

The 5-time Rejected Gamma & the Lycan King Chapter 231

Chapter 231 Two Hundred and Thirty -One

Ken's face was still as hard as cold metal when he turned to Janice, and exploded, "I knew I should've killed Idris's b*stard son when he looked at Lucy like she was a piece of meat! How dare he try to take my daughter's choice from her!"

Upon hearing that, the four of them holding their breaths relaxed visibly. He was mostly mad at Jake. Thank Goddess!

"OUR daughter, dear." Janice corrected her husband. She wasn't comfortable after listening to the tale either.

"Sick b*stard!" Ken spat. He then scowled at Juan and shouted, "And what the h*ll was Faint Moon's doctors doing?! How could they not have enough blood on hand?!"

Juan argued meekly, "Dad, they brought all they had."

Ken yelled, "It wasn't enough! Gonna give those Faint Moon idiots a call and..." Lucianne's eyes widened in fear before her hand reached for her father's arm to stop him from getting up as she spoke with her doe eyes, "Dad, there wasn't more than what they brought. They did everything they could. And it was enough. We came out fine." "You could have died, baby girl." Ken said with more restraint over his rage.

"But I didn't, daddy. I came out stronger like you always said I would." Lucianne justified meekly, praying that he won't call Luna Emilia to give her a lecture.

As Ken's heavy breathing steadied, he looked at Juan and said in a low voice, "Make sure the issue of blood supply is raised in the next pack leaders' meeting."

Juan rolled his eyes and responded, "We already had one after the infiltration, dad. Blood is not going to be an issue anymore."

"It better not be." Ken warned.

Lucianne saw that her brother was getting increasingly agitated, so she answered Ken, "It won't be, daddy."

Ken wasn't done when he glared at the remorseful-looking Xandar and exclaimed, "And you better make sure that doesn't happen to my daughter again!"

Lucianne defended Xandar. "Daddy, that's not fair. Xandar shielded me from the blades."

“And gave you the poison after that.” He uttered in a low voice.

Lucianne was getting angered now. “I TOOK it from him, dad. Xandar had already lost consciousness. He couldn’t stop me. No one could. I would’ve used the Queen’s Authority to force them to do the same thing if it came to that.”

Xandar’s face hardened in guilt, and Ken’s disdainful glare made him feel worse. Lucianne felt Xandar’s guilt, and she stroked his hand to comfort him while trying to reason with her enraged adoptive father, “Dad, think about it, mom would’ve done the same for you. Are you saying that she would be wrong to do what I did?”

“YES!” Ken exclaimed without hesitation.

Luna Janice roared, “KEN! YOU TAKE THAT BACK!” Juan scoffed, then leaned back into the couch as he smirked and declared, “And it’s showtime.” The former pack leaders shifted their sharp glares to their son, who simply looked at them in amusement as he said, “Admit it, dad. What happened was the rogues’ fault. None of us could have stopped Lucy. And any one of us would’ve done what Lucy did if it were our mates in Xandar’s position.”

Ken never liked it when Juan talked back at him but when his sights moved to the doe-eyed Lucianne, his anger evaporated, and he sighed and muttered in discontent, “Fine.”

After taking a quiet moment to himself, Ken’s sights fell on Xandar, and he thrust out his hand, which Xandar took, as the former-Alpha said, “Apologies for...blaming you.”

Xandar’s response was immediate, “Don’t be, sir. I don’t take what happened lightly either. I’ll do better by your daughter, I promise.” Janice smiled at his response, and Ken nodded, internally... satisfied with his answer. Not happy. Just satisfied. The kids returned shortly after, and they met Xandar. The youngest, Liam, was a little sad that he didn’t have Aunt Lucy all to himself anymore but Lucianne assured him that he still had a special place in her heart.

They had dinner together, and talked a little more with the kids before hitting the hay. Ken then invited Xandar for a fishing trip, just the two of them. The tone he used for the invitation obliged Xandar to accept.

With Janice’s relentless persuasion, Ken decided to be more open with his future son-in-law on their fishing trip the next day. They talked mostly about Lucianne, and Ken was pleased with whatever Xandar was saying and showing, especially when he looked hurt and remorseful when he mentioned the times Lucianne got hurt, and how he blamed himself for each and every mishap.

The pain and fear in Xandar’s eyes became apparent when he talked about the times he thought Lucianne was going to reject him. Ken saw and felt his sincerity, devotion and love. Maybe he wasn’t so bad after all.

