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The 5-time Rejected Gamma & the Lycan King by Stina's Pen Chapter 153 - 154

Chapter 153

The King was touched. His late parents would throw an unnecessary birthday party where he had to mingle with people he didn't even want to meet, let alone speak to. And when he reached a marital age, his mother had the annoying habit of introducing him to every eligible and 'acceptable' bachelorette at these parties.

When his parents both passed, Xandar immediately did away with the parties, and celebrated it with Christian and Annie instead. Although it was a much smaller celebration compared to what his parents did for him, he preferred spending the day with the people he loved and was close to as opposed to guests he had to constantly watch his tongue, attitude and temper around.

Lucianne wanted to help the wolves set up the food but everyone just pushed her away, asking her to 'sit and wait while the rest of them did it. Frustrated, Lucianne muttered, "Stupid large-sized werewolves."

Literally no one took that as an offence because largeness in body size is actually a compliment for a wolf and a Lycan. They simply smiled and chuckled like Lucianne wasn't fuming right next to them. Juan pressed back a smile at her remark and her reaction. Unless it was combat or sneaking around, his sister's size had always been a disadvantage. Always.

While Toby was arranging the paper plates, cups and plastic cutlery, he decided to entertain his friend so he said, "We could do worse, Lucy. We could ask your mate to carry you and put you in your seat right there instead of letting you stand around us here."

"Do NOT give him any ideas, Toby!" Lucianne's eyes burned into his.

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Xandar was helping out Luna Lovelace with the punch and soft drinks on the side when he heard that. With a glint in his eye, he muttered, "And that's my cue." Before Lucianne had the chance to argue, he scooped her up and placed her into her seat, pushing the chair deep in to make it more difficult for her to get out.

"I'll get you the food, sweetheart."

"Xandar, I can walk. I'm fine! I'm not a baby!" Lucianne whined.

He pecked a kiss on her temple and uttered, "Don't say that, my love. Everyone knows you're my baby." Seeing that she went speechless and was starting to blush, Xandar smiled wider and pecked another kiss on her cheek before he whispered, "Just let me, Lucy. Okay? I won't take long. I'll be right back."

After the food and chat, everyone cleaned up (they let Lucianne help this time), and the birthday cake and song followed. Xandar popped open the bottle of wine Christian brought, and poured it into everyone's glasses.

With a hand around his mate's waist, Xandar raised his glass to make a birthday toast that everyone was demanding from him. "I was never big on birthdays, and I've always found it uncomfortable despite my late parents' best intentions. I've never looked forward to this day because it'd be a night where I had to be around guests who were unfamiliar, superficial and downright boring." This sent a round of laughter, especially from Christian, who remembered their mutual hate for the parties. 1

"I've done away with those shallow events long ago, and I was fortunate enough to have my best friend and his mate accompany me on this day for the past eighteen years." He nodded gratefully in Christian and Annie's way, who nodded with wide grins and glistening eyes in response.

He then continued, "But this year has been extraordinary. I got the best gift exactly fourteen days ago,

thanks to our Goddess." Lucianne was already blushing and averting everyone's eyes as Xandar continued, "Never have I had someone try to shut me out even before an introduction, so imagine what I felt when the first person who did it was my bonded mate." Another round of laughter ensued, and Toby almost choked from his loud chuckles.

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“Fortunately for this beast, she gave me a chance, and for that I am eternally grateful.” When their eyes met, Lucianne’s black orbs were already watering. He pecked a sweet kiss on her forehead before he faced the alliance, “And along with her came the fiercest, strongest and noblest leaders and warriors, whom I only wished I met sooner. I would’ve invited you all to those birthday parties Christian and I wanted to skip so badly. Some of you may have been just teenagers but I gather we would have had a better conversation than the ones I had to hold on those nights. At least in your presence, Christian and I might have actually had a good time...or we could all complain in misery throughout the entire night about the other Lycans.”

Next to him, Juan, who was laughing, even patted him on the shoulder at that remark. Xandar then said, more seriously, “In your own ways, you’ve all taught me so much about combat, rogues, and even leadership. A leader should always fight with its people, defending them at all costs. Having met all of you, and being bonded to this over-responsible mate of mine, I’m determined to join you in any battles to come.”

“I’ve never said this but I do look up to each and every one of you, and I hope to have your guidance even after this collaboration. After the corruption scandal among four of our ministers and an ethical problem of one, if not more, the government needs help. I need help. Annie and Lucy are great additions but I’m afraid we need more hands on deck. Capable hands, those which we can trust to lead with the best interest of the people at heart.”

Lucianne, Christian and Annie were already waiting to see the wolves reaction with what Xandar was about to say next. With a gracious smile, the King announced, “It would be an honour, if those of you named would help us on a temporary basis, and it’d be even better if we can turn that help into a permanent one, with Gamma Tobias as our Defence Minister; Luna Lovelace as Finance Minister; Alpha Tate as Deputy Finance Minister; and Luna Hale as Minister of Health and Welfare.”

