

## The Billionaire Alpha's Contract Lover

### Chapter 141

Jackson ignored everyone's expressions and raised his chin at the senior executive explaining the PowerPoint. "Continue."

The executive had no choice but to continue. However, I noticed that he skipped over one of the income slides. Instead of giving all of the figures, he gave more general percentages. I'm sure he was afraid I would share the information.

It was clear that the Sterling pack execs weren't pleased with my presence in the meeting, so I sat still and quiet during the duration of the presentation.

When the meeting ended, I ran out and asked Jackson, "Why do you want me to listen?"

Jackson looked down at me, who was a head shorter than him, and replied in a gentle voice, "When you were sitting outside the room, you looked interested, so I decided to let you listen."

I wasn't prepared for that answer.

"Aren't you afraid I'll take the information elsewhere?"

"They are all unimportant numbers that anyone could find in a public earnings report, and..." Jackson paused for a moment, then smiled. "I believe in you."

His smile was no different from before...before everything. It

was genuine, and it had the power to brighten a room.

It was as if he was still Silas, not Jackson, the man who had broken my artificial heart with two strong kicks.

"Ms. Palmer, you'll need to go get ready. I'm going to a banquet tonight."

I came back to my senses. "A banquet?"

Jackson nodded. "The Wilton pack is holding a banquet. I need a female companion, and I'd like you to attend with me."

Was it a personal assistant's duty to be a temporary female companion? And would it be appropriate for Jackson to take a non-shifter with him?

The Wilton pack was not particularly prominent or powerful, and I wasn't sure why

Jackson would feel the need to attend. The Wiltons were wealthy, but that was about it. And that wasn't really saying anything. Most wolf shifter packs were wealthy if they weren't a newer pack. Longer life spans equaled more time to build wealth to then pass on to the next Alpha.

This wasn't my concern, though. My concern was doing what Jackson wanted me to do so I could get this whole thing over with.

Jackson would return to Wolverly Capital as soon as the bidding was over. It was only a few days. I had to endure it for a while,

and then everything would be over.

"Alpha Sterling, I would love to attend with you. Unfortunately, I don't have anything suitable to wear to a formal banquet."

Maybe, if I was extremely lucky, he might let me off the hook...

"That's of no importance. I'll have my schedule cleared and we can go shopping right now."

## Chapter 142

Harper and I had been to this mall before. Once, we wanted to go in and have a look, but as soon as the sales associates saw our clothes, they wouldn't let us in.

Only the wealthiest were allowed into these stores, and each store employed a security guard wearing a black suit to stand at the door. Every store here was for a luxury designer, from Chanel to Hermes to Louboutin.

Jackson took me straight to a specific store, and everyone there gushed over him. I wasn't sure if they actually knew him or just knew who he was. He had them fit me with a custom-made dress, a pair of hand-made crystal-encrusted shoes, and a complete makeup set.

He'd brought Camille with us, and her eyes widened when he saw Jackson spending so much money on me.

I endured Camille's glare; I would have my own price to pay for all of this tomorrow at the office.

After the salesgirl completed my makeup and made sure my dress was adjusted just right, she opened the curtain with a swoosh.

Sitting on the sofa and looking down at his phone, Jackson

subconsciously looked up when he heard the sound of the curtains being slid open.

The custom-made strapless dress fully displayed Taya's exquisite figure; it clung to her waist and outlined her perfect curves.

Perfectly rounded breasts were perky in the dress, and his eyes were drawn to her cleavage.

The exposed skin was so white that it was glowing. There were no flaws at all.

Her delicate makeup made her look refined and elegant, accentuating her lips, eyes, and cheekbones.

However, the look in her eyes was indifferent, with a trace of... despair?

Yes, despair. This was the feeling Jackson felt every time their eyes locked.

He'd finally found the word to describe her eyes. It turned out that she was desperate.

What on earth had happened to her that made her feel so desperate?

Chapter 143

"Alpha, it's time to go."

Jackson was mesmerized by Taya. It was not until Camille coughed softly that Jackson returned to his senses.

He nodded and led Taya out of the store.

As they were leaving the store, they were seen by Khloe, Preston's mistress, who was shopping with her friends.

She looked at Taya in disbelief.

When she saw Taya for the first time, she'd thought there was something beautiful about her.

But this time, when Khloe saw Taya, she felt that Taya was even more gorgeous and looked more refined than any shifter or human socialite she'd met.

Khloe looked back at the luxury designer store that could only be entered with a VIP card.

Only then did she realize that the man Taya had found this time was even richer than Roman.

What Taya was wearing must have cost a small fortune. Even Preston wasn't willing to spend so much money on her.

Thinking of this, Khloe found herself getting irritated. They were both selling themselves. Why should Taya get better things than

her?

Annoyed, Khloe took out her phone, recorded a video, and sent it to Preston.

