

Alpha-less 51

Chapter 51 A Clean Kill

Tessa sat down, and Landon pulled out the chair beside her before taking a scat. "Sorry to keep everyone waiting."

"It's fine. The wait wasn't too long. It's just an hour." Nathaniel couldn't help but speculate whether something inappropriate had happened in that room:

"Tessie, Uncle Landon didn't do anything to you, did he?" Ysabel immediately slid over to sit beside Tessa, whispering in her ear.

Her voice wasn't particularly quiet, and everyone in the private room heard her.

"Ysabel, what nonsense are you spouting?"

Landon shot her a look, and Ysabel immediately shut her mouth.

"Tessie! You're too attractive. I was just worried about you."

"Let me introduce everyone." Ysabel stood up, gesturing toward the others. "This is my good friend, Tessa."

"Tessie, the one sitting across from you is Cameron Quest, the third son of the Quest family. Beside him is Hudson Jones, heir to the Jones family. And over there is Nathaniel, you've met him a few times already."

The people gathered here belonged to the four most prominent families of the Nightshade Pack, the most influential bloodlines in Montedra.

Any one of them alone was enough to shake the foundations of Montedra's werewolf society.

Landon needed no introduction. He was Montedra's most powerful alpha and the founder of Thorne Corp, the largest werewolf conglomerate in the region.

Nathaniel, as Landon's beta, was naturally formidable. Not only was he Landon's most trusted right-hand man, but also a masterful diplomat.

Cameron, Thorne Corp's head of IT, safeguarded the company's cybersecurity. Other than Phantom from Lightwing Order, no one could rival him.

Hudson was the undisputed leader in the werewolf legal world. If he wanted to, he could put a judge behind bars.

The four had been close friends since childhood, and among them, Landon was the unquestioned leader.

"I'm Tessa Sinclair." Despite sitting among the most powerful families, Tessa remained indifferent, her tone cool and detached.

Hudson and Cameron raised their eyebrows.

She was intriguing. Despite being a wolf-less minor, she displayed no hesitation

or fear, entirely unfazed by their imposing presence.

Before long, the waiter arrived with the food..

Tessa ate only a few bites before setting down her utensils.

"What's wrong? You don't like the food?" Landon had been engaged in

conversation with the others, but his attention had never left her.

"No, I'm just not hungry."

"Eat a little more." Landon personally placed more food on her plate. "Finish what's on your plate."

She was too thin. Just the sight of her stirred a deep ache in his chest.

Watching Landon dote on Tessa so openly, Ysabel grew increasingly anxious, to the point where she lost her own appetite.

"What's wrong? Weren't you just saying you were starving?" Nathaniel asked, glancing at her.

Ysabel had no time to worry about her own hunger. All she wanted was to get Tessa away from Landon as soon as possible. Putting down her utensils, she asked, "Tessie, are you full? Let's go for a walk."

"Okay."

"Uncle Landon, I'm taking Tessie out for a bit," Ysabel announced before pulling Tessa away without waiting for a response.

"What's with her?" Landon asked Nathaniel.

"She's afraid you'll steal Tessa away," Nathaniel teased, though he couldn't deny a flicker of jealousy.

Ysabel was genuinely fond of Tessa.

Landon didn't pursue the topic any further.

"By the way, the Locke family has been getting bolder lately. Find something to

keep them occupied." Landon set down his utensils, picking up his wine glass and swirling the deep red liquid.

"The same Locke family that kidnapped Ysabel?" At the mention of them, Nathaniel's expression darkened.

"Yeah. Don't worry, I'll handle it." Hudson rarely spoke, but when he did, his words carried weight. His actions were always swift, precise, and ruthless.

"Oh, have you guys heard about Clement?" Cameron suddenly spoke up. "What about him?"

"His law firm is under investigation. You guys didn't know? I thought one of you was behind it."

"I was just about to make a move, but someone beat me to it." Nathaniel was caught off guard.

Who else holds a grudge against Clement?

"Someone anonymously reported his firm and submitted solid evidence of tax evasion directly to the authorities."

It was a clean kill with no chance to fight back.

Landon raised an eyebrow. Could it be Tessa again?

Chapter 52 An Insistent Pest

"Tessie, let's go swimming!"

Willow Ridge Resort had everything, and its outdoor pool was top-notch.

"I didn't bring a swimsuit."

"They have everything here. Come on, I'll take you there."

Ysabel led Tessa onto a shuttle to the swimming center.

Before heading inside, they browsed the shop for swimsuits.

After selecting one, Tessa pulled out her card and handed it to the cashier.

"Tessie, there's no need to pay. Willow Ridge Resort belongs to Uncle Landon."

"It's fine. I can pay for myself." She wasn't the type to freeload.

Tessa swiped her card, and the two finally made their way to the swimming center.

Though it was already September, the weather remained sweltering, and the pool teemed with people.

