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Chapter 179

Xandar's body shot up when Juan, Tate and Christian screamed his mate's name. His eyes searched for her and found her right behind him, in Juan's embrace.

"NO, BABY!" Xandar went to the Alpha, and carefully took Lucianne from him. Xandar held her close to his chest. Why was her body so cold? And why was she turning grey? Christian explained what happened in a cracked voice. Lorenz reported that there weren't any visible improvements on Lucianne's condition yet, and the grey veins on her arms and legs were creeping up her neck, reaching her face.

They dashed back to the submarines, hoping to get back to the pack clinic on time to carry out a blood transfusion for Lucianne. Since the poison had not been in her bloodstream for as long as it was in Xandar's, there may be time. Lorenz had already sent word to their neighboring pack to send more blood to Faint Moon as soon as possible.

They told the submarine operators to step on it, and Xandar's own tears began trickling down his face as he pressed Lucianne's body deeper into his chest. He buried his face in her hair as he whispered, "Baby. Why? Baby, please wake up. Please. I love you. Please."

When Toby saw his best friend, he cursed before he went forward and knelt on both knees as he studied the grey lines all over her body before he mouthed 'no'. Lucianne didn't even look this bad the last time Oleander was in the system. None of them recall seeing any dark grey veins from the window outside the operating room where Lucianne was being treated.

"What's the status, Lorenz?" Lovelace asked, even though she and everyone else were afraid of the answer.

Lorenz looked at the indicator in his hand as he muttered, "Her heart rate is slowing."

Xandar nuzzled her partially-grey nose, and gently pressed his forehead against hers as he whispered, "Fight, baby. Please. We need you. I need you. Lucy, you can't leave me alone here. Please, fight."

After another ten agonizing minutes, Lorenz gasped and let out a sigh of relief as he showed the indicator in his hand to the very lost non-medical alliance members. The doctor wiped away the tears in his eyes and cleared his throat before he explained, "Her breathing is picking up, as is her heart rate."

Xandar broke into a smile as he kept whispering to his mate, "That's it, Lucy. Keep fighting. Come back to us. Come back to me."

As the minutes passed, the grey lines faded and her skin returned to normal but everyone was still holding their breaths. When they heard Lucianne moan and her dazed eyes fluttered open, they wiped away their tears in pure relief, thanking their Goddess that Lucianne was alive.

Xandar kissed Lucianne between her eyebrows and peered into her black orbs as he said seriously, "Never do that again, Lucy. Promise?"

She offered a small smile, and her hand was still weak when she reached for his cheek. She could only hold her hand there with Xandar's hand over hers as she whispered, "I'd do it again in a heartbeat." 1

Tears flowed from his eyes and down his face, falling on Lucianne's face when he kissed her on her lips, restraining himself from kissing her too deeply for fear of suffocating her. After releasing her lips, he pecked a kiss on her nose before muttering a breathless, "I love you."

Lucianne's fatigued smile widened as she uttered, "I know. I love you, too." She then let her eyelids fall and leaned into his chest. Xandar started panicking again until Lorenz said that her breathing and heart rate were already normal, so all she needed was bedrest. Upon hearing those words, Xandar's worry melted away as he kissed his sleeping beauty's hair, and held her close as the submarines reached Faint Moon.

After letting Lucianne sleep in their room for a few more hours, she woke up feeling much better. She, Xandar, Christian, Annie, Phelton and the alliance members then boarded Xandar's plane. The rest of the cavalry had already returned earlier with the rogues they arrested. 1

When the kids from Faint Moon were hugging Lucianne goodbye, Jasper came up to Xandar and tugged at his jeans. The King bent down and ruffled the boy's hair as he said, "It was nice to meet you, Jasper. Aunt Lucy is going to love our surprise."

To Xandar's own surprise, Jasper threw his arms around his neck, making his animal stunned. Jasper then whispered, "I think Aunt Lucy likes you, Uncle Xandar. You like her too, don't you?"

