

Alpha Amanda's love adventure novel

Chapter 331 Entrusted Amanda's POV: +10 Free Coins Using the last of his strength, Hugh slowly lifted his hand and placed mine together with Samson's, pressing them firmly into each other. His palm was cold, yet the grip carried an undeniable force. "I hope ... the two of you can be together... and run Eclipse Pack side by side... Amanda... the Ortegas... and Samson ... I'm trusting all of it to you," His voice was weak but steady. "Hugh!" I froze, tears spilling even harder as my voice broke. I couldn't form a complete sentence.

I never imagined that his final wish would be for Samson and me to be together. Hugh did not give me time to react. He looked at me stubbornly, his eyes filled with hope. "Samson is a good kid... with you by his side ... I can finally rest easy..." Then, with great effort, he turned his head toward Samson. His tone became solemn, carrying the weight of a final request. "Samson ... take good care of Amanda... Don't ever let her down... Even if I'm gone ... I'll still be blessing you both..." After those words, Hugh's voice faded completely.

The rise and fall of his chest became barely noticeable, and the pressure of his hand on ours slowly loosened. I completely lost control. I collapsed against the side of the bed, sobbing uncontrollably. My tears soaked into the sheets. "Hugh, please don't go... Please ... Hugh, wake up..." Beside himself, me, Samson's eyes were red. He held my hand tightly, his body trembling despite I could feel his grief, and I could feel the warmth of his palm around mine. That warmth felt like the only thing holding me together in that moment of despair.

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Josh's POV: "Hugh..." "Grandpa..." The moment I reached the emergency hallway, heart-wrenching sobs came from the operating room. The desperation and pain in those cries made my chest tighten as a wave of fear swept through me. Alan and I exchanged a look. The unease in his eyes mirrored my own. We quickened our pace and nearly stumbled as we rushed toward the door. 1/2 16:55 Mon, Jan 19 Chapter 331 Entrusted 25 +10 Free Coins The operating room door was cracked open. The crying inside was clear. It was Amanda and Samson. Alan and I froze, staring at the open doorway in disbelief.

It felt like a line between life and death, separating two different worlds. Cody stood by the door, his eyes red, tear tracks still visible on his face. Alan was the first to snap out of it. He stepped forward and grabbed Cody by the arm. His voice shook violently as he demanded, nearly shouting, "What happened? Where's Grandpa? How is my Grandpa?" Cody winced from the pain but did not pull away. He wiped at his eyes hard, his voice hoarse and broken as he spoke slowly, word by word. "Mr. Hugh ... passed away." Those simple words hit like a thunderclap in my ears.

Alan staggered, his face turning deathly pale. His grip on Cody loosened as he stumbled back a couple of steps, staring blankly toward the operating room as if he could not process what he had just heard. I was just as stunned. My mind went completely blank, a loud ringing filling my ears. How was that possible? That morning, Grandpa had been perfectly fine. He had smiled and told us not to go to the Operations Department, telling us to focus on our own things. How could he be gone after just a few hours?

Before I could react, Alan suddenly rushed into the operating room like he had lost his mind. "Grandpa!" His voice cracked as it echoed through the room. The next second, there was a dull thud as he dropped to his knees in front of the bed. He clutched the edge tightly, his shoulders shaking violently. I hurried in after him. The moment I entered, I saw Grandpa lying quietly on the bed. His face was pale, completely drained of color. The kind smile he always wore was gone forever. The sight felt like a heavy weight crushing my chest, making it hard to breathe. Grief swallowed me whole.

I walked toward the bed, my legs giving out as I nearly collapsed. I barely managed to steady myself by gripping the edge of the bed. Tears poured down my face as I forced out the words through my sobs. "I'm sorry, Grandpa ... we came too late... we should have gone with you to the Operations Department..." 2/2 16:56 Mon, Jan 19 Mark

Chapter 332 I Was Trying to Kill You Derrick's POV: +10 Free Coins The news of my grandpa's death hit like a sudden storm and swept through the entire Eclipse Pack. My grandpa had been one of the strongest werewolves for years. His death didn't just throw the Eclipse Pack into chaos-it shook the balance of power inside the pack. I sat in my empty office, my knuckles turning white. My subordinate's report kept playing over and over in my head. "How could this happen? Why was it Grandpa?" I swept all the files off the desk. My wolf eyes burned red with rage and refusal to accept it.

"I wanted to kill Samson! That loser who thinks he's the Eclipse's heir! Why is Grandpa the one who died?!" "Mr. Derrick, what's done is done. Regret won't change anything." My subordinate's voice trembled. He was clearly terrified of Samson. "If Samson finds out we were behind this, we're dead. We should leave now while we still can. As long as we're alive-" "Leave?" I sneered. It sounded twisted. "I carry the wolf blood of the Ortegas. I'm the true bloodline of the Eclipse Pack. No matter how strong Samson is, would he kill his own family?"