They changed into their swimsuits in the locker room, draped towels over their shoulders, and stepped

out.

Both had long legs and porcelain skin. Even in a sea of beautiful women, they stood out effortlessly.

Their entrance turned heads immediately.

Among the crowd, York caught sight of Tessa the moment she appeared.

He had been tied up with basketball tournaments recently and hadn't had the chance to seek her out. He never expected to run into her here.

Despite confessing to her twice and being brutally rejected both times, not to mention having his arm nearly wrenched out of its socket, York wasn't deterred. If anything, his infatuation had only deepened.

A fierce, untamed girl like her was a challenge, and nothing thrilled him more than the prospect of conquest.

Besides, he was convinced that Tessa simply didn't understand him yet. Once she realized how exceptional he was, she would inevitably fall for him, just like Queenie had.

"York, what are you staring at?" One of his teammates nudged him.

"An old friend. I'm going to say hi."

With that, York strode toward Tessa, exuding what he imagined to be effortless charm.

Clad only in swim trunks, he saw this as the perfect opportunity to flaunt his sculpted physique.

He was certain Tessa would be captivated. After all, every woman appreciated a perfectly sculpted six-pack.

"Tessa, what a coincidence! Are you here with a friend? York's grin was dazzling. "Who are you?" Tessa's tone was flat, her expression devoid of interest.

She had turned him down countless times-clear, direct, and merciless. She had even broken his arm as a warning. Yet, like an insistent pest, he kept coming back

York remained unfazed by her indifference. Striking a pose he thought was debonair, he said, "Why aren't you in the water? Do you not know how to swim? I can teach you. I'm pretty good at it."

Tessa and Ysabel sat at the pool's edge, idly kicking at the water. Since they hadn't dived in yet, York assumed they couldn't swim.

"No need." Tessa tamped down her irritation, unwilling to cause a scene on Landon's turf.

York's teammates, drawn in by the sight of two stunning women, sauntered over as well.

"Hey, gorgeous, come join us! We can teach you how to swim."

Tessa could already feel her patience fraying. If she stayed any longer, she might actually lose her temper. She grabbed Ysabel's hand and stood up. "Not interested."

York's expression darkened. "Tessa, come on! At least show some respect in front of my friends!" He had already swallowed his pride. There was no need for her to make this even more humiliating.

Tessa shot him an icy glance. "Respect? Do you even have any?" She brushed past him without hesitation.

York's face twisted with humiliation. His hand shot out, gripping her shoulder to stop her.

The moment he touched her, Tessa reacted in a flash, seizing his wrist and flipping him over in a swift, brutal throw.

"Ah!" York crashed onto the ground with a sickening thud, groaning in agony, unable to get up.

"Do you not understand my words?" Tessa's voice was glacial. "Or did you already forget the warning I gave you?"

Chapter 53 She is wonderful!

Ysabel couldn't suppress the urge to scream.

Tessie is so wonderful!

She had never realized before how naturally she fit the role of an obsessed fangirl.

York's friends rushed over and hauled him to his feet.

"York, are you alright?"

His face was ashen with rage. He never would have imagined that, as a six-foot- three man, he'd be humiliated in front of a crowd, by a female without a wolf, no less.

Last time, when Tessa had snapped his arm outside the school gates, no one had been around to witness it, so he had swallowed his pride.

But now, with so many eyes on him, his behavior was an unforgivable disgrace.

Tessa and Ysabel turned to leave, but a group of men immediately blocked their path.

"Do you think you can just walk away after hitting someone? Do you take us for dead?"

Tessa glanced over her shoulder, her gaze landing on the man in blue swim trunks.

"What do you want, then?"

"Don't try anything stupid! If you keep making trouble, I'll have you thrown out!" Ysabel spoke up, trying

to sound more confident than she felt.

Each of these men was well over six feet tall, their muscular frames exuding raw strength. If they tapped into their wolves' power, the result would be terrifying.

Tessa was skilled, but she lacked a wolf. Ysabel couldn't help but worry that she was at a disadvantage.

"Throw us out? Who the hell do you think you

are?"

"You!"

"Kneel and apologize to York. We don't have any 'no-hitting-women' rules here." The man in blue trunks sneered, his voice laced with smug contempt.

Tessa adjusted the towel draped over her shoulders, a dangerous gleam flickering in her icy gaze.

Fighting in a swimsuit wasn't ideal, but if they insisted on causing trouble, she had no problem accommodating them.

Her voice was lethally cold. "Looks like I'll have to teach you the lesson your parent you'll never understand that there's always someone stronger than you."

ver did. Otherwise,

The man in blue trunks scoffed. "Save the big talk. Just don't start crying when things don't go your way."

York had been caught off guard the first time, but now they were ready. There was no way she'd get the

swipe.

"Are you sure about that?" Tessa gave him one last chance.

"Come on, then! Someone needs to teach you a lesson. Girls shouldn't be this cocky."

