

The 5-time Rejected Gamma & the Lycan King by Stina's Pen Chapter 41

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Chapter 41

Lucianne kicked backwards, aiming at his testicles and Xandar groaned in anguish. His grip on her waist loosened and she elbowed his chest, pushing him backwards by a few steps. She turned around to face him, pain and guilt filled her eyes as she stood where she was to watch her mate's reaction.

When Xandar regained his bearing, he looked at his mate with only humour and playfulness as he teased out loud, "Why the anguished look, my love? I haven't even landed any blows on you yet."

The guilt in Lucianne's eyes was gone. She watched him get into a position ready to spar her, and she asked, "Do you really want to do this, Xandar?"

"You're not afraid to lose now, are you, sweetheart?" Xandar challenged, and enthusiastic murmurs soon came from the Lycans around them.

Lucianne smiled as she shook her head while she looked at the ground before lifting her head back up to say, "I honestly don't know which one of us is going to regret this more once it ends." She then took her position, ignoring Christian who was saying, "Goddess, I should've brought popcorn." 2

Xandar seemed to have learned to wait for the opponent's attack, something she did the first time they fought against each other. He waited for her to attack this time. She charged for him and his punch came but Lucianne knew that this was his style so she dodged it with ease, and Xandar punched the air. Lucianne slid through the gap between his legs which he left too wide open, making it a perfect escape route for small opponents like her.

Although Lucianne managed to climb on Xandar's neck, she couldn't pin him down since he expected her to do just that after watching her fight Phelton. He grabbed on to one of her legs and brought her entire body in front of him. She hung by her leg for only less than a second before she grabbed onto his arm like it was a pole and pulled herself back up, her foot turned and was forcing Xandar's fingers to twist to the point that they couldn't.

Before she could escape, Xandar pinned her body on the ground with her back down, and pressed her elbows firmly on the ground. His face hovered over hers with a cocky smirk, "This position seems very familiar, my dear. Last I remember, you couldn't break free from me when we were like this."

Lucianne mirrored his smirk, and there was a glint in her eye before her knees bent and kicked in full force at his testicals, harder than the first time. Some of the Lycans cringed visibly at Lucianne's attack but Christian was already laughing in tears and holding Toby's shoulder for support. Xandar's grip on Lucianne

loosened, and she elbowed his body to the side before climbing onto him in an instant, her legs spread across his chest. Without allowing Xandar to recover, her hands reached for his head and neck, twisting it slightly like she did with Langford.

Xandar took a moment to digest what just happened. When Lucianne loosened her grip on him, he let out a chuckle as he took both her hands and kissed them affectionately. With nothing but pride and awe, he said, "You're amazing."

A shy smile graced her features and she rolled her eyes before trying to get up. But Xandar held her firmly by her thighs, pinning her to his chest. Lucianne smirked, "Want a round two already, my King?"

He scoffed, "Not until my Queen enlightens me on my mistakes from round one."

"Let me go, and I'll tell you." She said simply. He smirked, "What's wrong with the position we're in? I kind of like it actually." His subjects around him were already grinning and smirking at his coy response.

Lucianne's eyes turned stern, "Behave, my King." 1

Xandar let go of one of her thighs and took her hand before pecking a kiss on her wrist. "As you wish, my Queen."

She got up and so did Xandar. Lucianne told him about watching the space between his legs and his failure to pin her calves when he pinned her elbows enabled her to launch her attack to escape his grip. She also mentioned that he should've quickly pin her to the ground when he held her by her leg. Although she was just speaking to Xandar, the Lycans around them were all listening attentively. Weaver and Yarrington looked like they were taking mental notes.

When Lucianne was going to walk away, Xandar pulled her into his chest as he asked, "The first time I caged you in that position with your back on the ground. You weren't really trapped, were you? You could escape but you didn't. Why?"

She shrugged, "Because our spar already ended by that time. It wouldn't be a fair fight if I beat you up then." Christian started laughing again. O

Xandar ignored his cousin and asked Lucianne, "You let me think that I could trap you?"

With an innocent smile, Lucianne said, "No. I never said anything. You came up with that thought yourself."

Xandar squeezed the flesh on her waist, and Lucianne tried her best to swallow the giggle but Xandar and his animal were happy enough to see her shy smile widened and her red-tinged cheeks after he did that

Christian came over and patted his cousin on his back, "Cuz." he turned around to let out another stream of chuckles before he continued, "Oh, Goddess! That was precious! I should've made a recording."

The Duke really didn't make it easy for the rest of the audience to hold back their laughter. Like Toby, many didn't feel comfortable laughing at their King who just lost to their Queen, at

least not yet.

