

Alpha Amanda's love adventure novel

Chapter 71 Helping Emily Amanda's POV: The wind at three in the afternoon carried whispers of Alan's name. +20 Free Coins Emily and I had just stepped out of the classroom when we overheard two girls whispering nearby. "I heard he just went to the Sparkfire Pack last week and helped solve a six-month land dispute with the Shadow Pack!" The other girl was holding up her phone, showing a photo of Alan giving energy bars to orphans at Glacier Pack. She said, full of admiration, "Look at him in that uniform!

He's even hotter than in the promo video!" Emily's fingers were warm as she grabbed my wrist, her eyes sparkling, like stars. "If I'd known, I would've idol!" come sooner! Now I can't even see my I glanced at her pout, then at the closed studio door. Tugging lightly on her sleeve, I said, "Don't worry! If you really want to meet him, we'll find another way." "What way? Tell me!" Emily's eyes widened, and she shook my arm like an excited puppy. "Did I ever tell you that Alan and I kinda know each other?" Her jaw dropped. "Wait-for real? You're not joking, right? You actually know my idol?

That's amazing!" I sighed, smiling helplessly as I pulled out my phone and called Alan. While I was on the phone, Emily was nervously rubbing her hands beside me. Less than five minutes after the call ended, a man in a black suit made his way through the crowd toward us and said politely, "Ms. Lamb, Mr. Ortega asked me to bring you inside." Emily immediately covered her mouth to stop herself from screaming. As we followed the assistant inside. she whispered, "My heart's beating so fast!

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What should I say when I see him later?" Walking into the studio, the first person I saw was Alan in his light gray uniform. He was standing in front of the camera, talking to the crew about poses. The sunlight hitting his shoulder made him look way more serious, like a real peace ambassador, compared to how he complained about having to wake up early to film at dinner. Emily took a deep breath and hurried over, her voice shaking a little. "M-Mr. Alan! I'm Emily Wood. I admire how you handled the pack disputes!

I want to be like you one day-traveling across all the packs to bring peace to the Howlstead!" Alan blinked in surprise, then smiled. His tone was much gentler than at dinner. "Thanks for the support. It's good to have goals." He turned to me and raised an eyebrow, "You brought your friend just to meet me?" "She's been looking forward to this for ages," I said, nodding toward the still-excited Emily. "We'll just watch from the side and won't bother your shoot." 1/2 16:41 Mon, Dec 29 MJ Chapter 71 Helping Emily 2126 +20 Free Coins The filming was way more serious than I expected.

Even the simplest scenes were shot over and over again. Emily watched like it was a masterclass, sometimes pulling out a notebook to jot things down while mumbling, "So every shot has to feel real and intimate ... That's how people believe peace isn't just a slogan Suddenly, the assistant director came rushing over and quickly looked us over. He stopped on me first, and I could tell he hesitated-he probably thought I had the right figure, but then he saw my awful makeup and quickly looked away. Then he looked at Emily.

"Hey, we need a girl for a small part, just handing the diplomat an energy drink. It's only a couple of shots. Wanna try it?" Emily's eyes lit up instantly. "Yes!" She turned and gave me a "yay" sign. As she followed the assistant director to change, she called back, "Amanda! Wait for me! We'll head back together after this!" I smiled and nodded, watching her run off to change. It felt good to help her get closer to her dream. But since there was nothing to do there, I told the assistant I'd head back to the classroom and wait until school ended.

I had just reached the bottom of the building when Prunella came running toward me, looking panicked. "Amanda! Something bad happened! Emily had an accident during filming. You need to go check on her!" My heart sank. I grabbed her arm and asked, "What do you mean? What happened to Emily?" 2/2 Mark

Chapter 72 Attacked Amanda's POV: I stared at Prunella anxiously, and she quickly said, "Emily fell during the shoot. It's pretty bad. It happened behind the first classroom building." "What?" My heart raced. Emily was always careful-how could she suddenly fall? 426 426 +20 Free Coins I didn't have time to think. I grabbed my backpack and ran toward the first classroom building. Emily was one of my few friends in the Eclipse Pack. I couldn't let anything happen to her! Alice warned inside me, "Don't rush! Prunella's eyes looked off.

This could be a trap!" I slowed down for a second, but the thought of Emily possibly crying in pain made me speed up again. "No, I can't let Emily be in any danger." When I got to the building, the usually noisy film set was empty. All the equipment was gone. Since no one normally used this building, even the wind whistling down the hallway sounded unusually loud. "Emily? Where are you?" I called out twice, but only my echo came back. Something was definitely wrong!

