

## The Billionaire Alpha's Contract Lover

Chapter 181

"Ms. Palmer also grew up in the Bright Orphanage."

"As a human?" Griffon asked.

Andre nodded. "She was dropped off at their doorstep. Since it is widely known that the Bright Orphanage is for wolf shifters, it was assumed that a wolf shifter dropped her off and she was a shifter. But, as you know, she never received the gift of her wolf from the goddess.

"Ms. Palmer and Silas were at the orphanage at the same time. It would appear that Ms. Palmer, Silas, and Ms. Palmer's best friend-a Harper Duke-were very close. Though, upon reaching their teenage years, Ms. Palmer and Silas became a couple. They remained together up until five years ago, when Silas had a car accident. At that time, Ms. Palmer had just turned eighteen and had no money, so she had to sell herself to save him.

"Although he was saved, Silas lost his memory. He doesn't remember Ms. Palmer, so it would appear they haven't been in contact with each other since. I could find nothing regarding interaction between them over the past five years."

Andre had only found a rough outline of what had happened, but the details were sparse. He didn't know why they didn't see each other anymore.

Griffon's face grew darker and darker as he flipped through the

When he guessed Silas was Jackson, he knew Taya had sold herself to save Silas. However, hearing and seeing it with his eyes made it real, something he couldn't ignore.

Her history mattered to him. The fact that Taya had been in love with someone else, that she might have given her body to someone else... He couldn't get those things out of his head. His wolf had always been extraordinarily possessive. What was his was **ONLY HIS**.

"Did you verify her virginity before you brought her to my room that night?"

Andre hadn't expected Griffon to ask this. After a moment of shock, he shook his head.

"After I...bought Ms. Palmer, I took her to the mansion. You only told me to wash her

up...”

That night, Taya had been kneeling at the door of the nightclub. It was pouring out, and as soon as Alpha Knight saw the destitute-looking girl, Andre had seen something on his face shift. He'd taken immediate notice of her, had seemed almost desperate to have her.

Andre was hurrying to get her ready for the Alpha, so he'd skipped the virginity examination. He sent someone to clean Ms. Palmer up, then sent her directly to Griffon's room.

She'd looked so innocent, so anxious and fearful at being prepared and brought to the Alpha. And certainly, a human wouldn't have lied about something so serious to a wolf...an Alpha wolf no less.

Griffon seemed to have seen through what Andre was thinking, and his gaze swept over him.

When his wolf's eyes grazed Andre, Andre shivered with fear.

## Chapter 182

“Alpha... Alpha Knight, do you suspect that Ms. Palmer tricked you?”

Alpha Knight was known for his possessiveness. Had he known or suspected that Ms. Palmer had deceived him, had been with someone else before him, he wouldn't have slept with her that first night. And he certainly wouldn't have kept sleeping with her for five years.

Since Alpha Knight asked if Andre had verified her virginity, he must have suspicions. Andre understood his Alpha's concern and quickly showed Griffon the timeline in the documents.

“Alpha, I went to the hospital to compare when Silas had the car accident, and when Ms. Palmer was selling herself outside of Nightshade. It was on the same night.

“That night, after Ms. Palmer sent Silas to the hospital, she went to sell herself to raise money for the operation. She didn't have time to do a hymen repair operation.”

The disgust and discomfort in his heart gradually dissipated when Griffon heard this. That night, her reactions to him made it feel like it had been her first time. Had it not been, her acting skills were unsurpassed.

Every way in which she'd reacted to him and formed an

obsession for her, and Griffon never would have been able to live it down internally, his wolf would never be able to get over it if it had been a lie.

She had not lied to him this time, but...

His dark gaze fell back on the documents.

Lost his memory...

Griffon remembered that Taya disagreed when he forced her to sign the lovers' agreement.

Later, when she returned from Wolverly Capital, she signed the agreement without hesitation.

She must have angrily signed the contract when she discovered Jackson had lost his memory, didn't remember her, and didn't want to be with her.

So many years, and she'd never fallen in love with him. It turned out...

Griffon's grip on the documents tightened, his claws elongating and poking holes in the paper.

His dark expression turned into an angry scowl, his brows furrowing and his fangs dropping. He wanted to hunt, to kill, to punish...

Jackson said that he had known Taya since childhood...meaning

he had regained his memory,

The five years he had spent with Taya were nothing compared to their friendship of more than two decades.

Thinking of this, Griffon was furious.

## Chapter 183

Seeing Griffon like this, Andre was suddenly a little worried.

His Alpha had always been good at controlling his emotions. But because of Ms. Palmer, he had already lost control several times.

"Alpha, you..."

Andre wanted to say, "Since you've already separated from Ms. Palmer, let it go. It's good for Alpha Sterling and Ms. Palmer."

But he knew he couldn't say this. It would be too cruel.

Ms. Palmer had meant something to the Alpha. Sure, Griffon was good at controlling his

emotions, hiding them...but Andre had always suspected there was something more. Griffon didn't bother with people he didn't need, who didn't serve a purpose. Let alone humans.

