The 5-time Rejected Gamma & the Lycan King by Stina's Pen Chapter 71 - 75

Chapter 71

The rogue was already pale from exhaustion when he muttered grudgingly, "I am to kneel... and bow before the Queen."

The wolves looked teasingly at the flustering Lucianne. In the interrogation room, Xandar smirked like a cocky winner, "Good that you've come to your senses. We're done for today. Chief Dalloway will take it from here now."

As Xandar got up, so did Christian and Juan. And the Duke went behind the rogue, slammed the rogue's head against the table one more time before the King fractured the rogue's neck, earning a painful whimper from the criminal.

Xandar smirked in arrogance and satisfaction before he walked out the door. When the wolves started getting up from the chairs, Toby tried to copy Xandar's murderous expression and repeated the King's words out loud, "What should you do if you are in the Queen's presence?"

Lucianne punched Toby to the side with force again. He let his body fall sideways on the table as he started chuckling uncontrollably.

Zelena then started with a teasing smirk, "Kneel,"

Her mate, Zeke, playfully continued, "And bow."

Tate finished, "Before the Queen."

"Guys. Seriously, stop it." Lucianne pleaded, hiding her face with her hands in embarrassment.

Xandar opened the door, and Toby got off the table, still chuckling as he went to join Raden and Tate. Xandar stopped the alliance from offering him another bow for the day as he went straight for his mate with smiling eyes. His demeanor was a complete change from just ten seconds ago.

Xandar's hands pressed on the table, and his arms trapped Lucianne's small body between them. Xandar pecked a kiss on her lips before he uttered in a low, husky voice, "When we are in the Queen's presence, we are to kneel and bow before the Queen." The upward curl of his lips showed that he heard everything from when Toby copied him.

Lucianne continued to blush as she tried her best to ignore the cheeky giggles among the wolves and told her mate, "Making one kneel is highly unnecessary, my King."

Xandar mocked frustration, "Oh, come on now, my Queen. We wouldn't want to confuse the rogue now that I've just gotten him to come to his senses on the formalities."

Lucianne smirked, "You've gotten him to come to your senses, you mean?"

He looked a little guilty, genuinely guilty, as he said, "I may have overused th..." Lucy quieted

him with a peck on his cheek as she whispered, "I was only teasing, Xandar."

Xandar was visibly relieved, and Toby told Raden, "Maybe 'tame' was the wrong word. 'Control . Hm. Control the fiercest of beasts. Sounds better. Not just taming but also influencing what the beast does. What do you think, Ray?"

Lucianne narrowed her eyes in her best friend's direction, and her voice returned to normal when she said, "I'm still here, Toby, and I don—"

"Yeah, I know. So, Ray, what do you think?"

Raden shrugged and said in agreement, "Control sounds better."

Before Lucianne could retort, Xandar's firm voice filled the room, "I agree."

Lucianne turned her disapproving sights to her mate as she hissed, "Xandar, don't agree to that! You should never relinquish control of your life to someone else. In fact, no one should." Xandar inched closer to her and asked flirtatiously, "What's so bad about

relinquishing control to my mate? I'd say I've never been in better hands. And besides, you only control my behavior, not my life. My life, you guide and rule, like the Queen that you are."

When Lucianne opened her mouth to refute, he pecked another kiss on her lips to silence her and added, "It's a good thing, my love. Don't look so distraught by it. Imagine what would've happened to Caunterberg, Cummings, the Kyltons and the rogue in there if I hadn't given you control."

Lucianne argued with uncertainty, "But those are...those are different. I only got you to calm down. The control was still yours."

Xandar scoffed, "Sweetheart, if it were, they'd all be dead by now." He pecked a kiss on her forehead before he mocked a look of hurt, "Is having control over this beast such a nuisance, my dear? Are you trying to get rid of me?"

Lucianne narrowed her eyes at his overdramatic demeanor, "You very well know that's not what this is about Xandar," she sighed in worry, "You're the King. The suggestion that you're merely influenced by someone else may affect public confidence in the monarchy and the

government. To say that you've given control to me is just...wrong."

The hurt in his eyes was genuine and evident as he cupped her cheek and said, "Lucy, baby. I s my love for you wrong in any way?"