After Xandar squeezed the little boy gently, his lilac eyes locked on the boy's brown ones as he declared, "Yes, Jasper. I like Aunt Lucy very much, and I love her more than anything in the world."

Jasper's contemplative eyes sparkled, and he hopped a little before going over to give Lucianne a hug, and whispered that he loved her like he always did before running back to his mother. They got on the plane, and almost everyone slept without worry now that

they knew Lucianne was okay.

After Lucianne's relentless persuasion, Xandar reclined his seat and gave in to his fatigue. His arms circled around Lucianne's small body, pressing her into his hard chest as her thumb started stroking his hair. The Lycan King indulged in Lucianne's comforting touch and homely scent, and finally dozed off.

They reached Lycan territory in the late evening, and everyone agreed to skip the dinner at the dining hall, opting for room service, or, in Christian and Annie's case, home.

After Xandar and Lucianne had a long, relaxing dip in the tub, they had their dinner and decided to turn in early for the night. Xandar helped Lucianne with her bra and panties, pecking a kiss on her butt cheek through the thin fabric before lifting her off the floor and tucking her into bed.

He pecked a kiss on her forehead, and that was when Lucianne asked in a small voice, "Xandar?" Her mate's lilac eyes locked with her nervous black orbs as she asked, "D-Do you l-love me eno-"

Before she could finish, Xandar's lips attacked hers, hard and strong. His tongue plunged into her mouth and licked the inner walls. 'How could she ask that? How could she still not

know how I feel about her?', he thought. His kiss was furious and demanding but it was also desperate, desperate for her to stop questioning the depth of his love for her and only her.

When he had to release her lips because Lucianne ran out of air, he looked into her eyes and asked in dismay, "Lucy...what makes you think that I don't love you?"

She blinked her black orbs, and realized that there had been a miscommunication. "That wasn't what I meant, Xandar. I know you love me but what I wanted to ask was...will you...mark me?" 3

Xandar was sure he was hearing things now. Lucianne made it clear that she wanted to take things slow. Given her past, it was easy to understand why. Xandar's eyebrows furrowed as he asked, "Sweetheart, what did you just say?"

Lucianne averted her eyes when she asked in a small voice, "Do you love me enough to mark me?" 3

She couldn't look Xandar in the eye. She didn't want to see any reluctance that may be swimming there. As she waited, Xandar's lips found hers again as his hand supported her nape, his fingers tangled in her hair. She could feel his smile when he was kissing her, and it didn't feel urgent like the one before. This kiss felt...happy. It felt like blissful happiness.

i in Xandar's eyes when he pressed his forehead against hers and said, "I've been wanting to mark you since we met, my love." A sweet peck on her lips before something came to his mind. His smile faltered slightly as he whispered, "But is this what you want, Lucy? Right now? You know there's no rush in this."

With a hand on his cheek, Lucianne gazed at him as she explained, "Back in Wu Bi Corp, I could only stop Jake from marking me because of the Queen's Authority. The reason I used..to emit the Authority was that... I don't want to be marked by him or by anyone who isn't you."

As she stroked Xandar's cheek, she added, "I harnessed all the emotions of wanting to be marked by you, and I stopped him. I want this. But I only want it from you." She pecked him on his lips before she whispered, "I'm yours, my indecent beast. Only yours."

His own Lycan was tearing with happiness as it cooed. Xandar's smile broadened as he spoke in his deep, alluring voice, "On one condition."

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Lucianne's head cocked to one side as she waited, so Xandar continued, "That you mark me right after."

Lucianne chuckled and nodded before pulling him into another kiss. His body developed a mind of its own when it climbed onto the bed and hovered over her. Xandar's lips left hers only to move to her neck, where he started licking and sucking on it as Lucianne released a stream of cute moans before the sexy ones came out. His nose traced her jawline as his canines extended, and he whispered, "Deep breath, baby."

