

Alpha-less 461

Chapter 461 Unwilling Resentment

That evening, Landon and Tessa arrived together at the Sinclair residence.

Because Tessa was coming home, Walter had already asked the house chef to prepare many of her favorite dishes.

The kitchen had been busy all afternoon.

As soon as he heard the sound of a car engine, Walter—who had been sitting on the couch—got up right

away.

"Is that Tessa? I'm going out to see." Tessa, really... she hadn't come to see him in so long.

Louis immediately went to support him as they headed outside.

The moment Tessa got out of the car, she saw Walter and Louis standing at the door waiting for them. She rushed over and held Walter's arm.

"Grandpa, why did you come outside? It's so hot out here. Wouldn't it be better to stay inside and rest?"

Hadn't she already promised to come home and have dinner with him?

"I just wanted to see you a little sooner! You little rascal, you haven't come to visit me for so many days—have you already forgotten about me?"

He was getting old. Who knew how much longer he could get away with acting spoiled like this?

"Grandpa, what are you talking about? How could I ever forget you? I just went to Yalvaria with Landon for a couple of days. We only just got back."

"Grandpa, I'm sorry. I was the one who took up her time," Landon said with a smile.

"Is that so? I thought Tessa didn't want to see this old man anymore!" Walter said cheerfully.

As long as Tessa was with him, he was always full of smiles and in a great mood.

Winona had been watching from the second floor ever since she heard the engine. Her expression was

twisted.

Everyone used to hate Tessa the most-so why was everyone gathered around her now?

If only she hadn't come back from Falindale!

Lila knocked and came in. When she saw Winona still standing by the window, she shook her head.

"Winnie, don't be like this. If you keep working hard, you'll have your own place in the world too."

Her mood lately had been way off. It really couldn't go on like this.

Seeing that Lila had come upstairs, Winona moved to sit on the couch nearby. "Mom, do I really have a future?"

"I heard the Lawson family found some famous foreign doctor to operate on Connor. His leg seems to be recovering! Look-"

At the mention of Connor's name, Winona felt a sharp pain in her chest.

"Mom, don't say that name again!" No matter how thick-skinned she was, how could she have the nerve to go back to Connor now?

She was the one who'd chosen to give up.

Besides, Connor had never loved her.

Even if she did go crawling back to him now, he wouldn't love her, would he?

So what was the point of saying all this?

"Winnie, you really could try going back. After all, you did save his life." Lila truly thought Connor was a good choice. Now that his leg was healing, he'd likely be Thunder Pack's successor again.

After all these years, he had to still feel something for Winnie, didn't he?

"Mom, do you think no one else chooses me, so you want me to go back to Connor?" Winona asked bitterly.

Why was it that Tessa was always surrounded by big shots, while she was left with the ones Tessa didn't

want?

Lila sighed. "Winnie, I know you've got pride. But in your current situation, Hoping

for someone better than Connor... it's just not realistic."

Of course she wished her daughter had better options-but what was the use?

Winona clenched her teeth.

It's just not fair.

"Alright, it's dinner time. Let's

downstairs."

If they didn't go soon, Walter might get upset.

"Mom, I'm not hungry. I'm not going."

"Winnie, don't be like this. You can't be so short-sighted. Don't forget-Tessa isn't just powerful herself, her boyfriend is Montedra's Alpha King-Mr. Thorne! If you could fix your relationship with Tessa, maybe they'd even be willing to help you someday."

Chapter 462 The Bloodbound Secret

"Tessa hates me so much. Why would she ever help me?"

"That's why I want you to repair your relationship with her. No matter what, you two are sisters, Lila urged.

Winona hated the idea, but deep down, she knew it was her only chance..

Reluctantly, she followed Lila downstairs.

Walter saw how long it had taken her to come down but didn't bother saying anything.

Honestly, Winona was even a year older than Tessa, yet no matter what she did, she was always such a disappointment.

It wasn't that he wanted to play favorites-but he couldn't help it. When it came to Winona, he just couldn't bring himself to spoil her.

"Since everyone's here, let's eat," Walter said, not wanting to waste any more time.

Tessa ignored Winona and Lila and simply ate quietly.

In this house, Walter was the only one she treated sincerely.

Seeing the tense atmosphere, Walter felt uncomfortable.

"Tessie, your exams are coming up soon. Have you thought about which college

you want to apply to?" Lila asked while eating, trying to sound caring.