She blinked before she uttered, "I hope not."

He pressed his lips briefly on hers before pulling away and locking a firm gaze on her as he declared, "It's not, my love. It's not wrong in any way. You're the best thing that's ever happened to me. Don't doubt that. Ever. I love you."

"I-I know. B-But control..."

"Is not something that you should see as an owner-and-pet relationship. You have control

over me when I'm not in control. Other times, you're my beacon, pointing me in the right direction."

"I don't think it's customary for a King to give so much weight to..."

"To the thoughts and views of his Queen? Well, that's true but I don't want to be like past Kings, Lucy. I thought you knew that."

"I do. B_"

He took her hands and suggested with a smile, "So, why don't we start a new custom, where the King and Queen lead together, as one? That's how Alphas and Lunas do it, and the system seems to be working quite well. And that was also how you and your allies won in battles, wasn't it? Train as one, fight as one and win as one?"

The fact that Xandar took out words from Toby's speech a week ago didn't go unnoticed. Internally, Toby was squealing in excitement, even though he was just quoting his best friend at that time.

Lucianne sighed in defeat, and Xandar smelled a close victory so he kissed her forehead and smiled wider at his still-reluctant mate, "I trust you, Lucy. I trust you to control me when I can't control myself. And I trust you to give me your unfiltered thoughts on anything we talk about, be it government issues or something personal."

After planting a kiss on the back of her hand, he said, "You're more, Lucy. Much more." This line sparked confusion among everyone else in the room since they didn't have the knowledge of the private conversation between Xandar and Lucianne the first time this was said.

"Okay." Lucianne answered meekly.

Xandar was in the mood to tease his mate, "Okay? That's it? Babe, at least say that you'll happily take control of this beast. After all the effort I've put in to win an argument against you, don't you think I deserve at least that specific line?"

Lucianne narrowed her eyes at him again. From the corner of her eye, she noticed Christian shaking his head and smiling at the ground, so she said, "See, you're even making your second-in-command uncomfortable by saying those things."

Christian's head snapped up, "Oh no, my Queen. You misunderstood. I was just wondering why our King didn't find you sooner. A hundred and seventy eight years was a long wait for the both of us, but more so for my cousin." Some wolves gasped at the age shared by the Duke and their King.

It shouldn't come as a surprise but it did. Lycans can live up to five hundred years old, the longest living wolf only reached about three hundred years of age. Lycans age slower, much slower. Right now, the cousins only looked around thirty-five or so. 1

Lucianne tried not to sound too shocked as she responded, "Christian, let's face it. I didn't exist any sooner."

Christian raised his eyebrows and commented, "My Queen, it's not like you were born a week ago." He then turned to Juan, "How old is she?"

Juan replied without hesitation, "Twenty-nine two months ago." 1

The Duke nodded, then said, "It would've been nice if you came nine years earlier, my Queen."

Xandar was gazing dreamily at his mate. Lucianne blushed under his affectionate stare. When he was going for her lips, her hand pressed firmly on his chest as she said in a loud and clear voice, "Behave now, my King. We still have the issue of the rogue to deal with. What's the plan?"

The 5-time Rejected Gamma & the Lycan King by Stina's Pen Chapter 72

Chapter 72

Xandar groaned in frustration when Lucianne stopped him from kissing her on her lips. Christian chuckled while Juan pressed back a smile.

Lucianne pushed herself off the table, joining the rest of the alliance on their feet. Xandar held her firmly by her waist to make sure she didn't go any further. He pecked a kiss on her temple before he turned to everyone and said, "Wu Bi Corp is a company that Lucy, Christian, I and a few others have been investigating for a few days. When we hit a dead

end, Christian and I pulled some strings. But our contacts haven't been able to dig up anything yet. He..." his head gestured at the rogue in the next room,"...seems to have given us the fastest ticket to get to the bottom of what we're investigating."

Zelena spoke, "Your Highness, I don't mean to pry but I have to ask: this investigation, does it involve the safety of our packs?" Every wolf in the room was visibly worried for their respective packs.

Xandar furrowed his eyebrows as he matched their worry, "Before today, it didn't. Not directly at least."

