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The 5-time Rejected Gamma & the Lycan King by Stina's Pen Chapter 129 - 130

Chapter 129

"Livia Aphael?" Lucianne asked, clearly oblivious. When the Chief nodded, even the policeman at the door was surprised to see Lucianne looking lost as she said, "I don't know anyone by that name."

The Chief was surprised at her answer so he unlocked his phone to look for a photograph before showing it to Lucianne and asked again, "Do you really not know her, your Highness?"

Lucianne's eyes widened in recognition as she exclaimed, "Oh, her! I'm sorry, Chief. I didn't know that was her name."

"But you seem to remember her quite well, my Queen." His tone wasn't accusatory. It just held genuine confusion.

"I do. I'm not sure if you're aware, Chief. But Sebastian Cummings was my previously-bonded mate, and I severed our bond after finding him making love with this woman, who up until today, I didn't know the name to."

"Ah, I see now. We were aware of the previous bond from the conversation between the two siblings but we were unaware of the full events leading up to the severance."

"How is this relevant?" Xandar asked impatiently, not at all pleased that his mate's past rejection was being raised

"Well, my King. Livia Aphael's name came up in their conversation during Mr Cummings's visit. Seeing that Ms Cummings is gone, we are tracking everyone who may possibly be offering her shelter. After speaking to neighbors and bartenders, we discovered that Ms Cummings and Ms Aphael share a close friendship. So, we were looking into her."

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Christian sat upright again as he questioned, "What do you mean you 'were' looking into her? She's in the clear now?"

"That's the problem, your Grace." The Chief's exhausted eyes peered into the Duke's irritated ones as he said, "She's missing. Her whole family is missing."

Christian then muttered to himself, "You've got to be f*cking kidding me."

Xandar then uttered, "So, it's safe to say that this woman is our prime suspect in helping Ms Cummings escape?"

"That's the theory for now, yes. And what makes Ms Aphael's position worse is that she was the woman who was at the other Duke's residence, the one who made sexual advances before being thrown out by the Duke himself. Seeing as he is also missing, we thought she might have something to do with their disappearances."

"That's possible." Xandar muttered in agreement. "She could be the one who hired those men to help break her friend out of prison."

"Yes, my King, that is unless the results from the interrogation with Mr Cummings offer a different conclusion." Dalloway then looked at Lucianne and asked, "My Queen, if I may ask, when did you last see Ms Aphael? Was it when the bond was severed?"

Lucianne spoke calmly when she replied, "No, the last time I saw her, inadvertently, I must add, was when we were at a restaurant..." she did a mental count before she continued, "...five days ago. What's the name of the restaurant we went to the other day, Xandar? The one with the huge aquarium?"

"Le Paradis Luxueux." Xandar said without hesitation, and he couldn't help but smile at the memory of their dinner date.

The policeman at the door jotted down the name of the restaurant in his notepad as the Chief asked, "May we know the approximate time when you saw her, my Queen?"

"Around eight, I guess. She was in a one-shoulder red crepe dress with a high slit on the side. Uh... I think she was with someone. The seat in front of her had a plate of unfinished food but she was alone at her table when I noticed her presence. When she felt my stare on her, she started speaking on her phone and made her way out."

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When the policeman's furious scribbling came to a stop, the Chief asked, "And has there been anything

else from the missing Duke, your Highness?"

"No, Chief. Are you able to locate him yet?" Lucianne asked in curiosity.

"I'm afraid not, my Queen. But we are expanding our search now, so our chances of finding him and Tanner are higher than before."

Lucianne nodded in understanding. "I see. Is there anything else you need from me?"

"No, my Queen. Thank you for your time. And both of yours as well, my King and your Grace." The Chief shook their hands and bowed in gratitude before leaving the room with the other policeman.

When the three of them were left alone, Christian started complaining, "Who would need to recruit a dumb blonde with a poor temperament and a high affinity to tilt towards insanity?"

"It couldn't be Greg, could it?" Xandar asked, basically making wild guesses now.

Christian scoffed and said, "What would Greg do with her? Next to him, her skills are probably worse than a beginner's. I doubt it's for sex, too. I've seen them both in the same room before. Zero chemistry and almost zero overlap in social circles. He'd be around ministers' daughters, and she...well, before she was kicked out, she would be around...you, actually, cuz, even when you were just the Crown Prince."

"And it was bloody irritating. It's like she won't take the hint that I'm not interested." Xandar muttered as he held Lucianne's hand on his lap.

That was when he realized his mate hadn't said a word since the policemen left. The cousins looked her way, and noticed that she was lost in thought as she stared at the beige walls in front of them. With a gentle stroke on her hand, Xandar, in a soft voice, said, "Baby, a penny for your thoughts?"

Her black orbs which were far away were brought back to the room in an instant. Xandar ran his fingers through her hair as he asked, "What's on your mind, sweetheart? You seemed so far away."

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Her wolf purred under his touch, and Lucianne smiled meekly before she said, "I just didn't know Sebastian's bed warmer had access to such resources. If she could find people to break her friend out of prison, why didn't she just hire someone to sleep with Cummings? Why did she do it herself?"

"Maybe she really liked him?" Xandar offered a suggestion.

