

Alpha-less 181

Chapter 181 Love Is Not About Gratitude

Connor pushed her hands away and stepped back, putting a full step of distance between them.

He knew Winona liked him, but love had never been something one person could decide alone.

"Winona, I'm sorry. I've always seen you as a little sister I only just realized the one I've loved all along has always been Tessa. Five years ago, I was just too much of a coward."

As he spoke, Connor's body unconsciously released a complex scent-guilt mixed with resolve. As a werewolf, Winona sensed the change immediately.

"No matter what, I was the one who wronged you. I should've told you the truth sooner. I really am thankful that you saved me. If it weren't for you, I wouldn't be here today. But love isn't about gratitude."

Winona hated her.

She hated Tessa.

Why does Tessa get everything I want without even trying? All I ever wanted was Connor. Is that really too much to

ask?

"Connor, I really love you! Please don't be so cruel to me, okay?"

"Winona, I'm sorry. I just can't give the kind of love you want to you. I know it sounds irresponsible, but I believe one day you'll meet someone whose heart only has room for you."

Winona couldn't say a single word. So he still said it. He still chose to hurt her. No matter what she did, his heart only had Tessa in it.

She laughed coldly and kept stepping back.

Seeing her like that, Connor frowned.

"Winona!"

"Why, Connor? Why do you have to treat me like this? You're the one who agreed to be my boyfriend. Everyone knows you're mine, everyone knows we were going

to get engaged. Now you want to break up. How am I supposed to face all those people?"

Winona kept retreating.

Behind her was a massive artificial lake.

Seeing that she was about to fall in, Connor's frown deepened.

"Winona, calm down. Don't go any further, it's dangerous." He knew she could... swim.

"If you don't want me anymore, what's the point of living? I might as well just die."

"Winona?" Connor's voice trembled.

"Connor, you do still care, don't you? You're worried about me!"

"Winona!" Connor instantly shifted into a massive brown wolf and leapt in after her, swimming fast toward her.

In December, the air in Navoris was already frigid, and the freezing lakewater bit into every inch of Winona's skin.

In wolf form, Connor carried her on his back and swam toward the shore.

"Winona!"

Seeing her pale face, motionless, Connor immediately changed back to human form and began CPR.

"Pff... Cough, cough...." Winona suddenly spat out a mouthful of water and began to cough hard, her face still deathly pale.

Fiona rushed outside after hearing the noise and saw the two of them soaked through.

"What happened? Weren't things fine just a moment ago? How did it turn into this so quickly? Connor, how could you hurt a girl who loves you so much?"

Fiona was stunned too.

"Connor, why are you just standing there? Hurry up and take her to your room and let her take a hot shower! It's freezing, she'll catch a cold!"

Connor said nothing. He simply scooped Winona up and carried her into the house.

A servant had already filled the tub with hot water for her bath.

"Mr. Connor, Ms. Sinclair truly cares about you. After your father, the former Alpha,

died on the battlefield five years ago, it was Ms. Sinclair who stayed by Luna's

side. That's the only reason Luna wasn't so lonely. Now that you're back, shouldn't you be thanking her instead of tossing her into the lake?"

The Lawson family's housekeeper had helped raise Connor. She was practically half a mother to him, so she dared to speak her mind.

"Take good care of her. I'm going out." Connor didn't say anything more and left the room. He hadn't expected Winona to go that far.

After a hot bath, Winona felt much better physically.

Seeing that Connor's room was empty, she took out her phone, lay down on his

bed, and snapped a few photos. After editing them to look like intimate selfies of her and Connor, she sent them to Tessa.

Chapter 182 I Never Said I Liked Him

At that moment, Tessa and Ysabel had just come back from dinner.

They were surprised to see that the message was from Winona.

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Tessa's pretty fingers swiped up, and the photo appeared on the screen.

Curious about what she was looking at, Ysabel leaned over.

When she saw the picture, she couldn't help but gasp and sigh.

"Tessie, your sister really isn't normal. She actually dared to send a photo of herself in bed. Isn't she afraid you'll post it on the school forum to get back at her?"

"There's nothing she wouldn't do. Right now, she just wants to show off that she's with Connor."

Tessa swiped left and looked through all the pictures Winona had sent.

"Well, only she would treat a mama's boy like Connor like he's some kind of treasure. But seriously, Tessie, your taste back then was pretty questionable. The fact that he ended up with Winona just proves he's no good."

No matter how things were before, the truth was that Connor had been with Winona. Nothing Tessa said could change that.

