

## Alpha Amanda's love adventure novel

Chapter 61 Coincidence Amanda's POV: 427 +10 Free Coins Theo leaned in, grinning like a puppy eager for praise. "Boss, don't worry. The Midnight Pack's little gear- making business will be ruined within three days. Guaranteed!" He rubbed his hands together, then asked carefully, "So... are you still mad?" I glanced at him, expressionless, and gave a small nod. Honestly, watching his confident face did ease my anger a bit. "Ha!" He laughed, eyes lighting up. "Then how about lunch? My treat. There's a new restaurant nearby, and it's supposed to be good." "Not today.

I still have work to finish." I pointed at the encrypted folder on my desk. "You go ahead." "Aw, come on, Boss." He tugged on my sleeve like a kid. "How are you supposed to work on an empty stomach? You promised to let me treat you. Take advantage of me while you can." I sighed, giving his head a light smack. "Fine. I'll make sure to eat well, then." After packing up my files, I followed Theo out of the classroom. His bubblegum-pink Lamborghini was parked right in front of the school gate, shiny and impossible to miss. Heads turned as we walked by.

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I slid into the passenger seat, shaking my head. "You really can't pick a more low-key car, can you?" Two days later, I organized the translated documents into a binder and went to Baxter's old brick mansion. I knocked and said, "Baxter, here's what you asked for." He opened it, flipped through a few pages, and raised his brows. "Only two days? Amanda, you really are a language prodigy." "I rushed it because I didn't want anything to go wrong," I explained. Then I hesitated before admitting, "I need to apologize.

Someone else saw the papers-just a student, probably didn't understand a word-but still, I can't be completely sure. You can deduct half of my payment as an apology." Baxter chuckled and set the folder down. "You're being too formal. I trust you, Amanda. If you say the file's secure, then it's secure. We've known each other for years-don't talk to me like I'm a client." Before I could argue, he picked up his phone. Within minutes, my phone buzzed with a transfer notification. One million crystal stones. "I'll take full responsibility if there's ever a leak," I said seriously. He smiled.

"That's all I needed to hear." As he walked me to the door, he added, "By the way, I heard the Midnight Pack went under. Rumor says it has something to do with one of your classmates. Be careful." 1/2 16:40 Mon, Dec 29 MA Chapter 61 Coincidence I nodded, my face calm. The Yeomans got what they deserved. T, ZU7) +10 Free Coins After leaving his place, I stopped by the bank and transferred part of the money to a charity fund. I was about to head home when I spotted a familiar car parked across the street. Inside, Samson was on the phone, his sharp profile catching the light.

I pretended not to see him and turned away, but his voice stopped me. "Amanda!" I froze, sighed inwardly, and forced a smile as I turned around. "Wow, what a coincidence. What are you doing here?" He said into the phone, "Then don't bother coming over." He ended his call and jerked his chin toward me. "Come here." That commanding tone made my stomach tighten. Still, out of courtesy, I walked over. "Can I help you with something?" "Get in." His words were flat, giving me no room to argue. I blinked. "You're ... giving me a ride? That's convenient.

Saves me a cab fare." I climbed in, buckled up, expecting a quiet drive home-until he handed me a stack of papers. "These are details for my meeting with the Moonshield Pack's Alpha. Read them." I stared at the papers, completely confused. "Why are you giving this to me?" Samson didn't answer right away. He just tapped the steering wheel lightly. "You'll understand after you read." Something in his tone made my chest tighten with unease. 2/2 Mark

Chapter 62 Assistant Chapter 62 Assistant Amanda's POV: €27 +10 Free Coins I flipped through the documents quickly. When I realized they were just business contracts, I finally let out a small sigh of relief. But... why was he giving them to me? I looked up at Samson, confused. "My assistant couldn't make it last minute," he said evenly, his tone calm but firm. "So, I need you to help me out." "You want me to pretend to be your assistant?" I frowned, surprised. Samson was never short on staff. Why me, of all people? Then I remembered the last time he helped me during that competition.

I still owed him a favor. The words of refusal died in my throat. I exhaled and nodded. "Fine. But I've never been an assistant before, so don't expect anything too professional." "That's fine," he replied simply. "I appreciate it." The contract he handed me was full of details about werewolf protective gear-partnership terms, delivery deadlines, and energy standards for Eclipse Pack. I skimmed through a few pages and quickly got the idea. It wasn't that different from what I'd seen when I worked with Glacier Pack, so it wasn't completely new to me.

Soon, the car stopped in front of a five-star hotel. When the doorman opened the car door, I instinctively smoothed my plain T-shirt and adjusted my black-rimmed glasses. Compared to the people walking in and out of the hotel-elegant, polished, glowing-I looked very much out of place. Inside the elevator, my reflection in the mirrored walls made me sigh. Just as I tried to fix my messy hair, Samson's voice came from beside me. "If you ever get the chance, you might want to polish up your look. For women, appearance can be a kind of advantage." A flash of irritation burned through me.