[Preston, look, Taya has hooked up with another rich man, this one much richer than before. Look how much he spent on her to change her appearance.]

Khloe had studied all the rich people-shifter and human alike -in Arcadia. She knew who was who. But she'd never paid attention to the higher-ranking packs in other cities, so she didn't know who Taya was with.

He was gorgeous, looked to be fairly young-though you couldn't always tell with shifters, and that guy had "wolf" written all over him. He must be new on the scene here in Arcadia.

Preston was out playing golf with a friend. When he finished playing and sat down to look at his phone, an hour had passed since Khloe had messaged him and sent the video.

When he saw it, he gritted his teeth in anger.

Taya had actually asked Jackson to buy her a custom-made dress?!

## Chapter 144

Preston threw the golf club to the side and forwarded the video to Griffon.

[Look at this bullshit.]

Griffon was distracted by his phone vibrating in the middle of a meeting.

When he picked it up and saw the video, his jaw clenched and he glowered at the phone.

Was Taya trying to provoke him, or did she like Jackson so much that she couldn't leave him alone?

That she dared to ignore his warning and was with Jackson made his blood boil.

Her disobedience was completely unacceptable, and there was no way his wolf would allow him to let it go unchecked.

Without a word, he picked up his phone, got up, and left.

The people in the conference room were stunned when they saw the Alpha suddenly leave, and with a terrifying expression on his face on top of it.

Then, they all looked sympathetic at the shifter presenting his report.

Everyone felt that Mr. Chilton must have offended Alpha Knight due to negligence in his work.

Mr. Chilton, covered in a cold sweat, thought, "I'm done. I'm going to be fired! Or even worse, banished from the pack.

The Wilton pack banquet was held in the pack manor mainly to celebrate the return of the youngest daughter of the Wilton pack Alpha after finishing her studies.

Jackson typically would not have attended an event like this.

However, he was a good friend of the Wilton pack's Alpha that was next in line. They often had gotten together in Wolverly Capital, so naturally, since he was in Arcadia, he would attend.

However, this event had a deeper meaning: to select a qualified mate for the youngest daughter.

Once Jackson had learned that tidbit, there was no way he would be attending alone. He needed to make it clear that he wasn't available, since he certainly wasn't interested.

On the way over to the Wilton pack manor, Jackson gave Taya instructions on how he wanted her to act, and told her his plan to use her as a shield.

He asked her to hold his arm, and he led her into the manor.

The people who came in were all rich and about the same as the Wilton pack.

The older ones drank wine and talked business in the banquet hall.

The younger ones held glasses of wine laced with wolfsbane and gathered outside in small groups.

After Jackson and Taya entered, they drew the stares of everyone.

Those who knew and those who didn't all cast amazed looks at them.

The next Alpha of the Wilton pack, Henry Wilton, was chatting with a few young she-wolves when he heard quite a commotion outside. Only then did he realize that Jackson was here, and he hurriedly greeted his friend.

"Jackson, you're here," he said with a warm smile. When Henry's gaze landed on Taya, he paused for a moment. "Who is this?"

"This is Ms. Taya Palmer."

Henry seemed to be deep in thought. He glanced at Ta

## Chapter 145

I could tell what Henry was thinking at a glance.

He had specially held a banquet while Jackson was in town, knowing his friend would come. There was no way he wasn't trying to mate his sister off to the Alpha of the Sterling pack. Henry might not be the Alpha of the Wilton pack yet, but he was certainly thinking like it.

However, he hadn't expected Jackson to bring a female companion. Naturally, he wasn't pleased by my presence, and it showed on his face before he could rein his wolf in.

However, as a well-educated man, he had shown me respect, so I responded in kind.

I shook his hand and smiled. "Hello. It's a pleasure to meet you, Mr. Wilton."

Only then did Henry let go of my hand and look at Jackson as if I wasn't there. "It's been a long time. Let's go have a drink and catch up."

It appeared that Jackson was worried to go anywhere without me when he looked over and said, "Come in with me."

I glanced at Henry, who looked unhappy that Jackson had invited me along, so I tactfully refused. "I'm a little hungry. I'd love to eat something first."

Before Jackson could say anything, Henry stopped a servant. "Take Ms. Palmer to eat something. Don't neglect her."

The maid quickly nodded and said to me, "Ms. Palmer, please come with me."

Jackson looked back and forth between Henry and me, then said, "Don't walk around. Wait for me to come back."

I nodded and followed the maid to the dining area.

A dazzling array of food was placed on rows of long tables.

I couldn't digest anything very well anymore, and I struggled to eat anything at all, but I managed to have a bit of tomato soup served in small drinking bowls.

While standing quietly in the dining area with my soup and looking out the window, I saw several luxury cars arrive.

A chauffeur got out of the car first, opened the door, and held it open for whomever was in the back seat.

