

The Perfect Luna by Marissa Gilbert

Chapter 74

Chapter 74. The Red Eden.

He did not lie to her when he told her she could roam freely around his house. But Castiel forgot to mention that two guards would be following her wherever she

went.

It was annoying but she chose to tolerate them and pretend like everything was A-okay.

"I can kill them now if you want," Onyx offered with a chuckle. "One is a bear, and one is a fox. We snap the fox's neck first and then deal with Paddington."

"Just leave them be," she said to her wolf. "They are doing their job and also there are cameras everywhere here. It's not the time. Not yet."

She cringed at the thought that Castiel could be watching her with the help of his hidden cameras. She had to take a shower and change, knowing that, but she had to act as if she wasn't aware. Riannon needed to underestimate her at least a bit, so she acted naturally at all times. But she still learned where the cameras were and where the blind spots could be. She did not plan to stay here for long, so she chose one of the many dresses in the wardrobe that he provided. No pants were there and her own clothes disappeared. So, she chose a black dress with sequins, long sleeves and a plunging V cut at the front. It wasn't what she would prefer to wear while on the enemy's territory, but other dresses seemed to be even more revealing.

The mansion she was at was exquisite, filled with pieces of art and expensive decorations. Castiel definitely did not spare any money and had an expensive taste. But at the same time everything here felt a bit too much. As if he was proving something. As if he was proving that he was a real king... Even the clothes he provided for her seemed like a doll's wardrobe. He probably saw her as a new pretty possession.

She remembered her mate. Gideon did not have to prove anything to anyone. He never felt that need.

But thinking of him now was hurting her. She wished she could just tell him how she felt and why... The Red Eden. building was empty and barely anyone lived here. But soon her ears picked up a strange buzzing noise. She decided to follow that and in a few minutes she found herself in front of huge wooden doors.

"What is that?" she asked one of her guards, the taller one, and he seemed uncomfortable hearing this question.

"We'd better go somewhere else," the shorter one said, mirroring his colleague's expression.

Now she just had to enter that forbidden place.

"I thought I was allowed to walk anywhere I want in this house," she quirked her brow up and the men looked at each other, both of them tense.

"You are," the tall one agreed uncomfortably, "It's just... This place..."

"Open the doors!" she commanded, and they obeyed. At least, she had some kind of power here.

To her surprise, they walked into a balcony and she saw that it was just a part of the building. This part was closed, with many doors on both sides. And at least four floors. The huge square was enclosing the ceilingless courtyard in the centre, where there was a small fountain. She saw girls in red dresses playing and laughing there. More women were standing here and there at other balconies nearby and soon Riannon realised that she was standing at the central balcony. A huge chair stood next to her. Almost like a throne...

"What the..." she mumbled.

Two staircases at both sides of her were connecting all the floors and going all the way down to the courtyard.

Slowly, other women were noticing her. And she was not sure that she liked that attention they were giving her as none of them looked friendly.

"I will repeat my question," she said to the guards, "What is this place?"

"It's a...recreational..." The short one was looking for excuses and she knew now that he was the fox onyx mentioned.

"It's the Harem," the taller one sighed. The Bear.

That made so much more sense now. The red dresses were hardly covering anything. Each was different but they were all branding the women as... what? What were they here in this place? Slaves? Concubines?

She wanted to observe them for a while to make some conclusions but was quickly disturbed. Three girls appeared next to them. Two of them tackled the guards with ease, while the third one, a very tall blonde whose hair was as white as snow grabbed her throat and yanked her to the wall.

"So it's true!" she hissed, scanning Ria's face and body. "He has a new pet!"

The air was leaving her body fast and she struggled to take a new breath as she met the woman's gaze full of hate.

There was only one way to get out of this and Riannon pierced the rival's foot with her sharp metallic heel, making her shout from the pain and release her grip on her. Next, she dislocated her knee with one sharp blow and twisted the free hand, freeing her own neck and making the woman scream.

Both her friends were struggling with the guards and glancing their way with worry.

"I am not his pet!" Ria spat the words. "And I am not his! Choose your words carefully when you speak to me and keep your hands to yourself! If you want Castiel – he is all yours!"

The blonde was staring at her now, trying to understand whether she was serious or not. But then she clicked her fingers and her two friends let the guards go, stepping away.

"You are one of those," the blonde rolled her eyes and folded her hands on her chest. "He does enjoy this act but not for long."

"Please, ladies," the two guards were at her sides now, "Don't cause trouble.

We don't want to let the king know about this."

They all raised their hands with smirks on their faces as if to tell that they were "innocent". But their eyes were telling a different story. They would kill for Castiel's

attention.

and it's not your king. I am not interested in him. All I want is to go back home."

Now they looked at her with sadness. As if they knew something that she didn't.

"Your mate is as good as dead then," one of the trio commented. "When Castiel wants something, he gets it."

"Not this time," Riannon stood her ground. "I am an Alpha myself. And my mate is the western Lycan King."

"Whatever," the blonde scoffed. "He has been planning to kill the lycan king for years! You are just lucky that he wanted you here. But as I have already told you, don't get used to this treatment. He will get bored of you fast."

"Onyx, who is this girl? What species?" Ria asked her wolf, as she was curious about her opponent.

“She seems to be a bear,” Onyx replied at once, “but there is something odd about her. Her scent is a bit different. I am not sure why.”

She wanted to tell something else to the girls in red but the doors behind them shut open and a very angry Castiel walked in. They all got silent at the sight of him and lowered their heads in submission. All but her. She did not care.

“What the hell is she doing here?!” he growled angrily at the two guards and walked straight to her, grabbing her to check if she was alright. He checked her the way a seller checks his goods and she tried to distance herself from him. However, the fox king only pulled her closer, possessively.

“We apologise,” the taller guard said. “She was curious and...”

“You said I can walk wherever I want in your house!” Riannon interrupted and everyone looked at her, slightly shocked at how daring she was.

