

The 5-time Rejected Gamma & the Lycan King by Stina' s Pen Chapter 117

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Lucianne sighed as she said, "You're an Alpha, Tate. You have a duty to fight alongside your pack. You can't just abandon them. And Juan, as Blue Crescent's Alpha," she locked eyes with her brother and declared in a tone which left no room for discussion, "will NOT be following me to Forest Gloom."

Before Juan could speak, Tate continued in the same gentle but firm voice, "Fine. Don't take the Alphas or the Lunas. Take all the Gammas, at least." Contemplative murmurs of agreement soon filled the room.

That was actually a viable option. Their packs were strong, and Lucianne had taught more than one warrior in each pack about strategy. So, every strong pack actually already had at least one 'spare Gamma' to take charge whenever the Gamma wasn't around. Lucianne recommended having a spare as a precaution, should more than one Gamma be needed to strategize simultaneously in different locations.

Lucianne smiled to herself for the first time as she shook her head, and threw Tate a smirk when she said, "You're actually using my own recommended precautions against me?"

"I don't know a better way to win an argument against you." Tate uttered as he returned her smirk, repeating the exact same words he said to her when they were on the plane to the Jewel Pack.

Xandar felt his jealousy and insecurity return so he took his mate's hand to peck a kiss on it to get her attention. He looked into her bright, black orbs as he asked, "Well, baby, what do we do?" He called her so intimately to make himself feel better since no one else had the right to call Lucianne that except him.

She offered Xandar an affectionate smile, and stroked his hand as she turned to the alliance and said, "We'll go with what Tate said."

Sighs of relief eased the tense atmosphere in the room, and Toby slumped back into his seat as he whispered, "Thank Goddess."

Lucianne then said, "Well, Gammas, let's get to forming temporary mind-links. We'll need it on the battleground without our Alphas and Lunas there." She stood from her seat and everyone followed suit. She went to Raden first since he was the closest. Both Gammas extended a claw and scratched a fine line on their respective palms.

When blood started oozing from that area, their palms pressed together to let their blood mix as Lucianne uttered, "I, Lucianne Freesia Paw, offer you, Raden Richard Stone, a temporary link to my mind."

"I, Raden Richard Stone, accept your offer."

Temporary links only last twenty-four hours unlike permanent ones which last forever until severed. When the link with Raden was formed, Felicia came next. She and Lucianne then did the same thing. For some reason, Tate pulled Toby to a corner as their eyes glazed over.

Lucianne assumed Tate was just asking Toby about strategy for their pack. Just as she was a better strategist than Juan for Blue Crescent, Toby was a better strategist than Alpha Tate for White Blood.

When the Gammas exchanged the last of the temporary links, all eyes fell on the Alpha and Gamma of White Blood. Toby looked upset and maybe a little frustrated. But Tate looked stern. Without another word, Tate walked away from Toby and towards Lucianne before he extended a claw and made a scratch on his palm like the others.

As Tate was reaching out for Lucianne's small hand, she retracted it as she furrowed her eyebrows and asked, "What the h*ll are you doing, Alpha?" She emphasized his title to remind him that only the

Gammas were following her. Xandar knew exactly what Tate was doing and stood closely behind Lucianne, his hands on her shoulders as he threw the Alpha a disapproving look.

Tate refused to meet Xandar's hard stare as the Alpha offered Lucianne a soft smile and said, "I'm only second when it comes to strategizing for White Blood, Lucy. Toby's better. Our pack has a better chance with him planning the attack."

Lucianne's fierce eyes bore into his unperturbed ones as she said, "You have to LEAD the attack, Alpha Tate."

Tate remained stubborn as he said casually, "Eh. That's not true. For Blue Crescent and White Blood, it was never the Alphas who led the attacks. Our Gammas did that. And calling me 'Alpha' is not going to make me back out in guilt, Lucy. I'm going to Forest Gloom with the rest of you."

Before Lucianne could retort, Toby's sad and strained voice came from the corner, "It's okay, Lucy. As long as one of White Blood's members is with you, I'm good with it."

His Alpha insisted that he followed Lucianne when they mind-linked between themselves. Toby tried to fight back, arguing that the deal was to have Gammas follow his best friend. But Tate was firm in his decision to swap places with Toby. And, of course, the Gamma had to give in to his Alpha.

Even Christian was looking at Tate in disapproval. Everyone in the room, besides Lucianne, knew what Tate's real reason was for tagging along. The wolves were well aware that Tate developed a romantic interest for Lucianne when she trained him and his pack's warriors a few years ago, not that she reciprocated or even knew about his feelings for her.

The two royal cousins easily caught on even without that knowledge. Lucianne groaned in defeat after her best friend gave in as she made a new-scratch on her palm and lined the minor wound with Tate's bleeding palm as Tate said, "I, Tate William Brownnan, offer you, Lucianne Freesia Paw, a temporary link to my mind."

"I, Lucianne Freesia Paw, accept your offer."

Xandar didn't let Tate hold his mate's hand for a second longer as he gently pulled it away, placing her palm over his mouth and started cleaning the wound with his tongue. Despite being embarrassed that her indecent beast was licking her palm in front of everyone, Lucianne's homicidal eyes fixed on Tate as she declared in a low voice, "If anyone in White Blood gets hurt, I will kill you for coming with us, Tate."

