

Chosen Mate Of The Beastmen Empire

Of The Beastmen 1

Chapter 1

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Deep in a lush, ancient forest, three suns blazed high in the sky, their golden rays piercing through the dense plants. Sunlight dappled the forest floor and scattered across the pale, delicate face of Nyx Voss.

Her slight and frail frame curled up in sleep spoke volumes that her body was starved of nourishment, and her soul was desperate for safety.

Nearby, a magnificent tiger lounged lazily and looked like a silent guardian to the fragile figure.

Not far off, a sprawling wolf pack kept a vigilant watch. The alpha perched closest to Nyx, its piercing vertical pupils betraying an unexpected softness as they lingered on her.

In the shadows of the underbrush, several sleek leopards prowled quietly, their sharp eyes sweeping the surroundings, poised to defend against any threat to Nyx's peaceful slumber.

Then, something happened.

The deafening roar of engines shattered the tranquility, sending flocks of birds scattering into the sky and small creatures scurrying for cover. A massive spacecraft began its descent, breaking through the tree line and sending shockwaves of unease rippling through the forest.

Yet the wild beasts surrounding Nyx held their ground. They showed their dangerous teeth and made low snarls in their throats, as if they had turned on the battle mode to drive this metallic intruder out of their territory.

The ship landed with a mechanical hiss, its bulk settling on the ground. The hatch opened, and a squad of heavily armed soldiers emerged in formation, their boots crunching against the forest floor. They moved with practiced precision.

Their mission was to extract the precious resources owned by the empire's military on this planet.

This was a long-term mission and almost like routine work for the soldiers. Yet today, they stumbled onto something they couldn't have prepared for.

"Uh..... Are those... wild beasts?" one soldier murmured, staring slack-jawed at the surreal sight.

"Tigers, wolves, and leopards? What kind of wild soap opera is this?" another added incredulously.

It didn't take a zoologist to know that different species didn't make friends, and those apex wild beasts would never show up in the same picture.

By nature, they were highly territorial and should have been at each other's throats upon meeting. Yet here they were, coexisting in an oddly harmonious way.

"Look! They're circling something. Is it some kind of treasure?" one of them whispered.

Speculation ran wild as they squinted into the cluster of animals. 'Is it some kind of rare mineral? Or maybe some valuable plants attract these beasts to guard them?'

The soldiers edged closer, trying not to provoke an attack. The beasts became more bristled. They kept making low growls to stop the soldiers from approaching them.

But then, through the gaps in the protective circle, the soldiers finally caught a glimpse of what lay in the middle.

Holy shit! That's..... a female, one soldier shouted.

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"A female! Oh my! Am I dreaming?" another stammered, as if they'd just spotted a unicorn in a city park.

Someone else asked, "This is insane! What the hell is a female doing on a Primitive Planet?"

Everybody, chill. Let's drive the wild beasts away. Don't let them hurt her," someone else chimed in.

The soldiers tread carefully, opting not to use their weapons. They didn't want to wreck the planet's ecosystem or risk harming this unexpected discovery.

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Finally, after a few tense exchanges of growls and gestures, the beasts seemed to decide the soldiers weren't a threat. They exchanged looks, shot Nyx a few glances, and reluctantly melted into the forest.

Just then, the soldiers realized that the group of wild beasts didn't mean to hurt that female but to protect her. "That was incredible," one of the soldiers sighed.

"I can't wrap my head around it. Are those really just low-IQ wild beasts, not beastmen or something?" asked another man.

"Damn, we might need to file a report on that. Somebody's gonna have to reclassify those species," someone else commented.

For now, though, their priority was clear: get the female to somewhere safe. The mining task could wait. The spacecraft roared back to life and lifted off, carrying Nyx to their base. The moment the supreme commander of the base, General Theon Lane, heard about the rescue, he came straight to check on the female and wasted no time in sending a detailed report to the higher-ups.

"She's in bad shape," muttered Zayne Larsen, the base's lead physician, as he flipped through Nyx's medical results. His face was a storm cloud of worry. "Her bone age tells she's barely twenty. She's severely malnourished, and she's covered in old

scars..."

"This has all the signs of a brutal abuse case," Zayne added, his voice cold with fury.

"The planet she was found on is classified as a non-inhabited Resource Planet," he continued. "The soldiers said she was surrounded by wild beasts.

"This isn't just abuse. Someone left her to die on that planet! It's a straight-up attempted murder of a female!" Hearing that, Theon was furious.

He stood by the medical pod and looked down at the peacefully sleeping girl inside.

Her delicate face was as small as his palm. Her pointed chin held a faint blush of pink. She was tiny, and her fragile frame was almost like a trembling flower bud on a windy branch—so delicate and soft that it seemed like a single touch might shatter her.

She was so weak and heartbreakingly beautiful. It wasn't hard to imagine countless males would be willing to lay down their lives to protect her.

The empire's current gender ratio was an alarming 1 to 79, and it was only getting worse. Under such dire circumstances, someone had the audacity to abandon a female. It was beyond disgraceful.

In the medical pod, Nyx's lashes fluttered, and then she slowly opened her eyes. Her head felt light and fuzzy.

The sensation wasn't new to her. Years of malnourishment had left her with severe hypoglycemia, and passing out had

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become routine.

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She remembered that she was summoned home by her grandmother before she passed out this time. She came home straight from work, only to find out her family had arranged for her to marry a greasy and potbellied man who had a marriage before.

Apparently, they'd already pocketed 150 thousand dollars as a wedding gift from that man.

Nyx refused their arrangement, of course, but it was too late. Her family locked her in the house for a week with no food or

no way out.

Seeing she still didn't compromise to register the marriage, they decided to ship her straight to the guy's place and let him settle the matter himself.

On the way, Nyx finally managed to escape, but her empty stomach caught up with her. She hadn't made it far before collapsing.

Looking around, Nyx wondered, 'Where the hell am I? Did they catch me? Is this that creep's house?'

Her gaze flicked around the cold and clean room. It felt like a ward, with strange machines she couldn't recognize. She was lying inside one of those machines.

Across the room, two men were talking, and they noticed she was awake.

Zayne, in the white coat, strode over and opened the pod. His eyes were warm with concern as he asked, "Thank goodness, you're finally awake. Ma'am, do you feel unwell anywhere?"

Though the stranger was way more good-looking than the actors she had seen on TV, Nyx still shrank back

instinctively.

Noticing her reaction, Zayne immediately looked regretful. He lowered his head slightly and spoke as gently as he could, trying to show he meant no harm. "You can calm down.

"This is the 286th White Tiger Regiment. I'm Zayne Larsen, the lead physician here. You've been rescued. No one will hurt you again."

Nyx blinked her eyes at Zayne and thought, 'Since when did arranged marriages warrant military involvement?'

But almost immediately, she felt something was off. She had never heard of any White Tiger Regiment. And this physician guy wasn't just nice-he was almost respectful, like she was some big deal.

She was just an ordinary citizen. Growing up in a family like that she even lived a worse life than many. She didn't believe such an excellent man would treat her so respectfully.

Her eyes darted past Zayne to the other man in the room.

With just a simple glance, Nyx couldn't help but scream in her mind, 'Holy hell! This guy is so tall!'

He looked easily over 6'3", with a build that was towering and powerful. He stood ramrod straight in a military uniform, at cap perched neatly on his head. His sharp golden-blond hair and piercing amber eyes gave him the air of a lion, commanding and unyielding.

This commanding man bowed slightly toward Nyx and said, "I'm Theon Lane, major general and supreme commander of this base. May have the honor of knowing your name?"

The pieces of information snapped together, and Nyx realized what was going on.

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She wasn't in her world anymore. She had somehow traveled to another one.

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Chapter 2

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The news that the female rescued from the Primitive Planet was awake spread through the base like wildfire. Everyone was buzzing with excitement.

This base housed over 30,000 people—all male beastmen of soldiers and logistics personnel without a single female.

By law in this empire, females weren't allowed anywhere near dangerous locations like this.

Nyx was the first female to set foot in this military base over the years.

Even though most of the males hadn't seen her in person, they all knew her name by heart.

They thought Nyx was a beautiful name. It sounded like it belonged to someone equally stunning.

Nyx was immediately scheduled to leave for the Central Planet Female Protection Association, escorted personally by Theon and Zayne. They weren't taking any chances with her safety and assigned her to the most secure spaceship available.

"On the spaceship, Nyx's room was conveniently close to Theon's. The moment she stepped into her room, she froze.

The place was breathtaking."

Warm light filtered through soft curtains, casting a cozy glow over the lightweight bedding. A small bedside lamp and a vase of dried flowers added a delicate touch to the atmosphere, while the faint scent of a soothing fragrance filled the air.

It was the exact opposite of the cold vibe she'd expected from that military camp.

"This is... my room?" Nyx asked, unable to believe it.

Misreading her expression as dissatisfaction, Theon quickly apologized. "It was a last-minute setup by my adjutant. I know it's a bit plain. Please endure it for now. If there's anything you need, just let me know."

"It's... not plain at all," Nyx murmured, shaking her head as she stepped inside. She touched one of the soft cushions on the sofa and felt a complicated mix of emotions surge within her.

All her life, she had dreamed of having a warm and safe room to call her own. But it had always seemed out of reach—a luxury she could never afford.

During her growth, she'd been branded a "money sink", dropped out of school to work, and struggled to scrape by while her earnings were snatched away to buy her younger brother clothes, gadgets, and even a tablet.

