggle. Jiggly gut." I couldn't help but laugh! In my head was an image of a shirtless Liam without his abs, doing a stupid dance. 1

You're so adorable," he said, kissing my cheek.

I turned to face him.

"Jiggly gut," he said again, and I giggled.

"Of course, I'll still love you," I said, giving him a quick kiss. "When your hair is all gray, and you're all wrinkly, and you have a gut, and you can no longer carry me, and you're not as fast as you used to, I know I'll love you much, much more than than I do now."

"I love you, too," he said, brushing a thumb over my lips. "Fat, scars, stretch marks, cellulite, or whatever you don't like about your body, I love everything about you, farts and all."

Heat crept up my cheeks. Liam claimed I fart in my sleep.

I do not!

"Goodnight," I muttered, turning my back on him while he chuckled.

"I love you, brownies," he said, pulling me closer to him.

"Mmm.. I love hot chocolate," I replied, a smile pulling on my lips.

"Goodna-Wait. That's not right."

I kept quiet, fighting the urge to laugh.

You're supposed to say, 'I love you, too, hot chocolate'. You forgot to say 'you'."

"No, I didn't. I love hot chocolate."

## Ascension of a Gamma by C. C. Chapter 72

### Chapter 72 Paced Recovery

– Gale

My hands gripped the steering wheel. I shouldn't be here. When we got back to the pack, Jaymer was in the clinic, but Andrix had left.

This wasn't going to work.

How do I even begin?

I couldn't just walk up to him and say, "Hi, I'm sorry for torturing you for months but I'm your mate so let's just forget about it?"

Idiot.

Gil was howling in my head. He'd been missing our mate and I couldn't get him to shut u p. I tugged at my hair and let out a groan. I should go back, think about it more, and then return on a later day.

On the passenger seat was a box of chocolates that made me feel more stupid. What should I say? "I saw it when I was passing by and thought it'd be nice to..."

I groaned again.

Fuck. I can't do it.

I finally found my mate and the first thing I did was torture the living daylight out of him. Goddess, he drove me crazy.

Those months were hell. I couldn't sleep and I barely ate. If it wasn't for the coffee, the drinking, and the weekly sessions I forced myself to see him, I wouldn't have gotten through them. I was Beta. The pack relied on me. One little mistake could've been disastrous. I couldn't let my emotions overpower me.

I tried... so hard to get him off my mind, to forget about his alluring blue eyes and that charming smile. His tenacity drew me to him like a moth to a flame. I got burned.

Gil whimpered.

"Shut it, you. We're leaving," I told him.

I fumbled with the keys that it dropped. I ducked down to reach it, then a sudden knock o n the window surprised me that my head hit the steering wheel. I turned to glare at the person, only that person was none other than my mate.

Sweat bathed him from the top of his head down his wet gray cotton shirt. He leaned on the window and smiled. He looked like he was out for a run.

Gilallbut howled happily.

Andrix knocked again, pulling me out of my sinful thoughts. I lowered the windows and his scent wafted to me.

Sweet basil and plain mint it was just... him.

"Didn't think I'd see you around here," he said.

I still couldn't understand.

"I was just passing through," I said, then showed him the keys. "Dropped my keys."



"Since you're here, how about a cup of coffee?" he asked. "My place is a five-minute walk. You can leave your car here. I'll inform them the Red Claw Pack's Beta's dropping b

At the mention of coffee, my brain decided it was the best time to send a signal and make me yawn.

Andrix chuckled. "Looks like you need more than a cup."

"Back off," I said, my hand on the grab handle.

He stepped to the side. Against my better judgment, I grabbed the box beside me then stepped out. The car's lights flashed as I locked the doors.

I should really get myself a car of my own. Maybe a McLaren 720S...

Unlike Liam's babies, mine wouldn't be sitting on a garage.

That for me?" he asked, smirking.

"I bought it for me," I said, yawning.

Gil, you bastard! He yawned on purpose. Why does this apply in this setting!

"This way," he said, knowing full well that I bought it for him. "So, what brings the Beta of the Red Claw Pack all the way here?"

"Call me Gil."

He raised a brow at me.

Goddess...

"My wolf says 'hi'."

"Gil," he said, as he wiped the sweat off his forehead.

I wasn't the slightest bit disgusted.

Goddess...