"I never said I liked him," Tessa replied flatly.

Ysabel's face lit up with surprise when she heard that.

"Really? You really never liked him? I knew your taste couldn't be that bad!"

Tessa had already figured out who had posted those photos on the forum. Before the evening class, she went to Class One.

The students in Class One started whispering the moment they saw Tessa walk in.

"What's that b*tch doing in our class? Is she trying to stir up trouble again?"

"Yeah, even Winona didn't show up to evening class. Did Tessa do something again?"

"Anna, come out for a second." Tessa's voice was calm and steady.

The moment she heard her name, Anna Quigley froze. She hadn't expected Tessa to come for her.

Indeed, she had been the one to post the photos, but she'd used a fake account. There was no way Tessa could've known it was her.

"What do you want with me? You and I don't even talk. What are you trying to do?" Anna looked guarded. She'd heard all the rumors about Tessa. Even though Anna had good grades, she wasn't physically strong. If a fight broke out, she knew she wouldn't stand a chance.

"Yeah! Tessa, do you think you're above all of us in Class One? What, you think you can just walk in here and boss people around?"

hapter 182 Never Said I Liked Him

"You really think Navoris High belongs to your family? That you can do whatever you want?"

"You really don't want to talk to me alone? Maybe you'd rather I say it right here, in front of everyone?" Tessa was already running out of patience.

Hearing that, Anna stood up and walked out of the classroom.

Tessa said directly, "I already know you're the one who posted the photos on the forum."

Anna was taken aback, and her breathing quickened, Her left hand gripped the hem of her school uniform tightly.

"What are you talking about? I don't understand."

She kept telling herself, If Tessa had real proof, she wouldn't ask to talk in private. Since she doesn't have evidence, there's no reason to admit anything.

Nico had always stood up for Tessa. If he found out Anna was the one who posted those photos, he would never forgive her. But Anna really liked Nico.

"If I came here to find you, it means I have proof."

Tessa's voice was cold and certain, with a quiet pressure that only high-ranked werewolves could give off. Anna instinctively wanted to step back.

"I'm giving you a chance. Go on the forum and clear things up yourself. If I have to do it, it won't be so easy."

Her words hit like a hammer, slamming into Anna's chest. At that moment, Anna realized that this girl, the one everyone called a useless wolf who hadn't awakened, was not someone to mess with.

Chapter 183 I Can Handle It

Anna went back to the classroom, and all the girls gathered around her.

"Anna, are you okay? Did Tessa bully you? If she did, you have to tell us. We'll go to the teacher, or we can sign a petition together and get her expelled."

"That's right! It's because of Tessa that the school feels so toxic. Let's join forces and push her out!"

"Don't do that. She didn't bully me." Anna was on the verge of tears. Tessa had evidence in her hands now, and if this whole thing blew up, she wouldn't be able to walk away clean.

"Anna, you're just too timid. Don't be scared."

The others didn't waste any time. Before long, they had written down everything bad Tessa had done on paper and had the class sign it.

"I think just our class's signatures aren't enough. I bet students from other classes don't like Tessa either. After all, tons of people at our school like Nico."

"Exactly. Don't worry, after night classes, I'll ask students from other classes to sign too. This time, we'll definitely get Tessa kicked out of Navoris High."

Anna felt even more anxious. She had no idea what to do anymore. Things had spiraled out of control.

But deep down, she still hoped Tessa would get expelled.

That way, no one would ever find out what she did and Nico's attention wouldn't be on Tessa anymore.

"Tessie, did you hear? Everyone's signing a petition to get you expelled."

Ysabel had overheard some other girls talking when she went to the bathroom.

She was so mad she almost fought them.

"Oh." Tessa acted like she hadn't heard, scribbling out math problem steps on her worksheet.

Ysabel grabbed the pen from her hand.

"This isn't the time for worksheets! What are we supposed to do? So many people want you out, and of course the school's going to consider it. And now the stuff on the forum has really upset them."

Ysabel was genuinely panicking, but Tessa still looked calm and unbothered.

"Tessa, what are you doing? I'm telling you something serious here. Can't you take it seriously?" Ysabel was truly worried. "Should I ask Uncle Landon to talk to the school..."

"There's no need for Alpha of the Nightshade Pack to step in for something this small. I can handle it," Tessa said quietly.

If they kept coming after her and she never fought back, it would only make her look powerless.

"My uncle probably already knows about this, but I swear I didn't say anything."

