

The Perfect Luna by Marissa Gilbert

Chapter 45

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Chapter 45. Use Logic

Riannon had to calm down. This battle was lost and the phone was gone. But there were other ways to reach out to Gideon and she would find one as soon as possible.

Right now, however, she had a bigger problem. Her possessive Alpha husband was getting out of hand. And this wasn't the state she needed him in for her plan.

"Well, congratulations, Brayden," she folded her hands on her chest after she took a deep breath, "Now I can't call Maya!"

"That's not her you were going to talk to and we both know it," he growled, not a hint of

remorse on his face.

"I was going to talk to many people. Tomorrow." She replied calmly. "But thanks to your little tantrum that's impossible now! But today I wanted to talk to my best friend whom my husband banished from our pack. I think I deserve at least that after everything!"

He clenched his lips and then let out an exasperated sigh.

"Ri, I..." he took a step in her direction but she motioned for him to stop, "I didn't actually banish her."

"No, I think I had enough," she said, "You know, I never thought that I would see you so scared in my life!"

His facial expression changed rapidly and he was next to her in less than a second.

"What do you mean?" he snarled at her.

"Just the mention of the lycan king drives you to a point of madness," she pointed out, "But like it or not, we are going to see him again. And very soon. As I have already told you before, he needs that project and he is inclined to see it through even if it doesn't get approved on its first try. So, potentially, we are looking at months of me working side by side with him and there is absolutely nothing you can do about it. You'd better face those facts now."

She could see his nostril flare up and his chest going up and down.

"I am going to see to this project being accepted on the next Alpha summit," he gritted through his teeth, "Even if it's the last things I do!"

She held back a smirk that was trying to desperately form on her lips. She couldn't let him see that this was exactly what she wanted and needed.

"Do what you want," she shrugged her shoulders and prepared to leave but he stopped her when she almost reached the door.

"Ri, you are breaking my heart," Braiden whispered, "We are supposed to be a team, remember? The way we always were." could potentially ruin everything that she tried to build.

"I just need time," Riannon said without turning to see him, carefully selecting her words. She did not want to lie even though she was deceiving him. "I am too tired from all of this today."

Brayden unclenched his fingers and let go of her. She used this to leave him as soon as she could. She didn't want to spend even a minute longer in his room than she had to. There must have been a few new extra phones downstairs in her office and in Brayden's too. And all she wanted was to get one.

Unfortunately, she hadn't been this lucky and when she was in the middle of the stairs, she saw Roxy coming up. Their eyes met and this time the omega decided not to pretend to be the ignorant crying fool.

When they got to each other, both of them stopped.

"Careful there," Riannon raised her brow as she decided to attack first this time, "We don't want your self-harming habits to hit you in the middle of the stairs."

"Are you threatening me, Luna?" Roxy covered her mouth with her hand but then took it away to reveal a smirk on her face.

"Threatening?" Ria beamed at her, "What are you talking about, Roxanne? I am genuinely concerned by your mental state. I just discussed it with my husband."

"You were done quickly," the omega sneered, "When we... talk, it takes longer."

"No doubt," Riannon snorted, "You are very talented at... talking. For a virgin omega who spent her whole life as a slave that it."

"Some talents are just natural!" Roxy retorted, flipping her red hair back, "Not to mention that the mate bond makes us want each other all the time. It's hard for mates to tear off each other, you know."

"And yet here you are. Not with him," Ria pointed out, "Speaking of which, as far as I remember, you were told to stay in your room."

"Oh, that," Roxanne rolled her eyes and touched the necklace on her neck playfully, "I was so worried after I heard about that prisoner escaping that I came out to check if I could help."

"Because an omega without any kind of training would be of so much help in a situation

like that," Ria smirked, "What's more interesting, how did you find out that he escaped?"

"I heard the commotion outside," Roxy said and then I met Dean later and he told me

he needed someone to talk to."

"How sweet of you to take care of him after you pushed his sister under the bus," the Luna started to lose patience. Roxy was too much even for her.

"He doesn't see it that way," the girl giggled and that sound echoed painfully through the Luna's brain. It was practically identical to that time when she struggled for her life. She remembered how Roxanne grabbed her hair and laughed in her face. The desire to push her off

the stairs and be done with it was immense.

She could do it. Bray would probably even cover for her since he now wanted to keep her at all cost. She could get away with it...

But she had to stop herself.

It wasn't this easy. Especially after tonight since 'Everett paid her a visit. She knew that nothing was simple and all her suspicions were now back in her head. It could have been that Roxy wasn't even the problem here.

So, she decided to test that theory instead of lowering herself to violence. Roxy was

almost at the top when she turned to look at her not to miss her reaction.

"Oh, by the way, tell your friend to use the door next time," she said calmly, "And not my balcony. It's creepy and not romantic at all."

The omega froze and Ria saw for a second how her claws elongated at once. For the first time ever she had problems hiding her emotions. And this just confirmed everything that Riannion was suspecting.

