

The Perfect Luna by Marissa Gilbert

Chapter 55

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Chapter 55. The Accusations

She waited for him in the middle of the spacious hall and wasn't surprised at all when the

redhead devil appeared right behind him, flapping her long lashes innocently.

Brayden had a mixture of emotions on his face, and she knew at once that he wouldn't make it easy for her. Not that she was counting on it.

"Was it really necessary?" She arched her brow at him, but not a muscle flinched on his

face.

"Don't blame me after what you did at the Summit." He told her and she tilted her head to

look at him. Ash walked out of his office and a few other people were gathering around them as well.

"I had the right to do what I did, and I don't think anyone in their right mind can blame me," Riannon shrugged. She knew that she had to choose her words carefully now, but she also

wanted to be honest with herself.

"You tricked me," he said finally.

"Let's agree to disagree," she sighed, "You had the project in your hands the whole time and it's not my fault that you didn't read it carefully. Or worse – you read it but didn't understand the meaning."

"Forgive me for trusting my wife," he gritted through his teeth, "You could have told me that you found your mate as well. Like I did. I was honest about it."

"Should I have brought him to live with us as well?" she rolled her eyes, "Because my wolf needs it?"

"Does she now?" Brayden sneered and for the first time Riannon had a bad feeling about

this. Especially when she saw 'Roxy smirking behind his back too. Something was up with the two of them and she did not like it.

"Anyway," Ria decided to change the topic, "There is no point in postponing the inevitable. You will need to leave my land today. The papers have been processed."

"And what about my people?" Brayden growled.

"Your people live on your land," she explained to him calmly, "And whoever decides to stay here today, will be my people."

"How do you see them leaving their houses?" the Alpha in front of her clenched his fists.

"This is exactly why they would have a choice. They can either stay with me or go with you. I am not going to force anyone. The same goes for people in your territories. If they want to join The Pearl Moon, we will find a place for them."

then?"

"We meet in the garden, where we always discuss pack matters with the members. And we let them choose. Today." She held his gaze, and he finally gave up.

"Okay," he pointed at the door, "Let's go then. After you. Ash, call pack members to the garden. We will let them vote for who they stay with today."

"Most are already there," Riannon informed him and he couldn't hide his annoyance at her taking the lead in this.

"Are you really sure you want to do this?" he asked her, "We could still go back now. It's not too late. But it will be late after the vote."

"I am sure, Brayden," she nodded, "I haven't been sure of anything so much in my life."

He frowned at her words, but she ignored it, turning on her heels.

A crowd was already waiting for them outside, forming a circle around the white garden house. Riannon saw how worried people were and a little guilt washed over her for disturbing their lives and turning them upside down. But she had to think of a bigger picture here. Leaving those people to Roxanne would be worse. Every day Ria was sure more and more that the omega wasn't that simple. And that what happened to her in her previous life was just the tip

of the iceberg.

There was something menacing about the omega, who was now clinging to her ex-husband and whispering something in his ear. Besides, there was this undeniable connection to Everett. And possibly the explosions too.

No, she was right about this. She had to do this. She had to protect as many of her people as she could. With her and Gideon, they would be safe.

Brayden went straight for the centre of the circle, and she followed him to his dismay. However, there wasn't anything he could do about it.

"I guess you all are already aware why we gathered you here today!" the man started talking, "Riannon and I got divorced yesterday. And as a result of that and the new law that was accepted back at the Summit, we will be separating the two packs."

A wave of whispers rippled through the crowd. In spite of everything, not everyone knew what was going on and some were clearly shocked by the new developments.

"But why, Alpha?" someone shouted in the back and Brayden sighed heavily.

"Your Luna made that decision for the two of us," he said, and Riannon had a hard time

"Too many things happened," she decided to take the word to control the narrative from him, "Both Brayden and I found our true mates and it became impossible to stay together. Not to mention that we see the future of our pack differently. According to the new law, I can claim back what was mine before our marriage. And that is exactly what I am going to do. All the

lands and assets that belonged to the Pearl Moon pack are now mine again. And today you will

need to make a choice for yourselves – whether you will stay with alpha Brayden or with me. We understand that it may cause some inconvenience for you, and we apologise. Whatever pack you choose, you will be well taken care of."

"Just as me and my warriors took care of you for the past six years, nothing will change in the Silver River," Brayden smirked, "I will still be protecting you and we will keep the same course as always."

"And as for me," Riannon knew how to play that game very well, "I actually see plenty of places for improvement. Want us to grow and not be stuck in the past. Other packs around us are changing for the better and evolving. And I think that so should we."

"You can't evolve if you are not protected properly. We live in a cruel world." Brayden snorted, trying to diminish her promises.

"The lycans will ensure the protection of The Pearl Moon if there will be such a need," Reid interjected loudly and everyone looked at him, impressed that a lycan was present there, "We are sworn to protect our Luna and future queen. And we will defend her people as our own."

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"And what will be the price for that?" the Alpha gritted his teeth, "What will the mighty

lycans want in return?"

Riannon clenched her lips. It wasn't her place to make any promises on behalf of lycans.

At least, not yet.

"We don't charge for protecting our family," Savannah stepped forward, "And any family of Ria's is our family now. We will assist our Queen's own pack as if it's our own."

"Now that we are done with that," Riannon smiled at her future sister-in-law, thankful for her help, "How about we get to business? We will both be able to ensure our packs' safety one way or another. So, let's..."

"Are you sure?" she heard the voice that she hated more than anything and saw Roxy

stepping forward.

"This is not a Q&A," Ria folded her hands on her chest, "And this is not the time for

"Forgive me," the omega said in a shaky but loud voice, making sure that everyone heard her, "But this is important and I think that people have the right to know."

"Know what?" Brayden raised his brow at his mate although it was obvious that the two of them were together on this, "Speak, Roxanne."

"Uhm," the girl bit her lip as if she was perplexed about what to do, "But can an Alpha really lead a pack if she doesn't have a wolf?"

Riannon froze. This was her secret. And just a few people knew about it. She trusted each of them with her life. So, how on Earth did Roxy find out?

Her eyes met with Maya's, who looked as shocked as she was. And when her gaze shifted to her brother, who stood on the opposite side of the circle, Riannon knew exactly what had happened. Dean lowered his head, also realising what he had done. But unfortunately, it was too late for regrets.

"That's unprecedented," Brayden replied calmly, "An alpha is a leader of the pack. He or she is supposed to be the strongest to lead the people. If an alpha doesn't have a wolf, it's impossible to lead the pack. Why do you ask that, Roxanne?"

"I am sorry," the girl mumbled, "This is not my place to speak about it. But I think this is an important information, considering that the pack is about to vote on who to stay with."

"If you know something important, share it with us," Bray encouraged her.

"Luna... I mean Alpha Riannon does not have a wolf," Roxy stuttered.