Lucianne complied, and with his animal's instinct, Xandar's canines plunged into her neck. Lucianne yelped from the pain, which lasted for a brief second before it was replaced with pleasure. There was also something else.

She felt an intense stream of emotions relating to love, devotion and gratitude. As Xandar retracted his canines and started licking off the excess blood, Lucianne realized that those intense emotions weren't hers. They were her mate's. She finally felt the intensity and depth of his love for her, and was touched beyond words.

When Xandar was done, his eyes of affection and protectiveness locked with her glistening, smiling ones as he uttered a deep and

alluring 'Mine'.

Lucianne blushed under his stare and declaration before he flipped their bodies over, holding his mate on top of him before pecking a kiss on her nose and nuzzling it as he said, "Your turn, my little freesia. Mark me." 1

He inched his head to one side, giving her full access to his neck. Lucianne's tongue got to work, licking and tenderising the area as Xandar's thumbs stroked her bare skin on her waist, closing his eyes to indulge in the moment he'd been waiting for since the night they met.

Her canines extended, and they plunged into Xandar's neck. "Mm." Xandar stiffened for a brief moment before he moaned in delight. When Lucianne sucked on the excess blood and cleaned his wound, his hands caressed her buttocks as he explored her emotions that he could now feel. He felt her vulnerability; her willingness to open up to him, her certainty about what they were doing; and her love for him that felt as strong as blazing fire.

Lucianne pecked a kiss on his chin and whispered a soft but firm, "Mine." Another peck on his lips before she uttered, "Thank you, my love."

He kissed her deeply on her lips, and uttered, "Thank you for opening up to me, and for letting me love you." A peck on her nose, and he declared, "I love you."

Lucianne felt the intensity of his words with their entwined emotions, and she chuckled in bliss before she said, "I know. I love you, too."

Xandar placed her back on the bed and held her close. As usual, Lucianne snuggled into his warm chest and fell asleep. When Xandar was certain that she was in deep slumber, he cautiously removed his arms wrapping around her body.

After pecking a light kiss on her forehead, he muttered, "I won't take long, sweetheart. I'll be right back." When Xandar left the bed, he picked up his phone from the nightstand and paced to the bathroom, carefully twisting the door knob to avoid making any sounds.

In the bathroom, he gave Juan a call, and after the Alpha gave his permission and blessing, Xandar asked for his mate's adoptive father's number, which Juan promised to send and chuckled as he uttered, "Good luck."

Those two words were enough to make Xandar more nervous than he already was. He hoped that his heart rate wasn't too high. His emotions were now entwined with Lucianne's, and he didn't want to wake her with his nervousness and anxiety. Former-Alpha Ken wouldn't be that scary, would he?

Ken was PISSED that Xandar had not bothered to meet him in person before courting his adopted daughter, and now he had the gall to ask for his blessing to propose to his little girl?! THE AUDACITY! He didn't care that Xandar was the Lycan King! Lucianne was his daughter! She was his baby girl! 1

It took twenty minutes of persuasion over the phone for Xandar to persuade Ken that he wanted to do right by Lucianne, that he would protect her, love her and take care of her for the rest of his life. Ken was only a little swayed, not because of what Xandar said, but because of what his own son had linked him over the past few weeks when Ken reminded Juan over and over again to look out for Lucianne.

Lucianne texted more than she linked her adoptive father, and from those texts and short links, she seemed...happy with Xandar, s o Ken grudgingly gave in and added, "WHEN THIS WHOLE SH*T IN YOUR KINGDOM IS CLEANED UP, YOU GET YOUR AS* BACK HERE AND MEET US LIKE A PROPER MAN MY DAUGHTER DESERVES, BOY!" 5

Xandar held back pointing out that he was actually older than Ken himself, and promised to make the trip to Blue Crescent when they were done with the rogue situation here. When the former Alpha hung up on him, Xandar and his animal let out a sigh of

He exited the bathroom, and noticed Lucianne sleeping closer to his side, like she was looking for his scent and warmth. Xandar smiled in the darkness and got back into bed, kissed her on the forehead as he whispered to his sleeping mate, "Told you I won't take long." His arms wrapped around her body, which made Lucianne coo in her sleep.

