

Alpha-less 111

Chapter 111 Playing with Fire

inched

"That's right, gorgeous. My dad's the alpha of the Iceclaw Pack, and I'm his only heir. Will you be my girlfriend? I'm serious, not just fooling around!" Henry said, flashing a cocky grin that reached his eyes

"Be your girlfriend?" Tessa echoed, eyebrow raised skeptically.

"Yeah, how about it? Come hang with me tonight!" Henry had no idea who he'd just provoked.

"Hold on a second." Tessa took out her phone and dialed a number. "Bring some friends over here right

now."

Once the call connected, Tessa directly gave the address and hung up.

"You like it crowded, huh? No worries-I know tons of people who love a good time," Henry said suggestively. "Looks like we're into the same scene!

"You've got a death wish," Landon growled, his eyes narrowing into sharp golden slits. His alpha aura surged through the room, making the air around them hum with tension.

The intense pressure forced Henry into a partial shift, gray wolf ears popping out from his head. He dropped to his knees, mumbling drunkenly, "Why's the room spinning...?" After catching his breath, he grabbed onto a nearby chair and shakily pulled himself up. "Sorry," he slurred, "I think I had a bit too much to drink."

He was so oblivious that he blamed the alcohol rather than realizing the danger he was in. Instead, he gave Landon a lecherous look.

"Why so fierce, man? If you're interested, come join us. You're pretty hot yourself."

If it's him, I wouldn't mind trying it with a guy for once.

"Heh-" Tessa couldn't help laughing. "Do you even know who he is?" She genuinely admired Henry's nerve for daring to hit on Landon.

"Who cares who he is? What matters is who I am, right?"

Amused, Tessa glanced at Landon. "Mr. Thorne, according to him, you're nobody."

Instead of calling him Landon, she deliberately pointed out his identity.

"Alpha... Mr. Thorne? Come on, quit messing around..." Henry suddenly sober

Stories of Nightshade Pack's alpha flashed through Henry's mind-the ruthless and powerful alpha who'd wiped out the Winterborn Pack just last month, rumored to have drunk from their skulls.

His father had specifically warned him never to mess with anyone from Nightshade Pack's four main families, especially Mr. Thorne, their leader. Landon was the one guy even his dad was careful to avoid crossing.

"You've got guts, I'll give you that." Landon finally stood up. "You said you wanted to play?"

"Stop trying to scare me! There's no way Mr. Thorne would be here. You think I'm easily fooled?" Henry felt his legs turn even weaker; his wolf instincts seemed to sense danger, sending warning signals to him..

"I am Landon Thorne," he replied calmly. "Now, think carefully about how you want to die, and maybe I'll consider going easy on you.

Henry immediately dropped to his knees, terrified. Mr. Thorne, is it really you? I'm so sorry I had no idea! I swear, I didn't mean any disrespect!"

"That's it?" Landon's voice rose mockingly. "It seems you've got me mistaken for someone who forgives insults easily."

Henry began frantically begging, forehead pressed to the floor. "Please, Alpha, spare me! It was an honest mistake! I swear I didn't mean it!"

"What should we do with him?" Landon turned to Tessa, retracting his alpha pressure. A hint of warmth appeared in his eyes, starkly contrasting the previous iciness.

If he could avoid it, he'd rather not get violent in front of her. It wasn't the impression he wanted to make.

"Hey gorgeous-no, wait! I'm sorry; I really messed up! Please, just let me go!" Henry immediately turned to Tessa, begging desperately.

Girls are usually softer-hearted. Besides, she's just a girl who hasn't even awakened yet. She'll definitely go easier on me. "Ms. Sinclair, we're here." At that moment, five massive, muscular werewolves, each over six and a half feet tall, approached and stood beside Tessa.

Chapter 112 Lesson Learned

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They stood tall, radiating the steady, commanding aura of powerful werewolves. Their muscles rippled beneath their skin, built for strength and intimidation.

Tessa nodded toward Henry. "He said he likes playing rough with men. Since you boys know how to have fun, he's all yours. Just don't kill him-leave him breathing."

"Understood, Ms. Sinclair."

"No, please, Ms. Sinclair! I was wrong, really!" Henry begged desperately. He knew at once these men were dangerously strong, and if they all took turns with him, he'd end up broken.

Tessa sneered. "Weren't you bragging earlier about how wild you are? Weren't you just inviting Mr. Thorne to join in?"

"I didn't know he was-"

"Enough. You said you liked it rough, so I gave you exactly what you asked for. They're pros-don't worry. they won't charge. Just relax and enjoy yourself." She waved dismissively. "Get him out of my sight."

Two of the werewolves stepped forward without hesitation, each grabbing one of Henry's arms with an iron grip.

"Come along, Mr. Henry. Don't fight it-you wouldn't want to get hurt."

Seeing this, Victoria hurried over. "Stop! You're breaking the Order of the Fang-" Her voice suddenly cut off.