Unfortunately, she had never been the nurturing motherly type.

So when she tried to act concerned now, it felt hollow and forced.

"More or less," Tessa answered flatly.

Lila felt slighted but couldn't say anything with Walter present.

And now, Tessa even had Landon backing her.

Winona let out a cold laugh.

Tessa's heart was just a cold stone, wasn't it? No matter how much warmth you gave her, it never melted.

"Tessie, whatever decision you make, I'll support you. You don't have to consider me at all."

If she wanted to join the Werewolf International Medical Organization, she should just go for it.

"Grandpa, don't worry. I know what I'm doing."

Walter knew that saying more wouldn't help. This child had never needed anyone to worry about her.

"As long as you're happy and you and Landie are doing well, that's enough for me. Nothing else matters."

"Grandpa, don't worry. I'll take good care of Tessa!" Landon promised.

"When two people are together, it's important to look after each other. Tessa's still young-if she does anything wrong, you should tell her directly. Don't keep it bottled up.

The truth was, there were still a lot of things he worried about.

"Tessa's already doing great." She was a smart girl. Most of the time, no one even needed to guide her

The way Landon looked at Tessa was filled with tenderness.

Seeing that look in his eyes made Winona burn with jealousy.

She envied how Tessa had someone who cared for her so wholeheartedly, while she herself was left with nothing.

After dinner, Walter and Landon played a game of chess, and then Walter found an excuse to call Tessa into the study alone.

"Grandpa, is there something you wanted to talk about?"

Tessa had actually been planning to ask him about the ancient texts, but when

she saw the serious expression on his face, she held back for now.

To her surprise, Walter's sharp gaze landed on the silver ring on her fourth finger. His eyes were full of sorrow and concern.

"When did it happen? Was it during the time you lived alone in Falindale?"

Tessa instinctively curled her ring finger inward.

Grandpa had found out she'd been Bloodbound?

Chapter 463 The Godex of the Wolf

Tessa opened her mouth, then finally nodded under Walter's gaze. "It was because of an accident. I actually came today to ask if I could borrow some of your ancient books-I wanted to see if there's a way to break a Bloodbound."

Walter's eyes immediately turned red. His hands trembled as he gripped hers. "Tessie, my dear girl... you've suffered so much. The Bloodbound-it's forbidden magic among werewolves. It forcibly binds soul and flesh, and on every full moon, you have to endure excruciating, soul-tearing pain! The process of casting it is as cruel as being flayed alive! Who was the monster that did this to you?"

His voice choked with emotion, eyes full of pain and fury. He looked as if he wanted to tear the caster limb from limb.

Tessa gently patted the back of his hand, trying to comfort him. "Grandpa, don't be upset. It's in the past. I survived it. Now I just need to find a way to break the Bloodbound. I'll take revenge myself. I'll make them pay."

Her voice was firm, her eyes flashing with the stubborn light of the white wolf. In her consciousness, Emma let out a low growl, echoing her resolve.

Walter let out a sigh and reached into a hidden compartment of his desk. He pulled out a yellowed, worn scroll and handed it to Tessa. "Tessie, when I performed the purification ritual during your coming-of-age ceremony, I noticed the Violet Mark of the Bloodbound on your body."

He continued, "Afterward, I searched through all my ancient texts and only managed to find one-third of the Codex of the Wolf. It contains the origin of the Bloodbound and partial reversal incantations-but it's incomplete."

He paused, hope flickering in his eyes. "If we can gather the remaining pieces, we may be able to break it completely. The Nightshade Pack is the largest in Montedra. Their archives might hold more pieces of the Codex of the Wolf. Landie is their Alpha-he'll definitely have a way to help you."

Tessa accepted the scroll, her fingers brushing against the old wolf-script etched into the parchment. She could feel a faint pulse of ancient magic. Her brows furrowed in thought. The scroll offered a chance-but collecting the full codex would be no easy task. Nathan's Frost Pack might also possess ancient texts, but she refused to negotiate with him. The Nightshade Pack's secret archives were a possibility... but she didn't want Landon to worry about her being Bloodbound. Tessa, don't worry. We've got a lead now. We'll definitely find the rest!

Of course. I'll break this cursed Bloodbound sooner or later, Tessa replied through their soul link. Then she gave her grandfather a faint smile. "Grandpa, don't worry. I'll find the remaining pieces and the way to break the spell."