Can he handle that kind of blame?" My subordinate tried to say more, but my icy stare shut him up. "If you're scared, get out." I closed my eyes. My wolf was going wild from the stress. "I'm staying right here. Either he dies, or I do." Realizing I wouldn't budge, he sighed. "Take care, Mr. Derrick. Maybe we'll meet again someday." His footsteps faded away, leaving me alone in the silence. I could hear my own heavy breathing. I knew it was coming. This fight over power and blood could only end with one side destroyed. I stood by the floor-to-ceiling window, looking toward Ortega Castle.

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When I felt a familiar wolf spirit aura getting closer, I turned around. Samson pushed the door open. I said calmly, "You're here. Sooner than I expected." 1/2 16:56 Mon, Jan 19 Chapter 332 I Was Trying to Kill You 23 10 Free Coins Samson walked straight up to me. The pressure coming off him made the air feel heavy. We shared the same bloodline, but his wolf spirit was stronger than mine. I couldn't help tightening my fists. "Did you do that to Grandpa?" His voice was low. Every word hit my chest like a hammer. I didn't deny it.

I met his eyes and said it clearly, "Yes." The second the word left my mouth, Samson's fist slammed into my left cheek. It was painful. I stumbled back two steps, blood leaking from the corner of my mouth. I didn't dodge. I didn't fight back. I just looked at him and sneered. "Go on, Samson! You might as well kill me!" "You bastard!" Samson's eyes were red as he punched me again. "Do you know how much Grandpa loved you? How could you do that to him?" I let his punches land. The pain actually made my head feel clearer. "Loved me?" I snapped.

"If he loved me, he would've given me the Eclipse Pack. Why you? You were just lucky-you awakened a stronger wolf spirit. I'm the one who should've led the pack! "I was trying to kill you!" I roared, my wolf eyes glowing red with madness. "Grandpa insisted on protecting you. He died in your place! Samson, this is all your fault!" Samson froze. 2/2 16:56 Mon, Jan 19 Mark

Chapter 333 The Price of Betrayal : Chapter 333 The Price of Betrayal Derrick's POV: +10 Free Coins He looked down at me, the anger gone from his eyes. All that was left was cold indifference. "You're right. Killing you won't bring Grandpa back." He paused, his voice turning icy. "But I won't let you die easily. I'll destroy your wolf spirit and kick you out of Howlstead. You'll spend the rest of your life in shame and pain, paying for what you did." Destroy my wolf spirit? Kicking me out of Howlstead? Panic finally hit me. This was worse than death. "Samson, you can't do this!

We're brothers! We share the same blood!" "Brothers?" Samson let out a short laugh. "The moment you hurt Grandpa, we stopped being brothers." As soon as he said that, two werewolf enforcers in uniform walked in. They pulled out special soul-restraining cuffs and snapped them onto me. The cuffs suppressed my wolf spirit instantly. I couldn't fight back at all. "Samson, you'll regret this!" I struggled and shouted, but it was useless. He didn't even look at me. He only said coldly, "Take him to the castle's hall.

Make him apologize to Grandpa on his knees." The car stopped at the gates of Ortega Castle. I was dragged into the hall by the guards. The funeral music and the sound of people crying hit me like a wall. Everyone's eyes were on me-rage, disgust, and pity. I didn't dare lift my head. I didn't dare look at my grandpa's portrait in the center of the hall. I could only keep my head down. "Derrick, you beast!" Josh lunged at me, but Alan held him back. "Let me go! I'll kill him and avenge Grandpa!" "He killed Grandpa!

He's the murderer!" Voices rose all around me, stabbing into my heart like needles. My whole body shook as I kept shaking my head. "I didn't mean to... I didn't want to 1/3

16:56 Mon, Jan 19 Chapter 333 The Price of Betrayal kill Grandpa... I only wanted to kill Samson..." : +10 Free Coins "Apologize to your grandpa on your knees." Amanda's voice cut in, cold and sharp. I just moved when someone kicked my calf hard. My knees slammed into the concrete with a loud thud. Pain shot through my legs. Samson's voice came from behind me, filled with sadness.

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"Grandpa, you always taught me to care about family and protect our own. But he killed you. This time, I can't listen to you." He pressed my head down and smashed it against the floor. Bang. Bang. Bang. Three hard hits. Blood seeped from my forehead, and my vision started to blur. "Take him away," Samson said, completely emotionless. The guards dragged me out. As I passed Amanda, I used the last bit of my strength to look at her one last time before finally closing my eyes. I knew I hadn't just lost the right to inherit the Eclipse Pack.