"What does that mean, your Highness?" Toby asked. And Tate nudged his Gamma for wanting to poke into government issues.

Xandar saw it so he said, "No, it's alright, Alpha Tate. It's only natural to worry about the safety of your packs. Well, what we were investigating on Wu Bi Corp was concerning the provision of aid after a rogue attack. This rogue here is pointing us to the source of the attacks instead. He and his kind seem to have a good-enough system in place to threaten the safety of our people. The fact that they had enough members to be ranked is just..."

Xandar sighed in dismay as his hand ran through his hair in frustration. Lucianne placed her hand on his arm and her thumb started stroking that area in soothing motions before Xandar continued, "It's just unbelievable. I'm embarrassed to say that I didn't manage to find them before they cost the lives of so many innocent people."

Lucianne uttered firmly, "Xandar, you didn't know. No one did. Stop blaming yourself. You heard what he said about credentials. The key was to be untraceable."

Toby, being more comfortable than most of the wolves since the King was his best friend's mate, said, "And let's face it, your Highness. You have two very useless ministers running the Defence Ministry. There was no oof,"

Tate elbowed Toby in his abdomen as the Alpha hissed softly, "Toby, now you have to apologize."

Xandar chuckled lightly as he said, "Even if he does, I wouldn't accept it, Alpha Tate. Gamma Tobias is right. But those ministers will be gone soon enough. This decision was made a few days ago but we're keeping it quiet until we have all the evidence we need."

The wolves were surprised at this revelation but their shock was quickly followed by smiles and excitement

Lovelace muttered in satisfaction, "About damn time."

"Very sorry it took this long, Luna Lovelace." Xandar uttered sincerely. Everyone, except Christian and Lucy, couldn't believe what they just heard. The King was apologizing to her? He was apologizing to a wolf?

Luna Lovelace recovered from her own astonishment before smiling gratefully, "As Lucy said, my King. You didn't know. What matters is that you're now aware, and that you're taking necessary measures with the ministers and with the rogue attacks."

Lucy's voice then filled the room, "We're slightly at fault with the ongoing rogue attacks as well if you thought about it."

When everyone's attention was fixed on her, she continued, "We've slaughtered countless rogues but we've never thought of keeping even one alive to question. We just assumed that the rogues ran among a few of their kind. What if this whole time, they weren't a few rogue

packs but one mega rogue corporation?"

After a moment of dead silence, Toby muttered, "That's sh*t scary."

Juan then thought aloud, "But also hopeful." He locked eyes with his sister-like figure and said, "If we took down the corporation housing them,"

Luna Lovelace caught on, "We put an end to the strength of their attacks on our packs and our allies. Soon, we'd be able to eliminate them all."

Raden then huffed as he said, "I have always wondered where they were getting silver blades from since three years ago."

Toby then exclaimed, "It makes sense! They have a supplier and maybe even a medical team That's how some of them run away injured from one pack only to come back strong again in another pack a few weeks later."

Xandar instinctively held Lucianne closer to his body at the mention of silver before he asked Raden, "Did most rogues carry a silver blade?"

"No, my King. In an attack, maybe one or two. Because the rogues themselves were wolves, and unlike Lycans, they wouldn't have been able to hold the silver blade in their hands. Those who have the blades normally don't shift, and they come out last on the battlefield to surprise us. Essentially, to stab us while we're focusing on the shifted rogues."

Xandar stiffened again at the word 'stab'. Lucianne continued to stroke his shoulder from his side to calm him down. Xandar pondered before he took a good look at the alliance and asked in concern, "How many of you here have been stabbed by the blade before, if I may ask?"

Toby answered for everyone, "Uh, none of us have, your Highness. Apart from Lucy, none of u

s would've survived a stab. The rogue in the next room wasn't exaggerating. The amount of silver on those blades was lethal. The friends we lost were stabbed before Lucy could..."

Toby stopped when he noticed his best friend shooting him a glare with a slight shake of her head. Her thumb on Xandar's shoulder had stopped moving. And Toby's hand reached for his mouth like he just said something he shouldn't have. Xandar glanced at his fierce-looking mate before he turned back to the guilty-looking Gamma and asked, "Before Lucy could what, Gamma Tobias?"