"Good. If there's anything I can help with, you must tell me. I just want to see you free of that curse and able to be mates with Landon without any shadows between you."

"Okay."

When Tessa and Walter came downstairs, Landon was sitting alone on the couch sipping red tea. Lila and Winona were trying to curry favor with him-but he ignored them completely.

As soon as he saw Tessa, Landon immediately stood up to greet her. "You were upstairs with Grandpa for a while. What were you two talking about?"

Tessa gave a quick excuse. "Just some family stuff. Exams are coming up in a couple of days, alaik told me not to stress."

Something like that needs to be discussed privately in the study? And for that long?

Flex paced in Landon's consciousness, clearly irritated. We're fated mates, and she's still hiding things from me

Walter, hearing Tessa's excuse, immediately knew she didn't want Landon to find out about the Bloodbound. So he jumped in to cover for her. "Hahaha! Landie, are you blaming me for taking up too much of Tessie's time? We hadn't seen each other in a while and just lost track of time chatting

"How could I blame you, Mr. Walter? I'll bring Tessie to visit the Sinclair residence more often

"Good. Tessie's exam is the day after tomorrow. Let her focus and prepare well. You two can come again after it's over."

"Of course, Grandpa."

After saying goodbye to Walter, Landon wrapped an arm around Tessa as they headed back to Wisteria Apartment.

In the passenger seat, Tessa gently touched the scroll she'd tucked inside her coat. Once the exams were over, she'd need to find a way to access the Nightshade Pack's secret library.

Chapter 464 The End of an Era

Two days later, Tessa and Ysabel took the SAT together.

With the exam over, their high school journey had officially come to an end.

"As of today, I'm no longer a high schooler!" Ysabel shouted excitedly the moment they walked out of the testing center.

Now she could apply to the university she liked and begin her journey in the entertainment industry.

Ysabel threw her arms around Tessa. "I really hope we can go to college

together." If there was anything she was reluctant to let go of, it was Tessa.

Even though they had only known each other for less than a year, it felt like they'd known each other their whole lives.

"I'm not studying music," Tessa replied flatly.

"Tessa, do you have to be like this? Can't you even pretend you'll miss me a little?"

"Not really."

They'd both still be in Navoris. Besides, Ysabel would soon be signed under TS Entertainment, which meant they'd definitely see each other often.

TS Entertainment was the name of the entertainment company Tessa had founded.

"Sigh, why are you always so rational?" Ysabel complained. Couldn't she ever act on impulse?

"Alright, let's go. Landon and Nathaniel are probably getting impatient."

At the school gates, Landon leaned against a sleek black luxury car, holding a bouquet of white roses. His calm and commanding aura made many passing students glance back at him.

Nathaniel stood nearby, cradling a bunch of fiery red tulips while constantly fixing his hair, clearly wanting to show his best side to Ysabel.

"Tessie!"

As soon as he saw Tessa, Landon walked straight toward her and handed her the roses. His fingers gently brushed a loose strand of hair from her ear as he spoke softly. "You've worked hard."

Tessa took the flowers and rose slightly on her toes to kiss the corner of his lips, smiling with her eyes. "Thanks."

The exam had been little more than routine for her-she could've done those questions with her eyes closed.

But she still appreciated Landon's/romantic and thoughtful gesture.

They shared a look and smiled, their sweetness making those nearby sigh in admiration. Landon pulled her into his arms and affectionately rubbed the top of her head.

"Ysabel, these are for you!" Nathaniel, not wanting to be outdone, shoved the tulips into Ysabel's arms and scratched his head. "Don't judge me-these are the best ones I found after running around for three

blocks!"

Ysabel rolled her eyes and hugged the flowers anyway, muttering, "Nathaniel, your taste is as outdated your haircut." But she still discreetly took a whiff of the flowers and let a tiny smile slip through. Nathaniel pretended to be offended. "You've got no taste! These are the biggest and most beautiful ones!"

Ysabel snorted and made a face at him.

Watching the two bicker, Landon chuckled as he held Tessa close. "Let's go. Time to head to Cosmo Club."

To celebrate the end of Tessa and Ysabel's exams-and their high school careers- the group headed to Cosmo Club for dinner.

Cosmo Club was one of the most luxurious clubs in Navoris. It had everything you could imagine and was one of Cameron's businesses.

It hadn't been open long, so this was the first visit for both Ysabel and Tessa.