"You should go next, Christian." Xandar suggested.

Christian's humour died down, "Hah. Nah-ah. No way. I'm not that stupid. My most heartfelt congratulations to you, my Queen. But no, not today. Maybe not even in this lifetime." A few people around them started laughing subtly at the Duke's refusal to go up against the Queen.

"Your Highness," Langford's voice came from behind. Lucianne turned to see the General stand before her. He swallowed a lump in his throat before gritting his teeth and saying, "Forgive me...and sh-should you have any suggestions on how we can improve, I-I hope you can share it with us."

Lucianne's lips curled upward and her eyes sparkled as she glanced at the confused Toby before she looked back at Langford and said, "Since you mentioned it, General. We do have a suggestion." She waved Toby over.

He came in slow, bewildered steps. Lucianne then said, "Since the rogue Lycans attacked the Jewel Pack, many of us wolves have an idea of how we should alter our training to adapt to future threats. Toby, tell the General about our discussion with Raden and the others from last night."

Toby's mind clicked and he exclaimed, "Ah, that!" Now he knew exactly what she was talking about. He and a few other warriors, including Lucianne herself, talked about the issue. Lucianne was supposed to ask Xandar about it the night before but it slipped her mind after what happened with Caunterberg.

Langford looked at Toby with less hostility than he did before. Toby then began, "We were hoping to have spars between species for training." There were shocked gasps from some of

the Lycans around them. But half of them were contemplative, and Weaver and Yarrington looked at each other in excitement at the idea.

Toby continued to explain, "Since we're now dealing with rogue Lycans, many of us would like to train with an actual Lycan, especially in wolf form with a Lycan form. And in return, our wolves can help your Lycans gain speed in human form. Lucy and I have seen a lot of well-built Lycans here, and we say this with no disrespect, but most of you are too sl At least in human form. And as wolves, we are still no match for a Lycan's build and strength once we shift so we want to practice with your animals to find a few new techniques to defend ourselves."

Langford was pondering seriously, and Xandar's thumb was stroking Lucianne's waist in slow motions as he digested Toby's words. Toby then added, "And just to be clear, General and my King, we won't force every Lycan to pair with a wolf," he then looked at Lucianne and she gave him an encouraging nod to go on. So he continued, "We will only train with Lycans who will be willing to learn and train with us. We're not asking for a mandatory inter-species training session."

Langford looked at the Lycans around them, then he told Xandar, "I have no issue with that,

your Highness. If there's room for improvement, then our species should be open to it."

Xandar then added, "Perhaps it's best for there to be mandatory inter-species training sessions. The rogues are a threat to all of us. Two of the wolves' best warriors have already been generous enough to give us their opinions on how we fare. It's foolish to refuse their offer to help."

Weaver spoke up enthusiastically, "I'm all for it! But with much respect and admiration for you, *my Queen*, I do not want to pair with you. I'll take anyone else. Just not you." His mate and the others, including Xandar, laughed at the environment minister. Christian's laughter was the loudest, as usual.

Xandar looked at his beautiful mate and said in a husky voice, "Well, Lucy. It's time to get the wolves over here." She looked at Toby and said, "Let's send the message, then." In an instant, hers and Toby's eyes glazed over as they linked their respective Alphas.

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Alphas Juan and Tate were shocked but soon after that, excited. They wasted no time linking the other Alphas and Lunas through their pack leaders group-link. And the leaders, in turn, informed their Gammas.

The wolves came over and started pairing up with the Lycans. Some Lycans followed Weaver and Yarrington, and went to where the wolves were to pair up with them. After watching Lucianne, most of the Lycans kept their guard up. Many didn't underestimate the smaller sized opponent in front of them seeing that even the smallest wolf was able to take down the largest and strongest Lycan, right after taking down their General and his best warrior.

Xandar paired with Toby, and Christian paired with Juan. Most Gammas stood on the sides to watch two pairs at a time. Within the first few minutes, it was clear that more Lycans were falling on their mats compared to wolves.

After Lucianne watched a few matches around her, her voice rang loud in the air, "Lycans, your strength will only be of use if you actually manage to catch your wolf counterpart. If you don't have them in your hands yet, don't bet on your strength to win. When an attack comes at you, grab that part of their body they are using to launch their attack, and hold on to it. Only after that should you utilise your strength. Wolves, our speed and agility are our greatest advantage. Use the techniques we've learned to have the Lycans use their own strength against themselves. If and when you get caught, think fast. Escape first, continue your attack later. Slip your way out in any possible way, and never underestimate the power of surprise. Everyone, take note of your opponent's stability. Ask yourselves whether it's a good time to trip them. See if your partner has a pattern of attack. Use it to plan your counterattack."