"Why are you looking at me like that? I really didn't say anything."

"Why are you so nervous? If you didn't say it, then you didn't say it." Tessa thought Ysabel was honestly adorable.

"Alright, I'm heading back. Tessie, I really think you should go talk to my uncle. No matter what kind of man he is, seeing the girl he likes caught up in a scandal with another guy isn't something he'd enjoy. And he's not just any guy, he's the Alpha King of Monfedra. He definitely can't stand gossip like that."

Ysabel kept glancing back as she walked away, clearly still worried about Tessa.

Landon's angry face really was scary.

Seeing her like that, Tessa couldn't help but laugh.

Ysabel glared at her.

"Hey! Tessie, don't be like that. I'm so worried about you. Why are you laughing?"

"Go home. Get some rest. Don't worry about me."

Ysabel reluctantly got in the car. If she weren't so afraid of Landon, she really would've stayed the night with Tessa.

Tessa probably needed someone by her side right now.

After Ysabel left, Tessa walked up to the silver-gray Lamborghini, opened the passenger door, and got in.

The moment Landon saw her willingly get into his car, the tension in his expression disappeared. The faint pressure of his wolf aura faded, too.

"I thought you were in Fasperin handling things. Why are you back so soon?"

Before leaving, Landon had told Tessa he needed to handle some complex matters between packs in Fasperin. Tessa had assumed he'd be gone for at least half a month.

Chapter 184 Did You Miss Me?

"You don't seem very happy to see me?"

The gloom that had just faded from Landon's face crept back between his brows, and the pressure of his Alpha presence started to reemerge, faint but unmistakable.

"Of course not! Why wouldn't I want to see you?" Tessa noticed he was upset and quickly tried to soothe him.

"Did you miss me? I know it's only been a few days, but already started missing you," Landon spoke plainly, not hiding how much he had missed her.

"Mr. Thorne..." Tessa was at a loss for words.

Miss him? Honestly, not really.

She'd been so busy the past few days that she barely had time to think, let alone think about him.

He could read her expression clearly. He'd over thought it again. This girl, so carefree, probably wouldn't even remember him if something happened to him. If he suddenly died, give it enough time and she might forget he ever existed at all.

Werewolf emotions burned hotter, deeper, and more intense than a normal human's, especially for someone like Landon, who stood at the peak of the werewolf world. As the Alpha King of the Montedra Pack, he carried immense strength and unmatched status. Along with that came feelings far beyond ordinary and a possessiveness that bordered on obsessiveness.

His feelings for Tessa were so strong they were hard to put into words, but her indifferent response crushed him.

Seeing how disappointed he looked, Tessa didn't know what to say.

The air in the car instantly turned cold.

When they finally arrived at Wisteria Apartment, Landon couldn't hold back anymore. He pinned Tessa against the wall and kissed her fiercely.

His wolf instincts surged from deep within, pushing him to claim her as his.

His kiss was heated and forceful, filled with the kind of intensity only an Alpha could have. It was a release of all the longing and love he had been holding in.

He wrapped his arms tightly around Tessa's waist, like he wanted to pull her right into his body and never let go.

His lips moved over hers with practiced skill, laced with undeniable power.

Tessa felt like she'd been caught by a starving wolf king, and there was nowhere to run.

The crisp scent of pine that clung to him surrounded her completely.

His pheromones, carried through the kiss, poured into her mouth. Her knees went weak, and her heartbeat quickened without her meaning to.

He didn't let go until she was gasping for air.

"What about now?" he asked, his voice low. "Can't I make you feel anything? Good or bad, just something."

Tessa's chest was still rising and falling rapidly.

She lifted her eyes to look at him, those wide, water-filled eyes revealing more than she wanted to admit.

To Landon, she looked absolutely captivating.

He couldn't help himself. He leaned down again and captured her soft lips in another kiss.

Tessa's hands unconsciously slid around his waist.

Pinned to the wall, their bodies pressed close together, and it made her heart

race.

Some strange current seemed to spread through her, a tingling warmth she'd never felt before. It wasn't unpleasant. In fact, she didn't want to push him away. She wanted to be closer, to do even more with him.

Following her heart, Tessa began to kiss Landon back.

The moment she responded, Landon's eyes lit up. He held her even tighter.

His kiss grew deeper, and his hands instinctively moved along her back, slow and gentle, feeling the warmth of her body.

Her response felt like the most precious gift. His lips wandered from hers to her cheek, then down to her earlobe, gently nibbling, making her shiver.

