# The 5-time Rejected Gamma & the Lycan King by Stina's Pen Chapter 96 - 100

#### **Chapter 96**

Agnes was taken aback with what Lucianne just said but she stubbornly insisted, "No, I did. It was me. Please. I've always h-hated Ellia Morgan, a-and I wanted her j-job, a-and..."

"Who do you love most, Agnes?" Lucianne interrupted her with a seemingly-unrelated question.

Agnes was confused but seeing Lucianne's warm, encouraging smile, she nodded with uncertainty and uttered, "M-My child, your Hi-Highness."

Lucianne smiled wider and leaned closer as she asked, "A boy or a girl?"

"G-Girl." She was still lost.

"What's her name?"

"B-Bethany... we call her Beth."

Only then did the men know what the Queen was doing. She was getting Agnes to trust her enough to open up. But Lucianne wasn't done yet, and she asked with interest, "How old is she?"

"Four. Well, five next month, my Queen." Agnes said, stuttering and fidgeting less than before.

"Is there anything in particular that Beth likes?" Lucianne asked, and when Agnes looked into her eyes, she saw no manipulation, no hidden agenda. It looked like Lucianne was genuinely interested to know about her little girl.

Agnes cleared her throat before she offered a small smile and said, "Chocolate, especially fondue."

"Oh, so does my niece! We always got her chocolate fondue instead of a cake for her birthdays." Lucianne shared.

Agnes was sucked into the conversation so she said, "That's actually a good idea. Peter and I never thought of that. Probably time to do away with the cake tradition." Lucianne chuckled lightly, encouraging Agnes to smile wider.

Agnes suddenly remembered where she was and what she was doing. Lucianne caught her regaining awareness too so she reached for her hand again and said, 'Agnes, we know you didn't do it. It's okay if you don't want to tell us who asked you to do it but I need you to tell me something." This piqued Agnes's and everyone else's curiosity. Wasn't finding the culprit the whole point of questioning Agnes?

Lucianne peered into the woman's lilac eyes and asked in worry, "Beth and Peter, are they safe?"

Agnes's eyes widened and she was going to break down again but Lucianne leaned closer towards her and said with determined eyes, "Agnes, tell us where they are. We can protect them. We've been looking after Ellia and the others for days. They're all safe. The three families are safe. We can offer you the same protection. But you have to let us help you. You don't have to tell us anything yet. But we need to know where your husband and child are."

Agnes was terrified and shocked at the same time, "H-How did you..."

Lucianne said sadly, "Your colleagues were forced to do things they didn't want to do because they wanted to keep their families safe, too. Agnes, were you given a timeline to make this false confession?"

Agnes blinked and furrowed her eyebrows as she uttered, "Uh.... I have until three in the afternoon, she said. What time is it, by the way?" Everyone caught the word 'she', and the three of them knew exactly who they were after. 1

Xandar's eyes glazed over as he linked Christian, 'I want Helena Tanner arrested.'

'On it, cuz.' Christian immediately conveyed Xandar's order to Chief Dalloway, and he disappeared into his office to assemble a team, give instructions and deploy them.

Lucianne checked her phone and said, "It's one in the afternoon. There's still time. Now, Peter and Beth."

Before she could finish, Agnes willingly said, "Peter is at work in Gauss Enterprises. Beth is in Pokey Oaks, about a ten-minute drive from Peter's place. I didn't tell him about any of this."

Lucianne nodded in understanding, "Okay, we'll go get them." She tumed to Xandar, who gave her a head nod as he linked, 'I've just got Christian to send people to go get them, Lucy.'

When Lucianne's eyes cleared from Xandar's link, she looked at Agnes again and asked, "Is there anything you need while you wait? Food? Or water?"

Agnes shook her head and wrapped her arms around her body. She got lost in thought for a moment before she said in despair, "I just... really need them to be safe, you know?"

Lucianne matched her despair as she whispered, "We all do, Agnes. What's being done to you isn't right."

Agnes's eyes locked with hers again as she said, "If you have Ellia and the others, it means that... you already know who's doing this."

Lucianne gave a small smile and uttered, "We have a good guess but until we hear it from you, Agnes, it's just a gue..."

"Helena Tanner." Agnes said.