Griffon threw the documents back to Andre.

"Shred them."

His flat voice was devoid of emotion, as if he had returned to being the controlled, indifferent Alpha.

Andre glanced at him but still didn't say anything. He picked up the documents and ran them through the shredder.

There was a knock. Receiving Griffon's order, Andre opened the door.

"Alpha Knight."

Stephen Lawton, the pack member in charge of the Weston City project, came in.

"The bidding is over. The pack elders all voted for the Sterling pack."

"The Sterling pack?" Griffon glowered at Stephen.

Stephen had noticed that Alpha Knight seemed to have a problem with the Sterling pack, so he quickly said, "The results haven't been announced yet, and the elders have only spoken to me about their decision. I came to you to ask which group you plan to hand over the development rights to."

"Where are the bids from this afternoon's groups?"

Stephen quickly handed over the documents.

Griffon casually flipped through the stack of papers, looking at the prices, timeline, and other pertinent details.

After looking through everything, he set his jaw and sighed.

He was left with no choice.

He returned the files to Stephen. "The elders' ruling stays."

## Chapter 184

Although he didn't like Jackson, there was no doubt that the Sterling pack's bid was the best. And with their influence and connections, they would be able to complete the work as they promised.

Griffon had never brought his personal feelings into pack business. When he'd taken over as Alpha for his father, he'd vowed to always do what was best for the pack. Right now, letting the Sterling pack have the project was what was best for the pack despite

how much Griffon hated it.

Stephen nodded. "I'll go announce the results now, Alpha."

When Stephen announced that the Sterling pack had won the bid for the development rights, the other packs were disappointed.

They had thought that since Griffon had targeted Jackson so much during his presentation and asked so many questions, he wouldn't award the project to the Sterling pack.

They didn't expect Griffon to ask so many questions to know more about the strength of the Sterling pack, rather than to back him into a corner, put him on the spot, and make Alpha Sterling look bad.

After failing, everyone sighed and left, leaving only Tara in the auditorium, sitting in her seat in the front row, trembling

When Stephen had announced the winner of the bid, he had also said that the Knight pack would be handling the contracts and management directly-which meant that they wouldn't be using the Midwest Packs Corporation to be a third-party overseer.

Griffon knew how important this project was to Tara, how much she had worked to make sure the bidding happened without a hitch. To make sure all of the best packs were brought in to bid.

She'd wined and dined, and she needed this project to cement her place as the first she-wolf to ever be CEO of the MPC. To prove that she hadn't just been given the job because her father was an elder.

It was apparent that Griffon didn't take her seriously!

She clenched her fists and rushed to Griffon's office. She wanted to go in and question him but was stopped by his pack guards.

"Miss, Alpha Knight is not accepting meetings at this time."

Tara was livid. "I'm Griffon's mate, your future Luna! How dare you stop me?!"

The guard was stunned. He didn't expect that the woman in front of him would be Alpha Knight's mate.

"I'm sorry, but without Alpha Knight's permission, I cannot let you in. We were given orders to let no one in under any circumstances."

Chapter 185

"You..."

Tara was so angry that her chest heaved up and down.

She stood there, debating whether or not to just throw herself past the guard and through the door. There was no way they would physically harm the Alpha's mate-to-be, right?

When Preston turned down the hallway, he saw Tara arguing with Griffon's personal pack guards and hurried over.

"What's wrong?"

When she saw that it was Preston, Tara's expression softened slightly.

Tara restrained her temper, pointed at the guard, and said, "Preston, I want to see Griffon, but he won't let me in."

Preston indeed looked familiar with the woman, the guard mused.

Could this woman really be Alpha Knight's mate?

Didn't that mean that he had offended his Luna just now?

The guard looked at Preston and saw that Preston was looking at him with a grin on his face. He thought to himself, "Well, I'm

about to be demoted to a lower position within the pack."

Unexpectedly, Preston raised his hand and patted him on the shoulder. "Good job. I'll see that you get a bonus at the end of the year!"

"Preston, why are you-"

Before Tara could finish her words, Preston interrupted her.

"He didn't let you in because he followed my brother's orders. That's literally his job. And instead of understanding the position he's in, you were rude to him and yelled at him. Is that how a Luna behaves?"

Preston had known Tara's character since they were children.

She tended to look down on the lowest-level pack members but always pretended to be kind and generous.

He'd had a problem with Tara for a long time. If it weren't Griffon, he wouldn't have bothered to talk to her. She was a she-wolf who was meant to be a Luna, and he didn't feel she would make a good one for the Knight pack.

"Preston, why do you have to go against me?"

Tara thought that Preston was here to help her, but it turned out that he was helping an

outsider. She was already angry, and now she was being called rude by Preston in front of a lowly pack guard. How embarrassing.

"I'm not going against you. I'm just following the rules. If you feel something is wrong, I'm sure Griffon will gladly hear your complaints...when he's accepting visitors."

"Preston!" Tara roared in anger, her rageful wolf coming to the surface. She took her purse and threw it at him.

Preston easily avoided the bag.