"Nonsense!" Aria snorted loudly, "We have known Ria since childhood! She always had

her wolf!"

"What is this accusation? Ria was fighting along all of us many times!" Tatiana chimed in and the rest of the pack started buzzing as well.

"I saw her," Roxanne spoke louder and more firmly, "In the woods. She wasn't able to shift! She tried but it did not work!"

"Brayden," Riannon turned to her ex-husband, "I think you should explain to your mate that lying is bad. She couldn't have seen me in the woods and as for my wolf, Onyx proved herself to the pack many times."

"Then you wouldn't have any trouble shifting before us!" Roxy yelled, clenching her fists, "If your wolf is in place, then it's not a problem for you. Right?"

"It is not a problem for me to shift," Riannon lied, knowing that a lot depended on that

"You want to lead a pack," Roxanne insisted.

"And you want to become a pack's Luna," Ria interrupted her, "So, how about you and your wolf? Will you care to demonstrate to us how you shift?"

She actually liked this turn of events. Because she was sure as hell that Roxy wasn't an omega. Onyx would be back one day, she was still inside of her. But an opportunity like this to out the redhead demon could not present itself anymore.

"What?" Riannon smirked, "Not so brave anymore? Shift for us now and I will do the

same."

The fake omega didn't look so sure anymore. This clearly wasn't what she was counting

1.

"I can't," she suddenly said with a newfound confidence, and placed her hands on her belly, "I am expecting the Alpha's child."

Ria felt a prickle of pain. Dull and not strong, but it was still there. She did not love Brayden. Not anymore. But it still was painful to know that he had already had a baby with his new Luna.

However, she did not let it show.

"Congratulations," she forced herself to smile naturally, "However, I don't see how it may obstruct you from shifting."

"I am an omega," Roxy started forming tears in her eyes, "Unfortunately, my body is very weak. And I don't want to hurt the child."

"Bull!" Maya scoffed, "You are not the only omega in the world, you know. All of them shift all the time without any repercussions. Pregnant or not."

People around them started to nod and Roxanne did not look so sure of herself anymore.

"Don't be shy!" Maya added, "You asked others to shift to prove something. Do us the

honours!"

"That's enough!" Brayden growled and everyone became quiet. He went all the way to Roxy and took her under his arm as if protecting her, "My mate will not be proving anything to anyone."

"Then I will reserve the same right for myself," Riannon said calmly, "Especially considering that I have nothing to prove."

"Fine!" he grunted, "Let's just get it over with!"

knowing that she had just dodged a bullet but it wasn't the end of it.

"Members of the pack, plead your allegiance to your chosen Alpha. Please, choose wisely. " She said loudly and breathed out. The moment that she had been fighting for was finally here...

Note: Hi, everyone! I am starting to feel a bit better. Thank you for all your kind messages.

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Chapter 56

Chapter 56. The Voting

Maya was the first one to leave the circle and join her Alpha's side.

"I plead allegiance to The Pearl Moon pack and Alpha Riannon Michaels!" she declared loudly. Tatiana and Aria were next, followed by many others.

"I plead allegiance to The Silver River pack and Alpha Brayden Thorn," the elite warriors announced one by one. Almost all of them, yet not all.

One by one, people were choosing their side and soon two groups were standing in front of each other. (This novel will be daily updated at) It was more or less the way she expected it. At the moment, her crowd was much bigger than her ex's, but that was a given, since they were on the land of her old pack. Not everyone was present here and she knew that it was only the beginning.

However, Brayden was getting gloomier and gloomier with each person who did not choose him. It probably played very differently in his head. He never lost anything in his life before and now it was starting to look like a pattern for him.

"Thank you for making your choice," Riannon smiled when everything was over, looking

at the people in front of her, "I know this is not an easy situation. And I am still grateful for the

years I spent as your Luna. Our ways part now, but you will always remain in my heart. And I

want you to know that I will not hold this against you."

Brayden wanted to say something as well but changed his mind at the last moment.

"I think we are done here," he announced dryly and then turned to his people, "Pack your bags. We'll be leaving this place today for the old Silver River packhouse."

The pack was bustling with people saying their goodbyes to each other. No matter what was happening, they spent years as one pack and the breakup was hard for all of them.

Quite a few people were glaring at Roxy, feeling like she was the one to blame for everything that happened. (This novel will be daily updated at)The fake omega was playing her usual part, looking at everyone with doe eyes and holding her belly that wasn't even protruding yet to evoke sympathy.

Men and women were coming up to Riannon to say their goodbyes and words of respect even if they were leaving with Brayden. And she made sure to thank each

of them, at the same time letting them know that her doors would always be open for them.

It was a victory. And everyone knew it. Her new pack members were congratulating her, happy to stay under her wing.

Soon, however, the crowd dissipated, leaving just two small groups present. Brayden's

and hers.

"I hope you are happy," her ex said spitefully, "We are no longer the strongest pack out

"Strength is not only about the size, Bray," Riannon parried, "I have to look at a bigger picture here. And the safety of my people comes first."

"What's that supposed to mean?" he asked through clenched teeth.

"It means that you brought a wolf in sheepskin to our pack," she turned to Maya and motioned for her to give her the folder that Gideon gave her, "However funny that sounds."

"How threatened are you by a simple omega?" he scoffed and she let out a sigh as she did not expect any better of him.

"I am not threatened at all," Riannon rolled her eyes, "I took precautions to protect my people. That's what a good Alpha should do. One thinks you should know that... But speaking of her being a simple omega, what really do you know about her? Did you even bother checking her past before you brought her here?"

"Of course, I did," he said, "I talked to her previous Alpha." "The one who abused her?" she chuckled, "That's some source of information!"

"He wouldn't lie to me," Brayden got annoyed by her insinuations, "He knows that I would kill him."

"Funny you should say that," she pushed the folder into his hands, "But he is already dead. (This novel will be daily updated at)Didn't you notice that he wasn't present at the Summit?"

"That's very sad and all, but I don't see the connection," Bray took the folder and opened it, running his eyes over the papers inside.

"A mighty Alpha was killed on a simple patrol of his own pack just two days after you happened to find your poor mate in his pack. Sure, that's not suspicious at all." Riannon shook her head, "Neither is the fact that most pack members say that she appeared in their pack just three months prior to that lifechanging event of yours. And no one except for the deceased Alpha knew where she came from."

She could see how dumbfounded he became while reading the information she gave him.

But she also knew that he was a stubborn man, so she wasn't surprised when he closed

the folder angrily.

"This doesn't prove anything!" He said and Roxy smirked behind his back, "You are just angry at my mate for everything that happened."

"am just stating the facts." Riannon replied calmly, "What you do with this information is up to you. She is your problem now. Not mine. But if I were you, I would at least ask her to

"Don't listen to her!" Harper appeared out of nowhere and gave Roxy a protective hug, "She is just jealous that the two of you are happy together and are about to have a child! She couldn't give you one for so many years!"

