

# The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

## Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

## Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

### 121

Chapter 121: She's Similar to You

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Evelyn's POV

"They invited us to join them on Thursday," I confirmed, watching Taric's face. How should we handle it? They're not hiding their werewolf scent on campus. Where will your team position for surveillance?"

Taric's mouth curved slightly upward. We'd reached an understanding without wels - I'd attend, and they'd watch from the shadows.

"We need a cover story for royal Sentinels in this area," he said. "We'll spread word we're recruiting and forming new teams - explains our scent traces in the

forest. If we need to interact, pretend you don't know us. Match the rogues' reactions."

"Sounds workable," Aria said, turning to me with a grin. "Now let's see what Robelt actually wrote." She reached for my phone, but I swatted her hand away.

"I really need a better password," I grumbled while checking his message.

\*Please, cracking your password would be nothing," she smirked. "Just for research purposes, of course."

"You sound just like Nadia now," I laughed, then read aloud: "He says to meet at the school gate, follow their running path 'like old friends' for about five miles, then change clothes for 'real wolf training.'"

Before Taric could respond, Aria jumped in.

“He mentioned bringing a backpack and offered to ‘hold your clothes’ while you’re in wolf form,” she wiggled her eyebrows. ‘Obviously fishing for a peek.’”

“Not happening. We can both shift with clothes intact, remember?”

She laughed. “That’s actually kind of cute. Acting gentlemanly while being just another horny college guy.”

Someone cleared their throat. We looked up to find Taric watching us with forced patience.

“If you’re done analyzing,” he said, “I’m not sure you should reveal your ability to shift with clothes intact.”

‘I’d never expose that capability to strangers,’ I replied seriously. “Those guys have suspicious backgrounds. The risk is too high without backup. If your team could infiltrate or if Alistair and Rowan were here, maybe. But they’re not, no way. Aria and I will shift with clothes on, and if anyone asks, we ll say

it’s pack tradition.”

That Peter guy gave me weird vibes. My gut said keep my distance, and I trust my instincts.

Taric studied me for a moment, then simply nodded.

I agree with your judgment,” he said. “Try keeping conversation flowing natural Any detail could matter. Seemingly trivial information might be crucial. What’s your plan for tonight?”

‘Homework, Aria and I said together.

“Gotta maintain my model student image,’ I added. ‘Makes professors more willing to share. Especially my ecology professor something’s off about him. From his clothes and scent, he spends nearly all his free time in these forests. Mht know something valuable. Our classes start late tomorrow, so we ll run before training.’”

Taric nodded and headed for the door. “We’ll coordinate patrols and bring dinner ater to discuss details. He left with the other Sentinels.

I walked to the couch and sat beside Conrad, leaning gently on his shoulder. He barely spoken since we arrived, lost in his thoughts.

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"Want some tea, or something else?" Aria asked.

"Whatever, but I need a clear head, Conrad said quietly. "If I start drinking, I might not stop."

Aria nodded and disappeared into the kitchen.

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"Want to go outside and train?" I looked up at Conrad. "Physical exertion always helps me when I'm down."

Conrad gave a soft laugh. "Good idea. Might help me sleep, or at least calm down enough to rest. My wolf won't let me relax until we find her."

"How long have you and Mia been together?" I asked, hoping to distract him from his worry.

Too long, he sighed. "Her coven settled near my home. I caught her scent on my eighteenth birthday while she was doing magic in the woods between our properties. Witches come of age at eighteen too when their full magical potential manifests. Interestingly, she's similar to you, showing extraordinary abilities earlier than anyone on record."

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"Similar to me?" We walked outside to a small clearing at the forest's edge.

Alpha King Nathan and Adam Alpha have been watching you closely, Conrad explained, "especially after what happened during your birth. Once they pieced together your lineage, they monitored your situation carefully. I only learned about this recently, and there's clearly much I don't know. I'm not sure what

your special abilities are exactly, but I noticed your uniqueness during selection.

"The problem is, I knew nothing about any of this until last year, I shook my head. "Everyone just wants to protect me because I'm small - \*

"Let me stop you there, Conrad interrupted. "When people first see you - small, quiet, seemingly easy to bully - the instinct to protect you is almost

irresistible."

His words triggered my annoyance. I lunged at him, trying to sweep his legs. Though I missed, I landed a punch on his inner thigh that briefly threw him off

balance.

