

# The 5-time Rejected Gamma & the Lycan King by Stina's Pen Chapter 31

/ [The 5-time Rejected Gamma & the Lycan King by Stina's Pen](#)  
Chapter 31

Lucianne took a deep breath before she began spilling the beans. "So you both already know the number of rogue attacks last year was, by far, the worst. And applications for relief following those attacks were undoubtedly a lot as well. But less than 10% of the submitted applications ever made it past the phase of being reviewed. And out of our own 132 allies who were attacked last year, we found that only twenty of them got their relief applications approved. But only four out of those had the funds disbursed to their pack. The rest still have 'funds disbursement pending' on their status. Here comes the part that really hurts."

She took another deep breath, and said, "We call the relief a gamble, like a Wheel of Fortune. And getting funds is like hitting the jackpot. So, packs who have successfully received funds are obliged to throw a pack party, just among their own pack members, to celebrate their good luck. And they have to send pictures as proof of the celebration. (This novel will be daily updated at )There was this one party that even had their own Wheel of Fortune booth for pack members to play with and claim all sorts of second-hand belongings as prizes. That was probably the most...creative pack party thrown last year."

1. (MT)

The two cousins had a mixture of hurt and anger. Lucianne then added sheepishly, "I'm sorry I laughed. You both work really hard. I'm sure it was just a glitch in the system or something."

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"Oh, it was a glitch alright." Christian's voice was never so menacing until now as he looked a table further down the hall, where most of the ministers sat. Lucianne turned but she was not sure where his sights were set on so she turned back to them and uttered, "Again, I'm sorry. I should've..."

"Sweetheart, don't apologize." Xandar's face was still serious when he took her hand and kissed it before placing it on his lap as he stroked it lovingly.

Very cautiously, Lucianne said, "If it makes either of you feel any better, you both have practically been approving relief applications these past few days when you spoke to pack members, so the process has sped up for many of them. It's just the issue of disbursement now."

After another moment of awkward silence, she asked, "So, is there anything else you would like to know? I'll be more considerate and empathetic when I break the news this time."

Christian looked at Xandar in frustration and groaned. "Cuz, just tell her. She thinks she offended us. You didn't, by the way, my Queen." Lucianne asked in confusion, "Then why do the both of you look like you're about to burn someone into ashes for wronging you?"

Xandar now held her hand in both of his to kiss it and began explaining, "Lucy, the Lycan warriors are available free-of-charge."

Lucianne's eyes widened in surprise as she exclaimed, "Oh, it has changed already? That's great!"

Xandar frowned and said, "No, Lucy. It has always been free. At least, it was supposed to be."

Lucianne seemed taken aback. "No, that can't be right. It says so right on the application form that charges will be imposed. Here, let me show you." She took out her phone and logged-in to the website for the application, and opened up a P\*F document. She swiped down until she saw the options, and passed her phone to Xandar, (This novel will be daily updtaed at ) "Here, in fine print, next to the option for Lycan warriors. 'Charges are within the full discretion of the Ministry, to be confirmed after provision of aid'. It's small but it's in red so none of us missed it."

Christian was leaning in to see the words on the enlarged screen and, like he was being possessed, took the phone from Xandar's hand without a word and started scrolling through the entire document with a serious expression.

When she finally realized what was going on, Lucianne said softly and meekly, "You both didn't know. That's why you asked." She then nodded to herself as she processed this information and continued, "So the pack relief was more than a glitch of the computer system."

"We have corrupted ministers in our midst, absorbing funds that were supposed to be given to packs." Xandar explained, and sighed before he continued, "I'm going to get the financial details of all the ministers by tomorrow night, and call for a meeting the day after. It's time to find out who's behind it. Someone has been siphoning large sums of money. If they were confident that they weren't going to get caught because of how distant our species were, then I would say that tracing the money wouldn't be too hard."

Lucianne then suggested, "Then, you might want to speed up that process."

"Wh-What do you mean by that, my Queen?" Christian came out from his daze but still held her phone in his hand.