Tate shrugged like it was no big deal and said, "Sure, why not?" Wanting to escape the painful sight of Xandar's intimate gesture to Lucianne, Tate moved on to the next Gamma to form the next link. Christian then asked, "So, my Queen, where do you want me?"

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Lucianne's eyebrows raised at the Duke's question, and she said, "That really depends on you, Christian. You can come with Xandar and I to Forest Gloom, or you can remain here to guard Annie while we're gone."

"Annie?" The Duke's expression hardened at the mention of his mate.

Lucianne explained when the room fell silent, "I'm being honest with you here, Christian. I don't know what the rogues have in mind. These...simultaneous attacks on the strongest packs could be a trap for anything. If the Tacticians had done their research, which I'm sure they would have, they'd know that we now have access to Lycan warriors to defend our packs. And they would know that you and Xandar would come with us to fight, just as you two joined us in the Jewel Pack. I don't know if the declaration of rogue attacks is just to distract us. And I don't know if, while we're gone, the rogues would go after Annie and use her as..."

"Bait." Christian finished with a worried look and he continued muttering, "Bait to bargain for whatever it is that they really want." He was clearly conflicted. He wanted to help but Annie was the most important thing in his life. 1

Lucianne put his conflicted thoughts to rest when she assured him, "You should be with Annie, Christian, just in case. We'll be fine. And Xandar can keep you updated."

Christian's eyes glistened, and he lifted up her hand to kiss it formally as he uttered gratefully, "Thank you for your understanding, my Queen."

Lucianne rolled her eyes at the Duke at his love for formalities as she said, "One of these days, I will get you to call me by my first name, Christian."

Xandar scoffed as he muttered, "Good luck with that, babe."

Xandar and Annie knew that Christian loved addressing people he respected by their titles if they had one, except for his own cousin where he found 'Cuz' to be more appropriate.

Lucianne shook her head in dismay and said, "Well, let's make a move. Forest Gloom is quite far from here. We should head there now."

After rounding up the Lycan warriors, the wolves split up and took flights to their designated packs. Christian offered his jet to them since he wasn't using it. And Xandar's jet dropped off the pack leaders and Lycan warriors for Red Eclipse and Midnight on the way to Forest Gloom.

Tate chatted amicably with Clement and Felicia during the journey, his back facing Lucianne so he wouldn't have to see her on Xandar's lap as he stroked her long hair and pecked kisses on her temple from time to time. Clement, who sat opposite Tate, had to constantly look away whenever Xandar was close to offer Lucianne intimate gestures so that the uneasiness in his chest wouldn't bother him as much.

They reached Forest Gloom when it was half an hour to midnight. Lucianne linked Juan to check on Blue Crescent, and her Alpha assured her that they were fine, that their warriors were on full guard on all sides and corners of their pack. Hale had gotten everyone to hide in panic rooms as they waited for the ordeal to pass.

Lucianne ended their mind-link and turned her focus to Forest Gloom.

Beta Nina and the warriors were ready as they waited for their Alpha and the others he brought with him.

They deployed their warriors according to Lucianne's instructions without question. Even the Lycan warriors did not doubt her ever since they heard that their future Queen took down their General, their best warrior and the King one after the other.

Lucianne, Xandar, Clement, Tate and a few of Forest Gloom's own warriors stood guard at a forest opening where allies and rogues normally come from. They waited for about six minutes before the dreaded paw prints hit the ground in quick and swift rhythms. Xandar linked a few more Lycans to join them.

Lucianne linked Juan, 'They're here. What about Blue Crescent?'

'Nothing yet. Please be careful, Lucy. Don't go anywhere on your own.' His worry was evident from his link.

'I'll try not to.' She ended the link before her overprotective brother began lecturing her again.

Juan, dissatisfied that his sister cut him off their link, then mind-linked Tate, 'Take care of her, please. But don't go overboard.'

Tate linked back without hesitation, 'You know I will, Juan. I always will, even without you asking.' 2

'But don't go overboard.' Juan reminded him. They both knew what that meant. Lucianne had a mate now. And they loved each other. Tate shouldn't try to take Xandar's place seeing that Lucianne was happy with him.

Tate stole a glance at Lucianne before he linked Juan back, 'Yeah, I know. I won't do that to her.'

'Good. Stay safe.' Juan wished him luck and ended the link. The overprotective brother then linked Clement with the same request, who promised as Tate did.

After a moment of silence among the defenders of Forest Gloom, Lucianne said, "The others around the pack aren't detecting anything. It's just us. Blue Crescent is still getting nothing."

Tate checked in with Toby before he reported, "White Blood is still clear too." He then linked Zeke and Lovelace before muttering ominously, "Blood Eclipse and Midnight are clear as well."

Lucianne then said, "They knew I'd be here."

Xandar's arm went across her shoulder and he looked deep into her eyes as he uttered firmly, "We won't let anything happen to you, Lucy."

Her eyes were stern when they fixed on Xandar's assuring ones. She spoke in a firm voice, "Do your best to not let anything happen to anyone, my King. This fight isn't for me or for any single individual. It's for everyone here and everyone hiding inside those panic rooms right now." 1

Xandar felt the strength of her voice, and she emitted an inspirational energy, an authority, that made you listen. Even the Lycans behind him and the wolves

around them snapped up in response to the aura they felt radiating from Lucianne when she said those words.

Xandar smiled in admiration, and bent down to peck a sweet kiss on the back of her hand before he said, "As you wish, my Queen."

