

30 Days To Freedom: Abandoned Luna Is Secret Shadow King Chapter 191

Chapter 191: Held in His Arms.

(Olivia's POV)

I looked over and saw Matthew's face, which for some reason, I found even more handsome than the day before. He was slowly helping me up, and I murmured with some embarrassment, "I didn't."

What kind of a cold joke was this?

"Why were you running?" Matthew scooped me up by the waist, his voice soft. "You almost fell."

It was a protective carry, his strong arms cradling me securely against his chest. I could feel the steady rhythm of his heartbeat through his shirt.

"Alpha King?" I exclaimed in a low voice, realizing that many people were following behind him.

Not just his personal staff, but also some pack leaders and senior members of the Cipher Division. They were

all watching us with curious expressions.

I clutched the front of his shirt, a bit frantic. "Put me down."

Matthew paused, looking down at me with a gaze so deep it seemed to want to see through my very soul. He simply stated, "Your shoe is down there."

Only then did I realize I was missing a high-heeled shoe. The black stiletto lay abandoned on the concrete steps below.

I struggled in his arms, insisting, "I can go down on one foot."

But Matthew began walking down the stairs, his voice distant and tired. "Let them watch me let my Luna hop

down the stairs while I do nothing?"

I sensed the weariness in his tone and noticed the faint dark circles under his eyes. He clearly hadn't rested

well.

The pack officials behind us maintained a respectful distance, but I could feel their eyes on us. Some whispered among themselves.

Before I knew it, I was placed in the pack's SUV. The leather seats were warm and comfortable.

Matthew stood before me and lifted my calf. Mortified, I tried to push his hand away, glancing nervously at

the pack officials who were pretending to leave but still peeking.

"I'll put it on myself," I whispered urgently.

Matthew silently slipped the shoe onto my foot. His fingers were gentle as they adjusted the strap, but his

touch sent electricity through my skin.

Inside the car, Beta Tristan handed me a document. His expression was professional but kind.

"Luna, we'd like your input on the family-themed segment of the Alpha King's upcoming address to the alli packs," he said respectfully. "The Luna's opinion is of course important."

I scanned the document quickly. It outlined various public appearances and photo opportunities.

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Chapter 191 Held in His A

Wanting to avoid public appearances, especially with our format mate bond rejection fooring in 2 days suggested, "Doing charity work at Lyra's Hope Sanctuary would probably produce a better ellers

Just as I thought I had sidestepped the issue, Matthew, who had been resting with his eyes closed announced, "We're going to the Kane Estate first. My grandma wants to see Aurora

I turned to him, instantly tense. My stomach dropped with dread.

I remembered that Elder Fenris did not like me. She had made that abundantly clear during our predicam

encounters.

“Why does she want to see my daughter?” I asked, immediately regretting my choice of words and correcting

myself. “Our daughter,”

Tristan gently persuaded me, his voice diplomatic. “If the family photos taken at the Kane residence are good

enough, you wouldn’t have to participate in the outdoor charity event

I reluctantly agreed, seeing it as a chance to discuss my desire to regain sole custody of Aurora. “Fine Bull

want to talk to Matthew privately afterward.”

The drive to the Kane Estate was filled with Aurora’s happy energy as she bounced between her parents laps

She giggled and reached for both of us with her tiny hands.

The proximity sometimes brought Matthew’s and my faces close together, making me uncomfortable. I could smell his scent and feel his breath on my cheek.

Aurora seemed oblivious to the tension, babbling contentedly as she played with Matthew’s tie. He smiled at

her with genuine warmth.

Upon arrival, however, my mood soured immediately, I found the so-called family gathering was filled with

beautiful, unfamiliar she-wolves fawning over Matthew.

They completely ignored me, as if I were invisible. Their laughter was too bright, their smiles too perfect.

It felt less like a family gathering and more like a large-scale matchmaking event for him. My chest tightened with anger and hurt.

“Alpha King, you look so handsome today,” one blonde she-wolf cooed, touching his arm.

“The pack is so lucky to have such a strong leader,” another added, batting her eyelashes.

Annoyed and feeling out of place, I stood up to leave. I couldn't bear to watch this charade any longer.

But Matthew's arm wrapped around my waist, pulling me onto his lap. The sudden movement made Aurora squeal with delight.

“My Luna is tired,” he declared, his first words since arriving. His voice carried absolute authority.

Then, to the crowd, “Everyone, leave

He shot a look at Elder Fenris, who, meeting his cold gaze, dismissed the women with a wave of her hand.

But before leaving, Elder Fenris shot a pointed look at me. Her eyes were filled with disapproval and warnin

“One must learn to be content, and remember not to be fickle,” she said coldly.

(Matthew's POV)

I immediately defended her, raising my tone. “Grandmother?”

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The word came out sharper than I intended. My jaw clenched as I stared down the elderly she wolf.

Elder Fenris left without saying anything else, her footsteps echoing in the suddenly quiet room.

The room was now empty except for us and Aurora. I tried to comfort Olivia, reaching for her hand.

“Don't mind her, grandmother just heard some rumors.”

But she pushed away my hand and stood up abruptly. Aurora whimpered at the sudden movement.

“How can they be mere rumors? They are all true,” she angrily retorted. Her eyes flashed with hurt and

defiance.

“Her arrangements are for your own good. You don’t have to pay attention to me, choose as you wish.”

She turned to leave, but I grabbed her wrist and pulled her back into my embrace. My heart was pounding

with frustration and fear.

I was furious, breathing heavily, but suppressing my anger for Aurora’s sake. The little pup was watching us

with wide, curious eyes.

“Say that again?” I asked in a stern voice.

Olivia, held in my arms, finally revealed her true purpose for coming here. Her voice was steady but cold.

“Matthew, I want to redraft our partnership dissolution agreement. Give me sole custody of Aurora, okay?”

I was stunned. The words hit me like a physical blow.

Just the night before, she had been so compliant, even kissing me back. Her lips had been soft and willing

against mine.

Now she wanted to completely remove me from Aurora’s life? The thought made my chest ache.

I held her face in my hands, my gaze intense. I recalled the images Theodore had sent and Seraphina’s words

about her reconciliation with her ex-partner.

The jealousy burned through me like acid. I lowered my voice, trying to control my emotions.

“Tell me honestly, which rumors are true?”

I heard her mumble, her words barely audible: “Those rumors, about separation, relationship breakdown,

about ex and current...”

Her words made me increasingly angry. The thought of her going back to Theodore made my vision blur with

rage.

I couldn’t stand it anymore. I kissed her lips, pouring all my frustration and possessiveness into the contact.

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Chapter 192: When will you let your mom give you a little brother?

(Olivia’s POV)

+0 Points

Matthew paused, his intense gaze fixed on my hands pressed against his chest in resistance. I could feel the

tension in his muscles as he forced himself to calm down, though his eyes continued to roam over my face with an intensity that made my breath catch.

