

Alpha-less 411

Chapter 411 Grandpa Knows What's Up

As soon as Landon brought Tessa outside, Ysabel and the others gathered around to give her birthday

presents.

"Tessie, this is the gift I prepared for you. It doesn't compare to that stone you gave me, but I really hope you'll like it."

Because Tessa was just that special, Ysabel always wanted to find something equally special for her; but the more she tried, the harder it was to find the right thing. In the end, she bought a diamond and carved it by hand into the shape of a star.

In her heart, Tessa was the brightest star of all.

Although Walter had already given Tessa her coming-of-age gift earlier, he still handed over an elegant gift box. "Tessie, happy adulthood; I hope you'll always be happy."

"Thank you, grandpa. You too."

The rest of the group also stepped forward to offer their carefully chosen presents..

There were so many that Tessa couldn't carry them all.

Landon helped her hold the overflow.

"You young people, go enjoy yourselves. I'll head out first," Walter said, taking the lead in stepping away- but not before reminding Tessa, "If it's not convenient to come home these next few days, don't worry about it."

He knew that she and Landon had just confirmed they were destined mates; of course they'd want to spend every waking moment together.

After all, he'd been through it too...

"Grandpa!" Tessa called out shyly, making Walter chuckle aloud. He turned and walked off, leaning on his wolf-head cane.

He was happy that Landon was Tessa's fated partner; at the same time, he still worried about the cursed blood pact on her.

He needed to get home and dive into the ancient wolf clan texts to see if there was any other way to lift the

curse.

"Now that we've given our gifts, we'll make ourselves scarce," Ysabel said with a cheeky grin.

After all, this was Tessa's coming-of-age day, Landon definitely had other plans in store.

Better not to be a third wheel.

"Bye! Happy birthday!"

Everyone else offered their well wishes and filed out, leaving the space to Landon and Tessa.

Landon was more than pleased with their thoughtfulness.

He loaded the gifts into the trunk, then wrapped an arm around Tessa as he guided her into the car.

"Heading back to Wisteria Apartment?" Tessa asked.

"Gotta make a stop first."

"Where to?"

"You'll see when we get there."

Landon drove her to a dealership.

At this hour, the place should've been closed, but because of their arrival, every light was on.

The manager came out personally to greet them.

"Mr. Thorne, the car you ordered has arrived. Let me show you to it."

Landon nodded, sliding his arm around Tessa's waist as they followed the manager to see the car.

Once they reached the designated spot, a staff member pulled the cover off the vehicle-revealing a gleaming red sports car.

It was stunning; a vivid red all over, with smooth, aerodynamic lines that gave off an unmistakably high-end feel.

Landon looked at the car with satisfaction. Only this one could be worthy of his darling.

"What do you think? Do you like it?"

"Mr. Thorne... no, Landon, I told you I didn't need a car." And this was way over the top-this sports car had to be worth millions of dollars.

"Ms. Sinclair, Mr. Thorne had this custom-made just for you. There's not another

one like it in all of Montedra. He placed the order a month ago."

"All right, you can leave us now," Landon said, not wanting to have this conversation with Tessa in front of others.

"Yes, Mr. Thorne."

The manager and staff quietly exited.

"Go on-give it a try."

Either way, she was an adult now; it really would be more convenient to have a

car.

Knowing it'd be hard to refuse, Tessa climbed into the driver's seat.

Landon settled into the passenger seat beside her.

As soon as Tessa pressed the gas, the engine roared like a wolf, tearing through the night air.

The car's performance matched its looks; sleek, responsive, and a joy to drive- she loved it.

After taking Landon on a cruise through the city of Navoris, she finally pulled into the lot at Wisteria Apartment. "Thank you for the gift; I really like it."

She thought that was the end of today's surprises. She stepped out of the car,

ready to heel back to the apartment-only to have Landon stop her.

"Come on, there's one more gift I need to give you"

Chapter 412 The Observatory Was Not Ready for This.

Tessa blinked in surprise. "Another gift? Landon, I think your last one was already way over the top

"There's one more," Landon said. "But this one's mostly for me. Sometimes I get really busy, and I'd love for you to be able to drive over and pick me up. That way, we could save a little time-I'd get to see you sooner.

This time, Landon took the wheel and drove her to the Navoris Observatory.

"What are we doing here?" Tessa asked, genuinely confused. It's the middle of the night, what could possibly be worth coming all the way out here for? Wouldn't it be better to hurry back to Wisteria Apartment and kick off our indulgent night together?

She couldn't believe how greedy she'd become. I used to be the picture of restraint and calm; was it the fated mate bond messing with me?

