The 5-time Rejected Gamma & the Lycan King by Stina's Pen Chapter 101 - 105

Chapter 101

Lucianne tried to stay focused while Xandar took in her scent so intimately, and said, "Alpha Clement...definitely didn't try to mask his shock." Xandar took comfort in the fact that Lucianne referred to the Alpha by his title. It meant that she kept her distance from him, which was good enough for now.

Lucianne continued, "For the few weeks after that, he trained with us. His partner was always Juan. Juan even clocked in more training hours just to get Clement prepared as quickly as possible. When he could beat Juan three days in a row, he went home and challenged his brother. And he won when Jake surrendered. Jake took Iris and a few of their friends with them. They were cast out as rogues, never to return. We haven't seen or heard from them ever since."

He buried his nose in her hair, taking in her scent to calm his anxiety and insecurity before he asked, "Did you like him?"

"Clement? Well, he's nice but..." before Lucianne could finish, Xandar's Lycan emitted a low, murderous growl.

Lucianne looked up at him and was met with his angered onyx eyes. With a soft gaze, her small hands traced up his hard chest to his neck before going up to his jaw and chin. She then started to gently and slowly stroke his cheek and traced the features on his face.

His bushy eyebrows; his broad forehead; his well-defined nose; his lips. Xandar's animal emitted a n appreciative growl as the sparks from Lucianne's touch calmed its being. The onyx shades were diminishing as he took in the sight of his beautiful mate seated on his lap, with his arms fastened around her small body. Her soft gaze quieted the bubbling volcano in him. And his animal purred in bliss as Lucianne's hand made its way to Xandar's thick hair.

With a small smile, she leaned in and pecked a kiss on his lips. Lucianne then pressed her forehead gently on his as she whispered, "I'm with you, my indecent beast. Only you." She was saying those words more to his animal than to Xandar himself.

Xandar relaxed a little. Only a little. His lips moved to her jaw and traced her skin up to her ear where he muttered in his deep, husky voice, "Should I know anything else about Clement?" The hateful way he said the Alpha's name did not go unnoticed.

Lucianne chose her next words carefully, "I doubt so, darling. Apart from collaborating as allies, we never kept in touch." 1

That was good news for the King. "Does he have a mate?"

"He did." Lucianne responded in a whisper.

Xandar's head moved away from her neck, and he locked eyes with her when he questioned, "Did?"

Lucianne nodded sadly. "His bonded mate was the former Beta's daughter. They were engaged but two days before the wedding, Alpha Clement received an anonymous heap of evidence in an envelope, showing that his mate cheated on him with someone from another pack while they were together. So, he rejected her and was left heartbroken for quite some time."

"You two seem to have something in common." Xandar said in a dissatisfied tone. 2

Lucianne rolled her eyes. "Don't discredit me, Xandar. He went through one rejection. I have five of those under my belt. And what is it with you? I was never intimate with Alpha Clement. We have only ever been friends. Honestly, my King, why are you making a big deal out of this? You don't see me getting angered over your intimate past."

"That's because I don't have one, Lucy." Xandar said firmly.

Lucianne snorted in disbelief. "You expect me to believe that in your one hundred and seventy eight years as Prince and as King that you were never intimate with any other female? That your first experience of intimate love is with me? You expect me to believe that you're a virgin, Xandar?"

"Yes." Xandar affirmed his assertion, his eyes peered into Lucianne's doubtful black orbs like he was asking her to believe him. 1

"Yeah, right." Lucianne averted her eyes because she felt a slight discomfort in her chest. Just the thought of Xandar choosing someone else was capable of breaking her into pieces. She knew that he was never intimate with Kelissa Kylton but that didn't mean there wasn't anyone else before her.

Many Alphas have numerous sexual partners before finding their mate. Xandar was the King! There was no way he hadn't already slept with a long line of women before meeting her. Sure, there wasn't any intimacy but that didn't mean that there wasn't any casual sex from time to time.

Lucianne didn't know but she bit her bottom lip as her arm slowly went across her chest, like she was shielding her heart.

Any remaining jealousy and anger in Xandar vapourized in an instant when he watched her demeanor change. It was painful seeing her arm going across her chest like that. He was the last person who wanted to break her heart, and his Lycan sighed in regret in his head before it made his human part hold her closer. Very cautiously, he removed her hand guarding her heart and planted a deep, assuring kiss on her temple before guiding her head to lean against his chest.

