

Alpha Amanda's love adventure novel

Chapter 251 Unforgiven Amanda's POV: The person standing at the entrance of the mall really was Michelle. 29% +20 Free Coins I remembered her clearly. After all, the mess on the cruise ship had caused me quite a bit of trouble, and she had played no small part in it. I just hadn't expected that when we would meet again, she would look like this. The once arrogant Midnight Pack heiress who used to dress head to toe in luxury brands was now wearing something decent but plain, with none of her former extravagance. There was a weariness between her brows that she couldn't hide.

Later, Josh had mentioned in passing that after the cruise incident, Michelle's reputation in Howlstead had completely crumbled. On top of that, Samson had pushed things along behind the scenes. The Midnight Pack, once at the top, quickly fell from one of the strongest packs around to complete obscurity, losing all of its former glory. To protect themselves and secure cooperation with a rising pack, the Midnight Pack had pushed Michelle out as a bargaining chip, forcing her into a political marriage with that pack's alpha. The man standing beside her now had to be her fiancé.

Michelle noticed us too. She stopped instinctively, biting her lip hard as her gaze locked onto Samson. Her voice was filled with obvious grievance. "Samson!" Samson frowned slightly and turned toward the sound. But there was nothing in his eyes. No surprise, no pity. It was as if he were looking at a total stranger. He didn't spare her a second glance before calmly looking away again. I leaned closer to him and whispered, "Isn't that Michelle?" Samson's voice stayed calm, with a hint of reassurance. "Let's go back.

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She's not worth paying attention to." I responded with a soft 'okay' and withdrew my gaze from Michelle. But I, Amanda, had always been someone who held grudges. Letting things go for now didn't mean I had forgotten. Michelle's POV: III 1/3 O r 13:11 Fri, Jan 2 DD. Chapter 251 Unforgiven I watched Samson and Amanda walk past me side by side. He didn't even look at me. The eyes that had once made my heart race were now filled with tenderness only for the woman beside him.

The way they moved together was intimate and natural, their chemistry harmonious to the point of being unbearable to look at. I absolutely hated it. In an instant, my heart was flooded with intense resentment. If the truth about the cruise hadn't come out-if Amanda, that bitch, hadn't interfered-if Samson hadn't driven us into a corner, the Midnight Pack wouldn't have fallen. I wouldn't be in this miserable state. My eyes were glued to Samson's retreating back, so much so that I didn't even notice the man beside me growing darker and darker in expression.

Not until a powerful kick slammed into my waist. I staggered forward, almost falling as sharp pain shot through me and snapped me back to reality. "Bitch! What are you

staring at?" the man snarled, his voice crude and vicious. "Don't forget, you belong to me now. Tch, daring to look at another man right in front of me. Trying to cheat on me? Believe me, I'll kill you." I trembled all over and hurriedly pulled my gaze away. Holding my aching waist, I forced back the tears in my eyes and squeezed out a flattering smile. "Honey, you're overthinking it. I wasn't looking at anyone else.

You're the only one in my heart." Only then did his expression ease slightly, but his hand didn't stop. He wrapped an arm around my waist and pinched the flesh hard, so hard it felt like he was trying to tear it off. "Remember who you are. If I ever catch you looking at another man again, I'll kill you." The sharp pain burned through my waist. I clenched my teeth and didn't dare make a sound, nodding obediently as he dragged me forward. But deep in my eyes, there was a stubborn, unextinguished resentment. Why?

Why did Amanda, that plain-looking nobody, get to live so well, cherished and protected by Samson? And I, once the proud heiress of the Midnight Pack, was forced to marry a vulgar, violent man like this and endure endless humiliation? Amanda. Samson. Just wait. I would not let this end here. 2/3 13.11 Fri, Jan 2D D. Chapter 251 Unforgiven One day, I would take back everything I had ever lost. \$29%2 +20 Free Coins 3/3 13:11 Fri, Jan 2 D Mark

Chapter 252 What Love Feels Like Amanda's POV: 29% +20 Free Coins When we got back to Ortega Castle, Samson carried all the shopping bags and followed me into the room. He set the bags down one by one at the entrance to the walk-in closet, then turned to ask, "If there's anything else you need, just tell me. I'll have Cody bring it over." I glanced at the pile of bags stacked like a small mountain and only then felt surprised. I couldn't believe we had bought so much. I shook my head. "Not for now. This is already more than enough." Samson nodded and asked again, "What do you want for dinner?"

I'll have the kitchen prepare it." My eyes shifted as I suddenly remembered a foreign food recommendation I had seen earlier. I answered casually, "Pan-seared filet steak, creamy mushroom soup, and baked lobster." He didn't ask any questions and simply replied, "Alright. Rest for a bit. I'll have the maid call you when dinner is ready." With that, he turned and walked out. I lifted a hand and rubbed my cheeks, then walked over to the mirror. Looking at my reflection, my cheeks were slightly flushed, and a sweet feeling rose in my chest. This was probably what being in love felt like.

I flopped onto the soft bed and stared at the crystal chandelier above me. Samson's image kept popping into my mind without control. The way he looked while driving seriously, the way he quietly followed behind me while we shopped. The more I thought about it, the more my lips curved upward, the sweetness in my heart growing stronger. At the same time, I could clearly sense the state of my wolf spirit, Alice. She was no longer restless like before. Instead, she was unusually calm, with a subtle sense of condensed strength.

It felt as if my happiness was nourishing her, making her more stable and powerful. I turned over, and before long, I fell into a deep leep. Outside the window, the sky gradually darkened. It wasn't until a gentle knock on the door that I woke up with a start. ||| < 1/3 13:11 Fri, Jan 2 @ Chapter 252 What Love Feels Like I stretched lazily and picked up my phone. It was already past seven. "Ms. Lamb, dinner is ready!" the maid's voice sounded from outside. 29% +20 Free Coins "I got it. I'll be right down," I replied, lifting the blanket and getting out of bed.

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I slipped into my slippers and walked out of the room. Just as I reached the stairs, I ran into Josh, who was looking down at his phone. When he saw me, he jumped in surprise and instinctively hid the phone behind his back. His face looked a little awkward as he greeted me stiffly. "Boss." I raised an eyebrow at his guilty expression and smiled. "Sneaking games again?" Josh scratched his head sheepishly and replied in a low voice, "Just one round. Not for long." I nodded and asked, "Did you finish your homework? Any ones you don't understand?" The moment homework came up, his eyes lit up.

He hurried over and said, "Yes, yes! There are several math problems I don't get. Boss, can you teach me tonight?" I looked at his eager expression, a hint of mischief in my eyes, and deliberately said, "I can teach you, but on one condition." The smile on Josh's face froze instantly. A bad feeling crept up inside him as he asked cautiously, "W-what condition?" I held out my hand. "Give me your phone. No games until you make it into the top three in your class on the next exam.

Once you do, I'll give it back to you." He froze for a moment, hesitation written all over his face as if he were struggling internally. After thinking it over, he realized he had planned to study seriously anyway, and playing games would only hold him back. He gritted his teeth and handed the phone over without complaint. "Here, Boss!" I took the phone and slipped it into my pocket, smiling as I ruffled his hair. "Good boy. Be good. Once you're in the top three, I won't stop you from gaming at all." Unexpectedly, that made Josh a little unhappy instead.

He pouted and muttered, "Then you still can't just ignore me." I couldn't help laughing at how childish he looked. It turned out he actually enjoyed being managed by me. For a brief moment, Mephisto crossed my mind He had once been a cute child too. I sighed softly and put the thought away. 2/3 13:11 Fri, Jan 2 Chapter 252 What Love Feels Like 29%2 +20 Free Coins We went downstairs one after the other. As soon as we entered the living room, a maid came over and said respectfully, "Ms. Lamb, Mr. Josh. Mr. Hugh has a social engagement tonight and won't be home for dinner. Mr. Patrick and Mr.

Alan also sent messages saying they have matters outside and won't be back." I nodded to show I understood and walked straight toward the dining room. The moment I stepped inside, a rich aroma filled the air. At the center of the table were exactly what I had asked for: pan-seared filet steak, creamy mushroom soup, and baked lobster. On

the side were two vegetable salads and a small basket of dinner rolls. The presentation was so refined it looked like something straight out of a restaurant.

Seeing everything I wanted to eat made warmth bloom in my chest, and a big smile spread across my face. That feeling of being remembered and cared for spread through me. Alice inside me seemed to resonate with it, and that steady strength became even clearer. It was no longer the scattered energy I once had to consciously suppress. Instead, it felt as if she had merged with me, quietly resting within, her presence growing stronger and stronger. "Wow! There's baked lobster!" Josh's eyes went wide. He hurried to pull out a chair and sat down, picking up his knife and fork, ready to take a bite.

"Josh!" A deep voice suddenly rang out, stopping him in his tracks. 3/3 13:11 Fri, Jan 2
D D. Mark

Chapter 253 His Quiet Effort Amanda's POV: When I heard that familiar voice and turned around, it really was Samson. 29%. +20 Free Coins Josh froze, quickly set down his knife and fork, and turned to see Samson walking in from the entrance of the dining room. A trace of fear flashed across his face, and he obediently greeted him. "Samson." He ignored him and looked at me instead, his tone noticeably gentler. "Everything you wanted is ready. See if it suits your taste." Only then did Josh realize that all of this had been specially prepared for me by Samson.

No wonder his tone had been so serious earlier. He hurriedly stood up and pulled out the chair at the head of the table for me. "Boss, please sit!" I smiled and sat down as the maid came over to pour us some juice. Neither Samson nor Josh touched their utensils. They both looked at me instead. Samson tilted his chin slightly. "Try it." I picked up my knife and fork and cut off a small piece of filet steak, bringing it to my mouth. The meat was tender, the sauce rich, and the flavor was exactly to my liking. I took another sip of the creamy mushroom soup. It was smooth, thick, and fragrant.

I narrowed my eyes in satisfaction. "It's really good. You guys should eat too." With my approval, Josh, who had been holding back, immediately grabbed his utensils and started eating enthusiastically. While chewing, he spoke indistinctly. "Samson, this steak and lobster are way too good!" I focused on my food, but out of the corner of my eye, I noticed Samson moving his hand under the table. The lighting was dim, but I still caught sight of a bandage on the back of his hand.

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I paused for a moment, about to ask what had happened, but then thought it was probably nothing serious and decided not to say anything. As I continued eating, though, I vaguely noticed faint burnt smell. I raised a brow, guessing the kitchen might have slightly overcooked something while searing the steak. It was a minor flaw and didn't affect the overall taste, so I didn't dwell on it and kept enjoying my dinner. Samson's

POV: 1/2 13:11 Fri, Jan 2 Chapter 253 His Quiet Effort 29% +20 Free Coins After we got back from the mall that afternoon, seeing how happy she looked while shopping.

I knew her mood had improved a lot. But when I thought about how distracted she had seemed by the roadside carlier that day, I still wanted to do something more to help her truly relax. After giving it some thought, I decided to cook dinner for her myself. The dishes she had casually mentioned were the ones I wanted to make with my own hands. I rarely set foot in the kitchen, let alone cook. When Beata heard that I planned to cook personally, her eyes nearly popped out. She quickly stayed by my side to help, but even with her assistance, I was completely clumsy.

The first time I tried searing the filet steak, I didn't control the heat properly and burned it to a crisp, so it went straight into the trash. On the second attempt, hot oil splashed out of the pan and burned the back of my hand. I instinctively pulled my hand back from the pain. Beata rushed over with some burn ointment and applied it for me, urging me to let the chef take over. I shook my head and insisted on continuing myself. Batch after batch of ingredients ended up ruined. The trash can was filled to the brim with my failed attempts.

Beata watched from the side and couldn't help laughing quietly, muttering, "Mr. Ortega, in all my years at Ortega Castle, this is the first time I've ever seen you cook!" I ignored her teasing. There was only one thought in my mind. I had to make a dinner that suited her taste. After nearly two hours of struggle, I finally managed to make the dishes successfully. The burn on the back of my hand wasn't actually serious. After applying the ointment, it healed quickly. Still, I put a bandage over it. I actually wanted her to see it.

I wanted her to know that for her, I was willing to do things I had never done before. Beata watched me put on the bandage and smiled as she shook her head. "Mr. Ortega, you've really fallen in love." ||| ≡ 2/2 Mark

Chapter 254 Too Familiar Amanda's POV: 29% +20 Free Coins After dinner, I went straight to the study. I had promised to help Josh with his homework. Once I finished explaining all the difficult problems, the phone in my pocket suddenly vibrated. The screen lit up. It was an alarm I had set earlier. That was when I remembered. It was Wednesday, the day I had agreed to teach Samson the Isnesh language. "Do you understand all these problems now? Any questions left?" I asked one last time. Josh nodded hard, a relaxed smile spreading across his face. "Nope, none!

Boss, you explained everything super clearly. I basically get it all now!" I smiled and ruffled his hair. "Good. Make sure you review the wrong ones again later, alright?" With that, I turned and left the study, heading back to my room. After closing the door, I locked it out of habit. The identity of "Sara" had to stay secret, and I couldn't afford any interruptions. I turned on my laptop and logged into my private study account. As soon as I got online, I saw that Samson's avatar was already lit up. He had clearly been waiting. I couldn't help sending him a message.

"You're pretty punctual." He replied almost instantly with a simple "Yeah," followed by, "Let's start. What are we learning today?" I stared at the screen, quietly impressed by his learning ability. It had only been a little over a month, yet he had already mastered most basic Isnesh sentence structures and grammar. Simple conversations were no problem for him now. "Let's do situational dialogue today," I replied, then started creating everyday conversation scenarios in a document and sending them to him one by one. Normally, he was very focused during lessons and responded quickly.

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Today, though, something felt off. His replies were noticeably slower, and sometimes they didn't quite match what I had sent. I could tell his state wasn't great. Even more unsettling was the vague feeling that he was deliberately steering the conversation elsewhere his tone carrying an unspoken sense of probing. ||| 1/3 13:11 Fri, Jan 2 DD. Chapter 254 Too Familiar 29% +20 Free Coins What really made my heart tighten was when he suddenly sent, "Sara, the way you talk reminds me of a friend of mine." The moment I read that, my heart dropped.

My fingers froze on the keyboard, and my heartbeat skipped. The friend he meant ... was it... me? Had he noticed something? That couldn't be right. I had hidden it well. The identity of "Sara" had almost nothing in common with how I usually acted. How could he possibly connect the two? I forced myself to stay calm and replied, "Really? In what way?" There was a long pause before he finally answered. "Hard to say. It's just a feeling." Then he added, "It's nothing. I'm probably overthinking it." Only then did I let out a quiet breath of relief. So it really had just been my imagination.

Maybe he'd been having too much on his plate lately, and his mind was wandering because he wasn't in the best state. I hesitated for a moment, then typed, "If you're not feeling great today, we can study another time." He didn't object. He sent an OK hand sign, and His avatar went dark almost immediately. He logged off. I shut down my laptop and lay back on the bed, tossing and turning, unable to fall asleep. That little moment of probing felt like a tiny thorn stuck in my heart. It made me nervous, but also strangely expectant.

Alan's POV: Early the next morning, I drove to the castle and parked downstairs. I waited nearly 10 minutes, but Amanda still hadn't come out. Growing impatient, I tapped the horn and shouted toward the building, "Amanda, what are you doing up there?! Hurry up! You're going to be late!" A few more minutes passed before hurried footsteps echoed from the stairwell. Amanda rushed down, her hair slightly messy, her face still carrying traces of sleepiness. the passenger door "I'm coming, I'm coming!" she said between breaths as she pulled open and got in.

"Sorry, I had a bit of insomnia last night ... and didn't fall asleep until really late, so I overslept..." I didn't say much. I just started the car and drove off. 2/3 13:11 Fri, Jan 2 Chapter 254 Too Familiar 29% +20 Free Coins To be honest, I was in a pretty good mood that day. I couldn't help humming a new song I had just written, the melody light

and catchy. "Amanda," I suddenly called her name. She paused, then looked up at me. "Yeah? What's up?" I turned my head and looked her over from top to bottom. After hesitating for a moment, I decided to ask what had been on my mind.

"You and Samson ... is something going on between you two?" She blinked at me, completely confused. "Going on... how?" I raised an eyebrow, convinced she was playing dumb. I asked her straight out, "Amanda, be honest. Do you like Samson?" 3/3 Mark

Chapter 255 The Crash Alan's POV: 29% +20 Free Coins I asked the question straight up, and the car immediately fell silent. Amanda froze for a moment, then cleared her throat lightly. Her eyes flickered away, obviously hiding something. She turned to look out the window, her voice carrying a trace of barely concealed panic. "What are you talking about? That's nonsense." "Nonsense?" I raised an eyebrow, clearly not buying it. "Really? Then why does it feel like something between you and Samson isn't quite normal?" I wasn't just guessing. Take the last get-together with the guys, for example.

Samson had actually brought her along. He never brought outsiders to our private hangouts before. And whenever the two of them were together, that distant, icy edge Amanda usually had completely disappeared. She became noticeably softer. Was that really normal? "What are you talking about? There's nothing weird," Amanda said, frowning, her tone growing impatient as she deliberately changed the subject. "Stop overthinking it and focus more on your new song." Seeing that she wasn't willing to talk, I didn't push further. This kind of thing couldn't be forced anyway.

But when she mentioned my new song, I couldn't help feeling proud. The song Avi had written and composed had completely blown up after its release. It was insanely popular and played everywhere. I had wanted to thank Avi in person for a long time, but no matter whether I tried to reach out myself or asked Seven to help, I couldn't get in touch. Even Seven said he couldn't find Avi's contact info. "Alright, if you don't want to talk, I won't ask," I shrugged, then couldn't help adding, "But Amanda, I'm being serious here.

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If you really like Samson, you should make a move sooner rather than later. A guy like him is rare. Young, capable, good-looking, and loyal. Miss your chance and there won't be another one." Honestly, if Amanda really ended up with Samson and became our sister-in-law, I wouldn't mind at all. After spending this much time together, I realized she wasn't annoying like she had seemed ||| O 1/2 13:11 Fri, Jan 2 Chapter 255 The Crash at first. 29% +20 Free Coins On the contrary! She was pretty easygoing and down-to-earth.

She didn't put on airs, treated all of us fairly, didn't suck up or act distant, and was genuinely comfortable to be around. More importantly, I could clearly tell that Samson treated her differently. He had always been cold to everyone else, but with Amanda, he unconsciously showed more patience and care. That kind of special treatment was

obvious to anyone with eyes. "If you have the energy to worry about other people's business, you should worry about yourself instead," Amanda threw out that line, then pushed the car door open and got out without waiting for my reply.

I watched her walk away, rubbed my nose, and muttered to myself, "What's wrong with me? I'm doing just fine ... except for not having a girlfriend." Then it hit me. Wait. Was Amanda actually taking a jab at me for being single? I snorted and didn't take it seriously at all. So what if I was single? Being single meant freedom. I shook my head and started the car, getting ready to head to the company. But I hadn't driven very far when my phone suddenly rang. I reached over to grab it from the passenger seat, but my hand slipped, and the phone dropped with a smack onto the floor.

"Damn it," I muttered, slowing the car as I bent down to retrieve it. While I was focused on reaching for the phone, loud crash rang out, the impact making my ears ring. My heart jumped, and I slammed on the brakes. The force threw my body forward violently, and my forehead slammed into the windshield with a dull thud. My vision went black from the pain. When I came back to my senses, I instinctively looked outside. Someone was lying motionless in the middle of the road. My heart dropped straight to the bottom. Panic urged through me.

I shoved the door open and rushed out, crouching beside the person, my voice shaking. "Hey! Are you okay? Can you hear me?!" 2/2 13:11 Fri, Jan 2 Mark

Chapter 256 Covered Up Alan's POV: 29% +20 Free Coins I crouched on the ground and tremblingly reached out to check her breathing. Thank God, she was still breathing. But when I got a clear look at her face, my mind went completely blank. Wasn't this the girl who was always around Amanda? Her name seemed to be Emily. "Hey, Emily? Can you hear me? Wake up!" I panicked, patting her cheeks, but she didn't respond at all. Her body was completely limp, without any strength. There was no time to think. I bent down, scooped her up, and hurriedly put her into the car.

