

## **The 5-time Rejected Gamma & the Lycan King Chapter 226**

### Chapter 226 Two Hundred and Twenty-Six

Christian pinched the bridge of his nose and spoke to his Duchess as gently as he could to avoid starting a scene like his cousin, “How are we supposed to assess how sorry one is, Annie? There’s no scale for that.”

Annie then challenged her husband, “Do you mean there’s no scale, or that you don’t want to believe that there is one?”

That hit Christian. Like Xandar, he didn’t want anything but the worst for Greg. The Duke sighed, and pecked a kiss on his Duchess’s temple before reluctantly asking, “What’s the scale?”

Annie answered without hesitation, “His demeanor. By watching the way Greg speaks about everything he has done, we’ll be able to know if he’s being sincere, or if this is just a tactical move.” She locked eyes with Lucianne, and suggested, “Maybe you should talk to him, Lucy.” “NO F\*CKING WAY!” Xandar exclaimed, and instinctively wrapped Lucianne even tighter in his chest, like someone would snatch her away if he didn’t hold her close enough. «

Lucianne’s rage returned when she tried to loosen his grip as she asked her mate, “Why?! Because I’ll leave you once I see him?!”

Christian answered before his cousin could, “Because there are other people who can do that, my Queen!”

“Like who?!” Annie challenged.

Christian responded to his wife in haste, “ME! AND HIM!” He motioned at Xandar. 2

Seemingly out of nowhere, Toby muttered to himself, “That plan is doomed to failure.”

“I have the King’s Authority, Toby. I can make him answer anything I want.” Xandar declared.

Juan spoke, “That’s the problem, Xandar.” When all eyes were on the Alpha, Juan explained, “Assuming that the King’s Authority is like the Alpha’s Authority, emotions are a key element in emitting and maneuvering the power. Given how much you loathe that other Duke, your anger may suppress any apologetic statement that Greg Claw may make.”

Xandar looked at Juan in disbelief and asked, “You’re taking my cousin’s side over your sister’s? After everything that he’s done to her?”

“I’m on my sister’s side. And from whatever we’ve learned from this,” he lifted up the report before placing it back on the table and said, “I’d say the only thing he did to Lucy of his own accord was piss her off in the dining hall and on the training ground. Although I was pushing for him to be punished because he gave Sasha Cummings access to the rogues, Lucy has convinced me that... Cummings may have been able to find an alternative way to contact them. And Greg’s intentions seemed to have changed later on, especially when this report said that he attacked Helena Tanner in her own house after the Oleander blade she ordered hurt Lucy, albeit unintentionally.”

When a short moment of silence followed, Juan added, “This in no way makes me forgive him for his involvement in the Jewel Pack attack. All I’m saying is that a balanced indictment is...fair. And to see how far we should tip the scale in his favor, we should see whether he’ll return to his old ways if and when he is released from prison.”

“And you propose that your sister be the one to talk to him?” Xandar asked in dissatisfaction. Juan uttered, “Yes, not just because her emotions would be in check should she need to use the Queen’s Authority but also because your cousin seems to only want to tell her anything. The computer chip for the corruption, the location of the founders of Wu Bi Corp...he addressed the messages to HER.”

“Because...he’s in love with her.” Xandar’s onyx eyes were a shade darker when he said what everyone else was afraid of saying. Everyone read the report, which had transcripts of recorded conversations in the Kyltons’ residence, and the gossip confirmed Greg’s feelings for the future Queen.

Juan knew that was coming, and before his sister could throw a fit again, he said, “I’m not going to lie, Xandar. If it were Hale, I may be reacting much worse than you are right now. But I know Hale wouldn’t love anyone else the way she loves me, so with...probably a lot of persuasion from her, I would let her see Greg on the condition that I go with her. I would want to witness the entire exchange with my own eyes and listen to the way they speak to each other with my own ears. If he puts a claw out of line, I’ll tear him to shreds.” “That’s true.” Hale muttered with a smile by his side.

Xandar’s eyes moved to Lucianne, and after staring into her hopeful orbs and pondering for a long moment, he planted a deep kiss on her forehead that sent a shower of sparks through Lucianne’s being before he repeated Juan’s words in a low voice, “If he puts a claw out of line, I’ll tear him to shreds.”

