

The Billionaire Alpha's Contract Lover by Caesar Erickson

Chapter 201

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“Alpha Sterling...”

“Get out.”

Camille had no choice but to shut her mouth and turn around to leave.

It was impossible to pry out anything from Camille. The only person who knew the truth and forged everything had passed

away.

However, in addition to his elder brother, as the person

involved, Taya must know whether his elder brother had looked for her.

While Jackson hesitated to ask Taya directly, the receptionist came in with an express delivery box.

“Alpha Sterling, this is your package.”

Jackson frowned. “What’s this?”

The receptionist placed the package on the table. “It’s from Ms. Palmer.”

Jackson waved the receptionist to leave.

He opened the package, and his face darkened when he saw the

dress and shoes inside.

Taya had returned all the things he had given her.

Jackson's heart felt like it had been kicked, and he found breathing difficult.

How had he disappointed her so badly that she would send his gift back?

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After about ten hours of sleep, Taya was awakened by the TV.

She tried hard to open her eyes and saw the news of the business mating between the Knight pack and the Thorin pack.

“The Alpha of the largest, most powerful pack in the Northern Hemisphere, Griffon Knight, has become engaged to mate with Tara Thorin, CEO of the Midwest Packs Association and daughter of Elder Brooks.”

“The alliance between the two packs will bring earth-shattering changes to pack dynamics and pack business in North America and worldwide...”

The man on TV was noble and cold, no different from his usual demeanor, except that there was a she-wolf holding his arm.

The two had made a high-profile appearance at a banquet and announced the news of their engagement. Anyone who was anyone had attended, and pictures of high-ranking members

from packs all over were being flashed on the TV screen.

Taya had once hoped he would mate her. He would announce to the world that she was his intended Luna.

But that was just a dream. She was destined to get nothing in her life.

She supposed it was good that he had publicly attached himself to Tara. She could completely give up on him and would not leave this world still having hope.

She smiled with relief and acceptance, almost feeling at peace

now.

She moved her body with difficulty, sat up from the sofa, and pulled up her trouser legs to take a look.

Her legs were still swollen. Previously, it would go down after taking medicine, but there had been no reaction this time.

Taya sighed, took out a medicine bottle, and poured more pills into her palm.

This was over her prescribed dosage, but she didn't want Harper to see her haggard face when she returned.

At least the swelling in her legs had gone down enough for her to walk.

Now the problem was that she was constantly sleepy.

If it wasn't for the fact that Harper had returned from her honeymoon, Taya wouldn't have bothered to get up today.

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Harper sent Taya a message, saying that she had brought something from Malaysia, and asked her to come outside to help move it.

Taya replied on WhatsApp. [What did you buy? Is it big and heavy?]

Harper replied quickly. [Just come help me!]

Taya replied with an "OK" and was about to turn off her phone and go outside, but then

another message came in.

Greyson.

He hadn't sent anything since her last message to him telling him that she would talk to him in a few days.

She didn't expect him to be so obedient and to actually wait a few days to contact her. She'd assumed he had moved on and didn't want to sleep with her anymore.

When Taya saw the word "Nightshade," she was a little stunned.

Taya thought for two minutes and replied, [I'm not feeling well. Can you wait a little longer?]

When she sent it, Greyson replied quickly. [Did you wear yourself out by sleeping too much with Jackson?]

Taya froze.

How did he know Jackson?

How did he know that she knew Jackson?

And why would he say something like that about her sleeping with Jackson?

Then she remembered that Greyson had called her hundreds of times that night when she was in Jackson's presidential suite at the hotel.

He must have seen her with Jackson, so that's why he'd called incessantly.

It led her to believe that he was always monitoring her and knew what was going on...

That thought was terrifying.

She was in the light, but he was in the dark. It was easy for him to control and manipulate her.

While Taya was thinking about how to get rid of Greyson, another message came in.

[How many times have you slept with Jackson?]

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Taya thought about it for a minute, then replied. [It takes a lot to make me feel this worn out.]

Maybe he would think she had slept with Jackson too many times and would not want to touch her again.

After she sent the message, Greyson didn't reply.

Taya couldn't help but smile. She put away her phone and hurried outside.

Harper had parked the car and was getting things out of the trunk.