**TESS**

I was totally into my Luna's uncle. This was just... Weird.

"My wolf says 'hi' back. His name's Axel. Would you like to meet him?"

Gil all but howled louder.

"Maybe... next time," I said, and Gil growled at me.

"Glad there's a next time," he said.

His place was a charming modern log cabin. We climbed a set of stairs that led to an L shaped deck. The interior was surprisingly modern – simplistic and cozy. He took off his running shoes by the door and neatly set them to the side. I did the same.

"Let me take a quick shower then I'll fix you a cup of coffee you've never had before," he said with a wink.

He had house slippers for me to use. I put them on and followed him inside.

Make yourself at home," he said as he disappeared up the stairs.

I placed the box on the countertop. His house was... neat. The copper and bronze accents complimented the natural tint of the timbers. I plopped down on the sofa, facing a wide screen tv. The round coffee table was empty save for a small potted cactus plant.

I let out a sigh.

What am I doing here?

"You missed him," said Gil.

"I miss sleeping, Gil. You wouldn't let me rest."

With his scent all over the place, I found myself sinking deeper into the soft cushions. I hadn't slept enough since the Blue Moon Pack. I shook my head awake. Sleeping on someone's sofa? Wake up!

"You really need that coffee," said Andrix.

He had sweatpants on and... nothing on top except for a white towel hung on his neck.

I fucking woke up.

His hard pecs, harder abs, and...

"Eyes up here, babe," he said, chuckling.

I met his gaze, getting pulled further into the abyss of his clear blue eyes that stared back at me. I couldn't see his features properly then because he was bound, but seeing him up close and personal and half naked....

Gil was running around in circles.

Don't you have a shirt?" I muttered as I peeled my eyes off him.

"I figured it'll be more fun to tease you."

He disappeared into the kitchen. I followed him and sat on a stool, leaning on the countertop. His scent was getting to me.

I shouldn't have come here. This was a bad time.

"So, what are you here for?" he asked, leaning forward on his side.

"I already told you. I was just passing through."

Thankfully, that was enough to get him to back off. I was controlling my breathing. Being so close to him was triggering another session.

"You won't mind?" he asked, opening the box.

"Help yourself."

"Mm..."

My right hand balled into a fist, the knuckles turning white. Why did he have to make that sound?

"It's ready," he said.

I forced a smile. He poured me a cup and another for himself.

The bitter aroma soothed me. I took a sip and gulped it down immediately. Disgusting!

Andrix laughed as he took a sip of his own.

"You said it was 'coffee like I've never had before,'" I accused.

It tasted too bitter and there was just... something off about it. Whatever it was, it was disgusting. He drank it like it was a normal cup of coffee.

"Have you ever had coffee like this before?" he asked calmly.

"What do you think?"

"Exactly," he said. He tricked me!

"How can you drink that... thing..."

"Coffee," he corrected.

"That isn't coffee. It's just black water."

"I can't taste anything unless it's something strong," he said, calmly taking a sip. Then h man WAHANA medenhout

e stuck out his tongue like a child. It looked cute though.

"Calm down. It was like this long before you."

Before you were in the "Fun House".

I forced myself to take another sip, holding my breath so it'd pass my tongue faster. I shuddered.

"That bad, huh?"

"Yeah..." I said awkwardly. I was being rude to iny host.

"I thought we were over it," he said, breaking the silence.

"Over what?"

"The torture thing."

He placed his mug down into the sink. Then, he took out another cup, put in a teabag, and poured hot water.

"Hope this tastes better," he said, placing it in front of me.

"Chamomile?" I asked, slightly narrowing my eyes at him.

"Yeah... does it taste bad?"

Was he feigning ignorance, or was he really worried? I decided on the former.

"Can you taste tea?"

liNo. I just keep a bunch of stuff around for health and stuff," he said.

Thank you." I said under my breath. I seldom drink tea, but it was better than his coffee.

"You're still hung up on the torture thing?" he asked, sitting beside me. He propped an elbow up and leaned his head into his hand, so he was facing me. I was getting more conscious of what I looked like. I was wearing a hoodie and tattered jeans, a stud earring on my right ear. I styled my hair just right this morning and even put on a bit of cologne.

"I've been tortured countless times before, babe. Don't think too much of it," he said casually, I gulped and set down the mug.

What!? I blurted out.