Making her crave being with Landon every second... and doing the most intimate things...

Emma chimed in from the back of her mind. Same here. Flex might act like a doofus around me, but I love sticking close to him, all cuddled up.

Let's wait and see what he wants to give me. Tessa thought, trying to tamp down the desire curling low in her belly and soothe Emma at the same time.

Landon led her into the observatory and handed her two certificates.

Tessa stared at them in confusion, and Landon explained gently, "Remember last time? You said you wanted the stars in the sky... so I bought them for you."

Now it was Tessa's turn to be speechless.

She'd only mentioned it in passing-she never imagined he'd actually go out and buy stars.

"I was kidding," she murmured, staring down at the certificates in her hands.

They represented two neighboring stars.

One had been named Tessa, the other Landon.

"Right after you said it, I started paying attention. Just so happened someone discovered these two stars recently, so I bought them and named them after us."

He'd said before-whatever she wanted, he'd find a way to get it for her.

And he hadn't been bluffing.

Feeling the depth of his care, Tessa was overwhelmed. "Landon-"

Clearly, she had to be more careful with her words around him in the future; otherwise, he'd take them seriously and go all in.

"It didn't cost much. Come on, take a look." Landon brought her over to the telescope.

He guided her to find the two stars through the lens.

"Well? Can you see them?"

Tessa nodded.

Sure enough, two stars sparkled in the pitch-black sky.

"They're beautiful."

Tessa pondered. How could I not be moved? To have someone in this world who listened-really listened to the things you said, and then made them real. To have this man treat me this way. Any woman would be touched, right?

After they finished stargazing, Tessa turned and pulled Landon into a hug.

"Landon, you're seriously going to spoil me." She'd just made an offhand comment, but he had followed through without a second thought.

"My future Luna deserves to be spoiled rotten," Landon murmured, tilting her chin up with his fingers so she had no choice but to meet the storm of love in his eyes. "Besides... you've always been the only kind of chaos my universe welcomes."

Then he couldn't help himself-he leaned down and kissed her.

His tongue swept past her lips, tasting her with the scent of pine and whiskey, claiming everything in his path.

Tessa found herself pinned to the observatory's metal railing; behind her, cold steel; in front, his burning palm branding her skin.

His hand trailed down the line of her spine, pausing at the base of her back to give the slightest squeeze- her whole body melted, and her ankles instinctively hooked around his calf.

The wolf tribe's traditional pose of submission between mates.

But then she snapped back to herself-her knee rose and pressed teasingly against his hip, flipping surrender into a challenge laced with thorns.

In the distance, a coyote howled into the night-only to be drowned out by the sound of their tangled, breathless gasps.

Chapter 413 Tonight the Queen Rides First

In the sea of consciousness,

ox's Obsidian Crystal Wolf could no longer hold back. It bounded across the

starmap mirage, pouncing on Emma's White Wolf.

The two wolves wrestled and licked each other in the spiritual realm; Flex's claws hooked around Emma's neck-but the moment he touched her gland, his grip softened.

He brushed her fur again and again with his wolfish kisses-mirroring the gentleness Landon showed in the real world, never willing to hurt her.

Tessa whimpered into the kiss, her hands gripping the lapels of his suit and yanking on his tie; her fingernails dug into the skin at the nape of his neck, drawing out a growl from deep within his chest.

When Landon finally pulled back, her lips were swollen and glistening, her eyes rimmed with unshed tears. Even her pheromones were thick with desire-lily of the valley sweetened by lust, weaving together with the scent of pine into a dense web that filled the observatory.

Landon lowered his head and bit the pulse beating in her throat, his voice rough as sand scraping across piano keys. "Can you feel it? Flex says he's worn down all his claws just for you. Now all he wants..." His lips trailed lower, nipping at her nipple through the thin fabric of her shirt, "...is to be the black hole in your galaxy- something that never lets you go."

Tessa leaned into him, her gaze drawn to the two glowing specks in the vast night sky-those stars named. after them. For a moment, the entire universe felt small; his heartbeat thudded against her ear, his breath wrapped around her soul, and even the stars seemed to shimmer in sync with their tangled bodies.

She lifted her hand and traced the sharp line of his brow, her voice low and intimate. "Then I'll be your supernova-blasting every last bit of reason out of you." Landon burst into laughter, scooped her into his arms, and carried her downstairs toward the car. "As you wish."

The engine roared as Landon sped them back to Wisteria Apartment.

The second they got out of the car, they couldn't strip each other fast enough.