Now, faced with the reality of her long-held dream, it all felt surreal.

To be fair, everything that had happened since she woke up felt like a dream.

"Could I get some books to read? There's so much I need to figure out," Nyx asked after snapping out of her thoughts.

Her request caught Theon off guard for a second, but then he quickly realized something.

He knew the little girl had lost her memory. Aside from her name, Nyx remembered nothing, not the people who abused and abandoned her, not where she came from.

Zayne had theorized it might be self-protective amnesia, triggered by her trauma.

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Chapter 2

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Theon thought it made sense, especially since Nyx had been visibly afraid of them when she first woke up. Whatever she'd been through was likely at the hands of males.

Guilt and protectiveness swirled in Theon's chest. He gave Nyx a solemn nod and replied, "Absolutely. Whatever you need, I'll make sure you have it."

Soon, an assortment of books was delivered to her room, including illustrated audiobooks aimed at younger audiences, which were easy to digest even if her memory failed her.

Having had enough sleep, Nyx shut her door and dove headfirst into the stack of books, eager to understand this strange, new world.

She soon realized this was a vast interstellar empire, stretching across eight star systems and countless planets. Earth's technology couldn't hold a candle to what she read here.

The citizens on this planet weren't like humans on Earth either. They were beastmen.

According to the records, male beastmen had possessed two forms since ancient times—human form and beast form. They were powerful warriors, fiercely protective and capable of incredible combat.

The females, on the other hand, wielded something called "mental power", which could calm males and prevent them from losing control and permanently shifting into their beast forms.

Now, in the age of interstellar exploration, beastmen had conquered new frontiers and developed advanced medicine, with an average lifespan of 500 years. Among the planets, they were one of the most powerful high civilizations.

But even they had a problem, a threatening crisis—Females were growing increasingly rare.

The gender ratio was becoming alarmingly skewed. The empire had even dabbled in ethically controversial projects, attempting to create artificial females. But the results were disheartening—artificial females couldn't awaken mental power, and worse, their offspring often couldn't take human form at all and remained purely beast.

After countless tragedies, the empire had no choice but to shut down its artificial female research program. Instead, they turned to fiercely protecting natural females, enforced strict laws to ensure their safety, and heavily promoted polyandry.

At first, there were still criminals trying to enslave and exploit females, but as the empire cracked down hard and tightened the protections of females, the status of females rose higher and higher—until they were practically worshipped.

The balance had completely tipped: Females ruled in this civilization, and males served.

Nyx finally understood why Theon and Zayne treated her so respectfully despite their obvious authority and power. It wasn't because of who she was but because she was recognized as a female.

Nyx's eyes widened, and she felt a mix of shock and disbelief.

But it also made sense. No matter how strong or capable a male beastman was, they all depended on the mental power of females to keep them from losing control. Without it, they'd devolve into mindless beasts, unable to return to their human forms.

Nyx realized how vital mental power was to those males, and she touched her nose with guilt, thinking she didn't deserve their treatment.

She was an ordinary human, not a real female beastman. She didn't think she had any mental power at all. Later during dinner, Nyx asked Zayne about the mental power thing. "Do I... have mental power?"

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Chapter 2

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Zayne, who was taking his nutrient drink, suddenly paused his movement. He then glanced at Theon with a faintly accusing look.

Theon immediately shook his head in protest, silently explaining he didn't say anything to Nyx.

Zayne took a sigh and put his drink down to explain, "No, you don't. Mental power usually awakens by the age of 18, and since you're already 20, it's safe to say your mental power didn't awaken."

Seeing her expression falter, Zayne added, "You don't need to worry about it too much. Around 20% of females in the empire never awaken their mental power, but trust me, you're just as precious as any of them."

Zayne didn't lie to her. Though females with strong mental power held high status, those without it were still cherished as treasures on this planet.

The next day, Nyx arrived at the Central Planet Female Protection Association, where she was greeted like royalty. The fanfare and attention were overwhelming, which was leagues beyond what Earth's biggest celebrities ever experienced.

The staff at the association ran another full medical exam for Nyx. When they confirmed she had no mental power, their attitudes didn't change a bit. They still treated her like the center of their universe and escorted her through the process of registering as an official citizen of their empire.

Nyx handed her medical report to a young male and flashed him a polite smile. "Thank you."

The male's face instantly turned bright red. He held his breath, frozen in place, until Nyx moved on to the next step. Only then did he exhale and cover his chest like he'd just survived a heart attack.

"Geeze, she's adorable," he murmured with a dreamy expression.

Females in this empire were often spoiled, and they were either crusty or timid that they barely showed those males any smiles. Nyx's gentle demeanor and soft smile were rare, almost unheard of.

"Too bad she didn't awaken her mental power," the male sighed. "If she had, I'd be chasing after her in a

heartbeat."

"Come on, get real," his coworker teased. "She's so gorgeous and sweet. Even without mental power, she's not gonna run out of suitors anytime soon. You're definitely not on her radar."

The coworker added with a smirk, "Besides, malnutrition can affect mental power awakening. If she gets healthy, she might have a second awakening."

"Second awakening? Come on, man. It's rarer than a blue moon. Maybe one case every century."

"Yeah, you're probably right."

"Nyx, meanwhile, was blissfully unaware of the conversation.

She was waiting for her turn to input her information when a wave of dizziness hit her. The room spun around

her, and she had to grab something to steady herself."

As her vision swam, a line from the books she'd read yesterday came back to her: Intermittent dizziness is

one of the key symptoms before mental power awakens.

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Chapter 3

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The thought of mental power awakening flashed through Nyx's mind but was quickly forgotten.

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"Ms. Voss, your personal information has been uploaded to the system. From today, you're officially a citizen of this empire. Whenever you need to verify your identity, just scan your iris," the clerk explained.

Nyx accepted the bracelet-like device, called Intelligent Brain, and tapped it to check her profile. Her name, gender, age, height, weight, health score, and other information were all neatly displayed.

But then she noticed the section for her spouse's information. It said "None", and right next to it was a spouse applications counter, which was ticking up fast.

Nyx furrowed her brows and thought, 'Is this thing broken? How could there be so many people applying to be my spouse?'

"What's with this number?" she asked, pointing at the screen.

The clerk said with a calm, almost rehearsed tone, "Since you don't have a spouse, your profile is automatically set to accept applications from eligible unmarried males.

"You can choose one main consort and any secondary consorts you like. You'll be their matron, and they'll serve as your protectors, providing for your every need-housing, food, safety-everything. Their lives will be devoted to you."

Nyx's face instantly turned awkward, and she asked, "Is this... mandatory?"

The clerk sensed her displeasure and bowed in apology while explaining, "Not at all. The empire would never force a female to marry, I assure you. But for your safety, unmarried females are required to have at least three guardians."

Apparently, most females ended up marrying their guardians anyway, but as long as it wasn't a forced arrangement, Nyx could accept it.

She wasn't in any hurry to think about marriage now. Her recent experiences had left her with a pretty big mental block on the subject.

Nyx glanced at Theon and Zayne, the two who had been by her side through everything so far. She bit her lip, hesitating. She barely knew anyone in this world, and she couldn't help but feel attached to them.

Zayne, understanding her unspoken thoughts, stepped forward and said, "Ms. Voss, if you allow it, I'd be honored to be one of your guardians."

Theon followed immediately and said in a sincere tone, "I'd like to be your guardian as well."

Nyx nodded again and again but said no words.

Seeing the scene, Zayne showed a gentle smile. It was a rare sight that softened his usually sharp and serious features. His calm, almost frosty demeanor melted away, and his smile was like the first warm breeze after winter.

He took Nyx's hand and bowed slightly to press a light kiss to Nyx's fingertips.

Theon did the same, gently kissing her other hand with a reverence that made her blush.

"Does this mean we're... family now?" Nyx asked with a shy expression and mustered her courage. "Can you both stop being so formal with me? Just relax a bit."

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Chapter 3

All the words like "Ms. Voss" and "honored" they said to her made her feel embarrassed.

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Overhearing those words, other males nearby exchanged envious glances and thought, 'How sweet this female is. These two guys really hit the jackpot.'

Once the registration was finalized, the clerk reminded Nyx, "You have one month to find a third guardian. If you don't register someone by then, the system will automatically assign one for you."

Nyx figured she had plenty of time, so she didn't stress about it.

After that, the three of them left for Jade Garden, one of the most renowned fine-dining restaurants on Central Planet, to have lunch.

In this age, culinary art had taken a backseat. Most people preferred nutrient drinks over actual food. Nyx had already experienced one forgettable meal on the spaceship—a dinner so awful that she barely managed to choke it down.

Thus, she chose to have a nutrient drink for breakfast today, a peach-flavored one. It tasted sweet, though there was a weird aftertaste that reminded her it wasn't real fruit. Still, it was better than last night's disaster.

She originally thought the food in the military cafeteria was terrible and had hoped for something better in the restaurant. However, when she arrived at Jade Garden, reality hit her hard that this planet had no good food at all.

She swallowed a bite of a dry, flavorless steak and blinked back tears of disappointment. Compared to the military food, the only difference was the price. The food in the restaurant was ridiculously expensive and still just as bad.

She'd been shocked at the menu prices when they ordered, but now that the food was in front of her, she felt outright scammed.

Both Theon and Zayne, watching her closely, instantly picked up on her dissatisfaction.

