



Female Alpha Lucinda

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Category: Fantasy

Description: After her pack was attacked by Rogues, Lucinda had to take over the pack as her parents died during. She is only 16. With the help of everyone in the pack and the closest around her, she leads White Rose pack for 7 years that continues to be the second largest pack in the country.

Alpha King Zaliver is looking for his mate. Looking in each pack, he travels all over the world looking for her. At each pack he looks at the girls and also checks the packs records. Reaching White Rose pack, which is the last, he and the alpha discover the truths that change what they have been told and trust bonds may be broken. How will they both react?

While all this goes on, there is female wolves dying all over the world. All Alphas know about this but who will be the one to stop it.

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Lucinda POV

"Let me help you with that Rose," I said while taking the last few steps from the staircase in the packhouse.

"No need Alpha, I can manage." Said Rose, who is one of the many elders in the pack and sometimes helps in the kitchen, who is now struggling with 2 boxes that look quite heavy.

"Rose, you and I both know that I can't let my elders in this pack struggle. Come on now those look heavy.." I respond while taking the top box of Rose. We both walked into a large hall where there are many wolves working on the room. Setting down the box I had and Rose thanking me, I took note of the colours. Red and black was the theme. Well, it's what we had since a certain Beta simply reminded me at the last minute of a big event coming up. Which was the Alpha King coming on his long quest to find his mate but also checking the packs' documents? It's silly really the way I look at it, all this fuss for the she-wolves to look slutty for one night. If nobody is his mate, he leaves. Oh well, It gives the pack an excuse for a party. Looking around the hall it is coming lovely, thanks to my Gamma Oliver. He's the sweetest guy ever, been best friends well forever. Oh speaking of him. "Hey Ollie, looking decent, considering the amount of time we had."

"Well thank you for the compliment Alpha, tho you have to give Devon a lesson in how to, um, maybe read diary dates!" Oliver joked.

"Yeah well, I thought he didn't need it as he was beta for my parents. Guess someone needs to go back to school". I said with a bit of laughter. I took a last glance at

everything, said goodbye to Oliver, then headed to my office.

My office wasn't like a male Alpha's office would be like with paperwork all over the place. Like for example, Alpha Jace's office is just a mess, I can't understand how he can get anything done in that place.

Oh silly me I haven't said who I was. My name is Lucinda. Yes, I'm an Alpha female. I took the role as there was a rogue attack on the pack 7 years ago which killed my parents, former Alpha Peter and Luna Maria. I was only 16 and also a late bloomer for shifting. But it didn't matter. I didn't change any of the positions of the inner circle of leaders in my pack as they helped me run the pack while getting over my loss. Also that they assisted me to learn the ropes more. I still kept up as being the second strongest pack in the country with the first being the Royal pack. Warriors and trackers are trained by Delta River which is very good since after that attack there hasn't been one since. Thank Goddess.

Anywho, looking at today's pack papers signing where I can and see if there is anything that can strengthen the pack even more. Most importantly, making sure that there is protection when the King comes into the territory. Can't let anything happen when he's here, that would not look good for our reputation. But I wasn't worried because I know River, he trains them hard but fairly.

Over an hour maybe two, I get bored and head to the kitchen for food. Arriving at the kitchen, there were people serving large quantities of food to the dining hall and the other making the lovely food. They had to be large quantities, our werewolves eat loads. My head chef Grace was standing over the cooker with a pot of something. "Grace, what is that amazing smell?" I said walking behind her and trying to see into it.

"Well hello to you dear girl. All I can say is that it is food cooking, now excuse me and let me do my job" Grace says nudging me away, using her butt.

"Grace! I was only asking." Walking to one of the island stools and taking a seat on the end one.

"I know but I like to tease you. Anyway, you eat with the pack tonight?" Damn that question always gets me. When my parents died, I always got the looks from the pack that made me uneasy. Over the years it's gotten better but in myself, I still can't sit and eat with my pack. So I send in one of the boys to oversee and be alpha in my absence.

"No Grace, I'm not. It's the one thing that still pains me. Can't get the feeling that people are missing in the room." Saying this in a sad tone.

"I understand dear, I'll send dinner to your room."

"Thanks, Grace and it still smells so good". I say getting off the stool to go to the fridge to get a snack and drink which to head back to my office.

Once in my office, I pick up important stuff and carry it to my room. In my room, I set down the papers, snack and drink on my desk and head to the closet to change into pj. Don't judge me, an alpha gonna have to work comfortable and anyway nothing much happens in the dark hours in the pack.

Time goes quickly like usual. The dinner came, eaten and gone like the wind. Deven linked me that dinner was good, no drama and Oliver also linked me saying that the main hall was done. Thank goddess, since he is coming tomorrow. After triple checking all important files are correct and in order, I fell into my king size bed and was out like a light.

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Lucinda POV

Morning came quickly, too quickly for me. The sun was peeking through my curtains which told me to get up. So reluctantly doing so I zombied my way to my bathroom to do my routine.

Maybe 20 minutes or half an hour later, dunno really since I don't time myself. I was showered, teeth and hair brushed. Clothing choice was a simple light purple day dress with matching flats. Why not heels, not too much walking around and they would kill me. Plus I want to talk properly and not think 'when am I going to fall' all day. My hair was in an up and down style. I last did my make-up. I don't usually wear the stuff but it is a special occasion, that means making the effort. Light purple eyeshadow, mascara, light pink lipstick and a bit of blush.

When I'm done, I round up all my paperwork from my room and mind link Grace to bring me some breakfast at my office. Heading to my office to set everything out for the almighty that's due. About 5 minutes into sorting, this a knock on my door.

"Come in", I said loudly and in walked Grace with my food, "Morning Grace and thanks for the food."

Bowing her head for respect and walking towards me and the tray. "Good morning Alpha, it's no problem you know that. The kitchen has finished the breakfast foods and is ready to prepare the feast for tonight to his majesty". She placed the tray on my desk and smiled. There was toast, bacon, beans, eggs and a side plate of pancakes. There was a glass of orange and a glass of water. Don't judge, werewolves have to eat lots since we can burn lots of calories fast.

"That's good Grace, I knew you would start before I said so. So once again thanks and you can leave to carry to lead your cooks to put them into place and no slacking."

"Alpha, no problem and enjoy". She bowed her head and left my office. Munching on my food and reading through everything to check again that everything is in order. I had mind linked Devon, Oliver and River to my office to make sure everything is perfect.

They arrived 10 minutes later, pretty much all at once which I find most amusing since I was thinking they would just come in one time. "Thank you for coming quickly, I feel it won't be long until he arrives. River, is everything okay with the borders and did you make sure to double up the warriors plus change patterns of our routes and the rotation of warriors?"

"Yes Alpha Lucinda, I made sure that they had trained hard and..."

"Sorry for interrupting there River chap but isn't a bit much seeing that what we had was perfectly fine and the King wouldn't be in danger"

"Devon, how rude of you to interrupt River. But it is not much of putting extra protection on the pack and the pack understands the reasons. As the King is here I feel that it would be better to be safe than sorry. Also that I made it quite clear that it was needed." I was angry at Devon but couldn't lose my head right now.

"But Alpha, he would have royal guards with him and that rouges and attacks haven't happened since that one those years ago." Devon tries to reason with me.

"The Alpha is right Devon, yes the King would have his guards but speaking with other packs before us, he really has 5 guards and his Beta with him. Also that it would show us that we would have ..."

"Oliver who told you this, it's my duty to find out stuff for the alpha as Beta.."

"Mph, Beta my arse. You couldn't even remember about the King coming today." Oliver committed with Devon getting a red face for holding back his anger. Both were separated on either side of River before they got physical.

"Devon and Oliver, you are getting off-topic as was being said. Our pack warriors are well in numbers. It would be well used if we used them to say to the king that we have the numbers if an attack was to happen, then we would be prepared." River said calmly, trying to not start a fight in my office.

"No River, it would have been best if the warriors were near to the pack lands. In case there was anything dodgy going on." Devon argued back towards River, again.

"I agree with you Devo but I have to agree with Oliver. I have trained those wolves and if you can come to more training then you would see that they are well trained and prepared for anything. There is enough around the lands and at the packhouse."

While the 3 were having an argument in front of me I was trying not to lose my cool with them. They each had good points but they were just going round and round. Around 5 minutes later I just about had enough of them going back and forth. I was getting a headache from them. "ENOUGH" I used my alpha tone on them which they looked at me and showed me their necks in surrender. "That's enough, gosh, the way you are arguing is like little schoolboys. What has been done is not going to change. I trust my wolves out there. River and Oliver thank you for not trying to change and question my orders. But Devon, I am disappointed in you. Never ever have you questioned my orders before. So Devon goes back to your mate and I will make an excuse for you not being there for the arrival. But I expect you to be there for the important meeting, that will properly happen quite soon after he comes. Do I make myself clear?" I look straight at Devon when saying the last part. He makes no eye contact with his head down. He nods his head. "I can't hear you Beta, do I make

myself clear?"

"Yes, Alpha Lucinda." He replies.

"Good now go, get out of my sight". He bows his head a bit and turns to the door. He leaves quickly shutting the door quietly. "Now where were we before we were interrupted. Ah yes, River carries on with what you were saying." Turning to River.

"Ah yes Alpha, as I was saying..."

After about half an hour or more, I don't know, I just lost track of time. Me, Oliver and River left my office and wondered around the packhouse. There were lots of people around every excited about the important guest. The packhouse is a large mansion with 3 floors, basement, swimming pool and anything else you can think of. I live in the packhouse since I didn't really want to live on my own. My inner circle have their own homes which are the closest to the packhouse, for obvious reasons.

Anyway, it was coming up to around 10:30, when I got the important mind link. It was that the King had arrived at the border of my pack land. I had given permission for him to be let through. I sent a pack link saying that the king is on our land and to act normally and come to the packhouse if wanted to. I had gone outside with Oliver and River to stand on the steps of the packhouse to welcome our guest.

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Lucinda POV

Have you ever got so nervous that you wanted to be sick? Yep, that's how I'm feeling right now. It's been 5 minutes since I got the mind link from the border. I think Oliver can sense my unease, as he links me saying "Calm Lucinda, don't look nervous. He would be able to smell it from you and it won't be good."

"Thanks, Ollie, I will try." I link back. Standing there I took deep breaths in and out, calming my nerves. By the time I felt better, I could hear cars coming toward us. I felt those nerves coming back again but I held my head high and tried to suppress them. I closed my eyes for what it felt like a second and I sensed the cars that carried the guest in front of me.

In front of me now, was 2 SUVs with my wolves surrounding it. I dismissed some of those wolves to go back to the border. The front SUV door opened and 3 wolves jumped out of it and went straight to the one behind, making like a line to show the way. The front 2 doors opened off the second reliving the other 2 warriors. One of the warriors then opened the side that wasn't near the packhouse. Then they both came round to my side. The wolf that got out of the SUV cleared his throat. "Wolves of this pack, I give you his highness King Zaliver." When he said his name, he opened the door and out he stepped.

He looked around and viewed his surroundings. Then his eyes locked onto the packhouse and us on the steps. He walked towards us with the man walking behind him. When he reached the bottom of the steps, I and the rest of those around me, bowed our heads as respect. even though it is my pack, he is higher than us. With my head bowed a bit I say to him "Welcome to White Rose Pack, your Majesty. I hope

your journey wasn't too bad?"

"Please raise your heads and yes thank you, the journey to White Rose from Willowbank Pack was pleasant enough." He replied and we raised our heads. "As you know I'm King Zaliver and this wolf with me to my right is my Beta Carlos. The other wolves with us are some royal warriors. They are here to see how you train your wolves."

"Pleased to meet your Majesty and Beta Carlos. I'm Alpha Lucinda, to my right is Gamma Oliver and to my left is Delta River. I apologise for my Beta for not being present, he was kind of disrespecting my orders and questioning my deacons which were for the pack's interest and your safety."

"Well, that is not good enough, Alpha. All high-rank wolves must be present for the King." Carlos said out of spite.

"Carlos, no need to go off on one. She was just punishing him for his mistake." Zaliver stated to his Beta while looking at me. The eyes were judging me, to say if it did right.

"Of course, your majesty" Muttered Carlos.

"Well, umm, you should come in and I'll let someone show you to your rooms and then once settled someone can show you to my office and have the umm meeting about my pack," I said to realise the tension. Why did I say it like that, where's my confidence gone. It's his eyes, they are making me feel nervous and something else.

"Thank you, Alpha Lucinda," Zaliver said and walked up the steps and entered the packhouse. I linked Penny and Isla to show the king and crew their rooms. When they left with the girls, I let out a breath that I was holding.

"Well, that went better than I was expecting" Oliver committed. "But what is up with the Beta? That was uncalled for, calling you out for Mr disrespectful not being there."

"Ollie it's fine, it must run in the family then." I sighed.

"Wait what, what runs in the family?" Questioned River.

"Follow me to the office" I gestured to them both. I didn't want others to hear. While walking to the office, I mind linked Devon to make sure his butt was at the meeting. If not, he is in big trouble. We reached the office and they both took a seat in front of my desk with neat papers on it. I closed the door and took my seat behind the desk and slouched in the chair. "What I was saying is that Devon and Carlos are related and seems their behaviours kind of match. Both spiteful and moody."

"Really, umm, how are they related? Devon hasn't mentioned family members to us before." River said and Oliver nodded.

"What I tell you must leave this room since he doesn't want it to go round." They both nodded, I continued. "Both Beta's are half brothers. They come from the same father but different mothers. Carlos's mother wasn't their father's real mate but it was before he met Devon's mum. When Carlos's mother found she was pregnant with him, he was happy. Since he was Beta to the previous King. About 4 months into the pregnancy, he found Devon's mother here in this pack, his real mate. He didn't mark her but mated with her and got her pregnant with Devon. When the previous King found out he was furious with his Beta, he killed him. Luckily enough he didn't mark Carlos's mother either. They were both happy that he died and they decided that they both can grow together and see each other. That's how they find out they were half brothers. When both boys were at the age of taking Beta positions, their mothers let them and they both went off into the sunset and haven't heard from them since." I finished the story and both my Gamma and Delta were speechless.

"Lucie, how do you know this?" Asked Oliver.

I simply replied, "My father told me about him. I was curious one day and since I was taking over. He didn't seem to be in harm's way and I promised not to say anything. If this got out, I don't know what would happen." Looking at both of them, they nodded and looked like they were processing what I told them about their Beta. I always thought they knew the story, as they were my fathers gamma and delta. Since i told them, they both can keep an extra eye out for their behaviour.

Sitting in silence until Penny linked saying that the King was following her to my office. "Well boys look lively now, the King is on his way and you both need to give up your seats." Looking amused at the boys and quickly jumped to their feet and hurried to my sides. Both taking my left and leaving the right side for Devon. I mind linked Devon to say he needs to get his butt over to my office. He lives out of the packhouse with his pregnant mate Abigail.

A knock came to my door and I knew who was on the other side. Let the fun begin, note the sarcasm.

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King Zaliver POV

Sitting in an SUV with my Beta and 2 of my warriors and, my mind was wandering all over the place. Thinking of when I can go back to my home and pack to when will I find my Mate. I'm 23 years old, I should have found my mate at the age of 16 but no luck. I've gone to every pack to find her but nothing. She-wolves all dress up and it is not appealing. My Beta Carlos was texting on his phone very fast and had a serious face on. "Why the serious face, is there a problem?"

"What, oh no your Majesty. Just checking up on things." He looks up from his phone saying his. Before he said anything else, the driver tells us that we are on the edge of White Rose pack.

It is the second biggest and strongest pack in the country, with us, the Royal pack, the first. Mine and this pack are close in distance and also the friendliest. Some or most wolves for guards have come from this pack. Their training is just as good as mine. Also that I was close to the former Alpha, our alliance was the strongest out of all the packs, well since we are almost alike.

When I heard the news about the attack and the passing of him and his mate. I was saddened that I wasn't at my pack. But I don't think it would have mattered since it was sudden and was quickly taken care of. Which was strange as soon as luna and alpha were killed they retreated. I couldn't come to the funeral since I was so far out or was I out of the country, I can't remember.

"You looking forward to seeing your younger half brother?" I ask as they haven't seen each other since the last alpha meeting.

"Yeah I am but we are working. Haven't got time to chit chat."

"I'm sure you can catch up while we are here. We are not exactly far from home."

"Whatever, your Majesty". Going back to his phone with a bad mood. The car has stopped by this time and warriors from White Rose are surrounding the car and the one in front. One of the ones in front gives a nod and moves with the others to follow. The cars move with the speed they are going at.

The area here is always nice with the trees lining the way to the packhouse and they have the wildest flowers out of all the packs I have been to. They really do care for their nature and surrounding areas. While it was seeing the natures of the pack, it soon turns to houses and lots of hustle and bustle of pack life. The more we get to the packhouse the more of the pack members are looking at the cars and muttering to each other.

The packhouse has vines with white roses coming out of them, hence the name. It's 3 stories high with steps leading to the front door. On these steps, there are 3 people. 1 female and 2 males. The cars come to a halt and the warriors in the front car all get out and make a path for me to follow. The front 2 gets out next with Carlos following them. I could hear him saying who was in the car, which was me, to the crowd and when he said my name. He opens the door and I step out.

The fresh air hits my face with a bit of mixture of honey and mint. Looking at the steps and noticed them watching me admire the packhouse. With that, I walked towards the pack house with Carlos walking behind me. I reached the bottom steps and noticed that everyone has bowed their heads to me. The female asked me how the journey was and I requested that to raise their heads and said it is fine. I also introduced Carlos.

The female who introduced herself as Lucinda told us that either side of her was her

Gamma and Delta. She never introduced a Beta but I didn't have a problem with that. But it seems that Carlos had a problem with that. She decided that she was getting somebody to show us our rooms. I forgot their names off the she-wolves. When walking through the front door, I think I heard her Gamma comment on how the introductions went and for Carlos comment. Our rooms were on the 3rd floor which high-rank wolves are. The room is plain in a light blue, I don't mind, not really staying long. About 10 minutes familiarising myself in the room, I went to get Carlos and asked one of the females who brought us here to our rooms to show us where the Alpha office is.

The Alpha office is on the second floor and 3 doors down on the right from the stairs. When we reached it, I thanked the female, then she left and then knocked on the door. I hear a come in from behind it. So I opened the door before Carlos got to the handle. Looking around the office, you can clearly see the difference between a male and female Alpha. It doesn't look like a bomb had hit it. Behind the oak desk sat Alpha Lucinda with both of the males on her left. The right side lays empty which is for her Beta. "Hello again Alpha King, please have a seat," Lucinda says in a sweet voice that angels may send from the heavens while gesturing a chair that's in front of her desk.

"Thank you, Alpha Lucinda," I reply taking a seat and Carlos is standing on my right.

"My Beta should be here soon but while we wait do you want to look through anything or require anything to eat or drink?" Lucinda suggests.

"Some tea would be lovely and I would like to see the reports on your females please."

"Of course." She replies and shuffles through her neat papers and finds what she is looking for. when she finds it, she hands it to me and my fingers accidentally brush over hers. Little shots of electricity shoot through my fingers and quickly hold the

file. I looked at her face and she looked quite taken back by what just happened. I don't think anyone noticed. Nosing through the file and taking what's on it, the door opens the smell of tea wafts into the room. "Thank you, Grace, for bringing it quickly. Also, have you seen Devon around the house and I can't seem to link him and Olie tried to ring him but he's not answering."

"I'm sorry dear but I haven't. Have you tried Abigail?" The female Grace replies.

"Of course, thanks, Grace. Oh and looking forward to what you girls have made!"

"Your welcome dear and I hope you all do. Now excuse me I'll be off." She leaves with a bow. Giving a questing look to Lucinda but she doesn't notice as she's in deep thought. Then the door bursts open and a male is standing there.

"WHERE THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN DEVON!" She shouts. The 2 males on her left are looking very smug and suppressing a laugh. I'm guessing that's the missing Beta and Carlos half brother.

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Lucinda POV

When the Alpha King walked into my office, I had my game face on. I was still worried about not having Devon here. When he said he wanted to have tea, I mind linked Grace. "Grace would you bring some tea to the Alpha office please and keep an eye out for your Beta, thanks."

"No Problem Dear"

After mind linking and giving the King his papers, which caused a bit of electricity throughout my fingers which nobody really noticed. I peeked to my left and can see Ollie trying to contact Devon via phone. I have tried to contact him via mind link but it seems to have it blocked. When he comes he is in serious trouble.

Grace came quickly and apologised for not seeing Devon. It's not her fault, so she suggests his mate, Abigail. I'm such an idiot for not thinking that. When Grace left the office, I went into deep thought. Thinking of what's was more important than having the meeting with the big boss and also ignoring alpha orders. Suddenly I felt a poke on the left side. With that, I'm out of deep thoughts and looking at the open door. And who is standing there, my missing Beta. So I shouted, " WHERE THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN DEVON!" To my left, I can hear the other two trying not to laugh.

"I'm so sorry Lucinda, I seem to have lost track of the time. Abigail had me do things for her since you know she's pregnant." Devon said slyly.

"It's Alpha Lucinda to you Beta. I told you about this before and when it was taking

place. Also, why were you blocking your link, you know not to." I said angrily at him. I didn't care that the King was here with his half brother.

"Well, I didn't know, Alpha. But shall you continue with this meeting, now that all parties are present." He said while walking to my right side. I saw him give a sly smile towards Beta Carlos and he gave one back.

I looked at the Alpha King and he saw what I also saw. He continued to look through the papers and asked questions on it. I'll spare you what it went through. It was pretty boring and long.

What felt like a lifetime, I sent Oliver and River to show the Alpha King and Beta to the dining hall in the packhouse. Devon was now standing in front of my desk. "What's the matter Lucinda, you look tense."

"Devon, why on all days do you decide that you are late to a meeting. You are never late to those."

"Well, I couldn't leave MY mate when she needed me. But you wouldn't know that cus you don't have one"

"Don't you dare go there. This is not about mates. It's about you and how you are lately acting towards me. It's like you don't want me here." I hissed at him. I can feel my anger levels going into overdrive.

"Yeah it's like that, but don't worry I can't get rid of you since you are soo loved by the pack and it wouldn't be in their best interest."

"Wow, I feel so loved. You are lucky that your half brother is here tonight and I'm letting you see him but tomorrow when he leaves. You are getting punished. Am I understood Beta."

"Crystal clear, Alpha."

"Good, Now get out of my office." He quickly turned and left my office. I sank back into my chair while rubbing my head with my eyes closed. Why the hell is going on with that boy? This is so unlike him. Glancing at the time, it was about half an hour into dinner. I had to make an appearance tonight, so I took a deep breath and headed to eat with everyone.

Approaching the doors, I could hear the members chatting and laughing. Just standing there and taking it all in, I didn't notice River behind me. "I hope you are going in and not just standing there?" I jumped a bit and looked behind me.

"Geese River don't scare me like that. Yes, I'm going in, just building the courage to. It's been a while since I've done this."

"You be fine, they do notice you not being at the head table. So they would be happy to see you and show the King that you interact with the pack."

"Why can't you be Beta, you are wise."

"Nah, your father offered me the same position but I like training the warriors and to deal with the lookouts." He waved his hand at me.

"I suppose so." Looking down and taking a deep breath in than out. My hands took the handles and into view came all my members and the head table. Everything went quiet and everyone had turned to face me. This made me feel self-conscious.

Walking in, with River following behind, I looked at the head table. There was my empty seat in the middle. To my left is Oliver and to my right is the Alpha King. Thank god, I didn't want to sit next to Devon. Next to the Alpha King is Carlos and then it is Devon.

Reaching my seat, I looked out to all my members and spoke to them. "I apologise for absence and lateness, please continue with your meals and convocation". With that, I sat and a plate of food came out for me and the atmosphere was like when I was standing behind the doors. Starting to eat and looking at everyone, now and again members would glance at me and give me weak smiles. This is what I don't want, pity smiles. After all this time, they still do. I even told them not to. Oliver nudged me and whispered, "You okay?"

"Yeah, I'm okay. Just wish they don't give me the pity smiles, they didn't die yesterday." I whispered back.

"I know. But the more you do it, It may go away."

"We shall see." I ended the convocation with him and turned to my right and politely cleared my throat which caught the attention, King. "How are you liking the food and the pack members, your majesty?"

"The food is wonderful, nearly as good as mine back in my pack. Also, your pack is very welcoming. They all stood and bows when I came in. You know how to teach manners."

"Thank you, just a shame it doesn't continue in the inner circle."

"What do you mean by that"

"Nothing for you to worry about, Please enjoy the night." I couldn't stay here, I only ate half my food. But I stood and walked fast out of the hall. Quickly looking back, the smirk on Devon's face was clear. He is definitely up to something. I rushed to the kitchen, picked up a snack and went straight to my room.

King Zaliver POV

When Lucinda left the hall, it was very clear that she was not happy being here. Carlos had to make a comment about it. "Well, that's not an ideal alpha who runs from the pack. We might have to change that."

"Stop it, Carlos, she's doing a fine job. Just you and Devon go hang and catch up." With that, they both left. I didn't realise that her Gamma and Delta were helping pack members out. I stood up and walked towards what I think was the Gamma. "Umm is Oliver your name?"

