

30 Days To Freedom: Abandoned Luna Is Secret Shadow King Chapter 151

Chapter 151: Lovely Aurora

(Matthew's POV)

Everything around was chaotic as Leo Redgrave was rushed into the emergency room. The harsh fluorescent lights cast stark shadows across the sterile hallway.

Outside, the atmosphere was frozen solid. Olivia sat on a cold metal chair, her body trembling slightly in my embrace.

My white shirt was stained with Leo's blood, a startling crimson against the fabric. The metallic scent clung to me like a reminder of the night's horror.

Across from us sat Theodore, his dark eyes fixed on the hand I had placed lightly on Olivia's waist. His stare burned with

possessive fury.

Killian and Gina had also arrived, their faces etched with concern. Cain had stayed home to look after Elara.

Seeing Olivia's somber face, I leaned in and whispered, "He wasn't hit by the car, but was scared and fell to the ground, hitting his head on the surface."

I recalled how blood had gushed from Leo's head as I carried him to the car. The boy had desperately held Olivia's hand, pleading through his tears.

"Mom, don't leave me and Dad. Mom, I know I was wrong."

Olivia had choked out, "I can just stay here." Her voice cracked with guilt and pain.

She turned to me, her eyes pleading. "It's late, you should go back."

My gaze darkened slightly. She wanted me to leave? Now?

"I'll stay with you," I insisted, tightening my hold on her.

But she pleaded, "I'm worried Aurora will be scared if she arrives and doesn't see you and me. You go back, okay?"

Her concern for our daughter tugged at something deep in my chest. Reluctantly, I removed my hand from her waist.

After a final glance at Theodore and Killian, I walked out of the waiting area.

Tristan was waiting anxiously by the entrance. “King, Aurora has arrived,” he reported.

“Your parents have been looking for you and Luna Olivia.” His voice carried a note of urgency.

I instructed him to leave two warriors at the infirmary. Olivia’s safety was paramount, even with Theodore there.

The Beta tried to reassure me as we drove. “Don’t worry, King. Luna Olivia is a reasonable she-wolf.”

“This was an accident, and it wasn’t our driver who hurt him. If anyone’s to blame, it’s the child’s father for not teaching

him not to run into the road.”

He added that a top healer was performing the treatment. A specialized healer was on standby to prevent scarring.

But my mind was elsewhere, consumed by Olivia’s pained expression. “The sanctuary files?” I asked, frowning at the uncharacteristic delay.

The Beta sighed heavily. “King, Luna Olivia said it’s no longer necessary. I feel...”

After a long pause, I prompted, “Just say it.”

The Beta revealed the painful truth. “After Luna Olivia disappeared, Theodore threw Leo into Lyra’s Hope Sanctuary.”

My hands clenched into fists. “He what?”

“He forbade anyone, even his grandmother Eleonora, from taking him. Leo was bullied relentlessly by the older pups

there.”

The Beta’s voice grew heavy. “That’s where his injuries came from.”

I asked through gritted teeth, “He didn’t fight back?”

“No, and he didn’t tell anyone. A caregiver eventually found out.”

The Beta voiced his deep concern. "Leo's personality is just like Theodore's. He'd do anything to keep Luna Olivia."

"King, let's return to the European Territory after the mating ceremony to keep Luna Olivia away from them."

I remained silent, the image of Olivia's pained whisper replaying in my mind. "Mom is here."

The weight of her maternal guilt pressed against my chest like a physical force.

It was 8 PM when I returned to the Kane Estate. The familiar scent of home should have been comforting, but my

thoughts remained with Olivia.

Sweet, childish babbling greeted me as I entered. Aurora's voice was like music after the night's chaos.

Fortunately, I had already done a scent camouflage for Aurora beforehand. I let out a sigh of relief.

My parents, Barrett and Victoria, were utterly captivated by the little pup. Their faces glowed with grandparental joy.

"She's so much like her mother," Victoria cooed, holding Aurora lovingly against her chest.

Barrett was trying to give her a small piece of honeyed venison. I quickly intercepted it.

"You can't eat this," I said gently, setting the rich meat aside.

As my father started to protest, Aurora crawled off Victoria's lap. She tugged on Barrett's hand with tiny fingers.

"Grandpa," she babbled seriously, pointing to her head, eyes, and mouth. She made soft whimpering sounds that seemed

to indicate the food was too rich for her.

Her adorable reasoning melted my heart completely. This little one was already showing her intelligence.

Aurora was then swept into my arms. She snuggled against me, her warmth seeping through my bloodstained shirt.

She nuzzled my cheek with her tiny nose and made soft cooing sounds. A rare smile touched my lips despite everything.

Resting her head on my shoulder, Aurora's eyelashes fluttered sleepily. Her tiny hands reached toward the door as she made questioning sounds.

Victoria also asked, "Why didn't Olivia come back with you? Does she know Aurora is here?"

I simply replied, "Something came up." My expression darkened as I thought of Leo's accident.

The weight of the evening's events pressed down on me. Olivia's torn loyalties, Theodore's desperation, and now this innocent child caught in the middle.

After I took Aurora to the bedroom, I heard quiet voices from the main hall. My parents were discussing something in

hushed tones.

(God's POV)

Barrett discreetly plucked a couple of hairs from his own head. Then he carefully took a few strands from Aurora's soft baby hair.

He placed them in separate bags inside a paper envelope. His movements were precise and secretive.

Just then, his brother Simon Kane arrived. The older man's face was drawn with concern.

"Can you get the results within two hours?" Barrett asked while handing him the envelope.

"Don't worry, brother," Simon assured him. He tucked the envelope into his jacket pocket.

Simon left the Kane estate and got into a waiting car. Cynthia was sitting in the passenger seat, her face pale with anxiety.

"You have to help me again," she pleaded, grabbing his collar with desperate fingers.

"Go to your fiancée Declan Shaw," he coldly refused. His voice carried no warmth.

But Cynthia knew his weakness. She had always known how to manipulate him.

“Simon, help me one last time, okay?” she whispered, pressing her lips to his.

“If they complete the mating bond, my heart will break.” Her voice cracked with manufactured pain.

She placed his hand on the old silver scar on her chest. The raised tissue was a reminder of past violence.

“You made my body unable to bear children forever. Can’t you grant me this small wish?”

Her words were poison wrapped in silk. “Tell them the child is not Matthew’s.”

She kissed him again, her lips moving with practiced urgency from his mouth, down to his Adam’s apple, his chest, and then enveloped his p***s.

Two hours later, Simon called Barrett through the clan communication network. His voice was steady, betraying nothing of his inner turmoil.

“Brother, she is not Matthew’s child.”

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Chapter 152: Meeting Eleonora Again

(Olivia’s POV)

Leo was wheeled into the ward after a two-hour surgery. His small body looked so fragile against the white hospital

sheets.

“Luna Olivia, please rest assured, the surgery was very successful. The pup will wake up later,” Healer Elias said, his voice professional but kind.

I nodded, relief flooding through me despite everything. The sight of Leo’s bandaged head made my chest tighten with

guilt.

“With so many people crowded in the infirmary, it’s hard on you, and the pup won’t be able to rest well either. You can take

turns caring for him.”

Just then, Seraphina arrived with toiletries for the hospital stay. She looked weary and gloomy. Her eyes swept over me with obvious displeasure. The animosity was clear – she blamed me for this chaos.

“Thank you for your hard work, Healer,” I said, shaking Healer Elias’s hand gratefully.

“Please reply to Alpha King Matthew for me that the specialized healer for his subsequent recovery is also ready,” he said

candidly.

My heart warmed at his words. These healers were all arranged by Matthew. Even in this painful situation, he was taking care of everything.

“Okay,” I replied softly.

Seraphina placed the items in a nearby cabinet and walked over to Leo’s bed. She began wiping him down with gentle,

practiced movements.