His hands tightened around me, holding me captive as he asked softly, “Is it also true that you’re remarrying

your ex–mate?”

The memory of our intimate night flooded my mind unbidden. Heat rushed to my cheeks as I remembered his touch, his whispered words, the way he’d made me feel completely his. I couldn’t meet his piercing gaze,

shaking my head quickly.

“No.”

His gentle voice was a stark contrast to the overwhelming, non–negotiable aura he exuded. Every instinct told

me that any wrong word could lead to unimaginable consequences. This was the Alpha King, and I was

treading on dangerous ground.

His mood visibly brightened at my denial. Before I could protest, he gently pulled me onto his lap, his arms

encircling me possessively.

“Why do you want Aurora’s custody back?” he asked, his voice deceptively calm.

I remained silent, unable to voice the real reason – that I needed distance from him, from this suffocating pull

between us that threatened to destroy what little resolve I had left.

He stroked my hair with surprising tenderness. “What reason could be more important than Aurora’s healthy

growth?”

Then he leaned in, his warm breath tickling my ear as he whispered, “To the outside world, you are my Luna.

Don’t casually say things like letting me choose a she-wolf I like. Not even when you’re angry. Be careful of

prying ears.”

I glanced towards the door and spotted a fleeting shadow. Someone had been listening. My heart sank as I realized how trapped I truly was.

Defeated, I found myself acquiescing when he offered to have Gamma Joric arrange an early training program for Aurora at the pack’s pup center. I knew it was the best and safest option, even though my original suggestion had just been an excuse to create distance between us.

“Fine,” I whispered, hating how weak I sounded.

(God’s POV)

Meanwhile, in a corner of the Kane Estate gardens, Audrey clutched her phone with trembling fingers. Her voice was urgent as she spoke to the man on the other end.

“They’re really separated,” she insisted, her eyes gleaming with malicious satisfaction. “I have proof. They have a formal dissolution agreement.”

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< Chapter 192 When will you let your mom give you a little brother?

Points >

She schemed to expose the document, believing the public deception would ruin Matthew's reputation and halt his consolidation of power as Alpha King. Her mind was filled with images of Matthew's gentleness towards Olivia, the way he'd seemingly saved her during the pack gathering.

That moment had made her heart flutter with desperate longing. But her infatuation had quickly turned to burning jealousy as she watched them together on the shore, with Matthew being so attentive and his

formidable Beta, Tristan, waiting on Olivia hand and foot.

Suddenly, her life as a minor noble felt meaningless. She coveted the power and affection Olivia commanded so effortlessly, and she would do anything to tear it away from her.

"I'll make sure everyone sees what a fraud she really is," Audrey whispered into the phone, her voice dripping with venom.

(Olivia's POV)

Sensing my dejection, Matthew had Tristan give me a task to lift my spirits. "Investigate a rogue named Roric 'The Crow' Blackwater," Tristan explained, setting up a laptop for me. "He's the source of the recent rumors."

I immediately brightened, grateful for something to focus on besides the suffocating tension. My fingers flew across the keyboard as I became engrossed in the work, feeling more like myself than I had in days.

It was then that Audrey approached us, her face flushed with determination. But Tristan skillfully intercepted her before she could reach Matthew.

"I have crucial information for the Alpha King," she declared, her voice carrying across the garden. "I demand to speak with him directly."

Tristan remained calm, his expression professionally neutral. "I'll relay your message. What's the nature of this information?"

"I won't proceed without his personal guarantee of my safety," Audrey insisted, clutching something to her chest.

Tristan's eyes narrowed slightly. "Wait for my reply. And I suggest you don't share your 'evidence' with anyone else until then."

His tone was polite but carried an unmistakable warning. Audrey's face paled as she realized she was being effectively neutralized.

The atmosphere at dinner grew tense from the moment we sat down. Elder Fenris was initially charmed by Aurora, cooing over her and praising her beauty. But soon, her attention turned to me with laser-like focus.

"When are you going to let your mom give you a little brother?" she asked pointedly, directing the question at Aurora but clearly intending it for me,

My face turned white. The blood drained from my cheeks as every eye at the table turned to me. I had already sensed the elder she-wolf's disapproval throughout the evening, but this direct attack left me feeling completely humiliated.

Aurora looked confused, glancing between Elder Fenris and me with innocent eyes. "What's a little brother, Mama?"

Added to the library

The question hung in the air like a blade. I felt a wave of relief that our separation was real – I couldn't imagine enduring this scrutiny for the rest of my life.

< Chapter 192 When will you let your mom give you a little brother?

Barrett Kane cleared his throat uncomfortably. "Mother, perhaps we should focus on enjoying our meal."

+ Points

But Elder Fenris wasn't finished. "The girl needs siblings. A proper Luna provides heirs for the bloodline."

It was Matthew who finally came to my defense, his voice cutting through the tension like steel.

"Grandmother, this is a private matter between Olivia and me."

Elder Fenris huffed, her displeasure evident. "Private matters become pack business when they affect the royal line."

Barrett tried to soothe her, his voice diplomatic. "Matthew has it under control. What's meant to be will be."

But his words only made me feel worse. They reminded me of the beautiful she-wolves Elder Fenris had no doubt arranged for Matthew's consideration. I was just a temporary inconvenience, an outsider who would eventually be replaced.

Quietly, I pulled my hand from Matthew's grasp under the table.

After the uncomfortable meal, I headed for my room, desperate to escape the suffocating atmosphere. But Tristan stopped me in the hallway, his expression apologetic.

"The Alpha King needs to speak with someone first," he explained quietly.

I glanced through the partially open door and saw a tearful Audrey being consoled by Matthew. He was

holding out a tissue for her, his expression gentle and concerned. As she took it, her hand deliberately brushed against his, lingering longer than necessary.

My stomach twisted with an emotion I didn't want to name. Pushing the scene from my mind, I focused on

business instead.

"I found information on Roric Blackwater," I reported to Tristan, keeping my voice professional. "He's been

hired by multiple parties to spread conflicting rumors. Someone's playing a deeper game."

Tristan nodded, making mental notes. "Excellent work. The Alpha King will be pleased."

Just then, Matthew emerged from the room, escorting a now blushing and shy Audrey. They stood close

together as he spoke to her in low tones, and she gazed up at him with obvious adoration.

The sight of them made my resolve crystallize. I wanted to take Aurora and leave immediately, but I knew

Matthew would never allow it.

"Aurora has never experienced a proper pack moonlight ceremony," he said softly when I tried to excuse myself. "My grandmother has arranged something special."

I felt utterly powerless and exhausted. The final twenty-three days until our official separation stretched before me like an eternity. I tried one last time to assert some control.

"My company is very busy. I'm heading back first, Alpha King."

I started to walk past him, but as I moved, his hand shot out and grabbed mine. Before I could react, I was pulled into his embrace, his arms wrapping around me possessively.