He stopped what he was doing and replied with, "Yes, your Majesty. How can I help you?"

"Please Zaliver would do, is this normal for you and Delta to be on your own?"

"Yes, Lucinda hasn't been in the hall since her parents were killed. As you saw for yourself the pack still hurts and haven't really got over it. It was out of nowhere when we were attacked and the pack blames for not protecting the important members. So at mealtimes, it can be me on my own at the table. River tries to come but with training, it can be impossible even Devon doesn't often come to oversee since his mate is pregnant. Devon is a different matter. I don't know what's wrong with him, he is acting that he owns the place and comes and goes as he pleases. He should be the one overseeing the meal times since he is second in command when Alpha is not around." Oliver's ranting was an eye-opener. White Rose pack hasn't got the perfect inner circle like before. So it seems an insecure but respectful alpha, stroppy beta, caring gamma and a train hard delta. Out of the 4, the beta is the pain

"Oliver, can't you convince Lucinda to drop Devon as Beta?" I had to ask since it could solve some problems in the pack. We have now started to walk me back to where I was staying. It seems that what they had planned for this evening was cancelled, strange.

"I have and so has River. It seems that he likes to play a trick on her to convince that the pack would not do great with him, not being beta. So he likes to corner her. But if you can try to convince her, things may become happier. Arguments may not be so common and we all can agree on the same things."

"I may try before I leave tomorrow. Thank you, Oliver, for your insider. You would be a great Beta".

"Thank you Zaliver, I hope you have a good night rest" With that, he bowed and left to go somewhere. I walked into the room and undressed into nothing except boxers. And just laid on top of the covers and thinking about the day. How different it played out and all the things that I have learnt. Also, those electric sparks when our fingers brushed with each other. Could it be that she is my mate?

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Lucinda POV

To say I was angry to how today went would be an understatement. How come, well I was angry with Devon for who he thinks runs things and does what he wants. Then I am angry with the pack as they still look at me with sadness and those petty looks.

When I got to my room, I just laid on my bed and just thought. I have been doing this a lot lately, like my pack females. It's the case for all packs, the lower the rank you are the bigger the chance of death during child labor. Nobody knows why but I haven't seen anyone do anything about it. Not even the King. I was taken out of these thoughts of the pack females when pack work comes into my mind. Pack work, I do daily but also will get ahead by a few days. Just incase if I ever want an day off. So I got up and wondered to my office. I didn't bump into anyone on the second floor.

When I reached my office, I heard voices coming from the room. Even though the room is soundproof but I have very good hearing since alpha needs better hearing than others. This made my already angry mood worse. There is a rule in my pack that nobody enters the office without me and only me. I was sure that I had locked the door after leaving for dinner. I had the only key. So I took the handle and quickly swung the door open. It banged onto the wall with that the two wolves in my office turned to face me. And lord and behold standing there was my beta and his half brother. They had a shocked face that screamed: "caught red-handed". I shouted at them, "What the hell are you both doing in My office?"

"Devon wanted to show me plans for his highness. I wanted to make sure they were, how would you say, sufficient." Carlos calmly said.

"It is true Alpha dear. Also giving him a tour as he leaves tomorrow".

"Don't mock me, Devon, I'm already on a short fuse and how did you get into here?" I asked.

"The door was unlocked, so I simply walked in." Devon smuggled said.

"There is one problem with that, the plans for the King are with River and you know that. You watched him walk out with those the other day to set them in motion. So you both couldn't be looking for the plans."

"I know, they are. But I ..." I didn't let him finish that sentence. I flew towards Devon and pinned him against the wall behind him. Both hands around his neck so any sudden movement would snap his neck.

"Now listen to me Beta, you know the rules in the pack and nobody and I mean NOBODY comes into MY office without me. You have crossed me too many times now, you need to be punished now!" I rood at him. I feel my eyes changing black and the wolf in me surfacing. Nails growing within the betas neck and the smell of blood is coming out.

With me dealing with my beta, I forgot that his half brother was still in the room.

King Zaliver POV

The conversation with Oliver was going round in my head. How can a Beta be so defiant of their Alpha? I will definitely be speaking with Lucinda about him in the morning. Lucinda, that name gives me the chills down my back. I feel there is a connection with her, the electrical shock earlier, the easy talking to at dinner(even if it was very short) and calmness she gives off. I must be going mad, but if she's my mate then I must bring her back with me. But that would leave incapable Beta in lead. This

is messing with my head. "Your Majesty, please get to the Alpha's office quickly!" "Carlos' voice invaded my head. I shot off my bed and threw back on some clothes and sprinted down to the second level towards the office.

Arriving at the office I quickly take in the situation. My Beta is standing near the door looking shocked or smug. There on the back wall was Lucinda holding onto Beta Devon. "Carlos, go find either/both Oliver and River, now," I ordered him and he hurried off to fulfil my order.

"L-L-Lucinda, y-you are h-hurting m-me." Devon was stuttering against her hold. For being a female alpha, she is really strong.

"I don't care, you brought this on to yourself. This is nothing, you know we do much worse." She chuckled at this. She still hasn't noticed me still nor has he.

A few moments later somebody said, "LUCINDA what's going on?" This caught her attention and let go of one hand which had blood all in her fingers. She turned slightly but making sure that she had a stronghold on Devon. Her eyes were black and locked onto mine. I was really tempted to go hold her. What, wow I must be losing it. Carlos had brought Oliver, River and warriors. Oliver was slowly going towards her. She didn't look too pleased.

"Look Devon we have on-lookers, they must watch if you play rings around me and my doings." Her voice was a bit deeper than normal which meant her wolf was at the surface.

"Lucinda, you need to let go. Yes, he needs to be punished but not this way. You know you will regret it later." Oliver says while getting closer. Her eyes had turned away from mine and gone to her Gamma. Her hand was still on his neck but it seemed to be loosened a bit. "You need to let go, River has brought warriors to take him to be punished. Just say the words, if you punish him yourself I know you will

regret it. You have done it before." Oliver still pleads with his Alpha. Her eyes start to become a lighter black which means she is getting some control over her wolf.

"River, send the warriors forward and take this," She looks at Devon with anger, "to the prisons under the packhouse and punish him how you like. Ignore he pleases until I say so." She states. River goes straight to Devon and detaches from his Alpha grasp. Her nails have gone back to her normal length but she still looked very angry.

Devon gets handed to warriors with River leading the group, leaves the office. "Oliver, go tell Abigail that she won't be seeing her mate for a while. She can come to stay in the packhouse if needed. But warn her that she is not seeing her mate while he is down there, understood?"

"Yes, Alpha." Oliver bows and heads out to do his duty. Now it was me, Carlos and her in the office. We stood in silence with the only sounds was her deep breathing to get her wolf under control. But Carlos being him had to complain about this.

"Well, that was something. You see, she can't handle the pack and my brother. So maybe she needs to be replaced?" By now she seemed to have calmed down a bit and looked at Carlos. Properly thinking that he is her next target.

"Just go Carlos, I don't want to see you in my office right now. Unless you want to join your brother in my prisons?" Wow, she's telling my beta what to do. Well, I am on her land but, oh who cares.

"But.." He starts but I beat him to it.

"Just go back to your room, Carlos. Don't take any stops, go straight there." I tell him, saving his ass from being beaten to the wall.

"Yes, your majesty," He says, bows and leaves the office. The door closes and now

it's just her and me.

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Lucinda POV

When Carlos left my office and closed the door, I felt calmness take over the room. My anger almost disappeared. I felt that the King had something to do with it. That Beta and his half brother were planning something but what? I moved from the wall where I held Devon at, went to my desk and pulled out a wipe for my hands. After I cleaned my hands, I fell into my chair.

"I'm sorry you had to see that. I usually would have dealt with that in a better way. But lately, he's just getting on my nerves and that, Ahh!" I slammed my head on the desk, "You must think like your Beta that I can't control what's happening in this pack and my anger."

"No, I see a strong Alpha who, umm, reached the end of her anger tolerance. Don't worry, this isn't my first time seeing something like this. I never really see pack Beta's getting the wrong end of the stick. It's usually warriors or even deltas/gammas " I picked my head up from the desk to respond.

"But, your Highness..."

"Please Lucinda, call me Zaliver. Don't you dare cover for what you did. What's done is done. Move past it." I dared to look towards him. He hadn't moved off when he first walked into the room. His eyes showed emotions that are ever-changing. Anger, determination and happiness.

"Okay. But don't you think they are both up to something?" I asked, in case he had seen anything strange with his own Beta.

"Yeah, maybe they are planning to get rid of you as Alpha. They both hate you."

"Thanks for stating the obvious. Even if they have me killed, the pack wouldn't trust Devon if he did that. I feel that Devon hates me because I haven't got a mate to be alpha for the pack. Or that after all this time he finally wants revenge for not having the Alpha power transferred to him when my parents, or more specifically my father, died from the attack." Sadness washed over me, Devon shouldn't get rid of me because of the past, hell he shouldn't even be thinking about it. He is not one loyal wolf to me.

Zaliver decided to change the subject a little bit. "I'm sorry that I couldn't come to their funeral. You know that your parents and I were close. The few times I came to this pack, you followed your father in the office. Your father couldn't get rid of you when we had our meetings."

"I wanted to learn how to deal with the big boss who looks over us." I smiled at the memory. "Well, I'm gonna go to bed. It's been a long day." I got up from my chair but when I moved around my desk, a warrior's voice rang in my head. "Alpha, Rogues at the south of borders. I already linked Delta and he's on his way" I respond to the warrior with "Okay I'll be there right away."

Then I linked Oliver "Ollie get your butt to the office now!" Lastly, I put out a pack link saying "Anyone who can't fight needs to get to the safe bunkers and warriors to stations in the pack lands, NOW!" I got lots of "Yes Alphas". I looked at Zaliver and sighed. Before I could say anything Oliver rushed into the room.

"Lucinda, what's going on, what was that pack link about?"

"Ollie, there are rogues in the South. River is already on his way and I'm just going to see what's going on. I need you to stay put and watch the pack."

"Yes, um what about the King over here," Oliver asked.

"Zaliver?" I looked at him, he seemed to be linking someone.

"Lucinda I'll go with you, I'm bringing 2 of my warriors with me."

"Sure, let's go." I and Zaliver ran out of the office and down the 2 flights of stairs. I pulled open the front door and flew down the steps. Zaliver was at my heels. I headed to the start of the south woods. "Lets change, get there faster."

I went behind a tree and carefully undressed and wrapped it around my ankle. The crack of bones changed into my black wolf with white paws and a white line going straight down my belly and back. I came out from the tree and my head snapped to the other wolf who was approaching me, who was Zaliver. His wolf was taller than mine. His wolf was pitch black with no signs of what I could see no other colours. I moved my head towards the woods and I think he understood, so we both sped off in the direction. I thought being king he would get in front of me but cus it was my land and I knew it better than him.

Running in my wolf felt great. You really do feel connected to the nature of the land. But I couldn't really take it all in since there are rogues hanging around. Soon I could hear growls of wolves and the smell of the rogues. Before reaching them. I hid behind a tree and changed into human form, so I could speak to them. I see that Zaliver stayed in his wolf form.

Walking up to the rouges, I surveyed the area. They were just over the line to my land. I counted around 5 or 6. River was in human form with warriors in both human and wolf forms. Reaching River with the King not leaving my side. River gave me a nod of the head and returned to watch the rouges. Making eye contact with them I used my Alpha tone "How dare you come to my land. Leave now or you will be killed."

The middle of the group smirked, " But Girly, we are not doing anything. We are just hanging here waiting for some orders to come to us."

I growled at this, "What and whose orders?"

"Now that would be telling, but I'll give you a clue. You know him." Still smirking and my wolf is getting angry. I heard bones cracking beside me and lord and behold in all his sexy glory was Zaliver.

"Give me the dam name of your leader, rouge!" Zaliver shouted in his royal tone. The power radiating off him was very high. Warriors were standing tall and so was River. The smirking rouge had taken it off his face and now not looking so confident.

"Devon," said another rouge. When the name fell from them. They all turned and ran off. What they left behind was a very very very angry and furious Alpha Female, who was going to end that wolf called Devon.

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Zaliver POV

Standing in the forest with an angry and pissed off Alpha is not good and especially a female one at that. Just watching her was making my own wolf going into hiding. Glancing at her, I see her eyes going back to black, the same ones I saw back in her office. She is breathing heavily and is slightly shaking. I mind linking my Warriors back at the packhouse to go to Beta Devon's cell. I noticed her pack is going back to their posts or going back to their homes. "Lucinda, don't get angry. Think about it. He's getting punished, we can up it. Or something else." River says to her to get to listen but seems it's not working.

The next thing we see is her shifting into her wolf and sprinting off to where Devon is. "Go after her, she will kill him. I've told Oliver what's happened and he's headed to the cells."

"Okay River, my warriors are there also but maybe she might need a king command to snap her out of it." With that, he nods and I shift. I ran quickly to where she went. I feel my own warriors follow me.

It took me 5 minutes to get back, I am the fastest out of all wolves. I see clothes laid out for me which are guessing from Oliver or pack members. I quickly changed back into a human and put the clothes on. I wandered into the packhouse to find the cells. It was a normal door so it won't be scary for the pups within the packs. Plus it did have a warning on it. Reaching that door and opening, the smell of the coldness and rotting flesh does hit the face.

It's not dark dark but it is dark enough to see where you are going. Heading down the

steps I hear loud shouting to what seems to be Lucinda and others. Getting closer to the shouting, there were warriors who bowed towards me who lined the way. The cells were empty, so there wasn't a problem with rouges being here. The shouting between people was getting louder. "NO, HE NEEDS TO DIE, HE IS A TRAITOR TO ME AND THE PACK!" I'm guessing that Lucinda and her wolf.

"Yes he does but not like this. Alpha you are not thinking straight." Oliver, he is such a good Gamma. But a good Beta would be better. What I came across when I saw them was my warriors holding on to Lucinda, Oliver was standing with 2 of her warriors standing in front of what was Devon's cell.

"IM FINE!" She shouts. This is not going anywhere, so I had to do something. I moved towards her, with her eyes not moving off Devon, I touched her shoulder and the same sparks ran down my shoulder. It felt her anger levels drop a tad but not enough to get her out of the situation.

"Alpha Lucinda, stand down and calm your wolf now. Otherwise, you will be removed from this situation." I used a King command, which no wolf could not listen to. She looks at me and sees that her wolf had listened to me to her eyes were coming back to her colour. I see that Oliver was relaxing a bit more, as Lucinda is not on the wall path, for now. Not taking my eyes off Lucinda I ask, "Oliver, what happened"

"Devon has been getting punished for his doings, as you know. When River told me to go to the cells. I did that and not long after I got here, Lucinda went straight to the cells but was stopped by me, our and your warriors. No other harm has been issued to Devon while trying to calm down the Alpha" Oliver states.

"Good. Now about this, Oliver take Lucinda to either the office or her room. I will deal with him."

"Yes, Your Majesty." Oliver nodded. He strode to her, took her arm and led her out

of the cells. She didn't try to get away or made a fuss. She kept her eyes on me the whole time until she couldn't any longer. I guess she thought better than trying to get on my bad side.

I point to the White Rose warriors, "You two can move from the cell door and back to your post", they nodded and left, I turned to my own, "You two will stay where you are in case someone comes down." They nodded and stood proudly. I saw the keys by the door and used them to enter the cell.

Within the cell, there was a mattress on the floor which sat Devon. "Well well King, come to end me. She is weak, not brave enough to end me. Those two are wimps, they had to send in the big boss. Well, come on then end me." He had the nerve to look me in the eyes and send a smirk my way.

"She is not weak," I say through gritted teeth. "You know why you are here right now."

"Yeah, I'm playing with rogues and leading them to kill the Alpha. So what, I should be Alpha not that little thing nor her parents. They are a weak bloodline, I don't know how they are an alpha family." How can he be this clam, where he may be killed right at this moment.

"HOW DARE YOU SPEAK ABOUT MY PARENTS LIKE THAT." I turned to see Lucinda standing. How did she come back? Also, how is she not held by my warriors but I see them move an inch forward. "They gave you a home when you were given the role of Beta before you found Abigail, they respected you and they tried their best by being your friend. You even asked for the role of Alpha but you didn't get it. Don't you dare turn what they did for you. I even looked up to you and this is how you repay our kindness towards you."

"Really, I know. Such a shame that they couldn't kill those rogues that were sent to

them." I shot him a glare and growl.

"Sent, how can you send rouges?" I asked him, which he gave the look of 'are you kidding me'. Then it hit her, head-on.

"Devon don't tell me it was you who ordered the attack." Lucinda steps forward into the cell and comes to where I was standing. She looked desperate for not to be true but we both knew what it came to.

"So, she does have a brain and used it. I ordered them to attack and for tonight for them to be at the borders to attack again. So you would be seen as weak to the King over there." He was mocking us and agreed that he was behind the attacks.

"Devon, you were family to them and betrayed their trust for your own greed. Betrayed the pack, who you swore to protect with your life. You leave me with no choice." Lucinda walked forward at him, I didn't hold her back because I knew by the power radiating off her that she is going to do something to him. "Beta Devon of White Rose Pack, I Alpha Lucinda of White Rose Pack strip you of Beta power and status. You will be killed at noon in front of the pack." With that, she turns and leaves. Well, at least she didn't kill him right then. You can tell that he was no longer Beta, the aroma has gone and looked weak. I walked out of the cells and locked it back up. I told my men to stay with him and head out of the cells.

What a night, I headed to my temporary room. I would of gone and see how she is but I think she would talk better to somebody closer to her. So when I got to my room, I stripped to my boxers and jumped onto my bed. As soon my head hit that pillow I was out like a light, with the Alpha female on my mind.

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Lucinda pov

I never went up to my bedroom, I went straight to my office after I left the cells. Oliver was with me while River was sorting out the patrol. I calmed down and I was really deflated. How can somebody you trust just stab you in the back but it's not just me, it's the pack also? "Ollie?"

"Yes, Lucie."

"I want you to be presented as Beta to the pack after he is taken care of. I know River doesn't want it and you are most loyal and trustworthy to the pack and to me. What do you say?"

"I-I don't know what to say."

"Please say yes. Even the King says you would be a great Beta for the pack." I smiled at that statement.

"Well, I will be delighted to be your Beta."

"Wonderful," I say with a clap. A knock on the door was sounded. I told them to come in and Abigail walked in. Great but I did call her to be here. "Abigail take a seat". I offered.

"Thank you, Alpha. Why am I here at this late hour?" Asks while taking the other vacant seat in front of my desk.

"I don't know how to say this but Devon is going to be publicly killed tomorrow for betraying the pack, letting rouges in and killing my parents because he wanted to be top dog here." Her face dropped and tears formed in her eyes.

"No No, He wouldn't do that. He wouldn't risk our child not growing up without a father." She sob. Oliver gave her a tissue and tried to comfort her.

"I'm also guessing you felt the Beta power slip from you?", she nodded to this, " You can be a normal pack member now. You know nothing about him talking to rouges about killing the Alpha family?" She sniffled and quietly said no. "You can spend time with him until he is taken at noon, Oliver will take you to see him and then tell the guards to keep a close eye on you. They do not listen to him as he is not in power. Then Ollie, get to bed for a few hours, we have a long day tomorrow or well today." He nodded and ushered Abigail from the office. When they left, I stood and left my office to head to my bedroom. May as well get to sleep.

When I felt the sun on my eyelids, I knew it was time to get up and sort things out for today. It should have been an easy day for me. Say goodbye to the King and get on with pack things. But no I have to sort things out for Devon, make Oliver beta, make sure the King gets off the land safely, then deal to find a gamma to replace Oliver before I even start the pack paperwork for today and for what I didn't get done yesterday. I got up and did my daily routine and left to get a very quick breakfast.

In the kitchen, Grace whips up a pancake for me and I take that to my office. I get started to sort everything out for the day. During it, Oliver and River come and go with things that need doing. Oliver was getting the preparations for the public death ready and for River to see to his usual stuff that he does.

Time flew quickly, I looked at the time and it was 11:30. I finished my work from yesterday and got a start on today. I had to send out a pack link about the event today. 'All White Rose Wolves listen. Everyone who is at the respectable age of 16 and over

needs to report to the ground that is behind the packhouse in 15 minutes.' I didn't wait for responders so closed the pack link and headed to the back of the packhouse. There was the stage set of where he will be killed with a silver sword to the heart or to beheaded.

By the stage, I saw Zaliver just standing and watching the going on. I walked up to him and he noticed my presence. I seem to get butterflies when I reach him. "Has Carlos said his goodbyes to him?" I had to ask because I know he's not a good person but its family.

"I went with him this morning, so I could watch him. They had a short convo. Did his mate stay there all night?"

"Yeah, I let her. She's good but she deserves better. She may move on for her baby sake. Hopefully, she doesn't tell the baby about the wrongdoing of its father." He chuckled at his. "Anything said between them, I know you would listen to their last words".

"Nothing really out of the ordinary, he didn't want to stay long." I nodded, they weren't close because of duties to packs but they were the only family they have left. But that's to my knowledge.

"I better get ready, this is going to be interesting." I wandered into the stage to see my pack watching and waiting for it what's happening. Zaliver had taken a stand next to Carlos on stage which was on my right as a bit behind me. Oliver was on my left and River was with Devon, behind the stage. I whispered to Oliver, "Is everything ready?"

"Yeah. All those who are meant to be here are here. Good luck." I nodded and took a deep breath. I held my hand up to the pack and all the chatter and gossiping had died down.

"Fellow pack members. Thank you for being here today. As some may know, if you live in the packhouse, know that ex Beta Devon had been acting out of place over the last few days. This was dealt with at the time. He was put in the cells and punished. Rogues almost attacked us last night, but they told us who told them to attack. This was your former Beta." I saw gasps and shocked faces. "Yes most of you will be shocked by this, he admits it. Not only that, but he also admits that he had ordered for the attack that happened 7 years ago when we lost my parents, Alpha Peter and Luna Maria." Growls and chattering were among the pack. The place feels betrayed by their ex Beta. "Silence, please. As from last night as all the pack felt that the Beta position was taken away from the pack. This was part of the punishment of beryl of the pack. The other part is to end the wolf who caused this betrayal and deaths of those who thought in the unnecessary rouge attack. Delta River, bring the prisoner out."

River came from behind the stage with 2 warriors holding on to Devon. Abigail walked behind them and was sobbing her heart out. Oliver walked to her and took her into his arms to offer support. They bring Devon in front of me. He had bags under his eyes and he looked very down in the dumps. Somewhere deep inside me, I did feel a bit sorry for him but that isn't going to change that was going to happen to him. "Ex Beta Devon, you are here in front of your pack for crimes and betrayal are forgivable. Being a rogue isn't an answer for you as you are in the rings with them. You have no formal power in the pack but still is a threat to us. By the witness of the pack, you will be executed with a silver sword. Do you have any last words?" He looked in my eyes and then to the pack. River had gone to the table and grabbed the sword with gloves. Walked back to me and handed over a pair of gloves for me to wear. When they were on, he handed me the sword and I readied myself.

"Enjoy this, this is not over yet," He looked back at me, "You will always be weak and hid behind people." With that, I pulled the sword to the left and with one big sweep cut clean of the head. It rolled onto the stage to the left. I took a step back as his body flopped forward. That did feel good, knowing that I did that to protect my

pack. Warriors came onto the stage and took away his body and head to be burned. I made that a private thing. One of the warriors came and took the sword and gloves of me.

Gathering my thoughts, I turned to the pack who were getting over what just happened. "I feel this needs to have a good ending to this. Now the pack has no Beta at the moment but do not fret. Gamma Oliver has demonstrated loyalty and commitment which is what's needed for the pack. Oliver, please come forward." Oliver came from the right and kneeled in front of me. The blood from the dead body had quickly been moped up. "I, Alpha Lucinda of White Rose pack, promote you, Gamma Oliver, to be Beta of this pack. By doing this you are swearing to still protect the pack with your life and to be there to lead the pack if the Alpha is unavailable to do so. Also as Beta to follow through my order without questioning or to betray loyalty to those around you."

"I do, Alpha"

"I now announce to you Beta Oliver of White Rose pack." He stood and his aroma had changed to be stronger and now he is Beta. In my mind, mine and his private link had strengthened, which all packs have with their Beta. There were cheers and smiles, what happened before has gone from the minds. I see to my right Abigail had gone off and to my left Zaliver was looking at me with pride in his eyes but glancing to his Beta, there seems to be hatred in his eyes. But what for?

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Lucinda POV

Walking off the stage with my Beta and Delta in tow, I felt better knowing my inner circle is people I trust and know-how we all are going to be on the same page. The pack I could hear was leaving the area and going about their daily doings. We headed to the pack kitchen to find it empty. I went to the fridge and took out 3 drinks of water and handed them to the boys. I downed mine in one and sighed loudly. "Now that is over, the pack may be at peace again. It did feel good to get rid of him. But I do feel sorry for Abigail, no mate nor a father to her child."

"You did the right thing, let's not dwell on it. We need to get the King of the land now." Oliver says leaning on the counter.

"Yep, River is everything set?" I turned to him and it seemed he was mind linking someone. When he came round he nodded. "Good, come on. We need to say our goodbyes and make sure he gets out."