She dropped to her knees as if an invisible hand had gripped her throat, trembling uncontrollably under the dominance of higher-ranking wolves.

"You think an omega like you has the right to bring up The Order of the Fang?" One of the werewolves scoffed, tilting Victoria's chin with a smirk. "Ms. Victoria, you should worry about your own mess. After everything you've done, you've still got the nerve to run your mouth in front of us?"

He turned away, dragging Henry out with him.

They'd keep Henry alive-barely.

Tessa turned to Landon. "Satisfied with the outcome?"

"Not exactly how I'd usually handle things, but I'll let it slide this time." Norma someone like Henry apart without a second thought.

he'd have ripped

Victoria still didn't realize who Landon was and continued trying to defend Henry. After all, Henry was a wealthy heir she'd worked hard to hook up with.

"You've gone too far! Do you have any idea who his father is? He's-"

"So, you want to join him?" Tessa interrupted impatiently. "If you're that eager, I'll just call them back and have them take you."

She was losing patience quickly. Seriously, dealing with idiots was exhausting.

Ignoring Victoria's protests entirely, Landon calmly removed his suit jacket and tied it around Tessa's

waist.

"What are you doing?" she asked, confused. She was already dressed modestly for a nightclub.

"Nothing. Let's go inside."

Seeing them distracted, Victoria recognized a golden opportunity. She quickly fled Club Eclipse, heading straight toward Iceclaw Pack to alert Aaron about what had happened.

Victoria figured Aaron, as Iceclaw's influential alpha, would definitely save Henry. And as Henry's rescuer, she'd surely win the gratitude of the powerful Lewis family-maybe even become Henry's mate.

Her eyes shone greedily at the thought.

She knew too well how hard it was for an omega to rise in the entertainment industry. No matter how much effort she put in, she'd endured endless humiliation, harassment, and unfair treatment, never rising above a minor role.

If she could use this chance to marry into a powerful family like the Lewises, it

would be a total game changer-finally, the life she'd always dreamed of.

The thought of a life filled with luxury and comfort made Victoria pick up the pace, eager to deliver the news to Aaron and lock in her future.

As soon as Aaron got the news, he immediately sent people to rescue Henry.

But once he realized who Henry had messed with, he went dead silent.

"That reckless idiot... Does he even realize what he's done?"

As the alpha of the Iceclaw Pack, Aaron knew all too well how powerful the Nightshade Pack's alpha was.

He didn't even have the standing to approach Landon casually, and yet Henry-his reckless, thick-headed son-had the nerve to provoke him.

"What are we supposed to do now? He's our only son! We can't just let this happen!" Abigail, Aaron's Luna, was in a full-blown panic.

"And what do you expect me to do?" Aaron snapped. "We're talking about the alpha of the Nightshade Pack. In Navoris-hell, across all of Montedra-no one dares go up against him."

"Can't you pull some strings? You're still the alpha of Iceclaw Pack. Mr Thorne little respect, right?"

uld show you at least a

Aaron let out a heavy sigh. With no better option, he started making calls- reaching out to anyone might be able to get through to Landon-hoping to save his

only son.

Chapter 113

Back at Club Eclipse, Landon pushed open the private room door and held it for Tessa to walk in.

As soon as they entered, a few heads turned.

When they noticed the suit jacket tied around Tessa's waist, Nathaniel couldn't help but chuckle.
"Tessa. rocking a new look tonight, huh?"

Tessa shrugged. So what if it looked weird? Landon didn't seem to be in the best mood tonight.

Charlotte hadn't expected Landon to actually bring Tessa, and her expression soured immediately.

"Move over," Landon said to Nathaniel.

Nathaniel got up and shifted over next to Hudson, giving up the two-seater couch for Landon and Tessa.

Tessa sat down, and Landon took the spot beside her.

Just then, Landon's phone rang.

"Seriously? His son came at me-what was I supposed to do, just let it slide? Tell him to back off. I'm not planning to kill the kid... But if he keeps pushing it, I might just change my mind."

Turns out Aaron had pulled some strings to get someone to plead on Henry's behalf.

"Didn't think Aaron had that kind of pull," Tessa said, surprised he found someone willing to speak up for

him.

Landon hung up and shut off his phone without a second thought.

It didn't matter who tried tonight-he wasn't budging.

"Landon, don't be so worked up. It's not worth stressing over," Charlotte said sweetly, pouring him a glass of red wine.

All this over Tessa? Was it really worth getting so worked up?

But Landon didn't touch the wine she handed him. Instead, he reached for a beer from the coffee table, popped the tab, and took a swig.

"Landon... You never drink beer," Charlotte said, clearly stunned.

As the prestigious alpha of the Nightshade Pack, Landon had always held himself to the highest standards. Everything from the clothes he wore to the drinks he consumed was top-tier. He only drank refined, expensive wine-so why beer, all of a sudden?