Tessa yanked off Landon's tie; his suit jacket fell to the ground, and his shirt buttons popped free under her impatient fingers, revealing the hard planes of his chest.

Landon wasn't about to fall behind. With one tug, her silk blouse ripped into shreds; her lace lingerie -shimmered faintly in the moonlight.

Her lily-of-the-valley scent came rushing at him in waves, pulling a growl from deep in his throat. He bent down, kissed along her collarbone, and ran his tongue across her skin, leaving behind a trail of heat and wet.

Tessa panted as she pushed him back, her bare feet hitting the floor of the apartment kissed him aggressively with every step forward, her lips traveling from his jaw to his throat. Her h grazed his collarbone, making his chest rise and fall; the scent of pine practically smoldered between them.

In the sea of consciousness, Emma's White Wolf let out a soft whimper, gently biting Flex's ear, urging him to claim her; Flex responded with a stroke of his ink-black claws down her back-tender, yet laced with wild hunger.

They stumbled through the living room, never breaking contact. Landon's hands slid over her waist, his thumb brushing the edge of her ribs. In return, she dragged her nails across his abs, tracing the carved lines

of his muscles.

Their kisses and touches never stopped. The moment they stepped into the bedroom, Tessa shoved him hard toward the center of the hand-carved, four- poster oak bed.

Landon let himself fall back, eyes burning with a mix of laughter and heat. "Tessie, planning to be my queen tonight?"

She didn't answer. She straddled his hips, lily-of-the-valley curling through the room like a spell; moonlight spilled in through the tall windows, turning her fair skin into glowing ivory.

Her palms pressed against his chest, fingertips reading the rhythm of his heart. She leaned down, kissing him deeply; her tongue slipped between his lips, stealing his breath without hesitation.

Landon groaned, his hands gripping her hips-he was just about to flip them over when she stopped him, her voice low and commanding.

"Don't move. Tonight, you're doing what I say."

Chapter 414 Ride Me Like You Mean It, Tessie

Tessa straightened up and unbuckled his belt; his slacks slipped down, revealing his thick, rigid heat.

She bit her lower lip lightly, a wild glint of teasing in her eyes. Her fingers grazed his burning length, the heat pulsed beneath her touch, the rough texture tingling against her fingertips and making her palm go numb.

Landon let out a harsh breath, his chest rising and falling sharply. "Tessie... you're playing with fire."

She smirked, sly and unrepentant, leaning down slowly. Her lips trailed from his chest to his abdomen; the tip of her tongue licked along the creases of his abs. Every flick sent his muscles tightening-growls spilling from deep in his throat.

In her mind, Emma pinned Flex beneath her. The White Wolf sank her teeth lightly into the Black Wolf's shoulder, growling low and provocative. Flex answered with a rumble of his own, his tail wrapping possessively around her waist.

Tessa fixed her mischievous gaze on the burning desire in Landon's eyes; her lips suddenly sealed around his heat. A soft suck nearly made him jerk violently from the rush.

"Tessie, don't tease me... give it to me, now!"

Landon's voice broke into a mix of pleading and pleasure, rough and aching. Tessa just chuckled, rising to her feet; she guided his burning length to her entrance, then slowly lowered herself down.

Her hot, wet folds enveloped him inch by inch; every ridge and vein dragged against her inner walls, setting off sparks that made her scalp tingle.

She let out a low moan, her body shivering. Her hands braced on his chest, nails digging into his skin and leaving behind faint red marks.

Landon clenched his jaw, gripping her waist tightly-his strength possessive, but laced with care. He growled deep in his throat, "Tessie... you're so damn tight..."

She started to move; her hips rose and fell in a slow rhythm, her slick heat clenching around him. Each descent let his rough texture scrape deliciously across her sensitive spot, drawing breathy gasps from her lips.

Tessa closed her eyes, taking in the way he filled every inch of her. His pulsing heat matched the rhythm of her heartbeat-it felt like their souls were melting into

one.

She shifted her pace, no longer simply bouncing up and down. Instead, she rolled her hips, moving side to side; the silken friction of her inner walls caressed his length, and each motion ignited new sparks deep

inside her.

Landon let out a feral growl, his voice hoarse like a caged beast. His hands clamped around her waist as though trying to crush her into him. "Tessie, you're driving me insane..."

Her grin turned wicked, eyes flashing with regal confidence.

Her fingers trailed across his chest, nails grazing his collarbone as she whispered, low and teasing, "Be good.

Don't move. Feel me."

Her movements grew more practiced, more deliberate; sometimes she sank down fully, sometimes just enough to tease. Her wet heat clamped tight around him, making escape impossible and surrender

inevitable.