Under warm evening light, a man in a tailored black suit got out and stood before the car door with his hands in his pockets.

His face was chiseled, his jaw strong, his features...perfection.

He looked at people indifferently.

And as soon as he walked into the manor, everyone who was

anyone rushed over to him.

Even Ray Wilton, the old Alpha of the Wilton pack, who had not shown up for a long time, rushed over in a hurry.

## Chapter 146

"Alpha Knight."

Ray quickly walked up to Griffon with the other members of the Wilton pack and said respectfully, "I didn't expect you to attend such a small-scale banquet. Otherwise, I would have waited at the door with my pack elders. Please forgive me for my disrespect."

Griffon replied indifferently, "It doesn't matter."

He looked around casually. When he didn't see what he was looking for, he frowned



slightly.

Preston got out of his own car. He'd followed mainly to ask Jackson what he meant.

Seeing that Preston was also here, Ray felt even more honored.

What kind of good day was this? He had been worried that his daughter would be unable to find a suitable love, but the two brothers of the Knight pack had both come.

Although Preston was undisciplined, unprofessional, and a playboy, he was still a Knight. If anyone from the Knight pack would take his daughter as their mate, he would be honored to form a union with them.

As for Griffon, he was unconcerned with any of the reasons the

Wilton pack was holding a banquet for. He was to be the son-in-law of the Thorins, and a small pack like his couldn't compete with an elder's family.

Ray was incredibly self-aware, and he took the brothers of the Knight pack to be his honored guests. Even Jackson, who was praised by him earlier, had been tossed to the back of his mind, infuriating Lena Wilton.

Lena had taken a fancy to Jackson. It had been difficult for her to ask her brother to invite him, but now her father had asked her to curry favor with Preston!

She knew that Preston was a playboy. Why would he be interesting in mating with her?

Lena was so angry that Henry motioned for her to go out and avoid the situation. Only then did Lena sneak away.

Ray had been flattering Griffon, which made Henry feel very embarrassed. If he were the current Alpha, he never would have behaved in this way.

Henry looked at Jackson, nodding his head and indicating that he should go out for a drink.

Jackson had wanted to leave for a long time but wouldn't be rude to his host. At Henry's signal, he quickly left.

Before he could walk out of the hall, he was stopped by Preston. "Sterling."

Preston walked up to him and questioned him with the attitude of an elder brother, not bothering to use his title. "If I remember correctly, six months ago, your pack took the initiative to talk to my pack about a mating union. But now, you're here to attend Miss Wilton's search for a mate. What do you mean by this?"

## Chapter 147

Preston didn't question Jackson directly about the relationship between him and Taya because Taya was Griffon's woman, so he had to give her some respect.

But he didn't want to let go of Jackson, who hadn't kept his promise, so he could only take it out on Miss Wilton.

Jackson was not angry at Preston's baiting, but his eyes were apathetic. "My father made the decision privately without my permission. I never thought of mating your sister."

His words made Preston's face pale, and his face instantly darkened. "Do you mean to break off the mating engagement?"

Jackson smiled faintly. "We've never been engaged. How can I break off something that's never happened?"

They had just discussed the possibility of a mating, but it was never confirmed.

Moreover, the pack elders didn't even have the consent of the two wolves involved.

How could they force a mating ceremony?

Jackson's words were a slap in the face to the Knight pack.

Preston was used to fooling around with others, wasn't used to people going against him.

He wanted to give Jackson a gentle lesson, one to put him in his place and remind him who he was dealing with, but before Preston could say anything, he felt a hand on his arm.

"Preston, stop." Griffon said, using his Alpha voice to compel Preston to obey him.

Everyone standing near them was taken aback by his voice. Alpha Knight was powerful, so powerful that his Alpha command had an effect on the wolves of everyone who heard.

Griffon looked at Jackson, his expression cool. His voice, devoid of any warmth, echoed in the hall.

"Alpha Sterling, your father came to our pack to beg for an alliance mating. If you'd like to go back on that, you'll have to employ the same tactic as your father."

The word "beg" brought everyone back to reality.

## Chapter 148

Eyes widened as onlookers watched and listened to what was happening.

It turned out that the Sterling pack wanted to mate into the Knight pack to form an alliance between the two powerhouses.

And the only male in the Sterling pack who would be able to accomplish that was Jackson.

Jackson calmly accepted Griffon's proposal.

"Absolutely, Alpha Knight. I'll have my father deal with this matter immediately."

After that, Jackson went straight out to look for Taya.

Looking at Jackson's back, Preston was so angry that his face turned blue. "It's good to break off the engagement. Can't my sister find a better male?"

Alpha Wilton, who had seen and listened to everything, quickly echoed, "Yes, yes, yes. Mr. Preston Knight's sister is outstanding. It's a pity that Alpha Sterling has rejected her."