"And thank Goddess for that!" Ria couldn't hold back a snort.

"You see, this is your mistake here," her ex-sister-in-law went on, "You think you are so much better than everyone else! Always the perfect Luna! Always loved by everyone! Now the joke is on you! This is the first time when something doesn't go the way you want it, and you

just can't handle it!"

"What are you even talking about, Harper?" Riannon rubbed her forehead, already tired of the scene, "You sure never gave me any love. Almost from the very beginning and I still don't know how and why I earned all the hatred from you. And as for the rest, nothing came to me easily. I worked for everything that I have. But this is something you always choose to ignore. You notice when someone praises me or when I win something, but you never notice the work that was done before that. And this is your problem. Recognition is not given for nothing, Harper. You have to work for it. Not that you would know what work is. You haven't worked a day in your life, have you? So, what do you expect?! Instead of obsessing over me and trying to bring me down at every opportunity you have, try improving yourself and your life. And maybe then you will finally be happy and stop being so bitter."

Harper stared at her, gaping. But then she furrowed her brows and raised her hand, clearly intending to slap Riannon. She knew that Brayden wouldn't stop her now.

However, her hand never reached Ria's face as someone else caught it when it was

inches away.

"Ash?!" Harper looked at the Beta in shock, "What do you think you are doing?!"

"Saving you the embarrassment," the man replied, still not letting go of her as she tried to get her wrist back angrily.

"She deserves it!" the girl hissed, her pretty face distorted by the ugly emotions.

"Let her go, Ash," Brayden ordered, "Riannon is not your Luna anymore. You don't have to protect her."

"She is not my Luna, that's true," Ash sighed heavily and looked at his best friend since childhood, "She is my Alpha, Bray. I plead allegiance to Alpha Riannon Michaels of the Pearl Moon pack."

Ria's lips parted in surprise. She didn't see Ash making his choice and she just assumed

happy that her friend decided to join her side after all.

"You are not serious!" Brayden growled in annoyance. Everything was crumbling under him today and coping with it was getting harder and harder.

"I am," the Beta replied, letting go of the girl's hand, "I am sorry, man. But you lost your way. I cannot support you anymore."

"Ash, no!" Harper looked at him pleadingly, placing both her palms on his chest, "You can't leave us! You can't leave... me."

Ria covered her mouth with her hand, realising that there was more to the story. Looking at the two of them now it was clear that Harper had feelings for the Beta.

"I am sorry," the man replied emotionlessly, "It's for the best." "But..." the girl now had tears in her eyes and Riannon even felt sorry for her, "You and I

"There is no you and I, Harper," Ash took her hands off him, "I told you that many times. (This novel will be daily updaed at)I cannot give you what you want."

"But she can?!" the girl didn't even care anymore that people were listening to their conversation. She pointed her finger at Riannon and the latter run her hand through her hair in frustration. How did she even get in the middle of all this drama? "Bray, did you know that your own Beta was eyeing your Luna this whole time?!I bet they even slept together behind your

back..."

The sound of a slap made everyone gasp. And Ria scratched her hand, while Harper was

gaping at her with a red cheek.

"Would you calm down?" the Alpha female quirked her brow up, "Stop your hysteria and stop accusing me of things you have no idea about! Ash is my friend! And he will always be my

friend."

"Don't touch my sister!" Brayden finally woke up from his shock, growling, "You have no right..."

"No, Brayden," she stopped him, "I have a right to defend my honour. And as for you three, I think you overstayed your welcome. You'd better leave. None of you is handling it well and it's getting embarrassing for all of us."

"Apologies, Riannon," Brayden gritted through his teeth, "Betrayal hurts." "I know it does, Brayden," she looked him up and down, "You made me familiar with the

"Let's go, Harper," the Alpha tore his sister, who was now crying silently from his ex-Beta, giving him a glare full of hate, "We have nothing to do here anymore."

They started walking away and only Roxanne hesitated slightly, staying for a few seconds longer. A sly smile spread over her face as she bent towards Ria and whispered into her ear, "This is far from over."

"Oh, I know," Riannon sneered at her enemy, "I am just starting with you. And, by the way, tell your friend Everett that if he wants to tell me something, he should just do it. Staring at me from the other side of the street is just creepy."

Her words hit the girl again as the eyes of the fake omega shone red momentarily. However, she suppressed it quickly this time and fluttered her lashes innocently again, "I don't know what you are talking about."

"Of course, you don't," Ria chuckled and waved her off with her hand, turning away to

face Ash.

"You and Harper, huh?" she raised her brow at the man when the omega caught up with her mate.

"It wasn't supposed to be anything serious. I got drunk twice and this is the result." The man confessed, "It's just that she saw it all wrong and..."

"You don't need to explain to me anything," she interrupted him, "Your personal life is just yours. But if I were you, I would speak to her again later."

"I will," he promised, "Not that Brayden will ever let me go near her again. But I will call her and clarify everything when the dust settles."

"Good," Ria smiled at her friend and squeezed his arm in a sign of support, (This novel will be daily updaed at)"I am happy that you stayed with me, Ash."

"I will always be by your side," he smiled back and she could tell that he was sincere this

time.

"Just don't count on being the Beta anymore," Maya and Reid joined them, "That position is taken."

"Fine," Ash groaned, "But will you at least have me as your Gamma?" "Gladly," Riannon agreed, "Welcome to the team."

"Now that we are done with that," Maya smirked, "Excuse me, I need to go and find my moron of a younger brother. He disappeared right before I could kick his a.ss for being friends

There were too many matters to deal with at the pack. The members of The Silver River left the territory when it was already getting dark and a lot of new arrangements had to be put in place to maintain safety for everyone.

Riannon sat in her office, exhausted and knowing that she was far from done there. The lycans were helping Maya on patrol and to search for Dean, who was still nowhere to be found. She knew that he was aware of what he had done and probably felt guilty about the whole thing. Dean was like a little brother to her and she hoped that they would find him soon. After all, he declared his loyalty to her and The Pearl Moon.

The phone rang and she smiled, seeing Gideon's face on the display. She took that one photo of him when he was sleeping and just the memory of it made her heart skip a beat.

"How is it going?" he asked in that husky voice of his.

"Just as I expected," she admitted, "But I don't think that I will be able to get back to your kingdom today."

"Not a problem," he chuckled, "I will come to you." "Really?" she almost jumped in her seat with excitement.

"Yes, Ria, really," he teased her, "I am not spending a single night in my life without you anymore. I am done for today and I want to see my Luna."

"I love you so much," she confessed and heard him chuckling at the other end of the line.

"I know you do," Gideon said, sounding smug, "I love you too. And I can't wait to hear everything about today."

"Oh, I have a lot to tell!" she giggled, "Come faster."