Theon leaned in and said in a low voice, "If you don't like it, pass it to me. Want to try something else? Or maybe we can find another place."

Zayne poured her a glass of grape juice and slid it over with quiet patience, waiting for her to give the word. Nyx took the drink and flashed a sweet smile as she glanced at Zayne. Then, after a moment's thought, she leaned closer to Theon, her voice dropping to a whisper. "I don't want meat anymore. I'd like some vegetables."

She had no idea how utterly adorable she was to those males when she whispered like this.

Many prying eyes were fixed on her from every corner of the restaurant.

Ever since she entered the restaurant, countless males had been attracted by Nyx's pretty face and had gotten excited.

Theon felt her warm breath brush against his ear, and his sharp senses nearly short-circuited. The battle-hardened young general suddenly found his ears burning red, and heat spread all the way to his face.

He stood stiffly, ordered several vegetable dishes, and returned to his seat. His movement earned himself a light "thanks" from Nyx.

Nyx discreetly slid the rest of her dry, tasteless steak onto Theon and Zayne's plates. In exchange, she made them an earnest promise. "I'll cook for you guys someday."

Every male in the restaurant who'd been sneaking glances at her looked ready to explode with jealousy.

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Chapter 3

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A nearby live-streamer, known for reviewing high-end restaurants, happened to capture the moment on camera. Suddenly, their small audience began skyrocketing in numbers—not for the food, but for the stunning female on-screen.

[Hey, man! Zoom in, will ya?!]

[Who is she? Geeze, she's adorable. And she said thanks! To a male!]

[Wait, wait, wait... She promised to cook for them? I'm dying. How can they be so lucky?]

[She's so sweet. Honestly, the kitchen's too dangerous for a female like her. Let the males handle it. We all learned cooking as a mandatory course!]

[Yeah, she even smiles at them. My matron hasn't smiled at me in ages, let alone cooked or mentally soothed

me.]

[At least your matron doesn't whip you with a belt whenever she's annoyed.]

[You guys shut up. I don't even have a matron.]

[No female has ever talked to me, aside from my mom.]

[Oh, poor me...]

What started as admiration for Nyx quickly spiraled into a pity party in the chat.

["You're all missing the point! Look at the males she's with. That's Theon Lane! He's a general at such a young age. And another guy is the talented physician, Zayne Larsen. He was already very popular when he was at Imperial Military Academy.]

[Theon always keeps a low key, but I heard his uncle's none other than Felix Lane. Their beast forms are both

the lion.]

[No freaking way. Felix Lane, the War God Marshal? I'm a big fan of him!]

[Well, he indeed has an amazing background...]

[Theon's not the only big deal. Zayne's an absolute genius. He owned several patents at the Imperial Military Academy. He's the guy who helped design the most widely-used medical pods today.]

Zayne didn't have a good background like Theon, yet he still won a large group of fans due to his own ability.

[Don't forget Zayne was already famous as a self-taught apothecary before he even got into the academy. A female once tried to pursue him, right? Could it be this female?]

[No, that was Astraea Lynn.]

Many females, enjoying living in the spotlight, would post something on social media to attract males's attention. Astraea was one of those females, and she had gained a pretty big fan base.

[Astraea? Oh my! I think she's at Jade Garden right now too!]

Nyx was quietly sipping her grape juice when she noticed a female, dressed far too extravagantly for the

setting, stomping toward their table. Her face was twisted in fury.

"ZAYNE! Good for you! Hiding out as a military physician in the middle of nowhere to avoid me, huh? And now

you became someone else's spouse! Is this your way of humiliating me?" the female snapped.

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Chapter 3

Without waiting for a response, she raised her hand, clearly ready to slap Zayne.

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Nyx immediately stepped in front of Zayne and caught Astraca's wrist. With a quick twist, Nyx pinned

Astraea's arm behind her back, holding her firmly in place.

The livestream erupted with more discussions!

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Chapter 4

[I take my comment back. This is the strongest female I've ever seen!]

[She's so cute, but damn, she's fierce!]

The males in the restaurant stayed frozen in place, unsure of what to do. Astraea, meanwhile, yelped in pain when Nyx gripped her wrist.

Nyx released her, but Astraea wasn't done yet. She glared at Nyx and tried to kick her.

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Nyx dodged effortlessly. Astraea's foot swung through empty air, throwing her off balance, and she tumbled forward in a very ungraceful heap.

By now, the livestream's viewership had skyrocketed, far surpassing the usual numbers for top streamers. The streamer, torn between fear and greed, kept filming despite the chaos.

More viewers were drawn in by the commotion. What they saw completely surprised them.

[Am I hallucinating, or are two females really fighting?!]

[That's not a fight. It's called self-defense.]

[But wasn't Astraea trying to hit Zayne first?]

Zayne was a male, and in this society, males were at the bottom of the food chain. If a female hit a male, he had to take it. If he dared fight back, he'd be slapped with assault charges and spend at least ten years in prison.

Astraea, furious after her double humiliation, finally remembered she wasn't alone. She turned to her companions and shouted, "You're just gonna sit there and watch me get bullied?!"

They were two secondary consorts Astraea had just taken, a pair of brothers. The two of them seemed awkward now and hesitated.

As Astraea's consorts, they were supposed to defend her, to fight for her honor.

But the person standing opposite Astraea was another female, a more petite and delicate female who radiated an air of vulnerability.

Even if they were willing to risk the consequences of hitting a female, they couldn't bring themselves to raise a hand against Nyx. She looked too fragile, like she might break if they even tried.

Seeing their hesitation, Astraea took a shaky breath and burst into tears.

Nyx blinked, caught completely off guard.

Honestly, this was the easiest fight she'd ever been in. She'd never seen someone so high-maintenance, so full of temper, and yet so utterly harmless.

After a moment's hesitation, Nyx pulled a handkerchief from her pocket and handed it over to Astraea.

It was one she'd sewn herself with a little sunflower embroidered in the corner.

Astraea snatched it without a word and wiped her face, glaring at Nyx between snuffles. Her pride was in shreds.

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Chapter

Through her tears, Astraea's voice trembled with indignation. "Unbelievable! You hit me for a male?!"

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To Astraca, this was absurd. Females were meant to be above everything. Males, no matter their rank or status, were beneath them. And yet, that strange female sided with a male and humiliated her.

Nyx raised a finger, her voice steady and firm. "First of all, I didn't hit you. I just stopped you from hitting him. "Second, everyone deserves dignity, and it has nothing to do with their gender. You feel humiliated because I stopped you, but how do you think Zayne would've felt if you slapped him in front of all these people? Does he not deserve respect?"

"And third..." Nyx's gaze turned sharp. "To me, you're just a stranger. But Zayne is my family. If you try to hurt him in front of me, of course I'm going to protect him."

Astraca froze, staring at Nyx. This small, delicate female had spoken with a confidence and presence that left her completely stunned.

The livestream chat went wild, and the viewers went crazy.

[WHO IS SHE?! I need her name!]

[She's amazing! I'm obsessed!!!]

["Of course I'm going to protect him." Someone put that on repeat for me, please!]

[She says males deserve respect. I'm so moved.]

[I want her to call me family. I want her to protect me too.]

[By the Beast God above, I swear I'll follow her in my lifetime. No other female will ever compare to her.]

The livestream chat was exploding with comments. Viewers practically wanted to crawl through their screens to confess their love to this incredible female.

Meanwhile, Theon got a message from a friend. Only then did he know the livestream had a massive audience.

“His sharp eyes scanned the crowd and locked onto the streamer. He immediately gave that guy a cold, warning glare.

Theon exchanged a quick glance with Zayne, and they both made the decision to get Nyx out of here.” As they escorted her away, Astraea was now back with her consorts. She clutched the handkerchief tightly, staring at Nyx's retreating figure. For once, she didn't throw another tantrum.

Inside the spacecraft, Zayne took the seat to Nyx's left. His gaze lingered on her profile, unable to look away. The image of her standing in front of him, shielding him, and those words she said to defend him replayed in his mind on an endless loop. His heart pounded relentlessly, like a drumbeat that refused to pause.

Nyx could feel the weight of his stare, but she pretended not to notice.

By nature, she was introverted, and now that the adrenaline had worn off, embarrassment started to creep in. At the restaurant, she acted on impulse, letting her emotions take over. But now, sitting quietly in the spacecraft, all she could think about was how over-the-top she must have looked.

Her toes curled in her shoes as the awkwardness consumed her. After a few minutes of this unbearable tension, she finally couldn't hold back. She turned to Zayne and blurted, “Why are you staring at me like that?”

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Chapter 4

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Zayne was silent for a moment. Then, instead of answering, he said something completely unexpected, “I'm an orphan. I grew up on H973-a Desolate Planet.”

After he struggled to leave that planet, he had never talked about his past with anyone. Nyx was the very first person to make him open his heart.

Zayne continued, "Desolate Planet is a place where resources have dried up. Most people leave if they can, but those who stay behind only face chaos. Crime, violence, and death are everywhere. There's no future, no

hope."

Nyx tried to picture it. It was probably like some of Earth's most dangerous regions, where even tourists risked losing their organs if they weren't careful.

"That's incredible," she said, her voice full of genuine admiration. "You made it out of a place like that and became so excellent."

Coming from a tough background herself, Nyx understood how much intelligence, determination, and sheer grit it took to claw one's way out of that kind of life.

Hearing her compliment, Zayne smiled.

