

## Alpha-less 301

### Chapter 301 The Alpha's Warning

Someone had to fight, so Tessa didn't mind stepping aside to watch the show. She hugged Landon's coat and moved over to the side.

In her consciousness, Emma gave an excited growl, eager to witness herpha in action.

Landon struck with explosive speed. His claws shot from his fingertips, gleaming with cold light, radiating an alpha's signature air of destruction.

The lead merc lunged first, his claws glowing faintly with venom, aiming straight for Landon's chest.

Landon sidestepped in a blur-fast enough to leave only an afterimage. Inside his mind, his wolf Flex howled with power, guiding every move with ruthless precision.

His counterstrike landed on the merc's shoulder. The crack of bone breaking was crisp and brutal. Blood instantly filled the air.

The tattooed man roared and joined the fight, both claws slashing toward Landon's throat.

But Landon only laughed coldly. His fangs sank into the man's arm, crushing bone with the steel-like strength of an alpha's bite.

Then with a single kick, he sent the tattooed man flying. One swipe of his claw,

and the rest of the mercs crumpled to the ground.

The sheer pressure of his alpha aura broke their instincts, leaving them whimpering on the floor in surrender.

The entire fight lasted mere seconds-Landon's combat style a perfect display of violent elegance.

Tessa looked at the pile of vicious mercenaries now groaning in defeat and couldn't help but laugh. Her laughter was the final insult, stripping the mercs of what little pride they had left.

Do they have no shame? Couldn't she at least pretend to give them some dignity?

"You-" The tattooed man couldn't even finish the sentence. He'd been humiliated too badly to speak.

Landon brushed off his hands, then gestured to Tessa for a tissue. After wiping his palms, he said coldly, "Go turn yourselves in to the Mistwolf Pack's elders. Tell them everything Sharon did. If you don't, I'll personally have you hauled in tomorrow."

Given what they'd done, he had every right to rip them to shreds on the spot.

But he didn't want Tessa to see that kind of bloodbath.

And as the alpha king of Montedra, he needed to uphold the law, at least on the surface.

"Um, you should take him seriously. He really can get you all thrown in jail. And once you're in, don't expect to ever see daylight again."

These mercs had multiple murders on their hands.

In his mind, Flex paced restlessly, furious about what had almost happened to Tessa.

He knew she didn't like when he interfered in her affairs-but at this point, if he didn't step in, how could he call himself a man?

Tessa, knowing he was upset, didn't say anything. She went to heat up two cups of milk.

"It's fine. Just a few thugs. I could've handled it." She handed him a mug and sat down with hers.

Landon stared at her. Thugs? Really?

Each one of them had blood on their claws. The stench of death in their scent was

enough to make mid- and low-ranking wolves shiver.

Still, he took the cup, sipped the milk, and quietly set it aside.

Then he pulled her down to sit on his lap.

"If something like this ever happens again, you tell me. Don't try to handle everything alone." This side of her-the one that always carried everything by herself-made his heart ache.

Tessa flushed the moment she sat on him.

This man didn't even have to do anything. Just sitting there, he exuded alpha pheromones strong enough to make any she-wolf's heart race.

Which was exactly why just being in his lap made her blush and lose her cool. "Let me go." Tessa tried to sound composed, but Emma was anything but calm. Tessie, I like it when he hugs us. I love the way his pheromones smell.

Emma didn't want to leave Landon's arms at all.

"Just let me hold you for a bit." Landon didn't plan to let go. He-and Flex-both needed the comfort of Tessa's scent.

Though flustered, Tessa stayed where she was, nestled on his lap.

As her soft scent filled the space between them, both Landon and his restless wolf slowly began to settle down.

Still holding her, Landon picked up his phone with one hand and made a call.

"Alpha? What's up?" Nathaniel's voice came through the line.

"That Sharon Dawson-handle her for me."

"Huh? The Dawson family's part of the Mistwolf Pack, right? We've never even interacted with them. She crossed a line?"

"She didn't mess with me. She tried to take Tessa's hand."

"Carit"

Sharon had to be insane. Of all people to provoke, she chose Tessa?

Everyone close to the alpha knew one thing by now: if someone angered the alpha, they might sti

But if someone touched Tessa, then he'd make sure that person begged for death.

Chapter 302 The Price of a Threat

That night, Sharon's villa was forcibly broken into. The werewolf guards stationed at the house were swiftly subdued.

By the time Sharon awoke, several male werewolves, reeking of Nightslele Pack's iron-blooded aura, had already entered her bedroom. Their eyes shimmered with golden light, and the air around them was thick with murderous intent.