When she missed, it incensed Tara even further, and she started to shift.

"Be careful, you might ruin your pretty dress," Preston mocked.

"Just you wait!" she yelled.

When she became Griffon's true mate, once she was the Luna of the Knight pack, she would take revenge on Preston. As the Luna, she would be higher ranking than him, and she'd be able to do whatever she wanted.

Tara glared at Preston, then turned and huffed off.

As soon as she left, the guard looked at Preston worriedly.

"She said she's the Alpha's mate. Will your involvement in this cause trouble for you with the Alpha?"

"His mate?" Preston sneered. "Griffon hasn't even gotten engaged to her yet, but she's already calling herself his mate. Shame on her. And don't worry. Even if she marries Griffon, she won't pose any threat to me."

Griffon didn't want to marry Tara to begin with. If it weren't for Eldest Brother...

Thinking of his elder brother, Preston's expression changed.

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## Chapter 186

Jackson wasn’t surprised by the results of the bidding.

After he signed the contract, he left the auditorium and returned to the lounge where he’d left Taya. When he saw that Taya was still asleep, he frowned slightly.

He stepped forward and gently nudged Taya, only to find she had fallen into a deep sleep.

Jackson called her name a few more times, but she didn’t respond.

He had noticed that she could fall asleep quickly, but now he felt like something was wrong.

This felt like more than just a nap, she was sleeping so soundly.

He quickly took out his mobile phone and called Eric.

“Eric, do people with heart failure sleep more?”

Eric didn't need to ask who Jackson was talking about.

"People with heart failure are more prone to exhaustion, yes."

"What about not being able to wake them up?"

Eric wanted to tell him what was going on, but he also felt that

the young lady didn't seem to want Jackson to know the truth.

"She must just be really tired. And some people sleep more soundly than others. It's nothing serious. She'll be fine when she wakes up."

Eric hesitated for a few seconds, fighting the urge to tell his friend what was really happening. But if he divulged Taya's medical information, he could lose his license.

Jackson heaved a sigh of relief when he heard what Eric said.

Taya had been busy accompanying him to banquets and biddings during the past two days, so that made sense that she was just a bit more over-exerted than normal.

Jackson hung up the phone and looked at Taya, sleeping on the sofa.

He clearly remembered that he had put a coat on her before he left, but it was gone.

Looking around, he saw the edge of his jacket sleeve hanging out of the trash can.

What the hell?

Did she really hate him that much?

## Chapter 187

Jackson didn't have a chance to ruminate on Taya's actions. There was a knock on the doorframe, and his Beta walked in.

"The Knight pack is urging everyone off-property now that the bidding has concluded."

The Knight pack never allowed outsiders to stay in their headquarters for long. They had too much going on, especially given the nature of their private contracts with the government. A leak of any kind could ruin them.

Jackson withdrew his gaze from Taya and nodded to his Beta. "Go get the car and bring it around."

Beta Smith nodded and quickly turned around to leave.

As soon as he left, Jackson stepped forward, picked up Taya, and walked out of the lounge.

Anger filled him. That she would so callously just throw his jacket away was completely unacceptable. Who the hell did she think she was? The fact that she had disrespected

him and clearly wanted nothing to do with him made him all the more determined to touch her, brand her, force her to be near him.

Everyone was stunned when he appeared in the lobby with Taya in his arms.

The stubborn desire in the Alpha's eyes was a little scary...

As Preston walked into his brother's office, he saw Griffon standing in front of the French window with his hands in his pockets, looking down at the lobby below.

"Griffon..." Preston called out to him, but Griffon didn't respond.

He walked over and followed the Alpha's line of sight to look down just in time to see Jackson carefully carry Taya into the car.

Preston wanted to laugh at the ridiculousness of the situation. Were the two of them thumbing their noses at the Knight pack on purpose?

One was a lowly human woman Griffon had kept as a mistress, and the other was a man who had talked about mating with his sister.

Not only did the two of them get together, but they even dared to embrace each other in the territory of the Knight pack!

"Do you think Jackson will mate her?"

Just as Preston angrily gnashed his teeth, Griffon asked this question.

## Chapter 188

Preston was stunned for a long time before Griffon realized he had asked if Jackson would mate Taya.

"How is that possible? With Ms. Palmer's background and lack of a wolf, how could the Sterling pack allow Jackson to mate her?"

"Is that so?" Griffon asked blandly.

Before discovering their past, Griffon was sure Jackson would not go against the Sterling pack for Taya.

But now, he felt that Jackson, who had regained his memory, would do anything for Taya. After all, they used to love each other so much.

"Griffon, you... What's wrong?"

Realizing that Griffon seemed morose at the possibility of Jackson and Taya together, Preston was worried.

Why was the Alpha paying so much attention to Taya? Did he harbor feelings for her? "I'm fine," Griffon bit out.

When Griffon saw the Rolls-Royce drive away from the building, he looked away from the window and toward Preston.

"What do you want from me?"

Seeing that his cousin slash brother had returned to his usual gruff, right to the point self, Preston stopped himself from saying anything further about the Taya and Jackson situation.

