

Alpha-less 61

Chapter 61 She Might Not Be Coming

Leaving those words behind, Tessa took Ysabel with her and left.

"Winona, how did she do on the exam?" From her tone it seemed like she had done well this time.

"Not great."

"Good. Let's see how long she can stay smug."

In the Navoris High office, the language arts teachers were already grading the

exams.

Everything was graded online now, with more than 30 teachers working simultaneously.

Suddenly, one of them stood up.

"Oh my goodness! I've been teaching for years, but this is the first time I've come across an essay like this."

"What's wrong?"

Hearing his reaction, the other teachers gathered around.

"Take a look at this essay."

A few of them read it together. It was the most flawless essay they had ever seen.

No matter how they examined it, there was nothing to criticize.

"Which class is this student from? How did we never notice them before?"

"No idea. It doesn't seem like one of mine."

"Mr. Russell, is this from your class?" George Russell was the language arts teacher for Class One, where all the top students were. The essay was most likely from one of his students.

George glanced at it and immediately shook his head.

"The handwriting is too neat. No one in my class writes like this."

"Who is this dark horse?"

The Navoris High language arts teachers were all curious about the essay's author.

At the same time, in the physics department, the physics teachers were also grading exams.

The final physics problem had exceeded high school difficulty. Ninety-eight percent of Navoris High students couldn't even begin to solve it and left it blank

- problem was "This physics test was way too hard. It took me an hour just to finish the whole thing" not only difficult but also required an immense amount of calculations. More than half of Class One had completely bombed the exam.

Freya stayed silent. Even Kevin Clark, Class One's physics teacher, had taken an hour to complete it. She had attempted it too but had no clue how to solve the final problem.

"Ms. Know, what do you think? Did you get the last question?" Kevin asked again.

"I did. I didn't think it was that hard." Not wanting to lose her reputation, Freya refused to admit she had failed to solve it.

"Heh." Kevin knew her level and took her words as

joke.

Freya caught the mockery in his tone but didn't dare to argue. After all, she wasn't as good at physics as Kevin.

"No way! A student actually solved the final problem. Every step and the final answer are entirely correct!"

"Really? It must be one of ours!" Among all the classes, only Class One had someone capable of doing it.

"Probably. In physics, who else could compare to Nico from your class?"

Nico Dawson was the academic star of Navoris High. Since enrolling, he had ranked first in every subject, except for physical education, where he lagged behind.

Kevin walked over to check, but the handwriting wasn't Nico's.

"It's not from our class."

Everyone was stunned. If it's not Nico, then who is it? Is there another genius at Navoris High?

On Friday night, Walter's 80th birthday banquet was held at the Scuderia Hotel.

Walter didn't like lively gatherings, so it was just a small dinner with two tables of relatives.

"Did you notify Tessie?"

Seeing that it was almost six and Tessa still hadn't arrived, Walter turned to Lila.

"Don't worry! I told her. But you know how she is. I can't say whether she will come or not." Lila had never liked Tessa.

Winona was obedient and well-behaved, while Tessa was always arrogant and refused to listen to anyone. "Grandpa, Tessa might not be coming. I saw her leave with a Rogue after school."

Winona casually lied, hoping to turn her grandpa against Tessa and make him stop caring about her.

Chapter 62 The Present

Lila immediately interjected, "Dad, just leave her be. Today is your 80th birthday, and we have so many relatives here. Why let Tessa embarrass us?"

Walter slammed his cup onto the table with a resounding crash.

"Embarrassment? Who here feels embarrassed? If anyone refuses to dine with Tessa, they're welcome to leave." His fury ignited. No matter what he did, they still treated Tessa like an outsider.

"What's going on?"

Hearing the commotion, Yardley strode over.

"Tell Tessa that if she doesn't come, dinner won't be served."

All he wanted was a harmonious family gathering. But without Tessa, it felt meaningless,

Yardley's expression darkened. "Dad, you're 80 years old. Tessa may be

immature, but must you be as well? Everyone is waiting. They're our elders. Does

it really matter if one junior isn't present? Why make the entire family wait for her?"

Just then, the door swung open, and Tessa stepped inside.

She hadn't received Lila's call, but she knew it was Walter's birthday. Finding out their dinner location had been effortless.

"Grandpa, I'm here."

The moment Walter saw her, his hardened expression softened.

"Tessie! Come sit with me."

Tessa walked over and took a seat beside him.

"Grandpa, there's no need to be upset. It's your birthday; of course I'd come."

Walter's stern expression softened into a warm smile. As expected, Tessa was his favorite.

He reached out, patting her head affectionately.

"Tessie, what will you do when I'm no longer around?"

"Grandpa, you're in great health. Don't say such things,

"Alright, since everyone is here, let's start the dinner." durb

Yardley remained silent, though his expression was still grim. After all, it was Walter's birthday, no one wanted to spoil the occasion.

