

Alpha-less 171

Chapter 171 You Are Courting Death

Seeing Tessa take down a professional werewolf mercenary in one move, the rest of them no longer dared to underestimate this girl who hadn't even awakened her wolf.

They reined in their lazy aura and exchanged a quick glance.

Then another werewolf mercenary let out a low growl. Coarse, bristly hair erupted across his body, his eyes glowed an eerie green, and his fingernails lengthened into razor-sharp claws. With a furious roar, he lunged at Tessa's throat.

Tessa's eyes sharpened. She swiftly dodged to the side, and the claws brushed past her ear without even touching a single strand of her hair.

But before she could steady herself, another werewolf mercenary opened his mouth, revealing sharp fangs. and pounced at her.

Tessa didn't flinch. She bent her knees slightly, slipping under the attack, and slammed her fists into the mercenary's waist.

The werewolf howled in pain. His muscles swelled instantly, strength surging through his limbs. He swung a powerful backhand toward Tessa's face.

Tessa reacted fast. She tilted her head, dodged the blow, and landed a solid kick on his knee. A crisp crack echoed as his knee buckled, and he dropped to the ground on one knee, face twisted in pain.

The rest of the half-shifted werewolf mercenaries charged at her all at once. Their growls were chilling, their wild aura thick and oppressive.

One of them tried to circle from the side, aiming to grab Tessa's legs so his teammates could strike.

But Tessa saw it coming. Right before he got close, she leapt high into the air, spun mid-jump, and landed a powerful kick on his shoulder. The force of the blow hurled him straight into the nearby wall.

In the next breath, Tessa threw a punch at another oncoming mercenary, striking him square in the face. The air hissed around her fist, and the impact forced him to stumble back again and again.

Tessa, with nothing but a human body, brought down the werewolf mercenaries one by one.

The man leading them looked furious. Every one of these subordinates was top-tier, yet they were taken out within minutes by a girl who hadn't even awakened her wolf.

In the werewolf world, those who hadn't awakened were always at the bottom. But she, with no trace of wolf power, had beaten these battle-hardened mercenaries like it was nothing.

Who is she really? How can she defy the rules of the werewolf world and overpower its laws?

"Now you're the only one left. Come on. Let's finish this fast," Tessa said arrogantly.

"You're courting death!" the man snapped, provoked. He shrugged off his coat.

As he walked toward her, the air around him seemed to shift.

Instead, he pulled a gun from his belt and aimed it at the center of her forehead. The gun was loaded with silver bullets.

For werewolves, silver was deadly. No matter how strong she was, one hit would do serious damage. Even if she hadn't awakened her wolf, the threat still loomed large.

"I don't plan to kill you. Come with us, the man said.

"No," Tessa replied. She wasn't someone who'd just go along because asked nicely.

At that moment, Landon's car pulled up at the mouth of the alley,

Just knowing she had run off into this deserted alley made his chest tighten.

It was too quiet inside-so quiet it was terrifying.

For a split second, Landon didn't dare to go in.

But the moment he heard the bang of a gunshot, he stopped hesitating and charged straight in.

Chapter 172 Nothing Else Mattered

However, what Landon saw was over a dozen well-trained werewolf mercenaries lying on the ground, groaning in pain.

One of the men had a bullet wound through his wrist, and blood was still flowing.

In Tessa's hand was a special kind of gun.

When she saw him approaching, she only raised an eyebrow casually, as if that was her way of saying hello.

Landon walked up to her. His nose twitched slightly as he sniffed carefully at her scent. When he didn't smell any trace of blood, he finally relaxed.

"Who sent you?" Landon stepped over to the man who seemed to be the leader. The man glared at him and didn't say a word.

"Not talking? That's fine. I'll make sure you regret showing up anywhere near her today."

No sooner had he speaking than Nathaniel arrived, leading more than a dozen werewolf warriors dressed in black.

"Take them away! Don't give them a chance to die."

Once he got Tessa home, he was going to interrogate them himself.