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If you think I'm so ugly, then don't ask me for help! But before I could say anything, the elevator doors slid open, and he stepped out. I bit back the retort and followed him, silently fuming. If I didn't owe you a favor, I'd never be here right now. He glanced back at me. "You coming?" His tone wasn't harsh-it almost sounded like he was waiting. a I caught up quickly, and we walked into a private dining room. Two middle-aged men

were already seated inside. The moment they saw Samson, they stood and smiled warmly. "Mr.

Ortega, we've been looking forward to meeting you." 1/2 16:40 Mon, Dec 29 M JA Chapter 62 Assistant Samson shook their hands politely. "Alpha, my apologies for keeping you waiting." +10 Free Coins "No need, I just arrived myself," the Alpha said smoothly. His eyes flicked to me for a second before moving away, his look of disdain barely hidden. The other man-probably the Gamma-gave me a long, curious look and smiled faintly. "Mr. Ortega, and who might this young lady be?" "This is my assistant, Amanda," Samson introduced briefly.

"Amanda, this is Moonshield Pack's Alpha and Gamma." I gave a polite nod. "Alpha, nice to meet you." The Gamma, Harlee Cadden, chuckled. "Mr. Ortega's assistant, huh? You don't look old enough for this kind of work. What are you-17?" His tone was playful, but his gaze was a little too bold. "You've got quite the eye, Mr. Ortega." My fingers tightened slightly around the folder, but I kept my tone even. "Gamma, I'm 18." I thought I was just there to make up the numbers, but halfway through the discussion, they started tossing questions at me.

"So, Amanda, don't you think these protective gear energy standards are a little too strict?" I steadied my thoughts, flipped to a page, and pointed at the clause. "Alpha, Eclipse Pack's warriors are mostly high-level Betas. If you lower the protective gear's energy threshold, it'll shatter easily in combat. These standards match the Bureau's latest safety protocols, so I wouldn't say they're too strict." I spoke clearly and to the point. The two men exchanged surprised glances. Even Samson looked up at me, a flicker of approval in his eyes.

As the discussion went on, I added a few comments when needed-sharp, concise, and right on target. By the time dessert arrived, I really did sound like someone who had been working with Samson for years. When the dishes were finally served, the Moonshield Alpha ordered a bottle of rare red wine. He smiled broadly. "Mr. Ortega, since we're mostly agreed on the details, I'll have our legal team draft the official contract. Here's to a great partnership." Samson nodded and raised his glass.

But just as our glasses lifted, I suddenly felt the Gamma's eyes on me-his stare strange and heavy, like he was sizing me up for something else. 2/2 Mark

Chapter 63 Cutting Ties Amanda's POV: +10 Free Coins The Alpha of Moonshield Pack set his wine glass down, smiling politely. "It's an honor for Moonshield Pack to work with Eclipse Pack. We'll make sure not to disappoint you, Mr. Ortega. Cheers to a successful partnership!" He tipped his glass back and finished the wine in one gulp, his eyes gleaming with determination. Once I saw that the contract details were settled, I finally felt relieved. At least this trip wasn't for nothing. My stomach was growling, so I picked up my fork and focused on the ribs on my plate.

Inside, Alice grumbled, "These ribs are too soft. The ones we had back at Glacier Pack were chewier. But hey, food's food." After a few rounds of drinks, everyone was getting a little tipsy. Samson excused himself and went to the restroom. He hadn't been gone for long when Harlee swaggered over with a drink in hand, the strong smell of alcohol hitting me before he even spoke. He plopped his glass down in front of me. "Amanda, have a drink with me." I frowned and pushed the glass aside. "Sorry, I don't drink." Alice snorted in my head. "Ugh, this creepy old gamma.

He's definitely up to no good. Don't bother with him!" Harlee's expression darkened immediately. He grabbed the wine bottle and poured it into my glass, spilling red wine all over the table. "I told you to drink. Don't make me say it twice. You think I can't have you kicked out of Eclipse Pack with one word?" The Moonshield Alpha pretended not to see any of it. He even turned away, sipping his wine like this was none of his business. In their eyes, I was just a stand-in assistant. Plain-looking, no background. Someone they could bully without consequence.

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After all, their deal with Eclipse Pack mattered a lot more than I did. Alice was fuming. "They're really testing us now! Do they think you're that easy to push around?" I bit down my anger and said as calmly as I could, "Sorry, Gamma. I really can't drink." Instead of backing off, he grabbed my shoulder, his fingers digging painfully into my skin. His voice turned low and suggestive. "Amanda, don't make me angry." The warmth drained from my eyes. I slapped his hand away hard and said coldly, "Gamma, please show some respect." "You dare talk to me like that?" he snapped.