Lucianne nodded sadly, "Yeah."

For the next agonizing fifteen minutes, the room was in dead silence, with Agnes taking audible, anxious breaths from time to time. Then, Xandar's eyes glazed over for a moment before a smile graced his features. He walked over to Lucianne and caressed her shoulders lovingly before turning to face Agnes as he said, "We got them, Agnes. Your husband and daughter. They're on their way here."

Agnes let out a sigh of relief, and tears started flowing down her cheeks. The weight she had been carrying from the moment she was threatened is now easing. Lucianne held her hands before locking eyes with her. "You did the right thing, Agnes. You saved your family."

Another fifteen minutes later, there was a knock on the door and Christian held it open before

allowing Peter and Beth into the room. The couple embraced, and Agnes then wrapped her arms around the little girl who called out, "Mommy!"

Everyone else left the room, giving the family some privacy. Outside the interrogation room, Chief Dalloway had bad news. "Tanner is not at her office. Our team at her house couldn't find her there either. We tried contacting her husband and sons but they seem to have vanished. Neither of them turned up for work, and no one has heard from them since yesterday."

Xandar then asked, "Camera footage?"

"Those in their house have been disabled since this morning, my King."

"Anything before that could be helpful?" Christian asked.

"Not that we know as of now, your Grace."

The cousins exchanged worried glances before Xandar asked, "How is the progress with the rogue Lycan?"

"He's being very cooperative, your Highness. But I don't know how much more he knows. There seems to be no end to his knowledge of everything you've asked of him."

If the rogue Lycan could give them everything they needed to know about Wu Bi Corp, there was no need to let the five people from Ellia's list roam free any longer. They had to be arrested and held behind bars before anyone else got hurt. Xandar looked at his mate, who was watching the family reunite without knowing what they were saying

His hand reached for her waist and he linked her, 'We have the rogue now. We don't need to hold the arrest of those five for corruption any longer. We should detain them before anyone gets hurt.'

Lucianne didn't say anything. With a straight face, she gave a firm nod as her eyes continued to be fixed on the family. Xandar got Christian to give the order. Dalloway, though stunned by the people he was asked to arrest, deployed his teams again.

Xandar pecked a kiss on Lucianne's temple as he linked, 'What's on your mind, baby?'

She shook her head in dismay as she responded to his link, 'This happened because Tanner wasn't arrested earlier. Because I said that we shouldn't touch any of the five yet.' Despite her hardened expression, her glistening eyes betrayed how she was really feeling inside.

"Baby, hey, come here." Xandar pressed her into his chest. Although he didn't hear her sobbing, he felt her tears on his shirt. His heart clenched, and he kissed her hairline before he uttered firmly," None of this is your fault, Lucy. The plan was to not touch the five to find the sixth party involved. We just found the rogue to get that information. We didn't know Tanner could be arrested earlier."

'Someone could've gotten hurt.'

He parted their bodies and cupped her cheeks, pulling her face up to meet his. As heartbreaking as it was to see his mate's red eyes and tears, he peered into those black orbs he loved with his entire being and said firmly, "But no one got hurt, Lucy. It was a possibility but it's not anymore. Look at them, they're safe. The danger they were in is now gone. Because you saved them. You got Agnes t o talk to us. Baby, the crook is Tanner. This is none of your fault. Please, don't blame yourself, my

little freesia. Don't you see they're only safe and relieved now because you got the truth out of her?" 2

Christian was minding his own business on the side until he saw Lucianne's teary eyes, so he started listening to what his cousin was saying to the Queen. When he realized that she was blaming herself for Tanner's threat, he slammed his forehead against the wall at her absurdity. 1

"Christian, are you okay?" Lucianne asked in a hoarse voice when she heard the loud thud from the impact

Christian groaned softly. He rubbed his forehead for a moment and said, "My Queen, I'm not the one who shielded a child from Oleander, went unconscious for hours, was close to

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death, woke up drained, and then got the truth out of a victim who was stubbornly confessing to a crime she didn't commit to protect her family. I think I'm quite fine."

Lucianne wasn't expecting that kind of answer and she didn't have a response. Xandar lifted her chin and said, "You're more, Lucy. Much more."