“You’re not going anywhere,” he murmured against my ear, his voice carrying the absolute authority of an Alpha King who was used to getting his way.

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Chapter 193: You Can’t Bully Me Like This

(Matthew’s POV)

I wrapped my arm around Olivia’s waist and lifted her small face. Her eyes were red-rimmed, tears threatening to spill.

“What happened?” I asked in a low voice.

+8 Points

She pressed against my hand, trying to dodge it as she rested her face against my arm. “It’s nothing,” she said weakly, trying to pry my hands from her waist. “Let go of me.”

I held firm, refusing to let go. Instead, I tried to lift her face again.

Olivia’s eyes grew redder. Her voice, thick with tears, choked out, “You can’t hold me. We’re separated. You’re

bullying me.”

She thought for sure I would let go after she said that. Instead, I instantly lifted her face, my gaze searching

hers.

From this close, I could see each of her eyelashes. Just like in the photo Theodore had sent to Slate.

As Olivia blinked, a tear fell onto my hand. I reached up to wipe it away, but she turned her head.

After a tense moment, my heart softened. Just as I was about to release her, the door was suddenly pushed

open.

I instinctively pulled her back into my arms.

Gamma Joric entered with a group of people, led by a young woman, my cousin Sara Fenris.

“Cousin, the moonlight ceremony is starting, let’s go to the shore,” Sara said.

Seeing Olivia’s tear-streaked face, she exclaimed, “Matthew, did you bully your mate?”

I glanced at Olivia. “Did I?”

Olivia shook her head.

Sara then complained loudly about the guests my grandmother had invited. “Especially that celebrity Audrey, who’s always trying to mingle with the powerful Alphas,”

Hearing the name Audrey, Olivia looked toward me. My gaze had been on her the whole time.

Our eyes met, and I seemed to realize something. Is she jealous because I was just talking to Audrey? She

still cares about me.

We strolled to the coastline, and under the night sky, Aurora rolled around on the beach, giggling, her body

covered in sand.

“Baby, your mom and dad are here. Let’s clean you up,” Nora said as she saw us approaching, and began wiping the sand off Aurora.

Aurora cooperated with Nora’s movements, and when she saw me walking over, she immediately reached out her hand, “Daddy.” I knelt and finished wiping her face and hands before lifting her into my arms.

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< Chapter 193 You Can’t Bully Me Like This

+ Points >

We sat on a driftwood log away from the growing crowd. Moonlight ceremony fireworks began to bloom over

the sea.

As Aurora squealed with delight, I watched Olivia. She leaned back, her face illuminated by the explosions in

the sky, still looking unhappy.

I took her hand. She immediately tried to pull away, but I held it tightly against my chest.

“Let me guess why you’re angry,” I began, my voice laced with amusement. “Is it because of Audrey? You saw

me talking to her and got angry?”

My words hit their mark. Flustered and annoyed that I was teasing her, she tried to pull her hand back and sit

up to leave.

(Olivia’s POV)

Just as I freed my hand, Matthew swiftly pulled me onto his lap.

“It was business,” he whispered in my ear. “Do you believe me?”

I retorted, “You don’t need to explain to me. Even if it were a private matter, it would be normal. After all, we’re

already separ-”

Before I could finish the word “separated,” Matthew captured my lips in a deep kiss.

The sky erupted in color. The sounds of cheers filled the air.

My mind went blank. My heart felt as if it were exploding with the fireworks.

I was terrified of a repeat of the other night. Afraid I would kiss him back and lose control.

The image of him talking to a shy, smitten Audrey flashed in my mind. A tear escaped my eye.

Feeling my tear, Matthew broke the kiss and held me close. His voice was hoarse with a passion I’d never heard before. “I’ll have Audrey come and explain to you.”

Burying my face in his chest, I began to sob uncontrollably.

“You can’t bully me like this,” I murmured, pushing him away.

My eyes, filled with tears, met his intense gaze. “Alpha King, I can’t help you anymore,” I said, my voice trembling. “Let’s not see each other again. I want to go home. Let me and Aurora go home.”

A shadow fell over Matthew’s face. “Fine,” he replied.

When his hand brushed my back, I flinched as if stung. He dared not touch me again.

The ride back to the apartment was silent, save for Aurora’s cheerful chatter. After a proper goodbye, I watched his car leave before taking the caregiver Nora and Aurora inside.

Only to find Dr. Aris Lowell waiting at the door.

Instantly, I thought of Evelyn Croft, my once–best friend. “You’re not welcome here,” I said coldly, unlocking the door and preparing to shut it after Nora and Aurora were inside.

Dr. Aris stopped the door, her expression pained. “Olivia, I swear I haven’t done anything to hurt you. I didn’t betray you. I didn’t tell Alpha Theodore that Aurora is his daughter.”

Hearing this, I frowned. If Dr. Aris had told Theodore, he wouldn’t be this quiet.

“Olivia, I just thought Theodore could help cure you.”

I let her in. As we sat on the sofa, Dr. Aris pleaded, “I’m sorry, I should have told you the truth sooner. I won’t contact Alpha Theodore again, please let me continue treating you.”

Before I could answer, Nora cried out in alarm. She rushed from the room with Aurora in her arms.

“Luna, it’s not good!”

Aurora’s body was red and burning hot. Panicked, I held my daughter, felt her forehead, and immediately

called for an ambulance.

(God’s POV)

As the ambulance sped away from the building, Theodore watched from a distance, his eyes filled with worry.

He tried calling Dr. Aris, but she kept hanging up.

A deep, obsessive fear spread through him as he ordered his head bodyguard Captain Ryker, "Bring Clara Thorne. We're going to the hospital, now."

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Chapter 194: The monitor was discovered

(God's POV)

"Aurora, Aurora," Olivia called her daughter's name anxiously. When the therapist took the pup from her arms, her tiny body burned like fire in her embrace.

The caregiver Nora immediately called Matthew Kane through their pack bond. Within minutes, a dozen

medical experts arrived for a consultation.

When Theodore Redgrave arrived, he was met with the sight of the emergency room swarmed by specialists. An immense panic instantly gripped his heart.

He pushed aside a healer, his face contorted in anguish. His gaze met Olivia Blackwood's frigid eyes.

In that moment, the blood that had frozen in his veins began to flow again. Terrified, Olivia's hands and feet

went numb.

Her voice trembled as she snapped at him, "Get out!"

Theodore looked at the tiny, suffering Aurora on the bed. His head bodyguard Captain Ryker pulled him away.

He collapsed onto a metal bench, the wave of panic receding. It left him breathless and weak.

The image of the small, feverish, and struggling pup flashed through his mind. He couldn't understand why seeing Matthew's daughter in pain caused him such profound agony.

"Alpha, what should we do with Clara Thorne?" Captain Ryker's voice broke his train of thought.

“Send her back,” he ordered.