"I'll be there as fast as I can. See you soon, Riannon." The Lycan king said and hung up.

Riannon relaxed her back into the chair and closed her eyes just for a few second, when her phone rang again. (This novel will be daily updaed at)She answered without looking, thinking that it was Gideon again, ready to tell her something_sweet the way he always did.

"Did you forget something?" she smiled, but that smile faded when she heard Roxy's voice.

"If you want to see Dean alive, you will come to meet me in one hour at the forest tree

house where you guys used to play as children. Alone." The fake omega didn't sound her usual sweet self, "Bring someone with you and the boy is dead. It's time for us to talk, Riannon."

Note: So, did it go the way you expected? What do we think about Dean? Is he with Roxy or

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Chapter 57

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Chapter 57. The Trap

Riannon stared at her phone, feeling that she was getting sick. What was she to do? Dean

was like a little brother to her and even in spite of him failing her numerous times, she did not

want him dead.

Knowing that Dean's wolf was chocolate brown in colour, she sometimes wondered if it was possible that he was the wolf that Roxy manipulated to kill her in her past life. She did not like to think about it, but from time to time her mind still went there.

And considering all this, she couldn't help but wonder if this now was a trap. Well, it was definitely a trap. But what if Dean was in it and didn't need any saving in the

first place?

However, she put this idea aside fast. Everything was different now. Even if it was Dean

in the past, it was only because he used to be broken by his sister's death and blaming her for it thanks to Roxy. This time, none of this happened and he had no reason to do something like that. He didn't hate her enough to kill her. And that meant that right now he was probably a

victim.

That brought her to that next part. If she went there alone, she wouldn't be able to help

him much. Not without her wolf. She knew Roxy too well to think that she would let a witness like Dean go. Her aim was probably to kill them both today. After all, they were the only two people who knew that she was full of crap.

She tried calling out to Onyx but her wolf remained silent, angering her for the first time. It would all be so much easier if she was at her full strength now.

Then again, it was one of the reasons why Roxy got so bold with her. She knew for a fact that Riannon was wolfless and wanted to use that while it lasted.

That meant that she needed a different plan. She still didn't know the extent to which Roxanne was informed about events in her pack. Some of the people who pleaded their loyalty to her today could have been spies for all she knew. There were a few surprises there. The people who were supposed to stay with Brayden according to her calculations, chose her for some reason. So, whatever she had to do now, she had to do it quietly.

"Ash, Maya," she mind-linked her Beta and Gamma, "Act natural right now. We have a

situation. Roxanne just contacted me. She has Dean."

"What does that mean?" Ash asked her, sounding a bit startled. "She is threatening to kill him," Riannon explained quickly, "And it's not a false alarm."

"That b*tch!" Maya growled, "I am going to rip her throat out personally for this!"

us and everything depends on it now."

"What do you want us to do?" Ash went into a professional mode very quickly.

"She wants me to come alone to the forest tree house where we played as children," Ria told them, "I guess Dean showed her that place. Maybe this is where they used to see each other."

"They what?!" Maya coughed.

"Not now, M," she begged her friend, "All this is not important now. As I have already said, she wants me to come alone. And I think that I am her main aim. But I believe that she doesn't need Dean alive either. So, we need to work carefully here. What I want you to do, is to pretend to keep looking for him. But at the appointed time, you should be not far from me and wait for my signal. Ash, I want you to pick a few best warriors that we have. But not Brayden's people. We can't trust those for now. And Maya, tell Reid everything and make him lead the lycans. They will be our best bet right now."

"It will be done," her Beta gritted through her teeth.

"I will arrange everything," Ash said, "But you should be careful. I know that you are strong but you don't know if she will have any help."

"She will for sure," Riannon admitted, "And it is probably a good moment to tell you that I am not that strong at the moment. Her accusation of me being wolfless was true, Ash. Onyx does not respond to me. I can't shift."

"What?!" now he sounded like he was losing it, "Then you absolutely cannot go there!

This is suicide!"

"I can and I will," Ria stopped him, not wishing to waste any more time, "I am still an Alpha and this is my decision. I will play for time and try to rescue Dean. And you will help me."

"But..." Ash wanted to retort.

"Not buts," she put an end to this authoritatively, "Right now I need my Gamma and my Beta doing exactly as I say. You both know what to do. Don't fail me."

She switched off the mind-link and sighed, closing her eyes just for a moment.

What she was about to do was risky. And reckless. Gideon would probably be so angry with her if he knew. But he was still far from here and she needed to act fast.

Something shifted inside of her and she opened her eyes with determination. She wasn't going to be a coward. And she was going to try and save her friend. Not to mention, that it

Slowly, she walked out of the packhouse, trying to act natural. She was wearing a tight-fitting pair of jeans and a black chiffon blouse, paired with comfortable black chelsea boots. Most people were too busy with the new arrangements right now to pay her proper attention, so no one asked why their Alpha went into the forest alone.

She started running, to be able to reach the tree house on time. After all, Roxanne only gave her one hour. But as she got close, she slowed down, trying to scan the area around her.

Everything looked so quiet. Too quiet. So when she stepped on a twig on purpose, it seemed like the loudest sound ever.

"Onyx," she called out to her wolf, "You said that you would come back to me soon. No pressure, but now would be a great time to do this!"

Another broken twig and she turned to the sound to see a tall and bulky man sneering at her. She sensed another one on her right and then one more right behind her. The fourth one walked out of the tree house and smirked, looking down at her from its height.

"The famous Luna Riannon Thorn!" he grinned at her and she instantly knew that he was the leader of this little group, "Nice to finally meet you."

"It's Alpha now," she tried playing for time and not looking intimidated, "Alpha Riannon Michaels."

"You will probably be the shortest ruling Alpha of all time," one of the men snorted, coming closer to her, "Not even lasted a day in your position."

"Well, the day is not over yet, is it?" she tilted her head while looking at him and folding her hands on her chest, "And also, I already made it longer than the shortest ruling Alpha in history as of now. Alpha Jeremy Vines ruled for twelve minutes before he was killed by his own brother. So..."

"Such a brave and clever little birdie," the leader said with some kind of regret in his voice, "It would be a shame to kill you."

"Oh, is that what this is about?" she shot her brow up at him as her lips curled slightly, "And I thought this Everett/Axel guy who was caught by us recently promised not to kill me. If anything, he said that we would talk very soon. Is that all cancelled now?"

The four men started looking at each other questioningly, clearly knowing who she was talking about but not knowing what to do with this information. And she knew that she played her cards well, winning the precious time. , " she informed her people via the mindlink, "I still do not see Dean. And there might be more of them nearby."

"Got it," her Gamma and Beta responded almost in unison, but she couldn't help but notice that Maya sounded agitated.

"What would he want with you?" the leader asked her impatiently. Whoever Everett was,

he was important enough to make them all nervous.