Her meticulous care was just like... how I used to care for him. The memory hit me like a physical blow.

I glanced at my son, whose small face was pale. His brow was furrowed as he mumbled in his sleep.

Listening closely, I could make out the word: “Mom.”

I averted my gaze, the guilt threatening to overwhelm me. This was my fault. All of it.

“Killian, Gina, Leo is fine. You should go back and rest,” I said to Killian Vance.

“What about you?” he asked, concern evident in his voice.

The question immediately put Theodore on high alert. He sat up straighter on the sofa, his dark eyes flashing with possessive fury.

I knew he had heard Killian’s refusal to give up on me at the Athenaeum. The tension in the room was suffocating.

“I’ll go back too,” I replied, glancing at my phone.

Matthew had sent me a picture of Aurora sleeping, with the caption: “Rest easy.” With him, I truly felt at ease.

“Then I’ll take you back,” Killian said, not wanting to give Theodore a chance to be alone with me.

As I started to walk out, Theodore grabbed my wrist. His grip was desperate, almost painful.

“Wait until Leo wakes up before you go,” he pleaded. “I’m begging you. He’s so badly injured; he’ll be scared if he doesn’t

see you when he wakes up.”

His voice cracked with emotion. “Olivia, he’s the pup you carried for ten months. You loved him so much, you risked your life to give birth to him. Don’t be so cruel to him, okay?”

Every word he spoke stabbed at my heart. The memories of Leo’s birth, of holding him for the first time, crashed over me.

I forcefully pulled my hand from his grasp. “Killian, you guys go back first. I’ll leave in a bit.”

After Theodore’s desperate plea, Killian couldn’t press the issue. He too had a daughter and understood a pup’s longing

for their mother.

“Alright, call me if you need anything.”

Killian and Gina had just left when a woman burst through the door, and it was actually Eleanora. She rushed forward to embrace me. “Olivia! I’m so happy to see you’re okay, I’m so happy.”

Memories, both good and bad, flooded my mind. The woman who had once been like a mother to me now felt like a

stranger.

I pushed her away and took a step back. My coldness and distance startled her visibly.

She quickly changed the subject, “I heard Leo was hit by a car. How is he?”

Her gaze fell on the infirmary bed, and she began to cry. “Leo... How could it be so serious? When will he wake up? Who

did this?”

Seraphina, feeling helpless, confessed, "Lady Eleonora, I'm sorry, it was my brother's people, accidentally."

Eleonora's face darkened with fury. Obviously, she has already heard that I'm back and mated to Seraphina's powerful

brother.

"Your brother's people hurt my grandson?" She controlled her anger, asking pointedly, "Did our Leo misbehave and provoke your brother?"

Seraphina flushed, unsure of the details, and looked to me desperately.

"It was an accident," I stated coldly.

Eleonora couldn't accept it. "What kind of accident could cave in a pup's head?" she lamented, stroking her grandson.

"As his mother, you can take him out to play, but you can't let others bully him."

Her accusation hit me like a slap. The implication that I had failed to protect Leo burned through me.

Before I could speak, Theodore interjected, "Mom, it was an accident."

But I was done being passive. "Because of his reckless act of blocking the car, I have to stay here to clean up his mess. My mate is not at fault."

My voice grew stronger with each word. "Out of humanitarian principle, he has hired the best healers, nursing specialists, and even specialized healers to ensure his future treatment. You have no right to criticize my mate."

(Theodore's POV)

After her sharp retort, Olivia turned and walked away. I immediately chased after her, desperation driving my steps. When I caught her hand, she flung it off without breaking stride. The rejection cut deeper than any physical wound.

I followed her all the way to the elevators, my heart pounding with panic.

"Olivia, Mom didn't know the details. Please, just wait until Leo wakes up, okay?" I was desperate to make her stay.

* Chapter 152 Meeting Eleonora Again

+15 Points

"I also have something of your mother Lyra's to give you." The lie came easily, born of desperation.

As Olivia watched the numbers on the elevator display ascend, a heart-wrenching cry erupted from the ward.

"Mom-"

The elevator doors opened. Leo, his pale face streaked with tears, had rushed out of his room.

Eleonora and Seraphina supported him, both looking pained by his distress. His eyes were full of pleading as he looked at

Olivia.

Olivia looked at him, then stepped into the elevator. Two pack enforcers followed her inside.

I watched in horror as the doors closed, erasing her from my sight. The finality of it hit me like a physical blow.

I scrambled madly down the fire escape, taking the steps three at a time. I had to reach her, had to stop her from leaving.

I burst through the ground floor exit, only to see her emerge from the elevator below.

A tall figure was waiting for her. Matthew Kane stood there like he owned the world.

Olivia's expression softened as she saw him. She voluntarily linked her arm with his, the gesture intimate and natural.

Watching them leave so intimately, I felt my heart tear apart. I had never felt so powerless in my life.

My son, whom she once cherished most, was bleeding and broken upstairs. Yet she remained unmoved.

Only three days until Matthew and Olivia's mating ceremony. What should I do?

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Chapter 153: Or did she even lie to you?

(Theodore's POV)

Suddenly, I remembered the acrylic keychain. I returned to the ward, "Seraphina, is that keychain still with you?" I asked urgently.

Seraphina handed it to me without question.

Eleonora looked over curiously. "You are not concerned about his own pup, what's he looking at?"

She gasped when she saw the photo. "This pup looks so much like Leo!"

"Mom, she must be my daughter," I said with conviction. Killian's words echoed in my mind – Olivia and Matthew's mating

was a sham.

The pup wasn't Matthew's. It had to be mine.

"Alpha Theodore, that's my brother's pup," Seraphina insisted. "She's the spitting image of him."

But Eleonora was lost in thought. "This is Olivia's daughter? She's this big? She's two years old?"

Her voice grew excited. "Olivia has only been gone for three years. Could she have been pregnant when she left?"

The pieces were falling into place, and I could see the truth clearly now.

I stormed out of the ward with my sentinels. We went straight to the hotel where the healers were staying.

The door to Healer Elias's room was kicked open. The healer and his mate startled awake, fear flashing in their eyes.

"Alpha Theodore?" Healer Elias stammered, "If you needed something, you could have just called me over."

My gaze was dark and menacing as I recalled his mate's odd comment about a 'pup' on the phone that night.

"My mate took the medicine you gave her, she bled. Was the pup really gone?" I asked, staring them down.

"After taking wolfsbane extract, if there's bleeding, the pup is certainly gone," Healer Elias stated confidently.

I glanced at my sentinel, who grabbed the healer's hand and pinned it to the edge of a table.

"I want the truth."

The sentinel smashed a moonlight wine bottle next to the healer's arm. Glass shards cut into his skin, drawing blood.

"Alpha Theodore, what are you doing? I'm telling the truth!" the healer cried out.

"One last chance," I said, my eyes shifting to the terrified, cowering mate.

The sentinel raised the broken bottle again, ready to strike the healer's hand.

"Don't! The Luna's pup wasn't aborted!" the mate shrieked, collapsing in fear.

She confessed through sobs, "I... I switched your wolfsbane extract that night with moonlight herb. My mate knows nothing, please don't hurt him. Or our two pups."

The sentinel released Healer Elias, who pulled his trembling mate behind him protectively.

I stood in stunned silence, my mind reeling as the truth washed over me.

"It's my daughter."

Chapter 153. Or did she even lie to you?

I remembered Olivia's desolate expression as I forced the pills down her throat. A sharp, unbearable pain seized my heart.

She would never forgive me. But that didn't matter anymore.

As long as Matthew was out of the way, I was confident I could get her back. Even if she hated me for the rest of her life,

she had to belong to me.

Overcome with an urgent need to reclaim my daughter and bring Olivia home, I turned and gave a command.