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I pulled out my phone to call Emily, but as my finger hit the screen, I smelled a faint, metallic scent- diluted wolfsbane juice! Damn it! I spun around, but it was too late-a shadow jumped out from behind a pillar. A wooden stick came swinging at me, its surface damp with something wet. I tried to dodge, but it still grazed the back of my head. Pain exploded instantly. Worse, the wolfsbane spread fast. Alice groaned inside me, and my wolf spirit, already unstable, got suppressed. My body went weak, my knees buckled, and I collapsed to the floor.

Before everything went black, I saw a dark figure standing over me... Derrick's POV: After school, I leaned against the car, my fingers brushing over the CD in my arms-it was Avi's limited edition album, something I'd searched all over Eclipse Pack to find. I'd hoped to listen to it with her on the way and maybe find out why she knew so much about Ayi. I waited for over an hour. There were only a few students left at the gate, and still no sign of Amanda. I pulled out my phone and dialed her number.

A robotic voice came through the speaker, "The number you have dialed is currently unavailable." Frustration hit me. Then I spotted Josh walking out with his earphones in. We didn't usually talk much, just kept things polite. But right now, he was the only one who could help. 1/2 11 5 16:41 Mon, Dec 29 MA Chapter 72 Attacked "Josh, have you seen Amanda?" I walked over, my voice sounding a little urgent. +20 Free Coins Josh was taken aback and pulled off his headphones. "Maybe she went home already, or maybe she went to a friend's house. Just give her a call." "Her phone's off." Josh frowned.

"No way. She never turns off her phone." He immediately pulled out his phone and started calling his classmates. When he finally reached Emily's number, his face darkened more. "What? You're looking for her too? She hasn't called you either?" After hanging up, his tone was heavy. "Do you think something might have happened to her?" My chest tightened, and a chill ran down my spine. Amanda was cautious, she would never turn off her phone without reason, nor would she let her friends lose contact with her. I didn't waste another second talking to Josh.

I turned and almost tripped as I sprinted toward the school's security room. When I swiped my card to enter, my fingers were trembling. The staff on duty were startled by my urgency, but before they could speak, I had grabbed the mouse and pulled up the surveillance footage near the first academic building. The footage flashed by rapidly. I had just found the shot of Amanda rushing into the building when the security room door was slammed open. I instinctively turned to look... C Mark

Chapter 73 Escape Derrick's POV: It was Samson! But why does he look so worried? Could it be... 26) \$20 Free Coins "Well? Did you find her?" Samson's familiar voice snapped me out of my thoughts. I quickly pulled up the footage. I pointed at the screen, my voice tense. "The car that took Amanda out of school disappeared near Moonlight Ridge. Do you think they took her there?" Samson's eyes darkened. "I'm heading there right now. No matter what, we have to find Amanda as soon as possible." Josh immediately stepped up.

"I'm going with you." So we gathered a team and headed straight for Moonlight Ridge. Amanda's POV: The back of my head still hurts. I opened my eyes and everything was pitch black, without a single trace of light. A rough, chafing sensation burned at my wrists. I looked down and saw my hands were tied together with thick rope, squeezing my bones so hard it hurt. "Anyone?" I yelled hoarsely into the darkness. Only my echo answered, making everything feel weird and creepy. No doubt about it, I'd been kidnapped. I gritted my teeth and struggled.

The rope rubbed my wrists raw, and soon I saw blood. Using that sharp pain, I managed to force a small gap open in the rope. After my eyes adjusted, I could see I was in a rundown wooden cabin. A cold wind blew through the cracks in the walls. Moldy straw was piled in a corner. When I pushed the door open, a cold wind hit my face like a knife. Far away, some animal howled-it sounded incredibly loud in the quiet night. I clenched my fists, anger burning in my chest. "If I find out who did this, I'll kill them." Right then, I heard heavy footsteps.

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I quickly closed the door, stumbling back to the corner, and stuffed my wrists back into the loosened ropes, pretending to still be bound. Bang! The door got kicked open, and a bright flashlight beam hit me. I raised my hand to shield my eyes. The air smelled like cheap cigarettes and sweat. 1/3 16:41 Mon, Dec 29 M Chapter 73 Escape 126 +20 Free Coins "You're awake," a rough voice said. Something hard and cold was thrown onto the ground in front of me- a dry, stale bread. "Eat. Don't you dare starve to death on us." I didn't look at the bread. I stared at them, my voice shaking with anger.