Lucianne suddenly averted her eyes because her senses caught something. The rogue's steps were slowing down. They were nearing Forest Gloom. When the first rogue came into view, unshifted, Lucianne's eyes widened as she exchanged surprised glances with Clement and Tate, who were both equally shocked.

There were murmurs of disbelief among the warriors of Forest Gloom as their eyes converged on the shirtless man with a tattoo of a paw print on the left side of his muscular chest.

The rogue, who was separated from them only by a river, smirked cockily as he said, "Well, well, well. Long time no see. Did you miss me, Lucy?"

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The rogue across the river was Jake, Alpha Clement's brother.

Xandar's features stiffened, and he emitted a low growl in Jake's way for speaking to Lucianne in that flirtatious manner. Jake had short, black hair with a good build to match his flawless bad-boy look.

His stormy-grey eyes studied the King only momentarily before his sights returned to Lucianne. "I heard that you got yourself a King, Lucy. Can't say I'm surprised you managed that, given your ability to charm..."

It was Lucianne's turn to growl, which seemed to have turned on a switch in Jake as she spat, "Leave now, Jake. You know this won't end well for you and your friends." Xandar's eyes widened in realization at the mention of the former Alpha's name.

Despite Jake's arousing thoughts at Lucianne's feistiness, he scoffed darkly and skimmed her body in a black t-shirt and white shorts before he asked rhetorically, "Are you sure, Lucy? Have you even met my friends?"

As if they were summoned, shifted Lycans appeared by his side. Lucianne gave out the order for more of their own warriors to join them. Xandar tried using the King's Authority on them but it was odd that it wasn't working.

Jake saw what Xandar was trying to do and huffed, "You didn't think we'd come without being shielded from your Authority, did you, your Highness? We knew you'd try to use it but in the spirit of a fair fight, we'd thought it'd be best if we had a fighting chance." His eyes moved to Lucianne again as he continued, "Something that this sweetheart once taught me."

Clement, Tate and Xandar growled in unison as Clement spat, "You are in no position to call her that!"

Jake raised his eyebrow before scowling at his brother. "Like you were never in a position to claim her? Sneaking out to train with her all those times and you never grew the balls to tell her you've wanted her since she was sixteen!" Jake scoffed and continued, "You were too needy and too much of a coward to mark her anyway."

Lucianne took over as she shouted, "Wake up, Jake! You were the one who was cast out, WITH the support and approval of your own pack members. The fact that you've had to resort to blackmailing the strongest packs to get me here shows that you're the coward."

A female's voice then came from behind Jake, "Hmph. That's sad. We thought you'd see those misleading notes as a strategy. So sorry to disappoint." It was Iris, the sister Clement casted out with Jake.

"It's foul play." Tate spat in her direction.

Iris's angered amber eyes fixed on Tate, and everyone saw the look of betrayal and infuriation from the tall beauty as she glared at the Alpha and said, "I warned you it was a mistake to choose her over me, Tate. I would've made you happy! I was ready to rule alongside you as your Luna!"

Tate didn't even need to think before declaring firmly, "You were just one of the many women who offered sex. And being the immature d*ck that I was, I took it without considering the repercussions. But I can tell you that I NEVER saw any women I slept with as my Luna, especially not YOU."

That hit a nerve. Iris's eyes glistened in anger. Her fiery hair color somehow enhanced the fury she was feeling within as she hissed, "She never gave you the experience I gave you in bed. She had never even given you one single experience in bed, and you saw her as your Luna?!"

Tate growled ferociously at Iris before declaring, "Unlike you, she's not an Alpha-seducing whore! You're a n IMBECILE to think that you can ever compare yourself to her! She's done more for White Blood as an ally than you can EVER hope to do as Luna!" Keeping Juan's warning in mind, Tate restrained himself from saying anything further.

Neither Iris nor Tate had to look at Lucianne, or point to her, for every single person there, except Lucianne herself, to know that they were both referring to her. 2 .

The Lycans were exchanging confused looks, wondering if their suspicions of the Alpha's romantic interest for the Queen was an absurd thought or a real thing. Xandar was trying his best not to lose his cool.

Lucianne noticed her agitated mate, assuming that he was angry because Jake and Iris were pushing hers, Clement's and Tate's buttons, so she linked him, "This is what Jake and his cronies do, dearest. They mess with your mind to make you lose focus before a fight. Don't let them get to you.' 1

As soon as her eyes cleared, Iris scowled at Lucianne and said, "What do men even see in you? You"

"Clearly more than what they see in you." Lucianne turned on her switch of acting and hypocrisy as she cut Iris off with a taunting smirk. Lucianne didn't believe what she just said about herself, knowing that Iris had always been the type of she-wolf to attract second looks from most males when Lucianne herself wasn't, at least not that she noticed. But the aim now was to get Iris to lose control before the battle.

A steady volcano built in Iris's being from Tate's words followed by Lucianne's. The fiery-hair she-wolf then spoke through gritted teeth, "You were rejected. Five times. You. Are. Nothing." The Lycans and wolves on Lucianne's side growled at her insult but Iris stood her ground.

"Nothing? Really?" Lucianne asked rhetorically with a glint in her eye as she said, "Didn't stop your older brother from asking me to be his Luna after my first two rejections, did it?"

This was news for everyone present. A few warriors from Forest Gloom even scoffed and snorted in amusement. No one had to be a genius to know that Jake never stood a chance with Lucianne.