The moment the words left his mouth, York's friends underwent a startling transformation.

A sickening chorus of cracking bones filled the air. Their eyes glowed an eerie green as their nails extended, hardening into razor-sharp claws that gleamed under the poolside lights.

They shifted into their half-wolf forms, fanning out in a tight semicircle to encircle Tessa and Ysabel. Deep, guttural growls rumbled from their throats, vibrating through the air with an unmistakable threat.

The man in blue trunks bared his fangs, glaring at Tessa. "Now you'll learn what happens when you cross us."

With a single command, the werewolves lunged.

Tessa shoved Ysabel behind her, her gaze sharpening. But before she could make a move, two streaks of motion cut through the night like lightning.

Landon and Nathaniel had arrived.

They didn't hesitate. In a blur of movement, they extended their claws and launched themselves into battle.

The pool water churned violently as towering waves crashed against the edges, driven by the sheer force of the fight. Landon's claws slashed through the air with a deafening crack. As the alpha of the Nightshade Pack, his fully transformed right arm swept out with devastating precision, his razor-sharp claws carving crimson arcs wherever they struck.

Nathaniel moved like a shadow, slipping between opponents with terrifying speed. As a beta, his agility was unparalleled. A silver-gray blur, he spun mid-air, his kick shattering an attacker's kneecap with a sickening crunch. In the same breath, he latched his claws around another's throat.

"Move, and I'll paint the floor with your artery."

Landon, however, was a force of pure brutality. In the face of overwhelming strength, resistance was nothing but an illusion.

With one hand, he clamped down on the man in blue trunks' throat and lifted him

off the ground. His claws drove into the werewolf's shoulder blade, the splintering of bone echoing in the stunned silence.

"Ah!"

The agonized scream tore through the night.

g force. The

ry submission. Even

Alpha pheromones flooded the air like an invisible vice pressing down with suffoc remaining werewolves collapsed onto their knees, their bodies trembling in involu. the ceramic tiles beneath them groaned under the pressure, spiderweb cracks splintering across the floor.

Love the Wolfless Power Girl at First Sight

Chapter 54 Give Them Up

When the last man was kicked into the deep end, Landon flicked the lingering blood droplets from his

claws.

The entire fight hadn't even splashed a single drop of water onto Tessa's hair. Her pupils, reflecting the shimmering waves, still retained the remnants of battle—a fierce golden slit radiating raw aggression.

Against two elite werewolves, York and his men had been utterly outmatched.

The battle had ended in an overwhelming, one-sided victory, within the span of ten seconds.

"Are you okay?"

Landon retracted his claws and immediately scanned Tessa with concern.

On the other side, Nathaniel was anxiously checking on Ysabel.

The moment they had received word of a confrontation involving Tessa and Ysabel, they had rushed over, only to witness a group of half-shifted men attempting to corner two defenseless girls without their wolves.

Fortunately, they had arrived in time. Otherwise, the consequences would have been unthinkable.

Upon hearing of Landon's presence, the manager of Willow Ridge Resort hurried over in a panic.

At the sight of the wreckage surrounding the pool, a cold sweat broke out across his forehead. He immediately stepped forward, his expression both tense and respectful. "Alpha, are you all right?"

Landon's tense expression finally eased when he confirmed that Tessa was completely unharmed.

His gaze swept across the men sprawled on the ground, writhing in pain. His voice dropped to a lethal coldness.

"How dare you hurt my people on my territory? You must have a death wish."

Willow Ridge Resort operated under an exclusive VIP system. Therefore, only those of status could enter.

While York and his men had never seen the Nightshade Pack's Alpha, they were well aware that Willow Ridge Resort was under Thorne Corp, which was Landon's domain.

Now, as the manager addressed him as "Alpha," the truth crashed down on them like a death sentence.

The man standing before them wasn't just Landon; he was the Alpha.

They had provoked someone far beyond their comprehension.

The wounded men instantly abandoned their groans of pain. Ignoring their injuries, they scrambled to kneel, frantically bowing their heads in desperate apology.

"Alpha, we're sorry! We didn't know they were yours."

"We only meant to scare them, not actually hurt them."

"Take them away."

Landon waved his hand dismissively, sealing their fate,

Anyone who dared to lay a hand on his people would pay the price.

Nathaniel gestured to the manager, ensuring the matter would be handled discreetly.

Once Nathaniel left with Ysabel, only Landon and Tessa remained.

Tessa met his gaze, sensing the residual chill in his aura and spoke. "I'm sorry. I shouldn't have fought on your territory."

She had been the first to lose control, setting everything in motion.

Landon froze, momentarily speechless. Is that what she thinks I'm angry about?

But when he met Tessa's earnest gaze, his frustration faded into a sigh.

"If you want to fight, then fight. Just don't let yourself get hurt."

As for injuring or even killing someone, that wasn't her concern. He would handle everything.

"Do you still want to swim?"

Tessa shook her head. After all that, the mood was ruined.