Preston glanced at him coldly. "What does it have to do with you?"

Alpha Wilton thought, "Forget it. He is so rude. Jackson is the

Griffon saw Jackson walking to the dining area in the distance as if he was looking for someone.

After walking around for a bit, Jackson answered the phone and went into the bathroom.

Griffon frowned, interrupted Alpha Wilton's rambling, and walked away.

While Taya was playing with her phone in the bathroom, a gentle-looking girl came in angrily.

When she saw Taya, Lena's expression changed. "It's you?"

When Lena stood on the balcony on the second floor, she saw Jackson leading Taya into the manor.

The two looked dazzling and well-matched, which almost made Lena angry.

Fortunately, Lena's brother had sent Taya away and allowed her to be alone with Jackson.

Lena thought Taya had left, but she didn't expect the little human to be hiding in the bathroom and scrolling through her phone.

Why was she hiding in the bathroom rather than making the rounds and networking?

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## Chapter 149

"What are you doing here?" the she-wolf asked grumpily.

I guessed that she must be Henry's younger sister, so I wasn't surprised that Lena was a rrogant.

"It's the bathroom. Of course, I went to the toilet," I replied indifferently.

I didn't bother to check my tone. I didn't want to tolerate people who disrespected me anymore.

Between Tara and Margaret, I was done.

Of course, my tone and words pi ssed Lena off even more.

"Humph, I think you're playing hard to get. You're deliberately hiding so that Jackson will be worried about you. Don't think that just because you're Jackson's female companion, you'll be able to climb the social ladder and become a Cinderella!

"Jackson will be mine!"

Lena's warning made me frown slightly.

I was hiding here to avoid Griffon. What did it have to do with Jackson playing hard to get?

I didn't bother to find an excuse to explain it to Lena, who stood

in front of me with her hands on her hips and her face red.

She didn't look like she made a very attractive wolf...

"Miss Wilton, you'll never be Alpha Sterling's mate. You don't have to look for attention in front of me."

Jackson was going to mate Edith. Lena's status was far inferior to Edith's.

Let's face it, it was better for her not to be delusional.

However, Miss Wilton did not think so.

She slapped me hard in the face.

## Chapter 150

"Who do you think you are?"

That slap was beyond my expectations.

I didn't expect the Wilton pack's gentle and weak-looking young lady would slap me.

I wanted to fight back, but even though this she-wolf looked puny, my frail human body was no match for her.

After being slapped, I was in a daze.

Lena must have thought I was afraid, and she became even more arrogant.

"I'm warning you, you'd better stay away from Jackson. Otherwise, it won't just be a slap!"

After saying that, Lena left the bathroom.

While I was watching her back as she walked away, my vision blurred, and it was though everything was split into a thousand pieces.

Before I fell down, I vaguely saw a man rushing in and catching me before I fainted.

When I caught my breath, I realized that the person who had

caught me was Griffon.

"Alpha Knight..."

He was hard to read, but his slightly furrowed brows made him look annoyed and uneasy.

"What's wrong?"

After calming myself down, I said in a low voice, "I was slapped by Miss Wilton just now and almost fainted."

Fortunately, I only fainted for a few seconds this time and could use this as an excuse to cover it up.

Griffon's frown deepened. "You're willing to be slapped, for Jackson's sake. You really love him."

There was sarcasm in his voice, which made me very uncomfortable.

The fear in my heart slowly faded away, and I replied lightly, "If Alpha Sterling finds out that I was slapped by Miss Wilton, he will definitely have a bad impression of her. It's worth it."

Griffon didn't expect me to have such thoughts, so he looked at me with contempt.

"You are truly capable of using all sorts of methods."

He loosened his grip on my waist, took out a handkerchief, and wiped his fingers slowly.

I was mortified. If he disliked me so much, why did he still help me?

Chapter 151

After wiping his hands, Griffon glanced at me. "Didn't I warn you to stay away from Jackson?"

When I saw him, I thought he was here for the banquet. I

never expected he would come to an event like this just to get even with me.

It had only been a day, but he already knew what Jackson and me were doing.

At least, what he thought we were doing.

But no way was I taking the blame for this. If it weren't for Tara, I would have been home and waiting today a

long time ago. I never would have accompanied Jackson to such an event.

I didn't intend to hide it from him and said frankly, "I intended to stay away from him, but Tara insisted that I entertain him. She made it very clear that there would be repercussions if

I didn't agree. My only choice was to go against your warning and see him again."

I wanted to make it clear that HIS Tara was the reason I was here.

## Chapter 151

A scowl marred Griffon's attractive face. "If you hadn't climbed into Jackson's bed, would Tara have asked you to accompany him?"

Of course. I should have known. No matter what Tara did, Griffon would place *no* blame on his future Luna.