While flooring the gas pedal toward the hospital. I called Johnny with shaking hands. "Johnny, I hit someone... I'm on the way to the hospital right now. Get here fast!" My voice trembled, my head a complete mess. Johnny was stunned on the other end, his voice shooting up. "What?! You hit someone?! Are you okay? Did anyone see it?" "I'm fine, but the person I hit looks pretty bad. She still hasn't woken up." I gripped the steering wheel tightly, eyes locked on the road. "Hurry up. I'm freaking out." "Alright, alright, don't panic.

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"I'll get there right now!" Johnny replied quickly, then added urgently, "Be careful. Don't let anyone take photos, or this will become a huge problem!" After hanging up, I pressed the accelerator even harder, the car racing down the road. I was terrified and full of regret. If only I hadn't rushed to grab my phone. How could I have been so careless? And of all people, it had to be someone close to Amanda. If Amanda found out, Samson

would definitely tear into me. I sped all the way to the hospital. Carrying Emily, I rushed inside and shouted, "Doctor! Nurse!

Someone help!" The on-duty doctors arrived quickly and rushed her into the operating room on a gurney. Only when the operating room lights turned on did I finally let out a breath. I leaned against the wall, gasping for air, cold sweat covering my forehead. 1/2 13:11 Fri, Jan 2 DD. Chapter 256 Covered Up 29% +20 Free Coins Not long after, Johnny arrived in a hurry. The moment he saw me, he grabbed my arm. "How is she? What's her condition? Did anyone recognize you?" "She's still in surgery. I don't know how it'll turn out." I shook my head, my voice hoarse.

"I don't think anyone recognized me. I was in a rush and didn't notice anyone taking pictures." Johnny frowned deeply, his expression grave. "This has to be locked down immediately. Nothing can get out. Don't forget, you're a public figure. If the media gets hold of this, your career is finished." "But... she's still in there. Am I really just going to leave?" I hesitated, guilt weighing heavily on me. "If you don't leave, are you waiting until you get surrounded?" Johnny said urgently as he pushed me toward the hospital's back exit. "I'll stay here and handle everything.

Medical bills, compensation, all of it. You go home first and act like nothing happened. Leave the rest to me." I stood there, staring in the direction of the operating room, my emotions tangled. But I knew Johnny was right. With my status, staying would only make things worse. In the end, I clenched my teeth and turned to leave the hospital with the driver. Back at the company, I was completely out of it. My mind kept replaying the image of Emily lying motionless on the road. As I reached the elevator, Wisteria walked toward me. She wore a sweet smile and greeted me warmly.

"Alan!" I had no energy to deal with her. I gave a perfunctory "Yeah," passed by her expressionlessly, and stepped into the elevator. When the elevator doors closed, I finally let out breath, leaning against the wall, irritation and restlessness filling my chest. 2/2 13:11 Fri, Jan 2 Mark

Chapter 257 Watching Him Wisteria's POV: 29%- +20 Free Coins As I watched the elevator doors slowly close, the smile on my face instantly stiffened, then faded into something cold. Alan was always like this. Aloof and untouchable. No matter how actively I showed interest, he never gave me a second glance, not even the most basic courtesy. Anger surged through me. I clenched my fists, my nails digging hard into my palms. "Wisteria, your phone," my assistant said carefully from beside me. She had clearly noticed my mood, her voice trembling slightly.

I took a deep breath and pushed my anger down. Taking the phone, I stepped aside and answered. "Hello." A subordinate's hesitant voice came through the line. "Wisteria, we've been investigating for a long time, but we still can't find any information on Avi. Her identity is like it came out of nowhere. There's no trace at all." "What?! Nothing at all?" My gaze darkened instantly, my voice turning cold. "How is that possible? If she

could write songs for Alan, there's no way she left zero clues. Did you even try?" "We really did, we checked every channel we could think of!

There's no concrete information," the subordinate said, sounding wronged. "Even her collaboration with Alan was handled through an anonymous email account." "Useless," I muttered, my anger flaring even more. "Fine. Stop the search for now." I hung up and slammed the phone onto the couch beside me. My hand clenched tightly, my knuckles turning white. Avi had clearly come back, yet I couldn't even figure out who she was. That feeling of losing control made me unbearably irritable. "Wisteria, are you ...

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okay?" the assistant asked nervously as she edged closer, reaching toward the phone on the floor. I snorted and lifted my eyes to glare at her coldly. That single look made her shudder and freeze in place, her face turning pale. "What could possibly be wrong with me?" I said sharply. "Or is that mouth of yours hoping something happens to me?" 1/2 13:12 Fri, Jan 2D D Chapter 257 Watching Him 29% +20 Free Coins "No, Wisteria, you misunderstood. That's not what I meant," the assistant rushed to explain, her voice on the verge of tears. I couldn't be bothered to listen.

I waved my hand dismissively, my tone icy. "Go to finance, collect your pay, and leave. I don't want to see you again." The assistant stood there in shock, disbelief written all over her face. She seemed to want to say something, but under my stare, she lowered her head and quietly turned away. I got into the van and leaned back against the seat, closing my eyes as my thoughts raced. If I couldn't find Avi directly, then I would change tactics. Avi had written a new song for Alan. That meant they had contact, even if it was indirect. A sudden idea surfaced.

If I couldn't track down Avi, then I would watch Alan instead. As long as I followed him closely, I was bound to find clues related to Avi. Sooner or later, I would drag her out into the open. I opened my eyes, a flash of malice crossing them. Avi, whoever you are, if you dare get in my way, I will never let you off. I took out another phone and dialed a number. "Keep an eye on Alan. Report everything he does to me, especially any contact with unfamiliar women. Don't miss a single detail." 2/2 13:12 Fri, Jan 2 Mark

Chapter 258 The Familiar Door Amanda's POV: 29% +20 Free Coins When the dismissal bell rang, I packed up my books and instinctively glanced at the empty seat beside me. Emily hadn't come to school today. I took out my phone and sent her a message, asking if she wasn't feeling well. I waited for a while, but the screen never lit up with a reply. I frowned, a faint sense of unease slipping in. Inside me, my wolf spirit, Alice, seemed to sense my mood and stirred slightly. Then I told myself I was overthinking it. Maybe she had just overslept. I didn't dwell on it.

But just as I slipped my phone back into my pocket, it vibrated again. Theo's name flashed on the screen. "Boss, he's back again!" Theo's voice came through the moment I answered, fast and tense. "I'm tracking him as hard as I can, but this guy's slippery. My

skills can't overpower him. I can only barely keep him tied up." "Hold him there. Don't confront him head-on. I'm on my way," I said calmly, then hung up and stood up. As I passed Josh's seat, I patted his shoulder. "Help me ask for leave with the teacher. Something urgent came up." Josh froze for a second, then nodded quickly.

"Got it, Boss!" I didn't waste any more time. I hurried out of school, flagged down a taxi, and headed straight for Skyspire Tower. The moment I walked into our studio, I saw The glued to his monitor, fingers flying across the keyboard. Cold sweat covered his forehead. "How is it?" I asked as I walked over. "We're still locked in a standoff. He's not attacking the core system, but he keeps harassing our defenses. It feels like he's doing it on purpos, just to provoke us," he said through clenched teeth. I nodded.

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Instead of jumping straight into tracking, I sat down at a computer and opened a new chat window, trying to contact him directly "What do you want?" I typed. Less than two minutes later, a grinning emoji popped up in reply. 1/3 13:12 Fri, Jan 2 DD @ Chapter 258 The Familiar Door Theo lost it on the spot. "Who the hell is this idiot?! Is he messing with us for fun?!" 29%2 +20 Free Coins I frowned, my fingers tapping rapidly on the keyboard as I sent another message, voicing the suspicion forming in my mind. "Did Mephisto send you?" There was a brief pause on the other end.

Then line of text appeared, dripping with provocation. "Mephisto? You could say that. But you're pretty slow. You didn't even know who was targeting you." Seeing Mephisto's name confirmed sent a chill through me. My fingers tightened unconsciously. Before I could reply, another message came through, every word laced with contempt. "I heard your wolf spirit, Alice, has always been unstable. A female who can't even control her own wolf spirit thinks she can compete for the Glacier Pack's alpha position? That's a joke. With a wolf spirit that unstable, you'll be consumed by it sooner or later.

Forget becoming alpha. You'll be lucky if you're still alive." Theo was practically shaking with rage. He rolled up his sleeves, ready to strike back. "That bastard's asking for it! Boss, let me go at him!" I raised a hand to stop him, a cold curve lifting at the corner of my mouth. He was deliberately bringing up my wolf spirit and the alpha position to provoke me and throw me off balance. I wasn't going to give him that satisfaction. Inside me, Alice reacted to the provocation, her energy rippling with restrained defiance. I took a slow breath and soothed her silently. "Don't rush.

We'll make him pay." At my reassurance, Alice gradually calmed, her restless energy settling into a steady strength that stood firmly beside mine. I ignored the taunting messages on the screen and began thinking quickly. If he dared to admit his connection to Mephisto, he clearly had something backing him up. Right now, trading insults wasn't the priority. What mattered was dragging this person out from the shadows and getting proof of his ties to Mephisto. And after his reminder, I became even more certain that it was time for me to return to Glacier Pack.

Did that idiot Mephisto really think he could do whatever he wanted just because I had left? It was time I went back and taught him a lesson, et him understand that the Glacier Pack's alpha position was not something he could cover 2/3 13:12 Fri, Jan 2 Chapter 258 The Familiar Door 29% +20 Free Coins To expose the mastermind behind this quickly, Theo and I alone wouldn't be enough. A familiar figure suddenly crossed my mind. He would definitely have a way to help. I stood up and gave Theo instructions. "Stop engaging him. Cut the connection and reinforce the defenses.

"I'll be back soon." Theo was startled for a moment, then nodded. "Alright, Boss. Don't worry." I didn't say anything more. I turned and left the studio, heading straight for a villa I remembered well. When the car stopped outside the villa, I got out climbed the steps, and gently pushed open the familiar door. The door had barely opened halfway when a familiar voice reached my ears, unexpectedly gentle. "Amanda, what brings you here?" 3/3 13:12 Fri, Jan 2D D Mark

Chapter 259 Calling in Help Amanda's POV: 29% +20 Free Coins When I heard that familiar voice, I instinctively looked up. Sure enough, it was that familiar face. There were a few faint lines at his temples now, but the gentle smile between his brows was still the same. Warmth surged in my chest. I walked over quickly and called out happily, "Wesley!" He was my godfather, Wesley Steele. He was the beta of Glacier Pack and my parents' closest friend back when they were alive. He had watched me grow up and treated me like his own daughter.

In Glacier Pack, aside from my late parents and my grandparents, he was the one who doted on me the most. But the moment Wesley got a clear look at me, the smile on his face froze. He frowned, his tone full of blunt disbelief. "My god, is this really my well-behaved little girl? How did you turn yourself into this mess?" He reached out as if to touch the disguise on my face, then hesitated, stopping his hand midair as if afraid of messing something up. I rubbed the back of my head awkwardly and, completely at ease with him, hurried forward to hook my arm through his and gave it a small shake.

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"Wesley, don't I look good like this?" His frown deepened, his eyes filled with obvious heartache. "Good? What's good about this? Look at your face. You're wasting what you were born with. It hurts just looking at you." I stuck out my tongue and said playfully, "I just thought it'd be fun." "Fun?" The next second, Wesley tapped my forehead. "Go wash all this nonsense off your face and go back to how you really look." I shook my head, my tone turning more serious. "No, Wesley. I think this is fine. Everyone around me thinks this is what I look like now.

If suddenly change back, it'll just cause unnecessary trouble and make things harder for me." Wesley studied me for a few seconds. Seeing the determination in my eyes, he knew I already had my own plan. He sighed helplessly. "Alright. You've always had your own mind since you were little. As long as you like it and you're safe, that's what matters. As I walked into the living room with my arm still linked through his, I told him exactly

why I had come. E 1/2 13:12 Fri, Jan 2 DD. 29% Chapter 259 Calling in Help +20 Free Coins "Wesley, I came this time to ask for your help.

Mephisto has been making moves behind the scenes while I've been away from Glacier Pack. He's trying to grab power and even sent people to target me. My studio just got hit by a hacker." he The moment Mephisto's name came up, Wesley's expression darkened, a cold glint flashing in his eyes. "That Mephisto is getting more and more out of line. With your parents gone, really thinks he can bully you like this? Does he think I'm just decoration as the beta? Don't worry. I'm taking care of this." He patted my hand reassuringly. "Perfect timing actually. I know a very skilled hacker.

I was already planning to introduce him to you to give you a hand. Looks like he'll come in handy right away." At the words "hacker" and "better than me," my interest was instantly piqued. I asked curiously, "Wesley, you're saying his skills are even better than mine?" Seeing my expression, Wesley's smile grew. "I knew you'd be interested. I already invited him over to the villa. I was planning to introduce you properly." As he spoke, he turned and instructed one of the staff nearby. "Go invite Mr. Woodward in." I sat on the couch, anticipation building in my chest.

A few minutes later, steady footsteps sounded. A man in a white suit walked in. He was tall and refined, his posture elegant, a perfectly measured smile resting on his lips. His features were gentle, and he gave off an effortlessly pleasant presence. "Stephan, this is the Amanda I told you about," Wesley said as he stood up and pulled me to my feet for the introduction. Stephan Woodward's gaze landed on me, and a clear flicker of something unusual passed through his eyes. E 2/2 Mark

Chapter 260 Eyes on Me Amanda's POV: 2 29% +20 Free Coins That subtle change in his expression didn't escape my notice. I caught it almost instantly. But he quickly reined it in and stepped forward on his own, extending his hand politely. "Hello, Ms. Lamb." I stood up as well, smiling politely as I lightly shook his hand. "Hello. My name is Amanda Lamb." Seeing how formally we were greeting each other, Wesley couldn't help laughing. "You young people don't need to be this stiff. Loosen up a little. Amanda, it's been a while.

You've gotten a lot more composed than you used to be." I deliberately pouted, putting on a hurt expression. "What, Wesley? Are you saying you don't like me anymore?" "Hahaha! You little troublemaker." Wesley laughed and tapped my nose. "How could I ever dislike you? I dote on you if anything." Stephan spoke up at just the right moment, his voice gentle. "Mr. Steele praises you all the time, Ms. Lamb. In his eyes, you're without a doubt exceptional." "See? You hear that?" Wesley said with a grin, looking at me. "I've always been thinking about you.

But you, you heartless girl, didn't you forget about me completely?" I stuck out my tongue a little sheepishly and held onto his arm tighter. "Wesley, I wouldn't dare. Things have just been hectic lately. I didn't get the chance to come see you." Wesley had only been joking, so he didn't take it seriously. He patted the back of my hand. "So, how

have you been lately, Amanda? Anything interesting you want to tell me about?" Still holding his arm, I walked with him toward the inner sitting room of the villa and chatted as we went.

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I told him about recent little things, teaching Samson the Isnesh language, keeping Josh in line with his homework, and some interesting experiences I had in Howlstead. Wesley listened with clear enjoyment, laughing from time to time. Stephan followed quietly behind us, occasionally nodding or adding a brief comment. I could feel Stephan's gaze landing on me now and then, carrying a hint of curiosity. He had probably only known of me through Wesley's words before.

He knew nothing about what I looked like or what kind of person I was, only that I was Wesley's beloved goddaughter 1/2 13:12 Fri, Jan 2 DD. Chapter 260 Eyes on Me and a highly skilled hacker. Now, he was likely curious about my real appearance and personality. 29%. +20 Free Coins Not long after we sat down in the sitting room, Wesley suddenly called out, "Stephan!" Stephan responded immediately. "Yes, Mr. Steel?" Wesley smiled and waved his hand. "Nothing like an order. There's just something I want to talk with you about.

Do you remember what I mentioned to you last time?" I saw Stephan stiffen for a split second. His eyes flickered before he played dumb. "The thing you mentioned... I'm not sure I remember it clearly." Wesley either didn't notice the evasion or simply didn't care. He turned to me instead, his tone growing serious. "Amanda, you're not exactly young anymore. It's about time you started thinking about finding a partner. What do you think of Stephan? He has good character, strong technical skills, a clean background, and he's a great match for you." 2/2 Mark

Chapter 261 Is He Your Boyfriend? Amanda's POV: 47, 29% +20 Free Coins Wesley's words hit me like a bomb that went off right next to my ear. I just froze while staring at him, totally blank for a while. "Wesley, what are you talking about?" I shot back without thinking. "I'm still young, I don't want to talk about stuff like this!" "What do you mean, young?" Wesley didn't care at all. He just waved it off and said, "When I married your godmother, she was about your age. This is the perfect time for young people to start dating." I was completely at a loss for words.

His comment left me completely speechless. Then Wesley turned to Stephan, sounding really sincere. "Stephan, what do you think? Amanda may not be my real daughter, but I care about her even more than if she were my own. If you two got together, I could finally stop worrying about her." My heart skipped a beat. Please just turn him down, Stephan. Just say no. But he didn't. He just replied in a gentle voice, "Mr. Steele, feelings take time to develop. It's my first time meeting Ms.

Lamb, so of course there's no real connection yet, but we can get to know each other better over time." Wesley looked thrilled with that answer. He turned back to me, trying

to convince me. "See how sensible Stephan is? Amanda, trust me, I have good judgment. He's really the right guy for you." That was when I finally realized-today was never just about "introducing a helper." This was a matchmaking setup! My mind raced. Thinking on my feet, I blurted out, "Sorry, Wesley. I had no idea you were trying to set me up with Stephan.

I'm actually in a relationship already." As soon as I finished, the whole room went silent. It felt like even the air stopped moving. It took several seconds before Wesley finally spoke again, his voice full of disbelief. "Amanda, you better not be joking! You're dating someone How come you never mentioned it to me before?" I was sweating like crazy. I'd just made this up, but now that it was out, there was no going back. 1/3 13:12 Fri, Jan 2 29% Chapter 261 Is He Your Boyfriend? 420 Free Coins I just kept a straight face and pretended to be completely serious.

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"We just started seeing each other not long ago, so things aren't really settled yet. That's why I didn't tell you. Once things are official, I promise I'll bring him to meet you Wesley stared at me for a long time. I guess I looked serious enough that he started to doubt if I was telling the truth. "Are you really telling the truth?" he pressed me again. I quickly nodded several times. "Of course I am! Wesley finally turned to Stephan, looking apologetic. Stephan just smiled and waved it off. His tone was easy as he said, "Mr. Steele, it's fine. Meeting Ms. Lamb is already an honor for me.

Maybe we aren't meant to be together." "You never know about fate!" Wesley still sounded a little reluctant. He looked back at me. "Amanda, if you really do have a boyfriend, you'd better bring him here next time so I can check him out. I need to make sure no one takes advantage of you." I was just about to reply when I suddenly heard quick footsteps outside. A guard hurried in, respectfully reporting to Wesley. "Beta, someone tried to break through our security line outside. Our men have already got him under control. How do you want us to handle it?" Wesley waved him off, sounding annoyed.

"Just leave him there for now, I'll deal with it later." "Wait!" I suddenly remembered something and quickly called out to the guard. "Is he a guy in his twenties? His name's Theo?" The guard paused for a second, then nodded. "Yes, Ms Lamb. He appears to be in his twenties, but we didn't get his name yet." I checked the time on my phone and understood right away-it had to be Theo. I turned to Wesley in a hurry. "Wesley, he's a friend of mine, not some criminal. Please let him go!" "Friend?" Wesley raised his eyebrows, clearly suspicious.

He looked between me and the guard, then asked, "Amanda, tell me the truth. Is that young guy the boyfriend you just mentioned?" "No!" I quickly waved my hands, trying to explain. "Wesley, you're overthinking it. He's really just a friend. He even works for me at the studio He probably just got worried about my safety and rushed over." Seeing how anxious and serious I was, Wesley seemed to buy my explanation. He told the

guard, "Go bring him in." III O < 2/3 13:12 Fri, Jan 2 Chapter 261 Is He Your Boyfriend? "Yes, Beta." 43.29% A #20 Free Coins Soon, the guard brought Theo inside.