She noticed Wainwright from the corner of her eye sparring a female Lycan, which made her add, "And remember, in battle, show no mercy."

Juan managed to beat Christian. Raden, who was watching, gave them pointers on how they could both improve. The spar between Xandar and Toby lasted a few minutes longer, with Toby coming out victorious, which was a surprise even for the wolf himself. If the King was not his closest friend's mate, he would've boasted about his victory to every Lycan in the field that day, regardless of whether he knew them.

Xandar smiled and shook his hand as he said sportingly, "Looks like my mate isn't the only one who can beat me. It was a good fight, Gamma Tobias. Points of improvement, please?" 2

Toby was humbled that the King didn't take the fall too hard, "Well, your Highness. Your punching pattern was very predictable. And you tend to think that your opponent's intention of charging towards you is to attack you."

"Wait, isn't it?"

Toby shook his head with a smile, "Take the spar you had with Lucy. She charged at you. But

she wasn't going to attack you yet. Her intention was to escape from you and to surprise you when she escaped. And the punch you wanted to land on her went to the air, wasting your strength. For our spar, I charged at you only to be close enough so you started throwing as many punches as possible at me, distracting you while I watched your stability weaken enough for me to make my move. And your Highness, do you ever wonder why Lucy looks at her opponents from head to toe before a fight?"

Xandar was pondering like a student who had been questioned by a teacher, "To gauge her best forms of attack and defence?"

Toby nodded then explained, "She studies her opponents. All of them. Even you and me. Height, to see whether it's possible to flip over her opponent. Build, to gauge the best techniques to divert your strength back to you. The tip is, your Highness, if your opponent is smaller than you, which Lucy and I both are, don't expect us to start with a direct attack, not unless we're inexperienced in fighting.

We'll always find a way to reach the more tender areas of your body, and those are not easily accessible by direct attacks." .

Xandar listened and then asked, trying to not sound jealous, "How do you know all this? Like how she thinks before she fights?"

Toby smiled graciously and explained, "Well, when Lucy recruited me and a few other Gammas to give pointers to our own warriors, she taught us how she assesses them before giving her feedback. Most of what I told you was what she told us years ago. If you look around, your Highness, all of those watching spars and giving feedback now are Gammas. And most, if not all of us, were trained and taught by Lucy herself."

Xandar was taking in the scene of the training ground and his heart was filled with immense gratitude and honour that he was bonded to Lucianne, the very best of her kind. Suddenly,

e's loud voice came from a distance, "Lycans, the intention of most wolves is to escape before they attack, not attack first. Don't pin on the fact that they'll attack you when they charge at you."

Xandar looked at her figure in playful annoyance as he complained to Toby louder than necessary, "Oh, now she tells us!" Toby was chuckling. Lucianne turned and locked eyes with her mate as she smirked and mind-linked him, 'I heard that, Xandar.'

He linked her back, 'Good. Then hear this, my love. You look like the Goddess herself, maybe even more beautiful.'

She shook her head in disapproval and tried to suppress a smile. She covered her face with her hands in embarrassment for a moment before turning around to avert his gaze and continued to focus on the spars around her.

"She heard you, didn't she?" Toby asked as he chuckled. Xandar nodded with a smile.

Not far away, Sasha's seething anger was doing her no favors as Luna Lyssa tripped her and knocked her off over and over again. First, she was kicked out of the collaboration. Then, her father made her continue training even though he knew she hated it. Now, she had to train

with an old lady wolf while every Lycan and wolf were under the irksome-looking Gamma's command. "Perhaps we should take five minutes of rest, Ms Cummings." Luna Lyssa suggested diplomatically and Sasha glared at her before barging to the side to get a drink from her bottle.

Also not far away, Greg took a peek at Lucianne whenever he could. He already lost to Alpha Tate twice and was not happy about it. When Greg heard Lucianne shouting out advice to Lycans and werewolves as he took a break, he felt his bad mood alleviating with the sound of her voice. He turned to look at her as subtly as he could when she had stopped shouting. Lucianne was covering her face,

trying but failing to suppress a shy smile. 'Beautiful,' Greg thought to himself, and was surprised by how much emotion was generated into his being by that one word.

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Lucianne, Xandar and Christian skipped lunch in the dining hall for lunch at Christian's home. Annie had wanted to meet Lucianne ever since Xandar first told Christian about finding his mate at the annual meet-and-greet.

The cousins and Lucianne herself really wanted to start digging into the audits, the real ones, so it sounded like lunch at the residence of the Duke and Duchess was the perfect plan. Lucianne was also concerned with how Ellia, Ben and the other two families were holding up,

so when Xandar asked if she wanted to go, she didn't hesitate to say yes.