"Winnie, your midterms are over, right? How did you do?" Chloe Zimmerman, Winona's aunt, suddenly spoke up.

"Aunt Chloe, I did alright."

"I heard from Tina that the test was particularly tough! Lila, you're so fortunate" Chloe's voice dripped with flattery.

Lila smiled, pleased with the shift in conversation. She had invested so much in Winona's success.

"Tina is a lovely girl too. I'm sure she did well."

"I probably did better than Tessa." Tina Quinn smirked.

"Tina, mind your words." Chloe feigned concern, then turned to Tessa. "Tessie, don't take her seriously. Tina is still young. She doesn't know any better."

"I don't mind." Tessa's tone was indifferent. Why should care about insignificant people?

"Tessie, you've finally returned to Navoris and enrolled at Navoris High. It's not like those Falindale schools that ignore grades. You should focus on your studies instead of wasting time like before."

"Aunt Chloe, and how exactly was I wasting time before"

Tessa raised an eyebrow. It was obvious they were provoking her.

"Do you truly believe you have the right to judge my life?"

"Tessa! Is that how you speak to your aunt?" Lila snapped.

"I've always spoken this way-rude and disobedient, isn't that what you've already decided?" Tessa's voice was cold. "And let me remind you, today is Grandpa's birthday. I'll overlook the situation for now, but if I hear anything like this again, don't blame me for being harsh."

Their pretentious praise and veiled insults disgusted her.

"Enough! Are we eating or not?"

Walter's voice cut through the tension, silencing the room.

"Tessie, don't take their words to heart." Walter sighed, his gaze filled with pity.

After dinner, the family began presenting their gifts.

"Grandpa, I have something for you as well."

Winona stood, retrieving a deep blue velvet box.

"I purchased this antique Colt revolver at Sotheby's Auction for 70,000 dollars. I hope you like it."

"Winnie, you're so thoughtful. It's 70,000 dollars!" Chloe's eyes gleamed. That was no small sum for an ordinary family.

"It's just a bit of interest from my trust fund and some extra money I earned from part-time work. It's nothing too extravagant. I just want Grandpa to be happy." Winona smiled sweetly, though she shot a quick glance at Tessa.

Last week, Walter had transferred 20 percent of Sinclair Corp's shares to Tessa. If

she failed to present a gift, or if hers was unimpressive, he would surely be disappointed.

"Tessa, Mr.

Walter gave you 20 percent of the companys shares, yet you didn't prepare anything for his birthday?" Chloe sneered, unwilling to let her off easily

"How much I give to Tessa is my decision as her grandpa," Walter said coldly. "I'm

an old man nearing the end of my days; I have no need for gifts."

"Grandpa, don't be upset. I did prepare something for you."

"Oh? What is it?" Walter's interest was piqued.

Winona's expression darkened. Why is Grandpa always so biased toward Tessa?

I carefully chose something he loves. But with just one glance, he simply tells the butler to put it away. Yet now, he actually seems interested in Tessa's gift.

She was desperate to see what Tessa had prepared.

Chapter 63 I Will Take Everything

At that moment, the private room's door swung open.

A man in a designer suit stepped inside, carrying an oak box. The gold-embossed

"MOMA" logo on the lid gleamed under the light.

"Is Ms. Sinclair here?"

"Here."

Tessa rose to her feet as the man placed the box in front of her.

She carefully lifted the lid, revealing a painting encased in a bulletproof glass frame.

"Grandpa, I know how much you adore Jackson Pollocks work, so I acquired this- Number Five.' I hope you'll like it."

Walter's obsession with Pollock was undeniable, bordering on reverence.

His lips curled into a delighted smile as he adjusted his gold-rimmed monocle, his gaze fixed intently on the artwork.

The 1948 abstract expressionist masterpiece shimmered under the chandelier's glow, the thick oil paint almost fluid in appearance. Walter's voice trembled with excitement.

"Tessie, I love it. But this is worth far more than the shares I gave you. Where did you get that kind of money?"

Pollock's paintings were nearly impossible to acquire, even for the wealthy.

"A Pollock's painting?" Chloe scoffed. "Paintings of this caliber belong in national galleries. Don't try to fool us with a forgery. Besides, how could a minor like you afford it?"

"Who said it's a fake?" The suited man produced a carbon-14 authentication certificate from the museum. "Ms. Sinclair won it at auction six months ago, and the transaction was finalized just yesterday."

"Grandpa, happy birthday." Tessa pressed a button, lifting the protective glass. The kaleidoscopic swirls of paint instantly reflected off the crystal chandelier, casting an enchanting glow. "You always said this was twentieth-century Montedra's greatest art."