She smiled at him gratefully before leaning into his chest. His arms wrapped protectively around her small body as she took in his scent to calm herself.

'How are you feeling, baby? Any dizziness or headaches?'

'No. Just sleepy.'

Xandar chuckled lightly and said, "We should head back to your place then." She nodded with a small smile.

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#### **Chapter 97**

When they reached the hotel, Xandar accompanied Lucianne until she was in her room before he felt at ease. After gently lifting her chin up, he kissed her briefly on her lips before he asked nervously in a hushed voice, "Can I sleep here from now on?" 3

Lucianne was surprised, even a little shocked. But given how everybody was indicating that she almost died the previous night, she understood where Xandar was coming from. The corner of her lips curled up, and she stood on her toes to kiss his cheek as she whispered, "I'd like that."

Xandar's tense posture relaxed, and a smile replaced his anxious expression. He pecked a kiss on her forehead before he uttered, "I'm going back to get a few things. I won't be long, I promise. You get ready for bed, okay?"

Lucianne nodded dotingly. After another brief peck on her cheek, Xandar left her room to head back to his villa, where he was going to meet his contractor. For once, his animal was actually happy to leave Lucianne's room, clearly because he wasn't going for that long.

The contractor was already waiting for him when he reached home. Xandar brought the man to the part of the house that he thought could fit the renovation for what he had in mind.

After a forty-five-minute discussion, Xandar finalized the layout, colors and pricing. The contractor said he and his employees only needed about a week to get the project done. After seeing him off, Xandar went to his room to pack a few clothes and grabbed a few files he may need and put them in his car before speeding back to the hotel.

When he was outside Lucianne's room, his Lycan hearing could pick-up that their mate was already asleep from the slow rhythm of her breathing. He thanked Goddess that Lucianne had given him the keycard to the door before he left. He cringed a little when the door beeped, and prayed he didn't wake Lucianne up. Very quietly, he opened the door and entered. What he didn't expect was to see some of the lights still switched on.

He strode quickly and quietly to the bed, and found Lucianne sleeping in an upright position, her head leaning against the headrest with her eyes closed and a book on her lap. Xandar shook his head and chuckled to himself as he muttered under his breath, "Unbelievably amazing."

Very gently, he lifted up the book from her lap and closed it before setting it on her nightstand. Then, very cautiously, he reached for her body with the intention of putting her under the sheets. Upon feeling his touch, Lucianne's eyes snapped open and she took in a sharp breath.

Xandar cooed in a hushed voice, "It's okay, baby. It's just me. Let's get you under the covers."

After tucking her in, she asked Xandar with sleepy eyes, "Can you lie here next to me?"

Both him and his animal were unquestionably surprised at her request. Xandar was happy enough to be able to sleep on her couch every night. He took a good two seconds before he pecked a kiss on her earlobe and whispered, "Anything for you, Lucy. Let me change first, okay? I won't take long."

Lucianne let out a sleepy moan to indicate that she heard him. 'Adorable', Xandar thought to himself as his animal cooed in tenderness.

After setting his backpack on the couch and changing into fresh clothes, he turned off the rest of the lights before slipping under the covers facing his mate's back. One arm went around her waist and the other reached for her hand that was on the pillow slightly above her head.

When Lucianne felt Xandar's touch, she awakened briefly and turned her body to face him before scooching into him, snuggling deeper into his chest. As soon as she felt comfortable in his warm embrace, she fell back into deep sleep.

A stream of happy tears trailed down Xandar's face at this point. He still couldn't fathom how he got so lucky to have been bonded to Lucianne, who was now willingly making her place in his arms. 'Thank you, Moon Goddess', was all he could utter at that moment. He listened to her steady breaths and kissed her hair before muttering, "I love you, my little freesia. Always and forever." Xandar then, too, fell into deep sleep. 2

Xandar woke up a few hours later when he felt Lucianne's body escaping his arms. Instinctively, h e tightened his grip around her small body. Lucianne's annoyed voice then rang through his ears," Xandar, let me go! I have to pee!"

Xandar groaned in frustration with his eyes closed and muttered, "Just do it on the bed, Lucy. I

won't judge." 5

"Xandar, the toilet is just ten steps away! Let me go!"