As soon as he came in and saw I was fine, he shook off the guard's hand and ran over to me, looking really worried. "Boss, are you okay? I couldn't reach you and thought something happened to you!" "I'm fine. Sorry for worrying you." I patted him on the shoulder to calm him down, then turned with him to Wesley. "Here, let me introduce you-this is my godfather, Wesley Steele." Theo froze for a second, then followed my gaze to Wesley. He stared at Wesley for a long time, stammering, "Mr... Mr. Steele, how do you do?" Then it was like something just hit him.

His eyes went wide, and his face changed to a look of sudden realization and disbelief. He pointed at Wesley, struggling to get a word out. "You... You... You're that... that..." 3/3 13:12 Fri, Jan 2 Mark

Chapter 262 Bring Him Over For Dinner Amanda's POV: Theo got so excited he couldn't get a full sentence out for a while, and his face turned completely red. I let out a helpless sigh and patted his shoulder. This kid was still as hopeless as ever. "B-Boss, is he... is he really the top-ranked powerhouse on the Werewolf Alliance Power Rankings, Beta of the Glacier Pack, Wesley Steel?" Theo's voice was actually shaking, and his eyes were full of awe. I nodded lightly, which made Theo even more excited.

He immediately took two steps forward, reaching out his hand, his voice brimming with excitement. "Mr. Steele, hello! I'm Theo, Amanda's right-hand man! I never thought I'd get to meet you in person in my life. This is seriously an honor for me!" Wesley was amused by his eager and admiring reaction, and a smile lit quite an interesting young man." He asked, "You're Amanda's friend?" up his eyes. "You're Theo nodded enthusiastically and quickly added, "To be exact, I'm her right-hand man!

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She's my boss, and I've always worked for her!" Wesley raised his eyebrows slightly and turned to look at me, sounding a little proud. "So our Amanda has become the leader of her own little group outside the pack now? Not bad, you haven't embarrassed me or your parents." "Wesley, Theo only rushed in because he was worried about my safety. Please don't blame him." I hurried to speak up for Theo. Wesley waved it off with a laugh. "It's fine. He's a sincere young man, I like that.

Theo, from now on, stick close to Amanda and help keep an eye on her for me- especially when it comes to those messy wolf pack matters. Make sure you're watching out for her." Theo snapped to attention like he'd just taken a marching orders. "Don't worry! I'll stick by Boss every step of the way and never let her get hurt!" have "That's good." Wesley said, pulling me by the arm and leading me deeper into the villa. After a couple steps, he seemed to remember something and turned back. "Since you say you a boyfriend, you should let me meet him.

When are you bringing him over for me to see?" "Um... Wesley, maybe we could wait a bit?" Panic shot through me, and my heart raced. 1/2 13:12 Fri, Jan 2 29% Chapter 262 Bring Him Over For Dinner Where am I supposed to get a boyfriend now? +20 Free Coins "No way!" Wesley said firmly. "There's no time like the present-so make it today! Bring him over later. I'll use dinner as an opportunity to see if he's truly good to you, and if he has enough standing in the wolf pack to protect your "But..." I wanted to protest, but Wesley seemed to see right through me.

He leaned in and lowered his voice. "Amanda, if you don't have a boyfriend, just tell me the truth. I won't be mad. Besides, Stephan really is a good guy-he's got solid werewolf abilities, and his place in the pack is solid. You should trust my judgment." I gritted my teeth and insisted, "Wesley, I'll definitely bring him over to meet you later! As for Mr. Woodward, I really think we're better off as friends." I was straightforward. When Wesley saw I meant it, so he didn't push anymore. He just said, "Alright, it's settled then!

Bring him here tonight and I'll personally test his werewolf abilities." I could only agree, even though I was frustrated inside. I'd landed myself in this mess with a spur-of-the-moment lie, and now I was stuck. This must be what it feels like to shoot myself in the foot... I needed to find someone to help me out... 2/2 13:12 Fri, Jan 2 Mark

Chapter 263 We Are Not That Close Amanda's POV: 29%- +20 Free Coins I quickly ran through the Ortega brothers in my mind, crossing them off one by one. Josh was definitely out. He was way too immature, and if Wesley started asking about pack management, he'd get caught after just a couple of questions. Patrick wouldn't work either. He was completely obsessed with designing the pack's totems and spent every day holed up in the studio. He barely had time, and honestly, we weren't close enough for me to ask him for a favor like this. That just left Alan and Samson.

Alan could be a good option. He was unpredictable, but he was sharp enough to handle the situation. The only problem was that I didn't know how to even start asking him. As soon as we left the villa, Theo came over and spoke in a lowered voice. "Boss, since when did you start dating? How come I never heard a thing?" I panicked and immediately clamped a hand over his mouth, glancing around to make sure nobody overheard. Theo instantly caught on, pulled my hand away, and looked at me like he'd figured it out. "Boss, don't tell me...

You actually don't have a boyfriend and just made that up back there?" He hadn't even finished before I shot him a cold look. Theo shut up right away and nodded like crazy. "I get it, I get it! Boss, let's get back first and figure it out." Theo drove me home, but on the way, he couldn't help asking again, "Boss, are you planning to get someone to pretend to be your boyfriend Just thinking about it annoyed me, so I just grunted. Theo grinned. "Whoever gets picked to pretend to be your boyfriend is seriously lucky." I pressed my lips together and hesitated.

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"What do you think about Alan?" Theo's eyes went wide when he heard the name "Boss, you really want to pick him? Alan might be one of the Ortegas' heirs, but he's way oo unpredictable." "He's actually a solid choice. At least he could handle himself if things got tricky. I just don't know how to ask him," I said, frowning. But Theo shook his head, looking serious. "Boss I don't think Alan is right. You need someone who can really hold his own in front of Mr. Steele, someone who'll convince him.

1/2 13:12 Fri, Jan 2 28% Chapter 263 We Are Not That Close Samson is way better for that!" +20 Free Coins As soon as he said 'Samson,' I felt uneasy and instantly wanted to back out. "Let's not." "Why not?" Theo was confused. "Samson is the Ortegas' eldest son, his werewolf abilities are top tier, and he's got real respect in the Werewolf Alliance. He's the acknowledged successor. If he steps up, Mr. Steele won't have anything to complain about. Honestly, only someone like Samson is worthy of you." I coughed lightly, trying to hide my nerves. "Alan's still a better fit.

At least we are friends, so it's less awkward to ask for help. Samson and I... we're not that close." What I didn't say was that when it came to Samson, I always felt a bit guilty. There was no way I could ask him to play such an intimate role for me. "Alright! Boss, whatever you say!" Theo changed his tune immediately. "So, are we heading to Alan's place now?" I glanced at the time on my phone and shook my head. "Let's call him first and see if he's free tonight." As I spoke, I pulled out my phone, found Alan's number, took a deep breath, and dialed. 2/2 13:13 Fri, Jan 2 Mark

Chapter 264 Why Are You Here? Alan's POV: 28% +20 Free Coins I could smell the hospital disinfectant through my mask. I was bundled up so tightly that even my hat was pulled down low. As the Eclipse Pack's public face, I couldn't risk getting recognized, or it would turn into a scene I didn't want. I slipped past the nurses and patients, taking the elevator straight to Emily's floor. Sure enough, Johnny was still waiting outside the room. When he saw me coming, he hurried over, his voice a little anxious. "Alan, what are you doing here? I told you I'd handle things.

Go back, or you'll get spotted and cause trouble." I frowned and ignored his warning, my eyes fixed on the door. "I'm not at ease. How is she? Is it serious?" The guilt from hitting her hadn't left me at all. I couldn't rest until I saw for myself that she was okay. Johnny saw how determined I was and just sighed. "She's alright, just a few scrapes. She needs to get an IV for a few days and rest, and she'll be fine." Hearing that she was fine finally put my mind at ease, and my shoulders relaxed a little.

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"I want to check on her and apologize in person." Before Johnny could say anything else, I pushed open the door. The room was quiet except for the steady drip of the IV. The girl on the bed was awake, so absorbed in her phone that she didn't even notice me come in. Emily's POV: The IV bag dripped slowly. I was so bored I had nothing to do but pull up one of Alan's old speech videos on my phone. There he was on screen, wearing the official pack uniform.

His posture was straight, his eyes sharp but gentle, and the confidence he carried was honestly magnetic. He was the Eclipse Pack's ambassador-talented good-looking, and the Ortigas' heir. He had always been the person I looked up to, the one I wanted to be like, so I could contribute to the pack. "He's so handsome..." I stared at the screen, quietly sighed, and tapped his face with my finger. Right then, the door swung open, and a man came in, wrapped up so tightly I could only see his eyes. I jumped, almost dropped my phone, and quickly sat up, on guard.

"Who are you?" 1/2 13:13 Fri, Jan 2 Chapter 264 Why Are You Here? 28% +20 Free Coins He pulled off his mask and hat, and the face underneath was even more striking than the one on my phone-it was Alan! I went totally blank, my eyes wide, my mind wiped clean, and the words just slipped out. "Mr. Perfect, why are you here?" As soon as I said it, I realized what I'd just called him. My hands flew to my mouth, my cheeks burning hot. Great. Just great. Did I really just say that out loud? I gave him an awkward smile, my voice shaky.

"S-Sorry, I just said that out of habit..." Luckily, Alan didn't seem to care. He just looked at me. I took a deep breath, trying to calm myself down, and asked, "Alan, what brings you here?" He walked over with long, steady steps, and I caught a faint whiff of his soap. The strange thing was, I couldn't sense his emotions at all. Even when I met new werewolves before, I could usually pick up on their general mood, but now, after the car accident, I felt nothing. Maybe I broke something in the crash? I shook my head and tried to brush it off, deciding I was just too nervous.

"Are you feeling better?" he asked, his voice even deeper than it sounded on video. Mr. Perfect was actually checking on me? For a moment, I was so happy I forgot all about the pain in my arm. I nodded quickly. "I'm fine, just a few scrapes. Nothing serious." Only then did it hit me-how did he know I got hurt? He'd come all this way just to check on me? We'd only met a few times at school, and I'd once acted in his music video. Did he actually remember me all this time? Just thinking about it made my heart race. 2/2 Mark

Chapter 265 Are You Free Tonight? Alan's POV: 28%. +20 Free Coins When I saw she was alright, I finally felt the weight in my chest ease up, and my voice relaxed a bit. "As long as you're okay. I'm sorry, I wasn't paying attention while driving, that's why I ended up hitting you. If you need compensation, just let my assistant know the exact amount." As soon as I finished speaking, she was obviously stunned. Her eyes went wide in disbelief. I figured she hadn't expected me to be the one who hit her.

Before I could say anything else, she quickly snapped out of it and waved her hand, her tone surprisingly generous. "I'm fine, really, don't worry about it. I know you didn't mean to. And you really don't need to compensate me." From the way she spoke, she clearly wasn't blaming me at all. Her understanding attitude actually left me a little at a loss. It was my first time in a situation like this. Judging by her reaction, I figured she must be a fan. She was seeing me through a filter as her idol, and that was why she forgave me so easily.

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I steadied myself and insisted, "You don't have to be forgiving. It was my fault for hitting you. can do it, I'll make it happen." If you have any requests, just tell me. As long as Seeing how firm I was, she couldn't help but laugh, her smile bright and genuine. "I'm really fine. Besides, I'm not a scammer. Don't keep dwelling on this. If you honestly feel bad about it, how about... you give me your contact info? Just in case something happens later, I can text about it." you That request actually made sense, so I didn't hesitate.

I took out my phone and pulled up my contact info to hand to her. Her eyes lit up, and she grabbed her phone to add me as a contact, moving so fast like she was afraid I'd change my mind. Just as we finished, my phone suddenly rang. She glanced curiously at my screen and paused for a moment. "Amanda is calling you," she reminded me softly I pulled my phone back and looked at the caller ID, my brows furrowing a little. 1/2 13:13 Fri, Jan 2 Chapter 265 Are You Free Tonight?

28% +20 Free Coins Amanda never called me unless it was my turn to pick her up from school, but today definitely wasn't my day for that. I looked up at Emily and asked, "Did you tell her" I was talking about the accident. She quickly shook her head, sounding a little anxious. "No, no! I just found out you were the one who hit me, so I haven't had a chance to tell Amanda. She must be calling you about something else." I nodded and said, "Alright, get some rest.

If you need anything, just let Johnny know." With that, I turned and left the hospital room, closing the door behind me before pressing the answer button. "Do you need something?" I asked, straight to the point. Amanda's voice was crisp and direct, just like always. "Where are you right now?" My eyes darkened a little. I glanced at the tightly closed door behind me and answered honestly, "I'm at the hospital." Amanda sounded obviously surprised.

"Are you sick?" I shook my head, "No, I'm here visiting a friend." Amanda didn't ask any more about why I was at the hospital and got straight to the point. "Are you free tonight? I need your help with something." I remembered I still had two jobs tonight, so I told her directly, "If you need something, just say it on the phone. I have an interview and a commercial shoot tonight, so I probably won't have time." There was a slight pause on Amanda's end, and she sounded less decisive than usual. "It's kind of urgent..." 2/2 Mark

Chapter 266 He Is My Role Model Alan's POV: "I need you to pretend to be my boyfriend and attend a dinner with me." 28% +20 Free Coins I paused for a second, thinking I must have misheard. "Pretend to be your boyfriend? Amanda, are you serious?" Usually, this woman avoided me as much as possible, so it made no sense for her to suddenly make such a ridiculous request. "I'm not kidding. It's kind of a tricky weird situation. I'll explain it to you later." Amanda sounded a little desperate.

"Just tell me yes or no It's just one dinner, it won't take too long." I instinctively glanced at the tightly closed hospital room door behind me. For some reason, Emily's bright and sincere eyes flashed through my mind. It was in stark contrast to Amanda's urgency. I frowned, and the words of refusal were already on the tip of my tongue. "No, I can't. I can't cancel my jobs tonight, so you'll have to ask someone else." After I hung up, the smell of disinfectant in the Hallway seemed even stronger.

I stood there for a moment, not leaving right away-what Emily said about not telling Amanda about the accident actually made me feel a little strange. By now, most of the guilt from hitting her had faded because she forgave me, but for some reason, I still couldn't relax. I wanted to go back and check on her again. I gently pushed open the hospital room door. Emily was holding her phone, tapping the screen carefully, probably looking at the contact info we just added. When she heard the door, she looked up in a panic, like a startled deer, not even able to hide her nerves. "You...

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You didn't leave?" She quickly hid her phone behind her back, her cheeks flushing again. "Did Amanda need you for something urgent?" I walked over, and my eyes happened to fall on her bedside table. There was a notebook left open and a laminated photo. The picture showed me, representing the Eclips Pack, giving a motivational speech at the pack's training center. The edges were worn from being handled so much, and the notebook was filled with training notes. At the top of the page, in small print, she'd written, "I need to learn from Alan.

Goal: Join the pack's core training team!" 1/2 13:13 Fri, Jan 2 Chapter 266 He Is My Role Model I felt something shift inside me. 28% +20 Free Coins I had met so many fans who were always asking for autographs and photos. Their admiration was all excitement and wanting things from me. But this girl treated me as a role model to learn from. The way she looked up to me was pure and grounded, completely different from everyone else. "It's nothing urgent." I pulled my eyes away, and my tone was softer than before.

"Just let me just say this one more time: if you feel even a little uncomfortable later, you need to tell Johnny right away or reach me on WhatsApp. Don't try to tough it out." Emily's POV: He actually said I could reach out to him on WhatsApp? My heart was beating so fast it almost jumped out of my chest, and I nodded right away. "I got it! Thank you, Alan!" I glanced at my notebook by instinct, worried he might have seen what I wrote-that was my most private secret, treating him as my role model and working little by little to be more like him. I hadn't expected him to actually see it.

My face burned even more, and I wished I could disappear. "You... You saw my notebook?" My voice was barely more than a whisper, and I nervously clutched my blanket. He nodded, and instead of making fun of me, he asked seriously, "You want to get into the pack's core training team?" As soon as he mentioned that, I perked up and totally forgot to be nervous, my eyes shining. "Yeah! You're the pack's ambassador, and

every time I see you working hard for the pack or leading training, I feel so envious! I want to be strong like you.

I want to contribute to the pack, too." I meant every word, and didn't even notice the miration in my tone. It wasn't blind idolizing. It was a true longing from the bottom of my heart. I wanted to be just as outstanding as him, not just rely on him or try to get his attention. "I even tried out for the pack's basic training before, but I didn't make it." My head dropped in disappointment. "But I'm not giving up. I've been learning from your training videos and taking notes. Once I'm healed, I'm going to keep working at it!" III < 2/2 Mark

Chapter 267 Thank You So Much Alan's POV: 28% +20 Free Coins Seeing the light in Emily's eyes and hearing her genuine words, I felt even more moved. Most fans who admired me usually said things like "You're so handsome" or "I really like you," but her admiration turned me into her motivation to move forward. That kind of feeling was different-it made me want to pay more attention to her. I remembered when I first became the Eclipse Pack's ambassador, I faced a lot of setbacks, too. It was only because I refused to give up that I got to where I am now.

Emily really reminded me of my younger self. "Not passing the basic training tryouts isn't a big deal. What matters is finding the right method." I rarely offered advice first, but I said, "Can I take a look at your notes? Maybe I can point out a few problems." Emily looked up at me in surprise, her eyes huge, like she couldn't believe what she'd just heard. "Really? You're willing to help me?" "It's no trouble," I said lightly, but inside I felt an odd sense of anticipation-looking forward to seeing this girl who saw me as her role model keep working hard and shining.

She immediately handed over her notebook, holding it up with both hands like a student turning in an assignment. I took the notebook and opened the first page. There was one of my photos stuck on the inside cover, with "Goal: Be as outstanding as Alan" written beside it in neat, careful handwriting. I lowered my head and flipped through it. She'd detailed her training plans, her daily progress, and the problems she ran into. Some of those problems were classic beginner mistakes.

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I pointed to one of them and explained patiently, "You're doing it wrong here Werewolf training is all about the mind and body working together. If you force it like this, you'll only hurt yourself. You should..." I got caught up in explaining, and she listened even more intently, nodding from time to time and jotting notes down in the margin. The light in her eyes grew brighter and brighter. Even the smell of hospital disinfectant seemed fade, and all I could hear was our quiet conversation. Without realizing it, my interview time was getting closer. I closed her notebook and handed it back.

"Remember these for now. When you're healed, if 1/2 13:13 Fri, Jan 2 DD. Chapter 267 Thank You So Much you still have questions, you can message me on WhatsApp." 28%

+20 Free Coins "Thank you, Alan!" She hugged the notebook tightly. Her smile was so bright and sincere that it caught me off guard. "You're really amazing! I definitely work even harder!" I watched her smile, and honestly, I didn't want to leave. Being looked up to as a true role model and being trusted like this felt nothing like being cheered on by fans onstage. It was way warmer.

"Take care of yourself, and don't rush back to training," I reminded her. "I have to go now, but let me know if anything comes up." "Okay! Be careful on your way!" She nodded hard, watching as I left the room. As soon as I stepped out, Johnny came right up. Alan, it's time for your appearance." I nodded but paused and glanced back at the door. Johnny noticed something was off. "What is it? Is there something wrong with that girl?" I shook my head, a faint smile tugging at my lips. "No, she's just different." She's honest in a way that's rare, works hard in a way that stands out, and...

I just want to keep an eye on her. I headed for the elevator, but Emily's image kept replaying in my head-her carefully taking notes, her eyes shining with determination to reach my level. Maybe it wouldn't be so bad to say yes to Amanda's request after all. At the very least, it would give me an excuse to ask Amanda about Emily's training in the future. I pulled out my phone and sent Amanda a WhatsApp message. "I can help you tonight. Send me the address." Amanda replied almost immediately, "No need, I've already found someone." What? How did she find someone so fast?

She didn't go to Samson, did she? 2/2 Mark

Chapter 268 I'll Give It a Try Amanda's POV: Alan's voice still echoed in my ear, his refusal making the last bit of hope in my heart disappear. "Alright then, I'll figure something else out." I tried to keep the disappointment out of my voice, said that, and hung up. Theo immediately leaned over, looking anxious. "Well? Boss, did he say yes?" I shook my head, my tone a little helpless. "He's busy tonight, so it probably won't work." Theo just said "Oh," not thinking much of it. He suggested, "Then just ask someone else!