Greg was lying in the prison bed with an Oleander bracelet on his right wrist. It was getting boring. How did inmates entertain themselves here? ‘There has to be something’, he thought to himself. He sat up and looked around the small space before hearing heavy footsteps getting closer to his cell. A policeman emerged, unlocked his door and said, “We need you to be ready in the interrogation room. You have a visit from the Crown.”

Of course he did. As he left his confined space without another word, he was secretly impressed that his cousins got to this phase of facing him in prison in such a short span of time. He and his animal thought the two would take at least a month before the King came down here and used his Authority to make him vomit whatever sh\*t there was in his head.

But Greg wasn't worried. He had already told Billy to activate Codes Orange and Black, which would involve the evacuation of everyone under his care and supervision. They would've been safely evacuated by now. Even if that goody-goody cousin of his forced him to spit out whatever he knew, his information would be outdated and useless. His people were safe, and that was all Greg needed for now.

Then again, maybe he didn't come for information. Maybe the other Duke just wanted to kill him for what he did to his Duchess...or maybe the King wanted to beat him up for falling in love with his mate...or it was both.

They reached an empty room with a one-way mirror, and the policeman got him to sit while he waited. He doubted that he'd be able to see Lucianne. After handing over the recordings, his secret that he kept to himself had come out. There was no way his cousins would let the Queen come after the police handed them the report.

## Chapter 227 Two Hundred and Twenty-Seven

He waited for two minutes and started getting bored, so he got up and his back faced the door as he stretched out his body to stop himself from falling asleep. The door opened, and without turning around, he scoffed darkly and spoke in arrogance, "I must say, I'm impressed. Here I thought your slower brain would take more time to..." he turned, and saw a beautiful Lucianne looking straight at him, making Greg's cocky eyes widened in horror and guilt before he fell on one knee and said, "My Queen. I am so sorry. I convey my most sincere apologies. I thought you were—" "The King?" Lucianne asked as she remained standing in her navy blue dress.

Greg looked uneasy when he nodded and said, "Or the other Duke...I didn't think your mate would allow you in here." What the f\*ck were his cousins thinking?! If it were Greg, he'd never allow it. Lucianne nodded

with a flat smile and said, “Well, he wasn’t going to. Have a seat, your Grace.”

‘He wasn’t going to? She argued her way to come here? This had to be important’, Greg thought to himself.

As soon as they were seated facing each other at the small square table, Lucianne’s eyes were pinned on her entwined fingers before Greg asked, “What seems to be troubling you, my Queen?” Lucianne looked like she was choosing her words carefully. Finally, she spoke, “The monarchy is submitting a recommendation, and we can’t come to a consensus of what we should propose to the legal system without knowing why you chose to... incriminate yourself.”

Greg raised his eyebrows and answered, “Wasn’t that the right thing to do, my Queen?”

Lucianne locked her eyes with his and said, “You very well know that’s not what I meant, your Grace. You could have done this years ago. Why now?”

Why now? She was still asking that despite the recordings? He looked away as he uttered, “I doubt you’ll believe me when I say this but...” he cleared his throat and continued, “It’s...difficult... to not give you what you want.”

That answer and his uneasy demeanor were enough to convince everyone watching them that Greg was sincere, that this was NOT a tactical move in some hidden scheme. There was no scheme. His voice echoed only vulnerability. Lucianne felt her mate’s jealousy building up strong and fast, so she moved on to her next question, “When you helped start the corruption scheme, no doubt not knowing that the Kyltons were the people you were working with, did you feel that it was...wrong?”

Greg heard the hopefulness in her voice. She came to help him. It was so difficult to not fall even harder for her when she did that. They probably

couldn't reach a consensus on the monarchy's recommendation because Lucianne somehow hoped that he was sorry for what he did. But Greg knew better.

He looked at the ground when answered her question, "No, I never felt that way. I'm sorry, my Queen."

Lucianne digested his response before she asked, "You're sorry for not finding corruption to be?"