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Nothing I said would matter, and I probably shouldn't provoke the Alpha more, so I clamped my mouth shut.

Griffon took a step closer and pushed me against the wall. Then, he placed one hand on top of my head and lowered his chin to look at me.

“Jackson just canceled his mating agreement with the Knight pack in front of everyone. Did you ask him to do so?”

I was stunned for a moment, and then I felt confused.

What did I have to do with Jackson breaking off his engagement?

I pursed my lips and didn't say anything. There was no point in explaining anything...or trying to.

Griffon moved closer again, and a faint fragrance wafted out to my nose, causing me to panic again.

He was so close—too close.

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I didn't have any room to move, and I tried to twist away from him, to at least turn my head away from him.

But my lips accidentally brushed past his cheek.

Chapter 152

Griffon's cheek was warm beneath my lips.

A zap of electricity sparked between us, and Griffon's body stiffened.

He stepped back, and the expression on his face was almost pained.

The panic I'd been feeling melted into embarrassment. “I...I'm sorry. I...I didn't mean to do that.”

I saw the muscles in Griffon's jaw tighten, and his Adam's apple bobbed as he swallowed roughly.

“Is this how you seduce men?”

I stopped breathing for a second, and my embarrassment gave way to...defeat? Humiliation?Powerlessness?

There were too many feelings competing right now for me to settle on just one.

After a long silence, I managed to respond. "Alpha Knight, you don't have to worry. You aren't on my list of men to seduce."

Griffon's expression darkened, and his eyes shifted to that of

his wolf's as he stared into my eyes. His eyebrows furrowed as he examined my face, as if he was trying to tell what I was thinking and couldn't figure out how to take what I'd said.

I hoped like hell all he could see in my eyes was indifference.

He remained silent for a moment longer, and the muscle in his jaw ticked again—the way it did when he was annoyed. His eyebrows straightened, the look in his eyes shifting back from wolf to human, his expression returning to his typical one of coldness.

"That'd better be the case. If I find out that you have feelings for me..." His voice was a low growl as he spoke, devoid of emotion.

"I haven't had feelings for you for years, let alone since we've separated from our...arrangement."

Something that resembled cruel rage swept over Griffon's face, and his body tensed and shifted as he leaned closer to me, pinning me with his stare.

Looking at him like this, I was actually a little scared. I lowered my chin, not wanting to meet his gaze and wishing I could just sink into the floor to get away.

We fell into a long, strained silence.



It was as if whoever spoke first would be defeated.

After a long while, Jackson and Lena's voices came from outside the door.

Only then did Griffon straighten his back and take a step back.

## Chapter 153

Before leaving, Griffon issued a warning.

"Just because Jackson broke off the mating agreement doesn't mean that the Sterling pack will allow him to do so. He'll be my brother-in-law sooner or later. Don't even think about getting him to fight against the whole pack for you."

After saying that, Griffon turned around and walked to the door.

Once he was gone and the door was closed behind him, I heaved a deep sigh of relief.

Every time I faced him, my body filled with an indescribable pressure.

I wasn't sure if I was afraid of him or if I was fearful that I wouldn't be able to control my feelings for him.

Fortunately, my impulse had been to lie to him regarding any desire I had for him.

Otherwise, who knew how he would have reacted. It could have been anything from disgust to laughter.

I collected myself and walked to the sink, turning on the water but only staring down at the stream before turning it off and walking out of the bathroom.

As soon as I stepped out, Jackson was there, pushing Lena away and walking over to me.

“Ms. Palmer, let’s go back.”

I

nodded and shot a glance at Lena. Her eyes were narrowed with warning, her wolf flashing for a second. Likely, she was afraid I would say something to Jackson about her slapping

1. me.

Which

was quite funny when you stopped to think about it. She had the gall to slap me, but she didn’t want anyone to know about it.

How utterly ridiculous.

I desperately wanted to slap Lena right now. Or tell Jackson, or say something to her. Anything to burn off everything I was feeling toward her, but this was the Wilton pack’s territory.

Not only was I a guest in her pack home, I was a human.

That was already two strikes against me, and the last thing I needed was a third.

Plus, I didn’t want to be the center of attention, nor did I want to be hated by the Wilton pack after the fight, or have it cause problems for Jackson. Anything that might come back on me negatively would likely affect my deal with Tara.

I suppressed my anger and decided to find a chance to beat her next time.

“Yes, let’s go.” I walked down the stairs, and Jackson politely took my hand to assist me down them.

When we reached the bottom, he looked over at me as if to confirm that I'd made it down the stairs okay and that it was safe for him to let go of my hand.

But rather than let go, his face darkened and his hand tightened around mine.

"Who did this to you?" he growled out, and I could hear his wolf rising to the surface.

He raised his other hand to touch my slightly swollen face, and something that looked like pain crossed over his face.