She changed into dry clothes, and Landon drove her back to Wisteria Apartment.

Before leaving, he reminded her to rest.

Then, his expression turned ice-cold once more.

It was time to investigate which short-sighted families had raised those arrogant fools.

They wouldn't last in Navoris for much longer.

After resting over the weekend, Monday arrived, bringing the dreaded monthly exams.

Tessa woke up, slipped into her school uniform, and headed out.

As one of the most elite institutions, Navoris High prided itself on its rigorous academic standards and all-encompassing student development.

Unlike other schools, which only conducted midterms and finals, Navoris High held examinations every single month.

On her way to school, Tessa grabbed a burger.

Before she could even take a bite, Winona stepped out of a car, as if she had been waiting for her.

Her tone dripped with jealousy. "Why are you living at Wisteria Apartment?"

Wisteria Apartment wasn't a gated estate, but its prime

Back when she had enrolled at Navoris High, she had 1 had refused.

Seeing someone she had no interest in dealing with so

"Where I live has nothing to do with you.""

"Tessa, don't be ungrateful. I came here to tell you that You'd better give them up immediately."

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Wisteria Apartment wasn't a gated estate, but its prime location made the property prices astronomical.

Back when she had enrolled at Navoris High, she had begged her father to buy her a place there, but he had refused.

Seeing someone she had no interest in dealing with so early in the morning,

Tessa's expression darkened

"Where I live has nothing to do with you."

"Tessa, don't be ungrateful. I came here to tell you that Dad doesn't want you taking Grandpa's shares. You'd better give them up immediately."

Chapter 55 A Bet

Tessa saw through everything and said coolly. "Is it that he doesn't want to, or that you don't? Winona, are you terrified right now? Are you afraid that everything you desire is slipping beyond your control?"

"What are you implying?" Winona felt as if someone had struck a nerve, but she forced herself to remain composed.

"Well, you never truly possessed it to begin with, so how could you lose it?"

Tessa's words made Winona's expression darken. She clenched her fists tightly.

"Tessa, do you think this is amusing?" Winona wanted nothing more than to rip away her mask of indifference.

What gives her the right to act like she has everything under control?

"With your tainted reputation, what qualifications do you have to compete with me?!"

Tessa's voice was icy. "Oh, thanks for reminding me that what happened five years ago isn't over

Winona's stomach twisted. "What do you mean?" There was no evidence left five years ago.

"You'll find out soon enough. Oh, by the way, aren't you playing the role of the perfect, outstanding student? Tell me, if I surpass you in academics and athletics, will your beloved father still favor you as much?"

Winona nearly laughed out loud. "Surpass me? Tessa, don't overestimate yourself. Since the start of high school, I've ranked in the top three of every subject. And you? Dumped in some backwater town like Falindale, squandering your days away. What could you possibly use to compete with me? Besides, who still cares about the truth from five years ago? Right now, you're nothing but a disgrace."

"Oh, really?" Tessa sneered, stepping forward. For a fleeting moment, the sheer force of her presence made Winona instinctively recoil.

Tessa's voice was slow and deliberate. "Winona, I will take everything you cherish from you, one piece at a time."

She didn't waste another breath and brushed past Winona, leaving without hesitation.

Watching her retreating figure, so composed and self-assured, Winona felt a strange sense of unease creeping into her chest.

"Ms. Winona, don't worry," the Sinclair family's driver stepped forward to reassure her. "Tessa is nothing more than a wolf-less nobody. She didn't even receive a proper education in Falindale. There's no way she could surpass you. Everything you desire will be yours, Ms. Winona."

Winona exhaled slowly, regaining her composure.

skills.

That's right. How could Tessa ever be my match? I have spent the last five years studying relentlessly, honing perfecting my abilities. Meanwhile, Tessa was either skipping classes or consorting with rogues. There is absolutely no way I could lose to a worthless failure like her.

At Navoris High, Ysabel arrived at the classroom before Tessa. The moment she spotted her, she

"What's up?" Tessa asked, still chewing on a burger as she strolled over.

"This is for you." Ysabel handed her a workbook.

"What's this?"

"You made a bet with Freya, didn't you? You have to pass the physics exam."

"Oh, right." That did happen.

Freya had disliked Tessa from the very beginning, believing she would drag down the class's overall performance.

She constantly targeted her in class, even resorting to outright insults.

Tessa had demanded an apology, but Freya refused, declaring that unless Tessa could pass the next monthly exam and prove she wasn't incompetent, she wouldn't apologize. If Tessa failed, she had to drop out voluntarily.

Before the entire class, Tessa had accepted the challenge.

"These are the questions I highlighted that might be on the test. Go through them carefully."

The literature exam had taken place that morning, math was in the afternoon, and physics was scheduled for tomorrow, so there was still time.

Tessa couldn't help but chuckle at Ysabel's serious expression.

"What's wrong? I'm being completely serious. What's so funny?"