"You should be grateful I'm even giving you attention! Don't be so shameless!" Then he raised his hand to shove me and slammed the wine bottle against the floor. 1/2 11 5 < 16:40 Mon, Dec 29 MEA Chapter 63 Cutting Ties The sharp sound of breaking glass exploded through the private room. Alice barked, "That's it-hit him! Don't you dare hold back!" Just then, the door burst open. Samson stood there, his face dark and terrifying. +10 Free Coins Harlee's face lit up like he'd found backup. He pointed at me and shouted, "Mr. Ortega!

Your assistant refused to drink and disrespected me!" He reached for my wrist, trying to drag me forward like I was some kind of servant who needed to apologize. But I didn't wait for Samson to act. My body reacted on its own. I let out a sharp laugh and kicked him straight between the legs. Alice cheered, "Nice! That'll hurt for a while!" "Ahhh!" Harlee's scream echoed through the room. He doubled over, clutching his groin, shaking from the pain. The Moonshield Alpha rushed over, trying to smooth things over. "This is all a misunderstanding! Mr. Ortega, please don't be angry.

She's just an assistant-if Gamma likes her, maybe you could, uh, let her..." "Let her?" Samson repeated, his voice colder than ice. Then he kicked Harlee square in the chest. A loud crack echoed-ribs, maybe. Harlee flew backward, slammed into the wall, and slid down to the floor, groaning in agony. Alice whistled. "Damn, that was brutal! Guess he's

not all talk. Didn't he call you ugly earlier?" Samson grabbed my hand and pulled me toward the door. His voice was firm, no hesitation at all. "I don't need to sell out my own people for a deal.

From this moment on, Eclipse Pack is cutting all ties with Moonshield Pack!" "Mr. Ortega, wait! We can talk about this!" the Moonshield Alpha called out frantically, chasing after us. "It was our fault! Please, give us another chance!" Samson didn't even look back. His hand was big and warm around my wrist, gripping tightly as if to protect me from everything behind us. As I followed him out of the hotel, staring at his tall, broad back, a strange warmth bloomed in my chest. My heart was racing all over the place.

But just as we stepped outside, his real assistant came running up and whispered something in his ear. Samson's face darkened instantly. I had no idea what had just happened. 2/2 16:40 Mon, Dec 29 M. Mark

Chapter 64 Ego Amanda's POV: +10 Free Coins Before I could even react, Samson walked me straight to the car. The moment the door shut, I instinctively pulled my hand away from his. His palm was still warm against my skin, and for some reason, my cars started to feel hot. Alice snickered in my head. "Ha! You were all calm and safe a minute ago, and now you're shy? You can't even let him hold your hand!" I ignored her and turned to look out the window. The car went quiet, so quiet that even the driver seemed to ease off the gas to avoid breaking the silence.

When we finally pulled up in front of Ortega Castle, I turned back to Samson and said seriously, "I want to thank you for what you did back there. If your pack ever needs my help, just say the word." After all, it was my fault the deal fell apart. I couldn't just let him shoulder the fallout alone. He'd probably been discussing what to do next with his assistant earlier. But Samson only gave me a cool glance and said flatly, "Go inside." Alice rolled her eyes. "Ugh, look at that ego! You're being nice, and he still acts all high and mighty!" I knew what he was like.

Alphas like him never accepted help easily-especially not from someone beneath them. So I didn't push it. I just opened the door and walked inside. Still, something about it bothered me, so I took out my phone and called Theo. "Theo," I said, "if Eclipse Pack needs any help, I want you to lend a hand. But make sure nobody knows it's coming from you." Theo laughed through the phone. "Boss, I think you've got Samson all wrong. The guy's one of the sharpest alphas in all of Howlstead. That's how Eclipse Pack has stayed one of the top packs for years.

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He doesn't need help from small-timers like us. "Trust me, Moonshield Pack isn't even worth his attention. He's not going to take any serious loss from that broken deal." Alice chimed in. "Exactly! Theo's right. Samson's smart enough to bounce back on his own. Moonshield Pack should be the ones panicking!" from That made me feel a lot better.

Just as I was about to hang up, Theo added, "Oh, and that Harlee guy Moonshield Pack who tried to mess with you? I made sure he won't sleep easily anytime soon. I just sent all his business records to his rivals.

"They'll eat him alive." I thought about it for a second, then nodded to myself. He wasn't wrong. Samson wouldn't care about one small contract, but Harlee deserved payback. Alice clapped her hands in my head. "Nice! That's what he gets for messing with you. Let him suffer!" 1/2 Chapter 64 Ego I laughed quietly. If they dared to cross me, they were the ones who'd regret it. +10 Free Coins I didn't know what time I finally fell asleep. By the time a maid came to wake me up the next morning, I was still half-asleep. "Ms. Lamb, it's time to get up," she said.

"I've prepared your breakfast." I stretched lazily, staying in bed for another minute before dragging myself up. After washing up, putting on my disguise makeup, and clipping in my fake bangs, I headed downstairs. Derrick was already sitting at the dining table, dressed in a perfectly tailored suit, scrolling through something on his iPad. The morning sunlight hit his side profile, softening his usual cold expression. "Good morning," I greeted him, sitting down. "Are you taking me to school today?" He looked up briefly, his voice calm.