"No, I'm sorry for disappointing you." Greg still couldn't look her in the eye when he said in a low voice, "I may not agree with my cousins on a lot of things but if they told you that there's no use in showing me mercy, my Queen, I have to agree with them. I have done unforgivable things. Everyone knows that."

"You've also done commendable things. Not many people know that." Lucianne said encouragingly, using the voice she only used when she spoke to her friends and allies. Greg never heard her speak to him like that before today.

The Duke looked at Lucianne in disbelief right after she said that, and she continued, "I doubt you wanted the shelter of prison. And you knew that handing over the evidence AND yourself with it would only make your life more difficult than if you chose to run away. But you stayed anyway. And I don't see any fear in your eyes, your Grace. All I see is certainty in what you're doing. There's another thing..."

Greg waited, and she said, "You confessed to giving Annie the infertility poison, even though you could have kept it hidden, even though you could've brought that secret to your grave. Confessing to harming the Duchess only makes your situation worse, not better. But you did it anyway."

“Admitting to crimes that grave is far from commendable, my Queen.” Greg muttered. How could she see any good in that? There was NOTHING right about what he did.

Lucianne let out a sharp breath and muttered, “You and your cousins are equally stubborn, more alike than any of you would admit.”

Greg hated that he was behaving like his slow-thinking cousins, and he hated more that he upsetted Lucianne but he didn’t know what to say. With another sigh, Lucianne said, “Let’s try it this way: why did you admit to sterilizing Annie when you didn’t have to?”

Greg swallowed a lump in his throat, and thought about lying. But that would only disappoint Lucianne even more if she found out the truth later. Even if he wanted to lie, his animal wouldn’t have allowed it. They already upsetted her. They were not going to do that again.

Greg took a deep breath before he said, “Because... when I found out that you...succumbed to the same poison, my Queen, I wanted nothing more than to capture, torture and kill the person who was behind it. In my mind, the ones behind such an inhumane crime shouldn’t be given a chance to escape or to live.”

Lucianne internalized his frank response before she asked, “So, you regret what you did?”

Greg scoffed and said, “Regret seems a little too noble, my Queen. I’d say that I’m merely offering someone the chance that I didn’t get myself.” 1 Lucianne furrowed her eyebrows, crossed her arms and leaned back into her chair as she challenged, “And how is offering someone a chance to capture, torture and kill you not noble, your Grace?”

“Because I was the perpetrator. Nobility requires something less...malicious.” 3

“So, you’re saying that offering your life is not noble? It’s malicious?”

“My Queen, you really don’t have to do this. I turned myself over because I figured what I did was...not right. Just think of it as me...respecting the system.”

Lucianne muttered to herself, “Hm. Didn’t expect you to respect anything, to be honest. This is good progress. So,” She looked at him and continued, “If you were to see...the Duke or Duchess, would you have anything to say to them before they tortured or killed you?”

Greg pondered for a moment, and reluctantly looked at the one-way mirror, knowing that the others, including the Duke and Duchess, were watching him, as he said, “When I did it, I wasn’t sorry. But...after it was used on the Queen...I started to...relate to the pain that I have caused you. Both of you. I admit that you both will feel a deeper pain, a greater loss than the mild one I experienced but...I have no excuse. You have every right and reason to kill me for what I did.” He looked back to Lucianne and said, “As do you, my Queen.”

Lucianne offered a small smile and said, “If I wanted to kill you, your Grace, I would’ve done it by now.” She stood from her seat, and Greg’s animal was saddened by the thought of seeing her go. He stood when she did, and Lucianne thrust out a hand for a handshake.

Like the previous time, Greg stared at her small hand for a moment before he took it, bent down and pecked a polite kiss on the back. Lucianne took back her hand, and smiled meekly as she said, “Thank you for your time and for the evidence, your Grace.” 1

“It’s a duty and a pleasure to serve, my Queen.” Greg uttered.

The moment Lucianne stepped out of the door, Xandar’s jealousy and insecurity diminished... until he noticed Sebastian Cummings walking past the room he was in with the others. 1



## Chapter 227 Two Hundred and Twenty-Seven

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## **The 5-time Rejected Gamma & the Lycan King Chapter 228**

### **Chapter 228 Two Hundred and Twenty-Eight**

It was a given that Sebastian would bump into Lucianne. With nothing but annoyance, the Lycan King muttered, “You’ve got to be f\*cking kidding me.”