"You two, come with me to the Kane Estate!"

(Olivia's POV)

Late at night, I strolled along the quiet coastal path with Matthew, Shadow Syndicate guards following at a respectful distance. The moonlight cast silver ripples across the dark water below.

I clung tightly to his arm, my earlier worry about his anger over Leo's injury now replaced by a different kind of nervous energy. I needed to smooth things over regarding Killian.

"Don't take what Killian said today to heart," I began, hoping to salvage the relationship between the two men. "He's just blunt, he doesn't have any bad intentions."

Matthew's reply was cool and cutting. "Bluntly coveting you."

The single sentence silenced my defense completely. I tried again, my voice smaller now.

"Killian was probably just worried about me... some unnecessary worries."

When Matthew pressed me on what those worries were, I evaded the question. A rare look of weariness crossed his

handsome face.

He seemed about to walk away, but I grabbed his hand, stopping him. "I believe you're mating me sincerely, and I believe

you won't confine me."

My eyes shone with determination. "I'm accepting this mate bond for real too, and I won't confine you either. We are really mated, really weathering the storm together."

(Matthew's POV)

Her earnest words and brilliant smile struck me with unexpected force, making my heart stir violently. I pulled her into an embrace, my large hands framing her small face.

Misreading my intense gaze as a sign of a good mood, Olivia continued with growing confidence. "Thank you for being so good to me, not just as a very good Alpha King, but also for playing the role of a very good mate."

She praised me for handling everything well, especially the incident with Leo. "I will also be a good Luna, and I will be good to you, to repay you."

The words “Alpha King,” “role–play,” and especially “repay” instantly cooled my budding sentiment. It was a stark reminder of how she viewed our relationship.

I had been about to kiss her, but now I just let out an exasperated, almost amused laugh. Thinking I was pleased, Olivia pressed her advantage.

“Matthew, Killian has two projects that were rejected... I think they have a lot of potential, could you take a look?” Before she could finish, my patience snapped. I tightened my grip on her waist, lifted her onto her toes, and crushed my lips against hers in a dominant, forceful kiss.

The kiss was brief but I felt her melt against me completely. “King, you... you...” Olivia stammered, her cheeks flushed.

Hearing her still use my formal name, I kissed the corner of her mouth, murmuring against her skin. “Don’t speak

nonsense.”

Just as she managed to say, “Matthew...” my mother’s voice cut through the night like a blade. “Matthew!”

I felt Olivia tense instantly in my arms, but I refused to let this moment be stolen.

With a faint, defiant smile, I ignored the interruption completely. I deepened the kiss, whispering against her lips.

“Concentrate.”

I held her until our breaths mingled, watching her eyes glaze over as her heart pounded against my chest. When I finally pulled back, I kept her close.

My mother approached, her expression a mixture of surprise and cold disapproval. “Follow me back. I have something to say to you both.”

Her sharp eyes caught the lipstick smeared on my mouth, and she shot me a withering glare before turning away. As she left, I quietly instructed Tristan.

“Go find out what happened at home.”

In the car, Olivia turned away to clean her face, and I could sense her confusion about the kiss. Was she wondering if I’d done it because of my mother’s appearance?

Her use of my title? Or was she thinking about the mate bond? I watched her furtively, noting how she bit her lower lip in contemplation.

My thoughts were interrupted when Beta Tristan reported back through the mind link. "Theodore has brought two guests, your uncle Simon Kane and Cynthia Mooncrest, to the Kane Estate."

Olivia's head snapped up, her voice tight with panic. "Is Aurora safe?"

The Beta reassured her quickly. Upon arriving at the Kane Estate, just before we entered, she paused to carefully wipe the last traces of lipstick from my face.

Her touch was gentle yet hesitant. I noticed how she paled at the sight of Healer Elias and his mate standing near the

entrance.

She leaned in close, her breath tickling my ear as she whispered frantically. "Healer Elias and his mate know I was

pregnant with Aurora when I left. They must have been the ones who swapped the real wolfsbane extract."

Her terror was palpable. She was petrified that Theodore would discover Aurora was his daughter and try to take her

away.

"Don't worry," I murmured, squeezing her hand reassuringly. I was already formulating a plan to protect them both.

Seeing that her anxiety was directed at Theodore and not my kiss, I felt a sliver of relief. The focused intimacy of her gesture as she wiped lipstick from my face made my composure falter.

I wrapped an arm around her waist and led her into the bustling gathering hall. The tension in the room was thick enough

to cut with a knife.

Theodore stood near the fireplace, uncle Simon sat stiffly on the sofa. Cynthia rose from her chair, her face a mask of triumph. She slammed a document onto the coffee table with dramatic flair.

It was a paternity test report. The papers scattered slightly from the force of her gesture.

"Matthew," her voice ringing through the room, "Did you lie to uncle and auntie, or did she even lie to you?"

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Chapter 154: I want custody of my daughter, and I want you

(God's POV)

Olivia's hands trembled nervously, held tightly in Matthew's grasp as he led her to a sofa in the Gathering Hall. The atmosphere was thick with tension, every breath feeling heavy with unspoken accusations.

Beta Tristan stepped forward, holding up a document with official seals. "My King, this is the paternity test report for Alpha Kane and Aurora. It confirms a 0% blood relationship."

The words hit the room like a thunderclap. Victoria Kane's face went ashen as she turned to her son, her voice laced with betrayal.

"Matthew, were you deceived by her too?" She couldn't believe her son would be so foolish, but her anger compelled her to ask. "Did you really not know?"

"No," Matthew replied flatly, his voice devoid of emotion.

Hearing this, Cynthia Mooncrest felt her heart shatter into a thousand pieces. He knew. He knew the pup wasn't his, yet he was willing to accept her, even lying to his own parents to protect Olivia's reputation.

The depth of his love for another she-wolf was a painful revelation that cut deeper than any blade.

"I've said before, even if the pup isn't yours, we accept this Luna. All you need to do is have a pup of your own soon," Victoria said, her chest heaving with agitation. "But why did you have to lie to us?"

Barrett Kane patted his mate's back, feeling a sharp pang of disappointment. The adorable Aurora was not his granddaughter after all.

Seizing the opportunity, Cynthia added sweetly, "Aunt Victoria, having a pup of their own might also be a problem. Olivia's health isn't very good."

Victoria's face paled further. "What do you mean, not good?"

Cynthia continued her veiled attack, each word carefully chosen to wound. "I recall Seraphina mentioning it before. Alpha

Theodore's former Luna, Olivia, has a weak wolf form, doesn't she?"

She paused for effect, watching the horror dawn on the older woman's face. "For someone with such severe trauma from

a broken mate bond, bearing another pup could be fatal."

Every word was a dagger to the hearts of Matthew's parents. Olivia looked at Matthew, confused and frightened.

She thought her recovery had been complete. Matthew simply squeezed her hand reassuringly, a gesture of intimate comfort that made Theodore, who was watching from across the room, clench his fists in silent fury.

Matthew's gaze, cold and sharp as winter steel, fell upon Cynthia. "Is there anything else? Please, continue."

His tone was so devoid of emotion that it sent a chill through her very bones.

Cynthia quickly tried to distance herself, sensing the dangerous shift in his mood. "Matthew, I'm an outsider in this matter. I just happened to run into Uncle Simon and was worried about Uncle Barrett and Aunt Victoria, so I came to see."

Her voice grew smaller under his stare. "Don't think I'm trying to make things difficult for you or Olivia."

Ignoring her completely, Matthew directed his question to his parents. "Who performed the test?"

Victoria confessed reluctantly, "I asked your uncle to do it. Your father and I took Aurora's hair just now."

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A hint of blame entered Matthew's voice, making his parents flinch. "You took Aurora's hair without my or Olivia's

permission?"