"Good morning." I grabbed a slice of toast and repeated, "So... are you taking me to school?" "Yes." He set his iPad down and checked his watch. "Five minutes. I'll be waiting by the door." Then he got up and walked out, every movement composed and steady. Alice sighed. "The Ortega brothers couldn't be more different. Josh talks nonstop, and Derrick barely says a word. It's like total opposites." I hurried to grab a bottle of milk and followed him to the car. As usual, Derrick focused entirely on his work, not saying a single word the whole ride.

It was always like that-no small talk, no chit-chat-but honestly, I didn't mind. It saved me the trouble of forcing a conversation. When we arrived at school, I opened the door to get out-and froze. There he was. Josh, in his basketball gear, holding a ball under his arm, is walking toward the court. The second our eyes met, he stopped dead in his tracks, eyes going wide like he couldn't believe what he was seeing. I raised a brow, amused, and waited to see how he'd react. 2/2 Mark

Chapter 65 My Boss Amanda's POV: Josh's voice carried a hint of reluctance, but he still obeyed. "Morning, Boss." I didn't stop walking. "Morning," I replied lightly. +10 Free Coins Out of the corner of my eye, I saw the guys behind him standing there with their jaws practically on the floor. They probably had never seen Josh act that obedient to anyone before. Alice giggled inside my head. "Wow, this kid actually keeps his word.

"Guess he didn't forget that he called you Boss." I had just walked a few steps when I heard the dull thud of a basketball hitting someone, followed by Josh's angry shout. "Who are you calling ugly? That's my Boss! You guys better remember this-no one messes with my Boss! Anyone who dares to bully her is going through me first!" The corners of my mouth twitched, but I didn't turn around. I just quickened my pace toward

the classroom. Josh really was someone who stood by his word. As soon as I sat down, Emily rushed over and stuffed a bag of snacks into my hand. "Amanda, here!

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These are your favorites." "Thanks," I said, taking them. She plopped down beside me, lowering her voice, her eyes sparkling with gossip. "My family said the Midnight Pack's in trouble. Like, serious trouble. They might go bankrupt soon!" Alice scoffed in my head. "Serves her right! That's what she gets for messing with your stuff. Karma's real, baby!" Emily clenched her fists. "I always hated her. Acting all high and mighty, picking on people. Bet she won't be so smug now." I flipped through my textbook, my tone calm and collected.

"Let's hope you're right." "Fingers crossed!" she said, grinning. Regina's POV: My legs felt like lead as I walked into class, clutching the straps of my backpack. I was still wearing the same wrinkled training clothes from yesterday. I hadn't even changed after crying half the night. Kylan had sent me a message through the mind link-our last client had pulled out. Midnight Pack's bank accounts were frozen. The family estate was about to be repossessed. He asked if I had offended someone we couldn't afford to offend. I looked toward Amanda's seat.

She sat there quietly, head bowed, flipping through her textbook. Her hair 1/2 11 16:40 Mon, Dec 29 Me Chapter 65 My Boss +10 Free Coins covered most of her face. It couldn't be her. How could it? She didn't even have a wolf spirit. She was just a country girl living off the Ortegas' generosity. Someone like that couldn't possibly ruin a whole pack. I shook my head hard, pushing away the ridiculous thought, and dropped onto my desk, too tired to lift my head. Then the language teacher walked in, holding a clipboard. "The Language Week for the training camp starts next week!

Those who do well might get the chance to join the Werewolf Alliance's Translation Department! I think Regina and Amanda have the strongest foundation in this class-you two should give it a shot." I snapped my head up. Language Week. It was my last chance. If I could win something, maybe another pack would notice me and help Midnight Pack get back on its feet, I took a deep breath, then stood up so fast my chair scraped the floor. "I want to sign up!" I said, my voice sharp and eager. The teacher smiled approvingly. "Good. I like your enthusiasm!" Then her eyes shifted toward Amanda.

"Amanda, how about you? Would you like to join too?" My stomach dropped. My hands clenched into fists, my nails digging into my palms. Please don't. Please don't. I stared at the back of her head, barely breathing. She was quiet and reserved. She wouldn't say yes... right? The classroom went dead silent. Everyone stared at her. Then Amanda slowly lifted her head. Her eyes flicked toward me, and the corner of her lips curved ever so slightly. "I..." she began. 2/2 Mark

Chapter 66 Insufficient Funds Regina's POV: +10 Free Coins When Amanda lifted her head, I felt my hands clench around my shirt. My heart pounded so fast I could hear it in my ears, and the tips of my ears burned. My wolf spirit, Raelynn, sighed inside my mind. "What are you so nervous about? How many words of ancient language could she possibly know? You were raised by your grandpa, memorizing old werewolf texts.