“Harper!” Taya hurriedly walked over and gave her a big hug from behind.

Harper turned around and smiled at Taya.

“Did you miss me?”

“Of course!” Taya hugged her tighter. “I missed you so much!”

Harper smiled and patted the hand around her waist. “All right, all right. It’s only been a few days. There’s no need to be like this.”

Taya smiled, let go of Harper’s hand, and asked, “Where are the

gifts you brought me?”

Harper turned around and pointed to the ground. “All this.”

Taya looked at Harper in surprise when she saw the pile of gifts.

“Why do you buy so many things?”

“You know how I love to shop and spend money.”

“You bought so much. How many nights will you have to work to make up for it?”

Taya’s heart ached for her friend.

However, Harper waved Taya’s concerns away. “They’re all skincare products and tonics. I promise, I didn’t spend a lot.”

Harper picked up a box of goodies and walked toward the house.

As she walked, she turned around and said to Taya, “Don’t just stand there. Hurry up and help me inside.”

Taya hurried to grab the rest and keep up with Harper.

The dining table was full of the things that Harper had brought back. She seemed afraid that Taya would not have enough, so she bought too much.

Taya shook her head and sighed, but Harper opened the refrigerator to check if she had eaten well.

Seeing that the refrigerator was empty, Harper did not nag at Taya because she assumed Taya had eaten it all.

When Taya received the news that Harper was returning, she had already thrown away everything that had gone bad in the refrigerator.

Fortunately, she had started wearing looser clothes before Harper left, so her friend wouldn’t notice that Taya had lost even more weight.

It wasn't good to keep it a secret from Harper. Taya wanted to find a better time to confess everything. She just dreaded how poorly Harper was going to take it, thought. Wolf shifters were rarely confronted with mortality.

After Harper sorted out the things on the table, she took out her phone and called Damian, asking him when he would be done visiting his family.

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He'd brought home a lot of presents for his family, and while Harper had wanted to see Taya as soon as they got back, he wanted to go see his family.

"Why didn't you go straight to his pack lands with him?"

Harper shrugged. "He said that the environment at his parents' house was bad, and he told me not to come with him."

But Harper didn't care about whatever was happening at his parents' house. Growing up in an orphanage had exposed her to plenty of different things; she had a thick skin.

Taya glanced at Harper. "You've never been to his parents' before, have you?"

"Nope. Originally, I planned to visit his parents on their pack lands before getting married. But before I could go, his parents came to Arcadia to see me."

Taya was a little worried about Harper.

When Damian heard that Harper wanted to return to his pack lands with him-not the pack houses in Arcadia they had, but the farther-away lands-he tried his best to stop her. Even his parents tried to dissuade her. They said the rural environment was poor and feared that Harper would not be used to living there.

Taya was worried that Damian and his pack might be hiding something, but Harper felt they respected her and worried that she wouldn't like their pack lands because they were so different than that city. They worried it might affect her relationship with Damian.

So, Taya didn't say much. It had become clear that nothing she said would matter. And who was going to listen to a human anyways?

But now that Harper and Damian were married, why wouldn't they allow their daughter-in-law to visit?

Taya thought it was a little strange, but Harper waved off her concerns. "Who cares? Anyway, I don't want to live that far away from the city. Damian and I will stay here in

the pack house he bought us in their pack neighborhood, and his parents will stay on pack lands. Plus, them wanting to stay out there means that I won't have to live with my mother-in-law in the

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future. I couldn't be happier."

Taya swallowed what she wanted to say.

She must be overthinking everything. After all, Damian's parents were very enthusiastic about Harper. When they heard that they were getting mated, they immediately took out the money they had saved for many years and gave them a small down payment.

Although Harper paid most of the money, at least Damian's pack had showed some sincerity.

In addition, Damian's parents didn't have much income from farming on their pack lands. They came from a simple pack. They had done their best to give Damian and Harper what they had.

Perhaps it truly was that they were embarra*sed about living so simply and didn't want Harper to be unhappy there, to think that the big city she-wolf had married beneath her.

Taya calmed herself down and linked her arm with Harper's. The two of them went out to the supermarket, talking happily.

When she went downstairs and got into the car, Greyson sent her a few WhatsApp messages. She picked up her phone and took a look.

[You are so cheap.]