She stared coldly at them. "Who sent you? Do you have a death wish? Do you even know who I am?"

She was the daughter of the Mistwolf Pack's alpha-young lady of the Mistwolf Mercenaries.

As she spoke, she released her high-ranking she-wolf's aura, attempting to intimidate them.

"Madam, Mr. Thorne wants one of your hands. So-are you going to give it up or not?" one of them sneered, completely unfazed by her pressure.

"What do you mean? I've never even met Mr. Thorne! How did I offend him?" Sharon's voice shook slightly at the mention of Landon Thorne.

Who didn't know that he was Montedra's most powerful alpha king? The Nightshade Pack's iron grip made entire packs tremble at the name.

"You haven't met Mr. Thorne, true. But you tried to take the hand of Mr. Thorne's woman, didn't you?"

The men didn't waste time arguing. One of them pinned her down as another drew his claws and slashed her wrist with perfect precision. The strike carried a hidden Nightshade Pack technique-one that severed her connection to her

. Wolf soul at the source.

"Ahhh!" Her agonized scream pierced the cold night, echoing throughout the villa like the wail of a wounded she-wolf beneath the moonlight.

"Remember this-there's always someone stronger. You can't afford to provoke everyone you meet."

With that, the Nightshade wolves left without a trace-like ghosts that had never come.

By the time Nico received the news and rushed to the werewolf hospital, Sharon was still in the operating

room.

The werewolf doctors had tried to repair her destroyed wolf soul's meridians, but with little success.

Only when she was wheeled out did Nico finally see her. It had been a long time since he'd last shown his face to Sharon.

Because of everything that had happened with Tessa, Nico had still been angry at her.

"Mom, what the hell happened?" Nico asked. He knew full well the Dawson family's status and strength. What he didn't understand was how something like this could happen-especially in their own home.

"It must've been that little b\*tch Tessa! Who the hell is she, anyway?" Sharon growled. She clearly remembered the words of the man who had led the attack.

He genuinely didn't understand why his mother was so hellbent on targeting Tessa. She hadn't even done anything wrong.

"Mr. Nico, it's like this!" the Dawson family's butler quickly explained. "Just today, Madam Dawson ordered some people to go after Ms. Sinclair's hand. And tonight, this happened So it must be related to Tessa!"

"What?" Nico could hardly believe what he was hearing.

"What the hell do you want from me? I've done everything you asked. All I ever asked was that you leave Tessa alone. You promised me. Or do you still not believe I can win that physics competition on my own merit?"

"Nico, is that really your priority right now?" Sharon snapped. "I just lost my hand, and you're worried about some meaningless girl? I can't believe I raised such an ungrateful brat!"

She was furious enough to rip him apart on the spot.

After raising such a thankless child, her life felt like one massive failure.

"I'm done with this conversation. If anything like this happens again, you'll never see me again."

Nico knew how dangerous the Dawson family could be with its mercenary background. His mother clearly had no intention of letting Tessa go.

But no matter what, he was going to protect her.

Even if she didn't love him.

He would still protect her.

Nico didn't say another word. He turned and walked away.

"Nico, if you

him.

dare walk out that door, I'll have someone kill Tessa tomorrow!" Sharon threatened behind

Nico stopped, turned, and stared her down.

"Fine. If she dies, I'll die with her. I'll trade my life for hers."

Chapter 303 Distracted by the Alpha

The next morning, Landon personally made Tessa a hearty breakfast.

After they eating, he asked, "Got anything on your schedule today?"

Tessa thought about it. It seemed like everything had pretty much been handled. Beauty Luxe was running smoothly with Harper in charge-there was nothing for her to worry about there.

The only thing left unresolved was Avery Band's contract situation.

But she'd already handed that over to Landon, and all she had to do now was wait for updates from him.

So when she thought about it... she didn't actually have anything planned today.

"Nothing."

"In that case, come with me to Thorne Corp. You're heading to Falindale in a few days, right? We won't be able to see each other for a while."

"You're so busy at Thorne Corp-do you really need me there?"

Landon nodded seriously. "Yes. I get so much more done when you're around. "...Fine."

If that was the case, she might as well go game at Thorne Corp. It didn't really matter where she gamed-it was all the same.

And her wolf seemed happy to be in Landon's territory too, enjoying the calming pine scent of his pheromones.

The two of them stepped out of Wisteria Apartment and immediately saw Nico waiting outside.

Nico spotted her coming out with that man but didn't say anything.

Landon glanced at Nico. Sharon's son was decent enough-just a shame he had feelings for Tessa.