You're the one who should win this." I was about to calm down when Amanda nodded at the teacher and said, "I'd like to sign up." The room went quiet for a second before the teacher beamed. "Wonderful! I have a pronunciation guide for ancient werewolf language. I'll give it to you later. And once you're done with your speech draft, I can help you revise it!" Her excitement made it sound like she had just found a treasure. I sat back down, my nails digging into my palms. Raelynn was right-I couldn't lose my cool. I had to win this. I wasn't just competing against Amanda.

I was fighting for everyone who mocked the Midnight Pack to prove that I could still bring pride to my family. After class, Prunella and a few girls surrounded me with shining eyes. "Regina, that's amazing! You're actually entering the competition-I'm so jealous." "Yeah! You're the best at languages in our class. You'll definitely win something!" I gave a polite smile. "Don't say that. I just started learning ancient language earlier than most." But their flattery felt good. I hadn't heard a single nice thing since the trouble at home began. Even Kylan's tone had been heavy with worry lately.

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Then Raelynn splashed cold water over my thoughts. "Don't get too comfortable. They're flattering you because they used to see you as the popular one. The moment you're in trouble, they'll vanish faster than smoke." I ignored her and, in a sudden burst of pride, said, "Lunch is on me today! Let's eat off campus-order whatever you want." They cheered, and I tried to smile, even though my hands tightened around my purse. I wasn't even sure if Kylan's card still worked. At the restaurant, we ordered ribs and energy juice. When the bill came, I laughed lightly and pulled out my credit card.

My hand was shaking a little. "I'm sorry, miss," the waiter said quietly. "This card has insufficient funds," Raelynn groaned in my head. "Stop pretending you can afford this." I forced a calm smile. "Oops, wrong card. Try this one." But the second card didn't work either. 1/2 16:41 Mon, Dec 29 M • 26 Chapter 66 Insufficient Funds +20 Free Coins Prunella and the others exchanged looks. My stomach twisted with shame. I mumbled an excuse and rushed to the restroom, opening a mind link to Kylan. "Dad, my card's empty. Can you send me more?"

I'm treating my classmates to lunch..." His voice exploded in my mind. "I just sent you 50 thousand crystal stones last week! You spent it all already? The Midnight Pack's assets are being repossessed, our accounts are frozen, and you're eating at a fancy restaurant?" I froze. I had never imagined things had gotten that bad. 50 thousand used to be pocket change-just the cost of a purse. "But... this meal costs three thousand," I

whispered. "My classmates are here ... " "Three thousand?" His voice broke. "Regina, I only have a thousand left.

I can send it to you, or not at all- but stop asking me for money!" The link is cut off. I stared at my phone as tears welled up. Raelynn sighed. "Stop crying. You still have to deal with this." I searched my bag. Only 700 left. When I returned, my voice trembled. "My card didn't go through. How about we just pay separately?" Prunella's smile vanished instantly. "You said lunch was on you. Now you're backing out?" Another girl stood. "I only have less than 100 on me." Before I could explain, they all grabbed their bags. "We'll be late for class.

You deal with the bill." The waiter stopped me when I tried to leave. I ended up handing over my purse-Mom's birthday gift-to pay for the meal. Raelynn's voice came again. "Now do you see? Those people were never your friends." When I walked back into class, everyone was staring. Prunella and her group were whispering together, not even glancing my way. I sat down and lay my head on the desk. My eyes stung. Without the Midnight Pack's name behind me, I was nothing. But Raelynn's voice cut through the silence, "Crying won't help you. Win the contest.

That's the only way to rise again." I wiped my tears and pulled out the ancient language handbook. She was right. I had to win-no matter what it took. 2/2 16:41 Mon, Dec 29  
Mau Mark

Chapter 67 Thirty Percent Power Amanda's POV: +20 Free Coins As soon as the final bell rang, Emily grabbed my arm and skipped toward the school gate. "Amanda, I'm gonna miss you so much! I wish we lived together-then we could eat, sleep, and do homework side by side all the time!" I smiled and ruffled her fluffy hair. The sunlight hit her face, making even her lashes glow. "I'll come over to your place sometime," I said. "Yay, really?!" Her eyes lit up like stars as she shook my hand excitedly. "You promise? No backing out!" Alice sighed inside me.

"Spending time with this little girl really calms the wolf spirit. More effective than any calming tonic back in the Glacier Pack," she murmured. I didn't respond, just nodded with a smile. Watching Emily bounce off toward her mom made something warm flicker in my chest. Back in the Glacier Pack, it was always missions and training. No one ever talked to me like this, all chirpy and sincere. And definitely no one got this excited over a simple "visit." I turned and walked toward Derrick's car. He'd already rolled the window down, looking his usual quiet self.

"Grandpa's got a dinner thing tonight. Told me to bring you along," he said plainly. "Okay, let's go," I said, pulling open the door and getting in. I didn't ask for more, anything Hugh arranged was never just a casual get-together. The car stopped in front of the Eclipse Pack's private banquet hall. When I pushed the door open, the private room was already packed. Samson leaned back in his chair, spinning a glass of water between his fingers. Alan and Josh were huddled together, whispering. Even Patrick, who rarely showed up, sat in the corner flipping through a map of the pack's territory.