"How would I know," she shrugged her shoulders, "He promised to tell me more when we meet next. I am as blissfully unaware as you are. But one thing for sure, it did seem important because he has been seeking me out twice already."

"What do we do with her now?" one of the men asked the leader, and the latter remained

silent.

"Killing her might not be the best idea if this is the case," another one added and she

smirked at them. Her plan was working.

"What are you idiots doing?!" she heard a familiar voice that she hated so much and saw Roxanne walking out of one of the bushes, "She is just playing with you! Castiel doesn't care about her! Just kill her already!"

Note: Sorry for a late update. As you know, I am still recovering from covid. But it's slowly getting better every day. The next update will be tomorrow around midnight UK time.

The Perfect Luna by Marissa Gilbert

Chapter 58

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Chapter 58. The Awakening

The men hesitated even despite the order that they had received. And now Ria knew that even though Roxanne was important and probably held a high rank, she wasn't their leader. But Castiel was.

And he wasn't there.

"Do I have to repeat myself," Roxy was getting visibly furious, "Castiel doesn't care about her. Just kill her and let's be done with it!"

"Is this what this is about?" Riannon decided to taunt the redhead more, "I mentioned him to you today and you couldn't handle it?"

The men exchanged glances at her words, and she knew that she hit the goal and made them doubt why they were there in the first place. This, whatever it was, was not planned.

"Shut up!" Roxy growled and her eyes glowed red for a few seconds, "Don't think too much of yourself! He would never be interested in someone as dull as you."

"Then you don't have anything to worry about," Riannon smirked, "Either way, there is an easy way to check whether he cares or not. You can simply call him and ask. Right?"

It was a gamble, of course. For all she knew, she could have misread Castiel's intentions the last two times they met, and he wanted her as dead as Roxy did. But on the other hand, all she needed now was time for the lycans to come closer discreetly.

The expressions of the four men were tense and when one of them got out his phone, she knew that it was a little victory of hers. Her eyes locked with Roxanne's, and she could see her snarling.

"Hey, Cass," the leader of the group managed to connect very quickly, "Sorry to bother you. We have a situation here. We have that Luna... Well, she is actually the Alpha now. Yes, that's the one. Roxy said... Oh. Okay. Understood. She is already here... Got it."

He switched off the phone and glared at the redhead who was standing not far from him and clearly not happy with how everything was turning out.

"Looks like we have a change of plans," he announced to his accomplices, "And Alpha

Riannon will have to make a little trip with us."

Now this was better. This she could work with. Everything was so much easier now that they obviously had an order not to kill her. It gave her more freedom of action.

"I am sorry," she chuckled, "I am afraid I am busy tonight."

"Rick," Roxanne turned to the leader of the group, "You owe me one. I want to collect

now, and I want this woman dead!"

want any trouble with Castiel, and his orders were clear on her account. He wants us to bring her to him. So, finish off the boy and let's get going."

The man looked in the direction of the tree house and Riannon just knew that this was where they kept Dean.

: "Guys! Now!" she commanded Ash and Maya via the mindlink and charged for the house in the hope of reaching Dean first. He was of Beta blood and could fight with her until help

arrived.

One of the men tried to stop her, but she twisted a bit and forced herself to escape his

grasp. However, she lost her speed due to that manoeuvre and the next guy managed to capture her by her waist, laughing along the way as if it was some kind of sick game.

"Nice try!" he said, "But even if you managed that, you wouldn't go far. You didn't seriously think that we would wander into the enemy's territory with just the four of us."

He didn't even finish speaking when she saw glowing eyes in the darkness of the woods. One pair, two, three... and then dozens.

She was wrong in her calculations. How didn't she sense any of them?!

"Ash, Maya, abort!" she tried to stop her Beta and Gamma, "There are too many of them! Don't come here without..."

Now it wasn't only about saving Dean. It was also about not killing the rest of her friends. Even with the lycans they had, it wouldn't be a fair fight.

"We are not leaving you and Dean!" Maya growled, speeding up as she spoke.

In the meantime, the glowing eyes were getting closer and Riannon was finally able to make out the creatures they belonged to.

Red and brown fur. Foxes... and bears.

They were slowly getting closer, taking their time because they were sure that they already had their prey.

She swallowed, thinking hectically. Roxanne was working with them. She was one of

them.

Why didn't she ever think about this before? They knew for a while who their enemy was. This made so much sense now.

"Riannon!" she heard Roxy's voice, which broke her train of thought. Their eyes met and Ria gasped, when she saw the fake omega already standing on the little platform of the tree

escape her how beaten the boy looked. He was barely standing.

"Release the pup at least," she tried to sound as if it didn't matter much to her. Because she knew that Roxy would only kill him faster if she knew she cared.

“What for?” the girl giggled menacingly and tilted her head, “He is a witness that I no longer need. He served his purpose. And now I am done with him!”

With that, she slashed her claws across his neck, making Riannon scream in horror. She tried to get out of the man’s grasp, but he only increased the pressure on her. He was stronger now that she was without her wolf.

Riannon’s eyes met with Dean’s as blood was gushing out of his throat and there was so

much regret in them. It was as if he was asking for forgiveness for his past mistakes.

Tears were burning in her eyes. Angry tears. Riannon was angry at being powerless. She had enough of this.

She turned back in time to fix things, to save people who were dear to her. And yet she was losing family again. Because that’s what Dean was to her – family.

“You are probably wondering why he isn’t healing?” Roxy snorted loudly, “And the answer to this is aconite.”

This was like a cold shower for her.

Aconite. They drugged Dean with aconite so that he couldn’t heal. Just like Roxanne did to her in her past life.

She remembered the feeling of helplessness, of how her hands and legs couldn’t move properly and how scared she was. This wasn’t the death that she wished for Dean. She didn’t wish for him to die at all.

At that moment, wolves jumped out from behind her, and she recognised Maya’s loud howl. Bears and foxes charged at them, and a battle began. Growls and snarls filled the air, and red blood splattered over the grass as each of them was fighting for their life now..

However, she could clearly see that the powers were uneven. They were not ready for an attack today, since Brayden took almost all of the warriors away. The lycans were very helpful since their wolves were much bigger, but their small group struggled with the quantity of their opponents, which seemed to only increase every minute.

The man who was holding her, started to drag her away. Riannon was struggling as much as she could in her position, but it was all useless.

at him, knocking them both to the ground.

Riannon recognised Ash and before she managed to say or do anything, he was already ripping her captor to pieces.

She stood up and ran in the direction of the tree house, where Roxanne was still holding Dean and watching the battle. As soon as she noticed her, a smirk spread over her face, and she threw the young man at her from height.

Ria tried to catch him and fell together with him to the ground.

“Dean!” she tried to cover his neck and stop the blood flowing in a silly and useless attempt to save his life.

“Dean!” Maya shifted next to them into her human form and her shivering hands touched

the guy, “Dean! Brother!”