Tessa's fingers tightened around his shirt. Her breathing turned quick and messy, laced with sweet tension

She tilted her head back slightly, giving him more room, and he took the chance to deepen the kiss, his tongue moving with hers like they were locked in a passionate dance.

Their bodies pressed closer, sharing heat, listening to the sound of their hearts beating as one...

Chapter 185 He Fell for Her First

Landon's kiss felt like it held magic, wiping Tessa's mind blank as the tingling current inside her body grew stronger and stronger.

Even though she held him so closely, she still felt an emptiness deep inside, her mind overwhelmed by longing for Landon.

Her body started to grow warm, and her hands, no longer under her control, slipped beneath Landon's shirt, exploring his body in search of more warmth and comfort.

The muscles beneath his skin were firm and irresistible Tessa had always known he had a great body, but touching it for real left her even more stunned.

Landon, ignited by her passion, kissed her more wildly more fiercely, as if he wanted to devour her whole.

Like that, they lost themselves in each other's kisses, drowning in the heat of one another's embrace.

Time seemed to stop at that moment. The whole world faded away, leaving only the two of them, and their burning, tangled kiss.

When Tessa, panting hard, felt something hot and hard pressing against her from below Landon's waist, she suddenly snapped back to reality and pushed him away.

Landon, nearly losing all reason, felt her resistance and his eyes slowly cleared.

He knew he was about to lose control.

It took nearly all the willpower he had to pull back just a little from her.

His chin rested on her shoulder as he gasped heavily, struggling to smother the fire raging through his body.

This version of Tessa completely enchanted him.

"Mr. Thorne..."

Tessa had just opened her mouth when she realized how hoarse her voice sounded. Her cheeks flushed instantly, and she shut her mouth tight.

Hearing her speak made Landon chuckle. So I do affect her, after all.

In fact, he could stir her desire, just like she stirred his.

He hadn't forgotten the soft brush of her hands on his skin. It felt like feathers-

light, ticklish, and so dangerously easy to lose control from.

As if rewarding her, Landon pressed a gentle kiss to her forehead. This time, it was full of tenderness.

"Good girl. Don't be scared. I'll wait for you."

Tessa was still too young right now.

No matter how hard it was for him, he wouldn't touch her.

"Get some rest. Don't think about anything. I'll take care of the school stuff."

When she heard that, Tessa frowned. What does he mean by he can handle my school stuff?

"Mr. Thorne, I can deal with school on my own. You don't need to interfere."

Landon's brows furrowed, and her words cooled his desire in an instant.

Does she really mind me getting involved that much?

That feeling of being shut out from someone's world. I didn't feel good at all.

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He liked her. He wanted to be part of everything in her life, to go through it all with her. But from the start, she didn't want him involved.

Tessa could feel Landon's anger, but she didn't take her words back. Some things were a matter of principle, she wouldn't back down.

They stood at a silent standoff for a moment before Landon gave in. There was

nothing else he could do. He was the one who fell for her first.

"Rest early. I'm heading back." Landon let go of her and turned to leave.

His eyes looked dim, and his back looked lonely.

Tessa wondered, Am I really being too harsh?

Just as that thought crossed her mind, her phone rang. It was a call from Connor.

His number hadn't changed in the past five years, so even though she had deleted it long ago, she still recognized it.

Tessa hung up right away. There was truly nothing left to say between her and Connor.

Hearing the cold beeps from the other end of the line, Connor felt like something had clenched tight around his heart.

She still refused to forgive him. She still wouldn't answer his calls.

Connor stood outside Wisteria Apartment, lost in frustration and disappointment, when the door suddenly opened.

Landon stepped out, tall and straight-backed, his presence powerful.

The moment Connor saw him, his hands clenched into fists, jealousy and unwillingness rising fast.

So she was with this man just now. What were they doing inside?

He could smell Tessa's scent all over him.

The thought of the two of them doing something intimate sent Connor's whole body spiraling into chaos.

Sensing another male's hostile presence instantly, Landon lifted his gaze and spotted Connor outside.

Why is this guy still hanging around?

"A cold light flashed in Landon's eyes, and the pressure of his Alpha presence rolled toward Connor like a

toward

Chapter 186 We Are Not Friends

The sudden, overwhelming pressure came crashing down on Connor like an invisible mountain.

His legs trembled uncontrollably, knees nearly buckling beneath him. He almost dropped straight to the ground.