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"Amanda! Over here, sit by me." Hugh waved me over the moment he saw me, then pulled out the chair next to him. With a wide smile to the room, he said, "Everyone, let me officially introduce you, this is Amanda Lamb. She'll be our future Luna of the Eclipse Pack." "Luna?" Josh was the first to jump to his feet, his eyes wide like saucers. "Grandpa, this ... this is way too sudden!" I froze for a second too, my fingertips tensing up. Luna-that was the female head of the pack. She oversaw the women, managed internal resources ... and Hugh had just thrown it out there like it was nothing.

No concern for the fact that I didn't even have a wolf spirit. Not to mention, I was still wearing the ugly disguise. Alice muttered in my head, "This old man really trusts you, huh? Saying it out loud like that and doesn't even care if the others push back." Just then, the Eclipse Pack's legal elder stepped forward and handed over a document embossed in gold. Hugh slid it across the table to me. "Amanda, I know you're not the type to care about titles, but the Eclipse Pack's future has to be passed on eventually.

This document grants you 30 percent control over the core territory, and full authority over 1/2 16:41 Mon, Dec 29 MIKA 26) Chapter 67 Thirty Percent Power +20 Free Coins annual troop deployments. From now on, these are yours to manage, regardless of which boy you end up with. This is the power I'm giving you to stand on your own," he said, his voice steady. "Grandpa!" Alan stood up instantly, his voice tense. "Don't you think this is a little reckless? The elders haven't even approved Amanda as Luna yet. And besides, she ...

He didn't finish the sentence, but the look in his eyes said enough. An Omega without a wolf spirit? How could she possibly handle all that power? Josh scratched his head. "Boss is strong, sure, but we're talking about authority over half our hunting grounds. What if ... " Patrick finally set his map down. His voice was calm, but edged with doubt. "Ms. Lamb is still very young, and not exactly familiar with pack affairs. Handing her this much control could cause serious pushback." All eyes turned to me, some doubtful, some confused. Only Hugh and Samson stayed silent.

Samson just looked at me, unreadable. There was no judgment in his eyes, but no encouragement either. Hugh suddenly slapped the table. We all snapped to attention, turning toward him, waiting for what he'd say next... Mark

Chapter 68 Weight of Trust Amanda's POV: \$20 Free Coins "You're all worried about the wrong things, but I've thought this through. Amanda's got both courage and brains. Remember the mess with Michelle? Or the dispute with the Moonshield Pack? She handled every one of those perfectly. I don't care if she has a wolf spirit or what she looks like, I trust her character. And more than that, I trust her to protect the Eclipse Pack," Hugh said firmly. My fingertips warmed against the edge of the document. No one had ever trusted me like that before.

Back in the Glacier Pack, people respected me because I was a capable Alpha, but that respect came with fear. Regina and the others only ever saw me as a joke, because of my face. But Hugh... he knew every so-called "flaw" I had and still chose to hand me the pack's core authority, still called me Luna in front of everyone. Alice's voice softened inside me. "The old man really means it this time. He doesn't just say you're family, he treats you like it." I lifted my gaze to Hugh, speaking sincerely. "Hugh, I don't want these rights of control.

But if the Eclipse Pack ever needs me, I'll give everything I have." It wasn't that I didn't value his trust, I did. I just knew power came with responsibility. I had to earn that trust before accepting what came with it. Hugh chuckled and pressed a pen into my hand. "Silly girl. This isn't privilege, it's responsibility. It belongs to the Luna who'll lead in the future. Take it. Learn. I'm still here." I gripped the pen in my palm and signed my name.

The moment the tip touched the paper, it wasn't for the lands or resources, it was for the look in Hugh's eyes, the kind of trust that held no hesitation. Being believed in-completely, unconditionally-felt steadier than winning any fight I'd ever been in. "Hugh, I ..." The words caught in my throat. My nose stung, and I nearly let a tear fall onto the page. I clutched his sleeve, it smelled faintly of cedar, the same scent he always carried. It reminded me of the smooth warm stones I used to find in the Glacier Pack winters-something solid, something safe.

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I bit down hard on my lip, trying to swallow the sob, but I couldn't hold it back. I leaned forward and buried my face in his chest. His hand came to rest gently on my back, patting me in slow, soothing strokes-the way you'd calm a frightened animal. "Alright now, you're not a kid anymore. Just listen to me," he murmured. "But..." Alice let out a soft sigh in my head. "You've held it in long enough. Crying isn't shameful. That old man's someone worth leaning on." I sniffled and wiped my tears on his jacket before slowly straightening back up.