“House was the main word in that sentence,” he groaned, shifting his attention to her. “This is The Eden. It’s not a part of my house.”

“It looks like one though,” she retorted, “It’s adjacent and...”

“Riannon, let’s not speak about semantics,” Castiel did not look pleased. “I don’t want my Luna here!”

thing. Apparently, it was a big deal and Ria felt sorry for all of them.

“Then how lucky are we that I am not your Luna!” she chuckled and forcefully got herself out of his grip to his displeasure.

“Let’s go,” he said through clenched teeth. “This is not the place to speak of anything. Time to have that dinner of ours...”

He took her hand and pulled her behind him, walking out firmly of this place and not even bothering to look at any of the dozens of pairs of eyes following their every move.

“The dinner will not be served at The Eden tonight!” he growled right before they left. “I think the girls forgot how to behave and they need to think about it!”

She walked after him, thinking and analysing everything that she saw. She knew one thing for sure – she would have to go back to the harem. Even if it was risky.

He took her to a room with a small table served for two and slammed the doors behind them. The two guards stayed on the other side, and she did not like this development at all.

“Sit!” he ordered and everything inside her screamed to throw something at him. Yet, she knew that this would not be wise.

Slowly and taking her time, she walked to one of the seats and he followed her, helping her with the chair.

She did not thank him and became stiff when she realized that he wasn't moving away. His hands were still on the back of the chair, almost touching her.

But a knock on the door disturbed them. "Come in!" Castiel ordered, and a guy with curly red hair entered the room.

"Excuse me," he apologised, bowing his head in respect, "but I have urgent news and you told me to inform you at once."

"Not here!" the fox king stopped him, clearly not wanting to discuss anything in front of Riannon. "Follow me to my office. It's soundproof."

He gestured for the redhead to join him in the adjacent room and they closed

Ria relaxed into her seta, disappointed that she couldn't overhear them.

But then she clearly heard both voices as they joined in a conversation.

"How?" she asked Onyx in awe.

"The blessing of the Moon Goddess gives us more than we are aware of now! Let's not question the gifts and use the wise," she could feel her wolf smirking in their mind...

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Chapter 75

Chapter 75.

Riannon tried not to grin. She couldn't tell for sure if there were any cameras installed in this room, so she had to be extra careful just in case. To keep herself busy, she took a glass full of wine and sniffed it to check that it wasn't poisoned this time. Given the history she had with foxes, she could never be sure...

But the fox king probably had some use for her even now, so the drink was clean of any substances other than alcohol.

She took a slow sip and listened carefully.

"I am not interested in what kind of problems they have," Castiel sounded authoritative. There was no playfulness in his voice to which she was used to. "Tell them that if they are not ready on time, they will share the destiny of those traitors

werecats."

Riannon gulped. She remembered how Alpha Ramina had been telling them that foxes and bears were offering her to unite their clans in the war against wolves. This was confirming her words at the Summit.

"And what about the wolves?" Castiel asked his companion, his tone displeased and arrogant even now.

"The Alpha told us that they are ready to act and waiting for your command."

Images flashed before Ria's eyes. Back in the past, she saw wolves fighting other wolves. It brought her to the conclusion that they were talking about the traitors. But she needed more. More information. At least something. A pack or the Alpha's name, a location... anything that could help her find out who the traitors

were!

"And what about the white bear clan?" the fox king kept the interrogation of his subordinate while she froze on her seat.

"Their king says that they will arrive soon. But he still has the same condition."

Riannon placed her glass back on the table, trying not to crush the stem in her hand from all the tension. White bears... This was a crucial piece of information. That clan came from the North and, if she wasn't mistaken, they lived right next to the North Lycan kingdom.

him to deal with his lycan king as soon as he helps us deal with ours." Now Castiel sounded content.

But it was Ria who was the one truly pleased. All her effort went into pretending not to care. Not to curl her lips, not to make any muscle flinch on her face. She couldn't give herself away. That was why she did her best to look bored while she waited.

The two men discussed a few other things quickly, including doubling the security around the territory. But that didn't matter anymore. When Gideon came for her, she would be ready.

The doors opened again and Castiel strode in with a faint smile on his face.

"Forgive me, Riannon," he took his seat and at the same moment servants appeared, bringing in the actual food. He probably ordered them to do it via the mind link.

"Oh, trust me," she straightened her back, "I was not offended. I think the less we see each other, the better."

He swallowed that almost insult, knowing that she wasn't ready for him. Not yet. Castiel loved watching that strong beautiful woman, who held herself like a

queen even in captivity. Her every move was filled with grace and confidence. He had princesses in his harem, but none could even begin to compare in his eyes to Riannon.

He was sure that he knew what she was thinking after seeing all those girls today. He knew that he needed to do damage control if he wanted to have a relationship with that woman. And he wanted it badly. She intrigued him at their first actual meeting, but the more he watched her, the more his need for her was growing.

She was the perfect Luna. Everything that any alpha could ask for. Beautiful, smart, special... That made it especially hard to resist her charm.

"So," she raised her brow at him and he loved how daring she was. The spirit of royalty.

"So," he found herself mimicking her tone, waving for the omegas to leave

"I have to say that your plan was not bad," she stated plainly, but this little compliment made his lips curve a bit anyway.

"And yet somehow you saw right through it," he smirked. "Tell me, Riannon, where have I made a mistake?"

He didn't make a mistake and that was exactly the problem. In her past life, he won. And even now he was far from losing. Even despite everything that she knew.

"I guess you angered the Moon Goddess," she took a bite of her food. Whatever it was, she had to take care of herself well. She had to have the strength for what was about to come. So, she wasn't going to starve herself out of spite and make herself weaker.

He chuckled softly and followed her example.

"Tell me," he said after a while, "how did you know that I was going to use the name Everett? I was thinking about it for so long but I still can't find an answer to this question."