Landon's breathing quickened; his pine-scented pheromones erupted like wildfire. He suddenly sat up and caught her erect nipple between his lips, sucking hard, tongue circling her most sensitive spot. His teeth grazed it lightly, sending a jolt of pleasure through her.

Tessa gasped, sharp and trembling. Her hands clutched his head on instinct, fingers threading through his hair like a queen guiding her subject, pressing gently to guide his pace.

"Landon... don't stop... lick..." she murmured, voice dripping sweet command. The pleasure in her chest made her clench tighter around him; he growled again, low and primal.

Landon's mouth grew hungrier; his tongue flicked and lapped, drawing soft moans from her lips. Sweat trickled down her neck, dripping onto his tense shoulder.

Tessa bent forward, lips grazing his ear. She bit down gently on his earlobe, teeth teasing as her warm breath spilled across his skin. "Landon... you're mine..."

She straightened again, her hips moving faster. The sway of her body-left to right, deep then shallow- sent his rough heat scraping against her in all the right ways. Every plunge left her breathless, her eyes glistening with pleasure.

Landon's gaze never left her; hunger and adoration tangled in his eyes. His hands slid up her back, palms gliding along her spine, gentle but full of possessive heat.

"Tessie... you're my moonlight..." he rasped, voice breaking like a snapped string.

Chapter 415 Tessie Wants It All and Then Some

Tessa's rhythm grew wilder; her hips slammed against his with sharp, rhythmic slaps echoing through the

bedroom.

Her wet, scorching heat gripped him tightly; every thrust sent both of them crying out in bliss.

She braced her hands on his shoulders, leaning forward; her nipples grazed his chest, sending a fresh jolt of electricity through her, so intense it made her scalp tingle.

Landon matched her rhythm, thrusting up to meet her. Every time he pushed deeper, he struck something inside her-his scorching length grinding hard against her most sensitive spot.

She slowed down on purpose, rotating her hips in lazy, sensual circles. Her wet heat twisted around him like a whirlpool, that tight suction pulling a strained breath from his throat. "Tessie... you little vixen.. how the heck are you so good at this? Driving me absolutely mad..."

Tessa chuckled softly and leaned down, capturing his lips in a deep kiss; her tongue tangled with his, swallowing his groans. At the same time, her hips dropped fast and deep, taking him to the hilt.

Landon let out a raw, guttural moan-and Tessa couldn't help but cry out in pleasure herself.

She straightened up, pressing her palms to his chest, arching her back; her hips pumped faster and harder. Her wet, burning heat wrapped around him like fire, every strike sending tremors down her spine.

. Her long hair whipped through the moonlight; sweat slid down her collarbones and dripped onto his abs,

the heat of it making his muscles tense.

Landon's gaze burned like a wolf on the hunt. His hands gripped her ass, pulling her down harder, matching her speed with fierce upward thrusts. "Tessie... I can't take it anymore..."

She moaned-sweet, breathy, but edged with commanding power. "Landon... give it to me. All of it!"

Her heat clenched hard around him, that sudden tightness yanking him over the edge. Landon let out a feral growl as searing heat exploded inside her, flooding her deep within.

Tessa screamed as her orgasm tore through her. Her whole body tensed, hot release gushing out of her; the pleasure so overwhelming it brought tears to her eyes-she nearly blacked out.

At the same time, in the sea of their shared consciousness, Emma snarled as she pinned Flex down; her fangs sank into the gland at his neck, one white wolf and one black-spirits locked in primal fusion.

Emma's soul power crushed Flex's will, forcing him into submission. Their glands sparked on contact, sending currents of heat surging through them; their minds resonated, crashing like a tide.

Emma threw her head back, letting out a howling cry that shook the heavens; starlight exploded at the peak of her climax. Flex answered with a low moan, his spirit trembling under her control-melding with hers

into a brilliant blaze.

Tessa collapsed into Landon's arms, her sweat-slicked chest pressing against his.

Their breaths tangled in the quiet air, lily-of-the-valley and pine mixing like a spell cast over the room.

Landon kissed her forehead and whispered, "Tessie... you're my supernova."

Tessa laughed, breathless and hoarse. "Then you're my black hole... there's no way I'm ever escaping."

In their inner world, Flex and Emma lay together just the same; their wolf mouths brushed in a lazy satisfied kiss.

Tessa nestled against Landon's chest, her body still floating in the afterglow. His heartbeat thrummed deep and low in her ear; the bedroom was silent but for their breathing.

Fragrance and evergreen clung in the air. Moonlight poured over them like gauze, as if even time had stopped for their entanglement.