1/2 3 16:41 Mon, Dec 29 MJ Chapter 68 Weight of Trust 26 +20 Free Coins When I looked up, I met Josh's awkward gaze. He was scratching the back of his head so hard it looked like he was going to mess up his hair completely, clearly torn between offering comfort or pretending he hadn't seen anything. Patrick, on the other hand, kept his eyes lowered, running his fingers along the rim of his glass. The sharp edge in his demeanor from earlier had dulled. Only Samson was the same, leaning back in his chair, lazily spinning his glass between his fingers.

His gaze rested on me, expression unreadable, but there wasn't a trace of contempt in it either. "You worry too much, kid. All the serious business is done. No more delays, let's eat," Hugh said, patting my hand. He picked up a fork and placed a slice of meat on my plate. But the atmosphere at the table had clearly shifted. Alan barely touched his food before glancing at his watch, then grabbed his jacket from the back of his chair.

"Grandpa, I've got a meeting tonight with reps from another pack. I need to head out."  
As he stood, he glanced my way.

There was something complicated in his eyes, like he had something he wanted to say. But in the end, he just muttered, "I'm off," and walked out of the room in a rush. Not long after, Patrick quietly set down his utensils and spoke in his usual calm tone, like he was commenting on the weather. "I haven't reviewed the patrol reports for the western hunting grounds yet. I'll go take care of it. I'll return to the castle later." His steps were so light they barely made a sound. One second he was at the table, and the next he had vanished through the door.

That left just the four of us in the room-me, Samson, Josh, and Derrick. Hugh stood up along with Dale Baldwin, the pack's legal advisor. As they headed out, Hugh paused to grab Samson and Derrick by the wrists with a firm grip. "I'm heading to Legal with Dale. You three, make sure Amanda gets back to the castle safely. No fooling around on the way." Josh jumped up immediately, fumbling for his backpack. "Boss! I, uh, I promised a friend I'd help test a new wolf spirit training device tonight.

I'm not going back to the castle, Samson can take you!" And with that, he bolted from the room like his tail was on fire. He didn't even close the door all the way, probably afraid I'd stop him if he hesitated. In a blink, the room was dead quiet. Now it was just me, Samson, and Derrick. For a long moment, no one said a word. The silence pressed in, thick and awkward, none of us sure who should speak first. 2/2 16: Mon, Dec 29  
Mark

Chapter 69 Derrick Starts to Wonder Amanda's POV: 428) +20 Free Coins The silence hung for a couple of seconds before Derrick finally spoke. His voice, as always, was calm and steady, not giving much away. "Come back with me." I nodded, then turned to Samson and gave him a small wave. "We'll head out first." Samson nodded and lifted a hand in return. On the drive, I leaned back in my seat, watching the city lights blur past the window. For the first time, I had the strange feeling that coming to the Eclipse Pack really had been the right decision. And yet ...

even though I'd developed emotions I never had back in the Glacier Pack, just like the Moon Goddess had asked, it still wasn't enough to fully settle Alice. Why? Why couldn't I bring her peace, even now? Derrick's voice broke the silence. "You don't seem like you're in a good mood." I blinked, pulled out of my thoughts, just about to respond, but he spoke again before I could. "Let me play something to help you relax." I simply nodded. "Sure." He turned on the car's audio system, and a soft instrumental track began to play. The melody was calm, almost like a lullaby wrapped in moonlight.

"This is my favorite piece. It was written and composed by Avi," he said, I froze for a second when the tune hit a familiar note. Without thinking, the words slipped out, "You really like her, huh?" He gave a small nod. "Yeah. Her music has a lot of depth, it's the kind of sound that stays with you. Too bad she hasn't released anything new in years." I

nodded lightly, but inside, something stirred. "It is good. Actually, I've got a rare EP of hers that was never released widely. I'll give it to you sometime," I said.

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"Seriously?" Derrick's eyes lit up—just a little, but it was the first time I'd ever seen that kind of expression on him. He didn't look so cold for once. There was a bit of that boyish energy, something more human beneath the usual ice. "That'd be amazing. I didn't expect that we'd actually have something like that in common." I didn't say anything back, but something in my chest felt heavy. The car pulled up to Ortega Castle not long after. Derrick got out first and opened the door for me, a faint smile still playing at the corners of his lips. "I'll take you to school again tomorrow.

Get some rest." "Good night." I walked into the castle, locked my bedroom door behind me, and went straight to the mirror. Slowly, I began removing the layers of the ugly makeup on my face. 1/2 16:41 Mon, Dec 29 M JA Chapter 69 Derrick Starts to Wonder +20 Free Coins Bit by bit, my real face came into view. There were still traces of my younger self in my features, though now there was more calm behind the eyes, more weight in the silence. I reached out and gently touched the mirror, and a wave of hesitation stirred in my chest. The authority Hugh had given me ... it was too much.

What if, one day, I had to leave the Eclipse Pack? How could I face the kind of trust he placed in me then? Derrick's POV: The next morning, I walked through the front door of the castle with a bag of breakfast in hand, just in time to see Amanda coming downstairs. "Gillian's busy this morning, so I picked something up. Hope it's something you'll like," I said, lifting the bag. I set the box on the dining table and watched her open it, then sit down with her usual quiet grace. I slid into the seat across from her, my eyes drifting to her face. Her makeup looked lighter than usual today.