"Why did you bring me here?" The man on the left snorted and didn't answer. He just said, "Don't ask stuff you shouldn't. We're only doing this for the crystal stone. We know nothing else." Crystal stone? My mind jumped. I switched tactics fast. "If you let me go now, I can give you a lot of it." The two men went silent right away. They exchanged a quick look before the one on the right laughed. "Kid, who are you trying to fool? A million crystal stones? You think we're that dumb?" "I'm not bluffing," I said calmly, speaking slowly on purpose.

"Let me go, and I'll send the crystal stones to your account immediately. Whatever the person who hired you offered, I'll double it." The guy on the left gulped-he was tempted, I could tell. But when he saw how fearless I looked, he forced himself to sound tough. "Enough tricks! Just stay put. We'll let you go when the time is right!" They slammed the door behind them, and I finally relaxed. At least they didn't want to kill me. About an hour later, I heard two sets of footsteps outside. One faded away, and the other stopped right at the door. Only one guard left! My heart leaped.

My chances of escaping just shot up. I carefully reached into my pocket. My fingers brushed against the cold surface of my phone, and a spark of hope lit inside me-I had to contact Theo first. In the darkness, I held my breath, listening to the footsteps outside pacing back and forth, waiting for the right moment. My eyes swept the cabin. I didn't grab the wooden stick lying nearby. As an alpha, I didn't need it to deal with someone like him. The sound of snoring got louder. The man had leaned against a tree and fallen asleep. He didn't even notice me walking up to him.

I smirked, raised my arm, and slammed my elbow into the back of his neck. At the same time, I grabbed his wrist and twisted down with my alpha strength. Crack. The man instantly woke up in pain, but he didn't even get the chance to scream. My knee slammed into his side. I flipped him down, and pinned him to the ground. It all happened

in three seconds. He went down, whimpering for mercy. "Too loud." I gave him another tap on the neck, and he immediately passed out. Without wasting a second, I ran down the mountain. My alpha strength kicked in.

Even with the icy mountain wind, my steps stayed steady. Every step was solid; I wasn't panicking at all. But the faster you go, the easier it is to mess up. A loose rock slipped under my foot, I lost my balance, and went tumbling down the steep slope. I finally stopped when my back slammed into a tree trunk. I grunted in pain. 2/3 16:41 Mon, Dec 29 MJ. Chapter 73 Escape +20 Free Coins Just as I was about to stand up, I heard footsteps above me, getting closer. I immediately tensed up, held my breath, and curled up behind the tree. M Mark

Chapter 74 Found You Samson's POV: Cold wind rushed up from the foot of the mountain. I waved away the jacket one of my men handed me and stared at the outline of Moonlight Ridge, forcing myself to stay calm. "Josh, you take the main road up. I'll go around the back trail. We'll meet at the top." I rubbed the phone in my pocket. "If anything happens and we lose signal, use fireworks to send a message." "Got it. Be careful." Josh's figure quickly vanished into the night. I turned and led my team up the narrow back path.

The sharp rocks hurt the soles of my shoes, and the wind bit at my face, but the anxiety in my chest was worse. Every step felt like walking on hot knives. Charles's voice echoed in my head, "Relax. She's tough. She won't go down easily." I clenched my fist until my knuckles were white, "Shut up. Until I find her, nothing you say matters." "Mr. Ortega, it's freezing. Please take this jacket." One of the men tried again, but I shook my head. "I'm fine. You wear it. How far till the top?" "We've covered about two-thirds of the climb.

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The rest isn't far, but the higher we go, the rougher it gets. We should be careful." Before he finished, someone came running toward us, voice shaking. "Mr. Ortega! We found something!" My heart tightened as I sprinted forward. Lying in the grass was a canvas shoe, dirt-stained and scratched -the same pair I'd seen Amanda put on this morning. "It's hers!" I grabbed the shoe so hard my fingertips almost tore through the fabric. "Find her! Search every inch!" The team scattered. Not long after, a shout cut through the night.

"There's movement behind the tree!" I rushed over and my pupils shrank in shock. Down a steep slope, someone was crouched behind a large tree. Her hands were raised defensively, her back straight. Even in the dark, she had a defiant edge. It was Amanda! Charles let out a huge sigh of relief, "Thank goodness! She's okay! I was about to go nuts a second ago." "Amanda!" I nearly stumbled as I rushed toward her, my voice cracking. The tension of the past few hours shattered the moment I saw her. She turned quickly, and when her eyes met mine, the guarded look on her face melted away. "Samson?"

What are you doing here? Am I seeing things?" Seeing that she was safe and sound, my heart finally settled. I quickly crouched down. "You okay?" 1/2 76.42 Mon, Chapter 74 Found You Amanda shook her head. She tried to push herself up with the tree trunk but stumbled slightly. I moved fast, pulling her into my arms. My palm hit her cold back, and I only felt a slight scrape. +20 Free Coins I could see her cheeks quickly turn red, and she pushed against me. "I'm fine.