But then, in that fragile stillness, the phone on the nightstand vibrated-its screen lighting up, slicing through the haze of intimacy.

Tessa frowned slightly and reached out lazily. When she saw the name "Samuel" on the screen, she glanced at Landon; he clearly saw it too, and pulled her tighter against him.

"He doesn't know what time it is?" Landon scowled, clearly irritated another man was interrupting their

moment.

"Maybe it's important."

Tessa kissed the corner of Landon's mouth to calm him, then answered the call; her voice was thick with post-climax languor. "Mr. Samuel... do you even know what time it is back home? Why are you calling me right now?"

Chapter 416 She's Literally Right Next to Me

Samuel said, "Tessa, do you even have a conscience? It's your eighteenth birthday today, and I took time out of my packed schedule just to call you-how could you talk to me like that?" He couldn't make it back in person, but a gift was still a must.

"Oh, sorry. It's 1 AM now. My birthday was yesterday," Tessa replied bluntly.

"Well, it's not past midnight where I am." He'd been so busy, he completely forgot about the time difference between Murica and Yalvaria, and ended up missing the chance to wish her happy birthday right on time. I already sent your present; make sure you check for a delivery"

"What is it?"

Every year, he sent her some bizarre item for her birthday.

Like last year-he mailed a bone needle made from the rib of an ancient vampire, supposedly capable of piercing any spiritual barrier and mending soul fractures.

The year before that, it was a healing potion made from an animal's blood infused with mandrake root, concocted by a witch and a werewolf healer. That one was said to help torn glands heal on their own.

"If I told you now, it wouldn't be a surprise!" Samuel's voice was bright and

cheerful. "Why are you still up so late? What are you doing?"

"Getting ready to sleep."

"Who were you just with? Was it Landon?"

The moment Landon's name came up, Samuel got

flustered.

"Tessa, I have to remind you-even though you're eighteen now and technically an adult, you're still young. Don't do anything you're not ready to deal with," he rambled on, nagging.

Tessa was powerful, and yes, she was legally an adult now-but in his eyes, she was still that little girl who never grew up, the one he constantly had to worry about.

Especially when it came to Landon-the Montedra-born king.

Samuel had long suspected that guy had ulterior motives. If he ever tried to seduce Tessa, she probably wouldn't be able to resist.

After all, in Montedra, no female could withstand the allure of someone like Landon, strong, handsome, and loaded.

But now that Tessa was an adult, Samuel couldn't help but wonder. Are she and Landon fated mates? If were, then it wouldn't be surprising if the two of them were already... engaging in some intimate bonding.

That thought had barely formed when he suddenly heard Landon's deep, commanding voice.

"That's right. She's with me right/now."

Landon leaned toward Tessa's phone as he spoke. Immediately, Samuel's shrill, indignant voice pierced through the speaker.

"What are you two doing together this late? Landon, have some decency! You're a grown man, and you're

still clinging to a young girl like Tessa, you!"

Before Tessa could even move, Landon hung up the call for her.

"All right, no more of his nonsense," Landon said, shutting off the phone and placing it on the nightstand. He leaned down to kiss her lips. "Now, are we going to sleep... or keep going?"

Tessa looped her arms around his neck, a teasing smile tugging at her lips. "If we keep going, I'm afraid you might wear yourself out."

Before she even finished the sentence, Landon flipped her beneath him. "I'll show you just how far from worn out I am."

Laughter bubbled from Tessa's lips as their bare bodies intertwined once more...

At the same time, Samuel-whose call had just been cut off-trying calling again, only to find the phone already powered down.

He was far away in Yalvaria now.

Even if he was worried, there wasn't much he could do.

After all, Tessa was an independent person now. She had her own thoughts, and

there were plenty of decisions he couldn't make for her.

"Tessa, you better be happy, you hear me?"

With that, Samuel returned to his research.

No matter what happened, he genuinely wanted Tessa to be okay.

Between Landon and Nathan, he'd pick Landon any day.

That Nathan guy was a full-on creep.

Nathan had been hunting him down lately, just to use him to threaten Tessa.

Just thinking about how despicable Nathan truly was gave Samuel a headache.

Treating Tessa as nothing more than a stand-in for his deceased Luna, doing everything in his power to mold her into that image... Who knew when he'd finally give up that twisted idea?

Chapter 417 I Can Finally Let Emma Out to Play?

After staying up way too late with Landon last night, Tessa didn't wake until nearly noon.

The faint scent of Landon's pheromones still lingered in the air, but the space beside her in bed was already empty.