Lucianne then shrugged and said, "Well, I blurted it at training today. Maybe Whitlaw and Cummings ran away not because they were afraid of my lecture but because they didn't want me to blurt more inconsistencies with what they know and what they want you both to know."

Xandar then turned to his cousin and said, "She's right. We're both going to the audit department now, Christian."

"Let's go." Christian said monotonously and stood up.

Lucianne stopped him abruptly. "Uh, Christian. I would like my phone back, please."

He looked at his hand. "Oh, Goddess. I'm so sorry, my Queen. I didn't notice. (This novel will be daily updated at)" His voice was returning to normal at this point.

"It's okay. You've had a lot to think about." Lucianne said as she was taking it back from him.

She then asked Xandar, "If anyone asked where you both went, what do you want me to say?" Xandar then smiled and said, "Tell you what, come with us."

Lucianne seemed unsure. "Are you sure? Is that even okay? I mean, I'm not officially the Queen though."

Xandar kissed her forehead because he found her demeanor absolutely adorable at that moment, "It'll be alright. It looks less suspicious if we leave together as mates than with only Christian and I walking out of the hall. If we left you here, some of them would suspect we'll be dealing with state affairs. I don't want them to do anything until we've gotten all the information we need."

She took one glance at the werewolf community, and told Xandar, "Okay, then." Xandar's smile broadened and he planted a second kiss on her forehead. They walked out hand-in-hand. Christian left first to stave off suspicions.

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It was a short drive to the department. When the three of them entered the building, the receptionists, all three of them, were clearly in shock. They weren't expecting anyone beyond the company personnel to enter the office building that day, let alone the King and the Duke.

When they pulled themselves together, they bowed and uttered, "Your Highness. Your Grace." The King and Duke bowed in return, sending over a second wave of shock among them so their heads were partially lifted with their mouths gaped at the scene and their knees were still bent, even after the cousins stood.

Xandar then smiled, "Please, stand when we stand, my people, because we stand through every prosperity and hardship together, as our Queen has taught me."

With his arm around Lucianne's waist, he looked at her on his side with overflowing love and affection.

Lucianne smiled at the receptionists, and bowed before standing again, "It's a pleasure to make your acquaintance. (This novel will be daily updated at )" Their mouths were still gaped until Lucianne said encouragingly, "It's alright. It's not a trick. You can stand when we do."

Seeming to have finally snapped out of it, the three stood but their mouths were taking time to close. One of them, with the name tag labeled as 'Edward' stammered, "W-Well, uh...to what do we owe the pleasure, your Highnesses and your Grace?"

Xandar spoke, "I need a detailed audit on all financial transactions of every minister for the past 18 years, who should I see for this matter?"

Edward's eyebrows shot up but he composed himself before saying, "That would be Ellia Morgan, my King. I can make a call to tell her about your request and send all of you to her thereafter?"

"Yes. Please." Xandar nodded with a smile.

After a short call, Edward came out from behind his desk and with a low hand gesture, he smiled and said, "Right this way, your Highnesses, your Grace." They took the elevator to the seventh floor and when the doors opened, Edward led them to a woman dressed in a white blouse and black slacks who had just come out of her personal office. Around them, everyone in cubicles dropped whatever they were doing and stood. When Ellia Morgan stood before the three of them, the whole office bowed and said in unison, "Your Highness. Your Grace."

Edward, on Ellia's side, muttered, "And the Queen."

Ellia looked up in shock with her knees still bent, and lowered her head once more, "My Queen." There were gasps in the office. They heard rumours circulating about the King finding his mate at the Lycan-werewolf collaboration but they didn't know how much of it was true. Ellia herself knew it to be true but she didn't expect to meet the Queen so soon. She thought the woman next to the King was a soon-to-be-sworn-in minister or deputy minister of a new government branch.

The three of them bowed in return, and Xandar asked everyone to stand, just like he had explained to the receptionists before. Like the receptionists, they were still shocked. Lucianne offered a small smile in Ellia's way, "Ellia, it's alright. Please stand." Lucianne reached for her shoulder from the side and lifted her to prompt her to stand.