When he returned home, Ken told his mate about his time with Xandar, and said that the 'boy' may be right for their daughter. Janice rolled her eyes at her husband and said, "He's the Lycan King, Ken. Did you even think that there could be someone better?"

"Titles are just the surface, Jan. You know that. It was his intentions that I was worried about." Ken noted. ©

"Xandar is fine. I'd say he's the right fit for Lucy, and he's spoiling her like a princess."

"Like a Queen." Ken corrected her with pride, and added, "And I can't believe I'm saying this, honey, but I think he's right for Lucy, too."

Xandar and Lucianne stayed in Blue Crescent for a week before returning to the Kingdom when Christian informed Xandar that the trial against the Kyltons and the others was about to start.

Chapter 232 Two Hundred and Thirty -two

The next three weeks passed in a blur, with the Kyltons', Aphaels', Tanner's and Greg's lawyers trying their best to save their clients. Some of the arguments and rebuttals got so ridiculous that the judges held their heads like they were getting a migraine.

One day before the verdict was scheduled to be delivered, every pack leader and Gamma boarded flights to the Kingdom and stayed over in hotels before making their way to court the next day. When the wolves saw each other in court, they embraced and chatted. The noise died down when the accused persons were brought into the courtroom. Almost everyone scowled at the Kyltons, Aphaels and Tanners, emitting low growls as they walked past with police escorts to be seated in the area designated for them. When Greg was brought in, however, no werewolf or Lycan made a sound.

They had been following the news, and were well aware of the magnitude of his contribution to the present case. Most of them were conflicted in what they thought of him. They hated him for helping the rogue corporation at its inception but they respected him for turning against the crooks and giving himself up to the authorities.

Those who still blamed him for the lives lost from rogue attacks chose to keep their comments to themselves since Lucianne emphasized that the losses would have continued, or even exacerbated, had the Duke not done what he did in recent weeks.

Dalloway's task force managed to track down and arrest two of the rogues' suppliers. Any silver, Oleander, serums and poisons found were seized and sent to the labs to be neutralized. The last supplier managed to clean out the hideout and flee before the task force arrived, so trackers were brought into the task force to help continue the search.

In the course of four weeks, the wolves caught and handed over about fifty runaway rogues, and killed another forty who tried to escape custody. These were caught not

because they tried to attack packs but because they had to run through certain packs in the course of their escape, resulting in their capture. When questioned about where the rest were, every rogue said that they didn't know because after coming out from the submarine, they dispersed, running in all directions since they weren't sure which was the safest route to survival anymore.

Without the shelter, supplies and support from the corporation, the rogues were more vulnerable than ever. Since there was no longer any aid for the ruthless creatures, no pack reported any attacks in the past few weeks for the first time in so long. Tate and Toby were leading an expedition to hunt down the rest of the rogues in wolf territory, while Phelton and Langford were doing the same in Lycan territory. No wolf could deny that their packs were only safe now because of what Greg did in recent weeks, yet they still couldn't let go of the fact that he was one who made all those years of attacks possible. Conflicted. That was the only way to describe how most of them felt.

Two minutes after the accused persons were brought in, five judges entered the courtroom and everyone stood to exchange bows with them. After everyone was seated, Judge Cook began, "Good morning to everyone present. This case, as everyone knows, has taken weeks to come to its end. And after much deliberation, we have come to the verdicts of the accused persons."

The courtroom was so full that many had to stand. Many more were outside the courtroom, relying on their hearing to keep up with what was going on inside. Fortunately, Judge Cook was considerate enough to read out the judgment louder than he normally would. "The facts of this case are unheard of, and what the accused persons have done is unacceptable not just in the eyes of the law but also in the eyes of any decent creature."

"The evidence mounted against the accused persons have been authenticated, thus are irrefutable. Such evidence not only included voice recordings but also hard drives seized by the police force, which shows the grand scheme of Wu Bi Corporation, a company founded and established by the distinguished Kylton family, aimed to siphon funds from the government AND the monarchy before seeking to...demand that the King take their daughter's hand in marriage."

Low growls filled the room, from werewolves to Lycans. Xandar's eyes turned onyx in an instant when he growled as subtly as he could with the rest. For once, the judges didn't shush the attendees. Lucianne's thumb stroked Xandar's hand, and she looked at him with a soft gaze in hopes of calming him down. He pecked a kiss on her temple as the lilac shades returned.