With his other hand, he dialed Christian's number and waited. Lucianne didn't know who Xandar was calling. She just assumed it was something about the government or the rogue Lycan. After two rings, Christian's voice came through the other end of the line, "What's up, cuz? And why didn't you just mind-link me?" Lucianne had a 'what are you doing?' look when she faced Xandar.

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Chapter 102

With a cheeky glint in his eye, Xandar said, "You'll know soon. And remind me, Christian. How many women have I been with before our Queen?" 2

Lucianne flinched a little away from Xandar at the words 'how many women'. But Xandar's arm reached out to trap her body and pressed it back into his, his clear lilac eyes locked with her anxious black ones.

Christian took a moment before responding, "Is this a trick question? Cuz, when have you ever..." h e paused, and his voice took a teasing twist when he said, "Oh, wait. I think I get it now."

Lucianne was flustering in embarrassment. Even so, she took the liberty to utter a not-so confident "Hey, Christian" through the line.

Christian chuckled before he said, "Didn't believe that you're my cousin's first and only love now, did you, my Queen?for more visit :- www.noveljar.com" Xandar was smirking cockily at his mate as he held his phone.

Lucianne braved through the embarrassment as she said, "In my defence, it's unbelievable, for the both of you, in fact. Being who you guys are."

"Ah, yeah. Kings and Dukes do get a lot of offers." Christian said. "But it was all rather a turn-off if you asked us."

This piqued Lucianne's curiosity. She leaned into Xandar's phone as she asked, "What? Why?" Xandar had already started running his fingers through her luscious curls at this point, feeling the softness in her hair that always softened his heart.

Christian then said, "Think about it, my Queen. If you were born into some high position and you get all these offers, would you be convinced that they're there for who you are and not what you

are?"

Lucianne rolled her eyes at the question. "Of course not. But that's me!"

"It's us too, Lucy!" Xandar exclaimed firmly. His desperate lilac eyes locked with her black orbs, begging her to believe him. His hand in her hair had stopped moving as his entire being focused on assuring her that he was never intimate with anyone before her.

There was a moment of silence before Christian's cheeky voice rang through, "Cuz, chill. Annie didn't believe me when we had this talk either. And let me remind you, Greg was feeding her with lies back then. You're having it way easier than I did."

Lucianne relaxed a little when she heard that Annie was in the same boat as her years ago. Xandar then retorted his cousin, "I wouldn't say that, Christian."

Lucianne's eyes widened in fear, and there was a cheeky glint in Xandar's eye again before he continued, "Do you have any idea how many men she has attracted...."

"No! That's enough. Give me that." Lucianne cut Xandar off mid-sentence as she tried to reach for his phone. He swiftly held it away from her, and she started climbing on his body just to reach for i tas Christian's uncontrollable chuckles rang through loudly from the other end of the line,

When she was close enough, Xandar dropped his phone in his other hand and his free hand held his frantic mate by her hips. Her embarrassed but fierce eyes locked with his amusing ones before Christian finally stopped his laughter and said, "I can't say I'm surprised, cuz. She's still attracting them anyway. Maybe it's a tie between us. We both have it equally hard with love. I had Greg and Annie's colleagues. And you have...well, every mateless creature." And he continued laughing.

"That's not true!" Lucianne shouted from a distance of the phone.

"My Queen, just because you don't see it, it doesn't mean it isn't true. So uh, cuz, how many men was it again?for more visit :- www.noveljar.com" Although the question was directed at Xandar, the three of them knew that it was to tease Lucianne.

Lucianne started reaching for the phone again but Xandar locked her body in his embrace as he said, "I don't know. I'm still counting."

Then something hit Lucianne, "I wasn't intimate with whoever you have in your head, Xandar. If we're talking about attraction, then let's start counting yours. Between us, I already know who's going to have the higher number."

Christian's contemplative voice rang through, "Oh, this is gonna be tough. Do we have to bet? I honestly don't know which one of you will win."

Lucianne looked at the phone in frustration as she would Christian if he were in the room." Christian. The King or the Gamma. Which do you think?"

"Uh... gosh, this is hard." Christian continued to ponder in seriousness before he said, "The Queen! That's the answer! I knew that was a trick question!"

"It wasn't a trick q-" Lucianne's protest was silenced by a sweet peck on her lips, which sent a course of pleasurable sparks into her being, calming her irritation and annoyance.