Lucianne only told Juan and Hale about Jake's offer because she found it humiliating to be asked by an infamous player who clearly had no intention of committing himself to one female, and who never had his pack's best interest at heart.

When Jake said nothing, Iris hissed at her brother, "Say something! Tell her she's lying!"

Jake's angered eyes fixed on Lucianne. His ego broke when the embarrassing secret he kept from everyone was revealed. He was an Alpha! He was supposed to be able to get anyone he wanted! But he was refused. By a Gamma!

Jake breathed heavily to cope with the anger as he said in a low tone, "I would've given you everything, Lucy. I forgave you for refusing the dance because you were young and didn't know any better. I forgave you for choosing to speak to my weakling brother when you shunned away from me! But when you said no to becoming my Luna, you've single-handedly severed the ties between Forest Gloom and Blue Crescent."

"Hah!" Lucianne scoffed and smirked as she spoke loudly and sarcastically, "Spoken like a very mature Alpha, who didn't cut ties with a long-time ally when his ego broke with a simple 'no'."

Both the werewolf and Lycan warriors were chuckling at Lucianne's retort. The fighters on Lucianne's side were beginning to understand what she was doing. She was pressing Jake's buttons just like how she pressed Lady Kylton's the other night.

Iris glanced at Lucianne in disbelief before hissing at Jake again, "Was that why you never wanted those she-wolves mom and dad asked you to meet? You wanted her?!"

"Shut up, Iris." Jake spat at his sister. The sister was so shocked that her own legs wobbled at the revelation.

Xandar finally spoke in a low voice, "Leave and no one gets killed. We are not outnumbered. We will slaughter all of you if we have to."

Jake scowled at the man who Lucianne chose to be with, over everyone else and over him! Hatred and jealousy filled the former Alpha's entire being. His controlled temperament was getting out of control as his lips curled into a menacing smile when he uttered, "Let's see how many lives will be lost tonight then."

As soon as he said that, his people charged forward over the river, and those defending Forest Gloom pounced on them as soon as they landed. Lucianne linked Xandar, 'Get all the Lycans to shift now! Xandar linked the rest of the Lycans as he too shifted upon his mate's command.

Lycans only stood a chance in their animal forms. Their untrained speed would've enabled the rogue wolves to beat them almost too easily.

Jake, without hesitation, went for Xandar. And Iris went for Lucianne.

Xandar caught Jake's leg and started breaking his bones mercilessly as he howled in pain until three rogue Lycans threw punches at the King, making him drop Jake in the process. When Jake healed, the Lycans distracting Xandar mind-linked him to attack the rest since a wolf was clearly no match for the Lycan King.

As Lucianne fought the enraged Iris, she tried to understand how the rogues intended to win. She knew Jake and Iris. They cheated in any possible way to win. So, apart from rogue Lycans and misleading notes, what was under their sleeves to survive the night?

As soon as she threw Iris against a large tree, and Iris fell unconscious from the impact, Lucianne smelled something that she was hoping she wouldn't have to smell that night.

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Silver.

Lucianne shouted her lungs out as she charged for the next rogue, "Wolves! Watch out for silver! They're coming! Ten blades! Maybe more!"

Most rogues were stunned to hear that. Some of them even got distracted as they exchanged glances with each other and linked, 'How did she know?'. Their people with the blades haven't even come out of the forest yet.

The wolves defending Forest Gloom grew cautious, keeping an eye out for silver. Xandar gave the order for Lycans to shield any wolf from silver blades should they see the blades coming first. Silver only causes a slight itch for Lycans so they can be used as a shield for their cousin species.

As Lucianne tore a rogue's throat, she received a mind-link from Juan. 'Lucy, how are things looking?'

'Not a good time, Juan!' She linked back in annoyance and continued, 'They're led by...' she pounced on another rogue attacking Beta Nina before she continued, 'Jake and Iris.'

There was a pause, and Lucianne thought he ended their link when she broke the rogue's neck, until her brother's surprised voice came through, 'They're alive?'

'Well and angry

Juan scoffed as he said in amusement, 'Jake's still taking your 'no' to heart, huh? Iris must be pretty mad, too. She's always been jealous of you, you know? Maybe.

'Juan, can we do this later?! Better yet, let's not do this at all!

'Yeah, okay. I'll let you get to it, little sis. But please be careful.'

When the mind-link ended, Lucianne extended her claws and leaped from the ground before impaling into the nape of a Lycan fighting Phelton, causing it to lose its balance as Phelton gave one forceful kick, throwing the rogue Lycan into the coursing river. Phelton's animal threw the Queen a grateful smile before moving on to the next rogue.

Lucianne then ran towards the scent of silver, which were where most of the wolves were. Xandar saw his mate sprinting towards the wolves, and realized that the Lycan warriors were not evenly spread out

across the field to defend his mate's species.

The King mind-linked his kind, demanding that they get rid of their opponents as quickly as they could to get to the wolves sooner. Xandar's initial plan was to torture his opponents to death but with silver present, he couldn't afford to spend too much time with each rogue. He threw two rogues forcefully at the boulders in the river, and they died instantly. Seeing that the King could kill two at once, the rogues started coming in fours.

Xandar used the techniques Lucianne and Toby taught him in their human forms and found that even in his animal form, he could beat the rogues with ease, sending all four into the coursing river where the current washed away their dead bodies. The Lycan warriors were speeding up their attacks, trying to get rid of their opponents as soon as they could to get to their Queen and her kind.

