

# The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

## Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

## Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

### 101

Chapter 101: We Need Your Insights

Evelyn's POV

77%

Alistair's eyes went wide. "That's impossible. They couldn't have gotten this deep without triggering the alarms."

"Well, they did," I gestured at my bloodied body. "I was just washing up when five rogues appeared out of nowhere. Three came at me while two others hung back like lookouts. I didn't smell or hear a thing until they were right on top of me. I scanned the area anxiously. "Where are Aria and Rowan? Are they

okay?"

All around us, Sentinels secured the scene while others fanned out to patrol the perimeter. Alistair and Taric exchanged a look that made my blood boil.

More secrets.

To keep from snapping, I examined my injuries instead. My leg throbbed where claws had caught me, and my side ached from the bite. The smell of blood- both mine and the rogues made my stomach turn.

"You're hurt, Alistair finally noticed, concern filling his voice. "You're favoring your leg."

"It's nothing. I shrugged it off. One of them got my side, but it's mostly healed, Are you going to tell me what's really happening, or am I too unimportant

to know?"

"Don't talk like that." Alistair's voice softened. "If we knew anything concrete, we tell you. Right now, you need medical attention that bite could be worse

than it looks.”

I’m fine, really, I insisted. ‘It’s nearly healed already.’”

“This isn’t optional, Taric cut in, his tone leaving no room for argument. “Everyone involved in combat gets examined. We don’t know what those rogues

might be carrying. You were bitten, and you bit one back protocol exists for a reason.”

I took a deep breath, fighting the urge to roll my eyes. This wasn’t a battle worth fighting.

“Where are Aria and Rowan?” I asked again.

Rowan cleared examination and joined the patrol. Aria’s at the hospital getting a broken leg set. She’ll heal in a few hours, Taric pointed toward the medical station. ‘Get checked, then we’ll talk.’”

“Will you actually answer my questions afterward?” I couldn’t keep the edge from my voice.

Taric just grunted. Not exactly promising.

The examination was basic questions about injuries, bite locations, pain levels. The medic recorded everything with clinical detachment. I hoped to finish quickly and help with patrol, but Taric appeared behind me.

“She needs blood work with Dr. Harrison and Dr. Diana,’ he told the examiner. She was bitten and bit the captive. Need to check for cross-contamination.”

“Got it,’ the medic nodded, motioning me toward a waiting cart.

Two other injured Sentinels were already seated. One had blood soaking through his bandages. Seeing him made me realize how quickly I’d healed compared

to others.

“Bad one?” I asked him softly.

“Looks worse than it is,” he managed a smile. “Bastard tried to take a chunk out of my arm. Loose skin’s making it hard to close up, but Harrison will fix me

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09:45 Mon, Jan 12

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## Chapter 101: We Need Your Insights

right.”

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I got bitten on the side, I offered. First time dealing with rogues. Definitely not a fan.”

The cart bumped along the path as we talked quietly. The more severely injured entinel in front kept nodding off, his face ashen.

At the hospital, Dr. Diana took my blood and swabbed samples of rogue blood from my skin without explaining why. I didn't bother asking – she never

shared her research reasons anyway.

All done,” she said briskly. “Shower's through there.”

After cleaning up and changing, I learned Luna Selena and Sebastian were waiting to take me back to the castle.

“I thought I was heading back to the training center tonight,” I said once we were in the car. “I could still make dinner and tomorrow's training.”

“Not tonight,” Luna Selena replied. “As someone directly involved in today's attack, we need your perspective.”

Something in her tone seemed off – disappointment? Worry? I couldn't tell if it was directed at me or the situation. I made a mental note to press for

returning to the center later. I didn't want to be another complication.

At the castle, we headed straight for the meeting area. As we approached, angry bices echoed down the corridor.

“We should have been warned!” someone shouted. “You put us all at risk! If any of us had been injured outside today, our packs would lose leadership!”

Luna Selena kept walking, expression grave. We entered a room filled with elders and Alphas around a circular table. Victor, the Alpha of Black Obsidian,

stood glaring at Alpha King Nathan.

Without thinking, I stepped forward. “As an Alpha,” I said, keeping my voice controlled but clear, “shouldn't you be able to handle a few rogues my size? 1

haven't seen you fight, so I can only guess. But if something this small would take you down, maybe leadership isn't your thing. Threats are part of the job

description."

"Watch your mouth, girl," Victor snarled. "You shouldn't even be here. I've never seen so many exceptions made for anyone. These meetings aren't for

children."

"Your assessment is completely wrong, Victor," Alpha King Nathan's voice remained calm but carried absolute authority. "First, she earned her position

through merit. Age requirements exist primarily for mate-finding, not as measure of ability. Second, she's here because she not only fought but captured a live prisoner for questioning. Perhaps next time, your Sentinels should try taking prisoners instead of killing everyone."

His gaze swept the room, sharp as a blade. "Third, she represents her pack in the Alpha's absence. Remember your place in our hierarchy. You were selected into this system, not to control it. The Moon Goddess has stripped privileges from those who overstep. Many have forgotten the true purpose of their

duties.

The room fell silent, tension thick enough to cut.

"We were discussing holding a Sentinel marking ceremony for Evelyn, Alpha King continued. 'So next time she's needed, she can mind-link with us.'"

A silver-haired elder was about to speak when Victor jumped in: "We have strict ocedures for Sentinel marking, and she's tar too young! That level of mental connection is a privilege she hasn't cared!"

I clenched my jaw, fighting to keep my expression neutral. This was exactly why wasn't cut out for leadership I was two seconds away from punching this self-important jerk in his face. If he kept this up, I might actually lose it.

2/3

09:45 Mon, Jan 12 GB

The Lightning Wolf Chronicles

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### 102

Chapter 102: You Have No Idea What You're Talking About

Evelyn's POV

77%

"You're a sexist, ignorant fool, the Alpha of Eternal Night suddenly spoke up. He rarely participated in debates. 'She not only protected herself and her companions but was the only one who managed to capture a live prisoner for questioning. Doesn't that deserve some recognition?'"

"My Sentinels did what they thought was right, Victor shot back. "Completely eliminating those filthy rogues is the safest approach."

"The dead can't talk, Samuel pointed out. "They can't tell us how many more are out there waiting to attack."

"They're rogues they don't organize, Victor said.

I couldn't hold my tongue any longer. "Based on how they fought today, that's clearly not true. Your thinking is so rigid it's going to get people killed. Maybe it's time your heir took over."

Victor's face flushed red. "You have no idea what you're talking about, little girl. Let the adults handle the serious matters."

"Are you kidding me?" I stared him down. "I was actually fighting those rogues while you were sitting here giving orders from your comfy chair. Ignore me all you want, but in this situation, I have way more firsthand experience than you do."

I turned to Samuel, softening my tone. "You're right - they were definitely coordinating. Their movements were organized, almost like they'd trained together. Three attacked

while two hung back watching. They only joined in after we were separated and injured. They knew exactly what they were doing.”

I continued, “I know I’m not officially a Sentinel yet, but these questions need asking. How did they get so close to the castle undetected? Five rogues couldn’t have slipped past all our patrols unless they’ve figured out how to hide their scent and tracks completely.”

I glanced at Alpha King Nathan, hoping he’d catch my meaning – this matched the pattern of attacks on Polaris City that left no traceable evidence. The only difference was this time, we’d fought back.

“Is there an evacuation plan?” I asked. “From everyone’s reactions, this clearly is the first time something like this has happened.”

