30 Days to Freedom: Abandoned Luna is Secret Shadow King... - Chapter 43

(Olivia's POV)

Leo's desperate cries for help echoed through the creche. His small voice cracked with terror as Isadora continued her punishment.

"Mommy! Help me! Please!" he sobbed, reaching toward me with trembling hands.

I watched coldly, my expression unmoved by his pleas. "Why are you calling for me?" I asked with deliberate cruelty. "Ask your beloved Clara and precious sister to save you instead."

Leo's tear-filled eyes turned desperately to Clara and Rosalie. "Aunt Clara! Rosie! Help me!"

But Clara immediately stepped backward, pulling Rosalie with her. They distanced themselves from the scene, protecting their own interests.

Rosalie's sweet facade crumbled as she watched Leo suffer. She made no move to help him.

Leo's expression grew complex as reality hit him. The people he'd defended so fiercely had abandoned him when he needed them most.

His small face showed confusion and hurt. The lesson was brutal but necessary.

"Now you understand," I said quietly. "This is who they really are."

I turned to Matron Maeve with cold authority. "If Rosalie isn't expelled immediately, I'll withdraw Leo from this creche."

"Furthermore, the Crimson Pack will cancel all funding to this institution."

The other parents quickly joined my threat. Their voices rose in unified agreement.

"We'll withdraw our pups too if nothing is done."

"This level of violence cannot be tolerated."

"Our children's safety comes first."

Matron Maeve's face went pale with panic. Losing the Crimson Pack's support would destroy the creche financially.

"Very well," she said with visible reluctance. "Rosalie will be expelled effective immediately."

Clara and Rosalie glared at me with identical venomous expressions.

Just then, an elegant figure entered the creche. Her expensive clothes and graceful bearing commanded immediate attention.

Rosalie's face lit up with calculated sweetness. She ran forward with outstretched arms.

"Grandma!" she called out in her most innocent voice.

The woman was Eleonora Redgrave.

(God's POV)

Eleonora entered with her usual dignified composure, but she didn't respond to Rosalie's sweet greeting.

Isadora immediately released Leo, stepping back respectfully. The young pup crawled across the floor and threw himself into Eleonora's arms.

"Grandma!" Leo sobbed against her shoulder. "Aunt Isa hit me, and Mom pressed my face down! It hurt so much!" Eleonora's sharp gaze fixed on Isadora with obvious displeasure. Her frown deepened as she looked at Olivia.

"Why would you treat Leo this way?" she demanded, her voice carrying clear disapproval.

Isadora quickly defended her actions. "Leo was protecting the pup who attacked Iris. Olivia was just giving him a light demonstration."

"I was showing him what his precious Rosalie did to his cousin."

Eleonora's voice rose with indignation. "Even a light press is unacceptable! What if Leo had suffocated?"

She turned her harsh glare on Isadora. "You're supposed to be a proper aunt, not a bully!"

Isadora felt her face burn with humiliation.

Being lectured by her mother in front of the pack's elite was mortifying. She could already imagine the gossip that would follow.

Eleonora found the situation puzzling. She knew Isadora's strict nature and her firm discipline of Iris.

But Olivia had never used harsh methods with Leo, even when he made serious mistakes. This behavior was completely out of character.

The ignored Rosalie walked up to Eleonora under everyone's surprised gazes. She looked up with tear—filled eyes. "Grandma," she called sweetly again. "They don't want me to study here. I'm so scared."

The other parents began whispering among themselves with growing excitement.

"If she's calling Mrs. Redgrave 'Grandma, she must really be the Alpha's illegitimate daughter."

"No wonder Luna Olivia is so furious today."

"This explains everything."

Eleonora didn't dare get too close to Rosalie. She simply patted the pup's shoulder with careful distance.

"This is the daughter our Theodore has decided to adopt," she announced to the crowd.

She pointed to Olivia with forced authority. "Rosalie, call her Mom."

The gathered parents looked stunned. Wealthy pack families rarely adopted pups this old.

Older pups with memories of their original families were considered difficult to integrate into pack hierarchy.

Rosalie walked up to Olivia with calculated innocence. Her voice dropped to a whisper.

"Mom," she said quietly, watching Olivia's reaction carefully.

Olivia's expression remained ice-cold. "I am not your mother."

Rosalie shot Olivia a malicious look identical to Clara's before pitifully lowering her head.

Eleonora looked genuinely surprised. "Didn't you agree to Theodore's adoption of Rosalie?"

"I haven't officially agreed to anything," Olivia replied firmly. "Given her violent behavior, I need to reconsider entirely." Eleonora tried to persuade her, "Pups need discipline, dear. She can be taught-"

Olivia interrupted sharply. "The person who should discipline her has arrived."

She gestured toward Clara with obvious contempt. "I'm curious, Eleonora. You fired Clara from Leo's caregiver position." "Yet you arranged for her to stay with Rosalie. Don't you think such indulgence makes a pup who needs discipline even worse?"

Olivia's gaze swept over Clara's increasingly pale face. "This pup will never enter the Redgrave family officially."

The parents' disdainful looks fell on Clara as they realized her true status. She was just a caregiver, a glorified nanny.

Eleonora finally noticed Clara standing beside Rosalie. Her face darkened with anger.

"How dare you appear here after being dismissed!" she scolded harshly. "You're corrupting my granddaughter!"

"You're fired from all pack duties immediately!"

Clara felt the injustice keenly. She looked to Rosalie for support, but her daughter stepped back several paces.

Rosalie deliberately distanced herself from her mother, abandoning Clara when she needed her most.

Leo stepped protectively in front of Clara, his small chin jutting out defiantly.

"Grandma, this isn't Aunt Clara's fault!" he declared firmly.

Leo's steadfast protection of Clara made Olivia's gaze lose focus slightly.

He was no different from Rosalie, who had just abandoned her biological mother at the crucial moment.

Olivia couldn't help but doubt herself. Was there something wrong with her parenting methods?

How could she have raised such an ungrateful pup?

Eleonora quickly pulled Leo to her side, her voice stern with warning.

"If you don't listen to your mother, I'll throw away all your toys!"

She feared he might say something inappropriate about the pack's internal affairs in front of these influential families.

Hearing about his beloved toys, Leo began crying but didn't dare speak further.

Eleonora harshly drove Clara away like she was casting out a rogue wolf.

After the drama ended, everyone returned to the main issue at hand.

Eleonora vouched for the Redgrave family with practiced authority. "Rosalie will definitely reform. I ask Matron Maeve and the other parents to give her another chance."

The elite social circles that led from Alpha to heir started at the pup creche level.

If Rosalie was expelled from this top institution, even future acknowledgment by the Redgrave family wouldn't help her integrate into upper—class pack society.

Eleonora would never allow such a setback to occur.