"If you want any kind of information from me, you will have to answer a few questions first yourself," Ria put down her knife and fork, taking a napkin to gently pat her lips. "And then maybe, I'll share too."

"And what exactly do you want to know?" Castiel didn't feel like hiding much from her. She was already there in his hands. What was the point? When she knew – she would only be impressed by the scale of the work he had done. She had to be impressed

"How did you fake a scent of Brayden's mate on Roxanne?" she shot the first question at once, without any hesitation, "I know that she is a siren and used that alluring ability of hers. But you had to work on the scent too. Because it was the first thing that attracted him to her."

"You are still not over that?" he smirked, and she felt a prick of shame. Because, no, she wasn't over it. She had to know everything. She did not love her ex anymore, but she needed to learn what happened there exactly.

"I thought we were trying to have an open conversation here," she taunted him.

hardly ate anything."

"I am full," the Luna cut him off.

"Then let's go. I am going to show you something," he grinned at her with delight. He stood up and gestured for her to do the same. Riannon had no objections to that. A part of her was worried that he would take her to the dungeons, where Brayden's real true mate was chained to the walls... But they didn't walk far, as the fox king pushed one of the next doors and held it for her.

She entered a spacious room that looked like some kind of a laboratory. Test tubes, microscopes and equipment she couldn't even name were everywhere. It looked professional enough to her and all she could do was to give the fox a questioning look.

"This is where the scent was created so that Roxy could copy it," Castiel smirked, looking a bit smug.

"How? You had to have a sample," Ria tried to reason with him, trying to find an explanation.

"I've been studying shifters' scents for many years," he started explaining." You see, in most cases, mates' scents are connected biologically. This is how we recognise our couple. Mates are so closely connected that over time I managed to see a pattern. By testing and probing, I managed to find out what scent would attract

a person if I had his or her DNA. It's not a 100% match, of course. One would recognise their true mate. If he meets him or her. But as far as you know, your husband never did. I don't even know if he could recognise his mate prior to your rejection. You know how marking works."

"I do," she smirked and took her hair away, moving the dress slightly aside to reveal her beautiful golden crescent mark.

Castiel growled at that, his eyes glued to her flesh. It would be an understatement to say that he did not like what he saw. But at the same time, he was fascinated by the gold shining on her delicate skin.

"An unbreakable bond," she rubbed it into his face, pulling the dress back on to

"We'll have to test that theory out," he stepped closer, "when I kill Gideon."

"You could try," she chuckled, "but there is a reason why you tried to break *were*wolves first. You can't deal with him without that. And now that part of your plan is gone."

"My plan doesn't solemnly depend on that. And part of it still worked. The biggest pack was broken into two parts. And the Alpha of one of them is mine now." His eye glowed again as he was dangerously close.

"Why is only one of your eyes glowing?" she decided to distract him and it worked as he turned away from her at once.

"That's a long story," he sighed.

"As you have told me before, we are in no hurry," Ria took that chance to distance herself further from him and pretended to look at the equipment he had there.

"I wandered into the wrong place and encountered the wrong person when I was young," he said at first, but after hesitating for a few moments, added in a hoarse voice. "My father... It was my father."

Riannon's lips parted but she quickly clenched them back. "Why?" she heard herself saying.

"I wasn't exactly the son he wanted," Castiel confessed, still not looking at her. "Not the pure blood that he wanted to see as his heir..."

"What do you mean?" she felt that this was important too.

"I am a hybrid," he turned to face her abruptly and in no time he was right next to her again. "My father stole my mother from the bear clan. She was already married, but he did not care."

"But you were still angry at Gideon's father for killing yours," Ria pointed out, crossing her hands on her chest in a defence motion. She did not like the way he stared at her. As if he was hungry.

"Of course I was," he sneered at her, tracing his finger over one of her arms and making her shudder. "First of all, it was a matter of honour. But second of all, it was

"How?" she tried not to give him any reaction, knowing that this was exactly what he was looking for.

"Too many questions for someone who didn't share anything yet," he bent lower to her, his face way too close to her liking. "Let's just say that my path to becoming a king would be shorter."

She tried to step away, but he trapped her between one of the tables and his hands.

"So, how did you know about Everett?" a smirk spread over his face as he looked at her lips.

"Axel didn't suit you." Riannon tried to stay calm.

"I thought that we agreed to share information," he took it as a game, "not lie to each other."

"You have your sources and I have mine, Castiel," she dived down and managed to escape him, hearing his laughter behind her back.

"Cass," he said. "I want you to call me Cass."

"And I want you to call me Alpha Michaels," she retorted, "but something tells me you are not going to do that."

"Who knows," he took another step in her direction, and she liked it less and less, "It has a good ring to it."

"Do you want me to kill him?" Onyx asked, growling inside. "Can you?" she couldn't help but wonder.

"I think we can take one hybrid," now her wolf sounded offended, but ready to spring to action any time.

"I have no doubt," Ria sighed, "but it will not stop the war. And now it might only complicate things. I need more information before we act."

"Who works in this lab?" she decided to throw the fox king off the topic.

"This is my little heaven," he said with pride. "And a little hobby of mine that brought me so many fruitful results."

one of the tables to make sure there was something between them.

"You mean Eden," Castiel chuckled. "Yes, I suppose one might say so."

"And what's the plan there?" she quirked her brow up. "When do I get a red dress?"

He watched her for a few seconds while furrowing her brows before answering, "Never. The day you become mine, I let them all go."

This wasn't what she counted on. She wanted to use the harem against him. And here he was dismissing its significance instantly.

But she knew far too well that it was yet another tactic to manipulate her.

"What was the point of keeping them there in the first place if you are going to discard them now?"

"Believe it or not, Alpha Michaels," he smirked when he said that, "But they *were* useful in many ways. Each of them is there willingly. It was their choice. And I treasure each of them in my own way."

"And is that why you are starving them tonight?" she reminded him of the simple fact that he prohibited giving them dinner that day.