Judge Cook's voice continued to ring loud and strong in the courtroom, "Building a corruption scheme is one thing. Building it to challenge the monarchy amounts to treason at its highest degree, and treason justifies a punishment of death or eternal torture."

Judge Cook cleared his throat and continued, "On with the sentencing: we shall start with the perpetrators, the Kyltons. It is the unanimous decision of this court that the assets owned by the Lord, Lady and the heiress of the Kylton family be seized and sold to recover double of the amount stolen from the government over the years. The family shall each be subjected to solitary confinement for life, and only brought out for the daily whipping of ten strokes, and an electrocution for thirty minutes three times a week. The judiciary concurs with the monarchy's request to install speakers in their confinement units, playing audiotapes of radio stations which reported on wolf pack massacres in the past. We thank our cousin species for digging up their archives and making copies for us."

Xandar was the first to suggest installing the speakers and playing those tapes, crediting his mate for the idea she gave him after Sasha hurt them both on the training ground. Lucianne immediately clarified that she never intended to execute such an inhumane thing but it didn't stop everyone at the meeting from getting onboard with her brutal idea. Christian, Juan, Tate, Toby and Zelena were the most enthusiastic when it came to pushing for this to be in the recommendation. Lucianne didn't fully agree with putting that in at first, and was only swayed because everyone else supported this form of punishment, from her mate to the second-in-command to her brother and friends. Even Phelton, who normally didn't advise her on what to do, urged her to support the motion, reminding her that many of her kind were lost because of the Kylton family. When Lucianne recalled the friends she lost, along with the children who were killed in the process, it wasn't very difficult to get on their side.

"For the first accomplice, Livia Aphael, solitary confinement for life, brought out only for the daily whipping of five strokes. Her parents, Dax and Cornelia Aphael, for being wilfully blind to the crimes being committed under the same roof and for speaking against the Queen, imprisonment for forty years and a fine of two hundred thousand dollars each."

"The second accomplice, Helena Tanner, solitary confinement for life, brought out only for the daily whipping of seven strokes and an electrocution of thirty minutes three times a week for obstruction of justice when she disobeyed the Duke's order to surrender herself to the police; for attempting to murder a child with Oleander which ended up hurting Her Royal Highness instead; for blackmailing her employees to commit treason and assist in her crimes; and for participating in the corruption scheme. Her assets shall also be seized and sold for the government to recover twice the amount that was stolen."

"As for her husband, Vincent Tanner, who remained wilfully blind to his wife's crimes despite having felt the anguish when his wife was battered by the Duke when he demanded she turned herself over to the authorities, one whip a day for an imprisonment period of fifty years and a fine of three hundred thousand dollars. As requested by his counsel, Vincent Tanner shall be anesthetized when Helena Tanner is being whipped and electrocuted so as to ensure that he bears only his own punishment. Helena Tanner shall NOT be given anesthesia when Vincent Tanner is being whipped."

“Rico and Ridalpo Tanner, for being wilfully blind to the crimes being committed under the same roof in the period of time they were in the Kyltons’ residence, imprisonment for forty years and a fine of one hundred thousand dollars each.”

“Finally, the Duke, Greg Claw.” 1

Chapter 233 Two Hundred and Thirty -Three

Lucianne sat up and held her breath, as did everyone else. On the side, Greg seemed like he couldn’t care less what happened to him but it did concern him that Lucianne looked worried. She shouldn’t be under any stress given how hard the past few weeks had already been for her. He was only stealing momentary glances of her before but he was finding it difficult to look away now, until his cousin threw him a glare.

Greg rolled his eyes just to annoy his cousin one more time before reluctantly looking away. Lucianne felt Xandar’s jealousy, so she pecked a quick kiss on his jawline to calm her beast. Xandar’s face softened, and he closed his eyes to take a whiff of her hair, indulging in her scent. Judge Cook cleared his throat and continued reading the judgment, “By law, the Duke’s act of poisoning the Duchess to render her infertile justifies invoking the punishment of death or eternal torture. And conspiring against the King, which enabled the perpetrators to establish the very corporation to siphon money from the government and for countless rogue attacks to be launched against our cousin species should subject him to, at the very least, solitary confinement, electrocution, whipping, a hefty fine, and even the stripping of his dukedom with the monarchy’s permission. However...”