I really think Samson is a better fit anyway, Boss, why don't you try him?" Samson? My heart skipped a beat, and I wanted to turn him down right away. But thinking it through, I realized there really wasn't anyone better to ask right now. I hesitated for a long time, then finally let out a sigh. "Alright, I'll give it a try." So Theo drove straight to the Eclipse Pack's Operations Department. When we arrived, I got out and looked up at the towering building in front of me, feeling even more nervous. Inside the lobby, the spotless marble floor reflected my slender figure.

It wasn't my first time here, and most of the staff knew me. Everyone greeted me respectfully as I walked by. "Ms. Lamb!" A receptionist came over quickly, smiling. "Ms. Lamb, is there something I can help you with today?" I paused for a second, then carefully said, "Is Samson in the office? I need to talk to him." She nodded at once. "Mr. Ortega is in his office. Contact Mr. Erickson right now and have him come get you." It

wasn't even two minutes before Cody came rushing out of the elevator. As soon as he saw me, he hurried over. "Ms. Lamb, what brings you here?"

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You didn't even call ahead. Mr. Samson is in the middle of 1/3 13:13 Fri, Jan 2 Chapter 268 I'll Give It a Try a video conference-he'll need a bit more time before he's done." "That's alright, I'll wait," I said. 28% +20 Free Coins Cody led me to the elevator, chatting as we walked. "Ms. Lamb, you can wait in the lounge upstairs for a bit. As soon as Mr. Ortega's meeting wraps up, I'll let you know." "Thank you," I said. Cody showed me into the lounge, then left and gently closed the door behind him.

The room was quiet, decorated in a simple but stylish way, but I couldn't sit still at all. I had come here so suddenly-what if Samson said no on the spot? After all, asking him to pretend to be my boyfriend was awkward and honestly kind of ridiculous. No matter who you asked, it'd be hard to get a yes. Trying to calm down, I pulled a magazine from the bookshelf and flipped through it, but I couldn't focus on a single page. My eyes wandered, my mind going in circles about how to bring this up with Samson. I didn't know how much time had passed before the lounge door opened softly.

I looked up on reflex and saw Samson stride in. He wore a perfectly tailored black suit, stood tall and straight, and still had a bit of that serious, businesslike look from his meeting. The moment he saw me, there was a flicker of something in his eyes, but he quickly hid it. He walked over, keeping a calm front, and asked "You wanted to see me? What's going on?" Hearing his voice, I gripped the magazine tight, my heart suddenly racing. I jumped up, a little flustered. "Did you finish your meeting?" Samson glanced at the magazine in my hands, his eyes moving slightly.

He said in an even tone, "You're holding the magazine upside down" My face went hot as I looked down and realized he was right. The words on the page were all upside down. I quickly put the magazine back, clutched at my sleeve to hide my embarrassment, and tried to sound casual. "Are you busy? Do you... Do you have more work to do today?" Samson watched me for a few seconds, like he could tell I was off. 2/3 < 13:13 Fri, Jan 2 DD. Chapter 268 I'll Give It a Try He nodded slightly, his voice giving nothing away. "Not too busy." 28%.

+20 Free Coins I actually knew that he was always swamped, barely had a minute to himself, so for him to say "not too busy" was really him being courteous. I just said "Oh," and went silent again, running through what I wanted to say over and over, but still couldn't get the words out. Samson seemed to sense how stuck I was and took the lead. "If there's something you want, just say it." His gaze was so direct, there was nowhere to hide. I took a deep breath, looked up at him, and finally just blurted it all out. "Samson, I need a favor..."

Could you pretend to be my boyfriend for just one night? It's just to help me deal with my godfather, that's all." As soon as I finished, the whole room went so quiet that I could hear my own heartbeat. ||| < 3/3 Mark

Chapter 269 Pinch Me Samson's POV: I thought I must have misheard, but I could feel my heart beating out of rhythm. "Alright, I'll do it. When do you need me?" 28%A +20 Free Coins I answered so quickly that Amanda was left with a whole bunch of things she didn't even get to say. "Tonight." The word hung in the air between us. I didn't ask any more questions. "Alright. Wait here for me. I'll be back soon." With that, I left the room. After the door closed, I couldn't help but let out a long breath. Cody came up at once. "Mr.

Ortega, do you need anything?" I told him, "Pinch me." Cody looked completely confused, but when he saw how serious I was, he carefully pinched my arm. Pain shot up my arm, and I couldn't help but smile a little. The sight made Cody so nervous he looked worried out of his mind. "Mr. Ortega, did I pinch too hard? I'm sorry... I "It's fine." I kept my tone relaxed. "Clear my schedule for tonight. I have something personal to take care of." With that, I walked away, and Cody just stood there, totally lost.

I could imagine him pushing up his glasses, wondering what was going on with me, and knowing deep down that Amanda had something to do with it. That was just a man's intuition. When I came back, I had changed into a brand-new suit. I walked straight into the lounge and said to Amanda, "Let's go." Amanda looked a little surprised at how fast I go ready. I could see her hesitation-she'd come to ask for my help, so she was bound to feel a little guilty. Sure enough, she hesitated and said, "Samson, you agreed without even asking what it is.

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Aren't you worried you'll regret it later?" 1/2 < 13:13 Fri, Jan 2 Chapter 269 Pinch Me I raised an eyebrow and asked her right back, "Is it really that hard?" Amanda's POV: I thought about it and shook my head. Samson continued, "If it's not hard, then why would I regret it?" 28%. +20 Free Coins I couldn't say anything back. The more I thought about it, the more sense it made. Still, just to be responsible, I filled him in on all the details as we walked out of the building. After I finished, Samson's expression didn't change at all.

He just stared at me for a while, and then said, "I've never had to pretend to be someone's boyfriend before, but I'll do my best to help you." I felt a wave of relief and quickly thanked him, "Thank you! Samson, really, I owe you for this." He smiled and said, "Get in the car." I climbed in right away and sent him the villa's location on WhatsApp. But instead of heading straight there, he changed direction and drove to a shopping mall. I watched him head to the gifts section, picking out one thing after another, until the trunk was stuffed full.

I was completely stunned and couldn't help asking, "Samson, what are you doing?" "Aren't we going to meet your godfather?" He started the car, sounding like this was the most normal thing in the world. "It's my first time visiting, so of course I need to bring gifts." His answer made me think hard. We were supposed to be putting on an act, but somehow, it really felt like he was taking this seriously. I shook my head, trying to brush off the feeling. It had got to be my imagination. 2/2 13:13 Fri, Jan 2 Mark

Chapter 270 He Is My Boyfriend Chapter 270 He Is My Boyfriend Wesley's POV: 28% +20 Free Coins In the open front yard of the estate, I sat in a wicker rocking chair, taking my time with a cup of freshly brewed coffee. Stephan was seated beside me on the wrought iron bench, his posture respectful. "Stephan, don't overthink it." I put down my coffee cup, my tone certain. "Amanda probably just made that up on the spot. She doesn't actually have a boyfriend. If she did, she would have mentioned it to me before. There's no need to worry." Stephan gathered his thoughts and said calmly, Mr.

Steele, if Ms. Lamb truly found the right partner, I would be fine with it." His voice was composed. "After all, someone as outstanding as Ms. Lamb would naturally be matched with an exceptional young man." I agreed completely. Amanda was sharp and capable, and beautiful too. Two years ago, there were already lines of people hoping to date her. If she hadn't still been underage back then and I hadn't stepped in to shield her from all that trouble, she probably would have been swept up by someone by now. Although Amanda wasn't my biological daughter, in my eyes, there was no difference at all.

"Amanda's got a wild imagination sometimes, and there are days I just can't figure out what she's thinking." I changed the topic, a little helpless but indulgent. "But she's got a good heart, you can trust that." As I spoke, I motioned to the attendant nearby to bring me my phone. "Let me show you what Amanda looks like." I pulled up a photo of Amanda from two years ago and handed it over. Stephan just glanced at it, but his eyes instantly lit with surprise. The girl in the photo still looked a little young, but her features were striking and beautiful.

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Just from that photo, one could tell that she was definitely going to be a stunner. "Ms. Lamb is really pretty-she made quite the first impression on me," Stephan said sincerely. 1/3 13:13 Fri, Jan 2 DD Chapter 270 He Is My Boyfriend 28% +20 Free Coins I was pleased with his answer and patted him on the shoulder, smiling. "Stephan, if you want to be with Amanda, you're going to have to work hard for it." My tone made it clear I was encouraging him. Stephan's gaze deepened, and it seemed like I had sparked his interest. "Mr.

Steele, I'll do my best." We were in the middle of talking when a guard walked quickly into the courtyard, bowing respectfully. "Beta, Ms. Lamb has returned with gentleman." I was a little surprised and raised my eyebrows. "She's back already?" With that, I set down my phone and stood up, saying to Stephan, "Let's go take a look." Stephan followed right behind me as we walked along the pebble-stone path to the main hall. I

went straight to the leather couch in the hall and sat down, picking up the newspaper on the table to pretend to be engrossed in reading.

Amanda's POV: When the car stopped at the entrance of the estate, I felt oddly nervous, and my palms were sweaty. But there was no turning back now. I just had to face it. I turned to Samson beside me and said, "Let's stick to our plan, okay? Don't slip up! Samson looked at me out of the corner of his eye, gentle and steady, and softly said, "Alright." For some reason, that calm voice put me at ease! We both got out of the car. The guards at the gate came over at once, bowing respectfully to me. "Ms. Lamb, welcome back." "Where's Wesley?"

"Take us to him." The guard made a gesture to show us the way. Just as I was about to walk forward, Samson gently patted my arm, hinting for me to take his arm. My cheeks went hot, and I felt a little awkward, but I knew we had to keep up appearances and make this look real, so I slipped my hand through his arm. My heart pounded like crazy, and even my steps felt unsteady. When we walked into the main hall, Stephan spotted us first and got up to greet me. "Ms.

Lamb, you're here?" 2/3 28% +20 Free Coins 13:14 Fri, Jan 2 Chapter 270 He Is My Boyfriend I gave him a slight nod, then led Samson over to Wesley, took a deep breath, and said, "Wesley, this is my boyfriend, Samson Ortega." 3/3 Mark

Chapter 271 Meeting Stephan's POV: 4:80% +20 Free Coins I watched Amanda bring him over and introduce him to Wesley. After that, Wesley slowly looked up, his eyes fixing straight on the man beside her. The scrutiny in his gaze was completely undisguised. But after only a second, I noticed a slight change in Wesley's face. He clearly felt something different about this man, too. There was a presence around him that made him stand out from everyone else. This man was definitely not as ordinary as he looked. "Nice to meet you, Mr. Steele.

"I'm Samson Ortega." The moment Samson spoke, his voice was calm but firm, carrying a natural sense of authority. I was a little surprised. He was only in his early 20s, yet his presence was already overwhelming. That kind of aura was rare in Howlstead. Wesley wasn't the only one taken aback. I also noticed a brief flicker of surprise in Samson's eyes. He probably hadn't expected Amanda's godfather to be Wesley-the core high-level Beta of the Glacier Pack and one of the top-ranked figures in the Werewolf Alliance. Someone of that status had a huge influence on Howlstead.

Anyone would feel shaken. "Young man, you're quite something," Wesley said with a smile, though I could tell it wasn't genuine. His eyes were still sharp and watchful. Amanda quickly led Samson to the couch, then turned to Wesley with a cheerful smile. "Wesley, I brought him to meet you. Take a good look. I think Samson will meet your expectations." I noticed the faintest curve at Samson's lips, barely visible to the eye. "As long as you like him, that's what matters.

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There's no need to talk about satisfaction," Wesley replied, then added teasingly, "Besides, I didn't like him, would you really break up with him?" "Wesley, you're always teasing me," Amanda said helplessly, her face turning slightly red. "Hahaha! Look at her-barely started dating, and she's already defending him. Just imagine ||| < 1/2 09:34 Thu, Jan 15 G B Chapter 271 Meeting what she'll be like later." Wesley laughed loudly. I stood off to the side with a polite smile, though only I knew how stiff it felt. 80% +20 Free Coins Honestly, I hadn't been interested in Amanda at first.

I only showed up because of Wesley's status. But after seeing her in person, I had already changed my mind. What I hadn't expected was that her boyfriend would be Samson-the man who had stirred up waves across Howlstead and the future Alpha of the Eclipse Pack. Wesley had spent years stationed with the Glacier Pack and knew little about the southern packs. But I knew exactly who Samson was, including his background and strength. Amanda was young, yet she managed to be with someone like Samson. That alone made me look at her differently. Still, so what if it was Samson?

In the werewolf world, power decided everything. If it was something I wanted, I had never failed to take it. 111 = Mark

Chapter 272 Questions Amanda's POV: 80% +20 Free Coins Stephan spoke at just the right time. "Mr. Steele, since everyone is here, why don't we sit down?" His words broke the strange tension in the air. Wesley nodded. "Sure. Let's talk over dinner." As we walked toward the dining room, I lightly grabbed Samson's wrist and leaned in to whisper. "My godfather looks serious, but he's actually easy to please. Don't be nervous later. Just act close to me and show we're devoted. He won't give us a hard time." Samson turned to look at me.

His deep eyes met mine, and there was a hint of complaint in his voice. "Amanda, why didn't you tell me earlier that your godfather is Wesley?" I frowned, confused. "Does it really matter? We're just acting anyway." Samson didn't respond. He only looked at me quietly. I could feel his mood drop, but I honestly didn't get why he cared so much. We were just a temporary couple. I hadn't asked about his background either, had I? When we reached the dining room, Wesley pointed to the seats beside him. "Amanda, sit on my left. Stephan, you sit on my right." That naturally placed Samson next to me.

As soon as we sat down, Wesley's eyes turned to Samson, and he started asking questions. "Samson, what do you do in your pack? Who's in your family?" Was he checking his background? My heart skipped a beat. I quickly interrupted, "Wesley! Are you interrogating him?" "I just want to know him better," he replied with a smile. Worried he might ask something that would put Samson in an awkward position, I blurted, "If you want to know anything, just ask me! I'm staying at his pack's castle right now, anyway." The moment I said that, the scene went completely still.

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The relaxed atmosphere vanished, replaced by heavy silence. Even breathing sounded loud. 1/3 09:34 Thu, Jan 15 G 80% Chapter 272 Questions +20 Free Coins My heart sank. I instantly regretted it. Why did I say that? I'd spoken without thinking at all. I grabbed the edge of my clothes, not daring to look up. My face felt like it was on fire. Just then, Wesley cleared his throat, breaking the silence. I peeked at him and saw surprise on his face, mixed with a complicated expression I couldn't read. He probably didn't expect things between Samson and me to have moved that fast.

Honestly, any elder would react the same way if they heard their daughter was already living with her boyfriend. He probably thought it was too late to stop anything. But to my surprise, he didn't look upset at Samson. If anything, he seemed pleased. That made sense. Samson's looks, manners, and calm presence were all excellent. He fit perfectly with what Wesley expected. Just as I was trying to figure out how to explain myself, Samson spoke first. His voice was calm and gentle, rescuing me from the situation "Mr. Steele, don't get the wrong idea.

Amanda is only staying at our pack's castle because of my grandfather. We live in separate rooms and haven't crossed any lines." I turned to him, shocked and relieved. With his status, he normally wouldn't bother explaining even if someone misunderstood. Adults living together wasn't a big deal. But he chose to clear things up and protect my reputation. That thoughtfulness warmed my heart. Wesley's complicated look faded when he heard that. The bit of displeasure in his eyes disappeared. He sighed, sounding a bit remorseful. "I see. Amanda never mentioned it.

I've been too busy with the pack's matters and neglected her. That's my fault." "Amanda is an amazing girl-hardworking, kind and sweet. Being with her is my good luck," Samson said, then turned to look at me on purpose, his eyes full of affection. His gaze was so gentle that it almost melted me. My heart skipped, and my face grew even hotter. To anyone watching, we looked exactly like a couple deeply in love. I could clearly feel Wesley growing more and more satisfied with Samson. His approval rose 2/3 09:34 Thu, Jan 15 G B Chapter 272 Questions quickly.

80% +20 Free Coins ||| ☰ 3/3 09:34 Thu, Jan 15 G B Mark

Chapter 273 A Way Amanda's POV: 80% \$20 Free Coins Right then, Wesley suggested, "You young people don't spend much time together. How about this? Samson and Amanda stay over tonight. The weather should be nice tomorrow. We can go horseback riding together. Sounds good?" He suddenly asked us to stay over and even lined up riding plans for tomorrow. I blanked for a second, a little thrown off. This was supposed to be a short act. How did it suddenly extend? I snuck a glance at Samson beside me, wanting to see how he'd react. Before I could say anything, he turned to me first.

His eyes held enough warmth as he asked softly, "Do you want to go?" With that simple question, he put the decision in my hands. It gave me a smooth way out while keeping up the look of a loving couple. I quietly relaxed, pressed down the nervousness in my

chest, and smiled. "Sure, Wesley! Horseback riding sounds fun. I haven't moved around much lately." Samson followed right after, gentle and respectful. "I'm fine with it. I'll go along with whatever you and Amanda decide." Seeing we were both on board, Wesley looked even happier and motioned for the servants to start dinner. "Great!

Let's eat first, then. Try the new foreign dishes my chef made." Stephan's POV: They called it a pleasant dinner. To me, it felt stiff and uncomfortable the whole way through. At the table, Wesley talked with Samson almost nonstop. They went from family matters to business plans. The more he looked at Samson, the more pleased he seemed, like he'd already picked him as his future son-in-law. It was like he'd completely forgotten that he was the one who set me up on a blind date with Amanda. That was the only reason I was even here.

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I watched it all quietly, annoyance and bitterness slowly creeping in and spreading. After dinner, Wesley still wasn't finished and suggested playing chess. I never liked slow games like that, and tonight I really wasn't in the mood. I made a polite excuse. "Mr. Steele, I'm sorry. I have something personal to take care of tonight. I won't ||| 1/2 09:34 Thu, Jan 15 GB Chapter 273 A Way interrupt you and Mr. Ortega." 80% +20 Free Coins Wesley didn't insist and waved it off easily. "That's fine. Samson, why don't you come to the study and play a few rounds with me?" Samson agreed steadily.

"Sure." Watching them walk off together toward the study made my skin crawl. I turned away and walked out of the villa. The night air was cool, but it didn't help the heavy feeling in my chest. I pulled out a cigarette and lit it. Smoke drifted upward in thin rings, making the night feel even lonelier. Leaning against a pillar at the entrance, I stared into the dark yard and replayed the dinner in my head. "Mr. Stephan, are you okay?" the assistant asked from behind me. I looked back and lazily blew out another puff of smoke. "I'm fine." He clearly knew how things had gone.

After checking toward the villa to make sure no one was watching, he stepped closer and lowered his voice. "Mr. Stephan, if you're really interested in Ms. Lamb, I might have an idea you can try." I raised an eyebrow at that. My heavy mood instantly lifted, replaced by interest. I put out the cigarette and gestured for him to go on. "Let's hear it." As he explained, my expression slowly changed. A satisfied smile spread across my face. "Alright. Do it your way." = 2/2 09:34 Thu, Jan 15 G B Mark

Chapter 274 Horse Riding Amanda's POV: The next morning, birds chirping outside the window pulled me out of sleep. As soon as I opened my eyes and saw the unfamiliar ceiling and the classic-style chandelier, I startled slightly, and it took several seconds for my mind to catch up. It was the guest room at Wesley's estate. I rubbed my eyes and went to the bathroom. Looking at my bare face in the mirror, I quickly grabbed my makeup bag from my suitcase and put on my usual look. Only after the freckles and dull tone were back, restoring my plain and forgettable face, did I feel satisfied.

I packed up and left the room. Samson's guest room was also on the third floor. By coincidence, just as I opened my door, he stepped out of the room across the hall. Our eyes met, and the moment seemed to pause for a split second. Samson smiled faintly and greeted me first, his voice a little rough from sleep. "Morning." "Morning," I replied quickly, walking over. Worried he might not be comfortable here, I asked, "Did you sleep well last night? Did you feel uncomfortable or unfamiliar?" He looked at me gently. "No. Everything was fine.

It's very quiet here." Hearing that, the odd worry in my chest disappeared. I let out a breath of relief. "That's good. Let's go downstairs for breakfast." Breakfast was an elegant foreign-style spread. Wesley was already there, with Stephan sitting beside him. After eating, we headed to the stable. It was a private stable Wesley had bought years ago. I'd heard it had several well-trained horses, all taken care of by professionals. As the car drove in, I stared out the window in amazement. The place was even bigger than I'd imagined, stretching around a small hill.