I had also destroyed my brotherhood with my own hands and lost the only place in the world where I truly belonged. Amanda's POV: After Hugh's funeral, the Ortegas seemed calm again—at least on the surface. Everyone went back to their roles. Alan was busy cleaning up pack matters. Josh focused on his finals. Samson threw himself fully into the core work of the Eclipse Pack. But I could feel it—underneath that calm was a cold, lonely feeling that wouldn't go away. Like now. I walked through the door after school and instinctively looked toward the corner of the living room.

Hugh used to sit there at this time, in his wicker chair—either reading the newspaper with his reading glasses or playing chess. When he saw me, he'd smile and say, "Amanda, are you hungry?" Now, the chair was empty. The small table beside it had no chess pieces. The whole living room was so quiet it made my chest feel hollow. My nose stung. I quickly looked away, tightened my grip on my backpack straps, and hurried upstairs. Alice sighed. "Amanda, don't be sad. Hugh is just watching over us from somewhere else." "I know," I said. Still, my eyes burned. I get that death is a part of life.

I knew how the werewolf clan's cycle worked. But I couldn't let go of the man who had always loved me, protected me, and treated me like his real granddaughter. 2/3 16:57 Mon, Jan 19 Chapter 333 The Price of Betrayal After Hugh passed away, Samson became incredibly busy. 25 +10 Free Coins Before, no matter how busy he was, he'd still make time to drive me to school. Sometimes he even waited for me at the school gate after class. Now, he barely had time to talk to me. When I woke up in the morning, he was already at the office. When I went to sleep at night, the light in his room was still on.

I knew he was under pressure—holding the Eclipse Pack together, dealing with the mess Derrick left behind, and trying to fulfill Grandpa's wish to strengthen the pack. I didn't want to bother him. All I could do was quietly stay home and help with whatever I could. The next morning, Josh drove me to training camp like usual. As the car left Ortega Castle and passed a row of oak trees, I looked at the bare branches outside the window

and suddenly realized winter was already halfway over. There was still a thin frost on the grass by the road, and the air was freezing.

I casually said, "Tomorrow's Christmas Eve, right?" "Yeah!" Josh pulled out his phone and checked the calendar. His eyes lit up. "Tomorrow's the 24th-Christmas Eve! And the day after is Christmas! My classmates said it might snow this year. I wonder if we'll get snow in the Eclipse Pack territory." "Probably," I said, looking back at him. "I checked the weather last night. A cold front is coming around Christmas, so there's a good chance it'll snow." "Awesome!" Josh rubbed his hands together excitedly. "It's been forever since I've seen snow.

If it snows on Christmas, maybe I'll actually crush my finals!" Seeing how happy he was made me relax a little. I couldn't help but smile faintly. Maybe a snowfall really could wash away some of the gloom lately... 3/3 16:57 Mon, Jan 19 Mark

Chapter 334 Christmas Eve Amanda's POV: : A 25 +10 Free Coms After getting out of the car, Josh and I walked into school together. As soon as we reached the classroom, we saw everyone gathered and chatting. "I heard Jennifer from our class is representing Howlstead Foreign Affairs Department at tonight's interpack exchange. That's a big deal. We should watch the livestream!" "Right? As an Alpha heir, Jennifer stepping up to handle foreign affairs really boosts Howlstead's image and wins over the public. She's amazing!" I pulled out my chair and sat down. Emily immediately rushed over.

"Amanda, let's watch the livestream tonight to support Jennifer, okay?" I nodded. "It's her first public appearance as the Foreign Affairs Department's rep. Big deal. I'll ask Cody to help arrange a flower basket and send it over. It's our way of showing support." "Okay! I'll make a card too!" Emily said. She studied me for a second, looking like she had a secret. "So, has Alan been up to anything new lately?" I looked at her. "You don't know your idol's schedule?" Emily looked awkward. "H-how would I know? I just heard he's been busy." Something felt off.

"Wait, Emily, what's going on with you lately? You seem really invested in Alan." She was never like this before. Emily tried to play it cool. "What are you talking about? I just wanted to know what he's been doing. You're overthinking it." I could smell something fishy going on, but since she didn't want to talk, I didn't push. Winter was here, and spring wasn't far off. Love season was probably coming too. "Let's spend Christmas Eve together tomorrow," I suggested. But Emily rejected it right away. "I can't.

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I-I have plans." I was hoping to go shopping or watch a movie with her, but since she was busy, I let it go. "Alright then. Go do your thing. I'm fine spending the holiday alone." This year's Christmas Eve was freezing cold. When I opened the window, all I saw was a wall of thick fog. I put on a thick jacket before heading downstairs. 1/3 16:57 Mon, Jan 19 Chapter 334 Christmas Eve 25 +10 Free Coins "Wow, boss, you're too popular,"

Josh said, looking at his own drawer with only a few cookies inside. He looked a bit jealous. I was surprised, too.