Nathaniel glanced at the mercenaries-each one curled up on the ground, moaning and writhing in pain- and couldn't help but look at Tessa.

He'd always known Tessa wasn't someone to mess with, but he didn't expect all these werewolf mercenaries to be beaten this badly by her alone.

It still felt unreal. He wondered how many secrets she was hiding. She hadn't even awakened her wolf, yet her strength was terrifying.

Even he, as the Beta of the Nightshade Pack, wouldn't be confident fighting all those mercenaries without getting hurt.

What was more, the leader had silver bullets-the deadliest weapon against their kind.

The alley fell quiet once again.

Landon stood there without saying a word, clearly angry.

"Mr. Thorne, are you mad right now?" Tessa couldn't help but ask.

"Why didn't you listen to me?" Even now, Landon's heart was still trembling. He didn't dare imagine what he would do if something really had happened to her.

"I wanted to listen. But they had guns, so..."

"You knew they had guns and still came here? Tessa, you did this on purpose!"

The air thickened with Alpha pressure. The temperature dropped a few degrees, and even the nearby leaves began to tremble.

Tessa looked at him, confused and frustrated.

A gunfight in Navoris wasn't a good idea. It could hurt innocent people. And they were using silver bullets. If things escalated, the consequences would be unimaginable.

"There were so many people on the street. I didn't want to..."

"Of course I know I have to protect the citizens of the Wolf Clan! But I cannot accept you getting hurt. When they pointed their guns at you, the only thing I could think about was your safety. Nothing else mattered."

He was selfish like that. In front of Tessa, he couldn't be calm or fair. Compared to her, everyone else's safety was just background noise at that moment.

Hearing him say something so intense, Tessa felt shaken. She hadn't expected Landon to care so much.

"Mr. Thorne, I..."

Landon didn't let her finish. He pulled her into his arms, lowered his head slightly, and with a flash of sharp fangs, bit the corner of her mouth, not hard enough to hurt her, but just enough to leave a light mark and his scent of pine.

"Why are you always so disobedient?" he whispered near her ear.

Tessa gently wrapped her arms around his waist and leaned into his chest.

That simple gesture instantly calmed him.

"I'm sorry, I didn't mean to make

you worry," Tessa said softly.

"Oh..." Landon could only sigh. He couldn't stay mad at her anymore. He really had no way of dealing with

her.

He didn't say anything else. He just drove her back to the Wisteria Apartment.

But Tessa didn't get out of the car. "Can I see those people?"

She wanted to know what they were after and why they had gone to so much trouble just to catch her.

Chapter 173 You Are Different

"Okay," Landon replied.

Since Tessa wanted to see them, he arranged it.

After all, now that those werewolf mercenaries had arrived at Hollow Vault, they could no longer pose any threat to her safety.

"They wanted to capture you because they planned to use you to threaten me." Landon had rushed over as soon as he got the news. He hadn't expected to be too late. But in the end, she had handled it herself.

"No one can capture me that easily, Mr. Thorne. Don't let anyone use me to get to you." Tessa hoped she could be someone who helped him, not a weakness others could exploit.

"Don't worry. I won't let anyone get the chance to hurt you." Landon's eyes were full of bloodthirsty rage.

He hadn't even been this furious when they targeted him. But the fact that they dared to lay a hand on Tessa made him wish he could subject them to every torture in Hollow Vault, forcing them to beg for their lives yet never allowing them to die, trapped in an endless cycle of agony.

Nathaniel hadn't expected Landon to bring Tessa to Hollow Vault.

This place was basically a dungeon. Here, no matter how tough a werewolf was, after their interrogation methods, no one stayed silent.

As Tessa stepped into Hollow Vault, she was a little dazed.

She hadn't imagined that Landon had brought those werewolf mercenaries here.

Even more surprising was the fact that such a place existed in the bustling city of Navoris.

"Alpha." Nathaniel had only just arrived too and hadn't started the interrogation yet.

"Let's take a walk first," Landon said to Tessa at his side.