It wasn't his usual polite, distant smile. This was different-warmer and softer. His gold-rimmed glasses, normally a shield that kept others from seeing the real him, couldn't hide the emotion in his eyes. It was like winter thawing into spring.

For years, Zayne had carried the weight of his past alone. He'd fought tooth and nail to rise above it, enduring countless hardships and sneers from people who looked down on his origins. He had seen the ugliest sides of humanity, yet he never let it break him.

Even though he treated females with the respect society demanded, deep down, he refused to submit to someone like Astraea. He wouldn't let himself be trampled on or used as a pawn in some petty power game.

That was why he rejected Astraea and sought refuge in the military, choosing solitude over a life he couldn't

respect.

At first, his feelings toward Nyx were simple: he liked her and wanted to protect her. Agreeing to be her guardian hadn't been about romance or long-term plans.

But now, things were changing. For the first time, Zayne found himself wanting more. He wanted to stay by

Nyx's side

forever.

Nyx, meanwhile, was growing increasingly nervous under his intense gaze. She thought, 'He's not about to confess his feelings, is he?'

Of The Beastmen 5

Chapter 5

Chapter 5

Nyx and Zayne locked eyes, and the air between them instantly grew more ambiguous. It was clearly heading toward a confession.

Nyx couldn't help but hold her breath.

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She had to admit that Zayne was incredibly, ridiculously handsome, with a top-tier job and a gentle personality. Over the time they'd spent together, she couldn't find a single flaw in him.

But even if Zayne was the most perfect, tragic, and beautiful guy in the galaxy, she wasn't going to accept his confession.

But she thought she might have misunderstood him.

'Okay, maybe I'm overthinking this. I'm definitely overthinking it Nyx mentally smacked herself. She was never this vain.

Just then, Theon's Intelligent Brain chimed with an incoming message. That awkward atmosphere vanished instantly.

All three pairs of eyes fell on Theon's Intelligent Brain. Theon frowned, glanced at the caller ID, pressed his lips together, and then declined the call without hesitation.

Nyx let out a quiet sigh of relief, though she couldn't help but notice the pained look on Theon's face. He seemed a bit uneasy, like that unanswered call was weighing on him.

She was concerned but didn't want to pry, especially since he wasn't saying anything about it.

Taking advantage of the brief distraction, Zayne reached over and gently ruffled her hair, offering her a comforting smile.

They soon arrived at their destination. Seeing Nyx distracted as she looked around the villa, Zayne casually asked Theon, "Was that Marshal Lane's call? Was it about Nyx?"

Theon gave a curt nod but clearly wasn't in the mood to discuss it further.

He quickly caught up to Nyx and guided her to her room.

This villa had been purchased during Theon's teenage years when he was still at Imperial Military Academy. Since graduating and officially joining the military, no one had lived here.

Before leaving the base for Central Planet yesterday, he had made sure to have the place cleaned and, for some reason, went ahead and bought a bunch of furniture and decor that he thought females would like.

At that time, Nyx and he were still strangers who barely had exchanged a few words. He hadn't even become her guardian

yet.

It was all one-sided feelings. Theon, lying awake at night, fantasized about a future he hadn't yet had the courage to pursue.

The youngest Major General of the empire, Theon Lane, was known for his ruthless prowess on the battlefield. But deep down, he was a completely hopeless romantic who had believed since childhood that true love was waiting for him someday.

This was a secret he kept close to his chest, only his family knowing. Even if anyone else heard of that, they would think it was a laughable rumor.

Theon flushed slightly as he showed Nyx the room with the best sunlight in the villa.

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Chapter

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The entire room was comfortable, easily three times the size of the temporary room on the spaceship. There was a walk-in closet, a bathroom, a small study-everything a person would need to live comfortably.

While it wasn't overly decorated, all the essentials were there. The rest could be added gradually, depending on Nyx's preferences once she moved in.

What Theon didn't admit to Nyx was that, when he first bought the villa, this room was the one that caught his eye. He had already decided back then that it would be for his future matron

And, of course, he intended to live next door.

If he could ever get his matron's permission to spend the night in her room, that would be his ideal life. Nervously, Theon asked, "Do you like this room?"

Nyx's eyes lit up, and she gave a joyful nod, which made Theon's heart swell with happiness.

"If you like it, I'll transfer ownership of this villa to you," he added, a bit bashful but sincere. On this planet, it would be an honor for a male to give his home to the female he cared about.

Nyx's jaw dropped, and she immediately shook her head.

She thought to herself, 'Who just gives away a house like that? Is this some kind of weird culture, or does Theon just love being a sucker?'

She couldn't help but feel a little suspicious. Things that seemed too good to be true usually were. Seeing Theon's slightly deflated look, she quickly tried to explain herself. It wasn't that she didn't like the room-it was just way too extravagant. She couldn't accept such a valuable gift.

Although Theon looked a little disappointed, he respected her decision, silently vowing that one day, he'd make sure Nyx would accept his gift.

The room still felt a little bare. Nyx pulled out her Intelligent Brain, deciding to browse the shopping platform for some things to spruce up the space.

She remembered the clerk telling her that the empire provided monthly allowance for each female, a hefty 10,000 StarCoins. Her allowance for this month had already been deposited when she registered as a citizen.

As Nyx marveled at her effortless income of 10,000 StarCoins a month, she glanced at her personal account displayed on her Intelligent Brain.

She stared at the numbers and counted for a few seconds, feeling completely confused.

Nyx couldn't wrap her head around it. How the heck did she have so many followers on an account that didn't even have a single post? And the numbers were just climbing by the minute.

What she didn't know was that the whole scene at Jade Garden restaurant had been live-streamed, drawing billions of viewers in real time. After the stream ended, word spread like wildfire, and even more people watched the replay.

A huge chunk of those viewers, mostly males, had fallen head over heels for Nyx, and they soon became her most dedicated fans and suitors.

Nyx even found her name trending on the social media. She nervously clicked on the hashtag and was immediately hit with a flood of praise—so much that she had to squint, feeling totally overwhelmed.

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Chapter

She couldn't help but think that even top celebrities on Earth probably didn't have this kind of fan base and attention. It was crazy. She was getting tips from fans, and her account was now raking in an astronomical amount of StarCoins. But there were a few nasty comments creeping in here and there

In this era, everyone's personal information was out in the open so it was easy for others to find her personal info based on a single live stream.

Some questioned her lack of mental power, saying that Theon and Zayne weren't actually her spouses but just her temporary guardians.

[Everyone knows that the only kind of males who choose a female with no mental power as a partner are the weak, herbivore-type beastmen.

[They have a lower risk of bestialization, so they don't rely as much on the female's mental calming. As for General Lane and Dr. Larsen, if I'm not mistaken, both of them are carnivorous males, right?]

[I think Nyx is trying to latch onto the big shots. How scheming

[Big brain, no mental power? Doesn't make a difference.]

Nyx clicked on those posts, and sure enough, they were all getting dragged with hundreds of thousands of replies tearing them apart.

[Shut up! People with hearts see things clearly, but you guys only know how to spread dirt behind your screens. Come fight me, if you've got the guts. Address: xxxxxxxx.....]

[So what even if she has no mental power? It doesn't change the fact that she's a rare gem, worthy of being loved by anyone.)

[My beast form is the crocodile, a totally carnivore type. My annual salary's in the millions, and I'm willing to risk bestialization. I don't want any other females, just her!]

[Crocodile? Please, I'm a leopard. Got a fortune, graduated from Imperial Business University, now running my own company. I'm financially free. I've already submitted my application to Nyx!]

[If Theon and Zayne are too clueless to see how good she is, they can just get the hell out of the way. A billion males are waiting in line for their chance!]

In the next room, Theon was on a video call.

The guy on the other side of the screen was a more mature-looking beastman, a little older than Theon. They looked strikingly similar, except his hair was black instead of gold, and his eyes were sharp and piercing.

This was Theon's uncle-Felix Lane, the marshal. It was Felix's call that Theon had rejected earlier.

"Theon, you know exactly what I'm about to say," said Felix in a serious tone.

Theon stayed silent.

"You're not a rebellious teenager anymore. Stop doing impulsive things." Felix's gaze hardened as he looked

at his nephew through the screen.

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Chapter 5

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"You know, the last physical check-up shows your Loss of Control Index was already at 74." Felix flicked through the report in his hand and showed it to Theon.

Felix continued, "Once it hits 80, you'll start shifting uncontrollably into beast form, and when you do, you won't even have any sense of reason left. You'll be a wild beast.

"Once it reaches 90, not only will you shift into beast form intermittently, but you'll go full-on crazy and attack everyone around you.

"And once you hit 100, you're done. You'll be a mad beast for the rest of your life, never returning to human form. And no one will be able to save you."

Felix tossed the report aside and leaned closer to the screen, his voice low and intense. "You need mental calming. You absolutely cannot have Nyx as your spouse. She has no mental power."

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Chapter 6

Chapter 6

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Chapter 6

Chapter

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Theon opened his mouth to argue but barely managed to say a no when a noise from the next room cut him off, followed by Zayne's frantic voice. He instantly jumped up and hurried over.

"What's going on?" The moment he stepped in, he saw Nyx curled up in bed, eyes shut, while Zayne was digging through their medical supplies to carefully run some checkups on her.

"Nykie took a fall. She said she suddenly felt really dizzy," Zayne explained, his tone full of concern.

Theon didn't have the energy to wonder when Zayne had gotten close enough to start calling her "Nykie". "Why is she suddenly feeling dizzy again?" Theon asked, his brow furrowed.