Christian then said, "Cuz, why are you fussing over this again? It's not like she had a boyfriend when she met you like Annie did when I met her." Lucianne smirked victoriously at Xandar.

Xandar sighed in frustration, "Christian, the whole point of calling you was to get you on my side."

"I am but don't you think you may be overreacting? The Queen is practically blind to all the hearts she's stealing anyway. Annie wasn't. Be grateful, cuz."

Now, both Lucianne and Xandar wanted to protest what Christian just said. But then Annie's voice came soft in the background, "Is that Xandar? Why didn't you two just mind-link?"

Christian chuckled lightly before explaining casually to his mate, for more visit:www.noveljar.com "Do you remember that talk we had about me never being with anyone else before you, my Duchess?"

"Yeah." Annie's voice was louder now, standing closer to Christian's phone.

"Well, the King is having that talk with the Queen now. She didn't believe him when he told her \cdot either."

There was only silence for a moment as Lucianne covered her face with both hands in embarrassment. Everyone waited for Annie's response.

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Chapter 103

Annie said, "Lucy, these two are weird. They were never the type to go out and look for love, or even something with no strings attached. They filled up a lot of time with combat, travelling, hiking and all those adventurous kinds of things, you know? But I get that you don't buy it. I didn't either. It just felt like he was lying to my face."

"I know, right?!" Lucianne exclaimed at her understanding.

Annie continued, "I mean, one can hardly count the number of people after a Duke, let alone a King!"

Xandar spoke next, "And that's where our conversation should end. Thanks, An-"

Before he could say goodbye and hang up, Lucianne snatched his phone and covered his mouth with her small hand as she continued speaking to Annie, "And did you know what Xandar was trying to do? He came up with this imaginary number of men after me, and kept

ber of men after me, and kept getting angered over people whom I've never even been with!"

Xandar tried taking his phone from her but not before Annie's voice chimed through the speaker again, "I don't think those are imaginary, Lucy."

Xandar stopped his efforts as he waited. And Lucianne suddenly felt like she was about to be betrayed by Annie. The Duchess continued, "When we went to the cafe the other day, many eyes were on you, and it wasn't because you're Queen. There was no look of recognition in their eyes, just alluring glances and yearning smirks. So, Xandar's anger is quite justified if you think about i

ces

Xandar's insecurity returned strong, and he pressed Lucianne's body tightly against his again as h e started kissing Lucianne's hand that was still covering his mouth. When she was retracting it, h e groaned and placed her hand back over his lips and started sucking on it.

His grip was too strong so Lucianne gave up trying to take back her hand as she narrowed her eyes at the phone, "Seriously, Annie? Even if that were true, did you really have to go into such detail?"

Christian's soft chuckle came from the other end before Annie said, "Well, I haven't told Christian this either with everything that just happened so I was thinking hm... I could just tell him now when I talk to you."

"Probably not the best plan, Annie." Lucianne retorted.

Xandar stopped his assault on her hand for a moment to say, "I disagree. But it's not like I didn't already know that. We went out twice already after all. I'd be blind to not see those bastards looking at you like I wasn't right next to you."

Annie exclaimed, "Really?! Wow! Even a King can't project enough fear to stop those eyes. I'm starting to see why Christian used to have a problem with that."

"Correction, my Duchess. I'm still having a problem with that. Why do you think I prefer ordering

take-outs rather than dine-in?"

Lucianne scoffed not-so-subtly. Annie then said in mock annoyance, "What is it with these cousins? It's not like we'll leave them. If anything, they're m-"

"They're more likely to leave us! Yes! I'm completely with you mmph-" Lucianne only completed Annie's sentence midway when Xandar's lips trapped her in a deep kiss that sent her into a slight daze. The sparks were intense. The sensation spread from her heart and channeled throughout her entire body. It made her doubt her doubts about Xandar, and her body inched closer to her mate, yearning to close whatever distance left between them.

When their lips parted, Xandar said in a low, firm tone, "Now, that's a lie."