A loose strand of hair had fallen by her temple, hiding part of her cheek. I hadn't thought much of it since the day she fell into the river and I saw her real face. But the way she reacted last night when she brought up Avi, that look in her eyes ... it wasn't the way a casual fan talked about a musician. It was like she was speaking from her own story. you seemed Avi ... you "You..." I hesitated, then asked, keeping my voice soft, "Last night, when you brought up Avi really familiar with her songs?" Amanda looked up at me calmly, no visible reaction. "I've just heard a few here and there.

Her lyrics are honest. They stuck with me, that's all," she said. "Right," I said. I didn't press further. I just watched her quietly as she finished her breakfast. "I'm done. Let's go." She wiped the corner of her mouth, picked up her bag, and headed for the door. I grabbed the car keys and followed her out, opening the passenger side door for her. As the engine started, I caught a glimpse of her in the rearview mirror. She was staring out at the hunting grounds through the window. Her eyes were soft, not the sharp, guarded ones she wore around Regina.

Maybe there were more stories behind her than any of us realized... 2/2 Mark

Chapter 70 Let the Game Begin Amanda's POV: 44-26 +20 Free Coins Even after the car pulled up to the school gates, my mind was still looping Derrick's question from earlier that morning, "You seem really familiar with Avi's music?" That single question was like a pebble dropped in water-small, but it kept sending ripples through me, and I hadn't calmed down even by the time I stepped out of the car. Alice muttered inside me, "Why are you freaking out? It's not like he has proof."

You said you've just heard a few songs, totally believable!" I took a deep breath and walked into the training camp, only to instantly feel something was off. Groups of girls were huddled together, waving little flags printed with werewolf emblems, chatting excitedly. Even the usually quiet path under the trees felt buzzing with energy. "Amanda, over here!" Emily's voice rang out ahead of me. She waved her backpack as she ran up, her cheeks flushed pink, eyes sparkling like she had stars trapped in them. "Did you hear?"

Alan's coming to our training camp this afternoon!" "Alan?" I blinked, caught off guard for a moment, then remembered the guy from dinner last night. Right -Alan, the current peace ambassador for Howlstead. He traveled between packs shooting unity-themed promo videos. No wonder the whole camp felt like a mini festival. "Yup!" Emily grabbed my arm, bouncing with excitement. "He's filming a video about cooperation between our training camp and nearby packs, something for the Howlstead Peace Accord promo! I've liked him since middle school!

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He's not just handsome, he's been to the Blackridge Pack, even the Shadow Pack, and helped mediate real conflicts. A bunch of smaller peace agreements were thanks to him!" Her eyes were glowing with admiration. Then she leaned in and added in a quieter voice, "I wanna be like him one day. Travel between packs, help people work things out, and make Howlstead a little more peaceful." I couldn't help but smile at how serious she looked. Turns out Emily's "crush" wasn't just about looks, it was tied to this warm, genuine goal.

I thought back to Alan at dinner last night, complaining about how early he had to get up for these videos. The charm had long since worn off for me. But looking at the spark in Emily's eyes, I couldn't bring myself to dampen her excitement. "Sure. If we're free this afternoon, I'll go with you," I said. "Really?!" Emily threw her arms around me in a tight hug. "Amanda, you're the best! I already borrowed a flag from my friend, we're getting front row!" Alice snorted. "Tsk.

This little girl is even more fired up than you were back in Glacier Pack when you wanted to be a 'peace negotiator.'" I patted Emily on the back and walked with her arm-in-arm toward the classroom. The sunlight warmed our shoulders, and even the air felt a little sweet. 1/2 IMONI, Chapter 70 Let the Game Begin Regina's POV: +20 Free Coins I gripped the straps of my backpack, trailing just a few steps behind Amanda and Emily. My nails were digging into my palms.

Watching the two of them linked arm-in-arm, laughing about seeing Alan later that afternoon, it felt like needles stabbing into my chest. It used to be me surrounded by chatter-Prunella and the others fighting to carry my energy bars, telling me how great my English was. But after the Pack fell apart, they started avoiding me like the plague. Now, it was just me. And yet Amanda ... she had Eclipse Pack backing her. She had Emily clinging to her like a sister. Even Baxter seemed to favor her. During the ancient language contest, he mentioned her name before mine.

I stared at their backs, and suddenly, a thought surfaced-dark, sharp, and uninvited. My eyes locked on Amanda's silhouette as a cold smile tugged at the corner of my mouth. Bitterness surged through me like a rising tide. Everyone used to say I had the best grasp of the ancient language. Now suddenly Amanda was "promising" in Baxter's eyes? Fine. Amanda, you've always acted like you were better than me. Let's see how well you do when I'm not playing nice anymore. 16:41 Mon, Dec 29 M Mark