Her screams filled the air around them as she clenched the dying sibling to her chest

with tears rolling down her cheek.

From the corner of her eye, Riannon noticed Roxy jumping off her hideout and shifting rapidly into a fiery red creature. A fox. The fake omega was actually a fox, after all!

And she tried to run away. Clenching her fists, Ria stood up and ran after her. She wasn't letting her go this easily. But Roxanne was faster now than she was and soon she lost her out of sight.

However, another fox, dirty brown in colour, crossed her path. It was big and with huge canines bared at her. Another one joined it shortly after. And then one more. But it was when a huge brown bear arrived that she knew she was in deep trouble. There was no way she could

take them down.

Those three did not look like they were going to capture her and take her somewhere. They looked like they were going to kill her and be done with it.

And she was too far from anyone else.

She was ready to die when a huge black wolf appeared out of nowhere and attacked the bear, who was clearly the biggest and most dangerous target.

“Gideon!” she whispered in relief and he growled to her in response. This wasn't how he expected to find her and seeing her surrounded made him beyond furious.

He killed the bear with ease, turning to the foxes, both of which charged at him at the same time. But what was worse, another three werebears appeared, running in his direction in

He was now outnumbered five to one and she couldn't watch it. She hoped that he was strong enough. He was the lycan king, after all. But what if it was too much even for him?! She couldn't know...

It was as if the world around her stopped. She saw her friends fighting enemies. And she

saw Maya rocking Dean's lifeless body as another fox was getting closer to them.

It became hard to breathe. So much was going on and she was useless... Just like back then...

Riannon fell to her knees. Pain filled her chest. Unbearable and all-consuming. She couldn't let it happen again. She couldn't lose any more people that she loved.

Not Maya.

Not Gideon... She couldn't let that happen. She couldn't. She wouldn't. She would fight whatever it

took.

Something shifted deep inside of her. Something familiar. As if a piece of a puzzle has finally found its place.

"Onyx!" she whispered, "I need you now!" "I am here," her wolf replied with a growl that shattered the mountains... Note: I hope you will find this chapter satisfying. And yes, Onyx is back. P.S. I need a name

for this chapter. Any ideas?

The Perfect Luna by Marissa Gilbert

Chapter 59

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Chapter 59. The Shift

Riannon felt power circling through her bloodstream. It felt as if the shifting took her ages when in fact it had just been seconds. But the overall sensations were very new.

She felt powerful, she felt capable of lifting mountains... and also she felt very different from how she was supposed to feel in her wolf form.

Onyx was always a strong wolf, but this time it was a whole new level.

What happened to her? She looked around, growling, and noticed that the battle had stopped momentarily and now her friends and her enemies were staring at her in shock. No one dared to move, and she didn't know why.

"What is going on?" She asked her wolf and felt her smirking in their mind.

"You see, Riannon," she said matter-of-factly, "I wasn't appearing for so long for a reason. And today you will finally find out why."

"Well?!" Ria tried to push Onyx into elaborating on that, but at the same time one of the bears woke up and charged at her with fury in his red eyes. She never fought a bear in her life. They were known to be bigger and stronger. Almost a match for Lycans. Yet she sprinted at him and took a jump, easily knocking him off and going straight for his furry neck with her claws. She didn't even need to do anything else as she felt the life under her slipping away quickly.

Onyx took the control from her and let out a loud growl that resembled more of a roar. From the corner of her eye, she noticed how a few foxes sprinted away, running for their lives.

She noticed Roxy and charged in her direction. The desire to kill the b*tch who caused so much trouble in her life was overwhelming. However, three foxes threw themselves at her, followed by another bear and she had to stop to deal with those.

Gideon watched his mate from afar, trying to get to her. He still couldn't believe what he just saw.

What was she? Because sure as hell she wasn't a regular werewolf with her bigger than average form and glowing silvery fur. Her wolf was perfection, the most beautiful beast he had ever seen. And as he saw her dealing with their enemies with ease, he admired her strength and grace.

Riannon would never stop surprising him. His mate... His woman... His queen.

The battle was over fast and to her disappointment, there was no trace of Roxy when

they were done.

"Don't worry," Onyx said, "We will still get her. She will be ours to kill."

of times!"

"I am happy to be back too," her wolf admitted with a chuckle, "And, Ria, you did so well on your own. You never gave up and you stayed strong. You fought for us and our mate. And all this taken together helped me heal and get to this point."

"Heal?" she asked.

"Yes, Riannon," Onyx confessed, "Our rebirth came at a price. The moon goddess could only do this using my life force. It almost killed me permanently. My spirit was crushed but she put me into hibernation to save me. This was why I was only able to respond to you when something big was happening, something that almost made me awaken. But I was still too weak then and couldn't help you much."

"At least you told me about our mate," Ria let out a little laugh, "You have no idea how confusing that was without you there."

"And yet you managed just fine," the wolf snorted, "He helped us the most, you know. The closer you were to him the more my healing was accelerated."

"He helped me to heal too," Riannon admitted the truth out loud for the first time, "Onyx, was so broken inside after everything. Our death, your absence, the last year with Brayden... It all took a toll on me. Sometimes it felt as if I was beyond repair... And if not for Gideon, then I don't know if I could do it."

"You would still do it," Onyx sighed, "because you are that strong. I am proud to have you as my human."

"And I am proud to have you as my wolf," she said, "It was horrible to be alone. But!

wouldn't want any other wolf. Just you."

"Don't make me cry, Riannon!" Onyx snorted, "You know that I am an Alpha. I don't do that. And especially now of all the time!"

"Yeah, about that," this reminded her of all the new sensations, "What is wrong with us? What happened? Everything seems so new and... strange."

"Nothing is wrong with us," her wolf corrected her, "If anything, everything is amazing with us. The Moon Goddess returned us for a reason. We have a mission in life now. And to help us with it, she gave us her blessing."

"The Goddess herself?" Riannon couldn't believe what she was hearing. It sounded

surreal even to her that happened. Too many things went wrong in our past life. You had already started fixing some of those on your own and this is how Selene knew that her choice was right. Thanks to you, she blessed us. It is a very special type of blessing and it changes us. Over time, we will only get stronger. So no enemy could defeat us in the war that is to come. For we are the ones who would put an end to this."

"A war..." the words echoed in her mind, making her shiver.

"After we died, Riannon," Onyx went on, "It got really bad. Everything was so messed up. And wolves were practically wiped out..."

"Wait, but how do you know this?" She asked, trying to comprehend the information she was given.

"The goddess showed me everything," the wolf informed her, "I know about everything that happened in our past life and what happened after we died. I will tell you. But not now."

"Ria," she heard the voice that she loved more than anything in her life and that brought her back to reality. She looked at Gideon, who stood before her wearing absolutely nothing. He looked worried and each muscle on his perfectly carved body was tense.