While people naturally deferred to the former Luna's personal plea, they looked toward Olivia.

Everyone knew her position in Alpha Theodore's heart. No one dared take sides easily without her approval.

Eleonora looked directly at Olivia with confident expectation. "I promise to personally discipline the pup until you're satisfied."

She had confidence that Olivia would listen. Olivia had never even disciplined Leo harshly herself.

However, Olivia's response was ice—cold. "You can wait until the pup is properly trained before enrolling her."

She glanced at her watch disdainfully, "The press conference is about to start. I don't want to waste time here."

Eleonora's perfect composure showed its first c***k. She hadn't expected such blatant disrespect to her authority. "That's decided then, Matron Maeve," Olivia declared with finality.

The other parents' agreement and barely concealed mocking laughter infuriated Eleonora further.

Olivia gave brief instructions to Isadora about Iris's care, then walked toward the exit.

She completely ignored Eleonora's attempts to call her back.

This was the first time Eleonora had shown disappointment toward Olivia. But since adopting Rosalie still required Olivia's consent as Luna, she had to endure the humiliation.

Eleonora knelt beside Rosalie, forcing a comforting smile. "I'll send you to an even better creche than your brother and sister attend."

"And there will be countless gifts waiting for you."

But Rosalie's mind was filled with how Olivia had repeatedly humiliated her today.

She picked up a small stone from the ground, her face twisting with rage.

With all her strength, she hurled it at the back of Olivia's head.

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(Olivia's POV)

I was walking forward when suddenly a small figure crashed into me from the side, and the child used too much force, bounced back from the impact, and rolled to one side.

I fell to the ground, dizzy and disoriented. Everything spun around me as I tried to process what had happened.

Someone helped me up. "Sister!" Isadora's anxious voice reached my ears.

She carefully checked if I was injured, then breathed a sigh of relief. Only then did I, who had no wolf to warn me of danger, understand what had happened.

The stone Rosalie threw would have struck my head directly. This brave little girl had saved me from serious injury.

Although I felt weak and shaken, I immediately went to help the child who had saved me. I knelt in front of her, brushing the dust off her clothes.

I examined her carefully, discovering that her palms were scraped from the rough ground. Small drops of blood dotted the raw skin.

"Let me take you to the pack's medical room," I offered gently.

The girl refused, shaking her head firmly. "My father told me that even though I'm a girl, such minor injuries are nothing."

Her brave words made my heart ache. She looked up at me with concerned eyes.

"Are you alright, beautiful Luna?" she asked in her sweet voice.

Despite being injured herself, she worried about me. The warmth in my heart was overwhelming.

However, when I looked toward Rosalie, my expression became cold and stern. Rage filled every fiber of my being.

"Elder," I said to Eleonora, my voice sharp as ice. "Is this what you call being able to discipline her properly?"

"I will never allow such a dangerous wolf pup into our pack!"

Eleonora was shocked by Rosalie's behavior. Her face went pale with horror.

She raised her hand and slapped the child hard across the face. The sound echoed through the courtyard.

"Take her away immediately!" she ordered the family servants.

Rosalie was stunned by the slap. She began to cry loudly, her face red from the blow.

She looked desperately at Clara, confusion filling her tear-filled eyes. "Hadn't you said that I was more important to Father and Grandmother than anyone else?"

The parents nearby began to whisper among themselves. Their voices carried clearly in the tense air

"Look at her features. She really does resemble Alpha Theodore."

"She must be his illegitimate daughter. That explains everything."

"No wonder Luna Olivia is so furious today."

Eleonora's face alternated between pale and flushed. Her previous arrogant demeanor had completely vanished.

After the other children and parents left, Eleonora tried to convince me to give Rosalie another chance. She even signaled

Isadora for support.

However, Isadora wisely took Iris to class instead. She had learned her lesson about interfering.

I directly ignored Eleonora's pleading looks. Her eyes revealed a suspicious glint.

I knew she was suspecting that I had learned something about the family's secrets. But I no longer wanted to engage in false pleasantries with this old woman.

"Pack medic," I called out. "Please disinfect this child's wounds properly."

I turned to the brave little girl with a gentle smile. "What's your name, sweetheart?"

"Elara," she replied shyly, her cheeks pink with embarrassment.

"Because you saved me, I want to give you a reward. What would you like?" I gently patted her little head.

"Would you like to come to my birthday party this weekend?" she asked hopefully.

"I would be honored," I agreed warmly. "I'll bring you a special gift."

Leo suddenly pulled at my hand, his voice demanding and petulant. "You can't care about her or give her gifts!"

"I'm also injured and my bottom hurts! I want your attention and gifts instead!"

I looked down at Leo, remembering this was the second time I'd seen him get hit. Though my heart ached seeing him in pain, I thought of Iris.

He had brought this upon himself. His possessiveness made me frown deeply. He looks exactly like Theodore now.

He had stood beside Rosalie and could have prevented the incident. But he did nothing, and even now showed no concern for my fall.

I pulled my hand away from Leo's grip. "Your bottom will heal soon."

"And I can give gifts to whomever I want," I said firmly.

"You need to apologize to Iris before the day ends. Or you should stop calling me 'Mom."

This threat made Leo cry immediately. Tears streamed down his small face.

He sobbed about all our loving moments together. "You promised eternal love and companionship!"

"You said you'd never leave me!" he wailed desperately.

He ran crying into the nursery, his small figure disappearing through the doorway.

Isadora appeared moments later, her expression puzzled. "Leo is frantically apologizing to Iris now."

"He seems frightened by something," she observed quietly.

I dismissed her concern with a wave. After reaching an agreement with Elara about the birthday party, I left the nursery.

I ignored Isadora's attempts to continue the conversation.

(Killian's POV)

At the press conference venue, I checked my watch for the fifth time. The elegant timepiece showed we were already running late.

Olivia always keeps her word. Her absence suggested Theodore had given her trouble the night before.

Worry gnawed at my chest. I couldn't concentrate on the prepared materials.

I walked out of the venue, I had to go find her.

Then I saw Olivia walking from the opposite direction, hurrying along. When her gaze met mine, I felt very reassured.

Relief flooded through me seeing her safe. But something in her expression made me alert.

She nervously grabbed my hand and pulled me toward a fire escape. Her grip was urgent and desperate.

In the narrow, dim space, Olivia covered my mouth with her hand. Her breathing was rapid and shallow.

"I suspect Theodore implanted a tracking chip in me," she whispered breathlessly.

"He can find me anywhere. I believe he's already on his way to our location."

The cramped space was filled with her nervous sweat and natural fragrance. I felt somewhat dazed.

I looked into her worried eyes, wanting to comfort her fears.

She stared back into my eyes. Something different stirred in the air between us.