His stern voice turned a little gentle when he continued, “This court acknowledges that as much as the Duke is culpable for the crimes perpetrated against the government, monarchy = and werewolves, this court must also acknowledge the fact that the said Duke had been instrumental in the successful prosecution of corrupt ministers, the founders and accomplices of Wu _ Bi Corporation, and also those who sought to harm and murder the Queen. As much as he is to be blamed for the lives that were lost, he is also credited for the lives that were saved when he surrendered credible and reliable evidence and himself to the monarchy.”

Judge Cook was careful to not say that the evidence was surrendered to Lucianne in particular, being sensitive to the King’s temperament. Greg rolled his eyes again at the old man’s consideration for his cousin’s feelings.

The judge continued, “The monarchy’s recommendation for the said Duke is, in this court’s very humble opinion, too punitive for an accused who has willingly offered more incriminating evidence than any accused person in history without asking for anything in return.” 1 “The said Duke has also fully cooperated throughout the entire legal process, and had already returned the commissions received by him from Wu Bi Corporation, which he kept in a separate bank account under an alias, as verified. He has also offered to pay the fine with revenue generated from his long-established stationery

export business which has been verified to be legitimate, the fine of which is double of the stolen value. Taken together, this bench of judges has unanimously agreed to mitigate the sentencing imposed by the law.”

“Contrary to the monarchy’s recommendation of imposing two whips per week for a period of fifty years imprisonment, this bench finds that it is fair to impose only ten whips. Not ten whips per week but only ten whips in total. His imprisonment term shall be thirty years. The Duke may be released earlier, or placed under house arrest for good behaviour if and when such a time comes.” 1 Judge Cook placed the sheet of paper he held in his hand back on the bench table and said, “Crimes are taken seriously in the Court of Law. The violators shall be punished in order to protect the society at large. That being said, those who choose to come to the law by...admitting to their crimes shall be shown...an appropriate amount of mercy, depending on the severity of the crimes and the circumstances of each case. Our job as judges is to find the right balance, and after much deliberation, this is our decision.”

Judge Cook stood, and the other judges followed suit, leaving the courtroom through the side door which they entered from.

Lucianne was relieved that they went easy on Greg. Annie was satisfied, too. Their mates, on the other hand, were still in the midst of adjusting that this wasn’t one of Greg’s tricks, and that he helped them, really helped them, with no strings attached

Xandar unceremoniously buried his face in Lucianne’s neck, greedily taking in her scent as Greg stole one more glance of Lucianne when he was being escorted out by a policeman. Disregarding all the growls being thrown her way, Kelissa was screaming like a madwoman on her way out, shouting about how everyone would regret taking those pictures of her and reporting on the case, that she would ‘come back and make you all pay!’. She also kept repeating that when she returned as their Queen one day, they would regret prosecuting her.

When she was finally out of sight, Christian muttered, “Psychotic, delusional b*tch.”

Xandar’s lips trailed up Lucianne’s side profile, and stopped at the top of her head, where he pecked a kiss and said, “The...podcasts in her confinement cell ought to help with the craziness.” Lucianne narrowed her eyes, and questioned, “That’s your choice of word, Xandar? Podcasts? And what do you mean ‘help with the craziness’? She’s going to be driven more insane than she already is, darling.”

Christian chuckled at her response to his cousin, and Xandar met his mate’s annoyed gaze before he uttered, “Then the next step would be to transfer her to a mental asylum, sweetheart. I’d say we’re right on track.” 1

Lucianne shook her head and got up because it was time to leave the courtroom. She then muttered, “Indecent beast.”

Her body was immediately spun around, and before Xandar's lips crashed on hers, her fingers came between them and pressed on his lips as she whispered, "MY indecent beast."

Xandar kissed her fingers and declared, "Always." A peck on her forehead, and he continued, "And forever."

Chapter 234 Two Hundred and Thirty -Four

A week later, the wolves flew to Lycan territory again to attend Lucianne's coronation. Every living creature from Blue Crescent flew over, and they left the safety of their pack to the warriors from an ally pack.

Every Lycan and werewolf who wasn't at the ceremony turned on their televisions or went online to watch the live broadcast, even the prisoners. Greg sat in the cafeteria with a few new friends he made, beaming as Lucianne's face came on screen.

In a separate prison, the Aphaels and Tanners stared at the screen with zero enthusiasm. Livia was the only one with a scorn when Lucianne's face came into view.