“What bugs me isn’t strangers having that reaction,” I said, frustration edging my voice. “It’s people who train with me daily and know what I can do, yet still treat me like I’m made of glass. That’s what pisses me off.”

“Maybe,” he said thoughtfully, “it’s like how I feel about Mia. They see your abilities and acknowledge your strength, but can’t bear seeing you hurt. That doesn’t mean they underestimate you.” He reached to grab me, but I ducked and hid between his legs.?

‘And you use your size to your advantage. Aria’s just as charming, more outgoing even, yet those boys approached you the small, quiet, non-threatening girl. You look harmless until you knock someone out with your pinky finger.’

We continued our half-training, half-play sparring until I kicked the back of his knee, causing us both to fall. Our session intensified until we were sweaty, breathing hard, and dirt-covered, but smiling with released tension.

“Time to wrap it up, Taric appeared nearby. “Evelyn needs to eat and finish homework for her student image. And deal with that boyfriend situation.”

His words distracted Conrad just long enough for me to flip him.

“What boyfriend? I don’t have a boyfriend!” I protested, brushing hair from my face.

“The constant notifications lighting up your phone suggest otherwise, Taric raised an eyebrow. “Atia’s been eyeing it for an hour. Better handle it before she answers for you.”

I pushed Conrad off and ran toward the house, both men laughing behind me. Indeed, I grabbed my phone just as Aria was reaching for it, screen lighting up with another message.

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Chapter 121: She’s Similar to You

‘Don’t touch it, I warned, laughing.

You have no idea how torturous this is, she groaned dramatically. I shouldn't ok, but my nosiness can't resist."

"Are you really that desperate for drama?' I teased.

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"Drama I've got plenty of," she sighed. "Maybe it's an existential crisis. But who knows? Feelings are complicated. Her expression turned serious. 'Honestly, I think these guys are definitely connected to the disappearances. And just sitting here doing schoolwork is boring I want to make progress on the investigation. She made a face, and we both burst out laughing.

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Alright, what did he actually say?\*

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### 122

Chapter 121: Why Choose Us

"Did you convince teachers to stop giving you high school work? Can't believe they let you handle all these courses without a break."

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It's not the teachers, I sighed, opening my notebook. "It's the principal and that board member. They're more childish than actual teenagers. I don't get why the principal hates me, but the board member's clearly influenced by his daughter. I understand her hatred I broke her control and exposed her. Her dad's an ambitious Delta whose brother should've had the position. I'm Beta Raymond's daughter, technically outranking them, plus I'm close with future

leaders and the current Alpha and Luna. Of course they feel threatened."

I caught myself sighing again and made a mental note to break the habit.

‘No wonder you want out of that place,’ Aria said softly. ‘That board member’s daughter gave you those scars, didn’t she?’

This was confirmation more than question. I just nodded.

‘When we visit your pack – which we will I’m teaching that girl a lesson,’ Aria’s eyes flashed.

I took a deep breath, fighting another sigh. The thought of returning to Polaris City, seeing everyone again, knotted my stomach. I wasn’t sure if the feeling

was good or bad.

‘Why go back at all?’ I questioned.

‘Stop hiding those hot friends,’ Aria laughed. ‘Nadia keeps talking about meeting her ‘little lover,’ and Sophia and I want to see these boys in person. I’ve seen the photos in your room. Private lessons on the training field would be interesting not that I care about watching cute guys fight, but the view wouldn’t hurt.’ She tried looking serious but burst out laughing seconds later.

‘Plus, I can’t wait to see that girl’s face when she sees you now,’ she snapped excitedly. ‘If she was intimidated before, I want to watch her jaw hit the floor. Your aura gets stronger daily, even Alistair and Rowan say so.’

‘She won’t care about my changes,’ I shook my head, picking up my pen. ‘She’s good at hiding emotions when needed. And I’m not special, so don’t exaggerate. I know I look better now – I’m not blind. My muscles are more define since joining Sentinel training, but I’m nothing compared to you, Nadia,

or the others.’

‘When those guys go crazy for you, she’ll be furious, and I need front-row seats,’ Aria laughed again. I couldn’t help rolling my eyes before grabbing my

study materials.

‘Let’s tell Taric and Conrad about Robert’s invitation,’ I suggested, ‘Then I can jah the Thursday planning while finishing assignments.’