I just twisted my ankle a little; I lost my footing." I frowned and ignored her protests, crouching down to scoop her up into my arms. "What are you doing?! Put me down!" She pressed her hands against my chest, struggling. Her ears turned bright red in the moonlight. "Trying to act tough with a sprained ankle?" My voice was firm. I carried her to a large rock nearby and set her down. I gently touched her ankle, and she flinched. Under the moonlight, I could see it clearly-just a bit swollen, but the skin isn't broken. "You're lucky.

It's only a mild sprain." "Thanks," she murmured, looking away, her voice barely above a whisper. I stood up and told my men, "Call Josh. Tell him to meet us at the foot of the mountain." I turned back to her, crouched down with my back to her. "Climb on. I'll carry you." The moonlight softened her dusty face. The freckles on her dark skin looked like tiny, glittering stars in the night sky. I just stayed crouched on the ground, waiting for her to respond. 2/2 Mark

Chapter 75 Prunella's Confession Amanda's POV: When he looked at me, I couldn't help but wonder what was going on in his head. But I couldn't seem to figure him out... Maybe he was just being nice because that's what an Alpha's supposed to do. Whatever! Forget it! I nodded and hopped onto his back. If I could save myself the walk, why not? +20 Free Coins His back was broad, and even through his clothes, I could feel his body heat. It was so warm it made the tips of my ears tingle. My hands rested on his shoulders, and my fingertips brushed against his muscles underneath his shirt.

My heartbeat suddenly went wild, like it was bouncing around in my chest. Alice rolled her eyes, teasing me, "Oh? And who was it that said, 'Even a destined mate has to prove their worth?'" I bit my lip and stayed quiet, but my mind was a mess. It was the first time someone had ever carried me like this. The mountain breeze felt cool against my face, carrying his faint pine scent. Somehow, it made me feel safe. But then again, he was my destined mate. Was this feeling of dependence just because the Moon Goddess said so, or had I actually fallen for him? "Stop pretending," Alice called me out.

"When he ran down shouting your name, all the caution left your eyes. You're telling me you haven't fallen for him?" "Shut up," I snapped back in my head, but my fingers couldn't help but clutch his collar tighter. He carried me down the rocky path, every step was steady. Sometimes he'd lower his head and ask softly, "Is it too bumpy?" His concern sounded real. When we finally got back to Ortega Castle, the lights in the hall were still on. Hugh sat on the couch, clutching his cane. As soon as he saw me, he immediately stood up. "Amanda, you're finally back. You okay?"

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You didn't get seriously hurt, did you?" "I'm fine, Hugh. Thanks to Samson." I avoided his eyes, not wanting him to see my chaotic thoughts. Hugh's face darkened as he turned to Samson. "Who would dare do something like this right under our noses? Samson, you must get to the bottom of this. We will not let this slide." "Yes, Grandpa," Samson said, his voice low, eyes still cold and sharp. I had made some plans. This was my problem, and no matter who it was, I'd get my own revenge.

But seeing Hugh's worried look, I swallowed my words and just said, "Thank you, Hugh!" Back in my room, I locked the door and pulled out my phone to contact Theo. The screen lit up instantly, and his message instantly popped up. 1/2 16:42 Mon, Dec 29 MA Chapter 75 Prunella's Confession "Boss, you okay?" "I'm fine. Do me a favor." I slowly typed a few lines and sent them, then closed my laptop. 4 200 26 +20 Free Coins I tapped my fingers on the screen, and the anger I'd been holding in finally found a way out. A smirk naturally curved my lips. Whoever dared to kidnap me would pay the price.

The next day, I took the day off from training. By afternoon, I had Prunella brought to an old warehouse in the suburbs. When she saw me, her face went pale. Her legs gave out, and she nearly fell. "A-Amanda? How are you here? You were-" "Supposed to be locked up on the mountain?" I cut her off, my voice flat, but I deliberately took a step closer, watching her shrink back. "Surprised?" Prunella nodded, then shook her head, before collapsing to her knees with a thud. Tears streamed down her face. "I'm sorry! It was my fault! I shouldn't have listened to Regina!

She told me to trick you into going to the first academic building. She said they'd only lock you up for a few days to teach you a lesson! She promised me a bag of crystal stones ... I was so desperate for money that I lost my mind!" She was shaking and crying, telling me everything, even the details about how Regina promised her she'd wait until after the contest to let me go. Alice snorted. "Knew it!