Without even realizing it, things had started slipping through Charlotte's fingers. The one person she thought she had figured out was suddenly a stranger to her.

"Charlotte, you're overstepping," Landon said coolly. What he chose to do wasn't something he needed to explain to her.

Tessa grabbed a beer and popped it open without a word.

She's doing this to get under my skin, Charlotte thought bitterly. Every glance, every comment was her showing off how well she knew Landon. But even if he did-so what? Landon didn't see her that way.

"I didn't mean anything by it," Charlotte said quickly, gripping her wine glass tighter.

"Come on, tonight's supposed to be Charlotte's celebration," Cameron chimed in, trying to ease the tension. "Just let it go for now,"

way

of

Watching his sister fall for someone who clearly didn't feel the same was tough. But there wasn't a damn thing he could do about it.

Landon glanced at Cameron but didn't say anything more.

Charlotte swallowed her frustration and stayed quiet, though her heart burned with resentment.

This was supposed to be her night, her celebration and now Tessa was here, ruining everything. Worse, Landon had shut her down right in front of everyone.

Hearing those words from the man she loved, it felt like her heart had just been ripped apart.

"I think it's about time I head out," Tessa said as she stood up. Charlotte clearly didn't like her-and to be honest, the feeling was mutual. There was no reason to hang around any longer.

"Alright. You guys enjoy-I'll walk her out," Landon said.

Charlotte looked up, stunned.

But Landon was already on his feet.

"Alpha... you're leaving?" Nathaniel asked, clearly confused. "We haven't even started drinking yet."

"Not in the mood. You all ahead."

And with that, he walked out with Tessa.

Once they were outside the lounge, Tessa glanced back at him.

"Mr. Thorne, I can head home on my own. You don't have to walk me out."

"It's just drinks with them. Nothing special."

"Are you sure you don't want to stay? Ms. Charlotte was really hoping you would." "Tessa, whatever Charlotte feels-that's on her. It has nothing to do with me." He wasn't the type to mess with people's feelings-and he'd never given Charle any false hope.

"Alright, I shouldn't have said anything," Tessa replied lightly-but deep down, she felt a quiet, unexpected sense of joy.

Chapter 114 A Line Crossed

Landon drove Tessa back to Wisteria Apartments, and on a whim, she invited him in for a beer.

He had left the celebration early for her-this was the least she could do to make up for it.

They sat and drank, talked, and laughed. The vibe was easy, comfortable, and surprisingly natural.

Out of nowhere, Landon asked, "Do you want me to handle Victoria?"

He kept a close eye on anything related to Tessa.

Of course, he knew about the stunt Victoria pulled with Beauty Luxe-she did it just

to stir up trouble. He hadn't stepped in, though.

He was willing to help, but only if Tessa wanted him to.

"It's fine. I can handle it," Tessa replied.

Landon's expression darkened.

"What's wrong?" Tessa asked, confused. He'd just been in a great mood-why the sudden shift?

"Nothing."

He wanted Tessa to know she could lean on him-no matter what. But she always took everything on herself, never even thinking to ask for help. And that left him feeling powerless and pushed aside.

"Mr. Thorne, I can take care of myself," Tessa said sincerely. She genuinely believed she could take care of it on her own.

"Yeah." Landon didn't argue.

It wasn't about whether she was capable. He just wanted to help-plain and simple.

"Alright, you should get some sleep. You've got class in the morning."

Between her classes and running things at Sinclair Corp, she had enough on her plate.

"Got it." Tessa didn't think much of it. She turned and went into her room while Landon sat in the living room for a while before quietly letting himself out.

The next morning at 7:10 a.m., Tessa threw on her uniform, grabbed her bag, and headed out for school.

But the second she stepped outside the gates of her complex, Ethan was already "Ms. Sinclair, I could really use your help," Ethan said, looking genuinely awkward.

As the captain of the Navoris Special Forces Division-and a powerful, high-

ranking werewolf-Ethan wasn't the type to ask anyone for help. Having to turn to

a teenage, unawakened wolf again? That was a real hit to his pride.

"Captain Simpson, I don't have time for this. I've go class," Tessa said flatly.

"I know, and I hate to keep bothering you," Ethan said. "How about this-I buy you breakfast, and you help me out just this once?"

He had never lowered himself like this for anyone.

As the youngest captain in the entire division, Ethan had always been sharp, effective, and unstoppable- whether it was cracking cases or getting things done, he never missed.

But in front of Tessa, he had no choice but to swallow his pride.

"Forget it. Let's just go," Tessa muttered, already regretting ever stepping foot in the Special Forces Division. She must've been out of her mind that day.

If she hadn't gone there herself, she wouldn't have ended up entangled with Ethan in the first place.

"Come on, let's get you some food. You haven't had breakfast, have you?"

Today, Ethan showed up in an official Special Forces vehicle-hard to miss and definitely attention-grabbing.