However, this feeling was quickly dismissed as the fire escape door suddenly burst open.

Harsh light flooded the darkness, accompanied by Theodore's panicked and suspicious voice.

"Livvy? What are you doing!"

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(Olivia's POV)

Theodore stood in the empty corridor, his expression stern as ice. His dark eyes swept the space where he clearly saw us enter moments ago.

Yet we had vanished completely. The positioning dot on his phone showed we were still in this building, but we were nowhere to be found.

His jaw clenched as he barked orders to his pack warriors. "Find my Luna! And I want to see Professor Vance."

The warriors immediately flooded into the fire escape. Their heavy boots thundered as they searched every floor from bottom to top.

At this moment, a staff member approached and guided him to the conference hall. Theodore was led toward the conference hall on the other side. His powerful frame radiated fury and suspicion.

He didn't know I was behind the wall behind him. I watched him through a one—way mirror, my heart pounding against my ribs.

Just as Theodore had pushed open the fire escape door, Killian wrapped his arm around my waist. His fingerprint opened a hidden door in the wall, bringing me into The Umbral Vault.

My back pressed against the cold steel plate. My hands rested against Killian's chest while his palm remained at my waist.

His burning breath washed over my face. The atmosphere between us became charged with unspoken tension.

The laboratory lights suddenly brightened. The harsh illumination made me blink rapidly.

Killian's research team members welcomed my arrival. They had heard I was the internationally renowned strategist "Cipher" who struck fear into hostile packs worldwide.

Their curious gazes made me uncomfortable. Killian and I quickly withdrew our hands, exchanging an awkward glance before looking away.

A man with sharp features approached us. "Beta Gideon Frost," he introduced himself curtly.

"Theodore's pack warriors are searching throughout the building. They're disrupting many researchers' work and demanding to find 'Luna Olivia' at any cost."

His expression was grave. "Theodore is currently at the press conference venue, demanding to see Professor Vance."

Panic seized my chest. I couldn't cause trouble for these people who were trying to help me.

"I need to leave," I said urgently. "I'll find another opportunity to return."

I moved toward the door, but Killian blocked my path. His tall frame cast a shadow over me.

"If the tracking device isn't removed from you, you'll continue to be under Theodore's control," he said calmly. "We might not get another chance next time."

His ice-blue eyes held mine steadily. "If you're taken back by the Theodore without removing the device, it could expose our base."

"Besides, if you leave the Northern Territory, wearing a tracker will hinder Matthew's operations."

Facing his questioning gaze, I felt a deep sense of defeat. This man I once revered as a mentor now doubted my capabilities.

I remembered how he once trusted my abilities completely. He would follow my strategic plans without hesitation, even facing dangerous missions.

Now his doubt wounded me deeply. I lowered my eyes, avoiding his penetrating stare.

"I hadn't considered things thoroughly enough," I admitted quietly.

Killian's expression softened slightly. "Enter the inner laboratory. Remove all your belongings and lie in the detection chamber."

Without hesitation, I removed my mother's ruby necklace. The precious stones caught the light as I set it aside.

My 9.9–carat diamond mating ring followed. The massive stone felt heavy in my palm.

Finally, I removed my dark gray hair clip. My long hair cascaded down my shoulders.

As I lay in the detection chamber with my eyes closed, memories flooded back. When had Theodore implanted the subcutaneous chip?

Such procedures required general anesthesia. When had he drugged me without my knowledge?

(Killian's POV)

When I entered and saw Olivia in the detection chamber, only her face was visible above the gray—white chamber body. Faint sadness marked her expression – sadness caused by Theodore.

As the machine operated, hot air enveloped Olivia's entire body. Her face gradually reddened and heated up.

Through the transparent cover, I saw tears sliding from the corners of her eyes. We both understood what subcutaneous chip implantation meant.

Unlike medical implants, it continuously released signals. It essentially subjected the body's organs to constant interference with irreversible damage.

The machine completed its scan with a soft beep. "There is no signal source on your body," I announced.

Relief flickered across Olivia's features. She reached for her mating ring, but I suddenly grabbed her hand.

"Is this something you would never part with?" I asked urgently.

She shook her head and indicated her mother's ruby necklace. "This is what I truly never leave behind."

My blood ran cold. We discovered the tracking chip embedded within the necklace – a family heirloom passed down through generations of the Blackwood line.

Theodore knew she would never abandon it. He had exploited her love for her mother.

I worked skillfully to remove the chip without damaging the necklace. The delicate procedure required steady hands and precise movements.

"He used your mother against you," I said quietly.

Olivia's face crumpled with pain and betrayal. Her hands trembled as she watched me work.

When I finished, I stood behind her to help put the necklace back on. My burning fingers and the cool necklace created ripples on her swan–like neck.

The moment became intimate. Her skin was soft and warm beneath my touch.

Then I picked up her mating ring. "Are you willing?" I asked, sliding the diamond ring onto her finger before she could refuse.

My hand clasped her delicate one. Her pulse fluttered beneath my thumb.

(Olivia's POV)

Electric currents surged through my veins, striking my heart. I met Killian's direct gaze, drowning in his deep, ocean—like dark eyes.

Passionate waves seemed ready to draw me in. He began confessing his feelings, his voice low and intense.

"I have global assets," he said, listing his advantages. "A respected professorship, military honors, a healthier lifestyle than Theodore."

His grip on my hand tightened. "I respect your wishes more. I support your career pursuits."

My heart hammered against my ribs. This wasn't how things were supposed to go.

"I love you, Olivia," he declared directly.

I couldn't accept my revered mentor falling from his pedestal this way. Panic seized me as I nervously retreated.

My back hit the detection chamber. I tumbled backward into it, pulling Killian down with our clasped hands.

His soft lips met mine as we fell. The still—running detector automatically closed the chamber door, trapping us tightly together.

We couldn't move in the confined space. His weight pressed against me, his breath mingling with mine.

At that precise moment, Theodore's voice penetrated our eardrums through the intercom system.

"Professor Vance, what have you done to my Luna!"

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(Olivia's POV)

Theodore's furious roars echoed through the massive display screen in the hidden laboratory hall. "Vance, hand over Olivia!" His voice pierced through the entire laboratory as he lost all composure.

The press conference venue showed his amber eyes blazing with murderous intent. His powerful frame radiated pure Alpha rage.

Beta Gideon Frost burst into the office, unable to find us initially. He pushed open Killian's private laboratory door with urgency.

"Professor, if Luna Olivia doesn't come out soon, we can't hold them back anymore," Gideon announced breathlessly.

Inside the detection chamber, I desperately pounded against the walls. "Gideon!" I called out, panic seizing my chest.

Upon hearing the commotion, Gideon immediately pressed the switch. He helped Killian out of the detection box first.