His protectiveness was palpable, radiating through the room like heat from a fire.

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Feeling the weight of his son's disapproval, Barrett mumbled defensively, "We didn't hurt her." He felt inexplicably guilty, even though he was the one who had been deceived.

"Your mating ceremony will be postponed," Victoria declared, delivering what she thought was the final blow. "You can be marked when she is pregnant with your heir."

The words were a public humiliation for Olivia, and a triumphant smile touched Cynthia's lips.

Just as Theodore rose to his feet, Matthew spoke, his voice dangerously calm. "Uncle, did you really perform a paternity test on my father and my daughter?"

He then shifted his focus, his gaze piercing Simon Kane like an arrow. "The hunt at the Thornwood Garden... that arrow

that flew towards me, was it truly an accident caused by a rogue wolf?!

The color drained from both Simon Kane and Cynthia's faces as if they'd seen a ghost.

The scheme from the past, where Cynthia had heroically "saved" Matthew, was brutally exposed for all to see.

"You're insane! Were you trying to murder your own nephew?" Victoria screamed, revealing wolf claws, and viciously

slapped Simon across the face.

The sound echoed through the hall like a gunshot. She looked at Cynthia in pain, her voice breaking.

"I never expected the girl I had always admired would use such a despicable method."

Cynthia lowered her head, her hands tightly clenched, breaking her palms and causing them to bleed. She never thought that for Olivia, he could ruthlessly trample on their twenty-year history.

Her hatred had reached its peak, burning like acid in her veins.

"A report isn't necessary!" Theodore's voice cut through the chaos like a blade.

He strode over to Olivia, his eyes fixed on her with desperate intensity. "Healer Elias switched the wolfsbane extract back then. By my calculation, she is my daughter!"

He accused them of faking their mate bond, his voice growing more frantic. "You're only with him to hurt me because you resent me. I know I was wrong, Livy."

His Alpha pride crumbled in front of everyone as he pleaded. "Please, come back to me. Our family of four can have a

good life."

He then directly grabbed Olivia's hand, his grip desperate and possessive. "I want you and my daughter to come back."

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Chapter 155: You Flatter Yourself Too Much

(Olivia's POV)

I forcefully shook off Theodore's hand, my tone dripping with sarcasm. "Lingering feelings? You flatter yourself too much."

My voice was resolute as I stared him down. "She is not your daughter."

Theodore's face crumpled with regret. He desperately pulled out an acrylic keychain from his pocket, holding it like a lifeline.

"Livy, she looks so much like Leo, how could she not be my daughter?"

The keychain caught the light it was Aurora's, with her tiny handprint preserved inside. My heart clenched as I realized I must have dropped it in the hotel room.

"Give it back," I demanded, holding out my hand.

Theodore wanted to touch my hand but Matthew's icy gaze deterred him. He placed the keychain in my palm, his fingers barely brushing mine.

"Look, she doesn't just look like Leo, her features also resemble mine," he insisted.

I clutched the keychain tightly, my knuckles white. Seeing my silence, Theodore mistook it for an admission and his heart leaped with joy.

"I want to see my daughter."

"In your dreams!" My emotions flared, and Matthew immediately pulled me into a protective embrace.

(Matthew's POV)

Knowing she couldn't get too agitated, I soothed her by stroking her back. I turned to Theodore, my voice

deadly calm.

"You've disturbed my mate time and again. Do you know the consequences?"

Theodore was unfazed. "You haven't completed your mating ceremony yet, so it's not certain she's your

mate."

His voice grew more confident. "But she is the mother of my pup. It's only natural for me to see her and

discuss our pup. It's none of your business."

Before I could respond, Victoria interjected. "Matthew, Alpha Redgrave is right."

"If it's Alpha Redgrave's daughter, then it's their family affair. We shouldn't get involved."

I signaled Beta Tristan, who placed a paternity test report on the coffee table. "See for yourself whose daughter Aurora is," I said calmly.

My father, Barrett Kane, picked up the report in shock. "Confirmed blood relatives!" he exclaimed, showing it

to Victoria.

"It's between my son and Aurora. And the institution is the most authoritative one here."

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Before Victoria could take the report Barrett offered, a grim faced Thandore snatched it. He refused to believe

1. it.

Seeing the conclusion that the genetic similarity between me and Aurora was extremely high indicating a father-daughter relationship – he stared at Olivia in disbelief

"How is that possible? Even if you had a miscarriage back then, you would have needed time to recover

Theodore's voice cracked with desperation. "You couldn't have gotten pregnant so quickly and had a two-year-old pup. This report is fake!"

His rage boiled over, the veins on his neck bulging as he was consumed by delusion. "You're all lying to me!"

(God's POV)

Matthew simply held Olivia closer, placing a gentle, loving kiss on her temple. Olivia, nestled in his arms,

didn't resist the intimate gesture.

Cynthia's feelings were complex as she watched Victoria pick up the report. The report seemed real, but she knew Matthew and Aurora couldn't be father and daughter.

What was going on?

"When the mate bond runs deep, what is impossible?" Matthew murmured, his voice husky.

To Theodore, the sight was a blatant provocation. He snapped, lunging forward and grabbing Matthew's

collar.

"Let her go!" he roared, but before his hand could tighten, the Alpha King's guards seized his arms. They twisted them behind his back and pulled him away.

Matthew calmly looked at Theodore. "If this were your pup, wouldn't you be able to smell her scent?"

His voice turned threatening. "If you continue to cause trouble, don't blame me for not being polite."

His Alpha power pressed down on Theodore, causing blood to seep from the corner of Theodore's mouth. Just then, Seraphina hurriedly returned from the medical office.

"Let go of Alpha Theodore! You're hurting him!" she shouted.

Hearing his daughter's cry, Barrett waved his hand to signal the guards to back off. Seeing Matthew had no objection, they released Theodore, but remained close.

Seraphina anxiously checked on him, but he ignored her, staring intently at Matthew. "I think a paternity test for Aurora would be appropriate. With your abilities, such a report would be easy to forge."

Barrett reprimanded sharply. "Alpha Redgrave, do you think the Wolf Pack United Council's institutions are child's play?"

His voice grew stern. "Because you and Seraphina are friends, we have always been tolerant. I hope you know your place and don't make things irreparable."

He turned to his daughter. "Seraphina, see our guest out."

Seraphina, afraid of her father's anger, tugged Theodore's arm. "Theodore, let's go. The medical office needs you to sign some documents

Her voice became urgent. "Leo has been complaining of a headache."

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At the mention of his son, Theodore's gaze immediately turned to Olivia. She remained expressionless her coldness like a knife piercing his heart.

As Theodore reluctantly turned to leave, a small, sweet voice called out from behind.
'Daddy

He froze, turning to see a small, rosy-cheeked figure in pink pajamas at the entrance to the Gathering Hall. She was dragging a pink bunny doll.

She toddled forward and threw herself into Matthew's arms. Her chubby hands wrapped around his neck as

she nuzzled his chin.

Then, as if sensing something, she looked over at Theodore. In that single glance, Theodore's heart skipped a

beat.

She looked so much like Olivia. If their Rose had lived, she would have looked just like this, so lovely and

bright.

Little Aurora snuggled into Matthew's embrace and whispered. 'Daddy, that uncle is looking at me

Matthew met his gaze, and the guards closed the door, shutting Theodore out.

Aurora wiggled into Olivia's arms. "I missed you," she murmured, and Olivia's heart melted

She showered the little pup with kisses, her gloomy mood vanishing. Seeing Olivia so soft and gentle with Aurora, Matthew gave her a knowing look.

She nodded, carrying Aurora away with Nora, the caregiver. Cynthia Mooncrest watched the happy family of

three.

Her heart was bleeding with hatred. If Matthew hadn't broken their engagement for Olivia all those years ago, she would be the one he cherished.