"Artificial Intelligence 7 has passed its initial testing, and the press conference will be scheduled for next month. I think it's ready, but do you want to send someone to test it again before the press conference?"

"No."

Preston had been studying computers for many years and had made countless outstanding achievements in artificial intelligence, so Griffon was very confident in him if he said it was ready.

"Just be sure to monitor news and the stock after the press release and inform me of any data of note."

As Alpha, Griffon was in charge of all pack operations. It was a lot to handle, and their businesses had steadily grown over generations of Knight wolves. One of the biggest things he had learned as the leader of his pack was to trust his pack members and let them do their thing the best way for them. He never cared about the process, only the result.

"No problem," Preston replied, nodding.

After they were done with the business, Preston brought up

Tara.

"So, Tara had a quarrel with your pack guards downstairs just now. Did you happen to see that?"

Griffon nodded, showing no interest in it, but Preston couldn't help pressing further.

"Not only was she disrespectful and rude with the guard, she also claimed to be your

mate. How could she—”

“Tomorrow, I will go to Elder Thorin to discuss when Tara and I’s mating ceremony will be.”

Chapter 189

“What, what?”

Preston was dumbfounded.

“Go back to the pack manor and ask Mr. Sheridan to prepare the mating ceremony gifts.”

It took Preston a few minutes to take in what Griffon had said and to regain his ability to speak after the shock he’d been delivered.

“You can’t be serious. Are you really going to mate Tara? Her character is questionable at best for a Luna. Our pack needs someone kind, someone full of light and love...someone who respects other people.”

Griffon didn’t reply. His vacant eyes were filled with a dim light.

He felt as if he had fallen into a lonely abyss.

Preston’s eyes were full of sympathy and helplessness.

“Griffon, we can wait a little longer. There’s no need to—”

“What’s there to wait about?” Griffon snarled.

Preston opened his mouth and wanted to say something, but it was useless.

No matter if they did it immediately or waited, the outcome was still the same.

Instead, Preston simply nodded and said, “I’ll have Mr. Sheridan prepare the mating gifts.”

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The Rolls-Royce stopped at the entrance to Taya’s neighborhood. Taya, lying in the back seat, had not woken up yet.

“Alpha, should I wake Ms. Palmer?” the driver asked.

Jackson turned his head to look at the peacefully sleeping Taya, feeling a bit reluctant to disturb her.

“Call for one of the men to pick you up. Leave the car to me.”

The driver nodded and handed the keys over to Jackson before getting out of the vehicle.

Jackson didn't know which house Taya lived in, nor did he know when she would wake up.

After hesitating for a few minutes, he started the car and took her to his villa.

He had planned to stay there when he came to Arcadia for the bidding, but Ms. Thorin had insisted on arranging a hotel for them, so he had never been there.

One of the many perks of being a rich Alpha was the ability

to have someone purchase real estate for you and take care of getting it set up.

After he parked the car, he carried Taya into the villa.

How was she still not awake?

"Alpha, you're here." Cora, who was waiting in the villa, hurried over when she saw Jackson.

He nodded and instructed, "Prepare a set of clean pajamas."

Cora glanced at the girl in his arms and dared not ask any more questions. She replied with a "yes" and went to find pajamas.

Jackson put Taya on the bed in the second bedroom. Looking at her peaceful and beautiful face, the sense of paranoia that had been plaguing him eased slightly.

He raised his hand and caressed her hair.

For a long time, he sat by the bed and watched her before asking Cora to help her change into the pajamas.

Then he went to the bathroom, washed up, and returned to the bedroom to look at Taya.

Seeing that she had turned over and changed her sleeping position, he heaved a deep sigh of relief.

It was as if she had passed away silently when she fell asleep.

Now that Taya was safe and sound, he gently closed the door and turned to the main bedroom.

Chapter 190

When I woke up, it was the next day.

I looked around the unfamiliar room in a daze.

Vaguely, I remembered crying on the sofa yesterday. I'd cried so hard that I was out of breath and fainted.

But...I was at the Knight pack's headquarters yesterday. How and why was I waking up in such a strange place?

I struggled to sit up, only to find that my legs were sore, and I couldn't move.

Glancing around the room, I saw my purse on the sofa across the room. I needed my medicine from it...but the sofa was so very far away.

I was about to crawl over to get the medicine, when the door opened and Jackson came in.

Goddess, he looked amazing. The sunlight coming in through the window behind him made him glow, and I felt like I was looking at seventeen-year-old Silas.

"You're awake."

Jackson's gaze was gentle as he looked at me.

"Yeah." I felt uncomfortable and nodded before looking up at him. "Where am I?"

"This is my villa in Arcadia. I didn't know where you lived, so I brought you here."

"You have a home here? Then why didn't you refuse the hotel room?"

"Ms. Thorin insisted that you arrange a hotel for me. If I refused, she would have blamed you and said you messed up, right?"

He was right. "Thank you," I said quietly, nodding. "What was the result of the bidding?"