Securing this painting had been no easy feat, but if it brought Walter joy, every effort was worthwhile.

"You truly believe this idea is real?" Winona asked, skepticism lacing her tone. She knew little about art, but she refused to believe Tessa had the means to obtain an authentic Pollock painting.

"It is genuine." Walter had spent decades studying Pollock's work. There was no mistaking the authenticity.

The room fell silent, stunned, Tessa, once dismissed as a nobody from Falindale, had suddenly demonstrated astonishing wealth and influence.

After the banquet, Tessa escorted Walter home before departing from the Sinclair Residence.

"Tessa, stop right there."

She paused mid-step.

Winona stormed toward her.

"Where did you get that painting? It's a fake, isn't it? How dare you deceive Grandpa?"

Tessa met her gaze with unshaken composure. "Everything I own is authentic. I have no interest in counterfeits."

Is Winona really so deluded that she writes off anything beyond her reach as fake?

"It must have been that man with the Lamborghini, right?" Winona sneered. "Tessa, how pathetic! You're selling yourself for material things. He's just playing with you. Once he gets bored, he'll toss you aside. Do you really think any decent man would ever take you seriously?"

Winona refused to admit the unease creeping into her heart. It was just a painting, one the Sinclair family could certainly afford. It meant nothing.

"Hah." Tessa let out a soft, mocking laugh but said nothing more.

"Do you remember Connor from Thunder Pack? The one you secretly liked for

two years? He's coming back soon! And now, as Thunder Pack's first-in-line heir,

I will marry him and become their future Luna!

Tessa turned away, uninterested. "Oh? Well, congratulations in advance."

Then, as if offhandedly, she asked, "Winona, were all those schemes you plotted against me back then just because of Connor?"

Winona stiffened, her face a mask of denial. "I have no idea what you're talking about."

Tessa scoffed, an undeniable pressure radiating from her. "Don't you? Don't worry, you will soon."

With that, she turned and walked away, leaving behind only an air of cool detachment.

Watching Tessa's effortless confidence, Winona clenched her fists so tightly her nails dug into her palms.

Tessa, you worthless, wolfless nobody! What right do you have to act so high and mighty? Do you really think you're above us all just because Grandpa favors you and you own shares in Sinclair Corp? One day, I will take everything from you, including Connor, the man you once loved.

Chapter 64

Cameron treated everyone to a meal at the Linton Club to celebrate his sister, Charlotte Quest, winning third place in the perfume competition.

Charlotte had always liked Landon. Since middle school, she had been preparing herself to marry him.

Now, she had not only awakened a powerful wolf but also made a name for herself in the werewolf perfume industry and even founded her own fragrance company.

With her family background and abilities, she should be worthy of Landon and fit to be his Luna.

"Time really flies! That little Charlotte, who used to have a runny nose, has grown up," Nathaniel teased.

"Nathaniel, what nonsense are you talking about? When did I ever have a runny nose?"

"Is it nonsense? I still remember how you used to follow the four of us around and cry so easily."

"Nathaniel!"

Does he really have to bring this up in front of the man I like? Does my dignity mean nothing to him?

Charlotte gazed obsessively at Landon, who sat across from her. How is he so attractive? He doesn't even have to do anything. Just sitting there quietly, he radiates strength effortlessly. And with that devastatingly handsome face, he's absolutely mesmerizing.

At that moment, Ysabel arrived with Tessa. After hearing they were hanging out here, Ysabel insisted on coming and dragged Tessa along with her.

Nathaniel, knowing they were on their way, immediately went out to greet them. "Why aren't you sleeping at home at this hour? What are you doing here?" Nathaniel asked, though he was obviously pleased to see her.

"Is being bored not a good enough reason?"

Not bothering to entertain him, Ysabel walked inside as soon as the server opened the door.

"Charlotte, congratulations! I heard your perfume for this competition was really unique."

Landon, who had been silently drinking on the side, stood up when he saw Tessa, pulled out a chair for her, and let her sit down.

"Have you eaten dinner?"

"I have."

"Then have some juice." Landon called a server and ordered two glasses of juice for Tessa and Ysabel.

"It was okay," Charlotte replied to Ysabel's comment, but her gaze remained fixed on Tessa.

Why is Landon being so attentive to a female without a wolf? Is it just because she is Ysabel's classmate?

"Charlotte, let me introduce you. This is my classmate, Tessa Sinclair."

Love the Wolfless Power Girl at First Sight

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"Charlotte, let me introd

you. This is my classmate, Tessa Sinclair."

"Hello, I'm Charlotte Quest," Charlotte said with a polite smile.

"She's Charlotte, Cameron's sister. You'll have plenty of chances to meet her in

the future," Landon murmured near Tessa's ear.

"Nice to meet you, Tessa."

Tessa stood up and shook hands with her.