"In Howlstead, eating cookies on Christmas Eve means you'll have a peaceful year ahead. Don't forget to eat a few." Josh nodded, then somehow pulled out a beautifully wrapped box and handed it to me. "Boss, have a Merry Christmas." I was surprised he had prepared cookies for me. I took it and said, "Thanks." Josh grinned. "That's the least I can do. But, don't forget your promise." 16:57 Mon, Jan 19 Chapter 335 Let's Get Married Chapter 335 Let's Get Married Amanda's POV: : +10 Free Coins I looked at Josh, confused. He explained, "Finals are coming up.

You promised that if I break into the top three, you'll play games with me. We need to put that on the schedule." Oh. That. If he hadn't reminded me, I would've forgotten. Too many things had happened lately-Hugh's death, Derrick's betrayal and punishment. One thing after another. My head had been a mess. "Sure," I said, nodding. "Do your best." "Don't worry!" Josh said confidently. "I've got this. I'm getting top three for sure!" Seeing how motivated he was, the heaviness in my chest eased a little. Somehow, his energy rubbed off on me. For the next few classes, I listened extra carefully.

Even Alice's occasional muttering inside me didn't distract me. Before school was even over, my phone buzzed. It was a text from Samson. I peeked at it under my desk. It was just one short sentence, "I'm waiting for you at the school gates." The moment I read it, my heart skipped a beat. I felt this tiny, unexplainable spark of excitement deep down. I packed up my things and headed for the exit. As soon as I walked out, I saw the familiar black car parked by the road. I walked over and lightly knocked on the window.

The window rolled down, and a look of surprise flashed in Samson's eyes when he saw me. "Training's over already? That's earlier than I expected." I nodded without hesitation. "Where are we going?" I asked as I got into the passenger seat. 1/2 16:57 Mon, Jan 19 Mark

Chapter 335 Let's Get Married a 25 +10 Free Coins Samson gave me a mysterious smile as he started the engine. "You'll see soon. I promise you won't be disappointed." About half an hour later, the car stopped in front of a restaurant. We followed the waiter up to a private room on the second floor. The moment I opened the door, I couldn't help saying, "Nice place. Pretty elegant." Samson stepped forward and pulled out the chair across from him for me, his tone gentle. "Have a seat." We sat facing each other.

Just as we settled in, a server came in carrying a delicate plate with a beautiful dessert on it. "It's Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas to you both," the waiter said with a smile before quietly stepping out. Samson raised an eyebrow and looked at me. "Christmas Eve?" "Yeah. A lot's been going on lately, so it's normal to forget," I said with a small smile. It was pretty obvious that Samson had no idea it was Christmas Eve and hadn't prepared any gifts. He stayed silent for a few seconds, looking genuinely apologetic. "I've been busy dealing with pack matters.

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I barely go out, and I completely lost track of the holidays." "I get it," I said, waving my hand. "The Eclipse Pack just went through a lot. There's so much to handle. You've worked hard." I'd seen how exhausted he looked. All I felt for him was sympathy, not anger. Samson looked up at me. His eyes were deep and serious, his face calm, but for some reason, it made me nervous. "Actually, there's something I wanted to talk to you about today." My heart did a little flip, picked up the teapot, and poured him a cup of tea, handing it over. "Sure. What is it?" Samson took the cup.

His fingers brushed mine, cool to the touch. He took a sip, then gave a quiet "Mm," like he was choosing his words. I sat there watching him, my heart racing faster by the second. I even found myself holding my breath. A few seconds later, Samson looked up again and locked eyes with me. Then, slowly and clearly, he said, "Let's get married." 2/2 16:57 Mon, Jan 19 Chapter 336 Why Are You Here? : Chapter 336 Why Are You Here? Amanda's POV: Those simple words hit me like thunder. I froze. 25 +10 Free Coins The teacup slipped from my hand.

Water spilled everywhere with a splash, soaking the table and my sleeve. I stared at him, my throat tight. It took forever to find my voice, and when I did, it was shaking. "W-what did you say?" Samson seemed to expect this. His expression stayed calm as he reached out and gently dabbed the water from my sleeve. His touch was gentle, and the warmth of his fingers through the wet fabric made my heart race even faster. "I want to fulfill Grandpa's last wish," he said softly. He paused, his eyes turning serious as they locked onto mine. "Besides, I've sensed it. My destined mate is Læm.

Amanda, marry me." "Your destined mate is Læm..." I repeated under my breath, my mind spinning. So he sensed it, too? I clenched my fist. Inside me, Alice gasped in shock. "Amanda! He actually sensed it!" But after the initial shock, reality pulled me back. I couldn't reveal Læm's identity. Not yet. My throat felt even drier, but I forced myself to stay calm. "So is this just to fulfill Grandpa's wish, and because of this so-called destined mate?" Samson met my eyes and slowly nodded. He didn't say much, but I could see how sure he was.