Heading out of the kitchen and out of the front door of the packhouse, there were the 2 SUVs that first came to the pack. The front car was set with the same warriors that were in it from the first time. I clear my throat to make myself known. He turned from talking to Carlos and headed towards us standing in the middle of the steps. "Alpha Lucinda, we are going to be on our way now. It seems you run your pack better than some of the men. They would need to learn a lesson from you." He chuckled and a smile crept onto my face.

His eyes were on Oliver. "Beta Oliver, you will do well with this. I know you won't be disappointed nor go against the beliefs of the Alpha. I may not know you for long

but from the last time I saw you with the former Alpha you have grown to be a wise man."

Eyes wide open, Oliver shocked at his words. So elbow him to say something back. "Um well, your Majesty, I don't know what to say. Um, I won't let the pack down, it matters to me more than if anything happened to Alpha, then I would need to take over. Anyway, eh, thanks for the kind words about me." He bowed at Zaliver and Zaliver nodded in recognition.

"Delta River, keep up the good work on the warriors and the training. I may send some of mine over soon. I will mail you when." River nodded and remained emotionless face. "Alpha Lucinda, your pack is well and I may come by again. Need to make sure, your pack doesn't overtake mine" He raised his eyebrows and the way he said it makes me feel warm inside.

"You can come by anytime, You Majesty. Since our packs are very close allies and you are friendly with my boys." I said and extended my hand to him to shake. When contact was made by it, sparks rose up my arm but I made no attempt to show it. It seems as well that Zaliver did the same and recognised the sparks. Removing out hands, I say, "Until next time, Your Majesty." He nodded and walked to the second car and hopped into the back. Carlos followed after him and then the 2 warriors got into the front. When settled, the front drove off with the other one close behind them.

When the SUVs were no longer in sight. I say to the boys, "Now, we have work to do. River you know your daily doings but make sure you pick some warriors who may take up the position of Gamma. I want a list by the end of the week." River said 'yes alpha' and walked off, "Oliver, you know where the beta office is, go there and settle in. Also, get some work done. I haven't had any of the work up to a high standard. Most things didn't add up or weren't done at all. I'm not expecting to be all done by tomorrow. But all I can say is to make sure that it is up to date by the end of the week."

"Lucinda, don't worry. I got this" I felt his hand on my shoulder and left for the office. Which was literally next door to mine. I stand on the steps and let the air surround me. This is calming.

After standing there for a bit, I walked to my own office and continued my own work to keep up my daily pack work. Now again, Emails pop up from Oliver of finished work and a couple of times he would come in and ask questions about things. This is what it should have been after all these years. Devon did this for a year or 2 but after he stopped and worked on his own to which he handed at the end of each week.

It was soon getting dark which meant dinner. Oliver came into the office and suggested going down. So I said yes. With Devon gone, it must be time for a new start. Walking into pack dinner with Oliver was good. River was already there and nodded with respect with the rest of the members that joined us. I felt that this dinner needed a fitting speech. So reaching the middle chair at the top table, I remained standing up while everyone around seated "My fellow pack, today we saw the good and bad. As we eat and drink, we do so for the pack is safe once again for the threat has been dealt with. We also celebrate the new Beta. Please raise your glasses for Beta Oliver ", I reached for my glass and raised it up and shouted, "Beta Oliver!". Everyone in the room followed suit and the look on Oliver's face was a bit embarrassed but with pride. Being seated and the food being served, the atmosphere was light and for once nobody was giving my petty looks of weakness nor sorrow. Maybe killing Devon was a good idea.

After the meal had finished, everyone exited the dining hall to go to their rooms or homes. River and Oliver headed to their rooms and so did I. I took a hot shower, washed my hair and took a new pair of pyjamas. I slipped into the bed covers and drifted off to sleep with all my worries disappearing.

Oliver POV

The week flew past of being Beta. I have known how much Devon did and how much he sucked at it. Lucinda was right, there was much wrong that didn't add up. Luckily the pack had lots of funds to cover but we didn't really want that. During the week, pack members would greet me and comment on how the atmosphere has changed within the pack. It was true, there was a sense of peace and no negativity. This was the outcome of killing Devon, we should have done it ages ago.

The change was coming not just from me but Lucinda. After having dinner with the pack on the day of my being Beta. She made sure to join us every day not just at dinner but also at breakfast and sometimes lunch. She just felt at ease again like she was before having all the stress of being Alpha. But I don't think it was from just not having Devon around. I feel that the King has an impact on her. She didn't really know that every time that they touched the eye would be surprised, which I saw. They may be mates but it's not my place to come into her personal life. Longs she is happy and the pack is good that's all that matters.

I would like my own mate, to love and hold. But then I do enjoy having my own time to myself and not having to take care of another person.

It was at the end of the first week and Lucinda called for me and River to her office to discuss names to take over my old title. So here we are with me sitting in a chair in front of her desk, her being behind looking like she's gonna kill someone. River just being River and leaning on the right wall.

You may think that Gamma doesn't have a big job but they do. In our pack, they

would need to be skilful and have a strong need to protect the Luna of the pack. That's why I and Lucinda had a strong bond. Also, I had a strong need to protect her. Lucinda's voice brings me back to the present time. "River, none of these names stand out and shout Gamma material. Why did you choose these!" I had a copy in my hand and re-read the names. She was right they didn't really also I know most and they don't really have the mindset of having a title.

"Well, these all did well in their fighting and protecting the pack. I thought that's what the gamma needed to be. Good at fighting in case of the attack of its Alpha/Luna."

"I know some of these River, they wouldn't have the, let's say, common sense of taking ideas in a meeting," I point out, "Isn't anyone else in the warriors who could be a possible candidate? Knows how to fight but also has the knowledge that they would be in a meeting for their Alpha."

"Also they need to protect the pack when I and Oliver are not round to lead. They need to have a sense of leadership of fairness and not greed." Lucinda adds and we both look at River. We don't know if he is thinking or mad at us.

"Give me a minute, I'll be back." He says and walks out of the office. We both look at each other. River is a strange person, haven't got him fingered out yet. His story never was said to anyone.

While we waited I asked about the she-wolves problem. Every day I seem to add one or two to the list of death in the pack. "I don't know Oliver," She starts and puts her elbows on the desktop which she leans her head on the left one, " They are fine throughout the time but when they give birth, they seem to struggle. It seems to be the lower the rank the more at danger you are. But that's a theory. We can't compare to other packs. Only the King knows and we know how well he is figuring it out. I feel sorry for the smaller packs who have a she-wolf shortage and the mates who have to look after their child."

Then she sits up and with wide eyes and says, "Maybe we can keep an extra eye on Abigail, see that's she had Beta blood run through her for a bit, maybe it might help her now she is not of a high-rank wolf. We may have to ask her for this but I don't see that she could say no. Oliver, can you go talk to her about it tomorrow. I would but I wanna get to know the Gamma if we ever get there. Where has River got to?" She says that and River walks back in with another folder in his hands.

"Maybe this one." That's all he says. No sorry for taking long or for me to sit through Alpha thoughts. Her eyes were at work reading through the folder and once in a while go wide at some parts. And when she was finished reading it, she passed it to me. As I read it, I was agreeing to everything about the person. "Well, Alpha what about this one?" I look at Lucinda and nod in approval.

"River, this one sounds wonderful. What we were looking for. Oliver agrees."

"Yes I do, I kinda know this person and he may be quiet around town but he sure knows his stuff and place. He'd be a good fit in our group."

"Then it is settled. We are going to see him tomorrow morning at training. So I can see him in action to which he says in his file." Lucinda said confidently. I and River nod in acceptance. We both left the office and River dashes off somewhere, I just wandered around until dinner. We all met each other at the entrance and entered together. We eat then go off again. Lucinda asks me to meet her in her room.

In her room, she sits on her bed and I take one of her chairs. It would be awkward to sit with her on the bed. "Ollie, do you honestly think he would be good enough?"

"Yes, why are you doubting it?"

She plays with her fingers. "It's just, what if he turns out to want to take me down to which he shows us all just an act."

"He wouldn't, just looking at him here and there at training. He is good and would love to join us. Also, why would River do that to us? We both hated Devon and you know how we acted. Tomorrow you will see what he is like and have a trial run before making it official. Also, I will talk to Abigail about being closely monitoring her."

She lets out a big breath and a smile forms on her face. "Thanks, Ollie, I'm glad you are Beta now. You know how to make the Alpha in me calm and you got everything in control."

"No worries," I stand and now my head a bit and say, "Goodnight Alpha".

"Haha, goodnight Beta". She shakes her head and moves her hand to tell me to go. I left and headed to my own room. We will see how she is with her soon to be Gamma, Jupiter.

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Lucinda POV

Morning came quickly. I feel that I haven't got enough sleep but it's an important day. Seeing and hopefully choosing my Gamma. The boys feel that he is going to fit in nicely but I have my doubts.

After getting out of my bed and doing my morning routine. I headed down to the dining hall for breakfast. Oliver was ready sitting there and eating away. When I arrived at the table, he gave me a smile and morning. A pack member came with my food. The morning food was bacon, eggs, toast and other breakfast foods. Some pack members came and joined us at the table, so we chatted about random things.

After we finished, we said goodbye to those eating, me and Oliver headed to the training ground to where we would find River watching the pack train. We stood and watched a bit because I haven't seen much of how training works. I just leave River to it and just review what he does and if it works well.

After a few, we walked up to him and when he noticed us he nodded at us then turned back to training. A few moments of silence between us with the only sounds coming from my pack members in combat, I started the convocation. "So River, where is my soon to be Gamma? I do want to see him in training." I saw his eyes glance sideways to me and bounced back to straight on in a blink. I turned to the side a bit and noticed his eyes were linking someone. When he came round he said that he was on his way over. Then wandered off to a pair to sort out their tactics. "I still don't understand that boy, he can be talkative one minute then act strangely. I hope his choice has a better personality than his."

"Nah, there is only one River in this pack. Nobody has the same personality as him, he is a limited edition." Oliver said this while he chuckled a bit. I rolled my eyes at him.

"Whatever Oliver. Oh look here comes someone." I pointed it out to Oliver. As the person came towards us, River saw this and walked away from what he was doing and joined him. As they got closer, the man with River looked muscular but not too much. He was a tad shorter than River.

"Lucinda, this is the wolf that you have seen the information for. I will leave you two to do what you like with him, as I got training to teach." With that, he leaves. I'm not surprised, he does take his training the wolves really seriously. The man stood there awkwardly between me and Oliver. So Oliver broke the awkward between us.

"So, your name is again?" Really, Oliver, that's what you come out with. I looked at him with 'are you serious'.

"It's Jupiter, Beta Oliver and Alpha Lucinda." He says bowing his head.

"Call us by our names, has River told you about meeting us today or anything else?" I ask. Jupiter shook his head no. I sigh, trusting River to make this a shock. "Okay, you finished training for today right?" He nodded yes. "It would be great if you and I talked in my office for a bit. Oliver will come in and out as he is going to be doing things. aren't you Ollie?" I gave him an elbow to the side, so he snapped out of this daze.

"Yes, yes. I'll leave you to it and see you later in the office." With that, he leaves, hopefully, to see Abigail about what we had discussed yesterday.

"Well come on Jupiter, I want to get to know you and tell you things at River have forgotten to tell you." We both walked off the training grounds and wandered back to

the packhouse. I was going to watch him train but I changed my mind. I have to trust River that he has great training. He was telling me about his life. He is older than me as he is 25. Both of his parents are warriors, so it is natural for him to join. He hasn't found his mate, he would like to find one. From what he told me, he was passionate about the pack and would do anything for it.

Entering my office in the packhouse, we both took our respective seats. "Now Jupiter, it is very lovely you told me about you but we just get down to business. What River has failed to tell you beforehand is that you have caught the eye from him to be our next Gamma for the pack." The shock was written on his face. His eyes are large and his mouth has fallen open.

"R-R-Really, I'm just a normal warrior protecting a pack. What makes me a good candidate? Do I need to prove myself or what?"

"Calm down, River prides you with training and what you do around the borders like any other wolf. But he noticed that you care for others. There are not many wolves like you that can say that they think of others before themselves. Being a Gamma needs that since they are linked closely to the supposed Luna of the pack. As you think about others, you would think about protecting, well me, before yourself. Oliver read your file and he kind of knows you. He thinks that you would be a good fit in my inner circle. You wouldn't be another Devon. You can prove yourself if you like to but with the good words from all the high-rank wolves is good enough. What do you think and please be honest?"

He sat there and stared at me for a bit. I was starting to worry that I'd overwhelm him with information but it would be the way if he took the position. While he sat there, Oliver entered, put something on the table and exited quickly.

A minute passes with nothing still. "Jupiter, please say something. You are making me worried. You don't have to have this if it's not what you wanted." I started to click

my fingers at him and was about to poke him when I saw his eyes moving around like he was battling his inner self.

"Sorry, it's just come as a shock. I have been told by my father that one day I would strive to higher goals in life and this must be it. I am nothing like that previous beta, he wasn't very nice and glad he is no longer here. I would be delighted to be part of your group and to make the pack a better place and to protect you." I gave a wide smile and then a random question came into my head.

"I am ecstatic that you accept but I'm wondering. Why are you called that? Jupiter is a unique name."

"Well thanks, I'm not sure. I guess they like the planet and named me after it. I could find out?"

"No, no. Just wondering. We will make arrangements to announce you as the new Gamma to the pack. Now off you go, I need to find Oliver and ask him if he has done what I have asked." He nodded and left the office, so now I was on my own. I noticed the paper on my desk which Oliver swiftly placed while waiting for a response from Jupiter. Picking it up and reading it. As I read it my calm nature is growing thinner and thinner. Anger is filling it in its place. Reaching the bottom of the page and it was signed by that betrayer Devon. I opened my mind to the link between me and Oliver and shouted to him, "You better have a good explanation for why a note from that betrayer is sitting on my desk!"

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Lucinda POV

Oliver appeared quicker than light to the office when I shouted at him through the mind link. He looked very worried as he thought I would attack him, it may be a possibility. "What the hell is this, hmm, do you think it's a joke you're playing? Damm Oliver, I've been in a good mood all week!"

"It's no joke, believe me. I wouldn't do that plus how would I know if there was someone else working with rogues?" This slightly makes me less angry. He goes on to say, "This note is from him that Abigail was given on the day he was beheaded. She was scared to give it to you because you might accuse her of helping him."

I shook my head, my mood changed again to less anger but it's all different moods.

"Just go and get her. I need her to explain it to us and also go get Jupiter. He can start to prove himself and have a fresh pair of eyes. River would be busy with training and I would not like to use mind link right now." He nodded and left.

I sat there and read the note again. The note says:

I do not care if I don't make it as I am not alone. Lucinda will fall to rouges and her inner friends will not always be there. My partner will continue to work with rogues and continue the plan we set way back, to make the pack fall. Rouges will rise up in numbers and will come back to what they started all those years ago.

Beta Devon

After reading it again, I start to make notes of who may be the partner of Devon and the rogues. Even on death's door, he still considers himself as being Beta to a pack who hates him. How sweet. My door opened and Jupiter walked in. "Jupiter, in future knock before coming in. It's basic pack rules."

"Sorry, I just thought. Never mind, Oliver said to see you. Something about a note?"

"Take a seat, while we wait for Ollie. Read the note and think of what it means." He nodded, I handed him the note and he read it. And I do some pack work while we wait.

The knock at the door stopped me and Oliver walked in with a serious face on. Abigail wasn't with him. "I couldn't find her. I asked around and nobody has seen her since I talked to her this morning. I tried to mind linking her but nothing."

"Dam, go tell River to send trackers to find her. I'll send a message to keep an eye out. Also, tell River to send more warriors to the borders. Nobody's leaves or enters without my permission and only mine. If I find out anyone else has not followed then they spend the night in the cells. Now go."

I send him off and I send my message to look out for Abigail and if seen to send her to me right away. I was in my thoughts of where and why she had gone but was pulled out when the voice of the person in my office spoke. "Lucinda, do you think she was working with the rouges?"

I look at him with a frown. "No, when we told her about it. She denied any links with them and she was telling the truth because we Alphas can tell if someone is lying."

He put on his thinking face. "It could have been an act. To throw us off her track. She is pregnant right and with this, there is a risk of death. Maybe you asked her to be close by to see if you can stop it?"

"Yeah I did, you are smart. Why would," Then it clicked to what he was getting at, "Oh my goddess, Jupiter, you smart thing. If she is the partner with them and with me watching her pregnancy she wouldn't get messages to them."

"So when she gave Oliver the note, she made a runner before we can work it out." He widened his own eyes like he won the lottery to the conclusion that we both came up with.

But a thought drew on me "However no warriors have said anything about her leaving. But why?" He had the answer to that.

"She was the former Beta mate, she knows the land well. So slipped out of sight and without the knowledge she had done so. So maybe we need to stretch the search outside the pack."

I jumped out of my chair and gave him a big hug. "Jupiter I could kiss you but I won't. You were definitely going to be Gamma. Come on, the pack needs to know."

With that, we both led the office and headed to the pack stage. On the way, we found Oliver and told him to get the pack together for an emergency meeting. River joined us at the foot of the stage.

Those who were available for the meeting were waiting. I stood in the middle with the microphone, Oliver to my right and River and Jupiter to my left. "Good afternoon, as you know Abigail was to be found in the pack after giving your Beta a note that had information on it. This information is that there is another wolf who is linked to the rogues that would be linked to attack this pack. After talking Jupiter, who will be taking the position of Gamma, we both come to the conclusion that she may be the partner or she knows who is. I ask if anyone knows where she may go to hide. Must tell either one of us this information or even she gets in contact with anyone here and if anyone needs to leave the pack must still come me only. If anyone wasn't present

here that should have been, please spread the word that Abigail is being hunted. I will spread the word to other packs. Also, there will be another time to give Jupiter gamma power. Now everyone is dismissed."

With that everyone left the area and went back to what they were doing before. We stood on stage for a bit longer. "Now, River make sure patrols are doubled and more frequent runs around the pack. Do what you will in training but make sure not to overdo them. Oliver, you make a start with talking to other packs and doing normal duties with Jupiter. So he can learn what you do and find out what's going on. I will let the King know of the situation myself. Is everyone clear of their tasks?"

"Yes, Alpha." The three replied and headed off. I followed not long after to pick a quick snack from the kitchen. Grace gave a worried look but I walked out to my office.

Sitting at the desk, I wrote down everything that has happened. Then pick up the phone, to call the big boss.

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Zaliver POV

The phone was going off in my pocket. But trying to keep interested in what my Beta was saying was slim. This past week has been weird. I have been feeling that something is missing from my life, so I get into the work that I have missed when I have been away for the months from visiting other packs.

"Carlos stop talking and let me answer my phone." He stopped and I took it out of my pocket and looked at the caller ID. All alpha's have a direct line to my phone in case of emergencies. Lucinda's name came up to which my body felt happy about. "Hello, Alpha King Speaking" I keep my voice natural, even though I want to say it more happily.

"Hello, it's Alpha Lucinda. I am phoning because there is more information about the rogue situation." I groaned because I thought it was over. Carlos looks at me when I do so.

"How so, I thought we dealt with that last week. The person who was working with them is dead because of it?" I was confused, my brain was working overtime to think of what else there would be.

"Apparently, he gave his mate a note about another who is in with them. They are not finished with us yet." I think to myself, another mystery to solve in their pack.

"Have you questioned his mate about the note and isn't she pregnant?" I'm an idiot, that's the stupid question I said to her. She is an Alpha, of course, she would ask her. Wait, why am I questioning my questions and answers to her.

"Yes she is, but she has taken off. We were going to keep an eye on her and she agreed but after handing the note to Beta Oliver she disappeared. The pack is looking for her and letting packs know. Which is also the other reason to let you know."

"Thanks, keep me posted. I may come by to see what's happening."

"Okay. Thanks, Bye." She hangs up before I say bye.

I look at Carlos with a serious face on. He seems to have a calmness around him.

"What was that about?" He asks.

"Your half-brother seems to have a partner with the rogues who want to attack White Rose Pack. His mate has disappeared from the pack. Do you have any ideas about this?" A quick emotion crossed his face and before I saw it, it changed.

"No, Zaliver. I didn't have much communication with him as we were both busy with the packs." That is true but what doesn't sit well is that they were both Betas but Devon found time to communicate with rogues. I shouldn't have doubts about my own beta. "You okay, you seem to be lost in thoughts. It's not about the lovely Lucinda again. You must stop thinking about her and her pack. There is a much bigger problem with females."

"Thanks but I don't need you telling me what to think about. Just leave and work on something." He made an angry sound and roughly left the office. Just as I was going to investigate Abigail's family, the phone rang. But it was the office one. Anyone in any of the packs may phone this one if they needed to inform me of any personal information like births and deaths. I answer it, "Hello, Alpha King speaking."

"Hi, this is Jupiter from White Rose Pack." Nice name and I look into whose number is coming from, in case it is fake. I see it's from Beta Oliver's number.

"Jupiter, I see you are calling from Beta Oliver's number. Why is that?"

"Well, he wanted me to make the call since I am the brains in the room at the moment." I could hear Oliver saying some interesting words at him and then a knock at the door. "Anyway, I was looking into Abigail's family and it says she has family in the royal pack. Umm, Finley and Cora Parker. Maybe she might have come into your pack." Well, he did my job for me. In the background of the phone call, you can hear Lucinda and Oliver having a convocation about why he was calling.

"Well thanks, Jupiter, you beat me to look into her family. I will seek them out. Tell me what put me on speakerphone." He must have done it because they were clearly having a debate.

"Oliver, you know it's your job to tell him, he's not..." "Lucinda, he is learning and it's not the personal number. It's the one everyone can use. So not breaking any rules. AND it was his idea in the first place!" "Please, it's about a matter we both are a bit more involved in than him"

Jupiter cut them both off by saying, "Umm, guys, the King on speakerphone." They both cus and I suppress a laugh.

"Thank you, Jupiter. I'm guessing he is going to be your Gamma. He sounds like he knows what he is doing" I comment.

"Yeah, he is, smart ass," Lucinda says proudly.

"Well good. All I wanted to say to all three is that we will find her. I will seek her relatives here in my pack and send my trackers. Keep tabs and report any progress to me. Oliver and Jupiter, any progress you have to tell Lucinda and she will contact me directly. I want to be the first to know as I'm not always at the office phone. Got it." They respond with 'Yes your majesty'. "That's good. Goodbye." And I ended the call.

They are a strange bunch but they work well.

The rest of the afternoon went like any other. I had a report of rouges moving around packs but not attacking.

Carlos updates me on the number of deaths of female wolves. Which is still puzzling everyone. I bet it is simple and staring us in the face. I may nick Jupiter from Lucinda. I found Abigail's relatives and they were right they do live in the pack. I would go in the morning.

After dinner with my pack, I went to the office to finish work and my personal phone went off. Of course, it was Lucinda. "It seems you can't keep not wanting to speak to me today."

"Ha not funny. All of us were discussing Abigail. Well, Oliver was bickering with Jupiter with River just standing in the corner and observing. Anyway, they somehow come up with one of us properly Oliver to help see the relatives with you. This is because she is my responsibility of being in my pack and for her safety even if she is working with the rogues. What do you think?"

"I understand your concern but leave it with me." I didn't want to argue with her over the phone.

"But, please tell me if I'm overstepping, one of us may ask questions that you may not think off, seeing that she is from my pack and missing. Other alphas may not do this but I'm not them. Also, I am willing for them to stay there with you. So I can have personal contact with them so I don't disturb you."

"So you are saying that you can spy on me and see if I am doing my job."

"What, no! That's not what I'm getting at. I'm just saying that seeing as we have the

inside knowledge of what happens here. Also if Oliver sees them and explains how she acted when he spoke to Abigail before she disappeared." She sounds like she is getting cross but so am I. I process what she has said. I can see where she is right, having Oliver with me would benefit, as he was the last one to be there before she did a runner.

"Ugh fine. I'm not fighting you. I know I shouldn't give in to an Alpha request but I'll let Oliver come over. Let him be here tomorrow morning as I am going to see them. Don't be late."

"Thank you, you won't regret it." Happiness rings in her voice. That changed quickly but then I learnt, when I was with her at her pack, that she changes her mood quickly.

"We will see." I just put the phone down without a goodbye. Ugh, too many phone calls with the same pack. Why couldn't I say no to her? Doesn't matter now. I will wait for Oliver to turn up, as we are not far apart. I get on with some pack work until he arrives.

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Oliver POV

I'm glad to go to Royal Pack, as I can get away from what's been going on within the pack grounds. Just too much going on and I can't really take a break, I don't know how Lucinda does it. Talking about her, she told me all about her convocation and I find it funny that he gave into her. She nearly sent Jupiter with me but I got out with it by saying she would be left with the droopy River. So she quickly dropped it. I don't know what's going on with that boy. If River isn't training then he is eating with the pack and if not that then he is in his room. One or all of us will have to pin him down and get him to talk about why he is so moody sometimes.

I arrived at the border of the pack during the same evening, so that I would be there to question tomorrow. I was met by a pack member who questioned me. I told them that the King was expecting me. The eyes went cloudy to show they were mind linking, to which I'm guessing is the King.