How can he talk about it like it's normal?

"Calm down," he said, chuckling. "The pack went through dark times. They tried to extract information from me... I'd rather die for the pack than betray it."

I'm sorry." I said, looking down at the mug.

Information was valuable – the smallest thing could ensure victory. Extracting it, however, wasn't always easy. I enjoyed what I do – I wasn't going to lie to myself. Inflicting pain upon others led a side of me – the side that was once on the receiving end. It was sick-twisted, even.

"Look at me," he said, his fingers on my jaw. His touch sent tingles through my skin. Any more of this and it'd be triggered. It was a walk in the park, babe. Don't think too much about it."

How can you say it so calmly? I'm your mate. I should've protected you.

"I am Beta. I could've spared you that hell," I said softly.

His eyes shone brightly, and his smile was kind and genuine. It didn't affect him at all? I refused to believe it. I went through it and it fucked me up. Liam saved me from that hell, but he couldn't save me from my myself.

He accepted both sides of me and put it to use instead of banishing me from the pack. In every way except blood, he was my brother.

Andrix was different. It didn't bother him... or did it? He seemed to be indifferent.

Can't he feel anything?

"You did," he said, leaning forward. "You kept me sane."

He cut me off by sticking his tongue inside my mouth. I tasted that disgusting black water on his tongue, then... him. My hands tugged into his wet hair, pulling him closer to me.

He growled as he pulled away.

"I can taste you," he breathed.

"Wha

His tongue explored every corner of my mouth and I wasn't complaining. I needed this. His hands went to my hips and he pulled me off the stool. My legs wrapped around his waist.

"No," I breathed as we both gasped for air.

My head was spinning. His scent, his touch, his taste... everything about him was heavenly. His hands ran up and down my thighs. I had a better idea in my mind, and he seemed on board with it.

"Fuck!" he cursed as I bit into his shoulder.

Pain assaulted my lower abdomen. It was happening. I lost control and it took over.

"I'm sorry," I said, tightening my hold around him.

I captured his lips again, fervent for more. My blood felt hot. I needed something something that only he could give. I peppered his face with kisses, then traced his jaw down to his neck.

"You're in heat," he said, growling in my ear.

In a quick second, I was on my back on the sofa and he was straddling me. He ground hips into mine. I couldn't help but moan, my pants feeling constricted.

He smirked. "Is this what you came for?"

"No," I replied, my breathing rapid as the sweet pleasure built up. I felt like I could cum with just his kisses and movements.

He suddenly stopped and I whimpered at the loss. I tried to buck my hips up, but his weight held me in place. "Andrix!!!"

It hurt. It hurt so much. My heat came around this week and it was driving me to insanity. Cold showers didn't do it anymore – not since we knew who our mate was.

Andrix chuckled. "You poor thing," he whispered, entangling his fingers with my hair as he leaned forward to place kisses on my neck. "How long did you wait?"

"T-Two days," I replied, panting as he sucked on my sweet spot.

He growled as he nipped at my marking spot.

He inhaled sharply like he was taking in my scent, making me shiver. "You poor thing... Why didn't you come sooner?" he asked, pulling away.

Another shot of pain in my lower abdomen made my arms shoot up. I didn't need him worrying about me now, I needed him to help me. It hurt, and he could make it go away. I needed more – inore of what he could give me.

I pulled him to me, but he resisted. Yanking my arms off him, he suddenly got off me.

"Is this what you came for?" he asked calmly, throwing the towel on the floor,

My eyes wandered down and I swallowed at how turned on he was.

He sighed. "Your scent's everywhere."

"I'm sorry," I said.

He kneeled beside me and cupped my face. It hurt. It hurt so much...

"Is this what you came for?"

Enough! I made a move to get up. He pressed my shoulder down. Goddess, I felt like a whore. I was the Beta of the Red Claw Pack and here I was on someone's couch, practically offering myself to a beautiful man.

His hand crept down to my thigh, kneading the flesh near where I wanted his hand to be. His other hand went inside my shirt, and soon his fingers played with my nipples. I closed my eyes as I bit back on my moans.

"You're.. sensitive," he said, his voice husky. "Answer me..."

He nipped at my marking spot. "Why did you come here?"

"N-No," I whispered. He pulled the zipper down and undid the button, then his fingers teased around the band of my boxers.