"I am punishing them for misbehaving." Castiel informed her firmly and without any shade of hesitation or regret. "They touched what's mine."

"I am not yours!" she gritted her teeth.

"Of course, you are. Everything in this house is mine. They knew you were mine the moment they saw you. But they still chose to attack you." He scowled.

"Maybe they can sense that they are about to be thrown out on the street?" Riannon snorted.

"I am not going to throw them out on the street!" he let out a deep chesty laugh. "I trained them for years for a reason!"

"As you did with Roxanne?" it suddenly occurred to her. He was going to use those women as his pawns. Send them to different packs, plant them as spies, put them in other men's beds.

"Too many questions," he shrugged it off. "Let's go. I want to show you other

"I am too tired," she did not let him finish. "I want to..."

"Okay," the fox king looked slightly disappointed, but he nodded reassuringly. "Not all at once. I get it. We have all the time in the world to get to know each other

better."

She was relieved that he chose that approach. But she knew that she shouldn't

count on him sticking to it for too long.

He took her back to her room personally, not saying much on the way there and she hid behind the door when he tried to give her a kiss on the cheek, escaping the undesired contact.

Riannon sat on the bed and listened to his receding steps. And when he was gone, she waited some more. In about half an hour, she opened the doors and looked at the short guard, ignoring the tall one. This one seemed mentally weaker to

her.

"King Castiel said I can ask for whatever I want and I have some requests," she announced with a tone that did not take prisoners, making both men swallow. "Don't worry," she sneered at them like a cat who was about to devour a little mouse, "Nothing dangerous is on my list."

Just an hour later, the three of them entered the Eden. Girls in red were looking at her in shock, not believing that she dared to come there again.

"What the hell have you forgotten here?" the same blonde with her two friends appeared before her first.

"Ladies," Riannon popped a bottle of champagne with ease, gesturing for the two guards to bring in the sushi and other snacks she requested, "I think we started with a wrong foot. Why don't we fix that?"

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Chapter 76

Chapter 76

"Explain this!" Gideon growled at the Beta as he uploaded the video on the big screen.

Maya watched it calmly, her face vacant of any emotions.

"What exactly should I explain?" she asked lazily, only fuelling his anger.

He rewound the video back to when she was fighting Roxanne and pointed at Riannon standing not far from them.

"She was there! And you saw her!" he was playing those seconds again and again, making her watch this. "You didn't even move to help her. I want to know why!"

"I did not notice her!" Maya turned away and he just knew that she was lying through her teeth.

"I am not buying this!" he growled. He could feel how his own Beta, Ried, was trying to reach him via the mind link. He was worried sick about his mate, and it was one of the reasons why he couldn't kill her on the spot.

Yet she was too calm. A traitor who was just caught couldn't possibly be this serene!

"Maya," he said through clenched teeth, "what do you know that I don't? You clearly saw each other. Ria didn't even fight that damn fox when he caught her!"

She averted his gaze and he knew that he was on the right path.

"You have to tell me!" he growled and it suddenly became harder to breathe in the room. He never used his royal lycan power. It was dangerous. And not only for others, for him as well. Because unleashing that pressing darkness within him could have consequences beyond repairing. There was a reason why only the royal lycans had the second battle form now. Only they could shift into wolf-like feral beasts who

could walk on their feet. Common lycians could die if they tried that.

The blood of royals was the purest and they were the only ones who had enough strength to channel and control true beasts. Those beasts were giving them power beyond imaginable, but that came with a price. The longer they stayed in that form, the less they wanted to come back to being human. It was too tempting, too

wolf, hence they were saving it for the worst battles. When they were becoming true lycans, all emotions were gone. Only instincts stayed. And every time Gideon had to use any part of his feral powers, he knew that once he reached a certain point, he had to stop and go back to being human.

That form was making him stronger and any other shifter could sense his power from afar. Right now he only let it out a bit but Maya already lowered her head

in submission. This was something out of her control now.

"What. Happened. There?" Gideon demanded in a firm menacing tone and she gulped, trying to fight it. But it was useless.

"I can't," she whispered desperately.

"I am your king," Gideon insisted, letting her know that he would make her if she didn't do it herself.

"You might be my king but she is my Alpha," Maya's voice was faint but she faced him with a determination which he couldn't not respect.

He didn't even need more details. It was clear what had happened back in the woods now. And he wanted to crush things, break them, destroy...

"Just tell me why she did it," he used all his strength to get the beast to back down, so that he could return to his senses and so that the girl in front of him could stop suffocating. It was her first time experiencing something like this. Most would probably have already fainted.

Maya took a deep breath as soon as the power stopped pressing down on her. She hesitated... but looking at him panting as well, she gave up. There was no point hiding anything anymore. She stalled him as much as she could. Just like her friend

wanted.

"She said that he would not hurt her. She was certain of it." The Beta sighed, her voice bleak, as he snapped his head in her direction.

"He drugged her to make her pass out!" the king growled. "He could do anything to her while she is helpless."

"Riannon is blessed by the Moon Goddess." The Beta said firmly. "She is never

"When?" Gideon stopped her with a gesture, because he did not want to hear those explanations. He just needed facts. "When did she make the decision?"

"Right before all this," Maya confessed. "She told me via the mind link and then she rejected my every protest. She was sure that we would be able to win the war only if we got enough intel. And the only way to get it was to get inside their lair. Ria said that there were too many secrets and no way to find out whom we can trust. She wanted to fix that problem. She was sure that Castiel would be cocky enough to try and get her. And she told me to make sure that it happens if he tries."

"And what about her?" Gideon pointed at the siren/fox behind the glass.

"It was my initiative," Maya admitted, "I thought everything was over. I saw Riannon and Castiel behind Roxanne. But when he attacked and covered her face with that cloth, I knew that it was exactly what she wanted. This was why I played with Roxy longer and waited for him to be gone. As a Beta, I cannot disobey my Alpha."