"Something wrong?" Tessa asked Landon to wait a moment and walked up to Nico.

"I'm sorry. If you'd never met me, maybe none of this would've happened to you," Nico said quietly. His wolf let out a soft, miserable growl in the back of his mind, ashamed of what his mother had done.

The moment he said that, Tessa understood-he must have found out what his mother had done.

"Nico, you're you. Your mom is your mom. I don't lump people together like that. You don't have to apologize for her."

Nico was a good person. His wolf soul was pure-something rare among the noble wolves of Mistwolf Pack.

"You really have a gift in physics. Keep working hard. Don't let this stuff drag you down."



This didn't have anything to do with her anymore, but since they were classmates, she figured she might as

-it meant a lot to him.

"I'm heading out."

Tessa turned to leave.

Landon wasn't exactly known for his patience. It wouldn't be good to keep him waiting too long.

Nico watched her walk back to that tall, striking man-and felt that dull ache in his chest.

It seemed like he would never be able to give her the kind of safety and security that man could.

When Tessa finally walked over, Landon took her hand. "What did he want?"

"Nothing big. Just to apologize."

His mother had just had her hand taken-and he still came to apologize. The kid's wolf soul was tougher than most of Mistwolf Pack's elite.

"What's wrong?"

Tessa still didn't know that Landon was the one who'd had Sharon's hand destroyed.

"Nothing," he said. "Just thinking what a shame it is that your kind-hearted classmate has a mom like that."

When they arrived at Thorne Corp, Landon took Tessa straight to the ninetieth floor-his personal domain.

Once someone brought her snacks and fruit, he immediately shifted into full work mode.

Tessa, on the other hand, couldn't seem to get into gaming mode.

Her wolf, Emma, was absolutely giddy from being immersed in Landon's presence, and it completely threw off her focus.

What do I do? She sighed inwardly. Am I... crushing on him now too?

Watching Landon work, his alpha aura flared like dark fire-magnetic, powerful, and utterly captivating.

She was completely spellbound...

Chapter 304 Songs of the Future

By the time Landon finally his work, it was already noon. When he sat down next to Tessa, she was immersed in her game.

"Bored?" he asked, sounding a little guilty. In his mind, Flex was also resess- frustrated he hadn't been able to keep her company.

"Not at all. I'm happy just being near you," Tessa replied honestly.

Just being close to him, seeing him, breathing in his scent-it was enough to make her feel content.

Landon smiled and kissed her lightly on the lips. But before he could enjoy the moment, she said, "By the way, Ysabel messaged me earlier. She found out I was here and wants to come over. You mind?"

Landon's smile vanished.

He was silent for a moment before finally saying, "I don't mind..."

"Really?" She tilted her head. "Because you look like you

mind."

Landon slipped an arm around her shoulders. "I really don't. I'm busy, and I can't keep you company, so it's good if she does."

He sounded considerate... if only he didn't reek of jealousy.

Tessa chuckled softly and leaned in to kiss the corner of his mouth. "I'm hungry. I heard the cafeteria here is amazing. I want to try it."

"Let's go." Landon didn't hesitate-he immediately wrapped an arm around her and led her toward the dining hall.

Everyone who worked at Thorne Corp was elite within werewolf society-either loyal members of the Nightshade Pack or high-ranking wolves from affiliated packs.

To give them the best working environment, Thorne Corp had hired several spiritual chefs-masters of cuisine who specialized in werewolf nutrition. Their dishes used spirit beast meat and herbs to nourish the wolf soul.

Every cuisine imaginable was available. The taste? Exceptional.

Even someone like Tessa, who didn't eat much, found herself eating more than usual. Emma, too, buzzed with excitement at the energy from the spirit beast meat.

"Must be nice to work for you," Tessa commented.

"It's even better being my mate. Want to give it a shot?" Landon teased, a wicked grin on his lips. In his mind, Flex howled in anticipation, eager for her response.

Tessa blushed. His lines are getting smoother by the day...

As soon as she walked in, Tessa asked, "Did you get in touch with the vocal coach I recommended?"

"Yup! She sent me tons of tutorial videos. I've been studying them seriously!"

Knowing Tessa was planning to start her own entertainment company, Ysabel was working harder than ever, determined to chase her dream of becoming a singer in the werewolf entertainment industry.

"Good. After New Year, I'll officially launch the company."

Since she'd made up her mind to bring them into the scene with her, Tessa had already planned everything out in advance.

"Got it. Don't worry, boss! I won't let you down," Ysabel said earnestly.

"Alright."

After chatting for a bit, Ysabel returned to watching her vocal training videos.