"To get fucked? Is that it? You came all the way here for dick?" he asked, growling.

My eyes snapped open. Was he... mad? He was smiling, but for the first time since we met, there was no amusement in his eyes.

I sighed, then I held his wrists firmly. He raised a brow at me. "I came here to apologize. I'm sorry, I'm sorry for what I did. I know it's not enough to make it up to you, but I just had to say it."

I pushed his hands off me and slowly sat up, biting my tongue at the growing pain. "I came here to reject you."

My eyes widened when he grabbed my throat.

His jaw clenched. "You are my mate!" he shouted.

"I'm sorry."

I've been thinking about it. I can't keep on thinking about it, so I came, to free the botho fus. I should've protected you – I didn't. I put you through things worse than nightmares.

"It's for

"Shut up," he said coldly, and my mouth zipped. His grip loosened. I gasped for air and was denied it when he kissed me again, harder, hungrier. I shouldn't be enjoying this, and yet my heart swelled. I wanted him... wanted my mate, but after all I did, I couldn't force him to be with me just because of a bond. I kissed him back like my life depended on it, allowing myself one last memory.

He broke the kiss for air. "T, Beta-

He gave me a quick kiss. "Shut up. I won't accept your rejection, mangoes. Don't make me put a gag you."

He broke the kiss for air. "I, Beta

He gave me a quick kiss. "Shut up. I won't accept your rejection, mangoes. Don't make me put a gag you."

My brows furrowed. There was something wrong with his head. I might've caused it.

"I keep repeating myself around you. Don't think too much about it." He removed his hand from my throat and the words died in my mouth.

I can't not think about it!

Another shot of pain and I groaned. I have to get out of here.

He smirked. "We can talk about it all you want, but for now, let's just fuck," he said, nuzzling the crook of my neck. "Mmm... Don't put on cologne. I prefer your scent. Sweet ... like mangoes."

I can't get out of here!

For the rest of the morning until late afternoon, he cured me. Not that I was a manwhore like Rigel and Liam once were, but that was the best fuck of my life. Luckily, werewolves healed fast.

"Mm... you alright?" he asked as he placed soft kisses on my shoulders.

"No more," I said sleepily, and he chuckled.



He peppered my face with kisses. I couldn't help but smile.

"I can feel you staring."

"It's a compliment," he said. "My mate's hot."

My eyes snapped open. He was on his side, facing me with a soft smile. Then I remembered all the horrible things I did to him, spoiling the moment.

"You're thinking about it... again."

"I can't help it," I said, sighing. I sat up and searched the room for my clothes.

Stupid. It's on the stairs.

"Do I have to fuck you harder to make you understand?" he said bluntly.

My back hit the mattress and he was on top of me, again. His eyes were dangerous – they pulled me in with how bright they were. I was being placed on a trance and I was willingly accepting it.

"L.. care about you," he said softly.

"This can't work, Andrix. Mates don't torture their mates."

"I don't care. I like both Gales," he said casually then stole a quick kiss. "I like him most when he's on my bed..."

\*Andrix...

He kissed me again.

"...screaming my name...."

His hands traveled to my hips.

"... thrashing under me."

"Andrix..."

"I say we give it a try," he said. "We'll talk it out and when you're being unreasonable, we'll fuck."

I *rolled* my eyes. "We'll take it slow... however long you need," he said as he leaned forward. "I can't make it longer, but from earlier, I judge it's just right?"

More than enough. I felt like I was being ripped in half!

Gil whimpered. I sighed. "Fine. We'll take it slow."

He started moving his hips and I moaned in response, "We will, babe," he whispered. "We will..."

# Ascension of a Gamma by C. C. Chapter 73

## Chapter 73 Long Overdue

-Liam

"Calm down, bro," said Gale. Maybe I would if he wasn't obviously nervous in front of me. He's been squeezing a stress ball since he got here.

I paced back and forth on my office, my nerves on edge all day. Tonight, she would be formally introduced to the pack as Luna. While it was traditionally an exclusive event for the pack, we invited the Black Mist Pack. Besides, I also wanted them to be there tonight. Since we already broke tradition, we invited the allied packs.

Everyone I cared about, including proven allies would be there, but it wasn't why I felt like I was about to lose my mind.