He walked around to open the passenger side door for her.

Not far away, Winona stepped out of her own car just in time to see Tessa getting into the Special Forces vehicle.

She narrowed her eyes.

Pulling out her phone, she snapped a photo.

Who's this guy with her? He looks like serious trouble-definitely not someone to mess with. Why does Tessa always have powerful people around her? And me? After everything I've done, all the effort I've poured in, I've got no one but Connor. And even he hasn't fully accepted me yet...

Her expression darkened. "Tessa, you better hope I never catch you slipping. Because the moment you do, I'll crush you so hard, you'll never get back up," Winona muttered darkly.

Not far off, a luxury car sat parked, the man inside watching as Tessa climbed into Ethan's vehicle.

The driver sat frozen, not daring to say a word. Mr. Thorne had gone out early that morning to Jade Pavilion to pick up breakfast for Ms. Sinclair himself. What he didn't expect... was to watch her get into another man's car.

"Should we follow them?" The driver asked cautiously, clearly unsure of what to do. This was the first time he'd ever seen a situation like this.

"Follow them." He was about to start the engine when Landon spoke again. "No. Let it go. She's free to do what she wants."

Silence fell in the car.

I've been by Mr. Thorne's side for a long time, but I've never seen him like this before. Yeah, he's definitely fallen hard for that girl.

Chapter 115 Awkward Suggestions

With one hand on the wheel, Ethan tapped at the GPS with the other.

"Jade Pavilion's breakfast is pretty good. Let's head there

"You don't have to go through the trouble. Something simple is fine*

"It's not a big deal."

He pulled up to Jade Pavilion and ordered way more food than they needed.

Tessa ate quietly, She didn't eat much, and once she was done, she sat back and scrolled through her phone.

Seeing she was , Ethan waved a server over and asked them to start packing up meals to take back to the team.

The Special Forces Division was a big squad, so he made sure to bring plenty.

"You're pretty good to your guys," Tessa said as she noticed him struggling to carry all the takeout. She reached out to help him with some of the bags.

"They've earned it," Ethan replied. "In this line of work, you're putting your life on the line every day. One wrong move, and it could be your last. We've been through hell together-they're more than just

teammates."

Tessa didn't say anything more. He wasn't wrong.

Any case that ended up in the hands of the Navoris Special Forces Division was bound to be dangerous.

They pulled into the division headquarters.

"Captain Simpson's back!" Simon called out as soon as he saw the car pull in. He already knew Ethan had gone to pick up Tessa, so he'd been waiting outside

The moment the car stopped and Tessa stepped out, Simon rushed over. "Ms. Sinclair, you're here! I've got this case I've been stuck on-can you take a look at it for me?"

"Sure," Tessa replied, grabbing a few of the breakfast bags to help carry inside.

"Whoa, you brought breakfast from Jade Pavilion? Captain Simpson, you're the best!"

"Ms. Sinclair, Captain Simpson's a total sweetheart!"

"Seriously-guys like him are rare. If I were you, I'd lock that down!"

Tessa blinked. Seriously? Are they trying to sell me on Ethan right now?

"Alright, knock it off. Go eat," Ethan said, raising his voice.

The team quickly grabbed their food and scattered to eat.

The Division had its own cafeteria, and the meals were decent-but they were no match for Jade Pavilion.

Simon led Tessa into the tech department.

"You're not eating?" she asked.

"I'm good," Simon said, then added with a grin, unable to help himself. "Ms. Sinclair, Captain Simpson's one of the best guys you'll ever meet. Sure, out there, he's got that 'fearless hero' reputation, but underneath it all? He's genuinely a good person."

"Simon, does your captain know you're out here trying to set him up?" I'm just here to help-10 why is everyone suddenly trying to pitch Ethan to me? What does any of this have to do with me?

"I don't mean anything by it. I'm just saying-if you're ever thinking about finding a boyfriend, you might want to consider him."

Simon wasn't even subtle about it. In his mind, if Tessa became Ethan's girlfriend, maybe he could ask her for help more often. It was a win-win.

"Simon, shut up," Ethan said, coming up behind them. He'd clearly heard

everything, and his ears were red. These guys were out here talking nonsense to

a teenage girl-what were they even thinking?

"Don't take it to heart," Ethan said, glancing at Tessa. They mean well. They just get carried away."

"I didn't take it personally," she replied simply.

Simon finally explained the issue they were stuck on, and within five minutes, Tessa had it all figured out.

"Hey Simon, just add me on WhatsApp. If you run into any problems, just message me directly."

Running back and forth to the Navoris Special Forces Division all the time was kind of a hassle.

"Sure!" Simon said eagerly, immediately pulling out his phone to add her. "Ms. Sinclair, you're seriously incredible." He was still blown away by her skill. At this level, maybe only Phantom from the Lightwing Order could match her.