He dashed out of the door, and the first thing he heard Lucianne said was, “I killed her. I’m not sorry that I did it but I am sorry for your loss.” Sebastian’s voice was soft and gentle when he responded, “She would’ve continued to find ways to hurt you if you kept her alive anyway, my Queen.”

When Xandar came to Lucianne’s side, his hand instinctively went to her waist as he pecked a kiss on her hair. The King then scowled at Sebastian, who offered a bow and greeted him, “Your Highness.”

Xandar nodded curtly in acknowledgment. When Sebastian's head raised, he spoke in remorse, "I deeply apologize for my sister's...crimes, as well as my father's."

Before Xandar could say that sorry didn't rectify what those two did, Lucianne said, "You need not apologize, Mr Cummings. You did nothing wrong. You didn't collude with your father or your late sister, and you have fully cooperated with law enforcement throughout the investigation. We should be thanking you for choosing the Kingdom over your family."

Both men were surprised by how diplomatic Lucianne's response was. Sebastian took a moment to snap out of it before he said, "I was simply doing what I thought was right, my Queen. I'm glad you approve."

That last line was enough to make Xandar emit a low growl. Lucianne placed her hand on her mate's chest as she spoke to him affectionately, "Darling, it's alright. We're being civil." 1

The way she touched him and spoke to him managed to calm his bubbling inferno, and he pecked a kiss on her forehead before he muttered, "Okay." Lucianne showed him an adorable smile that pulled his heartstrings, and his rage melted away. 5

Lucianne turned back to Sebastian and said, "Thank you for letting me take up your time, Mr Cummings. We'll let you get to the visitation now." Sebastian smiled and said, "It really was no issue at all, my Queen."

Lucianne and Xandar only took three steps before Sebastian called out, "My Queen."

Lucianne turned, bewildered. Next to her, Xandar was cursing under his breath. Sebastian swallowed a lump in his throat before he said, "I really am sorry, for everything."

For cheating on her. For hurting her. For lying to her. For throwing a fit when he lost to her in combat practice the previous year. For being too egotistical to celebrate her wins. For not defending her when he should have. For leading her on only to break her heart in the end. For everything. This was definitely a more proper apology compared to the one he tried to make outside the restroom on the first morning of the collaboration, which had nothing but excuses. The apology he made at the refreshments table the other day was not sincere either since there was an ulterior motive to win Lucianne back despite her already being bonded to Xandar.

The apology Sebastian was making now, however, had no excuses, no blame-shifting and no ulterior motives. Just a sincere expression of regret with a guilty demeanor, taking full accountability for what happened between them.

Lucianne offered a small smile, and said sincerely, “Thank you, Mr Cummings.” She then returned her sights to Xandar, and pulled him by his arm before entering the room where the alliance, Duke and Duchess were eavesdropping through the door that was left ajar. 1

The moment they entered the room, Xandar took his mate’s hand that Greg kissed and trailed it along his neckline before positioning it over his mouth to suck on it. After Xandar was satisfied that Greg’s scent had been completely wiped off HIS mate, they began discussing what to do with Greg again.

After an hour, the monarchy’s recommendation was finally concluded: two whips per week for an imprisonment period of fifty years, and a fine double of the stolen value. Christian wanted it to be ten whips per day but Annie fiercely talked him out of it. The Duchess recommended cutting out whipping entirely but this was overruled by everyone except Lucianne. Two whips got the majority’s agreement.

Ht

When that was done, they left the police station in their respective cars. Before Xandar started driving, he took Lucianne's hand and pecked a kiss on the back before asking in a soft voice, "Baby, when do you want to get married?"

Lucianne blinked at his question as she muttered, "Right. The date hasn't been set yet. Uh...when do you want it?"

Xandar chuckled and said, "About a month ago, when I met you." 1

Lucianne narrowed her eyes and asked, "Do you have a date that's not in the past, my love?" "Next week?"

"I don't think we can plan a wedding in a week, darling. How about six months from now?" Xandar groaned and complained, "Too long." "Four months?" Lucianne tried again.