As Gale and I pondered on our own businesses, Rigel, as always, was seated casually, actually wearing formal clothes for the event. Leaning back, legs crossed, and a glass of scotch in hand.

I was yet to learn how they found where I kept my alcohol – they've been raiding it since. I saved them for special occasions, but I guess today, I could let it slide. It was, after all, a very special day.

"Security, check. Venue, check-," said Rigel then glanced at Gale before adding, «\_ Dates, check."

Gale threw the stress ball at him and he easily caught it.

"You should calm down, yourself, bro. He's coming. We went shopping for suits together," he remarked.

"You two are awfully close," asked Gale, catching back the stress ball.

"Aww... don't get jealous, bro. We don't fuck," Rigel said, smirking.

Gale blushed and looked away, hand tightening on the stress ball, it might burst.

At least one of us was having fun. After the surgery, he recovered in less than a day. For now, he was taking a break from his Head Gamma duties to spend more time with Sabri and Aunty). It was good to see them... close instead of the usual, distant.

He'd changed. The drinking wasn't as frequent, and he was easier to get along with. Soon, he was going to be a proud father of a lovely baby boy. He was unaware for now and it wasn't my place to tell him – just that, as Alpha, I had to know everything that concerned the pack

What caused my brother's return – it wasn't mine to answer. In my case, it was one special person. It'd been a tumultuous year for all of us, but we emerged stronger and

itter. Our bonds reformed as we moved on with our lives, as we put the past in its place,

was anxious as to where these changes might take us, but I also couldn't wait to spend ne day after another with my person. So was Luca.

Don't mess this up," Luca warned.

You also need to calm down," I said coolly. "I'll be fine. How hard can it be?"

learned the answer as I stood in the waiting room. I adjusted my tie for the... I lost out. I wore a black suit with a red tie that matched the dress she'd wear tonight.

t was worn by fourteen Lunas in total since it was first made, including my mother and my first mate.

To complete the outfit, I offered her a necklace and earrings set. Although she was in awe, she insisted on using the same necklace her fathers gave her and kept the earrings.

Goddess, I love her.

The door opened by a crack. I caught the scent of vanilla and freshly cut roses. The flowy skirt of the dress glided across the floor. It was the first I saw, then she slipped in and I froze.

Stunning

The see-through bodice glittered in the light, with the numerous tiny red diamonds sewn into it. Starting from the bodice across the length of the skirt was three jagged lines of a slightly lighter shade of red to symbolize the pack's sigil.

The Luna's dress hugged her body perfectly, highlighting her beautiful curves. She had light make-up on, her lips shimmering with lip gloss. Even Luca was left speechless.

I'd kiss her right away but tonight; it was all about her.

She smiled nervously as she blushed. "Say something?"

Taking long strides, I was in front of her in seconds. I held her hand and placed a gentle kiss on the back. "You look like a rose in bloom, my love."

Her smile was everything.

"Thank you," she said sheepishly, but not looking away. I could stare into her mesmerizing honey brown eyes for the rest of my life. "I can't look away from you."

I smirked.

"know," I said, offering her my arm. "I'm hot."

She slapped my chest then linked her arm with mine. "All this 'hotness' is mine, so don't even dare look at anyone else but me."

I smiled inwardly. She was getting used to ordering people around – she was born to be an Alpha

That's my woman.

I thought of a quip to reply, but tonight, I was the perfect gentleman. Instead, I said, "All yours, my fiery Luna. Just as you are all mine."

The doors opened for us, and we walked in. The entire room quieted in an instant.

A loud voice announced, "Ladies and gentlemen, leaders of the Red Claw Pack and Black Mist Pack, Sir Liam Rose and Madam Anna Bella Fiora Black."

The lights dimmed and a spotlight shone on us. I led her to the center of the dance floor and held her waist while she placed her hands gently on my shoulders.

Slow piano music played. Following my lead, we danced to the it. She was graceful, beautiful, and with every turn and step, for a few moments I forgot where we were. It was just the two of us, dancing to a music that played in the background. It was just her, my Anna, staring back at me with genuine adoration.

Unfortunately, the music came to a stop and so did we. The crowd cheered and we took a bow. Then, for all of them to see, I kneeled on one knee in front of her and presented to her the Luna Ring. The titanium prongs held a red diamond as a centerpiece, two smaller diamonds on each side.