It was my idea to do this. After the phone call that Jupiter was taking. I had thoughts go through me and told Lucinda of the idea of one of us being there. She said to me because well I was the one who last saw her and really the only one who wasn't needed at the pack. She was Alpha, River being moody and Jupiter is learning ropes and is new to what's going on. Well not new but new to getting the information before being told to the pack. After a few, they came round and allowed me through.

His land is like the rest, there is every kind of flower, tree and creature here. He has a palace but rather works within his pack since I'm only going into the packhouse closest to the palace. Shame really, I wanted to see what his palace is like.

Driving up to it, Carlos was waiting on the porch. He looked bored and uninterested in what's around him. I parked, got out and grabbed my stuff for at least a week. I didn't know how long I was here for. Carlos didn't say anything when I was next to him. We each have a little nod of respect but that's it. I got his clear message not to bother him, so I entered the house. It was clean and neat but wasn't expecting anything else. Our pack house is like this but only when we have visitors from other packs. It wasn't busy but I found myself asking a woman where the office is for the Alpha.

I followed the women up to the 3rd floor a few doors down on the right. I knocked on the door and heard a 'come in'. I entered and found his office with files all around him.

If this was Lucinda office, she would flip and kick everyone out until it was back in order. He noticed my presence and I bowed my head and responded immediately. "Beta Oliver, please sit. I'll tell you what to expect." So I did and took a seat in front of him. "We will have breakfast with the members of the pack who live here. We then will drive to her parent's house, which are the relatives who live here. They are not expecting us. Hopefully, it will be straight forward. Has Lucinda given you questions that would need answering."

"Yeah, she did. If what you ask is not in the list then I can ask. I would be able to take notes."

"I'm bringing someone with us. No, it's not Carlos, he has things to do. No, it's someone who works within courts here as a scribe. She also scribes for me when interrogating information in cells. She is very good. You will meet her during breakfast. Anything else?"

"No thank you. Just show where I'm sleeping while I'm here, would be fine. Just want to sleep to make sure my head is in gear." He nodded and the same women who

showed me the office came and took me down a level and then the door by the stairs were my temporary room. I arranged everything in draws and let Lucinda know I arrived safely and met with him. I didn't wait for a response and headed to the bathroom to shower before getting into bed.

Morning came round and I was up and ready to meet these parents. I met up with the King and Carlos and the three of us entered the dining hall. The King took the head of the long table with Carlos on his left and me on his right. I gathered breakfast food from the table and chatted to the man beside me, who I found was one of the Gamma's here called Peter. I continued to eat when a scent of orange and mango came into my nose. My eyes followed the sent and on the entrance to the hall was her. I just couldn't describe her, she was that wonderful.

I was brought back to life by Peter, who jabbed me in the side and had a worried look. I turned back to the table and saw Carlos staring at me with anger and the King with amusement and knowing.

This girl walks up to the top of the table where we were sitting. I positioned my eyes back on her as she moved. I wondered if she felt the same way when she walked into the dining hall. She arrived by the King's side. "Beta Oliver, this is who will accompany us this morning and who I was talking about last night. This is Lillian. Lillian, this is Beta Oliver of White Rose. I think you two will get on fine." He gave a wink and stood up. "Come now we must be going." Carlos began to stand with him. "Carlos I don't need you. Please carry on your morning duties."

He lowered back down to his seat, "Yes, Alpha."

With that, I and Lillian followed the King out of the dining hall and out into the pack. We were talking about things while getting into the car. He made sure that I and Lillian were in the back. The sneaky King.

We had a conversation about who we are. I learned that her mother was a scribe like her and her father is head of the courts. She also has an older brother by a year, who is a pack warrior and likes to be on the borders as much as possible. She was two years younger than me. So she is 40. Mates can be found in later life if they have high status because of their work. I can try to make it work. The mate bond won't be like if we met sooner. As our inner wolves have adapted to be alone. I also told her about me that I reminded Gamma even when my family had died. They died not long after the big rouge attack.

With the convocation, we both didn't notice that we had arrived at the house on the far side of the Royal pack. I couldn't tell what way because I got distracted. It was time to hopefully get answers.

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Zaliver POV

With them talking in the back, I drove to the house quicker which I have nobody to talk to. I don't mind because it gets me to places quicker. Who would have thought that Lillian would be mated to a Beta? But I have seen worse mate pairing. But I am sad about it because I would be losing a brilliant scribe but Lucinda would gain a brilliant Beta female.

We arrived at Abigail's parents house pretty quickly and had to drag the two with me. I walk in front, so they would see their Alpha first so they don't freak out. I walked to their front door and gave it three knocks. It was answered almost immediately by Abigail's mother, Cora. "Alpha, this is a surprise. What can I help you with?" She asked with a raised brow.

"Cora, I am here with Beta Oliver of White Rose and my scribe Lillian. We would like to ask you and your mate a few questions. So would you let us inside?"

"Of course, but why?" She has a puzzled look. She moved to the side and allowed us to enter. As we are all inside she shuts the door behind us.

"Everything will be explained. Is your mate at home and if so can you call him. So we can explain it to both of you." Oliver ensures her. She nods and calls for Finley, Abigail's father. As she does she shows us the living room. I took a single chair. Oliver and Lillian took a loveseat near me. That's just left the 4 seaters for the parents. Cora was getting nervous while waiting for Finley.

Finley arrived with a tray of drinks and food and set it in the middle of the table.

"Alpha King, what is the purpose of this visit?"

"Well, it has come to my attention that your daughter, Abigail, may be conversing with rogues. It comes to this as her mate, the ex beta of White Rose Devon, had left her a note. This was about another partner who works with the rogues. We think it's your daughter."

The shock was written in Cora face of what I said to them. "No, our girl wouldn't do that. She is smart enough to know not to converse with them."

"Well, she wouldn't be a suspect if she hasn't disappeared from my pack," Oliver says. "She gave the note from Devon to me and when Alpha Lucinda had asked me to get her to ask about it, she had gone. Search parties were sent over the pack and nobody has seen or heard. Plus her mind link is shut off. We were wondering if either of you can be in contact with her. We just want to ask her questions. Lucinda is worried about her safety." Oliver was trying to get across his point and explains what has happened at the pack.

"Cora why don't you try to phone her. She might answer you." Finley suggested. Cora nodded and whipped her phone out. I took a drink from the tray for me and Lillian, who was typing away on her pad of what's been said. She smiles and mouthed thank you. Oliver gave me evil eyes but I shrugged it off.

"So Finley, when was the last time you spoke to Abigail?" Oliver asks.

"I personally last spoke to her is when she announced her mate was going to be killed by your Alpha. She sounded heart-broken. We both know that she hasn't killed herself as we would have felt the loss."

"I understand that, so would Alpha Lucinda. When she-wolves die from the mysterious thing that's been going around. She feels it even if she doesn't like to

admit it. As she is missing from our pack, where do you think she would go?" That's a good question from Oliver.

"I really don't know. I and Cora aren't from White Rose and haven't really travelled to the pack in a long time. I think the last time was for the funeral of Alpha and Luna. As we wanted to support our daughter who was supporting her Mate and soon to be Alpha." By now, Cora has entered the room. "Any luck my dear?"

"She did pick up and when I told her it's mum. She hung up and hasn't picked up when I tried again 5 more times." She had a sad look on and took the seat with her mate where he wrapped his arms around her.

"Can we use your phone for the location of where she took the call from?" I asked her and she said yes. So I took her phone and used my knowledge to find her location. While I was doing that, Oliver kept asking things about her life. I tried to locate her but it seems the number was disconnected. So she must have smashed it. I gave the phone back to Cora. "I'm sorry but it seems she has got rid of her phone." Cora took the phone and tears ran down her face.

All of a sudden, Oliver's phone rang. "Give me a second." He answered it. "Hello, hey calm down. What's happening? Where's River and Jupiter?" I snapped my head to look at him and he is looking worried. "What do you mean you can't find River? Is Jupiter with you? Well, that's okay then" That doesn't sound good. "What can I do Lucinda, I'm not there. Yes I know I'm Beta but okay Okay. I'll leave now. Should I bring, Okay? Bye." He throws his phone but luckily it didn't break. Cora gave it back to him. "I'm going to have to cut my time short, rogues have entered the pack and there are lots of them." He turns to me. "Can we borrow some warriors?"

"Please take what you need, I'll have Peter get them ready for you. Just go." That's what he does. He races out the door and I mind link Peter to get warriors ready to go to White Rose with Oliver. Lillian looks at me, "He will be back for you, don't worry.

Now, Cora and Finley if there is nothing else that we need answers for, I think we are done here. If she does get back in touch or turns up. You must tell me right away and don't let her get away. Come on Lillian, we must see what's going on."

We left the house and got back in the car to the packhouse. Carlos was waiting for me at the entrance. "What's going on, how come Peter has to get our warriors ready and for that Beta to take them away."

"I allowed it, Carlos, White Rose is under attack by rogues and her Delta is MIA. But that's all I know. We are both going to go, this rogue attack has to be linked to Abigail."

"I don't see why it involves us." Carlos says, folding his arms in front of him.

"You know I want to see through this situation with rogues. And also our packs are allies and they take our own warriors there to be trained." I paused, this what a Beta questions your actions. "Don't start to question my actions Beta. You know what happened when another Beta did that to their Alpha."

"Yes, of course. I'm sorry. I'll bring a car around." He bows and leaves. Lillian grabbed my arm and tugged it to get her attention.

"Please, may I go with you. I'm worried about Oliver." She used her puppy eyes and begged me but that doesn't work.

"No, Oliver would want you to stay here and be safe. You heard him. When I come back, he may come back with me." A black SUV was back in front of the house. "I want you to go through the information and put it through my files. You know where and make a report on it. And stay in the pack. I know I'm King but an angry mate is not what I'm going to die from." She nodded and got into the back seat and told me to drive. I think of why the rogues attack the pack without the Beta being there and how

would they know the pack was missing a Beta?

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Lucinda POV

It wasn't even 2 hours when Oliver left the pack when the first sighting of a group of rogues on the edge of the territory. I tripled the warriors on all sides and patrols were made within the pack. I also alerted the pack to be on guard throughout the night, in case they attack during the night. River made sure the patrols were set and he went to the borders to keep an eye on the rogues. The rogues haven't attacked us yet but there is a chance they will. How did they know my Beta isn't here?

I tried to get River to stay closer to the packhouse and send Jupiter in his place during the night but he wasn't having it. I wasn't able to argue with him. Yes, I could have commanded him but I knew he would be pissed. So that's where he stayed all night.

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By the morning, they had grown in numbers but still not attacked. I have asked all the packs around me to see if they would help. But unfortunately, they had their own troubles. River came back with a group from the night watch. They say that the rogues just watch them like we are their prey before they strike us. I told the pack to go to the safety bunkers if they were not going to fight, which was mostly children, elders, pregnant women and a few men that were going to watch over them.

After breakfast with the pack in the bunkers, River went back out to the borders. I also sent Jupiter with him. There is only so much I can take with that boy and I need to be alone.

I sat in my office and let my thoughts take over. I think of how much has changed,

grown and developed. I think back to when the Alpha Zaliver was here. Those little sparks and calmness he sends. I've read about mates but he hasn't given off smell but maybe I'm just not finding it clearly. If it is true and Zaliver is my mate, I would become Queen. I would definitely give the pack over to Oliver. He would be a great leader, maybe I should just do that. I was brought out of my own little world with a mind link from Jupiter. "Rogues are attacking here in the North. River sent me here and he is still in the Eastside."

A thought struck me and I sent a whole pack link, "Why hasn't the alarm been set off when we are under attack?"

Nobody responded. Really strange, but they properly are defending the pack. So, I set off the alarm from my office. I was about to head out when my office door bangs open to which Jupiter was standing there. "The North rogues are all gone and so is the West, that I am told by one of the warriors on the way here. I tried to get to River but he wasn't responding. When I asked about him, the warriors at the Eastside say they can't find him."

"What do you mean they can't find him. He's their damn Delta."

"I don't know. Maybe we should get Oliver back. Warriors are fighting in the East where most were. I sent those who were fine in the South, West and North to the East but some stayed behind as you know."

"Thanks, Jupiter. I'm going to..." Then a loud growl comes from outside the packhouse. Jupiter ran out of the office and picked up the phone. I call Oliver to say the situation the pack is in. Seconds he picked up. I hurried my words and thank Goddess he is bringing backup from the Royal pack.

I rushed out of my office, jumped down the stairs and I found the door hanging off but no Jupiter. Something is off. I walked out of the packhouse and down the steps

when a growl sounded close by. "Who's there?" It growled again. I let my own growl out now more powerful than the other one. "Who the hell is there and why are you on my land." I let my senses full-on and got ready in case of an attack on me.

"Lucinda!" Someone cried out to which sounded like Jupiter. It was towards the East. So that's where I headed with all my senses still at a high. There was nobody around nor any sighting of a fight. Which was good because my warriors are holding up at the borders. I reach the tree line and I pick up Jupiter scent. But it didn't lead me anywhere except where I stood. "Jupiter, where are you?" I mind linking him but there was nothing. I try Oliver. "Ollie, what's your status?" He must be close because I can use mind links at him.

"I'm at our east side of the pack. I have Royal warriors with me. What about you?"

"River was meant to be there at the east, keep an eye out and Jupiter has disappeared from the tree line to the east of the packhouse. There is nothing around me. Oliver, what if it's a trap?"

"Damn, you need to run, Alpha. Come towards us, please." I started to run from where I was towards the fighting. As I ran, I felt that I was being followed. But as the running goes, I missed my footing and tripped over. I didn't land face-first to the ground, I did a little rollover. I quickly stood up and got into an attacking stance. I felt pressure in my mind but I couldn't get distracted. I move in a circle to keep my options open and the feeling of someone else here was still at a high.

"Whoever you are, come out. You are trespassing on my land!" I commanded who was listening. Even if they are rogues they will listen to an Alpha command. A laugh comes out of the trees to which a shadow appears to advance forward.

"My, my, haven't you grown into a fine Alpha. Mummy and Daddy would be proud if they were here. Oh, but they are not because I killed them." That voice, I know its



voice.

"Just come out, I'm not in the mood for chit chat." Growling and making sure I am sending off powerful vibes. In the distance, there were more wolves coming towards me.

"Oh impatient, are we." The shadow of the person moves more into my view. There stood a man, with messy hair and what looked like various scratch marks. He had his arms crossed and stood tall. "You really need to train your pack better, rogues like to get through your defence rather quickly. But then, you do choose the wrong people to stand by you." What the hell does he mean and how do I recognise him from the past?

"What do you mean? I trust those who are close to me and they stood by me when Devon was out of the picture." I still stood there, in my attack position. In case he changes his mind and just attacks me. The wolves I saw have stopped near trees and watched what's going on. I would mind link someone but that I would lose concentration on the man in front of me.

"Ah but, remember. He was part of the picture to what's happening. You know there are others who play their part. But I am sad that you don't recognise me, but it has been 9 years since your lovely father decided I'm no good for the pack." Father didn't banish our wolves from the pack because he knows that bad deeds can be rectified by hard work. Nevertheless, he only did it once in my time. Thinking about who it was but then it clicked into place.

"It can't be you. We are the same age and what you did wasn't that bad. Was it?" He just laughed.

After he had laughed at this, he regained his posture and said, "You have no idea. Lucinda. What did your father say to you?" I thought back to when this supposed

person was banished.

"He said that the reason why you supposedly banished was that you were purposely trying to kill someone in the pack. He couldn't risk it and he never said who." I was confused as to why this had to do with the present.

"Ha, I see you are confused. That person was going to be your father and then you." My breath left me and stood frozen in shock. Me. He was going to kill me. "Bloody Oliver had to see me, didn't he. I deserved to be Alpha, not you. When I turned rogue, I became friendly with a large group. I told of the plan to get rid of the Alpha family. Devon got a whiff of this and wanted in plus so did another person he thought of. That attack didn't go as planned, as you know. You lived and I had lost lots of rogues. I had to wait all this time to get a big enough group to get back. Now that you are here in front of me, I have the chance to get what I want from all those years ago."

"Wait. Your name is Harrison?" A smile was plastered on his face. "We were close friends and treated like family when your father couldn't look after you when your mother died shortly after childbirth. I could have chosen you to be my Beta and demoted Devon. We could have been a great team. Who is working with you and where the hell are my friends? Or more importantly, why attack when my Beta isn't here?"

"You finally figure out who I am. We could have been but I didn't want to answer to a female Alpha. To answer your other questions, wait I'm not. Ha, where's the fun if I tell you the answers." With that, he pounced.

*Source Creation Date: July 26, 2025, 5:24 am*

### Oliver POV

When I reached the Eastern border of my pack, there was lots of death and wolves fighting. I couldn't see River nor Jupiter. I used the pack link to keep an eye out for either of them. The Royal warriors went straight into battle to help my pack.

The mind link with Lucinda was making me pace, she shouldn't have been on her own. Jupiter should be with her because River wouldn't stay behind. I'm not saying she's weak without us but she would be more prone to a surprise attack and with one of us there with her, would be able to support.

I stayed in my human form and used my strength to kill rogues. Grabbing one by one by the necks and giving them a twist until the sound of a crack. It can be satisfying because you can take all the stress out on them. I keep an eye out for Lucinda, who should be coming out from the treeline but I don't. Near the trees that would go towards the packhouse, I see a group of rogues slip away in that direction. I headed towards that way and while doing so I tired Jupiter mind link.

"Jupiter, can you hear me." I mind linked him and I stood by the trees, away from the battle.

A weak voice came into my head, "Oliver, Alpha, trouble, Harrison and Abigail dead." Damn.

"Is River with you?" I linked back and weak and barely audible no was sent back. I tried to send something else to him but it seemed his link was blocked. He must be captured and being drugged by silver or wolfbane.

I ran a hand through my hair thinking what to do. A wolf caught my eye, it was the largest black wolf out of everyone on the field. I realised it was Zaliver. He must have sensed my gaze on him because he came bounding over and taking out some rogues with him. He quickly shifted, not caring about his nudity. "You got here quick"

"Yeah, got a problem with that?" I shook my head, "That's what I thought. Where is everyone?"

"Right; River still not found or been seen, Jupiter seems to be captured, Lucinda hasn't appeared here and according to Jupiter, Abigail is dead. Oh and also there is the rogue Harrison here on this land."

"Where should she come from?" I just pointed to the trees and he jumped, shifted and ran off. I mind linking everyone to just kill the rogues and secure the area then head back to the main part of the pack. I shifted and ran after him. He was definitely quicker than Lucinda but then he is a King.

When I finally caught up to him. He was shifted and in boxer shorts looking on. I shifted back and got handed shorts for myself. What I saw was my Alpha fighting a wolf I never wanted to see again. Harrison. He got her trapped and it was my fault because I told her to come this way.

On the other side of this fight was a group of rogues who at any time may join into the fight. I see Zaliver also caught the sight of the group. Maybe we can take them out and get one of them to talk about where the hell is River and Jupiter. When that thought passed me I was going to say something but I found that he is already gone to stalk them in wolf form. So I followed his lead.

Nearing the group, there were 6 or 7 of them. Zaliver pounced on one and ripped his head off. I took my own with the twist of its neck and blood covering my snout. I felt two pounce on me but they were no match for me. I shook them both off and whipped

to my right with my mouth wrapped around his neck. Then using my strength to pick it up and quickly used the rogue to knock the other one over. In doing so, the neck snapped and I was able to get to the other one and hold him down. I would use this one to question. While doing this, Zaliver took out the other 3 that made him take out 4 overall. Around both of us were dead and bloody wolf bodies. We didn't care.

Zaliver saw me with one that he shifted, put on some boxers and used his command for the rogue to shift. It made me also shift back while waiting for him to shift, I got shorts for me and the rogue. I had a peak to the other fight. It was still ongoing, wounds on both parties but luckily Harrison got some bad ones. But that's what I can see from where I was.

I arrived back with Zaliver to see him pinning the rogue to a tree. I tap his shoulder and he looks at my hands. He loosens his grip and allows the rogue to put on the shorts. I stand next to Zaliver as we both stand in front of him. I speak first, "What are you doing here rogue, on my Alpha's land?"

"We just followed orders from the leader. We were told if we attack this pack, we would be able to belong to a pack again when he takes over as Alpha."

"Who?" Zaliver asks.

"The rogue leader Harrison. The one fighting over there with the lady Alpha." I already know that but I can't tell him that I know.

"Did he say he was fighting for the Alpha position?" It was critical because if they were then it can't be interrupted, if not then we can intervene.

"No. Harrison told us not to get in his way. We were here to make sure nobody gets involved." I look to Zaliver and he looks back at me.

"Why don't you short them out? I want to ask another question," I consulted Zaliver and he was gone without a reply. "What's your name?"

"Michual, I'm guessing you're a Beta. Since you have power coming from you?" Bowing his head in respect. Not many rogues would do that.

"Yes, I'm Beta Oliver of this pack which is White Rose. Do you have any idea of where our Delta and Gamma is? Their names are River and Jupiter."

"All I know is that one of them is near a large building at the pack centre. We used its smell to make the female come this way towards this spot. The other one, I don't really know. I think he was giving orders out to us but don't count my word. You may want to keep Harrison alive. He has the answers. Or even Earl, who I think is with the wolf at the large building." Mind linking warriors to find Jupiter at the packhouse and to keep the rogues with him alive.

I came out of the mind link and a whimper was heard. I grabbed Michual's arm and dragged him towards the sound. It leads to a fight between Lucinda and Harrison. There were no more wolves fighting and I feel that the whimper came from my injured Alpha.

### Lucinda POV

When Harrison jumped me, my claws automatically enlarged. I swiped him but missed by an inch. He went on the floor on all fours and shifted. While his bones clicked into a wolf shape, I ran behind a tree, took my own clothes off and shifted into my own wolf.

I came out in my black wolf to his horrible rusty brown colour. We circled each other waiting for either one to make the first move. I never made the first move because it would make me vulnerable. We both growl, show our teeth and give each other the evils. I have heard about Harrison doings and him leading the rogues on that fatal day. How could my ex-friend hurt me like this but then again he did try to kill my family before he became rogue. The other main question is that, how has he convinced someone to betray the pack? I know why Devon but someone else.

He must have got tired of just circling when he made the first move towards my neck. Before he got too close I moved out of the way and used my teeth to grab hold of one of his back legs. I moved back so he would be on the floor. He was wriggling his leg in my teeth and managed to get free of my hold. He quickly turned and pinned me down. I used my strength to push him off me. This is how it went. Backwards and forwards of getting bitten, scratched or pinned down. We both knew the weakness and how to cover those areas since we both were trained together back in the day.

What felt like an hour it was about 10 minutes when I felt a strong presence. I would have really wanted to think about it but I didn't want to lose my concentration. I had been injured but nothing that quick healing wouldn't solve, I hoped. The strong presence and a familiar smell seem to move away towards the group of rogues that

came with Harrison. How I know this, you can hear more fighting close by. I think it must be Oliver because I don't know where the other 2 were?

I was getting annoyed because he knows my moves and I knew his. He had me pinned down again and I was starting to struggle to get him off me. I was scratching his back legs by using my own since his front are pinning my front legs at the joint. I use my face to snap at him to see if I can get any marks on him that I haven't got him already. My Alpha strength shouldn't be running low, I usually can fight a group of 5 and take them on easy. I will have to ask my doctor about this. He kept trying to get to my neck to snap it but when he does I quickly move it away. It was like I was shaking my head no.

While laying on my back, I couldn't hear the background fight going on. So that was done but then a few moments later, the strong presence was back again. It wasn't long before Harrison's body was released from me. It took me a few seconds to register before getting up. What I saw was a larger black wolf who had pinned down Harrison. I was standing up but then let out a big whimper and flopped back down again. This is not good because an Alpha shouldn't show weakness to another powerful wolf. The weakness was starting to eat me, so all my body could think was to shut down, sleep and heal. And that's what it did. All the light I saw dimmed very rapidly and I was left in darkness within my own mind.

## Zaliver POV

I had this Harrison boy under me but I was paying attention to Lucinda. When she went down I wanted to rush to her but I didn't want this boy to escape. Luckily Oliver was near and rushed to her followed by the rogue, who was kept alive for questioning. Using my King power, I forced a mind link with Harrison. "Harrison, I command you to not run away when I let go of you. You will shift immediately".

His wolf submitted to me easily because when I lifted my paw, he shifted and was



handed shots from the rogue who was kept alive. I quickly shifted, put on the shorts that were given to me and wrapped my hands around his upper arms until warriors came by, as I would suspect Oliver would of shouted for them when she went down. While waiting, Harrison had the guts to try to get into my head. "You call yourself a King, ha. It is so simple to save your she-wolves from dying. But why would I say, it's fun."

"Tell me now, Harrison. I need to know!" He chuckled and shook his head.

"Like I said. It is fun this way and it will be our secret till death does us part." He smirks. "Also I really enjoyed my fight with my old friend. Shame you had to ruin it, I could have killed her and became the Alpha of this pack. Ah well, she may still die now or someone to do it next time?" I was about to lose my cool, what did he mean by maybe next time or even why she would die? Before I could ask, help arrived.