"Hm. That's a possible explanation, I suppose." Lucianne analyzed aloud. "Something's still bothering you, Lucy. Tell me. What is it?" Xandar uttered.

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Lucianne blinked before she sighed in frustration, "I honestly don't know what to think, Xandar. Whatever we just heard, and whatever we went through these past few days just feels like this complicated web of events that may be connected, but may not be so at the same time."

"What do you mean by that, sweetheart?"

Lucianne stared into space as she started explaining, "Well, I understand that Sasha's behavior on the training ground was because she thinks that I'm the reason behind her father's imprisonment. On the same day she's placed in police custody, the strongest packs get threats from rogues to draw me to Forest Gloom. Jake mentioned that they were acting for a client. What if Livia Aphael is that client?"

Xandar's hand holding hers tensed up a little when he said, "If she is, she's going to have a lot to answer for,"

"But that's where things start to not make sense." Lucianne looked at her mate like she was trying to solve a confusing puzzle as she said, "Why would she want me infertile? Up until

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today, I didn't even know her name. If this is about me being bonded to Cummings, whom she hypothetically likes, then I still don't see what her problem is. I never took him away from her. If anything, I made it easier for her when I rejected him. And...if she had the resources to make Greg disappear, why would she let him give me those incriminating evidence? She could very well make any piece of evidence vanish into thin air. Besides, from what you guys have been saying about Greg... I don't really see why he would need any help in disappearing. He seems really capable of doing that on his own. And how does Tanner fit into all of this?"

Xandar couldn't give her an answer so he looked at his cousin uneasily. Christian merely uttered, "Don't look at me, cuz. I thought I was lost. But what the Queen said just made me feel more lost than before." 1

Xandar sighed before running his fingers through Lucianne's hair again as he suggested, "Maybe it's not connected, sweetheart. Maybe they are all separate events."

"Then why are these events happening one after another? Why are the people we're hunting down disappearing one after another? It's as if they know who the police will be going after next, and they disappear just in time to avoid getting caught." Lucianne said. 1

Blink! A sudden sound in the small room made Lucianne flinch in surprise.

"Oh, that's my phone. Sorry about that, my Queen." Christian said as he got out his phone.

Xandar chuckled lightly at Lucianne's reaction, and wondered how she could look so adorable even when she was shocked. Lucianne narrowed her eyes at him when she mistook his affection as a way of teasing

her.

Right after he pecked a kiss on her cheek, Christian said, "That was Annie. Just checking what time I'll be picking her up from home tonight."

Xandar's eyes snapped to Christian's as he asked, "You're not joining us tonight?"

"What do you mean, cuz? Of course, I am. Annie's joining us tonight, too. We're coming together." Christian explained casually

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“Really?” Xandar asked in disbelief. Christian studied his cousin in confusion. Why was Xandar so surprised that Annie decided to join government events, especially when he knew that Lucianne and Annie spent hours together at the café the other day?

When the Duke came to the only possible conclusion, he threw Lucianne a cheeky smirk and said, “You didn’t tell him, did you, my Queen? It’s not good to keep the King in the dark, especially when it comes to your good deeds of bringing others back into the light, you know?”

Xandar looked at his beautiful mate as he uttered, “Lucy, you said you only encouraged Annie to go along with her intentions to contribute as Duchess.” 1

She shrugged and uttered innocently, “That’s exactly what happened.”

“Hah! That wasn’t even half of it!” Christian started chuckling at his cousin who looked like a sad, left-out kid on the playground.

“Babe! What did you not tell me?!” Xandar asked as he held her wrists and leaned towards her.

Lucianne thought for a moment before muttering, “Uh... I did tell her to disregard certain...derogatory remarks made by people who aren’t worth the attention. Hm...Also, we’ll be there for her whenever she needs us, and...I guess that’s about it.”

“Still not even half of it.” Christian muttered under his breath before he said aloud, “Let me do it, my

Queen.”

“Alright, but I don’t know what else there is to add. That was pretty much the gist of our conversation. Don’t exaggerate anything, please, Christian.” Lucianne said, and returned her sights to her mate before she declared, “I’ll see you guys on the training ground.” !

Right after she pecked a quick kiss on her mate’s cheek and stood up to leave, Xandar held onto her forearms and said, “Oh, no no no. You’re staying, sweetheart. You can’t leave me alone here while my cousin gloats about knowing what you said to Annie when I don’t.”

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She rolled her eyes and said, "You'll be fine, my King." She tried to tug her arms away but his firm grip was not letting her go. "Darling, we've been gone long enough. I need to guide the wolves and Lycans on the new techniques. I have to go!" Lucianne whined and used her large doe-eyes on her mate.

After losing his own animal's support, Xandar sighed and pecked a kiss on her nose before he muttered 'over-responsible Queen' and let her go.

When the door closed with a gentle thud, Xandar faced the smug-looking Christian and he asked, "What? You're gonna make me beg for information now, Christian?" The Duke started chuckling and patted Xandar on the back before heading for the door as he said, "I'll tell you on the way to the training ground, cuz. C'mon."

Xandar reluctantly got up from his seat and followed his second-in-command as he grumbled, "What is it with you people and the need to head for the training ground at the exact moment I want to know something?"

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