"Will you, Anna Bella Fiora Black, Alpha of the Black Mist Pack, honor the Red Claw Pack as it honors you, from the moment you accept this Luna Ring until your last, in the Moon Goddess's name?"

"With the Moon Goddess as my witness, I will honor the Red Claw Pack as it honors me, and accept the Luna Ring," she said aloud. I slipped the ring on her finger and kissed it.

The crowd erupted into a series of cheers and applause.

"On our honor!" the pack said in unison, bowing to her.

"Let the night begin!" I exclaimed, and the lights turned back on.

People gathered on the dance floor and music played. I took her to where they were.

"It's finally official!" squealed Lexy in her lovely baby blue gown, hugging her. "This is one long overdue ball!"

"Congratulations, Bella," said Carson, giving her a hug.

1. "L. I don't feel anything," she said excitedly. "Did you  
"Yeah.." answered Carson, grinning Lexy was blushing as she held Carson's hand.

Did they

"You marked her?" I asked, a little too loud.

That means they

I glared at Carson. "You –

Anna tugged on my arm, pulling me into another direction as she chuckled.

"Leave the lovely couple alone, Alpha," she said.

"That's my sister he's screwing!" I whisper yelled.

"Get over it, Liam. They're mates!" she said.

I know that!

"Aren't you glad I'm no longer affected by the curse?"

That was a good thing. I didn't have to witness her blushing or fawning over him. I'd have to get used to the fact that my little sister now had a mate – it happened too fast. She should have a mate when she was thirty!

"Liam, you know Carson," she said. "And Lexy's all grown up now. He'll take care of her. And she's happy with him, Liam."

I watched them slow dance, my little sister giggling at whatever he was whispering in her ear.

I sighed. She grew up so fast.

"Liam! Princess!" called Rigel. They were hand in hand, and Sabri's baby bump was noticeable through her light blue gray mermaid dress. She hugged Anna tightly.

"Have you asked her yet?" he whispered as Sabri and Anna talked about babies and dresses.

"I'm waiting for the right time."

I was trying not to let it show and have a good time tonight.

"Keep waiting and it'll be morning," said Rigel, going to his mate and taking her to the dance floor

"I'm going to be an aunt," Anna said excitedly.

There was no distraction in sight. This was it. I wasn't waiting around until morning.

"Anna"

Bella! Andrix called from behind me. Beside him was a blushing Gale. My brother

Beta, and Head of the Red Point Unit was acting like a fucking teenage girl around his

mate.

Where was the cold and furious Gale? He was somewhere in there, but he was happier

now.

I guess it's about time...

"Liam, do you mind if I steal the lady from you for a moment?" asked Andrix.

How could I say no to those sparkling gorgeous eyes of hers? My chance gone, I watched as Andrix led Anna to the dance floor. He was her only living relative now – it was only proper that he do the honors if there was no one else.

"Have you asked her yet?" asked Gale.

"What do you think?" I replied, taking a flute of champagne from a server.

"Sorry. He wanted to see her."

"I'm glad you two worked it out," I said, and he shrugged.

"We're getting there."

Andrix finally returned my mate to me and took Gale somewhere... else.

For the rest of the night, I introduced Anna to our allied packs. I had to chat with the other Alphas, so she was once again, out of my sight as the other Lunas took her.

I excused myself as I felt a familiar presence.

"Sharp as ever, Alpha," said Helia. It was always good to see her. She gave me a hug and we chatted for a bit until a certain gentleman caught her eye.

Looking around for my mate, I was in confusion when I couldn't see her anywhere. She wasn't in the dance floor, not in the bar, not at the top of the stairs. Her scent was everywhere, making her difficult to track.

I spotted Carson by one of the pillars.

"Have you seen Anna?" I asked. "Where's Lexy?"

"Anna said she wanted to get some fresh air," he said. "And Lexy's in the ladies room."

Thanking him, I turned to look for my mate before I did something I'd regret. Going up the stairs again, I made my way to the balcony. Her scent grew stronger as I neared her.

She had her back to me, the clear night sky the background to her lovely figure. She must've sensed me for she turned her head, smiled, then called me over.

"I've been looking for you," I said, taking off my suit jacket and placing it on her shoulders. "Have you been here long? You're cola."

Sorry," she said, turning her gaze back to the sky.

"Is something wrong?" I asked.