Christian joined in, "Calling it a lie is putting it too lightly! It's total bullsh*t! Neither of us had past lovers. There was never anyone else for us. You two ladies, on the other hand, had someone like that. Plus, one of the things you both have in common is that frustratingly long line of admirers who all look like they're just waiting for us to screw up so they'll get a chance to steal you away from us!" 1

It was the first time Lucianne heard Christian sounding so scared and vulnerable, the very same emotions she saw behind Xandar's partially onyx orbs

Lucianne, whose eyes remained locked with Xandar's, asked, "Annie, any tips on how I can get out of this? I've tried everything I know but I clearly don't know enough. I keep telling Xandar that I'm only with him but I'm not sure if that's working for me anymore. Got anything stronger I can use?"

Annie sighed. "If you do, let me know."...

"Annie, you've been married for seventeen years. There must be something you say to calm your

mate."

Annie sighed. "Yeah, momentarily. What I learned is that his jealousy doesn't really go away. You can put the angry beast to sleep but..."

"But the beast won't sleep forever." Lucianne completed her sentence and chuckled as she leaned into Xandar's hard chest to listen to his heartbeat as she uttered, "Well, it's a good thing too, I guess. At least we know they don't see anyone else."

Both Xandar and Christian can be heard scoffing, and there was a moment of silence before Xandar pecked a kiss on Lucianne's forehead, his eyes already returned to its original lilac color as he gazed at her in pure bliss.

Annie's voice then broke through the silence, "Lucy, Xandar told Christian you read a lot. If you find anything to calm these two Lycan men, please let me know. Preferably something that makes them magically see that us leaving them is downright ridiculous."

Before either cousin could speak, Lucianne exclaimed, "Will do, Annie!"

"C-Cuz, what just happened?" Christian asked like he was just brought out of a daze.

Xandar sighed, "Our Queen trapped me in her eyes so I couldn't focus or respond on time."

Christian agreed, "Same here with my Duchess. Dangerous creatures, aren't they?" Despite his

choice of words, his voice only echoed love, affection and devotion.

Xandar pecked a kiss on Lucianne's temple before he uttered in agreement, "Dangerous at its highest degree."

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Chapter 104

After saying their goodbyes and hanging up on the Duke and Duchess, Xandar's arms circled his mate's body as she snuggled in his chest. Lucianne's phone vibrated again. Xandar inhaled her scent from her hair as she removed the 'Get ready for dinner' reminder from her notifications bar.

Xandar chuckled at her cute habit and suggested, "How about we just call room service and spend some quiet time together tonight, my love?"

Her affectionate black orbs met his lilac ones as she pecked a kiss on his lips before whispering," I'd like that."

Xandar beamed, and with his arm still around Lucianne's waist, he picked up the receiver from the table next to him and ordered steak for his mate and spaghetti for himself. They enjoyed each other's touch and scents while they waited.

Lucianne was getting addicted to the rhythm of Xandar's heartbeat. It was the most comforting and assuring sound she'd ever heard. It made her feel safe, and it made her feel loved. Xandar's eyes were closed the whole time he breathed in and out from her hair.

After a moment he muttered, "I love your scent, Lucy. You smell like home."

Lucianne couldn't stop the tears from escaping her eyes. Home. The word reached into the deepest parts of her heart, sending a gentle warmth throughout her body as the feelings of belonging, desire and love flow through her. When Xandar felt his shirt absorbing some of her teardrops, he panicked.

He immediately lifted her chin up and asked in concern, "What is it, baby? What's wrong? Is it the pain from the poison?"

Lucianne chuckled lightly and shook her adorable little head before pressing her lips deeply on her confused mate's lips. When she pulled away, she whispered firmly, "You feel like home, Xandar. My home." Xandar's own eyes began glistening in pure joy and happiness as he planted another deep kiss on her lips. They only pulled away when the doorbell rang.

The staff came in with a long trolley with their food, and set it right in front of the couch. After leaving with a generous tip, Lucianne was about to dig in before Xandar took her plate away. She looked at him in bewilderment but when he took the knife and fork that were already in her hands, she got pissed. "Xandar, that's my food!"

Xandar chuckled at her annoyed expression before pecking a kiss on her cheek. "I'm feeding you, my love. You just recovered. You should take things slow."

"Not this slow!" Lucianne tried to reach for her plate again but Xandar held it away from her before calming her down with another kiss on her lips. When their lips parted, his eyes penetrated into hers as he uttered, "Let me, Lucy. Let me feed you." Another brief kiss, then he added, "Let me love

you." 1

Lucianne sighed in defeat and said, "It's not fair, Xandar. You know I can't say no to you when you

use that line."