“The Sterling pack won the bid. And the Knight pack will be directly managing it, which means you’ll be off the hook with Ms.Thorin.”

My eyes widened. Griffon wasn’t going to have the MPC handle project management?

But, what about Tara? Wasn’t Griffon aware of just how bad this would make her look?

I couldn’t quite figure it out, but I didn’t ask anything further. “Congratulations.”

Jackson’s brows narrowed, and he opened his mouth like he wanted to say something, then closed it.

“Are you hungry?” he asked.

I shook my head, looking everywhere but at Jackson. This was too intimate. I noticed my clothes lying next to my bag, then looked down to see that I was wearing unfamiliar pajamas.

My gaze shot up to Jackson’s face.

“It was the maid who helped you change.”

I breathed a sigh of relief.

I needed to leave, to get away from Jackson, but my legs...

They were still frozen. I was trapped here.

Chapter 191

I needed Jackson to take me home, but he would expect me to get out of bed...and I couldn’t.

As I was thinking about how to get my pills without alerting him to the fact that I couldn’t move my legs, he turned toward the door and called for someone.

“Cora.”



A middle-aged woman in her 40s or 50s came in with a plate.

The woman-Cora, I presumed-looked kind. She had a gentle smile on her face, and her figure was plump. She looked like...a mother.

After placing the food tray on the table, she smiled. "Miss, I don't know what you like to eat, so I prepared some breakfast according to Alpha Sterling's tastes. Later, I can make you lunch according to your tastes instead."

Her kindness made me feel a little less uncomfortable. "Thank you."

Cora waved her hand. "You're welcome."

She walked out and closed the door behind her.

My heart stuttered when she closed the door. She must think we needed privacy, that there was intimacy between.

Now I felt even more uncomfortable than before. I struggled to sit up in the bed, only able to use my arms to shift around.

I leaned against the headboard, a little embarrassed, and asked Jackson, "Can you take me home?"

Jackson didn't respond right away. After a few seconds, he frowned, heaved a sigh, and asked, "Do you have any other disease besides your heart issue?"

"Then why do you have to struggle to sit up?"

I sighed internally. No matter how well I pretended, Jackson could see through me.

"I have an insufficient blood supply, so I feel weak when I'm tired."

"Insufficient blood supply?"

His tone was full of skepticism.

"Do you have to hear the words 'terminal illness' from my mouth before you believe me?"

Jackson quickly explained. "That's not what I meant. I just think

I interrupted him. "It doesn't matter what you mean. I don't have to report my physical condition to you. Or has something changed that I don't know about, and I'm required to?"

He looked taken aback for a second. No one spoke to an Alpha the way I'd just spoken to Jackson. And humans? Hell, "regular" humans probably rarely spoke to him at all.

He quickly recovered, and a glower slid over his face.

I was treading on thin ice with him, but right now, I didn't care.

"Would you like to rethink the tone you're speaking to me in?" he growled.

"No," I said matter-of-factly. "Especially regarding our history where my heart condition is concerned. And I'm not some simpering she-wolf who will flatter you, if that's what you're looking for."

I stared at Jackson without blinking.

Did he have a conscious? Even remotely?

He was the one who had damaged my transplanted heart and caused my current heart failure.

How dare he tone police me.

The Billionaire Alpha's Contract Lover

Chapter 192

Jackson looked at me and took a step forward, then stopped abruptly. It was as though I had pricked him.

If only I could.

If only I were a porcupine shifter or something-if those even existed. All those little needles to protect myself from all these Alphas and their tempers.

He let out a huff. "I don't need you to flatter me. I just want to make sure you're okay."

I'd readied myself to fight with him; I didn't expect him to say such a thing.

It threw me off-kilter.

And now he was smiling, which threw me off even more.

He seemed genuinely concerned about my physical condition and asked a few more questions.

Jackson turned around, picked up the plate on the table, and handed it to me. "Eat something first."

I did not respond, just stared blankly at the food on the plate.

"Taya?"

When Jackson called my name, I slowly raised my head to look at him.

I tried to keep my expression bland and indifferent, but I couldn't help the tears in my eyes.

My hopes that he didn't see them were dashed when I saw his chest heave and his

eyes soften.

He was about to speak, but I didn't want his pity. How dare he.

"If you want to make sure I'm fine, then why did you treat me like that five years ago?"

\*\*\*

"

Jackson didn't have an answer.

Five years ago, he had just lost his memory and was unfamiliar with everything and everyone.

Every single thing in his life was strange, was a struggle. And Taya came to him every day and explained over and over again. It didn't matter how many times she said it-he didn't

remember.

In the midst of that, he received information about her, and it didn't show her in a great light. It made her appear to be conniving and scheming.

He'd snapped.

That was why he ordered the security guard to throw her out, even though she was still kneeling at the door then.

It was the worst thing he could have ever done to her, and the guilt was unbearable.

Chapter 193

"I'm sorry. I didn't mean... I was so overwhelmed..."

Jackson couldn't find the right words to continue. A strange feeling spread through him, and he struggled to try to figure out what it was. His wolf nudged him, and his realization took him aback.