Did something happen when I wasn't looking? She was being... silent.

She shook her head and smiled up at me. "Nothing's wrong, Liam. I'm just... overwhelmed is all."

I nodded, pulling her to my side.

"I've never thought that I'd be... this one day. I was supposed to be Head Gamma of the White Lake Pack, maybe even its Luna, then die in battle or of old age. Then, that happened, and I thought I'd just live as a rogue with humans."

She turned to face me, holding my hands. "Then you saved me and now, here we are. Alpha and Luna. Luna and Alpha. Thank you, Liam."

I shook my head.

I was lost, drinking to keep going, drowning in sorrow. Lexy couldn't get me to stop, and I ignored my brothers. Salina was an added headache, unless she was sleeping, then I could pretend that Sarina was still alive. I was fucked up, until she came along,

"You think I saved you that night?" I asked and she nodded.

You did," she replied, "You did so much more to me, Liam. I wouldn't be who I am now if you weren't by my side."

"I wouldn't be who I am now if it weren't for you, my love. I didn't save you that night, you saved me."

"From a badly thought-out agreement?" she said, smiling,

"Not that," I replied, placing my arms around her waist. "From myself."

This bond we share is stronger than any vow or tradition. In our world, we are already one, but... I want to make every moment special, for you, for us.

I got down on one knee for the second time tonight. Luca howled in my head.

She gasped as her eyes went wide, hands flying to her mouth. I smiled. I presented to her another ring

It had an exquisitely cut red diamond as a centerpiece. On each side were two smaller white diamonds. I had this ring especially made...just for her.

Hljam."

4Anna Bella Fiora Black, Alpha of the Black Mist Pack and Luna of the Red Claw Pack, I – 4

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Yes!" she exclaimed, cutting me off.

I chuckled.

"Babe, you have to let me finish."

She rolled her eyes. Lately, she'd been giving me a lot of sass.

"Then ask me and forget the cheesy lines!"

"Anna Bella Fiora Black, will you marry me?" I asked, skipping to the last line of a thought out dialogue that Luca and I had been practicing for days.

"Yes!"

I slipped the finger in her hand, marveling. She threw herself at me and pulled me into a kiss. Then she kissed me all over my face.

"I love you," she said, hugging me tight.

"I love you, too, Anna," I said, hugging her back.

She was happy. Luca was happy. I was happy.

I could finally relax and enjoy this night.

"You know, I prepared a poem for you."

She hushed me with a finger on my lips. "I have a lifetime to hear your lines."

Fair enough.

"What?" I asked when she giggled.

She took my handkerchief and rubbed on my cheeks as she giggled. "Sorry."

"What?"

"Keep still," she said, rubbing harder.

Oh...

As she rubbed off the marks she left, my eyes fell on her gorgeous lips. Unable to help myself, I leaned in for another fervent kiss.

Mine.

"You are mine," I said, growling, holding her by her hips and pulling her closer. She smiled into the kiss. My heart swelled.

I can't wait to spend another day and another and another with you.

She pulled me down by my tie, so I was face to face with her then pecked my lips. As are

you mine."

All of me

"Let's get out of here, I offered, sweeping her up to Hyannis.

I'll keep doing this until I can't

"What about the party?" she asked, frowning with concern. "We'll be back before anyone notices, answered, and she giggled. I still want to hear the poem!

enring be legs."

I jumped up the ledge and she yelped as I slid down to me.

"No! Don't even think about

Too late.

I winked at her.

"Don't you – ah!

We landed safely, just behind the building where no one could see. She slapped my chest a couple of times, glaring at me.

"Not the first time we did this, babe," I teased. "Luka wants to run. Connevoitte

I let her down then shifted into Luca. He circled her, puzzling his head at Taet it hights while she giggled and directed his head somewhere else

Seriously?

Luca purred when she scratched his head, down under his chin.

"Hello, again," said Anina.

Luca licked her cheek in response. Then he lowered himself so she could ride on his back

He smirked at me, but I scolded him.

“Don’t. Not tonight, Luca,” I said firmly as I took partial control

He took off, but not too fast that it’d scare our mate. She laid on our back, her fingers running through our fur. The wind in our face as our paws pounded on the earthly floor and the trees went pass in a blur. We went up a cliff, then to the moon raised our heads and howled. Just me and her... now and forever.