Taric and Conrad agreed the coincidence seemed suspicious. To keep us safe, the deploy more Sentinels around campus. Aria and I suggested bringing Mark and Cyrus as regular students, but Taric shelved that idea – he didn’t want to scare off the rogues. If male Sentinels obviously protected us, we might

lose valuable leads.

The next few days flew by. Robert and I texted almost nightly. Aria predicted phone calls next, but I kept my distance, avoiding dating signals. Still, I enjoyed our conversations we chatted throughout the day about school, interest, and future plans, everything flowing naturally.

If he was genuinely interested, he'd succeeded in getting my attention. If the rogues chose him for this task, they'd picked well. Peter was entirely different – he looked disgusted whenever we got close, which confused me,

Aria and I stayed neutral – neither overly friendly nor cold. Meanwhile, Robert and Brandon seemed comfortable around us, voluntarily escorting us between

classes for safety.”

As Thursday approached, I grew nervous. Rationally, I knew this wasn't a real dad, but it was my first specific invitation from a guy. The pack boys didn't count – they always moved in groups that Nadia and I naturally joined. Robert had specifically invited me, and I needed Aria along because facing this alone felt overwhelming.

Though I'd promised to wear loose pants, I found myself wanting to look nice. This feeling was strange because I never felt that special flutter around him

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or anyone else. I didn't want hand-holding or other intimate gestures, but I enjoyed his attention a purely friendship-based feeling that felt special in its

own way.

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Chapter 123: I Don't Need to Dress Up Specially

Evelyn's POV

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I threw on a simple black workout outfit with indigo running shoes, pulled my hair into a ponytail, and checked the mirror. Nothing fancy, just clean and

practical.

'Let me help with some makeup,' Aria appeared behind me, cosmetics in hand and that familiar glint in her eyes.

'No way,' I shook my head. 'We're running in the woods and shifting, not going to prom. I don't care how I look in front of these people.'

Despite my protests, I was actually looking forward to tonight. It had been a while since I'd run freely like back in Polaris City.

'Worried about keeping up with them?' Aria asked, reading my expression.

'Maybe, I admitted. 'We haven't trained as hard lately.'

She burst out laughing. 'Are you kidding? Even at half-speed, you'd leave these regular werewolves eating dirt. Worst case, you perform like a baby Sentinel.'

'Look who's talking,' I raised an eyebrow. 'You planning to show off for the rogues tonight?'

'Just keeping up with you takes all my energy,' she joked while packing her gear. But yeah, if there's a chance to impress them, I'm taking it. Remember – we need to be interesting enough that if they're kidnapping girls, they'll want us. We can hide our fighting skills, but speed we can show. All werewolves love

a good chase.'

'I have zero experience with that,' I said. The words triggered a sudden memory the scent of Silver Pines, wet earth beneath my feet, Magnus, Lucian and Orion calling for me to stop. That was the first time I shifted while running, my Wolf and I feeling that incredible freedom and power.

“Liar, Aria nudged me. “Your face just gave you away. Someone definitely chased you before. We’ll get that story later – right now, you’ve got a ‘date’ with a hot guy.”

Downstairs, Taric, Conrad and the other Sentinels were already positioned, masters at hiding their scents. Since our meeting point was across campus, we drove to save energy.

“Report anything unusual you see, hear, or smell,” Taric reminded us through mind link. Keep the connection open; we’ll monitor the whole conversation.

Great, I muttered mentally.

Because your flirting skills suck and we all get to witness the awkwardness, Aria shot back. I wouldn’t miss this show for anything.

Maybe I should handle the reporting instead? I suggested.

No way,

I want all the details firsthand, she smirked.

I really wish I could mute you, pest, I laughed.

Enough, Taric cut in. If this affects the mission, Evelyn reports alone. Sort it out no Either way, the mind link stays open.

Fine, I answered. But talking to guys is already hard enough without an entire team ritiquing me in my head. As we approached the gate, I added, Two minutes to arrival.

All personnel in position, Conrad confirmed. Two Sentinels tracking. Celine’s near the bonfire site. We’ve surveyed the area – no issues detected. I’m west, Taric’s east. Five-minute response time. Call immediately if something feels off.

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Chapter 123: I Don’t Need to Dress Up Specially

Got it, Aria and I replied together.

I parked next to a silver-gray sedan carrying Robert and Brandon's scent.

"They're already here, I whispered. "That's Brandon's car.

"How can you tell? Aria asked. "Their scents are mixed.\*

"Brandon's scent is stronger on the driver's side, I explained.