She blinked a few times to get herself out of the daze and stood upright, "Of course. Of course. Umm...your request. Right this way, your Highnesses, your Grace."

"Thank you, Edward." Lucianne said in his way, and he offered a slight bow and a smile before leaving.

When they entered Ellia's office, they heard the sound of printing in the corner of her office. Ellia then said, (This novel will be daily updaed at ) "I hope that you could give it a while, your Highness. I found the archives when I received the call and I'm printing them now. Seeing that it's every minister and for

eighteen years, this may take some time."

"It's alright. We can wait." Xandar said.

She gestured to the two chairs in front of her and at the office couch at the back. "Please have a seat, your Highnesses, your Grace."

The cousins said in unison, "Thank you." And Christian fell on the couch and sighed, diving into his thoughts.

Lucianne was drawn to the floor-to-ceiling window. She stood there in silence as she took in the view of the city from Ellia's office. Xandar placed his hands on her shoulders as he muttered, "A penny for your thoughts?"

She offered a small smile, "Oh, it's nothing. I've just never had a view of the city from anywhere beyond the airport and the hotel room so this is...new." Xandar smiled at her innocent response and kissed her on her temple.

At that moment, Ellia's door opened without a knock and in walked a man with two kids, a girl and a boy. Everyone turned, and Lucianne's smile turned into a surprised grin.

Lucianne's cheerful voice filled the space in Ellia's office as she exclaimed, "Ben! What are you doing here?"

Christian linked Xandar, 'Ben?'

'Hotel guard. The one who called yesterday.'

'Ah.'

The hotel guard, Benjamin, was surprised to see the three of them and glanced at his wife before he bowed and greeted, "Your Highnesses, your Grace. I didn't realize...I apologize for interrupting." He was about to usher his kids out of the door.

Lucianne continued to smile as she said, "Ben, you don't have to reschedule your appointment. We're just waiting for the printed documents. You can have Ellia."

"Oh, uh..." he was looking at Ellia hesitantly so Lucianne looked at Ellia and said, "Really, Ellia. (This novel will be daily updaed at )We don't mind waiting for you

to complete your discussion with him. The printing would no doubt take longer than that."

"Your Highness," Ellia began awkwardly, "This is actually my mate and husband."

Lucianne's eyes widened in surprise, "Oh! So, you're Ellie?! Oh, my goddess. It's such a pleasure to finally meet you. Benjamin has told me a lot about you. I didn't expect to meet you so soon!"

Ellia was a little embarrassed that her mate called her name so intimately before the Queen, and she blushed while she said, "That's very kind of you to say, my Queen. I didn't expect to meet you this soon either. I've heard about you, from Ben, but I never expected you to be this...

different, in a good way, that is."

Lucianne looked at the children who were by Ben's side, clinging onto his legs, "And these must be Rita and Russell." Ellia was shocked that the future Queen knew her kids' names but Ben was moved that she remembered. He brought his kids closer to Lucianne, and Lucianne bent down to meet the dark-haired girl with sparkling eyes, "Hello, Rita."

"H-hello, pwetty lady." She muttered nervously.

"Oh, darling. It's just Aunt Lucy, okay?" Lucianne said encouragingly.

She then looked at the boy, whose hair and eyes matched his sister's and Lucianne smiled and said, "Hello, Russell. Is your knee better?" Ben and Ellia were surprised and touched that their Queen remembered their son's injury and asked about it.

"Y-yes. A-Aunt Lucy." Russell stuttered shyly.

"Can you show Aunt Lucy?" Lucianne smiled and asked the little boy.

He looked up at his father who muttered with a nod, "Go on, Russell. It's okay." The little boy let go of his father's leg and bent down to pull up his pants, showing her a slightly scratched knee. Lucianne looked at it for a moment before lifting the little boy's chin up gently with her hand as she whispered, "You're such a brave and strong little boy. You're healing so quickly." He smiled, showing his dimples and small teeth.