Consumed by jealousy, she spoke up. "Even if Aurora is Matthew's daughter, Miss Blackwood's heart condition is so severe she can't possibly have any more pups."

She declared, pulling out a document. "This is Miss Blackwood's medical report."

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Chapter 156: Cynthia's Struggle

(God's POV)

Matthew glanced at his parents, Barrett and Victoria Kane. Victoria hastily withdrew the hand she had extended for the paternity report.

A pang of regret hit her for once again trusting Cynthia Mooncrest. She could only watch as Beta Tristan took the document from Cynthia's trembling hands.

Though reluctant, Cynthia had no choice but to surrender it. She still desperately appealed to Matthew's mother.

"Auntie Victoria, everything I said is true. It's all written in the report."

Matthew remained unmoved. His voice was cold as winter steel.

"You and Declan Shaw are quite a match. Unscrupulous in achieving your goals."

The words struck Cynthia like a silver blade. She looked at the Alpha King she loved with a heart full of pain.

"Matthew," she pleaded, her eyes welling with tears. "I was just worried that Auntie Victoria's wish for an heir would come to nothing."

Matthew's reply was merciless. "If I had marked you, would their wish be fulfilled?"

“Matthew, must you speak to me this way? Must you hurt my heart like this?” Cynthia’s voice broke completely.

“Who was it for that I became unable to bear pups? If you have any conscience, you should give me an explanation.”

Matthew refused to be emotionally manipulated. His expression remained stone–cold.

“If your brother hadn’t used wolfsbane to drug us, you wouldn’t have gotten hurt. You should direct your anger and hatred to the right person.”

Her last defense shattered. Cynthia completely broke down.

Her memories and twenty years of devotion poured out in a torrent of anguish. “As long as I can remember,

I’ve been waiting for you to mark me! You agreed to our betrothal!”

“Why did you abandon me after just one glance at her? How can I accept this?”

She threw herself at his feet, grabbing his hand desperately. “Matthew... why can’t you look at me? How am I

inferior to Olivia Blackwood?”

“Am I not as beautiful? Is my bloodline not as noble? I can change for you in any way you want.”

Tears streamed down her face as she climbed onto him. Her arms wrapped around his neck, trying to kiss

him.

“Just try me, please? You’ll know after you try. I won’t lose to her.”

“I can be more submissive than her, more wanton, and completely at your mercy. I am not some sheltered

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little she–wolf.”

Her pride and dignity were gone. All for the Alpha King she had obsessed over for years,

As her lips neared his, her wrist was seized. She was brutally thrown to the floor.

Matthew looked down at her, his eyes utterly devoid of pity. "Debasing yourself, and you still dare to drag Olivia into this?"

He had lost all patience. "Get out."

The words pierced her heart like silver daggers. She collapsed in a heap, sobbing uncontrollably.

Simon Kane stepped forward. He hoisted her onto his shoulder and carried her out of the Kane Estate.

After the turmoil, Victoria and Barrett tried to retreat. Matthew's voice stopped them cold.

"Do you have an issue with Olivia being unable to have more pups?" His Alpha aura was dangerously calm.

"If you have an opinion, you should voice it. I will consider it."

Victoria cautiously asked him what he would consider. Her voice trembled slightly.

"What do you mean, what will I consider?" Matthew countered. "Can you not mate with Olivia?"

"Fine, obey my mother's command," Matthew said coldly. He turned and walked towards the inner courtyard.

Seeing his expression, Victoria panicked. She chased after him frantically.

"Mother did not mean that! Your mating ceremony is still to proceed as planned!"

Barrett questioned his mate's quick reversal. "Don't you understand?" Victoria sighed heavily.

"Didn't you hear what Cynthia said? He broke off the betrothal back then because he met Olivia. That was

over a decade ago."

"He's been pining for her all this time. If he doesn't mark her, do you think he'll ever mark anyone else?"

"At least we have Aurora. It's fine if they don't have more pups."

But Barrett was skeptical. "Do you really think our son is the type to get a she-wolf pregnant before marking?"

He pointed out a crucial detail. "I asked the caregiver Nora about Aurora's birthday to enter it into the

registry."

"She's not just two; she's two years and two months old. Based on the timeline, this cub might not be

Matthew's either."

Victoria's confidence wavered. Her mate was right about the timeline.

However, recalling the passionate kiss between their son and Olivia just now, Victoria thought it was possible. "Maybe he wants to strike first?"

"The director of that testing facility is your former student, isn't he?" she asked. "Let's call and ask tomorrow."

(Olivia's POV)

Meanwhile, in the bedroom, I had lulled Aurora to sleep. I was lying contentedly beside her, cherishing the

moment.

I recalled the previous kiss with Matthew. I knew full well that Matthew was my fated mate, my second

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chance mate.

But I had never wanted to admit it. I believed Matthew might care more about his kingdom.

However, his recent behavior and his scent had completely intoxicated me. Zoe happily thought to herself. "Our mate wants us too, I understand completely."

I leaned in to kiss my daughter's cheek again. A pair of large hands gently lifted the pup.

I instinctively grabbed the arms, my body tensing. As Matthew leaned over the bed to pick up Aurora, our faces were inches apart.

Realizing it was him, I relaxed completely. "She needs to sleep in her own room," he murmured.

A hint of teasing colored his voice. "You'll wake her if you keep kissing her."

A blush crept up my face and I released his arm. I watched him walk away, holding Aurora and patting her back soothingly.

My heart swelled with a warmth that felt like we were a real family.

(Matthew's POV)

When I returned, Olivia was already fast asleep. She was exhausted from the day's events.

She lay peacefully, her long raven hair spread across the white pillow. I quietly turned off the lights and slipped into the bed beside her.

She stirred, and in her deep slumber, she shifted. Her body curled into mine naturally.

Her small face nestled against my shoulder. Her soft breath warmed my neck, and her arm wrapped around

mine.

I could not process the soft words she mumbled in her sleep. Her proximity was overwhelming.

The desire I had been suppressing was now running rampant. I curved my arm down to her waist.

My hand landed on her thigh.

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Chapter 157: You Treated Me Like a Breeding Tool

(Matthew's POV)

My palm rested on Olivia's thigh, and I suddenly realized she was wearing a short nightgown today. Her skin was soft and cool beneath my touch.

My hand couldn't help but caress the outside of her thigh and her waist. The gentle movement woke Olivia up

She stirred drowsily, mumbling something about the paternity test report. I patiently explained that my parents had taken Aurora's hair sample for testing.

“As for my side, I had taken a sample when Seraphina visited, I clarified. “The test was between me and Seraphina.”

Olivia was almost asleep again, mumbling vaguely, “You’re such a clever Alpha King... so clever.

I was amused by her sleepy words. I withdrew my hand and gently patted her back until she slowly drifted into sleep.

Then she directly rolled into my arms. My hand went stiff.

My night vision allowed me to see the soft white flesh of Olivia’s chest. My wolf Titan howled inside me, wanting our mate.

I held her, struggling to control my wolf, feeling myself burning up with desire.

(Olivia’s POV)

The next morning, I awoke to hazy, fragmented memories of the previous night. I recalled asking about the report, the feeling of falling into a fiery embrace, and the intense heat.

Now, with Aurora nestled on my chest asking for milk, the memories felt surreal, When Matthew’s face came into view, my own face flushed red.

I remembered waking in the night to find myself in his arms, his lips pressed against my forehead. I had escaped to the sofa, yet somehow ended up back in the bed.

He, however, acted as if nothing had happened, calmly picking up Aurora and taking her out to mix formula milk. In the bathroom, I splashed my face with cold water, but the heat on my cheeks refused to subside.

Emerging from the bathroom, I found the household staff busy moving furniture. Nora explained that Matthew had decided the current wing was too small now that Aurora was here.