"Uh..." Toby looked nervously at Lucianne. Xandar took a quick glance at the rest of the alliance who all seemed to know what he was going to say.

The 5-time Rejected Gamma & the Lycan King by Stina's Pen Chapter 73

Chapter 73

Toby then groaned and said, "Lucy, I'm on your side. But he's your mate. He should know. And besides, he might even love you more after I say this."

"I'm going to kill you for letting this slip, Toby!" Lucianne hissed.

"Yeah, I thought so. Sorry, Lucy." Toby said guiltily before looking at the confused Duke and King as he started explaining, "Being the only one who can heal from silver without blood transfusion, Lucy always... shielded us from the blades. She'd... throw herself in front of those one or two rogues if we don't manage to make them drop the knives quickly enough. In this room, she'd shielded me," his eyes went around the room as he continued listing, "Tate, Juan, Sylvia, Zelena and Raden." 1

Xandar's eyes pulled away from Toby when he was done. He looked at his mate and lifted her chin up gently to make her black orbs lock with his partially onyx ones as he asked in a low voice, "You did what?"

She shrugged and defended herself meekly, "We didn't have time. It was the safest way to keep the number of lives we have."

"What about your life?!" Xandar asked in hushed anger.

She said softly, "Xandar, I wasn't going to die. On the battlefield, I've always managed to get the blade out quickly. I've always healed."

Xandar's eyes glistened despite his hardened expression as he sighed in frustration. He pressed her into his chest and kissed her hair as he uttered in a homicidal tone, "When we find out who's in-charge, I'm going to shred him very slowly for making you do that."

Christian then asked, "Just out of curiosity, my Queen, how many times have you done it?"

Lucianne looked to the side from Xandar's chest and said, "It doesn't really matter, Christian. It's in the pa..."

Juan then said, "Hale mentioned that it was a hundred and two as of the last attack." 1

"Juan!" Lucianne's eyes drilled into her brother's as she exclaimed.

Xandar held her tighter. His arms caged her body like he wanted to shield her from getting hurt. She returned her sights to her mate and said, "Xandar, I'm all healed. I'm fine. Some of it wasn't even stabs, just minor scratches. In fact, some were so minor that I joined the battle again a minute later. The plan was always to stab them back with their own knife after I goti

Xandar buried his face in her hair as he uttered, "It doesn't make it any less wrong. You shouldn't have to get hurt."

"Xandar, I'm fine! Look at me! I'm fine!"

He let her part their bodies, and Lucianne's heart ached at Xandar's watered eyes. She cupped his cheeks and pecked a kiss on his lips as she assured him, "Darling, everything turned out fine, okay? We have a lead now. Things are only going to get better from here. Let's just focus on the now, okay?"

He managed a small smile and kissed her deeply on her forehead before he uttered, "Okay."

Lucianne let out a sigh of relief, and Toby uttered the word 'control in Raden's way with a cheeky smirk. She threw a sharp glare at Toby and Juan before declaring, "I'm not going to show you two any mercy at training tomorrow." Juan scoffed, "When have you ever shown mercy at training, Lucy?"

Toby then spoke in mock ominousness, "Tate, I'd like you to kill me now, please." Chuckles filled the room.

Tate smirked as he patted his Gamma on the shoulder, "No can do. I don't want to be the next one on the Queen's murder list."

Before Lucianne could say anything more, Xandar lifted up her dainty hands and pecked a sweet kiss on her fingers before he said, "Easy now, babe. They were just enlightening us."

Christian added, "My Queen, the way you tried to keep that a secret is perplexing. I mean, it's a noble act. Scream it, talk about it, flaunt it for Goddess sake! Why are you so reluctant to let u s know about it?"

Lucianne rolled her eyes, "It was about keeping our friends alive, Christian. It was never about telling the world. Besides, your cousin doesn't take stories of me getting hurt very well."

Xandar pecked a kiss on her temple as he uttered in his husky voice, "You haven't the faintest idea of how important you are to me, my love. Can you blame me for overreacting when you get hurt?" 2

Lucianne tried but failed to suppress a shy smile when the words he said and the tone he used touched her heart, making her give in as she uttered a soft, "No."