[You slept with me, but you still slept with other men. Are you

that desperate for men?]

[Bitch, I can't wait to strangle you to death.]

Taya was so angry that her whole body trembled.

Who did he think he was? What right did a rapist have to scold

her?

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Taya grabbed her phone, gritted her teeth, and typed a reply out. [Are you crazy? I don't belong to you. I can sleep with whomever I want. It's none of your business!]

After sending it, Taya remembered that he still had something on her. She wanted to delete it, but the screen showed that he was already typing a reply...

[I must be sick to be unable to let you go.]

What did he mean that couldn't let go of her?

While she was thinking about how to reply to him, he sent another message.

[I've thought about letting you go, but I miss you so much. I miss you all the time. Can you come to see me at Nightshade?]

He was seriously ill. How could he say something like that?

How could a rapist miss her? He must have missed her body.

Griffon once said that her body was like an opium poppy, and anyone would become addicted to it after touching it once.

Greyson was probably the same as Griffon.

Taya sighed and replied, [I've been on my period for the past few days. I really can't meet you.]

To delay for as long as possible, she sent the message.

Seeing her put away her phone, Harper smiled gently and asked, "Is it the new boyfriend you just found?"

Taya was stunned for a moment and then remembered that she had lied to Harper before, telling her that she had found

a suitable partner for marriage to hide the fact that someone had violated her.

She couldn't take back her lie, so she could only nod awkwardly and say, "Yes."

Harper didn't notice anything unusual and asked expectantly, "When can I meet him?"

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Taya's ears turned red with embarrassment. "Harper, I... He..."

How to explain it? If Harper knew that she had been violated

by Greyson, given her explosive personality, she would definitely go find him.

Just like when she had learned that Silas had kicked Taya, she had rolled up her sleeves and planned to rush to Wolverly Capital that night to kill him.

Harper's wolf was violent when provoked.

As a result, she didn't dare to tell Harper that after she was kicked, her heart had failed.

She'd kept it a secret...was still keeping it a secret.

Seeing that Taya was hesitating, Harper couldn't help but worry. "Could it be that he doesn't want to marry you and only wants to keep you as his mistress like Griffon?"

Taya shook her head. "No."

Harper frowned. "What's the matter then?"

Taya sighed. She couldn't hide it anymore.

After hearing everything, Harper slammed on the brakes and parked the car by the side of the road.

"What did you say? Did a stranger violate you?"

Harper suspected-hoped-that she had heard Taya wrong.

Taya's face was flushed, and she nodded.

"We need to go to the pack police!"

Harper rolled up her sleeves, her claws start to poke out from her fingertips. She was about to drive to the police station when Taya stopped her.

"I've already reported it. It isn't easy to find him. And he has something on me, so I don't dare to offend him..."

"What do you mean?"

Then Taya told her about Roman's threat on Harper's life.

“No wonder Roman brought so many people to the mating ceremony.”

When Harper learned the truth, she shook her head sadly.

“Taya, you’re so silly. You risked your life just for me.”

She raised her hand to touch Taya’s face, which was so thin that her eyes were hollow.

Taya was good-looking, so innocent and human. She would always be targeted by wolves who wanted to take advantage of that innocence and, well, weakness.

In the past, when they were in school, Taya would always tell her and Silas when someone had bullied her, and then Silas and Harper would take care of it.

But this time, Taya had encountered a dangerous situation, and she had chosen to bear it alone and not go to Harper to take care of it.

She doesn’t want to get me into trouble, does she? Harper thought.

Harper’s eyes were full of distress. “Taya, if you encounter such a thing in the future, you must tell me.”

She couldn’t defeat rich and powerful wolves, but she could do more to protect Taya than Taya could do as a human in a shifter world.

If those shameless wolves dared to touch Taya again, Harper would go after them with everything she had!

Taya patted Harper’s trembling hand, comforting her. “Everything has been settled. The Starke pack has fallen, and Roman is still in a coma. As for this Greyson, if I’m not mistaken, he helped me get rid of Roman. Maybe he actually likes me...”

Harper was still very uneasy. “Taya, for someone who doesn’t even dare to show their true face, they’re not as good as you think. If he tries to see you again, you should agree, and then Damian and I will come and expose him!”