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The open land was perfect for riding, and the air smelled fresh with grass and dirt. When we arrived, I went straight to the changing room. 111 r 1/3 09:35 Thu, Jan 15 G B Chapter 274 Horse Riding I put on the riding outfit I'd prepared and pulled on my black boots. Perfect. 80% +20 Free Coins "That looks great on you." Samson's voice came from behind me, full of genuine praise. I turned and smiled. "Nice taste. You should go change, too. Let's see who's faster later." Seeing my excitement, his smile grew. He nodded. "Alright.

Wait for me." He went into the men's changing room, and I waited outside in the lounge. Soon enough, Samson and Stephan came out almost at the same time and nearly bumped into each other. When their eyes met, I could feel a quiet tension in the air. Calm on the surface, sharp underneath. I'd already noticed something strange about the way Stephan looked at Samson during dinner. Thinking about it now, it was probably because Wesley clearly favored Samson, and that didn't sit well with him. "Mr. Ortega, that outfit suits you," Stephan said first, his tone testing.

"But I'm curious how good your riding actually is." I knew Samson had some riding experience, though only as a hobby. As expected, he answered evenly, "I'm decent. I can handle it." Stephan gave a so-called reminder. "The horses here can be hard to manage. If your skills aren't strong, accidents can happen: It wouldn't be good if you got hurt." That made me uncomfortable. It was obvious that Stephan was looking down on Samson. But Samson didn't react at all. He simply said, "Thanks for the advice. We'll see out there." When Samson led a chestnut horse over to me, couldn't help but stare.

Dressed in black riding gear, he stood tall and straight. His broad shoulders and narrow waist were perfectly outlined. Paired with his already striking looks and presence, he was seriously attractive. I blurted out, "Samson, do you realize how good you look like this?" It was the first time I'd complimented him so openly. The tips of his ears turned

slightly red as he looked at me and said seriously, "As long as you like it." I grabbed his arm. "Don't just stand there. Let's go find Wesley." We led our horses onto the field, where Wesley and Stephan were already mounted and waiting.

"Samson, Amanda, ready?" ||| 2/3 09:35 Thu, Jan 15 G B Chapter 274 Horse Riding Wesley smiled and suggested, "Let's circle the hi twice to warm up." 80% +20 Free Coins "Okay," Samson replied. He then naturally place a hand at my waist and helped me onto the horse. Once I was seated, he swung up behind me, sitting close. His arms wrapped around my waist as he took the reins. Being that close made my cheeks heat up, and my heart beat a little faster. ||| 3/3 Mark

Chapter 275 Accident Amanda's POV: 80% +20 Free Coins Once everything was set, the four of us lifted our reins and gave our horses a light tap to get them moving. The horses neighed and shot forward at once. It had been ages since I last rode, so I was a little nervous and instinctively slowed down. Before long, Wesley, Samson, and Stephan were already far ahead. I wasn't in a hurry. I held the reins steady and kept an easy pace, letting the wind brush my face as I followed from behind. Samson's POV: "Mr. Ortega, you ride pretty well.

You don't look like someone who can only manage," Stephan said as he rode beside me. His words sounded friendly, but his eyes were clearly sizing me up. I glanced at him and replied calmly, "Practice helps. You're not bad either, but your horse doesn't seem too cooperative. It's falling behind. As I spoke, I deliberately patted my horse's back Almost on cue, it surged forward and picked up speed. Stephan's expression darkened. He clearly caught the jab. He urged his horse faster and kept pressing. "Mr. Ortega, you and Ms. Lamb look close.

But I hear you're usually busy with the pack's matters and business plans. How do you even have time to attend family gatherings with her?" He was clearly implying that my relationship with Amanda wasn't genuine. I scoffed inside but stayed calm on the surface. "Spending time with the woman I love is never waste," I replied evenly. "What about you? You're supposedly here for a matchmaking with Amanda, yet you keep staring at me. Are you actually interested in me?" Stephan stumbled over his words, then recovered. "Don't joke around. I just think Ms.

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Lamb deserves someone better." "She deserves the best," I said firmly. "And that's me." ||| 1/2 09:35 Thu, Jan 15 G B Chapter 275 Accident Without waiting for his reply, I urged my horse forward and left him behind. 80% +20 Free Coins After riding for a bit, I looked back and couldn't spot Amanda. A sense of unease crept in. Even if she was slow, she shouldn't be that far behind. I called out to Wesley, "Mr. Steele, I'm going back to check on Amanda. I don't want her riding alone." Wesley nodded. "Go ahead. Be careful." I turned my horse to head back. But suddenly, my horse went wild.

It reared up violently, letting out a shrill, panicked scream. Then, it bolted forward like mad. Behind me, Stephan didn't come over to help. Instead, he shouted with fake worry, "Mr. Ortega, what's wrong with your horse?! "Slow down! You'll get hurt!" His voice gradually faded into the distance, and my gaze went cold. I'd ridden many times before. A horse snapping like that wasn't normal. Something was wrong. I grabbed tightly onto its neck, forcing myself to stay steady while quickly scanning the area. Just then, I spotted a wide patch of thick grass not far ahead.

An idea immediately formed. As the horse reached the edge, I let go of the reins and jumped. I rolled several times across the soft ground before stopping. "Samson! Move! Get out of the way!" Amanda's panicked voice suddenly rang out behind me, shaking with tears. I snapped my head up and saw her racing straight toward me. Her face was pale, and her horse was completely out of control as well. As the hooves came crashing down, my mind went blank for a split second. 9/2 09:35 Thu, Jan 15 G B Mark

Chapter 276 It Hurts Samson's POV: 80% +20 Free Coins Amanda reacted without thinking. She tightened her grip on the reins, kicked hard, and used the force to leap off the saddle. She flew toward me, wrapping herself around me to shield The horse didn't hit us. It reared up, shrieked, and then bolted off in the opposite direction. Amanda lay on top of me, eyes squeezed shut, still shaking. The pain we expected never came. Instead, I felt her warmth, her soft weight and her fast breathing. "Are you okay? Are you hurt?" I asked urgently as I snapped back to reality.

Hearing my voice, she slowly opened her eyes. When she saw I was fine, she suddenly hugged me tightly. "That ... that was terrifying..." Her voice trembled, thick with tears. Her body wouldn't stop shaking. I could feel how frightened she was. Something stirred deep inside me. I didn't push her away. I gently patted her back, trying to calm her. What just happened was dangerous. She'd been terrified, yet her first move was to protect "It's over now. You're safe," I said softly, holding her until she calmed down. After a while, Amanda finally settled down.

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She pulled back quickly, her face red as she said awkwardly, "I'm glad you're fine. I don't know what happened. The horse just went crazy." I looked at her, still shaken, but my thoughts were racing. Two horses losing control almost at the same time? That couldn't be random. I thought back to Stephan's strange questions, his forced friendliness, that fake concern when I lost control, and that calculating look that flashed in his eyes. When I put all the pieces together, the answer was obvious. He must have done something. I was the real target, I hadn't expected him to go that far.

Worse, he dragged Amanda into it and scared her badly. I swallowed the anger burning inside and said nothing. I didn't want to scare her more. Amanda tried to stand. But the moment she put weight on her leg, her right foot buckled, | 1/2 09:35 Thu, Jan 15 G Chapter 276 It Hurts *%80% +20 Free Coins and she fell forward. I caught her instantly,

holding her by the waist. "Careful, Are you okay?" She frowned and looked down at her right foot, clearly upset. "Samson, I think I twisted my ankle. It hurts." My heart tightened.

I quickly let go and squatted to check her ankle carefully, "Where does it hurt? Here? Can you still walk?" I asked gently, my hand cautiously resting on her ankle. "Hiss-"The moment I touched it, she sucked in a breath, her eyes watering. "Be gentle..." Seeing her on the verge of tears made my anger toward Stephan burn even stronger, I didn't say anything. I simply turned around and squatted in front of her. "Get on. I'll carry you." Amanda hesitated and looked at my broad back Then, she slowly climbed on and wrapped her arms around my neck.

I stood carefully, avoiding her injured foot, and carried her back the way we came. We hadn't gone far when hooves sounded behind us. I turned around. Stephan was riding toward us. When he saw Amanda on my back, his brows knit together. He yanked the reins and stopped, his voice dripping with fake concern. "Ms. Lamb, what happened? How did this occur?" Amanda pressed her face into my back, pouting a little. Her voice sounded muffled and wronged. "I don't know. The horse suddenly lost control and threw me off. I even twisted my ankle." As she finished, I felt her lightly poke my back.

Had she noticed something as well? 2/2 Mark

Chapter 277 The Culprit Amanda's POV: 80% +20 Free Coins 寫 Something didn't feel right. Two horses losing control at the same time? No way that was just bad luck. Stephan's reaction had been weird as well. The more I thought about it, the heavier my doubts became. I softened my voice on purpose, looking at Stephan with teary eyes. "Mr. Woodward, sorry to make you come all this way. My ankle hurts right now. I want to go to the hospital first." As I spoke, I quietly poked Samson's back, signaling him to take me away. He caught on right away and said evenly, "Mr. Woodward, Amanda is injured.

I'll take her to the hospital now. Please inform Mr. Steele." Stephan was about to say more, but I cut him off my voice trembling with tears. "It hurts so bad, Samson. Let's go..." Samson said nothing more. He carried me and headed out, leaving Stephan behind. After we'd gone far enough that Stephan was out of sight, I gently tapped Samson's shoulder. "You can put me down. No one is around now." He set me down carefully and supported me as I leaned against a tree. "What's wrong? Did you notice something?" "Yes." I nodded, my expression darkening. "Stephan's reaction wasn't normal.

When the horses went wild, he didn't look shocked at all. And two horses at once? That's not random." Samson's eyes grew cold. "I think he messed with them. He doesn't like me because of you. He came here to meet you in the first place. I just don't get why he'd also involve you." I frowned, thinking it through carefully. "I barely know him. I shouldn't have offended him." Was it because Wesley favored Samson too much, and Stephan got jealous and took it out on me? Just then, Samson suddenly asked, "Have you upset anyone lately?"

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Anyone who's been targeting you?" That question hit like lightning. My thoughts cleared at once. It had to be that idiot, Mephisto! If it were him, then everything made sense. ||| 1/2 = 09:35 Thu, Jan 15 G Chapter 277 The Culprit 80% +20 Free Coins Mephisto had always hated me, and Stephan wanted me. They could've easily worked together. The more I thought about it, the angrier I got. Mephisto really didn't know when to quit. He actually dared to come after me. Samson noticed my expression change and asked softly, "What is it?"

Did you figure something out?" "Nothing." I forced the anger down and looked at him. After a pause, I asked, "Samson, don't you think I'm ... kind of strange sometimes?" Like how I try to look plain on purpose, or how stay overly calm and alert, which didn't quite fit a normal girl. He must have noticed all of that. Samson didn't answer right away. He just looked at me steadily-no doubt, no confusion, just quiet focus. That look gave me courage. I took a breath and asked seriously, "Can you trust me?"

Believe that I'm not exactly what I seem, and that I can handle this?" He nodded without hesitation. His voice was low and firm. "I trust you." 2/2 09:35 Thu, Jan 15 G Mark

Chapter 278 Strange Man Amanda's POV: Those words felt like instant comfort. My nerves finally relaxed. 80% +20 Free Coins I smiled. "Thanks. Wait for me for a bit. I need to leave for a few days to deal with something personal. Once it's settled, I'll come back." Samson frowned slightly. "Do you want my help" "No." I shook my head. "This is my issue. I want to handle it myself. Stay here and wait. I'll go talk to Wesley." When I found Wesley, he was already waiting in the study. Seeing me limp in, he jumped up and helped me sit down. "Amanda, why are you back?"

How's your ankle?" "I'm fine." I steadied myself and told him about my doubts and my suspicions about Mephisto, laying it all out. "So I want to return to Glacier Pack and deal with it. That idiot needs to learn I'm not someone he can push around." Wesley's face darkened as he listened, anger flashing in his eyes. "That Mephisto dared to touch my people? Go back if you need to. I've got your back. Call me if you need anything." With his support, I felt a lot more confident. I nodded. "Thanks.

I'll pack now and leave as soon as I can." Stephan's POV: Watching Samson carry Amanda away, the irritation in my chest only grew stronger. Everything had been planned just right. I wanted Samson to embarrass himself at the riding field, maybe even get hurt, so Amanda could see his weak side. I never expected she'd be the one injured. I rode back to the stables with a dark face and summoned the people in charge of the horses. I snapped, "What went wrong? Why did Amanda's horse lose control, too? Didn't I tell you to mess with only Samson's horse?!" They shook in fear, heads lowered. "Mr.

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Stephan we swear we only touched Samson's horse. We never went near Ms. Lamb's. We don't know why hers went wild..." "You don't know?" I sneered as suspicion crept in "Horses don't just lose control for no reason. Think carefully. Did any strangers come by today?" They exchanged looks. After a moment, one spoke up. "There was a strange man earlier. He ||| 1/2 09:35 Thu, Jan 15 G Chapter 278 Strange Man 80% +20 Free Coins said he was checking the horses' health. He wore staff clothes, so we didn't question him." "A strange man?" My brows tightened, my heart sinking.

Was someone else moving things behind the scenes? Who was the real target-Samson or Amanda? As I thought about it, my phone vibrated. I checked it and saw an anonymous message. The content was short. "Want Amanda? I can help." My pupils shrank, and my guard instantly shot up. Who sent that? How did he know I wanted Amanda? And how could he claim to help? I stared at the screen for a long time, fingers hovering. I was curious about the sender's identity, yet unable to resist the temptation to get Amanda.

Whoever he was, if he could help me get Amanda, I was willing to take the risk-even if it meant dealing with the devil. = 2/2 Mark

Chapter 279 Go Back Amanda's POV: 80% +20 Free Coins When the plane landed on the Glacier Pack's private runway, a blast of icy wind mixed with snow rushed straight at me, instantly sweeping away the warmth inside the cabin. I pulled my heavy coat tighter, my gaze sharpening with resolve. Glacier Pack-I was back. Wesley's welcome team was already waiting outside. At the front stood Rowan, a senior Beta and an elder who'd known me since I was little. As soon as he saw me, he rushed over and bowed respectfully. "Ms.

Lamb, you're finally home." "Rowan, thanks for keeping things steady." I nodded slightly, my eyes glancing at the people behind him. "How's the pack? Mephisto hasn't been behaving, has he?" At the mention of Mephisto, Rowan's face darkened. Lowering his voice, he said, "Ever since you left, Mephisto has been using the title of 'acting Alpha' to take control of everything important. "He's bribed people, spreading rumors that you gave up the position on your own. He even claimed you were in an accident and wouldn't be coming back." "An accident?" I laughed coldly, my eyes icy.

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"Hed love for something to happen to me. Let's go. Take me to the council hall. I'd like to see just how comfortable he's gotten as this so-called acting Alpha." We got into a snow off-road vehicle and drove toward the pack's core territory. The scenery along the way felt both familiar and strange. Glacier Pack sat among endless snow-covered mountains. Buildings carved from ice stood in orderly clusters, while the wind howled across them like a low cry. It felt as if the land itself was telling the story of what happened while I was gone. The car stopped at the council hall.

I stepped out and had barely reached the stairs when two guards stopped me. "Stop! There's an important meeting going on. No outsiders allowed!" one snapped, his eyes full of scorn. It was obvious Mephisto had already bought them off, and my ugly disguise fooled them completely. I raised an eyebrow and didn't reveal my identity. Instead, I let a thin thread of my wolf spirit aura leak out. | 1/2 09:35 Thu, Jan 15 G Chapter 279 Go Back Both guards turned pale. Their legs shook, and they nearly collapsed. "Outsiders?" I climbed the steps slowly, my voice cold.

"Are you both blind?" 80% +20 Free Coins Rowan stepped forward and shouted, "Nonsense This is the true Alpha of our Glacier Pack- Ms. Amanda Lamb! How dare you stop her?!" "Amanda?" The guards' pupils shrank. They stared at me in disbelief, studying my face for a long moment before finally recognizing the familiar features under the disguise. Terrified, they dropped to their knees at once. "Forgive us. Ms. Lamb! We were blind and didn't recognize you!" I ignored them and pushed open the council hall doors. Inside, Mephisto was sitting in my Alpha seat, talking loudly.

The elders and core members sat below him, the mood heavy and tense. The door creaked open, and everyone turned to look. Mephisto's face twisted when he saw me. Panic flashed in his eyes, but he quickly covered it with a sneer. "Well, look who it is. I thought some ugly nobody wandered in. Turns out it's my 'missing' cousin. What's wrong? Life out there is too hard, so you came back to mooch?" A few bootlickers immediately laughed, staring at me with open mockery. I wasn't angry. Instead, I walked calmly to the center of the hall, scanned the room, and then fixed my eyes on Mephisto.

"Who gave you permission to sit in my seat?" 2/2 Mark

Chapter 280 Golden Wolf Spirit Amanda's POV: 3.80% +20 Free Coins "Your seat?" Mephisto snorted and stood up, hands on his hips, arrogance written all over his face. "Amanda, did being away mess with your head? You've been gone so long that you basically gave up the Alpha position. I'm the acting Alpha now. That seat will be mine sooner or later!" "Acting Alpha?" I raised an eyebrow and turned to the elders. "Is there any rule saying leaving for a while means losing the right to inherit?" Their expressions shifted. They exchanged looks. Finally, the eldest elder cleared his throat.

"Amanda, you've been away too long. The pack needs a leader. Mephisto has managed things well enough. Maybe ... you should live your life and let him take over." It was obvious that the eldest elder had been won over by Mephisto. I sneered inside and looked at Mephisto. "Looks like you worked really hard for that Alpha seat." Mephisto lifted his chin proudly. "I can't help it. I'm just more capable than you. Unlike you. I'm not just an heir in name. Your wolf spirit has always been unstable. After all this time, you probably can't even summon it.

"You're nothing but trash!" Murmurs spread through the hall. To hide my real strength before, I'd kept my wolf spirit suppressed. Many believed it was unstable. Mephisto had seized on that weakness, spreading rumors that my power had declined. "Trash?" I smiled faintly, disdain flashing in my eyes. "Mephisto, have you forgotten? My wolf spirit

was never something you could compare to." "Oh? Still talking tough?" He scoffed. "Then show us! Let's see if your 'powerful wolf spirit even comes out anymore!" He was certain I wouldn't dare or couldn't. The entire hall went silent.

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Everyone stared, waiting for me to embarrass myself. I took a deep breath and let go of the restraint on my power. Slowly, I closed my eyes. A massive force burst out from me and swept through the hall. The freezing wind seemed drawn in by that energy, rushing through the cracks in the hall and lifting my hair. 1/2 09:35 Thu, Jan 15 G B Chapter 280 Golden Wolf Spirit "Awooo-" My howl rang out, sharp and commanding. Golden light gathered around me as Alice, my wolf spirit, appeared in full form. The moment Alice appeared, the council hall fell into dead silence.

80% +20 Free Coins Everyone stared, frozen in shock and disbelief. Mephisto's face drained of all color, his body shaking uncontrollably. "Th-That's ... a golden wolf spirit?!" the eldest elder gasped, his voice shaking with astonishment. "Amanda's wolf spirit is the legendary top-level wolf spirit!" "And more than that!" another elder exclaimed excitedly. "Can't you feel it? Her aura is stronger than before! Amanda's power didn't drop-it grew!" Sensing my emotions, Alice let out a low growl in Mephisto's direction. That single sound sent him flying back.

He stumbled and crashed to the floor, terror written all over his face. I slowly opened my eyes and looked at the disgraced Mephisto, my voice cold and sharp. "Mephisto, do you still think I'm trash?" 2/2 Mark

Chapter 281 Deal With Him Amanda's POV: K80%1 +20 Free Coins Mephisto wanted to speak, but no words came out. He just stared at me and at Alice behind me in pure terror. He hadn't expected me to summon a wolf spirit, let alone the legendary golden one. My power had grown far beyond what it was before "The chaos at the riding field was your doing, wasn't it?" I stepped forward. Alice mirrored me, her immense aura pinning Mephisto in place. "You colluded with Stephan to target Samson and me. Too bad you miscalculated.