Roxy wasn't just Brayden's mate. Or was she even his mate at all? Was she an omega? There were just too many things about her that did not add up.

However, the girl quickly gathered herself and threw one menacing look at Ria. "I don't know what you mean," she said through clenched teeth.

"Oh, you don't?" the Luna smirked, "Too bad. I thought of asking you if I should hit him Axel

or Everett. But never mind, he said that he'll visit me again soon. I'll ask him then."

Roxanne's eyes shone red. Red! None omegas had this colour of their wolf energy. They usually had something simpler, like green or white. The girl in front of her suppressed it quickly, though.

"Oh, Goddess, Luna! Have you seen this prisoner? Are you confessing?" she gasped.

"Don't worry your pretty little head with it," Riannon chuckled and went downstairs, not

All she wanted was to find a new phone and try calling the lycans. She was sure that Gideon was already trying to reach her too and could just hope that Brayden didn't pull any tricks while in possession of her phone.

She found Dean when she was passing the kitchen on the way to her office and stopped, sighing heavily. One more stop before calling her mate was necessary. She realised it when his lips curled into a tiny smile as he kept staring in his cup while sitting alone at the table.

His sister was just exiled, and he was smiling. Was it too late to get him back to the Light?

"You do know that she is guilty of what happened to your sister today," Riannon leaned

over the doorframe.

The look of surprise was evident on his face.

"Ria," he cleared his throat, "What... Who are you talking about?"

"Roxy," she decided not to kick around the bush and when his mouth parted slightly, she

knew that she was right.

"No, Ria," he shook his head, "You are wrong about this. I just talked about it with her and she apologised. She just mentioned to Brayden that Maya had your bracelet and he got mad. But she thinks that he was just angry at you and wanted you to come back. You never separated like this before."

"Oh, really?" she smiled, "So, you are telling me that she says that it's my fault? Open your eyes, Dean, you haven't been there. She stood and accused Maya again and again. Without any kind of mercy! And that phone in her room. Do you really think that Maya is a traitor?"

"Of course not!" he had his brows knitted now.

"Then think what a fine coincidence it was that right after Roxy accused her of stealing of all things, they found an evidence of her betraying our pack right in her room! She was set up, Dean. And if she hadn't met her mate today, it could have ended badly."

"She said Brayden only wanted to get her to the border," the guy in front of her gazed at her hopefully. He was still a child even in spite of being twenty.

"Things happen at the border, Dean," Riannon was too exhausted to explain, "Not to

mention how they tried to humiliate her."

"But if it hadn't happened, then she wouldn't have met her mate," he tried to find at least

"It was her destiny to meet Reid," she said, "And today he was here thanks to me. It could have been very different..."

The boy did not look convinced and she felt disappointed.

"Anyway, it's too late," she turned away since she couldn't be doing any of this anymore, "Just think of something. Use logic when you do. Maya always locks her door. It's her thing. Just how did this phone get inside when only you and I have the keys for emergencies and I was not here. Because I am sure that you did not unlock her door for anyone. Knowingly."

She decided not to stay anymore and just went to her office. It was on Dean now. She couldn't help him see things if he did not want to see them. It was his choice.

Gideon was sitting in his bedroom alone with lights off. It was too painful to even think of what Brayden Thorn told him.

"Those are lies," Mars grunted, "You know far too well that if someone was touching Riannon, we would have felt it."

"Are you sure? She isn't marked by us yet," it hurt him to even say those words. He should have done it when he had her here. He really wanted to help her with her pack and revenge but this was more important. He shouldn't have been a gentleman, he should have let his Alpha side control this. Then she would be here now. Then she would be safe.

"I am sure," Mars said with confidence, "Our souls are connected. Mark or no mark."

He ignored the knock on the door and when it opened anyway, his head snapped in the direction of the intruder.

Reid gave him an apologetic gaze.

"Now you are just asking for me to beat the crap out of you," Gideon growled.

"Actually, I have Maya's phone here," he stretched the device to his king, "Someone special here wants to talk to you..."

Note: The next chapter is THE SUMMIT! Be mentally prepared. I see that a lot of new people joined us in the past few days, be sure to say hi and don't be shy in comments. Also, visit Marissa Gilbert's Reading Circle group for more fun.

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Chapter 46

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Chapter 46. The Small Print

The lycan king grabbed the phone not even bothering to say thank you to his Beta. "Gideon," just hearing the voice of his beloved calmed him down.

"Ria," he breathed out her name, so happy to hear her that he probably sounded desperate at that moment. But he did not care. "Are you all right? Did he do anything to you? I am going to kill him! I swear, if one hair from your head..."

"I am fine," she assured him, "Really. No one touched me, everything is going smoothly here. With the exception of Brayden stealing my phone."

"Goddess Riannon," he exhaled loudly rubbing his forehead, "For a second there I was afraid that he forced you..."

"No," she stopped him, "Braden is a lot of things, but I don't think that he is capable of that. I am fine. Trust me on this."