Tessa nodded.

Even someone like her, who had seen a lot, felt her scalp tingle when she saw the interrogation devices inside Hollow Vault.

"Mr. Thorne, do people try to assassinate you often?"

"Why do you ask that?" Landon kept walking with her deeper into the facility. Everything in here challenged what Tessa thought she knew.

"If they didn't, why would you need a place like Hollow Vault?"

Some things couldn't be forced out through legal means-but once people got here, even professionally trained mercenaries couldn't resist. With these high- tech devices that interfered with werewolf pheromones and suppressed their strength, they'd answer anything asked of them. They didn't even have a chance

Not to mention I also control Thorne Corp. I have the highest power and wealth.

Tessa understood the rule. The higher one rose, the greater the danger became.

In both the werewolf world and the business empire, the more powerful Landon was, the more trouble and danger he attracted.

He looked glamorous on the surface, admired and feared by all. But the dangers and pressure he faced behind the scenes-most people couldn't even imagine.

Each assassination attempt was like a blade hanging over his head, never knowing when it would fall.

No matter how strong Landon was, no matter how tough his mind was, living under that constant pressure -always on guard-would drain anyone over time.

Tessa couldn't help but feel a pang of sorrow.

Seeing the look on her face, Landon walked over and took her hand.

"Too bad they're not capable enough. I'm still standing here, perfectly fine."

If it hadn't been necessary, he wouldn't have built a place like Hollow Vault. "Should you really be showing me this place?"

This place was too important to him. If someone found out, and accused the Nightshade Pack's Alpha of secretly building a dungeon to imprison werewolves, the consequences would be serious.

"Tessa, I told you before, you're different. You mean something different to me." Anywhere that belonged to him, she could do whatever she wanted.

Even if it wasn't his place, if she wanted it, he'd take it and give it to her just so she could have her fun.

His gaze was so intense that Tessa didn't know how to respond. She chose to stay silent and kept walking.

"This place really is advanced. Not many could hold out." Even the strongest minds had no room to resist.

"Yeah."

Built with a massive budget, infused with cutting-edge werewolf tech, and designed with methods that specifically suppressed werewolf abilities. It was naturally powerful.

By the time Landon and Tessa had their round through the Vault,

Nathaniel had already gotten the werewolf mercenaries to reveal who had sent them.

Chapter 174 An Ordinary High School Student

"Alpha, you were right again. Just like the last time in Falindale, the werewolf mercenaries were also sent by the Morrigan family this time, Alpha of the Thornbane Pack," Nathaniel reported.

"Evan Morrigan," Landon muttered the name, his gaze suddenly turning cold.

The Thornbane Pack had once been the second-largest pack in Navoris.

Their leader, Alpha Evan, had always resented Landon becoming the Alpha King of Montedra and had refused to accept that the Nightshade Pack was the largest.

Several times, he had led the Thornbane Pack to attack the Nightshade Pack, challenging Landon.

But each time, Landon had won.

Five years ago, Landon had grown tired of the endless fighting with Evan and had wanted to put an end to it once and for all.

He and Evan had made a pact. The loser of this battle would have to leave Navoris with their pack and never

return.

Evan had agreed.

As expected, Landon had won again, and the Thornbane Pack had suffered a crushing defeat.

With no other choice, Evan had been forced to move the Thornbane Pack out of Navoris.

The Thunder Pack, which had ranked third in Navoris, had now become the second-largest pack.

But he wouldn't have thought that, five years later, Evan was still unwilling to give up. He had pretended to be polite to Landon, but secretly, he had sent mercenaries to assassinate him.

"Alpha, what should we do with these people?" Nathaniel asked, referring to the dozen or so werewolf mercenaries.

"Leave it to Ethan! Isn't he the one who has been hunting these guys down?"

At the mention of Ethan's name, Tessa only blinked her eyes.

"Okay."

That was a huge favor for Ethan.