Just then, another group entered the area. Matthew Kane, accompanied by Beta Tristan, strode into the

emergency room.

He gently pulled Olivia out, holding her close. “Let the healers work,” he whispered, comforting her.

Olivia pushed him away, and he released her. She leaned against the emergency room door, unwilling to move

an inch.

Aurora had been frail since birth. This sudden, persistent fever terrified her.

She trembled with fear. Matthew stood before her, his voice low and soothing.

“She might have just caught a chill playing by the shore. Don’t be so anxious.”

He reached for her hand. She tried to pull away, but he held it firmly.

At that moment, Theodore’s ice-cold voice cut through the air, “Let go of her.”

Ignoring the pack enforcers who moved to intercept him, Theodore walked directly towards them. A single look from Matthew halted the enforcers.

Gamma Slate stepped in to block Theodore. “She doesn’t want you holding her,” Theodore repeated.

“Let go of her.”

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Chapter 194 The monitor was discovered

Olivia, her attention entirely fixed on the emergency room, was oblivious to their conflict. Matthew released her hand, only to pull her into a full embrace.

She sagged against him, her head resting on his shoulder. Tears streamed from her red-rimmed eyes.

“It’s all my fault, I didn’t take good care of her,” she muttered to herself.

“It’s not your fault, don’t worry, everything will be fine,” Matthew gently patted her back.

Gamma Joric quietly told Theodore, "Alpha Redgrave, now is not the time to speak with our Luna."

Theodore's heart twisted with a sharp, piercing pain. He watched another Alpha comfort the woman he loved, powerless to do anything but stand and watch.

Soon, a healer emerged with good news. "Alpha King, Luna, the pup's fever has broken."

He explained that it was gastroenteritis caused by undercooked seafood. She could be discharged in the

morning if the fever didn't return.

Olivia rushed inside. Meanwhile, Leo, who had been waiting for his father to pick him up from the infirmary,

arrived at the emergency area.

He saw his mother tenderly caring for Aurora. She wiped her forehead, pressed her own against the pup's,

and gently wrapped her in a blanket.

He suddenly recalled the scene from his childhood when she had cared for him, gently stroking his head, with

tears falling on his face. But back then, he hadn't cherished her, thinking she was too strict with him, and he

had said many hurtful words that deeply wounded her.

Leo's painful tears welled up in his eyes, and his heart ached with immense sorrow.

He longed to run into his mother's arms. But he knew he couldn't interrupt.

Matthew entered the room, giving Leo a brief glance before approaching Olivia. He leaned down and placed a natural, gentle kiss on her hair.

The gesture was reminiscent of how Theodore used to be. He took her hand, softly relaying the healer's diagnosis and urging her not to worry.

Olivia pulled her hand away and continued tending to Aurora. As she did, she looked over at Leo.

Seeing the tears in his mother's eyes, he ran to her and hugged her. "Mom, sister will be okay," he whispered.

As he held her, her hand brushed against the necklace he wore. Her expression instantly turned to ice and fury.

With a sharp tug, she broke the pendant. A tiny black device—a tracking device—fell out.

Her face a mask of rage, she stormed out of the room. She confronted Theodore, who had been watching with a flicker of hope.

"Slap!" The sound echoed as she struck him across the face.

She threw the device at him. "Theodore Redgrave, you used Leo to spy on me! You're incorrigible!" she shrieked.

She pulled out her phone to call the pack enforcers.

"Don't!" Leo cried, throwing himself in front of his father.

< Chapter 194 The monitor was discovered

"Mom, it's mine, please don't take Dad away!" He spoke this lie with his eyes closed.

Olivia stared at her son, her eyes filled with a sorrow so deep. It was as if she had lost something

irretrievable.

He hugged her, feeling the same devastating loss. But she pushed him away.

"I never want to see either of you again," she said, her voice hollow. She threw the rest of the necklace to the ground and swayed.

She nearly fell before Matthew caught her. He spoke gently into her ear, "Leo is just a pup. The device wasn't

his."

His words miraculously softened her gaze. Leo's aching heart eased slightly as he looked at Matthew.

A new thought took root: Matthew was a good uncle. He wished, just for a moment, that he could be his son,

like Aurora.

He glanced at his father, who could only watch in sad defeat. Matthew guided Olivia back toward the room. Before Olivia could enter the emergency room, a familiar voice suddenly came from outside. She looked over, her eyes widening in astonishment.

The she-wolf was being held back by the pack enforcers. Clara Thorne knelt on the floor, facing her.

She screamed, "Sister, please let me go! I'm not well, I'm really not well, I'm going to die..."

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Chapter 195: Seeing Clara Again

(Olivia's POV)

All the memories of Theodore's affair with Clara rushed into my mind like a tidal wave. The betrayal, the lies, the humiliation – everything crashed over me at once.

I strode towards Clara and slapped her hard across the face with all my strength. "Shut up! I'm not your

sister!" I screamed.

Clara was knocked to the ground by the force of my blow. My gaze fell upon Theodore and Leo, and the gaping wound in my heart ripped open again.

"Get out!" I shrieked hysterically. "Get out of here!"

"My Love, it's not what you think," Theodore began to argue, stepping forward.

But he and Leo were swiftly pulled out of the emergency room by pack enforcers before he could say another

word.

Clara sobbed pitifully on the floor, a tooth falling from her mouth. Blood trickled down her chin as she crawled towards me in terror.

"Sister, please, for Father's sake, spare me, my heart..." she pleaded desperately.

Just as Matthew pulled me into his warm embrace, Theodore's sentinels grabbed Clara and dragged her out of the room. Her screams echoed down the hallway until they faded into silence.

Once they were gone, I stared at the bloodstains on the floor and began to tremble violently. My whole body shook as if I were having a seizure.

Dr. Aris, standing nearby, panicked and fumbled in her bag for moonlight herb tablets. “King, Luna is having

an attack!” she cried out.

Matthew held me, but I pushed him away with what little strength I had left. “Don’t,” I choked out.

Seeing the concern in his eyes, I took the tablets and water from Aris with shaking hands. Then I stumbled into the emergency room where Aurora Jay.

I collapsed beside the hospital bed, clinging tightly to Aurora, my entire world. After a long while of gasping for air, I finally calmed down.

Matthew stood behind me, not saying anything, but his hand remained on my shoulder like an anchor.

(God’s POV)

In the back of a black SUV, Clara trembled on the floor mat, overcome with fear. Her once-beautiful features were gone, replaced by a gaunt, emaciated look.

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Her clothes were ragged, and her skeletal wrists were covered in scars, both old and new.

“Alpha Theodore, please let me go,” she begged from the darkness of the vehicle.

“Since you escaped, why didn’t you run further away?” Theodore’s voice was low and laced with a rolling fury

from the darkness.

1/3

< Chapter 195 Seeing Clara Again

“How dare you show up and provoke her!”

“No, no, that’s not it, I...” Clara’s tears streamed down her face as she cowered.