“We’re moving to a larger estate,” she said with a smile.

I held Aurora and told her, “Mommy and Daddy are getting mated. Will you and Elara be our flower children?”

Nora smiled, revealing that Matthew had already asked Aurora, who was excited to present the rings. But then Aurora innocently declared, “Mommy, I want a little brother.”

My expression instantly changed. Nora quickly explained that Aurora was just repeating what her grandparents had said.

“The move is to a high–security estate within the Sovereign’s Citadel, Nora continued, “It was built after Matthew became the King of European Territories, but no one has ever lived in it.”

I felt a wave of relief, glad to be away from the watchful eyes of Barrett and Victoria Kane. At least I could avoid another awkward night.

Just as we settled into the new estate, I received a call from the pack infirmary. I took a car, and upon arriving, found a grim–faced Theodore already there.

A healer approached us with a serious expression. “Leo has suffered a serious head injury and is in a coma. Although he can heal on his own, the pup’s healing capacity is not strong enough and requires continuous monitoring.”

After the healer left, Theodore stared at me with disheveled hair. His eyes were bloodshot and desperate. “Leo is also your pup, and you have a responsibility to take care of him,” he said, his voice breaking. “For the next two days, you cannot go anywhere. You must stay here and look after him.

Theodore continued his appeal, acknowledging my impending mating ceremony with Matthew but insisting on my maternal responsibility. “I don’t need you to make up for the last three years, just fulfill your duty as a mother while he’s in critical condition.”

He promised to stay away so I wouldn’t have to see him. “Please, Olivia. He needs his mother.”

In response, I simply turned, walked back into Leo’s room, and shut the door in his face.

Inside, Eleonora Redgrave was waiting. She placed a leather box at my feet, saying, “This is Lyra’s jewelry.”

She began a tearful apology, claiming Leo was an innocent victim of manipulation. Then she revealed a horrifying truth.

“After you left, Theodore threw your pup into Lyra’s Hope Sanctuary,” she said, her voice trembling.

Eleonora pulled up Leo’s sleeve, exposing a canvas of old, overlapping scars from being bullied by older pups. My hand trembled as I saw the evidence of my son’s suffering.

She delivered the final blow, handing me a medical report. “Leo inherited the curse of your family; he also has heart disease,” she said softly.

With me reeling from the revelation, Eleonora confessed everything. She admitted that after learning my second unborn pup had a fatal defect, she became “possessed” by the fear of losing the Redgrave bloodline.

“I knew that Theodore’s wolf was becoming unstable due to your wolf being asleep,” she continued. “So I gave him an aphrodisiac and arranged for Clara Thorne to climb into his bed.”

She took full responsibility, begging me not to abandon Leo. I slowly rose to my feet, my expression like ice as I looked down at the woman I once considered a mother.

“After my mother passed, I revered you as my own mother,” my voice was chillingly calm. “But what did you see me as? A burden you had to accept for your son?”

My words cut through the air like silver blades. “Knowing my pup had a problem and not telling me? Knowing my health was poor and still pushing me to have another pup?”

“You treated me like a breeding tool, without any regard for whether I lived or died!” My voice rose with each word. “You are even more despicable than Theodore. How can you stand here and so glibly recount how you hurt me?*

Ignoring Eleonora’s frantic attempts to explain, I picked up the jewelry box and walked out. Eleonora chased after me, pleading desperately.

“Olivia, I was wrong, please don’t go! I genuinely treated you well... I didn’t know your health was so poor,) really didn’t!*

I was chased onto the road by Eleonora, She caught up with me as I was crossing the street, tightly grabbing my arm.

I wanted to break free but didn’t want to resort to violence. And at that moment, a red Mercedes sped towards me.

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Chapter 158: Don’t Go with Him, He’s Lying to You

(Olivia’s POV)

I was stunned as I saw Seraphina in the driver’s seat of the red sports car, speeding directly towards me! The engine roared like a beast as the vehicle closed the distance between us.

At that moment, I pushed Eleonora aside with all my strength. Just as I was about to dodge, a black shadow flashed before my eyes.

Strong arms pulled me into an embrace. The familiar scent of cedar and rain enveloped me as Theodore's body shielded mine from the oncoming danger.

Seraphina slammed on the brakes and sharply turned the steering wheel. The tires screeched against the asphalt, leaving black marks on the road.

After a deafening "bang," the car horn blared piercingly for a long time. The sound echoed through the infirmary grounds like a death knell.

Before the airbag knocked her unconscious, Seraphina's last sight was Theodore tightly holding me. His deep eyes were filled with passionate intensity, as if he wanted to consume the woman in his arms.

This scene—made Seraphina's heart ache sharply. Then she passed out, her head slumping forward against the deflating airbag.

"Olivia! Are you okay?" Theodore frantically ran his hands over my body, checking for injuries.

He cupped my stunned face with trembling hands. His touch was gentle despite the panic in his eyes.

Seeing I was only frightened, he pulled me into a tight, loving embrace. His voice whispered reassurances into my ear.

"Don't be afraid, it's okay. I won't let anything happen to you."

His arms tightened around me protectively. "No matter what, I will always be by your side, protecting you forever,"

In Theodore's arms, I slowly came back to my senses. The shock was wearing off, replaced by a strange emptiness.

For a fleeting moment, I had thought it would be Matthew who saved me. The realization hit me like a cold

wave.

The scene was quickly surrounded by pack enforcers, rescue teams, and reporters. Camera flashes went off like lightning as they captured every angle of the accident.

Photos of the incident—especially of Theodore and my embrace—spread like wildfire through the pack communication networks. The images reignited the recently suppressed gossip from The Sovereign's Table.

Meanwhile, Matthew Kane was just leaving a high-level Shadow Syndicate meeting when he noticed the gossiping faces of those around him. Everyone was checking their phones through the pack's communication network.

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He saw the trending discussions-#TrueLoveInHardship, #OldFlameRekindled, #BetrayedMate. A low-pressure system immediately formed around his powerful Alpha presence.

The air grew thick with his barely contained fury. His golden eyes darkened to amber as his wolf stirred beneath the surface.

"Where is Olivia?" he demanded from Beta Tristan, his voice dangerously low.

Before Tristan could finish explaining the car accident, Matthew had already stormed out. He took the car keys from his driver with swift, controlled movements.

He sped towards the infirmary, covering a thirty-minute drive in ten. His knuckles were white as he gripped the steering wheel.

He rushed to the emergency room but couldn't find me anywhere. The scent of antiseptic and fear filled his nostrils as he searched.

I was with Seraphina Kane, who had been moved to the intensive care unit with a concussion. The steady beeping of monitors filled the sterile room.

Sitting in the quiet hallway, I finally had a moment to breathe. The adrenaline was fading, leaving me shaky and exhausted.

I realized Theodore had been by my side the entire time. His presence was both comforting and suffocating.

"Olivia, you need to get your heart checked," he said, his voice filled with concern. "I've arranged for Healer Elias."

He tried to manipulate me with his worried expression. "I'll watch over Seraphina while you get examined."

But I saw through his pretense. The calculating look in his eyes betrayed his true intentions.

"I don't need your hypocrisy," I said coldly. "You can go."

Theodore grabbed my wrist, his grip firm but not painful. "You can doubt anything about me, but you can't

doubt my love for you."

His eyes burned with desperate intensity. "No one will love you more than I do."

He then began to slander Matthew, his voice turning bitter. "That hypocrite coveted you while you were still

my mate."

The accusation hit me like a slap. My protective instincts flared to life.

"Matthew is not the kind of person you say he is," I said fiercely. "He is a thousand times better than you."

I struggled to break free, but he overpowered me with his Alpha strength. His muscles tensed as he swept me

up in a princess carry.