A surge of defiance flooded his chest. Gritting his teeth, Connor pushed his werewolf power to its limits, forcing out his own pheromones in a desperate attempt to push back against the tidal force of Landon's

presence.

But Landon was Alpha King of Montedra. His strength far surpassed anything Connor had imagined.

Even as Connor gave everything he had, all he could manage was to barely stay standing beneath the crushing pressure.

His breathing turned sharp and labored. Each breath felt like it was tearing at his chest, his lungs screaming from the strain, as Landon's aura smothered the air around him.

His clenched fists shook without end, betraying the fear and struggle buried deep inside. His eyes, though, remained full of stubborn fire, silently resisting the weight of Landon's dominance.

Connor stared at Landon across the distance, forcing his back straight, pretending to stay composed.

But the slight tremble in his body and the sweat rolling steadily down his forehead gave him away.

There was no question. In this silent standoff, he had lost completely.

Landon's lips curled into a cold smirk, as if mocking Connor's overconfidence.

The scorn in his eyes pierced straight into Connor's heart like a blade.

A moment later, Landon slowly withdrew his pressure, and that suffocating weight disappeared in an instant.

Connor gasped for air, chest heaving, feeling like a boulder had been lifted off his back.

Only then did he realize that his entire back was soaked in sweat, his shirt clinging to his skin, cold and damp.

Landon didn't spare him even a glance. He walked past him and got into his car. That silent disregard stung Connor's pride even more.

Who is this man? How the hell is he this strong?

A vague suspicion crept into his mind, but he forced himself not to think about it.

If it really was who he suspected, then he didn't stand a chance at winning Tessa back.

Inside the car, Landon didn't drive off right away.

Instead, he pulled out a cigarette from the pack, lit it, and took slow, idle drags as

he sat there, waiting for Connor to leave the front of the apartment.

When he called the next time, he realized that he'd been blocked.

He let out a bitter laugh. She was still the same. No room for mercy.

"Tessa, are you really this heartless? Is there nothing I can do to make you forgive me?"

Connor got into his car, but didn't leave either. He stayed parked under Wisteria Apartment all night.

It wasn't until early the next morning, when Tessa finally appeared at the front door, that he stepped out.

"Tessie, why didn't you answer my calls? Even if we're just regular friends, we should still be able to talk, right?"

Seeing him first thing in the morning put Tessa in an even worse mood.

"You and I aren't even regular friends. Don't talk like we are. You don't have the right."

She turned to leave, but Connor grabbed her wrist.

"I've broken up with Winona. No matter what happened five years ago, let's not dwell on it anymore. Can't we just start over?" His voice was soft and pleading, full of desperation.

He was the future Alpha of the Thunder Pack, but in front of Tessa, he was

completely powerless. Five years hadn't helped him forget her. He just couldn't do

it.

Tessa had just woken up, and she was already in a foul mood. The last thing she wanted was to be stuck here listening to him ramble. She lost her patience.

With a quick throw, she slammed Connor onto the ground..

"I told you, I don't want to hear another word about you and Winona's pathetic drama. Whatever you two have going on, deal with it yourselves. Why bring it to me?"

Landon, who hadn't left last night either, had been sitting in his car the whole time. Seeing this unfold, he let out a loud, unapologetic laugh.

Chapter 187 He Was Different

"Tessie, are you still mad at me for not standing by your side five years ago? I admit, I was wrong back then."

"Mad at you? Do I need to be? Don't assume everyone has as much free time as you people. I have things to do. Stop bothering me, okay?"

Since talking didn't work, Tessa didn't bother anymore. It was faster to act.

"Are you done watching? Let's get breakfast." Noticing Landon standing behind Connor, Tessa spoke bluntly.

Landon stopped laughing.

"Sure." He was clearly in a good mood today. No matter what Tessa said, he wouldn't get upset. Watching her treat his rival like this made him feel much better.

Connor froze for a moment when he saw Landon, then hurried to catch up.

"Tessie, who is he? Do you even know what kind of person he is?" Connor couldn't let it go when he saw the

two walking away.

"What does it have to do with you who he is?" Tessa shot back. "Just take care of yourself and keep Winona away from me."

Tessa brought Landon to a donut shop near Navoris High. It was her favorite. The donuts were really good.

She bought two and handed one to Landon.

"Here. It tastes amazing." She had discovered this street food by accident.

Three dollars each. Filling and surprisingly delicious.