“You deserve to die,” Theodore growled, his Alpha presence filling the confined space.

A piercing scream suddenly erupted from within the black SUV, echoing through the night.

+8 Points >

The next day, Aurora was discharged from the infirmary. Matthew drove them back to their residence at the

Kane Estate.

Aurora was still in his arms, clinging to him, unwilling to get down.

“You have to be good and listen to your mother, don’t make her angry,” Matthew gently chided her.

Aurora obediently let him put her down. She took Olivia’s hand, and Olivia immediately squeezed it, her eyes

lowered.

“Thank you so much for last night, Matthew,” she said formally.

This time, she didn’t watch him leave. She took Aurora’s hand and, without a backward glance, walked into

the manor and entered the elevator.

Matthew’s gaze lingered on the elevator doors before he returned to his car.

“King, the photos Audrey provided have been verified and can be used as evidence,” Gamma Joric reported

through the pack link.

“Hand her over to the pack tribunal,” Matthew said without emotion.

“But, Audrey seems to still be worried about her personal safety. She wants to see you again.”

Matthew’s face darkened in the morning light, and a chill instantly filled the car.

Gamma Joric immediately understood through their bond. “I’m sorry, King. I will handle Audrey.”

(Olivia’s POV)

I settled Aurora in, gave instructions to the caregiver Nora, and then washed up and changed before rushing to my company, Shield Chain Technology.

I spent the entire day training employees and developing security software. Work was the only thing that could distract me from the chaos in my personal life.

As I was leaving the company building, a familiar figure caught my eye.

“Ellie?” I was overjoyed, my heart lifting for the first time in days.

“How did you know I was here?”

“Aunt Livy! I’m never leaving you again!” Elara exclaimed happily, running into my arms.

“Dad got a new position, so we’re all living here now.”

“Killian?” I looked at Killian Vance with surprise.

“It’s not a permanent move to the Sovereign’s Citadel,” Killian explained with a gentle smile. “I’m a visiting professor at the Aegis Institute here, mentoring some students. The main research facility is still at Crestwood University.”

“I see,” I smiled, ruffling Elara’s hair affectionately.

2/3

< Chapter 195: Seeing Clara Again.

“No, it’s not!” Elara insisted, hugging me tighter. “I’m staying here from now on, I’ve already transferred schools. Aunt Livy, I’m not going back.”

Killian smiled helplessly, and I replied, “Alright. Aurora will have a companion then.”

“Let me treat you to dinner,” I said, leading them away from the building.

“Killian, when you have time, could you help me look for a vehicle? Around 300,000, something reliable.”

+3 Points)

Hearing this, Killian paused. As the Alpha King’s mate, how could she not have a dedicated car and driver?

Perhaps the rumors were true—that she and Matthew were in conflict over Theodore and had separated. At the thought of Theodore, Killian’s expression grew colder.

He had no right to be near her.

I took them to The Sovereign's Table. I was surprised to see a group of young nobles I vaguely recognized

from Alpha Asher White's gathering.

Even more surprising was that Audrey was among them.

The three of us sat down, ordered, and were soon deep in conversation when a commotion stirred at the

entrance.

I looked over and my eyes met Matthew's inscrutable gaze. I quickly looked away, but in my periphery, I saw the group, including Audrey, rush to greet him.

"What's wrong between you and the King?" Killian finally dared to ask.

"Isn't he here to see you?"

My expression was indifferent. "He probably has friends here."

"Those people?" Killian was astounded. "They wouldn't even make it into his inner circle, would they?"

Seeing my expression, he didn't press the matter.

After a while, as we were preparing to leave, one of the young nobles approached our table. After a while, as we were preparing to leave, one

"King Matthew is feeling unwell, Luna, could you go take care of him?"

My response was cold. "He has plenty of people around him, he doesn't need me."

With that, I took Elara's hand, walked out of the restaurant, and left in Killian's car.

had just arrived home and put down my bag when the doorbell rang. Afraid of disturbing Aurora and the caregiver Nora, I quickly opened the door.

A tall, powerful figure blocked me at the entrance, and Matthew's familiar scent filled my senses.

30 Days To Freedom: Abandoned Luna Is Secret Shadow King Chapter 196

Chapter 196: Revealing Her True Power

(Theodore's POV)

+ Points 3

"No, Alpha," Captain Ryker said, his voice strained as he tried to reason with me. "After the last attempt to take Luna Olivia from the Royal Infirmary, my sentinels are under heavy scrutiny from the Alpha King's enforcers in the Sovereign's Citadel."

I paced the room like a caged wolf, my hands clenched into fists. "I don't care about the scrutiny!"

"It's impossible to extract her without causing a major territorial incident," Ryker continued, his tone growing more urgent. "Alpha, you need to retreat. Luna Olivia will be safe under Master Healer Alistair's care."

But I was losing control, the walls of my carefully constructed world crumbling around me. I grabbed Ryker's collar, desperation clawing at my throat.

"If Olivia stays here, she'll discover what I've done!" My voice cracked with raw panic. "She will despise me completely, never want to see me again, and never forgive me."

The weight of my actions pressed down on me like a crushing stone. The shooting, the cover-up, the lies- everything would come to light.

Just then, my phone rang. I released Ryker and snatched it up.

"Alpha Theodore, the witness has recanted their testimony," the voice on the other end said quickly. "They claim they were mistaken about seeing you with the killer."

A sliver of hope pierced through my despair. "What changed their mind?"

"Unknown, but it buys you time."

I immediately made another call, my fingers trembling as I dialed. "I need someone who was present at the mating ceremony," I said into the phone. "Anyone who can testify to my whereabouts during the shooting." "I'm offering a handsome reward through the pack's communication network," I added, my voice growing steadier. "Find me witnesses. Find me alibis."

The line crackled with static before the response came. "We'll put out the word, Alpha."

I hung up and turned to Ryker, who was watching me with concern. "Double the guard on all our territories," I ordered. "And keep monitoring Matthew's movements."

“Yes, Alpha,”

But even as I gave the orders, I knew I was fighting a losing battle. Time was running out, and Olivia was slipping further away from me with each passing hour.

(God’s POV)

That night, rumors spread like wildfire on the werewolf forum about the famous actress Audrey being urgently taken to the medical room and P Added to the library bowerful Alpha King.

Olivia saw the news when her subordinate, Bastian Miles, carelessly shared it in their secure work group chat through Shield Chain Technology’s encrypted network.

<Chapter 196 Revealing Her True Power

“Boss, look at this,” Bastian’s message appeared on her screen. “The King’s got himself a new she–wolf.”

The accompanying photo showed Audrey, wearing a medical mask, getting out of Matthew’s vehicle. Although she could only see his silhouette below the neck, Olivia recognized him immediately.

The mark she had left on his neck was clearly visible.