The first silver blade Lucianne detected was held by a shifted Lycan. She never practiced combat with a Lycan's animal with her human before so she decided to just give it a go with whatever little knowledge she had on their weak spots. The Lycan saw her coming and when she drew close, it tried to stab her but

Lucianne leaped from the ground and the blade missed her, much to Xandar's relief.

He was trying to get rid of three rogue wolves which were annoyingly fast as he glanced over at his mate from time to time. Lucianne managed to leap on the rogue's shoulder and she pulled its ears with force as it howled in pain. She read about the soft bone in that area, and how Lycans lose their balance when their ears are pulled at a certain angle, and that it would cause them a great deal of pain.

When Lucianne smelled more silver coming, she tore the rogue's ears as it howled in anguish when the rest of its comrades growled in anger. They pushed away the defenders and sped to their friend. However, before they reached Lucianne and the rogue, Lucianne flipped herself off its shoulders before throwing a kick in his chest, and its body slammed against a boulder near the riverbank, its blade falling from his lifeless grip.

Lucianne took the blade immediately and went for the rogue wolves who were attacking her friends. She stabbed two who were attacking Clement, and another three attacking Raden. The rogue wolves seemed to have mind-linked and told each other that Lucianne had a blade. They retreated, letting their rogue Lycan counterparts continue the attack.

'Babe, the silver. Where is it coming from?' Xandar linked Lucianne between breaking the rogue's limbs and necks.

'Where I got rid of the first one holding it!'

With an authoritative howl into the dark sky, Xandar sent his warriors to the location where the first rogue with a silver blade was killed. The Lycan warriors howled in compliance to their King's command, and sped there.

As Lucianne, Clement and Tate got ready to attack the rogue Lycan charging towards them, a growl came from the side before Iris's ginger fur wolf pounced on Lucianne. Lucianne was thrown on the ground, and Iris wasted no time scratching Lucianne's face with her sharp claws. Thankfully, Lucianne closed her eyes so she didn't go blind.

Suddenly, Iris's claws hung in the air, and as much as she tried to plunge her claws into Lucianne's being, she couldn't. They were stuck mid-air. What was worse for Iris was that she seemed to be shifting back, involuntarily. Her fur was shortening and disappearing, and her wolf face started morphing into her human one.

Lucianne didn't think much of it, and reached for the silver knife she dropped not far away before stabbing Iris in her heart. With a tormenting scream, the partly-shifted Iris lost strength, and Tate kicked her body away as Clement helped Lucianne up after they had just killed the rogue Lycan from earlier.

Lucianne's curious eyes scanned the place for an explanation of Iris halting her attack and her shifting back mid-fight. Suddenly, the three of them caught Iris's last words spoken in a strained voice, "You. Idiot." Lucianne and the two Alphas thought that those words were directed to Tate at first, until they followed Iris's sights to her brother, Jake

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Clement and Tate both stood protectively in front of Lucianne, and Phelton appeared next to them, ready to defend his Queen. Jake ignored all three of them, and glowered at Lucianne as he said, "I told you I would've given you everything, Lucy. Even if it meant ending my own sister's life."

Jake just stood there like he was waiting for something. Lucianne's grip on the knife tightened as she wondered what Jake was playing at. But when she smelled more silver, she left her spot to defend the wolves near the area. Clement charged towards his brother without hesitation, which was when Jake yelled out, "You're not going to like what our client has in mind for you, Lucy! I would've refused their request if you had chosen me!"

Clement and Tate instantly shifted into their animals from being angered at Jake's audacity. As they were about to pounce, two rogue Lycans reached Jake right on time to knock the two Alphas away like they were just puny insects. Phelton started taking on both of them at once as he linked his fellow warriors for help

Lucianne helped the wolves, and was internally relieved that the Lycan warriors had formed a barricade, shielding the wolves from silver. The rogues were clearly losing as their numbers dwindled with every anguished howl.

Lucianne was still thinking about what Jake said. About her not liking what his client had in mind for her. What was it? The silver was already out in the open so what could possibly be worse than silver for a wolf?

It was as if she had asked herself the wrong question. As the Lycan warriors battled with the rogue Lycans with silver blades, Lucianne caught the stench smell of... Oleander. It wasn't as strong as the silver was, and if her senses are correct, there was only one rogue with it. She linked her mate, 'Xandar! Tell the warriors to be careful! I smell Oleander!'

'Sh*t! Don't do anything rash, Lucy!' Xandar linked in response before warning the warriors. What the King really meant to tell his Queen was 'Don't you dare shield anyone from Oleander, Lucy!', not that Lucianne would listen, especially now that she knew she could heal from the Lycan-killing poison.

As she instructed the defenders of Forest Gloom to retreat from the Lycans shielding them from silver, Lucianne herself ran in the Lycan warriors direction because that was where the scent of Oleander was leading her to. Xandar was charging towards Jake but the former Alpha dashed towards a very far end of the battlefield before crossing over the river like it was second nature to him, and disappeared into the thick forest.

Xandar was going to follow him but, with his Lycan vision, he noticed his mate was running towards the Lycan warriors, and he had a bad feeling about what she was going to do when Oleander was present. His animal didn't have to think twice before choosing to forget about Jake and ran towards its mate.