"I'll take care of the rest. It's late, you and Tessa should go rest," Nathaniel said,

his heart trembling. This woman was not to be underestimated. He'd have to show her respect from now on, or he wouldn't even know how he'd meet his end.

Tessa yawned. After a fight, she was indeed tired.

"If you need to take care of something, go ahead. I can go back alone."

"Your matter is the most important. What else is there for me to worry about? Don't worry, I've got it,"

Tessa had a brief moment of distraction.

As soon as Landon and Tessa left, Nathaniel ordered his men to tie up the dozen or so half-dead werewolf mercenaries.

Nathaniel's subordinate asked, "Beta, how should we deal with these people?"

"Drag them to the Special Forces Division and drop them off in front of Ethan. He's the most experienced with these matters."

These werewolf mercenaries had even assassinated several members of the Wolf Clan. If they were handed over to Ethan, it would be a huge achievement.

It was terrifying to think about the globally infamous werewolf mercenaries, captured so easily by Tessa, a girl who hadn't even awakened her wolf. It made the world seem fantastical.

Recently, Ethan had been busy investigating the assassination of the Wolf Clan senators. Though he had identified the murderer, he still hadn't been able to track down the assassin.

He hadn't had a good night's sleep for several days.

Finally, today, when he had just gone to bed, the phone rang.

"What happened?" Ethan pinched the bridge of his nose, trying to stay awake.

"Captain Simpson, you need to come to the team right away!"

Ethan furrowed his brow. "What's going on?"

The people at the Special Forces Division had always been by his side, and they had seen all sorts of major incidents. He had never seen them so panicked.

"You'll see when you get here. Even if I told you now, you wouldn't believe it."

Ethan drove straight to the Special Forces Division. When he saw the dozen or so werewolf mercenaries tied up, even the usually calm Ethan was shaken.

These mercenaries were the very ones he had been tracking for the senator assassinations! He hadn't expected them to be tied up and dumped here tonight.

The question now was who had captured them and brought them here-people whom the Navoris Special Forces Division had been unable to capture.

"Contact Interpol," Ethan calmly directed. The leader of the mercenaries was a notorious international fugitive. Whoever had caught him had done a good deed.

"And find out who brought them here."

Ethan made a series of arrangements.

"Captain Simpson, it seems like you've been lucky lately! Sleeping at home and still managing to catch an

international criminal."

Ethan rubbed his nose. It did seem like that, ever since he met Tessa. He had cracked several big cases.

Last time, it's a bomb disposal. This time, could it be her again?

Ethan decided he had to find Tessa.

Chapter 176 Time Could Tell the Truth

Many girls in the class liked Nico, and now that they saw how he stood up for Tessa, they instantly hated

Tessa even more.

"Who I like has nothing to do with you," Nico said, not wanting to say anything

more.

Seeing Nico like this, the girls didn't dare to speak again, but the way they looked at Tessa was terrifying.

"Tessa, I have a problem with my physics experiment I can't figure out. Can you help me take a look?" Nico finally spoke.

Tessa nodded without paying any attention to the girls whose faces were twisted with anger. She got up and went with him to the physics lab.

Tessa helped him check the experiment.

He had only gone through it once when Tessa already spotted the problem.

As he watched Tessa redo the experiment, Nico stood beside her, his feelings for her growing even more.

"That should do it," Tessa said after finishing, sitting down to the side.

"Let me try," Nico said. He redid the experiment while Tessa laid her head on the table next to him and fell asleep.

When Nico , he turned and saw her sleeping. He quietly took off his school jacket and gently laid it over her shoulders.

Then he sat across from her and just watched her sleep.

Watching her like that, he didn't feel like doing anything else.

When Tessa and Nico had entered the lab, Winona had seen them. She secretly followed them inside.

Hiding in the corner, she snapped a few photos right when Nico was taking off his jacket.

There were only Nico and Tessa in the lab, and the angle Winona used made the photos look misleading.

Looking at the pictures on her phone, Winona couldn't help but feel proud of herself.

She sent them to a classmate who liked Nico, hinting that the photos could be posted on the school forum.