+ Points

Her wolf Zoe stirred restlessly in her mind, wanting to find their mate and demand answers. The betrayal cut deep, sharper than any silver blade.

A moment later, a message from an encrypted contact appeared on her phone. The sender’s identity was as

mysterious as Matthew himself.

“Pack business.”

The words felt hollow, like a slap across her face. Pack business—was that what she was to him now?

Hurt and disillusioned that the Alpha who had held her so tenderly just last night was now with another

she–wolf, Olivia’s fingers moved with cold precision.

She blocked his number, then Beta Tristan's, severing all pack communication links. The digital silence that

followed felt like a door slamming shut.

"So much for holding me while I sleep," she whispered bitterly to herself.

The following afternoon, Olivia took Bastian Miles to the Arcane Intelligence Division. The building hummed

with supernatural energy, its walls lined with advanced technological equipment.

They were met by Commander Garrett Flint, a stern-faced wolf with calculating eyes. Beside him stood a

she-wolf whom Bastian was shocked to recognize.

"Lydia?" Bastian's voice cracked with surprise.

"Hello, brother," the she-wolf replied coldly. She was tall and athletic, with short-cropped hair and the bearing

of a seasoned warrior.

Lydia Miles had been living in the human territories for years, studying advanced warfare tactics. She eyed her lazy, unambitious brother with disdain before turning a critical gaze on Olivia.

Dressed in a crisp white blouse, dark jeans, and boots, with her hair in a neat ponytail, Olivia looked professional. But in Lydia's mind, one word screamed out: "An empty vase with only beauty."

"So you're the famous Luna," Lydia said, her voice dripping with hostility. "I've heard so much about you."

Commander Flint cleared his throat uncomfortably. "Lydia, with her advanced military training and experience with human government defense systems, is highly qualified," he explained to Olivia. "I had intended to hire both of you as consultants."

Lydia's eyes flashed with anger. "Both of us? Commander, surely you don't need two consultants for one position."

She stepped closer to Olivia, her posture aggressive. "Especially when one of them is only here because of her mate bond connection to the Alpha King."

Olivia didn't back down. She met Lydia's hostile gaze with calm composure.

"I'm here because of my qualifications," Olivia said evenly. "I have a vision for improving the Oracle Engine's predictive capabilities."

2/3

< Chapter 196: Revealing Her True Power

"Oh really?" Lydia scoffed. "And what would a pampered Luna know about military strategy?"

+8 Points >

"The system could be integrated with the pack's territory surveillance network for real-time threat tracking and disaster prevention," Olivia continued, ignoring the insult.

Lydia laughed harshly. "Pure fantasy from a pampered Luna who's never seen real combat."

The tension in the room was thick enough to cut with a knife. Commander Flint shifted nervously, clearly

uncomfortable with the confrontation.

"Ladies, perhaps we could-"

"No," Lydia interrupted, her eyes blazing with challenge. "I propose a competition. A tactical simulation to

determine who's truly qualified for this position."

Olivia's expression remained perfectly calm. "If I win, the consultant position is yours," she stated quietly.

"And if I win, you leave and never come back," Lydia shot back.

Commander Flint stepped forward, alarm written across his face. "This isn't necessary. I fear the fallout if the Alpha King's mate is-"

"Humiliated?" Olivia finished, a slight smile playing at her lips. "Don't worry, Commander. That won't happen."

Both she-wolves were resolute, their gazes locked in silent battle. The challenge was accepted.

30 Days To Freedom: Abandoned Luna Is Secret Shadow King Chapter 197

Chapter 197: How Could the Cipher Be a Woman

(God's POV)

The competition took place in the main command hall, surrounded by senior strategists and tech specialists. The air buzzed with anticipation as word spread through the building.

Olivia sat down at her workstation with the same calm she'd shown throughout the confrontation. Her fingers moved across the keyboard with practiced ease.

To the onlookers, it seemed she was casually running diagnostics while competing. In reality, she had unleashed something far more powerful.

She activated her own advanced system that she had developed during her time as "Cipher." The Oracle Engine enhancement roared to life, connecting to the Shadow Syndicate's vast computational network.

The system, which had been dormant in the supernatural dark web, awakened with unprecedented power. Lines of code flowed across her screen like digital lightning.

Simultaneously, she discreetly accessed classified military databases. Within minutes, she found Lydia's record-breaking performance on this exact tactical simulation.

Olivia's lips curved in a slight smile as she coolly engineered her own solution to surpass it by the slimmest of margins. Every calculation was precise, every move deliberate.

The simulation concluded with a soft chime. The results appeared on the main display screen.

Olivia had won decisively.

While Bastian cheered ecstatically for his Queen, Lydia stared at her screen in utter disbelief.

"Impossible," she whispered, her face pale with shock.

The she-wolf she had dismissed as a delicate, clueless Luna trophy had just effortlessly defeated her with skills that rivaled the most legendary strategists.

"How?" Lydia's voice was barely audible. "How is this possible?"

The room erupted in murmurs of amazement. Commander Flint looked between the two she-wolves, his

expression a mixture of relief and awe.

“Congratulations,” he said to Olivia. “The position is yours.”

But Lydia couldn't accept the result. Her pride, her reputation, everything she'd built was crumbling before her

eyes.

Stunned and unable to process what had just happened, she immediately took out her encrypted communication device. Her fingers flew across the screen as she contacted her ally in the human territories.

“Help me investigate someone, right now, immediately,” she typed urgently. “I want all her information—find

out who she is!”

(Lydia's POV)

The person on the other end of the encrypted communication device asked in a foreign-sounding accent,

1/3

< Chapter 197: How Could the Cipher Be a Woman

“What's her name?”

“Olivia Blackwood!” I replied tersely, my voice tight with frustration.

“She beat you?” the person asked again, disbelief evident in their tone.

+8 Points >

“Cut the crap!” I said in a low voice, glancing around to make sure no one was listening.

“Do you have the results yet?”

“Done!” the person said. “What kind of graduate from some obscure computer science college is this? She really beat you?”

N gritted my teeth, the humiliation burning in my chest. “Yes! That she-wolf was playing Minesweeper while

competing against me!”

“Playing what?” the person asked, astonished.

“Minesweeper!” I hissed into the device.

“Could it be... the Cipher?” The person’s voice trailed off into uncertainty. “It’s said that the Cipher’s system operates within a game, and when it’s running, all you can see is the game interface, nothing else.”

I was stunned for a moment, then burst out laughing. The sound echoed through the command hall, drawing curious stares.

“How is that possible? How could the Cipher be a she-wolf, especially one like her...” So beautiful and delicate, not at all like someone in the computer science field.

Before I could finish, I found myself the center of everyone’s attention in the command hall. Warriors and technicians were all looking at me with confusion and concern.

I awkwardly ended the call. “Talk to you next time.”

A dumbfounded Commander Garrett Flint finally came to his senses. “I declare, Luna Olivia is the winner.”