The holiday had passed; she figured he must have already left. After all, his duties to the pack and Thorne Corp were likely piling up.

Tessa got out of bed, ready to head to the bathroom, when she noticed a small, elegant gift box sitting on Tessa got out of bed, ready to head to the nightstand.

Written on top, in sharp yet striking penmanship, were the words: "Happy adulthood, my girl"

Tessa couldn't help but smile.

He'd already given her so many gifts last night, and now here was another one this morning.

She opened the box to find a necklace with a soft silver gleam, shaped like a wolf's head.

The design was simple yet dignified; the neck was wrapped with a chain as fine as a strand of hair, forged from moonlight silver. Inside the pendant, a faint blue glow seemed to shift and swirl-that was the spiritual pattern, tempered with the werewolves' secret fire.

Emma howled with excitement in her mind. It's the Concealer's Necklace! The silver chain's etched with spells that confuse perception, and Landon's claw blood is sealed inside the wolf head! Now even if I shift into wolf form in public, people will just think we're a regular werewolf, no one, not even the sharpest of them, will be able to smell our White Wolf scent!

Emma was thrilled. Because of the White Wolf's unique traits, Tessa rarely allowed her to take full control. of their body.

But now, with a necklace that could cloak her identity, they didn't have to hold back anymore.

Tessa's chest warmed; she clenched the necklace in her hand. Landon... he always knows just how to get to me...

Just then, the bedroom door opened and Landon walked in-tall, handsome, as

ever.

"You're awake? Perfect timing. Lunch is ready," he said, moving toward her. He wrapped his arms around her and leaned down to kiss her forehead.

Tessa blinked in surprise. "You didn't go to Thorne Corp?"

"No. You're leaving for Simonville the day after tomorrow-we've only got less than two days left together. Of course, I want to spend that time with you," Landon said matter-of-factly. "Don't worry. I'll handle urgent business remotely."

Tessa opened her hand. "This necklace..."

Landon picked it up and fastened it around her neck. "You used to hide the fact that you were a wolf. Later, even after you stopped hiding that, you still kept your pheromones suppressed. Back then, I didn't know your wolf soul was a White Wolf, but I figured you had your reasons for concealing your scent and not wanting to shift. That's when I started working on this necklace. I didn't expect the process to be so complicated-it was only finished this morning. I'm thrilled that your wolf is a powerful White Wolf, but

those old-school people are bound to see her as a threat. It might bring trouble your way With this necklace, even if you shift, they'll just think your wolf is an ordinary one.

Even though she had guessed what he was trying to do, hearing it from him directly still moved Teni, She threw her arms around his waist.

"Landon, how do you manage to think of everything? When I'm with you, I feel like I don't have to worry about a thing."

Landon kissed the top of her head. "If you can relax and just be someone who's loved and cherished when you're with me, then I've done my job as your mate."

Tessa couldn't help but nuzzle into his chest, making Landon let out a low, primal growl.

"Tessie... if you keep doing that, we might not make it to lunch."

Hearing the heat behind his words, Tessa immediately pulled away from his chest and gave him a quick kiss on the corner of his mouth.

"I'm going to wash up-we'll eat in a minute!"

With that, she bolted toward the bathroom.

They'd already gone wild a bunch of times in just a short span of time-it was probably good to show some restraint.

Otherwise, once they were apart and caught up in their own busy lives, it'd be hard to adjust...

As the bathroom door shut, Landon glanced down at the heat rising unmistakably from the center of his pants and shook his head with a sigh.

So much for seduction.

Looked like he'd be needing a cold shower...

Chapter 418 Breakfast Kisses

The two of them enjoyed a delicious lunch, lovingly prepared by Landon.

Since they'd woken up late, neither of them took a nap afterward. Instead, Tessa leaned against Landon chest as they sat on the couch, watching a recording of Avery's concert.

"Why are we watching their concert again? Didn't we already see it live?" Landon tightened his hold around her, his hand slipping up to knead her chest, jealousy flickering in his touch.

Tessa let out a soft whimper and tugged his mischievous hand away. "The holiday's almost over, and my entertainment company is about to launch. Avery's band is already popular, but I want them to be even bigger-I want them to become Montedra's top idol group."

That was her goal. She'd never mentioned it to the band members though; she didn't want to put that kind of pressure on them.

She didn't know much about the entertainment industry.

But if she wanted to, she could learn everything she needed.

Right now, her focus was on pinpointing Avery's weak spots. Once she did, she could help them improve until they truly became a one-of-a-kind, top-tier group.

"You can do it," Landon said with certainty.