He strode towards the examination room where Healer Elias was waiting. My protests fell on deaf ears as he

carried me down the hallway.

"Be good, just a simple examination to put my mind at ease," Theodore pleaded. He pressed me onto the examination chair with gentle but insistent hands.

Healer Elias also implored me, his voice filled with genuine concern. "Luna Olivia, it will only take a few

minutes."

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+ Points

His eyes were pleading as he continued. "For the sake of my mate who helped you, please don't make this

difficult for me."

The memory of Healer Elias's mate's kindness softened my resolve. She had risked everything to swap the moonlight herbs that would have terminated my pregnancy.

I lay back and complied, though every instinct told me to run. The examination chair was cold against my

back.

As the healer began to examine my heart condition, a door was suddenly thrown open with a bang. The medical instruments scattered across the floor.

I looked up into Matthew's emotionless golden eyes. His presence filled the room like a storm front.

Matthew's chest heaved with suppressed fury. His Alpha presence was so intense it made the air itself seem

to vibrate.

He strode towards me with predatory grace, but Theodore blocked his path. "She was scared! She needs a

heart examination!"

Ignoring him completely, Matthew's gaze locked onto mine. His calm voice was laced with an undeniable Alpha command.

"Should I come over and carry you, or will you come over yourself?"

I scrambled off the examination table without hesitation. My feet hit the floor as I rushed to his side.

As Matthew reached for me, Theodore grabbed his wrist. But a swift motion from Matthew signaled his Shadow Syndicate guards.

They immediately restrained Theodore, their movements efficient and silent. Theodore struggled against their hold, his face twisted with rage.

Outside the room, Matthew pulled me into a firm embrace. It was a rare display of affection from the Alpha

King.

His arms were strong and warm around me. "What are you so dejected about?" he asked softly.

I tearfully blamed myself for Seraphina's accident. The guilt was eating me alive from the inside.

But Matthew calmly explained it wasn't my fault. He analyzed the traffic violations involved with clinical

precision.

His calm demeanor, however, masked a cold fury. "I've seen the surveillance footage," he said quietly. "Eleonora's harassment was the cause, Theodore's 'heroic rescue' was a dangerous charade."

For the first time, he was truly enraged. The temperature in the hallway seemed to drop several degrees. Just then, Theodore broke free from the guards and burst out of the room. He clutched the medical report in his trembling hands.

He grabbed my other hand, his voice hard and desperate. "You are not allowed to go with him!"

His grip was painful as he pulled me towards him. "He is lying to you! Your heart condition has reached its

limit."

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Chapter 159: Olivia Exploded

(Olivia's POV)

Theodore and the guards had a physical altercation, leaving his suit collar wrinkled and his entire person looking extremely disheveled. His large hand gripped my wrist tightly, his eyes filled with certainty, as if I still belonged to him, my fate to be determined by him.

But why? I struggled violently, throwing off his hand.

I snatched the electrocardiogram from him, crumpled it into a ball, and threw it at him. "There's nothing wrong with my heart," I shouted at him. "Matthew didn't lie to me."

Theodore caught the paper, frowning at the normal results. "How can it be normal? Olivia, let's test again, he

said, reaching out to grab my hand.

Matthew's calm eyes flashed a hint of coldness. I stopped Matthew and the guards about to arrest Theodore

with just a glance.

One of my wrists was firmly held by Theodore, while my other hand, from wrist to fingertips, was gently intertwined with Matthew's. I released Matthew's hand, transforming it into a wolf's claw, and gripped

Theodore's neck.

I gripped Theodore's neck, pressing hard, my upper body transforming into a wolf form as I backed him against the wall. "You asshole! The person who has been lying to me from the very beginning is you."

My voice was laced with scorn. "You threw Leo into Lyra's Hope Sanctuary, letting him suffer endlessly, yet you played the part of a loving father in front of me."

I couldn't believe Theodore would treat his own pup this way. "For Clara, you lied to me again and again. You

even wanted your illegitimate daughter to replace our Rose."

"You don't love the Leo I gave birth to, and you don't love me at all! You adore Rosalie, you adore Clara."

Theodore panicked, "No, it's not like that."

I let out a cold laugh. "You donated a building identical to mine to Crestwood University for her. You gave her access to the emergency blood bank I assembled for myself."

"You even put the Star of the Ocean necklace you auctioned for me around her neck. Silvanus and Ophelia indirectly caused my mother's death, and what about you?"

"You continuously funded them, letting them soar to success! You propped their whole family up to the

heavens."

"Olivia, I'm sorry, I know I was wrong," Theodore pleaded, his voice cracking. He gripped the wolf's paw that was clutching his neck.

"My mother drugged me, I was just confused for a moment." It was all true; he had no way to refute it. "But the one I love has only ever been you."

My voice was sharp as ice. “Eleonora only used that drug on you once, yet you slept with her for five whole years and even had a daughter!”

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“You weren’t just confused for a moment, it was premeditated! You only love yourself!”

“You, in order to constantly exploit her, even brought her into my home, making her Led’s caretaker, inciting conflict between me and Leo! You drugged me for the sake of exploiting her.”

“If it weren’t for the moon goddess’s blessing, if I hadn’t discovered your deception that day after not drinking that cup of tea, you would have continued to deceive and betray me.”

His words made a hint of guilt flash in Theodore’s eyes. “You’re not sorry, Theodore. You just can’t accept that I abandoned you.”

“You can’t accept that your life of having it both ways is completely over. Even more, you can’t accept that I’ve flown out of your grasp and am no longer under your control.”

I looked at his pained, supposedly affectionate eyes with nothing but disgust. “For the rest of my life, don’t bother me. Otherwise, I won’t be polite.”

I slammed Theodore against the wall and then released him. My gaze was calm.

“I’m sorry Livvy, please don’t leave me. I know I was wrong, I’ve always regretted it.” He clung to my legs.

I kicked him away, “You’re not truly remorseful, you’re only sorry because you got caught. Theodore.”

I left without hesitation, linking arms with Matthew. Behind me came the sound of Theodore’s head hitting the wall.

But I did not look back.

The corridor to the Intensive Care Unit was short. Outside, Barrett Kane and Victoria Kane’s expressions were grim.

I released Matthew’s arm and approached them. “Uncle, Aunt, I’m sorry. Seraphina crashed because she was trying to avoid me.”

Barrett’s voice was low, filled with a father’s pain. “It was an accident, no one wanted it to happen. Seraphina is awake, the healer said she’s fine and can go home after a night of observation.”

"It's just... she doesn't want to see us."

Victoria's gaze fell on Matthew, her tone cold. "You rushed over from the council hall? Is your official business

finished?"

Only then did I realize Matthew had been breathless and anxious when he burst into the examination room.

He had rushed here for me.

"Beta Tristan is handling the aftermath," he replied.

Victoria's voice was devoid of yesterday's joy. "We're enough here. Since you're free, go to the hotel for the

mating ceremony preparations."

"There's still a lot to do for the bonding ritual."

Matthew stepped closer to me, leaning in to whisper, "Shall I go in with you to see Seraphina before I leave?"

I nodded and pushed open the door.

(Seraphina's POV)

I was sitting up in bed, my eyes meeting Olivia's worried ones. I truly looked at Olivia for the first time,

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remembering our first meeting at The Gilded Thorn Atelier, where Olivia was gentle, elegant, and beautiful.

Even now, knowing she was Theodore's obsessive former mate, that positive impression remained.

I grabbed Olivia's hand, my heart in turmoil. "Liv, why did you have to be my rival, an insurmountable mountain I can't cross?" I pleaded, my voice breaking.

"Teach me, please? How do I make Alpha Theodore like me, love me?"

I was desperate, recalling the moment of the crash when Theodore had shielded Olivia like a guardian angel. In that instant, I knew he would never let go, no matter what.