Taya wanted to say that Greyson still had something on her, but on second thought, if she found out who he was, it would

be equivalent to having something on him. Both parties would have leverage, and she wouldn't have to be constantly threatened by him anymore.

Taya nodded. "Okay."

She had been lying to her best friend-her only family-which made her feel uneasy. Now that she had told Harper about Greyson, some of the burden of guilt was relieved.

Next, there was only one thing left that she was hiding from Harper. Her illness.

Chapter 208

Harper was pretty upset that Taya hadn't told her about Roman and Greyson.. She gnashed her teeth and tightly held the steering wheel, fangs and claws coming out. As she drove, she talked about all the ways she planned on hurting Greyson. Frightened that she would rip off the steering wheel, Taya nodded and asked her to drive safely.

They made their way to the supermarket, bought a pile of food, and drove home.

Damian arrived just as they got home and were about to go into the kitchen to make dinner.

After greeting Taya, he rolled up his sleeves and took the kitchen knife from Harper's hand.

"You two can go out and watch TV. Leave this to me."

Damian's consideration made Harper smile.

"You're amazing and thoughtful. And your cooking is way better than mine," Harper added with a laugh.

Harper patted him on the shoulder and then went into the living room to watch TV with Taya.

As soon as they turned on the TV, they saw the news about the alliance between the Knight pack and the Thorin pack being replayed repeatedly.

When Harper saw that Griffon was holding onto a woman who looked a little like Taya, her eyes widened in surprise.

"Taya, that woman..."

She seemed to have realized something and suddenly shut

her mouth.

No wonder Griffon had wanted Taya to be his mistress.

It had been five years. Taya dedicated five years to that man, just to be slapped in the face with this.

Harper turned to look at Taya and saw that she was calm and not surprised at all. She seemed to have known about it, which made Harper feel even more bitter.

“Don’t be sad.” Harper stroked Taya’s hair, not knowing what to say to comfort her.

Taya smiled at Harper. “I’m okay. But why do you look so sad?”

“I’m just worried about you.”

Taya sighed and comforted herself and Harper. “I may have been a substitute for Tara, but he treated me well. Besides, I was able to let go of Silas thanks to him. I like to think that I used him as a stepping stone for my emotional recovery...”

Hearing her words, Harper felt a little better. “So, I have to thank him?”

That thought amused Taya. “I wouldn’t go that far...”

Harper tapped her head and said, “You’re still laughing. He bullied you like that, but you don’t know how to fight back.”

Frowning, Taya said, “I fought back.”

He had come to see her several times, and every time, he walked away angry. Upsetting the Alpha like that was a win in her book. Especially an Alpha who was used to getting whatever he wanted.

Seeing that Taya deliberately pretended to be okay, Harper felt even more upset.

“You’ll meet someone better.”

She didn’t expect Taya to marry into a rich and powerful pack.

She only hoped she could find someone who would treat her well and sincerely. The chances of a pack being willing to let one of their own mate with a human was wishful thinking.

“Yes, there will be someone in the future.”

Taya hid the sadness in her eyes and nodded as if nothing had

happened. In fact, there was no future for her.

Damian finished cooking and let them know dinner was ready. Only then did the two turn off the TV and get up.

After the three of them ate, Harper went to the bathroom while Damian went to the kitchen to answer his phone.

After packing the leftovers on the table, Taya went to put them in the refrigerator. She heard Damian's voice before she could open the kitchen door.

"Darling, wait for me for another two weeks. I'll come back when I'm done. It's too obvious if I visit too frequently..."

Write your comment

Gifts

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Taya could only vaguely hear Damian, but she heard enough.

She stood there and didn't move. When Damian opened the door and saw her, his handsome face froze.

"Taya..."

After a moment of hesitation, Damian quickly reacted and pointed to his phone. "One of my pack members has a problem with something, and I'm trying to negotiate with them to give me more time..."

His explanation was reasonable, but he didn't make clear what he meant by "It's too obvious if I visit too frequently..."

Taya didn't intend to question him directly, so she said calmly, "Why are you explaining so much to me? I didn't even hear what you said."

Damian's tense expression relaxed. "I'm just afraid you'll misunderstand, so I want to explain it clearly."

Taya picked up the plate and walked to the kitchen. "I was just about to open the door when you opened it. What a coincidence!"