"We got ourselves a fine mate there," Onyx growled in approval, "We need to mark him asap! I am not letting him go."

"Neither am I," Riannon agreed and saw Gideon stretching his hand towards her. He looked worried, as if he wasn't sure how she would react. The glowing fur was not helping probably and she tried to dial that down. Surprisingly, it worked and her fur returned to its normal silvery white colour.

Gideon's fingers brushed over her and she purred at his touch, letting him closer.

"Thank Goddess, Ria," he kneeled before her and embraced her, "You scared the hell out of me right now. Come back to me..."

She shifted back into her human form and he pulled her closer, pressing her right against his torso.

"I love you so much," he whispered as she wrapped her hands around him too.

"I love you too. I got Onyx back," she mumbled, and he chuckled at that.

"Yeah, I noticed," he said, kissing her neck and her hair and wherever else his lips could reach, while breathing heavily at the same time, "We all did. Especially the foxes and the bears you slaughtered without sweating."

embrace, letting herself relax in his arms as he stroked her back. But the sounds of sobs somewhere in the background brought her back to the harsh reality.

Someone wrapped a piece of fabric around her and she turned to see Ash. He gave her a weak smile and continued distributing the clothes from one of the many hideouts in this forest.

Riannon pulled on the simple cotton dress she received and rushed to Maya's side, who was still on the ground, rocking her dead brother. Reid was next to her, sitting awkwardly next to his mate and not knowing how to console her.

But what could be said when one lost a sibling?

Ria kneeled right next to her friend and laced her hands around the two of them, only

making her friend sob louder. ::

Maya wasn't a crier. But at that moment in time, she felt so weak and hopeless that she couldn't hold back anymore.

"Dean... is... dead," she whispered, stuttering between deep breaths of air which her body required her to take, "I was... late... My... fault..."

"No, Maya, no," Riannon hugged her tighter as hot tears rolled down her cheeks too, "It's my fault. She did this because of me.."

"It's none of your fault!" Reid growled angrily, "None of you did this to him! The one who slit his throat did this!"

Maya let out another weak sob, resting her head on Riannon's shoulder and clenching her brother close. Gideon lowered himself next to the three of them and carefully placed his hands on Dean's body, making his sister flinch.

They were eye to eye now and he told her calmly, "We need to get him inside. I will take care of him. I promise."

"Let him go," Riannon whispered, "He will help."

Maya unclenched her fingers and in the next moment, she was wrapped in the embrace between her best friend and her mate. They helped her up and led her back to the house while Gideon lifted Dean's body in his arms, walking behind them.

Closer to the mansion, Maya stumbled and Reid caught her in his arms. He couldn't see her hurting so much and all he wanted to do now was to give her his strength.

Their people were shocked to see them when they arrived, but like any werewolf pack, they knew what to do when someone died and got straight to work with the arrangements. It

Riannon gave orders that were required of her and then showed Reid to Maya's old room. She left them alone, seeing how her friend was starting to fall asleep in her mate's arms. The mate bond was the best thing for Maya right now.

But as soon as she was done with all that, she raced to her bedroom to get dressed properly.

"What do you think you are doing?" Gideon, who followed her close behind, asked her.

"I am going to Brayden's pack. I find that b*tch and I will kill her today for this!" she growled, unable to control the rage of her wolf inside. Onyx indeed got stronger and hiding her emotions now was more problematic than ever.

"You cannot go like this," her mate objected, "His pack is full of warriors according to Reid. I doubt that they will give you their Luna just like that."

"She is not a Luna yet," Ria ignored him, "And even if she is – I don't care! She doesn't get to live another day after what she did!"

He watched her intensely, assessing the determination on her face, and came to a conclusion that she would probably do that anyway.

"Fine," he sighed, "I will go with you and so will my warriors. Savvy and Reid will stay here."

She paused just for a second to look at him as she was buttoning her shirt.

"Thank you," she nodded at him curtly, "I really appreciate that."

The drive to the old packhouse of the Silver River pack was fast. Mainly because Riannon was driving and she was squeezing the life out of the gas pedal.

"Onyx," Ria called her wolf in the middle of the road, "You said you know what happened in our past life. Do you know who killed us? Was it Dean?"

"No," was all that the Alpha inside of her said, "It wasn't Dean. It was someone else."

"I see," she gritted her teeth, "Don't tell me now. This is a conversation for another time!"

The warriors got alerted when their car parked with a screeching sound and she got out of the car, followed by the lycans.

Brayden stormed out of his mansion, looking furious as hell, and Gideon had to growl at

him to make him stop.

"Where is she?!" Riannon snarled, not even bothering to try and pretend anymore.

"This is the question for you," Brayden hissed at her, "What did you do to my mate?!"

The Perfect Luna by Marissa Gilbert

Chapter 60

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Chapter 60. OUTfoxed.

She stared at him in astonishment. Was he even serious right now?

"I am going to repeat my question, Riannon," Brayden growled, "What have you done to my

mate?!"

"What have I done to your mate?" She shot her brow up at her ex, "Your so-called mate

has just killed Dean."

She felt tears burning her eyes again, but she was not going to give him the satisfaction of seeing her crying in front of him. Not even for Dean. Brayden did not deserve to see her cry.

"That's a lie!" her ex-husband gritted through her teeth, (This novel will be daily updated at) "How on earth would Roxy do something like that?! She is just a weak omega! She can't hurt a fly!"

"We have about a dozen witnesses, Bray!" she stopped him, and his mouth opened in shock, "She is hardly an omega! Moreover, she isn't even a wolf! She is a god damn fox!"

He stared at her bluntly, lost in his thoughts and not knowing what to say. But then he clenched his fists and looked the crowd that came with her up and down. His own warriors

were by his side already.

"And I guess those wonderful and very reliable witnesses of yours are the lycans next to you? How convenient! Maybe also Maya the traitor?"

She slapped him. Hard. She knew that this was the last thing that was needed right now to get what she wanted, but it felt so good.

"Don't you dare!" she warned him, "The only traitor in our pack was always your fake

mate!"

"It's not our pack anymore," he smirked, "Remember, you ruined that earlier today?"

"I saved what I could from you and your fox!" she snapped at her ex again. For the first time ever she felt like she really hated him. Onyx, who was growling inside of her, wasn't helping to calm down either. In their past life, he hurt her the most and she still couldn't forgive

him.

"How fortunate for you!" Brayden chuckled, "Riannon the saviour! When I do something, it's because I am selfish. But when you do something, it's for the common good!"

"That's what happens when people think of others, Brayden. You should try that one day," she scoffed, folding her hands on her chest, "I demand you to give me Roxanne. I need just a minute with her and I will be able to prove to you who she is! Now that I know the truth. And then I will kill her with my own hands for everything that she has done!"