Four warriors took Harrison from me and headed to the pack cells for questioning. Oliver had handed Lucinda off to a warrior and run off to the infirmary. I look at Oliver but he just grabs the rogue and runs towards the packhouse. I ran after them because I wanted to know what they were talking about when I went to interfere with the fight. Running through the woods, linked my warriors who came with Oliver to make sure the fight is over with the rogues and to help clean up. Then I thought about Lucinda, she just tired properly and she had got injured. But the thought of her dying had fear running through me.

When I arrived at the edge of the clearing, I could hear snarls of wolves. I headed to the side of the packhouse. I saw the situation in front of me was that there was a standoff between Oliver and the group of rogues with a hostage.

### Oliver POV

I grabbed Michual and we both sprinted to the packhouse. I had mind linked warriors to meet us there. I hoped River and Jupiter were both there being held, if not then I don't know what to do?

I arrived at the side of the packhouse and the warriors were waiting for me. I trusted Michual to stay with me because he could help me to convince them to hand them over. Walking closer, there were 5 rogues with a hostage. There was only one, so it could be either one. I growled to get their attention. The leader of the group gave one back. "Who you have hostage, hand them over?" My beta voice is leaking through my words. He laughed at my questions.

"Nah, I don't take orders from members of the opposite pack. Our leader will win the fight and we can kill this puppy." He looks to Michual. "Michual, you should be with our leader. Why are you here but also standing with the enemy?"

Michual spoke, "Earl, Harrison has been defeated. I saw with my own eyes, the female was taken to be treated. I suggest we leave. Also, the King is here!" The leader, who is called Earl, snarled at Michual. I snarled back.

Then a loud growl came from behind us. "Let the wolf go, otherwise, you will be killed." A loud voice of a King sounded. I didn't dare to turn but I knew he would be beside me in seconds. The rogues didn't move. As I said, he was beside me in seconds after he said that. "I won't ask again, let the wolf go. Your leader is not coming for you."

I mind linked warriors to go behind them and on command, they will pounce. "Earl or whatever your name is, what do you gain from this?" I ask because if there is a motive behind this then we can use it.

"Well, we were going to have new land to roam. Harrison as our leader and me as his right-hand man. But that isn't going to happen now. May as well kill this wolf and be on our way." Earl says but even before he finishes the sentence, the King sprinted forward towards them. My warriors notice this and tackle them from behind. I ran forward for my goal was to rescue who they were going to kill. My warriors were taking care of the rogues around Earl whereas the King was having a scrap with him. The rogues were killed in a quick time and they were cleaning up.

I had the hostage in my hands and they squirming around in my hold. I took hold of the bag, that was covering their head. I yank it off to find the person under it. "Jupiter," I say in relief. He looks a bit beaten up and he has silver handcuffs around his wrists. Which is why the connection for him is so weak and non-existing.

"Oliver", He breathed out, while I broke off the silver handcuffs, which caused a bit of pain, "Where is everyone?" He coughed.

"Let's get you to the hospital." I helped him to the hospital building, which was a 2-minute walk. I tell him what's been happening. "Lucinda should be in the hospital getting checked and resting. River still hasn't been found. Harrison is in the cells and looks like his right-hand man Earl is joining him." He just nodded and reached the Hospital. There was a nurse at the reception, she bowed and said 'Beta and Gamma'. They led us to a room and wandered off to get a doctor.

A few moments later, a doctor walks in and bows. "Beta, Gamma, I am Dr Lawson. How can I help you?"

"Hi Doc, Jupiter needs a check-up to see if he is healthy. He has been held hostage by

a group of rogues."

"Of course." He says and gets straight to work. He checked on his heart, took blood and gave a physical examination. He went out with the blood and 5 minutes later he was back. "I see the gamma hasn't got anything wrong. As you may know, the silver may have weakened the wolf. So, he will need to rest. The cuts and bruises will fade while the wolf becomes strong again. Apart from that, he is free to go."

"Thanks, doc but do you know how Alpha Lucinda is?" Jupiter asks as I told him she would be here. I think he feels guilty for leaving her in her office to go to the borders. The doctor looked at us and gestured us to follow. So we did. A few doors down and he opened up the door and allowed us to step in first.

There on the bed was Lucinda, shifted back into her human form, with a drip in, eyes closed and the steady rise and fall of her chest. "The drip is to keep her comfortable. The fight she was in, pretty used up her energy. This shouldn't have happened, Alpha should be strong. Her cuts and bruises are slowly healing but she should be awake." We both stared at the doctor.

Jupiter asked the question that we both wanted to come quickly. "Do you know when she will wake up?"

The doctor shook his head. "I have a team working why she is like this but I haven't got any idea. I'm sorry Gamma." He took his leave.

"What are we going to do Oliver? Our Alpha is in a sleeping state, River is still missing, Abigail body hasn't been found and we have 2 prisoners to interrogate. Plus an Alpha King on the territory." Jupiter, asked while I rubbed my hands up and down my face. The pack is my responsibility right now, as I'm second in charge if the Alpha is unavailable.

"Round up all the pack, they should be back from the fighting or come up from the bunkers. We will have to tell them. Send the Alpha king my way, I don't want him doing anything without my knowledge. Okay, Jupiter?" He nodded and left the room. I looked at Lucinda. She looks peaceful. I took a chair beside her and took her hand into mine. "You are going to be okay. We need you but I will hold the pack together for you. I will find River and bring him home." I raised both of our hands to my forehead and prayed to the moon goddess.

I didn't hear the door open and in walked the Alpha King. "How is she?" I looked at him. You wouldn't figure he had a fight with Earl.

"She still hasn't woken up from when she blacked out. The doctors don't know when she is going to. I guess Jupiter told you that he is rounding the pack up." He nodded, "Is Earl in the cells?"

"Yeah, he is. There are lots of warriors down there and I sent a few of mine with them. Harrison and Earl's cells are a few apart from each other. They can't see each other but they do know they are both down there." I got up from the chair and took one last look at her and turned my attention to the King.

"Let's go. I need to tell the pack what's happening. Can you be present, so that the pack thinks they are safe because having two high ranking wolves, may not think the pack is not safe." He said yes, so we both left the hospital room and went to the pack's stage in the yard of the packhouse.

## Page 21

*Source Creation Date: July 26, 2025, 5:25 am*

### Zaliver POV

Seeing Lucinda in that bed has upset my wolf, to which he has been on and on about wanting to get his revenge on the rogue, Harrison, for hurting her. I had to calm him down because we need him alive to answer questions about who, what, how and why he knows about the she-wolves.

Following Oliver to the stage of where I have been for the beheading of Devon and the rise of Gamma Oliver to Beta role. There was the whole pack and I noticed my own warriors standing near the front rows. The stage looked and felt empty without all the necessary people on it. Oliver took to the centre of the stage and ordered the pack to be silent.

"Welcome to this short noticed pack meeting but with recent events, I feel you need to be informed of what's been happening. The pack had rogues on the premises and they wanted to take over our pack. Their leader, who we have captured, had the decency to attack Alpha Lucinda. So our dear Alpha is in the pack hospital overcoming the attack. The leader was an ex-member of this very pack, Harrison. There is no need to feel threatened now, he is in the cells with the very best warriors looking out for him." Oliver took a breath and looked at Jupiter. Jupiter gave him the thumbs up. Oliver looked back onto the pack.

"Those who have already noticed, we are missing one other member of our pack. Delta River has not been counted for when he was at the borders. We feel that he was taken away from the fight or whatever plan they had going on. Until I and Gamma Jupiter have beaten the answers out of Harrison, we don't know where he would be. I would like all of you to be on guard and if anything is out of the ordinary, tell one of

us. We are sending our trackers and more warriors will be posted at the borders of our territory. Any questions?" When nobody spoke up, Oliver spoke: "You are all dismissed."

Everyone left to go back to what they were doing and Oliver turned to me. "Shall, we go and beat some people?" He had a half-smile on his face.

I had the same half-smile on my own face. "Lead the way, Beta." He jumped from the stage with me and Jupiter in tow. The cells where they are being held are in the main packhouse. Down the steps to the smell of blood and death. I don't mind it because I have been in enough cells to last me a lifetime. I see that Oliver wasn't kidding that he had lots of guards down here. There weren't that many when I left to see him at the hospital. The cells we walk past are all empty.

About 3 cells from the end, there were a large number of warriors, with a few of mine. All 3 of us gathered in front of the cell. Chained to the wall with silver shackles and all beaten up was Harrison. I know Earl is in the end cell because of that where the next largest group was standing. "Well, well, look at what the dogs dropped by. It is the 3 sorry men of this place. The tale-tale beta, smart ass Gamma and the lousy King." Harrison says with his head down low but making his voice loud and clear.

"Watch your place, rogue." Oliver says in a low and threatening voice, turn to the nearest warrior, "Open the door." That is what the warrior did and in went the 3 of us. We didn't want to move him to the interrogation room, as you know he may try something. "What brings you back here?" Oliver starts. Harrison looks up.

"Well, can't a friend stop by and say hello. Or to pay my respects to the fallen Luna and Alpha of this pack."

"Cut the bull, answer the damn question truthfully?" Shouted Jupiter. He can be a serious person when needed.

"I apologise, I'm guessing you took Oliver's job since poor Devon can't be here to play the role of Beta. I wonder about this land because I just wanted to finish what I started all the years ago. But certain people get in the way and I am looking at them right now!" The 3 of us growled at him. "Ouch, I touched a touchy subject. Devon wanted revenge on the pack like me but his partnership was disappointing. Getting sussed out, not my type of person. You do know, there is one more person, who likes to help someone like me."

"Who and don't go round the dam bushes and straightforwardly tell us!" I sat, my patience running thin.

"Ugh, somebody needs a chill pill but I'll give you two people names and you can guess who it is. It can be either, Carlos or River. That's all I'm saying. Good luck, Haha." He smirked because it was all a game for him. I looked at Oliver and he was just staring at him whereas Jupiter was itching to get out of the cell.

"Hey Oliver," He turned to me and I smirked at him, "I'm going to the other cell with Jupiter. Why don't you do what you promised the pack." A smile plastered on his face. So I took Jupiter by the arm and exited out of the cell. Walked to the cell that contained Earl. I heard a bone crack from Harrison, so Oliver is going all hell on him.

I asked Jupiter if he would like to come in the cell with me but he didn't. I don't blame him, he was held prisoner by this wolf. A Warrior opened the cell door and like Harrison, he sat on the floor with a silver chain on his wrists. He didn't start the convocation like his leader Harrison did, so I started with, "Earl, why the hell did you hold the Gamma hostage?"

"I didn't know he was the gamma at the time of the capture but he was an easy catch. He ran from the packhouse and we were there. Left a trail for the lady to follow and the rest is history." He responds without looking up in a dry voice.



"Okay, What do you know about the pregnant girl?" I ask because the body hasn't been found and Harrison wouldn't know because he was busy with Lucinda.

"She didn't last long. When her mum called, we were already at the pack waiting for the time to strike. Harrison left me in charge of her and if anything happened just get rid of her. When the Warriors came to the clearing, I gave her to another rogue and left to go do my part of the plan. They must have killed her before the warriors could question her."

"The Delta River?"

"He was dragged away apparently. I know nothing of that sort of knowledge." So it can't be River because why would he be dragged away. Unless it was an act. Ugh, so confusing.

"Why are you not refusing to answer the questions" Usually rogues are hard to get information out of.

"There is nothing left for me now. Us rogues will die eventually by the pack alpha when caught. I know my time is up. I may as well be useful for the last time."

"If you're going to be useful, a rogue said you or Harrison know how to help she-wolves from dying during the birth of the pups."

"Indeed. It's me who you would need to speak to. There is a cure that is being developed within the camps because of the rogue female like your own wolves are dying. It's been used a few times and it has been successful. There is a cell in every female that will fight the pup in birth. When this happens all energy will go to the fighting point. It makes births more difficult. When the pups are delivered in a normal way or the c-section, the cell is still active because it hasn't registered that the things it has been fighting have gone. So it carries on, destroying good cells and attacking

anything good in the body. It can be quick to spread, so the body shuts down quickly."

"But those in higher ranks have more of a chance to survive, why?"

"They have faster healing than those of lower ranks. But it still has the risk of not pulling through. But I haven't been able to test this out because all rogues are from lower ranks of the packs."

"I see. This pack was going to use Abigail to see what will happen with her because of her Beta blood. Lastly, I want to know if the cell can attack the body without a pup being in the body?"

## Page 22

*Source Creation Date: July 26, 2025, 5:25 am*

Lucinda POV

My body felt stiff and the smell of cleanliness confirmed that I was in the pack hospital. I wondered who brought me here. OMG! Harrison, I hope that black wolf got him. I tried to open my eyes but they felt heavy. I used what strength I had in my body to lift them up but sadly they didn't. My body must have really shut down after Harrison attacked me.

Instead of using my energy to open my eyes, I will have to use my ears to listen in on conversations. I could hear a conversation in the room which sounds like it was between the doctor and others. I think it's Oliver and oh thank goddess, it's Jupiter. I wonder where River is?

I'm just in a sleeping state, according to the doctor. Well, that's good but they know why I am this way. The sound of the door closing, I feel that my Beta and Gamma are in the room now. They talk about what they were going to do while I'm in this state.

But wait, what was that about Abigail's body not being found. She's dead? Well, that being the suspect of being involved with everything. Unless it's a decoy to throw us off who it really is the other partner.

I feel my hand being lifted and I only feel one person in the room. Damn, I should be listening to the outside world. I listen to the words being spoken to me, "You are going to be okay. We need you but I will hold the pack together for you. I will find River and bring him home." Aww, Oliver. I just wanted to give him a hug, he sounded so vulnerable. He really does care for me and the pack. I do really wish that I made him Beta sooner. But then again, I do want to step down. After these years of

leading, I feel that a new Alpha is needed.

A strong presence surrounded the room and I knew it was Zaliver. They talk about how I was doing. Then where they put Harrison and the other person called Earl. I wonder who he is. He must be important to this whole thing because he would have been killed. Finally, Oliver asked for Zaliver to be at the meeting. I'm guessing he agrees because other people were gone. With nothing left to hear, I let myself drift back into darkness.

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What felt like forever but must have been a few hours later, voices were filled in the room. It sounded like it was Oliver and Zaliver. I'm guessing Jupiter is looking out for the pack or resting considering he was MIA before I blacked out. But going back to the convocation in the room, it sounded serious.

"Look we got it handled now, why don't you go back to your pack. She is going to be fine."

"Look, Oliver, she may be fine now but what I told you about Earl said to me. There is a chance that it is happening to her."

"You are going to trust this rogue, that held my friend and this pack Gamma as a hostage."

"He dies either way. He wanted to be helpful in his moment before his death. I'm not going back on my word. Also, when are you concerned about the rogue, you trusted a rogue before, Michual." I hear a sigh.

"Why the hell are we here then?"

"What you don't want to visit your Alpha. Plus I wanted to speak to the doctor about the cure that the rogue spoke about." A phone was going off and Zaliver must have answered it. "Hello, yes he is here. Lillian, I will have him send his number to you. Why did you call, Carlos hasn't returned? I sent him back. Okay okay. Get people to track and find him. Bye."

"Why did Lillian speak to you?" Why does my Beta want to know why a girl called Zaliver?

"Well, she wants your number. But to tell me about Carlos. He drove me here and then I sent him back because I needed him to look after my pack. But according to her, he didn't return. I'm worried like her that he is the partner because River was dragged away."

"Okay, give me her number later then." I blocked out the rest of their conversation because it's making my headache.

So what I took from what they were saying is that a rogue told them of the cure for dying she-wolves, now there is a risk that the cell is using my energy. Also that my Delta was taken away and Carlos is the possible partner for Harrison's gang. I did have a hunch that he might have been because of the way he looked at me. Lastly, Oliver has a possible mate with this Lillian girl. The way he sounded when she called Zaliver. I bet his face was priceless.

During my little reflection time, a small pressure entered me and quickly retracted. I felt liquid going all around my body. It was a weird feeling, considering I'm in my own head with nothing else to do. This makes my body feel more tired than it already does. Maybe they feel I'm in pain but I'm not.

I realised something, I haven't connected to my wolf. So I called for her. But sadly no response. I feel it was two things, she is healing me. So she doesn't want to connect

with me right now. Or the worst of the two is that I'm too weak, she has disappeared from me and I currently wolf less. But I feel I'm just overreacting to what's happening. My wolf will come back to me when she is ready.

I connected myself back to what's around me but I'm dismayed, there was nobody having a conversation. But I did hear faint snores next to me. Then I realise that one of my hands is within another person's hands. With this, I let myself drift off back into the darkness with my thoughts swimming around me.

Source Creation Date: July 26, 2025, 5:25 am

Zaliver POV

I allowed Earl to go with a bunch of warriors and the Michual rogue to go back where he is making the cure for this destructive cell. I did tell him if he saw River that he should either bring him back or get us the location for the pack to attack.

Oliver was not happy with this because he is the leader of the pack at the moment and all rogues in the cell are his to control. But he needs to remember that I am his King and I don't need permission to do anything. But sometimes I feel that I'm not a good enough King because I don't act like a King when around this pack. I feel that I know why a certain female Alpha.

I dragged Oliver to see Lucinda because I wanted him to be present when I told the doctor of the cure that Earl is bringing. "I know you are pissed at me Oliver but you must understand. If he knows how to help when anyone one in the whole of the werewolves couldn't come up with, then he is our best shot."

"I still believe that you should have notified me before sending him off. Did Jupiter know about this cure?"

"He was outside the cell, listening in. Of when I told him about the plan." Oliver felt he wasn't going to win this conversation with me at this moment in time. So he changes the subject, for now.

"Do you think she is going to wake up soon? I miss having her around. Even though it hasn't been long, there is a presence that isn't here in the pack."

"I'm sure, Oliver. She is a fighter and she doesn't want to leave her friends and pack behind." Oliver nodded.

"Look we got it handled now. Why don't you go back to your pack? She is going to be fine."

"Look, Oliver, she may be fine now but I told you about what Earl said to me. There is a chance that it is happening to her." I knew my eyes were looking at her in pain. My wolf doesn't like the idea that Lucinda may be dying because this deadly cell is killing her off.

"You are going to trust this rogue, that held my friend and this pack gamma as a hostage!" I rolled my eyes.

"He dies either way. He wanted to be helpful at this moment before his death which he wants anyway. I'm not going back on my word. Also, when are you concerned about me trusting a rogue, you trusted a rouge, Michual." Oliver sighs and doesn't respond straight away. Got him right here and then.

"Why the hell are we here then?"

"What, you don't want to visit your Alpha. Plus I want to speak to the doctor about the cure that the rogue spoke about." Before Oliver responded, my phone went off. I quickly looked at the caller. It was Lillian. "Hello" "Zaliver, is Oliver with you?" "Yes, he is here." "Can I have his number? Your hackers won't let me have his number." "Lillian I will have him send his number to you. Why did you call?" "Ah yes, Carlos hasn't arrived back." "Carlos hasn't returned? I sent him back." "What if he is planning something as he may be the partner of this group?" "Okay, okay. Get people to track and find him. Bye"

I put the phone down before she spoke again. I feel sorry for Oliver for being her

mate. She can be chatty. I looked at Oliver who was giving me death eyes. "Why did Lillian speak to you?"

"Well, she wants your number. But to tell me about Carlos. He drove me here and then I sent him back because I needed him to look after my pack. But according to her, he didn't return. I'm worried he is the partner because River was dragged away."

"Okay, give me her number later then. But we're gonna need a plan to find where Carlos has run off to and if finding him finds River." He was right about that. River trains the best warriors out of both packs. So I do consider him a member of my pack.

"I have Lillian to send my best tackers to follow from our pack end. I'm sure that you want to do the same with this pack." I suggest. I know I should just tell him to do it but he needs to make the calls of this pack.

"Good idea, I will mind link Jupiter to set this up. He is doing the paperwork in the office." I see him go to mind link and I walk to Lucinda. I took one of her hands and little shocks sent through my now intertwined hand. I'm really certain that she is my mate. I wonder if she knows this. I guess she does because we both have a reaction of when we both first met. I see Oliver come out of his mind link. "Jupiter is getting our trackers ready and he will send them off. Also that our warriors are being doubled at the borders."

"That is good. I have been thinking when Earl comes back with the cure. I will take him back with me to my pack where it will be disturbed to the packs. But only if it works."

"So you're saying you're staying until this rogue comes back. That's fair enough." Oliver sighs.

A knock came at the door and in walked Dr Lawson and I explained to him what Earl

told me about this cell in the body. To say he was shocked is an understatement, he admired this rogue he doesn't even know. I leave out he did follow Harrison cus he doesn't need to know that. Lawson injected something into her to help her feel more comfortable even with her line in already. We don't know if she is in pain. Better safe than sorry.

He soon left because there was nothing he could do until Earl returned. I was back holding her hand and Oliver left to do something, which I have no idea what.

Lucinda's hands were in the middle of being warm and cold. Her steady of her chest rising and falling gave me the chance that she will live. If Earl hurries back with this cure. What he told me has got my wolf on edge. There is a chance that the cell has been eating away without her knowing. Even Earl doesn't know how it may happen because it hasn't happened before.

I remained to hold my hand to her and lowered my head to the bed she was on. I spoke to her, "If you can hear me, I want you to know how many people are being affected without you. You don't realise how important you are, even for me. I don't know if you felt these sparks or that you calm me down. I know I should be telling you this when you're awake. But I'm going to say that I'm scared because I don't know, I just am. Maybe once is all over with, we can talk about this and us. I do care about you, even if I haven't shown it towards you in person. I know my wolf won't let me go but I don't mind. You are not alone, I'm going to be with you until you are yourself again. I may not know you personally. But I do admire how you handle things. Please wake up for me, Oliver, Jupiter, your pack and even River."

I placed a soft kiss on her hand and got myself comfortable on the chair next to the bed. And with her hand in my own, I drifted off to sleep with Lucinda on my mind.

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Source Creation Date: July 26, 2025, 5:25 am

Oliver POV

It's been a week since Lucinda was put in this sleeping spell. We know she is alive because of the heart monitor and she now reacts when we hold her hand, especially Zaliver. Yes, he is still here even though Earl returned. His excuse is that his wolf won't let him leave. This has got me thinking that they are mates. He hardly comes out of the room. Only to train, take calls and to come to the meeting with me, Jupiter and sometimes the warriors.

Jupiter has done a good job in the pack paperwork and I have been training our warriors. The trackers keep getting senses but they lead to a dead end. Jupiter and I are looking for a temporary person to help us.

As for my own mate, I and Lillian speak often. She and Peter are looking after the royal pack. She agrees to come to White Rose when everything has been settled. The way she tells me about how she is handling Zaliver's pack tells me she is going to be a marvellous Beta female.

Michual has been trying his hardest in helping us find their hidden bases around our and royal pack territories. Earl is also helping us even though his death is getting closer. The cure that he gave Lucinda hasn't worked yet but it hasn't killed her either. She may not even have this cell he is on about. She may be taking long earned rest from what's been going on in her life.

Currently, I am in the office looking at the map that is hanging on one of the walls. This all the places that they were hiding in and watching us. How can we never know about this but rogues can be clever to hide their scents but that's if they remember.

My phone goes off while I circle more land that has already been looked at. I looked at the id and it was Lillian. So I quickly pressed the answer button. "Hello my dear, how are you doing?"

She laughed, "Hello to you too Oliver. I'm doing well as can be. I hope you are the same."

"Yeah, I'm doing okay. What do I owe the pleasure of your sweet voice on the phone for?"

"Charming as ever, " She said and I chuckled. "But I just had a very interesting talk with Alpha Nathaniel about this as he is close by to both packs. He says he sees a rogue around him but he doesn't really care. But he has seen these rogues carry a person somewhere. I think it was River. I told him to investigate it and we will send a few of our own trackers to help."

"Good idea, Lillian. I may go down myself with Zaliver to see if River is there. Have you told Zaliver this?"

"No, he has been unreachable sometimes. I'm guessing he is feeling betrayed by Carlos as Lucinda did with Devon." I told her about our pack with the Devon issue and she took it well.

"Well it may not be just that, I think that they are mates. So I feel that we are going to be leading White Rose pack soon. But what if I am right about this."

"Wow, Our King finally found his Queen at a time like this. Keep me informed Ollie, I doubt the King will." I agreed with her and said goodbye. I left the office and went to find Jupiter, which should be around the training area.

He was there, talking to some of the warriors and when he saw me coming he left the

group. We met halfway and carried walking towards the hospital. I told Jupiter about Nathaniel, rogues and about the plan to his pack.

By the time I told him, we were walking through the halls towards Lucinda room. Jupiter knocked and a faint come in was sounded. When we entered, Michual and Zaliver were by the looks of it getting along. "Hey, guys. How is it going?" Jupiter asked.

"Michual was telling me about some of his life and about how he never really wanted to play a part of Harrison's plan. He was only one of the hundred rogues that didn't want to participate. But if they didn't join, then they would be killed. Some only wanted to live freely." I felt sorry for Michual. I never wished upon anyone to become rogue but it may be done. He was caught in a group at the wrong time and place.

He had told me about how he was caught by Harrison. He was with his brother running from the Haylake pack because his brother stole a bit of bread. While running, a group of rogues got them and dragged them both off to one of Harrison's hideouts. From there, he offered them a place to help him in the big grand plan. His brother rejected the offer because he has heard about the group going around recruiting rogues and he wanted no part in it. But because of this, he lost his life. In front of Michual. So Michual agreed because he wanted to live and that was what his brother would have wanted.