The Alphas shifted uncomfortably, embarrassment obvious on their faces. All packs were under attack, but no one seemed to know why or by whom.

“Fine points, Victor grudgingly admitted, addressing me directly. “But these are issues you’re not cleared to know about. Now that you’ve said your piece, you can leave and let us handle the strategy.”

I rolled my eyes and looked to Alpha King Nathan. If he wanted me to leave so stubborn old wolves could continue their posturing, I would. This was about protecting packs, not about my pride. But someday, Victor would get what was coming to him.

Alpha King gave me a subtle nod, understanding in his eyes.

“Evelyn, a few more details might help,’ he said. Before the attack, did you notice any unusual scents at all?

“Nothing, Alpha King.” I shook my head. “And I was downwind, so I should have caught something. As the first one attacked, that’s really weird.”

He knew about my heightened sense of smell, which made this even more puzzling. I completely failed to detect them approaching.

“Did they say anything? Make any threats?” he continued.

“Not a word. Just growled and attacked. Either they didn’t expect us to fight back and panicked, or they were just the advance party with their boss watching from somewhere safe.”

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09:45 Mon, Jan 12 GB

## Chapter 102: You Have No Idea What You're Talking About

This is exactly why she's here, Alpha King looked toward Victor. She's thought things none of you even mentioned."

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After getting patched up, I wanted to help with patrol," I glanced at Taric, "but sn't allowed. If there were other scent trails, they've probably faded by now. But I could take a small team back to check."

"Good idea, Alpha King nodded. "After we wrap up here. Since trouble seems to end you wherever you go, maybe we should assign you a personal healer."

He smiled, and despite myself, I smiled back while rolling my eyes.

So we're no closer to answers? Elder Sebastian cut in, doubt heavy in his voice. No one seems to know what's really happening. For all the praise of this

girl's abilities, she hasn't given us anything concrete either."

I felt my temper flaring again but kept it under control this time.

Actually, she's provided several key insights - if you were listening, Alpha King's voice turned icy. Her pack has experienced identical attacks, also leaving

no scent trails. The difference is those attackers completed whatever they came for and left quickly. The question is whether today was a planned battle or

an operation we interrupted. There's a good chance they were heading for the castle, but we don't know who specifically was the target. More importantly, she captured a prisoner when no one else managed to. The second rogue we caught bled out before reaching the hospital. Dr. Harrison and Dr. Diana say

they can start questioning the survivor within the hour."

The friendly Alphas nodded, while the ones obsessed with my presence sat there looking properly chastised.

Alpha King turned to me. "Evelyn, I can't approve you for a full Sentinel mark ye communicate in emergencies. So I'm making you an honorary member of the roy

to mind-link with us."

Don't give me that look - you are too young. But I want you able to pack. Your connection to Polaris City stays intact, but you'll also be able

I nodded, accepting the compromise. For those who thought I should “go home and let the grown-ups handle it,” this was reasonable middle ground.

Alpha King stood. Taric moved behind me, hand on my shoulder like he thought might bolt.

“Give me your right hand, Alpha King said solemnly. “Do you swear loyalty to the royal pack and fight for the safety and interests of royal pack members during this time?”

“I do, I answered.

“Will you come to their aid when summoned?”

“I will.”

“Evelyn, you are granted the special honor of becoming an honorary member of the royal pack. Fulfill your responsibilities to Polaris City, your home pack, while also accepting duties to the royal pack. Do you accept these terms?”

‘I accept, I said firmly.

He gripped my wrist and pulled it to his mouth, his fangs already extended.

The moment Alpha King’s fangs pierced my skin, an overwhelming sense of connection flooded my mind. After weeks at the training center with only my wolf to talk to mentally, the sudden rush of awareness made me dizzy. I blinked, trying to stay focused.

How does it feel? Alpha King’s voice echoed clearly in my head. Your mind must have been pretty quiet lately.

Very quiet, I responded, surprised by how clear the connection felt. Thank you for his.

While addressing the room, Alpha King continued speaking to me mentally:

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09:45 Mon, Jan 12 GB

Chapter 102: You Have No Idea What You’re Talking About

Stay at the castle tonight. I’m not sure if you were specifically targeted today.

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The ceremony is complete,' he announced aloud. "We all need food and rest after today's events. We'll meet again tomorrow morning to develop defense strategies for all packs. By then, hopefully we'll have some answers from our prisoner."

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### 103

Chapter 103: So We're Getting Protection

77%

Evelyn's POV

Taric will escort you back to your room. Alistair and Rowan want to see you, and Ar has also expressed interest in talking after her medical treatment concludes. Ill have Sebastian bring you all some food so you can speak privately.

"Understood, Alpha King." I replied quietly, bowing my head respectfully.

Taric led me to my guest room in silence. I couldn't tell if he was being respectful or disapproving, and honestly, I was too exhausted to care. After the confrontation with those arrogant elders and Alphas, I just wanted to collapse somewhere quiet. At least I'd managed to keep my cool in public, though it

had drained every ounce of my energy.

I barely had time to gather my thoughts before strong arms wrapped around me a bone-crushing hug. Alistair's familiar pine-and-leather scent enveloped me as he pulled me close.

"Thank God you're okay," he said, finally releasing me. His eyes scanned my face anxiously. "I nearly lost it when I heard you were sent to the hospital."

"Lucky you showed up when you did," I admitted. "If they'd all jumped me at once things would've ended differently. I seriously need more training - I was

terrible out there."

“Are you kidding?” Rowan approached, shaking his head. “You took on five rogues and actually caught one alive! That’s impressive by anyone’s standards.”

I appreciated his support, even if he was just being nice.

“I still can’t believe I didn’t smell them coming,” I said, frowning. “Definitely need to train more with Aria.”

\*Someone call my name?”?

Aria stood in the doorway, her leg in a light brace but otherwise looking surprisingly chipper.

“Hey! You okay?” I asked. “What did the doctors say?”

“Nothing major,” she waved dismissively. “That jerk had something weird on his laws that kept the wound bleeding. Took Harrison and Diana forever to figure it out and of course, they took about fifty samples for their research.”

We all laughed. I was starting to realize I wasn’t the only “research subject” in the doctors’ eyes.

Once inside, I filled them in on the meeting, especially Victor’s hostile behavior and the Alphas’ strange reactions. Alistair’s expression grew darker with each detail.

Something big is happening,” he said, drumming his fingers on the armrest. “I never heard of anyone openly challenging my father’s authority before. Why are they suddenly so bold?”

“They clearly think too highly of themselves, I said. ‘Are they trying to turn this to some kind of democracy? Or maybe they want a puppet king they can blame when things go wrong

“You might be onto something, Alistair nodded. ‘Between the constant meetings and their desperate attempts to pair me off, they’re definitely making power plays. I just don’t understand why now.’”

A soft knock interrupted our conversation.

“Come in!” I called, earning surprised looks from everyone. “What? Nobody gets this floor without clearance, so it’s obviously the food. Ten bucks says it’s

09:45 Mon, Jan 12 GB

## Chapter 103: So We're Getting Protection

Sebastian.”

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I walked to the door, rolling my eyes when the person didn't immediately enter or knocking. Sure enough, Sebastian stood there with an elegant food cart.

Sebastian! Who could've guessed?' I said dramatically, giving him a playful wink

“Take it down a notch, Aria said from behind me, her tone light but pointed. “We know there's a threat, but we don't know where it's coming from. Everyone's a suspect until we figure out who orchestrated this.”