He groaned again before releasing her, and lay on his back as he listened to her quickened footsteps speeding towards the bathroom. The door closed with a slightly aggressive thud after she went in. He and his animal were still drowsy, and it took Xandar a moment more to get out of bed for a little stretch.

That sleep was as satisfying as the one he had after the Jewel Pack incident. Lucianne's scent and her very presence always calmed the negative emotions lingering in his being, making it easier for him to doze off.

When he heard the familiar sound of a flushing toilet and water flowing from the sink, he approached the bathroom door and waited for his mate to emerge. When Lucianne came out, Xandar scooped her up without warning, making Lucianne gasp in shock as he carried her to the couch.

Xandar placed her on his lap like he always did. After pecking a few kisses on her face and admiring her blushed cheeks, Xandar buried his nose in her hair as he asked, "How are you feeling, baby?"

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#### **Chapter 98**

"Better. My legs feel stronger. I might even be able to start training again tomorrow." Lucianne said optimistically.

Xandar's eyes widened in worry, and he locked gaze with her as he said firmly, "Lucy, the doctors told you to take things slow. Please don't push yourself. It's okay to take a few days off, especially after what just happened. Baby, it's okay to put yourself first sometimes."

Lucianne leaned her head into his chest while lifting her legs up one at a time to test their strengths again before she uttered, "I should be alright by tomorrow. If I'm not, I'll just watch them train." Xandar sighed with relief before pecking another kiss on her temple.

She gave him a shy smile as she said, "Thank you for lying with me while I slept."

Xandar's flirtatious gaze met her black orbs as he uttered in his deep voice, "Babe, if you think I only did it because you asked me to, then I must disappoint you. I have wanted to lie next to you since the night we met."

He kissed her nose before continuing, "This mate of yours isn't as selfless as you think, my little freesiafor more visit: www.noveljar.com. I don't deserve to be thanked, considering

that I did it for myself too. And as expected..." he pulled her body closer and said, "I sleep better when I'm with you."

Moved by his words, Lucianne pecked a kiss on his lips only to be trapped in a deep kiss by her yearning mate. Xandar's tongue demanded access, and Lucianne gladly obliged with a soft moan.' That was the cute moan', Xandar thought, and he and his animal started getting aroused as they waited for the louder 'sexy moan' from their mate.

Xandar didn't have to wait long. Within seconds of the assault of his lips and tongue, along with his hand squeezing along Lucianne's leg up to her thigh, she let out a second moan – the sexy one, which sent Xandar's animal to the edge. The smell of his arousal filled the room, and he started kissing her neck when she ran out of air.

Lucianne tilted her head to the side to give Xandar more access, not at all worried about his long, hardened manhood pressing against her buttocks. She closed her eyes to savor the blissful moment. Her fingers were in his hair, and she clung onto his thick locks as he sucked on the skin of her neck and collarbone.

Every time Xandar sucked her skin deeply, Lucianne let out a moan as she pulled his locks. This made Xandar emit a low, appreciative growl. The sound was dangerous yet alluring, making Lucianne even more aroused.

Xandar's teasing squeezes on her thighs and kisses built up a pleasurable ache in her lower abdomen, and she felt his lips on her neck curl into a smirk when his fingers reached the wet area of her shorts. Unlike the last time, he didn't pull away to tease her. Instead, he sucked on her neck harder as he linked, 'Moan, baby. Moan.'

His husky voice was enough to increase the wetness in her shorts as she let out an even louder moan. Xandar was ecstatic, and his manhood got even harder than it already was. He gave a

gentle squeeze on the cheek of her butt as his lips traced her jawline, and Lucianne moaned in ecstasy and whispered his name.

Xandar's lips moved to her ear. "That's it, baby. Moannn. Let me hear you moannn.for more visit :- www.noveljar.com" His voice and choice of words made her arousing scent rival Xandar's.

Lucianne's arousal was so strong that Xandar's eyes turned onyx with lust. The animal part of him was demanding control, and Xandar knew he had to stop before things got out of hand. Slowly, he stopped his assault on her thighs and buttocks. He then turned the lustful sucking on Lucianne's neck to gentle, affectionate butterfly kisses.

When he reluctantly removed his face from her neck, their eyes locked. Lucianne pecked a kiss on his cheek as she whispered gratefully, "Thank you, for restraining yourself."