Embarras\*ment. That's what it was.

Definitely an emotion that Alphas didn't tend to have a lot of experience with...

Even if Taya had bad intentions at the time, he shouldn't have ordered pack guards to physically throw her out.

His thoughts had gone off track, and he hadn't directly answered her question. She didn't care that he was overwhelmed and confused five years ago; she cared about how he'd physically hurt her.

Subconsciously, he probably didn't want to discuss it, so his wolf had derailed his thoughts and made him deflect.

Taya didn't ask any more questions, and Jackson was puzzled by her silence after being so forthright with him just a few minutes ago.

When she came to the airport to pick him up, he had apologized.

It didn't matter and she'd blown him off, still didn't like him.

Now, when he apologized to her again regarding having the pack guards throw her out, she still didn't respond.

What more did she want from him? He'd already given her two more apologies than any other Alpha would offer up.

He couldn't figure it out and wanted to ask more questions, but Taya said lightly, "Alpha Sterling, please take me home."

Jackson set his jaw, his eyebrows narrowing a bit.

It was clear they weren't going to get anywhere with this conversation. She'd shut him down and shut him out.

"I'm so sorry to trouble you, Alpha."

Where was this demure, quiet woman coming from? It was a drastic change in tone from her previous words to him.

She must be desperate to get home, to get away from him.

And he wasn't sure how he felt about that.

## Chapter 194

Jackson handed the plate of food to me. "I'll take you home after you eat something."

I didn't have much of an appetite, and the last thing I wanted to do was eat. But when he promised to take me home after I ate, I obediently took the plate.

After breakfast, it took some effort to change into my clothes.

I'd worn a professional suit to attend the bidding conference yesterday, and thankfully, the loose-fitting trousers covered up my swollen legs.

After I changed, Jackson came in again as I was thinking about how to ask him to help me get downstairs. My legs were so stiff, I didn't think I'd be able to manage on my own.

As if Jackson had read my mind, he walked over and gathered me up in his arms.

He took me by surprise, but he said lightly, "If you could leave on your own, you wouldn't have asked me to take you home."

I dipped my head, a bit embarrassed that he could see through me so easily.

\*\*\*

The woman in his arms was too light.

No matter how much she weighed, it wouldn't matter given his wolf's strength.

But this...she felt like a feather in his arms.

It seemed that a slight gust of wind could blow her emaciated body away.

Jackson's heart ached to see Taya like this.

"Taya..."

After he carried her out of the villa, he called her name softly.

Taya looked up at him and waited quietly without saying anything.

After a moment of silence, Jackson lowered his head. "I'm sorry I forgot you. Please don't hate me."

She searched his face, and he hoped she could see the sincerity in his eyes.

Frowning, her eyes furrowed in thought, she asked, "Did you really... lose your memory?"

Jackson nodded. "I tried to regain it, but whenever I fought to remember something, I would be overcome with migraines."

Especially when he thought of her.

That was when his head hurt even more.

It was like his brain was preventing him from recalling anything related to Taya.

Chapter 195

Jackson didn't know why, but every time he saw Taya, he couldn't help but feel sad.

When he first lost his memory, he felt nothing when he saw her.

But when they met again this time, it was different.

Something had shifted, and now all he could do was FEEL, and it threw him for a loop.

\*\*\*

I wasn't sure if I believed him.

But something in his eyes told me he was telling the truth, that he wasn't faking it just for

my sake.

A honk sounded from behind us, and Jackson and I turned around at the same time.

Two cars had stopped behind us.

The car in the front had the license plate number ALPHA1.

There was only one person in Arcadia with this license plate number.

I subconsciously buried my head in Jackson's arms when I saw

who was in the car.

I'd hoped that he wouldn't see me, but I didn't expect that he would get out.

The first person to get out of the car was Preston. He was wearing a black suit. He opened the passenger door and walked up to us.

"Alpha Sterling, Ms. Palmer, what a coincidence to see you here."

He raised his head and looked at the villa beside us with a disdainful smile.

"Your relationship is progressing quite quickly. It's only been a few days and you're already living together."

\*\*\*

Preston's tone was a bit snide.

"Preston, you've misunderstood. I'm not living with Ms. Palmer. She's not feeling well, so I brought her home."

Jackson's words sounded like excuses. What did he mean by bringing her home because she was not feeling well? She had her own house.

"Apparently, Ms. Palmer is feeling very poorly if she's so weak that she needs a man to carry her."

Chapter 196

My cheeks flushed, and embarrassment flooded over me.

I didn't raise my head to look at Preston, instead burying my face even more into Jackson.

I could only be a coward and let Preston mock me.

Jackson seemed to sense my fear. The hand on my back patted me gently.

"Don't worry about him," he whispered.

After comforting me, he glanced at Preston coldly.

\*\*\*

“Whether Ms. Palmer can walk or not has nothing to do with you. And there will be hell to pay if I hear of you spreading lies regarding she and I.” Jackson growled out a low warning.

As soon as he said that, Preston was so angry that he rolled up his sleeves and wanted to punch him, his wolf rising to the challenge.