I stuck my tongue out at her.

“What do we actually know?” I asked as Sebastian rolled the cart into our lounge area. “Alistair, this attack didn't seem to shock you or your dad, but the

other Alphas freaked out. This isn't the first one, is it?”

We talked for hours, completely losing track of time until Taric strode in unannounced. He ordered Alistair and Rowan back to Alistair's room, leaving Aria

and me together.

“It's already one in the morning,” he announced firmly. “After today, you all need rest. Aria, you'll be accompanying Evelyn to the Sentinel training center, staying in the same residence. Your schedules will be coordinated since you both need to complete your studies. We leave after breakfast – eight sharp, no

exceptions. Your belongings are being packed as we speak.”

His expression hardened. “None of you are to go anywhere alone – not to the bathroom, not to shower, not anywhere. We still don't know the nature of this

attack. You're all potential targets.”

“So we're getting protection?” Aria asked, eyebrows raised.

“In a sense,” Taric nodded briefly. “We won't publicize what happened, but you'll need to watch each other's backs. Alistair and Rowan obviously make one pair, leaving you two as the other, which works well for several reasons.”

“Wait, Aria interrupted, looking confused. “Why do Alistair and Rowan specifically need to be together?”

I held my breath, noticing Taric’s subtle reaction to being interrupted.

“We’re mates, Alistair stated simply, his voice carrying absolute certainty.

“How is that possible?” Aria shook her head. “You’re the prince – you need to connue the bloodline.”

“We haven’t found our female mate yet, Rowan moved closer to Alistair, interlacing their fingers. ‘We just know she exists.’”

Aria quickly processed this information, nodding before asking: “So what’s the beefit for us in this arrangement? You said it benefits us?”

Tarie’s face remained impassive. “Evelyn has attracted considerable attention sing presence will help because it mirrors her situation when she first came. You’ll jo classes. She’ll help you catch up.”

arriving. I won’t discuss details that’s not outsiders business. But your advanced training while finishing your studies, taking all of Evelyn’s

He raised his hand when Aria started to speak. Her courses are more advanced on yours, so you I need to work twice as hard. Now get some sleep and set your alarms. Nothing we’ve discussed leaves this room or the castle. Dismissed”

His tone left no room for argument. Even Alistair hurried out. I found Aria somelk pajamas Luna Queen Selena had given me, and we both lay in the large bed, lost in our thoughts.

The scene reminded me of nights with Nadia, and guilt washed over me. I hadn’een her since our last meeting here. She was my best friend, and I d barely thought about her these past few days. There was so much I wanted to tell her, so many secrets I had to keep. I’d never had a real friend before her, and keeping things from her felt wrong.

2/3

09:45 Mon, Jan 12 GB

Chapter 103: So We’re Getting Protection

“What’s up?” Aria asked softly. “You look happy and sad all at once.”

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Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

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### 104

Chapter 104: I Don't Like Leaving Things Unfinished

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Evelyn's POV

"I was just thinking about Nadia, I sighed softly. "Since I've been at the training center, I've barely kept in touch with her. She was my first real friend, and we never kept secrets from each other. Now there's so much I can't tell her. We only see each other during lunch periods at school, and it feels terrible."

You made a best friend that quickly?" Aria asked, genuine curiosity in her voice.

I haven't been at the Sentinel center long, but Nadia came to Polaris City last year and we became close. Then she returned to her pack, and not long after, I was sent here for training. The separation has been harder than I expected."

It was the first time I'd felt any regret about being here. I loved the training and responsibilities, but I was missing normal teenage things summer memories, hanging out with friends. I never thought I'd care about that stuff.

"You mean Diana the doctor's daughter?" When I nodded, Aria laughed. "Don't worry! That girl has a gift for making people spill their guts without even realizing it. I've had classes with her over the years. If she's truly your friend, she won't give up. Even if you were hanging by a thread, if she thought you needed more time, she'd probably bargain with the Moon Goddess herself."

The mental image made me laugh despite myself.

"I'm looking forward to having classes together tomorrow," Aria rolled onto her side. "Though starting school so late in the day is weird. Breakfast at eight means we'll definitely miss the first two periods."

“Who knows what Taric’s planning, I shrugged. “He always has dozens of plans running simultaneously, with backups for everything. We should get some sleep though – he might show you some favoritism, but if we’re late tomorrow, hell definitely make us pay for it in front of everyone.”

Several months of intense training passed quickly. Today I picked myself up from the ground, covered in dirt and bruises.

“Again!” I shouted, frustration evident in my voice. Aria and Sophia circled me, eyes gleaming with battle-hungry intensity as they launched another attack. We’d been training for hours, but I still couldn’t break through their defense.

Our training had entered a new phase – each trainee received secret instructions from the instructor, tasked with completing personal objectives while preventing opponents from achieving theirs. My challenge was harder – facing two opponents at once. After successfully subduing Conrad and completing my mission a few weeks back, I’d earned this special training against multiple opponents.

Since that attack in early summer, I’d doubled down on training, vowing never to be the weak link again. Just because I’d let my guard down with friends, I almost died.

When not on the training field, Sophia and Aria refused to let me hide in my room or the library. At one point, they even got permission to bring Nadia to the training center to convince me to stop being so self-destructive. She practically dragged me outside and lectured me until I started fighting back. Then the others joined in, and we chased each other until we collapsed in exhausted anger. Nadia reminded me that I needed to relax and be with friends- only then would my mind stay sharp in real battles.

“Are you crazy? There’s not a spot on me that doesn’t hurt!” Sophia groaned. “You do realize training ended ages ago, right?”

“We’ve been at this for four solid hours,” Aria added they were trying to distract me, to make me lower my guard

“I need to figure out this tactic, I insisted, aware of how stubborn I sounded don’t like leaving things unfinished. Besides, in a real fight, enemies won’t stop because we’re tired.”

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09:45 Mon, Jan 12 GB

Chapter 104: I Don’t Like Leaving Things Unfinished

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“Nobody’s talking about quitting – just taking a break, Atia said, checking her plne. “We’ve got coursework, we need food, and getting injured from overtraining is stupid. Plus, we’re supposed to meet Taric and Conrad in twenty minutes, and they don’t tolerate lateness.”

Realizing how time had flown, I finally gave in. ‘Fine. Quick shower, change, and grab something to eat on the way.’”

We hurried through our preparations and rushed to the trainers’ building on the ther side of the obstacle course a place I’d only discovered a few weeks after arriving, during my explorations of the grounds.

From outside, the building matched our residence’s modern black and white aesthetic, but inside featured warm wood paneling like a sophisticated cabin. It

made sense; most trainers lived here year-round unless deployed on missions.

We rang the bell at the entrance. Trainees weren’t allowed beyond public areas without permission – their way of separating personal space from work.

Conrad appeared minutes later, simply nodding for us to follow. He led us to a spacious meeting room with a massive oval conference table surrounded by high-backed chairs. One wall featured a large display screen with a projector, while tactical maps and whiteboards covered the others. This was clearly a command center for planning major operations.

\*Please sit,” Alpha King Nathan said from the head of the table, his voice uncharacteristically clipped. “We have important matters to discuss, and my time is limited.”

We took seats across from Conrad and Taric. The Alpha King was rarely this abrupt with me, signaling something serious.

“Both of you have performed beyond expectations for werewolves your age,” he said directly. “Given current circumstances, we’re considering involving you in a future mission.”