"Good that you know." Xandar said. He returned his sights to the alliance and said, "Chief Dalloway will have the report prepared by the end of the day. Once he sends us the information that the rogue is now giving him, I'll forward them to the rest of you. Until then, I'm afraid we can't proceed further."

"T-Thank you, your Highness." Toby was the first to come out of the shock of being given a report that entities like the government only kept to themselves. Even allies had no right to demand such things, and now the King was offering confidential information without any of them asking? Amazing!

After the rest of the wolves thanked him, Xandar shook his head slightly and said sincerely," It's the least we can do after the sacrifices you've all made. Not just in the Jewel Pack but in every battle before that. Seeing that I have two very useless Defence Ministers," he threw

Toby a smile before continuing, "I'll need all the help I can get from people who can actually help."

Zelena said, "It'll be an honour, your Highness." She then turned to her mate and squealed," This is so exciting, I can't wait!" Zeke pressed back a smile and held her by her waist as he said, "Zel, we're in the presence of royalty. Let's keep it together, okay?"

Zelena narrowed her eyes and retorted, "Oh, please. It's not like the King has been keeping it together whenever his eyes are on Lucy."

"Oh, goddess." Lucianne muttered to herself as she buried her face in her hands in embarrassment. Xandar smiled broadly as he gently took her hands into his to see her

beautifully-blushed cheeks before pecking a kiss at the corner of her lip to affirm Zelena's remark.

Sylvia muttered to Lovelace, "Adorable, aren't they?"

Xandar's eyes stayed on Lucianne as he answered Sylvia instead, "Yes, she is." Lucianne resorted to looking at the ground with a flustered face and a shy smile.

The 5-time Rejected Gamma & the Lycan King by Stina's Pen Chapter 74

Chapter 74

Xandar and Christian treated the alliance to lunch, and everyone dispersed after that. Christian went home to Annie, and the alliance headed back to the hotel for a rest.

When Lucianne got into Xandar's car after waving goodbye to the others outside the restaurant, Xandar smashed his lips on hers without warning. He then pulled away just slightly before saying, "I want to show you something. Come with me?" Lucianne averted her gaze and blinked to get herself out of her daze from the kiss but Xandar pressed another deep one on her lips as he said in a husky voice, "Don't think, Lucy. Just say yes." He kissed her gently again before whispering, "Say yes."

Lucianne could only smile shyly as her thumb traced his lower lip line while muttering in a soft voice, "I was going to say yes when you first asked anyway."

He took her hands and pecked a kiss on her cheek and said, "You're so cute when you're shy."

Her already-warm cheeks became even warmer. "Xandar, I'd like my hands back please." She

glanced at her small hands secured firmly in his larger ones.

He grinned as he said, "No, you'll just cover your face. I like seeing you like this. (This novel will be daily updtaed at www.noveljar.com) All red and warm."

Lucianne tried to control the blushes while thinking of a way out, "Unless the thing you wanted to show me is here in the parking lot, don't you think we should get going?"

Xandar smirked as he held both her hands in one of his, and his free hand reached for her chin as he said, "Nice try, sweetheart. We have time. I don't see the need to rush there." His thumb then started stroking her warm skin on her cheek for a moment before he uttered like he was in a trance, "Beautiful."

Doubt crept into Lucianne's eyes, and she forced a meek smile under his gaze. His animal whimpered, fully aware that she still didn't believe she was beautiful. He pressed their foreheads together and pecked a kiss on her lips before saying, "Lucy, you are the most beautiful creature in this Kingdom. Even the Moon Goddess would be jealous of your beauty."

Lucianne scoffed but she stopped herself from arguing with him when she saw that her reaction only made Xandar look even more hurt. She kissed him on his chin and uttered sincerely, "Thank you, Xandar."

The hurt didn't vanish, and Xandar sighed softly before he kissed her fingers and said in a firm tone, "You'll believe me one day. I'll make sure of it."

He finally let go of her hands and reached for the steering wheel, driving them out of the parking lot and back to his villa. Xandar then led Lucianne out of his garage and towards the forest behind his home. When they reached the trees, his eyes fixed on his mate's as he said," We should shift, Lucy. It's quite a run from here."