Seemingly out of nowhere, ten rogue Lycans without Oleander charged at the Lycan warriors. Some of the warriors were taken by surprise, some weren't. It was clear from the way the rogues looked at Lucianne that their Queen was the target, so the warriors fought ferociously to keep them away from Lucianne.

Lucianne herself was still stubbornly trying to pinpoint the source of the Oleander. After sniffing for a few seconds, she sensed the smell coming at lightning speed and a blade was shot in her direction, stabbing her arm as she groaned in pain, making Xandar growl in rage. Lucianne fell on her butt as Clement and Tate ran towards her. They were getting rid of the last of the rogue wolves when they heard her groan.

The Lycan warriors were as furious as their King was when their Queen got hurt on their watch. Lucianne took out the blade, and Xandar's animal knelt next to her as her mate linked in worry, 'Baby, stay with me.'

Lucianne narrowed her eyes at her beast and said, "After the last Oleander blade, this one is less painful. I'm fine. I just can't get up yet."

Xandar and his animal were visibly relieved, and when Tate and Clement joined them, he linked her again, 'Just let them guard you, sweetheart. You've done enough fighting for today, okay?'

Without letting her respond, Xandar joined his warriors. They were having an easier time killing the rogues with their King helping them. Just when the neck of the last rogue snapped, an arrow was fired from a tree and it plunged into Lucianne's foot as she groaned again before complaining, "Seriously?"

Tate and Clement were equally shocked, guilty and angered at themselves for not seeing the arrow coming. As Lucianne took out the arrow and let her foot heal while she gritted her teeth to cope with the pain, the Lycan Warriors charged towards the tree to get the culprit.

Xandar strode over to his mate and placed her on his lap, pressing her into his chest to heal her with the mate-bond while he shifted back. When Lucianne was healing, Xandar glared at the Alphas and said, "You two were supposed to keep her safe!"

"Xandar, stop it! No one saw the arrow coming! It's not their fault!" Lucianne defended Clement and Tate in a strained voice.

Seeing that his mate would recover slower if they went on arguing, Xandar and his animal chose to remain silent. The most important thing was that Lucianne was well and fine. Lucianne tried to disregard the fact that Xandar was using her body to cover his large manhood which she felt right below her buttocks, and turned her attention to the arrow she just pulled out from her foot.

It was then she smelled something other than her blood. Curious, she lifted the arrow tip to her nose and took a whiff. She didn't recognise the foreign scent.

After watching his mate taking three whiffs, Xandar gave up being patient and asked, "What is it, Lucy?"

She held the arrow in front of him as she asked, "Apart from my blood, do you smell something else?"

Xandar took a whiff, and then a second whiff before he said, "No."

"You're not getting that faint morning dew and salt scent? Along with something else?"

Xandar blinked before he said, "Sweetheart, I don't get any scent from morning dew or salt."

Lucianne groaned before she uttered, "Great. Probably another poison."

Xandar's grip around her tightened. His onyx eyes bore into hers as he asked, "Do you feel any pain?"

"No. And that's the weird thing."

Xandar let out a sigh of relief before pecking a kiss on her temple and said, "Don't say that, my love. It's

good that there's no pain."

The Lycan Warriors came to them, and eight of them knelt on one knee and tilted their heads towards the ground when they reached the King and Queen. The remaining two warriors remained standing as they held the rogue who shot the arrow. One of them then kicked the rogue's knees to make him kneel.

The rogue looked at Lucianne with a victorious smirk when one of the warriors linked the King, 'How would your Highnesses like him to be killed, my King?'

Xandar looked at Lucianne as he asked, "Well, baby. What do you want to do with him?"

Lucianne was still studying the psychopathic rogue. He looked so sure that he won even though he was caught and had no way of escaping. Her sights subconsciously went to the arrow and back to the rogue who laughed menacingly as he said loud and clear, "They were right about you being a smart one. Our client sends a message: does the Kingdom want an infertile Queen?"

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The Lycans and the two Alphas growled at the rogue but Lucianne's eyes widened in realization. This was what Jake meant when he said she wasn't going to like what their client ordered for her. The poison on the arrow could be one to render her infertile! It didn't hurt because it wasn't a fatal poison, it was a permanent contraceptive!

Her eyes began glistening, which made the rogue smirk even wider. With gritted teeth, Lucianne lifted up the Oleander blade next to her before plunging it into the rogue's collarbone. It was the slowest way to transmit the poison, according to her books. That was what she wanted for the rogue. A slow, painful death.

She fixed her eyes on the rogue, wanting to see the light in his eyes dim before her. When his being gave in and his body lost its strength, her hand subconsciously went to her abdomen as she let the first of her tears fall.

The Lycan Warriors were shocked at the sight, and their lifted heads tilted downwards as Xandar asked in a gentle voice, for more Daily updates visit :-
"Baby, hey. Is it the pain from the arrow?"

Lucianne shook her head in response. But she didn't trust her voice to be steady so she mind-linked her mate, 'The poison on the arrow suppresses pregnancy.'

Xandar's eyes widened but he tried to remain calm for his mate as he linked her back, 'Babe, we don't know that. The rogue was clearly a lunatic. He was probably trying to mess with your thoughts. We'll get D 1. Yeil to check on it, alright?'

When he got no response and heard her first sob, Xandar held her even closer to his chest before planting a deep kiss on her forehead and said, "It's going to be okay, Lucy. It's going to be okay."