I sat straighter, surprised. I’d assumed mission assignments wouldn’t come until was eighteen.

This is strictly reconnaissance,” he continued, his tone carrying reluctance. “But you two match specific characteristics of the targets, which would allow

you access to information my Sentinels haven’t been able to gather.”

He glanced at the two warriors with obvious displeasure. Neither reacted to the criticism.

“As the attacks have become more frequent and brazen, we can determine that real members are among their targets. They’re attempting to wear down our

Sentinels through injury and exhaustion, weakening our defenses. They’re creating division by making other packs believe we can’t maintain basic protection. I believe their strategy is depleting our strength for what will eventually be a final assault against an exhausted defense.”

He rubbed his eyes, weariness showing despite his effort to hide it.

“We know it’s the Rogue Wolf King attempting to replace Alpha King Nathan, Tac added. “He’s established a network of bases throughout the kingdom that

we can’t locate. They leave no traceable scent, and their attacks follow no discernible pattern. They’re using chaos to mask their intentions, and it’s working effectively.”

“But what does this have to do with us? I asked, confused why novices would be needed.

“Because they’ve started kidnapping girls around your age.” Alpha King looked directly at me, his voice heavy. I’ve been trying to keep you away from this issue, but that’s no longer possible.”

“We need to know what he’s doing and how to stop him,” he said with determination. “That’s exactly why we need you.

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09:46 Mon, Jan 12

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The Lightning Wolf Chronicles

## The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

### Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

## Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

### 105



## Chapter 105: Could You Share the Specific Plan

Evelyn's POV

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“So what exactly will we be doing?” Aria asked, her eyes bouncing between Alpha King Nathan and me. I got it my pulse was racing with the same

excitement.

Conrad stood military-straight as he explained. “You two give us a tactical advantage we can't get otherwise. Our Sentinels always carry themselves like

warriors it's impossible to hide completely. But you – his eyes settled on us, young females who look harmless – can blend into crowds naturally.”

“You can pose as ordinary girls worried about safety, ask questions, gather intelligence without raising suspicion,” he continued. “While our Sentinel work must remain secret, you can move openly, talk to anyone. Right now, we know nothing about the enemy's base location – that's our roadblock.

Aria and I exchanged glances. Her slightly raised eyebrows told me she was just as nervous and excited as I was.

“What exactly would we need to do?” she asked, trying to sound cooler than she felt.

“You'll train with the reconnaissance team,” Conrad said gravely. “We have specific methods for gathering and transmitting intelligence. You need to

understand all commands and signals to function within our system.”

“We'll also need to mark you,” Alpha King Nathan cut in. “Not just for safety, but so we can stay in contact. The elders voted against it last night, but with

2 female werewolves being systematically kidnapped, this isn't optional anymore.”

“With that so-called Rogue Wolf King involved, things could go south fast,” Conrad muttered.

I felt a weird mix of nerves and excitement. Was something wrong with me for wanting this? Goddess, I must be crazy – but maybe that wasn't such a bad

thing.

“While you’re convincing the elders, could we start training with the team?” Aria asked.

“Smart suggestion,” Taric nodded. “The elders will eventually face reality, but we can’t waste time. The enemy could move any moment. Starting tonight, you’ll join night training. School stays the same, but your evening training is suspended. Everything about this mission is strictly confidential.

We both nodded.

“Eight sharp, meet at the residence entrance, Conrad instructed in a tone I’d never heard from him before. “Eat before you come once training starts,

there’s no breaks.”

This wasn’t just training anymore. This was real.

“You’ll know immediately when there’s progress with the markings,” Alpha King than added. “You may go.”

We stood and headed for the door. As we crossed the threshold, they continued king, not bothering to lower their voices.

“We’re pushing them into the fire. Why are we doing this?’ Conrad’s voice carries clearly.

‘I don’t think they’re ready either, but we have no choice. Now we understand his true objective,” Taric responded, clearly unhappy.

“So we’re just delivering exactly what he wants? Conrad countered, his voice ris

The door closed, cutting off the rest of their conversation. Conrad obviously did approve of our participation. I thought we’d earned his respect, but

maybe in his eyes, we still weren’t qualified. That stung.

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09:46 Mon, Jan 12 GB

Chapter 105: Could You Share the Specific Plan

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I’d trained relentlessly, learned to fight against the best warriors. But if even Comad thought we weren’t ready, maybe we were missing something. He d spent the most time with us during training and knew what we could do. He did seem like someone who’d block others without reason.

Back in our room, I kicked off my shoes and sat cross-legged on my bed. When a first became my roommate, I was thrilled. We had the floor leaders suite on the male side of the hallway – Seraphina had been furious, but Mark happily moved next door. Our room had two beds, two desks, and our own

bathroom. Perfect.

Since Aria arrived, we'd been inseparable, and Seraphina's crew had backed off. Whether it was Aria's natural authority or because we beat everyone we

faced, I wasn't complaining.

What do you think they were talking about back there?" Aria asked after locking our door.

"Sounds like Conrad doesn't want us on this mission,' I sighed. "I wish he'd explain why. Maybe there's some training we haven't completed that we could

catch up on."

"He's worried about something," she said, sitting on her bed. "Not about us specifically, more like he's worried for us. With people kidnapping girls, maybe

he's concerned your royal blood makes you a perfect target." She nudged me with smile.

"If they were that worried, I wouldn't be here at all. Training me as an elite warrior just to lock me in a tower makes zero sense.' I shrugged. "Maybe he's just tired of my special treatment – missing training for castle business, training with Alpha King Nathan, spending weekends with elders, fancy dress

fittings, schedule changes. Now teachers don't even blink when warriors come for me."

"That's royal life, whether you like it or not." She patted my head like I was a kid. shoved her toward her bed.

On the bright side – we get to learn about reconnaissance and intelligence work she said, forming a pyramid with her fingers like a cartoon villain. "I've

always wondered how they plan everything."

I had to admit, I was excited too. This was what I'd dreamed of working in the shadows, identity unknown. Most people didn't realize Sentinels handled the toughest problems without recognition, making pack life safer without anyone knowing.

"We'd better finish homework quick. If we're up late, we might need a nap first. grabbed my textbooks.

“Objection!” Aria groaned dramatically. “We’re already two weeks ahead. Have I mentioned how much I hate these courses you picked?”

A warm feeling spread through my chest. Since her arrival, life had been so much less lonely.

“Only about once a day,” I teased. “But we have no idea how this mission will affect our schedule. If we don’t stay ahead now, we ll end up juggling training.

missions, and mountains of homework all at once.”

Aria sighed but took out her notebook. “The worst part is you’re always right about this stuff. At least I understand everything except calculus now. That class is melting my brain – maybe you should wear my clothes and take my exam so Elara doesn’t have to wait for assignments I don’t get.”

The absurdity of me almost a foot shorter with completely different coloring to pass as Aria made me laugh out loud. She joined in, the sound

easing our tension.

For the next two hours, we studied together, working ahead on all our courses. Wd found our rhythm-I handled theoretical analysts, while she had great practical insights. Together, even the hardest subjects felt manageable.

2/3

09:46 Mon, Jan 12 GB

The Lightning Wolf Chronicles

## **The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel**

### **Chapter 5**

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

## **Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson**

### **106**

Chapter 106: I Don’t Have A Boyfriend

77%

Evelyn's POV

By six in the evening, Aria and I were starving but mentally relaxed after finishing our assignments. We headed downstairs for food before Conrad's arrival, only to find two hot meals already waiting at a table, labeled with our names.