Christian's villa was about the same size as Xandar's but the interior had more portraits: Xandar explained that Christian had been fascinated with art for as long as he could remember. His wife, Annie, loved flowers, which explained the colourful flower beds around the house, and the many, many tall vases and small pots at every corner of the rooms in their home.

Lucianne was quite nervous about meeting Annie. Xandar told her that Annie was nice but Lucianne wasn't sure if they would click as friends. Things would get rather awkward if they had no common interest to hold a simple conversation. That was the reason why Lucianne could never get close to females who only talked about make-up, latest fashion trends or celebrity news. She never kept up with those things. She mentally planned to just get Annie to talk about flowers as a last resort to avoid any awkwardness.

Christian strode quicker than usual after he entered through the front doors of his home, making his way to the guest lounge where Annie was waiting. It was the first time Lucianne

saw Christian walking ahead of Xandar. The Duke didn't look back as he made speedy steps to his wife of seventeen years. 2

Xandar and Lucianne made it to the lounge just in time to see Annie in Christian's embrace as the Duke pecked a sweet kiss on the Duchess's cheek before muttering an affectionate 'Hey' to his wife, looking deeply into her eyes. Her eyes matched his affection as she pecked a kiss on his jaw.

Lucianne took in the lounge with light-colored walls against the marble-tiled floor. A chandelier hung from the ceiling in the middle of the room, and its lights

brought out the colors of the posh velvet sofas and bocote wood furniture. Exquisite was the only way to describe the lounge.

Xandar was only looking at Lucianne the entire time her eyes studied their surroundings, and he couldn't help but peck a kiss on her temple because of how cute she looked when she was being a curious cat. Lucianne was so caught up with the sophisticated lounge that she merely offered her mate a shy smile as her hand reached out to touch his arm in tenderness. Her small hand on his hulking muscles was enough to make Xandar's animal howl internally with pride and ecstasy.

Christian interrupted his animal's happy moment when he brought Annie to his cousin and the new-found Queen. Annie was only a little shorter than Christian. Her lilac eyes shone beautifully against her tanned skin. Her shoulder-length hair was straight and brown. She wore a plain pink shirt and white shorts. Even so, she was anything but plain-looking because her facial features made everything she wore stand out in her own way. With a warm smile, she reached out to give Xandar a brief hug before she turned to look at Lucianne who had a friendly smile on.

Annie smiled graciously as she offered a bow and said, "My Queen, it's a pleasure to finally meet you."

Lucianne bowed back and Annie stood with Lucianne. The Duchess had clearly been briefed by Christian about the new bowing formality. When their eyes met again, the first thing Lucianne said to the Duchess was, "Can we not do that the next time we meet, Annie?"

Annie chuckled lightly, and to Lucianne's surprise, pulled Lucianne into a brief hug like she did with Xandar. After letting her go, Annie said, "Christian did say you weren't very comfortable with formalities."

"I'm still not actually." Lucianne admitted sheepishly. "And I prefer if you could just call me Lucy."

"What?! That's not fair!" Xandar exclaimed. "Babe, you only let me call you 'Lucy' days after we met! You met Annie less than a minute ago."

Lucianne narrowed her eyes at her sometimes-childish mate, "Xandar, I let you call me your sweetheart in less than 24 hours after we first met. Don't you think that beats calling my shortened name?"

Xandar thought hard about it for a moment before he said, "It's debatable." Christian chuckled from the side at his cousin's seriousness.

"Lucy it is then." Annie gladly obliged.

"Thank you. Do you think you could convince Christian to do the same?" Lucianne asked, despite knowing that the Duke was right there in front of her.

Annie groaned playfully and said, "Oh, that's a stubborn one. I have to tell you. Do you know he called me 'My Duchess' for the entire first year and a half after our marriage, and even before we were engaged? I mean, seriously, what is it with this man and his love for addressing people by their titles?"

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It was Xandar's turn to chuckle at his cousin. Christian's smile was broadening by the second, and he walked to his mate before holding her close to the side of his body and pecking a kiss on her cheek as he muttered, "My Duchess" into her ear. Annie's mock look of annoyance was quickly replaced with a beautiful shy demeanor. Her pink blushes made her look more beautiful than she already was. No one could guess that this couple had been married for seventeen years. They behave like newlyweds!

"Aww, you guys are so sweet. This is a whole new side of Christian that I've never seen before and it looks really good on him." Lucianne said like an excited little girl. By her side, Xandar's thumb started stroking her waist, and he kissed her on her temple again because she looked absolutely adorable saying what she just did.