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Xandar's expression brightened in realization, "Wait, really? I didn't know that! So, our Goddess is fair then! I used to think that she gave you those innocent doe-eyes to make me melt and give in but gave me nothing to do the same to you." he pecked another kiss on her cheek and said."

Thanks for the tip, babe."

Lucianne emitted a low growl of hunger and irritation. Xandar then dropped his humour and surrendered as he said, "Right, let's get you fed, my hangry little freesia."

He placed her on his lap and started slicing small cubes of the steak. After two small bites, Lucianne complained, "Xandar, my mouth can fit more than that! Just cut them a little bigger!".

He nuzzled his nose with her earlobe and whispered, "As you wish, my Queen." A visible red blush graced Lucianne's cheeks, which made Xandar smile and his animal pur. The intensity of redness was returning to normal, much to their relief.

After Lucianne had cleaned her plate, Xandar dabbed a wet tissue on her lips and around her mouth before he reached for his mildly-warm spaghetti. When he lifted up his fork and was about to dig in, Lucianne pulled his plate away and snatched the fork from his hand. His shocked eyes met her bright, taunting ones.

"Babe, what are you doing?"

"Feeding you." she answered simply while skillfully swirling the noodles with the fork.

"No, sweetheart. You're supposed to be res,"

"Please?" she showed him her doe-eyes, and Xandar groaned as he gave in, making Lucianne let out a cheeky laughter in response. Her chuckles made his body gravitate towards hers, closing whatever distance between them. His arms circled her waist, and his head rested on her shoulder as he waited to be fed.

Xandar didn't realise how hungry he was until the first mouthful of spaghetti. It was only then he remembered he hadn't eaten a proper meal since Lucianne was hospitalized. His eyes never left his beautiful mate's face. When the plate was empty, Lucianne's hand lifted

his chin up as she gently wiped away the little stains the food made. When she was done, she muttered a satisfied," There." 2

As she was retracting her hand from his chin, he grabbed hold of her wrist, and pecked a kiss on her thumb before uttering in his husky voice, "Thank you, baby."

Before Lucianne could respond, Xandar's eyes glazed over.

'Cuz, the Chief just called. He couldn't reach your house or your phone so he called me.' Christian linked ominously.

'Sh*t. My phone must have died.'Xandar linked guiltily, and took note of his cousin's unusually serious tone before he linked, 'What did he say?'

Christian sighed. 'The four ministers they arrested are pleading not guilty to the charges, saying that they were coerced to do what they did. They claimed that the true mastermind blackmailed them to siphon government funds.'

Xandar instinctively pressed Lucianne's body on his chest to calm himself before he asked his cousin, 'They gave the name of the one running Wu Bi Corp?'

'Yes, I can't believe we didn't see it! It was so obvious! Cuz, do you know how stupid I feel right now?'

'Who is it, Christian?'

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Chapter 105

'Greg.' Christian linked.

Xandar took a moment to digest that fact before he linked, 'They all said that?'

'Yup.' Xandar sighed before he asked, 'I hope they're arresting him, then?"

'Uh-huh. teams have already been deployed when the Chief made the call to your place. He just wanted to let you know seeing that he's your other cousin.'

'I see. Thanks for letting me know, Christian.'

'No problem. Charge your phone, cuz.'

'Yeah, I'll do that.'

When his eyes cleared, he saw that both of Lucianne's small hands were wrapped around one of his large ones as she traced the lines on his palm and fingers. Lucianne didn't know that the mind -link had ended, and she continued minding her own business with her mate's rough and strong hands. But when Xandar suddenly trapped both of hers in the one she was playing with, her eyes snapped up to his partially onyx orbs.

"It's Greg, baby," he uttered ominously.

Lucianne blinked in confusion as she asked, "Greg is what, darling?"

He hugged her close as he explained, "Greg is the leader of Wu Bi Corp. He ordered the silver that hurt you in the Jewel Pack. He sent those rogues that killed so many of your kind. He was the one who came up with the scheme of siphoning funds. I don't know if he forced Cummings and the others to join his corrupted scheme, but he was definitely the one spearheading it. Odds are, he even had Tanner send that assassin after Russell which got you hurt, using her to cover his tracks."

Lucianne's soft face turned serious as she pondered on his words. Something seemed off to her. If i t really were Greg, and if he really wanted to kill her with silver and Goddess knows whatever else he had access to with Wu Bi's resources, how was she still alive?