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Before Zayne could answer, Felix's voice came through loud and clear. "Intermittent dizziness is a classic symptom before a female's mental power awakens. Could she be about to go through a second awakening?" Even though it was a rare occurrence—one in a few hundred years—there had been cases in history where a female's mental power failed to awaken at 18, only to later experience a second awakening.

Zayne raised his eyebrows at Theon. Only then did Theon realize he'd forgotten to end the video call. Without thinking, he just hung up.

Seeing that, Zayne shook his head and asked, "Marshal Lane gave you trouble again?"

Zayne had known Theon for many years, yet he never understood why Theon and his uncle always came into conflicts despite their close relationship.

Theon shot Zayne a cold look and explained, "He's trying to break up me and Nyx."

Zayne nodded and replied, "Nykie doesn't have mental power, and with your high Loss of Control Index, it's no wonder they pulled you from the front lines. Felix is just worried about you."

When a male's emotions ran high, their Loss of Control Index would go through the roof. On the battlefield, with all the stress and constant violence, military men were among the most prone to losing control. They were just not suited for pairing up with females who lacked mental power.

Theon said nothing but just stayed quiet.

Zayne didn't want to dig deeper into sensitive topics, so he focused back to analyze the data carefully.

When Nyx fell asleep, they left her room. Zayne told Theon, "Your uncle is right. Nykie is very likely experiencing the second awakening. She even has shown some mental power fluctuation. Her intermittent dizziness has something to do with this."

By the time Nyx woke up, it was already evening. Seeing the two males waiting outside her door, she felt a little embarrassed.

"Did I scare you guys?" she asked, a bit sheepishly. "I just have low blood sugar sometimes. It's nothing serious."

Zayne chuckled and said, "It's indeed nothing serious, but it's not just low blood sugar. You might be on the verge of a second awakening."

It was actually great news. All the females wished they could have mental power, and a higher mental power level meant

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Chapter 6

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higher social status and more respect. Thus, they could have stronger males as their spouses and lead a better life.

The two of them had already planned how to celebrate it, expecting Nyx to be over the moon about the news. But when she heard it, her expression was anything but thrilled. She looked almost awkward.

Nyx had no idea how Zayne had come to the conclusion that she was about to awaken. She thought he must have misdiagnosed her. After all, she was a human, and humans couldn't get mental power.

But seeing the two of them so happy about it, Nyx didn't have the heart to correct them. She just hoped they wouldn't be too disappointed later.

Zayne adjusted his glasses and gave her a reassuring smile. "From now on, you need to eat regularly, okay? And make sure to get plenty of nutrients. Regular supplements won't cut it for you. I've already ordered a batch of special ones, custom-made for your needs."

Thinking about how Nyx seemed to have an unusually strong craving for good food, Theon nodded. He remembered that this was a trait common to all females—they couldn't stand bland, tasteless nutrient packs and preferred real, natural food

It was just perfect. In his younger days, Theon had aced cooking classes and was something of a culinary whiz.

Theon glanced over at Nyx with a playful smile tugging at his lips. "If you're not into nutrient packs, what do you like to eat? I can whip something up for you."

Zayne felt a sense of crisis upon hearing that. He had been so focused on the nutritional balance of her meals that he completely forgot about what females actually wanted to eat.

On top of that, his whole celibacy theory meant he'd barely scraped through cooking classes back in the day, so his cooking skills weren't anywhere near Theon's level.

Zayne had never thought of this day to come. He swore to himself that he needed to get some serious practice in cooking.

Nyx chimed in, "Ah, well, actually, those nutrient drinks aren't that bad..." She was already disappointed in the food on this planet, and she thought she could just live on nutrient drinks.

But then a thought popped into her head, and she brightened up. "Wait, how about I make dinner instead? As a thank-you for taking care of me these past couple of days."

Theon and Zayne froze, exchanging a confused look and thinking, 'Is she serious? A female doing the cooking for males? If the Female Protection Association gets wind of this, we'll probably get dragged to court.'

But Nyx was already ahead of them, rummaging through the kitchen. She found potatoes, asparagus, tomatoes, and a bunch of other things she didn't recognize at all—definitely not stuff she could find on Earth. The meat was about the same as what she saw back home, though she couldn't tell what kind of animal it came from. It was already cut into neat pieces, though, so she picked out some ribs and a chunk of what looked like beef brisket.

To her surprise, the spices and condiments were decently stocked.

But then, the real issue hit. She had no clue how to use the kitchen gadgets.

Theon saw an opening and suggested, "How about I handle the cooking, and you just tell me what to do?"

He thought this whole thing was a joke. He didn't believe a female could cook, especially one who couldn't even remember her past.

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Still, he went along with it. If it made her happy, he was down for whatever nonsense she wanted to pull. And even if they ended up with a disaster, he'd probably just smile and eat whatever she served. After all, he was tough enough to survive anything.

Nyx then instructed, "Okay, first, cut the ribs into pieces and wash them. Then, put them in cold water with some ginger and scallions. If we don't have cooking wine, just use any other alcohol, and blanch them."

Theon had no idea what "blanch" meant but did exactly as told.

Zayne, not wanting to sit idly by, jumped in to help. He followed Nyx's orders to chop up the ingredients into the right shapes.

Next, Nyx had Theon put the ribs in the oven and add in the seasonings like garlic and pepper. The kitchen soon filled with the mouthwatering smell of grilled braised pork ribs.

Meanwhile, Nyx was busy guiding them through a second dish-tomato and beef brisket stew. Both dishes would take a good while to cook on Earth. But with their advanced devices, everything was done in a few minutes, and the result was just as tender and flavorful as the slow-cooked dishes.

When it came time for the last dish, Zayne insisted on making the fried asparagus himself.

However, his over-the-top precision caused some friction. He spent way too much time debating how much

"a pinch" or "a little bit of seasoning meant. Nyx was ready to lose it, and Zayne, realizing his mistake,

scrambled to apologize.

Luckily, the dish turned out fine in the end.

They all sat down to eat. They had three dishes and something dry as bread.

After two days of suffering through the bland, tasteless food on the planet, the smell of these homey dishes hit

Nyx like a wave, and for a second, she felt like she was back on Earth.

But then, she shook it off. There was nothing left on Earth worth clinging to. With a small, contented smile, she sighed inwardly, letting go of old attachments.

On their planet, there was a custom: females would eat first, and males usually served the females. If the female was in a good mood, she might give them the leftovers.

When Nyx first heard about this, she thought it was some weird roleplay scenario. But she wasn't about to feed them her leftovers.

After sampling each dish, she waved them over and said, "Come on, join me. Let's eat together."

She sneaked a glance at their faces, half-worried the food wouldn't be to their taste. She knew the flavors were

probably too "Earthy" for their alien palates.

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Chapter 7

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Chapter 7

Theon and Zayne were both touched, but they still stuck to the rules. However, Nyx insisted they join her for the meal, and after a brief exchange of glances, they gave in and sat down, eating with a little more restraint than usual.

The ingredients on the planet were from specialized Resource Planets. Those planets were free of industrial pollution, where food was naturally grown. These ingredients were not only healthier than anything Nyx had eaten back on Earth, but the flavors were way better.

The potatoes were savory, the tomatoes were juicy, and the asparagus was crisp with a refreshing aroma.

The ribs had been grilled until their surface was crispy. Wrapping itself around the rich potato, the meat tasted even more indulgent. The beef brisket practically melted in their mouths, soaking up all the tomato goodness, leaving them craving

more.

Both males were completely stunned by the "home-cooked" meal Nyx had described. They'd expected the dishes to be decent, but not this astonishing!

Growing up on nutrient drinks, with the occasional visit to high-end restaurants, they thought they knew what "good food" tasted like. But after trying this, they realized just how badly they'd been wasting ingredients all along.

Sitting in front of Nyx, the two of them were doing their best to maintain some level of decorum, but their focus was entirely on the food.

For Nyx, having someone to share the meal with made her appetite a bit better than usual, though she still ate less than most would.

She finished first, excused herself, and got up from the table. The moment her footsteps left, the atmosphere shifted. Theon wasted no time to grab the last three pieces of ribs off the plate and add another piece of potato to his own plate. Zayne quickly scooped up the last of the tomato beef stew, leaving only a sad little pool of broth and two lonely chunks of beef, along with some shredded tomatoes.

It wasn't that the fried asparagus wasn't good—it just wasn't their thing. Both of them were carnivores type at heart, and even though they were in human form, their dietary preferences still leaned heavily toward meat.

Still, they didn't completely ignore the veggies. They divided the asparagus evenly between them and polished it off.

Once the plates were cleared, Theon arranged his portion artfully, snapped a few pictures with his Intelligent Brain, and sent them off to Felix.

Theon: [Nyx cooked. They are amazing.]

Felix was stunned when the message came through. His rebellious nephew, who barely ever bothered to contact him, had not only rejected his calls twice today but was now sending him a message out of the blue.

Felix clicked open the message, and as he had expected, it was about Nyx.

A female cooking?' Felix's mind went into overdrive. 'Is Theon crazy? How could he let a female cook? What if she poisoned him?

But then he saw the pictures, and his eyes widened.

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The Intelligent Brain didn't just send the image itself-it also captured the smell and transferred it as data. Basically, pictures now came with a full-on sensory experience.

In simple terms, pictures in this era could carry the smell together when they were delivered to the other party.