In each of their solitary confinement units, the Kyltons were barking expletives when the police brought in high resolution televisions in compliance with the order of His Royal Highness. Their legs were tied to a chair, and their hands were tied together as two policemen held each of their chairs from behind. Although distasteful to their sights, none of the Kyltons thought to close their eyes to avoid having to watch the coronation. Kelissa shouted and screamed as her tears of anger continued to stream down her very-flustered face. Her nostrils flared and beads of sweat appeared on her forehead from how much strength she exerted when she screamed like a mentally-unstable patient. When the policemen with her decided that they didn't want to go deaf, they got some duct tape and taped it over the heiress's mouth, appreciating the more tolerable muffles as they watched the coronation on the television with her.

At the ceremony, Lucianne walked down the red carpet in a lilac gown designed and made by Hale. Her half-tied hairstyle showed her full face. Many from the press took the liberty to point out that Lucianne disregarded royal tradition when she smiled and waved to attendees who were mostly her friends and allies instead of looking straight ahead and walking down the carpet with a poker face like past Queens. Her favorite nephew, Liam, suddenly had the physical strength to pull his tiny hand away from Hale, and he dashed towards Lucianne before his parents could stop him. Instead of asking him to return to his seat, Lucianne held Liam's hand and continued walking down the carpet. Russell came shortly after, taking Lucianne's other hand. These two boys who succeeded in breaking away from their parents' hold seemed to have encouraged the other kids to do the same.

Many more children left their parents' side, and dashed towards the Queen without knowing that it violated the formalities of the ceremony. The guards could only catch

and stop a few of them but most of the children got through with their small size, and they crowded around Lucianne, walking with her with wide grins and cheeky smiles, disregarding their embarrassed parents who were hissing at them. Juan himself hid his face in his hands before Lucianne mind-linked him that it was okay.

Christian and many others in attendance were already laughing at how the guards were struggling to scoop up a few kids at once. Only when Lucianne told them that it was okay did the guards set the children back on the ground. The sight of a group of children around Lucianne was humorous for some like Christian and Toby; was heartwarming for those like Annie and Hale; and was beautiful and amazing for Xandar.

Before he met Lucianne, he had only ever scared kids away. This was a sight that he could never conjure up even if he stretched his imagination to its limit. 'Thank you, Moon Goddess. You've given this Kingdom your most precious gift, and I swear that I will love and protect her for as long as I live', Xandar muttered in gratitude. The crown and cloak he wore were bothersome on a warm day but his mate seemed to have melted away any discomfort that he was feeling.

When Lucianne reached the raised platform where Xandar and the archbishop were, she told the kids to wait for her on the lower step, and they all nodded obediently. Liam let go of his aunt's hand, and Russell did the same when Xandar came to offer Lucianne his hand. As soon as she stepped on the elevated platform with his help, the audience went wild, cheering and clapping even though Lucianne wasn't technically crowned yet. The archbishop had a microphone pinned to his robe, so he commented in amusement, "Looks like my services are not needed after all. How about we just skip to the buffet, everyone?"

The crowd burst out laughing, and the journalists took note that even the archbishop broke tradition when he joked like that. The archbishop then got Xandar and Lucianne to stand a meter apart facing each other. After requesting Xandar to thrust his right arm and holding it straight in Lucianne's_ direction, the archbishop asked Lucianne to do the same with her left arm. Their hands held the area below each other's wrists, and the archbishop opened his small notebook and began reciting from it.

Xandar's gaze of pride never left his mate's black and lilac orbs, which she held with honor. At the end of the archbishop's short recital, he got Lucianne to repeat after him. "I, Lucianne Freesia Paw, solemnly promise and swear to rule and govern the creatures of this Kingdom in accordance with its laws, alongside His Royal Highness, King Alexandar Thomas Claw."

"I promise and swear to protect the Kingdom and the creatures herein, doing what is needed and required of me..."

The archbishop then said, "...as I have always done before this day."

Lucianne blinked in surprise before she turned to the archbishop, a way of asking him whether he made an error on that part. That wasn't in the rehearsal when they practised two days ago. He simply smiled and waited for her to repeat after him, and when Lucianne's sights returned to her mate, he was looking at her with a cheeky glint in his eye and a more visible upward curl of his lips. This was his doing.

She pressed back a smile and repeated, "As I have always done before this day."

The archbishop beamed and continued another set of lines that were neither in the rehearsal nor were they in any oath taken by rulers before Lucianne. Christian's not-so-subtle chuckle in the background and Xandar's glowing smile showed that they planned this with the archbishop.