I knew that girl was up to no good!" I crouched down and looked at Prunella's tear-streaked face, and said calmly, "I can let you go, but you have to do something for me." Prunella looked up as if she had grabbed onto a lifeline. "What is it? I'll do anything, as long as you spare me!" I leaned close to her ear and, in a voice only she could hear, quietly explained my plan ... 2/2 Mark

Chapter 76 Loan Regina's POV: +20 Free Coins When Prunella threw that silver bracelet onto my desk, the pendant hit the surface with a crisp sound, like a slap to my face. She crossed her arms, her eyes filled with undisguised greed. "Regina, this bracelet is worthless. Are you trying to brush me off like I was a beggar?" I clenched the bracelet so tightly that my knuckles turned white. This was a gift from my dad, set with tiny diamonds. At the werewolf pawnshop, it was worth at least 3,000 crystal stones. And she thought it wasn't enough? "This is worth 3,000 at Silvermoon pawnshop.

What more do you want?" "Three thousand?" Prunella scoffed and leaned close to my ear, her voice full of menace. "I helped you trick Amanda into the empty building and watched her get kidnapped. That's worth 3,000 to you? I want 100,000 crystal stones-today. Or I'll tell the werewolf enforcers what happened and let them investigate Amanda's disappearance." "You!" My whole body shook with anger as I gripped the edge of the desk. I used to get 50,000 crystal stones a month as allowance, so 100,000 was nothing back then.

But now that the Midnight Pack had gone bankrupt, even my dad could barely cover my living expenses. Where would I get 100,000? Raelynn sighed in my head. "Told you not to ask her for help. Now she's turning against you. And how do you even know that mysterious person texting you will keep helping you?" I ignored Raelynn and forced down my anger. "I don't have that much." "Who are you trying to fool?" Prunella slammed the desk. Everyone in class turned to look. She deliberately raised her voice. "Everyone knows you get tens of thousands of crystal stones a month. I'm only asking for 100,000.

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Not too much, right? If you don't want to pay, that's fine. I'll just tell the Elders everything. Guess you'll enjoy prison food then." "You!" She spat out those words and walked away, leaving me frozen in my seat, my nails nearly digging into my palms. Raelynn was right. I had been blind to think this wolf in sheep's clothing was my friend. After school, I went to the pawnshop with a box full of jewelry. The old man behind the counter picked up my favorite wolf claw pendant and said flatly, "These are all common materials.

I can give you 50,000 crystal stones, no more." Fifty thousand, still 50,000 short! Suddenly, I thought of the mysterious person who'd been messaging me. Grabbing my phone like it was my last hope, I tried calling. No matter how many times I called, no one picked up. In an instant, I completely lost hope. I stood there on the street, clutching the heavy bag of crystal stones, watching fellow pack members pass by. For the first time, I felt so helpless. Just as I was about to cry, a man in a black trench coat stopped me, a creepy smile on his face.

"Need some 1/2 16:42 Mon, Dec 29 MJA Chapter 76 Loan +20 Free Coins crystal stone, girl? Check out the werewolf underground loans. We can get you whatever you need." "A loan?" My heart leaped like I'd found a lifeline. "How does it work? How much can I borrow?" He smiled even more meaningfully. "You can borrow as much as you want, but you'll have to sign a contract. If you can't pay it back on time, you use your assets as collateral, like ... the last protective gear factory the Midnight Pack still owns?" My stomach dropped. That was my dad's last hope.

But thinking about Prunella threatening to go to the pack enforcement, I gritted my teeth. "I'll borrow 50,000. I'll pay it back tomorrow!" My fingers shook when I went with him to the underground loan place to sign. I had no choice. The moment I got the

50,000 crystal stones, I had only one thought-get rid of Prunella, and deal with her later. The next morning, I threw a bag with 100,000 crystal stones down in front of Prunella. My voice was ice- cold. "A hundred thousand.

"Take the money and don't ever contact me again." She opened the bag and poked at the shiny stones, greed almost showing on her face. Then she teased, "I can't believe you actually got it all together. I should have asked for 50,000 more." I clenched my fists so tight my palms hurt, but I kept my face straight. "This is the last time. If you ever bother me again, I swear I'll make you pay, even if it means the Midnight Pack goes completely bankrupt!" Then I turned and walked away, holding my head high, but my eyes burned. That 100,000 crystal stone.

and that damn loan contract-were all Amanda's fault! After the English Speech Contest ends, I'm going to make her pay me back double! 2/2 Mark

Chapter 77 Under the Spotlight Amanda's POV: 20 +20 Free Coins When Prunella handed me the bag with 100,000 crystal stones, her fingers were still shaking. Her voice was nervous, but she was trying to please me. "She gave this to me, Amanda. I did what you told me to do. Can we call it even now?" I glanced at the shiny crystal stones inside the bag, but didn't take it. I smirked. "Relax. I keep my word. We're even. But starting tomorrow, don't come to training camp anymore. That 100,000 is for travel expenses. Don't come back here." Prunella quickly pushed the bag back, shaking her head hard.