As Felix stared at the pictures, the rich, tantalizing scent of the food hit him hard. His stomach betrayed him and started growling loudly in response. He cursed under his breath, embarrassed.

Felix made another video call to Theon.

This time, Theon answered soon, clearly too relaxed to care. He was lounging back on his bed like a content lion after a good meal, his posture anything but the rigid, commanding general he usually was.

Seeing his relaxed state, Felix said with a chuckle, "Good for you, Theon. Letting a female cook for you? Are you trying to get thrown in jail?"

Theon replied, "Nykie instructed me, and I just did the cooking. Don't worry, I'm not going to jail."

He sounded like a kid bragging about a new toy with a grin on his face. "We're thinking about doing this for all our meals from now on. She says she'll teach me more recipes."

"From now on?" Felix's smile faded, and his expression grew serious. He stared at Theon for a long while before finally speaking, "You don't have a future with her."

"Nyx is a great female, the kind every male dreams of having as a partner. I get why you're so obsessed with her. Young guys like you always fall headfirst into love and want to drown in it."

"But Theon, your Loss of Control Index is currently at 74, not even 64. If it were that, maybe I'd buy into your little fairy tale. Maybe I'd say, fine, just stick to desk work, stay off the battlefield, and keep your emotions in check."

Felix's gaze was steady as he went on. "But 74? That's way too high. You can't hold it together for long. Are you just gonna waste your life and your efforts before?"

"Nyx might like you," Felix admitted, his voice softening. "You're the youngest major general in the empire, and I've got your back. You've got a brilliant future ahead of you."

"But she's not going to like a lion that can never turn back into a man. And the lion may lose its mind and doesn't even recognize her. Worse still, the lion may attack her like a stranger"

Theon's expression turned gloomy, his fists clenching at his sides. He retorted, "Nyx will undergo a second awakening. She will have mental power."

Felix sighed, the weight of the conversation hanging in the air. "You're an S-level male. An A-level female's mental power won't be enough to calm you down. Less than 2% of females even reach A-level mental power. Do you really think she can do it?"

Theon fell silent, the truth settling like a cold stone in his chest.

Felix added, "A-level females don't have trouble finding partners. And even if they can comfort a male, they're only allowed a few. There are always more males than available females. Times running out for you, Theon."

Felix's voice shifted slightly, the usual forcefulness replaced by something more vulnerable. "Theon, we're family. You're all I

have."

The Lane family had always been small in number. As if they were cursed by something, the Lanes died on the battlefield,

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Chapter 7

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from illness, from accidents, and most of all, died from bestialization. And now, Theon was facing the same

fate.

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Felix's voice was final as he delivered his last command. "You can be reckless in everything else, but not this. I've got a list of available A-level females with partner slots open. Take a look and find one you like. Go after her immediately. Don't waste another second."

The communication ended on a sour note, as the two men hung up, each feeling the sting of the disagreement.

Theon shut his eyes, his mind a whirl of chaos.

He thought of the soldiers he'd seen succumb to bestialization on the battlefield—those who lost all reason, who couldn't tell friend from foe, and who attacked without mercy.

The image of them, mindless and savage, haunted him. He couldn't help but fear that one day, he'd become a beast, with no dignity, no humanity left to hold onto.

He needed mental calm. But the awakening rate for A-level mental power was so low, and the chances of Nyx being the one to help him were almost nonexistent.

Theon knew Felix made a point, but he just couldn't accept it.

Theon's mind raced, frustration and unease tightening in his chest. His breathing became shallow, and his eyes were bloodshot with growing panic.

His Loss of Control Index continued to climb. The moment it reached 80, the alarm sounded. A shrill warning beeped from his Intelligent Brain, and it notified his emergency contact, Felix, in an instant.

In the blink of an eye, Theon's form changed, and the man was gone. Where he had stood, a massive lion now prowled, his clothes torn and his senses wild. With a roar, he smashed through the window and leaped from the second floor, bounding into the night.

Zayne heard the alarm and rushed over, but he was already too late.

He picked up Theon's Intelligent Brain from the floor and quickly made a call to Felix. "Marshal Lane, it's Zayne. Theon has shifted into beast form. He broke the window and ran off. Based on the traces, he's headed southeast. There's no major damage or blood in his room."

Bestialization was different from a normal transformation. While some beastmen could shift willingly, retaining their human minds, bestialized ones were closer to true animals, their human reasoning completely gone.

A lion in full beast form was devastating, and once it lost control, the destruction was catastrophic. The search for Theon was underway, with law enforcement and other departments mobilizing in full force. Zayne also joined the search team, but before heading out, he took a quick look at Nyx. She was fast asleep, undisturbed by the chaos that had erupted around her. Zayne tiptoed out, leaving her in peace.

Later that night, Nyx was in a deep, hazy sleep when she felt something soft and furry brush against her face.

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Chapter 8 Chapter

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Chapter 8

"Dollar, be good," Nyx mumbled, tossing her body and pushing the fluffy thing away.

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Dollar was the cat her boss kept around. It was a big, fat orange tabby, with a proud attitude to match its size. It looked down on everyone in the company-whether it was the higher-ups or the employees, even her owner was just a peasant in Dollar's

eyes.

But there was one person Dollar did like-Nyx. Every day, she would hang out by Nyx's desk, rolling around and rubbing against her legs, trying to lure Nyx into petting her soft belly, completely wrecking her work efficiency.

Luckily, since it was kept by Nyx's boss, Nyx never got her pay docked. In fact, she got a raise for winning Dollar's affection. Her boss had even asked her several times privately how she managed to get Dollar to like her so much.

Nyx just shrugged. She couldn't explain it. Maybe she was just born with a gift for animals.

It wasn't just Dollar, either. When she was younger, out in the countryside, all the kids in her family had excluded her, even her cousins. While the other kids ignored her, Nyx could hang out with the animals.

From the chickens and dogs to the squirrels and foxes in the woods, every animal seemed to take a liking to her.

The scariest encounter had been with a pack of wolves in the mountains. She had expected them to attack, but instead, they acted like playful pups, and she even got to pet their chubby little cubs.

Nyx muttered in her mind, 'Wolves' fur isn't soft. It's a bit rough, much like Dollar's fur now... But wait, isn't Dollar a cat? Why is its fur suddenly feeling so stiff? And why the heck is it so heavy? What on earth has it been eating lately?'

Before she could process it, a massive fluffball pressed against her chest, nearly crushing her.

The pressure immediately woke Nyx up. Her eyes snapped open and her heart almost skipped a beat. A pair of glowing, predatory eyes stared at her from the darkness.

She then realized this wasn't Dollar.

Reality crashed in on her like a ton of bricks. She wasn't on Earth anymore, and there was no way she was seeing Dollar here.....

Nyx's heart raced as she stared at the creature in front of her.

It was massive with solid muscle and a thick mane around its neck. Even in the darkness, it was unmistakably a lion. A young, strong, powerful lion was watching her quietly with an intensity she could feel down to her bones.

Nyx had never been to a zoo when she was on Earth, and all her knowledge of lions came from TV. But even so, she could tell this one was way bigger than the ones back on Earth.

It didn't need to use its claws or fangs—just one swipe of its paw could probably flatten her in an instant.

Fear gripped Nyx's chest, her face turned pale, and a chill ran through her body.

For what felt like forever, the two of them just stared at each other in silence. But slowly, as the panic receded,

she noticed that the lion didn't seem to be attacking her. It was just watching her.

Tentatively, she reached out and pushed its head off her chest. Surprisingly, it didn't bite her.

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Chapter 8

Gathering her courage. Nyx tried to get up and slide off the bed,

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The lion immediately followed, inching closer and keeping pace behind her, its glowing eyes never leaving her.

It didn't attack Nyx, but having a lion shadowing her around was enough to make her heart race. Nyx looked around for Theon or Zayne, but neither of them was anywhere to be found.

The villa felt eerily empty, and suddenly she wondered if this was her doom, and she was about to be food for a wild beast.

"Are you..... a beastman?" Nyx blurted out, her brain scrambling for answers. "Theon? Zayne?"

The lion didn't respond. It just yawned, stretching its massive body like a lazy cat.

Nyx shook her head and waved her hand in front of its face. "Hey, can you understand me?"

This time, the lion's reaction was immediate—its eyes locked onto her hand, and a low, excited growl rumbled from its throat. Nyx quickly pulled her hand back.

Well, definitely not a beastman, just an animal, Nyx thought.

A little defeated, she walked into the kitchen. She grabbed some fresh-looking meat from the fridge, figuring she could bribe this hungry intruder into leaving her alone. She was pretty sure that getting the lion's stomach full would lower the risk of her getting eaten.

She placed the meat on the floor in front of the lion, but it didn't even spare a glance at the meat.

Nyx then picked it up and offered it to the lion. This time, it sniffed the meat but still refused to eat it.

It wasn't the meat it was interested in.

"AHH!" Nyx yelped when the lion's massive tongue suddenly licked her hand. She almost thought the lion would bite off her fingers, but it just licked her curiously. Its head tilted to the side as if wondering why she was freaking out so much.

After getting spooked a couple of times, Nyx's nerves finally snapped, and suddenly, she got brave. She boldly reached out and touched the lion's belly.

It wasn't sunken in—it was the belly of a well-fed lion. No wonder it didn't even bother eating the meat.