"Ysabel, I have to tell you, my grades aren't bad."

"Tessie, I know you have your pride, but we need to acknowledge reality, okay?" Ysabel said carefully. She didn't mean to hurt Tessa's feelings, but she knew exactly how abysmal her scores had been in Falindale. It was nothing short of disastrous.

Besides, ever since transferring to Navoris High, Tessa had spent every class sleeping. She couldn't possibly pass the exam.

For most subjects, it didn't matter, but for Freya's class, passing was a must. There was no way Ysabel would let Tessa lose this bet.

"Alright, I get it." Tessa grinned.

She didn't listen in class because she already knew everything the teachers were covering. Sleeping was simply a better use of her time.

Back in Falindale, the teachers had been biased against her. No one had ever cared about her grades. During exams, she would skim the questions, lose interest, and leave most of them blank.

And yet, everyone had actually convinced themselves that she was an idiot.

Tessa didn't tell Ysabel that she had another goal to defeat Winona. If she did, Ysabel might actually try to steal the test answers for her.

At exactly nine o'clock, the exam began.

And with it, the first step of her revenge against Winona was officially set into motion.

Chapter 56 I Can Tutor You

Tessa cast a brief glance at the essay prompt, spent five minutes structuring her thoughts, and then began writing fluidly and effortlessly.

In less than half an hour, she completed her essay.

Flipping to the first page of the exam paper, she breezed through the basic knowledge section in ten minutes.

Next came the reading comprehension. It took her 20 minutes to complete it.

Finally, she spent another ten minutes transferring her answers onto the answer sheet.

She didn't even bother to review her work before closing her eyes and taking a nap.

When time was up, Tessa was the first to submit her exam.

Ysabel watched her turn it in so quickly and couldn't help but feel concerned. Has she really ? The exam's time limit is usually just enough for most students, and some slower writers don't even finish their essays.

Meanwhile, in the first exam room, Winona her essay with only ten minutes to spare.

Her red lips curled into a faint smirk. She was highly satisfied with her answers.

Of course, there was no way she would lose to Tessa. She was no longer the same Winona from five years

ago.

At 11:30, the exam concluded. When Ysabel exited the exam hall, Tessa was already waiting for her.

"Tessie, how did the exam go?"

"It was average."

This test had been somewhat challenging, particularly the literary analysis section, which was obscure and convoluted. But for Tessa, it was hardly a challenge.

"You sound pretty confident. Winona, what did you think of the difficulty?"

They were in the advanced placement class, filled with students aiming for Ivy League universities. If they found the exam challenging, Tessa's nonchalance seemed almost unbelievable.

"I thought it was manageable." Winona smiled, maintaining her ever-graceful demeanor.

"Daphne, why are you even asking Winona? She's ranked in the top three of our grade. No matter how hard the test is, she always scores an A."

Daphne Wilson chuckled awkwardly. "That's true."

"Tessa is Winona's sister, so naturally, she thinks the exam was easy too."

Though the words seemed casual, the underlying mockery was undeniable. Tessa was being ridiculed for overestimating herself.

"Tessie, it's okay if you find it difficult. Once the monthly exams are over, I can tutor you." Winona smiled warmly.

How fake. Winona is the most insincere person imaginable.

"We'll see who ends up tutoring whom."

Tessa ignored them and walked away with Ysabel.

Behind them, a few girls continued to shower Winona with flattery.

"Tessa turned in her paper in under two hours and still has the audacity to insist it was easy?"

"This test was definitely tough. Tessa spent too much time coasting at Falindale. It's normal if she can't handle it."

Navoris High crafted its own exams, and their difficulty level was significantly higher than those of other

schools.

Ysabel clenched her fists. "I can't bear it anymore! They're so full of themselves."

"Let them enjoy their arrogance for a couple more days!"

"Tessie, grades aren't everything. In school, people focus on scores, but in the real world, what truly matters is ability." Ysabel worried that she might take the criticism to heart.

At noon, Landon still came to have lunch with them.

His company was more than half an hour away by car, and with the rush-hour traffic, it took him over fifty minutes to get there.

"How was the exam this morning?" He asked casually, knowing they had their monthly tests today.

"It was pretty difficult. I'm not even sure if I can get a B

Landon didn't press further. He wasn't particularly concerned about grades.

"Eat, then take a nap."

"Okay." Ysabel obeyed without hesitation.

Not because she was naturally obedient. She was just afraid.

If she didn't listen to Landon, the consequences would be disastrous.

Once Sabel went to sleep, Tessa began tidying up the table. The housekeeper had left after cooking and wouldn't return until later in the afternoon, but she couldn't stand seeing the leftover food sitting on the table.

After she cleaning, Landon handed her a notebook.

"What's this?"

"Notes I organized for you."

Tessa opened it and found a physics notebook.

The content was structured with remarkable clarity making even complex concepts simple to understand

The handwriting was meticulously neat.