The archbishop came to the end, which was the cue for Lucianne to repeat everything he just said. She blushed, and couldn't press back her smile any longer as she repeated those words, the very same set of words she uttered in the dining hall after Xandar spoke about the Jewel Pack incident, "You can be assured that I will not stop until every last threat has been neutralized. I will not give up even when I'm weakened. I will fight alongside you, and together, we will win."

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A roar of enthusiastic and deafening applause and cheers followed, and the media was excitedly taking note of the modified oath. The oath was never altered in any way for centuries, so it was a surprise for it to be changed today.

The fifth tradition that was broken was the fact that Lucianne remained standing when Xandar began lowering the crown over her head. Xandar explicitly told her and the archbishop that he will not have Lucianne kneel and bow to him like past Kings. If she did so, even by an inch, they would have to redo the entire ceremony.

When the crown had been placed on his mate's head, the King planted a deep kiss on her forehead, which was the sixth tradition that was broken. The final one broken for the day was when Xandar held onto her small hand, and got down on one knee before tilting his head downwards. His voice rang through the microphone pinned to his robe and amplified through the speakers when he said in a firm, thunderous voice, "My Queen." Everyone knelt and bowed to their Queen with nothing but eagerness, devotion and admiration. Lucianne bowed to the crowd in return, and everyone stood when she stood. As the King rose, the Queen pecked a kiss at the back of his hand, a gesture he returned by pecking a light kiss on her forehead.

When the ceremony was over, everyone adjourned to the dining hall for the buffet. Lucianne and Xandar took off their crowns and the King slid off the cloak before they joined the others. Xandar was speaking to Ken and many other retired pack leaders, whereas Lucianne was mingling with Yarrington and the wolves who were talking about education.

As Lucianne listened to Gamma Benedict, she noticed her vision blurring. Her legs got weaker before she heard Xandar yell her name from across the hall as she passed out.

Chapter 235 Two Hundred and Thirty -Five

Yarrington caught the Queen before she fell, handing her to the King as soon as he reached her side. Xandar rushed her to Dr Yeil's medical centre. Christian, Annie, the alliance, Ken and Janice all waited along the corridor outside the doctor's room.

Xandar was looking at his mate's unconscious body on the examination table in dismay. He felt her blacking out from across the hall, and the next thing he knew, he was witnessing her petite figure falling before the Education Minister caught her in swift motion.

Dr Yeil extracted some blood, and got one of his nurses to go have it analysed. Two minutes into the body examination with his second nurse, Lucianne let out a moan. Xandar rushed to her side without a second thought and asked frantically, "Baby. Baby, can you hear me?"

Her eyes fluttered open, and her gaze shifted from her mate to Dr Yeil and his nurse before her sights returned to Xandar as she asked, "Wh-what happened?"

"You passed out, sweetheart. How are you feeling?" "A little dizzy." she responded. 2

Xandar lifted her off the table, and held her close to his chest, using the mate-bond to ease her discomfort. Lucianne kept her eyes closed as she concentrated on Xandar's scent and heartbeat, and another three minutes later, she could open her eyes without seeing her surroundings spinning. She reached for her mate's cheek as she muttered, "Thank you, my love."

He smiled in relief knowing that she felt better, and pecked a kiss on her forehead before he muttered, "Anything for you, Lucy."

He sat her in a chair when the nurse came in with Lucianne's blood test results. What was odd was that the nurse was smiling. Dr Yeil and the other nurse looked at their colleague in bewilderment before turning their eyes to the report. They were shocked at what they saw before a smile graced both their features.

The doctor looked at the King and Queen, and smiled radiantly as he said, "It seems you can heal from just about anything, my Queen. Congratulations, your MHighnesses. You're pregnant." 1

Xandar and Lucianne froze at the statement. Lucianne blinked a few times before she shook herself out of her daze and asked, "I'm sorry, Dr Yeil. I'm quite certain I didn't hear you right. What did you just say?"

The nurses smiled wider when the doctor said, "I doubt you heard me wrong, your Highness. You've healed from the infertility poison, and now, you're with child. It's two days old, so the heartbeat is still faint. Give it another five more days, and you'll be able to hear it easily in a quiet room. It looks like the Kingdom can welcome a new addition to the royal family in eighteen weeks time. Xandar knelt before Lucianne, and pressed an ear over her abdomen, where he detected the beautiful sound of a beating drum. His eyes glistened in joy when he looked up at his mate and cupped her cheeks as he exclaimed in a hushed voice, "You're pregnant!"