Tessa sent Landon a quick message to let him know, then opened his laptop.

She downloaded a songwriting program, tested it out a little, and found it decent enough.

"What are you working on?" Ysabel couldn't help but look over.

"Writing a song."

She'd promised to write a song for Avery Band. Since she had the time today, she figured she'd finally get it done.

"Writing a song?" Ysabel was stunned.

They were both still in high school. How was Tessa this amazing?

"What?" Tessa raised an eyebrow. "I don't look like I can write music?"

"No, no! You're a total genius. Honestly, if you told me you could awaken some ancient wolf soul, I wouldn't even question it," Ysabel said, dragging a chair next to her and sitting down with wide, admiring eyes.

"Go ahead, don't worry. I won't interrupt."

"Okay."

Tessa wasn't the type to show off-but over the past few days, a melody had been forming in her mind.

Now, all she needed to do was write it out, arrange the final instrumentation, and add lyrics.

She worked quickly and efficiently, and before long, the rough version of the track was . "Wanna hear it?" Tessa looked up at Ysabel, who was already beaming in anticipation.

#### Chapter 305 The Song That Burns

Ysabel nodded immediately.

"Yes, absolutely, obviously yes!" How could she possibly pass up a chance like this?

Tessa the final adjustments and hit play.

#### 48 Pearls

It was a rock track-its rhythm wild and relentless, like a hunting wolfpack. The beat stirred the soul, rousing the primal heat of the wolf spirit. It was nothing like anything Avery Band had produced before.

But the moment it started, it was like a howl under the moonlight, igniting something deep within, setting every cell ablaze with adrenaline.

There were no lyrics yet, but the music alone was already enough to grab you and set you on fire.

So full of youth. So full of energy. So full of burning passion.

"Well?" Tessa looked at Ysabel, waiting for her reaction.

"Tessa... honestly... a genius like you is just too unfair to the rest of us."

She wasn't sucking up-she meant every word.

Tessa smiled. "It's okay, I guess."

"Tessa, come mess around in the werewolf entertainment industry with me! If you go, you'd be a global sensation." Ysabel grabbed her hand excitedly.

"That's not gonna happen."

"Well, I don't care! You still have to write songs for me. When I debut, you have to be the one who writes my first single."

"That I can do." That was something she could promise.

Before she left for the werewolf medical organization, she had to make sure all these people were taken care of.

Ysabel threw her arms around her.

"Tessa, what would I even do if I hadn't met you?" she said emotionally. Tessa was her guiding star, her one-in-a-million chance.

"You'd still be fine without me." Ysabel was the young lady of the Nightshade Pack's alpha family. Her future would always be bright.

Ysabel shook her head. "No. Without you, my life would've been a mess."

If it weren't for Tessa, she probably wouldn't have had the courage to chase her own dreams.

She would've followed the path her father laid out for her-obediently becoming the Thorne family's proper heiress, fulfilling the duties assigned by the pack elders.\*

"What about the lyrics, Tessie? Aren't you going to write them yourself?"

Tessa's essays were legendary-her language teacher used them as model pieces. So writing lyrics shouldn't be hard for her at all.

"I'll finish them in a few days. There's no rush-they're overseas right now."

Just as she saying that, Avery's video call came in.

The moment she answered, his handsome face popped onto the screen.

"Tessa, look at me!" But before he could say another word, Steven shoved him aside and took his place in the frame.

"How's it going? You guys adjusting okay over there?" Tessa asked.

Steven beamed. "Come on, look at us. We're all crazy adaptable. Don't worry about a thing-we're good."

Then he added, "Oh, and about the contract-don't stress. Take your time. And if it really doesn't work out, so be it. Getting shelved isn't the end of the world."

What mattered most to them was that she was doing okay. Everything else could be handled.

"Put Avery back on."

Steven pouted. "What, already tired of me? Tessa, you're being kinda heartless, you know."

"Be good."

Steven had been about to throw a fit, but with just one word from her, he quieted immediately.

"Tessa, you're on break now, right? Why don't you come over and hang with us for a bit?"

"Can't. I've still got stuff to handle here." Once everything was wrapped up in Navoris, she still had a mess to deal with in Falindale. She didn't have the time to go fooling around.

Avery finally took the phone back.

"What is it? Still trouble with the contract?" He knew the Thornbane Pack's

contracts were tricky-layered with all kinds of restrictive pack magic.

Chapter 306 The Price of Pride

"The contract's fine." Tessa said lightly. I haven't even used my last resort yet. "I just the track for you guys. I'll send it to your email in a bit."