"Is there any change with Lucinda?" I asked Zaliver.

"She has been starting to grip on my hand and sometimes she flinches. I asked Earl about this and he said just keep an eye on her." I nodded. We were all worried about her. The pack is not the same but we will keep on running like normal. "How are you doing? Any closer to finding them?"

"Yeah, you should answer your phone more often to Lillian. She called you about an update." He looks down. He hasn't been a King while he's been here but ordering him to leave is a pain in the ass. "She said she had a talk with Alpha Nathaniel and he said he sees rogues by his lands. And the other week, he saw some rogues bring someone to one of their hideouts. I feel we should head out to investigate."

"That's a good idea, you and I will leave tomorrow. The sooner we investigate, the sooner this whole thing will be done with." Zaliver tells us.

"Wait what about me. I didn't know about the hideouts at Alpha Nathaniel's way but I can help with convincing rogues." Michual suggested. While thinking about what Michual suggestion. I look at Jupiter.

Jupiter's presence and the way he was standing, you would tell he was worried about something. So I asked, "You okay Jupiter, you look a bit worried?"

"Yeah, it's just, the last time you left. The rogues attacked us. And I feel uneasy with no alpha, no Beta and no Delta. I know I should be strong but I haven't really gotten over it." I look to Zaliver and he seems to have the same eyes, worried. I ran my hand, threw my hair and thought of what to do? I have to go and Zaliver being King will want to investigate. Zaliver stood up from his chair and walked over to Jupiter. He takes both hands on either side of his shoulders and looks directly into his eyes.

"We won't belong. We are not far from Nathaniel pack. You will have warriors on-site because you have to protect your Alpha still. I and Oliver believe in you to hold the pack together. You are stronger than you think. Otherwise, why did they pick you to be Gamma of this pack?" Zaliver says. There was uncertainty in Jupiter's eyes but he was a little less nervous.

"If you like, I can stay behind with you Jupe. I mean if they don't need me." Michual says.

"Thank you Michual. I think that would be a good idea." I say while Jupiter thought about his options.

"Okay, I agree with you both. I'll stay. If rogues turn up, I'll have both your heads." He joked and slapped Zaliver's away from his shoulders. Jupiter stepped towards the door.

"I'll go and get things sorted. Ready the warriors for tomorrow. You letting Lillian know it's going ahead or am I?" I asked.

"I will, I need to check in with the pack." I nodded and headed out the door, with Michual and Jupiter following. Everything is going to be okay, I hope.

Source Creation Date: July 26, 2025, 5:25 am

Zaliver POV

After the 3 left to get everything ready for our departure. I phoned Lillian like I promised Oliver. "Hey Lillian, how's everything going?"

"You actually called me, instead of the other way round, Alpha. Everything is going good in your pack. The usual things that are coming through from the surrounding pack about attacks but nothing I and Peter can't handle. What do you need, Alpha?" I hate that she called me Alpha. I told her enough times not to.

"Please Lillian, it's Zaliver. We have known each other forever. I'm just letting you know that we are going in for the kill and taking your information about the rogues at Alpha Nathaniel's pack. I'm heading there tomorrow with Oliver and we may drag Earl with us. We will meet the trackers you sent already and I would like you to send a few warriors to also meet us there."

"Sorry, Zaliver. I forget sometimes. I will let Peter know and let him decide who goes. Do you want him to go with the chosen warriors?"

"No, I rather him stayed with you. Not that I don't trust you. It's just Oliver would want you with someone he knows."

"Ah, being the overprotective mate. How is Lucinda?" I looked at Lucinda and breathed in.

"I feel she is getting there. The cure that Earl made is working. But not fast enough for her to come and get her Delta back." I say while I rub one of her hands. This is

comforting to me and maybe her to fight through whatever is happening to her, as she may feel a presence with her at all times. "I'll let you get on with getting everything ready and you make sure to tell your mate of yours that I have talked to you."

I could feel her salute through the phone. "Yes, Zaliver sir." She says, pouncing every word hard. I laughed at her and ended the call. She is strange when she wants to be. She definitely got the right mate to be paired with.

I spent the rest of my time, before I went tomorrow, with her. While doing so, Oliver came and went with the information that everything is ready.

Earl also came along and saw how his cure is doing. He hasn't let anyone else know what is inside the serum, well apart from the doctors. He doesn't want it to get out. Michual has been helping around the pack and the pack has been accepting of both rogues because they are helping the Alpha and they were told that they didn't have a choice from following Harrison's orders.

I felt a bit at ease, as we had a plan but most all I felt that everything was going to be all right in the end. I lowered my head and rested it by her leg with one of my hands intertwined with one of hers. I drifted to sleep thinking about tomorrow and my lovely mate.

The next day, I and Oliver say goodbye to Lucinda before we leave. She looks better by the minute and I feel that any day she is going to wake up. After we did, we headed to the tree line where we met up with the warriors who were going with us. There were 15 of them in total. There were 6 cars we were taking. The spare one is for when we rescue River, well hopefully. He will be driven back to White Rose. All rogues will be dealt with accordingly but we may keep one or two for questioning especially if Carlos is there. Oliver has kept Harrison alive, for now. Because he feels that it should be Lucinda to kill him.

We reach Nathaniel pack within a few hours without any trouble. His borders were not patrolled as good as mine and Lucinda's. Driving towards the packhouse was no problem. A few wolves ran along with the cars. And when we reached the packhouse, they ran off towards the back of it. The setting wasn't as good as White Rose. Alpha Nathaniel was waiting for us at the door with his Beta. We all got out of the cars and left them. "Your Majesty, my warriors are ready to take the rogues. Your warriors are also here and waiting."

"Thank you, Alpha Nathaniel." We followed him to the back of the packhouse to find hundreds of wolves were ready for their orders. I easily spotted my own, they were in front of Peter. I told Lillian to keep him with her. I walked up to him while Oliver talked with Nathaniel. When Peter saw me, he bowed. "Peter, what are you doing here? I told Lillian for you to stay with her."

"She did but I felt that I was needed here more. She is handling everything well without me." I sighed, there's no point in arguing now. I walked back to Oliver and both nodded. I took to the front of all the wolves here. They felt the presence of me because all the talk had died down and all eyes were on me.

"I see there is a good turn out of warriors to take down rogues. Rogues will not be a problem after today and we are to take back a fellow Delta from White Rose who is a warrior like yourselves. You will be brave and will be awarded generously. Also if you sadly don't make it out of this, you will be remembered for your bravery and courage to take on this task. If you are with me, give a big cheer!" As I said, the whole ground roared with cheers. I looked back and saw Oliver, Nathaniel and his inner circle cheering with the rest. "In that case, we will leave and surround the hideouts of these rogues. Let's go!"

With that, Most of the warriors shifted to their wolves. Me, Oliver and Nathaniel walked to the tree line of where we were heading out of and took off. We could hear the others behind us. Nathaniel pointed out where he saw those rogues and they were

kind of smart rogues. They have covered their hideaway with dirt, twigs to make it blend in with the environment. The warriors had surrounded the house.

I took the lead by going near to the front door and creaking it open. It was empty, so they had to be underground. I signalled for them to advance forward. Then leaves were moving and growls were loud and clear. Dam, I feel they have surrounded us. Oliver came to me. "What are we going to do?"

"Nathaniel wolves can deal with the rogues out there. You, me and a few warriors are going to go down." He said okay and I mind linked a few of my wolves to follow us and Oliver told the plan to Nathaniel, who must have sent the signal to attack because all of a sudden the sound of flesh ripping and the smell of blood was in the air. We took the chance to find the opening to the underground.

When we did, it led to dimly lit tunnels. We split making sure to have one of each warrior from our packs for communication purposes. It was eerily quiet. I guessed all the rogues were fighting on top. We carried on twisting and turning and we stopped to see into each room we came across.

At the end of one of the corridors, there was a door that was locked. I made one of my nails grow and picked the lock. And of course, it opened. A warrior stepped in and waved a hand to follow. I stood in the doorway and looked into the room. And guess who was sitting on the ground chained to what looked like heavy silver chains.

River.

Oliver POV

These tunnels must go on forever or that I am totally lost. I go for the latter option. There seem to be no rogues down here, so they must be all fighting. There's been no sign of Carlos nor River. Zaliver hasn't linked through anything, well either did I.

I was going to turn when the rustling of one of the doors was noticed. We all got into a pouncing stance. But what I didn't expect to come out of the door was Michual. He should be with Jupiter back at the pack. "Michual, what are you doing here and how did you get past all those rogues at the top?"

Before he got to answer, another shadow came up behind him. "Michual, you sure we are in the right place?" I know that voice! Michual turned with a smirk and the shadow turned into my Alpha Lucinda. When she saw me and grabbed me into a big hug. "Oliver, thank god. You are okay." I just wrapped my arms around her. She was okay and I am lost for words.

I let go and asked, "How did you know we were here and got here so fast? The last time I saw you, you were lying on a hospital bed with Zaliver stuck by your side."

She shook her head, "No time to explain, we need to find River and get the hell back to our pack. Who else is here?"

"Zaliver went in the other direction and Alpha Nathaniel pack is handling rogues above this place as we speak." She nodded and asked Michual if he knew where they may hold somebody. He pointed in the direction of where Zaliver went. "Of course" I mumbled, as I think Zaliver may have an inkling he may be that way. So we all

turned and quickly moved along. And glad we did because one of Zaliver's warriors had a mind link from him that he had indeed found him. But it didn't feel right. It was too easy.

I was right to think that. On the way back to Zaliver, the sound of growls and snarls were getting closer to us to where we had entered from to the outside. I hear a cus from Lucinda. "Michual, do you know any other way to get to the other side?"

"I think I do. Follow me." I nodded to Lucinda to go with him and a few warriors went along with them. I carried on advancing towards the sound of the wolves coming at us. I saw the faint outlines of shadows and told those around me to get ready.

I readied myself and gave a huge growl to let them know of our presence but they already knew. They carried on running at us, so they made the first move. So collided with the first rogue I saw. I made sure to have my claws at full length and to sue my wolf strength. I didn't want to shift into my wolf unless it was the last resort. I clawed at the wolf that resulted in them gaining a few deep scratches and when it lunged at me again I made sure to end its life by twisting its neck.

I finished at the rogue and went onto my next kill that I repeated to what I did the first. Clawed them to weaken it and then went for the final blow. The warriors with me handled quite a few and I had my fair share.

When we thought there wasn't any more coming at us, we assessed our own damages. A few scratches and bite marks that were already healing. That is good, thanks to River. I gathered the men and ran towards where we hoped we would find everybody else.

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## Lucinda POV

When we split up from Oliver and followed Michual to where we may find River. I knew there were warriors following us, just in case we were attacked. It is mad that only an hour or two ago, I was laying on a hospital bed with wires and machines attached to me. I woke from darkness and then the next thing the rogue Michual was leading me to this hideaway of where everyone went to with Oliver and Zaliver.

Michual says he hasn't been to this hideaway for a while but he says he may know his way around. I have to trust him. "How much further to the other side of where we are going?" I ask.

"It shouldn't be too much. It should be.." He didn't have to finish his sentence. There were loud voices being heard. I held my hand up to stop the warriors. I told Michual to stay back until I told him to move. Which of course, he obeyed.

Sneaking forward towards the voices, I was getting to what they were arguing about. One voice was talking about betrayal and about handing over someone. Then the other voice is saying that he wanted to lead. I can guess who they are but I want to be sure. I was near the edge of the wall and so I peeked around the corner. My thoughts were correct. There was Zaliver standing outside of a room and I guess inside was Carlos with my Delta.

I turned for Michual to come to me and he did. "We are on the other side of where we should come from. What shall we do?" Michual asked me. I didn't even know. I looked around the corner and studied for a plan. I guess we can move our way through the warriors surrounding Zaliver, so he doesn't have to face Carlos alone. But why am I concerned about the king? I'm guessing with the brief description of what's been going on from Jupiter, I'm not surprised I'm feeling this way.

I tell the warriors to go first with both of us behind. They should separate into the

Zaliver group and look like they have been here the whole time. A few warriors from my pack were in the Zaliver group and they recognised me and gave the quickest smile before turning back to seriousness. I was blocking out the argument for the time being until I got close to Zaliver. "Michual, go to the other side and tell Ollie to come near me and Zaliver " I whispered into Michual's ear. He nodded and parted from me to get to the other side. I made my way towards Zaliver. I checked back into what they were saying.

"You never listen to what I want. it was always you, you, you". "Calm down Carlos. As your friend and not your King, I did take your opinion but not always used it. Now, what has River got to do with this?" "My partner wanted him because of the beef he had with the pack he came from. You know who I'm talking about. I'm guessing you know who is who now." I was behind Zaliver and I touched his back to which sparks went through me. Zaliver's body stood still.

I appeared in front of Zaliver. "I know exactly who you are talking about, Carlos. He is sitting in my cells in my pack right now. Release my Delta right now!" I said in my strong Alpha voice and stared daggers at him. I stood proud and with fake confidence.

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Lucinda POV

Standing there and looking into the room. Carlos was holding a knife towards River. River was locked in silver chains and very beaten up. "Look, my friend who is back from the dead. Harrison didn't finish you off then. His poisonous claws can't even keep you from death." Carlos states and with that River looks up to me and his eyes go wide. They properly told him that the pack had fallen to which I was dead and so was Oliver and Jupiter.

Zaliver tries to get me to go behind him but it wasn't going to happen. "Carlos, I will command you to realise my Delta right now or face death as you are outnumbered!" I used my Alpha voice again. But it seems he is immune to it.

"Poor Lucinda, can't command me. I will have to finish what Harrison started. You and I will fight to the death." Well, that escalated quickly, I think to myself. A furious roar sounded beside me that belonged to Zaliver.

"She is not fighting you!" Zaliver shouted and he was leaking authority out of his bones. I try not to have an effect on me.

"Why not? She is an Alpha and I think I may challenge her for her pack." He smirked and I shuddered at the thought of losing my pack to him. But why have my pack, I thought he wanted power?

"Shouldn't you be challenging Zaliver for his pack, since it's the largest and you'd be King?" I ask, trying to lose focus on River, as Ollie sent me a quick link to say he was behind with Michual.



My question must have stumped him because he was taking a while to answer. So, I and Zaliver took the opportunity to move into the room more. While doing so, Michual and Ollie moved behind us also.

"Don't move forward anymore, or he dies. To answer your question, taking over your pack is the first step to overrule everyone. First yours, then attack him using the warriors at my disposal." I really wanted to laugh at this because I doesn't think to heard anything stupid in all my life. He had the guts to tell his plan to us and in front of the king. Also, I think he has forgotten that there are warriors behind us that would all have a piece of him.

I meekly took a step forward and then another one, he didn't say anything but just kept watching me. "Carlos, why do all this. You have a good position in the Kings pack. Wolves would kill you to get your position and authority. Why throw it all away for what a rogue with a horrible obsession with my pack and my family name?" I kept walking forward and hoping to get the knife off him. "You don't really want this, do you. I know Harrison wanted to get back at my family for banishing him and Devon wanted to finish the job from inside the pack. You were properly brainwashed into this." I was close to him by this point. He just is listening to what I am saying because he hasn't made an attempt to plunge the knife into River. Zaliver was still standing there and the other two were sliding across on the other wall to look like they weren't there. "Give me the knife and leave River out of this. He has nothing to do with this. It's to do with me and Harrison who will receive what he deserves. The rogues have been dealt with outside. You can go back to the royal pack and live a life and forget about all of this."

He gave a look of guilt for a second and then turned the knife towards me with anger in them. That's kind of what I wanted because whilst my focus was on the knife, the boys rushed to River and tried to unchain him.

"Wait just a minute, you dare tell me that I shouldn't be in this and I was

brainwashed. There is always more than being a Beta. We were going big. I wanted to be part of it. Devon and I are going around expanding the territory while Harrison takes over the crown. They did not pressure nor brainwash me into this plan." This is hard to believe what he is saying.

"Carlos, you have choices. Don't go down this road any longer. We understand why you are doing this. Lucinda has her person for all of this. You can play a role in my pack again, just choose the right path." Zaliver pleads. It must be hard for him. He was his friend and he used to help lead a pack with him. I see what the boys have undone the chains on River and slowly move him back the way they entered the room.

"You say this but you will just kill me before I even step foot into the pack grounds. Why not have fun right now." We didn't see this until he flung the knife towards the boys. With his side to me, I ran at him to tackle him to the floor. This gave them a chance for them to grab River and hurried out of the room. They will take him back to the pack and get him sorted, which will give Jupiter a peace of mind.

When Carlos realised I had him tackled on to the floor, he was wiggling under me but Zaliver saw this and rushed over to help. Carlos managed to free his arm and doing so flung me back towards Zaliver. Luckily he caught me before, I crashed onto the floor. Carlos was up on his feet and charging towards us. Zaliver pushed me to one side but not too hard to make me fall. He took the full force from his Beta, well his ex now. They both have half shifted into their wolves such as their claws, teeth and strength were heightened and used like savages. My own wolf doesn't like seeing Zaliver like his fighting because of this weird connection with him like he is my mate.

With the fighting, I knew it wasn't my fight even if he had my delta at knifepoint. As Zaliver said, I have my man in my cells to kill. I took the chance to see what's happening outside the room. Warriors were still there but some had gone. So I asked if they had taken River back. To which they said they have and Nathaniel's pack has

gone back after all the rogues were killed and burned. Everything was taken care of, so I turned my attention back into the room. It had gone strangely quiet.

I looked into the room and I saw Carlos's body on the floor by the same wall that held River at. Zaliver had clearly shifted because his big midnight black wolf was sitting in the middle of the room. It was true about him, silent but deadly.

I stood beside Zaliver wolf and automatically used one of my hands to rub the top of his head. I think I heard him purring but didn't comment on it. Carlos wasn't dead just lying there as he should be. I don't think Zaliver had it in him to kill his Beta and friend. I looked to the door and warriors were waiting for an order. I waved them in and ordered them to take him to the Royal pack cells for Zaliver to make the call on his deathly punishment. "Do you want to shift back?" to which he nodded. I turned my back to him and asked a warrior to quickly get some shorts or something for him. I hear his bones crack back into their human configuration but I don't dare turn.

When a warrior came back with a pair of shorts. I backhanded them to Zaliver to which he chuckled. He tapped my shoulder to let me know he was covered. I couldn't keep my eyes off his chest. "Eyes up here, Lucie." I snapped my eyes into his.

"Lucie? When did you decide to give me a nickname?" He shrugged while I shook my head, "Well, I like it. Nobody calls me that, only Oliver. We should get going. I want to see how River is doing and if Jupiter hasn't run a mile from the pack to be left alone." We both chuckled and headed out of the underground hideaway. I take granted the fresh air after being there for a long time.

We walked to the cars that were left at Nathaniel's pack since the car that was near the hideaway was already gone that contained River in. We both got into a car and with me driving, we talked about anything. We both seem to accept this bond between us without having to actually say anything.

### Lucinda POV

Zaliver and I arrived back at White Rose when the sun was just peeking behind the trees to say goodnight to the world. As soon I got out of the car, I was surrounded by a few pack members, who were exiting the packhouse. They wished me a welcome back. I said quick thanks but I wanted to get to the hospital to check on River. I knew Zaliver would follow me on the short walk. So I took off towards the hospital with the King in tow. I know I should have just driven to the hospital. I just needed the extra exercise from being confined to a bed for a week.

At the hospital, the nurses quickly pointed me in the right direction for River's room. I rushed towards it in case I missed anything else. I know he would be all right because he is the toughest wolf in the pack. But I needed to see him make myself sure about his condition.

I reached his room in no time and I gave a swift knock then walked in. Inside the room finds River on the bed hooked to IV fluids. On the left are Earl, Oliver and Jupiter. On the right is Dr Lawson. Eyes were locked onto me immediately as soon I put one foot into the room. Oliver came to me and gave me a hug. When he pulled away he said, "Lucinda, you're home. When you were facing Carlos, I thought you were going to get yourself killed."

I smiled, "Really Ollie! You have no confidence in me. I had everything in control. The main thing is that we have brought River back to the pack. By the way, how is he?" I moved past Oliver and over to stand by the doctor. By then, Oliver had taken to beside Jupiter and Zaliver had entered and taken a place next to me.

Dr Lawson looked at me and told me, "Alpha, Delta River has sliver buns to his wrists and it seems it's been for a long period of time. This has weakened him with his and he had cuts that were infected when he was brought in. In the time period of when he came here to when you have arrived, he has improved a bit. Cuts are healing and colours are starting to come back to him. I would say give him a week, he will be up and walking around the pack again."

"Thank you, Doctor," I said this and he bowed and left the room. "Where is Michual?" I asked as I looked around the room.

"He crashed in a guest bedroom as soon as we arrived back," Jupiter said while chuckling.

I shook my head, "Come on everyone. Let's sleep, we had a busy day and us standing over River isn't going to help him heal faster." Everyone nodded, even Earl.

We all left the hospital after saying goodbye to River and headed towards the packhouse. We headed inside and each headed towards the respective rooms. I haven't been in my room for the longest time. I stripped my clothes and took a much-needed shower. Afterwards, it changed into nightclothes and fell into bed with me going straight to sleep.

The next morning, I made Grace bring me up to my breakfast because I would properly not be able to eat in peace. Oliver came and kept me company. He told me about his mate in the royal pack. She sounds like the perfect mate for him. They were in the middle of making plans for her to come to my pack in the next few days. With that breakfast went fast and I ordered for a pack meeting, well through Oliver as most of the pack doesn't know I'm awake yet or they could know because I was seen the day before. Who knows?

After looking presentable, I headed toward the pack meeting that has been very busy

lately. I sneaked to the back of the stage of where the guys were waiting. "Go on Oliver, go start the meeting." I shoved him up the steps with Jupiter, Michual and Zaliver in tow.

Oliver started the meeting. "White Rose pack, I called for a meeting today to give an update on what has been happening. As all of you recall, there was a call about the hideout by Alpha Nathaniel's pack which the rouges may have our Delta hostage." Growls and snarls were heard around the pack. "I know, when we arrived the information was right as in a room underground was Delta River!" Cheers and applause were sounded throughout everyone. "Yes, yes. Delta River has been brought home to us and is getting the best treatment in the hospital. This is not the only update I have, there has been an update with Alpha Lucinda." Nobody dared say anything, they all worried for me. "Alpha Lucinda has awoken and she startled us when she showed up in the rogue's hideaway. Alpha Lucinda, will you kindly join us now."

That was my cue to walk up the steps and take my place in the middle of my inner circle. I looked upon my pack and smiles, applause and cheers rang around the pack again. "Okay, okay calm down. I'm so glad to be up and running again. I would love to say thank you for respecting Oliver while he was in charge. I'm good to see the pack is still standing." I chuckled and Oliver gave me a poke. "I have heard all about what has happened. We will try to find Abigail's body but I'm guessing we will never see it again. Harrison will suffer in the cells until we feel death is good enough for him. The other partner to Harrison group was Royal Beta Carlos. He held Delta River in the hideaway and he will be dealt with to how Alpha King Zaliver sees fit." I look back at Zaliver when I say the last sentence and our eyes meet each other. I almost got lost but before they did, I turned back to my pack.

"I would like to thank Earl for discovering the cure for me to live and if he so wishes to stay in the pack to finalise his work, he shall." Earl, who is standing in the front row, gave a small smile. I guess he is still wishing for death. "I also want to thank

Michual. Without his knowledge of the other hideaways around us, rogues would be attacking us still and also using his knowledge of the underground hideaway to help us find Delta River. He will be welcome to stay with the pack if he so wishes. I thank you again for your hard work and bravery during these tough times in the pack. Go about your day, everyone is dismissed." Cheers, and shouting 'Welcome back to White Rose' were sounded through everyone.

I walked off the stage with everyone following me. The week or so is going to get better with the pack. At the bottom of the steps Oliver, Jupiter and Michual gave me a hug. When they parted and said they were going to check on River. Zaliver came up to me. "You did well with your speech. I'm leaving when Lillian comes because I'll use her car to drive me back."

"Okay, is there another reason for you stalling to go back?" I knew there was, as it is to do with me.

He sighs, "Yeah, I want to get to know you better because we are mates. But we won't be able to see each other every day. I know we haven't really spent much time with each other unless you count me sitting with you in hospital. With everything slowing down at last, maybe we can see where we go?" My wolf is doing backflips because he said he wants us.

"Sure, let's see where the next few days bring us," I say and we walk to my office hand in hand. I was anxious to see how bad the mess is because I feel that they made a big mess of my neatness.

Lucinda POV

In the days that followed till Lillian arrived at the pack, it was okay. My office wasn't as bad as I thought. It was a bit messy but nothing I couldn't sort out within an hour.

After I had tidied in that hour my office, I called in the boys: Zaliver, Oliver, Michual and Jupiter. "What's the matter? Can't find anything?" Oliver asks as he sits down in one of the chairs, with Zaliver taking the other, leaving Jupiter and Michual standing behind them both.

"No, No. I just wanted to tell you what happened back at the hideaway because I just appeared without explanation."

"I was wondering that, as Earl hasn't really said anything about it." Michual states.