"You have no classes tomorrow. Why don't you take them out to have some fun?" Nathaniel suggested.

"Good idea! It's been a while since we went out," Ysabel said excitedly.

"Where to?" Cameron asked.

"This is a club. What can't we do here?" Landon planned to send the two girls

back by eleven.

"True."

The group headed toward the game room.

Charlotte pulled Ysabel aside so they walked behind the others.

"Ysabel, your uncle treats Tessa very differently. What's their relationship?" As a woman, Charlotte couldn't help but feel a sense of crisis.

Even though Tessa was weak and didn't even have a wolf, the Thorne family didn't seem to mind. After all, they adored Ysabel despite her being wolf-less.

And besides, Tessa was stunning. Charlotte was already recognized as a great beauty in the werewolf world, yet the moment she saw Tessa, she was captivated. Especially that natural air of cold indifference. It only added to her mysterious charm.

"Charlotte, what are you even saying? Tessa is just my classmate. Uncle Landon is far too old for her. She wouldn't be interested."

"You silly girl. In Montedra's werewolf world, do you really think there's a female who wouldn't want your uncle?"

Landon was the ultimate Alpha-powerful, commanding, and unmatched. Any female would have jumped at the chance to be his mate. Age meant nothing when it came to him.

Chapter 65 It Would Only Belong to Her!

Ysabel immediately replied, "Tessa is different."

The other women practically wanted to devour Landon upon seeing him. But Tessa was not like them.

"Let's hope so!"

After calming down, Charlotte couldn't help but mock herself.

What am I even thinking? Tessa is just a high school girl. Sure she's pretty, but there's no way she can support Landon. More importantly, a female without a wolf could never be the Luna of the Nightshade Pack. Even if the Thorne family agrees, the pack elders would never allow it.

Cameron glanced at Charlotte and suggested, "Let's play pool."

He knew Charlotte liked Landon, but Landon had never shown any interest. Still,

he wanted to give her a chance. Charlotte was the best female werewolf when it came to pool. This was her chance to impress him.

"Sure!" Charlotte responded immediately.

In front of Landon, she always wanted to show her best side.

"Tessa, do you know how to play?" Ysabel asked, uninterested in the game.

"No," Tessa replied, without much enthusiasm.

"It's okay, I'll teach you." As soon as Landon heard her response, he moved to her side, acting nothing like the untouchable Alpha of the Nightshade Pack.

The group arrived at the pool room.

"You guys play first. I'll teach Tessa and Ysabel."

Landon personally set up the balls and explained the rules to them.

Ysabel remained uninterested.

"Uncle Landon, can I skip this?" Ysabel refused. She simply didn't like to play pool. Besides, without her own wolf, playing against these skilled, powerful werewolves was just asking for humiliation.

"Go do something else." Landon didn't care whether Ysabel wanted to learn or not. This just gave him an excuse to focus on Tessa alone.

Tessa nodded after hearing the rules.

"Got it?" Landon asked.

"I'll give it a try."

She picked up the cue, leaned forward, and aimed at the ball the way Landon instructed.

Seeing her incorrect posture, Landon stepped behind her and leaned in to guide her.

surrounded her.

Every time she got this close to Landon, Tessa couldn't help but blush. Her mind started to drift.

"Focus."

Landon lightly encircled her, his thoughts just as restless. But he quickly regained control with his strong willpower.

He couldn't think about that. She was only 17 years old. He had no business thinking about things from the adult world.

He could wait for her to grow up.

"Okay." Tessa tried her best to ignore the effect of his presence behind her,

"Line it up. Left hand here, right hand there. That's it, just like that."

"Wow, since when was Landon this patient?" Hudson teased.

Landon had always picked things up quickly, but even the most beloved Ysabel of the Thorne family had never received such hands-on guidance from him.

Charlotte noticed too. Her grip on the cue tightened involuntarily.

Cameron patted his sister's shoulder. "Charlotte, you're my sister. You can have any man you want. Forget about him. I'll introduce you to someone better."

He and Landon had been friends for so many years that they were practically brothers. He understood Landon's temperament better than anyone.

Charlotte forced a bitter smile. "Cameron, I'm fine."

She is just a teenage girl. Maybe Landon only sees her as a little sister.

Even if Landon did have feelings for Tessa, it was nothing more than a fleeting crush.

No matter how anyone looked at it, that little girl could never be worthy of someone as powerful as Landon.

Chapter 66 An Outright Humiliation

On this side, Tessa adapted quickly. "Let me try on my own."

Like Landon, she was a quick learner. In just a short time, she felt she had grasped the fundamentals.

Landon released her hand, yet the delicate warmth of her skin lingered in his palm.

Letting go of her, he exhaled discreetly.