"I still want to kill him," he grunted, sitting back in his chair. Just the thought that a man

who called his mate his wife existed was unbearable for him.

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"You still can't," Ria smiled. It felt nice that he wanted to protect her so much. Or maybe he was just possessive of her? It felt nice either way. As long as it was him.

"I still might," Gideon said.

"I need to tell you something." Riannon was afraid that someone would interrupt them and she wanted to give him the important piece of information. Apart from Maya, he was the only one willing to help her.

"I am all ears," the lycan king straightened his back, knowing that as long as she was ready to spare their precious minutes, it was important.

"Remember my husband's omega mate?" Riannon played with the hem of her robe

nervously.

"How could I forget?"

"Well, the thing is, I don't think she is an omega anymore," the Luna was eager to discuss this with her partner in crime, "Gideon, I just talked to her and was able to get emotions out of her. Her true emotions! For the first time! And you know what happened? She let out her claws and her eyes shone red. Red, Gideon!"

"Did she attack you?" he growled menacingly.

"No, but she lost it. Just for a few seconds, but I know what I saw!" Ria grinned, "She is definitely not an omega! Besides that, it's what got her to show her true colours that matters. So, there was this captive prisoner who tried to frame Maya right before Reid took her back. I

some kind of reaction. He escaped again, even though I made sure that the best guards were

guarding him. And then he came to see me..."

"What?" now Gideon snarled. The desire to shift and get to that damned pack to get his mate the old fashioned way was taking over him.

"Let me finish first," she brushed him off, "So, he came to see me and was waiting on the balcony. We talked and he is also not so simple. And yes, his eyes also shine red. I didn't learn much about him. He introduced himself as Everett in the past and as Axel tonight. Anyway, I simply mentioned him to Roxanne, and she snapped. Just a bit, but I never was able to do this before. She knows that man."

"Goddess, Riannon," Gideon frowned, "My list of men to kill is growing by the hour thanks to you."

"Sorry," she chuckled to that. "Don't be," the lycan, "You are worth every effort."

She blushed, happy that he did not see her now. With him, it was hard to conceal her emotions the way she used to.

"I think I am really onto something here," the Luna said excitedly, "Don't you think?"

"I agree. But I don't want you to do anything about it until you are here with me. Safe." he told her honestly. "Your safety comes first before anything."

"Okay," she agreed, "I know how to wait."

"Good," he praised her. "Now, tell me everything about this guy that you can remember. How he looks, how he talks, where did they catch him. Any little piece of information could help. And don't worry, I already have people looking into that Roxanne girl. Omega or no omega, there would be some kind of information on her."

She told him everything from her both lives and when she was done, they both remained silent.

"I miss you," Gideon gave up first. He wanted to see her, he wanted to be with her, to hold her in his arms and to take her as many times as he could. He wanted to tell her more than those words. But he did not want to do it like that. She deserved more than being told that she was the love of his life over the phone. That it was hard for him to breathe when she wasn't

close. And that all that he was thinking lately was sinking his canines into her neck to leave his mark. So that every man around knew she was his. So that he had the right to kill anyone who

would dare to think otherwise. faster and that she couldn't stop thinking of how good she felt in his arm, how safe... That he was the only man she wanted to wake up next to in the mornings and that she still couldn't believe how lucky she had been to be gifted such an amazing mate.

"I can push the summit a day closer," he said suddenly.

"Don't," she regretted it the moment she said it. But they had a plan... "I still have to convince a few people," the Luna confessed, "Even with your support, I want to play it safe. Lives depend on this."

"I know," he groaned painfully, "But the next time we meet is final, Ria. I will never let you

go again no matter how it goes."

"I really don't mind that," she smiled. But the smile dropped when she heard footsteps behind the door.

"I need to go now," she whispered, "I will call tomorrow. Tell Maya to text me your number and I will learn it by heart."

She switched off the phone and hid it in a secret compartment that no one but her knew

about. Not even Brayden. Not even Maya.

The next day, Brayden ordered her to stay inside of their house while he left to talk to his Alpha buddies about her new law. He also ordered Ash to make sure that she doesn't leave on

pretence of caring for her safety and it felt as if she was a prisoner.

However, it was good. Because as long as her husband felt that he was in control, she had the opportunity to work from her end.

She was calling all her father's friends and old allies, telling them about her project and

dropping Gideon's and Brayden's names occasionally. Then she was sending files to them

with what they prepared, knowing that some Alphas would oppose that after seeing some of

the clauses. However, this was the law. She had to give them full information prior to the

Summit.

Brayden came home late at night and she pretended to be asleep. It surprised her when he sat on the edge of her bed and she felt him brushing her hair with his fingers softly. The way he did when they just got married. It used to make her toes curl but now had hardly any effect at all. Lies. She was repulsed slightly.

For her, he lost the right to touch her, and she counted seconds until he left her room. Probably to go and check on Roxy.

far. Both her and Brayden were on their phones in their offices, trying to persuade people to support the law changes.