"Okay." Lucianne was turning until Xandar caught her hand and pulled her into another brief kiss before letting her go. They both shifted behind different trees, and Lucianne held her clothes between her canines as she came out from her changing spot. Xandar's Lycan approached her and it knelt on one knee as Xandar linked, 'Babe, let me hold that for you. You might get your clothes dirty.'

He didn't even wait for her to respond before reaching for the clothes in her mouth and holding it with his. When it was secured in his hands, he asked, 'Ready?'

'Yup. But not too fast, Lycan.'

He smirked, 'Not so cocky about a wolf's speed and agility now, are you, my love?'

She narrowed her eyes, 'Ohh, I cannot wait to find techniques to defeat your animal.'

His Lycan chuckled. 'Neither can I, Lucy.' (This novel will be daily updtaed at www.noveljar.com) It then nuzzled its nose with hers as she giggled through the mind-link, melting the heart of the strongest and most ferocious creature in the Kingdom. "Let's go." He said and they started running through the trees.

Lucianne paws hit the ground on the unfamiliar forest floor. Sunbeams which hit the ground lit up the forest. The adrenaline rush was intoxicating, and Lucianne ran faster and faster. Xandar sped up whenever he noticed Lucianne was. After a good fifteen-minute run, they came to two paths. Xandar motioned to the left and that's where they went.

'Where does the other one lead to?'

'If we kept running for another twenty minutes, we'd reach Christian's and Annie's place.'

'Oh. That's nice.

He chuckled in response, and they kept going down the path until they came to a gushing river. The boulders in them seem to form a narrow path to get across.

'I should carry you to get across! 'The boulders are quite broad. I think I'll be woah-'

Xandar lifted up her wolf with ease, and carefully strode across the river before putting her back down when they reached the other side. After running through another stretch of trees, they came to a clearing. The sight before them left Lucianne awestruck.

Her widened sapphire eyes took in the large field of freesias of all colors before them. She took small steps towards a batch of red ones near where she was standing, and inhaled the fruity scent. Her Lycan mate was next to her when he asked softly through their link, 'Do you like it?'

Her excited sapphire orbs met his nervous lilac ones as she said, 'What's not to like? Look at the flowers! It's like they run for acres! I can't even see the end of this field. It's amazing!

'You're amazing, Lucy.'Xandar said and nuzzled on her forehead. 'We're not there yet. Let me

show you my spot.' He lifted her up and placed her over his shoulder. Lucianne was going to protest until she noticed that she had a better view of the flowers from above.

Xandar put her down when they reached a large acacia tree. (This novel will be daily updtaed at www.noveljar.com) The interesting thing was that this tree had its bark surrounded by the flowers from the field. The other smaller and thinner trees by its side didn't. Xandar put his mate down gently and said, 'Let's shift back, darling.'

'What's wrong with staying in our animal form?'

'Other than being unable to see your blushes? Absolutely nothing. Go on. You take that tree. I'll take the one on this side.' He passed the white wolf her clothes and ushered it to one of the smaller trees. He then disappeared behind another one on the other side.

The 5-time Rejected Gamma & the Lycan King by Stina's Pen Chapter 75

Chapter 75

When Lucianne was done dressing up, she came out of her spot and took her time to walk back to the largest acacia tree, captivated by the number of freesias between her feet and in front of her. She leaned against the largest tree trunk and was rooted to the ground even when Xandar's tall figure approached her from behind.

One of his hands reached for her abdomen and the other for her arm. He took in her scent from her neck before he whispered into her ear, "I come here when I need to get away for a while. From everything."

She turned her head and her eyes met his as she asked, "Since when?"

He smiled at the memory, "Since forever. Whenever I need a break from what I am, what I have to do and who I have to be, I come here for some quiet time... and to just be by myself. Away from all pressure and expectations. I did come here more often after my parents and I stopped seeing eye to eye. There's something about this place that just makes it welcoming.. and soothing."

"I feel it too." She took a breath of air filled with the scent of the freesias before she asked, "Does Christian come here with you sometimes?"

Xandar shook his head and rested his chin on her shoulder before looking up into her eyes, "He doesn't know about this place. I never told him or anyone else. It's my escape from everything and everyone so I keep it a secret."