"Okay." They knew she always worked fast.

But after they heard the song, every member of Avery Band was stunned.

"I told you-Tessa's a genius. With a song like this, we're definitely going to blow up again."

Even without lyrics, the track was already electrifying. And Tessa had never let them down.

Avery nodded. "She was born for music. Honestly, if she doesn't go down this path, it'd be such a waste."



With that level of talent, how could she not choose music? But then again, everyone had their own ambitions, and they couldn't force her.

Elsewhere, Landon and Nathaniel had just returned to the office after presiding over the Nightshade Pack's territory meeting when Evan's call came in.

It came through the encrypted werewolf communication line, thick with the restless scent of Thornbane Pack's distress.

"Alpha, it's Evan." Nathaniel handed Landon the phone. His wolf soul stirred with excitement for the power play about to begin.

Landon accepted the call. "Mr. Evan, shouldn't you be very busy right now? What brings you to call me?"

His tone was lazy and unbothered, but his alpha pressed through the phone like a storm.

Evan practically choked with rage.

aur

Damn it-this bastard had deliberately set him up. Thorne Corp had laid out the perfect financial trap, and he'd walked straight into it. Ruthless wasn't even the word.

"How could I possibly be busier than Mr. Thorne?" Evan nearly spat blood, but he had no choice. He had to beg now, had to lower himself.

"Speak." Landon's tone was cool and commanding.

"Mr. Thorne... about that investment project. I'd like to withdraw."

He had fought tooth and nail to get into that investment deal, thinking it would be his chance to destabilize Thorne Corp.

But it turned out Thorne Corp hadn't suffered at all-instead, the Morrigan Group's funds had gotten stuck. If he didn't get out soon, they'd be bankrupt.

The Morrigan Group was the financial lifeline of the entire Thornbane Pack. TUE, 19 May

But getting out wasn't so simple. He was already bound by agreements with Thorne Corp and several Nightshade-affiliated investment groups. The only way out now was to forfeit every cent he'd already put

in

"That's all? If you don't want to be involved, just withdraw," Landon made it sound effortless. In his mind, Flex sneered-he'd known exactly where Evan's weakness was all along.

Evan could barely breathe. He's doing this on purpose. He's gotta be doing this on purpose!

"Mr. Thorne, whatever terms you want, just name them. I won't say a word. I only ask... please let me off this time."

"Well, well. I never thought I'd see Mr. Evan grovel like this," Landon said with a cold laugh.

Did he really think Landon Thorne was that easy to mess with?

Evan was seething, but he didn't dare say a word.

"Tell Nathaniel whatever you want. I have other things to do." Landon handed the phone back to Nathaniel.

"Mr. Frost, please... put in a good word with Mr. Thorne for me," Evan pleaded. He was desperate. If he didn't recover those tied-up funds, the entire Morrigan Group might go under.

"Well," Nathaniel said, "Mr. Thorne's friend happens to be interested in Avery Band. You'll need to release them from their contract.".

Avery Band was at the peak of their popularity. Getting Evan to let them go was no small request.

"Avery Band?" Evan's voice caught.

"What, you don't like that?" Nathaniel's tone left no room for negotiation.

"No, no-of course not. If Mr. Thorne wants Avery Band, then I'll release them. I'll contact them immediately." Evan had no choice now. He could only swallow the blood and take the loss.

Satisfied, Nathaniel said, "Evan, just a word of advice. Next time, keep your hands off anything that belongs to our alpha."

"Yes, yes, you're right. I wouldn't dare touch anything of Mr. Thorne's," Evan replied quickly.

Nathaniel didn't bother with a response. He hung up. Even one more word exchanged with a guy like that felt like a waste.

"What was that about?" Tessa, who had been quietly listening, finally spoke.

"Tessa, you have no idea... just to get Avery Band out of that contract, our alpha mobilized so many Nightshade Pack resources..."

Chapter 307 When the Hunter Is Hunted

"Nathaniel!" Landon shot him a warning glance. Does he really not know what should and shouldn't be said?

Nathaniel immediately fell silent.

Ysabel looked at him, then turned to her uncle. "Uncle Landon, just let Nathaniel finish. Tessa deserves to know." She knew Uncle Landon had done so much for Tessa without expecting anything in return-but letting her be moved by it a little wouldn't hurt, right?

"I'm getting hungry. You and Nathaniel go pick up some afternoon tea" Landon waved it off with a casual excuse to get the two of them out.

"That kind of thing's what assistants are for..." Ysabel grumbled, but Nathaniel had already grabbed her and pulled her out the door.