Lucianne then said, "Russell, your dad says you like to build toys." He nodded with a smile and, to Lucianne's surprise, took her by her hand and walked her in his adorable little legs to the couch where Christian sat at the other end. Like Xandar, Christian was silently observing Lucianne mingle with the child.

Russell patted on a seat twice to motion Lucianne to sit and after Lucianne sat down, he tried to climb onto the high cushion himself. But he only made it when Lucianne lifted him up by his armpits and placed him right next to her. He

unstrapped his backpack and pulled it to his side before unzipping it and taking out a slightly deformed toy car. He then sat cross-legged and put the car in front of him, pressed a button on top before the car started moving slowly on the couch.

Christian's eyes widened in shock and he mind-linked Xandar, 'Cuz, they teach this in kindergarten?! I don't remember making a car.'

'I don't remember either.'

'Can I go back to make one?' 1

'Sure. Give me a copy of your notes after you've taken the class.' 1

Lucianne gasped at the little boy, "You made this at school?"

Russell shook his little head and said, "I-I make it at playtime...at home." Christian's plan was crushed. 2

Lucianne then gaped in shock, "You built this all by yourself?"

Russell nodded proudly and smiled. Lucianne then said excitedly, "You're such a smart boy! Did you show this to your friends at school?"

Russell's smile faltered and he looked at his car sadly while he said, "My friends say it's stupid. They laughed at me. They threw my car when I showed them. My teacher told me to stop making it. She said studying was more important." 2

Lucianne was heartbroken. She took Russell and placed him on her lap facing her. (This novel will be daily updated at )She then looked at the sad little boy and said with a soothing voice, "Russell, don't listen to your teacher. You have to be very special to know how to make this. Your teacher is just jealous. H

m?"

The little boy looked up at her and sadness was disappearing from his eyes and Lucianne continued, "And you can always make new friends. A lot of little boys and girls will love to play with your car. Okay?" His dimples showed and the sadness was gone. He threw his arms around Lucianne's chest, taking her by surprise. Xandar stiffened as he stood next to where she sat.

'Cuz, you're not jealous of a five-year-old right now, are you?' Christian linked him. 1

'Shut up, Christian.' 3

Christian chuckled to himself as he continued to watch. The little boy released her from their embrace when his fingers felt Lucianne's scar on her arm. He looked at it with his furrowed eyebrows and asked innocently, "What is this, Aunt Lucy?"

Lucianne said, "Oh, this. Aunt Lucy was fighting bad guys one day. And one bad guy gave Aunt Lucy this scar." The little boy's eyes were glistening, which made Lucianne panic so she cooed, "There there, Russell. Shh...No bad guys are going to come for you. Aunt Lucy killed them, okay? You're safe. You're safe."

He then hugged Lucianne again before he said, "I want to kill bad guys for Aunt Lucy." Lucianne's heart melted. She thought the little boy was about to cry earlier because he was

afraid that he would be hurt the same way she was. But he was crying because she got hurt.

Lucianne smiled and said, "That's very sweet of you, Russell. You're a brave little boy." She then pecked a kiss on his forehead, making him smile again.

Xandar then mind-linked Christian, 'Fine. I'm jealous of the five-year-old. Who does he think he is?! And how is he going to protect her? Roll on the battleground and trip the rogues over?'

Christian burst into laughter, garnering everyone's attention. Lucianne's voice turned back into the way she normally spoke to him, "Christian, what's the joke?"

He lifted up a finger, asking for a minute while he continued laughing at his cousin's mind link. When he was done, he said, "Apologies, my Queen. I uh...just thought of something funny and couldn't help myself."

"Do share."

"Uh, no. Maybe later." He chuckled again.

Lucianne was still confused, oblivious about how Xandar was reacting by her side when she interacted with the child in her hands, "Okay, if you say so."