The Thorne Corp hadn't ventured into the entertainment sector, but if she needed it, he was more than willing to dip a toe in.

Tessa turned to look at him. "By the way, I'm thinking of signing Ysabel. Do you think your brother would blacklist my company over it?"

Ysabel's father was Landon's older brother-and he'd always strongly opposed her entering show business.

"Do you think Ysabel has talent?" Landon asked in return.

Ysabel could sing, no doubt about it. But the entertainment world was complicated, and her personality didn't exactly suit it.

"She does. More importantly, she really loves it."

Ysabel dreamed of singing; Tessa wanted to help make that dream come true.

"All right. You can do whatever you want. As for my brother, I'll handle him-you don't have to worry."

Since Tessa supported Ysabel, he'd support her too.

He'd figure out how to talk his brother around..

Tessa beamed and threw her arms around his neck, snuggling closer..

"Landon, how are you so good to me?" With him backing her, she had nothing to fear.

"Well, now that you know how great I am, you better make sure you treasure me, got it?" Landon teased.

"Of course!" Tessa leaned in and gave him a quick kiss before settling back into his arms to keep watching

the concert.

Landon held her close, then casually asked, "Hey, while we've still got some time off, want to cothe meet m family?"

He'd already mentioned Tessa to them, but there hadn't been a formal meeting yet. He wanted them to meet her properly-to make things official between them.

Tessa froze for a moment. Her mind went straight to the blood pact Nathan had placed on her, and she hesitated before saying, "Let's wait until after I graduate. I'll have more time then, and I can meet your family more formally."

She explained, "I'm heading to Simonville the day after tomorrow for a competition, and once I'm back, the new semester starts-it's going to be hectic." Landon immediately picked up on the stiffness in her voice. He leaned in and kissed her cheek, soothing her. "No pressure. Whenever you're ready to meet them is fine."

She'd just come of age and hadn't even graduated high school yet; introducing her to his family and making things official might be a bit much for now.

"Thank you, Landon." Tessa kissed the corner of his mouth in return.

She knew Landon had misunderstood, but she didn't correct him. Either way, we'd end up in the same place.

She just couldn't bring herself to meet his family while still bound by a blood pact to another man.....

Chapter 419 Pine and Love

Tessa and Landon spent the last two days of the break holed up together in Wisteria Apartment, cooking breakfast side by side while the scent of lily of the valley mingled with pine in the kitchen air.

In the afternoons, they cuddled up and watched movies, talked about the future, whispered sweet nothings. and promised to see each other every day, no matter how busy life got.

Tessa kissed him with a smile, pushing aside the anxiety about the blood pact. I just want to hold on to this little moment of warmth.

The break ended in the blink of an eye. On the day Tessa was set to leave for Simonville, Thorne Corp had a major project that required Landon's personal oversight-he couldn't take her to Simonville himself.

Even so, he woke up early and packed her a homemade lunch with love before reluctantly moving out of Wisteria Apartment.

Since they hadn't officially completed the werewolf mate bonding ceremony yet, Landon chose not to publicly live with her, avoiding any potential criticism from the pack elders about "living together before marriage."

When it came to Tessa's reputation, he was always extra cautious.

Tessa fully agreed. She'd been wondering how to bring it up when Landon took the initiative himself.

Once the break ended, she would be swamped-not only managing the Sinclair Corp business and overseeing Beauty Luxe, but also launching her own entertainment company. She'd be meeting with a lot of people, and sometimes she might need to hold meetings at the apartment. In that case, it really wouldn't be convenient for Landon to be around.

So they agreed to keep things as they were before-spending time together whenever they could, and turning long weekends into their private little escapes.

Their bodies and minds were perfectly in sync.

The five-day training and two-day competition'in Simonville kept Tessa busy from morning until night. Landon, meanwhile, was tied up with work in Navoris. But no matter how hectic things got, they made sure to video call every night before bed.

By the time Tessa returned from Simonville, the new school term had already begun for both her and Ysabel.

It was the final semester of senior year, packed with test after test, both big and small.

So as soon as they got back from Simonville, Tessa and Ysabel dove straight into the chaos.

Sinclair Corp had also settled into a steady rhythm. Tessa handed over the day- to-day operations and decision-making to Donald.

He was more than capable-completely trustworthy. With him at the helm, she only needed to check in occasionally.

After all, she was still a student./Handing the company over to someone with Donald's experience gave the entire team at Sinclair Corp peace of mind.

Two months later, Thorne Corp's project wrapped up smoothly. With that weight off his shoulders, Landon

had more time to spend with Tessa-and could even pick her up and drop her off from school every day

That afternoon, after lunch together, Landon personally drove her to the gates of First High. He leaned over and kissed her lips. "See you tonight."