A cold voice came from the car.

“Preston, the important matter comes first.”

The man’s voice was faint, as if everything that happened outside the car had nothing to do with him.

Only after hearing the man’s words did Preston restrain his wolf and his temper.

He pointed to Jackson’s car parked in the middle of the road. “Hurry up and move your car. You’re blocking us.”

Jackson’s wolf reared up. First, Preston was insulting, and now he was ordering Jackson around. How dare this man order an Alpha around as if he were someone? Nope. Not happening.

He pretended not to hear what Preston said and stood still.

Preston’s face reddened. “Alpha Knight is on his way to propose to Ms. Thorin. How dare you stand in his way?”

The blood rushed from my face, and my stomach leapt up to my throat.

Griffon...proposing to Tara?

My whole body felt as if it were being torn apart, and the pain was so intense that it was difficult to breathe.

I thought I could let go of Griffon like I had let go of Silas.

I didn’t expect to feel so uncomfortable when I heard that Griffon was going to mate Tara.

I wanted to rush to him, hug him, and not let him

But that was just a dream. I could never do that.

Tara was Griffon’s rightful Luna, was his true love.

go.

I was the weak human look-alike substitute that the mighty Alpha would never love.

B

## Chapter 197

I clenched my fists so tightly that my nails dug into my palms. It wasn't until I managed to draw blood that I calmed down.

Griffon and I had ended our relationship. No matter whom he married, it had nothing to do with me. I had no right to interfere.

I'd been his mistress, not his partner. And even if he had ever even remotely felt anything for me, he could never make a human his Luna. My destiny was to be the temporary lover, not the forever mate.

I unclenched my fists and kept my face buried in Jackson's shoulder, feeling only resignation.

The only person I could rely on was Silas, the man who had once promised that he would love me forever...

Without another word, Jackson carried me to the car, fastened my seatbelt, went to the driver's seat, and drove off.

After we drove out off the main road, the other car caught up with us.

As it brushed past the Rolls-Royce, I saw the man in the passenger seat.

Griffon wore a pair of sunglasses, making it difficult to see the

expression in his eyes.

However, as the car passed by, he turned his head and seemed to glance at me...but that could have just been my wishful thinking.

My gaze followed the car.

It was not until I saw it stop in front of a villa that I withdrew my gloomy gaze.

After Griffon proposed to Tara, they would have their mating ceremony soon.

Would I even live to see their mating?

I sighed, feeling stupid. What did their mating ceremony have to do with me?

Jackson frowned slightly when he saw my bitter smile and heard me sigh.

"What's wrong?"

\*\*\*

Taya shook her head and did not reply, but her eyes were sad.

Jackson thought she was concerned about what Preston said, so he quickly comforted



her.

“Don’t take his words to heart. He thought I canceled the mating

arrangement with his sister and made him lose face, so he’s targeted me several times.

It has nothing to do with you.”

Taya nodded.

Jackson saw the despair in her eyes, and his frown deepened. “You look very sad. Did something happen?”

Taya smiled weakly, then said, “Nothing at all. I’m just not feeling well.”

Jackson believed this excuse a little. “Are you feeling unwell in your legs?”

She couldn’t even walk. There must be something wrong with her legs.

But he didn’t feel anything unusual when he’d carried her just now.

Taya nodded. “They’re a little swollen. I’m sure I was just standing and walking around too much yesterday, and my veins aren’t happy about it.”

Jackson knew a little about human conditions. Not much, of course, since they didn’t affect his wolf shifter body. But he knew enough to know that although someone’s legs might swell, they usually improved after a period of time. It shouldn’t affect Taya’s ability to walk.

He did not dare to ask any more questions. She’d gotten angry when he asked questions about her condition in the villa. It was

better not to annoy her.

But Jackson was still concerned about her health.

“I’ll ask Eric to treat you. He’s a genius, and he can cure all sorts of ailments.”

Chapter 198

The stiff smile on my face became more bitter. “No need.”

There was no need to waste medical resources on a dying person.

“You...”

Jackson wanted to persuade me again, but I turned to look out of the window, shutting down any further communication.

After Jackson parked the car in front of my house, he carried me the front steps.

up

Even though I didn't want him to know where I lived, I could do nothing in this situation.

I took out the key to open the door, and Jackson carried me into the house.

"Put me on the sofa," I said.

Jackson nodded. He walked to the sofa and gently put me down.

I sat up straight and looked up at him. "Thank you very much."

On the surface, I was thanking him, but the meaning behind my words was to say goodbye to him.

"Rest at home for the next few days. You don't have to entertain me."

After that, Jackson turned around and left.

Walking past the kitchen, he saw a photo in the wine cabinet.

It was a photo of Taya and Harper when they were seventeen or eighteen. They looked very young and innocent.

He could not help but stop. He picked up the photo and glanced at it, only to find it had been edited.

This should be a group photo of three people, but the person standing next to Taya had been cut out.

Jackson subconsciously felt that this person was himself. He was in a trance as soon as this idea came to mind.