It was when she was about to turn back to Russell that she noticed Ellia and Ben mind linking each other with worried and fearful looks. She assumed that it was family affairs so she did not intrude. When she opened her mouth and was about to speak to Russell again, she heard the sound of window blinds being pulled down. Her head lifted, and she saw that it was Ben doing it. When it was done, Ben went to Ellia's side and nodded once in encouragement before Ellia lifted her head up to the three of them.

Ellia swallowed a lump in her throat before saying, "Your Highnesses, your Grace. There's something you should know."

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/ [The 5-time Rejected Gamma & the Lycan King by Stina's Pen](#)



## Chapter 33

Ellia had a guilty expression and looked like she was about to breakdown in tears. Lucianne asked, "Ellia, what's wrong? Are some of the archives missing?"

She shook her head, "No. It's..Goddess, I'm so sorry. Uh...a while ago, shortly after you ascended the throne, my King, a few of us were ordered to...manipulate the finances for...a few of the governing members. We were warned that...if the real information was leaked, they will target our families...our kids, when we come to have kids." She then looked at Russell on Lucianne's lap as Ben held their daughter in his arms. 1

The three of them were stunned. Lucianne was the first to recover, "Ellia, what are you saying? (This novel will be daily updaed at )Does it mean what you're printing now has been manipulated?"

She nodded and tears started flowing uncontrollably from her eyes to her cheeks as she knelt on both knees on the floor and kept saying 'I'm sorry' over and over again. Lucianne got up hurriedly from the couch, and gave Russell to Xandar to hold as she went to kneel before

- Ellia. With her hands on Ellia's shoulders, Lucianne said in a calm, soothing voice, "Ellia, it's okay. You didn't have a choice. It's not your fault. Please, don't worry."

Christian mind-linked Xandar, 'Cuz, if I didn't just hear what I just heard, I would be laughing that you have to hold that boy right now. This fund-mishandling has been going on for years?!" 1

'When we find out who's been doing this. They'll wish they were dead.'

Lucianne got Ellia to stand. After a few more sobs, Ellia can now form coherent sentences. Her eyes were still fixed on the ground as she uttered, "These have been manipulated but uh ..." she sobbed once before continuing, "I have the hard copies of the originals before the manipulation was done.(This novel will be daily updaed at ) We were told to get rid of it outside office premises. Because I'm the most senior here, they let me take it. I tried to get rid of them but I never managed to go through with it. I was always afraid that the recycling personnel would understand what was on the papers so I just kept them in my home office locked up in a few safes. I am so sorry."

Lucianne then asked, "You mentioned there are others who have been blackmailed. Who?"

"Uh, Brigetta Reese a-and Oscar Wildrow, my assistants. I am so sorry, my Queen. I am so, so sorry."

Lucianne pulled the remorseful woman into a surprising hug and as she locked eyes with Ben, who looked equally guilty. In her firm voice, Lucianne said, "Ellia, this is not your fault. You and your assistants have been pushed to a corner. You had to protect your family. You had no choice. Don't feel bad about it. You can still help us."

She sobbed and released the Queen as she said, "Yes, I can get them for you. I just brought back the latest audits last night. I'll hand them over...and I'll just throw these out."

"No." Lucianne's firm voice rang through the room like a command. Even Xandar's head snapped up to await her orders. Lucianne then motioned to the printed documents and told Ellia, "We'll take these as well. Your boss would hear from the other employees by now that we're here. So if we left with those, it would get them to believe that any dirty hands remain clean, at least for a few more hours. But you and your family must relocate by tonight."

She then turned to Xandar and Christian, who both had hard looks on their faces. "We need a location where no one, other than the two of you, have access to, to house the three families who have been blackmailed."

They both pondered for a moment before Xandar said, "Our homes should do. No one sane would think of walking through our doors uninvited."

"Oh no, your Highness! We couldn't intrude." Benjamin exclaimed in shock.

Lucianne then explained, "It's not an intrusion, Ben. Those corrupted ministers intruded when they started siphoning money from government funds. You and Ellia helped us. Now, we must protect you and your family."