Normally, the belly of an animal like that would be a no-go zone. Touching it would be asking for trouble. Who in their right mind would just go up and rub a lion's belly? That was basically a one-way ticket to get eaten.

But this lion seemed to be way too chill. Not only did it let Nyx rub its belly, but it even nudged her shoulder with its mane, purring in contentment.

The more Nyx rubbed, the more confident she became, almost feeling like she was back in the countryside when she played with those animals.

"She even smugly thought, 'What's the big deal? It's just a lion.

I can easily handle it.'

Nyx thought throwing the meat away would be a waste, so she washed it, cut off the outer layer, and stuck it back in the fridge.

She tried to message Theon and Zayne, but before she could send anything, the lion's giant head nudged in and blocked her

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Chapter 8

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"Stop it, okay?" Nyx muttered, dodging the lion's head as it pushed against her. She ended up retreating to the bedroom, only to get pounced on by the lion. The two of them tumbled around in a chaotic mess.

Failing to send her message, Nyx spent a good while in this ridiculous game of cat-and-mouse with a lion. Soon, exhaustion hit her, and she closed her eyes, trying to catch her breath.

Before she knew it, she had drifted off to sleep with one arm draped across the lion's back. The lion just lay there quietly, keeping watch over her.

The next morning, Nyx blinked her eyes open, her consciousness slowly returning. She reached out to touch the lion but found nothing there.

'What the heck? Where's the lion? Was it all just a dream?' she thought. 'Yeah, it must be a dream. How could a lion break into my bedroom in the middle of the night? It's absurd.

After washing up, Nyx went out of her room. Zayne was cooking breakfast in the kitchen, but there was no

sign of Theon.

"Good morning! Where's Theon?" she asked.

"Morning, Nykie," Zayne answered in a gentle tone. "General Lane had a mission. He left early this morning and headed back to the base. Don't worry, it's nothing dangerous. I'll stay with you."

To keep Nyx from worrying, Zayne left out the whole Theon's bestialization situation.

Last night, Zayne spent hours looking for Theon, who had gone completely rogue in his lion form. The search parties had been completely thrown off track. That was why Zayne had left Nyx alone to go help out.

When he got back this morning, he found the broken window still unrepaired. He fixed it without a second thought. He was relieved that Nyx was still asleep at that time. Otherwise, he didn't know how to explain things to her.

Nyx didn't suspect a thing. She went over to help Zayne with the soup, tossing in a few extra ingredients to make a steaming pot of creamy corn chowder. She also fried up some eggs that smelled absolutely amazing.

As they were eating, Zayne's Intelligent Brain beeped, and a message popped up: [There were reports of a possible lion sighting nearby, and you are the closest to the target. Go check it]

"Sorry, I've got an urgent mission," Zayne said, clearly trying to hide his concern.

"Is it a rescue? An emergency? Just go ahead," Nyx replied. She knew Zayne was a doctor, and urgent missions were just normal.

Zayne had never met a more understanding female before. He felt so grateful in his mind.

After some serious thanks and compliments, Zayne lowered his tall frame, leaning down to kiss Nyx's

fingertips.

Nyx almost choked on her food. She was awkwardly speechless.

She sat there and screamed in her mind, 'What the hell is wrong with those males?! How can they stop treating me like some kind of fragile porcelain doll? I really didn't do much, but they act like I'm some kind of

hero.

'Like yesterday, I just gave them the recipes, and they were the ones who made the food. Yet in the end, I got all the credit. Just now, I just agreed with Zayne to do his job, and he acts so gratefully.

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After finally sending Zayne on his way, Nyx let out a deep breath of relief. She went back to her breakfast, casually scrolling through her Intelligent Brain. All of a sudden, a loud noise came from Theon's room. She immediately froze in her seat.

'No way. Is there a robbery going on? Is someone trying to break in while I'm home alone? Am I supposed to just sit here and take it?' she thought.

Footsteps were already getting closer to the kitchen. Nyx instinctively grabbed her fork and held her breath.

Then, she saw the familiar lion's head poke its way into the kitchen.

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Chapter 9

The lion's vertical pupils stared at Nyx, its gaze surprisingly devoid of any malice but only pure friendliness.

Nyx was so nervous that her palms were sweating. She'd mentally prepared herself for a bloody showdown, and it actually ended up so peaceful.

She was pissed but also kinda amused. Tossing her fork aside, she plopped back down into her chair with a heavy sigh

"She thought, 'No doubt, this is the same lion from last night.

So last night wasn't some crazy dream after all."

The lion acted like it owned the place, sidling up to her, rubbing against her side, and eyeing the leftover soup like it was a five-star meal.

"Hey, you can't eat this," Nyx warned, using one hand to move the bowl away while she tried to push the lion's face back with

the other.

And then, the lion licked her hand again.

This time, Nyx was a little more chill about it. Without skipping a beat, she used the lion's fur like a towel and wiped her hand on it.

Last night, she only saw a shadowy outline of the lion due to the light, but now she could see it clearly. Its golden fur shimmered, its thick mane was straight-up majestic, and it oozed wild, untamed charisma. It was like a young and beautiful king of the jungle.

But then, Nyx blinked and shook her head.

On closer inspection, there seemed to be a swirling cloud of black mist wrapped around the lion, writhing and twitching in a way that didn't look friendly at all.

She reached out to touch it, but her hand passed straight through.

She tried a couple more times, but the mist just stayed out of reach. The lion, looking increasingly annoyed, finally let out a low growl and snapped at her hand.

It came fast and vicious, showing its sharp teeth and violent expression. However, the lion just gently rested its teeth on her hand but didn't actually bite her. It was just a bluff.

Nyx yelped in mock pain, exaggerating her reaction. "Ah!!!"

The lion immediately let go of her, its face wearing a look of shock and guilt, like it hadn't meant to actually hurt her.

The sight was so ridiculous, and Nyx couldn't hold it in anymore. She burst out laughing, but that only led to the lion pouncing on her again.

Nyx almost toppled the chair in the process. Feeling way too comfortable with this lion, she slapped it right on the face as at playful retaliation and then bolted.

The lion, still clearly in the mood for a game, lazily trotted after her but didn't push too hard. They ended up running in circles until they hit the bedroom, where the lion gave her a powerful shove that sent her tumbling into the soft bed.

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It could've easily crushed her with just a fraction of its strength, but somehow it managed to keep its power in check, ensuring she wasn't hurt. Its control of power was almost impressive.

Nyx, feeling surprisingly touched by this, decided to go all in. Using the same moves she'd mastered back when she used to play with Dollar, she gave the lion some good massage. The lion completely into it, rumbled happily, purring like a motor.

But after a while, Nyx's attention shifted back to the swirling black mist.

She couldn't touch it, but she could see it. And it just didn't sit right with her. Something about it felt off, like it was leeching onto the lion, making everything more dangerous.

Nyx tried to figure out how to deal with the mist. Suddenly, she felt a shift. A small section of the mist in front of her seemed to dissolve.

Nyx kept pushing, trying to break it apart. The mist seemed to burn away, like a cloud of bugs being roasted by flames. The hole in the mist widened, and the dark mist gradually retreated.

But just as she was starting to make some headway, dizziness hit her. She had to stop and rubbed her temples, feeling the pressure building behind her eyes.

Her ears were ringing, and she felt a heavy fatigue wash over her not physical, but mental, like her brain had just run a marathon

She instinctively thought of the stories she'd heard about the "mental power" of female beastmen.

'Wait... Could this be me? Do I have mental power too? And what about that black mist? Is it related to the black mist?' she thought.

Too many questions were flooding her mind. She thought she needed to ask Zayne about this. He seemed like the expert on this whole mental power thing.

Nyx glanced sideways at the lion, which had its eyes half-closed, burring lazily as if it were on the verge of dozing off. Taking advantage of the moment, she quietly pulled up her Intelligent Brain and sent Zayne a message: [How's work going? We've got a lion in the house.]

She figured since Zayne had just left not too long ago, and medical rescue wasn't that quick, he wouldn't see the message right away.

To her surprise, Zayne replied almost instantly: [A lion? In our house?]

A video call invitation popped up right after, and Nyx clicked to answer. She saw Zayne's anxious face on the screen.

"You saw a lion? Where is it? Don't be scared. Just hide now. There's a safe door next to your wardrobe, hurry!" Zayne barked, his voice sharp with worry.

Nyx couldn't help but notice how he sounded way more panicked than she felt. She quickly said to calm him down, "It's a lion. But don't worry, it's really friendly..."

Just then, the lion, who'd been napping behind Nyx, made its presence known.

When Zayne saw the massive lion on the screen, his face went pale. It was clear that the lion could easily smash Nyx into pieces with its claws.

Zayne could tell that this wasn't just any ordinary lion. This was Theon's beast form, and it was way more dangerous than any regular lion.

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Most importantly, Theon had lost his human rationality now, and it was a 100% wild animal. Right now it looked tame, but in the next second, it could go rogue and hurt Nyx.

Sure enough, as Zayne was thinking this, the lion's eyes suddenly turned sharp.

It took a few steps back, crouched low, and flicked its tail. The stance screamed attack mode.

Zayne's eyes went wide, and he shouted, "Get away from it! Run! The safe door, NOW!"

Nyx blinked in confusion. But then, before she could figure it out, the lion let out a furious roar and bolted past her, straight at the video screen.

It was clear it was aiming for Zayne, but since the screen was just a projection, the lion just lunged at thin air.

Zayne was momentarily dumbfounded, unsure how to process what just happened.