Yet, in that confidence, there was a tiny hint of nervousness that I didn't think even he noticed. When I heard that "destined mate" was one of the reasons for his proposal, a quiet sweetness rose in my chest. But then I remembered I couldn't admit to being Læm yet, and that made me feel a little let down. I opened my mouth to speak, but Samson beat me to it. "Don't be scared. We can get engaged first. We can wait a couple of years for the actual wedding until you feel ready." "But-" I tried to pick my words, and he cut me off. 1/3 Mark

Chapter 336 Why Are You Here? 25 +10 Free Coins "No buts." His tone softened, compromising. "If you don't want to, just tell me. I won't force you." I pressed my lips together, my fingers unconsciously digging into the edge of the table. Before I found the right words, Samson continued, "Grandpa loved me the most and had the highest

expectations for me. This was his only wish. I don't want to leave any regrets." That sentence hit me right in the heart. Hugh was so good to me, loving me like a real granddaughter. How could I let him down? And he was Samson's grandpa.

After struggling with my feelings for a long time, I took a deep breath, looked up at him, and nodded. "Okay. I agree. We can get engaged first." A tiny spark of light flashed in Samson's eyes, though he quickly went back to his calm self. He nodded calmly, like he was discussing a business deal. "I'll have people start preparing. What kind of engagement party do you like?" The sudden talk of a party made my brain go blank. I blinked a few times and shook my "I haven't thought about it yet." Samson wasn't in a rush. He said gently, "That's fine. Tell me when you've decided." head.

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I looked at his calm side profile and suddenly felt unreal. I secretly pinched my thigh. The sharp pain told me this wasn't a dream. I looked back up at Samson again and blinked. Engagement? This was all happening way too fast. My brain couldn't even process it. The waiter came in to clean the table, and the rest of the dishes were served. But I barely had an appetite. My head was spinning with words like "destined mate" and "engagement." Samson seemed to notice that I was distracted. He didn't talk much, just quietly put some of my favorite food on my plate now and then.

We finished the meal in silence. Samson went to the counter to pay. Just as we were about to walk out of the restaurant, we ran straight into Alan and Emily. All four of us froze, staring at each other. Emily looked the most shocked. Her eyes went wide as she pointed at Samson and me, full of 2/3 16:57 Mon, Jan 19 Chapter 336 Why Are You Here? disbelief. "Amanda, you... Why are you here, too?" 3/3 21 (24) +10 Free Coins Mark

Chapter 337 It Is Happening Amanda's POV: +10 Free Coins I watched Alan and Emily standing side by side. Alan's arm rested protectively around Emily, their pose intimate and unforced. Emily's cheeks were tinged with pink. She kept glancing at Alan, that shy, slightly dependent look making their connection obvious. I didn't say anything about it, just smiled and nodded. "Perfect timing for dinner." "Take your time. We'll head out first." I waved goodbye, quickening my pace to catch up with Samson, who was already a couple of steps ahead. We didn't stop until we reached the corner.

There, Samson paused and raised an eyebrow at me, sounding a little unsure. "Are they a couple?" I shrugged, playing coy. "Hard to say." But honestly, I thought Alan and Emily were a great fit. Alan was steady and gentle, while Emily was lively and bright. Together, they gave off a warm, comforting vibe. If they really did end up together, I'd be happy for them. "Let's get home." I changed the subject, not wanting to gossip about other people's lives. Samson just grunted and matched my pace. "If you have any ideas for the engagement party, talk to Cody.

He'll handle everything." Hearing him talk about our engagement like a work memo made my chest tighten. That was when it really hit me—he wasn't invested in this engagement at all. If it weren't for Hugh's last wish, he'd never have agreed to this. The thought stung, like a tiny thorn quietly pricking my heart. Alan's POV: I only looked away when Amanda and Samson disappeared around the corner. Then I turned to Emily, my voice softening without me realizing it. "Did that scare you?" Emily still looked a little dazed and shaken. She blinked, shook her head, then hesitated before nodding.

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"A little... I didn't expect to run into Samson and Amanda." 1/3 16:58 Mon, Jan 19 Chapter 337 It Is Happening I couldn't help myself—I reached up and ruffled her hair gently, feeling that familiar warmth in my chest. "Don't worry about it. Let's go in and eat. I already reserved the foie gras you wanted." "Really?" Emily's eyes sparkled, her nerves gone. She grabbed my sleeve and tugged me toward the restaurant. "Let's go, then!" I let her pull me along, smiling the whole way. When I was with Emily, even the air felt lighter.