Lucianne then looked at Xandar, whose eyes were soft with affection until she asked, "Should we start analyzing the audits? There's probably a lot to go through. We don't want to be here for too long if we want to keep suspicions at bay."

Xandar groaned as everyone felt the romantic atmosphere around them break with Lucianne's words. The King then mocked annoyance and complained, "Lucy, first you let a person you met for less than a minute call you how I wanted to call you since the first night we met. Now, you can't even give me a moment to revel in your being without you talking about Queen duties! Do I even matter to you?!"

Lucianne's cheeky mood was turned on, "Oh, I'm sorry for upsetting you, your Highness. But if I remember correctly, you said you merely needed me as your Queen to help you with your very taxing job as King. So I naturally obliged and asked about the issue I came to help with."

Xandar suppressed a grin as his hands started caressing her shoulders. After a brief kiss on her hairline, he said in a husky voice, "Careful now, my love. We both know how that conversation ended last time."

Annie then asked Christian out loud, "This was the one with Xandar's arousal spiraling out of control among the wolves in the dining hall, right?" Christian tried to suppress a laugh and nodded in response to his mate's question.

Despite the strong wave of sparks Lucianne felt from Xandar's hands on her shoulder, she looked at the Duchess in as much irritation as she could muster as she said, "Annie, you heard me. Did any part of what I just said sound horny to you?".

Christian couldn't help it this time, and was chuckling uncontrollably by Annie's side. Xandar himself was still trying his best to suppress a grin, and he continued to caress his mate's shoulders in adoration as he pecked a sweet kiss on her temple again while waiting for his cousin-in-law's answer.

Annie narrowed her eyes at Xandar and began, "My King, you should be ashamed of yourself. Your thoughts are as inappropriate as they are unprofessional. It's no wonder the Queen showed you no mercy in combat this morning."

Lucianne burst into laughter, and Christian laughed even louder. The sound of his chuckles

She was already holding Xandar's shoulder for support, and it did not help that Xandar was squeezing the flesh on her waist playfully to make her laugh even more. When her laughter subsided, Xandar pecked butterfly kisses on her cheek, sending a visible blush to her features as he took a whiff of her hair.

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Annie dropped her humour and reciprocated Lucianne's serious demeanor, "They're alright. But it's always a worry when the kids are in school. Waiting for the time to pass, and just hoping that they'll come home safely is pure torture."

"Let's hope the case can be closed soon." Lucianne said with furrowed brows.

Suddenly, Lucianne felt her dress being gently tugged. She looked at the source, and her voice turned soft as she bent down to greet the little boy, "Hello, Russell. How was school today?"

"Hello, Aunt Lucy." He wrapped his little arms around Lucianne's neck right after he said that. It didn't matter how many times Russell hugged her, her heart would melt every single time. When he let her go, he asked, "Aunt Lucy, can you come play with me?"

Lucianne already looked guilty that she had to disappoint him, "Well, no, sweetheart. Aunt Lucy has some work to do. But I promise to play with you one day, okay?"

His already-large eyes widened as he asked innocently, "Is Aunt Lucy catching bad guys?" Lucianne smiled, "Yes, Russell. And we have to catch them fast so everyone will be safe. Hm?"

Russell hugged her again as he whimpered into her ear, "Be careful of bad guys, Aunt Lucy. When I grow up, I'll protect Aunt Lucy from bad guys." Lucianne was holding back her tears as she held Russell before releasing him.

She pecked a kiss on Russell's head and said, "You're a brave boy, Russell. Go play with Rita now, okay?" He nodded dotingly with an adorable smile, and showed those cute dimples before disappearing from the living room.

Annie's surprised voice then rang through the room, "Wow! You're really good with kids!"

Lucianne stood up after Russell disappeared. She then spoke in her normal voice, "Well, they're easy to be with. No ulterior motives. No ill-intentions. Easy to read. Just pure, little creatures."

Annie then asked curiously, "Were the kids from your pack like this around you?"

Lucianne said, "Yeah, pretty much. It's most likely because I'm the smallest werewolf everywhere I go. So the kids kinda see me as almost being one of them. The most daring ones even interrupt the training sessions with my warriors just to make me promise that I would play with them on the weekends."

Annie then smiled and said, "I don't think it's your size, Lucy. There's this warmth you bring that amplifies when you see a child. It feels welcoming and assuring. I think that's why Russell was drawn to you, so much so that it made your mate jealous." 2

"I'm sorry, what?" Lucianne asked in disbelief. Christian started laughing again. Lucianne

then looked at Xandar who was suppressing a guilty smile as he held her closer to the side of his body. His reaction in itself confirmed Annie's observation.

Lucianne asked in annoyance, "You were jealous of a four-year-old, Xandar?"