I was slightly stunned when I saw the look on Jackson's face. I wouldn't have expected him to feel sorry for me.

I hesitated, not saying anything.

There was no way he was going to stick up for me against his good friend's sister. Stand up for a human over a wolf.

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Taya's silence made Lena heave a sigh of relief.

Jackson had always been good at observing people's expressions and body language. As soon as he saw Lena's sigh, he immediately understood what had happened—was happening.

No wonder Lena wouldn't let him go when he went to look for

Taya, why she had clung to him and come along with him.

She was the one who had hit his woman.

Chapter 154

Jackson gazed over at Lena.

His voice was deadly calm as he spoke, a hint of his Alpha voice coming out.

“Miss Wilton, I brought my companion to your house as a guest, and you put your hands on her. Is this how you were brought up in your pack? Does the Wilton pack condone actions such as these?”

Seeing that Jackson had found out so quickly that she had hit Taya, Lena’s heart skipped a beat. But her anger quickly dispelled it.

He hadn’t even bothered to ask what had happened and was already defending Taya. This was too much!

Lena couldn’t hold back her temper anymore, and her wolf’s

hot-headedness rushed to the surface. “You didn’t even ask

who hit her before blaming me. Is the Sterling pack always so quick to rush to judgments?”

Jackson’s expression turned darker. “Are you saying that you did not put your hands on my woman?”

“Even if I did, you didn’t ask me why I would do so. Why would your assumption be that she didn’t deserve it?”

Jackson snorted. “I know Ms. Palmer very well. And there is nothing in her character that would warrant someone putting their hands on her.”

Lena hadn’t expected Jackson to defend his companion like that, to defend a human so readily over another wolf shifter. She was so angry that her face turned pale. “Jackson, how can you do this to me-”

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Jackson wasn't interested in Lena's act.

He promptly cut her off. "Apologize to Ms. Palmer!"

Although Henry was his good friend, Lena meant nothing to

him. They had only met a few times, and there wasn't any

history between them to make it necessary for him to treat

Lena with the respect it was clear she believed she deserved.

She might be a wolf and technically outrank

Taya, but compared to Jackson, Lena was nothing. The Wilton pack might

be wealthy, but they had no power. And they certainly didn't wield the power the Sterling

pack did. Frankly, they were lucky he had even come to this event.

Seeing that Jackson wouldn't let her go until she

apologized, Lena was so angry that she burst into tears. "Jackson, you're bullying me!"

The she-wolf's cry soon attracted the attention of the crowd. Most were holding

glasses of wine laced with wolfsbane and standing aside to watch the show.

No one came forward to help Lena.

She quickly pointed at Taya. "She was the one who insulted

me in my own home. And she's a human! I was so angry that I lost

my mind and slapped her. I wouldn't have done this if it

weren't for her stirring up trouble. I didn't do anything wrong!"

## Chapter 155

I was still shocked that Jackson would come forward to stand up for me.

Pursuing any line of questioning wasn't a good idea,

but Lena's accusations made me angry.

Just as I was about to ask her what I had said to her, a commanding voice suddenly came from behind me.

“Why, Miss Wilton, have you been learning to confuse right and wrong in the past few years?”

I didn’t need to look to know who was speaking. I was grateful he was also standing up for me, but I didn’t dare to look back.

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Griffon glared at Jackson, who was holding onto Taya’s hand, then he slowly walked down the stairs and stood in front of Lena.

“I just happened to pass by when Miss Wilton humiliated her.”

Griffon refused to show her any respect and exposed her lie, causing Lena to pale.

Lena still wanted to argue, but there was a murderous look in Griffon’s eyes. One that alerted everyone not to mess with the Alpha.

She had never seen such a terrifying look before. Even though his eyes were beautiful, the look was enough to petrify her.

Lena was so scared that she immediately shut her mouth. She stood rooted to the spot, not daring to move.

Only then did Henry realize that something had happened to his sister. He quickly pushed through the crowd and rushed over.

Before Henry could ask what had happened to Lena, Griffon gave him an indifferent look.

“I expected the Wilton shifters to be a bit classier than this.”

After saying that, Griffon left with his pack bodyguards.

Watching the show from the side, Preston looked thoughtfully at Griffon’s back.

Griffon never spoke up for anyone—unless they were important.

And he had to admit, watching Lena be put in her place was incredible.

Preston glanced at Taya, who was standing intimately with Jackson, and his expression darkened slightly.

What was it about Taya that was so special to his cousin?

He hadn’t expected a non-wolf to be so capable in her ability to snag a shifter. Not only could she get Jackson to protect her, but she could also get Griffon to speak up on her behalf.

Even though Griffon and Jackson were strong Alpha wolves, defending a human over a shifter was risky. Didn’t Taya

realize that?

Of course she did.