After taking note that Forest Gloom had lost three warriors in the battle, those who came from the collaboration boarded Xandar's jet to make their way back. They picked up the pack leaders and Lycan warriors from Blood Eclipse and Midnight on the way.

Tate, unlike during the flight to Forest Gloom, now chose to sit at a spot where he could see Lucianne on Xandar's lap. He and Clement didn't speak this time. Both Alphas were blaming themselves for how careless they'd been to not shield Lucianne from the arrow.

They still didn't know what was on it that made Lucianne cry for a good half-an-hour on the battlefield. But having Lucianne cry in public like that when she never did was enough to know that whatever was laced on the arrow had to be very damaging.

Xandar's thumb didn't stop stroking his mate's shoulder, and as painful as it was to see her tear-stained face, he just couldn't look away. Suddenly, his mate's eyes glazed over and she sat upright on his lap. He adjusted himself to support her posture as best as he could.

'Lucy, what was on the arrow?' Juan asked in a demanding voice through their link, getting to the point.

'Who told you?'

'Tate. Clement. Does it matter? What was on it?' Juan was getting impatient. He knew that if something could make his sister cry in public, it had to be beyond bad.

Lucianne inhaled deeply before she linked back, 'It's not confirmed by a medical examination yet but from

what the rogue was trying to indicate, it was probably... a poison to suppress pregnancy indefinitely.' Tears escaped her eyes as she linked that, and she hastily wiped some off before Xandar kissed away the rest as he continued to wait patiently.

There was a moment of silence from Juan's end before he linked back in suppressed anger, for more Daily updates visit :- 'I see. Get some rest. I'll see you when you land.' He ended the link.

When her eyes cleared, Lucianne leaned back into her mate's chest as she muttered, "It was just Juan." Xandar kissed her hair, and just as Lucianne was about to close her eyes, she heard Zeke hissed softly, "Jesus, Juan."

Her eyes snapped open and she saw Zeke, Zelena and Lovelace squinting their eyes while one hand went over their ear like they just heard something deafening. She then looked over to Tate and Clement, whose postures were bolted upright as their eyes glazed over. Clement swallowed a lump in his throat and had a terrified expression. Tate's fists were clenched, and his jaw was hardened.

"Oh, no." Lucianne muttered as she sat upright on her mate's lap again.

"Baby, what is it?" Xandar asked in concern as he held her by her abdomen and lower back.

Lucianne sighed in dismay before saying, "Just give me a few minutes, darling. I have a very angry Alpha to stop."

Before she could begin linking, Xandar exclaimed softly, "Who? What do you mean?"

"My overprotective brother is mad that I was shot by an arrow. He's probably lecturing Tate and Clement in the pack leaders group-link right now. I have to stop him. Just give me a few minutes, dearest."

"Okay." Xandar said in uncertainty..

After several failed attempts to link her brother, Lucianne groaned as she forced herself into the pack leaders' group link. The first thing she heard was Juan's loud voice, 'YOU BOTH KNEW SHE'S TARGETED! HOW HARD WAS IT TO

Lucianne growled through the link, stopping Juan from finishing his sentence. What she didn't know was that she was growling aloud, too. And the Lycan warriors flinched in their seats at their Queen's ferocity. Those dozing off were jolted awake as well. But they all sought comfort in the fact that even the King flinched a little when his homicidal-looking mate growled with glazed over eyes on his lap.

'Juan! No one saw the arrow coming! This isn't anyone's fault!

'Let me deal with this, Lucy. Get out.' Juan tried to be as gentle as possible with his little sister.

'I'm not leaving! You can't blame Tate and Clement for not seeing what none of us could see.'

'YOU COULD HAVE DIED, LUCY! THAT ARROW COULD HAVE GONE RIGHT THROUGH YOUR HEART!

'BUT IT DIDN'T! AND IT WAS NEVER MEANT TO GO THROUGH MY HEART! IT WAS NEVER MEANT TO KILL ME! THE POINT OF THAT POISON WAS TO LEAVE ME WITHOUT KIDS OF MY OWN FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE, NOT SEND ME TO MY DEATHBED!' 1

Zelena and Lovelace gasped audibly at Lucianne's revelation. Zeke held his mate's hand tightly to cope with the distress. Clement, despite his glazed over eyes, held his head down in guilt and remorse, Tate was already fighting back tears. They all knew Lucianne long enough to know how much she loved children. for more Daily updates visit :- The arrow took that away from her. How could they let it happen?

Juan tried to be as calm as possible when he linked, 'Lucy, that should have never happened to you. Your

mate was supposed to protect you. Tate and Clement were supposed to...'

'Stop it, Juan! Just stop it! Do you think they wouldn't have shielded me if they saw the arrow coming?! Do you think they didn't place their lives before mine?! We've all trained to put each other before ourselves! Tate and Clement are no different! Xandar is no different! Stop blaming them! No one wanted this! It isn't anyone's fault! I'm telling you, Juan. You better stop this before I faint, or that would be on you.'

The last time she crashed into the pack leader's group-link, it took so much out of her that she went unconscious for almost a day. Juan was so worried that he regretted not giving in to Lucianne, and he stayed by her side until she woke up again.

Lucianne's firm voice rang through the link, 'Drop it, Juan. Promise me you'll drop it.'

There was a moment of silence before Juan sighed in defeat as he linked in a softer voice, 'I promise. Please leave, Lucy. Don't strain yourself any more than you already have.'

'I'm not leaving until you do.' Lucianne stubbornly insisted. She was not letting him have another go with Tate and Clement.