Killian quickly assisted me out as well. I appeared disheveled, frantically straightening my dress and long dark hair.

"It was a misunderstanding," I explained concisely. I clutched the retrieved chip tightly in my palm.

I headed toward the hidden door without looking back. My heart hammered against my ribs.

Killian pressed me for my thoughts. When he declared his intention to pursue me, I became somewhat shy.

I couldn't meet his gaze directly. "Killian, you weren't like this before."

My voice trembled with confusion. "You once said your gifted life was meant to serve the rogue alliance, and you would never consider personal matters in this lifetime."

I recalled the Shadow Syndicate base vividly. Despite having countless passionate followers, he would sincerely reject them all.

He had publicly declared his vow to dedicate his gifted life to serving the cause. No other considerations would interfere.

I cannot accept that the sacred Killian has suddenly become someone consumed by romantic feelings. This wasn't the mentor I once revered.

"At that time, I hadn't recognized my feelings for you," Killian responded with straightforward honesty. His confession left me even more flustered.

"Olivia, give me a chance. I'm better than Theodore..."

"Let me leave first, I interrupted urgently. I glanced at the laboratory's main display screen.

Theodore's amber eyes burned with murderous intent. If he cannot find me soon, he might tear down the entire building with his Alpha rage.

(Killian's POV)

As Olivia's gaze turned toward the screen, my deep eyes instantly filled with anger. I remembered asking her why she wanted to become a strategic agent.

She had told me that her mother's dying wish was for her to freely pursue her dreams. No matter how difficult or exhausting, as long as she loved what she was doing.

She said that becoming an agent made her feel her power was being unleashed to its fullest. Her eyes had sparkled with passion then.

I realized that she must love Theodore deeply to give up her freedom and dreams. The recognition darkened my expression.

Someone like Theodore doesn't deserve her. But I can't force her to stay with me either; how would that make me any different from him? That is neither respect nor love.

"Fine, but remember that I'm serious," I said, pressing the fingerprint lock. Olivia eagerly exited the laboratory.

Watching her hurried departure, I recalled our first meeting six years ago. During a dangerous mission, a gentle young female voice suddenly appeared in my earpiece.

Her triumphant silver bell laughter still echoed in my ears. "Professor Vance, please rest assured. With me here, you'll get out safely."

"Walk forward, do you see that window? Jump straight out. You have only five seconds before the entire building goes up in flames."

Despite never imagining I would entrust my life to someone who sounded barely twenty years old, I followed her instructions without hesitation. As I jumped, she laughed.

"Boom! Thank you, Professor, my performance score just increased. I'll pass Matthew's test soon."

Later, I learned from Matthew Kane that the person who saved my life was a newly recruited agent. She was capable of invading the minds of people within a one–kilometer radius using psychic abilities.

Matthew's most cherished new recruit, only twenty years old, with the mysterious codename "Cipher." Before meeting her, I had already fallen in love with her abilities.

When we finally met, her vibrant youthful energy and absolute dedication to her dreams deeply shook me. I still remembered the first time I saw her.

The light in her eyes outshone the stars. But now, watching the press conference footage of her being tightly embraced by Theodore, her beautiful eyes only reflected a wounded, shattered gaze.

(Olivia's POV)

Theodore embraced me, carefully examining my entire body. "Livy, where did you go? Who bullied you?"

His nervous and concerned voice struck my heart. "Was it that Vance? I won't let him get away with this."

I clutched the chip tightly, tears sliding down my cheeks. I recalled how he had rescued me from kidnappers ten years ago.

How he had proposed to me through a global broadcast six years ago. When Leo was born five years ago, he had given me everything.

He made me believe I was his entire world. Now he still creates dream-like illusions for me.

I opened my palm toward Theodore. Under his shocked gaze, I threw the chip on the ground.

My voice carried heavy, broken sobs as if I'd lost my entire world. "You secretly tracked me? Don't you trust me?"

"No, no, my love," Theodore frantically grabbed my arm. He saw my red eyes and shattered appearance.

"I was thinking of your safety, afraid of rogue attacks. Everything I do is for you."

He held me tightly, as if loosening his grip would mean losing me. His desperation was palpable.

Theodore spoke of eight years ago, when I went abroad to study and lost all contact. He was on the verge of collapse for two years.

His only motivation to keep living was the safety messages I sent monthly. The longing was overwhelming.

He launched a global courtship ritual, begging me to return. After I came back, he secretly implanted a chip in the ruby necklace my mother had given me.

Still worried, he desperately expanded the pack's territory and controlled all transportation leaving Stonehaven City. "I promise, without your consent, I will never install tracking devices on you again."

"I will definitely keep my word. Darling, please don't be angry anymore."

I pushed Theodore away with trembling hands. "Did you arrange for Rosalie to be at the creche? She's the one who hurt Iris yesterday."

My voice broke with pain. "Such a pup doesn't deserve to be my daughter, even if she has the same birthmark as our daughter would have."

"Fine, we won't adopt her," Theodore agreed immediately. He wiped my tears with tissues gently.

"I'll listen to whatever you say and support whatever you want to do. Let me take you away."

He glanced dismissively at the laboratory. "The press conference has been delayed so long without anyone appearing – probably another academic fraud trying to pollute our ears."

I also didn't want any interaction between Theodore and Killian, especially after Killian's confession. The tension was unbearable.

But just as we turned to leave, Killian's voice came from behind. "Luna Olivia, you dropped your hair clip."

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(Olivia's POV)

Theodore's gentle gaze instantly turned murderous as he reached out to take the dark gray hair clip from Killian's palm. "Why is my Luna's hair clip in your hands?"

His voice carried a dangerous edge that made my blood run cold.

However, Killian avoided Theodore's hand completely. He walked directly toward me and placed the clip in my palm instead.

I stared at Killian in confusion. Why was he revealing himself to be so aggressive when we were supposed to pretend we didn't know each other?

This Killian felt completely different from the cautious professor I once knew. His boldness terrified me.

"I picked it up in the laboratory," Killian stated calmly.

Theodore immediately grabbed his collar with both hands. "Why did you take my Luna to the lab?"

His amber eyes blazed with Alpha fury. The veins in his neck bulged as his rage intensified.

Theodore suddenly realized something and pointed at the ruby necklace around my neck. "Did you remove it using the high–precision instruments in your laboratory?"

His voice dropped to a menacing whisper that sent chills down my spine.

Killian remained completely indifferent to Theodore's anger. He didn't answer the question at all.

Instead, he gently placed the hairpin in my palm. His fingers brushed against mine briefly.

When Theodore was about to throw another punch, Killian casually reminded him. "Many people are watching."

His tone was almost bored, as if Theodore's threats meant nothing to him.

Indeed, numerous reporters had gathered around us like vultures. Some held cameras broadcasting live footage.