Landon took the donut from her hand and sat down with her on a bench along the sidewalk. Just like that, they started eating breakfast in the middle of the street

People were coming and going, but the two of them stood out. Their looks and presence were stunning. Even though they were just eating cheap donuts, they drew attention from passing teens.

"Isn't that Tessa? She's got another guy already? And he's so good-looking."

"Yeah, he's really handsome. Like one of those noble werewolf princes from a TV show. Every little movement feels elegant."

"Don't be disgusting. Since when do noble princes eat donuts on the street?" "True, but I really like his face."

"Like, my a*s. If he's hanging around someone like Tessa, he can't be anything good."

you can't deny she's stunning, and every guy around he is just as attractive."

Landon clearly heard their gossip. His gaze darkened, and a cold pressure quietly radiated from his body.

Before he could teach that group a lesson, Tessa notice him staring at her. Thinking he was still hungry. she handed him the half-caten donut in her hand.

"You're still hungry, right? I'll get you a five-dollar one next time." Landon froze for a second when she suddenly stuffed the half-caten donut into his hand-but the chill around him instantly faded.

He was actually full already, but he still what she gave him.

"Now that you've had breakfast, you should get going." She had a lot to handle at school. Today was going to be a rough day.

"Okay. Remember, whatever it is, if you can't handle it, call me. I'll be there right away." Landon reminded her.

If she didn't want him interfering in her life, he'd give her that space. But if things spiraled beyond what he could accept, he wouldn't just stand by and watch.

"Got it." Tessa remained cool as ever.

There was nothing he could do when she was like this.

He reached out and rubbed her head. The warmth in his movements made the air

around him soften. His fingers messed up her hair as if he needed to do

something childish just to calm himself down.

Tessa looked at him helplessly. So even the legendary Nightshade Pack Alpha

had this childish side. The day had been full of surprises.

"Go on. I'll leave once I see you head inside."

Tessa didn't say anything and walked past him.

But Landon couldn't help it. He reached out and pulled her into his arms.

He moved so fast that Tessa didn't even have time to react, until he pressed a kiss to her forehead.

Tessa flared up. What the hell? He kisses me at the school gate?

Seeing her angry made Landon even more pleased.

She acted so cold and distant with everyone, like nothing could touch her, but that was exactly why he liked doing things that irritated her. Seeing her flare up made him feel like he was different from everyone else.

Connor had been following them from a distance, and the way the two interacted knocked the air from his lungs.

Tessa actually lets that man kiss her!

Seeing it with his own eyes nearly drove Connor mad. The jealousy twisted in his chest, throwing his wolf

instincts into chaos.

Chapter 188 She Was as Good as Gone

Tessa walked into the classroom. All the students stared at her with gloating expressions.

She didn't even bother to acknowledge the jealous looks they threw her way.

"Tessa, Mr. Lambert wants to see you," said the principal's assistant, who came in personally. Her tone was polite, at least.

As soon as the girls in class heard the assistant's words, they began whispering. "This time, there's no way. Tessa's getting away with it, right?"

"Yeah, I heard Nico's mom came too. You all know the Dawson family-werewolf nobility in Navoris, with real power and money. Nico's mom is even on the school board. If she showed up, this must be serious."

"Well, I've seen Nico's mom once. That woman is terrifying. Tessa's done for."

Tessa made her way to the principal's office like she had done it a hundred times before.

Inside were Lambert, Nico's mother Sharon Dawson, and the homeroom teacher of Grade 12, Class 8, Hamilton.

When Lambert saw it was Tessa again, his expression soured. Tessa had been placed in the school by Nathaniel, the Beta of the Nightshade Pack. Still, her grades were outstanding.

But this time, the situation involved Nico, and he really didn't know how to handle it.

"Tessa, can you tell us exactly what happened in the physics lab?" he asked. The recent photos circulating on the school forum had caused a huge stir, even catching the attention of many parents.

This was a place for learning, especially Navoris High, the most prestigious school in the city. No ordinary family could get their child in here.

And once something like this got out, the parents had a lot to say.

Sharon stared at Tessa. The girl was undeniably beautiful, with a face that could easily enchant people.

She had looked into Tessa's background and was well aware of the rumors about her mixing with Rogues. Now, seeing her in person with that seductive look, Sharon was even more convinced that Tessa had seduced her son-and her disgust deepened.

Tessa glanced at the woman sitting on the couch. She instantly knew this had to be Nico's mother. They looked too alike.

She replied lazily, "Mr. Lambert, we were doing experiments in the lab. What else would I be doing?"