You never expected me to be the one injured, and you certainly didn't expect me to return so fast to settle the score." Mephisto's face changed instantly. His eyes darted away. "I ... I don't know what you mean... that matter had nothing to do with me..." "Nothing to do with you?" I scoffed and pulled out my phone, opening the files Rowan had sent me. It was chat records between Mephisto and Stephan's men, along with surveillance screenshots showing the people he'd sent to the stables. "Do you still want to deny it after seeing all this?" The proof made him crumble.

He collapsed, shaking violently. The elders and pack members finally understood what had happened, their faces filled with disgust and fury. So that was what he'd done. To seize the Alpha position, he'd colluded with outsiders and plotted against his cousin! "Mephisto, you colluded with outsiders, tried to harm your packmates, and schemed to

take the Alpha position. Your crimes are serious," I said coldly, every word like a hammer. "From now on, you're stripped of all rights within Glacier Pack. You're expelled from the core area and barred for life from any pack matters!" "No!

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I won't accept that!" Mephisto shouted, springing to his feet, eyes wild. "I am the Alpha! That seat is mine! You have no right to strip me of anything!" He even summoned his wolf spirit-a gray, ordinary wolf-and lunged at me.. Unfortunately for him, his wolf spirit was nothing in front of Alice. With a casual swipe of her claw, Alice shattered his wolf spirit, and the force hurled him across the hall. He slammed into the wall and coughed up blood. "Take him out!" Rowan snapped. Two guards rushed forward, hoisted the limp Mephisto, and dragged him away.

His screams ||| 1/3 09:36 Thu, Jan 15 GB 80%1 +20 Free Coins Chapter 281 Deal With Him faded into the distance, earning not a shred of sympathy from anyone. After dealing with Mephisto, I turned to the elders and members, my tone softer but still firm. "I know the pack has suffered while leadership was unstable. Starting today, I'm officially back and taking over as Alpha of Glacier Pack again. I promise this-while I'm here, I'll protect the Glacier Pack and every single member within it "Support the Alpha!" Rowan spoke up first and dropped to one knee.

"Support the Alpha!" The rest followed right away, with elders and members dropping to one knee in respect. The people who had once sucked up to Mephisto went pale. They hurried to drop to one knee as well, begging for forgiveness. I nodded slightly, telling everyone to stand. "Rowan, handle the cleanup from Mephisto's mess. Look into everyone who stood on his side. Punish those who deserve it and warn the rest. Also, let the whole pack know there'll be a full assembly in the plaza tonight. I have something important to say." "Yes, Ms. Lamb!" Rowan replied respectfully.

Once the hall emptied, I was left alone. "Alice, it's been a long time. You've done so much," I said softly. I'd kept her hidden to cover my real strength, and she'd suffered a lot because of me. Alice gave a soft rumble, like she was saying, "It's no big deal." I smiled and called my wolf spirit back. The hall fell silent again, with only the wind howling outside. I walked over and sat in the Alpha seat that had always been mine, taking in its familiar feel. At last, I had reclaimed what belonged to me. But I knew it was only the beginning.

Mephisto was dealt with, but Stephan was still a problem. And inside the Glacier Pack, there were plenty of issues that still needed fixing. I took out my phone and texted Samson, "I made it here safely. Once I'm done, I'll come back to you." He replied right away, "Okay. I'll wait. Be careful Tell me if anything happens." Reading his message, a quiet warmth filled my chest. ||| 2/3 09:36 Thu, Jan 15 G B Chapter 281 Deal With Him Knowing he was there made me feel more grounded. 80% +20 Free Coins I put my phone away, my gaze turning firm.

Next, it was time to clean out the rot inside the Glacier Pack and bring real order back to the pack. ||| 3/3 Mark

Chapter 282 Cheers Amanda's POV: 80% +20 Free Coins I had barely settled into the seat when Rowan walked in with several core members, carrying a heavy stack of documents in his arms. "Ms. Lamb, this is the early list of people who backed Mephisto, along with records of how resources were moved around while he was in charge." He paused briefly before continuing, "We also found out he didn't just win over three elders. He placed his own people in charge of three major supply warehouses. Over the last two months, huge amounts of winter clothes, food, and energy supplies were secretly taken.

We still don't know where they ended up." "He even dared to touch winter supplies?!" I thumped the desk, a chill flashing through my eyes. In Glacier Pack, winter cold could split stones. Those supplies were what kept everyone alive. For his own greed, Mephisto had risked the lives of the entire pack! I skimmed the papers and tapped several names printed in bold. "These main followers-lock them up right now and question them hard. We need to recover every stolen item. As for the three elders he dragged into this, strip them of all power.

Keep them confined at home and make them write a 1000-word confession within three days, explaining exactly how they worked with Mephisto. If they leave anything out, kick them straight out of the elder council." "Yes, Ms. Lamb!" Rowan accepted the order and was about to leave when I added, "Also, you personally take charge of those three warehouses. Do a full inventory overnight. At tonight's general assembly, publicly disclose all accounts and disciplinary outcomes. Everything must be transparent." For the rest of the day, I didn't allow myself a single moment of rest.

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First, I met with senior members and team leaders, listening to everything they had suffered under Mephisto's rule. I wrote down each problem and handled them on the spot. "Any family short on winter supplies can collect them from the recovered warehouses this afternoon. Make sure everything is registered properly, and give priority to the elderly, the sick, and the weak. As for the hunting teams, all their gear will be replaced within three days.

Rowan will handle procurement, and the pack's public funds will cover the cost." As soon as I finished, the members, who had been tense and guarded, started tearing up. ||| 1/2 09:36 Thu, Jan 15 G B Chapter 282 Cheers They thanked me over and over. Respect and trust burned clearly in their eyes. 80% +20 Free Coins By evening, the plaza was packed wall to wall. I stood on the high platform, the Glacier Pack banner snapping loudly behind me. The freezing wind couldn't move me an inch.

Rowan stood beside me and publicly listed Mephisto's crimes, the supplies we had recovered, the new rules, and the detailed distribution plans. After each announcement,

loud applause broke out. Members raised their arms and shouted my name, their voices nearly overpowering the howling wind. "Guys!" I raised a hand for silence, my voice carrying across the plaza through the amplifiers. "I promise you-from today forward, there will be no special treatment, no favoritism, and no bending the rules. I'll use my strength to protect this land and every single one of you!" Cheers exploded again.

Older members wiped at red eyes, while younger ones pumped their fists. In that moment, the pack's unity fully returned. As I watched them, a heavy sense of duty settled deep in my chest. That was the home I had to protect, and I would never let them down. After the assembly ended, I had just returned to the council hall when Rowan came in with an encrypted file. "Ms. Lamb, this is a formal cooperation letter from the Eclipse Pack. They want to talk about sharing winter energy and medical supplies. Mr.

Samson says he hopes to meet you in person." "Samson?" My fingers paused, a faint ripple stirring in my heart. = ||| 2/2 Mark

Chapter 283 Negotiation Amanda's POV: 80% +20 Free Coins I'd been so busy stabilizing the pack that I hadn't thought about anything else. Seeing his name now made me realize I was actually looking forward to it. I opened the proposal. The terms were straightforward. Eclipse Pack was short on natural gas. for winter heating, while Glacier Pack badly needed effective medicine for frostbite and cold- related sicknesses. Working together would help both sides. "Reply to him," I said calmly, slipping back into my Alpha mindset. "Set the meeting for the morning two days from now.

Choose the neutral snowfield outpost on the border. It's secure and good for talks." After Rowan confirmed, I went straight to the walk-in closet. Back at Eclipse Pack, I'd dressed plain on purpose to hide who I was. This time, I was meeting him as Glacier Pack's Alpha, so I needed to be my real self. I removed the disguise, revealing my fair skin and refined features. After taking off the bulky coat, I picked a fitted ice-blue combat outfit. It was waterproof and windproof, close-fitting but easy to move in.

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A silver belt with the Glacier Pack emblem wrapped around my waist, paired with black knee-high leather boots that made my legs look long and straight. I pulled my hair into a neat high bun, showing my slender neck, and added simple silver ice- crystal earrings. I checked the mirror. The woman staring back looked calm and commanding-clearly an Alpha, but still graceful. She looked nothing like the forgettable, plain-looking woman I had pretended to be before. On the day of the meeting, I arrived at the neutral outpost in a snow off-road vehicle. Samson was already waiting at the entrance.

He wore a long black coat, standing tall and straight like a pine tree. The cold wind lifted his dark hair, and his profile looked sharp yet gentle. The moment he saw me, he clearly froze. Surprise filled his deep eyes as he looked me over, from my face to my figure-focused and careful with no hint of disrespect. I walked up and met his gaze with a calm

smile. "Mr. Ortega, thanks for waiting." He replied politely, "Hello." Still smiling, I moved straight to business. "Let's go inside and talk. I've prepared a draft plan ||| 1/2 09:36 Thu, Jan 15 GB.

Chapter 283 Negotiation for trading winter energy and medicine." 80% +20 Free Coins Inside the outpost, the warmth felt almost like spring. We sat across from each other, with detailed resource lists spread out on the table. I presented my proposal clearly and methodically. "Glacier Pack has enough natural gas to cover your winter heating. In return, Eclipse Pack's frostbite and cold-medicine specialties are exactly what we need. We can trade at a 1:1.2 ratio.

Transportation will be handled together to keep everything safe along the way." Samson listened closely, nodding now and then, his fingers lightly tapping the table. "Your plan is very complete and meets both sides' main needs. I fully agree. Our assistants can sort out the transport schedule and contacts afterward. The negotiations went incredibly smoothly. Everything was settled in less than an hour. After we signed the agreement, Samson looked at me with open admiration. "Ms. Lamb, you're truly a strong Alpha." "Thank you," I said, taking a sip of hot tea. "You're impressive as well.

By the way, do you already have a destined mate?" He paused, then smiled. "Thanks for asking. There's already someone I like." Hearing that, my heart tightened unexpectedly. I gripped the cup a little harder. 2/2 > Mark

Chapter 284 He Likes Her Amanda's POV: 80% +20 Free Coins I forced down the turmoil in my chest, keeping my face calm as I said, "Oh? If you think that highly of her, she must be a stunning woman with a powerful wolf spirit, right?" I deliberately stressed "stunning" and "powerful wolf spirit," watching his eyes closely. I didn't want to miss even the slightest reaction. I needed to know what really mattered to him—looks or heart? When he saw me in that ugly disguise before, was he just being polite, or did he truly not care?

Samson shook his head, warmth filling his gaze, his voice soft and full of quiet affection. "No. She doesn't have a perfect face. Her wolf spirit isn't strong. You could even say she's ordinary." My heart lurched, my breath catching for a second. No perfect face and an ordinary wolf spirit? That sounded exactly like the "Amanda" I had been pretending to be. Samson seemed unaware of my reaction and continued softly. "But she's brave. Even facing someone stronger, she never runs. She's kind, quietly looking out for those around her. And she's real. She doesn't put on an act.

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Even when her flaws show, she stays true to herself. Being with her makes me feel safe and relaxed." Talking about the girl he liked, his gaze turned so soft that it could melt. That kind of affection wasn't fake. I sat there, listening, my heart racing and cheeks warming. He had never cared about appearances at all. Even in that ugly disguise, he

valued me. I steadied my voice, forcing calm. "Sounds like you really care about her. Meeting someone like that is a kind of luck." "Indeed." Samson nodded, eyes still gentle.

"Meeting her has been the best thing for me lately." The warmth inside the outpost suddenly felt heavier and harder to breathe through. I didn't dare meet his eyes, afraid I'd give myself away. I took a quick sip of tea to hide it. What I ||| = 1/2 = 09:36 Thu, Jan 15 G B Chapter 284 He Likes Her thought would be a small test had left my heart spinning. I hesitated to reveal who I really was.

80%8 +20 Free Coins I wanted to wait until Glacier Pack was fully stabilized, until I could face him calmly and let him see that the "ordinary girl" he admired was the Alpha standing right in front of him. Leaving the neutral outpost, I headed straight back to Glacier Pack. The moment I arrived, I called Rowan and the core members for a strategic meeting. Over the next few days, I oversaw final checks personally. I confirmed warehouse inventory. reviewed transport routes for cooperative supplies, and met with several long-standing members to reassure and steady them.

Only after everything was running smoothly and the pack was fully stabilized did I relax enough to prepare for my trip to Eclipse Pack. My main goal was to boost Alice's wolf spirit power. After saying goodbye to Rowan and the others, boarded my private vehicle and headed for Eclipse Pack. As we neared Ortega Castle, familiar sights made my heart beat a little faster for no reason. Memories of past visits and moments with Samson surfaced. The car stopped at the gates. As I opened the door, I saw a familiar figure dressed in black standing on the steps. It was Samson.

2/2 09:36 Thu, Jan 15 G Mark

Chapter 285 Making the Act Real Amanda's POV: 80% +20 Free Coins He wore a dark, casual sweater now. The sharpness he had in our business talks was gone, replaced by a relaxed, easygoing vibe. The cold wind lifted his hair. He stood quietly, eyes fixed on me, like he'd been waiting all this time. I froze, my steps faltering mid-stride. I hadn't expected him to be here so soon or to wait for me in person. Samson walked toward me slowly, his expression calm. He didn't ask where I'd been or what I'd been handling.

He just stopped in front of me and said softly, with warmth in his tone, "Welcome back." Two simple words, and suddenly all my fatigue and unease vanished, replaced by a cozy, spreading warmth. I steadied myself, nodded lightly, and met his gaze. "What happened at the stable, and all the help you've given me ... I really appreciate it. I owe you a big favor. When I get the chance, I'll repay it." I deliberately emphasized the word "favor," as if drawing a clear boundary between us. I wasn't ready for him to see my real self yet, and our so-called relationship was still just an act.

But to my surprise, Samson suddenly smiled. He leaned in slightly, closing the distance. His eyes looked like they held a sky full of stars. flickering with a light that made my heart race. His voice was low and magnetic, carrying a hint of temptation as it reached my ears. "Amanda, I didn't help you to get paid back." He paused, holding my gaze and

pronouncing each word clearly. "How about ... considering making the act real?" Those words hit me like a bolt of lightning. I went blank. My pupils shrank slightly as I stared at him, forgetting how to react.

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The cold wind stirred the leaves around us, and the atmosphere instantly turned tense and intimate. I could hear my heartbeat speeding up, my cheeks heating uncontrollably. What did he mean? Was he serious, or just teasing me? The weight of his words hit me again, like a roll of thunder. I completely lost it, my throat tightening as I suddenly started coughing hard. It was so violent that tears nearly came out. In no time, my face flushed, my breathing uneven.

"Y-You've got to be joking!" I finally gasped, voice shaking as I avoided his eyes. That mix of panic and attraction had thrown me completely off balance. I brushed it off as a joke to hide my embarrassment. Seeing how flustered I was, Samson's faint tension disappeared. He'd acted on impulse, trying to test my feelings. Seeing my reaction and even rejecting him, he seemed a little disappointed. Still, he smoothly gave himself an out. "Just kidding." His tone relaxed, like the earlier suggestion had been nothing more than a joke.

"If you really feel like you owe me, just keep it in mind for now. We'll talk later." 2/2 Mark

Chapter 286 Faint Bruise Amanda's POV: 80% +20 Free Coins Once he finished, Samson turned and walked away without even glancing back at me. I stood there, completely confused, staring at his retreating figure. He'd been acting strange today. First, he suddenly suggested making the fake relationship real. When I pushed back, he brushed it off like it was just a joke. The contrast was jarring. Still, after he left, my heart—which had been racing a moment ago—finally began to slow. Only the Moon Goddess knew how stunned I'd been. For a second, I even wondered if I'd misheard him.

Luckily, I'd caught myself in time, keeping my emotions in check. Otherwise, my cover would have been blown completely. I rubbed my flushed cheeks and muttered with a little edge, "Samson really knows how to mess with me. He almost scared me to death." Once I calmed down, I got back in the car and followed Samson's vehicle to campus. The car pulled smoothly into a parking spot near the campus gate. I got out, turned back toward him, and waved. "I'm heading in. See you." Samson gave a slight nod but didn't leave right away. He stayed put, watching me walk off.

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It tugged at me strangely, but I let it go and stepped inside. I'd only taken a few steps past the gate when I heard the sound of a car engine shutting off behind me. I turned around and saw Alan's car—the one I'd seen a few times before—parked neatly in the same spot I'd just vacated. Emily unbuckled first and got out, looking like she was about

to speak, but then thinking better of it. She straightened up and said formally, "Alan, thanks for the ride. I'm fine now, so don't worry." Alan stepped out, his voice full of concern. "As long as you're fine. If anything still feels off, message me.

"Don't push yourself. If something feels off, go to the hospital immediately." Hearing his gentle reminders, her cheeks flushed, happiness shining in her eyes. She nodded hard. "Got it. I'll head inside now." Even though she looked reluctant, she kept glancing back at Alan as she walked toward the 1/2 ☰ 09:36 Thu, Jan 15 G B Chapter 286 Faint Bruise academic building. 80% +20 Free Coins I stayed nearby, watching the whole scene unfold. Just as I was about to leave, Emily spotted me. Her eyes lit up, and she rushed over. "Amanda! It's been so long!" She stopped in front of me, a little guilty.

"Sorry my phone died earlier, so I couldn't reply to your messages. You must have been worried." I looked up at her and smiled lightly. "It's fine. I thought you were just busy and forgot to reply." But as soon as I said it, my eyes caught a faint mark on her cheek, and my smile froze. I frowned, studying it more closely. "What happened to your face?" There was a faint bruise on her cheek. It wasn't very obvious, but it stood out on her fair skin. What had happened while I was away? And what exactly was going on between her and Alan? 2/2 09:36 Thu, Jan 15 G B Mark

Chapter 287 He Hit You? Emily's POV: 80% +20 Free Coins Even though I didn't want to leave, I got out of the car, stealing glances at Alan until his vehicle disappeared. Only then did I drag myself onto campus. As soon as I entered the classroom, I spotted Amanda and hurried over, a little guilty. "Amanda, sorry. My phone died earlier, so I couldn't reply to your messages." She looked up, smiling lightly. "It's fine!" But then, her eyes fell on my face. Her brows kn.

"What happened to your face?" I instinctively touched the faint mark on my cheek and quickly said, "It's nothing serious- just a small accident. I'm fine now." I kept it light, not wanting her to worry. Hearing that, Amanda sighed, sounding a little helpless. "What are the odds, huh? Even small accidents seem to find both of us." I paused, then hurriedly asked, "What about you Did something happen to you, too?" Amanda sighed again and said evenly, "I fell off horse a few days ago. Nothing serious. I'm mostly recovered." Ah, that explained it.

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I finally relaxed and slid into the seat next to her leaning closer and whispering, "Actually ... I got hit by a car." "What?! You were hit by a car?!" Amanda's voice jumped instantly, her eyes wide with shock. "When did this happen? Are you okay?" "I'm fine! It's all over now!" I waved my hands quickly, but I couldn't help smiling. I looked at her mysteriously. "But do you know who hit me I noticed the puzzled look on Amanda's face. She probably had never seen anyone get hit by a car and look this thrilled afterward.

Frowning, she hesitated before asking, "Who?" I couldn't hold it in anymore and broke into a huge smile, excitement spilling out. "My idol- Alan!" = 1/2 < 09:36 Thu, Jan 15 G

B Chapter 287 He Hit You? "He hit you?" Amanda's eyes widened, disbelief written all over her face. 80% +20 Free Coins She went stiff for a moment, then suddenly remembered something and asked anxiously, "Are you seriously okay? This isn't funny at all!" I shook my head hard and said seriously, "I'm really fine! Yeah, my body still hurts a little, but I'm super happy.

Because of this, I'm way closer to my idol now!" From the way Amanda stared at me, I could tell she probably thought I was unbelievable- maybe even hopeless. But I didn't care. If it meant being closer to Alan a small injury was nothing. "As long as you're not hurt badly, that's all that matters," Amanda said helplessly. But I didn't see it that way. I leaned in and started talking nonstop about everything that had happened over the past few days. "You seriously have no idea-Alan is incredible. He's not just good-looking-he's super patient.