He leaned in to smell her neck as he muttered, "That's still too long, baby. I'm starting to think that you don't want this beast to be your husband." "Xandar, you know that's not it. It's not just the planning. If you want any guests at the wedding at all, you've got to give them some kind of notice in advance so they can save the date for us."

He groaned again and muttered, "Over-considerate Queen." After pecking a kiss on her cheek, he asked, "How about in two months?"

"Three."

Xandar sighed and said, "Fine. And your coronation?"

Lucianne shrugged and responded, "Anytime after you meet former-Alpha Ken and former-Luna Janice is fine with me."

"In a month's time, then? We'll leave for Blue Crescent after the collaboration, come back, then crown you."

Lucianne nodded and said, "Yeah, okay."



When Xandar still didn't start driving, Lucianne looked at him and asked, "What? You want to plan the whole wedding in the car, Xandar?"

Xandar chuckled and nuzzled her nose as he said in an affectionate voice, "I'm just thinking about our honeymoon."

Lucianne's heart melted, and she pecked a kiss on his nose before saying, "We have a lot of time to discuss that, my love. Why don't we just take a drive back for now? If we stay here any longer, Dalloway is going to think we still have business to deal with in the police station."

"Okay." Xandar whispered as he stared at her dreamily before pecking a kiss on her lips, uttering,

"I love you, Lucy."

"I know, Xandar. I love you, too." 2

## **The 5-time Rejected Gamma & the Lycan King Chapter 229**

### Chapter 229 Two Hundred and Twenty-Nine

The one-month collaboration came to an official end three days later, and Gamma Tobias Tristan took the stage once again as the Gamma representative and as the stand-in Minister of Defense.

"Good morning, everyone. We've come full circle back to this ceremonial room, and yet the events from the past four weeks have been anything but normal. For one, I now have a private jet." Laughter ensued, and many wolves laughed so hard that tears started coming out of their eyes.

When it died down, Toby continued, "It goes without saying that this month has been phenomenal. In a historic collaboration between the government, the monarchy and the alliance, we brought down a rogue corporation and arrested its founders who initiated the corruption scheme within the government; dismissed and replaced many

incompetent, untrustworthy and undignified ministers; and werewolves now hold temporary positions in government, which may \_ turn permanent if we win the election in nine months time **COUNTING THE VOTES OF WEREWOLVES!**”

A deafening applause and cheers followed, and Lucianne pecked a kiss on her mate’s cheek as she clapped with the others, and her mate pecked a kiss on her lips and temple in return.

Toby’s voice continued to ring through the speakers, “Representation is something my species had never dreamt of getting. And speaking of dreams, I must admit that it was never in my wildest dreams that I thought I would see the Lycan King OR Queen fight alongside us. But the battles we fought in the past few weeks showed that our King AND Queen will NEVER leave us on the battleground to fend for ourselves ever again.”

Another round of applause followed as Xandar’s fingers entwined Lucianne’s own before he pecked a kiss on her small hand, resting their joined hands on his lap.

Toby proceeded to say, “They prioritize our lives over their own, which is more than we can ask for as their subjects. Of course, my speech wouldn’t be complete without addressing the elephant in the room: the fact that I am now one of the few people who can address His Royal Highness by his shortened first name.”

No one laughed louder than Xandar at that point. While everyone laughed and clapped, Toby locked eyes with Lucianne as he started talking about the REAL elephant in the room, “My best friend found her mate. And for once, it was someone who is serious about her; someone who is capable of loving her and protecting her; someone who would do anything and everything to keep her; someone who doesn’t need her to give up who she is and what she loves; and someone who is terrified of losing her.” 1

Lucianne held back her tears as she started stroking Xandar's hand. Toby continued, "And I would like to take this opportunity to convey an announcement requested to be made by the SECOND scariest creature in the room, who is also my new friend, Xandar, that..." The burst of laughter forced Toby to pause and laugh with everyone. The audience knew that Toby was trying to imply that his best friend was the scariest creature despite her small size. 4

When he could compose himself, he announced, "Our Queen will be crowned next month, which is long overdue if you ask me." The Gamma fixed his eyes on his mentor, who had taught him so much, and said, "You've been a Queen long before you were bonded to the King, Lucy. Most of us saw you as the Queen of Gammas who didn't need a King.