He hadn't stopped being impressed since the first time she showed up.

Afterward, Ethan and Simon walked Tessa out.

Ethan opened the door to the SUV. "I'll drive you back."

Tessa didn't argue and got in.

"Bye!" Simon called out, along with a few of the other team members who were

clearly watching from a distance.

Ethan shot them a look, then pulled the car out of the lot.

"Sorry about earlier. I'm guessing that was pretty awkward for you."

"It's fine. I'm used to it," Tessa said calmly.

Ethan didn't know what to say. Isshe's actually used to this kind of thing?

"Sounds like Ms. Sinclair's pretty popular around here."

Tessa didn't respond. Seeing she wasn't in the mood to talk, Ethan felt a flicker of frustration.

He dropped her off at Navoris High.

"Want me to talk to your teacher? You've probably already missed a couple of classes."

"No need. I can handle it."

"Thanks again for today, Ms. Sinclair."

"Captain Simpson, you don't have to be so formal. In heading in"

Ethan stayed in the car, watching as she walked toward the school building. He

didn't drive off until she was completely out of sight.

There was just something about Tessa.

Tessa was full of mystery-and he found himself more drawn to her with every passing day.

Chapter 116 Rumors, Rivals, and a Slap

By the time Tessa got back to class, third period was already in session.

Luckily, it was Hamilton's class. He knew she had something come up last minute, so he just waved her in and told her to take her seat.

When the bell rang, ending the period, Ysabel grabbed her arm and pulled her toward the hallway.

"Where did you go? Do you know how worried I was? Seriously-ditching class without me?"

"Ms. Thorne, you sound a little too excited about skipping class

"I am!" Ysabel grinned. "Preferably the kind where we climb the fence."

She'd been the model student long enough. If senior year didn't come with at least one little act of rebellion, what was the point? She deserved a moment of teenage recklessness.

"Alright, one of these days, I'll help you hop the fence," Tessa said casually.

"You mean it? Tessie, I knew you were the best!" Ysabel said, gazing up at her with admiration.

Tessa didn't actually need to use the bathroom, so after Ysabel went in, she stayed in the hallway, popped in her earbuds, and started playing music.

A tap on the shoulder made her turn around.

It was Nico.

Tessa raised an eyebrow but took out her earbuds. She didn't mind Nico. Unlike most of the students at school, he never judged her for the rumors. Even though he was top of the honors track, he still went out of his way to come talk to her- always polite, always sincere, especially when asking her about physics.

They'd gotten a little more familiar just the night before, actually. She and Ysabel had been having dinner at a restaurant near campus when a server accidentally spilled hot soup toward their backs. Nico, who just happened to be there too, jumped in without hesitation and shielded them-taking the brunt of the burn

his arm.

on

Neither she nor Ysabel was hurt. But Nico was.

That moment stuck with her.

"So... have you thought about it? The physics competition?" Nico asked.

"Yeah, I've decided. I'll do it," Tessa said. Honestly, she couldn't take Mr. Clark's no. The more she said no, the more he popped up, trying to talk her into it. She'd be persistent-it was annoying, sure, but also kind of funny.

stop nagging anymore.

met a teacher so

"That's great!" Nico smiled and pulled a pack of gum from his pocket. He held it out to her.

It was her favorite flavor.

Tessa didn't reach for it.

physics lab after school."

Tessa blinked. Wait-when did I agree to go to the physics lab?

Just then, Winona and a group of girls from the advanced track came out of the restroom-and caught the whole exchange.

Their faces dropped.

Nico wasn't just top of the class-he was the guy. Smart, kind, good-looking, and from a well-known family. And now, here he was, handing gum to Tessa. The girls were furious.

"Tessa, seriously? Could you be any more shameless? Stay away from Nico."

"Seriously! Just because you came in second place once doesn't mean you belong anywhere near him."

"Nico's way out of your league. His background, his character-he's not someone a nobody like you should even think about."

"You're disgusting. Don't drag other people down with you."

"Enough," Tessa snapped, finally losing her patience. These girls really didn't know when to shut up.

"Winona, look at your sweet little sister," one girl sneered. "She spends all day throwing herself at guys. It's gross."

Winona stood back and watched it all unfold, clearly enjoying every second of it. Seeing Tessa get ganged up on? It was the highlight of her day.

But Tessa wasn't in the mood to play along. "Looks like someone needs a lesson in how to behave," she said coldly. "You all seem to think I'm an easy target. Let's fix that."

Without hesitation, she slapped each of the girls across the face-quick, clean, and before they could even

react.

"You seriously just hit us?" one of them shouted, holding her cheek. "That's it-let's take her down! Let's teach this freak a lesson she won't forget!"

Chapter 117 Don't Mess with Tessa

The moment the words left her mouth, the group of girls lunged at Tessa in a blind

rush of rage.