Tessa's presence was becoming more intoxicating. Once he held onto her, he found himself reluctant to let

1. go.

She attempted a shot. She understood the rules, mastered the movements. It wasn't so difficult after all.

"Got the hang of it?" Charlotte asked, feigning concern. Landon, why don't I teach her instead? I'm a girl. It'd be more comfortable for her."

"No need. She's my student. I'll teach her myself. Do you think I'm incapable?" Landon had no intention of letting Charlotte get that close to Tessa. Not a chance.

"Landon, that's not what I meant. I just think Tessa might feel uneasy, because you're standing quite close."

"Are you uncomfortable?" Landon's gaze fixed on Tessa

Tessa walked to the other side of the table, lined up her shot, and sank a ball before straightening.

"I'm fine."

"As long as she's fine, that's all that matters. Charlotte, go enjoy your game. Weren't you the one eager to play?"

Charlotte bit her lip but maintained her composed smile.

D*mn it! Tessa has to be doing this on purpose. How is she this good at pulling people in at such a young age?

Noticing a flaw in Tessa's stance, Landon disregarded Charlotte entirely and moved to correct her rules and

posture.

As he leaned down, his gaze inadvertently caught the way her neckline dipped with her forward-leaning posture, revealing the soft, graceful curve of her collarbone and beyond.

Landon's eyes darkened. Tessa bewitched him without even realizing it.

Tearing his gaze away, he adjusted her positioning.

"Don't wear clothes like this next time."

Tessa straightened, glancing down at her outfit.

"What's wrong with it?" It was just an ordinary shirt.

"The neckline is too low."

Their unspoken chemistry was so palpable that Charlotte's complexion paled.

If Cameron hadn't pulled her aside, she might have snapped her cue stick in frustration.

"Enough. Stop watching," Cameron murmured. "What's the point? Do you think you can change Landon's mind?"

Charlotte clenched her jaw.

"Cameron, he's far too indulgent with that girl."

"Who knows what's in Landon's head? Just focus on yourself. And don't antagonize her, understand?"

It was obvious that Landon had already drawn a protective circle around Tessa.

No one would be allowed to cross that boundary, not even a wolf-less weakling like her.

"I understand."

She knew Landon's temperament. But that didn't make it any easier to watch him dote on another girl.

Tessa practiced for a while and was already remarkably proficient.

"Not bad," Landon remarked, a rare compliment from him.

"Tessie is incredible! She excels at everything she does, Ysabel chimed in, beaming with pride at the praise.

"Tessa, how about a match?" Charlotte's smile remained warm, but the intent behind it had shifted.

A werewolf's innate competitive drive burned within her.

She would make Landon see that she was the strongest, the most worthy of standing by his side.

"Charlotte," Cameron warned, seeing right through her. Tessa had only just begun learning. Challenging her now was blatant bullying.

Charlotte ignored him.

"It's just a friendly game. No harm in that, right? Landon, you don't mind, do you?"

"Are you up for it?" Landon asked Tessa. If she wasn't interested, it wouldn't happen.

"Sure." Tessa picked up her cue with practiced ease.

Ysabel rose from her seat, expression unreadable. Charlotte was making her intentions far too obvious.

"Charlotte, that's low," Ysabel said bluntly. As the most pampered member of the Thorne family, she never minced words.

Billiards was a game of precision, demanding acute vision, heightened perception, calculated strategy, and impeccable control over force.

For Charlotte—who had awakened early and ranked as the top female werewolf player—challenging Tessa, a novice with no wolf at all, wasn't competition; it was outright humiliation.

Chapter 67 Her Beginner's Luck

"Ysabel, it was just a game. How did it suddenly make me the bad guy?" Charlotte said, then turned to Tessa in a gentle tone. "Tessa, if you don't want to play, I won't force you."

"It's fine, just playing for fun. Winning or losing doesn't matter." Tessa rotated her wrist.

"You go first!" Tessa said to Charlotte.

"It's okay. You're a beginner. I'll let you go first," Charlotte said with disdain.

Among female werewolves, Charlotte's billiards skills were unmatched. Yet Tessa, a mere beginner, had the audacity to let her break first. She was completely unfazed by the possibility of Charlotte clearing the table in a single turn, leaving her without a shot.

To Charlotte, Tessa was nothing more than a naive little girl who vastly overestimated herself.

"Are you sure you want me to go first?" Tessa asked kindly.

"Of course." Charlotte smiled and looked at Landon. "Landon, is your apprentice

as skilled as you? Can she pocket all the balls in one turn?"

Her words were full of disdain for Tessa,

Landon ignored her. To him, Charlotte had only one identity, and that was Cameron's sister.

Landon casually tossed the blue chalk to Tessa. "Play at your own pace."

Tessa took the chalk, rubbed it on the cue, and stopped declining. She leaned forward and broke the rack

Aim.