Ria just ended a call with one arrogant Alpha who believed that women had way too many rights already and that once they got married, it should be their final decision. Somewhere in the middle of the conversation, she just started to look for ways to end this. He was one of those she'd never get on her side. So, there was no point to waist time.

The door knock interrupted her thoughts and to her surprise, Brayden walked in with a very unexpected guest.

“Ri,” he beamed at her, “Alpha Zack Morgan wanted to personally talk about our project. I hope you have a minute.”

When did it become their project? Riannon did not comment on the audacity of her husband and just gave the two alphas her most beautiful smile, suppressing the wave of

protest in her.

“Of course,” she pointed at the two seats, “I am happy that you spared us your precious

time, Alpha Morgan.”

“The pleasure is mine,” their guest chuckled. She recognised him as one of the men who were after her attention at the Alpha Ball. He had a folder in his hands which she personally had sent to him the day prior. His opinion was important since Zack was gaining influence rapidly among the newest and youngest alphas.

“How can we help you?” Brayden went all the way to her and stood behind her chair, placing his hand possessively on her shoulder.

“It was a very interesting read,” Alpha Morgan smirked and placed the folder on Riannon’s desk. She stretched her smile a bit, not knowing what to expect. She was about to say something when her husband interjected.

“I am happy that you think so,” he said with pride, “We’ve been working on all that for

some time.”

“So, you read this?” Zack looked at him, quite bemused.

“Read it?” Bray snorted, “I helped writing the most of it.”

Riannon realised that he was taking credit for it. Probably just out of spite for Gideon since she mentioned that the king needed that project. This was her husband’s little revenge, the only one he thought he would be able to get on the mighty lycan.

was respected as the strongest werewolf Alpha and a warrior. And if he said that he was

behind all that would they even be reading all that? All the sixty pages of boring text filled with elaborate phrasing and terms. Ria and her mate made sure to bury everything important deep in those papers. And not in the small print, because they knew that Alphas would pay special

attention to that.

"Is that so?" Zack Morgan in front of them sounded impressed but his eyes landed on the

Luna as he nodded slightly, "Well done."

"Thank you," Brayden sounded so natural as if he really had a hand in all of this, "We really want for this law to pass on the first Summit. As you know, for that we need the majority of votes. May I ask where you stand on this?"

Their guest gazed at Riannon again and his lips curled into a soft smile.

"You have my vote. That's for sure. I just wanted to make sure that I understand everything correctly, but now seeing you two together, I think I can relax. This matter is in good hands."

"Brilliant," Brayden walked all the way to him to shake his hand, "Thank you for your cooperation. I plan a big dinner right after the summit for our allies. I hope you could join us."

"I will have to check my schedule and confirm it later," Alpha Morgan smiled politely and stood up, "I see that you are both busy, so I will not take any more of your time. I learned everything that I needed to learn."

Riannon stood up to see him out as well. To her, it was clear that Zack Morgan definitely read the papers thoroughly.

"Thank you for your support. I personally would never forget it." She stretched her hand to him but instead of shaking, the man bowed and kissed her fingers.

"I have nothing against women in power," he chuckled, "I am very impressed with all your work, Riannon."

He exchanged a few words with her husband and left, leaving them alone.

"Women in power?" Bray looked at her questioningly when the coast was clear, "What's that supposed to mean?"

"That women like Maya would be able to become Betas if they prove themselves," she decided to give him a partial truth but at the same time distract him with the feeling of guilt

which he was hopefully experiencing.

His phone rang and he had to pick up, signalling for her that he was going back to work. She tried avoiding him for the rest of the day and succeeded at that. The next day was going to be the show.

The next morning, she came down the stairs, wearing a white business suit with a belt tied in a relaxed bow around her waist with flared trousers. Brayden waited for her downstairs and watched her with pride in his eyes as she descended slowly, holding a leather folder in her

arms.

"You look beautiful, Ri," he said and wanted to kiss her but she dodged to his surprise.

"Makeup," she explained, realising that this could have been a mistake. But, luckily, Bray ignored that.

"Later then," he smirked at her, "Do not worry about today. Everything is going to be great. And about me saying that I worked with you... Ri, I hope you understood why I did that."

"To help me, of course," she lied with a smile, "And I am grateful. Let's go."

The drive to the hotel where the Alpha Summit was held this time seemed never-ending and Riannon counted minutes until their arrival. Finally, the car stopped and in a few seconds, the driver opened the door for them.

The red carpet was in place as if it was some kind of awards ceremony and hotel employees were greeting them at the doors. They walked in into the glassy luxurious foyer and Riannon felt the scent of her mate at once.

Note: Sorry it took me a while and I didn't even get to the actual Summit. It's a longer chapter though. Who is ready for the Summit?

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Chapter 47

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Chapter 47. The Summit Parti

She scanned the room desperately looking for that one person only and when their eyes met, it was the hardest thing for her ever to not give away her true emotions. Because Brayden was right next to her and watching her every move. He wrapped his hand possessively around her waist and pulled his wife closer.