Camille had just wrapped a film abroad. When she heard there would be a celebratory dinner for Tessa, she rushed over immediately.

"Tessa, seriously, you're kind of a badass. All the people you hang out with are top-tier rich and powerful," Camille joked as she looked around at the big shots seated nearby.

"Yeah." Tessa nodded in acknowledgment.

"So? How's the new movie going?"

"With me on set, of course everything's going smoothly. Don't you know I'm the one with the goddess of luck on my side?" Camille teased.

The truth was, her success had come from relentless effort.

But the media liked to say she was possessed by a goddess of fortune.

Ridiculous.

Who in this world succeeded effortlessly?

Tessa knew how hard Camille had worked, so she didn't comment on her lighthearted remark.

"By the way, your contract's about to end, right? Any interest in joining my TS Entertainment?" Tessa asked. Watching Camille push forward on her own was honestly a little heartbreaking.

Chapter 465 A Hug and a Sulk

"I knew it! You poached Avery Band but didn't even come for me!" Camille pouted,

clearly aggrieved. After all, she was a film queen too!

Tessa reassured her, "Of course I was going to recruit you! I started TS

Entertainment for you guys.

Camille had real potential-Tessa was sure she could become a powerhouse actress.

"I'm just afraid my current agency won't let me go that easily." After all, Camille had both talent and popularity now.

"As long as you're willing to come, I'll handle the rest. You don't need to worry about a thing."

Camille nodded. "You put it like that-how could I not come? No matter what, I still want to fight alongside you."

"Great. When your contract ends, come join TS Entertainment. And if you want to start your own studio, I'll support that too."

One way or another, Tessa just wanted Camille to have a smoother path ahead.

Camille threw her arms around her. "Tessa, I knew you were always the best to me."

Landon had just finished parking and walked over-only to see Camille clinging to his girlfriend again. His expression instantly darkened.

"Alright, come on. Let's go eat," Landon said as he stepped up beside Tessa.

Camille knew this man didn't like her much-but so what? She wasn't letting go of Tessa.

Cameron, watching Landon's reaction, nearly burst out laughing. "What's this now? Is Landon actually jealous of a woman?"

Nathaniel shot him a glance. So dramatic.

Alphas didn't just get jealous over women. Even if it was his own niece, he'd still be jealous-got it?

Hudson didn't comment, simply heading into the event room with the others.

Once everyone sat down, Cameron spoke up. "From now on, treat this place like home. If you need anything, just ask."

"Don't worry, we definitely won't hold back," Nathaniel joked.

"I've already arranged lifetime memberships for all of you," Cameron added.

"Membership? What's that supposed to mean? Like, discount cards?" Ysabel curled her lip. That sounded pretty stingy.

Cameron laughed. "No-lifetime/free memberships."

"You rock!" Ysabel was satisfied/As expected, Cameron really knew how to do things right.

"Whenever you guys come here to hang out, if you have any feedback, tell me directly. I'll make improvements."

With that, Cameron signaled for the kitchen staff to start serving the dishes,

The chefs at Cosmo Club were handpicked by Cameron from a Michelin three- star restaurant, so the food naturally needed no praise.

While they ate, Landon leaned close and murmured into Tessa's ear, "Don't let other women hug you again. I get jealous."

Tessa could tell he was still upset over Camille's hug earlier.

"Landon, she's just a girl. And she's my best friend."

The kind of friend you'd do anything for. So what if they hugged?

Landon said overbearingly, "Doesn't matter. You're mine."

Tessa shook her head. "Sorry, but I can't promise you that."

Landon looked defeated. In her heart, he still couldn't compare to Camille, huh?

Sigh... how did I end up this pitiful?

Seeing him sit there sulking without touching his food, Tessa pushed a plate of grilled fish in front of him. "Be good. Eat. Stop moping."

If his pack members saw their proud Nightshade Alpha acting like this, they'd probably die of embarrassment.

"Sigh," Landon exhaled again. He really was the most powerless boyfriend ever. Camille, of course, noticed Landon's behavior.

"Tessa, honestly, a boyfriend like that isn't worth keeping. He's way too petty. Dump him—I'll introduce you to someone better." She knew some pretty powerful people these days.

She was deliberately trying to provoke Landon.

What was the big deal about a hug? She and Tessa had even shared a bed

before. Was he going to be jealous about that too?

Alphas really were terrifyingly possessive.

Chapter 466 Alpha on the Edge

Landon shot Camille a cold glare.