"Where do you live?" Christian asked.

Benjamin said, "Well, uh...up east, near 57th Street."

Christian nodded, "That's not very far from where my wife and I live. And the two assistants, Mrs Morgan?"

"They're my neighbors. We've been friends even before working here. They know about me.. (This novel will be daily updated at )still keeping the records."

"Perfect." Christian said with a smile, "My wife and I can look after all of you and your families while we clean up this mess. You should tell them soon and pack quickly. You'll all be sleeping in my guest rooms tonight."

"Thank you, your Grace." Benjamin bowed and said with gratitude. His wife followed after.

Xandar then added, "I'll ring up a few private guards to watch over your kids when they're in school to make sure nothing happens to them. They'll be safe. And Benjamin, I'll personally notify the hotel regarding your absence. You'll still get your paycheck but we'll have one of your colleagues take your place for a while."

"Thank you, your Highness." Benjamin said in relief.

"No," Xandar said with a smile, "Thank you, Mr and Mrs Morgan. For choosing to help us, despite the risks."

Ellia looked at the ground, still utterly guilty about almost lying to the rulers of the Kingdom. In a soft voice, she said, "I thought I could do it. Handing you the wrong audits, that is. There were nights when I would picture myself doing it. Just to rehearse in case this day came. I've always feared that this day would come. But when it came to this moment, I couldn't do it. I

just couldn't."

She looked at Lucianne, "My Queen, Ben has told me about you. You are whatever he said and more. Your demeanor, my Queen, only exudes good intentions. So when I was about to misuse the trust all of you have put in me, it felt...too much to bear. It felt too wrong for me to go through it. I am so ashamed of myself for thinking of going against the very people who are there to protect us. But thank you, my Queen, for being so understanding."

Without another word, Ellia grabbed a notepad from her desk and started scribbling something on the small sheet of white paper. She then handed the paper to Lucianne and said, "These are the names of the five people we were told to...not keep a correct record of. (This novel will be daily updated at )The proof is all at home but I thought the three of you would like to know first."

Xandar then suggested, "Lucy, sweetheart, you should hold on to that first. Don't let Christian or I see it until we have the three families safely relocated. We might not be able to control our expressions or temper among these culprits if we see them later this evening. And if they see through us, the families won't be safe."

Lucianne turned to her mate and asked, "You trust me to control my expression and temper?"

"I do." He said firmly with a smile. "You've had years of practice controlling what you feel about some of the ministers that you and the other werewolves loathe. This should be nothing to you. I trust you."

"Okay." She said as she scanned the names on the sheet of paper without emotion. She then folded it before slipping the note in between the cash she had in her purse. Xandar was right. Her face showed nothing. She didn't look like she learned anything new at all. 3

Ellia was getting the printed papers from the machine when Lucianne suggested, "Maybe we

ull up the blinds for the employees to see that Ellia is handing over these printed documents to us, in case the boss has any favorites with prying eyes. It will seem more suspicious if we accept the information in an enclosed scene." Lucianne was walking over to the windows but Benjamin exclaimed, (This novel will be daily updated at )"No! Your Highness, please. Let me." Benjamin was quicker and pulled up the blinds.

Xandar and Christian noticed that Lucianne was right. No one looked at first. But as Ellia was checking whether the audits were in order on her desk, and stacked

them up one after another, there were a few peeping Toms glancing through her office window. She then made a call on her office phone, "Hi, Edward. It's Ellia. Can you and Tim come up here to get these documents for the Highnesses and his Grace, please?...alright, see you in a bit. Thank you."

She then looked at the three of them and said, "They'll come help you carry these. Thank you again, your Highnesses, your Grace."

"Mrs Morgan," Christian began, "What time do you clock-out?" "Six, your Grace."

"Okay. Listen, I'm sending a car. The number plate is BLK 201. It'll arrive at six. It'll take you

and your family back home to pack. The driver will wait outside and a bodyguard will escort you all in to stand guard. Tell your assistants to pack and meet at your house. We'll transport all of you to my home. I'll let my wife know. She would have the rooms ready by then. Okay?"