"No, I can't take this. I'll just ask my dad to transfer me to another training camp. Don't worry." I looked at her tense face and could tell she still had some morals left. But I knew Regina too well. She might have paid up, but she'd definitely seek revenge later. I shoved the bag back into Prunella's hands and said flatly, "Regina isn't the type to let things go. Keep the money. That's all I'll say. Take care of yourself." She froze for a second, then finally clutched the bag and walked off in a hurry after saying, "Thank you." Now, it was time to settle things with Regina.

Regina's POV: Backstage at the English Speech Contest, the air was thick with tension, but I wasn't nervous at all. Amanda hadn't shown up at school for two days. She was probably still locked up in that cabin at Moonlight Ridge. There's no way she could show up at the contest. Raelynn scoffed inside me, "Don't get too cocky. What if she comes back?" "No way," I argued in my mind as I smoothed down my dress. It was the one I'd pawned and just bought back. It was going to look great under the lights.

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Hallie walked over, holding a speech script "Regina, don't be nervous when you go on stage later. Your Werewolf Peace Accord translation in English is even smoother than last year's champion's. Just give it your best." Her praise made me even more confident. I couldn't hide my proud smile. "Don't worry! I'm definitely winning the gold medal!" She patted my shoulder. "Okay. I'll go check if Amanda's here. She signed up

too, but she hasn't shown up yet." "Amanda?" My heart sank, but I kept my face straight. "She's probably on the way.

Go ahead, I'll be fine on my own." As she walked away, I tightened my grip on my script. Amanda signed up? No way. She was just a country Omega who barely knew the basics. Ms. Cooper must've made a mistake. Even if she did show up, she couldn't beat me! 1/2 Chapter 77 Under the Spotlight +20 Free Coins When it was my turn to go on stage, the spotlight hit me. The hall was packed, and even the Elders from the Language Institute were nodding. I took a deep breath, raised the microphone, and started in perfect English. "Good evening, Elders and fellow students.

I am Regina Yeoman, and today my topic is 'An English Interpretation of the Werewolf Peace Accord'.... " My speech flowed smoothly. The applause got louder with every sentence. The judges' eyes sparkled with approval. The more I spoke, the smoother it felt, as if I could see myself holding the gold trophy, basking in everyone's envy. Amanda, so what if you showed up? You could never beat me! But just as I reached the best part of my speech, I caught sight of someone in the third row-a familiar figure sitting calmly in the audience... 6 2/2 16:42 Mon, Dec 29 MJ Mark

Chapter 78 Confrontation Amanda's POV: 433 (20 \$20 Free Coins Under the spotlight, I looked up and met Regina's eyes on stage. I smiled faintly, not even bothering to hide the contempt in my gaze. Her hand shook as she gripped the mic. The smooth flow of her speech suddenly stopped. Her lips moved, but no sound came out. Whispers started in the audience. She tried to keep going and act calm, but her voice kept breaking. In the end, she just dropped the microphone and ran offstage in a panic. Emily whispered beside me, "And here I thought she was so impressive.

Turns out she's just a coward." "Come on. Let's go say hi." I took Emily's hand and headed backstage. As soon as we entered, we saw Regina slumped on a stool, her face pale, muttering to herself, "Why are you here..." "It's only been a few days and you already forgot me?" I raised a brow, not giving her a chance to play dumb. Emily crossed her arms. "Stop pretending! You tried to trap Amanda in the mountains just so you could win the contest, didn't you?" Regina's eyes darted away. "I-I don't know what you're talking about." "You don't know?" I leaned closer, my voice turning cold.

"Do I need to remind you that you told Prunella to..." Her whole body jerked. She fell off the chair, eyes wide with fear. I looked down at her calmly, voice flat but sharp. "Relax. We'll settle things one at a time. But first, I'll show you how the thing you wanted most ended up in my hands." Then I turned to Emily. "Watch her for me. My turn's up next." When the host called my name, I stepped onto the stage. All the spotlights were on me. I grabbed the mic. The moment I spoke, the whole room went silent. You could hear people breathing.