He personally took me to the hospital and kept coming back to check on me. He's always worried about how I'm doing." Just thinking about how gently Alan told me to let him know right away if I felt uncomfortable made my heart flutter like crazy I couldn't stop myself from sighing: "Anyway, Alan is such a great guy. I keep wondering who's gonna be lucky enough to become his destined mate." As I said that, a faint ache spread through my chest. I knew the distance between us was huge. Maybe I could only admire him from far away in this lifetime.

Still, I couldn't help feeling jealous of the girl who would one day stand beside him and receive all his care and tenderness. No way. I had to work harder and become someone just as amazing as him! ||| 2/2 09:36 Thu, Jan 15 G Chapter 288 Photos Mark

Chapter 288 Photos Wisteria Yeager's POV: 成80%面 +20 Free Coins Meanwhile, a quick, agile man strode into my private lounge. "Wisteria, these are the photos we got while following Alan lately." He casually tossed an envelope toward me. I caught it with one hand, my fingers brushing the edge. I smiled as interest lit my eyes. "Did you catch anything useful?" He shrugged, clearly expecting praise. "Big news. Looks like Alan is in love." My hand stopped halfway. I looked up at him, my voice turning cold. "Are you sure?" He nodded toward the envelope, telling me to check it myself.

"Photos don't lie." I opened it. Several photos slipped out. They showed Alan accompanying a girl at the hospital, then personally driving her back to campus. Some shots showed him carefully helping her out of the car; others showed him waiting quietly in a hospital hallway, staying by her side. Every photo felt way too intimate. "This is ... a hospital?" I picked up one photo, my thumb tracing the edge as I asked calmly. He leaned closer with a sneaky grin. "Yeah. A hospital. Think about it-an unmarried man and a girl spending hours alone there.

What do you think that means?" I looked straight at him, my words laced with deliberate malice. "Could it be an accident that required ... private recovery?" He spread his hands. "I didn't dig deep enough to confirm the exact reason. "But you know how much the Foreign Affairs Department cares about image. If these photos got out and we

guided public opinion a bit, rumors would explode. Alan is one of their rising stars. If he gets tagged with things like 'messy private life' and 'no discipline, his career would be over." I chuckled and slid the photos back into the envelope.

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"That's how power plays work in Howlstead. Sure, these could be useful, but they're not my main focus. Didn't you get anything else?" He stepped closer, lowering his voice as he tried to bargain. "I've only followed him for a few days and already handed you something this big. Even if there's no credit, there's effort. You should reward me, then I'll have the drive to dig up even more dirt." I wasn't stupid. I knew exactly what he wanted. ||| 1/2 09:36 Thu, Jan 15 G B Chapter 288 Photos 80% +20 Free Coins Without hesitation, I stood up, hooked an arm around his neck, and kissed him first.

He froze for a second, then quickly gave in, turning eager. Before long, the lounge was filled with intimacy. When it was over, I stood up calmly and smoothed out my clothes. My voice returned to its usual cool tone. "Don't release this yet. I already have a plan." Completely satisfied, he became obedient at once. He nodded quickly. "Don't worry. I'll do whatever you say. I'll keep watching Alan and report anything new right away." Satisfied, I waved him off. "That's all for today.

You can leave." He stood up, clearly unwilling, wrapping an arm around my waist as his voice turned soft and clingy. "I wish I could stay with you all the time. I don't want us apart, not even for a second." I smiled and patted his hand. "There's plenty of time." His face instantly lit up. He kissed my cheek and finally left. After he was gone, I picked up the photos again and flipped through them one by one. The calculating look in my eyes grew deeper. My plan was already completely clear. 2/2 Mark

Chapter 289 Threat Wisteria's POV: 80% +20 Free Coins I slipped the photos into my bag, left the lounge and headed straight to the Foreign Affairs Department front desk. Keeping my tone calm and neutral, I asked. "Is Alan here today?" The receptionist nodded quickly. "Yes, Ms. Yeager. According to the schedule, he should be rehearsing foreign protocol in the diplomatic etiquette training room." Satisfied, I gave a small nod and took the private elevator up.

I eased the training room door open, folded my arms, and leaned against the doorway, watching him finish the routine without interrupting him. Once he'd gone through the whole sequence, I started clapping slowly, my tone deliberately impressed. "Perfect execution. No wonder you're the department's top talent." Alan's brows drew together at the sound of my voice. He turned, clearly not happy to see me, and asked coolly, "What are you doing here?" Unbothered by his attitude, I walked toward him with graceful steps. "I came to see you.

After all, the department is considering having us co-lead a special foreign assignment. I think it's a solid plan. Why don't we give it a try?" He dismissed the idea immediately. "No thanks. I'm not interested. If you don't have anything else, leave. Don't interrupt my

rehearsal." Instead of getting angry, I laughed softly and moved a little closer, my voice dropping to something more mysterious. "Who says I don't have anything? I never show up without a reason." His patience was clearly wearing thin, and his voice sharpened. "Then spit it out."

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If not, leave." Still calm, I gave him a knowing smile. "I heard you're seeing someone lately. Is that true?" His expression darkened instantly. The air in the room felt heavier, tense, like the calm had frozen into something hard. Alan's POV: Wisteria's words hit me like a sharp blow to the chest. I had no idea where she'd picked up those ridiculous rumors, but tossing around phrases like "in love" and "hospital" made it clear she was dragging Emily into this mess.

1/2 09:37 Thu, Jan 15 G Chapter 289 Threat B 80% +20 Free Coins "I don't know what evidence you think you have I said, swallowing my anger, my voice sharp and cold. "It doesn't scare me. And your offer? I'm not interested. Find someone else." I rejected her outright, leaving no room for negotiation. I've always hated people who tried to use someone else's private life as a weapon. And now, she was trying to use fake rumors about Emily. Wisteria stared at me stubbornly, unwilling to give up. "Are you sure? If these get out, you could lose everything. Your reputation would be ruined.

Aren't you worried?" I couldn't even be bothered to listen anymore. All I could think was that Wisteria wasn't just irrational-something was seriously wrong with her. Had I not made myself clear enough? Or did she simply not understand plain language? I stopped answering, grabbed my jacket, and walked out, leaving her standing there alone. 2/2 09:37 Thu, Jan 15 G B Mark

Chapter 290 Rumors Wisteria's POV: 80% +20 Free Coins Alan turned his back on me and went straight back to training, as if even looking at me again would be a waste. The door to the diplomatic etiquette training room closed behind me. In that massive room, I was suddenly alone. I walked up to the mirror on the wall and stared at myself. My face was twisted with anger, and I felt utterly humiliated. I had taken the initiative, shown goodwill, and offered a deal. And all I got in return was his cold rejection and disdain.

"Alan, if you make me feel miserable, don't expect to stay comfortable either." Resentment and malice surged in my eyes. I pulled out my phone and quickly dialed a number, my voice cold and sharp. "Jack, I've got some explosive news to sell you." Jack was a well-known political scandal broker in Howlstead. The moment he heard that, his tone lit up with excitement. "Oh? Which big shot is unlucky enough to catch your eye this time?" I stared at my twisted reflection and spat slowly, Alan Ortega." The moment the name left my mouth, Jack went quiet. "Someone from the Eclipse Pack?"

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I can't mess with that. Their background is deep, and their PR team is top-tier. They strike back hard, too. If they come after me later, I won't survive it." My expression darkened. I forced my anger down and snapped back, "What, even you're scared?" "It's not fear. It's risk versus reward," Jack replied calmly, though curiosity slipped into his voice. "Still, I'm interested. What do you actually have that could shake Alan?" That was enough to tell me he was hooked. A cold, calculating smile spread across my face. Enough to ruin his future in the Foreign Affairs Department. Career over.

The real question is whether you've got the nerve to drop it and take the money." Jack fell silent for a few seconds, clearly calculating. ||| 1/2 09:37 Thu, Jan 15 G Chapter 290 Rumors Then his voice turned decisive. "Sounds worth Name your price," 80% +20 Free Coins I quoted a hefty figure. He agreed right away. Not long after we hung up, the money hit my account. I sent him the backup copies of the photos immediately. Eight o'clock at night was peak traffic time on Howlstead's public info platform.

Right then, a wave of photos showing Alan with mysterious girl at a hospital, and later driving her to campus, was released simultaneously by multiple accounts. Within minutes, three hashtags shot to the top of the trending list, occupying the first three spots. They painted the story as Alan's dirty private life, a secret hospital meeting, and damage to the diplomatic image. The photos spread fast, paired with aggressive captions hinting at an improper relationship and even making up stories about him forcing a girl into private medical treatment.

As people saw it, the comment sections exploded. [Is this real? Alan is supposed to be a role model in the Foreign Affairs Department. How disappointing!] [My beliefs are shattered! A diplomat with a life his messy? How can he represent Howlstead? Kick him out now!] [Wow, a total hypocrite. Acting all proper while doing this behind closed doors. That poor girl-she must've been taken advantage of!] [So what if the Ortegas are powerful? If you mess up, you pay the price. Someone like this doesn't belong in the Foreign Affairs Department.

Full investigation now!] In just minutes, the comments were buried under waves of hate. Almost all of them were attacking and condemning Alan. I watched the endless stream of comments roll by and couldn't stop the smug smile on my face. [Alan, this is the price of going against me. The higher you climb, the harder you fall!] 2/2 r Mark

Chapter 291 Someone Set Him Up Wisteria's POV: "Wisteria, something terrible happened!" 80% +20 Free Coins My assistant burst into my lounge, her face pale out of breath. "Alan ... Alan's been exposed!" I glanced up at her, my face showing almost nothing-except for a faint, smug little smile I couldn't quite hide. "What's got you so worked up?" She must have thought I was still clueless. She hurried closer and shoved her terminal right in front of me. "You have to see this! Someone actually leaked Alan's private photos and made up all these awful rumors about him.

If this keeps up, he's finished at the Foreign Affairs Department!" I raised an eyebrow, answering with a lazy shrug. "Isn't that better for me? It means I'll have more chances at

the Foreign Affairs Department Her anxious expression froze. Suddenly, she realized something wasn't right. She frowned, looking at me with confusion. "That's not like you, Wisteria. You've always wanted to get along with Alan. Why are you acting so different today?" She didn't say "kicking someone when they're down," but I understood exactly what she was thinking. But it didn't matter to me.

She worked for me; there was no need to keep anything secret. "There's nothing different. I just think adults should take responsibility for their actions." I picked up my tea and took a sip, my tone flat. "Besides, a guy who looks down on others like that isn't worth anyone's sympathy." "No, something's off!" My assistant suddenly caught on, her eyes widening, her expression turning serious as she stared straight at me. "Wisteria, be honest-did you do this?" I set my teacup down and nodded without hesitation. "Yes, it was me. He needed a lesson.

Who told him he could look down on me, or reject me?" She was completely stunned, her mouth opening and closing before she finally let out a heavy sigh. "You're really in trouble now! Do you have any idea what you've done? Eclipse Pack won't let this slide, and the Foreign Affairs Department will never accept anyone who deliberately frames a colleague!" 1/3 09:37 Thu, Jan 15 G B Chapter 291 Someone Set Him Up I just smiled, unconcerned. 80% +20 Free Coins "Trouble? There are photos to prove everything he did. All I did was bring the truth to light. What's there to be afraid of?

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Besides, I've wasted all these years in the Foreign Affairs Department, always stuck, never getting anywhere. I've had enough of that. Why should he get a free ride just because he looks down on me? He deserves what's coming to him!" Emily's POV: Emily never thought that a single, unexpected leak could leave her in such a mess.

She had no idea which shameless reporter was responsible, but somehow, the training camp she attended was suddenly exposed to everyone That afternoon, during break, she walked out of the classroom and found a crowd waiting by the school gate, holding recorders and cameras-every one of them after her. They swarmed in like hungry wolves, shouting over each other. "What's your relationship with Alan?" "What's the story with those hospital photos?" "There are rumors online saying he forced you to get private medical treatment.

Is it true?" The camera flashes were so bright she couldn't even open her eyes, and all the shouting made her scalp prickle. Terrified, she started shaking and instinctively stepped back. Luckily, Amanda rushed over and quickly put herself between Emily and the reporters, barking, "Move! There's no obligation to answer personal questions. You're interrupting normal classes!" Amanda's presence was so strong, the reporters froze for a moment and took a step back. Amanda grabbed Emily's hand, quickly pulled her back to the classroom, and locked the door.

Only when they were tucked into a corner did Emily finally start to relax, her nerves completely unwinding. Tears streamed down her face like beads on a broken string. She held Amanda's hand tightly, her voice choked. "What am I supposed to do, Amanda... Why is everyone online spreading these rumors There's really nothing between Alan and me, but they make it sound so awful... She pulled out her phone. The screen was filled with bad news about Alan, and the comments were even nastier. Even though most of the hate was aimed at Alan the insults still hurt like knives.

Amanda frowned, took Emily's terminal, scrolled quickly through the news, her own brow furrowing ||| r 2/3 09:37 Thu, Jan 15 G Chapter 291 Someone Set Him Up deeper. 80% +20 Free Coins "Amanda, what should I do?" Emily wiped away her tears, worry filling her voice. "How can people say such terrible things about Alan? I'm so scared this will hurt him..." Even at a time like this, Alan was still the person she worried about most. She knew exactly how hard he worked at the Foreign Affairs Department. If he lost his future because of all this, she would never forgive herself.

Amanda gently patted her back, her voice soft and reassuring. "It's going to be okay, Emily We'll get through this." After thinking for a moment, Amanda said, "There's only one solution-you have to clear things up yourself. Tell everyone you're just friends, and the hospital thing only happened because he accidentally bumped into you and was just being responsible." Emily nodded immediately. But Amanda's tone sharpened, and her eyes grew piercing. "But I can tell this isn't just a random leak. There's definitely someone behind this, trying to ruin Alan." "What?" Emily was stunned.

Her mouth opened and closed for a while, but she couldn't say a full sentence. She had never imagined things could be this tangled, or that anyone would want to frame Alan. Who would set him up like this? 3/3 Mark

Chapter 292 Let's Go Fix It Alan's POV:

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Chapter 293 I Am Telling the Truth Alan's POV: 79% +20 Free Coins Emily squeezed through the crowd, stumbling as she ran over. Her hair was messy, her face flushed from rushing, and there were still streaks of tears on her cheeks. She had clearly run all the way here. The moment I saw her, I froze completely. My et stopped in their tracks, and my heart started pounding out of control. I never would have imagined she'd suddenly show up here. The reporters were just as shocked by this sudden turn. After a brief silence, every camera.

and all eyes were trained on Emily, and it looked like a new round of questions was about to explode. Almost on instinct, I stepped forward, quietly placing myself in front of Emily, blocking the harsh flashes and all those prying eyes. My voice came out colder than before. "I'll take all the responsibilities. But she's just a regular girl. If any of you dare bother her again, you'll face the consequences." Emily's POV: I stepped around Alan, facing that wall of cameras head-on.

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I took a deep breath, forcing down the shake in my voice, and said loudly, "There's nothing inappropriate between Mr. Ortega and me!" All the questions stopped at once. Every gaze was locked on me. I squeezed my fists tighter and kept going. "The truth is, Mr. Ortega accidentally bumped into me. He took me to the hospital, kept checking on my recovery, and visited me whenever he could. The photos you all have were taken by someone on purpose while he was visiting me at the hospital!"

"As for all the so-called 'intimate gestures' you keep talking about," I couldn't help rolling my eyes as I said, "please, take a real look-those were all just camera angles! It's just the perspective. But you all spun those shots into some big story!" "So you're saying this was all just a misunderstanding? You didn't go to the hospital for an abortion either?" one reporter shot back, their voice thick with doubt. The word "abortion" made me so angry I shook over. I felt like these people were absolutely impossible.

1/2 09:37 Thu, Jan 15 G Chapter 293 I Am Telling the Truth 4.79%8 +20 Free Coins I yanked my hospital paperwork out of my backpack and held it up high for the cameras. "Is this enough proof? This is my hospital discharge documents. It says right here-my hospital stay was because of an injury from being hit. There was never any abortion!" I paused, my eyes stinging with tears. "You reporters only know how to chase rumors and make things up. Do you even realize how much harm you've caused for me and Mr. Orte?"

I was surrounded at my training camp, the internet is full of abusive comments against me, and all you care about is getting attention and clicks. You don't care what's real, and you don't care who gets hurt!" My words left the whole crowd in silence. The reporters stared at the paperwork in my hand, looking embarrassed. I licked my dry lips and spoke more gently. "Everything I just said is the truth. Everything you've seen online was made up. I hope everyone can stop spreading these lies. Thank you." When I finished speaking, I looked over at Alan.

Our eyes met, and I smiled and waved at him, ready to leave. But just as I started to step away, my vision went black. Right before I lost consciousness, I heard someone call out. "Emily!" It sounded like Alan's voice... And then everything went dark. ||| 2/2 09:37 Thu, Jan 15 G B Mark

Chapter 294 I'll Make You Pay Amanda's POV: 79%8 +20 Free Coins I followed Emily to the entrance of the Foreign Affairs Department office building. I'd only meant to give her a little moral support, but right after she spoke the truth, she suddenly fainted. My heart skipped a beat, and I hurried forward to catch her, but Alan was faster. He got to Emily almost instantly, completely ignoring the cameras all around him, scooped her up in his arms, and rushed off toward the nearest infirmary.

As soon as the reporters saw what was happening, they forgot their earlier embarrassment and immediately started snapping away, the sound of shutters filling the

air. I stopped in my tracks, shooting the crowd of reporters a cold glare. Sensing my look, they all faltered for a second, each of them shivering a little. My expression must have been cold enough to make them realize they'd crossed the line. "In an emergency like this, I need everyone to stop taking photos." My voice wasn't loud, but it carried enough weight that no one could argue.

As soon as I finished, a few of the smarter reporters quietly lowered their cameras. The rest looked at each other, suddenly not sure what to do. Right then, Johnny came rushing over. When he saw the scene, he immediately understood and stepped forward to clear the reporters out. "Everyone, the matter has been clarified. We'll release an official statement soon. For now, please leave and let the patient get medical help." Seeing Johnny take over, I felt relieved and followed Alan toward the infirmary. Outside the exam room, Alan and I waited together.

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It wasn't long before the doctor came out and told Alan, "She's going to be fine. She just fainted from stress, and her previous injuries haven't fully healed. She just needs some good rest and sleep." When he heard that she'd be fine, Alan's shoulders visibly relaxed. He asked, "So when will she wake up?" The doctor thought about it and said, "At the earliest, about an hour. At most, maybe three or four hours. She needs to rest and shouldn't be disturbed." Alan nodded, signaling that the doctor could leave. ||| 1/3 09:37 Thu, Jan 15 G .

79%1 Chapter 294 I'll Make You Pay +20 Free Coins Once the doctor was gone, I finally spoke, my tone more serious than before. "This whole thing isn't as simple as it looks. There's someone behind the scenes who wanted to take you down and set you up." I had barely finished speaking when Alan looked up at me. The warmth in his eyes was gone -now they were ice cold. "Don't worry. I know what to do about this." He looked so determined that I could tell he already had someone in mind. So I didn't say anything more. This was his business, and I had no right to interfere.

"I'll take care of Emily here. You go deal with the rest." Alan gave a solemn, "Thank you. Please take good care of her." With that, he turned and left. the infirmary. Out of concern for Emily's safety, I quietly followed after Alan once he was gone. He'd barely stepped out of the room when someone blocked his way-it was Wisteria's agent. What was he doing here? I kept my distance and watched quietly. As soon as the agent saw Alan, he ran up and started begging, "Alan, please-Wisteria didn't mean to do this! It was all a misunderstanding.

You're a bigger person-please let her off just this once!" So it really was her! Of course she was behind all of this! I should have seen it coming! Just thinking about it made me clench my fists. Alan gave a cold laugh, his voice dripping with sarcasm. He asked just one thing, "Where is she?" The agent avoided his gaze, still trying to make excuses. "Alan, she just made a dumb mistake. You two have worked together for years. Can't

you let it go, just this once?" "I'll ask one more time. Where is she?" Alan's voice was even colder now, with an edge that didn't allow any argument.