The shock looks of the werewolves in the room were absolutely precious! Lucianne held back her laughter as she got out her phone to take a photo of their stunned expressions before starting to chuckle hard. She then muttered to herself with a wide grin, “This is going to make one great pack-to-pack Christmas card.”

Toby was the first to recover when he said, “As the new Defence Minister, my Queen, I must ask that you delete that photo for national security reasons.” 1

“Hah! Never!” Lucianne exclaimed.

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As his excited mate forwarded the picture to the alliance members and a few friends back in Blue Crescent, Xandar thrust a hand in the Gamma's way as he nodded gratefully, "Thank you, Toby."

Luna Lovelace had a teasing smirk when she shook the King's hand next and uttered, "About damn time, my King. Thank you. On behalf of my people, I thank you."

Luna Hale was so touched that her eyes glistened when she shook Xandar's hand, "You have no idea what this means to us, your Highness. Thank you, from the very bottom of our hearts."

All eyes were on Tate now, who seemed hesitant. He glanced at Lucianne, who was still busy on her phone, before the Alpha locked eyes with Xandar and asked doubtfully, "Are you sure, your Highness?"

Everyone knew what he meant, except for Lucianne, whose head snapped up from her phone in

bewilderment when she heard what he said. Tate avoided looking at her as he waited for the King to respond

Xandar's thumb was stroking Lucianne's waist as he said, "If you wanted to do something, you would have done it by now." He then thrust out his free hand in Tate's way and said with a smile, "I trust you."

Tate was surprised to hear that Xandar knew he wouldn't do anything to jeopardize the King's relationship with Lucianne. Tate knew that Lucianne was happy with Xandar, and he already promised Juan that he wouldn't do something to tear them apart. With a grateful smile, Tate shook Xandar's hand and said, "Thank you for the appointment, your Highness."

"I think it's only fitting for me to be thanking all of you for accepting my offer on such a short notice. And it's just 'Xandar' from now on." He said as he looked at each and every alliance member before adding, "If we could also do away with the bowing when we're not around the other ministers, that'd be better."

Zelena placed the back of her hand over her forehead, and leaned into Zeke in a dramatic pose as she said, "Ah, I feel like a royal."

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Zeke was getting embarrassed with everyone laughing so he said, "Zel, seriously. Stand straight, will ya?"

After the laughter died down, Xandar raised his glass and made a toast, "Here's to a better future, where our species rule as one."

"As one." Everyone chimed with enthusiasm and drank from their glasses.

When that small party was over, everyone got back to work. The theory they have was that Jake and Greg could've been business partners, and Greg surrendering evidence to Lucianne could be the result of a falling out between the Duke and the former Alpha. That was their best guess at the moment.

They kept an open mind for a third player in the game they might not know about yet but seeing that none of the clues and evidence they have could point them to this anonymous person, if there was one at all, they decided to move on to the next thing on the agenda: locating the corporation.

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Chapter 154

Toby was deep in thought before he suddenly looked up at Xandar and asked, "Do you have a super large map, my K-. Scratch that. Xandar. Xandar, do you have a huge map with no sentimental value that we can scribble on?"

Xandar rose from his seat and headed for his office storage room while uttering, "I'm not sure. Let me have a look."

Christian got up as well and headed for the door while saying, "I'll check your basement, cuz." Upon hearing that, Tate, Zeke and Zelena followed the Duke to help him look.

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Xandar found one rolled up but it was very faded. Christian and the others came back with three. His cousin then helped Toby pin the best map on the flip side of the whiteboard.

When the map was up, Lucianne caught up to where her best friend was going with things. Toby saw the knowing glint in her eye, and tossed her a marker with a smile and said, "Give me a hand, Lucy. This will be done faster. Hey, Raden! Heads-up!" Toby then threw another marker in Raden's way, and the latter caught it with ease before getting up from his seat to join his friends at the board.

Toby then explained to everyone else, "Basically, what we're going to do is cross out all the locations that the rogue Lycan gave the police. Since the task force found nothing but demolished sites, it is likely that the rogues would not return to those locations, at least not in the near future. Then, we'll analyse the remaining locations on the map. Having to keep such a large corporation alive, it would be somewhere with water supply for survival, good reception for communication but discreet enough to keep themselves off the radar."

"Damn, they're good." Christian muttered in awe.

The three Gammas divided the map into three parts. One of their hands held the 70-page report, and the other held a marker. One by one, they crossed out the locations given by the rogue. After that, they stood aside and everyone studied the unmarked spaces.

"Time to narrow it down." Raden muttered.

Lucianne began, "This one has no rivers or any nearby water supply. It's out." She marked a cross over the location.