Anyone else might've been scared stiff, but Camille wasn't. With Tessa as her trump card, there was no way Landon would actually do anything to her.

"Camille, stop bullying him already," Tessa said, clearly knowing Camille was doing it on purpose,

Those two just didn't get along-whenver they were together, they bickered.

Camille snorted. "Tessa, don't forget-I'm your best friend."

"We're just friends. I'm her mate and the father of her future children."

In comparison, she didn't even come close.

That pissed Camille off.

Landon was secretly pleased. Just thinking about it-none of these people around them mattered. He was the most important person to Tessa. That was all that mattered.

"Alright, can we just eat like normal people?" Tessa was clearly getting impatient, and only then did Camille back off.

\$

"By the way, Evan's in real trouble now. After losing that massive investment deal, Zane Corp's completely fallen from grace. It was the main financial pillar for Thornbane Pack. Now that the company's on the brink of bankruptcy, the pack's resources have dried up, and the werewolves are starting to protest against Evan staying on as their alpha. The Thornbane Pack elders have already initiated the alpha impeachment process," Hudson reported, turning to Landon with a warning. "Honestly, Evan's a real snake, so everyone needs to stay on guard these days." A cornered dog always bites, and Evan was definitely that kind of person. "Everything happening to him now is what he deserves. He has no one to blame but himself," Landon said coolly.

His biggest mistake was crossing Tessa. Anyone who dared touch her-he'd make sure they suffered worse than death.

"Exactly. Lots of people in Murica are thrilled to see him fall."

Whether in Navoris or Los Anville, Evan had always been arrogant and despicable. He'd made plenty of enemies. Now people were whispering behind his back that he had it coming.

"Anyway, no matter what happens, we all need to stay careful," Hudson added. "We want to avoid unnecessary trouble."

"Especially you, Ysabel. You haven't awakened your wolf yet, so that makes you the most vulnerable among us. Try not to go out alone for the time being. If you need anything, tell us and we'll go with you," Cameron said seriously.

Right now, Evan was desperate for a way to turn the tables.

He wasn't stupid-he clearly knew all of this tied back to Thorne Corp.

Mon

If he got desperate enough to try and take someone hostage, it wouldn't be out of the question.

"I got it. Don't worry, I won't go out alone." She might not be that valuable, but the last thing she wanted was to become a burden to the others.

"Tessa, that goes for you too. Evan's probably blaming you for everything by now, so you need to be especially careful," Hudson added, turning to her.

TS Entertainment, which Tessa had founded, was thriving-and that only made things worse for Evan. His once-profitable SkyEcho Entertainment was in decline, and on top of that, she'd poached their golden goose, Avery Band. Evan would definitely hold a grudge.

"Thanks for the concern. I'm not afraid of him," Tessa said coolly.

Right now, her focus was still on breaking Nathan's Bloodbound. If they hadn't brought Evan up, would've completely forgotten he even existed.

she

"That guy totally deserves what's coming to him," Camille added. "He never even treated his artists like people. If they weren't making money, he'd beat them or humiliate them."

So now that he was down, a lot of people were secretly happy.

"But what about the artists still signed under him?" Camille asked, frowning. "He's

in trouble, sure-but what happens to them?"

Chapter 467 Not That Easy to Flirt With

"That depends on them. If they're really talented, other agencies will pick them up." Tessa replied. After all, TS Entertainment was still small-she couldn't take in that many artists at once.

"Tessa, I have a friend at SkyEcho Entertainment. She's a minor actress who never got any chances there, but she's a good person and her acting's decent. Why don't you sign her?"

They used to be in the same production once.

The girl was genuinely good-she just never got a shot, and that's why things turned out this way.

"Alright." Tessa couldn't say no-not after Camille finally brought it up.

Once again, Camille was deeply moved.

"Tessa, you're really too good to me. You know what? I'll sign a ten-year contract with you-as a way to thank you."

"Isn't being good to you the most natural thing in the world?"

With everything they'd been through together, there was no need for words like that.

Camille was completely overwhelmed.

Truthfully, there was no such thing as something being "natural" in this world.

Tessa was good to her because she was someone who valued loyalty and affection. She only looked cold on the outside.

But deep down, she was someone who took relationships seriously.

"Alright, let's not talk about this today. We're all here to celebrate the end of your exams, aren't we?" Cameron raised his glass. "Congratulations to our two gorgeous ladies on officially graduating high school."