Everywhere you go, you make the people there better. I cannot thank you enough for everything you've taught us, everything you've taught me, and everything you'll continue to teach everyone in your years as the Kingdom's official Queen." 1

A booming applause followed. "It's without a doubt that this year's collaboration created history. At the beginning of the month, if you told me that Lycans and werewolves would sit amongst each other as all of you are now, I would've laughed at you, and recommended that you visit a mental asylum. But look at us."

The Lycans no longer only sat in front and wolves behind. Seating was free now, with both species sitting together, amongst one another. There were smiles, nods of agreement and murmurs of concurrence at what Toby just said.

"Look at how far we've come in just a span of four weeks, and imagine how much further we can go in the span of four months, four years and four centuries!" The power and enthusiasm in his voice made everyone clap again.

“It’s time we brought the acceptance and respect we instilled for each other back to our own packs, to show them that we can live as one. There’s still a long way to go in terms of policies and whatnot but for the first time, I have faith. WE have faith that this is a start of a new era, a hopeful one, one with great potential. To our cousin species, I thank you as this year’s Gamma representative for accepting and respecting us. And thank you for letting us know that you won’t kill us.” More laughter ensued, mostly from the Lycans. Weaver was already leaning against Yarrington’s shoulder for support as the latter chuckled uncontrollably with his mate.

Toby then started wrapping up his speech, “It has been a pleasure to meet and work alongside so many of you this year, and it is an esteemed honor to speak on this stage twice when the Queen herself was only allowed once. Even then spoke as the elected Gamma, not the Queen.”

Toby braved through the urge to laugh with the audience again as he finished up, “Before I take my leave, I would like to wish His Royal Highness the very best of luck when he meets his future adoptive father-in-law, who, from what I’ve heard, hasn’t exactly warmed up to him yet. The former Alpha of Blue Crescent, Ken, is no joke. Like Alpha Juan now, Ken was one of the fiercest Alphas of his time. So, our King would either come back in one piece, or we would have to settle with only the Queen running the Kingdom in the near future. Let’s hope for the best. Have a safe trip home, everyone. And thank you.” 3

The crowd got on their feet, laughing and clapping as Toby stepped away from the microphone. Christian laughed so hard that he was out of breath and was in tears. Annie and Lucianne were no different. Xandar took the last part of his speech a little more seriously than the rest but his mate’s beautiful laughter was enough to make him laugh with her.

Xandar and Lucianne handed the reins of the Kingdom to Christian and Annie as they left for Blue Crescent with Juan and Hale. Lucianne could feel that Xandar was nervous during the whole trip there, and tried her

best to calm him, telling him that Ken was actually really nice once he got to know him. They even picked out gifts for Ken and Janice to make sure that the former pack leaders won't be too hard on Xandar.

## **The 5-time Rejected Gamma & the Lycan King Chapter 230**

### Chapter 230 Two Hundred and Thirty

At Blue Crescent, Lucianne dashed to the packhouse first while Xandar, Juan and Hale took a little more time. She wanted to butter-up her overprotective adoptive father before he met her mate. Ken and Janice didn't live in this packhouse after retiring as Alpha and Luna but they stayed here for the past month to babysit the grandkids. Juan and Hale's kids were still in school, so it was just the adults and the two servants in the house now.

Ken was already waiting at the entrance when Lucianne ran into his open arms as she called out "Daddy!" like a little girl. After squeezing the girl he raised as his own, he managed a small smile and asked, "Buying brownie points for your mate, baby girl?"

Lucianne showed her doe eyes and said, "Xandar is really nice, dad. And I really love him. Promise to go easy on him?"

Ken narrowed his eyes and retorted, "No man is nice, baby girl. I thought I taught you that." "What about you, dad? You're nice." Lucianne continued to speak with innocent eyes.

Ken sighed. His heart always melted whenever Lucianne looked at him like that, and he patted her twice on the head like he did ever since she was merely a child as he said, "You know I'm only nice to my little girl. As for your mate...if I kill him, I promise it'll be a quick death."