As we walked toward the meeting point, Robert spotted us and jogged over with a huge smile.

"You made it! I was worried you'd bail," he said.

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"We show up when we say we will," I replied lightly. "Unless you gave us the wrong time on purpose? Not trying to keep us from meeting your friends, are you?" I tried keeping my tone casual while eagerly waiting to learn more about this group.

"Would you be mad if I said that crossed my mind?" He moved closer, brushing my arm before leading us toward the others. I noticed he barely acknowledged Aria, which immediately put me on alert.

"More new girls? We have enough people already, a sharp female voice came from the group.

A white-haired girl stepped forward, her body language screaming dominance.

"Ruby, this is Evelyn and Aria, Robert said. "Thought they'd fit in with us."

"Bored with the others already?" Ruby's tone carried both accusation and suggestion.

"Just welcoming new members, Robert replied calmly.

"Whatever, Ruby waved dismissively. "Don't slow us down. The last girl he brought couldn't even finish one mile. Got it?"

"Crystal clear," I nodded, keeping my expression neutral.

Don't let her get to you, Conrad warned through the link. She's testing you.

Underestimating me, captain, I replied mentally. I've handled worse.

This is your first official mission. Stay focused.

Forgot I'm actually a teenager?

Less sass,

brat. Go run and show us what you've got.

The run went smoothly. Five miles in human form was easy- I kept pace with Rert effortlessly, even chatting without getting winded.

I learned they jogged regularly but only shifted on Thursday nights. Several were on school sports teams, which made me wonder how they controlled their werewolf abilities during human competitions. Aria and I planned to investigate his during the bonfire.

The forest was stunning. Though early spring hadn't fully arrived, evergreens stood out among bare trees, adding color to the yellow-brown landscape. I loved the scent of damp leaves mixed with earth it reminded me of Polaris City As twilight fell, sunlight filtered through branches, creating mysterious shadows. My wolf hummed contentedly, clearly enjoying the sensation as much I was.

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Chapter 123: I Don't Need to Dress Up Specially

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Darkness eventually enveloped the forest, but our werewolf vision adjusted perfectly. After about an hour, we completed the five miles with the sun nearly set. Robert, Brandon, Aria and I maintained a middle position in the group, deliberately keeping a moderate pace to blend in.

"We shift here - watch for cameras, Ruby announced. "Someone's been searching around, and I don't want attention because newcomers did something stupid, understand? Her gaze lingered on Aria and me before she turned away and started undressing.

I felt my cheeks flush as people began stripping down around us. No matter when I looked, someone was taking off clothes.

"Don't be shy, newbie," a guy near Ruby sneered. "We don't have all night." He licked his lips, making my stomach turn and triggering an instinct to back

away.

'You okay?' Robert asked with what seemed like genuine concern. "We need to catch up or they'll leave without us. I can shield you if that helps."

“We’re fine,” I answered calmly. “Just waiting for everyone to get ready.” I managed a small smile.

“Are you planning to tear your clothes when you shift?” he asked curiously, eyes flashing with interest.

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## 124

Chapter 124: Stay Cool And Collected

Evelyn’s POV

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“Of course not, Aria laughed, waving him off. “You’ll see in a minute. She winked at Robert, who just shrugged helplessly.

As the guys stripped down, carefully tucking their clothes into Robert’s backpack, tried to look anywhere else. Despite the casual nudity in Sentinel training, something about this situation felt different, more exposed.

Robert moved behind me, standing way too close. Am I making you nervous?”

‘No, I kept my voice steady. “Just not used to being naked around strangers. Where I’m from, shifting doesn’t require taking everything off.”

Why’s he standing so close? It’s weird, I asked Aria through our mind link.

He thinks you’re playing hard to get, she explained. Don’t make that face.

What face?

That one. Your disgusted look. Keep neutral – he likes the innocent, shy type.

Aria raised her voice, addressing the group. “How about we just show you what we can do? Easier than explaining.”

I nodded and focused on the shift. Letting my wolf take partial control, I used Mis techniques to maintain awareness of my appearance. The bone-cracking

sensation passed quickly with minimal pain. Within seconds, I stood as a wolf, silver-blue fur gleaming like pearls in the moonlight.

“Silver-blue? That’s incredibly rare, Robert breathed, genuinely impressed. “Can touch you?”

I approached him but kept a safe distance. Neither my wolf nor I enjoyed strangers’ touch – maybe from the mark’s influence, or just my nature. At least as a

wolf, I didn’t have to worry about controlling my expressions.