At Navoris High, fighting was strictly against the rules-especially for students who had awakened. Shifting or using wolf traits in a fight wasn't just grounds for expulsion-it could land you in jail.

So, even though these girls had all awakened, none of them dared shift or use claws against Tessa. Still, their natural strength far outmatched Tessa's-who as far as they knew, hadn't awakened at all.

They didn't take her seriously. Big mistake.

As the first girl lunged, Tessa gave a calm, almost amused smile. With a swift sidestep, she dodged effortlessly and grabbed the girl's arm, flipping her over in one smooth motion.

The girl hit the floor hard with a loud thud, letting out a pained yelp.

Another rushed from the side, trying to grab Tessa's legs. But Tessa's knee shot up fast, slamming into the girl's stomach. With a gasp of pain, the girl doubled over, clutching her gut.

Tessa didn't hesitate. She drove her elbow straight into the girl's back, sending her crashing to the floor with a heavy thud, curling up in pain.

Two more girls shared a quick look and moved in together, one from the left and one from the right.

Tessa didn't flinch.

She darted toward the girl on the left, striking her hard in the side of the neck with the edge of her hand. The girl collapsed instantly.

Spinning around, Tessa landed a powerful kick square in the chest of the other, sending her stumbling backward before landing hard on her backside, tears already welling in her eyes from the impact.

In under two minutes, every single one of them was on the ground-groaning, gasping, or curled up in pain.

From the side, Winona stood frozen, her expression twisted in disbelief.

Tessa... she'd changed. In the last five years, she'd gotten stronger-way stronger. And yet, there was still no trace of wolf energy coming off her, not even a flicker. The first girl who'd attacked stared up at Tessa, stunned.

"How the hell does someone like you-who hasn't even awakened-have that kind of strength?"

"This is insane! You attacked us! I'm reporting you to the school!" another girl gasped.

Tessa nearly laughed.

"Oh, now you want to play the victim?" She said coolly, "Did you already forget what happened to Queenie? There are cameras all over this hallway. Everything you said? That's defamation." She took a slow step forward. "You're throwing around 'school violence' like I'm the problem-when it was four against one. So tell me, who really looks like the victim here?"

The second Queenie's name was mentioned, they hesitated. Everyone remembered what had happened to her-and how the Locke family had suffered because of it.

"This isn't over," one of them snapped.

"Just you wait-we're not done with you!" One of the girls snapped as they helped each other up, shooting Tessa a final glare before limping off, clearly not ready to

let it go.

After school, Kevin brought Nico and Tessa into the physics lab to work on some experiments.

Tessa caught on fast. Kevin was clearly impressed.

"Tessa, you've really got a gift for this. Talent like yours is hard to come by," he said, beaming. "These days, knowledge is everything. Even if you never awaken it won't hold you back. With skills like yours, you could lead the field-and shine on a global stage." He smiled proudly. "Let's just focus on the physics competition for now. Trust me-with me coaching you two, we've got first and second place in the bag"

As Tessa continued working through the experiment, her phone suddenly rang. "Nico, can you grab that for her? She's a little busy right now," Kevin said.

"Is that okay?" Nico asked, glancing at Tessa.

.She nodded.

Nico picked up the phone. "Hello? Who's calling?"

Chapter 118 Misunderstandings and Missed Calls

Landon frowned and pulled the phone away from his ear, checking the screen. He hadn't misdialled- this was definitely Tessa's number.

So... Who the hell just picked it up? Was it the guy from this morning? Had she been with him all day?

A strange, bitter feeling crept into Landon's chest-one he didn't quite recognize. Jealousy? Possessiveness? Whatever it was, it didn't sit well.

"Is Tessa there?" His voice was cold and sharp.

"She's busy right now," Nico replied, calm and casual. "I'll let her know to call you back when she's done."

Then, click-he hung up.

Tessa was fully focused on the experiment, not paying the slightest attention to who was calling.

Back on Landon's end, his expression darkened even more.

"Alpha... everything alright?" Nathaniel asked cautiously.

What the hell was that look? Landon had been on edge all day, but now he looked like he was two seconds away from losing it completely.

Landon called again.

This time, Kevin picked up. "I said she's busy-don't you get it?"

Kevin-also known around campus as the physics maniac-had zero patience for distractions during lab time. Without waiting for a response, he hung up again and shut the phone off.

Nathaniel held his breath. The tension was so thick, he didn't even dare to move. Landon looked like he

might explode.

No one ever talked to Landon like that-and the way he was looking right now? Yeah, it wasn't good. Not at

all.

"Alpha, who was it? Just say the word-I'll take him out!" Nathaniel was genuinely nervous now. When Landon lost his temper, it was terrifying.

"No need. It's fine."

Landon's voice was ice-cold, and Nathaniel immediately glanced across the room at Hudson.

Hudson, however, looked completely calm, like none of this had anything to do with him.