"How'd they know?" Aria whispered, picking up her name card.

I smiled slightly. "Henry and Jenny have this weird sixth sense about what everyone needs. Reminds me of Isabella and Adam – they pay attention without getting in your face about it."

We ate quietly, though I couldn't ignore the tension in the room. Seraphina and her two followers sat in the corner, whispering and staring at us like we were some science experiment.

"What's their deal?" Aria muttered, stabbing a piece of meat. "They haven't stopped glaring since we walked in."

"Probably plotting how to mess with our drinks without getting caught, I joked, though I knew Seraphina's issues ran deeper than petty pranks.

We'd barely finished eating when Seraphina and her crew materialized at the exit blocking our path with practiced precision.

"Well, if it isn't the training center's princess and her new sidekick, Seraphina sneered. "Since when does anyone get special meals before everyone else?"

I took a deep breath, but Aria beat me to it.

"We've got mission prep that needed an adjusted schedule," she said coolly. "If that bothers you, take it up with Warrior Conrad."

"Just another handout for the spoiled princess," Seraphina shot back, glaring at me. "Everyone knows why you're really here."

Aria stepped forward slightly, not aggressive but definitely assertive. "We started training before sunrise today. While you were still in dreamland, we were already sweating our asses off. We've put in more hours than you've seen. If you've got problems, the Sentinels picking us up at eight would love to hear why you're holding up mission personnel."

At the words ‘mission personnel, Seraphina faltered for a second before recovering her attitude. “Whatever. You two keep enjoying your special treatment while the rest of us follow every damn rule and train until we drop. Even if you aduate, you’ll never get the important assignments.”

We walked past them without another word. No point wasting energy on this – we really did train harder, with me dragging Aria out for extra conditioning every morning, not to mention dealing with all the obstacles Seraphina threw ats during regular sessions.

Back in our room, Aria flopped against her headboard with a sigh. “That girl has out for you like it’s her life mission.”

How do you know it’s just me she hates?” I asked. ‘I’d think she’s more jealousyou. You showed up and owned the place like you built it yourself, dominating training your first night. I laughed. “I probably still have bruises.”

“Don’t be ridiculous,” Aria rolled her eyes. “We both know you heal in like five nutes. I’m a warrior, my aura should be felt. But seriously,’ she shifted position, expression thoughtful, you arrived with nobody knowing you. This tiny fragile looking person...”

“Tiny?” I raised an eyebrow. “That reminds me of my friends.”

I smiled, remembering. I have this friend who calls me Tiny Actually, all my friends have similar nicknames about my height – Lightning Girl, Mini Warrior, stuff like that.” The memories made me sigh. “I really miss them.”

“Is he special to you?” Arias eyes suddenly lit with curiosity.

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09:46 Mon, Jan 12

Chapter 106: I Don’t Have A Boyfriend

They all are, I said, ‘Stubborn and bossy, but also incredibly good people. I miss them a lot.”

“They?” Aria’s eyes widened. How many hearts did you break when you left Polaris City?”

“Wait, what? Heartbreak? What are you talking about?”

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That look in your eyes,’ she sat up straighter, like she’d discovered buried treasure. “Come on, they’re not just regular friends. How many boyfriends were you juggling back home?”

“What? No! It’s not like that!” I felt my voice rise. “I don’t have a boyfriend. Never had one.”

“So you’re saying you have guy friends but never did anything about it? No dates, no kisses, no hand-holding, nothing?”

“Well, they’d sometimes hold my hand when I got nervous – it helped calm me down. And yeah, they’d kiss my cheek or forehead, but no, I’ve never actually dated any of them.”

“So they were all over you with affection, and you completely missed all the signals. Aria grinned like she’d won a prize. “You were totally clueless.”

“That’s ridiculous. There weren’t any signals. They’re my brother’s friends and just super protective.” I rolled my eyes.

“Keep telling yourself that.” She shook her head, laughing. “You probably missed out on ‘first experiences’ with future Gammas, Deltas, and Alphas. Bet they had plenty of experience they could’ve shared with you.” She wiggled her eyebrows suggestively.

I grabbed my pillow and threw it at her face. She caught it easily, laughing harder “See? You’re getting all flustered! That’s how I know I’m right.”

“Change the subject!” I demanded, feeling my face heat up. “The mission is what matters. What should we bring tonight?”

Aria sighed dramatically but played along. “Fine, but we’re definitely revisiting this later. Grab an extra jacket. Always good to have more layers if we need to

shift suddenly.”

“I really wish someone would teach me how to shift without destroying my clothes,” I muttered.

We each grabbed a thick jacket, then waited in the entrance hall, comfortable in our shared silence. One thing I loved about Aria – she didn’t feel the need to fill every quiet moment with random talk.

At exactly eight, the door swung open to reveal Conrad’s imposing figure. He didn’t step inside, and his expression made it clear he was here under protest, not bothering to hide his displeasure. Seeing his face, my heart sank. Those old elings crept back of being unwanted by my father, of never being good

enough.

I warned myself not to slip back into that mindset. I’d worked too hard to ensure nobody, including myself, ever felt that way again. Should I call him out? Or just ignore the

obvious issue? At least Aria and I were together; we could focus on completing the mission and gaining valuable experience. Everything else Conrad's attitude, Seraphina's jealousy, my distant friends was secondary ght now.

Conrad turned and left without a word. We hurried after him to an all-terrain tagcal vehicle, its dark gray body looking menacing under the night sky. windows tinted to near-black. We climbed into the back seat, neither of us want to sit alone with Conrad in his current mood.

He glanced at us in the rearview mirror, grunted, and started the engine. The windows were so dark I could only see vague outlines of the landscape as we drove away from the training center and castle into territory I'd never seen before My heart raced with excitement this was a real mission, not some training exercise.

The vehicle jolted violently over rough terrain, snapping me back to reality.

"Hang on," Conrad growled. "Gets worse ahead. We usually run this route."

2/3

09:46 Mon, Jan 12 GB

The Lightning Wolf Chronicles

## The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

### Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

## Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

### 107

Chapter 107: My Instincts Tell Me This Is Dangerous

Evelyn's POV

77%

Despite facing hardships most teens couldn't imagine, I was still just sixteen. The frustration I'd been holding back finally bubbled to the surface. Since arriving at the training center, I d constantly proven myself, yet some trainers still treated me like a child needing special protection.



“I don’t get it,” I said, catching Conrad’s eyes in the rearview mirror. “Do you think we’re too weak to handle this mission? Is that why you’re driving us instead of making us run? Everyone at the training center thinks I’m only here because of connections, even though your marks supposedly make favoritism impossible. I took a breath to steady myself. “If you don’t think I’m ready, just say it.”

“You want to leave?” His tone was oddly expectant.

“That’s ridiculous,” I glared back. “This is what I’ve been working toward – my choice, not someone else’s. I came here to get stronger, not to be a burden.”

I turned to stare out the window, darkness swallowing everything outside.

Aria tensed beside me. She knew pieces of my past, but I’d never told her everything about Polaris City. People always fixated on my size and age, no matter what I accomplished. All I could do was push harder – train more, study longer, prepare better – it was the only thing in my control.

Conrad growled low. “You need to understand that all the trainers know about your special relationship with Alpha King – ”

“Stop right there, I held up my hand. “Prince Alistair is royal too, but you don’t beat him like he’s made of glass. Try again.”