Before Lucianne could protest, Ken smiled wider and said, “It was a joke, Lucy. Lighten up. Go help your mother. She’s in the living room arranging the cookie jars.”

Lucianne was not going to leave until he did. She knew Ken. In her schooling years, guys have come over to the packhouse for tutoring sessions since she did well in science and mathematics, and Ken was strict with all of them even though Lucianne assured him that they were just classmates, nothing more. Now, Ken was going to meet her fiancé. There was no telling how he would behave when he met Xandar.

Xandar, Juan and Hale were waiting patiently behind the father-and-daughter pair, being careful not to interrupt them. They heard the last part of the conversation, which did not ease Xandar’s anxiety at all. Juan went to his father first, and the two shook hands like formal acquaintances rather than embrace each other like father and son. Ken then hit Juan at the back of his head with his palm, as if it was for disobeying him.

Juan knew exactly what that was for. Ken had been complaining non-stop about Juan giving Xandar his blessing to propose to Lucianne BEFORE Ken gave his own. And Ken didn’t even want to get started on the fact that Lucianne was already marked BEFORE he met the idiot who did it!

As Xandar watched Juan’s interaction with his father, he began to wonder if Lucianne was really the adopted one. Maybe he would have had an easier time courting Juan instead.

After Ken patted his daughter-in-law on her shoulder to acknowledge her return, it was Xandar’s turn to step forward. His animal took a deep breath as Xandar approached the old man and shook his hand, trying his best to not look too intimidated by his hard stare. Lucianne and Juan exchanged tense glances, both hoping that Ken wouldn’t throw a punch on the new addition to their family.

Ken's expression was unreadable, and when he released Xandar's hand, the Lycan King uttered a properly-rehearsed, sincere apology for not making the effort to meet Ken and Janice sooner. That seemed to cool Ken a little.

'At least he isn't too egotistical to own up to what he did wrong', Ken thought to himself. He knew that Lucianne was watching, so the adoptive father didn't say or do anything that may upset his little girl. Everyone then adjourned to the living room, where Janice was.

Xandar presented Ken and Janice the gifts that he and Lucianne picked out for them. Ken got a leather wallet, and Janice got a necklace. Janice was elated and impressed. Ken was not, but nonetheless grudgingly thanked Xandar after being nudged by his wife.

Janice was more welcoming with Xandar. She even offered him a hug before they all sat in the living room. The former Luna took a great interest in Xandar's life, and asked him all sorts of questions, from his family to his hobbies. When Xandar sheepishly mentioned that he liked reading anything on history, Ken was pleased despite not showing it. It was almost impossible to find another person who loved to read as much as his little girl did these days, so the seemingly-cold father would admit that he felt...grateful Xandar and Lucianne shared this in common.

When Janice ran out of questions to ask after two hours, Lucianne talked animatedly about her dates with Xandar. She only told Ken and Janice overtexts and short mind-links before, so she was elaborating further now. The sight of their adopted daughter glowing when she mentioned that Xandar bought her all those books made Janice smile wider, and made Ken scowl less. And when Lucianne got out her phone to show them the reading wonderland that Xandar built for her in his villa, the ice in Ken's heart thawed a little more.

When Ken asked about their infiltration in Wu Bi Corp, Lucianne, Xandar, Juan and Hale all knew they were walking on eggshells from here. Juan and Lucianne agreed to share the details with their parents

face-to-face, and they were to do it together. Since Ken was softest to Lucianne, she took the lead. Lucianne tried to water down the severity of her situation but to no avail.

She couldn't lie about it since Ken would just see right through her. And Ken threw sharp glares at Xandar and Juan when Lucianne reached the part of the rogues pinning her to the wall before Jake tried to mark her by force. Janice had to hold her mate's hand when Lucianne reached the part of the Oleander.

Lucianne tried to lighten the mood by speaking cheerfully about how the Queen's Authority could be emitted in her human form but was strongest when she brought her animal forward to combine its strength with her own. But even the mention of the Queen's Authority didn't seem to make Ken any less enraged. If looks could kill, Xandar and Juan would have died right then and there. « When Lucianne finished the story, even she held her breath to wait for Ken to say something.