It was nothing like the constant pressure I felt handling pack business. Once we sat down, I slid the menu to her. "Order whatever you like." Emily flipped through the menu, glancing up now and then. "What about the salmon? Do you like it?" "If you want it, let's get it. I'm easy." I smiled and poured her a glass of warm water. "Drink some water first." Dinner was relaxed and cozy. After dropping Emily off at home, I finally headed back to Ortega Castle. The moment I walked into the living room, I spotted Josh and Patrick sitting there, their faces stormy.

Samson was at the head of the table, calm and collected, as if waiting for this moment. When he saw me come in, he looked up. "Now that everyone's here, let's get to it." He paused before announcing, "I'm getting engaged to Amanda." "What?" Josh practically jumped off the couch. "Samson, you can't be serious! You and Amanda? Does this mean she's going to be my sister-in-law? This is wild!" I was stunned too. I sat beside them, frowning. "Samson, marriage is a big deal. I know it was Grandpa's wish, but you don't have to go through with it if you don't want to.

Honestly, Amanda's not—" Before I could finish the sentence, I caught myself and coughed to cover my awkwardness. It wasn't that I disliked Amanda. It was just that with Samson's status, he had his pick. I went on, "No matter what, Amanda's background... Let's just say, you deserve better." Patrick, who rarely chimed in, spoke up. "Samson, our family's never cared much about matching backgrounds, but marriage should at least be about love. If you don't love her, you're just hurting both of you." 2/3 16:58 Mon, Jan 19 Chapter 337 It Is Happening "Exactly!" Josh agreed quickly.

"They say a loveless marriage is a grave—" a 24 10 Free Coins He hadn't even finished when Samson cut him off, voice firm and final. "My mind's made. No matter what you all say, it is happening." He turned to Patrick. "I'll need you and your studio to handle the suits. The rest, don't worry. I've got it under control." That was enough to shut us up. We

all knew Samson-once he decided on something, there was no changing his mind. Still, worry gnawed at us. How long could a marriage based on someone else's wish really last? And what would Samson and Amanda actually get out of it? 3/3 Mark

Chapter 338 Christmas Day Amanda's POV: It was Christmas Day. 5 24 +10 Free Coins
When I woke up, the first thing I saw was a world of white outside the window. Snowflakes drifted lazily down, wrapping the entire castle in a blanket of ice and snow. I pressed my hand against the cold glass and breathed out a cloud of steam, watching the white fog swirl and fade. It was truly freezing. Even Alice, deep inside me, couldn't help but shiver. "Amanda, it's so cold outside. Let's just stay in the room today." I smiled and agreed, then dug out a thick white puffer coat.

I bundled myself up with the hood and scarf, and finally slipped on my fuzzy slippers to go downstairs. The moment I stepped into the hall, I was taken aback by the scene-a team of housekeepers were bringing out a huge Christmas tree from storage, setting it right in the center of the living room where it would catch everyone's eye. There were still a few leftover decorations from last year hanging on the green branches, and sunlight pouring through the windows gave everything a warm glow. "Ms.

Lamb, you're awake." The head housekeeper spotted me and immediately paused to greet I hurried over to the tree, brushing my fingers lightly across the cold branches, unable to hide my delight. "This tree is beautiful! Where did it come from?" "This is the one Mr. Josh picked out specially for Christmas last year," the housekeeper explained as she adjusted the branches, then her voice suddenly caught when she mentioned Hugh. "When Mr. Hugh was still with us. The whole family would gather around the tree to open gifts. The house was always so lively... After Mr.

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Hugh passed, it's felt so lifeless around the house. We wanted to make it festive for Christmas, cheer things up a little, maybe help Mr. Samson and the others feel a bit happier." Hearing that, I felt a wave of warmth in my heart. I offered right away, "Let me help." They all rushed to refuse, waving their hands. "No need, Ms. Lamb. We can handle this. Please, take it easy." 1/3 16:58 Mon, Jan 19 Chapter 338 Christmas Day : A +10 Free Coins But I didn't give them a chance to refuse. I grabbed a gold bell and some red ribbon and stretching up to help decorate.

Out of the corner of my eye, I saw Patrick come in with his design team. "Amanda." His voice was completely flat, like he was just ticking off a task on a list. "Samson sent me to get your measurements for the engagement gown." I froze mid-motion, turned to look at him, and nodded. "Give me a moment-I'll be right there." One of the housekeepers saw this and hurried to take the decorations from my hands. "Ms. Lamb, we'll finish the rest. Leave it to us." I handed the things over, dusted my palms, and walked over to Patrick.

Patrick looked me up and down, said nothing, and just motioned for his female assistant to come measure me. The assistant caught sight of the birthmark on my face, and a flicker of disdain flashed in her eyes. "Raise your arms." Her tone was icy and impatient. She quickly took all my measurements and passed the numbers to Patrick. Patrick glanced at the notepad, then looked up. "Do you Let me know and I can work them into the dress." have any design elements you like? I thought for a second, then said casually, "I don't have any special request. Just do what you think works best.