He never expected that Theon would leave the fragile, helpless female and choose to go after him.

Meanwhile, Nyx hopped off the bed to pull the lion back from the empty screen. After a quick check, she confirmed it was fine. With its tough skin and thick fur, even after the fall, it didn't look hurt.

Nyx gave its head a little tap and scolded, "Bad lion! You were trying to bite someone, huh?"

She could tell the difference between the lion messing around and when it was actually getting aggressive. Its movement just now wasn't the same mode when the lion was playing with her.

Watching Nyx giving the lion a lecture, Zayne couldn't help but widen his eyes.

He saw the lion, which had just looked ready to kill, now seemed totally subdued. It just growled a little in protest and remained its tame mode.

Though the lion looked just fine now, Zayne couldn't shake his anxiety. After all, this was an out-of-control beastman!

There was no world in which "submissive" or "tame" were words that could ever be used to describe a beastman in this state.

Most of such beastmen would be locked up before they could get this far gone. What Theon was doing, with his aggression shooting up six points in a short time, was extremely rare.

Such incidents didn't happen a lot, but when they did happen, the consequences were severe. Almost every beastman who lost control and ran away had a history of hurting people. Some of those aggressive creatures even caused fatalities-more than one in some cases.

How Theon attacked Zayne earlier was what a true out-of-control beastman looked like.

Zayne's voice dropped as he warned Nyx, "Get away from him, Nykie. I'm coming back now. Get into the safe room and stay there."

The moment Zayne started to talk, the lion immediately bristled its eyes narrowing and fixating on him with a dangerous glint.

Before Nyx could respond, the lion lunged at her again, pushing her back into the soft bed with surprising

force.

The lion firmly pinned her underneath, growling at Zayne like it was staking its claim. The look in its eyes was crystal clear -it was marking its territory and loudly proclaiming Nyx as its own.

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The scene was too much for Zayne, and his heart nearly stopped thumping.

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He swore, after this crisis, he would have a serious spar with Theon. He'd beat the hell out of that damn lion and make sure it got a good lesson.

Zayne stared at the screen and watched the big lion lower its head to sniff around Nyx's face like it was deciding where to start its attack.

And then, the next moment, the lion opened its jaws wide-

With a loud thud, Nyx slapped the lion right on the head and shouted, "Don't be mean!"

The lion made a little grumble, but it actually closed its mouth and licked Nyx's fingers instead.

Zayne's eyes nearly popped out. He thought he was seeing things. The lion actually seemed apologetic. He was convinced that he was imagining it. There was no way an out-of-control beastman would show that kind of human-like behavior.

Meanwhile, Nyx gave the lion a gentle scratch on its broad back. Then, she leaned in and kissed its fluffy face.

The lion seemed to melt after the kiss. In return, it nuzzled her chin and tentatively licked her face. Nyx giggled and pulled her neck away.

"Get off, bad lion," she said with a chuckle.

The lion's tongue was rough. Its barbs were designed to tear into prey, and if it wanted, it could easily rip into Nyx's delicate skin. But it was careful, almost tender, as it licked her.

Zayne was slowly coming to terms with the reality of the situation. The lion really wasn't being aggressive. Even after all the crazy things he'd seen, he had to admit it-this lion wasn't trying to hurt Nyx.

And then, as the pieces clicked together, Zayne remembered something he'd overlooked in the soldier's report when they rescued Nyx from the Resource Planet.

When they found Nyx, she was sleeping peacefully with a bunch of wild animals around her. It was unbelievable.

"Do you always have this effect on animals?" Zayne asked, his voice tight with a mixture of curiosity and awe.

Nyx blinked and then nodded casually. "Yeah."

She smiled and added, "I like them too."

Zayne thought, 'What an amazing female she is. She likes them..... She even likes wild, untamed beasts. No wonder I'm so obsessed with her.'

He couldn't help but feel a little jealous.

'If I shift into beast form, would she show me the same kindness he wondered.

Zayne couldn't watch any more of Theon's playful antics with Nyx. Before he hung up the call, he said, "I'll be back soon. Make sure to stay safe."

Nyx, now sitting on top of the lion's back, couldn't help but marvel at how advanced the medical technology on the planet

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was.

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She thought Zayne would be busy at least until night, but apparently, his task had wrapped up way faster than expected.

The majestic lion carried its beloved female through the house, as if conducting a royal tour of its territory. When they got to Theon's bedroom, Nyx saw the shattered window and paused for a few seconds. She grabbed a handful of the lion's mane and yanked it back. "Did you do this?"

No wonder there had been such a loud crash, and she had totally forgotten about it. Only then did Nyx realize the lion had broken in through the window.

Zayne, who was on his way rushing back, had no idea the window he had freshly fixed was wrecked again. The lion looked completely innocent, tilting its head at Nyx like it didn't have a clue what it had done wrong.

It probably thought they were still playing around, given how lightly Nyx slapped it.

Nyx stared at the lion in disbelief and sighed, "The young male lion is indeed energetic.

While she half-heartedly entertained the lion's excitement, she kept focusing on the black mist swirling around its body. There was a ton of that black mist, and every time she cleared a bit of it, she felt her mental energy drain.

But the good news was the parts she had cleared weren't coming back yet. At this rate, if she kept working on it, she was sure she could banish all the black mist eventually.

As the mist slowly dissipated, the lion's behavior started to shift. It grew calmer, and its eyes were starting to show sharpness, like it had regained some of human intelligence.

Nyx felt a surge of hope. She was determined to rid the lion of this black mist once and for all.

But just as she was settling into a more comfortable position to continue her work, she noticed the lion's ears flick. It suddenly turned its head toward the window.

"What's up?" Nyx asked with a frown.

The lion's gaze was sharp, and its body turned tense as it studied the outside world. It looked back at Nyx, as if unsure whether to act.

Then, making up its mind, the lion leapt off the bed, jumped straight through the window, and disappeared into the night.

Nyx leaned over by the window, her eyes darting around, but there was no sign of the lion.

The moment Zayne got back, he saw Nyx hanging out of the broken window, poking her head out. He freaked out, immediately sprinting toward the house.

Without a second thought, he scooped her up and pulled her away from the danger.

"Oh my!" Nyx yelped as her feet left the ground, startled by the sudden lift.

It was the first time in her life she'd ever been held like that, and he felt her face heat up instantly, the awkwardness written all over her.

She couldn't meet Zayne's eyes and thought to herself, 'What the hell is going on? Why is he suddenly doing this?!'

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Zayne, for his part, could swear he wasn't thinking anything inappropriate when he held Nyx. He just wanted to get her out of harm's way.

But once the crisis passed, and they stayed in that position for a moment, he finally registered how soft and warm she felt in

his arms.

Being so close to Nyx like this, Zayne could even smell the sweet and comforting scent on her, like the first sunlight of the morning hitting the dewy garden.

He took a deep breath, reluctantly set her down, and returned to his usual composed, reserved self. He looked down at her and said, "Sorry about that. But promise me, don't stand near places like that. It's

dangerous."

Nyx blinked, still processing the whole thing. She didn't think the height of the second floor was a big deal, but

she nodded

anyway.

She explained, "I was just looking for the lion. It jumped out of the window a minute ago and disappeared."

Seeing Zayne's serious expression, she knew there was more to this, so she asked, "Do you know it?"

Zayne hesitated for a bit and then nodded.

Nyx was shocked to learn that, and she shouted, "Wait, you know it? Is it... a beastman?"

"Yes," Zayne replied, trying to keep Theon's loss of control under wraps. He didn't want Nyx to worry, but he also didn't want to lie to her any further.

The lion had already made himself at home, taking advantage of the fact that Nyx didn't know his true

identity.

Zayne was done protecting that damn lion.

If Nyx started to connect the dots, Zayne wouldn't keep hiding the truth about Theon.

Nyx stared at Zayne, her face blank. "But... it doesn't look like a beastman."

The lion was clearly smart, but it was still very much in the animal kingdom.

She remembered reading somewhere that male beastmen could shift freely between human and beast forms.

Even in beast, form, they still retained their human intelligence.

The most obvious difference was that beastmen, even in beast form, could still talk.

But she never heard that lion say a word. She started to wonder if it was pretending.

"Because he's a beastman who's lost control," Zayne explained.

When it came to beastmen losing control, the books for females didn't go into much detail. If they did, it could cause more fear and resentment toward the males, which would only make it harder for the females to connect with their partners.

After all, female beastmen hated the aggressive, uncontrollable nature Of The Beastmenst form, which was why males usually stayed in their human forms.

Zayne looked Nyx straight in the eyes, his voice serious as he continued, "Once a male's Loss of Control Index hits 80, they start losing control.

"When they shift into beast form after that, they lose all rational thought. By the time their index reaches 100,

they fully

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turn into a wild beast, unable to shift back to human form.

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"An out-of-control male is incredibly dangerous. They are violent and feral, with no reason at all. Their life expectancy drops drastically. It's like a fire that burns out of control and soon turns to ashes."

He watched Nyx closely, nervously waiting for her reaction.

He feared she might be disgusted, but if she was, he wouldn't blame her. He just needed to be more careful,

not letting her see him in beast form.

Nyx was silent for a long while. There was no disgust in her face at all but just compassion.

Just when she learned that the lion was actually a beastman, she was a bit annoyed. Yet now, all her

annoyance was gone, replaced by only worry.

She asked, "If I have mental power, can I save him?"