Gideon wanted to kill him. The man didn't even realise how thin the ice he was walking

on was. If he gave him the smallest of reasons, he would snap his neck in less than a second.

And would never regret it.

But looking into Riannon's blue eyes he knew that it was neither the place nor the time.

What he really wanted was to have his hands on her, to have her close to him. And all he had to

do now was wait. Just a little longer.

Without even so much as a nod or wave, he turned away and left the foyer, going straight to the room where the summit was supposed to be held. Reid and a few guards followed him closely behind.

Brayden released his grip on her as soon as the Lycan king was gone. Riannon would have scoffed if she could, but she also knew that it could cost her. Everything in due time.

"Bray!" she heard a familiar sweet voice and couldn't believe it.

She didn't even manage to turn her head when Roxy had already jumped into her husband's arms, making him let her go. The foyer was full of Alphas, their Betas and Gammas,

and Lunas who came with their spouses. Not to mention that practically each of them had guards around. And all of them watched the show.

Riannon tried not to give them any reaction. She had to remember that soon this humiliation would be over.

"What are you doing here?" Brayden seemed as startled as she was, "You are not supposed..."

"I came here to support you, of course," the redhead smiled innocently, "Your sister Harper drove me here. She said that all mates come here to support their Alphas."

"How sweet of her," Ria let out a little laugh.

"Did I do something wrong?" Roxy looked at him with big eyes that were already filling up with tears. That girl probably drank more than two litres of water per day. Her tear flow was

limitless.

Brayden did not know what to say. It was already inconvenient and awkward. He learned

his lesson at the Alpha Ball, which did not go the way he planned. But if Roxanne made a embarrassing. He couldn't afford that.

"Of course, not," he took his mate's shoulders, rubbing them gently, but still distanced her from himself a bit, "You just surprised me. That's all. And where is Harper?"

He wanted to make his sister babysit since she was the one to cause that mess.

"She drove away," Roxy flattered her eyelashes innocently. "She said she was going shopping and that you can take me home when you are done."

"My dear," he coughed, glancing at his wife, "I can't. I am busy."

"We still have a few hours before the start," Riannon said, "Go show her around. I am

sure it's her first time at a place like that."

"It is!" Roxanne took his hands in hers, "Can you really go with me now?"

"What are you going to be doing?" Brayden looked at his wife suspiciously, but she pointed at the entrance to the restaurant on her right – the opposite direction to where Gideon

went.

"I am going to say hi to the other Lunas. We usually gather there. Some of them helped me to persuade their husbands and I need to thank them too," Riannon said indifferently and

then gave Brayden a look, mind-linking him for the first time in a while, "

Make sure she behaves and do not let her run around the place embarrassing our pack. She represents us

now."

He wanted to reply but she already cut him off and turned on her heels, walking to the restaurant. It was actually good for her that Roxy would keep him busy until the start. If she had a task from whoever worked with her, it would probably be to split her and Brayden to weaken their pack. For once, they had the same goal.

"Riannon," her friend Mariyah stood up as soon as she saw her and waved for her to join their group. And it was a big one. At least a dozen women were sitting at a big round table and about the same number were standing around them. They all stopped talking when they saw her and she felt that somehow it was different tonight.

"Ladies," Ria flashed her pearly whites at them, not knowing what to expect. It could go

either way. Some of them were friends. Some were frenemies. And some simply enemies. For

one reason or another..

"You've been busy!" Mariyah chuckled.

"And you look gorgeous too," Ada, one of her frenemies added. Surprisingly, this time she

"Thanks," Riannon smiled modestly.

"We heard about your project," said Luna Helena. She was one of the oldest women here and was once her mother's friend. "It's very impressive. And we want you to know that we all stand with you on this one."

"It was about time for such changes," someone chimed in at the back.

"The times have changed and so must our laws," Ada took a sip from her glass, "I told my husband that if he doesn't support this project with his vote, he won't get any of this anymore."

She pointed at her perfect body in a tight yet elegant red dress.

This was probably the friendliest conversation they ever had. Lunas started talking, telling her the stories of how they learned about her project and how much it meant for them. Most of them were mated to their husbands and did not have problems with them. However, they had daughters, sisters and nieces to worry about.

Riannon felt a bit guilty. They praised her too much. And she did all this for the most selfish reasons.

In her past life, she had been thinking about it too. But also, after she got to experience

first-hand what it was like to be dumped by a powerful man who owned everything they shared

prior.

However, she decided not to think about that. This wasn't important now. She was adding many clauses to this law with the thought of anything that could happen to a woman in a man's world. So, she was helping them all. And she chose to concentrate on that part.

They spent the next half an hour talking but soon she heard a loud announcement, recognising Reid's voice.

"The Alpha Summit is about to start. Please, come and take your place if you are taking part," he was repeating the words over and over.

So, Ria said goodbye to her friends and left, surprised that they were starting early.