But please let me see the design before you finalize it." The assistant scoffed, loud enough for everyone to hear. "Our boss is an internationally known designer. People would kill to wear his work. No one ever dares to make demands." The contempt in her voice was obvious. Patrick's face darkened. He snapped, "Maya, that's enough. Head back." Then he turned to me, and his tone softened just a little. "Don't mind her. I'll show you the dress before it's finished. If you have any thoughts, just let me know." I shook my head. "It's fine.

Thanks for the trouble." "If there's nothing else, I'll get going." Patrick left with his team. 2/3 16:59 Mon, Jan 19 Chapter 338 Christmas Day I turned away, a new thought suddenly popping into my mind, and hurried upstairs. 24 +10 Free Coins Back in my room, I dug out a black leather sketchbook from the bottom of my suitcase. The cover was a little worn, but the book itself was perfectly kept. I opened it gently. On the very first page was a tuxedo design-a crisp silhouette, detailed embroidery, a unique collar, every part showing a professional touch.

It was something I'd drawn a year ago, just for fun, but I'd always been proud of that style. Back then, I thought that if I ever had the chance, I'd make sure my partner wore this suit... 16:59 Mon, Jan 19 Mark

Chapter 339 Let's Keep It Simple Amanda's POV: 24 +10 Free Coins By evening, the sky had grown dark, and snowflakes were still falling softly outside the window. In the living room, the Christmas lights were glowing-a warm golden color twined through the green branches of the tree, filling the whole space with a cozy, festive energy. I was helping Beata to bring the last dish to the table when I heard the front door opened-Samson was home after a long day at work. I froze for a moment, then looked up and saw him walk in.

He stopped in his tracks, taking in the transformed living room, and for a second, his surprise showed before it melted into something much warmer. "You're back. Go wash up. Dinner's ready." I carried the platter over to the table, unable to stop myself from smiling a little. The moment the words left my mouth, I was startled by how natural it sounded-almost like a wife waiting for her husband to come home. Samson seemed to hesitate as well. I could feel his usual hard edge soften, a warmth seeping out from him, sparked by the holiday and maybe by my smile.

He quickly got himself back under control, handed his briefcase to a waiting housekeeper, and came over to me. "Need a hand?" I glanced at the set table, steam

rising from the dishes. "No, it's all done. Just take a seat." Samson sat across from me. His eyes lingered on the spread for a moment, and his Adam's Apple bobbed. I could tell he was starving—he must have had a crazy day. "Alan said he has a special Christmas recording tonight and won't be home for dinner," I explained as I scooped mashed potatoes for him.

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"Josh let me know he'll be spending Christmas with friends, so it's just the two of us tonight." "Try this one—Beata made it especially for you. She said it's your favorite." I picked up a serving and placed it on his plate, waiting for his reaction. Samson tried it, chewed for a moment, and nodded. "It's really good." "Told you, Beata knows you best." I grinned and started eating too. There was no big celebration that night—just the two of us, quiet conversation, and the 1/3 16:59 Mon, Jan 19 Chapter 339 Let's Keep It Simple occasional clink of utensils.

But it felt peaceful in a way that put me at ease. After a while, Samson looked up at me. "Want to go out for a walk?" I was caught off guard and stared at him. "You... want to take me out?" 24 +10 Free Coins "I heard Coldmoon Pack's had fresh snow. The slopes are in perfect condition," he said, meeting my eyes. "Let's go skiing together." His words sent a ripple of excitement through me, my heart suddenly racing. He really invited me to take a trip with him! I squeezed my hands together under the table, unable to hide the flush in my cheeks. "I...

"I'll think about it." I ducked my head and poked at my food, trying to sound casual, but my voice was barely above a whisper. Samson didn't give me any chance to say no. He took out his phone and called Cody, his tone leaving no room for discussion. "Cody, set up a trip to Coldmoon Pack. Make sure all the ski gear is ready. We'll head out later tonight." When he hung up, he looked over at me and raised an eyebrow. "Is there a problem?" Seeing that look in his eyes, I knew there was no point arguing. I just shook my head. "No problem.

But there's something I want to talk to you about." Samson picked up his utensils again but didn't eat. He just looked at me and said, "Go ahead." I took a deep breath, carefully choosing my words. "About the engagement... I'd like to keep it simple. Nothing fancy, just a dinner with both families." He asked, "That's what you want?" I nodded firmly. "Yes. With Hugh gone, it doesn't feel right to throw a big party. Keeping it low-key makes more sense." Samson agreed without hesitation. "If that's what you want, then that's what we'll do.