Everyone stood up.

"That's right. The good life is just beginning. Evan's nothing," Nathaniel added boldly.

They all clinked glasses.

After dinner, they headed over to the lounge bar to hang out.

"This Cameron guy really knows how to throw a party," Camille said. Even someone like her, used to big events, couldn't help but be impressed by the setup-it was fun and tasteful.

"Of course. He wouldn't be where he is today otherwise." None of the four men were simple characters. Tessa wholeheartedly agreed.

The four guys played games on one side while talking business, while the three girls sat in a quieter corner with coffee and conversation.

It was close to midnight by the time everyone reluctantly said their goodbyes.

Nathaniel took Ysabel home, Landon left with Tessa, and Camille glanced around before locking her eyes on Hudson.

"Mr. Hudson, could you give me a ride? I didn't drive today."

Tessa shot her a look.

"What are you looking at me like that for? I'm telling the truth. My assistant's been stuck overseas with me for months. Now that we're back, I gave her a well- deserved vacation," Camille explained. She really wasn't trying anything with the cold lawyer.

"I didn't say a word. You're the one talking. Feeling guilty?" Tessa whispered. Camille pinched her.

"What are you saying? That cold, stiff lawyer? Please-I can't handle a guy like that. He'd need someone a lot more passionate. Why go for someone so cold?"

"No need to explain so much to me."

She wasn't that nosy.

"But as your best friend, I have to warn you that lawyer really isn't easy to deal with."

"How bad can he be?" Camille shrugged. If she wanted to flirt, there wasn't a man she couldn't get. "When I have time, I'll go tease him a little."

Tessa wasn't amused.

"Camille, that man isn't someone you want to mess with. If you do, you might end up in over your head."

Hudson really wasn't someone you could play around with.

"Alright, I get it. I know what I'm doing. You don't have to worry about me." She did want to flirt with him- but only if she could find the time.

"Once this film wraps up, I'm going to give myself a proper break."

It had been way too long since she'd had a sweet, silly romance. She needed to let loose a little too.

Chapter 468 A Temporary Arrangement

"You should just focus on your career," Tessa advised. If she wasn't serious about romance and just wanted to fool around, she'd be better off putting that time into filming. Otherwise, it'd only end up hurting both herself and others.

Camille sighed.

"Honestly, I really do love acting, but people still need to know how to balance things. They say art comes from life-if I don't even understand life myself, how can I portray a character well?"

"Hudson, I'll leave her to you," Landon said. He didn't want to deal with this troublemaker. Since she wanted to ride with Hudson, this was the perfect chance to pass her off.

Camille was annoyed. "Mr. Thorne, do you really dislike me that much?"

Landon didn't even bother responding.

"Ms. Camille, where do you live?" Hudson glanced at the time. Since she was a friend of Tessa's, giving her a ride wasn't a problem.

"It's probably out of your way. Depends on whether you want to or not." Camille was undeniably a stunner, so when she said this, there was a particular charm to

it.

"If Ms. Camille is willing to let me drive her, I'd be honored," Hudson replied, standing up.

Cameron looked a little disappointed. "Honestly, I wanted to offer too." Camille was a beauty of rare quality -even in werewolf high society, her looks and aura stood out.

Camille just smiled.

Even if she wanted someone to fool around with, it definitely wouldn't be Cameron. She wasn't into playboys-even if he was from the prestigious Qin family, one of the Four Great Clans in Navoris.

Cameron was irritated. Why did everyone keep looking down on him? In terms of looks and build, he was just as good as Hudson. Plus, he understood women better.

"Then I'll leave Camille to you," Tessa said to Hudson.

"Ms. Camille, shall we?" Hudson asked.

Camille immediately walked to his side.

Honestly, the cold lawyer and the glamorous actress standing together looked surprisingly harmonious.

Camille got into Hudson's car, while Tessa and Landon headed to theirs.

"Does your friend have a thing for Hudson?" Landon asked. Quite a few people like much, but he was the ideal type for marriage-totally different from someone like

Hudson. He didn't say

anything.

"Probably not," Tessa replied, uncertain. Camille was always like that-she'd never taken anyone seriously.

"Good. But if she does, you should give her a heads-up not to mess with

Hudson." Hudson was someone who loved deeply. Once he fell for someone, he wouldn't be able to pull himself out.

"Yeah." Tessa knew he was right. That was exactly what she was worried about too.