Now it was just Tessa and Landon in the office.

"Avery Band's contract is taken care of. You don't need to worry anymore."

After what happened last time, Landon had realized Avery Band wasn't just a band to her. She had real feelings for them.

So no matter the cost, he had to help break them free from Thornbane Pack's grasp.

She'd heard everything earlier-that's why she had asked.

"Mr. Thorne, whatever Evan asked you for... I bet it wasn't simple, was it?"

Now that everything was done, there was no point in saying dramatic things. But whatever Evan got from Landon today-she'd make sure to take it back double someday.

"It wasn't anything major. Evan's already taken a hard fall. Even if I agreed to his terms, he's still on his way down."

Even with his withdrawal from the investment, the Morrigan Group had already suffered massive damage. At this point, Evan was just trying to survive. He posed no real threat anymore.

"Got it." Tessa already understood exactly how powerful the man in front of her

was.

But still, if someone dared to touch what was hers, she didn't like it one bit.

So just as Evan was finally starting to recover and catch his breath after pulling out of the investment...

One of his subordinates rushed in.

"Alpha! Something's wrong with Thornbane Pack's defensive barrier! And we can't find the source of the attack!"

The guard was trembling from head to toe. Who had they pissed off lately? First the Morrigan Group gets hit, and now the Thornbane headquarters?

"What?" Evan couldn't believe his ears. He'd just humbled himself to settle things with Landon-and now

He cursed furiously, his wolf howling within him-yet it still couldn't sniff out the enemy,

"Couldn't it be Landon?"

"No... we've been watching him and the Nightshade Pack nonstop. Nothing unusual. Someone else hit us from the shadows."

The one they were bracing for hadn't even made a move. And yet, someone else had slipped in a blade from the dark.

Evan felt completely drained. "Fine. Book me the fastest flight back to Los Anville!"

If he didn't deal with this crisis fast, he could kiss his alpha scat goodbye.

Right now, the fire was under his ass. He didn't even have time to figure out who was after him.

All it had taken was a simple command-and Thornbane Pack's barrier had been compromised.

Only then did Tessa feel satisfied.

Since Evan made her uncomfortable, there was no way he was getting away without a scratch.

With that done, she finally turned back to the song she'd written for Avery Band- ready to start writing the lyrics.

But then Nathaniel burst back into the room, clearly agitated. His wolf soul radiated frantic energy.

Tessa put down her work. This is the first time I've ever seen Nathaniel this worked up.

"What happened?" she asked. Nathaniel might seem carefree, but he was Landon's beta-an elite who'd seen it all. What could possibly shake him like this?

"Where's alpha? I need to talk to him-urgent!"

"He stepped out for a bit."

"We're screwed. If alpha's not here, this could be a total disaster."

"What's going on?" Tessa frowned. This is way too out of character for him. But whatever it is, he needs to spit it out before we can fix it.

"Someone's trying to hack into Thorne Corp's external system! I think it's Phantom. But we haven't done anything to offend Phantom lately-why would they do this?!"

He was clearly panicking. He idolized Phantom-had even dreamed of working with them someday.

And now, his hero was attacking Thorne Corp...

"Phantom?" Tessa frowned.

I'm sitting right here. Who else in this world could possibly impersonate me?

Chapter 308 You Dare Impersonate Me?

Nathaniel frantically called Landon again.

Thorne Corp's firewall was known as the strongest in all of Montedra-a fortress of digital defense.

But against a hacker this skilled, and a werewolf no less, it was only a matter of time before even that fortress began to crack.

Thorne Corp wasn't just the economic backbone of the Nightshade Pack and its affiliates-it accounted for more than half of Montedra's GDP.

If the firewall fell and sensitive data leaked, it wouldn't just shake the Nightshade Pack's foundation. The entire Montedra werewolf society would be thrown into chaos.

Nathaniel completely ignored Tessa, which left her speechless. So he thought she didn't know anything?

If she told him she was Phantom right now, he wouldn't believe her anyway.

She didn't bother arguing. Instead, she slid into Landon's chair and began typing. Her fingers moved with the precision and speed of wolf claws, unleashing a flurry of code across the screen.

Nathaniel was too busy on the phone to notice what she was doing.

Had he glanced at the screen for even a second, he would've been floored by the skill she was displaying.

Landon picked up. Nathaniel, wasted no time.

"So all those millions we spent on werewolf cybersecurity engineers was a waste?" Every engineer at Thorne Corp was a Nightshade Pack elite, trained in the ancient bloodline arts fused with modern tech. After all that investment, if they couldn't handle a threat like this, how could they call themselves elite?