But that was what she wanted, no matter how hazardous that might be for the men she involved in her scheming.

Preston wanted to go over and teach her a lesson, but after thinking for a minute, he decided against it.

Not his monkey, not his circus.

Preston turned around, nodded to his assistant, and left with Griffon.

## Chapter 156

Jackson looked at the backs of the Knights as they walked away. He was surprised that Griffon would come forward to help them just now.

On second thought, perhaps Alpha Knight also looked down on she-wolves like Lena who played tricks when they thought others wouldn't know.

Since Griffon happened to see them, he would naturally stand up to uphold justice as any Alpha would, no matter if it was a human or not. Taya wasn't just any human. She worked for the MPC and for many packs, and she'd been raised as any other wolf was.

Even though he looked down on Taya, he had just canceled the engagement with the Knight pack.

Jackson refused to overthink it.

He looked at Lena again.

"I'll only repeat myself once. Apologize!"

Jackson infused the word "apologize" with the commanding tone of his Alpha wolf.

Henry hurriedly asked Lena what had happened to make his good friend angry.

Lena did not dare to argue anymore. She could only cry and say that she was jealous of Taya, so she slapped her in anger.



Henry's thoughts of helping his sister were immediately dispelled. Typically, Lena was exasperating, but now, he was incensed. "Apologize!"

After that, he added, "After apologizing to Alpha Sterling and his companion, you will come with me to receive your punishment from Father."

Old Alpha Wilton was in his element, greeting the elders in the banquet hall. He didn't know what had happened outside. He was too absorbed in his own interests.

He didn't know that the Knight pack cousins had left. He only thought they had gone out to meet the other younger shifters.

If he learned that Griffon had been angered by his daughter and left, he would slap Lena a time or two to teach her a lesson.

Given that her brother had more power than her, Lena could only apologize to Taya, no matter how reluctant she was.

Jackson wasn't impressed with Lena's forced apology, and his wolf wanted more.

He still wanted to say something, but Taya stopped him. "Alpha Sterling, let's go."

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Sure, Lena had slapped me. But the sting of my slap wouldn't last for nearly as long as the damage to Lena's reputation. Of course, Lena was unhappy, and her apology wasn't sincere.

I didn't feel the need to argue with her anymore. All I wanted was for her to be taught a lesson and remember it.

She might have slapped me today, but if she behaved like this in the future and slapped Jackson's promised mate out of jealousy, the Wilton pack wouldn't be able to recover.

Lena didn't know what Taya was thinking. To her, Taya was only the source of her current embarrassment and discontent.

As soon as the banquet ended, Lena cried and complained to her father and brother. "You must seek justice for me!"

Hearing her crying, Alpha Wilton slapped her in the face.

"How dare you cry in front of me after offending Griffon!"

Lena instantly stopped crying and looked at her father in disbelief.

"If I don't teach you a lesson, you won't learn it. You—and this pack—can't afford to offend Griffon or Jackson. One is in charge of Arcadia, and the other is in Wolverly Capital. You've offended both of them in one go!"

Alpha Ray was so angry that his face started to change, his whole body trembling as his rage caused him to start shifting into his wolf. If it weren't for Henry stepping between him and Lena, he would have taught the she-wolf another lesson.

Lena did not expect that her father, who had always doted on her, would ever slap her. Let alone for someone outside of their pack. She covered her face and ran out.

Henry chased after her anxiously, seeing that his younger sister had left in a fit of anger.

Everyone knew that the blind date banquet of the Wilton pack was a mess.

Jackson led me out of the Wilton manor.

We stood at the door, waiting for Camille to arrive with the car. Jackson still held my hand.

I looked down at his hand, pretending nothing had happened,  
and broke free from his grip.

Disappointment  
flashed through Jackson's eyes the moment I pulled my hand out of his.

Thinking of how he had just helped me, I thanked him. "Alpha Sterling, thank you for speaking up for me earlier."

Disappointment crossed Jackson's face when I spoke.

He looked at my swollen cheek and said guiltily, "I'm sorry. You  
wouldn't have been hurt if it weren't for me."

I gave a small shrug. "It doesn't matter."

It was just a slap. It was nothing compared to the two kicks Jackson had given me before.

Just as he was about to say something else to me, Camille  
drove up.

## Chapter 158

Jackson clamped his  
mouth shut and opened the back door for me like the perfect gentleman he wasn't.

No, he was the literal big, bad wolf.

I was still feeling a little dizzy. Before getting in the  
car, my body swayed, and Jackson quickly held me by the waist.

"Ms. Palmer, are you all right?"

I shook my head and tried to break free from his grip, but he held my waist with one hand and helped me into the car.

\*\*\*

Watching the Rolls Royce disappear into the distance, the man in another car put out his cigarette.

Under dim light, the cold moonlight shone through the window on the man's stoic, hard facial features.