He could very well kill her whenever she was alone: on her morning runs when Xandar hadn't joined her yet; when she excused herself from the dining hall to use the washroom; whenever she was in her hotel room alone; or even before Xandar arrived at the hospital

after she fell unconscious. Annie was there with her but Greg wouldn't have been scared of the Duchess.

If he wanted her dead...why go after Russell? If Greg really wrote the note on the knife, why was it addressed to Ellia and not Lucianne herself? Ellia didn't even know Greg as far as Lucianne and Annie could gather from their conversations with her.

"Baby, a penny for your thoughts?" Xandar said with obvious worry.

Lucianne's doubtful expression met his when she asked with furrowed eyebrows, "Are you sure it's

Greg?"

Xandar blinked in surprise before he responded, "Their stories seem to match up. Cummings and the others, I mean. If it wasn't Greg, why would they all say that it's him?"

"If it were Greg... why would he go after Russell? It makes no sense."

"I don't know, baby. Maybe it was a trap to get the Oleander into you. Maybe the note and Russell was just to mislead us." Xandar scoffed darkly as he muttered, "And he had the gall to come to the hospital that day."

"Wait, what?"

Xandar's still-onyx eyes locked with her completely-lost black orbs as he said in an angered suppressed voice, "When they were doing the blood transfusion, Greg came. He wanted to know what happened. Hmph." Xandar shook his head. "As if he didn't know. He was probably there to gloat."

Lucianne asked suspiciously, "What did he say?"

"He asked what happened to you. After Dr Gina came out and told us that there was a chance you may be alright, that you were healing yourself from Oleander, he blew up, blaming me that the Oleander got into your system." Xandar shook his head before he muttered, "What a convincing, manipulative hypocrite he is."

"Xand," Lucianne was interrupted by the doorbell.

Their sights glanced at the door and then back at each other before Xandar asked, "Were you expecting someone, Lucy?"

"No." she said, as lost as her mate was at the moment.

Before she could get it, Xandar walked ahead of her and his hand subconsciously shielded her body from the front. As soon as Xandar turned the knob and saw that it was just Chief Dalloway, his arm that was in front of Lucy moved to her back, circling her waist and pulling her close to the side of his body. After exchanging bows, the Chief got to the point.

"The Duke told me you'd be here, your Highnesses. I apologize for the intrusion but this couldn't wait. The...other Duke was not in his residence. Our people are still searching. But we retrieved something from his home when we sought to arrest him. It was addressed to you..." He handed a beige envelope in his hand to Lucianne and continued, "My Queen."

"Me?" Lucianne asked in surprise.

The Chief nodded, and Lucianne hesitantly took the envelope from his hand. She and Xandar read the cover together, which read 'H.R.H. Queen Lucianne'. Her future title was scribbled almost illegibly, but her name 'Lucianne' was written clearly, even beautifully. Lucianne turned it to the back and found that it was sealed by the seal of a Duke. In the whole Kingdom, only the King, Queen, Dukes and Duchesses had their personal seals but these were rarely used.

Before Lucianne could open it, Xandar's fingers fell lightly on hers that were trying to open the envelope as he suggested in a soft voice, "Baby, maybe I should do it. Just in case."

Lucianne narrowed her eyes at her worried mate as she retorted sarcastically, "In case of what? Poison pollen?" Before Xandar could say or do anything, she broke the seal and opened the envelope that contained a folded note. The outside was blank. She unfolded it and found a microchip stuck with tape on the inside, and only one line in Greg's almost illegible handwriting: this should get you a head start, my Queen.

Without glancing at the two men, Lucianne said, "Come in, Chief. Looks like this is something we should all see."

Her tone gave no room for discussion, and the Chief obliged without another word. Lucianne got out her laptop and placed the microchip in her SD card before inserting it into her laptop. And they waited.

Lucianne clicked on the only folder in the chip, and the folder expanded to a seemingly-infinite list of all kinds of things, from phone records to bank transactions to names. The three of them were left speechless as Lucianne skimmed through one file after another.

When she found the one on audits, and realized that the details matched with the ones they went through with Ellia and the others, Lucianne stared at the screen as she asked aloud, "If Greg really i s behind this, why would he disappear and leave me this? Why didn't he just disappear without a trace?"