“Show them our specialty, Evelyn, Aria said with a hint of pride.

I shifted back even faster than I’d transformed, no longer nervous with Conrad and Taric’s auras nearby. When I finished, I stood fully clothed as if I’d never

shifted at all.

“That’s insane!” Brandon exclaimed. “How’d you do that? Keep your clothes intact

“Years of practice,” I said simply, glancing toward Ruby and Peter, who were staring at me intently. “Ready when you are.”

Ruby began shifting first, with the others following. Once Robert and Brandon transformed, they looked back expectantly. Aria and I exchanged knowing

smiles and began jogging while completing our second shift.

Show-offs, Taric teased through our mind link, making us both laugh as we quicked our pace.

The forest came alive around us – night breeze rustling through my fur, soft cart beneath my paws, muscles stretching with each bound. We raced over hills and streams, leaping fallen trunks with effortless grace.

The atmosphere changed when someone playfully nipped at a girl’s tail, sparking chase. Soon it evolved into males pursuing females through the woods. Aria and I surged ahead, joining Ruby and her friends at the front of the pack. Surprisingly, Ruby’s wolf showed no hostility toward us. We ran faster until only Ruby, Aria and I reached the bonfire site first.

Ruby immediately shifted back and dressed, ignoring us completely. Aria and I also returned to human form, taking in our surroundings while waiting for

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Chapter 124: Stay Cool And Collected

the others.

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The fire pit was impressive – three meters across, ringed with large stones, already stacked with dry pine wood. The clearing reminded me of Silver Pines back home. Forests had always been my sanctuary the whisper of trees, sounds absorbed by fallen leaves everything felt right here.

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“You need to teach me that trick, Ruby suddenly said, her tone unexpectedly friendly. “Everyone’s pretending it’s nothing special, but it’s impressive. Where’d you learn it?’ Her eyes scanned us for any hint of deception.

“Just training, Aria shrugged casually. “Once you master the basics, those of us with enough determination can reach this level. Not a lie, but far from the

whole truth.

Ruby’s gaze shifted to me. “And you? Why bother learning this style?”

“I don’t like flashing strangers,” I answered simply. “Plus, not having to lug around extra clothes is pretty convenient.” I offered a friendly smile, which she

almost returned.

“Fair point. If humans understood our world, I’d go naked all the time,” she said with a meaningful look. “In our group, we don’t shame our bodies.”

She’s fishing for information, Taric warned in my mind. Careful what you reveal.

I just smiled faintly. Saying less had worked well for me so far, and I wasn’t about to start chattering and risk slipping up.

The others arrived in waves, some shifting back and dressing, others remaining as wolves. They probably felt safe

in their territory not to worry.

Several guys lit the bonfire, warm light soon illuminating the clearing. People gathered around, some in small groups talking quietly, others mingling. Aria and I sat opposite the vehicles and coolers, giving us a clear view of nearly everyone and the path we'd taken.

"Why are you two hiding over here?" Robert approached with two bottles. "You look like you're on lookout duty."

I accepted the drink he offered – not beer, as I'd mentioned earlier. "We're not hiding. It's just less crowded here, better for enjoying the fire. Since coming to campus, we've barely had time to relax. This feels nice." He sat beside me, pressing close even though I was already at the edge with nowhere to go.

'So, Robert, Aria jumped in, "we've talked about ourselves plenty. Where are you from? Why transfer mid-semester?" Her tone was casual, not interrogating.

"Nothing special to tell," he gazed into the flames, voice dropping. "My pack was tacked years back. Few survived. We met others with similar stories and wandered around, never staying long anywhere. Brandon's brother was studying here, said the campus was nice and nobody bothers rogue wolves. Some of us enrolled in classes, others found jobs. Life's pretty stable now." His eyes never left the fire.

"Wasn't there another pack to help? Nobody checked for survivors?" I asked, remembering Alpha King Nathan's concerns.

"No one came, bitterness edged his voice. "We waited days, hoping for rescue or help. Nothing. We buried our friends, struggled for about a month, but with supplies running out and everything destroyed, we had to leave." He took a deep breath, then forced a smile. Anyway, your turn why wildlife

management?"