His indifferent eyes were like emissaries from hell. There was no emotion in them, and they looked gloomy and dim...with a hint of his wolf's fire.

Sitting in the back seat, Preston couldn't see his expression clearly. But something told him that Griffon had stopped here to wait for Taya.

A worried expression unconsciously appeared on Preston's face. "Griffon, why aren't you leaving yet?"

After a few seconds of silence, the man's indifferent voice spoke. "Wait for Andre."

Andre said he had left something in the Wilton's house and returned to get it.

However, Preston saw it for the excuse it was. Griffon would never wait for an assistant to do anything. Waiting for others was an inconvenience for the Alpha.

The more Preston thought about it, the more uneasy he felt. "Don't tell me you've fallen for that woman?"

He thought Griffon would deny it, but his response was nothing like he expected. "What if I'm really inlove with her?"

Preston was shocked. He quickly sat up straight. "Griffon, you can't. Her life would be in danger if youfall in love with her. An Alpha can never mate a human. And although she isn't a good person, I don'twant to see blood again."

When Griffon heard this, the emotion in his eyes disappeared and the stoic Alpha look was back in place.

He looked back at Preston with a smile.

"Preston, you're still as easy to fool as when you were young."

Preston could tell from his face that he was joking. Only then did his tense nerves relax.

However, with a severe look, Preston reminded Griffon, "Don't say such things in front of others in thefuture."

If someone with ulterior motives heard Griffon say something like that, the Knight pack would never be at peace, and the rumors would be unstoppable.

Griffon looked away, his eyes filled with despair.

## Chapter 159

Through the rearview mirror, Preston looked at the distant-looking Griffon.

After hesitating momentarily, Preston plucked up the courage to ask, "Griffon, when are you going to getmated to Tara?"

Preston always felt that everything would be settled after Griffon and Tara had their mating ceremony and Tara became the Knight pack's Luna. Then, he would no longer have to worry about anything.

Griffon seemed to smile, but it didn't reach his eyes. "You also want me to mate her?"

Preston shook his head slightly and said, "No, but..."

But he had no choice.

After all, Alpha's rarely had a choice regarding who they needed to take as their Luna. And Griffon mating an elder's daughter was the best choice for their pack to remain strong and powerful.

Just as Preston considered what to say, Griffon suddenly said, "I'll mate her."

His voice was very nonchalant, as if there were no feelings in him. He was like a machine, so cold that he was lifeless.

Preston sighed deeply in his heart. Griffon seemed to have never been happy...

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Jackson drove Taya home.

Before exiting the car, Jackson handed her an ointment and said, "It'll help you reduce the swelling. It's something

we wolves use when we need a little extra help when we're injured."

After thanking him, Taya declined politely. "I'll just use ice cubes when I get inside."

After saying that, Taya left. Jackson looked at her petite figure as she walked away, a lonely expression on his face again.

He could feel that Taya was on her guard against him, and the hint of hostility in her eyes puzzled him.

While Jackson was deep in thought, Camille reminded him, "Alpha Sterling, Ms. Palmer is playing hard to get. Please don't be fooled."

Jackson hadn't been in a relationship since he lost his memory. He didn't know anything about women's behavior—especially

human woman.

"No, there's no game. She doesn't like me and doesn't want to be anywhere near me."

## Chapter 160

After a pause, Camille continued. "Didn't *you* notice what she did just now? If Taya didn't want your sympathy, she wouldn't have told you what happened with Lena. She deliberately let you see it, and even let you confront Lena. She must have known that Henry wanted to get you and Lena together, so Taya deliberately sabotaged his efforts. Trust me, I know how women operate."

Under normal circumstances, Jackson would have believed Camille. But Taya didn't let him see it on purpose. If anything, she had tried to minimize what had happened, but Lena had hit her hard enough to leave a mark on her face that she couldn't hide.

If it weren't for that, he probably wouldn't have known what had gone down in the bathroom.

Camille opened her mouth to say something else, but Jackson stopped her. "Just focus on driving. All you know how to do is gossip."

Camille was speechless.

She wasn't a gossip. At all. And it hurt her that Jackson would say that about her.

Looks like her evening was going to be filled with Ben & Jerry's

to make her feel better.

\*\*\*

When I got home, I was so tired that I collapsed on the sofa and stared blankly at the ceiling.

My physical strength was completely zapped and *spread* from my body to my heart. I was exhausted, and fatigue overtook me as soon as I laid down.

I closed my eyes and tried to take deep, calming breaths.

I didn't remove my makeup or change my clothes. I was too tired too tired to do anything other than let sleep take over, sliding in and out of waking and dreamland.

I was so dizzy and delirious with weariness that I would swear

I saw Griffon walk in.

He picked me up, held me in his arms, and kissed me passionately.

Under his fierce attack, my body could not help but respond to



him...