Strike!

The cue stick sliced through the air with a sharp buzzing sound, and the white cue ball shot into the triangle like a silver bullet. The moment the sixteen colored balls scattered in a radial explosion, Cameron, Nathaniel, and Hudson, who had been lazily spectating, suddenly straightened up.

Such power and precision were beyond what a girl without a wolf should be capable of.

And with just the break, three solid-colored balls rolled into the corner, side, and bottom pockets with perfect accuracy.

"Oh my, Tessie, you're amazing! You sank three balls in one shot!" Ysabel turned into a fangirl, clapping wildly.

"Beginner's luck."

Golden sweat beads appeared at the back of Charlotte's neck. It was an

instinctive werewolf reaction to a surge of adrenaline.

That's right, it's just her luck. Nothing impressive. As long as get my turn, I won't

give Tessa another chance to approach the table.

everythiwonderfule a mechanical repetition. Tessa leaned down, struck, and sank the ball. The only variation was the angle of each shot-flawless precise, and almost artistic.

Until every solid-colored ball was pocketed, leaving only the final eight-ball.

Tessa glanced at Charlotte, whose face had darkened, smiled slightly, and bent down again.

As the black ball rolled along the rail, Charlotte's nails dug into her cue, leaving deep marks.

"It's in! Tessie, that was a clean sweep!" Ysabel's excited voice echoed in the billiards room.

"Just a small display of skill." Tessa said flatly, placing her cuc on the table.

And Charlotte, without a single turn, had lost.

Cameron, Nathaniel, and Hudson were just as shocked.

Is this really her first time playing pool? This is brutal!

Ysabel threw her arms around Tessa. "Tessie, you're incredible! You're my idol!"

"Of course, look who taught her." Landon said smugly.

"Landon, you really are impressive. Just a few lessons, and you trained such a skilled student."

What kind of person is she? No wonder Landon treats her differently. This girl truly is something else.

No one expected a girl without a wolf to have such strength and precision, effortlessly defeating Charlotte, the best female werewolf at billiards.

While everyone praised Tessa, Charlotte's face grew even darker.

"It's getting late. I'll take them home. You guys keep playing."

Tessa and Ysabel were still high school students. They couldn't stay out too late.

Charlotte adjusted her expression and spoke up. "I'm leaving too. Landon, I didn't drive. Can you give me a ride?"

With Landon gone, there was no point in staying. Besides, her new perfume was about to launch; she had a lot to do.

"It's not on my way." Landon rejected her outright.

Charlotte's heart bled. Can't he tell that I like him? How can he be so heartless?

"Cameron, she's your sister. You brought her here, so you take her home." "Alright, I'll take her."

"I'll take Ysabel. We live next door anyway." Nathaniel offered. They were practically on the same route.

"Sounds good. Uncle Landon, make sure to get Tessa home safely, okay?"

"Relay she's with an Alpha Who'd dare harm her? Unless they have a death wish" Nathaniel grabbed

Seeing that Landon was about to take Tessa home alone Charlotte refused to give

up. She stepped forward to stop them...

Ysabel and left.

Chapter 68 Shadows of Doubt

But Cameron didn't give her any chance to object; he just pulled her away.

"Cameron, why are you dragging me? I can walk on my own."

Cameron sighed.

"Charlotte, you're my sister, always the smart girl and the pride of the Quest family. But remember, love isn't something you can win with smarts alone. Landon doesn't like you, no matter what you do. He won't see you. Frankly, if you weren't my sister, you wouldn't even get the chance to be in the same room with him."

Why does such a smart girl lose all sense when it comes to lover

"Cameron, stop telling me these things. I just want to be by his side; I want to be with him. You'll help me, right?"

Her family background and personal abilities were definitely a match for Landon, and besides, her brother and Landon's brother were good friends. I have everything in her favor; how could I just give up?

"Honey, I can help you with anything, but I'm helpless with this. Knowing the outcome, why persist in delusion? Don't do something you'll regret."

Charlotte lowered her head. "But I've worked so hard; I deserve to stand by his side!"

"Whether you deserve it or not is for Landon to decide, not anyone else."

Because of the drinks earlier, Landon hadn't driven; the driver was already waiting outside..

Upon seeing them, the driver got out and opened the car doors for the two. Landon, ever the gentleman, let Tessa get in the car first, then followed.

The driver shut the door and returned to the driver's seat to drive off.

Without needing to be told, he already knew where to go!

"Mr. Thorne, are you okay?" Tessa asked, noticing he seemed a bit off.

"It's nothing, just a bit of a headache."

"Then let the driver take you home first!" She could wait a bit longer.

Landon leaned on her shoulder and closed his eyes.

"It's nothing, I probably just drank a bit too much tonight."