That girl didn't disappoint her. Soon the pictures were on the forum. Seeing them, Winona smiled with pure malice.

Tessa woke up at 10:30. The second class had already started.

She simply did another experiment in the lab, and when the third period ended, she went back to class.

Everyone in class was scrolling through the school forum. Tessa and Nico were now completely viral.

"D*mn, she has no shame! She actually dared to do that at school."

"Yeah! It's disgusting. That's not the Nico I know."

"This isn't Nico's fault at all! It's definitely Tessa. She seduced him. She was already messing around with the Rogues at 12, and even got pregnant!"

Ysabel had been looking for Tessa. When she saw her come back, she immediately pulled her outside.

"Tessie, let's go somewhere else first!"

Tessa looked at her, confused. What now?

"Skipping class again?"

"Yeah." Ysabel figured skipping was actually a good idea right now.

The photos on the forum had put Tessa right in the middle of a storm, and the comments were even worse.

"No need."

Running away had never been her way of dealing with things.

"Tessie!" Ysabel was truly worried.

"What's going on?" Tessa asked patiently.

Under Tessa's piercing gaze, Ysabel had no choice but to hand over her phone.

Tessa looked at the nasty photos and eye-catching headline, her lips curling into a faint, cold smile.

Ysabel stared at her. That smile made her uneasy. For some reason, she suddenly felt afraid-like her friend had become someone unfamiliar. That smile seemed to be the start of a storm.

"Tessie, are you okay? This is clearly someone trying to frame you. You..." Ysabel didn't even know how to comfort her anymore.

Because of the angle, it really looked like something had happened between them in that lab.

No matter what Tessa said, no one would believe her.

"Tessie, please don't scare me. No matter what others say, I believe you. I'll always be on your side."

"I know." These photos showed them in the physics lab. Everyone else had been

in class during that time. She was now wondering who had followed her on purpose to take those pictures.

"No matter what, we just have to find out who posted them and make them take it down." Rumors only stopped with the wise. Right now, no explanation would help. Only time could tell the truth.

Tessa spoke with ease, "No rush. No matter who posted it, I'll make sure they learn their lesson. As for deleting the post, I can do that myself. But not just yet."

Chapter 177 We Are Getting Engaged Soon

As soon as Nico walked into class, a few of the boys blocked his way.

"Nico, I didn't think someone as cold as you would actually do something like that at school!"

"Yeah! You've got some guts! Even when we mess around, we at least take it to a hotel.

"But seriously, how dare you sleep with someone like Tessa? Aren't you afraid of catching something? Rumor has it she started fooling around with Rogues when she was 12"

"Come on, William! It's just that Tessa wouldn't give you the time of day. If she had, you'd have jumped at the chance!"

"Exactly. With a face and body like hers, even if she did have something, I'd still hit it," William Smith said with a wicked grin.

"Shut your mouth!"

As a werewolf noble, Nico usually carried himself with grace and dignity. But the second he heard those filthy words, his whole presence turned ice cold. A faint glow of wolfish light flickered in his eyes.

"Come on, Nico, don't act like some saint. Just tell us, how did Tessa feel?"

"You!" Nico grabbed William by the collar. "Watch your d*mn mouth. Quit spewing sh*t all over the place.

William smirked. "What's the matter, Nico? Didn't you already sleep with her? Why are you still acting like you've got something to prove? Didn't she satisfy you?"

William wasn't afraid of Nico. He wasn't as smart, but when it came to fighting, he knew he could take him.

Or so he thought, until Nico used his wolf strength and slammed a fist into William's nose.

It wasn't until blood dripped to his lips that William realized what had just happened.

"What the hell, Nico? You seriously hit me?"

Furious, William lunged at Nico, and the two of them started brawling.

Nico was the top student in class, but he wasn't soft when it came to throwing punches.

The other boys rushed to pull them apart.

"What the hell are you guys doing? It's just a girl! Is it worth fighting over?"

"Yeah, this is Navoris High. You get into a fight here, and you're getting expelled."