Intimidated, the agent started to tremble. He stammered, "She... she isn't here. She knows she was wrong, so she's gone into hiding to reflect." Alan didn't even look rushed. His voice sounded almost casual, but every word was chilling, "Don't worry. This time, I'm going to make sure he pays. Tell her to be ready." With that, Alan walked away. 2/3 09:38 Thu, Jan 15 G Chapter 294 I'll Make You Pay I didn't bother following him further. I just we Looking at Emily still unconscious on the bed So it was Wisteria behind all of this.

I'm going to make sure she pays for what she c 09:38 Thu, Jan 15 G B Mark

Chapter 295 What Are You Doing Here? Amanda's POV: When Emily woke up, the first thing on her mind was clearing Alan's name. She immediately pushed herself up and asked me anxiously, "Amanda, how's Alan? Did the rumors all get cleared up?" Looking at how she only cared about her idol and not herself, I couldn't help but feel both helpless and a little amused. I tapped her on the forehead. "Seriously? You just woke up, and all you care about is your idol!

Aren't you even worried about your own health?" Emily stuck out her tongue and quickly bounced back to her usual cheerful self, clinging to my arm and acting cute. "Come on, Amanda, you're the best! Tell me, what happened to my idol? Did all those rumors affect him?" I ruffled her hair, my tone soft. "Don't worry, he's fine. The rumors have already been cleared up. Alan's team will release an official statement. It won't affect him much. But you-how are you feeling? Are you feeling uncomfortable anywhere?" Hearing that Alan was okay, Emily gave a relieved smile.

"As long as he's fine, I'm fine too! I'm just a little tired, but I'll be okay after a nap. Thank you, Amanda." "Silly girl, don't thank me. We don't need that between us." I shook my head with a smile, still not totally sure about her health. "Let me take you home so you can get some proper rest. Emily didn't argue. She nodded. I helped her out of the infirmary and took her home. After making sure she was settled, I finally left. No one was coming to pick me up today, so I flagged down a cab. When the car passed Times Square, I suddenly remembered a famous hot dog place nearby.

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I asked the driver, "Could you please pull over here?" After paying the fare, I got out of the car and headed straight for the hot dog stand. "One classic hot dog, just a little ketchup and mustard, please." "Got it! Just a sec, it'll be right out!" the waiter called out cheerfully I grabbed a chair and sat down to wait, pulling out my phone as I did. As I waited, I downloaded an app called File Safone I'd actually developed myself-and logged into an account I hadn't used in a long time. 1/2 09:38 Thu, Jan 15 GAB Chapter 295 What Are You Doing Here?

* 79% +25 Free Com The app had top-level encryption and was where I kept all kinds of important things I'd collected over the years-including a ton of dirt on all the secret things Wisteria had been doing in the Foreign Affairs Department. "Your classic hot dog is ready!" The waiter's voice snapped me out of my thoughts, and he brought over a serving steaming hot dog. The smell hit me all at once, and my mouth started watering. I quickly thanked him, picked up a disposable fork, and took a bite. The juicy sausage, with the tangy ketchup and spicy mustard, filled my mouth with flavor.

The tension I'd felt from dealing with everything all day instantly faded away, and I finally felt satisfied. But that peace didn't last long. A moment later, someone slid into the empty seat next to me, the chair making a faint scraping sound against the floor. I froze mid-bite, and when I looked up and saw who it was, I was completely stunned. My fork nearly slipped from my hand as I blurted out, "You... what are you doing here?" = 2/2 Mark

Chapter 296 A Bouquet Samson's POV: I found out about Alan getting caught up in the media storm almost right away, KD79%飯 +20 Free Coins As his brother, there was no way I would just sit back and watch. I'd already quietly pulled strings, working to suppress the negative buzz and track down whoever was behind it all. By the time I finished handling urgent business, Johnny messaged me. He said the key person in clearing Alan's name was a college student named Emily-and she happened to be Amanda's friend. When I learned about that connection, I couldn't help thinking how small the world was.

I'd been planning to ask Amanda about it later, but after sitting in my office for hours. I started feeling restless and decided to go out and get something to eat. I didn't choose a place in advance. I just strolled down the street and, almost by accident. I ended up outside a hot dog shop. It was the same one Amanda had recommended to me. I went inside, looked around, and immediately spotted Amanda sitting by the window. She was focused on her hot dog, cheeks puffed out, looking just like a satisfied chipmunk. I walked straight over and took the empty seat beside her.

The moment she noticed me, she froze, which made me tease, "Out late, are you? Sneaking off to enjoy some good food all y yourself?" My gaze naturally drifted to the hot dog in front of her. Maybe I was too obvious, because Amanda immediately pulled her plate closer and guarded it. "This is mine. If you want one. order your own." The way she acted made me laugh out loud. I raised my hand and called the waiter. Tll have the same as her-a classic hot dog, just a little ketchup and mustard "Coming right up!

Just a sec!" The waiter replied warmly and headed to prepare the order It didn't take long before the waiter brought over a steaming hot dog Enjoy!" I picked up the disposable fork and took my time eating. I never used to eat street food like this, but after Amanda introduced me to it, I actually started to enjoy the simple, bold flavors Watching me eat so neatly, Amanda couldn't help but comment, "Watching you eat is like watching an art performance" 1/3 09:38 Thu, Jan 15 GAB. Chapter 296 A Bouquet 3.79% +20 Free Come I glanced at her, amusement in my eyes, but didn't say anything.

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I just sped up a little. After we finished, I went ahead and paid the bill. Stepping out into the evening, a cool breeze swept past. I looked over at Amanda and asked, "Do you want to head home?" Amanda rubbed her round stomach and glanced at the bright lights of Times Square, hesitating before saying, "Let's walk a bit first. I ate way too much." I took in our surroundings. Under the night sky Times Square was lively and comfortable, so I nodded. "Sure." We walked slowly side by side along the street in front of Times Square, the evening air bringing a gentle calm.

Just then, a little girl carrying a basket of flowers ran up, tilted her face up, and said, "Mister, buy some flowers for this lady?" Amanda clearly didn't expect this. Her cheeks flushed, and she hurried to wave her hands. "No, thank you! We don't need any flowers." But the girl didn't give up. She kept looking up at me, her tone pleading. "Mister, just buy a bouquet for her. All girls like flowers." I raised my eyebrows, looking at her hopeful face, then glanced at Amanda, who was now visibly embarrassed. Suddenly, I felt like playing along.

I pulled out some money and handed it to the girl, my tone calm but decisive. "I'll take all your flowers." The girl's face lit up instantly. "Really? That's great! Thank you! I hope you two together forever!" She set down her entire basket, grabbed the money, and bounced away, leaving Amanda frozen on the spot, her cheeks bright red. I picked up the basket and held it out to her, asking quietly. "Do you like them?" The red roses in the basket were in full bloom, their scent rich and sweet. Amanda stared at the roses, her gaze a little shy, clearly flustered by what the girl said.

She didn't answer me or take the flowers. Instead, she awkwardly changed the subject. "It's getting late. Let's go home." Seeing that, I realized I might've gone too far. I quickly explained, "I know it's sudden. I just felt bad for that girl. She's so young, yet she has to be out at this hour, selling flowers." Amanda visibly relaxed at that. She took the basket and said, "They really are pretty." She hugged the flowers openly and started walking head III 23 09:38 Thu, Jan 15 GAB Chapter 296 A Bouquet 79%8 +20 Free Coins I watched her go, noticing the smile she tried to hide once she turned away.

I couldn't help smiling too, and followed after her. "If you like them, they're yours." When we got home, the servants spotted me and Amanda walking in together. Seeing her carrying an entire basket of roses, the servants threw a few amused and knowing looks our way. They must have gotten the wrong idea. We'd barely stepped inside when Josh came hurrying up, sounding anxious. "Boss, where did you go? I've been waiting for you forever." Then he spotted the roses Amanda was holding, glanced from her to me, and his face was suddenly full of surprise.

His mouth hung open as he blurted out, "Samson, Boss, you two... what's going on?" 33 09:38 Thu, Jan 15 GAB Mark

Chapter 297 Ecstasy God Is Back Amanda's POV: The moment Josh blurted out, "You two... what's this?" Samson shot him a look. 79% -20 Free Coins Josh instantly swallowed what he was about to say, then quickly tried to change the subject. grinning at me. "Boss. I've been stuck on this one problem for ages. I was waiting for you to come back and help me out!" I couldn't help but smile at how quickly he adapted, and nodded. "Bring it here. I'll take a look. Josh immediately handed me his workbook. "Boss, it's this problem.

I just can't figure out the solution." I sat down and glanced over the question, explaining as I worked through it. The key to these problems is finding the relationships between variables. Didn't I tell you before? Break down what you know first, then match those with the formulas." Josh hovered next to me, nodding along and listening intently. He even took notes as I spoke. When I finished, his eyes lit up and he said, "Gotit, Boss! Turns out I missed a key condition before, no wonder I couldn't solve it." He put away his workbook and moved a little closer, looking hopeful.

"Boss, finals are coming up. You haven't forgotten your promise, right?" Of course I remembered our deal. I smiled and nodded. "Don't worry. If you make it into the top three in your grade, I'll play games with you all night, just like I promised. But..." I paused, thinking of the old gaming account I hadn't logged into for years. "My main account's password has been lost for so long. When the time comes, I'll have to use my alt account to play with you." Josh didn't seem to mind at all. "That's fine! As long as you remember the bet, that's all that matters.

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I'll study hard and do my best to get into the top three!" With that, he grabbed his workbook and dashed back to his own room. I shook my head with a smile and returned to my desk, opening my computer. My main game account really had been idle for two or three years. I couldn't remember the password at all, but thankfully, I'd set up security questions. Following the prompts step by step, I managed to recover the account in just a few minutes. 1/2 09:38 Thu, Jan 15 GAB Chapter 297 Ecstasy God Is Back 479%8 When the login screen popped up, my old avata and ID appeared.

I paused for a second, not logging in, just checking the account status before logging back out. I could wait to play properly with Josh after his exams were over. Josh's POV: After leaving Boss's room. I was going to go back to my homework. But I'd barely sat down when my gaming buddy KK sent me a frantic message. "Dude! Josh, get online! Ecstasy God just logged in!" The name "Ecstasy God" instantly got my heart racing. I dropped my pen and immediately opened my computer to log into the game-there was no way I could concentrate on homework now.

KK had been an old hand in the game for years, and his idol had always been the legendary Ecstasy God. That player used to dominate the whole server. His skills were on another level -but then he vanished two or three years ago and hadn't logged in since. I'd barely logged in when KK sent a screenshot. There, at the top of the global

chat's online list, was that familiar, long-lost avatar-Ecstasy God's unique avatar. I rubbed my eyes, refreshed the screen to make sure I wasn't imagining it, and my heart started pounding even harder.

"It really is Ecstasy God!" I muttered, my fingers trembling a little. "He actually logged in! After all these years, I thought he'd quit for good KK was even more hyped, spamming a bunch of exclamation points. "I couldn't believe it either! I was just scrolling through global chat like usual, and suddenly saw his avatar light up. Thought I was seeing things!" But then, almost as quickly, Ecstasy God's icon went dark again. KK sent me a disappointed emoji. "He logged of already... Didn't even get a reply to my message.

I wonder if he just popped in by accident, or if he's actually coming back. Who knows when he'll be online again." Looking at the now-greyed-out icon, I felt a bit disappointed too, but I tried to cheer him up. "It's okay. If he logged in once, he'll probably dot again. We just need to be patient. If we keep an eye out, we'll catch him someday." 2/2 Mark

Chapter 298 The Scandal on Instagram Wisteria's POV: 479% +20 Free Coins The sound of my agent's frantic calls startled me but the real shock came when I opened Instagram-negative posts about me were everywhere on my feed. What on earth is going on? My hands trembled as I tapped into each post, scrolling through one after another. Someone had posted old photos of me working as a bar hostess, including all kinds of explicit shots-nothing was left out. I tapped open the comment section, and as expected, it was flooded with insults and ridicule.

Even though the Foreign Affairs Department scrambled to delete the pics and cool things down, the photos kept spreading like wildfire across different accounts. Nothing was working. I knew picking a fight with Alan would come back to bite me, but I never thought payback would come this fast, or hit this hard. I stared at the photos on my screen, and there was only one thought in my mind. Alan did this. It has to be him! Alan's POV: Before I even had the chance to take action against Wisteria, Instagram was already blowing up with scandals about her.

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Johnny walked over holding a tablet, swiping through the photos for me to see. He shook his head, sounding almost amused. "Mr. Ortega, look at these-they're really explicit. Wisteria's finished this time. There's no way she'll recover from this." His tone was cold. There was no sympathy for someone who would go so far as to frame a coworker. I glanced at the photos without any emotion, then asked, "Who do you think did this?" Johnny paused, then shook his head. "Who knows? She's been in the business so long, she's probably made a lot of enemies.

Maybe someone's been holding on to this dirt for years and just used your fight as the perfect excuse to drop it. Either way, she brought it on herself." I let out a cold laugh, tapping my fingers on the table. "True. Since someone else made the ||| = 1/2 09:38 Thu, Jan 15 G B Chapter 298 The Scandal on Instagram 79% +20 Free Coins first

move, we shouldn't just sit back. Pass the word-blacklist her completely. Make sure she never shows her face in this industry again." Johnny nodded right away. "No problem, Mr. Omega.

Honestly, this mess on Instagram is enough to end her for good." He paused, like he suddenly remembered something. "By the way, Mr. Ortega, I heard a rumor about Wisteria's debut single-the one that was a massive hit back in the day. Apparently, she plagiarized Avi's song. Now Avi's fans are digging for evidence. With the way they operate, if they find proof, we won't even have to do anything-her situation will get a lot worse." A sly light flashed in my eyes as my lips curled into a cold smile. "If that's the case, let's give this scandal some extra fuel.

Make the storm even bigger." "Yes, Mr. Ortega, I know exactly what to do." Johnny immediately caught my meaning and hurried off to take care of it. Just as I expected, proof that Wisteria had plagiarized Avi's old song was quickly posted all over Instagram. As soon as the news broke, Avi's fans went wild-there was no way they would tolerate someone stealing from their idol. Thousands of Avi's fans swarmed Wisteria's Instagram and any topic related to her, leaving comments and calling her out nonstop. In no time at all, #WisteriaPlagiarizedAvi shot to the top of the trending topics.

And it didn't stop there. More accusations followed-stories about Wisteria acting like a diva, bullying newcomers, and badmouthing colleagues surfaced one after another. In an instant, Wisteria became public enemy number one, shamed and cast out for good. That's what happens when you cross me. ☰ ||| 2/2 Mark

Chapter 299 You've Got a Package Amanda's POV: 79% +20 Free Coins When I woke up, the sun was already shining brightly outside, warm light pouring onto the windowsill. The roses Samson gave me last night were in full bloom, their pink petals open and vibrant. I stretched and couldn't help smiling. After getting up, I washed up, got dressed, and headed out of my room. "Morning!" I greeted Josh in the dining room. He set down his glass of milk and came over, curiosity in his eyes. "Boss, you seem to be in a pretty good mood." I grinned, my smile growing wider. "Of course!

Hurry up, or you'll be late." Josh glanced at his watch, yelped in surprise, and shoveled a few bites of food into his mouth. before jumping up. "I'm good-let's go to school" We got into the car together. On the way, Josh couldn't hold back his excitement and started telling me about the game. "Boss, you won't believe this. Ecstasy God logged in last night! The whole game forum is talking about it, and everyone's guessing if he's coming back.

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I really want to see him play live again-it's just awesome!" I flipped through my textbook, not looking too interested, but asked casually, "You're a big fan?" "It's not just about being a fan-it's more like respect!" Josh sounded fired up. "He's still the only one to win every championship in the game. Nobody's beaten his records yet! KK is his number

one fan. When he saw Ecstasy God log in last night, he was so excited he barely slept." I replied with an "Oh" and asked, "Do you want to play with him?" Josh nodded hard, eyes lighting up. "Of course!

I could team up with someone like Ecstasy God, it'd be the coolest thing ever. Everyone in the scene would be jealous!" I glanced at him and dropped the subject. When the car was almost at the school gate, I spoke up slowly, "Then you'd better get ready for finals. If you reach the goal we set, maybe your wish will come true." 1/2 09:38 Thu, Jan 15 G B Chapter 299 You've Got a Package Before Josh could react, I opened the car door and got out. < 79% +20 Free Coins He called after me through the window, "Boss, wait up!

Can you help me check my essay later?" I waited for him, and we walked into the classroom. I'd just sat down after putting away my bag when a classmate poked their head in from the door. "Amanda, you've got a package at the security booth. Don't forget to pick it up." I felt a bit surprised. Who would send me a package? And why send it to the training camp? I haven't ordered anything online lately, and I haven't given out the camp address to anyone.

I didn't think much of it, and only after training ended at noon did I slowly walk to the guard's office to pick up a cardboard box wrapped up tight. I didn't open it right away. I carried it back to the classroom. "Boss, what's in the box? Did you buy something cool?" Josh leaned in, eyeing the package with curiosity. I pressed my lips together and told the truth. "I haven't bought anything online lately. I have no idea what's inside. Guess we'll find out when I open it." With that, I grabbed the scissors on my desk and carefully snipped the tape on the box...

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Chapter 300 An Invitation Amanda's POV: I quickly closed the box and blocked Josh's view I said casually, "It's just a regular model car, nothing special. If you like it, I can give you a regular one next time." Josh laughed, scratching the back of his head. "Thanks, Boss! But honestly, I'm kind of surprised you're into racing models. Most girls aren't really into that stuff." I lifted my hand and patted his shoulder, my tone teasing. "Finished all your homework? You've got plenty of energy to worry about this nonsense." Josh looked instantly embarrassed and shrank back a little.

"Alright, alright." I didn't say anything else. My eyes drifted back to the package in front of me, my thoughts already far away. Josh's voice slowly faded into the background. All I could think about was that envelope marked with "Læm." Who had sent this package A sense of unease crept into my heart. Without thinking, I slid the box toward the corner of the desk, out of Josh's line of sight. The entire afternoon, I couldn't focus at all. When training finally ended, I went home with Josh. As soon as I entered my bedroom, I tucked the package deep inside my desk.

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I had just sat down to sort through my thoughts when my phone suddenly rang in my pocket. Seeing Theo's name on the screen, I raised an eyebrow and answered the call. "Boss, you got the package, right?" Theo's voice came through the phone, tight with urgency. The question instantly cleared up my doubts, but I still asked calmly, "You sent it?" "No, no," Theo said quickly, denying it. "It was sent by a newly formed racing team back home. Inside is their invitation to participate in the competition.

They're holding their first major race on the third of next month and specifically invited you to race under the name Læm. The invitation was originally sent to me, but since you're at the training camp, I had it forwarded there." So that was it. I let out a quiet breath, but a new worry quickly took its place. 1/2 09:39 Thu, Jan 15 G B Chapter 300 An Invitation "Boss, are you planning to race?" Theo asked, his voice full of hope. 79% +20 Free Coins I didn't hesitate at all.

"No." I didn't want the identity of Læm exposed again, and the noise and chaos of the racing circuit were no longer the life I wanted. Theo seemed to expect my answer and rushed to add, "Boss, don't turn it down so fast! I heard this event is huge. Almost all the top racers in the country have been invited. It's going to be packed with action. Even if you don't compete, we could go just to check it out. The prize for first place is ten million dollars." "Ten million dollars." The words hit me hard, like a rock thrown into a quiet lake, sending shockwaves through my calm thoughts.

My fingers paused slightly. I had to admit that the number tempted me. I was working on a project that needed a lot of money, and ten million would be a lifesaver. "Boss, how about you think it over again? Just go help me see how things look out there," Theo kept pushing. I stayed silent for a few seconds, then firmed my resolve. "No. I really don't want to step back into the racing world." Hearing how firm I was, Theo didn't argue anymore. "Alright, Boss, I get it. If you change your mind later, just tell me anytime.

I've still got some things to take care of, so I'll hang up now." "Okay," I said, and ended the call. The bedroom fell quiet again. I walked back to the desk and slowly opened the package, taking out the invitation inside. The gold-stamped letters stood out against the high-quality card. The time, location, and rules of the race were all clearly printed, showing just how much effort the organizers had put into the event. My fingers brushed over the name "Læm" on the invitation. The struggle in my heart grew stronger with every second.... 2/2 Mark