Xandar scoffed and kissed the back of her hand before saying, "Lucy, this is not something you need to thank me for. No one should force you against your will. I'm your mate. I'm the first person who needs to honour your wishes." 1

Lucianne's eyes glistened in tears, completely touched, and she leaned in to kiss his jaw before whispering, "I love you, my acacia."

Xandar's animal, which was initially angered that his human part stopped the make-out session, suddenly melted in bliss at Lucianne's words. He then pecked a kiss on her nose before declaring," I love you too, my little freesia. Always and forever."

His lilac eyes of anticipation fixed on his beautifully-flustered mate as she whispered, for more visit: - www.noveljar.com "I know.

Thank you."

Buzzzz.

Lucianne reached for her phone on the side table as Xandar closed his eyes and ran his fingers through her hair while taking in her scent. Lucianne unlocked her phone and opened up the message she just received. Her body stiffened, making Xandar's sight shift to her screen for a mere second before Lucianne received an incoming call from 'Clement, Alpha'.

She swiped to answer without hesitation and put him on speaker as she continued looking at the photo the Alpha just sent to her. "Alpha Clement." Lucianne acknowledged the caller. Her voice was serious and worried, a complete change of demeanor from a few seconds ago.

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#### **Chapter 99**

There was a sigh from the Alpha's end of the line before he said, "Lucy, for the infinite time, it's just Clement to you. I swear, if you call me by my title again, I'm going to start calling you 'Your Highness'."

Xandar instinctively held Lucianne tighter when jealousy crept into his being at how the Alpha sounded more flirtatious than irritated.

"Clement, get serious! When was this taken?" Lucianne exclaimed with zero humour. A steady inferno started building in Xandar's chest at how close they seemed to be that the Alpha insisted Lucianne only called him by his name. And this Alpha wasn't even a part of the alliance. Just how many men were after his mate anyway?!

Alpha Clement began speaking, "First of all, it's good to hear that you're okay. Second," He matched her serious tone as he said, "this photo was taken only a minute ago. I forwarded it to you as soon as my Beta sent it to me. We should be worried, right?"

Lucianne's eyes never left the photo showing several large footprints, which could only belong to Lycans. Her voice was calm when she asked, "Do these lead anywhere?"

Clement's reply was immediate, "The tracks stopped at the river. They must've crossed it, shifted back to their human form and disappeared into that thick forest behind our pack. Our warriors are awaiting instructions but I told them I'll ask you first. Should we be worried, Lucy?"

Lucianne bit her bottom lip before she spoke reluctantly, "We should all be, Clement. I'm glad that i t was just the footprints they found and not the creatures themselves but I can't help but wonder what they were doing there."

"Beats me. I'm all the way over here. If they came to kill me, they must've been disappointed."

"This location is too far from the pack house to know you're not there though." Lucianne uttered and pondered for a moment before she said, "Clement, you might wanna ask Beta Nina to tighten security around your pack border. Get the families to lock themselves in their panic rooms from midnight until daylight for the next ten days. Place a few more warriors up in trees to look-out for incoming attacks. Blue Crescent should be able to spare a few warriors. Link Juan to get our people to help. Ask for seven of them, if possible."

"Yup, I'll do that." Clement said before he chuckled lightly.

Lucianne looked at her phone in annoyance as Xandar's grip around her abdomen tightened even further. "Clement, this is real right? It's not a joke, is it?"

Although his chuckles died down as he said, "It is real, Lucy. I wasn't laughing because of that. Believe me, I'm worried too. But..." his tone came out flirtatious when he continued, "...when I hear you speak like that, it just reminds me of the times when we trained and fought together."

Lucianne rolled her eyes and said, "When I bark out orders, you mean?" Alpha Clement chuckled lightly again at the memory they shared.

When Xandar and his animal had finally had had enough of it, Xandar's deep voice joined the conversation, "When you bark out orders with grace, authority and clarity was probably what he meant, my love." He emphasized the words 'my love' just to satisfy himself.

Although Xandar's words were spoken to Lucianne, the two men knew it was directed at Alpha Clement, for him to stop speaking to his mate in that coy manner. Alpha Clement's stream of chuckles came to a sudden stop when he heard Xandar's cold voice.