Their confrontation was turning into entertainment about two Alphas fighting over a Luna. The crowd pressed closer, eager for drama.

Beta Gideon Frost stepped forward quickly. "I was the one who found the hair clip."

He handed me a thick document folder. "This is our innovative drug project proposal."

"Despite yesterday's unpleasantness between Alpha Theodore and our professor, the research institute still wishes to collaborate with Crimson Pack."

Only then did Theodore release Killian's collar. He regained his composure with visible effort.

Theodore pretended to casually straighten his wrinkled collar. In reality, the two Alphas had already exerted enough pressure on each other.

They were trying to make the other unable to cope with their dominant energy.

Theodore declared coldly, "Any project involving Killian will not interest Crimson Pack."

His voice carried absolute authority. "I can guarantee no pack in Stonehaven City will invest in his projects."

Both Alphas struggled against each other's overwhelming presence. The air crackled with tension between them.

Reporters' jeering finally made them separate reluctantly. Theodore patted Killian's chest threateningly.

"Remember my warning," he said with deadly calm.

I didn't understand why Killian would offend Theodore to get close to me. Hadn't Matthew told him that I was about to leave Theodore?

Killian showed no fear whatsoever. "The Crimson Pack will eventually beg to cooperate with our research institute."

When we left the laboratory building, the large screen on the wall was broadcasting a press conference.

The host introduced Killian enthusiastically. "A genius scientist well–known in both the human world and the supernatural realm."

"He began studying in Europe at the age of sixteen. After twelve arduous years, he achieved outstanding discoveries in mechanics, materials science, mechanical engineering, and biomemetics."

"He now serves as a distinguished professor at Crestwood University and director of the Sanctuary Research Institute."

I felt genuinely happy for him. I recalled how he had faced life—threatening situations multiple times in Europe.

His journey had been incredibly difficult and dangerous. Yet he had persevered and succeeded brilliantly.

Theodore saw my expression full of admiration for Killian. He turned me by the shoulder forcefully.

He looked at me with a deeply furrowed brow. "Promise me you won't let Killian get close to you again."

His grip on my shoulders was almost painful. I brushed his hand away and walked straight ahead.

Returning to the Redgrave Pack Tower, Evelyn intercepted us in the lobby. "Olivia, you didn't answer my dozen phone calls!"

She looked frantic and desperate. Her usually perfect appearance was disheveled.

"Theodore stopped the collaboration between Crimson Pack and the Croft Consortium," she accused him with blazing eyes.

However, I stated coldly, "It was my decision, not his."

My voice cut through the air like ice. "The Croft Consortium wasn't qualified."

Evelyn was visibly shocked. "But you encouraged me before! You said hard work would improve the Consortium's situation."

"After trying several projects without success, even your efforts were useless," I replied harshly.

"I no longer want to help those who disgust me continue to leech off me."

When Evelyn desperately grabbed my hand, I felt only revulsion. "We're best friends! You promised to help manage projects!"

I looked directly into her guilty eyes. "I no longer want to help."

I forcefully removed her hand from my arm. The memory of her chatting and laughing with Clara made my heart ache.

Evelyn fell to the ground dramatically. She turned to Theodore for help desperately.

"We grew up together! You know me!"

Theodore ignored her completely. He followed me and praised my decision.

"Very wise, my love."

Evelyn shouted from behind, "You'll regret treating me this way!"

I returned to my office, trying to focus on work. Soon Caleb knocked on my door.

"Luna Olivia, I couldn't reach Theodore," he said nervously.

Caleb looked genuinely panicked. "Because of my broken engagement with Evelyn, my father is furious."

"I need to secure other projects from Theodore. Otherwise, my father will break my legs."

He apologized profusely. "I'm sorry for Clara's repeated offenses. Please help me mediate."

Looking at his hypocritical apology, I tugged at the corner of my mouth. He had always exploited my kindness for his own gain, then turned around to mock me in front of Theodore. Now he was here with his fake apology.

I just wonder what his expression will be when he finds out that I'm the one who canceled his project?

We went to Theodore's office together. Through the door, I heard Eleonora's voice clearly.

"You can be with Clara and our pack can flourish thanks to Evelyn, who discovered Clara and introduced her to me."

My blood turned to ice in my veins.

"Our pack owes Evelyn a great favor. You should not only collaborate with the Croft Consortium but give them major projects."

"You're right to treat your Luna well, but you can't listen to everything she says."

"Evelyn is such a good she—wolf, good to both you and her. As a best friend, instead of helping, she's kicking her when she's down."

"I'm so disappointed in her."

I couldn't believe what I was hearing. I kicked open the glass door. It slammed against the wall stop with a deafening bang.

The sound startled all three people in the office. They turned toward me in shock.

I strode toward Evelyn with murderous intent. My hand connected with her face in a resounding slap.

"How dare you face me?"

30 Days to Freedom: Abandoned Luna is Secret Shadow King... – Chapter 48

(Olivia's POV)

Caleb had just been exchanging pleasantries with pack members he knew in the hallway. This caused him to lag behind and enter the office a step after me.

He looked around in confusion, clearly having missed what just happened.

"You're so inconsiderate," Caleb criticized Evelyn harshly. "Knowing that Luna is not in good health."

His voice carried mock concern. "Fortunately, I broke up with you and got together with Clara!"

Caleb deliberately emphasized his relationship with Clara, clearly trying to convince me of its authenticity.

I found this both pathetic and ridiculous. How quickly he switched sides when it benefited him.

Evelyn's face was slapped to one side. Her disheveled hair covered her expression completely.

But I could see her hands clenched tightly into fists. I knew she must hate me to death right now.

Evelyn covered her pained face with trembling fingers. Tears slid down her cheeks as she looked at me pitifully.

"Livvy, why did you hit me?" she asked in a broken voice.

Eleonora and Theodore almost held their breath. They maintained their composure as they watched me carefully.

Obviously, they were observing my reaction. Testing me even now.

Suddenly, I felt a sharp pain in my lower abdomen. The agony shot through me like lightning.

I staggered backward, leaning against the wall to steady myself. My vision blurred from the intensity.

My gaze swept across these familiar yet strange faces. I couldn't believe that even at this point, they still refused to admit their mistakes.

They were still testing me. Still playing their games.

Suddenly, a terrible thought I had never had before exploded in my mind. Evelyn introducing Clara to Eleonora, and her previous support for my departure—could it be to break up Theodore and me?

Could it be that Evelyn liked Theodore? But she had always called him brother before.

She had even encouraged me to accept his pursuit. What kind of person was she really?

From beginning to end, had she ever truly considered me a friend?

I thought of how I had mistakenly given half my heart to Evelyn. I had seen her as my closest friend.