"We're not accusing you of anything," Lambert said carefully. "We just want to understand what really happened. You know those photos on the forum have caused a lot of negative attention. Parents and students are all focused on this now. If we don't handle it properly, it'll be bad for both you and Nico."

His tone stayed polite. After all, Tessa had been introduced by a Nightshade Beta.

"Okay," Tessa replied with the same careless attitude, as if none of this worried her at all.

Just then, someone knocked on the door.

Lambert frowned. Who could it be now? I still have a ton to deal with. Who else is here to cause trouble?

Still, he told them to come in.

"Mr. Lambert, we're here as student representatives for this incident. A student

like Tessa, with such a long record of bad behavior, doesn't deserve to be one of us. We're here to request her expulsion."

Several girls stood outside, holding a petition filled with signatures.

Lambert's face grew even darker.

"You should all go back for now. We will handle this matter and give everyone a proper explanation."

"Mr. Lambert, we believe you'll do what's right. But we're just saying. If you keep turning a blind eye to Tessa's behavior, it'll be a big disappointment to all of us."

As they spoke, the girls shot scornful looks at Tessa.

Nico's mom had come in person and she was on the school board. She had the authority to expel students.

With the petition added to that, the girls believed there was no way someone as shameless as Tessa could stay at Navoris High. She was as good as gone.

Chapter 189 I Will Take Full Responsibility

Several girls had been escorted out by the principal's assistant. Inside the principal's office, the atmosphere was thick and suffocating.

Hamilton stood to the side. He truly didn't know what to say this time, but he still believed in Tessa.

"Mr. Lambert, there must be some kind of misunderstanding. I trust Tessa's character. She wouldn't do something like this."

Sharon, who had been silent the whole time, stood up from the couch and walked over to stand in front of Tessa.

Tessa looked at the elegantly dressed woman in front of her. Her eyes were calm, fearless.

"What more is there to say? Keeping her at this school will only bring harm. And this student has a history. doesn't she? Just expel her, Mr. Lambert. She's already full of bad records, there's no need to go through the board, is there?"

"Madam Dawson, we haven't gotten to the bottom of this yet. It wouldn't be right to expel a student so rashly." Lambert still didn't dare make a decision that big without due process.

"What hasn't been made clear? Don't you know how well Nico performs at school, Mr. Lambert? Let me make myself very clear. Whatever did or didn't happen between them, this has already affected Nico. The only way to fix it is to expel her. Nico still has to apply to Ivy League schools, to enter top-tier research institutes. Isn't that enough reason? As for her-so what if she's second in the whole school? She's just a useless girl with no pack. She'll never accomplish anything." Anything that stood in Nico's way, Sharon would sweep it clean.

"Madam Dawson." Lambert knew as principal, he shouldn't go against a board member. But Tessa had been recommended by Beta of the Nightshade Pack, he really couldn't act carelessly.

"Mr. Lambert, have you been in this position too long? Thinking it's time for a change?" Sharon's tone turned impatient. What's the point of dragging out just a piece of trash? Why waste time talking to someone like her?

Lambert was growing increasingly frustrated, but there was nothing he could do. She was a board member. He had to keep smiling.

"Madam Dawson, I know Nico is outstanding. But Tessa isn't weak either. They're both signed up for the physics competition. Maybe the two of them.."

"Mr. Lambert, there's only one spot for Navoris High in this competition. What are you trying to say?" Sharon's voice turned sharp-she was ready to throw Lambert out of his own office.

Lambert had no idea what to say at the moment.

"They both want to compete. Since there's only one spot, of course there should be a fair competition." Hamilton couldn't stay silent any longer. Is Madam Darson seriously implying that only Nico could participate?

"And who are you? Is this your place to speak?" Sharon's expression turned dark, and the pressure of a high-ranked werewolf radiated from her body. "Let me repeat myself. Nico must compete in this physics competition. How can a student expelled from Navoris High represent Navoris High? Are you joking?"

Just then, Nico burst into the principal's office.

The moment Sharon saw him, her expression changed. "What are you doing here? Whatever it is, I can handle it. You go back right now."

"I'm already an adult. I want to make my own decisions Please, stop interfering, okay?"

Nico walked to Tessa, took her hand, and tried to lead her out.

"Tessa, don't worry about this. I'll take full responsibility. I was the one who told you to go to the lab. It has nothing to do with you."

No matter what the outcome was, he could take it. Even if someone had to be expelled, it should be him. Besides, they hadn't done anything in that lab.