Ellia nodded, "Thank you, your Grace."

Christian offered a small smile, "No need. It's the least we can do." Knock. Knock

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"Yeah, come in!" Ellia called out.

Edward and Tim entered her office, and bowed. When they stood with the royals, they went over to carry the two stacks waiting for them on Ellia's desk. Xandar put Russell on the floor, and the little boy ran straight for Lucianne's leg and hugged it while tugging her dress to get her attention.

When Lucianne felt a warmth wrap around her leg, she looked down and saw Russell. She bent down with a smile and the little boy said in a sad voice, "Are you leaving, Aunt Lucy?"

"I am, Russell. It was so nice to meet you. I hope we'll see each other again.(This novel will be daily updaed at )" Lucianne said in the same gentle tone she used with him earlier as she caressed his cheek with her thumb.

The little boy threw his small arms around Lucianne's neck, "Be careful of bad guys, okay, Aunt Lucy?"

Lucianne was so touched by this child. She hugged him back before releasing him and said,(This novel will be daily updaed at ) "I will, Russell. You be good, okay?"

Be strong." He nodded and managed a meek smile. She then got back up and looked at the Morgans as she said lightly, "Well, it was nice to see you, Ben. Ellia, thank you again for getting us the audits. You both have such beautiful children." She took one more look at the little boy and girl and said, "We'll take our leave now."

Christian mind-linked Xandar, "Damn, the Queen's good."

Xandar was equally impressed as he linked back, 'I knew she could control her emotions but I didn't know she could act so well!

'I am not sure how I'm going to act after everything that just happened but here goes.'

'I'm right behind you.'

Christian thrust his hand and Ellia shook it awkwardly, "Thank you, Mrs Morgan." He then did the same for Ben, "Pleasure to have met you, Mr Morgan." Xandar went next, copying his cousin. Lucianne held the door open and said, "Edward, Tim, here. You both go first. Those look heavy."

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"T-Thank you, my Queen." Tim said in slight shock and they both walked through the door before the three of them left as well but not before Lucianne gave a small wave to little Russell, who was waving back sadly. When Xandar noticed a few men stopped their work to look at Lucianne as they walked past, he secured his arm around her waist. Judging by her expression, she didn't know how many eyes were skimming her body.

They waited for an elevator. When a door opened and Edward said, (This novel will be daily updtaed at )"Your Highnesses, your Grace, please take this one down. We'll wait for the next one. We won't be far behind."

"That won't be necessary, Edward." Lucianne said firmly as her hand blocked her side of the

elevator door and her head gestured to them, "Get in. There's enough room to fit fifteen people. We'll go down together."

They looked at each other before Tim stuttered again, "T-Thank you, your Highness." Lucianne smiled in return. They let the receptionists enter before the three of them followed behind. Xandar couldn't help but kiss her temple at her down-to-earth gesture for the two men carrying the papers. When they reached the ground floor and exited through the entrance, Christian motioned to them, "Tim and Edward, follow me. The documents are going into my car."

"Yes, your Grace."

Lucianne then said, "Christian, Xandar is taking a stack. You can't expect to go through all of that by yourself." 1

Christian seemed to have suddenly recalled that they had to act like they were taking the actual audits. When in reality, he was going to dump all of this in the recycling pile outside his house as soon as he got home. When he snapped out of it, he managed to say, "R-right, of course." 3

Before he fumbled over any more words, Lucianne looked at Edward and said, "Edward, right this way. Xandar parked on this side. Tim, you go with the Duke."

They nodded and uttered, "Yes, my Queen."

Lucianne thanked him after he had unloaded the stack in Xandar's car. Edward then bowed and said, "It's an honour to be of service, my Queen."

When the cardoors were slammed shut, Lucianne let out a sigh of exhaustion as she kicked off her heels and slumped into the seat. But when she noticed Xandar started the engine without making a move to start driving, she looked over to him in confusion. He was looking at her with a huge smile plastered on his face.