She looked at Landon in surprise. "You wrote this for me?"

Chapter 57 She Was Determined to Size It

"Yeah." Worried that Tessa wouldn't understand his handwriting, Landon deliberately wrote slowly, making each character neat and tidy.

Even though she didn't actually need these notes, seeing that he had personally filled an entire notebook for her still touched Tessa.

"Mr. Thorne, is this how you always pursue girls?"

"No. You're the first, and you'll be the last."

He looked like a man of many affections, but in reality, he was deeply indifferent.

Tessa stayed silent, but deep down, she felt quite happy

"Thanks. I got your gift." Not wanting to disappoint Landon, she accepted the notebook and decided to keep it as a memento.

Because of the upcoming exams, there were no evening classes for the next two days.

As soon as she stepped out of the exam hall, Walter's call came through.

"Tessie, are you coming home tonight? I've already had the lawyer prepare everything. You can sign the share transfer agreement anytime."

If he said he would give her shares, he would follow through.

"Grandpa, can I refuse?"

"Tessie, listen to me. I know you don't care for these things, but this is my way of giving you some security."

Ever since Tessa was born, a witch had prophesied that she would have no wolf. A werewolf without a wolf and without any other backing would struggle to survive in the werewolf world.

Other than himself, no one in the Sinclair family would truly care for Tessa.

He feared that after his death, she would be hurt.

He wanted to give her as much protection as he could while he was still alive.

With these shares, she would be a shareholder of Sinclair Corp, giving her at least some standing.

"Alright, I understand." Tessa knew Walter's intentions and couldn't bring herself to refuse.

But before she could go home, Yardley's call came in. "I'm at the back gate of your school. Come here

now."

His commanding tone was grating.

Tessa walked to the back gate and immediately spotted Yardley's black Mercedes.

As she approached, the driver stepped forward and opened the car door for her.

Tessa raised an eyebrow. Does he actually care about my grades?

"I don't like studying, you know that. Are you just trying to make me awful by asking this kind of question?" She had never been able to give Yardley a pleasant attitude.

"Tessa, no matter what, I am your father. You're acting completely uneducated." Yardley's expression darkened. "Don't waste your days messing around outside. Learn from Winona. Look at how she studies. how she carries herself."

They're both my daughters, so why is the difference so big?

"Learn from her? Does she even have the qualifications" Tessa sneered.

That cold, mocking smile sent chills down his spine..

"I'm not here to argue. You are not to take that 20 percent share your grandpa is giving you." That was his real reason for coming today.

"If Grandpa is giving it to me, then I will take it."

As expected, the moment those words fell, Yardley's face twisted with anger.

The more frustrated he became, the better Tessa felt.

"Tessa." His voice carried a warning. "I told you. You are not to take that 20 percent. Otherwise, don't blame me for being ruthless."

No matter who it was, if they threatened the Sinclair family's interests, Yardley would not hold back.

He had long stopped seeing Tessa as his daughter. If those shares fell into her hands, it would be no different from them landing in an outsider's.

This was something Yardley would never allow.

Tessa pushed open the car door and stepped out. Without looking back, she threw out a sharp parting shot, "Well then, prepare to be disappointed. Not only will I take the shares, but I'll take Sinclair Corp too."

The more they wanted to control something, the more she was determined to seize it, even if she didn't care for it in the first place.

Chapter 58 I Will Not Regret It

"Shameless boasting." Yardley had no patience to argue with her. Tessa was just a minor without a wolf, a high school dropout at that. He refused to believe she could cause any real trouble.

By the time Tessa arrived at the Sinclair Residence, everyone was present except Cedric,

When they saw her, Yardley's and Lila's expressions darkened. How dare she have the audacity to accept it?

"Tessie, come over here and chat with me. Mr. Sergeant hasn't arrived yet."

"Dad, this 20 percent stake is too important to Sinclair Corp. Are you really going to just hand it over to her?"

Yardley refused to give up.

Walter ignored him. It was his asset; he could give it to whoever he pleased.

"Dad, Tessie is still young. Giving her something this valuable isn't protecting her; it might be harming

her."

"How would it harm her? You two don't care about her, but as her grandpa, I do!"

"Dad, Sinclair Corp isn't just our family's anymore. The other shareholders are watching. If you give the shares to a little girl and they decide to act against her, none of us will be able to protect her." Power struggles had always played out this way; he should have known.

Walter fell silent. After years in the business world, he understood its filth all too well.

And in the werewolf world, survival belonged to the strong.

"Tessie is your daughter. If either of you dares to lay a hand on her, I won't forgive you."

He wouldn't live much longer. In the end, Tessie would be on her own. She had to become strong.

"Tessie, are you afraid?"

Tessa gripped her grandpa's hand. "Grandpa, I've never been afraid."

If growth meant facing these things, then so be it. She feared nothing. Besides, she was no longer the girl she had been five years ago. Now, she was strong enough to face it all.