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I ignored the looks people gave my ugly makeup and just focused on finishing my prepared speech. Every single sound was clear and sharp. When the speech ended, the crowd exploded into applause. I bowed and walked off the stage. Emily ran up to me. "Amanda, you were amazing! Better than the recording!" Hallie came over too, eyes shining. "Your pronunciation was so natural. I haven't heard a speech that good in a long time." 1/2 16:42 Mon, Dec 29 MJ Chapter 78 Confrontation +20 Free Coins "Thanks. I wouldn't have entered if it weren't for your encouragement," I said, meaning it.

My chest felt a little warm. Backstage, Regina looked so pale, staring at me like she'd lost everything. "I lost, Amanda," her voice trembled. "I did all those things. I was out of my mind when I hurt you. You can do whatever you want with me now." I smiled, but it didn't reach my eyes. "Do whatever? That'd dirty my hands. I don't do the dirty work; I make other people do it." She jerked her head up, her voice trembling with panic. "What do you want to do? My dad won't let you get away with this!" "I'll wait," I turned to walk out, leaving her with one last line.

"Enjoy your last day of freedom. Your nightmare truly begins tomorrow." I walked away without looking back. Regina, just you wait ... 2/2 16:42 Mon, Dec 29 M Mark

Chapter 79 Avi's Fans Amanda's POV: +20 Free Coins I overheard some people in the hallway talking about Regina. They said she was now moving protective gear in the pack's logistics department. Midnight Pack couldn't repay their underground loans, their protective gear factory was seized. She had to rely on manual labor to pay off the debt. Her hands were covered in calluses. I didn't feel much about it. She chose that path herself, so she has to deal with the consequences. What had been more "annoying" these past few days was my phone had been blowing up with calls from several elite schools.

Some offer me full scholarships, others invite me to their language research programs, and even the pack's language academy sent me an invitation. Each time, I politely declined. "Thank you, but I'm not considering a foreign language major for now." That's never been my goal. Stabilizing Alice's wolf spirit was more important than anything else. "Amanda, wanna come over to my place tonight? I asked my mom to make your favorite foie gras." Emily bounced over with a lollipop in her hand and her eyes sparkling. I checked my schedule. Nothing after class. "Sure!" I said right away.

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I took out my phone and texted Derrick, "No need to pick me up today. I'm going to Emily's for dinner." Derrick's POV: I got Amanda's message just as I parked the car under a tree near the school. My fingers rubbed the steering wheel. The image of her being tied up on Moonlight Ridge flashed in my mind. I clenched my jaw but didn't drive off. I just couldn't relax until I saw her get somewhere safe with my own eyes. When the final bell rang, I saw her come out with Emily, chatting and laughing. I opened the car door and walked over, holding a warm bottle of milk, and handed it to Amanda.

"Let me drive you guys." Amanda looked surprised and turned to Emily, who immediately smiled. "Perfect! I'll just tell my driver to go home. The three of us can go together." They got in the car, and I turned on the music-Avi's "Starlight Traces." Last time we talked about Avi, Amanda had a strange reaction. I wanted to observe her again. Through the rearview mirror, I noticed her fingers lightly tapping her knee, keeping time with the beat. I was about to say something when Emily suddenly gasped.

"Wait, you like Avi's songs too?" 1/2 16:42 Mon, Chapter 79 Avi's Fans I pulled my gaze back and replied, "I've liked her for years." +20 Free Coins "Really? Me too!" Emily leaned forward excitedly. "I've been a fan since her first song, 'Sea of Oblivion!' I used to play all her songs on repeat. Plus, Avi's songs are said to help stabilize the wolf spirit!" I smiled and deliberately said, "Guess that makes us like-minded friends." Out of the corner of my eye, I noticed Amanda's ears turning slightly red. Just as expected, Emily turned to her.

"Amanda, do you like Avi too?" Amanda cleared her throat, tugging at the corner of her sleeve before she nodded. "Yeah, I guess I do." Emily got even more excited and started chatting with her about Avi's songs, going from "Sea of Oblivion" all the way to "Starlight Traces." Finally, she sighed. "I've been her fan for years, but it's a pity. Avi never appears in public, so I still have no idea what she looks like. I've just been drawn to her music all these years." My grip on the steering wheel tightened slightly, and I added a probing tone to my voice. "I'm also curious.