“But actually, I could hire two consultants,” he added quickly, his voice hopeful. “Luna Olivia wouldn’t have any objections, would she?”

Olivia shook her head calmly. “No need!”

I stood up and walked over to Olivia, my pride demanding one last stand. “A bet is a bet. You are the consultant for the Arcane Intelligence Division!”

“However, you only won by a hair’s breadth! It was a narrow victory due to various factors, and it doesn’t mean your skills are superior to mine.”

(Olivia’s POV)

I extended my hand towards Lydia, offering a gesture of goodwill despite her hostility.

Lydia looked at my fair hand in surprise, then saw my faint smile and reached out her own.

Lydia gripped my hand tightly, her fingers digging into my skin with unnecessary force. To her, my friendly gesture was nothing but a provocation.

She snorted coldly, “You should be glad you have a good mate! Otherwise, with your diploma, you wouldn’t even be qualified to step into the Arcane Intelligence Division!”

I winced and rubbed my hand, watching Lydia leave without a backward glance. The diamond setting on my mating ring had pressed into my skin during her aggressive handshake.

“Sis! What’s wrong with you!” Bastian Miles shouted nervously at his departing sister. “Where did your sportsmanship go!”

“Luna Olivia, are you okay?” Commander Flint asked with concern. “You’re bleeding...”

I looked down and saw that the diamond setting on my mating ring had cut my skin. A thin line of blood

traced across my knuckle.

30 Days To Freedom: Abandoned Luna Is Secret Shadow King Chapter 198

Chapter 198: Revealing Her True Power

(Theodore’s POV)

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1/4

< Chapter 198 Revealing Her True Power

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+ Points >

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+8 Points >

But Lydia couldn't accept the result. Her pride, her reputation, everything she'd built was crumbling before her

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30 Days To Freedom: Abandoned Luna Is Secret Shadow King Chapter 199

Chapter 199: How Could the Cipher Be a Woman

(Olivia's POV)

"I'll take you to the pack infirmary to apologize on behalf of my sister," Bastian said anxiously.

"It's not necessary. It will heal on its own soon." I took off the ring and put it in my purse, planning to find a

time to return it to Matthew.

Commander Garrett asked, "Luna Olivia, when can you start providing guidance?"

"I'll come tomorrow," I said calmly, shaking Commander Garrett's hand with my other hand. "I won't disappoint you, Commander Flint."

My sincere gaze made Commander Garrett feel a bit embarrassed. Just a few minutes ago, he had been skeptical of my persistence, thinking I was a high-maintenance figure he couldn't afford to offend due to my

mate bond with the Alpha King.

It seemed I really was a computer expert. He would have to have a good chat with Alpha Asher White about

his initial doubts.

In the vehicle, I sat in the passenger seat looking at my laptop. The time had been too short just now, and the Minesweeper system hadn't been fully upgraded yet, but a few more sessions would do the trick.

Bastian watched in amazement—I was playing Minesweeper! His Alpha Queen was truly a hidden talent!

His sister was incredibly skilled and had been courted by major corporations since returning to the territory. He was surprised to see her at the Arcane Intelligence Division today, as she had previously been leaning towards Crimson Pack or Thorne Industries.

The vehicle suddenly stopped by the roadside. I slowly looked up to see that Bastian had gotten out and opened my door, practically trying to guide me out.

"Luna Olivia, you must get this injury looked at properly. I'll cover all the medical expenses!"

I was startled. No one had ever been so forward with me, but I realized Bastian didn't mean any harm.

Since being kidn*pped and tied up with a silver rope by Silvanus earlier, the healing speed of my hand wounds had been very slow, and I hadn't fully recovered even after such a long time.

I gently pushed his hand away. "I'll go in and have a look, just let go of me first."

Bastian finally realized what he had done and quickly let go, his face slightly flushed.

I put away my laptop, placed it in my large briefcase, and led the way into the Infirmary. Bastian followed closely behind me.

"Luna Olivia, let me carry your briefcase for you."

"No, thank you."

"Luna Olivia..." He tried to grab it again.

I was speechless at his persistence. A cool, indifferent voice sounded nearby.

In an instant, Bastian's arms were seized, and he was pulled away from me by pack enforcers. I was pulled into an embrace, and the familiar scent of pine and authority filled my senses.

Matthew Kane asked in a low voice, "Are you alright?"

I shook my head abruptly and stepped back from his embrace. But Matthew saw my bleeding hand and pulled me back.

"Did he hurt you?"

"No, I did it myself by accident," I said quietly, trying to remove his hand from my waist, only for him to grab my hand as well.

"Hey, what do you think you're doing! Let her go!" Bastian yelled, his hands held by the pack enforcers, unable to move. "She doesn't like you holding her! You..."

At his words, the pack enforcers instantly pinned him to the ground.

I quickly explained, "He's an employee of my company! Please let him go!"

Matthew glanced over, and the pack enforcers pulled Bastian up from the floor. Bastian had a defiant look on his face.

"Do you know who my father is?"

I walked over anxiously, signaling for Bastian to be quiet. "I know him, he is...?"

Matthew had the pack enforcers release Bastian. Bastian eagerly asked, "Who is he, Luna Olivia?"

"He was touching you, don't be afraid. This is the Sovereign's Citadel, no one dares to act recklessly here. My father... is a pack Elder! He enforces the law!"

As Bastian said this, he shot a disdainful look at Matthew.

The Elder was Matthew's ally. I couldn't let his ally know the truth about our complicated relationship.

I frowned, feeling troubled. Just then, Beta Tristan stepped forward.

"This is our Alpha King, and the Alpha King's mate."

Bastian looked at me, then at the commanding man, and shrieked, "He's your mate!"

I was speechless. I regretted not asking Commander Garrett to come out with me today.

Bastian's mood swung dramatically. He rushed forward, trying to shake Matthew's hand, but was blocked by

Beta Tristan.

"Luna got a cut on her hand from a ring while competing with my sister."

"Medical fees, nutritional supplements, emotional distress compensation, I'll take full responsibility!" Bastian declared enthusiastically.

Matthew glanced at Bastian and said coolly, "That won't be necessary."

Before Bastian could say more, he was escorted out of the Infirmary by the pack enforcers.

Matthew walked up to me, reaching for my hand. I dodged him.

Beta Tristan said, "The Master Healer is waiting for Luna Olivia."

Matthew asked coolly, "Shall we go take a look?" He lowered his hand.

Hearing Beta Tristan's words, I didn't want to keep the healer waiting and walked in the direction Beta Tristan indicated. Matthew walked behind me.

The healer quickly treated the wound. "Luna, be sure not to let it touch water for the next two days. Apply the moonlight herb salve once a day. It will scab over and fall off in

two days. You can come back then for scar removal treatment. However, the scar removal treatment will be a bit painful.”

I nodded, put the salve in my briefcase, and stood up to leave.