"Wait," one girl caught up with her and Riannon looked at her questioningly. They didn't know each other that well, as the girl just recently got her title. However, she heard some stories about her and her mate, who wasn't the best of Alphas. It did not escape Ria's eyes that she was wearing a turtleneck dress and too much make-up too, probably covering her

many bruises.

and whispered.

"Thank you. If it works, I will be free," she said, and then stepped away. And without adding anything else, returned to the Lunas' table.

Riannon met Brayden back in the foyer and he was happy to see that she was where she promised him to be. Roxy was not around, meaning that Ash was probably the one taking care

of her now.

They walked into the Summit conference room together and, for the first time ever, Ria saw what everything really looked like. A long glassy table that was now filled with dozens of Alphas. Gideon was sitting at the head of the table and Bray grunted when he noticed this.

Just for a second, Riannon allowed herself to look at her mate. She needed to see the support in his eyes, she needed to feel it. He nodded at her just like he did with everybody else, but his eyes were telling a different story and she knew it.

Everyone was taking their seats and only Brayden and she stood in the same place.

"What is wrong?" she asked him. "The king took my seat," her husband replied and she shot her brows up.

"That's actually my seat," Gideon said in a very relaxed tone, leaning over his chair that was bigger than everybody else's. "Thanks for warming it up for me."

"Here are a few empty seats," one of Brayden's friends said, gesturing for them to join their group. He looked nervous and Riannon did not like his facial expression. Something was

off.

"Why are there so many empty seats?" she tried to distract her husband.

"Sorry, Bray, I need to tell you something urgent," his Alpha friend interrupted, bending to whisper something in Brayden's ear. Now, this was a problem. A real one. He then started showing him something in the folder with her law project.

"That's because foxes and werebears did not come again. The empty seats belong to them," a woman with sleek black hair next to her purred and Ria looked at her with interest. She was the only other woman in the room today and that made her the Alpha of one of the

werecat packs.

"I am Ramina Knight, by the way, the..." the woman started introducing herself. They had

never met before because werecats were the recent addition to their union.

"I know very well who you are," Ria smiled and wanted to tell the woman how she and squeezed it almost painfully.

"Bray, not now!" Riannon said playfully and loudly to draw the attention of everyone in the room to them, "The Summit is about to start."

He took his hands off her and immediately she felt how he tried to mind link her. But she

did not let him.

"That's right," Gideon growled, hardly being able to hold himself back from tearing the werewolf to pieces for the scene, "Let's start. We have a few important matters to decide today."

"But, my king," someone said, "It's supposed to be at least one hour before we start. Why

are we in such a rush?"

"have places to be," Gideon cut him off, "Or can you work only at designated hours of the day? No? Then I don't see the problem since everyone is present. Let's start."

He gestured at Reid, who was sitting next to him, and the Beta stood up.

"As you are all probably already aware, our main problem at the moment is the uprising of foxes and werebears in the East." He switched on the big screen

behind Gideon's back with a map where the locations of every pack of their union were shown.

"You mean your main problem," one of the Alphas said with a smirk, "They are attacking your borders, not ours."

"And what do you think will happen after they are done with us?" Reid asked him.

"Isn't the whole point of being mighty lycans that no one can destroy you?" someone chuckled and a few others joined in.

"The point is that they would not be able to destroy us," Gideon sighed as if he was already tired of all this, "And when they give up on that idea, they would start looking at your packs and your lands. At least six of you have borders with them if I remember correctly. The question is if we will come to your rescue if you don't fulfil your obligations to the lycans now."

To that, no one had what to say. Shifter wars were always brutal. Strong men and women were dying and the population was decreasing. Behind their Union were other lands. More werewolves, another lycan kingdom and many other creatures. None of them were friendly. If they got weaker, everyone would suffer. So, to some extent, they were all trapped in working together.

"Besides that," Ramina started speaking, "I think the foxes and the werebears mostly

"How would you know that?" Zack Morgan asked.

"Because they approached me to join them," the woman sneered, "But werecats have no interest in ruining our comfort life with lycans as our allies just to stroke our ego. We do not care about that. It was peaceful since the lycans took us under their wing. We are not ready to lose that."

They were all processing her words.

"We would of course fulfil all our obligations according to our treaty, king Gideon," one of the Alphas said. He was one of Riannon's father's old friends.

The room started buzzing as they were discussing to what extent werewolves would be

involved. It took them some time and Ria knew that this meeting today wasn't the end of it. Her

mate would have much more work with all of them.

"Anyway," he cleared his throat when they were done with that topic, "The next matter that we need to look at today is the new Women's Rights law project by Luna Riannon Thorn. I guess you have all read it and have your opinion ready for the voting."

"I have a few adjustments to make," Brayden raised his hand, throwing a folder in Gideon's direction.

He knew everything and Riannon tapped her shoe nervously under the table.

"There are procedures for that," Gideon pushed the folder back to him, "You can propose adjustments at the next Summit. This time we are voting for this version of the new law since everybody is familiar with that."

The tension in the room was palpable.

"Shouldn't we at least discuss it first?" Brayden gritted through his teeth.