'Adorable', Xandar thought to himself before he surrendered to his fatigue as well.

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At 4 a.m. the next morning, Xandar pulled Lucianne back into bed when she tried to get up. After a minute, she escaped his tight grip. With his eyes still closed, he chuckled and muttered, "Already got the strength of a Lycan, my love?"

Lucianne had just switched on the lights in the bathroom when Xandar said that, and what she saw in the mirror made her gasp in shock. Xandar's eyes snapped open, and he jumped out of bed before bolting to his mate. "Baby, what is it? What's wrong?"

Lucianne stepped closer to the mirror as she studied her reflection. Her eyes were now gradient-colored. It starts with her original black color from the top and turns lilac towards the bottom. Her brightened complexion made her look...younger. She looked like she was in her late teens or early twenties, and her skin seemed healthier. With a finger pointed at the mirror, she asked Xandar, "I s that what I really look like right now?"

Xandar chuckled and ran his fingers down her hair before he said, "No, baby. You look much more beautiful in person." He peered into her narrowed eyes, and stroked her eyebrow with his thumb as he uttered, "I have to say, I'm glad your eyes have not entirely changed. I was starting to miss those black orbs I fell for. I wonder if your animal's eyes have changed, though I hope they haven't."

"Let's see, then." Lucianne said, and looked back into the mirror as she brought her animal forward. Her eyes were still as blue as sapphires, and Xandar pressed her into his chest as he muttered, "Thank you, Goddess." He suddenly heard Lucianne cooing, and realized that he was hugging her animal in Lucianne's human body, not her human part per se.

Her animal continued cooing and nuzzling his neck, chin and jawline before moving to the mark Lucianne made the previous night. She was trying to draw out Xandar's Lycan, and it was working! His animal demanded control, wanting some private time with its mate.

Just then, Lucianne chuckled through their link, 'She wants him, Xandar. We've done it so many times but they haven't had the chance.

As his animal continued to push, Xandar linked, "This is going to be one uncontrollable beast we're unleashing, sweetheart.'

Lucianne's animal cooed aloud coquettishly, clearly hearing his link as she continued to seduce his animal. Lucianne chuckled again and linked, 'Just let them, Xandar. It's time they had their fill.'

Xandar peered into those sapphire orbs, and used his last ounce of control to peck a kiss on the back of her hand and uttered, "As you wish, my Queen."

Right after he said that, his animal pushed his human part away and came forward, taking control of his body. As soon as it did, it pulled Lucianne's Lycan into a hungry kiss, lifting her off the floor and back to the bed. They didn't bother unhooking the bra or removing her panties.

After Xandar's animal kicked away his pants and let his erected shaft proudly spring free, it growled alluringly before extending one claw to cut through the bra fabric from the middle and by the straps before it did the same to her underwear, which got its mate even more turned on.

The way his hands grip her breasts and roam her body was rough and possessive, and the way his tongue assaulted her folds in her wet lady part was like he had been starved for weeks on end, and maybe he was.

Like his human, his animal loved drinking from their mate. When every drop was lapped up, he positioned itself at her entrance and immediately pushed his long-hardened manhood into her, making his mate yelp before it was replaced with a stream of moans. 2

The animals looked into each other's eyes as he went in and out of her, and when she was close to coming, he increased his speed. With a slow, seductive lick over her mark, her body convulsed and arched upward towards him.

His animal had never felt happier as it came inside her, letting her lock him in as it cooed and nuzzled her forehead. When her lock came loose, he still refused to leave, and with a blissful smile, he uttered a strong, possessive and devoted 'MATE.'

Lucianne's animal cooed and nuzzled his nose before she muttered a gentler but equally firm 'MATE. The animals did another two rounds before giving back control to their human parts.