(Matthew’s POV)

I stepped out of the healer’s office, my expression darkening as I watched her hurried, retreating figure. She hadn’t only blocked my contact information, but Beta Tristan’s as well. She wanted nothing to do with me,

and she was truly testing my patience.

My gaze flickered as I saw her running back toward me, panting. For a moment, it was as if I were seeing our

first meeting all over again, years ago in Europe.

The way she had run toward me then, anxiously looking for her communication device. Young, determined, yet so bright and radiant.

She stood before me, took the mating ring from her briefcase, and held it out to me, panting, “Alpha King, here you go.”

30 Days To Freedom: Abandoned Luna Is Secret Shadow King Chapter 200

Chapter 200: The hitman hired by Theodore

(God’s POV)

Upon hearing Olivia’s words, Matthew felt his heartbeat skip a beat. His wolf Titan growled furiously in his mind, the sound reverberating through his consciousness like thunder.

The pack healer cleared his throat diplomatically. “Alpha King, perhaps a jade ring would be less irritating to

Luna’s skin. Silver can sometimes cause reactions in sensitive wolves.”

Matthew’s eyes never left Olivia’s face as he gestured to Beta Tristan. Without hesitation, Beta Tristan produced an elegant wooden box from his jacket.

Matthew opened it to reveal a stunning jade ring, its deep green surface carved with intricate wolf motifs. He took Olivia's left hand gently and slid the ring onto her ring finger.

Olivia stared at the ring in stunned silence. How had he anticipated her returning the other ring? The jade felt warm against her skin, perfectly fitted as if made specifically for her.

"Beautiful," the healer commented approvingly. "Much better suited for Luna's delicate skin."

Matthew's fingers caressed her hand as he admired the ring. "Perfect," he agreed, his voice low and intimate.

Olivia felt her cheeks flush. She tried to pull her hand away, but Matthew stepped forward instead.

His arm wrapped around her waist, pulling her against the wall behind her. She found herself trapped between his solid chest and the cool surface.

"Matthew, please let go," she whispered, acutely aware of the healer's presence.

He leaned closer, his pine scent overwhelming her senses. "Have dinner with me tonight. We need to discuss pack creche options for Aurora."

His refusal to release her made her heart race. The familiar scent that had once brought her comfort now made her feel dizzy with conflicting emotions.

"I can't let go anymore," he whispered, his gaze intense and unwavering.

Olivia became aware of movement in her peripheral vision. Several pack members had gathered, some already holding their phones up to capture the scene.

"Matthew, we'll end up on the trending topics," she warned, her voice barely audible.

His response was simple and direct. "Do you care?"

The question hit her like a physical blow. She remembered her recent declaration that she couldn't help him, the pain in his eyes when she'd said those words.

A pang of conflict shot through her chest. Despite everything, she nodded reluctantly. "Please let me go."

Instead of complying, Matthew's grip tightened. His other hand cupped her face as he leaned down and captured her lips in a deep, possessive kiss.

The pack enforcers moved swiftly and discreetly, clearing the area of onlookers. Matthew held her tightly against him, his voice husky with emotion when he finally broke the kiss.

Theodore

“You’re too disobedient,” he whispered against her lips.

The kiss left Olivia breathless and teary-eyed. Her legs felt weak, and she could barely stand without his support.

When he finally released her mouth, he gently wiped the tears from her cheeks with his thumbs. Only then did she realize they were completely alone in the healer’s office.

(Olivia’s POV)

Matthew held me close, his arms still wrapped around my waist. His expression had grown serious, almost vulnerable.

“I need to explain about Audrey,” he said quietly.

He gestured to Beta Tristan, who produced a thick file marked with the Shadow Syndicate’s seal. The pages were heavily redacted, black lines covering most of the text.

“She’s listed as a key witness in a classified case,” Matthew explained, pointing to Audrey’s name on the document. “Her interaction with me was purely professional. Nothing more.”

The explanation cleared the air between us, and I felt some of the tension in my shoulders ease. His honesty

meant more to me than I wanted to admit.

“About your phone,” he said, his tone carefully neutral. “Beta Tristan couldn’t reach you earlier.”

Guilt washed over me. I couldn’t admit that I’d blocked both of them in a moment of emotional turmoil.

I pulled out my phone with trembling fingers. Under his watchful, knowing gaze, I quietly unblocked both his and Beta Tristan’s numbers.

A small smile played at the corners of his mouth as he watched me. “Beta Tristan has already taken Aurora to the Sovereign’s Table. She’s waiting for us there.”

At the restaurant, Alpha Asher White greeted us warmly at the entrance. His genuine smile put me at ease as he led us to a private dining room.

During the meal, Alpha Asher pointedly addressed me. "Luna Olivia, I want you to know that Matthew firmly rebuffed all of Audrey's advances yesterday. She was quite persistent, but he made his position crystal clear."

I felt heat rise in my cheeks at the obvious reassurance. Matthew simply watched my slightly guilty expression with that same faint smile, saying nothing.

After dinner, we visited several pack creches in the territory. Aurora seemed drawn to the third one we visited, her little hands reaching eagerly for the colorful toys and her eyes bright with interest.

"This one," I decided, watching as she gurgled happily in Matthew's arms.

We settled into the outdoor play area, where Aurora was placed in a sandbox filled with soft, clean sand. She immediately began exploring with her tiny fingers, completely absorbed in her new environment.

The peaceful moment was shattered by the arrival of pack enforcers escorting two familiar figures. Theodore walked confidently behind them, while Leo timidly stayed close to his father's side.

The enforcers stopped Theodore for a thorough search, their movements professional but clearly unwelcome. Leo's eyes found mine across the playground, and he took hesitant steps toward me.

"Mommy?" he called softly, his voice uncertain.

I remembered Matthew's earlier advice that Leo was just a child caught in the middle of adult conflicts. My heart softened as I looked at my son's confused, hopeful expression.

"Come here, sweetheart," I said gently, opening my arms.

Leo ran to me and settled beside Aurora in the sandbox. The two children began playing together, their innocent laughter a stark contrast to the tension between the adults.

Theodore approached once the enforcers finished their search. His trademark smirk was firmly in place as he walked directly to Matthew.

"You can never drive me away from my mate's side," Theodore taunted, his voice carrying across the playground. "My bond with Leo, whom Olivia raised herself, is stronger than any bond you could ever have with Aurora."

Just then, Beta Tristan approached Matthew and whispered something in his ear. I caught the words "Audrey"

and "missing."

Theodore's smirk widened as he overheard the conversation. "You know why you can't beat me, Matthew? You have to follow the rules. You're always a step behind."

He turned toward me with obvious satisfaction, clearly pleased with whatever advantage he thought he held. But as he took his first step in my direction, another figure appeared.

Declan Shaw walked directly toward Theodore, his face grim with determination. He stopped beside me, pointing an accusing finger at Theodore.

"It was Theodore who hired a killer to assassinate the Alpha King!"