Then again, that wasn't surprising. Hudson was one of the most ruthless lawyers in He'd been through worse, seen worse, and handled worse. Something like this? No

over.

e werewolf world.

n worth blinking

"You guys go ahead and hang out," Landon muttered, standing up. He grabbed

his suit jacket off the couch, slung it over his arm, and turned to leave.

Cameron let out a breath. "It's Tessa, isn't it? I've never seen him act like this over anyone, Serkoudy love really mess people up that bad?"

Hudson finally looked up from his phone. "Love's micky, Who really understands

it? He stood up and grabbed his jacket. "Anyway, Landon's gone, and I've got a case to handle. I'm out too?"

"You're leaving too?" Cameron sighed.

Lately, getting all four of them in the same room had been almost impossible.

As soon as Landon got into the car, his driver glanced back.

"Where to, Alpha?" he asked carefully. The tension radiating off Landon was almost unbearable

It had started that morning-ever since he'd seen Ms. Sinclair getting into that Special Forces SUV. And now? The pressure in the car was suffocating. "Navoris High," Landon said curtly.

The driver didn't say another word. He drove straight to the school, pulling up quietly outside the gates. But Landon didn't get out.

He just sat there.

Then he called Tessa again.

Still off.

"Alpha... I'm going to step out for a smoke," the driver said quietly, slipping out of the car as fast as he could. The air inside felt like it was about to snap.

Right then, Kevin walked out of the school building with Nico and Tessa behind him.

"Let's continue after lunch-there's still one more experiment to run today."

"Mr. Clark, the competition's still weeks away. There's no need to rush," Nico said, trying to keep his tone from sounding like a complaint.

"Nico, come on! This isn't just any physics competition-it's international. A good score here could land you straight into the Ivy League. We've got to give it everything we've got."

"Yeah, I think we've still got plenty of time too," Tessa added. "I've got something else going on tonight, so I'll skip lunch with you guys."

As she stepped outside, her eyes immediately landed on Landon's car

"You've already got night classes-what else could you possibly have going on?"

"Mr. Clark, cut us a little slack, will you?" She added with a faint smile, "I promise I won't let you down at the competition."

"Fine, fine-go on," Kevin waved her off.

As Tessa broke off from the group and headed toward Landon's car, Kevin turned to Nico.

"Let's go. Nico. If Tessa's ditching me, that means you're stuck with me? Kevin

grabbed Nien by the arm and started pulling him along.

As they walked, Nio kept glancing over his shoulder, curiosity written all over his

face. Who was in that car Tessa walked up to?

Chapter 119 Storm Warning

As soon as Landon saw Tessa walking over, he reached across and pushed the door open for her.

She climbed into the car.

"What are you doing here?" she asked, surprised.

"Nothing much," Landon replied calmly. "What kept you busy today?"

"Nothing special. Same as always-school."

Landon went quiet.

In his head, Flex let out a low, angry growl. "She's lying. She lied to us! I'm pissed!"

Tessa finally picked up on the shift in mood. "Mr. Thorne, is something wrong?"

"I'm fine."

But he wasn't. She was hiding something from him and it stung.

He thought they'd built enough trust to be open with each other. As an alpha, he was used to control-but with Tessa, what he wanted most was trust.

"Where were you headed just now?" he asked.

"Dinner. Mr. Clark was taking us out to eat."

Us. Was that guy going too?

"I'll take you." Landon hit the button to roll down the divider. "Drive," he told the driver, who got in and started the engine.

Meanwhile, not far away, Winona was walking near campus, planning to grab dinner. But she froze the moment she spotted the car.

She recognized it immediately-it was the same one that always came to pick Tessa up.

It was the first time Winona had gotten a good look at the man's face.

He was ridiculously handsome-so striking it almost didn't feel real. If he ever stepped into the entertainment world, he'd leave everyone else in the dust.

She quickly pulled out her phone to snap a picture-but the second she lifted it, Landon's eyes locked onto hers.

A wave of overwhelming pressure slammed into her. Her body locked up-she couldn't move.

Tessa noticed her too, and a faint, amused smile played at the corners of her lips. Winona again. Honestly, some people are just impossible to shake.

"Let's go," Landon said flatly to the driver.

Winona was still standing there, phone halfway up but she couldn't bring herself to pr

the water

First, it was a Navoris Special Forces car picking Tea up this morning. Then, it was Nico all over her. And now this man-mysterious, powerful, and clearly dangerous.

Tessa really knows how to wrap people around her finger Winona thought bitterly. If any of those gun found sai about each other, she'd be in serious trouble.

The thought alone made Winona let out a low, chilling laugh. "Let's see how long you can keep this act up Tessa. You're playing a dangerous game. And I cant wait to watch it all fall apart."

In the car, Landon spoke casually. "I can see why you and your sister don't get along"

Tessa didn't respond. What does that have to do with me? She thought.

There was a pause. Then, Landon finally asked what had clearly been on his mind the whole time. "Why was your phone off?"