Walter felt relieved. In Tessa, he saw a reflection of his younger self.

For some reason, he firmly believed that even though she had yet to awaken her werewolf power, she was destined for greatness.

"Tessa, have you thought this through?" Yardley's gaze was ice-cold.

Just then, the lawyer arrived.

"Mr. Walter, are you certain?" The lawyer, Logan Sergeant, was also concerned about whether Tessa could hold on to what Walter was giving her.

tuition fee for you."

Tessa was moved once again.

With the lawyer as a witness, Walter and Tessa signed the agreement and pressed their fingerprints onto the document.

"Mr. Walter, please sign here." Logan knew Walter had made up his mind and decided not to argue further.

"Ms. Sinclair, sign here."-

"It's done. The shares now belong to Ms. Sinclair."

Walter had someone escort Logan out.

"From now on, Tessa is a shareholder of Sinclair Corp, having inherited my stake. Tessa, don't disappoint me."

Tired of the family tension, Walter, now older, went upstairs.

Tessa gathered her things and prepared to leave.

"Tessie, you're still young. We're just looking out for you. Let your dad hold on to the shares for you. You're our daughter, and we wouldn't harm you," Lila said gently.

"That's right! Let me keep them safe. Once you find a reliable partner and get married, I'll return them to you untouched," Yardley added.

Tessa couldn't help but laugh. The world has always been this way.

Power and wealth dictated loyalty.

Faced with them, her parents looked utterly pathetic.

"What's so funny? I'm doing this for your own good! Do you even understand how to run a company?" Yardley's face stiffened as he tried to reassert his authority as her father.

Chapter 59

"I don't need to understand! I just need to collect my dividends. Isn't that enough?"

"You!" Yardley was so furious that he momentarily lost the ability to speak.

"Tessie, think carefully. The shareholders of Sinclair Corp are all ruthless. How could a young girl like you possibly stand against them?" Lila put on a motherly facade, her expression gentle yet insincere.

"Dying at their hands is still better than dying at yours!

"You..." Lila nearly exploded with rage.

"Fine! If you think you're so capable now, I won't interfere anymore. But you'd better guard those shares with your life. If you end up losing everything and dragging yourself down with it, don't come crying to

us."

"Even if I'm left with nothing, I'll never seek you out."

Tessa grabbed the file folder and turned on her heel, walking away without hesitation.

"How did I give birth to such a worthless disgrace?" Lila seethed, slamming a cup onto the table, sending shards flying.

Winona, who had been silently observing, took the opportunity to chime in sweetly, "Mom, she won't be smug for long."

"Exactly. She won't be smug for long. What's 20 percent of the shares worth, anyway? Once you marry into the Thunder Pack's alpha, the Lawson family, you'll have anything you desire." The lady of the Lawson family adored Winona. If not for her being underage, the woman would have long since married her off to

her son.

For years, Lila had meticulously groomed Winona to become the future Luna of the Thunder Pack.

"That's right." Winona lifted her chin with pride.

The Thunder Pack was the second-largest pack in Navoris. Connor Lawson, the youngest son of the Lawson family, was not only strikingly handsome and immensely powerful but also the most promising heir to the alpha position.

It didn't matter how much Tessa had once liked Connor. In the end, the only woman who would marry into the Lawson family was Winona.

Leaving the Sinclair Residence, Tessa glanced at the file folder in her hands and let out a cold chuckle.

It was all Yardley and the others had ever wanted.

But what they failed to realize was that these shares meant nothing to her.

Yet her own parents had schemed, threatened, and put on elaborate performances just to obtain them. What an utterly pathetic irony.

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3

"Alpha, should we stop?" the driver asked Landon.

He knew exactly why Landon had come.

"No. Follow her slowly."

The driver said nothing more. The car rolled forward at a incasured pace, never losing sight of Tessa.

She was lost in thought, completely unaware of the vehicle shadowing her for so long.

It wasn't until the sky darkened and rain began to pour that she finally halted. "Stop the car."

Landon stepped out, striding toward her without hesitation before sweeping her into his arms.

Tessa looked up in shock, meeting his striking gaze. "What are you doing here?" "To bring you home."

Landon carried her into the car. The downpour drenched them both, rainwater trickling from their hair and clothes.

"Wisteria Apartment," he instructed.

Once there, Landon filled the bathtub with warm water adding a few drops of essential oil before stepping out and gathering Tessa into his arms again.

"Mr. Thorne, don't you think you're getting a little too accustomed to carrying me around?"

Despite her teasing, she still looped her arms around his neck.

In the bathroom, Landon set her down with ease.

"My pleasure. If you don't want to lift a finger, I could even help you."

"No need."

The memory of Landon bathing her before made Tessa's face flush. She shoved him out of the room, leaning against the door as her heart pounded.

As the formidable alpha of the Nightshade Pack, he treated her with such unwavering care. It was impossible not to be drawn in.