"Why?" Alpha Zack Morgan interrupted him, "We were talking about it just yesterday. And you were fully behind it. You assured me and others that everything was fine in that folder since you were the one who did most of the work. I personally believed in your project since you were involved. And I did not find anything wrong inside. So, what is the problem there now? Are you going back on your word?"

It was a masterful trap and Riannon knew that she would be thanking the Alpha for this

later. Now Brayden had no choice.

"Of course, not," her husband sounded nervous for the first time in his life, "It's just that it could be even better..." innocently, "You've done a good job there, Alpha Thorn."

"Good job indeed," Gideon smirked, "So, how about we vote to save ourselves some time? I am sure real men want their wives, sisters and daughters to be treated fairly. Reid, make sure that the count is visible on the board."

The Beta nodded and they saw two squares on the screen. One was for the law and the other one was against it.

"I will start," the Lycan king announced, "I vote for the approval of the law." Immediately, the count on the screen changed to 1-0.

The next one was alpha Dixon, Luna Ada's husband. He voted in their favour and seemed very eager to do so. He probably wanted access to that gorgeous body of his wife after all.

Riannon swallowed as one by one alphas started voicing their votes. The numbers were changing and it looked like the difference in numbers would be minimal. Most of Brayden's pals voted against it. But some, surprisingly, supported the law.

Finally, it was done and Ria was afraid to even look at the board.

"So, we have 39 to 35 votes. The law is accepted by the Alpha Summit and is effective immediately," Gideon announced, and only now did she open her eyes to look at him. He was smiling.

It was done...

NOTE: Sorry, guys, I had to break the Summit in two parts since the chapter was already too long. Prepare for your minds to be blown with the rest tomorrow.

The Perfect Luna by Marissa Gilbert

Chapter 48

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Chapter 48. The Summit Part II

Brayden desperately tried to get into her mind and this time she let him.

"Riannon," he growled, grasping her hand again, "What have you done?"

"A lot of things. For example, I helped to create a very good law," she tried to call Onyx as well. Right now her sharp claws would have been of great use in helping her free herself.

"Ri, what is going on?!" He sounded as if he was on the verge of breaking mentally.

"You will find this out right now," she said coldly, "And now let me go. People are watching. (This novel will be daily updated at)You already made a spectacle of yourself when you voted against the law you personally wrote according to your own words. That was stupid."

"Ri," he wanted to say something else but Gideon started speaking again and she shut him off, finally getting her wrist back as he unclenched his fingers.

"The next issue to deal with for today is a divorce between a Luna and an Alpha," the Lycan king announced, and a wave of whispers went through the room. Some were not surprised, of course, some were shocked and some were openly displeased. Zack Morgan

gave Riannon a reassuring smile and the werecat next to her looked at her with amusement on

her face.

"For real?" she snorted quietly, "You are something, Riannon Thorn!"

"What is the reason for the divorce?" an Alpha she did not know too well asked.

"Breach of their marital contract," Gideon lazily tilted his head to look at the one who spoke, "The Alpha in question and his Luna were chosen mates. They marked each other. Yet the Alpha met his true mate and did not reject her. He brought her to their house and made them leave together."

"This is not how it happened!" Brayden gritted through his teeth as now everybody in the conference room was concentrating their attention on him. The rumours of their story spread fast and the law project only accumulated them.

"Right," the lycan chuckled, "Since Alpha Thorn spoke first, why wouldn't he explain to us what all that was about and how it really happened, since I don't have the right information at my disposal. We are listening to you."

"Roxanne was abused in her old pack. She would have died if I had left her there."
Bray

said, carefully choosing his words. He already realized what kind of trouble he was at and

crystals of sweat were trickling down his spine.

"And that's an honourable thing to do," one of his buddies tried to support him.

"Indeed," Brayden agreed, " you could still have rejected her, though. And not bring her to for her to stay. (This novel will be daily updtaed at)But you chose this place to be your house. The one that you share with your Luna. What did you expect to happen?"

"This was necessary at that moment in time," Brayden grunted, and Riannon wisely chose not to participate in their exchange of words. Her mate was handling it well.

"How so?" Gideon played with the pen in his hands.

"Does it matter?" the werewolf in question almost growled at the Lycan king and the room suddenly became quiet.

"Of course, not," the latter agreed, nodding sympathetically, "If you agree to the divorce, then it doesn't matter."

"I do not agree!" Brayden protested, slamming his fist over the table.

"Then I am afraid you will have to elaborate what was that need to keep your true mate in the same house with your Luna and not reject her in the first place. It went beyond simply helping a poor omega," Gideon gave him a cold stare that was almost menacing.

"It was required for the sake of my wolf," Riannon got embarrassed for her

soon-to-be-ex-husband the second he sounded his pathetic excuse. What was he counting

on? If they were still together, this would have been the moment where she would have to take the word and smooth the situation over. But they weren't together. Not anymore. He lost her back in her previous life. This time she was fighting only for herself.