Tessa pulled out her phone and powered it on. "No idea. I wasn't paying attention."

Landon went quiet again.

The car pulled up in front of Silvermoon Estate-a place Tessa had heard about before but never had the chance to visit.

The owner-a poised, elegant woman in her forties-came out personally to greet them as soon as she saw Landon. "Alpha! It's been a while. The usual spot?"

"Yeah," Landon replied simply.

She led them into a private booth with warm, Western-style decor. Through the large windows, you could see a cowboy performance in the courtyard-lassos, horses, and all. The vibe was rustic, lively, and distinctly charming. It felt like stepping into a different world.

As they settled in, the woman gave Tessa a once-over and smiled. "I don't believe I've met this young lady before. How may I address you?"

"Tessa Sinclair," Landon answered without hesitation.

"Merry, go ahead and bring the usual," he added. "Same as always."

He'd brought Tessa here to get a moment alone with her.

Merry gave him a knowing smile. "Got it. I'll give you two some space." And with that, she was gone, leaving just the two of them in the room.

Tessa glanced at her phone. A new message from Simon had popped up.

From the second they'd sat down, she hadn't looked at Landon once. She was completely focused on her phone.

Landon sat back, watching her in silence. His gaze had shifted, more intense now. Was she seriously more

interested in her phone than in me?

Tessa looked up and found Landon staring at her, s gaze intense and unwavering "What's going on, Mr Thorne? You've been looking at me like you've got something to say."

She couldn't shake the feeling-he definitely seemed like he was holding something back.

Chapter 120 Whiskey and Warnings

"Nothing," Landon said simply.

He didn't push. He had no right to question her. They weren't anything official.

She had every right to be with whoever she wanted That wasn't his call.

Landon knew that he understood, But even the thought that she might not be his-even the smallest chance-was enough to put him on edge. Just the idea of losing her made him restless. His possessiveness was impossible to ignore, and deep down, something primal had already started to burn.

"Oh," Tessa replied, not pressing further.

Outside in the courtyard, a group of teenage girls in denim and boots were dancing in perfect sync, full of western flair and energy.

Tessa's attention drifted to the show, deciding not to overthink whatever was going on with Landon.

Landon let out a quiet sigh. Winning her over wasn't going to be easy.

He never thought he'd be in this position-trying to figure someone out, wanting more.

As the dance ended, a girl in a cowboy hat and leather boots stepped out with a guitar and started strumming a soft country melody.

Just then, Merry arrived with the food, leading a small team of servers.

"Alpha, Ms. Sinclair-enjoy your meal. Let me know if you need anything else." "Thanks, Merry. We're good."

He reached for the bottle of whiskey on the table.

"Nice bottle," he commented, admiring the glasswork. It had that old-school Western charm, but with a more elegant finish. "It's one of their specialties," he added, opening the bottle and pouring a small amount into her glass. "Go ahead, give it a try. Silvermoon's known for this whiskey."

"Mr. Thorne, are you trying to get me drunk?" Tessa raised a perfectly arched brow, eyes glinting playfully. "What are you up to?"

Her blue eyes sparkled-dangerously beautiful.

"There's a lot I want to do," he said with a faint smile, "but I won't do any of it."

She's still young, he reminded himself. No matter how much he wanted her, he had enough self-control to hold back.

"Relax, I'm just messing with you," he added.

Tessa actually liked the vibe of this place. She took a sip from the crystal glass- and was surprised.

It was just as good as promised-rich, smooth, and a completely different experience from wine

Landon didn't say anything-he just refilled her glass.

"Tessa, just a heads-up-drinking around guys isn't always the best idea. You've got to protect yourself. Don't let your guard down, especially with people you don't trust."

"Got it. I'll only drink with you," Tessa said with a teasing smile..

Landon knew she was messing with him, but he let it slide.

"Don't just drink-try the food. The dishes here are amazing too." He scooped a bit of one of the signature dishes onto her plate.

"You don't have to do that. I'm good," she said. She wasn't that hungry-but the whiskey? That she liked.

She poured herself another glass.

"You've got quite the taste, huh?" Landon said with a chuckle. She'd already had a few drinks and looked completely unfazed. "Take it easy. This stuff has a strong kick. Nathaniel got drunk off it once right here at Silvermoon-and he's a beta. Even he couldn't handle it."

"Mm." Tessa didn't argue. The warmth from the whiskey spread through her as she walked over to the window to watch the show outside.

That's when she spotted someone familiar-Henry with Victoria right behind him.

Just the two of them.

Henry really was an alpha heir-already recovered like nothing ever happened. She watched as they headed into the private booth next door.

"Something wrong?" Landon asked, noticing her expression.

"It's nothing. Just ran into someone I know. Wait here-I'll be right back."

She stood and walked out calmly. There was still some un business with

Victoria-and tonight felt like the right time to settle it.