Lucianne's own eyes glistened as well when she chuckled in elation for a moment as she looked down at her still-flat belly, her thumb stroking it lovingly. For the first time in so long, she felt that the Moon Goddess didn't hate her. It was because their Goddess gifted her the ability to heal from poisons that she was able to conceive again. Then, something came to her mind.

With bright, inquisitive eyes, Lucianne asked Dr Yeil, "The last time there was infertility poison in my system, you said that you sent my blood to the lab, Dr Yeil?"

Xandar stood by her side and faced the doctor as the old man answered, "I did. I called the head of the department just yesterday, your Highnesses, but my colleague over there confirmed that there's no change in your blood composition. It's still the blood of an infertile creature."

"But the blood in my body is now healed?" Lucianne confirmed.

Dr Yeil looked at the report in his hand and said, "It appears so, my Queen. There are no traces of infertility poison in your body, or any poison for that matter. But I must say, the recovery phase did take a longer time compared to silver and Oleander."

"Why is that?" Xandar asked.

Looking up from the report, the doctor answered, "My best guess? It's because the hormones required to conceive took time to return to their normal levels. You see, your Highnesses, the infertility poison wipes out the hormones required for pregnancy and...is supposed to inhibit production of such hormones from the organ producing them indefinitely. To put it simply, the poison was...supposed to turn off the production switch in the organ, much like how lethal poisons such as silver and Oleander turn off the functionality switch in vital organs. But..."

Dr Yeil looked at the report again and said, "If we learned anything about the Queen's immune system, it's that her organs know how to take care of themselves. Since the switch in her organs never allows anything external to turn them off... at least not permanently, she retained the ability to continue hormonal production. It took this long because hormones may take days, weeks, or months, in some cases, to return to their normal levels, depending on one's diet and lifestyle. According to this report, your hormones are now at healthy levels to carry a child, my Queen." Lucianne was speechless as she continued staring at the medical professionals. Xandar caressed her shoulders before he pecked a kiss in Lucianne's hair and uttered, "Amazing."

Lucianne then asked, "So, if I gave you my blood that has healed from the poison, and you sent it to your colleagues in the lab, do you think they can study the blood composition and develop an antidote to cure someone who has succumbed to the same poison?"

Everyone's eyes snapped wide open. Dr Yeil composed himself and said, "Technically speaking, and if we were to be optimistic, it should be possible, your Highness."

Xandar caught up to his mate's thoughts. She was thinking about Annie. Lucianne wanted to know if there was something in her blood that could be replicated to heal her. The thought of how selfless she was even in this made Xandar's heart melt. With her doe eyes, Lucianne looked up at her mate and asked, "You don't mind if I gave some of my blood, do you? It won't affect the child." Xandar lowered himself to peck a kiss between her eyebrows and said, "Of course not, sweetheart. I think it's a great idea."

Lucianne's eyes sparkled when she said, "In that case," she looked back at the doctor and nurses as she said, "Take a little more of my blood, please. See if it can cure anything else."

"Not too much of it though." Xandar said with worry. He didn't want her to faint again.

Lucianne rolled her eyes and said, "I doubt Dr Yeil will take everything, darling."

Dr Yeil affirmed her statement, "Medical protocol doesn't allow us to extract more than three syringes of blood from a pregnant woman, my King."

Xandar's tense shoulders relaxed, and he heaved a relieved sigh before pecking another kiss on his mate's forehead as he said, "That's good to know." After giving them the blood, Xandar and Lucianne agreed to keep the last part of their medical consultation from the Duke and Duchess until they actually have good news. They didn't want to get Christian and Annie's hopes up and then shoot it to the ground later on if and when there was no cure.

In the hallway, everyone's eyes snapped to Lucianne and Xandar, and when the smiling couple told them that they were expecting, the strained atmosphere lightened as everyone conveyed their congratulations. The two most excited people were Janice,

who couldn't wait to welcome another grandchild, and Annie, who couldn't wait to be a distant aunt. Since Xandar was close to her and Christian, Annie doubted that they'd be distant at all!

Toby's cheeky demeanor replaced his worried features as he said, "A dynamite carrying a dynamite. This is definitely one safe Kingdom to live in." 3