He grunted, almost agreeing. “Fine. I don’t want you on this mission. My gut says it’s dangerous – has from the beginning.” He paused. “Can’t explain it, but I trust my instincts. And you don’t seem to value your own life much. With that, he fell silent and focused on driving.

I tried to sleep but couldn’t. Conrad’s words kept repeating in my head: I’ve had a bad feeling from the beginning. I understood trusting instincts; Taric was the same way. We trained to become stronger, but in real combat, gut feelings often meant the difference between life and death. If Conrad sensed something wrong with this operation, we needed to be ready for things to go sideways.

During my time with him, Conrad had shown exceptional professionalism, explaining why he moved between elite training sessions with ease. He never missed entire days, but was frequently called away for expert consultations. Taric operated similarly, training with us just once a week, sometimes appearing only every two weeks when handling Alpha King Nathan’s business.

The vehicle finally stopped in a secluded valley where several similar tactical vehicles were parked. Seeing them made me feel better – at least we weren’t the only ones getting special treatment. I might not have been so irritable during the trip had I known this earlier.

When the engine died, Aria instantly woke, her eyes scanning our surroundings. Without speaking, we climbed out the same side of the vehicle, naturally sticking together. We followed Conrad through what was clearly a newly established compound – prefab concrete buildings arranged like a military base, their gray-white walls still showing construction marks. The area was desolate, with only distant mountain silhouettes visible in the moonlight.

“What is this pl – Aria had just started when Conrad turned and made a silencing gesture, his expression dead serious.

He led us toward the largest building, entering a code on a keypad before pushing open an unusually heavy security door. As it slid aside, what we saw inside took our breath away.

The interior contrasted sharply with the rough exterior – a cutting edge command center. Under bright LEDs, rows of high-performance computers lined the room, with giant screens mounted on walls showing data streams and surveillance footage. The air smelled faintly of heat and electronics. Surprisingly, this center capable of monitoring an entire city had only two operators on duty.

I found myself drawn to the surveillance images of places I’d never seen. I memorized each significant landmark, thinking they might be useful for future missions. A light tap on my shoulder broke my concentration.

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09:46 Mon, Jan 12

Chapter 107: My Instincts Tell Me This Is Dangerous

I turned to find Conrad wearing a rare smile as he nodded for me to follow the rst relaxed expression I’d seen from him all evening.

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Behind a row of computers, Conrad pulled out a keyboard from tangled cables and quickly entered a password. I caught only the first three digits: 769. With a low mechanical sound, a metal plate in the floor rose, revealing stairs leading down.

The six-inch thick plate lifted easily on hydraulic hinges. Conrad descended the metal stairs with us following close behind. Just after entering, he pressed a button that closed the hatch, plunging us into darkness.

I held my breath. This was too similar to when Acacia’s people dragged me into that abandoned warehouse – hooded, surrounded by darkness. My breathing quickened, my heart raced. Though I knew this was different, panic spread through me. My wolf tried desperately to calm me, but her voice seemed to come through water, growing distant.

“Evelyn, breathe!” Conrad’s strong hands gripped my shoulders, his voice commanding yet concerned. “Deep breaths, open your eyes.”

I opened them to find Conrad right in front of me, looking oddly like Milo from this close. I blinked several times, struggling to pull myself together. “I’m fine, just... wasn’t expecting that.” I tried to pull away, but he held firm, bending to look straight into my eyes.

“Have you ever talked to anyone about this?”

“What?”

“A doctor, therapist – anyone about what happened to you?”

“I...” I glanced around for a distraction. This was the last conversation I wanted.

“You know we get evaluated after every mission, right?” he said seriously. “You need to talk to someone to make sure this doesn’t happen during an

operation.”

I closed my eyes and nodded. If it was protocol, I had no choice. I’d probably be excluded from every mission now. But I wasn’t ready to quit. I looked past him toward the hallway. “Where to now, sir?”

Conrad took a deep breath, exhaled slowly, and rubbed his face. “You know I have to report this.” He turned around. “Follow me.”

We walked silently down the short corridor. Made of dark gray metal with I-beam reinforcing the walls and ceiling every few meters, the passage gave me a real sense of being in a secret facility. I had no idea what came next, unsure whether to expect spy equipment like in movies or something more serious.

I tried controlling my imagination, but without information, it was difficult. Conrad maintained his silence, simply leading the way, making the atmosphere

even heavier.

## **The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel**

### **Chapter 5**

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 –

# Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

## 108

Chapter 108: Now It's Your Turn

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Evelyn's POV

Conrad led us through the heavy steel door into a room bathed in amber light. Monitoring screens flickered on the walls, casting shadows across the space

This way," he said, gesturing toward a corner.

Taric sat with three other Sentinels around a table covered with documents. I recognized Shepherd and Jett from occasional appearances at training, but the

female Sentinel was someone I'd only passed in hallways.

"They're here," Taric said, looking up with a grim expression.

Shepherd nodded. "Thanks for coming. With your help, we might finally break this stalemate we've been stuck in."

"So you're really planning to use them as bait?" Conrad stood beside us, irritation clear in his voice.

"We've been through this already," the female Sentinel – presumably Celine – replied with a hint of impatience.

"Using kids for such a dangerous mission?" Conrad pressed. "They don't even know what they're walking into."

I cleared my throat. "We're standing right here, you know. If there are concerns, maybe talk to us directly?"

I looked at each person before settling on Taric. Even with his usual composure, could see worry in his eyes. That alone sent alarm bells ringing in my

head.

"This isn't some training exercise," Conrad said, turning to face us. "You'll be actual targets. Everyone backing this plan is betting that if someone tries to

grab you, you can either fight them off or hold out until backup arrives.”

Aria and I exchanged glances. Conrad wasn't telling us anything we hadn't figured out already.

“Instead of arguing about whether we should do this,” I said, “why not tell us how to minimize the risks? What should we watch for? What danger signs

matter? If we're making contact with the enemy, what do we need to know?”

“Unbelievable, Conrad muttered. “After everything that happened in Polaris, you still volunteering to put yourself in danger.”

I took a deep breath. “Those experiences are exactly why I'm here. I'm tired of being pushed around, but at least this time I'm choosing to help others

instead of just taking abuse.”

“You're forgetting something, Conrad stepped closer. “Alpha King Nathan wants protect you. Think he'd approve if he knew the whole plan

Hes already authorized this mission,” Taric cut in. He has concerns but agrees may be our only option. Now, if were done with objections, let's get to the

details.

Conrad finally sat down with a heavy sigh.

“Alright, Shepherd pushed several maps and photos across the table. Here's what we know.”

He explained that Rogue Wolf activity concentrated in northeastern regions nearoastlines, which provided easy water routes for moving undetected. Though they believed the Rogue Wolf Kings headquarters was somewhere remote, they had no exact location. Even more troubling, they lacked any reliable information about the Rogue Wolf King himself no photos, no name, not even solid description.

“We sent our best trackers,” Celine added. “They followed scent trails of missing is to a northeastern city, but everything vanished there, like the trails

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09:46 Mon, Jan 12 GB

Chapter 108: Now It's Your Turn

were erased.

Just disappeared?’ Aria frowned.

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“Completely gone, Jett nodded. ‘We kept searching along the river and found that all disappearances somehow connect to a northern university. Mostly human students attend, but some werewolves too. Should’ve been a breakthrough, but the trail went cold.”

“This isn’t normal kidnapping,” I said, thinking it through. “If they can erase scents, that suggests some kind of supernatural ability.”