"You could have followed them!" He reproached her.

"I would be noticed," the woman stated honestly and firmly. "She ordered not to do it. And also..."

She went to her little cross-body bag and got out a little note. Riannon's scent hit his nostrils and he got instantly calmer. Maya handed him the little folded piece of paper and he secretly took another breath just to feel closer to her.

"She left this for you," the girl stepped away to give him space.

He unfolded the note carefully as if it was some kind of treasure. *Trust me. I trust you to find me.*

He was really hoping to see more. But these words... these words were exactly what he needed right now. She trusted him. She needed him to trust her. And she needed him to find a way to get her back. All while she was risking her life to help him win the war.

Gideon closed his eyes, pain rippling through his body, tearing him apart.

But she needed him.

His gaze met Maya's and there was this silent understanding between the two of them now. He knew that she would do anything to get her best friend and Alpha back. All they needed was the location.

"So, what's the plan?" the Beta girl asked, and he turned to look at the glass. Behind it the tiny fox was weeping again, trying to fill the air around her with pheromones.

"For a start, make sure only females guard her," Gideon said coldly. "We need to make sure that she loses any hope of ever getting out of here. And when she does, we will break her. Part by part. Until she tells us what we want to know."

Roxanne sat alone in that white room for *goddess* knew how long. She knew that they had not forgotten about her. She knew that she was their only chance to get the information they needed.

She knew a lot indeed. But weighing her options, she was not going to share anything. She had two tasks now – to save her baby and to get back to Castiel.

Roxy hoped that he would send someone to save her. He also knew that she was a valuable asset. So, she needed to hold on until then. She could still play on Brayden's fatherly feelings. It could still work if she tried hard enough...

She heard the sound of the lock and turned to see the doors opening. The ability to cry was lost to her as she had already drained all the liquid out of herself. But the pheromones were in the air, all she needed now was to add some good acting to that.

But when she saw two women in black leather looking down at her, she couldn't believe her eyes.

Women. Not men. This was bad. The worst-case scenario, no less. Her pheromones only worked on males!

"Seriously?" one of them chuckled, bringing in the tray with a paper plate and some food on it, as well as a water bottle. "This ginger hobbit is the big bad criminal they asked us to guard? Couldn't they do it themselves?"

on her chest. "They say she is vicious and can easily get under your skin."

"Eat," the one with bushy curly hair ordered and pointed to the chair. Roxy decided not to cause a scene and obeyed quietly.

"You are not wolves," she stated calmly to test her theory.

"Neither are you," the other one, with straight black hair reaching her shoulders pointed out.

"Who are you?" Roxy asked, prying for information.

"Werecats," the first one answered, "Now, eat. We are not staying here forever. And nothing will be left for you in this room"

She started eating slowly, listening to their every word.

"I hope our Alpha arrives soon. I don't want to hang here when the lycan king is this furious." The two women whispered to each other, not bothered with her presence.

"Yeah, I mean, I get it. He lost his queen and now she is captive. Who knows what the fox king is doing to her this very moment? He did not contact the Union, he did not demand anything. It looks like he only wanted her and now he got that."

Roxanne slammed her fist on the table, not caring that she attracted their attention.

"What's up?" one of the girls asked her with an indifferent expression.

"I am not hungry anymore," the fox replied.

Without saying anything else, they gathered everything that they had brought and left her alone, locking her again.

Roxanne sat in the same place for a while, keeping her composure. But the images of Castiel and Riannon were flooding her mind. She knew him the best and she knew far too well when he wanted a woman. He always had a harem, yes. But he had consent from every girl inside of it, herself included. They all wanted to be there, craved it. And as far as she knew, it was the first time that he had taken someone there against their will.

She had no doubt that he would take Riannon to his personal house and the spend his first night with her? Did he like it?

The perfect Luna would be fighting it, there was no doubt about that as well. And deep inside she was really scared that he would like her even more because of that.

Roxy tried to get rid of these thoughts. There were millions of perfectly sane explanations as to why he needed Riannon. She was the lycan king's mate and it would make so much sense to use her to weaken him.

She chose to believe in this one. It was easier and more comfortable this way.

She prohibited herself from going into the dangerous territory of imagining Riannon in his bed, of thinking about what he would do to her and how he would take her. She knew everything that he liked, so imagining this scenario was easy.

But it was so painful. Too painful for her to bear. Hell, now she would gladly agree to Bridgit, her oldest rival, warming up Castiel's bed while she was absent. At least she knew that he wasn't in love with her. She wasn't so sure about Riannon. Could Castiel even love? Just like that?

Her whole body was aching from sitting on the firm surfaces for hours and she decided to lie down on the floor to try and stretch her sore muscles a bit.

Did it hurt Riannon that much when she was with her husband? To her, Brayden was never the prize and she took their mating as a part of her job. It helped that he was *good looking* and could bring pleasure to a woman when he wanted to. But for Roxanne, he wasn't Castiel. All that she wished now was that she had never stepped her foot in this wretched place.

Hugging herself, she tried to rock herself to sleep.

Gideon wasn't happy. Everything was going slowly. Too slowly for his liking. He knew he couldn't push the fake omega too early. And now, sadly, she was the only one who could give him any information. He sent Brayden in again to make it seem like this was their plan – interrogation after interrogation. Of course, the Alpha was returning with no news. But this was something that they expected.

he invited were already there.

"Are you sure that they can all be trusted?" Alpha Ramina asked him as she joined him earlier than others. She was the first one he called from the Union.

"No," Gideon replied honestly, "I can never be sure. But these ones seem to be the most reliable."

They went to the conference hall and greeted each Alpha as they came in and took their place. They would have to act as a united front from now on. After all, it was their common war and their common enemy. The Summit helped them to understand that.

"Looking gorgeous as always, Ramina," Zack Morgan winked at the Alpha who was sitting opposite of him at the table.