If a fight had to happen, it was taken outside the school. No one dared to throw punches.

Navoris High.

"Let me go! If I don't teach this a*shole a lesson today, he's really going to think he's untouchable."

Blood was still running from William's nose. He was furious. He didn't care if he got expelled. He was going to fight.

pressure he gave off was terrifying.

"If I ever hear you say Tessa's name again, I swear I'll beat you so bad even your parents won't recognize you."

Nico was hurt too, but he didn't care at all.

The girls in class had never seen Nico like this before, and it made them even more obsessed with him.

"Oh my goodness! How did I never notice how intense Nico is?"

"Right? William fights all the time, but Nico actually beat him. I'm obsessed."

"Too bad this bada's side of him came out because of Tessa from Class Eight. What's so great about her anyway?"

"She's disgusting. All she does is flirt with other guys. She has zero shame."

"Winona, didn't she try to seduce your boyfriend, Connor?" someone turned and asked.

"Yeah, that girl has no shame. Winnie, remember the day you were in the hospital? Tessa went straight after Connor."

Winona scoffed. "Connor and I have a great relationship. We're getting engaged soon. I know he wouldn't fall for some other girl."

"Seriously? Winona, you're only 18! And you're getting engaged?!"

"I've loved Connor since middle school. He's the one I've chosen for life, so I don't

think it's too early," Winona said with a blissful smile.

With her saying things like that, no matter what Tessa did, everyone would just blame her.

After all, in their eyes, Tessa was nothing more than a homewrecker.

Five years ago, she had used public opinion to get Tessa kicked out of the Sinclair family and the Frostmoon Pack. And five years later, she could do it again.

Chapter 178 He Trusted Her

Nico found Tessa and Ysabel and saw that Tessa was just lying on the grass, leisurely sunbathing. He still couldn't believe his eyes.

After all, any girl facing those kinds of rumors would've been upset, but she had stayed completely calm.

"Tessa, are you okay? I'm sorry, it's all my fault. If I hadn't asked you to go to the lab for the experiment, none of this would've happened."

Nico felt really guilty. But since it had already happened, nothing he said now could change it.

Tessa sat up from the grass. The sunlight was a bit too bright, so she squinted slightly.

"You didn't do anything wrong. This has nothing to do with you. Don't worry, whatever they're planning, I'm still here."

Nico was stunned. He had come to comfort Tessa, but he didn't expect her to say that. Did she forget she's the one who's supposed to need support?

"Nico, I really want to ask you something right now. Why did you take off your jacket? You were just doing an experiment, so why take your clothes off? That's exactly the kind of thing that makes people misunderstand." Ysabel's tone wasn't friendly. Nico might've been good-looking, but he'd caused Tessa serious trouble.

Tessa just wanted a peaceful high school life; it shouldn't be too much to ask, yet people kept picking on her.

"I..." For a moment, Nico didn't know how to respond. Im sorry."

That seemed to be the only thing he could say.

"I already told you this has nothing to do with you. What happened to your injuries?" Tessa asked.

Nico's family was one of the well-known werewolf nobles in Navoris. At Navoris High, there shouldn't be many who dared mess with him.

"Yeah, how did you get hurt?" Ysabel added.

"It's nothing. A few guys were running their mouths, so taught them a lesson."

When Ysabel heard that, her hostility toward him disappeared.

"Not bad, Nico. When I heard what those people said about Tessa, I really wanted

to fight them too. But I held back. You, on the other hand... You've got guts." Nico gave a bitter smile.

"Nico, let's end it here. Don't get involved anymore. I'll handle the rest."

"Tessa, no matter what you think, this whole thing started because of me. There's no way I'm just going to walk away. I'll make sure the post is deleted, and I'll find the person behind it. She'll apologize to you."

With that, Nico turned and left.

"I always thought Nico was good-looking," Ysabel said, but after seeing how he stood up for you, I think he's even hotter now. Still, Tessic, I have to say, no matter how hot he is, he's not as hot as my uncle. My uncle really likes you."