'Okay. Okay, I'll go.' With that, Juan left. Within the next second, so did Lucianne.

When her eyes cleared, she was exhausted, and her body slumped into Xandar's chest as her mate tightened his grip on her to make sure she didn't fall off. Her eyelids lowered a little when her tired gaze met Tate's guilty ones as the Alpha said in a hushed voice, "I'm sorry, Lucy. I am so, so sorry." Clement opened his mouth but no words could come out as his eyes watered as well.

Xandar was shocked to see the Alphas' glistening eyes. Everyone was, even the Lycan warriors. They've seen these two on the training ground, and the Alphas were either distant and reserved, or helpful and amicable. No Lycan warrior had ever seen the vulnerable side that Tate and Clement were now showing

Lucianne offered them an assuring smile as she said, "I meant what I said, guys. This isn't anyone's fault. Stop blaming yourselves, please."

Tate looked at her in disbelief as he shook his head in dismay and got up to head towards the lavatory. Zeke followed him to make sure he was okay.

Xandar continued stroking Lucianne's arm in worry and bewilderment before Lucianne noticed that the Lycan warriors were giving her weird looks. She looked around and asked, "Are you guys okay?"

The warriors were internally relieved that the Queen was using a gentler tone with them but many were still afraid to speak to her. Phelton was the only one who dared speak up after Lucianne growled like she did. "W-We're fine, my Queen. Thank you."

"Then why are you guys looking at me like I'm going to kill you or something? for more Daily updates visit :- " Lucianne asked, and was surprised that some of the warriors flinched at the word 'kill'.

Xandar chuckled lightly as he stroked her hair. Her confused black orbs met his amused lilac eyes as he explained, "Let's just say your growling was a little scary, my dear."

"Growling? Oh, you mean when we were on the battlefield?"

Xandar pecked a kiss on her cheek before he said, "When you were mind-linking, sweetheart. You

growled."

Lucianne was taken by surprise. One of her hands went over her mouth before she asked in disbelief, "I did that out loud?"

Xandar smiled dreamily as he said, "Loudly and ferociously, my feisty little freesia. Even I got scared."

Some of the warriors sitting at the back were pressing back smiles at the King's honest admission. Lucianne smiled in embarrassment as she snuggled back into his chest and said, "I didn't mean to. I thought I was just doing it in their group-link."

Xandar's fingers in her hair stopped moving when he asked in surprise, "Group-link? I thought you were linking Juan."

Lucianne then explained, "I was but he shut me out so I crashed into the pack leaders' group-link instead."

Xandar lifted up her chin for their eyes to meet before he asked in disbelief, "Wolves can do that? You can enter a link which you have no connection to?"

"No. It's not a wolf thing. I'm not sure if there was another wolf who did it. And I only did it once before."

"When?"

"When I got this scar." Lucianne explained. "Zeke, Brandon and Wainwright were with me when the rogues were attacking us. When Juan saw the damage the attack did to my arm, he exploded in the pack leaders' link, blaming the three of them for not looking out for me. I wanted to stop him so badly that I somehow...found my way into their link. But it does take a lot of energy to pull it off. I fainted after doing it the last time."

Xandar was still staring at her in disbelief before he asked, "You can hack into a link?"

Lucianne shrugged, "Yeah, I guess that's another way of putting it. I don't like to do it though. It feels wrong. Plus, it takes away too much energy."

Xandar sighed in awe before kissing her forehead as he uttered, "Absolutely amazing. Another first." After taking a whiff from her hair, he asked, "So, Juan was blaming Alphas Tate and Clement this time? And me too, I presume?"

"Yeah. Hot-headed thing. But I made sure he stopped before I left the link. He promised not to bring it up again."

Xandar's eyebrows furrowed. That didn't sound like Juan at all. So, he said, "Why would Juan agree to that? I doubt he's done with me. Not that I don't deserve it."

"He promised to drop it because if I faint from holding my position in their group-link any longer, it would be his fault."

"Ah. Sibling-blackmail." He muttered in understanding, his fingers returning to run through his mate's luscious curls.

"Works every time." Lucianne uttered sleepily. Xandar scoffed before kissing her temple.

Just before she dozed-off in her mate's warm chest, the fact that the poison had entered her body came to her mind. Lucianne couldn't deny the possibility that her inability to produce an heir would mean that Xandar may have to choose another. No King has ever failed to produce a child with his Queen. There was an unspoken duty to produce an heir to the throne.

She didn't deny his feelings for her. But if Lucianne were really infertile, Xandar might leave her out of a sense of duty as King, just as Alpha Brandon rejected her to fulfil his duty to mate with a wolf of Alpha bloodline. Perhaps Xandar still held her so close now because he didn't believe that the poison on the arrow was a contraceptive. But Lucianne was already certain of its effects.

These lunatic-like rogues rarely lied when they were close to being killed, especially if it was accompanied by an arrogant smirk. Lucianne's heart clenched at the thought of a rejection with Xandar. She held back her tears but her body instinctively snuggled as deep as possible into her mate's embrace to savor the moment before she was no longer welcome in his arms.

Xandar didn't understand why Lucianne was adjusting herself over and over again in his chest, and tried to work with her to get her into the most comfortable position as she slept. But his animal sensed something was wrong with their mate, and it wasn't just the poison. Seeing how drained she was, Xandar chose to say nothing and let her sleep.