## **The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel**

### **Chapter 5**

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

### **125**

Chapter 125: People Are Naturally Drawn to You

Evelyn's POV

76%

Taric, Conrad, did you catch all that? Aria's voice came through our mind link while I kept up an enthusiastic forest ecosystem discussion with Robert, tracking every move the rogues made.

"You seem like someone who'd rather be in the woods than stuck in a classroom, Robert said, eyes fixed on me. "Hard to picture you sitting through Daniels lectures. You always look ready to bolt for the trees."

"You're reading way too much into it, I laughed. "I actually like learning in class Nature just feels more... comfortable.\*

Hours of small talk yielded nothing useful about his rogue pack. Eventually, Pete approached with a nervous-looking girl clinging to his arm. Most people had already cleared out.

"Getting late," Peter said coldly, barely glancing at us. "You planning to camp out here?"

"We're good," Robert replied, his tone noticeably cooler. "Everyone else heading out?"

"Yeah, they've got business to handle," Peter said, voice dropping as a disturbing smile crept across his face. "Remember what happened last time they rushed off?"

A chill ran down my spine. Something about this guy set off every alarm bell I had.

"Guess we should get going too, I stood and stretched, making direct eye contact with Robert. "Is this a regular thing? Will we need invites next time?" I let

out a satisfied sigh. "Tonight was amazing. Been a while since I've enjoyed a run that much."

"You're one of us now," he stepped closer, lowering his voice. "Come whenever you want." His eyes stayed locked on me, not even acknowledging Aria's presence.

I glanced around, confused. Peter had vanished with the girl, and Brandon was nowhere in sight. Several guys chatted with Aria across the clearing, but

nobody approached us. The whole scene felt deliberately orchestrated.

‘See you tomorrow then,’ I stepped back to create some space. “We’ll probably come back.”

As I turned to leave, he grabbed my wrist with startling speed. I managed to avoid his attempted kiss, but still found myself in an awkward half-embrace, his

lips brushing my temple.

I froze, completely unsure how to respond. Finally, I just clutched the sides of his shirt, waiting for the uncomfortable moment to end. He chuckled and

planted a light kiss on my temple before backing away.

Looks like I’ve got more work to do,” he winked. “That’s okay. I’m patient.” Then he walked off

“Well, that was something, Aria said as she approached, barely containing her assessment. Nothing really happened, but the vibe was definitely intense.”

“Don’t even start,” I sighed, rubbing my temple. “That was so awkward. I feel absolutely nothing for him. This mission was already complicated enough.”

We tracked our way back to campus, maintaining a steady pace while receiving intel from Taric and Conrad through our mind link.

During the night, the male werewolves had constantly moved around the perimeter, never disappearing for more than ten minutes and always in different directions. The female werewolves, strangely, never left the bonfire area completely contrary to typical pack behavior.

Robert’s mention of a pack attack needed deeper understanding. Was this one of the Rogue Wolf King’s recruitment methods? Were they forcing members

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Chapter 125: People Are Naturally Drawn to You

into their ranks? Why had no other packs come to their aid? It didn't make sense that Alpha King Nathan would ignore such a situation, but if not, why had survivors gone so long without help?

Back at Aria's car, we could sense the Sentinels still watching over us from the shadows, maintaining their protective perimeter all the way to the safe

house.

Tons of questions, but at least we've got some leads, Aria said while driving. Seems like there's truth to the rumors about the Rogue Wolf King attacking packs and kidnapping members. Question is, were your new friends forced to join or did they sign up willingly?"

"Why do you keep calling them 'my new friends?'" I frowned. "We went together. They invited both of us."

"Sure, but they were clearly more interested in you," she laughed. "Not surprising honestly. You always become the center of attention without even trying.

It's like your superpower."

"What are you talking about?"

The crazy part is you genuinely don't notice it," she glanced at me quickly at a stop sign. "People are naturally drawn to you. I saw it at the castle, at the training center, and now here. You don't even try, you just have this... magnetism Even Ruby accepted you tonight, and she clearly hates new competition."

She just asked about our clothes-shifting trick. That's hardly acceptance."

"But she spoke to you as an equal, not an intruder," Aria pointed out. "That's acceptance in her world. She's the alpha female of that little group, though

Robert obviously has serious standing too."

"This is exactly what I need to learn from you," I admitted. "You read so much from these tiny social cues. I'm practically blind to that stuff. I can sense physical danger from miles away, but you can map out an entire social structure from a few conversations."

"I feel the same way when I watch you analyze an obstacle course," she smiled. We each have our strengths. Your only problem is people are just starting to

see how amazing you are."