Tessa remained silent.

"I'm serious. Do you think I should tell my uncle about all this?"

"No need. This kind of thing isn't worth his attention. Its just small stuff between classmates."

"Tessie, my uncle isn't like those shallow guys. He'd definitely believe you. I know he thinks the same way I do. Whatever you say, we believe it. No matter what others say, we won't doubt you."

Ysabel felt she had to speak up for Landon. With so many great guys around Tessa, there was a real chance someone else might win her over.

"Alright." Tessa nodded at that.

As for Landon, she did trust him, and she trusted that he trusted her.

Enemies were bound to meet. At lunch in the cafeteria, Ysabel accidentally bumped into Winona.

The tray in Winona's hands fell to the floor.

"Are you blind?" the girl beside Winona shouted. The wildness of her wolf aura flickered around her, stirred up by anger.

Chapter 179 Does It Matter?

"Winnic, are you okay? Did you get hurt? Tessa did this on purpose, didn't you all see? She couldn't get Connor, so now she's targeting Winnic."

"Tessa, how shameless are you?"

"Someone who hung out with Rogues at the age of 12, do you even have the face to speak? You're so desperate that you couldn't even hold yourself back in the school's lab, doing such things, it's downright disgusting."

"It's so embarrassing for a century-old school like Navoris High to have students like this."

At that moment, all the girls in the cafeteria were united in anger, wishing they could throw Tessa out of Navoris High right then and there.

Ysabel was completely stunned. Tessa was clearly standing beside them, not doing anything.

It was clearly her who bumped into Winona, yet these people, without any reason, blamed everything on Tessa, and their words were so harsh.

"If you don't need your eyes, maybe donate them to someone who actually does!" Ysabel couldn't hold back any longer and shot back sarcastically, "I'm the one who bumped into Winona, not Tessa. You're just using this as an excuse. Honestly, I'm starting to think those posts came from you guys."

Besides, Winona had already awakened her wolf, so her senses were much sharper than someone who hadn't.

Although Ysabel had accidentally bumped into her, based on Winona's reflexes, she could have easily avoided it.

Ysabel felt that Winona was intentionally standing still, trying to stir up anger. Clearly, she succeeded.

"Does it matter who posted it? It's still the truth," one of the girls beside Winona spoke up.

"Does it matter? Once I find out, you'll wish you hadn't, Tessa sneered. These people really thought they could provoke her and walk away without consequences.

Normally, she ignored them because she thought it was beneath her to argue with them.

But these people actually thought she was afraid. That was laughable.

Winona's lips couldn't help but twitch. Even now, she still won't back down? Her reputation's tanking by the minute. Who's actually going to accept her at this point?

Tessa glanced at Winona.

One look at that smug expression, and she knew exactly what Winona was thinking-she probably believed Tessa had nothing left, that she was powerless

now.

Does she really think I'm still the same person I was five years ago? The one everyone could walk all over?

looking at her made Winona feel uneasy.

But then, she thought, there were no traces of her on the posts or the comments. Tessa couldn't do anything to her.

She didn't need to be afraid, because none of this had anything to do with her. She could just stand by and watch.

"Tessa, why are you looking at Winnie like that? Doing something so shameless yourself, and now you still dare to glare at people? Who do you think you are? There are so many people here, do you want to fight all of us?" Winona didn't need to say anything. Others spoke for her. She just needed to stand there, playing innocent, as she always did.

"Don't say it's just you guys here. Even if fifty more came, none of you would be a match for me. But fighting you would just dirty my hands," Tessa said coolly.

"Heh, you're just a worthless person without a wolf, who gave you the courage to say such things?"

"Just you? I could knock you down with a single finger!"

"Want to try?" Tessa lightly lifted her eyes, and an invisible pressure spread from her, as though invisible hands were gripping their throats, leaving them unable to speak.

Images of the previous scene flashed in their minds-a few girls from their class had been taught a lesson by Tessa when Nico had caused trouble, and they had been utterly helpless.