The other half I had given to Theodore. I had believed him to be my most faithful companion.

I could no longer face them. The pain in my lower abdomen made me unwilling to continue this charade.

I staggered out of the Alpha's office. Everything before me spun like collapsing buildings. Suddenly, my waist was encircled from behind. No matter how I struggled, I couldn't break free.

My body was turned around to face Theodore's eyes. They were filled with what looked like genuine concern. "Theodore, do you remember?" I asked him weakly. "I once said that if you deceived me, I would never forgive you."

I cupped his face with shaking hands. "Now tell me, have you ever deceived me?" I didn't even know what I was still hoping for.

"My love, how could I lie to you," Theodore's gentle voice pierced my ears like a silver blade.

I covered my out-of-control heart and collapsed into Theodore's arms. I curled up in pain.

Tears unconsciously rolled from my eyes. I found myself murmuring, "It hurts... I hurt so much..."

"My love, I'll take you to the infirmary immediately," Theodore said anxiously. "You must hold on."

Hearing Theodore's anxious voice, I tightly grasped my chest. I forced myself to stay conscious and remember the pain of this moment.

Eleonora, Caleb, and Evelyn followed behind us one after another.

I was taken to the Crimson Infirmary. Although I wanted to keep it hidden, in front of so many healers, my pregnancy could no longer be concealed.

Eleonora was almost overcome with joy. "Wonderful! The Redgrave family is going to have a new addition!"

She excitedly left the ward. I heard her telling Martha to prepare nutritious moongrass soup.

Caleb and Evelyn came to congratulate us one after another. Caleb was the first to leave the medical center.

It wasn't appropriate for him to stay in the room too long with a pregnant Luna.

I lay motionless, listening to their voices and gazing out the window. It felt as if all of this had nothing to do with me.

Evelyn grasped my hand tightly. "Livvy, are you blaming me for complaining to Lady Eleonora?"

I just looked at her quietly. I had no energy left for words.

Evelyn continued to explain frantically. She claimed she didn't know Eleonora would misunderstand her words.

"You're my most precious friend," she insisted. "I only wanted to restore cooperation with Crimson Pack because my family's situation in the Croft Consortium is precarious."

She begged for my forgiveness and help. Her voice grew more desperate with each word.

I withdrew my hand from Evelyn's grasp. I directly closed my eyes, shutting her out.

I felt Evelyn's gentle gaze instantly turn fierce. She angrily left the medical room without another word.

After Evelyn left, Theodore also hurriedly departed after receiving a phone call. His expression had been tense as he answered.

Suddenly the hospital room door was pushed open. Clara's voice rang out at the doorway.

"Sister, I didn't expect you to be pregnant too."

Clara smugly swayed her hips as she walked closer. Her smile was predatory and cruel.

I looked at her calmly. "Your information is quite well-informed."

Clara asked me to guess who told her. Her eyes gleamed with malicious satisfaction.

I thought for a moment and realized the truth. It was Evelyn who had betrayed me.

I sneered coldly. "Whoever it was, they're a bitch."

"You're wasting your efforts," Clara said with vicious glee. "Even if you're pregnant, Theodore's heart no longer belongs to you."

She leaned closer, her voice dropping to a whisper. "He won't care about the child in your womb."

"Moreover, I just asked your healer," she continued triumphantly. "You're carrying a daughter, while I'm carrying twin sons." Clara revealed more of her schemes. "You stopped the investment to my parents through Delta Jasper."

"When I told Theodore about this, he directly gave me access to unlimited pack resources."

Hearing that I was carrying a daughter, I felt an acidic liquid flow through my heart. Was this the daughter I had lost four years ago coming back to find me?

Seeing my calm gaze, Clara became even more agitated. She needed a reaction from me.

"Theodore left abruptly because I called him," she revealed cruelly. "I claimed to have a stomachache, and he immediately rushed to my side."

Her words cut deep, designed to wound. "Your father didn't want you, your mother abandoned you, your partner doesn't love you."

"And your pups will also leave you one by one."

I didn't want to listen to Clara's rambling anymore. "Are you sure Theodore loves you?"

I retorted with cold precision. "How come I remember that whenever someone tries to provoke me, it's never me who ends up getting taught a lesson?"

Clara seemed to recall past disputes. Her face flushed with fury as the memories surfaced.

"Although I was always the one being abandoned before, this time is different," she roared. "I have two pups!"

Just then her phone suddenly rang. The sound cut through her rage.

It was Theodore calling. She answered the phone with shaking hands.

Theodore's gentle and husky voice came through clearly. "Baby, I'm at the infirmary, but I don't see you."

Clara looked at my face with malicious intent. She spoke coquettishly to Theodore.

"I heard that Sister Olivia was also hospitalized, so I wanted to come see her."

Then she suddenly started performing. "Ah! Sister Olivia, why are you pulling my hair..."

She quickly hung up the phone and threw it on the ground. The device clattered across the floor.

Clara grabbed my hand and pulled me toward the window. Her grip was iron-strong and desperate.

My body was extremely weak. I felt I had no strength to resist Clara's dragging.

She pulled me to the windowsill with violent force. Her eyes blazed with murderous intent.

"Go die!" Clara's expression was fierce and menacing. "I'm going to throw you down now and let you see who Theodore chooses this time!"

(God's POV)

When Theodore heard Clara's scream over the phone, he immediately rushed back to the building where the VIP ward was located at breakneck speed.

As he ran quickly toward the entrance, a 30 Days to Freedom:

Abandoned Luna is Secret Shadow King... – Chapter 49

(Theodore's POV)

When I saw that the woman in my arms was Clara, I breathed a long sigh of relief. The terror that had gripped my heart slowly began to ease.

I quickly summoned healers and nurses. "Emergency! Get her to the operating room now!"

Clara was rushed into the emergency room for treatment. Blood stained my shirt, but all I could think about was getting back to Olivia.

I returned to the second–floor ward where Olivia waited. She huddled in the corner by the window, her gaze empty and dazed.

She looked like a wounded pup, curled up and broken. Seeing that she was unharmed, a wave of relief washed over me.

I approached and pulled her into my embrace. The feeling of having found what I thought I had lost overwhelmed me completely.

"My love," I whispered against her hair. "Thank the moon goddess you're safe."

(Olivia's POV)

"How is she?" I asked.

Theodore replied softly, "She's still in surgery."

I leaned against his shoulder and explained what had happened. "She tried to throw me down from upstairs. But she lost her balance, and when I dodged, she fell down herself."

I felt the man holding me stiffen noticeably. His entire body went rigid against mine.

"She doesn't matter," he responded, but his voice carried a strange tension. "As long as you're safe, that's what's most important. No matter what happens, I won't let you get hurt."

I saw his eyes flickering, avoiding my direct gaze. After all these years together, his expression told me everything.