Christian then said, "Oh, we thought he was five." 1

Lucianne shook her head slightly, "No, Ben said Russell is four. Rita is five."

Xandar then complained, "Like that matters. He's a male who's getting smiles and kisses from you without having to put in any effort. And he gets to call you 'Lucy!'" Annie and Christian were chuckling from the side at Xandar's childish remark.

Lucianne couldn't believe what she was hearing. But she decided to give in this time. So she pulled herself up and pecked a kiss on his cheek before saying, "Don't worry, my darling. Russell is cute but you're more of my type for a mate."

The smile which graced Xandar's features showed that he was satisfied with the answer, or the kiss. Xandar kissed Lucianne's forehead before whispering, "You're my only type, Lucy." 2

Lucianne was completely lost for words. He made her feel special, yearned and loved. She pecked another kiss on his cheek, making his smile spread wider across his face.

Annie's voice suddenly came from the side, "I see it." She glanced at Christian before she continued, "I mean, I already felt the difference in Xandar's energy when he stepped through our door. But now that he's right in front of me with his mate, I can really see and feel the difference in his being."

Christian then looked at Xandar as he explained, "I told Annie that you've been less menacing and more welcoming with the people around us since you met our Queen."

Xandar then said, "Well, I'm bonded to an overly-responsible mate whose priority is knowing our people and protecting them. I have to try my best to keep up with her." Lucianne was pressing back a shy smile, averting Xandar's tender loving gaze as his thumb continued to stroke her waist.

Not wanting her cheeks to get redder and warmer than they already were, Lucianne then turned to the Duke and Duchess and asked, "Shall we start?"

Christian then said, "Start lunch? Yes. Start work? No, my Queen. Neither of us are telling you where the audits are in this house until you've eaten with us."

"Oh right, I forgot that we haven't eaten." Lucianne admitted.

Xandar then said, "That's hardly surprising. It's always about taking care of others first for you." After pecking a kiss on the back of her hand, he said, "Come, my love. Let's eat. It'll give u sa chance to meet the other two families too."

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They sat at a huge dining table that the servants had to take out from the basement when the three families moved in. Ellia and Ben were happy to see Lucianne again. And Ellia introduced Lucianne to her assistants and their families. Briggitta Reese and her mate, Barton Reese were newlyweds, and had a six-month-old child named Beatrice. Oscar Wildrow was mateless for now, and lived with his sister, Olivia Wildrow

They all sat at the same table and ate the same food as the Duke and Duchess. Russell insisted that he sat with Lucianne. After knowing about Xandar's jealousy, Lucianne made sure she stroked Xandar's arm affectionately after she had given Russell any form of attention. Xandar's animal beamed in pride whenever Lucianne touched him in front of so many people.

When Lucianne asked the families whether they had received any threats, everyone was relieved that they all uttered a resounding 'no'. Then again, the three colleagues did leave their phones in their homes after deleting almost all the information inside so that they couldn't be tracked. So technically, there wasn't a way to threaten them.

Oscar then asked between mouthfuls, "Apologies, my Queen. But may I ask what happened?" He gestured to her 5-inch scar on her arm.

Lucianne glanced at her scar and said simply, "Oh, it was from a rogue attack on one of our ally packs five or six years ago. Many warriors have something like this."

"You're a warrior?" Oscar asked in astonishment.

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"I am." Lucianne answered humbly with a polite smile. Christian then added, "Oscar, if you want to know about our Queen, you can't ask her personally. Her humility doesn't permit her to give you the full information. She's the Gamma of Blue Crescent, one of the strongest packs in existence. And she is the fiercest of her kind, like a Gamma of the Gammas. In combat this morning, she beat the best Lycan warrior and our General in the same match all on her own. Less than ten minutes later, she beat our King here within eight minutes."

There were shocked gasps from all the adults in the room as their sights turned to fix on the Lucianne. Lucianne was already covering her face with her hands, embarrassed. Xandar did not help when he gently peeled her hands off her flustered face. He was proud to show off his beautiful mate who had just kicked his ass in the morning.

Ellia was the first to snap out of her shock as she asked, "My Queen, is that true?"

Lucianne was still flustered when she said, "Well, I'm only better in combat with Lycans in our human form. My wolf form is still no match for a Lycan's."

"Yet." Xandar smirked encouragingly as he kissed her temple.

Oscar then told Olivia, "I must say, I feel very safe knowing that the throne is not only sat by the strongest Lycan but also the strongest werewolf."

Lucianne then explained, "Oh no, Oscar. I'm not the strongest werewolf. Those are Alphas. Being small, I'm just...quicker than most. That's how I beat my opponents."