"Alpha, our team is strong. But the attacker is Phantom-we can't stop them..."

"What? Phantom?" Landon immediately realized the gravity of the situation. "I'm coming back now." He hung up and dropped everything.

Ysabel, standing nearby, looked puzzled. "Nathaniel, is this Phantom really that good?" Even her uncle was taking it seriously.

"Of course. Phantom's a legend in the hacker world-a shadow under the moon. No werewolf has ever matched their skills. No one even knows if they're male or female!"

"So mysterious!" Ysabel was intrigued. "Tessa, have you heard of this Phantom? I can't believe I've never heard of them before!"

Tessa was pretty skilled too. Just the other day, she cracked Winona's phone and stole that video.

"Never heard of them," Tessa said casually, though a sly glint flickered in her eyes.

"Oh, right. No way someone like you would know someone that mysterious! I wonder if Phantom is a guy

or a girl? Honestly, I love the name. I'd totally want to be friends if I met them!

Someone was out there using her name to attack Thorne Corp's firewall-and there was no way Tessa was going to sit by and let that happen.

She might not be interested in fame, but she'd never let anyone drag her name through the mud.

As she casually chatted with the others, her fingers never stopped moving, pounding out code like the deadly swipes of White Wolf Emma-tearing through the enemy's defenses with pinpoint accuracy.

The opponent wasn't bad. There were traces of ancient werewolf bloodline techniques embedded in their code. But compared to the power of the White Wolf? Not even close.

Tessa hacked straight into their system and dropped a single taunting message. "You dare impersonate me?"



On the other side, the fake Phantom stared at the flashing code, shaking with rage. Their clawed hand nearly smashed the screen. The wolf spirit inside them growled with fury.

The man who had hired the hacker frowned. "What does that mean? Is that the real Phantom?"

The fake hacker bared their fangs, more agitated than ever. "How should I know if it's really Phantom?! You told me Phantom had no connection to Thorne Corp! I'm warning you-if you expose me, I'll make you regret it!"

Chapter 309 Alpha vs Alpha

The client's patience snapped. He unleashed his werewolf aura in a sharp burst of pressure. "Big attitude for someone with subpar skills. You can't even handle Phantom, and you call yourself a werewolf hacker?"

"You know nothing!" the hacker growled, eyes flashing. "Phantom's like the alpha king of the hacker world! I'm nowhere near their level!"

The client fell silent for a moment. "No one in the werewolf world can outmatch Phantom?"

"I know someone. My master," the hacker muttered, lighting a cigarette, his eyes full of frustration. "But he's been off the grid for years. Whether or not you can get him to help is your problem."

He was still bitter. Every time he faced Phantom, he lost.

Last time, he tried stealing military defense data from Montedra for Yalvaria-and not only did he fail, Phantom turned the tables and hacked Yalvaria's military servers instead. That disaster nearly ruined his reputation.

He'd give anything to find out who Phantom really was. How did this ghost in the machine always crush him?

"Your master? Where do I even begin to look?"

No matter the cost, the man was determined to destroy Thorne Corp-and sever Landon's lifeline once and for all.

"I don't know. He drifts like a lone wolf. Last I heard, he was in some other country."

"I'm out. I failed, so I'm not taking your money." With that, the hacker turned and walked off, his silhouette cutting a bitter figure as he left. But he swore-one day, he'd drag Phantom down and grind them into the dirt.

The man stood there silently, watching him go. He knew all too well what it felt like to be crushed, humiliated.

"Landon... every ounce of pain you've caused me-I'll return it a hundredfold." His voice was low and vengeful, his eyes glowing with a savage red fire.

Meanwhile, Landon had no idea that somewhere in Montedra, someone was quietly plotting their revenge.

He rushed back to Thorne Corp at once-only to find that the crisis had already passed.

"What did you say? A third party stepped in and hacked the attacker?"

Landon was stunned. If even the elite werewolf cybersecurity team he paid millions for couldn't handle this-who on earth could hack Phantom?

"Are you sure it was really Phantom?"

Landon still couldn't believe it. As far as he knew, he'd never crossed paths with Phantom. There was no reason for Phantom to come after Thorne Corp, the very symbol of Nightshade Pack authority.

"I'm not sure. That's what the engineers are saying," Nathaniel admitted. His own tech skills were just enough to get by-nothing compared to these hackers. Like a pup trying to challenge an alpha-utterly outmatched.

Landon walked toward Tessa.

Meanwhile, Tessa quickly wiped every trace of what she'd done from the system.

"What are you up to?" he asked. She'd been busy ever since he got back.