Seeing her put the plate in the refrigerator, Damian's doubts were dispelled.

She must have come to the kitchen to put things away and

didn't mean to eavesdrop on him.

Damian nodded and walked out.

Taya turned around to look at Damian's back, feeling uneasy.

She hesitated about whether to tell Harper.

If she told Harper about this, it might affect their relationship. But she would feel guilty if something was happening and she didn't tell Harper.

After hesitating, Taya finally took out her phone and sent a message to Harper, telling her everything she had just heard.

She didn't question Damian directly just now because she didn't have the right to do so. Besides, she didn't want to alert him to anything amiss. Damian was so nice to Harper that he didn't seem to be the kind of person who would let her down. And they were still newly mated.

It was better to just tell Harper and let her deal with it however she wanted to.

Harper quickly replied. [Okay, I'll secretly check his phone tonight.]

Taya knew that Harper had always been calm regarding relationships, so she wasn't too worried about her.

[Let me know what you find.] Then, Taya turned off her phone.

When she walked out of the kitchen, Harper was just coming out of the bathroom, and the two of them exchanged glances.

Usually, when Harper encountered something bad related to Taya, she would explode, her wolf rushing to the surface to protect Taya.

However, she was pretty good at hiding her emotions regarding her own affairs.

Seeing Harper leave to go home calmly, her arm linked with Damian's, Taya felt a heavy weight in her heart.

She was very afraid that Harper would find something on her mate's phone.

Taya didn't dare to fall asleep. She sat on the sofa, hugged her phone, and waited for Harper's message.

At about two o'clock, her phone dinged.

[I've checked, It's just a pack member who needs help, and it's a man.]

When Taya saw the message, she breathed a sigh of relief.

She quickly typed back, [I'm sorry, Harper. I was too suspicious.]

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Harper replied quickly: [It's okay. I would rather hear something from you than be blindsided later. After all, you're my sister, and sisters have each other's backs.]

When Taya saw this, she couldn't help but smile.

She sent a good night emoji. After that, she put down her phone and went to sleep.

The next afternoon, she was awakened by a dozen calls and took out her phone from under the pillow in a daze.

"Ms. Palmer, are you awake?"

Hearing Jackson's crisp and pleasant voice, Taya struggled to open her eyes.

"What's the matter?"

"Do you feel better?"

Taya responded with a "Hmm."

Jackson was disappointed at how indifferent she was, but he quickly tamped down his emotions.

"The Sterling pack is holding a celebration party tonight. Will you attend as my companion?"

Taya was stunned for a moment and refused without hesitation. "I don't want to go.",

Jackson wasn't angry at being rejected. Instead, he said gently, "But what if I need you to take care of me? You've been so good at doing it."

"You have Camille to take care of you. Why do you have to ask me to go?" Taya said lightly.

"Camille made a mistake, and I sent her back to Wolverly Capital.

Taya frowned. She thought that Jackson would return to Wolverly Capital after the bidding, too. Why was he sticking around?

"Aren't you returning to Wolverly Capital, too?"

“Do you want me to return to Wolverly Capital?” he asked.

Of course, she wanted him to leave.

She didn't want to waste her time on Jackson, especially since she was almost to the point of lying down waiting to die.

However, she would not say that out loud.

Jackson knew what she thought when she remained silent.

He smiled bitterly and said on a low growl, “I'll return after the celebration banquet. Say you'll go with me.”

Hearing that he would go back as soon as the celebration banquet was over, Taya agreed.

She got up, took some medicine, changed into loose clothes, covered her pale face with cosmetics, and then went outside.

Jackson had already parked the car outside. When he saw her coming out, he quickly opened the driver's door and walked over to her.

He took the bag from her hand like a gentleman and opened the passenger door.

Taya felt a little uncomfortable in the face of his consideration, but she didn't say anything. She pursed her lips and got into the car.

She fastened her seat belt and looked out of the window, only to see a Bugatti parked not far away.

Seeing this type of car, Taya thought of Griffon.

When he drove alone, his favorite car to drive was his Bugatti,

Taya stared at the license plate number, and it was not his.

She remembered the license plate of each of his cars, but she had never seen this license plate.

Taya felt a little disappointed, but at the same time, she thought that she was stupid. Even now, she still held a trace of hope.