Annie's voice rang around the table next, "Lucy, does your humility reservoir ever run dry?" Xandar and Christian both chuckled at Annie's blunt remark.

"I'm not being humble, Annie. It's the truth." Lucianne said.

Annie rolled her eyes and said, "Lucy, strength is not merely a physical attribute. Your strength in enduring whatever life throws at you and still managing to stand and help those in need is much more valuable than having hard muscles and knowing how to throw a punch." There were murmurs of agreement around the table.

Xandar then looked at Lucianne in pure tenderness as he uttered, "She's right, you know." He pecked a kiss on her cheek before saying, "Sweetheart, you are the strongest werewolf." Lucianne smiled shyly when his alluring eyes bore into hers.

Brigetta spoke next, "My King, it's so nice to know that you've finally found your mate after all these years. The Queen brought a breath of fresh air to our office the other day. We spoke about what happened for hours!"

A thought came to Lucianne's mind, and she sat upright all of a sudden, "I need to ask. *Were* any of you interrogated by your boss after we left?"

They told her about Helena Tanner coming back to the office later in the evening. She questioned the three of them and the receptionists. Xandar's features hardened when they said they had to kneel before Tanner just to make it look real because when they were blackmailed, they were made to kneel as well. In this Kingdom, no one had the power to command a person to kneel besides the King and Queen. Who did this woman think she was?!

"We couldn't be more grateful for all of you to take us in, your Highnesses and your Graces." Brigetta said after she finished explaining.

Lucianne's hand subconsciously went to stroke Russell's soft hair as the little boy chewed on his food. But her mind was somewhere else. She didn't want to say anything at the dining table to scare the families they vowed to protect. So she simply continued eating the food on her plate.

'Baby, what's wrong?' Xandar asked in concern through their mind-link. His features carried worry as he looked at her.

She linked back, 'I'm worried that we may be dealing with someone we don't know yet, someone who isn't on Ellia's list of five names. Someone on the outside.'

'What makes you say that?'

'Tanner was trying everything to make sure that her cover wasn't blown. But now that the very three employees she blackmailed are here, with no threats, it just seems rather suspicious.'

'Babe, I'm not following.'

'Tanner strikes me as someone very resourceful. With the amount of money she had siphoned over the years, I doubt that it would be hard to find a good enough tracker to pick up the scent of these families and trace them here to Christian's house. The fact that there had been no threats at all worries me. She could've easily sent a threat by normal mail but there hasn't been anything so far. It's like Tanner is subordinate to someone, and that person has not given the order to make a move.'

'Maybe this person is Cummings, Whitlaw...'

'No, I don't think it's them. Those two would have sent an anonymous threat to me personally for blurring more than they wanted me to if they were in charge. It wouldn't be Marie Martin either. She sat there without siphoning anything during King Lucas's reign for years. Someone after that must've persuaded her to do what she's doing. And Patrick Dupont...if I'm completely honest with you, darling, Dupont looks more like a swayable puppet than a Deputy Finance Minister.'

Xandar then sighed and took her hand into his, placing it on his lap before he linked, 'They're all going to wish they were dead. If there is someone else, we'll choke it out of them.'

Her thumb started stroking his as she linked, 'We might have to do this very carefully, Xandar. And we have to be open with the fact that Ellia and the others don't know who else exists in this fund-mishandling. If there is someone else giving the order, he...or she has to be found and arrested before these families can be safe. And we can't touch the five people we know until we know who the last person is. If we alert even one of the five, the last one would disappear before we're able to dig anything up.'

Xandar kissed her hand, his expression was still serious as he linked, 'We'll do this properly and carefully to keep them safe. And we'll do it together, okay?'

'Okay.' She nodded meekly and forced a smile as she finished up her food. 1

"Aunt Lucy, are you okay?" Russell's worried voice rang around the dining room and all eyes fell on Lucianne. 2

Lucianne dropped her worried face immediately, and replaced it with a cheerful and assuring expression, "Of course, Russell. You're so sweet to ask."

"I care about Aunt Lucy." He said matter-of-factly, and Lucianne pecked a kiss on his cheek. The other adults in the room enjoyed the sweet exchange as Christian studied his jealous cousin in amusement.