‘Exactly,” Taric pointed to another photo. “Celine and Jett have been talking to witch communities, trying to understand what magic could eliminate scent completely. But witches guard their secrets, so it’s been difficult.”

We studied the aerial photos, getting familiar with the terrain. The team had already searched all obvious hideouts, but without scent tracking, the Rogues could be hiding anywhere.

“We’ve analyzed all the missing girls,” Shepherd continued, pulling out several files. Looking for patterns. They come from different backgrounds, ages eighteen to twenty-five, students and workers, ordinary pack members and high-ranking families. The only common factor is they’re all female werewolves.”

“So they might be looking for specific genetic traits?” Aria suggested.

‘Possibly, Celine nodded, “but we don’t have solid evidence.”

“This is where you come in,” Taric explained. “No matter how well Sentinels disguise themselves, they always carry that warrior energy – people instinctively sense it.”

“You can pose as regular students, Shepherd added. “Ask questions, gather information without raising suspicion. We’ll set up a safe house near the university. Conrad will pose as your relative for cover.”

\*To humans, you’re tourists,” Celine said. “To werewolves, you’re on a mate-finding journey. Both stories work without seeming suspicious.”

“You’ll need to learn some essential skills, Taric continued. “Secret communication, distress signals, information gathering without drawing attention.”

'Before we start, there's one issue, Jett pointed out. "The Sentinel mark. Alpha King Nathan submitted the application, but the elders are still hesitating.

With the mark, we can stay in contact no matter where you are."

"Can we start training before getting the mark?" I asked. "We shouldn't waste time.

"Smart thinking, Shepherd nodded. "The elders will come around eventually. Starting tonight, you'll join our night training. Keep your normal school schedule, but your evening training is suspended so you can rest."

Remember, complete secrecy, Taric emphasized. 'Don't discuss this with anyone at the training center.

I nodded, feeling oddly calm. This wasn't simulation anymore but a real mission with actual danger. In Polaris, I'd always just endured threats; now I could actively face them, helping protect others.

"Eight sharp, meet at the residence entrance, Conrad stood up. "Wear casual clothes, nothing that shows who you are. Eat before you come - no breaks once

we start."

"You'll know immediately when there's progress with the marks," Taric added.

Shepherd looked at us steadily: "Now it's your turn."

"We'll take you to where most abductions happened, Taric continued, his finger moving between marked points on the map. "They seem to target females,

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09:46 Mon, Jan 12

Chapter 108: Now It's Your Turn

but without clear patterns. We think they need quantity rather than specific trai

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"Every case has been investigated thoroughly, Shepherd added. "If victims had mites or family in high positions, they could be used as leverage. But these victims come from all backgrounds we haven't found any connections."

What's worse, we think not all disappearances get reported, Conrad said. "High onking packs often handle problems internally, worried enemies might exploit any public disorder."

"Are these attacks just in Alpha King Nathan's territory?" Aria asked. "Or are the happening in other Wolf King, territories too? Are they focused on royal

pack areas?

Her thinking matched mine exactly proof of how in syne we'd become after months training together.

"That's the key question, Shepherd answered. "While all Wolf King territories have had conflicts, these organized attacks specifically target Alpha King Nathan's region. This suggests it's a deliberate operation against him."

## The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

### Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

## Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

### 109

Chapter 109: Exactly According to Plan

Evelyn's POV

77%

Over the next few weeks, we ll brief you on all the intel, Taric said, his face grim Our biggest hurdle is finding the Rogue Wolf King's exact hideout and

where they're keeping the kidnapped women. Even more disturbing – every Rogue Wolf we've captured dies mysteriously before interrogation. Not simple

suicides either.'

He leaned forward, voice dropping. "Keep your normal school routine. Your night raining happens here, and operations will mostly be after dark. You ll use special transport and hide your scent trails completely."



‘Why all the secrecy?’ I frowned. “We’re still in royal territory.”

“This base is top secret,” Taric said flatly. “Regular trainees don’t know it exists, and we’re keeping it that way. As part of the mission team, you’ll learn to mask your scent thoroughly. Can’t risk someone tracking you here.”

His look said everything – Seraphina would follow me anywhere just to find dirt. she discovered this base, she’d blab to everyone at the training center about me getting special treatment again. Just the thought made my teeth clench

“Let’s stretch our legs, Conrad stood up suddenly. Show you the area while we get your bodies moving. Warriors shouldn’t sit too long.”

Autumn was fading fast. Our reconnaissance mission moved along smoothly, though I wasn’t sure how valuable my intel really was. I got why they limited

what we knew if we got captured, the less we knew, the better.

Aria and I patrolled neighborhoods where kidnappings happened often, but I hadn’t spotted anything unusual yet, making me question if I was cut out for

this work.

Most weekends, we stayed with Conrad in safe houses where he played our distant relative. To humans, we were tourists; to werewolves, we were just starting our mate-seeking journey. Both stories worked well enough. We acted friendly and approachable, starting conversations with strangers.

Keeping up this act all day exhausted me who knew talking to people could be more draining than combat training? Still, the strategy worked. I stepped

way outside my comfort zone, wearing eye-catching clothes and hanging out in crowded places, trying to look like potential targets.

From conversations we overheard, we discovered an unusual number of strangers around the city and near university hangouts. Most looked college-aged, so

humans didn’t notice anything wrong, but Aria and I spotted many werewolves among them.

Nobody approached us directly, probably because Conrad played the overprotective guardian a little too well. Whenever guys tried getting close, he’d glare

them down immediately. We planned to return in January when Aria would attend university classes. If anyone asked about me, we’d say I was homeschooled

until I could formally enroll with her.

Wed also planned ways to “accidentally slip away from Conrad, letting us meet her girls and blend into the local scene. Our safe house lease ran through

Thanksgiving break, after which wed temporarily pull back to make our mate-seeing story more believable. After all, no normal werewolf would spend major holidays in an unfamiliar place.

Several nature reserves surrounded the area. While we chatted up locals, other team members searched these areas for Rogue Wolf camps. They hadn’t found anything yet, probably because the Rogues had some way of hiding their scent that we hadn’t figured out.

The deeper we got into the mission, the more convinced I became that the real on was using us as bait. Only by getting captured could we break the stalemate. I had mixed feelings about this, understanding both the importance at the danger.?

We had decent safety measures in place if we got taken, our captors wouldn’t go far. After Thanksgiving, we’d receive temporary Sentinel marks for complete tracking. Since Aria was nearly eighteen, I suspected the elders were dying our marking ceremony until she found her mate- once that happened, the mission would have to end.?

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09:46 Mon, Jan 12

GB

Chapter 109: Exactly According to Plan

No werewolf would let a newly-mated pack member do dangerous missions, let ane leave me to handle it alone.

77%

Conrad and Taric had good reason to worry. As we explored further, our distance com them increased. They couldn’t shadow us constantly, and regular mund links had range limits. The Sentinel mark worked regardless of distance, which eplained why Conrad pushed harder than anyone for us to complete the marking ceremony, especially given the mission’s risks.

“God, I wish I could go back to the training center for a real workout, I groaned Aria in our safe house bedroom, stretching muscles. Running, fighting climbing anything. This fake lifestyle has me feeling completely off-balance.”

We'd just returned from a long shopping trip and dinner with some university freshmen. We'd kept friendly but appropriate boundaries- not visiting their homes or inviting them to ours. These limits protected the mission and fit with our overprotective uncle" cover story.