"I heard that I was getting better and I guess it wasn't too long after you left the room or the pack, one or the other. One minute I was in blackness, then I'm starting at the ceiling in the hospital bed. Lucky Earl was watching and he took my vitals. Then he called Jupe and Michual over who told me the important parts of what happened. I made the decision to follow and convinced Michaul to take me the fastest way possible. Jupe, you wanted him to stay but earl would be nearby for him. It would be quicker with just the two of us. When the two of us arrived, we did see Nathaniel's pack fighting and Michual knew of a secret way in that he suddenly remembered but wasn't so sure about. Well, it was dark and I felt we were lost. Fortunately, Michual led us to a door that opened and saw Ollie. Then the rest is history." I finished and just eyed each of the boys to see their reactions. Nothing out of the ordinary, as they sat there and wacked in their brains around of what they were just told.



Michaul spoke up and asked, "How did you feel when you woke from the blackness?"

"At first I felt strange because I wanted to get my bearings right. But overall, I just felt like myself. According to Earl when he did my vitals, he told me that the damaging cell attacked my body without having to be pregnant and it was eating away at me for a while. The fight just wiped me out and without Earl's cure or any kind of cure like his, I properly would be with my parents."

"Well thank goodness that's not the case," Zaliver commented.

"It sure is. Are there any more questions?" All 4 shook their heads. "Marvelous, I want to get back to paperwork. Go about your day and see you later." They all left the office with Zaliver eyes lingering on me the longest.

By the end of the day, I had caught up on what they haven't done and even done a bit extra for next week. With doing the pack work, I have seen what's been happening with training. Oliver made sure to follow River's ways of training with the help of Michual. I was impressed because it seems that they haven't fallen behind. I'm guessing of what's happened, the pack felt that they shouldn't slack. I was filled with pride for my pack for carrying on without constant leadership. Earl hasn't said anything of his decision of what he wanted to do. He has been in the hospital, properly perfecting his cure to dispute out to the other packs.

Speaking of River, he has been improving in leaps and bounds over the next few days. He is awake and has recalled what occurred to him, that was when the attack happened or where he was stationed at first, he got injured. With him being weakened he wasn't as strong when the next wave came in. He got jumped by a large number of rogues with wolfbane in a needle. Warriors tried to fight them off him but they didn't. A few rogues slip River away before they notice his absence. He doesn't know how he got to the hideaway but he knows he woke up and Carlos was watching him. He

would give a beating here and there. Also, I was right about them telling that the pack had fallen and that everyone was either killed or taken hostage. So I reckon he would have given up living if we hadn't got to him when we did.

The bond with Zaliver was getting stronger and better each hour we spent with each other. He's hung around the office with him borrowing a laptop to do his own work. We always glance at each other and then quickly look back to what we are doing. I did reckon he is sneaking into my room at night and sleeping on the floor because there is always his scent hanging around on my rug. Plus, where he sleeps it's always warm, not that I stand on the spot for a few minutes.

At the moment I'm in my office with Zaliver and Ollie as today Lillian is coming to the pack. Yes, she is coming earlier than intended but the good news was that Zaliver is not leaving straight away. We were just going through a few things such as the transfer of a pack member when the office phone rang. I picked it up and it was from border control saying that Lillian's car had arrived. As soon I got off the phone and told Oliver, he was out of the office like a flash. "Someone is eager." Zaliver committed. I laughed and headed down to go meet the famous Lillian, who has taken my Beta's heart from me.

Five minutes later, a car rolled outside the packhouse. As soon it stops, a girl jumps out of it and flings herself at Oliver. "Ollie, I've missed you. I've only seen you once in real life and many times over facetime. But this is much better now!" She squeals at him. I try to hold back my chuckles because it's funny to see Oliver with a girl, as he hasn't really been with anyone.

"Lilly, it's really good to see you again. I want you to meet Lucinda and the rest of the gang".

"Ooh yeah, I want to meet the famous Lucinda who may have tamed the King!" I blush at this. What the hell have these two been saying about us?

They walked up the steps and Oliver introduced me and the rest of the gang. With each introduction, she gave each of us a hug with me having the most squeeze. The boys headed inside first with me and Lillian hanging behind. "I must say, it will be nice having a girl around with all these boys" I commented.

"So true. But it may not be for long." She bats her eyes at me.

"What do you mean by that?" I ask even though I do know what she is getting at.

She throws her arms up in the air and walks through the door. "Oh come on. Don't play dumb with me. You're a smart Alpha, use your brain. You will have to move with him."

"I don't know. We haven't done anything or even gone out together. I don't think moving to his pack would be right."

She smiles and says, "I begged to differ."

"What has he been telling you? I know you two are close like family. Has he been saying he's going to be taking me back with him when he leaves?" I'm getting curious.

"Nope. I'm not telling. What I and Zaliver talk about stays between us." She stands her ground and folds her arms across. I walk away and pretend to stop praying.

"Okay, I'm going to go find Zaliver's phone and look through it. Or maybe ask him." I got as far as the bottom step of the staircase when someone spun me around. I smiled at a concerned Lillian.

"Please don't. If he finds out I told you that we talk about your relationship behind your back. Or even about," She halts before she says anything else and takes a look at

me. "Hey, why are you laughing?"

I was laughing at her reaction. I don't care what they talk about, as long it's not about anything sexual. My laughing must have been heard from the living room because the boys had come to see what was happening. When they saw me laughing with an embarrassed Lillian, they joined in with the laugh.

Soon enough, Oliver took Lillian up to his room to settle. Jupiter and Michual went back into the living room that just left me and Zaliver at the bottom of the steps. "I'll just go to my office and um yeah. See you later." I stumbled over my words which I don't normally do but when I am with him on my own I just do.

"Wait, Lucinda," He calls before I could even put a foot onto the step. I turn to look at him and I see him looking nervous. "Can I take you to dinner tonight?" I was shocked at what he asked. The king asked me to dinner with him, well he is kind of my mate so I should have seen this coming.

I looked into his eyes and answered yes. A huge smile swept onto his face and told me to get ready for 6 pm. I raced up to my room and hunted through my clothes for my dinner date with Zaliver. I needed help because this was my first date. I didn't have the time to date while looking after a pack. After thinking for a short minute of who to ask to help. I hurried out of my room and found the door I wanted to knock on.

*Source Creation Date: July 26, 2025, 5:25 am*

### Zaliver POV

I do hate Lillian sometimes but then again I can't hate her forever for she has done lots for me. It's her idea of asking Lucinda when she arrives at the pack because she wanted to be there to help Lucinda to find the perfect outfit for her. Also, she told me off for stalling for so long. I can't help it as there was no right time for a date.

So when she got Lucinda laughing in the hallway, she sent me a link that this was the right time to ask her. So that what I did and was surprised she said yes then hurried up the stairs. I was left speechless, so headed to the living room and found Jupiter and Michual. They were talking about anything. Before I asked Lucinda for the date, I had to ask the guys where she may like to eat. They didn't give specific food she liked but she generally would eat anywhere. So I took a seat and booked a table at a nearby restaurant. I also checked with Jupiter if it was okay. To which he burst out laughing because he finds it funny that an Alpha King is getting approval from a Gamma of another pack.

When he said it was okay, after his laughing fit, I headed to the guest room I was staying and got myself ready for the date. I was nervous because this was with my mate. I have been on dates with other girls but this one is more special and with the right person.

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Lucinda POV

Lillian was more than happy to help me get ready for the date, she even came out that

it's her idea that she wanted to help me with the first date I go on with Zaliver. The little devil. While she was looking through my closet, I took a shower and made myself presentable. I came out of the bathroom in a dressing gown and saw that Lillian was still in my closet. I go towards and look in. What I saw was shock horror. All my clothes were everywhere. "Lillian!" I shrieked at her. Her innocent eyes just stared back at me.

"What?" She asked and then looked around her. "Ah yes. Don't worry, I will clean up. I think I have the perfect outfit for you." She walks over to me while taking care to not walk over the clothes on the floor. She handed me white jeans, a strapless purple top with black sandals. "Oooh, don't forget these also." She then handed me a nude strapless bra and white panties. I didn't mind that it didn't match. I said a quick thanks and went back into the bathroom. I know we are both girls here but I like my privacy.

After putting on the clothes and doing a light make-up. I reappeared out and Lillian was sitting on the bed with some jewellery that would go with what I'm wearing. When putting what she had chosen, I noticed she found the ring that was passed down to me from my mother. It was a simple ring with silver leaves going around and two of the leaves were coloured rose gold. She then pulled me next to her, so she could do my hair. She put it half up and half down.

I stood in the middle of my room and Lillian inspected me. "Well, you look stunning. He is not going to keep his eyes off you. So be prepared for a jealous King."

I smiled. "I couldn't have done this without you Lils." I pulled her from the bed and hugged her. I pulled away and we both strolled out of my room and down the corridor to the stairs. Lillian went down first and I counted to 10 and then followed down.

When I got to the last set of stairs, I saw that the boys and Lillian were waiting for me to come down. The must of sense me coming because they were looking at me and I reached the bottom. Zaliver came up to me and said that I was looking good. I

blushed at his compliment. He extends his arm for me to take which I did and lead us out of the packhouse.

Waiting for us was a black car with a shofar to take us to where he was taking me. Zaliver opened the door and let me sit in first. He then walked round to the other side. I opened the window and when I did, I heard Lillian shout "Don't do anything I wouldn't. Have fun but not too much". I shook my head and turned my head towards Zaliver with a smile on his face. To which he also gave me a smile and took my right hand into his own. Little sparks went up to my arm which felt good. We then settled in comfortable silence for the journey ahead.

It was about a 20-minute journey to the place he had chosen to take me out to. He told me to wait for him to open up the door for me. Such a gentleman. When he opened the door and I stepped out, I looked at the restaurant. I gasp because it is the same one that I used to go with my parents. Zaliver saw my shocked state. "What's wrong? Don't you like it here?"

I shook my head, "No no. It's just that I used to go here with my parents before all the trouble started. It's my favourite, as it does all kinds of dishes. So it's an all-rounder kind of a place." I slipped my hands into his and pulled him inside. As I said, I haven't been here in a while and the place is still looking immaculate. This place sits on the edge of my land and is close to a few human places. So we had to be careful of what we talked about. The owners are part of my pack and so were some of the staff.

When asked what the table was booked under, Zaliver said his name and then we were shown to our table. It was in a quiet area with a few others around us, it was fine. Zaliver slides my chair out for me to sit down. So when I did he helped me push forward towards the table then took his own seat, on the other side of the table. The waiter came over and asked us for what we wanted to drink, he was a human. Zaliver just ordered some red wine for both of us. He soon came back with the wine and then asked if we would like to order. I ordered something with chicken with Zaliver

ordering some steak.

We were chatting about our lives but then the topic of Abigail came up. "It's been a few weeks and nobody has told her parents about her body not being found. I was hoping that you would like to come with me and meet them?" He was telling and asking me.

"I don't know. I only met them once, that was when Abigail was made a pack member and met Devon. I could send Oliver with you to represent and also he has met them in their home."

"I was hoping that you would. But let's move on from Abigail's parents. What would you say about coming with me back to my home when I leave the day after tomorrow?" I was shocked. I couldn't leave my pack and where I have been all my life. But I have been thinking of stepping down and giving the Alpha position to Oliver for a while.

"I, eh, Zaliver...."

Lucinda POV

"I, eh, Zaliver. I would like nothing to move with you. But what about the pack, I don't think I could leave them right now. I've only just returned, Oliver getting to know Lillian, River is almost there, Jupiter and Michual both need a bit of guidance. I am the only one who they look to at the moment. Plus, you would want to get yours straightened out as well. Since you need to choose a new Beta?" I say to him while looking into his eyes. There was a bit of sadness in them but also other emotions that I was trying to figure out.

He sighed. "I guess you're right. I wasn't thinking of what's happened and White Rose may need to be more steady before a big decision. The offer will stand for you as long as you want to wait. You will be welcomed upon my land without consent or appointment."

I smile and reach for the hand that is on the table. I gave it an encouraging squeeze. I felt pressure on my hand that he had returned the squeeze. "Thanks," I say.

Soon enough the food came and we both ate in silence, lost in our thoughts. I do really want to move and be with him. But I would like to talk to the guys because we have been through too much together and they are my family now. Also, I would need to consult Oliver for his opinion to take over my position with Lillian as the Luna. Which would be good for the pack, as they would have two leaders instead of one.

I pulled out of my thoughts when I saw my empty plate being removed that I locked eyes onto Zaliver. He gave a slight smile, "Would you like dessert or do you wanna

go?"

"Can't we take something away and go on a walk?" I suggest. He gave a quick thought and agreed with me. When the waiter came back, Zaliver asked for a dessert to be ordered to go and paid for it. We chatted while we waited for it. He told me a story about how he and Lillian used to play tricks on the warriors in the packhouse. But it had to stop when Zaliver's father wanted him to focus on his studies.

We left the restaurant with the packed dessert and got back into the car. I told him to drive to my favourite spot in the pack. I found the spot when I used to run patrols, I don't anymore because paperwork keeps me busy. I know lame excuse but it has to be done and not like we haven't enough wolves to cover the land. This spot has got a small pond which I think is a perfect spot for us to end the evening at. I told him to stop at a certain point because we couldn't reach the sport by car, which he didn't mind.

We walked hand in hand and I found him taking in the scenery. I feel this is his last chance of freedom before going back to run a kingdom. I did feel a bit sad that he had to leave but it is my choice to stay with my own pack.

We reached the pond and it looked beautiful as ever. Calmness. That is what it creates when I come here and it even is better with Zaliver being here. We sit close by and tuck into the dessert that was provided by the restaurant. Which was my favourite strawberry cheesecake! He fed me my slice and I returned the action. We were each telling each other stories but my wolf wasn't sitting right with me. So I ask Zaliver, "Hey, while we are out here. Do you wanna run for a bit in wolf form? My wolf is getting restless plus she hasn't been on a run in like forever"

"I would and so does my wolf. I only got a glance at your wolf way back and I want a proper look."

I chuckle, "I think our wolves are nearly the same colour anyway."

"I know. But yours would be better than mine." I shook my head and he pointed to the trees. "I'll be over there and meet back at the pound." I nodded my head and headed to the trees opposite to where he was going.

I get behind a tree, stripped off my clothing which I can change back into afterwards. I then shifted into my black wolf and came out from behind the trees. Sitting by the water was a midnight black wolf, who was a bit bigger than my own wolf. He was magnificent and much blacker than mine. He must have sensed my eyes on him because he turned to look at me and growled at approval.

With that, I take off running. I was quickly pursued by Zaliver. I knew because his scent and presence were stronger in this form. I zig-zag through the trees with him following, I was trying to lose him. With that in mind, I stopped abruptly and he just zoomed past me. A wolfish laugh escaped from me. I turned and ran back toward the pound.

Reaching back to the pond, I did a few laps running around the edge of the water. But I properly wasn't taking in anyone around me nor hearing anyone come by. Like one minute I was running and then the next I was nudged full forced into the pond. Luckily it is quite deep and I could swim. So I swam to the surface and who was sitting on the side, Zaliver. He seemed to be pleased with the outcome of me being in the water but I have a plan to get back at him. As he had his head held high, I used it to my advantage of swimming right to the edge of the water, quickly shifting and using both of my arms and used my strength to yank his front paws forward into the water. Luckily, It did work because of my amazing strength.

I gave him a smirk when he came up from being under. He shifted and gave me a sad face. "That wasn't nice Lucie. Pulling me into the water like that."

I laughed, "You used full force like headed butted my side into the water first!"

"But you brought it upon yourself by stopping mid-track of me chasing you. Are you trying to make me feel lost or are you trying to get rid of me?" He narrowed his eyes and a playful smirk crossed his lips.

"No. I thought it would be funny but I should have guessed that you would get me back." I smile and take in his shirtless body, which is a rare opportunity to look at. He caught on to what I was looking at because he came closer and my arms reacted on their own to touch his chest. And may I say that it feels strong and the chest is made out of iron.

One of his arms snaked around my waist to hold me up while the other one came to my chin. To which he tilted my head up to meet our eyes with each other. When we did, I felt lost but a good lost. I saw his head move closer to my own and I knew what I meant. I could be happier that we are finally going to do it. I moved my head so we could meet in the middle.

Both of our lips softly touched each other and we both quickly pulled back. We both looked at each other's eyes but then he crashed his lips back onto mine with passion and of course I responded. We both ended up having a make-out session while we both forgot that we were both naked and in a pond.

Lucinda POV

The next day flew in the blink of an eye. After we returned from the date, Zaliver followed me into my bedroom and we both fell asleep in my bed. Let's say it was the most blissful sleep I have ever had. But sadly he was gone when I woke up in the morning. I guess it's something to do with if someone saw him coming out with me from my room, especially Lillian.

All throughout the day, I had Lillian getting me to answer all her questions about what happened. I kept telling her that nothing happened and only we talked but she wasn't having it. Oliver, thank god, did get rid of her to give me peace. Gosh if something did happen, I'm sure I wouldn't have gotten up the normal time or there would have been a mark on my neck.

I also visited River down in his own office by the training grounds. Yep, he was released from the hospital in the morning. Jupiter was with him when he was released. He got back straight into his usual routine and checked on how it's been going on. We only talked and I just left him to it.

Jupiter and Michual were getting closer to each other, I noticed. Little sideways glances and you always find them together. I guess they will tell us when they are ready. But I will say they look so good with each other.

I was working in my office in the early evening when a knock on my door. "Come in", I shouted. I looked up when the door opened and in walked Zaliver. "Zal. What can I help you with?" I put down my pen and he took a seat in front of me.

"As you know, I leave to go back to my home in the morning," I nodded and kept a straight face. "I just want to ask you one more time, in person, to change your mind about coming with me."

I shucked in a breath. I kept eye contact with his own and with little hesitation I responded with, "I'm sorry. My answer is still no."

"Okay." He nodded sadly, eyes cast down that they no longer looked upon mine. I felt my heart sink a bit.

"Come on, let's go down to join the pack dinner," I say and get up from my chair. He has lifted his head to watch me come round the desk. When I reached him, I held out my hand that he took in a reflex way. Little sparks flew up my arm and I'm sad to say I will miss that feeling.

We both headed out of the room and down to the dining room. When we both entered, the pack fell silent and bowed their heads in respect. I took my usual seat in the middle of the top table with Zaliver on my left and Oliver on my right. It looked like Oliver allowed Lillian to sit next to Zaliver for only this evening. They both chatted to each other all the time we were eating. Oliver was too busy chatting to both Jupiter and Michual. I looked around the tables of my pack. Watching them chat and interact with each other brings a smile on my face. With all the hard times that we had, they can still be happy and joyful. I guess they would be fine without me. I had to talk to Oliver tonight. So, I nudged Ollie and told him to meet me in my room after he had eaten.

I had finished eating before the boys and I swiftly exited the dining room. I did feel specific eyes on me when I left. I slowly made my way up the stairs to my room and changed into a loose-fitting top and bottoms.

I would guess it was about 10 minutes later when Oliver knocked on the door and

entered. I'm just browsing on my phone on top of my bed. When he entered, I sat up and beckoned him to sit on my bed. We used to do this in the past and talk about our problems in personal life or how annoying Devon was. In which I needed right now. Oliver sat on the empty side of the bed and just looked at me. "Come on. What's the matter?" He asked. Was it that obvious?

"I don't know what to do?" I flopped back onto the covers.

"I need more than that Lucie. Tell me." I glanced at him. He had his eyebrows raised.

"Zaliver and I are mates and I told him that I'm not going to go with him back to his home. But the way he looked at me back in the office this evening and then chatting non stop with Lillian is having me second guess myself."

"Ah, I see. I feel you are in the same boat as I and Lillian were in, well not the same. I had to leave her at the Royal pack and all the time being away, let me tell you separation sucked. I guess it wasn't that bad because we didn't exactly spend much time with each other. Plus we are older than you so our wolves were not calling for each other. And maybe was too busy thinking about saving the pack from rogues. But the two of you have been around each other for a while and both have Alpha blood run through both of you and since he is a King. It would be suckier." The way Ollie put it sounded like I was being selfish and taking away something that Zaliver would want me. Also, we would become unhappy without each other. Then over time maybe we become depressed, if we don't see each other often.

"Ollie, what about the pack? We all just returned to normal for one day and then I would leave them. Would you want to step up and lead? Would Lillian want to be Luna around here?" I ask.

"If that is also bothering you, then you really need to have faith in the people around you. I have been loyal to your family and the pack. I will stand behind whatever you

choose. If I and Lillian are to step into the Alpha and Luna position which is to be our fate, so be it. But I do feel that it's another reason for you to hold back."

"If I go with him and as he is a king and my mate, I would have to take the role of the Queen. I only wanted to lead a pack but not a whole nation. Not only that, but I also don't feel that I want to leave my life here. This is the only place I call home and what I feel comfortable." By now, I am sitting cross-legged on my bed and Ollie is not moving from his spot.

"Lucie, you would rock at being Queen. Look at you leading the second-highest pack in the nation and risking your life for our pack. What more do you want in the quality of a Queen." I sighed and nodded at his comments. "I'll leave with your thoughts. I'll say this though, I think your parents would want you to move on from here and live your life with your mate. You know how much they loved each other and would want you to have that chance of that kind of love. Think about yourself for once and what would make you happy." With that, he got up from his spot on the bed and walked out of the room.

I stayed as I am for who knows how long. Taking in what Ollie said to me and what my life decision should be. If I leave, I will leave behind everything I know: pack, friends and the familiar environment. If I stay, Zaliver wouldn't be here and he makes me happy now. But everything would be new to me.

What to do? What to do indeed?

Source Creation Date: July 26, 2025, 5:25 am

Lucinda POV

I didn't sleep last night. I was thinking throughout the night and it also didn't help that I didn't have him next to me. I was dressed and down in the kitchen before even Grace was supposed to be there. I gave her a heart attack when she saw me sitting in a bar stool. "You ok, Alpha?"

"Grace please, how many times do I tell you to call me Lucinda."

"I'm sorry. How are you dear?" She asks again. A small smile swept across my face.

"To answer your question, I will be." She gave a small smile towards me and got set to work on making breakfast. I just sat there and watched.

I thought of a question I wanted to ask Grace. "Hey Grace, would leaving my position to go with Zaliver to his pack, would sit okay with the pack?" I don't why I'm even asking her this but I have known her all my life. She stopped what she was doing and looked at me.

"Well my dear, We all would be sad to see you go because of what you have done. But we would understand and carry on with our new Alpha, which would be Beta Oliver? If you feel that you want to leave with Alpha King Zaliver to be his mate and Queen then the pack will be okay. Don't worry about it too much."

"Hey, I didn't tell you about me and Zaliver being mates?" I glared at her as nobody really knew about that.

"Oh, please dear. Why else would you want to leave the pack?" I guess that would make sense.

"Good point," I say and get off the barstool and walk out of the kitchen and leave Grave to cook. Before I exited I called back to her, "Send some food up to my office, will you? I'm not going to eat with the pack at breakfast."

"I will don't worry dear." With that, I walked up the stairs and landed on the floor that my office belongs to. I got to my office and sorted out some bits and to make sure my decision is the right one.

Zaliver POV

I didn't go to Lucinda's room last night because I couldn't stand the thought of sharing the bed with her and to be the last time I would. So I didn't sleep and I'm going to have to get used to it. I guess with time it can get easier or if not I can reject her. The thought of that makes me shiver with disgust. During my sleepless night, I had packed everything that was brought here that I say thanks to Lillian. I was borrowing stuff from Oliver for a bit because I didn't know I was going to be staying for longer than I was.

It was about the time that I headed down to the pack breakfast, which is going to be held in my honour for my departure. So I headed down to the dining room and of course, those pack members who were already there bowed towards me.

I took my seat at the left-hand side of the head of the table and nobody was here yet. Usually, at least River would be here. I must be looking confused because someone came over to me and asked if I was ok. "You may not know what's going on but where is everyone?" I gestured my hands up and down the head table.

"You are correct I don't know. I just bring food out. Would you like me to find out for you?" I just nodded and they left to where the kitchen was.

A few moments later, they returned with a lady following behind. I kinda recognised her from before. She approached me and bowed her head. "Your Majesty, I hear that you are asking about where everyone is. I may have some idea but all that I know is that the Alpha requested her breakfast in her office. When I took it up to her, she had Beta Oliver with his mate, Gamma Jupiter and Delta River. I did ask if I should bring up any more food but she sent me away saying that the boys would be down." That's strange but I must have been important.

"Thank you, Grace. If that's your name?" I tell her.

"Yes, your Majesty. I must return, I can't leave my kitchen unattended otherwise everyone will steal every food we have!" She laughed, bowed and walked away. She seems really easy going and smart. I wonder what Lucinda is planning. I wonder if I should pin Lillian to spill when they arrive.

It must have been 10 or 15 minutes later when the boys and Lillian entered the room. Everyone bowed their heads and continued to eat. They took her seats and their food was brought out to them. Oliver had taken Lucinda's seat. So he sat next to me and Lillian was sitting on his other side. Oliver nudged me that I gave my attention to him. "Hey, I guess you know she isn't coming down. She wanted me to tell you that it's not you but she had important things to sort out that she found out. Don't worry she will send you off with the rest of the pack." He gave a big smile and before I said anything he had his attention back to Lillian.