"Oh, don't come pick me up tonight. I'm having dinner with Avery and the others."

Her entertainment company was finally running smoothly, and Avery's new album was about to launch. They still had a lot to finalize.

Landon gave her a wounded look.

Tessa laughed and reached out to stroke his handsome face. "It's just one night. Haven't we been together every night lately?"

"Still feels like it's never enough time with you," Landon said, clearly sulking.

They were both so busy, stealing time just to see each other in the cracks of their schedules. And even then, she had to share that time with others.

"Call me when you're done. I'll come pick you up."

As much as he wanted more time with her, Landon understood-she had her own career. He'd never be the one to hold her back.

"Love you," Tessa said, kissing the corner of his mouth before hopping out of the car and waving goodbye. After school that afternoon, Tessa brought Ysabel to meet up with Avery and the team.

Thanks to Landon stepping in, Ysabel's father, though still unhappy about her joining the entertainment world, had eased up a little. He changed his stance, saying she could give it a try.

If she couldn't make a name for herself or ran into danger, she'd have to leave the industry immediately.

It was a rare compromise from her father, and of course, Ysabel agreed right away. She was determined to seize this chance, sharpen her skills, and carve out

a spot for herself in the entertainment world once she graduated.

Chapter 420 Ysabel Just Froze on Stage

When Tessa and Ysabel arrived at Avery and the others' apartment, the band was in the middle of rehearsing the first song Tessa had ever written.

Ysabel could never get tired of listening to that track-every time she heard it, it stirred something different in her, something fiery and passionate.

Right now, all five members of Avery were performing the piece.

Watching them up close, playing live in the same room, was even more thrilling than seeing them on stage.

The bassline rumbled through the floor; the snare hits matched the rhythm of her heartbeat. As the five guys whipped their heads in sync under the spotlight, their metal chains flashed in arcs of silver.

Ysabel was completely mesmerized.

Tessa noticed her expression and couldn't help but smile. She really does love singing, completely lost in it. When Avery saw them walk in, he stopped playing as soon as the song ended.

"Want to give it a try?" he asked, looking at Ysabel.

Ysabel stared at him, wide-eyed. "You're talking to me? I can try?"

She'd never imagined she'd get the chance to perform with Avery's band.

Her innocent reaction made the whole group laugh.

Ash held out a hand. "Come on! Give it a shot-you like singing, don't you?" His voice was warm, comforting, the kind that could ease anyone's nerves.

Ysabel wasn't even sure how she got up there, but suddenly she was standing in front of the mic.

The band started to play behind her.

She tapped the beat with one hand and slowly slipped into the zone. Her voice

was incredibly sweet, and when she sang this song, it carried a completely different kind of energy.

But it still sounded beautiful.

"Ysabel's got real talent," Avery said. "With proper training, she could definitely become a very popular singer."

Tessa nodded. "Exactly what I thought. Since you're working on a new album right now, help me guide her a bit."

Only by participating in a real album production would she understand what being a singer really meant.

That way, when it came time to record her own album, she wouldn't be completely overwhelmed.

"Yeah, no problem. Don't worry about it."

If Tessa asked them to do something, they'd give it their all-no question. Plus, Ysabel had a great personality; working with her was easy.

When the song ended, Ysabel came bouncing off the stage, exhilarated, and ran over to Tessa.

"Tessa, I love this feeling so much! I think I really love the stage-I enjoy performing so much. I just want to sing, and no matter what, I'm going to stick with it."

"Got it. Don't worry. One day, you'll be just like Avery's band."

Tessa already had a plan in mind for Ysabel's career path.

"You go hang out with them for a bit. I need to go over some things with Avery." "Okay!" Ysabel couldn't have been happier.

She went off to spend time with the rest of the band-not that it was just hanging out. Ash and the others were actively teaching her how to improve her vocals.

Ysabel listened with full concentration.

Eventually, when she was exhausted, she sat down on stage, dripping with sweat. Ash handed her a tissue. Meanwhile, Tessa looked over the track list for the new album-eleven songs total.

"What do you think?" Avery asked. They'd been working on this material overseas for a while; each band member had contributed to the songwriting.

"It's pretty solid. But there are still a few areas that need some polish."

"Don't worry, we're still fine-tuning it. This isn't the final cut," he said. It was their

first album since leaving Evan's company-it had to be a success.

"Oh, right. What do you think about your current manager? Do you need a replacement? If so, I can start looking for someone else right away."