"I know," the cat flicked her long sleek hair to the back, looking clearly unimpressed with the compliment. "My Luna says it all the time."

"She has good taste," Zack smirked and the woman rolled her eyes.

"Are we waiting for someone?" Alpha Caleb asked impatiently.

"My sister will be joining us too," Gideon took his seat at the head of the table. Maya, Reid and Ash stayed behind him.

"What for?" Alpha Maddox knitted his brows. Not every pack even loved seeing females at such gatherings.

"She is bringing my warriors from the kingdom. And she will stay because she chose to take part in this fight," the lycan king replied emotionlessly.

He could already hear the cars pulling down right next to the mansion. In just a few seconds the doors opened, revealing Savannah dressed in black head to toe, something that was unusual for her.

"I am sorry I am late," she looked only at her brother when she felt it... This warm feeling, the scent, the myriads of overwhelming sensations. She couldn't take it for anything else as she looked around the room full of alphas.

"Mate!" a loud growl echoed through the house as everyone gasped in disbelief.

The Perfect Luna by Marissa Gilbert

Chapter 77

Chapter 77.

Gideon couldn't believe his own eyes as he watched his little sister stare at one of the Alphas.

"Mine!" Zack Morgan growled as he stood up and stormed in her direction. Kyle next to Savannah growled defensively but she gestured for him to stop, looking

at the man who was already next to her. He was breathing heavily, his eyes glowing dark purple as he took the princess before him in.

"Mate," Savvy whispered hesitantly.

"Mate," Zack confirmed and took another step in her direction. He extended his hand to her, clearly wishing to at least touch her.

Gideon had mixed feelings about it. It was odd to see his baby sister with a mate. But on the other hand, this was why he refused the marriage deal with the Northern King. He wanted her to have that. This euphoria of finding the one person who could make her whole. (This novel will be daily updated at [And judging by the little tear that fell down Savvy's cheek, this was exactly what she felt now.](#)

"May I?" Zack asked when his fingers almost touched her and she nodded. The whole room went quiet as finding a mate was considered the most important moment in one's life. Even an ongoing war could wait a few moments to let two

people adjust to not being alone anymore.

Savvy nodded again. Gideon never saw her this quiet. She was always the chatterbox of the family. But now she had no words.

Zack very gently wiped the tears off her face, devouring her with his eyes. They couldn't speak freely now in front of everyone and it was clear that his wolf wanted to get out. But he chose to remain a gentleman and Gideon was glad that he was the one mated to his little sister. And not a creep like Brayden, who was watching the whole thing not far from him with a shade of annoyance.

"You will never cry again," Zack whispered, but of course, every lycan or werewolf in the room heard it. "I am Alpha Zack Morgan of the Emerald Mountain Pack. And it's my honour to be your mate..."

He paused because he didn't know her name and she smiled at him.

mouth. He didn't realise who she was until now. Everything happened so fast.

"Savannah," he tasted her name on his tongue, liking it. He liked everything about her. He loved it. Instantly. His mate was beautiful beyond belief with sensual lips and eyes the colour of peridots that his mother used to like so much. Her hair was falling in golden brown waves down her shoulders and her fingers felt so fragile when he held them in his large palms. He couldn't even believe that she was a lycan. She seemed more like a fair if they existed.

"With all due respect," Brayden cleared his throat. "Congratulations to you both but we have a few pressing matters to discuss."

"Right," Gideon came back to his senses as well. "He is right. Sorry, Sav."

"It's fine," she wanted to proceed to sit next to her brother, but Zack took her arm and led her to the chair he was sitting on. And when she took it, he stayed behind her, standing and watching so that no other male even dared to look her way.

It was a long meeting but in the end, they found common ground and were able to agree on the same course of action. After all, it was in everybody's interest. Most Alphas wanted to get their revenge on the foxes after the explosion at the Summit. But some were wary and wanted more proof.

But, of course, the biggest problem of all was the fact that they still didn't know where to find Castiel and Riannon. They had a rough idea of it being somewhere in the foxes' territory and Alpha Ramina was very helpful with pointing as to where it might be. She was one of the very few who had visited those lands recently and for now, was the best source of information.

However, Gideon knew that it wasn't enough. To get his Queen back he needed to have the precise location. He couldn't risk it.

Unfortunately, there was only one person who could give him the intel he needed.

Roxanne slept on a mattress they brought for her in the same sparkling white room. She hated this place. And she could tell who came up with the idea. No one

idea what time it was. Or even what day. There was absolutely no way to tell. (This novel will be daily updated at The room had no windows and was illuminated at all times. It was as if the time here had stopped.

She tried not to think of what the werecats told her prior. It was too much. She curled up on her so-called bed and hugged her belly. She knew far too well that it wasn't Castiel's child. But she could pretend now that it was. It helped her to stay sane. He was the only thing that always helped her survive. And she would survive this too.

She went from a nobody to a harem girl. And from a harem girl to one of Castiel's best assets. For months and months, he was paying her more attention than to others. She knew that the only reason he didn't mark her was because he needed to make sure that she was strong enough to be his Luna first.

So, this was her test. She would pass it and he would take her back. She would pass it and he would take her back. She would pass it and...

The door opened so unexpectedly that she shuddered in her place. She couldn't understand what was going on at first when she saw the lycan king himself with his glowing eyes and bare canines. What the hell was going on? He was always the reasonable one! Why was he like that?

She crawled back to the wall instinctively. He was going to kill her. It was obvious now. She wasn't going to make it.

"Gideon, stop!" his Beta appeared before him and tried to hold him back. But it was clear that he was weaker. Much weaker.

"Don't do this!" Maya was right next to them, followed by Ash. They all tried to stop the lycan from...

From what? Roxy gulped, feeling how her whole body started shuddering for real now. This wasn't a joke.

"If she has no value to him and stays silent, then she has no value to me too!"

little space between them to see what was going on.