Lucianne felt a tug in her heart, a tug towards him. He brought her to a place where no one else in his life knew about. She was so touched and surprised that she didn't know what to

say.

Xandar saw the surprise in her eyes, and he chuckled lightly before he held on to her hand and sat himself on the ground, his back leaning against the tree. He then patted on his lap, motioning his mate to sit there as he looked up at her in hopefulness and anticipation. Lucianne returned his smile as she sat sideways on his lap. Xandar held her close to his chest and pecked a kiss on her temple before he started stroking her arm in slow motions.

Lucianne returned her sights to the field before them. That was when Xandar said, "I don't believe that it's a coincidence, you know?" She looked at him in confusion so he continued to explain as his beguiling eyes fix on her black orbs. "What are the odds that the place I seek refuge from all these years is filled with nothing but freesia, and then I'm bonded to a mate named Lucianne Freesia Paw?" 2

Lucianne was surprised by this revelation. She didn't make the connection to her name. These were always her favorite flower because of the colors and scents but she didn't connect the field before her to herself. When she continued to look in her mate's way, her attention suddenly went to the tree they were under.

She smiled to herself and muttered rhetorically, "And what are the odds that all these freesia are surrounded by a forest of acacia trees?"

Xandar's smile fell as jealousy and insecurity swam in his eyes, making him hold her closer a she asked, "What do you mean? You know someone who's named after these trees?

"No, but I do know someone who smells like them."

"Who?" Xandar asked in a homicidal tone, eyes already filled with insecurity and jealousy.

When Xandar's lilac eyes started to develop onyx shades, Lucianne chuckled and said, "It's you, Xandar. You smell like these trees. How can you not know that? It's your scent."

The onyx disappeared from his eyes, and he tickled her waist as he muttered, "Little rascal." After being satisfied with her blushes and giggles, he stopped his assault and held her closer to take in her scent again. He never noticed the trees surrounding the flowers. He only saw the colorful field, nothing else, which made sense. Whenever Lucianne was around, he only saw her, nothing and no one else.

He then said, "You know, if these freesias can let these acacias surround them and protect them, you can too. You can let me protect you. You don't have to be so strong for everyone all the time."

Lucianne smiled shyly as she leaned into his warm, hard chest, "I'm not a flower in the field, Xandar."

He pecked a kiss on her hair before declaring, "That's right. You're my flower." She looked up a t him before he continued, "And I'm your acacia forest, my little freesia."

She reached for his cheek and her thumb caressed it as she whispered, "Thank you, Xandar."

His hand went for her nape, supporting it as he inched his head to one side before closing his eyes and pressing his lips on hers. Her lips responded instantly. When Xandar got her lips to part, he deepened the kiss and his tongue stroked the walls inside her mouth.

Xandar moaned in approval as the scent of his arousal started filling the air around them. His free hand ran along Lucianne's arm, giving slow, gentle squeezes down its entire length.

When Lucianne was out of breath, Xandar continued pecking kisses on her cheek, jawline and neck. She let out a soft moan, and the scent of her arousal was beginning to get noticeable. Xandar's hands traced the side of her upper body before moving on to her

thighs. Lucianne tilted her head to one side, giving her mate more access to her neck to continue his assault there. His free hand traced her ankle to her knee, stopping at the end of her thigh.

When she moaned again, he continued kissing her deeply at her neck as he mind-linked his mate, 'Oh, baby. I love hearing you moan like that.' His coquettish link made Lucianne moan yet again.

He gave her thigh slow, gentle squeezes to intensify her arousal as he linked, 'Mmm...

keep'em coming, baby. Moan for me.' He began sucking her skin all around her neck.

"Xandar... Oh... Xandar." Lucianne gasped his name like she was in need of air. She already felt his manhood hardened against her bottom, and she herself was feeling a painful tug at her lower abdomen.

He smirked at her neck before pulling away to look at his dazed mate, "Babe, if you keep saying my name like that, I can't promise that I won't lose control. Your moans are already powerful enough to drive me and my animal insane." Before giving her a chance to respond, h e pressed his lips on hers again, with more lust than passion.

His hand continued squeezing her thighs in desperate need, moving up her skirt until he reached her underwear where he felt something that got him and his animal ecstatic and even more aroused.