"Nothing." Tessa casually opened a game window, pretending she'd just been playing around.

"Bored, huh? I'll take you and Ysabel out hunting later," Landon said. Since they were on break, they might as well relax and have some fun.

There were only a few days left in the winter holiday anyway.

"I'm fine. Do your thing. Don't worry about me."

Honestly, she hadn't been bored at all. That werewolf hacker she'd just faced—he wasn't bad. Just a step below her.

Cracking into his system had taken quite a bit of effort.

. But that's what made it fun. Without worthy opponents, she'd never grow

stronger. Being the lone wolf at

the top of the mountain was... lonely.

"Have the werewolf engineers meet me in the conference room," Landon ordered Nathaniel, his voice edged with that distinct Alpha growl.

He was clearly angry now.

If not for that mysterious third party, Thorne Corp's firewall might've gone down today-putting the entire economic heart of the Nightshade Pack at risk.

#### Chapter 310 No One Stays on Top Forever

"Mr. Landon, don't be too hard on them. After all, no one in this world can stay number one forever," Tessa said, speaking up for the group of werewolf network engineers.

That hacker from earlier had skills nearly equal to her own-it was no wonder the team had no way to deal with him.

"But still," she added, "if they're the ones managing Thorne Corp's cybersecurity- guarding the core secrets of the Nightshade Pack-then I'd say their current level just isn't enough."

"I know that," Landon replied. "That's why I've always wanted to find this Phantom. But Phantom's just too mysterious-I haven't been able to track them down."

Why are we talking about Phantom again? Tessa thought.

"I heard Phantom is a loner," she said calmly. "They won't work under any pack or power."

And that was the truth.

She'd always preferred a free, untethered life. Even when she created Wings of Light out of sheer boredom, she eventually handed it off to Lina because she didn't want to deal with the management.

"I know. But still, it's worth trying. In the werewolf world, only Phantom could offer truly unbreakable protection for a network."

"Mr. Landon, I think you might be overestimating Phantom. No one can guarantee anything with absolute certainty."

Tessa honestly felt like she was being turned into some kind of legend by these people.

She was just... good with computers. That's all.

"Tessa, that's only because you don't know how amazing Phantom really is."

It was the first time Tessa had ever heard Landon speak so highly of someone. "Really? That impressive?"

"Alpha, stop right there," Nathaniel cut in with a teasing smirk. "If you keep praising them, Tessa's gonna get jealous."

After all, what girlfriend wants to hear her boyfriend rave about someone else— even if no one knows whether Phantom's a man or a woman?

Tessa shot Nathaniel a single look.

Nathaniel clamped his mouth shut on the spot.

"Alright! Pretend I said nothing!" he muttered, shrinking back. If alphas were scary, then the alpha's woman was even scarier—one look from her and he was done.

Once the room was quiet, Tessa gave a satisfied nod.

"Mr. Landon, if you're open to it, I could introduce someone," she offered. After all, Landon had gone out of his way to help her by nullifying that ridiculous contract with Miracle. She wanted to return the favor.

Landon raised an eyebrow. "Who?"

"Didn't you say you need cybersecurity engineers? I happen to know someone pretty skilled. Why not give him a shot?"

"You have friends in that field?" Nathaniel blurted out again.

"Just happened to meet someone. You can interview him yourself—if he doesn't make the cut, you don't need to keep him. No need to give me face."

Tessa was fully confident in the person she recommended.

"Alright. Let him come in sometime," Landon agreed, though his tone revealed little real interest.

Over the years, he'd hired more than a few so-called experts-and all of them had disappointed him.

Only Phantom had ever managed to impress.

Tessa could tell Landon was only agreeing out of respect for her. He clearly didn't believe the person would be up to standard.

But that was fine. Once he met the guy, he'd understand.

Her friends-every single one of them could hold their own.

"In that case, let's cancel the meeting with the engineers today," she said. No matter what, the team had done their best. Their dedication wasn't the problem- their capability just hadn't been enough.

"Got it, Alpha!" Nathaniel replied at once, then asked, "So... can we finally eat now? Cameron and Hudson are already waiting at Silvermoon Estate."

"Yeah."

Nothing was more important than making sure his Tessa was fed. She'd need all the energy she could get for tomorrow's Sinclair Corp shareholder meeting.

Nathaniel took Ysabel ahead in the car to Silvermoon Estate. Landon tying up some loose ends, then left with Tessa.

But halfway there, Tessa suddenly furrowed her brows and told him to stop the

car.

"What's wrong?" Landon asked, puzzled. Something must've happened.