"Nico, am I still your mother in your eyes?" Sharon was furious. "You treat me like this for the sake of this little tramp? I've planned everything for your future, and you? You fool around at school and humiliate the Dawson family!"

Tessa frowned.

Nico's mom is unbelievable. She never listens to a word he says Does she really think that just because she makes a decision, it has to be the right one?

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"Mom. Tessa and I really didn't do anything in the lab. Why can't you just trust me? Or is it that, in your eyes, I'm not as important as maintaining the so-called dignity of the Dawson family?" Nico's voice carried a wolf-like stubbornness and frustration with his mother's actions. He tightly held Tessa's hand, as if drawing strength from her.

"Mom, don't make it difficult for her. This has nothing to do with her. I'll work hard for the physics competition. I won't disappoint you, but please don't hurt her."

Nico's voice sounded so desolate, as if his mother had placed the family's honor and all the unfulfilled desires she had on his shoulders. He was really tired.

Sharon stepped forward and yanked Nico over.

Her wolfish aura became more chaotic with her anger. "You're actually arguing with me for this worthless wolf-less girl! Don't forget, you are the hope of the entire Dawson family. You're supposed to become a top wolf scientist, not hang around with some useless girl!

Nico's eyes were filled with pleading. "Mom, I beg you. I'll meet all your demands, just not her. Don't touch her."

-Tessa was his goddess! The only light in his gray life.

"No, she can't be at your school. If there's even the slightest chance she could affect you, I won't let it slide. Sharon was very domineering. She had to make the man who severed their partnership regret it and realize how foolish it was to abandon her and Nico.

"Mr. Lambert, do you want to expel her now, or should I call a board meeting to expel you, the disobedient principal?"

Sharon was so forceful, it was sickening.

Lambert felt like his head was about to explode. This was how Sharon always was. If he didn't listen to her, she'd really call a board meeting.

"Madam Dawson, I haven't done anything wrong. What gives you the right to expel me?" The usually silent Tessa spoke up. Using force and capital to force her out She'd see if Sharon had the power to do that.

"At this point, you still dare to challenge me? Do you think the Sinclair family and Frostmoon Park will still support you?" Sharon sneered. "You're just a worthless girl abandoned by the pack and family!"

"I don't need the support of Frostmoon Pack or the Sinclair family. I'm the victim in this. If someone should be expelled, it's not me."

Seeing her defiant expression, Sharon sneered. "Is this how girls at your age behave now?"

"Mom!" Nico's heart ached. He had hurt the girl he liked this way, and he didn't know how he would ever face her again.

"Shut up! You'd better not interfere in this. If you do, I make sure she disappears from Navoris right now." She dared to say such a threat, even in front of so many people.

"Madam Dawson, it sounds like you think this school is yours." Tessa scoffed. People like her were so

Chapter 190 He Stands His Ground

"Tessa, say less," Hamilton said, worriedly looking at her. Everyone knew Sharon's father had once been the head of the Mistwolf Mercenaries. Although they were no longer mercenaries, now disguised as the wolf nobility of Navoris, their methods were still terrifying.

If Tessa angered Sharon, she might use mercenary power to make her disappear!

"Madam Dawson, this is truly a misunderstanding. Mr. Clark arranged for the two of them to participate in the physics competition together. If you really care that much, we'll make sure Tessa doesn't participate. She won't appear in the same events as Nico from now on. She's still young. Please let her off."

Hamilton was very responsible for his students. He truly liked Tessa and didn't want her to suffer because of this incident. Her future was limitless.

"Mr. Hamilton, teaching such shameless students, what right do you have to speak here?" Sharon showed Hamilton no respect at all.

"Mr. Hamilton, you don't need to worry about this. I won't leave Navoris High." "Mr. Lambert!" Sharon felt her time was being wasted.

Lambert finally chose to stand with Nathaniel. After all, Nathaniel was someone he couldn't afford to offend.

"Madam Dawson, I'm sorry, but until this matter is fully clarified, I can't expel Tessa." For the first time, Lambert stood firm.

Hamilton looked at Lambert with admiration.

As expected, the principal stands his ground. His authority is unshakable.

Tessa also glanced at the principal. Even if he did expel her right now, she'd unde..and.

"Good. Now it looks like I have no choice but to call a board meeting." Sharon was furious. Lambert had always been relatively polite to her, but she didn't expect him to dare defy her this time.

Sharon slammed the door as she left. Her anger filled the air, her wolfish pheromones lingering, refusing to fade.