"Gideon, it's not over yet! We can still get Riannon back!" the Beta shouted, obstructing his Alpha from getting closer. From ripping her apart.

"He marked her!" the lycan king growled. "He... he... he made her his and announced her his queen! The pain I felt when he did it... He can't stop!"

Each word was like a knife stabbed in her heart.

It couldn't be true. It couldn't! Just couldn't! Castiel would never... They were all mistaken! He wouldn't take any other woman as his queen.

Or would he?

She remembered his interest in Riannon. She remembered how every time they spoke on the phone he asked about the Luna. He wanted to know everything – what she did, what she liked. Sometimes he even forgot to ask about how she was doing. She always found an explanation for this. Riannon was the Luna. Riannon was an important piece of the puzzle. Riannon was an obstruction. There were many reasons for him to be interested in her.

But deep inside, this was exactly what she was afraid of. And every hour she spent here, she was more and more sure of it.

"We can still use her!" Ash grunted; his strength couldn't compare to the Lycan's. (This novel will be daily updated at "He was bluffing when he told you that he has no use for the siren anymore! This is exactly what he wants! He wants you to kill her so that she doesn't tell us anything! She served her purpose for him!")

"Don't make any rash decisions!" Reid growled, "That's not what she would want. Stop! Think!"

Roxanne froze on the floor, slowly taking her hands down. The king did not look at her anyway. In one swift move, he freed himself from the three wolves who held him, throwing them to the ground. For a second there she thought that this would be her end. It was over. She was done...

But the glow in his eyes died down and, with a loud snarl, he left the room. Only now was she able to breathe, leaning over the perfect white wall behind

This time she survived by miracle and she knew it.

The two men jumped back to their feet and ran out of her cell, leaving only her and Maya, who was already standing again.

"Th-thank you," Roxy mumbled to her, stuttering.

"Shut up!" Maya spat the words, finally sparing the prisoner a glance. "I didn't do it for you. I did it for him. And also, because you will be my kill. All I need is his permission. As you can see, it wouldn't be a problem to get it."

The Beta charged for the door and Roxy knew that it was her last chance.

"Wait! Please!" she screamed, but her voice came out weak and broken...

Pathetic.

"What?" Maya scoffed, "Are you going to cry and seduce me? It doesn't work with females."

"The baby!" Roxanne decided not to waste any time. She did not care how she looked now. "The baby is Dean's!"

That made the she-wolf stop. She didn't turn to look at the fox, but she did not move either.

"You are lying," Maya gritted her teeth, her hand on the door handle. "I am not! It could only have been him! We... He was nice to me..."

"You used him!" the Beta's claws grew long in an instant. "You used him and then you killed him."

"I was wrong!" the fox begged on her knees, "I was so wrong! I... I loved Castiel and thought that he loved me too. You know what love is."

"I do," Maya chuckled, "But you don't!"

"You are right! You are right..." Roxy said with desperation in her voice, "I don't ... No one loved me. I don't know how... But the baby... The baby is Dean's. I swear!

Maya said nothing. "Please," the girl kept begging, "At least help me to give birth to it! Please!

Very slowly, the Beta turned to face her worst enemy,

"How do you imagine me doing this now?" she shook her head. "Everybody hates you. Even Brayden. You were a spy who ruined us! You gave us nothing! How do you think..."

"I will tell you what I know," Roxanne interjected. "I know where he has taken her. At least I think I know."

"Tell me now and maybe," Maya stressed the word, "if the information you give me is confirmed, I will make sure you live long enough to give birth."

Maya returned to the observation room with a grin on her face as Gideon and Reid were already checking the location on the maps.

"Nice acting," Brayden told her as he kept watching his fake mate through the window.

"I know, right?" the girl sneered at him. "Way better than yours the other day. (This novel will be daily updated at Tell me, Bray, how are you adjusting to the new reality of always being second? Or even third?"

She giggled but he did not respond to her. His life sucked as it was and there was no way for him to win this argument now.

His pack only existed now because the lycans gave him the money to keep it afloat.

He hated to admit it, but he made a mistake, after mistake, after mistake... Most of them couldn't be fixed. He would never get his perfect Luna back. Not really.

His love and his best friend was gone now.

His heart and soul were aching for Riannon. He knew that he had wronged her. And he missed her badly. Only she could get him out of such a mess.

But now it was his time to act. Even if she would never be his. Even if she were to spend her whole life with another, he owed it to her after everything to come to her rescue. Or at least to try and help. She had another knight in shining armour now. And he was sure that she wouldn't stay in captivity for long.

He chuckled at that thought. Because if he knew Riannon, she wasn't the one

king who willingly brought her into his own house.

"So, long story short. My name is Riannon and I am a captive. I am not planning to stay here for long as I have a mate, who is a lycan king and he would come for me very soon," she said it all in one breath, looking slightly bored. "And while I wait, why don't we get to know each other better and have a little party? Consider it my peace offering."

"Did you poison all that?" someone asked and her fox guard coughed from the shock. But she slowly poured a whole champagne glass and brought it to her lips.

"Cheers, ladies," Ria gulped the drink to prove that it was safe.

"No," she shook her head, "your health is in my best interest. I am just bored here. That's all."

"Bridgit, what do you think?" another one of the girls asked the blonde, who had attacked her before.

"So, your name is Bridgit? Nice to meet you. When you don't try to kill me that is," Ria scoffed.

"You don't seriously think that some booze and snacks would make us besties?" the blonde arched her brow, while the others were checking the gifts. None of them dared to touch them though. Not without her permission.

The harem had a hierarchy and currently, she was at the top of it.

"We don't have to be besties to have fun together once," Riannon smiled and took one of the chocolate covered strawberries from the table on wheels which she made her guards bring with them. She bit it, taking her time and then took a sip of champagne again.

"Are those Castiel's cigars?" one of the harem girls pointed her index finger at a small wooden box.

"Yes," Ria smirked at them, "And you would be surprised to find out that he has joints there too. (This novel will be daily updated at Who could have thought, right?)"