The Alpha swallowed a lump in his throat before he greeted His Royal Highness with as much courage as he could muster, "My King, I apologize for the late acknowledgment. I didn't know you were there."

"Oh, I'm here, Alpha Clement." Xandar then smooched Lucianne on her cheek on purpose, hoping that the Alpha could hear the contact his lips made with his mate's skin. Xandar then

said as diplomatically as he could, "And if you'll allow it, Alpha Clement, I can send three of our warriorst o stand guard."

"Really?" Lucianne's eyes sparkled, soothing some of Xandar's anger.

"Oh no, your Highness. We couldn't..." Clement's apologetic voice rang through.

"I insist." Xandar said before taking a whiff from Lucianne's hair and running his fingers through her large curls. He gently placed his mate's long hair to one side before gluing his nose to her nape to take in her scent, calming himself from the anger of hearing the Alpha's voice. 1

Lucianne then said, "Clement, just take it. If the threat is Lycans, it's safer to have Lycans on your side. Besides, you've met some of them on the training ground, they're not all bad."

There was a short moment of silence as the Alpha weighed his options before he said, "If you say s o, Lucy. I trust your judgment. And thank you for the offer, your Highness. The Forest Gloom Pack thanks you."

"It's a pleasure to help, Alpha Clement." Xandar said out of courtesy more than sincerity. His nose moved onto his mate's arm, and he started nuzzling Lucianne's scar while he waited for the stupid phone call to end. With immense difficulty, Lucianne held back her giggles threatening to escape from her throat.

"Thanks again, Lucy. I'll link Juan now. Take care."

"You too, Clement."

As soon as she hung up, Xandar's hand went to Lucianne's nape and he pulled her into a deep kiss before parting their lips. He then asked in a voice that didn't even bother to mask the jealousy he

felt, "Who is Alpha Clement?".

Lucianne's thumb traced one of his furrowed brows as she answered, "The leader of the Forest Gloom Pack and one of Blue Crescent's allies."

His features softened not by her answer but by her touch on his face. "He seemed a little too friendly for an ally, baby."

Her hand cupped his cheek and her thumb started stroking the skin there as she tried to assure

him, "He's friendly with everyone, darling."

"How did you two meet?" Xandar asked.

"Juan's 18th birthday party. He and his family were one of our guests."

"Did he speak to you at the party?" He continued to press.

"Yes."

Xandar held her hand that was on his cheek and asked, "How long did you both speak?"

Lucianne shrugged, "An hour or so, I guess."

An hour. Xandar noted the whole list of things they would have spoken about in the length of time. "What did you two talk about?"

"Pack life. His family. He hates his siblings, by the way. And that's about it."

Xandar's orbs started developing onyx shades again at those sort of intimate, personal questions being asked before he uttered murderously, "Did he touch you during the conversation?"

Lucianne continued to trace his eyebrows, in hopes of soothing him as she said, "Only when we danced, Xandar. No-"

"Where did he touch you?" His grip on her tightened.

She started stroking his cheeks as she said, "My hand and my waist, like any normal dance. It was just a diplomatic thing, dearest. It wasn't intimate."

Confusion sparked in Xandar. "Care to explain that, my love?" He was hoping that by using those last two words, it would take out a little of the aggression from the way he asked the question.

She shrugged like it wasn't a big deal as she explained, "His late parents were good friends and allies of Blue Crescent. The whole family came because Alpha Clement's parents were stepping down as pack leaders in the following year to let their first son, Alpha Jake, take over."

Suddenly, Lucianne snuggled into Xandar's chest, which made him and his animal confused. But h e held her nonetheless. What the h\*ll happened? Why does it feel like she wants to hide from something?

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#### Chapter 100

In Xandar's chest, Lucianne continued her tale in a small voice, "Alpha Jake was bad news from the very start. Everyone saw it, except his parents. There was this negative energy that you can feel whenever his presence was close by."