He didn't believe what I was saying. But in the past, no matter what happened, he would stand by my side without question.

Now doubt clouded his features. The realization cut deeper than any physical wound.

I noticed the surveillance camera on the telephone pole outside the building. It could capture the window clearly.

However, I felt it didn't matter whether I could prove my innocence. Those who believed me didn't need proof.

Those who didn't believe me wouldn't change their minds even if they saw it with their own eyes.

Suddenly, Silvanus and Ophelia burst into the room. Their faces were twisted with rage and grief.

Ophelia pointed at me with a shaking finger. "It's you, you shameless woman!"

Her face contorted with pure hatred as she grabbed my collar. "You hate me, then come after me! Why did you push Clara down the stairs?"

"She's your sister! She's pregnant with a pup. How could you be so heartless?"

Theodore knocked away Ophelia's hands and protected me behind him. But Ophelia had lost all reason to fury.

She continued to attack hysterically, clawing at Theodore's face. "I know what you're trying to do!"

"You want my daughter to die along with her pup to protect your position as Luna. Dream on!"

"My daughter will surely overcome this crisis and replace you through her pregnancy!"

All of their clawing and scratching landed on Theodore's face. I remained completely unharmed behind his protective stance.

I raised my hand and gave Ophelia a heavy slap. The sound echoed through the room like a gunshot.

The room fell silent for a moment.

"What did you say about Clara? How is she going to take my position as Luna through her pregnancy?"

I turned to look at Theodore with questioning eyes. But he wasn't looking at me.

Instead, he called out sharply, "Pack Enforcers, throw this madwoman out!"

Hearing Theodore call her a madwoman, Ophelia was on the verge of exploding. But Theodore used his Alpha power to suppress her.

The overwhelming force made it impossible for her to open her mouth to speak. The pack enforcers immediately entered the room.

Silvanus, seeing the situation turning against them, pulled Ophelia back. "Ophelia spoke incorrectly in her confusion."

Then he launched into his own accusations. "But you've disappointed me so much! You're exactly like your vicious mother!"

"Back then, I should never have given up custody of you. You've become this heartless and inhumane person!"

"Even if you're my biological daughter, I won't let the matter of you pushing Clara down the stairs slide!"

I fired back with devastating precision. "You want to talk about being heartless and inhumane?"

"How about I tell everyone how you deceived and betrayed my mother Lyra. You said you were destined mates, but you concealed the fact that you already had a son when you mated with her."

"To seize my mother's property, you mated with her. Then you brought your mistress Ophelia into our household as a servant."

"You conducted your affair under my mother's nose, eventually fathering the illegitimate daughter Clara."

Tell me, Silvanus, who is truly inhumane here?"

"And that k******g case, you planned it, didn't you? My mother kept advising me to let go of my hatred toward you, and how did you repay us?"

The memory pierced my heart like swallowing silver needles.

I greatly admired Silvanus's cleverness. He had actually reported the matter to the pack joint council.

Those who arrived at the scene were the joint council's clan enforcers. Their presence made everything more official and threatening.

Silvanus immediately shouted to them, "Enforcer, she's the one who pushed my daughter down the stairs!"

"Many people upstairs and downstairs saw it!"

The pack enforcer looked at both parties with professional detachment. "We will conduct a detailed investigation. We won't let any guilty person escape nor wrongfully accuse any innocent person."

Ophelia pointed at Theodore. "Enforcer, Alpha Theodore is the witness! When he arrived, he saw with his own eyes that Olivia pushed my daughter off the windowsill!"

The pack enforcer recognized Theodore immediately. "Alpha Redgrave, is this true?" the enforcer asked formally. Silvanus and Ophelia stretched their necks expectantly, watching Theodore. Silvanus added pressure, "Despite Olivia being Theodore's mate, he shouldn't conceal the facts about such a malicious woman."

"She would harm her half-sister due to past emotional disputes."

I saw Theodore's hesitation clearly. I sneered as I walked toward the enforcer, ready to defend myself.

At that moment, Eleonora returned with Agnes. She had heard about the incident and rushed back.

She walked through the door and stood protectively in front of me. "My daughter Livvy is very kind and would never do such a thing! It wasn't my daughter who pushed her."

She turned to her son with expectant eyes. "Isn't that right, son?"

Only then did Theodore speak. "My mate didn't push anyone down. Please investigate thoroughly."

Silvanus and Ophelia's faces fell upon hearing this response. They glared at Theodore as if they wanted to devour him alive.

A healer then arrived, looking grave. "I need to speak with Clara's family members."

Silvanus and Ophelia immediately responded, rushing forward. "We're her parents!"

The healer delivered the devastating news. "I'm very sorry to inform you that the pup couldn't be saved."

Theodore immediately said with a grave expression, "No matter how much it costs, save the adult."

Facing everyone's surprised looks, Eleonora explained smoothly, "After all, she's my distant relative."

I could no longer tolerate their mother—son act. The pretense was suffocating me.

"Elder Eleonora, she's the illegitimate daughter of my father and another woman. How is she your distant relative?"

I recounted the painful history. "My mother fled to Stonehaven City to seek your help after being betrayed by my father."

"You cursed Silvanus, calling such men street rats who deserved to be beaten wherever they appeared."

"Why has his illegitimate daughter become your distant relative?"

"Why did you arrange this 'distant relative' as your son's caregiver?"

"Why has this caregiver taught my son not to recognize his own mother and call her 'mommy' instead?"

I couldn't stand it anymore. I pointed at Ophelia with shaking fingers.

"Ophelia claimed the moment she walked in that I was jealous because I was about to lose my Luna position and pushed her daughter down the stairs."

"So what exactly are you hiding from me? Theodore, is Clara really Caleb's girlfriend and not someone special to you?"

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(God's POV)

Theodore's face paled as he stared at Olivia's questioning eyes. Panic flashed across his features before he quickly composed himself.

"My love, you've misunderstood," he said, his voice unnaturally steady. "I was worried on Caleb's behalf. He and Clara have been seeing each other."

Eleonora stepped forward, nodding vigorously. "That's right, dear. Caleb specifically requested we hire her as Leo's caregiver."

She placed a comforting hand on Olivia's shoulder. "She seemed decent and well-educated. How could I have known she would hide her identity and corrupt Leo with such ill intentions?"

Eleonora's eyes filled with tears as she clutched Olivia's hands. "Please, you must trust both me and my son. Theodore would never do anything to betray you."

Olivia's gaze shifted between mother and son, noting their perfectly synchronized explanations. Not only were they refusing to acknowledge any connection between Theodore and Clara, but they were also throwing all blame on the girl.

Ophelia watched this exchange with growing horror. With the pup now lost, she realized Theodore and his mother might abandon Clara completely. She couldn't let that happen.