Other than your grandparents, does anyone else need to be invited from your side?" "No, just the two of them," I said. "We can invite everyone else when we actually get married." "Alright. We'll do it your way," Samson replied. "We'll take care of it after the New Year." I let out a quiet sigh of relief. 2/3 16:59 Mon, Jan 19 Chapter 339 Let's Keep It Simple 24 10 Free Coins Honestly, a part of me had always wanted a romantic, grand

engagement, but with everything that's happened, a simple family dinner just feels right. Having his support made me feel more at ease.

After dinner, I went back to my room. I slid open the balcony door and a rush of cold air swept in. The snow had finally stopped. Moonlight made the snow outside shimmer with a faint silver glow. I sat on the rug by the window, looking out at the night, and replayed Samson's invitation and our conversation about the engagement in my mind. My heart was a mess-excited, a little anxious, and full of questions. Just then, there was a soft knock at the door... 3/3 16:59 Mon, Jan 19 Mark

Chapter 340 We're Not Together Yet Chapter 340 We're Not Together Yet Amanda's POV: "Who is it?" I called out without thinking. Before I finished the sentence, Samson pushed open the door and stepped inside. La 24 +10 Free Coins "Samson? What's wrong?" I stood up in surprise, having no idea what he wanted at this hour. He was holding a velvet jewelry box, walking over at a steady pace. He held it out to me. "Here, this is for you." I looked at him, confused, and took the box from his hands.

"What is it?" "Your Christmas gift." His voice was noticeably softer than usual, and there was a hint of anticipation in his eyes as he looked at me. For a moment, I just stared, then, hardly daring to believe it, lowered my head and gently opened the box. The second I saw what was inside, I froze, stunned. "This..." I started to ask something, but the words caught in my throat. "That's a blood gemstone we found at the gemstone market. I had our company designer make it into a bracelet." Samson spoke from beside me, his voice calm as ever, yet carrying a quiet confidence that left no doubt.

"I thought it turned out well and might make a lovely gift." Of course I knew all about this gemstone. I'd always assumed he'd use it for business. It was worth a lot of money, after all. I never imagined he'd have it made into a bracelet, much less give it to me. I ran my fingers lightly across the bracelet's cold, smooth surface. Then, I looked up at him, puzzled. "Why give this to me?" "It suits you. Just take it." Samson glanced away, his tone flat again, and before I could say anything else, he turned to leave. I hurried to call out, "Thank you!" He paused for a split second.

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Without turning around, he answered quietly, "Mm," and then 1/3 16:59 Mon, Jan 19 Chapter 340 We're Not Together Yet the door closed gently behind him. : 24 +10 Free Coins The room was quiet again. It was just me and the blood gemstone bracelet on the table. I picked it up. The gemstone felt warm and smooth in my hand. Looking at this expensive gift, I couldn't help but smile a little. Samson, are you starting to have feelings for me, too? The thought popped up and I quickly shook my head, my smile fading. No way. He's only doing all this for Hugh.

If it weren't for Hugh's last wishes, he wouldn't even be engaged to me, let alone give me something this valuable. I knew better than to think otherwise. I didn't have great looks or a prominent family background. None of this was about me-it was all for Hugh's

sake. I put the bracelet carefully back in the box and tucked it away in the deepest corner of my suitcase. The lingering warmth of the gemstone was still on my fingertips, but my heart felt strangely heavy. When I went back to training camp, I couldn't focus at all. I sat with my pen in hand, staring at my empty workbook.

All I could think about was Samson giving me the bracelet last night. Emily noticed right away that something was off. She came over and gave my shoulder a gentle pat. "Amanda, what's on your mind? You're totally spaced out." I snapped out of it and realized my workbook was still blank. My cheeks got hot as I mumbled, "It's nothing, I just zoned out a little." Emily didn't buy it. She leaned in, lowered her voice, and whispered, "I heard you're getting engaged to Samson, the heir of the Ortegas. Is it true?" The mention of the engagement caught me off guard.

I looked up and met her earnest gaze, surprised. "How did you know?" Emily grinned mischievously. She must've heard it from Alan. She leaned even closer, full of envy. "Congratulations! Amanda, Samson is amazing-he's the perfect mate. You really lucked out!" I teased her back without missing a beat. "Alan isn't so bad himself. You've had a crush on him forever. Maybe you two should make it official." 2/3 16:59 Mon, Jan 19 Chapter 340 We're Not Together Yet A 24 +10 Free Coins Emily's face turned bright red in an instant, and she started stammering, "What are you talking about?"

Alan and I are not like that!" Seeing how flustered she was only made me want to tease her more. I grinned. "Right, right, not that kind of relationship. Yours is one of a kind, huh?" She was completely exposed now, hanging her head and whispering, "No, it's not like that... We're not together. Not yet." "Oh?" I drew out the word, giving her a knowing look. "So you're saying it might happen?" 3/3 Mark