At the time, they mocked those girls, thinking that getting beaten by a powerless person without a wolf was an exaggeration, laughing at how useless they were.

But now, with the chilling aura surrounding Tessa, their doubts began to fade. They started to believe that Tessa really did have the ability to deal with all of them and could easily defeat them.

"Move."

As soon as Tessa spoke, the people blocking her path automatically made way.

The few girls exchanged glances. Why are we listening to someone without a wolf, a so-called "nobody"? Is it just instinct?

Chapter 180 I Really Love You

Tessa brought Ysabel over to get food.

After turning around, she walked straight up to Winona

"Feeling proud, aren't you? Only you would pull off a cheap trick like that." Tessa said, then sat down at the table by the window.

Winona was still standing in line. When she heard Tessa's words, her expression changed.

Did she find out I was the one who took the photo? But I didn't leave any trace at all...

She thought about how Tessa had nearly strangled her in a fit of rage before, and she couldn't help but shiver in fear.

If Tessa really knew it was me, what would she do to get back at me?

"Winnie, why do you look so pale? Did Tessa threaten you? She's just a powerless nobody without a wolf. All she can do is talk tough. You don't need to be scared we've got your back! Even if it breaks school rules, we'll beat her right out of here!"

Winona forced a weak smile and made an excuse to leave the cafeteria.

Ysabel came over with her food and sat across from Tessa. She took out a napkin and wiped her spoon.

"Tessie, do you have anyone in mind? We have to catch whoever did this and teach them a lesson. If we don't, they'll think we're easy targets."

"Who else but Winona would go to such lengths to mess with me?"

"Seriously, what's wrong with that Winona? If she likes Connor so much, she should just go be his fiancée and mate properly. Why does she have to come after you? It's not like you even care about Connor at all!* Ysabel was truly fuming at this point.

"Enough, eat your food. I'll take care of this. I won't let her off easy."

Hearing that from Tessa finally put Ysabel at ease.

After school, Winona got straight into the Lawsons' car and went to the Thunder Pack's Lawson residence.

As soon as Fiona saw her, her face lit up with a smile.

"Winnie, why haven't you visited me these past few days? Did Connor bully you? If he did, just tell me. I'll definitely teach him a lesson."

Winona walked up beside Fiona, and the two of them headed inside together.

"No, of course not. Connor would never bully me. He's been really kind. I've just been busy studying for finals so I haven't had much time. You're not upset with me, are you, Madam Lawson?" Winona always made sure to act polite and well-mannered in front of Fiona.

"Finals are important, but so is your health. Connor just came back not long ago. You should spend more time with him. I really like you, and I hope the two of you can be together."

Fiona was always worried that Connor would go after lessa.

"Connor will be home for dinner. Make sure you behave well, okay?"

"Thank you, Madam Lawson." Knowing that Connor would be home for dinner made Winona very happy.

But at dinner, every time Winona tried to talk to Conner or lighten the mood, he stayed cold and distant,

If it weren't for Fiona jumping in now and then to ease the awkwardness, Winona would've died of embarrassment.

The whole meal passed in that uncomfortable silence.

Afterward, Connor turned to her and said, "Winona, let's talk outside for a bit."

Her face went pale. What does he want to say to me?

The two of them walked one behind the other into the courtyard.

Connor looked at Winona, who stood with her head lowered. Seeing her like this, he hesitated a little.

But when he thought of Tessa, he felt like he had to be more ruthless. If he had been harsher five years ago, maybe things wouldn't have turned out this way.

"Connor, what do you want to say to me?" Winona didn't want to face it, but the way he looked at her made her scared.

"You know, all these years while you were in Yalvaria, I've been waiting for you. Now that you're back, I thought we could finally be together."

Before Connor could say anything, Winona said what was on her mind first.

She stepped forward and hugged him tightly.

"Connor, I really, really love you. Please don't leave me

Winona started crying. She had a bad feeling. Connor must've brought her out here to break up.