"I believe-" Olivia began, her resolve wavering slightly.

Ophelia thought of how Olivia resembled her deceased mother Lyra–a woman who could not tolerate betrayal. When Lyra had discovered Silvanus's affair, she had taken Olivia and left that very night, never seeing Silvanus again.

If Olivia learned the truth now, she would surely be as decisive as her mother.

"My daughter is pregnant with Theodore's pup!" Ophelia shouted, her voice echoing through the room.

The silence that followed was deafening.

Silvanus reacted instantly, slapping Ophelia across the face with such force that she stumbled backward.

"How dare you talk such nonsense!" he scolded, his face contorted with rage. "Our daughter has suffered a trauma. She's mentally confused!"

Silvanus understood the situation perfectly. Eleonora and Theodore couldn't possibly turn against Olivia now. If they revealed the truth, they would face public condemnation, and even if Clara survived, her reputation would be ruined.

However, if they endured this temporary setback, they still had Rosalie. As long as Rosalie existed, Theodore wouldn't abandon them completely.

A pack healer suddenly rushed into the room, his expression grave. "The doctor is trying to save the patient, but our blood bank is running low."

He looked at the gathered family members. "Clara has a rare silver–resistant blood type. We need someone with the same blood type to donate immediately."

Silvanus stepped forward. "I'll donate-" He stopped mid-sentence, remembering something crucial.

He turned and pointed at Olivia. "She also has the rare blood type! Use her blood for my daughter!"

His finger trembled with accusation. "She pushed my daughter downstairs. She should donate blood to save her!"

Olivia looked at Theodore, waiting for him to intervene. When he remained silent, her lips curled into a sneer.

"How dare you have the audacity to ask the pack's Luna to give a blood transfusion to your omega daughter?"

Eleonora quickly interjected, "Although Luna indeed has the silver–resistant blood type, and Luna should take care of pack members, she's physically weak and currently pregnant."

She placed a protective arm around Olivia. "She didn't push anyone, so there's no need for atonement!"

The impatient healer grabbed Silvanus's arm. "We don't have time for this. Come with me now if you want to help your daughter."

After taking statements from everyone and reviewing surveillance footage from outside the building, Pack Enforcer Kade delivered his judgment.

"Clara grabbed Olivia and dragged her to the window, intending to push Olivia downstairs," he announced formally. "Olivia dodged, and Clara fell out of the window when her push missed its target."

The enforcer's expression softened slightly. "Given your relationships and the fact that the suspect is still in critical condition, I hope you can reach a settlement. If no settlement is reached, we will formally file charges with the Pack Council."

Eleonora immediately embraced Olivia. "I knew my precious Olivia was too kind to do such a thing."

She stroked Olivia's hair tenderly. "Let's handle the discharge procedures so we can go home and rest."

Theodore wrapped his arm around Olivia's waist and guided her toward the exit, showing no attachment to Clara still fighting for her life in intensive care.

As they walked, Olivia noticed Theodore discreetly using his phone, commanding his Beta to find pack members with the same blood type to provide fresh blood for Clara.

When she had been kidnapped and injured before, he had shown the same care for her. Now that care belonged to Clara.

When they approached the exit, Silvanus and Ophelia blocked their path.

Silvanus's face was etched with guilt as he pleaded, "Olivia, you can hate me and your Aunt Ophelia, but Clara is innocent. She's your sister."

He fell to his knees. "I'm begging you, please settle with us and don't prosecute her."

Pain pierced Olivia's heart as she watched Silvanus humble himself for Clara's sake. She asked coldly, "Then tell me, was the k******g case from years ago your doing?"

Silvanus's eyes widened in shock. He stepped back, disbelief written across his face.

"What k******g case?" Silvanus stammered, avoiding eye contact. His guilt was evident in every nervous gesture.

Olivia stared at the face that had haunted her nightmares for years. "You don't admit it, and I can't force you. After all, it's been ten years, with no witnesses and no evidence."

Her voice was ice. "I already gave you a chance, but you couldn't grasp it."

After Olivia left the interrogation room with Eleonora and Agnes following, Theodore remained behind. His dark eyes narrowed with cold intent as he stared at Silvanus.

No one who hurt Olivia would escape without paying a price.

He signaled to his pack guards, who immediately grabbed Silvanus by the arms.

"What are you doing?" Silvanus protested, struggling against their grip. "I'm Olivia's biological father! I couldn't have kidnapped her! She has no evidence!"

Theodore's voice was deadly calm. "I never need evidence for my actions. Drag him away to feed the rogues."

Realizing he couldn't escape, Silvanus broke free from the guards and rushed toward Olivia, who was still within earshot.

"I'm willing to turn myself in," he declared desperately, "but you must keep your word and settle with Clara to spare her."

(Olivia's POV)

I looked at the man I called Father as he showed such overwhelming love for his other daughter, and my heart fractured. A bitter memory surfaced—a time I believed he loved me just the same.

"Fine," I agreed, my voice a frozen whisper.

Back at Redgrave Manor, Isadora had already returned with Leo and Iris. When she saw me, she rushed forward, her face a mask of nervous concern.

"Are you alright?" she asked, her voice dripping with a false sweetness that turned my stomach. "What a terrible ordeal you've been through."

Just then, Iris ran to me, her eyes shimmering with genuine tears. "Is my aunt okay?"

I dropped to my knees and pulled the young pup into my arms, finally letting my own tears fall. Only this child's concern was real. "I'm fine, Iris," I whispered, stroking her soft hair.

The sound of heavy footsteps on the stairs drew my attention. I looked up to see Leo standing there, his expression sullen as he surveyed the scene. His eyes, cold and assessing, settled on me, and he frowned. "Mom, take me to the infirmary to visit Aunt Clara."

Iris pulled away from my embrace, her small face indignant. "Clara is a bad aunt! She tried to push Aunt Olivia downstairs!"

I watched in horror as Leo shoved his sister, making the smaller pup stumble. "Aunt Clara wouldn't push my mom," he sneered. "It was my mom who pushed Aunt Clara!"

His voice rose to a shrill accusation. "Otherwise, why is my mom sitting here unharmed while Aunt Clara is lying in the infirmary, bleeding so much she might die? And the little pup in her belly is gone too."

His words hit me like a heavy punch. That puppy... was gone too. He knew. He had always known that Clara was pregnant.

My gaze locked onto his eyes, "You knew Clara was pregnant too!" I demanded angrily, my voice trembling with rage. "Then do you know whose puppy it was?"

woman fell heavily one meter in front of him. The impact was devastating. Accompanied by a loud crash, bright red blood flowed from beneath her body. The sight was horrifying.

Theodore's heart filled with terror. Fear instantly overwhelmed him as he rushed over to hold her.