Taya's voice came from the sofa. "Did you get my permission before looking at that photo?"

Jackson was on the verge of remembering something when he was interrupted by Taya's voice.

He came back to his senses and looked at her with some embarrassment. "I'm sorry."

He put the photo back on the wine cabinet and walked away.

After Jackson left, I couldn't help but glance at the photo.

It was the only photo Harper had left behind related to Silas.

She said that after I went to Wolverly Capital, someone broke into the house and destroyed all the photos related to Silas.

This photo had been sandwiched in a book, which was why it wasn't destroyed along with all the others.

After I returned from Wolverly Capital, I cut out Silas from the photo.

At that time, I hadn't wanted to see anything related to him ever again.

But all of that was in the past.

I collected myself, took out the medicine from my bag, and swallowed the pills.

Then, I turned on the TV and listened to the faint sound before closing my eyes and falling asleep.

## Chapter 199

Jackson returned to the office and quickly turned on his computer. He retrieved the information from five years ago and repeatedly checked it.

Nothing looked wrong with it, but his intuition told him that what Taya had said back then was true, that this information was fake.

He frowned and took out his phone to call Eric.

Eric was about to start the meeting when he saw the caller ID. He quickly picked it up.

"What's up, Jackson?"

"Did I lose my memory in Arcadia or after I returned to the Sterling pack?"

Eric was his attending physician, so he should know all about him.

When Eric heard his question, he was stunned for a few seconds.

"Are you remembering anything?"

"No, I just feel like something is amiss."

Eric let out a sigh of relief on the other end of the line.

"You lost your memory in Arcadia."

"Did I lose my memory right after the car accident?"

Eric didn't expect him to continue asking. After hesitating, he gritted his teeth and said,

"That's right."

Jackson's expression darkened when he heard that.

He remembered how Taya had come looking for him.

At that time, she thought he was pretending to have amnesia because he blamed her for selling herself and betraying him.

That was why she knelt in front of him and explained over and over again that she had sold herself to save him.

Taya would not have come to him and deliberately mentioned selling herself if he had lost his memory after the car accident.

It meant he didn't lose his memory directly after the car accident and blamed Taya, so she was in a hurry to explain.

He should have lost his memory later. Only his brother or the people around him knew why.

The more Jackson thought about it, the more he felt something was wrong. His face darkened, and his grip on his phone tightened.

"Eric, you're my brother's man, and you won't tell me the truth.

But one day, I'll regain all my memories. If I find out that you're all lying to me, I'll make you pay."

Jackson hung up.

The people by his side were all his brother's men.

Eric was, Camille was, even his pack bodyguard.

They'd often told him not to return to Arcadia over the past five years.

He didn't think about it carefully before, but he felt they stopped him from coming to Arcadia, probably because they feared he would remember something.

And why was it that his wolf had never been able to heal his memory?

He would have been kept in the dark forever if he hadn't insisted on coming to Arcadia to deal with this business directly instead of other pack members handling it.

Eric looked at the black screen and didn't come to his senses for long.

Ten minutes later, he sighed and sent a message to Jackson.

"I only started treating you after you were returned to your pack. By that time, you had already lost your memory. Your brother said you lost it directly after a car accident, but I discovered that wasn't the case during treatment. He asked me

to keep it a secret, but I didn't want to lose you as a friend."

## Chapter 200

Jackson's depression slowly dissipated when he saw Eric's message.

Since he had found out he was an Alpha and gone to live with the Sterling pack, friends were far and few between. Everyone was either afraid of him, or they wanted something from him.

However, what Eric said confirmed his guess. It meant that Taya said back then was true, and the information he'd been given was all fake.

The only person who could fake Jackson's past was his brother. But why would he do something like that?

Was it because he thought Taya wasn't an appropriate mate for him?

Jackson had a rough idea of the situation and why his brother would want Taya out of the picture.

But how exactly did his amnesia occur?

And what was the reason why Taya didn't like him?

Could it be that his brother had said something to her?

Jackson sent all these questions to Eric, and Eric quickly replied.

[I really don't know how your amnesia was caused.]

[As for Ms. Palmer, I've never heard your brother mention her before, and I've never seen her.]

[If it weren't for that time I took a picture of you two and sent it to the chat group, I wouldn't know who she was. Camille found out and reminded me.]

After Jackson was sure that Eric wasn't lying, he put down his phone and called Camille in.

In the face of his questioning, Camille remained composed, and she didn't appear to be tripped up by any of Jackson's inquiries.

Camille was different from Eric. She had been brought up by Jackson's elder brother, so naturally, she was loyal to his elder brother.

Jackson understood Camille but didn't need her to stay by his side and constantly remind him to stay away from Taya.

"Go back to Wolverly Capital. You're not needed here for the time being," Jackson said.

When Camille heard that she was being chased away, her face was full of disbelief.

bidding because she had and a few bad things about 16  
Palmer.

After on a few words shout Me Palmer this time, the Alpha would send her back to the  
Wolverly Capital.

Had Alpha Sterling remembered something?