"Your wolf agreed to accept the chosen mate and you two placed a mark on her neck," the Lycan king said the words through clenched teeth, as it was physically hard for him not to tear that pathetic excuse of a man to pieces. "This was a union of two souls. But you chose to

break it. You are not the only one in the world with a chosen mate. You are also not the only one who met his true mate after marking another woman. Moreover, you are not the only one who has faced something like that in this room today."

Ria looked at Gideon in shock, as this was the first time she had heard about this.

"Alpha Dominic," the lycan nodded at one of the oldest Alphas in the room, "Twenty-five years ago you were in the same kind of situation. What did you do?"

"My king, I apologised to my true mate but I still had to reject her. I made sure that she was well taken care of later. But I had made my choice years before I met her and her appearing in my life did not change anything. I loved my wife and Luna until the day she was taken from me in a battle.(This novel will be daily updaed at)" The man told his story and Riannon's heart skipped a beat when she saw how sad his eyes were just remembering his late wife. This was how it was supposed

"And what about you wolf?" Gideon sneered, looking at Brayden. Alpha Dominic looked at him apologetically too but replied honestly.

"My wolf was the one to recognize her. There was a pull. But the marks me and my wife already placed on each other's necks were stronger. She was the love of my life, without a doubt. She gave me wonderful kids and heirs. She was my perfect Luna and even after her death I wasn't tempted to go and look for my true mate again."

"Well, I hope it answers all the questions," Gideon summed up, "So..." "But we don't have kids yet!" Brayden said all of a sudden, "Pups make the connection

stronger. Everybody knows that."

"True," the Lycan king nodded, "That's why the divorce will be easier for you two."

"I will not agree to this," the werewolf said firmly, crumpling the documents before him.

"You don't need to agree to this," for the first time Riannon spoke, "I have a right to divorce you. I don't need any form of permission from you. This is over. Just accept it already and stop embarrassing us both."

"Kids," he said suddenly and she sighed because she was tired from all of this already, "You may be with my pup this very moment. According to our laws, you cannot be divorced before it is confirmed that you are not pregnant. And if you are..."

"I am not," she opened her leather folder and handed him a piece of paper, "I visited the pack doctor yesterday for the required check-up. There are no babies in my womb if that's what you are worried about."

He took it from her, not even being able to read it. He knew that she thought this through.

She always did. She was always one step ahead. And he f**cked everything up. Big time. He had to notice earlier how displeased she was. He had to do something about it.

He was sure that he had been tackling this matter for the past two days when he was helping her to get what he thought she wanted to please her. But he was mistaken. She played him and she played him well.

Brayden sat back in his seat, still holding the doctor's note.

He couldn't lose her. Not like that. Riannon was always his. He was not giving her up, not without a fight.

He saw how everyone stared at him. He had never been humiliated this way before in his

life.

of thought, "Effective immediately. I already have the papers signed by Riannon Thorn. The signature of Brayden Thorn is not required anywhere except for the delivery of the decision

slip."

"Riannon Michaels now," the woman who stole everyone's attention today corrected the

king, "I will use my maiden name from now on."

"Very well," Gideon allowed himself to smile at her for the first time, "Riannon Michaels,

you are a free woman now. Congratulations."

She smiled at him too. It probably wasn't the end of their troubles. But it was a victory

nonetheless.

"And since we just approved the new law which was effective immediately as well," her lycan smirked, (This novel will be daily updated at) "Riannon has the right to all the property, lands and funds that belonged to her and her family members prior to the marriage and to which Brayden Thorn received access through their union."

"I object," the Alpha almost shouted, "We merged our packs. We cannot separate them

now after six years. People wouldn't want that!"

"Then we will ask them which pack they want to live in," Ria said calmly, "After you move out of my land. I will gladly give people a choice."

"They have homes on that land!" Bray breathed out sharply through his nostrils. His

handsome face did not look that handsome anymore.

"And that is exactly why they would have a choice," his now ex-Luna responded politely. "And who would be the Alpha of your new pack?" he looked at her with a bitter smirk.

"The Pearl Moon is not a new pack. We existed decades prior to the Silver crescent," even Riannon was slowly getting annoyed by his outburst. "And as for your question, I would be the Alpha."

Another wave of commotion rippled through the room.

"You must be kidding!" Brayden shook his head in disbelief.

The werecat next to her snorted and mumbled something that was hard to decipher.

"Oh, no, I am dead serious," Riannon responded to him one last time and turned away.

"All right," Reid coughed a few times since the room was silent for too long, "We have a few smaller matters to discuss. The budget for..."

"Excuse us!" Brayden stood up in one abrupt movement and yanked Riannon by one of

A loud menacing growl that shattered the walls stopped them all from what they were doing. And even Brayden stood still, turning his head to glare at the Lycan king who looked as if he was ready to transform and tear his head off.

“Take your hands off MY MATE!” Gideon snarled, standing up...

NOTE: Sorry for the late update. My daughter is really unwell and tested positive for covid today. I am not sure if I will be able to update again today, but I will try to let you know in the

group.