I finished eating and left to go back to my room. While I was walking towards the door, my hands were wrapped around me. "Boo!" Using the instinct I unwrapped the hands and tuned. Lillian was standing there with a bright smile on her face. "Did I scare you?"

"Umm, no. You need to work on it." She muttered a curse word and followed me into the room. "Anyway what can I do for you, Lillian?" I double-checked everything.

"Can't a friend say goodbye without anyone around or is it a crime? I know I was only a scribe in the courts and stuff like that. I will miss it and also hang around you." I stopped what I was doing and walked towards her to which I pulled her into a hug.

"I guess you were my favourite person in the whole pack. You weren't just my scribe. I guess you were a close friend of mine. I will miss you two but you can just visit whenever you like as your parents are still there."

"I guess so, it's not the end of the world that I'm not seeing you. Hehe." I shook my head and let her go. We chatted for a few moments.

A knock on the door and Oliver stood there with a few packs members behind him. "Your bags will be taken to your car by these people." They gathered by bags and quickly left the room. "Now, I have been informed by Lucinda that before you run off that she would like to make a speech about what you did for the pack."

"Please, Oliver, you don't have to do that. It's no different if it did it for another pack." I shake my head. Lillian gave what's a worried look at Oliver.

"She is not going to change her mind. We have tried but she insists. You know what she's like."

"Okay, lead the way." I ran my hands down my face and pointed to the door. I guess I was not going to be doing without a proper send-off.

Lillian and Oliver walked in front of me and looked like the pack stage with everyone there. On stage, there was Lucinda, River, Jupiter and Michual. When we got onto the stage I noticed there was a book and the pack ceremonial knife.

What's going on?

Lucinda POV

Waiting for Zaliver to arrive at the stage was nerve-racking. I wouldn't do this to send him off but since this was going to be different then this needs to happen.

When I left Grace in the kitchen, I went straight to my office and called my inner circle of what's going to happen with the pack. When I told them what I was doing, they were all pleased with my decision. They were told the plan. Lillian and Oliver were to get Zaliver from his room after breakfast. River to tell the whole pack to meet at the stage after breakfast. While me, Jupiter and Michual got the materials we needed.

I got a mind link from Oliver as they were on their way down. Jupiter got the sense that I was nervous. I felt his hand on top of my shoulder and I turned to look at him. He gave a reassuring smile and said, "You will be fine. You are doing the right thing." So, I gave him one back.

Everyone must sense the strong aura of the king because everyone had their eyes on him. So did I and what I saw was confusion on his face. Lillian and Oliver kinda dragged him over towards the stage. My pack bowed their heads and so did us on the stage. We didn't raise them until he said to raise our heads. He was on the stage and looked at what's with us. I see Oliver and Lillian have taken their spot, so it was down to me now.

I step forward and raise my hand, to which the whole pack had attention on me. "White Rose, I called for this pack meeting after breakfast because there's important news that must be said. For starters, the Alpha King will leave this pack after helping

us with the rogues and bring back Delta River."

Clapping and cheering surround the air. I quickly put my hand up for it to stop. "Yes, yes. It was exciting that he is leaving but that is the start of the news. I have been told that while his stay with us has been good, he has told me in confidence that he has found his mate in this very pack." Shock eyes surrounded everyone and whispered amongst who it was. I had a sneak peek at Zaliver, who was shocked at what I had declared.

"I know this has come as a shock and out of the blue. But I wouldn't tell you if it wasn't true. Apart from the mate news, I myself have news that will also tie in with the resolution of the mate situation. I have decided that I will step down as Alpha of White Rose and pass it over to Beta Oliver, who will take over with immediate effect. If there is anyone in the pack who has a problem with this, please speak now!"

I eyed the pack and nobody challenged for the position. "Very good, Beta Oliver please step forward." He did so and I went to pick up the pack book and the ceremonial knife. I went back over to stand in front of Oliver. Jupiter also steps forward to help hold the book in between us. I held the knife in my right hand and held it over my left and said, "I, Alpha Lucinda of White Rose, terminate my power and authority over this pack. I hand all power and authority over to Beta Oliver of White Rose. Does Beta Oliver agree to lead and take care of the pack and lead its greatness?"

"I, Beta Oliver of White Rose, accept the power and authority of becoming White Rose's new Alpha and continue to lead it to greatness." I nod and slice my left hand with the knife and quickly hand it over to Oliver. He does the same but to his right hand. We both clasp our cut hands together like a handshake. When we did, I felt all the power and strong links to the pack disappear and my authority to the pack lessen. When we both felt it was over, we let go and I bowed my head at Oliver in respect of the new Alpha. Then I take the book of Jupiter and hand it to him.

I say to him, "This book is handed down the generations to each Alpha. It has the history of the pack and wise words that one day may come in handy." He took it from me and gave me a quick hug. We pulled away and I gestured to him to address the pack. He stepped to where I was standing and I stood next to Lillian.

"White Rose, I would like to thank Lucinda for what she has done to the pack even after everything has happened. This is an honour to be passed the Alpha power. I will carry on where we are with a few arrangements. I first would Love for all to meet my mate, Lillian, who will be our Luna." Lillian went over to him and they did the same of what I and Oliver did but it was quicker and less painful. She quickly joined me back and gave a side squeeze. "I know Lucinda didn't give a proper introduction to Gamma Jupiter but now he can have a proper introduction and a promotion to be my Beta."

They don't need to use the knife when promoting or giving power to a Beta or lower. That's how easy it was to change my inner circle. With that done, he also announced that Michual was going to be the new Gamma with River staying to be the Delta. "Now that everyone has been accorded to their roles. I like to take this time to announce who the mate of Alpha King Zaliver is or would his highness like to say who it is?" Oliver turned to Zaliver and Zaliver just nodded.

So he went and stood next to Oliver. "My mate is someone who everyone knows and she has the kindest heart and needs the most time to be spoiled rotten. It is the reason why she stepped down as being your Alpha. Since she has decided to come with me. Lucinda, come here." He holds his hand out to me, so I step forward and take it. The pack was up in celebration. Zaliver spun me around and leaned in to kiss me.

In an instance, it went quiet. And I felt lots of eyes on me. We both pulled away from the kiss and saw that everyone had stopped to watch the King and ex-Alpha kiss. Then everyone went back to the celebration mood. Lillian came running over to give both of us a huge hug. I went over to Michual, Jupiter and River to give them a hug

and said goodbye and good luck to them.

I had arranged pack members to put all my pack cases into the same car as Zaliver before everything happened. So with that in mind, I asked if we should get going and they agreed. I followed Oliver and Lillian to the cars that waited at the front of the packhouse. Well getting to the cars was a bit tricky because the pack was giving their congratulations and good luck to both of us. But we managed to get to the cars in one piece. Zaliver spoke with Lillian again and I spoke to Oliver one last time. "You will do good, Ollie. If you need advice, I'm only a call away or a short drive away. Don't you dare let the pack fall below second in the ranking or I'm coming back to take over."

"Oh please. Like that will never happen. And you, coming back to be Alpha, you will have to fight me but I don't think that will come to that because you will be busy with your new duties." Oliver says and I sigh. "I will miss you, Lucie. You are a great person to have around"

"Thanks, Ollie. You two." I gave one last hug and stepped towards the car. Zaliver held the door open and I slid onto the seat. He shut the door and went round to the other side and got in. I rolled down the window and waved at everyone who stood there. Zaliver told the driver to go.

Soon everyone was getting smaller. Zaliver rubbed my arm and said, "Ready to start your new life?"

I looked at him and replied, "Yes, I am ready to start my next chapter." We both leaned into a kiss that was full of love and happiness.

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Source Creation Date: July 26, 2025, 5:25 am

Lucinda POV

Weeks of being here at Royal pack just fly by. In the first couple of days of being there. Zaliver showed me the pack and introduced me to everyone as their Luna and soon to be queen. Afterwards, Zaliver was caught up with the pack work that he has been trying to catch up with. I was mixed with helping where I can in the pack and helping Zaliver.

Within the first week, I had nearly sorted out his office of messy files and with everything just spilt and chaos. He must have known that I would do this because he saw my office back at White Rose. I bet by now, my old office is a complete tip ass.

By the end of the second week, Zaliver had appointed Peter as the new Beta because he had taken to be the leader of the pack while Zaliver had been absent and the pack with no Beta. But speaking of Beta, Carlos is still to be dealt with. But I feel that it won't be anytime soon. It is like me and Harrison. I told Oliver to keep him there and keep punishing him. But when I feel the time he should die, Oliver has given me permission to come over and kill him myself.

The third week, we both made a plan to visit Abigail's parents. When we visited them and told them that her body hadn't been seen. Let's say they were devastated that they can't lay their daughter to rest. But it's to our knowledge that she is dead or that she is alive but living a life away from everyone. They didn't want anyone else in the pack knowing and they understand that White Rose does know about Abigail. By the end of the visit they had calmed down and were their happier selves again.

The month had gone quick and everything was settled among the packs. Zaliver had

taken me out on dates during the month. I'll bring you what I'm doing now, which is getting ready for another date. Helping me get ready is Annie. She was in her mid-twenties and was assigned to me to be a personal maid. But I see her as a friend and we just clicked. She isn't so formal with me as she was when I first arrived.

Annie helped me into a purple cocktail dress with vintage floral lace that has long sleeves and a boat neck. She did simple makeup to match the dress colour and also did my hair that braids we're coming from the sides of my head which lead to a high ponytail that had been curled. I opted for low heels because I suck at wearing high ones. I wear a replica of the ring I used to wear back at White Rose. Of course, I left the real one there because Oliver will have to pass it down to his children. Lastly, a simple necklace that has the letter L on the chain.

By the time I had finished getting ready, there was a knock on the door. Annie got it. Then she called me "Lucinda, it's Peter."

"Okay," I call back. I walked out of my walk-in closet with a changing area in. I see Peter leaning on the door frame, "Why are you here? I thought Zaliver would be waiting for me here?" I asked.

Peter straightened up and bowed. "I have orders from the high and mighty to escort you to him." He held his arms out for me to take and led me out of the room with Annie calling out 'good luck'.

Peter takes me to the front doors of the palace. Yes, the palace. Now that Zaliver has me and still not mated nor marked. He doesn't want to be in the packhouse with other males. He's now acting all proactive and has been reminded, many times, that I've lived with unmated males for most of my life.

Anyway, I'm standing on the steps and looking onto a posh black Rolls-Royce that is parked on the driveway. "Peter, where are we going?" I ask.

"Sorry, I'm sworn to secrecy. I can tell that's it not far but is faster by car. Plus, it's not often this car that gets used and I wanna drive it." Peter says. I nodded in understanding. So he opened the door to the back seat and helped me in. He bolted into the driver's seat and got the car in motion.

I was looking out of the window of the car, watching the scenery go by and thinking where the hell I was going. I know we have been on different dates like a restaurant, cinema, hillside picnic and even just going on a full moon walk through the park and fields. My mind goes to the park map that he has shown me before. If it recalls there might be a sort of beach. It is quite small but I haven't seen it nor has Zaliver told me about it.

The car seemed to come to a stop and I looked towards the front. But it seemed that the trees were still around us. Peter turned in his seat and handed me a blindfold. Of course, he would want a surprise of the location. I took it from him and put it on. I felt the car move again, properly to become closer to where I was needed.

When the car stopped again, I heard Peter got out and opened my car. I reached for his hands that he guided me out. I felt myself being guided somewhere but I was smelling of what was salty water and the sound of waves against the shore. I guess I was right about the beach.

A few moments later, we stopped and Peter whispered in my ear, "Enjoy your evening." Then he removed the blindfold and I guessed he walked back to the car since he is attached to it now. My eyes adjusted to the surroundings again and took in the view. There was a decked area on the sand with a table set up for 2 with the rising of the moon in the distance. Standing nearby was the handsome Zaliver. He was wearing a smart black tux with a few buttons undone near the collar. I walk towards him with the biggest smile on my face.

When I reached him, he took one of my hands and gave the knuckles a kiss. "You

look wonderfully beautiful." I felt a blush creep onto my face.

"Thank you. I may also say you look dashing in that tux."

He gave a smile, "Thank you, let us sit and enjoy our food under the moonlight." I nodded and he guided us to the table. He slid out the chair for me to sit and then he went to the other side for him to sit down. His eyes fogged but then quickly came back to life. Immediately 2 people came out of nowhere with 2 plates of steaming hot food. They placed them down in front of us and bowed and hurried away. Sitting in front of us was Lamb with warm potatoes and olive salad. It smells heavenly. I see Zaliver raise a glass that was filled with wine-like mine. So I copy his actions so that our glasses tap each other with a clink, then take a sip. I got straight into eating the meal and let's just say it's just as good as the cooks back in the packhouse.

We both made small talk about anything that came into our heads. It was a relaxed atmosphere and soon enough our plates were cleared of our eaten meal. For dessert, mini cakes were placed and my eyes caught my favourite one, cookies and cream cake. I grabbed it and used a knife to cut a piece off. I felt I was less messy instead of shocking it into my mouth. When I did that, I noticed something was in the middle. So I used my hand and carefully retrieved it.

When I pulled it out, it was a ring. A silver band with a rose gold gem sitting on top. I was so engrossed, I didn't notice Zaliver next to me on one knee. It wasn't until he took the ring off me, I turned in my chair to look at him. "Lucinda, I have no words to tell how you look tonight or how wonderfully grateful that you are here. Looking at you the first time in White Rose, something clicked into place. You were on my mind most of the time and even when you kept phoning me, I actually questioned myself of how you could turn my mind around, nobody can hardly do that except my mate. Apart from that, I want to make it official. Well, it is official, but I want to." He stops and looks at me. I gave him an encouraging smile. "I don't know why I can't always act normal when I'm around you. Let me get these words out before I ramble on.

Lucinda, will you marry me?"

I made King ramble, that's new. I didn't have to think about my answer. "Zaliver, I would be honoured to marry you." He slipped the ring onto my ring finger on the left hand, lifted me up and spun us around.

We both eat cakes, well most of them. Then headed towards the car that Peter is drooling over. He said congrats to us and drove back to the palace. I was happy that I'm going to be married to my mate but also a bit scared that it would be official of me becoming the Luna Queen. But I know with Zaliver with me, everything is going to be okay.

4 Months Later...

Lucinda POV

The months sped past on planning a wedding. The following day, after he proposed, the whole pack rejoiced in celebrations because it was official that their Alpha is going to get his Queen. Of course, I told Ollie before all the Alphas were informed because he would tease me for not telling him.

When we told all the Alpha of the wedding, they sent us gifts of congratulations. To help plan the wedding, Lillian came over much to Ollie dismay. I also allowed Annie to help plus Flora and Daisy who I made friends with.

But like I said, the months flew by and right now I am sitting in the bath trying to feel relaxed but I am a bag of nerves. I know the girls are outside getting dressed up in their dresses.

A maid comes into the bathroom and gestures for me to get out and dry off, which I do. I set out of the bathroom and I saw my 4 bridesmaids; Annie, Flora, Daisy and Lillian. "My gosh girls, you all look beautiful," I say and Flora faces reddened a bit. They are wearing sequin, floor-length, one-shoulder, sleeveless Rose Gold dresses.

"Yeah, yeah. I know we look grand but the bride needs to get a move on. You got up late even after all 4 of us jumped on you. You lazy ass went back to sleep, so you have 2 hours to be ready." Lillian scolds me to which I rolled my eyes. I sit on a stool in front of the vanity desk. A hired hairdresser starts to brush and style my hair while a makeup artist does my make up. While they do their stuff the girls just chit chat

about anything.

What felt like forever, both hair and makeup were done. My hair was done with what looks like a big plat which was puffed out. They put Navy and Rose Gold crystals through my hair. For makeup, a simple natural look because everyone said that I don't need to hide behind makeup. But a little bit of mascara, rose gold with a hint of navy eyeshadow and pale pink lip gloss.

Now to put my dress on. I didn't want anything too big or too fitting. Zaliver wanted a fitted dress because he wanted to show me off but of course, I said no and shoved him away. Don't worry, he hasn't seen the dress. My dress was a white princess dress that puffed out a bit but not too much, I'm my preference. It's strapless with a sweetheart neckline and lace. There is also a ribbon that is Rose gold that goes around the bodice. The maid lifted up the dress and shimmy it over my head, being careful of my hair and makeup.

When they were done, I walked over to the long mirror that hangs in the walk-in wardrobe. What stared back at me wasn't me. I would never be seen like this in front of a crowd but I was going to. I noticed I didn't have jewellery on. So I walked back to the dresser and put on a simple one jewelled necklace, Rose Gold singled studded earrings and my favourite ring well second to the ring that Zaliver proposed with.

All of a sudden a sad thought occurred. I wouldn't have my father walk me down the aisle. He would love to see me now. I didn't notice that a few stray tears escaped me until Lillian wiped them away. "Don't you dare cry on me now. Don't want to ruin your good look. Come on, let's get you knocked up." She says to me, making me smile.

The maids bowed when the five of us left the room and headed down the stairs towards the back of the palace. The wedding is being held in the gardens because it was large enough for everyone and I liked the idea of the wedding to be outside. We

stopped when we got to the double doors to the gardens. Other maids were waiting there with our flowers. The bridesmaids have either Navy or Rose Gold roses while mine had both with a few White Roses. When we were ready, the maids pulled back the curtains and a guard opened the door that allowed my four bridesmaids to walk down the aisle before my turn.

I was on my own, the maids had disappeared, when someone tapped my shoulder. I spun around and saw Oliver. "Ollie, what are you doing here? You should be standing with Zaliver."

He rubbed his neck, "Well, I and Zaliver discussed you walking down the aisle on your own and giving yourself away. Since I and you are closer to each other than the others, I said I would walk and give you away. If this is okay with you?"

I felt tears in my eyes. "Ollie, thank you. It would be an honour to walk me to my mate." I pulled him into a hug and whispered into his ear, "I hoped someone would walk with me". We pulled back with huge grins. Oliver tapped on the door to let them know to proceed. I linked my arm through his right arm and both of the doors opened.

There were rows of people here from far and wide. Navy and Rose Gold roses were lining the way to the end of the aisle where my mate waited with his best men and bridesmaids. I and Oliver started the slow walk up to them.

Zaliver chose Oliver, Jupiter, Peter and Flora's mate, James as his best man. All of them were wearing Navy suits with white shirts, Navy ties and the best men had either Navy or Rose Gold Roes in the front pockets whereas Zaliver had a White one plus a crown was also sat upon his head. I caught Lillian drooling over Oliver while on the walk but I couldn't complain because I was drooling over my own mate.

We reached the end and Oliver handed me over to Zaliver who had the biggest smile ever. Oliver went and stood with the other boys. The priest started his words but I

wasn't taking them in but was eye raping my mate. It wasn't until Zaliver was saying his vows I tuned in. "Lucinda, who knew that one of the few females Alpha of the world would be my mate. You are strong, wilful and the loveliest girl I have ever had the chance to lay eyes on. There are no words that can describe you because they don't do you justice. I will forever love you. I will promise to be with you through the hard times and bring you the happiness that you deserve. So I take you as my wedded wife for as long as I live and breathe."

I take in a breath and proceed with my own, "Zaliver, I wasn't sure that we could have been together because of the differences but I guess I was wrong because we do belong together. Leaving my position as Alpha was the best decision I made. You are wonderful and made everything happy again. You bring out the side that nobody else sees that can be refreshing. I can't wait to spend the rest of my life with you. I will love you to the moon and back. I promise to be with you through thick and thin. I will stand by you through everything either the good and bad. I will promise to bring happiness that you also deserve. So I take you as my wedded husband for as long as I live and breathe." I said this while looking into his eyes during it his eyes glistened with tears. We exchanged rings and then Zaliver will mark me in front of everyone. So he pulled me close and I allowed room for him to have access to my neck. When his teeth pierced the skin it hurt for a few seconds but then it turned into pleasure. My brain was filled with all new mind links to our pack. I was once again an official member of a pack.

When he released me and licked the blood away, a crown was placed on my head and announced that I was the Queen. The crowd went wild and congratulations were sounded. Zaliver picked me up and ran down the aisle towards the dining room. There was a grand meal waiting for all of us.

The evening was full of dancing and music. I danced with all my old inner circle at White Rose. I also met with a close ally King from America called Julian, who was on a quest to find his mate finally and he stopped by. He soon left though to get back

travelling. It was a fun evening meeting the different Alphas of packs who don't really see and hear from.

Once I and Zaliver found it appropriate to disappear from the party mode everyone was in. We hid in the bedroom where we came together as a whole. Zaliver remarked me again and he allowed me to put a mark on him. It was the best day ever!

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Source Creation Date: July 26, 2025, 5:25 am

5 years later

Lucinda POV

Well, 5 years have gone and I am surviving. Being Queen is like being an Alpha always busy working out ways to help packs. But I would never change or for the world. I've visited Harrison in the cells in the old pack and he looks really bad. I still haven't ended his life. He is suffering until it's time. On the other hand, Zaliver gave out after 2 years of Carlos in our cells. He was publicly hanged for his betrayal to the pack, Alpha and his part in trying to bring down White Rose. At least he is with his Half-brother now.

Oliver and Lillian are thriving at leading White Rose. They are sure that they stayed the second strongest in the county, to which I'm proud of. They got married, since they wanted to copy me, and they are expecting a pup to come out of Lillian any time soon.

River is still himself, stern and a bit moody but we all know what won't change. Nobody has asked why he's like that.

I learned, through Lillian, that Jupiter and Michual are true mates. I suspected that they were mates before I left the pack and also at mine and Ollie's wedding they were on top of each other. Nothing sexual in the public place but who knows in private. Anyway, they are happy, marked and mated.

I and Zaliver have been going strength to strength. We've had our arguments but always in the end, usually him, will apologise and make it up in some way. Usually,

what I read in stories, the main characters have a child or children running around the place. There are no children at the moment but there may be a child on the way. Yep, I'm pregnant but only by a month.

When I told Zaliver I was with a child, he just exploded. A few warriors with Peter came rushing in to make sure there was no threat. I told Peter the news and he gave me a hug then left with the warriors. When Zaliver came back to earth, he set an immediate pack meeting and told them all the good news. A pack barbeque was held that evening. I also told Lillian and Oliver but they were sworn to secrecy until we told all the alphas the news. We still haven't done it yet because they don't really need to know until we set an alpha meeting again.

Zaliver and I were on our way to one of the other Alpha King's in the world to celebrate his son's birthday. It's cute because the child is 5. This King lives in America and we have already landed and in a car to his home. Zaliver held my hand in his and rubbed his thumb across my knuckles because he felt my uneasiness. "You are going to be fine, Lucie. Julian is a close friend and that you have already met them twice. Once at our wedding and then again at theirs."

"I know, I know. I can't help it and the changing of my hormones isn't helping me. Also, they were brief encounters"

"Maybe, we should have stayed home and missed this." He thought out loud.

"No. It makes for the different scenery and to get away from our home for a bit."

"Of course. Love you."

"Love you two." He brought my held hand to his lips and gave a gentle kiss on the knuckles.

Through the trees, there was a castle that hid the rising of the moon. The car drove

over the gravel driveway to the entrance. One of the guards opened the door for Zaliver to step out. When he did, he turned and helped me out. Taking his right arm with my left, we headed up the steps to head inside.

When inside, a butler guided us to a large ballroom where balloons, streamers, lots of food and a huge birthday cake was seen. Music was playing with adults talking and surrounding children who are in the middle of the floor. I and Zaliver stood to the side and took it all in. Zaliver whispered in my ear, "This will be us soon. Planning parties for our pup." This made me smile and I quickly gave him a kiss on the cheek. "Come, Lucie let's find Julian."

Zaliver found him with his mate talking to another man, who I didn't recognise. Julian must have heard us because he turned and outstretched his hand to Zaliver, who took it and gave him a handshake. "Zaliver, glad you could make it. Hello again, Lucinda. We need to have a chat sometime to get to know each other."

"Why yes. I would like that as you seem to know Zaliver well."

"Indeed. I like to introduce Alpha Blake of the red arrow pack. Blake, this is Zaliver and Lucinda, King and Queen of Europe werewolves. Also, Lucinda was one of the few Alpha Females in the whole world at one point." I blushed at his compliment.

"Nice to meet you both. Excuse me, I will leave you 4 to it." Blake says and disappears into the crowd. We 4 chat for a bit and then Cassidy, Julian's mate, suggests that their son, Collin, blow out his candles and cut the cake.

Soon the party slowed down and parents were taking their children home. Cassidy has told one of the maids to show us to a room to stay for the night, as we would head back to our pack in the morning. It was a decent room with everything we needed. Our packed clothes were already in the room. Zaliver helped me out of my dress and I helped him out of his suit. We had a very long bath which carried over back into the bedroom. Even though I'm a month pregnant, Zaliver was very gentle as he doesn't

want to hurt me. I just laughed because it's cute of him to think that.

The next morning, after morning sickness and breakfast, we left and flew back to our pack. I will say that when we left the castle, it was quiet around. Maybe everyone was partied out.

Overall, everything in my life is great. I have a handsome mate, loyal pack members, friends who are my family and soon a child to call my own on the way. My Female Alpha duties are done but my Queenly duties are only just beginning.