And that was how it went for the next few minutes. Everyone gave a reason for why they think a particular spot on the map would not be strategic to set up the rogue's headquarters. With more crosses on the map, their line of vision converged easily on the portions which were still spared from the markers. What they found was that those probable locations were not very far from numerous wolf packs.

Tate spoke, "We should ask the Alphas and Lunas of those packs to send trackers to scout those sites." He then started memorizing the cleared sites on the map.

Christian offered an alternative, "Or we could share this with Dalloway and get his people on it." 1

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“That may not be wise, your Grace.” Toby said, and proceeded to explain what many wolves already understood, “Lycans are very...noticeable, both in scent and presence. If you send the task force there, it may alert the rogues. It’s worse because we now know that they have hackers, meaning that security communications in the police force can very well be compromised. Your very own instructions to them may be accessible by the rogues themselves. It’d be better if the wolves scouted these sites since requests and instructions are sent through mind-links, and I doubt they have someone like Lucy with them to hack into those.”

Xandar asked in concern, “Will the wolves be safe when they do it alone though?”

Juan smiled in assurance as he said, “They’ll be fine, Xandar. We’ll notify the leaders and trackers to keep a safe distance.”

Xandar still seemed unsure. Lucianne went to his side to caress his right shoulder as she pecked a kiss on his cheek before she said, “It’ll be okay, darling. Our trackers are trained to be stealthy. They’ll be fine. Let them do it.”

Xandar managed a small smile before pecking a kiss on her nose and saying, “As you wish, my Queen.”

He turned back to the leaders and asked, “I gather that I cannot tell Dalloway about this?”

Tate clarified, “Well, that’s not exactly what we’re saying, your H-. Xandar. Just try to tell him without calling or emailing him. Telling him face-to-face would be the ideal option but maybe don’t do it in the police station. We don’t know if that place has been bugged.”

“Oh, Goddess.” Christian muttered in dismay as his fingers pressed the bridge of his nose.

Xandar nodded, and held Lucianne close to his body, using their mate-bond to ease his tension as he said, “Understood.”

Lucianne’s hands were still massaging Xandar’s shoulder as her eyes studied the map on the board. Suddenly, something caught her attention. “They have a tendency to set up on islands, don’t they?”

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Everyone started leaning closer to the map with furrowed brows, looking at the crossed-off locations as opposed to the ones which were unmarked. Although many crosses were made on mainlands across continents, many more were made on islands.

When Xandar pulled Lucianne down to sit on his lap and secured an arm around her abdomen to hold her there, he muttered, "It appears so."

Lovelace then said, "Toby. Raden. Circle the remaining islands please."

After they did so, Zelena cocked her head to one side and said, "Well, that's workable. Our allies should be able to report within the next two or three days."

Only ten islands were left so everyone could see that it wasn't long before they eliminated the likelihood of the rogue corporation being located on an island.

Xandar then asked, "Are the wolves able to scout those sites without getting caught?"

Lucianne shrugged and said, "Of course."

"How?" Xandar asked, his grip around her tightening because he was not entirely convinced by what he was hearing. There was a large part of him that was worried about the trackers who were going to investigate on their own.

Lucianne explained simply, "Well, assuming that the corporation requires a regular supply of weapons, poisons, medical equipment and basic necessities, there will be people who will enter and leave the island."

Toby built on her explanation, "The wolves from nearby packs will keep a distance and watch if anyone makes trips to and from the island. We have enough allies around these places to have them watch both land and air."

"Please get them to be careful." Annie said, matching Xandar's and Christian's worried expressions.

Toby smiled and spoke in a casual tone, "Relax, your Grace. It's not the first time our species is doing spy work. It's like Lucy said, the wolves we're sending are trained to sneak around without getting caught. They'll be fine."

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When that was settled, there was nothing more they could do. After Juan, Tate, Zeke and Lovelace linked a few allies, requesting them to scout the islands they just narrowed down, Lucianne insisted on practicing her hacking abilities again, much to Xandar's dismay.

They worked differently this time. Juan and Xandar got Lucianne to agree that she would take a break between each hack. Lucianne admitted that she felt a little drained after each try, so Toby was to time how long she needed to fully recover before executing the next hack.

After a few tries, it was found that she needed a fifteen-minute break between hacks to avoid experiencing any adverse side-effects. At her best, she could last anywhere between a minute to a minute and a half before being caught. Many of them suggested that she may be able to last longer if she kept practising. But there came a point when Xandar said that she should stop for the day.

As everyone was chatting about Sasha's escape, Greg's disappearance and Livia's connection to the two, Lucianne, without anyone's knowledge, tried to subtly hack into Jake's link. Her efforts proved to be futile in her first two attempts but when she tried a third time, she instinctively held her breath as she listened to what was being said.

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