What kind of person could write such heartfelt songs? She hasn't released any new songs in years. I thought she might have left the industry." Through the rearview mirror, I saw Amanda lower her gaze. Her long lashes cast a shadow under her eyes, and she didn't respond. Her reaction made me more and more suspicious about whether she and Avi had some connection. 2/2 16:42 Mon, Dec 29 M Mark

Chapter 80 Something's Wrong with Derrick Amanda's POV: +20 Free Coins I watched Emily and Derrick talk about Avi's music and just kept quiet, my fingers tugging lightly at the hem of my shirt. Before long, the car stopped in front of Emily's house-a small building covered in green vines, with a wind chime at the door that jingled softly in the breeze. Leah Wood, Emily's mom, came out, wiping her hands on a towel. Her smile was gentle. "You must be Amanda. Emily talks about you all the time! Welcome to our home." She took my hand and led me inside.

Her hand felt warm, just like my mom's used to when I was little. "Thanks for having me, Leah." I followed her in. The living room was full of life-paintings of werewolf pack landscapes by Emily, and a shelf filled with handmade wolf totem dolls. Emily couldn't wait any longer. She grabbed my arm and pulled me into her room. The walls were covered with Avi's album posters, and a neat stack of CDs sat on her desk. "Look, Amanda! These are all the albums with songs written by Avi.

I've collected everything except for the first and third limited-edition albums." "Here, this is for you!" Emily pushed a CD into my hand, her eyes full of sincerity. I quickly pushed

it back. "How can I take it? You should keep it! I actually have the first and third versions at home. I'll bring them next time." Her eyes instantly lit up like stars. She leaped over and kissed me on the cheek. "Seriously?! You have them?! I've been hunting for those for ages! I can't believe you have them! Amanda, I love you!" I wiped my cheek in disgust.

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"Hey, your saliva!" She just laughed and jumped around, hugging my arm like an excited little wolf cub. "What's got you two so happy?" Leah came in with a plate of fruit. She peeled a tangerine and popped it into Emily's mouth, then offered one to me. "A Beta neighbor brought them over; they're fresh. Try it." The sweet taste melted in my mouth. I suddenly thought of when I was little, and my mom would do the same thing, handing me peeled fruit. My heart felt heavy for some reason. During dinner, Emily's dad came home. As soon as he walked in, he grinned and said, "So you're Amanda!

Emily told us you got first place in both the physical challenge and the speech contest. That's impressive!" He placed a piece of foie gras on my plate. "Eat up! Leah made this just for you." The room was filled with laughter and warm light. I kept my head down, poking at my food, suddenly feeling a little lost. It had been too long since I'd felt this kind of warmth. Memories of eating with my parents suddenly became so clear. 1/2
16:42 Mon, Dec 29 M Chapter 80 Something's Wrong with Derrick 420 +20 Free Coins
After dinner, Derrick and I said goodbye to Emily's family.

In the car, I leaned back and closed my eyes, pretending to nap. As soon as I closed my eyes, I saw my younger self at the dining table. My dad serving me food, my mom smiling at me, the werewolf bonfire flickering outside the window, so warm it made me not want to wake up. Alice sighed softly in my head. "If only your parents were still here." I stayed quiet. I just buried my face further into the seat back. At least now I had Emily and Hugh. They made this cold Eclipse Pack feel a little warmer. The streetlights outside the car window were passing quickly, casting a warm light on my face.

I quickly wiped my eye. I couldn't stop that tear from falling, and I didn't want Derrick to see me like this. My finger was still slightly wet, so I pretended to fix my bangs and turned my face further into the shadow. Alice sighed again. "You miss them, don't you? Don't bottle it up. It's okay to cry." Before I could answer, Derrick's voice broke the silence. "Tomorrow's the weekend. Got any plans?" I was taken aback, then turned to look at him. His eyes were fixed on the road, but his grip on the steering wheel seemed to tighten slightly. "Reading, probably," I answered casually.

"Oh," He said, fell silent again, then added, "I heard there's a new hot spring spa in Westgate. They have herbal baths that help with wolf spirit fatigue. Want to go together?" I frowned and shook my head. "No thanks, I'm not into hot springs." The herbal bath would be good for my wolf spirit, but going alone with Derrick just felt weird. He used to be so cold, didn't he? He barely spoke when he drove me to school. Why

was he so friendly all of a sudden? Alice chimed in, "Something's wrong! He's talking way too much.

Do you think he's got a thing for you?" Exactly, what was going on with him? Before I could figure it out, Derrick spoke again, "Then how about a movie?" He glanced at me in the rearview mirror when he said it. There was a hint of expectation in his eyes, nothing like his usual cold attitude. I squeezed the hem of my shirt. My confusion grew stronger. From driving us to Emily's to all these sudden invitations, his actions were so unusual. He used to act like even talking to me was a chore. Why was he being so "attentive" all of a sudden? 2/2 Mark