Flex couldn't help but mock through their mental link, Could your tactics get any more basic? The strongest alpha of Montedra weakened by a few drinks; who would believe that?"

Landon ignored Flex's jibes and just leaned against Tessa's shoulder, causing her body to stiffen momentarily.

What could I say now? He was already learning.

The car arrived at the underground parking of Wisteria Apartment, and the driver didn't call for them but instead got out to smoke, waiting for Landon to wake up.

The car stopped, and Tessa didn't call Landon; she just sat there letting him lean on her.

Flex woke the pretending-to-sleep Landon, "Uh, though Tessa's too kind to call you out, if you keep this up, even I'll start feeling embarrassed."

Landon then slowly opened his eyes, straightened up, and feigned confusion, "Are we here?"

"Yeah, do you feel better?" Tessa's tone was always mild, but Landon could see the concern in her eyes now.

He couldn't help but smile, relieved, "Much better, thank you."

Just a little bit to get her used to his presence; he could wait.

"By the way, do you need me to step in with Sinclair Corp?" He knew Walter had transferred 20% of the shares to Tessa, and some Sinclair Corp shareholders were eyeing her eagerly.

Although Sinclair Corp was among the top ten conglomerates in Navoris, it didn't impress him much.

Moreover, he knew the inside story; Sinclair Corp was strong on the outside but hollow inside...

"No need, I can handle it." Some achievements felt more satisfying when done personally.

"Alright, just be careful not to get hurt." Not even a single strand of hair.

"Don't worry! I'm not that fragile." With the annual shareholders' meeting of Sinclair Corp approaching,

Tessa felt she should make her presence felt there, lest everyone think she had vanished!

Chapter 69 Dicey Deals

"Just have fun with it." It was just Sinclair Corp after all he could play it however she wanted.

"Yeah." She was confident about that. Since Winona and the others were so keen on Sinclair Corp, she might as well secure it first.

"You don't need to walk me up, Wisteria Apartment is very safe."

It's better to go back and rest early since I'm not feeling well. Tessa pondered.

"Let's go!" Landon acted as if he hadn't heard her refusal, got out of the car with her, wanting to spend a few more minutes with her.

Tessa glanced at the man behind her, "Or you could just stay here tonight; don't

go

back."

Landon stopped in his tracks, his breathing quickened, "What?"

Flex also excitedly chimed in, "Oh my god, oh my god! She's inviting us to stay over; just say yes!"

Tessa then realized how her words might have sounded and awkwardly tried to clarify, "Don't get the wrong idea. I didn't mean anything by it. This place is originally your home, I'm just staying here for a while, and besides, you have your own room."

"No need to explain."

"I really didn't mean anything else. I'm not that kind of girl, okay?"

"I know, I didn't misunderstand you. But, a girl's reputation is important, and I wouldn't want to cause any harm to yours."

Besides, she trusts him, but he doesn't trust himself. Tessa's influence on him was just too strong.

Being around her, he feared he might not be able to restrain himself. He respected her deeply.

Landon escorted Tessa upstairs, watched her open the door and go in, then turned to leave.

"Mr. Thorne, really, thank you."

Landon turned back, seemingly reluctant to leave.

He turned around and gently hugged her. "Don't thank me, I don't need those words."

"What do you want then?" Tessa asked, looking up.

Landon kissed her forehead.

"I'll tell you when you're older."

Watching his intense eyes, Tessa found herself falling for him again.

Before she could lose her composure, she pushed him away, "You should head back and get some rest, goodnight."

Watching her run off, Landon smiled softly and then said to Flex, who was roaring in his mind, "Although I really want to be with her, and bind her to me, we should respect her, give her the choice."

Tessa was still young; her life was full of possibilities. I could give her time, let her achieve what she wanted, and make her willingly be with him.

Flex snorted, "No matter how many options she has, she must choose us in the end."

"I'll work hard to make sure she firmly chooses us," Landon replied.

It was Monday again, and as soon as the students arrived at school, they were all discussing the results of this month's exam.

"I'm doomed, the parent-teacher meeting is next after the results are out. My mom is going to kill me if she finds out I did this badly."

Navoris High placed a lot of emphasis on grades, and all its students aimed to get into top universities.

Those who did poorly on this month's exam really dreaded facing their results.

"Tessie, don't worry, even if you fail physics, you won't have to leave Navoris High. If you go, I'll leave with you," Ysabel comforted Tessa.

Just then, Freya came in with the exam papers, having seen the physics scores already, but she couldn't believe her eyes.

She slammed the answer sheet down on the table.

"I thought your class just had poor grades, but I didn't expect there to be such a severe issue with character at our Navoris High, in your class 8! It's really shameful!"

Freya directly called out Tessa, "Tessa, stand up."