Olivia was stunned for a moment before gently squeezing my hand back. She spoke of her past with Theodore, how he had been her savior in her darkest hour.

“As for why he liked me...” She shook her head. “I once heard him say that some people don’t have to do anything; they just appear, and people like them.”

“But I must have done something back then, I just don’t remember.”

She then offered me a piece of poignant advice. “You see love as so important right now because you are incredibly fortunate, Seraphina.”

“Your life has no other regrets, so this sudden unobtainable thing has thrown you into self-doubt. You have parents who dote on you, an uncle who protects you...”

“You don’t need to be sad over not getting Theodore.”

“Will I... like someone else?” I asked, tears streaming down my face.

The question struck a chord with Olivia. She glanced down, inhaling Matthew’s scent as he stood so close. “You just need to wait, wait for the fated mate bestowed upon you by the moon goddess.”

(God’s POV)

Outside, Barrett and Victoria watched with a sigh. They had already confirmed the results of the DNA test Matthew had ordered.

It wasn’t between an adult and a pup, but between an adult’s short hair and long hair. The report ambiguously stated the relationship was likely father–daughter or brother–sister.

Barrett reasoned that if Aurora were his son’s, he wouldn’t have needed such a convoluted test. They were

torn.

They feared pushing their son away, but they were deeply uncomfortable with him bonding with Olivia, whose health was poor and whose pup was not his, meaning Matthew might never have an heir.

“I’ll go with them to the mating ceremony preparations,” Victoria said, her voice firm. “I’ll talk to her and make her back down.”

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Chapter 160: Victoria praises Killian

(Matthew's POV)

Leaving the infirmary, I leaned wearily against the back seat of the car. My hand remained entwined with Olivia's small one. She gazed out the window, not pulling away.

"I've arranged for a caregiver to look after him 24/7," I said softly.

Olivia didn't turn back. "Thank you."

She knew I was talking about Leo. I gently caressed the moonstone ring on her ring finger, a lazy smile playing on my lips as memories flooded back.

Our first meeting. She was simply sitting quietly under a cherry blossom tree reading a book. I immediately fell in love with her.

The next time we met, she was the champion of a tactical strategy competition. I was their accompanying coach. She was only sixteen at the time.

Looking at her confident and bright smile, I realized that my initial fondness was actually love. Unfortunately, she was not yet eighteen. She refused my recruitment invitation.

However, it was because of her that I finally decided to break off the political marriage with Cynthia. It was an indescribable feeling. My partner should be her, and no one else.

Then one day, she suddenly called me, crying her heart out. That year, she was eighteen.

Lyra on her sickbed asked her to accept the recruitment abroad. Not tell anyone, not even Theodore. This met

my recruitment standards, so I arranged for her to come to the European territory and accompanied her.

During those two years, she was immersed in the world of strategy and intelligence. By the age of twenty, she

had become a legendary figure.

But unfortunately, her fated mate was Theodore. I couldn't understand why I could sense her, but she had

another partner.

I thought that my achievements in her career would make her reconsider our partnership. But Theodore

proposed to her in a worldwide live broadcast. She happily accepted, eager to return.

I couldn't hold onto her and could only let her go. I thought I would be lonely forever, never expecting that

phone call three years ago.

She begged me to take her away. I felt this was destiny, that we were meant to be together.

Arriving at the hotel, Victoria Kane walked ahead. Olivia took my arm, following behind her into the private

dining room.

"Mama!" Elara's voice was bright and cheerful as she instantly threw herself into Olivia's arms.

My gaze fell upon Killian Vance, then shifted to my mother.

"Professor Vance and Elara have been here for so long, and we've never hosted them properly," Victoria explained. "I thought since we're tasting the menu today and they were free, I'd invite them along."

Chapter 160: Victoria prat

Her reasoning sounded plausible. I pulled out a chair for Olivia.

As she sat, Elara immediately took the seat beside her. Victoria occupied the other side, forcing me to sit opposite her.

After tasting hundreds of dishes, I found none to my liking. I did, however, discover that Killian was a knowledgeable gourmand, and my mother was his biggest fan.

She would praise Killian, and Elara would chime in, "Mama, isn't Papa amazing?"

Even the serving staff seemed to think it was Olivia and Killian's mating ceremony tasting. Ignoring the scene, I began reading pack documents on my phone.

"Matthew, how can you be so inconsiderate?" my mother chided. "The ceremony is in three days, and you're not offering any opinions."

"Olivia, I really don't know what you see in him. He's like a block of wood."

“Killian is so much better. Not only a scientist, but he knows everything from pack history to territory management. He’s raised Elara so well, and he can even cook.”

I looked up at Olivia. She didn’t respond, her smile strained.

“I’m going to the restroom,” she said.

“I’ll go with you,” Victoria offered, seeing an opportunity.

I turned to Beta Tristan who was leaning in. “Go investigate,” I ordered quietly.

A mother trying to sabotage her own son’s mating had to have a reason.

(God’s POV)

In the hallway, Olivia walked ahead with Victoria following. As the door to the adjacent private room opened

for a waiter with a cart, Victoria caught a glimpse of the people inside.

In that room, Eleonora Redgrave remarked to her old pack friends, “My grandson wakes up crying for his

mother. I really don’t know what to do.”

“My son is depressed, neglecting the pack and his own pup.”

One of her friends mentioned seeing the couple from the trending news. She recognized the man as Theodore, but the topic was quickly dropped as it was a sensitive issue involving the powerful Kane family.

It was then that another friend reminded Eleonora that Victoria Kane, Matthew’s mother, was in the room next door. She suggested using their old acquaintance and the fact that Eleonora had cared for Seraphina.

Kane to “sound her out.”

Meanwhile, in the restroom, just as Victoria was steeling herself to talk to Olivia, Eleonora entered and sat

beside her.

“Lady Kane, do you remember me?” Eleonora began.

Victoria recognized her as Theodore’s mother. After a brief, polite exchange about Eleonora looking after Seraphina, Eleonora got to her point.

"I'm here tonight specifically to see you. You should know I am Theodore's mother, and also Olivia's former

mother-in-law."

Chapter 160 Victoria prac

Realizing Olivia was in the stall, Victoria tried to cut her off. But Eleonora pressed on, passionately detailing Theodore's suffering.

His near-death experiences searching for Olivia. His deteriorating mental state. His insomnia.

"My son truly loves Olivia, to the point of no return," she pleaded, appealing to Victoria's empathy as a mother

"Our Olivia has a tricky problem. Her mother's will stated that Theodore should take care of her for life.

Theodore knows her better than your son does."

Hearing the blatant implication, Victoria's expression soured.

"Your son is so outstanding," Eleonora continued. "There's no need for him to mate with our Olivia."

"Her heart is weak, she can't get pregnant again. Once she's mated into your family and can't produce an heir, you will be in a difficult position."

Eleonora then proposed a deal. The Redgrave family would raise Aurora as their own, and all they wanted

was Olivia back.

Victoria suddenly asked, "I heard a rumor. Was it you who found your son's mistress?"

Eleonora admitted it. Victoria's hand shot out from Eleonora's grasp.

"No wonder my daughter-in-law's health is so poor! It was all because of you people!"

"No, Olivia has a hereditary heart condition," Eleonora retorted, cornered. "The pups she bears will have problems. Our Leo inherited it, and I lost a granddaughter who was born without a heartbeat."

"Your little granddaughter Aurora might..."

She delivered the final blow. "Have you seen Olivia's medical report? Her heart is at its limit. She can't have

any more pups."

"Olivia is truly not suitable for your son, and our family will take good care of her."

At that moment, the stall door opened. Eleonora stared in shock as Olivia walked out.

Ignoring Eleonora completely, Olivia returned to the private room. She walked directly to Matthew and said, "I want to see my medical report."