"I need a hot bath," Aria said, kicking off her heels and rubbing her red ankles. "My feet are killing me."

"That's what happens when you insist on wearing stilts to walk around the mall, laughed. "Your foot pain is self-inflicted."

She flashed a smug smile. "Yeah, but they got attention, didn't they? Exactly according to plan."

I rolled my eyes. "Of course they did. Sky-high heels with a skirt that barely cover your butt makes your legs look a mile long. I still can't make myself wear stuff like that. These shorts are bad enough - they barely qualify as actual clothes

"What are you talking about?" Aria put down her brush, looking at me like I'd grown a second head. "Your training clothes show way more skin than this.

These shorts are practically grandma-wear."

"That's different," I protested. "Training gear is functional, not for show. Everyone wears the same stuff. But these clothes..." I gestured at my outfit, aren't

what I'd pick for myself."

"True, but admit it," she looked at me seriously, "they look good on you. You've got this small, delicate but totally ripped body that you only show off during training. Hiding under clothes big enough for two of you is practically criminal with all the work you've put in. Have those friends of yours seen you in actual clothes like this?"

"Of course they have," I answered, thinking back to times with Elliot and the guys I had to wear fancy dresses for events with Luna Isabella. They've seen

me dressed up.

"But not recently, right?" Aria's eyes sparkled mischievously. "Since we started these missions, you've barely kept in touch. And after they wrote those long letters, you only sent one short group reply. Since we've known each other, your body's changed your muscles are more defined but somehow more feminine in fitted clothes. If they saw you now, they'd probably trip over themselves."

Her lips curled into a knowing smile. I'd love to see their faces if you showed up looking like Luna Selena- all dressed up and gorgeous. They'd be absolutely speechless."

Her words brought unexpected heat to my cheeks. At school, she and Nadia obviously had their girls-only talks.” Now Aria loved teasing me about the guys,

always leaving me flustered and unsure how to respond.

## The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

### Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

## Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

### 110

Chapter 110: I’m Sure Plenty of Guys Would Want to Date You

Evelyn’s POV

\* 77%

“Drop it already!” I flung my pillow at Aria, who dodged it with frustrating ease. You re making everything weird. They re just friends practically brothers. None of them see me as anything but a little sister. Besides, I was basically invisible to them until last year.”

Aria’s face lit up with that troublemaker smile I’d come to know too well. “That’s exactly why you should show off what you ve got. Let them see what

they’ve been missing. You’re always hiding in those baggy clothes.”

I turned back to my laptop with an eye roll. “Some of us care about our grades. It literally a condition for me staying here.” I tapped the keyboard

pointedly. “No matter how hard you try distracting me, I’m staying ahead.”

During our mission, I’d been emailing assignments and joining video sessions when possible. Aria studied alongside me – not from academic passion, but because her father would yank her from the mission if she started skipping. We’d earned that lesson the hard way when he called once, yelling loud enough

to blow our eardrums. Since then, as far as Kendra knew, her attendance record was spotless.

Aria had been busy connecting with local senior girls, hoping for party invitations when we returned in January. Several had already invited us to gatherings,

which we'd declined due to our mission constraints.

\*Speaking of social stuff," I said, deliberately changing the subject, "the local girls are actually pretty friendly. I'm getting better at the whole group

interaction thing."

Aria tossed her notebook aside. "That's because you're not that scared little mouse anymore. The training center knocked that out of you."

I couldn't help noticing how boys – both human and werewolf – noticed Aria wherever we went. Hard to blame them. With her silky brown waves that

somehow stayed perfect even during training and her naturally graceful proportions, she drew attention without trying. Meanwhile, I looked like something dragged through mud after fights.

"Evelyn! Check this out!" Aria suddenly jumped up, waving her phone. "Ember says her brother's friend's cousin on the basketball team is throwing a party

the first weekend after winter break!"

I blinked. "All I caught was winter break.' Your social web is way too complicated

"Bottom line," she laughed, "basketball team party after winter break. Ember gave us the heads-up so we could plan. Her expression turned serious. "Wear something decent and do something with your hair. I wish Luna Selena was here she knows how to make you look good while still being yourself."

The mention of Luna Selena made me smile. She always advised me on royal events, with Sebastian essentially becoming her fashion enforcer. After several futile protests including that time Sebastian brought Alistair and Rowan to literally hold me down while he dressed me I'd learned to just accept his suggestions, only insisting on shorts under dresses and comfortable shoes.

"When are we actually heading back to the training center?" I asked, though Aria had been asking the same question daily.

"Our lease expires in two weeks, she sighed, flopping back on the bed. We shou start packing the non essentials. Weather's turning cold, and I don't want

to be stuck here. I want those stuffy elders to hurry up with their ceremonies and give us our marks already."

She stared at the ceiling. “They probably love the ceremonial crap being the center of attention, each getting their special moment in the spotlight

“Good point, I nodded. “Think we’ll get to hang with Alistair and Rowan when we back? Feels like forever since we’ve seen them,”

“After last time? Doubt they’ll let the four of us loose again, Aria burst out laughing

“That was completely Rowan’s fault!” I couldn’t help joining in. Who brings canes to movie night? We didn’t turn the outdoor theater into a fire hazard.

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Chapter 110: I’m Sure Plenty of Guys Would Want to Date You

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“He was trying to be romantic for their anniversary, Aria defended. “Though I don’t get why they celebrate everything weekly, monthly, even location- based anniversaries. When they hit actual milestones, those tiny celebrations will seem pointless.

She shrugged. ‘Not that I’d know. Never dated anyone long enough for anniversaries.’

“Really?” I looked at her, surprised. “You seem like the type who’d have guys lining up. You literally look like a magazine cover. I’m sure plenty of guys would want to date you.”

“Oh, I’ve had my share,’ she admitted. ‘But my dad’s super serious about mates. He hasn’t forbidden dating, but he always says it’s not fair to monopolize someone who might not be mine. So I keep things casual and honest. I think we have instincts about true mates anyway – I can’t stay interested in any guy for long. Her eyes sparkled mischievously. “Though I’ve learned some interesting things along the way.”

“Like what?” I joked. “That you like being in control?”

“Obviously!” she answered without hesitation. “It feels amazing, and they don’t have to do much, so it’s harder to mess up!”

My jaw nearly hit the floor. She'd never been this direct before. I could only stare at her, face burning, with no clue how to respond. While I'd learned plenty by watching her interactions, there was no non-awkward way to admit "I haven't even held a boy's hand officially."

"Since we're sharing," she tilted her head playfully, "what's your favorite position

"Um..." I fidgeted with my fingers, not wanting to lie but definitely not comfortable sharing such details.

"Don't stress," she said more gently. "You don't seem like the casual hookup type it's totally fine if you're taking things slow."

"Actually... I don't have a favorite position," I mumbled, avoiding her gaze and hoping she'd catch my hint. Few things made me blush, but this topic definitely topped the list.

"So no experience?" her tone softened, the teasing gone. "That's completely fine. didn't either until last year. I just figured I should learn a few things before finding my mate. You know, in case he's also clueless, at least one of us will know what we're doing."

She had a point. From what I knew if the sounds from Elliot's room and rumors about his friends meant anything – the guys had plenty of practice." Elliot once tried explaining that their wolf nature, especially for higher-ranking wolves almost required that kind of release as they neared eighteen.

"It's not just a lack of experience, I finally admitted. "It's zero experience. Like aid, those guys only really noticed me last year. Before that, I didn't even have girlfriends to talk about this stuff with."