She sighed before saying, "He asked me for a dance but I said no. Luna Janice, being the cordial one in the pack house, told me that as children of pack leaders, we had to oblige simple gestures to keep the peace with our allies. She said that just because I was adopted, it didn't make me any different. I was mad at her for pressing me like that but I was also driven by a sense of duty to my pack. So, I mentally prepared myself to oblige Alpha Jake's request if he asked again, which he didn't, thank Goddess. But his brother, Clement, did. As I told myself that I was doing it for my pack, I obliged. Clement is definitely not like his brother. The two couldn't be more different."

Xandar finally understood why she buried herself in his chest. Alpha Jake. That was definitely a name Xandar would never think of forgetting. He held her tighter as a form of

assurance before muttering in controlled anger, "I can't believe Juan's mother made you do that. You should never have to do something against your wishes, Lucy."

She took in his comforting scent before she said, "That was what Alpha Ken and Juan said. Well, what they yelled, to be more precise. The father and son threw a fit for two hours after the party when they found out what Luna Janice said to me. Their outburst definitely made me feel better. At least I knew that a sense of duty to Blue Crescent didn't mean saying yes to things that made me uncomfortable."

Xandar's mood eased considerably, and he kissed her temple as he said, "I would love to meet Alpha Ken one day. I need to thank him for this." He took in a whiff from her neck before something struck him: If Jake was the Alpha, why was Alpha Clement...the Alpha? Is this a new pack system that he didn't know about? Can a pack even be run by two Alphas?

He pulled away from his mate to lock eyes with her, and he asked in confusion, "Baby, why does Forest Gloom have two Alphas?"

Her eyebrows furrowed as she replied, "They don't. Alpha Jake was only there for a few years before Clement challenged him for the pack and succeeded. Jake and their other sibling, Iris, were cast out as rogues."

Xandar blinked in surprise and Lucianne chuckled at his reaction. She started the tale from the very beginning, "Forest Gloom was always our ally until Alpha Jake took the title. Most packs, including Blue Crescent, started avoiding it. Many packs cut ties with them with no remorse. Clement was the youngest in his family of three so the chance of him taking on that title was close to nil. But Jake was one of the most ruthless leaders we've heard of. Their sister, Iris, was no better than Jake, using her brother's position to force men in her pack to sleep with her."

She paused when she met Xandar's disgusted look. Lucianne then said, "At least Greg's intercourses with those different women every night was consensual. Anyway, back to Forest Gloom. So, uh...a few of their own pack members started leaving and moving into packs where they have friends or family members to take them in. Many didn't have this alternative. So, they

went to Clement in secret, asking him to challenge Jake for the title. Clement was very pessimistic about it. But then, he heard that Juan had become our Alpha, and he heard how Juan was challenging ruthless Alphas for their packs."

A smile graced Lucianne's features as she continued, "Alpha Clement snuck out of his pack one day and came to us. I was there when he presented his case to Juan, Hale and Beta Preston. He pleaded with Juan to challenge his brother. After we mind-linked between ourselves, we offered him a different solution, that we trained him to take down his own brother and claim his pack instead."

She chuckled lightly before she said, "Darling, you should've seen him. He was as white as a ghost! We could feel his fear in Juan's office." She took a moment to steady herself before she uttered," Alpha Clement wasn't scared to die. He was scared to let his people down by dying. Juan offered him a space to train with us..."

"With you." Xandar said as he held her tighter.

Lucianne rolled her eyes before she concurred, "With me. He uh...he said we were wasting our time because he felt that the only way to take down an Alpha is by asking another Alpha to do it."

Xandar scoffed as he said, "Looks like you proved him wrong, my feisty little freesia."

Lucianne blushed at the way her mate called her before she resumed her story, "Blue Crescent had no intention to show off but to prove Alpha Clement wrong, and to give him hope, I had to spar Juan and Preston at the same time just to show him that there's no need for an Alpha to take down an Alpha. After our spar..."

"After you beat Juan and Preston."

"Xandar, you don't have to keep saying things like that to keep me flustered. It's really hard to focus on the storyline when you do that."

"Hm...your facts weren't very clear so I had to fill in the blanks. Go on, my love." He said as his nose nuzzled her scar again.

"Darling, no. It tickles!" Lucianne was already starting to giggle at the sensation.

Xandar groaned and said, "Fine. I'll just smell your hair then." After greedily taking a whiff, he prompted Lucianne, "So, what happened after you beat them both at once, my love?"