Tessa faced Freya's fury but remained seated, "Ms. Know I won't accept baseless accusations. And about this physics test, I believe I did quite well..."

Before Tessa could finish, Freya interrupted her with sarcasm, "Oh, not just well,

but a perfect score, no less! You really are something, aren't you!"

Chapter 70 The Test of Truth

Tessa faced Freya's fury but remained seated, "Ms. Knox, I won't accept baseless accusations. And about this physics test, I believe I did quite well..."

Before Tessa could finish, Freya interrupted her with sarcasm, "Oh, not just well, but a perfect score, no less! You really are something, aren't you!"

"What?" The entire class erupted in surprise.

"Teacher, are you sure you didn't make a mistake?"

The physics questions this time were tough; a perfect score seemed impossible, even for the top students like Nico from class one.

"Ms. Knox, you wanted me to pass, and I gave you a perfect score. Aren't you satisfied?" Tessa had no intention of giving Freya any face.

Megan immediately chimed in, "Ms. Knox, she must have stolen the test papers. It's impossible for anyone to get a perfect score on this test."

"Megan, you'd better shut your mouth if you can't speak nicely," Ysabel defended Tessa firmly.

"Out with it! How did you get your hands on the test paper?" Freya was convinced Tessa had cheated.

Tessa scoffed, "Is it really that hard to acknowledge someone's capability?"

"Tessa, I'm trying to be reasonable with you. If you can't explain yourself, then we'll have to take this to the principal. Here at Navoris High, we can tolerate students who perform poorly, but cheating is met with expulsion!"

"Whatever."

Tessa was done dealing with Freya's irrational behavior.

"Fine, you just wait!"

Fuming, Freya stormed out and soon after, Tessa was called to the principal's office by his assistant.

In the principal's office, Freya was still ranting to Lambert about Tessa's alleged malice.

"Mr. Lambert, Navoris High has been a prestigious school for a century, and we can't let one student ruin our reputation. It's really hard to accept cheating could happen here."

at

"Tessa, come sit over here." Lambert's demeanor towards Tessa was quite friendly.

Tessa walked over and sat on a couch

across from Freya

Tessa, I hear you scored a perfect score on your physics test."

Tessa nodded.

"However, Ms. Knox believes you couldn't possibly score that high and thinks you cheated. What do you have to say about this?"

"A student expelled from Falindale High scoring perfect in physics, Tessa, don't you think your lie is a bit too much?" Freya scoffed. "Besides, I couldn't even score a perfect on this physics paper myself; you're telling me a student could?"

Tessa let out a cold laugh, "Embarrassing to admit your own incompetence, isn't it?"

"You-"

Freya was genuinely outraged.

"How about this! I have a set of physics competition questions here. Why don't you try solving them?" Lambert pulled out a sealed set of physics papers. "Ms. Knox, why don't you give it a try too?"

"Mr. Lambert, you want me to take the same test as a student?" Her skills weren't as good as Kevin from class one, but taking a test alongside a student felt demeaning.

"Go ahead! You've always felt you should be teaching the advanced classes, right? It's time for me to see your capabilities. If you do well, I'll consider letting you teach them."

Lambert opened the test packet and handed out the papers.

"Tessa, this test has a total score of 100. If you score fifty, I'll acknowledge you didn't cheat and will apologize to you."

Freya glanced at the papers and doubted Tessa could handle them.

Tessa, unbothered by Freya, simply grabbed the papers returned to the couch, picked up a pen, and began answering directly on the paper, not even needing scratch paper.

Meanwhile, Freya started scribbling on scratch paper for the first multiple-choice question.

This time, she had to prove herself. They all thought I couldn't handle it, right? Now is my chance to prove them

wrong.

The physics competition test lasted two hours. Tessa in just one hour, set down her pen, and then put on her headphones. Meanwhile, Freya was visibly struggling with the tough questions.

When time was up, Lambert called Kevin, the head of the physics department and a teacher from class one, to grade the papers.

Hamilton, hearing about the situation, rushed over.

Since transferring to class eight, Tessa had been well-behaved, unlike the rumors from Falindale suggested.

But Freya had consistently targeted Tessa, and Hamilton didn't want to wrongly accuse any student before the facts were clear.

Kevin started grading the papers, beginning with Freya. Ultimately, she scored seventy-eight.

Ms. Knox, your professional skills seem a bit lacking," he noted, which didn't make Freya look too good.

Hamilton then handed Tessa's paper to Kevin. "Mr. Clark, could you check Tessa's paper, please?"

Learning that Tessa was the student who scored a perfect on the physics test this month, Kevin's initial reaction was like Freya's; he assumed she had cheated.

After all, what good could come from a student who was expelled from Falindale High at just twelve and rumored to have hung out with delinquents?

But as he began grading Tessa's competition paper, he was utterly stunned...