"I am tired of repeating myself," Bray rubbed the bridge of his nose, letting out an

"Useless!" Ria mumbled to herself, rolling her eyes. The fox won't come back here. Not

when her identity was discovered.

Now that she thought about it, she understood what a silly idea that was. But in the heat of the moment, she wasn't thinking clearly, and this fiasco was the result.

"Let's go," she commanded to her people, turning away.

"Not so fast!" Brayden grabbed her hand but in the next moment, (This novel will be daily updated at)Gideon was already pinning him to the wall of the mansion. It all happened so fast that the guards from both sides didn't even have time to react.

"You touch her like that again and I will rip your head off," the lycan king growled, squeezing his fingers around his opponent's neck, "Not only is she and Alpha of her own pack now, but she is also my queen. Do something like this again and it will be your death sentence! And you will be lucky if it's you alone. Because if you piss me off properly one more time, might as well wipe out what is left of your pack! Not that there is a lot."

"Gideon," Riannon brushed her hand over her mate's back, soothing him, "Please, don't."

He sighed heavily and let go of Brayden with a huff. The alpha almost fell to his feet but managed to lean over the wall for support.

"You came to my territory! You did something to my mate!" he started listing the things he thought actually happened.

"Your mate?" Gideon chuckled loudly, "Are you even serious?! Haven't you lost her? AGAIN. Do you even know that it is physically impossible to lose a mate or to forget about her? I hate to be the one who breaks it to you, Alpha Brayden, but you don't have a mate. I mean, maybe you do, somewhere in the world and one day you will meet her. But that fox isn't the

one."

"She is not..." Bray tried to protest.

"She is a fox!" Riannon cut him off, "And she also works with the werebears. I don't know how she convinced you that she is your mate, but I also really doubt that it's the truth. Just think about it, Brayden."

Her ex-husband looked at her with clenched lips and fists and she had no idea if he believed them. But neither did she care anymore. It was his problem and not hers.

She knew that the next time she would meet Roxy, she would be the one to kill her. Because her patience was wearing thin. She only regretted that she hadn't done it sooner.

"Let's go, Riannon," Gideon wrapped his hands around her and looked her in the eye, "I don't think she will come back here. She is not that stupid."

"Yeah," his queen nodded and followed his lead back to the car.

Brayden's warriors got closer now that the lycans were gone but he pushed them away and went inside of the mansion.

He watched his ex-wife being cared for by the lycan king in front of his eyes and the sight still made him shudder inside. But on top of it, the news of his mate was breaking him.

He didn't even notice how she disappeared. And, of course, there was a simple and reasonable explanation for that. He was busy. With his pack being broken in half and with the move. So much had to be arranged in such a short period of time that he forgot about her

completely...

Was it normal? Could it even be happening? (This novel will be daily updated at)The lycan had a point... How could one forget about his mate?

Riannon used to be his chosen mate but he never forgot about her. Even now, after everything, he was still thinking about her more than she deserved it. His thoughts today were busy with her when he had to pay attention to his true mate...

He called his top warrior, Jacob, first and promoted him to a Beta dryly, then ordered to find out what happened to his mate.

"Find video footage from the grounds, a trace, her scent... whatever. I want to find out if she walked out of here herself or was kidnapped," he told the guy and looked him in the eye, "Be discreet about it. Until I know what happened here exactly, I don't want anyone to know a thing."

"Yes, Alpha," Jacob bowed politely and walked out.

Brayden did not count on him finding out much about it. He wasn't Ash. His previous Beta had an eye for details that everyone else missed. He paid attention and knew how to stay in the shadows, unnoticed.

Jacob... wasn't it. He was one of his best warriors, but not a match to his old friend. The

same way as Roxy wasn't a match to Riannon. No matter how much he tried to imagine that she was.

Was it possible that she was a fox? He never asked her to shift. Mostly because he

thought that she was an omega and was embarrassed about others seeing that the Moon

mate?

That thought scared him. Because then he lost Riannon for nothing.

Everybody knew that foxes could change their scents, so theoretically speaking, if Roxy was a fox, she could fake the scent of his mate. But for that, she would need to know that scent ... Moreover, the scent alone wasn't the problem. The bond was. No fox could fake that. So, why did he want the redhead all the time? He wasn't a manwh*re. Lust wasn't what he lived for

and he knew very well how to control himself.

So, what would happen there if Roxanne wasn't his mate? Could there be a different explanation for everything? That did not seem likely. Unless witches were involved. But that

was also a far cry. Love spells did not exist. And werewolves were resistant to any kind of

spell-infused mind manipulation.

He couldn't find an answer no matter how hard he tried.

After he dealt with all the urgent matters, he closed himself alone in his office with a bottle of brandy.

Usually, Ash would join him for this with a conversation that would help everything to get into the right places. Until Riannon came to end it with an even better solution.

And then she would take him to bed...

But now all of this was over...

He took a deep gulp of the fiery liquid, feeling it burn his throat. However, it did not make anything better.

His fingers ended up rubbing the mark on his neck again, which was bothering him. It did not disappear. Even though he didn't feel pain through it anymore. His bond with Riannon was broken now. And it was even more painful than when she was in the lycan's bed.

The knock on the door broke his train of thought and his new Beta walked in with the laptop.

"Alpha," he said, "I think you need to see this..."

Roxanne was driving fast. She couldn't let anyone catch up with her.

Today she f*cked up big time and she knew it. Castiel would never forgive her for destroying his perfect plan this early and for losing that many people. The bear king wouldn't be happy either

her group. Always.

She wouldn't come to her king empty-handed. She would bring him the peace offering.

She parked right next to the packhouse in the Fox kingdom and walked out of the car. She knew she couldn't go inside. And she wasn't wrong about it, because when Castiel walked out of the mansion, he looked furious.

He didn't even let her say a word before he grabbed her neck and jerked her up in the air. Her legs trembled, not finding any kind of support and she felt his grip getting tighter and restricting her airways.

"You are either super brave to come here after what you have done, or you are super stupid!" her king growled. In other circumstances, she would enjoy that sound. But not now.

Now, he wasn't playing with her. He was ready to kill her any moment now for her mistakes.

"You failed your mission, couldn't fix it and then only made it worse from there! You blew our cover and had my men killed!" Castiel continued, "You almost cost me this war! Tell me, Roxanne, why shouldn't I snap your neck this very moment? I don't think I need to keep such a disappointment as you!"

One of his eyes glowed red and her toes curled. That man was always her main weakness.

"I brought you something!" she croaked, hoping to appease him, (This novel will be daily updated at) "It will help..." He watched her for a few seconds and after that swore loudly, dropping her to the floor.

"This better be good!" he spat and she crawled in the direction of the car trunk. Roxy stood up on shaky legs, trying to make her breathing steady, but failing. She hated to be so weak in front of him. He hated weakness...

She found the key in the pocket of her jeans and opened the trunk, demonstrating to him her little present and praying that this was enough...