The 5-time Rejected Gamma & the Lycan King by Stina' s Pen Chapter 46

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Ellia and her assistants sorted out the audits in Christian's study, explaining to them how it was arranged. And they started going through the stacks together. Russell somehow managed to convince his mother and Lucianne that he'll be a good, quiet little boy doing his homework at a small corner table in the study while the adults around him worked. Xandar didn't mind since he was far away enough from Lucianne. 2

Since Ellia, Brigetta and Oliver were blackmailed into fabricating the audits without question, they never dared to scrutinize how the funds in the five people's accounts were connected to each other. They were just told to change the figures so that the amounts resembled those of other government officials. (This novel will be daily updated at)In essence, the analysis on the real audits had to now start from scratch. After comparing the audits, they found a pattern in the incoming and outgoing transactions of the five people in Ellia's list. 1

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Every month for the past eighteen years, large sums of money would be deposited into the five people's bank accounts. But the money did not come from a government account. The money that was channeled into the five people's accounts came from twenty different bank accounts. So it would seem that the government funds were first deposited into the twenty different bank accounts, then transferred to the five people on the list.

What was odd was this: on a rotation basis, four of the five people in the list would transfer twenty percent of the siphoned sums to a company. The fifth person would transfer forty percent to the same company. Each person on the list would take turns being this fifth person to transfer forty percent every month

As for the company they transferred the money to, it changed every five years. For the first five years, it was to Rénova & Co. In the subsequent five years, it was to Hanabell Poll & Co. In the following five years, it was to a firm called Tellilla & Associates. And in the final three years and early this year, the money was transferred to Wu Bi Corporation. Brigetta and Annie looked up the names of these companies. The first three didn't exist. The most recent one, Wu Bi Corporation, had more than ten subsidiary companies, which in turn had further subsidiaries. The chain was long and seemingly infinite.

When Annie made everyone pause to take a break while she, Christian and Oliver went to the kitchen to get everyone a snack, Lucianne went to stand in front of the huge window in the study and stared into space. Xandar approached his mate and joined her at the window. His hand rested on her shoulder, and his thumb started drawing comforting circles on her skin as he desperately tried to ease her tension.

He linked in a low, ominous tone, 'Looks like you were right. There is someone we don't know yet.'

'I prefer to be wrong about this.'

He kissed her temple before continuing, 'We'll find out who it is...or who they are. We're

making good progress already. We'll figure it out.'

'I know that. I just...hope that we'll figure everything out before anyone gets hurt.' Lucianne looked at Russell, who was concentrating on his homework before she linked, 'We promised to protect them, Xandar. I wouldn't be able to forgive myself if anything happened to any of them.'

"Hey, come here." Xandar said soothingly and pulled her into a hug as he whispered, "They'll be safe here. We'll catch these culprits before anything happens." He kissed her forehead, and when they turned back to everyone in the room, Lucianne dropped her worried look, replacing it with a calm demeanor.

Christian, Annie and Oliver re-entered the room carrying trays of cupcakes and pudding. (This novel will be daily updated at) Russell's eyes snapped up when he saw the food and he looked at his mother, as if asking for her permission. Ellia gave him an approving nod, granting him permission. And Russell smiled radiantly as he left his homework and ran towards the snacks.

He took two cupcakes from the tray and ran towards Lucianne. He lifted one of the cupcakes up in her direction. Lucianne smiled and accepted the cupcake from Russell before pecking a kiss on his forehead and thanking him. The little boy was on cloud nine as he dashed back to his mother's side to tell her that Aunt Lucy gave him another kiss.

Knowing how Xandar would react, Lucianne pecked a kiss on his cheek after Russell left. Xandar's annoyed face turned soft, and he pecked a kiss on her nose before they joined the others on the couch, with Lucianne seated on his lap. 1

The families seem to be finding it easier to be around the royal family, and they spoke and laughed more freely than when they first arrived. Lucianne and Xandar helped Annie send the trays back to the kitchen. Russell followed closely behind, carrying two emptied cups as he followed the adults. He refused to leave the kitchen until the three adults he followed made their way back to the study.

They continued looking into Wu Bi Corporation. On the internet, the corporation was registered as being a textile manufacturer. However, there is no such brand in the clothing market. They then thought that the corporation manufactured fabrics and clothing for other brands and companies. But to their dismay, there was also no such information to confirm their thoughts. The corporation's business dealings were confidential so no one knew who it was doing business with. Xandar and Christian said they had to pull a few strings to dig deeper into Wu Bi. That evening, there was nothing more anyone could do.

After bidding their goodbyes, (This novel will be daily updated at) Lucianne, Xandar and Christian left to attend dinner in the dining hall. When Lucianne wasn't looking, Christian mind-linked Xandar, shooting his cousin and best friend a sad but grateful smile before getting into his car. Xandar returned his smile but the King himself was sad too.

He got into his own car where Lucianne was already waiting for him and started the engine. Xandar started pondering on the pes

lering on the best way to tell his mate what Christian had just told him. It

wasn't something that he, Christian or Annie liked to bring up but Lucianne was practically family.well, family-to-be if one wants to get technical...and optimistic. Even so, she had the right to know.