She got a few giggles here and there.

everyone's mind.

"His treat," Riannon answered without any shade of hesitation. "He said no limits. So, I took whatever I wanted. And you can have whatever you want here too."

They stood there, watching her and eyeing the two tables and trays on them full of everything. Exotic dishes, fruit, alcohol, sweets. It was a little feast.

"I've brought cards too," she added, "We can play poker or whatever." "And I see you stole Castiel's golden chess set," Bridgit stated plainly. "I did," a sly smile stretched over Ria's lips. "Do you play?"

"Are you sure you are not a fox yourself?" the blonde asked her, folding her hands on her chest.

"I am sure," the woman took the chessboard and got closer slowly. "So, how about a small party while we play? Just one game."

"Fine," Bridgit breathed out and all the girls in red around her jumped with glee. They circled the tables, helping themselves. Someone switched on music that they could all enjoy. They led Riannon downstairs and her guards followed. But soon their

attention was distracted a little since it appeared that there was a swimming pool on the bottom floor. Some of the red dresses disappeared. And no, none of the ladies had a swimsuit underneath.

Bridgit took the whites and made her first move. For a while, they played without saying anything to each other. And only when Ria knew that she set all her traps on the chessboard, could she relax a bit. That party would go on as long as

she wanted...

While the blonde was thinking, she stood up and walked around a bit. The girls were getting drunk surprisingly fast. But it was to her advantage, of course.

"You know he would make you pay for this, right?" Bridgit said, eyes on the chessboard at all times.

"I can take care of myself," Riannon chuckled and they stayed silent a bit longer before the werebear made her move. That made the Alpha return to her seat and consider her options, while her opponent looked around lazily.

hadn't been like that here for a while. Today, no one cared what they looked like and if their Master would arrive. (This novel will be daily updated at Today was for them. And it curled Bridgit's lips just a bit. Which was enough for Ria to notice.

"How did someone like you end up in a freaking harem?!" she asked all of a sudden.

"Why? Don't you think I fit in just nicely?" Bridgit gave her an eye roll. "You don't fit in. You lead them."

The other woman clearly liked the compliment, because a smile became a bit more evident on her face.

"My father sent me here," she confessed unexpectedly. "I was thinking that I would be his Luna when I arrived here. You should have seen my face when he brought me to this place and gave me a red dress."

"Ouch," Riannon took another gulp. As a woman, she could understand. "Why did you stay?"

"My father knew what he was doing," she shrugged it off, "He was a werewolf Alpha. Girls were always just breeding machines for him. My sisters were given to awful males as tributes. I was lucky to be chosen by Castiel. My father hoped that I would give him an heir and my position would become better. As well as their

alliance. He was naïve."

"Why?" their eyes met and she knew that Bridgit was contemplating just how far she could go with her, sharing her story.

"Because Castiel made sure none of us could ever get pregnant from him," the girl chuckled bitterly, "This wasn't our purpose. And because... my father was killed before he could see any benefits of our alliance. Now my pack has a new Alpha. And I have nowhere to go. Even if I wanted to leave here, I would be a woman without

rights. They would just give me to the first male who offers a good price."

"Not if you come to my lands," Riannon said and Bridgit's eyes lingered on her. "It's the same everywhere," she scoffed.

"Not anymore," Ria smiled. "You see, the Union just changed a few laws.

"No arranged marriages?" the werewolf looked interested.

"Not if the girl is not willing," she explained. "But there is much more than that. You can fight for the position of a Beta or an Alpha if you like. And if you are married, everything is shared equally after the divorce. Women have a say in where their kids stay too. And there are many other things too."

"And all the Alphas seriously agreed to that?" Bridgit's eyes widened slightly.

"Not all of them," Riannon let out a little laugh, "But the majority did and it was enough. Now I am an Alpha myself. It's an interesting story, actually. Maybe I will tell you about it one day."

"Maybe I'd listen," the girl moved her rook with confidence.

"By the way, do you know Roxanne?" it was a shot in the air, but surprisingly it reached its goal as the blonde groaned in annoyance.

"Don't tell me that the bitch is still alive!" she scowled.

"I wouldn't know," Ria shrugged her shoulders. "The last time I saw her, my best friend was kicking the living crap out of her."

"Did you see her dead? Because if you didn't, it doesn't count!" Bridgit looked unimpressed, but something changed between the two of them now.

"No, really, why did you stay so long?" Ria let her have her pawn.

"I loved him," Bridgit told her honestly and it did not escape her that she used past tense. "He has this way with women that... just makes you fall for him. When he pays you attention, you feel so special... like the only woman in the world for him."

"That's an interesting statement considering you all live in a harem," Riannon couldn't help but snort.

"I know," the werebear sighed, "but when you are with him, you feel like no one else exists. His scent drives you crazy and the pleasure he gives you..."

"Those are the details I can live without," Ria stopped her. "It makes me think though. You mentioned the scent..."

"What about it?" Bridgit didn't even look at her, too busy with the game.

that maybe he created a scent to imitate that he is your mate?"

"My beast never acknowledged him as our mate," Bridgit laughed, but then paused, looking at the empty space before her. "But the scent is... alluring."

Riannon decided not to push her more. She seemed like a clever woman. She was capable of getting to the bottom of things herself.

"About mates," she decided to change the subject a bit, (This novel will be daily updated at "You do know that yours is somewhere there. He is looking for you.")

"I don't know about that," Bridgit made another move. "Sometimes I think that the gods forgot about me when they were giving out mates."

"Everyone has one," Ria moved her bishop, capturing the white queen. "And trust me, when you meet yours, Castiel and his "scent" will be just a distant memory. You wouldn't even believe that you spent so many years in this beautiful cage."

The blonde wanted to tell her something, but right then they heard a loud growl coming from the entrance at the top balcony.

"What the hell is all this?!" a snarl echoed through the Eden.