She sat up and asked, "What? Is there something on my face?" She was reaching for the mirror on the sun visor but Xandar caught her cheek and pulled her into a kiss. When he felt her lips move in response to his, he deepened the kiss and leaned in closer to her. When his lips released hers, (This novel will be daily updaed at ) he looked deep into her beautiful black orbs and said, "I love you."

Traces of discomfort started entering her eyes as Lucianne tried to look away and whispered, "I know, Xandar. B-but I mmph..." He stopped her with another short kiss and said, "It's okay. You don't have to say it now. I just want you to know that I love you, more than anything." He pecked her on her lips again before he brought back his body to the driver's seat. Lucianne reached for his hand before he started driving and they locked their gaze as she said, "Thank

you."

He smiled and kissed her hand before she retracted it when he started driving. He then started their conversation, "I didn't know you could act so well. That moment when Tim and Edward came in. You thanked Benjamin and Ellia like nothing happened."

Lucianne looked at him with narrowed eyes, "Really, Xandar? After everything that happened there with the fake audits, and how I was not acting up until that point, you chose to start this conversation with the what...seven minutes that I did put on an act?"

Xandar chuckled, "I can't help it. I mean, it was so natural even I started to doubt if you were acting."

She shrugged as she looked out the window to enjoy the scenery, "It just takes practice. Anyone can do it." He chuckled at her humility, "And how did I do?"

"Not well." Lucianne said without hesitation.

"Wait, seriously?"

"Mm-hm."

"I was just copying Christian though."

"He was just as bad."

Xandar burst into laughter before asking, "Okay, my dear. How would you have done it?"

She turned to him with a smirk, "You should have spoken first, not Christian. On any occasion I've seen you both in, it was always you to thank your guests before Christian followed suit, not the other way around. And the handshake was too much. Think about it, your style is only to end the conversation with a handshake when you started the conversation with a handshake. Christian's style is like that, too. Neither of you shook Ellia or Benjamin's hands when you first met them. It was unlikely that the exchange would end with it. And what you both said to Ben was 'Pleasure to have met you, Mr Morgan'."

Lucianne shook her head with a teasing smile, "Tell me, my King. When have you ever said that in a normal acquaintance-like exchange, or any exchange?"

Xandar burst into a second round of laughter, "So uh.." he chuckled, "How was it supposed to g

o?"

She shrugged simply, "Just say what you normally would say to an actual acquaintance, Xandar. Yours could be 'Morgan, it's been a pleasure', or a plain 'Morgan' with a slight head nod, or just 'Pleasure' and a slight head nod. Christian should just stick to a simple smile and a plain nod. He normally doesn't say anything to an acquaintance after you. When you both used the words 'pleasure to have met you', a sharper listener would have been able to catch that something deeper went on. But I don't think Edward and Tim suspected anything."

He stole a glance at his beautiful mate and said, "You're really good at this. How did you even learn all of that?"

"Oh, you pick it up as you go along." She flipped her hand in the air in front of her like it was no big deal.

"Go along what?"

"Life. You meet people. You speak to them. If you pay enough attention, you can easily see how their intonations change with what they're saying, how their eyes shift when they want to avoid something, how their demeanor alters when

they're starting to lie." She shrugged, "It's no big deal. You'll pick these up." They came to a stop at a traffic light that just turned red. Xandar grabbed the opportunity to pull Lucianne into another kiss before uttering in awe, "You're amazing."

She had a small smile but her eyes showed disapproval as she said, "You are too, Xandar. Now eyes on the road." She pushed his shoulder back and he took her hand and kissed it again before letting her take it back.

After they reached the dining hall in time for tea, Xandar got a call from his doctor about Lucianne's blood test results. He insisted that there were no traces of silver ever entering her system but he would be interested to ask her a few questions if they could make the time. Lucianne agreed to meet with the doctor. So they decided to skip tea and head to the doctor's office instead.