They returned to Wisteria Apartment around eleven.

"Now that exams are over, what do you plan to do next?"

She had originally moved to Wisteria Apartment because it was close to Navoris First High. But now that the exams were over, there wasn't much reason to stay here anymore..

"What's that supposed to mean? You trying to kick me out?" Tessa looked up at him.

"I just meant it's far from the office. Why don't we move somewhere else?"

"We?" Tessa raised an eyebrow. "Are you trying to move in with me?"

He had once said he wouldn't live with her openly before completing their mate ceremony-he didn't want to damage her reputation.

Landon cleared his throat. "It's not really cohabiting. Just thought we could stay together for a little while since you're on break."

He'd held back so much during her exam period to let her focus. Now that break had started, wasn't it time to make up for it?

Tessa knew exactly what he meant, but kept a straight face. "I think this setup is fine. If we move again now, we'll just have to move again when college starts. Too much trouble."

"Alright," Landon said, respecting her decision. Then he cautiously asked, "Then... can I stay here during your break?"

He'd even had Nathaniel take Ysabel back to the Lu estate, just so she wouldn't disturb his private time with

Tessa.

Tessa stared at him seriously for a moment, then suddenly looped her arms around his neck and flashed a dazzling smile. "Of course. You're more than welcome."

With that, she leaned in and kissed him on the lips....

Chapter 469 [18+ Mature Content Warning

Minors Do Not Read]

Tessa's kiss was like fire, instantly igniting Landon's desire.

He wrapped his arms around her slender waist and pulled her tightly against him, forcing her back into his chest. His tongue pried open her lips, plunging into a deep and wild kiss. In the dim lighting of Wisteria Apartment, their breaths tangled feverishly.

A blaze lit up in Landon's eyes as he growled lowly, "Tessie, I'm not letting you go tonight."

Tessa raised an eyebrow in challenge. "I wasn't planning to let you go either."

With a wicked grin tugging at his lips, Landon grabbed her by the hips and lifted her straight into his arms, striding toward the balcony.

Streetlights reflected off the glass railing. The night wind played with her long hair.

He pinned her against the railing, hands braced on either side of her as he leaned in, stealing her breath once more. His tongue ravaged her mouth, trailing from her lips to her earlobe, where he bit down hard, drawing a low moan from her.

His hands slid down, popping open the buttons of her blouse. He unclasped her bra, his palm cupping her breast, the soft warmth making him let out a low groan.

One hand slipped beneath her skirt, pushing aside her underwear, fingers sliding into her entrance. The wet tightness made his eyes darken with even more heat. He began to move his fingers slowly, teasing her most sensitive spots until her legs trembled and her breath came in ragged gasps.

"Landon... it's too deep..." Tessa bit her lip and tried to push him away, but he pinned both her wrists above her head, pressing them to the cold glass.

His fingers thrust faster, deeper, voice rough in her ear. "Tessie, you're this wet already?"

He kissed down her collarbone, leaving red marks in his wake. The cold wind and the heat of his body clashed-her skin burned under his hands.

He undid his belt. His hard desire pressed against her entrance. With a sudden thrust, he entered her, fast and fierce. The railing creaked under the rhythm. She clung to his chest, her moans soft and breathless beneath the night sky.

Still inside her, Landon lifted her again, carrying her into the dining room. He laid her down on the oak dining table-its cool surface contrasting with the heat of his hands.

He leaned down to kiss her again, tongue tracing her lips. He briefly pulled out, yanking off her skirt and panties. Naked under the light, her body was exposed to him fully.

He grabbed her wrists in one hand, pinning them above her head. With the other, he gripped her hips and pulled her against him.

"Tessie, say my name louder."

He plunged into her again, kissing down from her chest to her stomach. His tongue teased her sensitive spot, teeth nibbling lightly, making her arch with a trembling gasp.

The table shook. A glass toppled and shattered. No one paid it any mind.

His thrusts grew quicker, deeper. Tessa bit her lip, lifting her hips to meet him, moving in sync with his rhythm.

Each movement was more powerful than the last, drawing soft cries from her lips. Her walls clenched tightly around him. Sweat dripped from his brow, falling onto her chest.

The table groaned beneath them. In the glow of the dining room light, their entwined bodies formed a silhouette. With a final deep thrust, he released with a hoarse groan just as Tessa cried out in climax.

"Ah!" Together, they climaxed for the first time in the night.