"Soak a little longer," he said from the other side. The weather had shifted so suddenly, the autumn rain, bringing an unexpected chill.

Tessa slipped out of her damp clothes and eased into the bath.

The warm water enveloped her, drawing a satisfied sigh from her lips.

Landon truly knew how to indulge in comfort. The bathtub maintained its temperature, allowing her to Soak as long as she pleased without worrying about the water cooling.

Outside Landon took a quick shower and changed into loungewear

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As soon as he stepped out, he noticed Tessa's phone buzzing incessantly.

She still hadn't emerged, so he walked over and picked it up.

An unfamiliar number flashed on the screen, without saved contact.

Landon didn't answer. Instead, he knocked on the bathroom door.

"You have a call. No saved name."

"Oh. I'll call back later."

"Don't soak too long. You might pass out."

"Alright."

24%

Hearing the door close, Tessa finally climbed out of the bath, dried herself off, and slipped into a cozy set of loungewear.

Only then did she check her phone.

It was Lina.

She rarely called unless it was urgent.

Tessa answered immediately. "What's wrong?"

Chapter 60 I Always Keep My Word

As soon as Lina heard Tessa's voice, she immediately let out a sigh of relief. "You finally answered! I thought something had happened to you."

"What could possibly happen to me?" Tessa asked while drying her hair with a towel. "What do you need?"

"Oh, right. Captain Simpson brought Mr. Young back. He wanted to thank you and asked me for your number."

"As long as he's back, that's all that matters. No need to give him my number."

"Phantom, Captain Simpson has some influence in Navoris. Getting to know him wouldn't hurt you."

"There's no need." She had always been used to being on her own. Even forming the Lightwing Order had been a coincidence.

After hanging up, Tessa drying her hair and stepped out. The people from Lunar Harmony House had already delivered the food.

"You haven't eaten yet?" It's already late. Why hasn't he eaten?

"No, join me." In reality, Landon had already eaten. He just had the food delivered because she hadn't

eaten yet.

Tessa sat across from him. They ate quietly.

Landon only took a few bites before focusing on serving Tessa food, putting dishes on her plate and serving her soup.

By the time they were done, Tessa had eaten quite a lot.

Afterward, she took the initiative to clean up.

Landon didn't stay He left right after they eating. It seemed like he had only come to make sure she ate.

Previously, when Landon said he wanted to pursue her she had worried that he would be too aggressive and disrupt her solitary lifestyle.

But now, it seemed like he had found the perfect balance. Not only did he not make her uncomfortable, but he even made her feel at ease.

The next day was the physics exam. The calculations were extensive, but Tessa it with ease.

She handed in her paper with half an hour left on the clock.

In the afternoon, during the foreign language exam, she leisurely filled in the answer sheet and wrote her essay. She genuinely didn't find this test difficult at all.

Once the exams ended, everyone was discussing them.

"Tessie, how did you do?" Ysabel looked genuinely worried about her score.

"Not bad."

"Do you think you'll pass physics?"

"I will."

Freya happened to walk by and scoffed when she heard that.

24%

"You never pay attention in class, and you still think you'll pass? What do we even need teachers for, then?"

"We'll know once the results come out, won't we? Ms. Knox, there's no need to be so impatient. I always keep my word. If I fail this time, I'll drop out."

"Tessie!" Ysabel was anxious. The physics exam is really tough this time. More than half the class will probably fail. Why is she being so confident?

"Oh? Then I'm really looking forward to your test results." Freya sneered, clearly not believing her.

Tessa ignored her mockery and was about to go eat with Ysabel when they ran into Winona and her classmates.

One of Winona's classmates asked, "Winona, how did you do this time?" "It was okay."

"You always say that, but you're always in the top three."

"Exactly! Winona is just that amazing. She is smart and beautiful. I wonder which guy will be lucky enough to get her."

"Ugh." Ysabel rolled her eyes, unable to listen to their self-congratulations any longer.

"Ysabel, what's that supposed to mean?" Winona's classmate questioned.

"Nothing at all. This isn't your place. Why do you care what I do?"

"You!"

"Forget it, don't waste time talking to them. Every student in our class crushes theirs."

Indeed, even their worst students were leagues ahead of Class 8.

"You!"

Although what they said was true, Ysabel still found it annoying.

"So what if you have good grades? A bunch of bookworms." Ysabel was pissed.

"Who are you calling a bookworm?"

A girl with glasses shoved Ysabel.

"I'm talking about you What about it?" Veahel wasn't one to back down

The girl raised her hand to push her again, but Tessa grabbed her wrist.

"Keep your hands to yourself."

The girl scoffed. "Tessa, do you really think you're something just because you got Queenie into jail? In Navoris High, being good at basketball means nothing. Your grades are trash. What do you have to be proud of?"

Tessa smirked coldly. "You think intelligence is something to be proud of? Then you'd better look forward to the test results."