Tessa leaned back on the table, still breathless, her body trembling from the aftershocks.

She glanced at Landon with a mischievous glint in her eye and chuckled softly. "Now it's my turn. She sat up, pushing him back. Her naked figure shimmered under the light, all curves and seduction. She grabbed an unopened bottle of red wine from the table and gave it a little shake. Then, with a teasing grin, she pinned Landon to a dining chair, straddling him. Her fingers yanked open his shirt, tracing red lines across his chest before she leaned down to bite his Adam's apple, her tongue flicking over it, drawing a deep growl from his throat.

She wrapped her hand around his still-hard length, stroking him slowly. The slick friction made her hum softly. With her other hand, she poured the wine, letting the cold liquid run down his chest. She lowered her head and licked it off, her tongue gliding along his abs. Her playful smile sent his breathing into chaos.

Chapter 470 [18+ Mature Content Warning - Minors Do Not Read]

"Tessie, you're too wild..." He tried to grab her, but she bound his wrists to the chair with a silk scarf from the table. "Don't move," she whispered, then poured the rest of the red wine over his burning hardness, reached out, and guided it into her entrance.

The icy chill of the wine clashed with the heat and tightness inside her-an overwhelming contrast that made Landon growl low in his throat.

Tessa began to move, controlling the rhythm, the chair creaking beneath them as the scent of wine and sweat filled the air.

She bit his earlobe and whispered, "Landon, does it feel good?"

"So good, Tessie... faster... more..."

Tessa laughed and picked up the pace. The way her walls squeezed around him drew a deep groan from him. The candle stand on the table tipped over, hot wax dripping down-adding to the heat.

A fire of resistance blazed in Landon's eyes. "Tessie, don't get-cocky."

With a grunt, he tore the scarf apart, grabbed her, and slammed her back down on the table. Her bare ass pressed against the cold surface.

She tried to push him away, but he locked her legs and lifted them over his shoulders. "Still daring to provoke me?"

He chuckled darkly, leaned in, and kissed her fiercely. His tongue tangled wildly with hers as his hard shaft pressed into her again-thrusting in fast and deep, making her scream.

The table shook violently, dishes crashing to the floor, the sound of breaking glass mingling with her

moans.

He scooped up some whipped cream from a plate and smeared it over her chest, lowering his head to lick it off. His teeth grazed her sensitive spots, making her arch and tremble. "Tessie, scream louder."

His thrusts grew sharper and more intense. Her tight heat gripped him tightly. Sweat trickled down his spine, dripping onto her belly.

He gasped into her ear, "Still think you're in charge?"

Tessa bit her lip, clinging to him, meeting every thrust. "Landon... deeper..."

With a growl, he drove into her harder, releasing again.

After the heat of the dining room, Landon carried the flushed and trembling Tessa to the bedroom.

Moonlight filtered through the sheer curtains onto the king-sized bed. The two of them tumbled into the sheets, laughter and kisses following them down. The mattress rocked softly beneath them.

Tessa lay on his chest, still breathless, her voice teasing. "Don't get ahead of yourself, Landon. That was just a tie."

Landon chuckled, rolled over, and pinned her beneath him. He kissed her again, tongue brushing her lips. "A tie? The break's just begun. We'll see who wins."

His hand slid down her waist and stopped between her thighs, making her let out a soft moan.

She slapped his hand away with a laugh. "Pause. I have to go to Sinclair Corporation tomorrow."

Their eyes met and they both smiled. Landon pulled her into his arms and murmured, "Sleep. There's still plenty of time."

Tessa curled into his embrace and drifted into sleep.

The next day, Tessa woke up at noon. Landon had already left, but he'd left breakfast on the table- sunny- side eggs, toast, and hot coffee. Beside it was a sticky note: "Tessie, next round tonight. Love you."

She chuckled, heart warm, then changed into a sharp, fitted suit.

Because of her exams, she hadn't been to Sinclair Corporation in a while. Now that they were over, it was time to check in.

Now

The upper management hadn't been informed of her visit, but when she arrived, everyone was working in a clean and orderly manner.

Tessa was pleased.

"Ma'am!"

"Good morning, Ma'am!"

Along the way, employees greeted her respectfully. Sinclair Corporation was truly thriving now.

Tessa headed straight for Donald's office-only to find a young woman making a scene at the door.

"I said I want to see Donald! Where did he go? Get him out here right now!" The girl was loud and full of attitude.