At the safe house, we found Conrad, Taric, Shepherd, and Celine gathered around the kitchen table, studying a map.

‘Find anything?’ I asked.

“Those male werewolves kept moving around, but oddly never actually went anywhere,” Celine answered.

“Their movement patterns suggest perimeter patrols,” Shepherd added. “I’m marking these routes to compare with satellite imagery. Might find something

unusual.”

‘Did you notice any strange scents? Or areas completely devoid of scent?’ I asked them. “That’s what bothers me most, since scent elimination seems to be these rogues’ signature. But everyone tonight had normal scents.”

“We kept our distance, making it hard to track specific scents, Taric explained. When they walked to some invisible boundary line, their scent suddenly disappeared. All we could smell was forest no trace of any living activity, not even small animals.”

“So they’re definitely active in this area,’ Conrad

“They

ve bases somewhere in that forest. At least now we can confirm their presence.”

“We need to keep tracking that forest,” Taric nodded. “We already have teams following Mia’s disappearance route. Her coven has joined the search that one of their own is missing, they’re suddenly more cooperative. This might help us learn how they conceal their scents.”

- now

“You two should maintain contact with those college students,” he said to us. “You’ve established some initial trust. We need more intelligence to advance our investigation.”

“Understood, we answered together.

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Chapter 125: People Are Naturally Drawn to You

That concludes today’s operation. Rest and stay on standby.”

“Yes, sir,” we replied in unison before heading upstairs.

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All I want now is a hot bath for these sore muscles,” Aria sighed as we climbed the stairs. “We should step up our training, do more long-distance runs.

Completely agree, I nodded, my thighs protesting with each step. Seems like o daily training at the center isn’t quite cutting it.”

## The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

### Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

## Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

### 126

Chapter 126: Those People Are Watching You

Evelyn’s POV

My phone screen lit up while Aria was grabbing a towel from the bathroom.

“Crap, I forgot! Today’s Nadia’s birthday, I groaned, smacking my forehead. ‘Need to call her later.’”

“How old is she turning?” Aria asked, returning to the room.

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“Seventeen, she is a few months older than me,” I smiled. “Next year she can finally confirm if Milo’s really her mate. The thought made me laugh. “You should’ve seen how he changed around her. Completely awkward but sweet.”

‘What about your other friends? They must have their eighteenth birthdays coming up too, right?’

‘Yeah, those guys’ birthdays are all bunched together within a few weeks.’”

“When’s yours?” she asked.

“May,” I replied. “What about you?”

She closed one eye dramatically, then peeked with the other. “June.”

“Hey, we’re pretty close!” I laughed as she headed to shower.

After we both cleaned up, exhaustion hit me hard. The clock read 4 AM – we’d been awake nearly twenty-four hours. We set alarms and crashed immediately.

When my alarm blared, I jolted upright with a frustrated groan. Despite only three hours of sleep, I was annoyingly wide awake. I woke Aria, deciding to call Nadia with birthday wishes before starting our day.

The phone rang forever before connecting to a blurry close-up of Nadia’s face, which broke into a huge smile when she recognized us.

“Oh my god! How are you guys?” she exclaimed.

“We’re good! Happy birthday!” I practically shouted.

“Thanks!” Her smile faded slightly. “Not to be rude, but you both look like hell. What happened?”

Aria and I exchanged glances. “Mission. All-nighter, Aria shrugged.

‘Wait, what mission? A familiar male voice came from offscreen.

The camera shook violently before Milo’s face appeared. ‘Lightning Girl, what mission? You’re supposed to be training, not running ops. You’re not even old enough! How could Toric let you?’

“Hello to you too,” I rolled my eyes. “Thanks for the vote of confidence. Toric led the team himself with Conrad and other senior Sentinels. Chill out.”

‘First-name basis already? Moving up in the world,” he tried looking serious but couldn’t maintain it. I was hoping to see you at the training center, but you weren’t even there, huh?’

“We’re undercover. Titles would blow our cover, Aria explained. ‘We’re in the northeast region. I’m Aria, by the way.’”

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09:51 Mon, Jan 12

## Chapter 126: Those People Are Watching You

76%

“I completely forgot you haven’t met,’ I said. “Aria, this is Milo, our future Delta and currently Nadia’s boy toy. Milo, this is Aria. Her dad’s one of Alpha King’s direct warriors.”

‘Nice to meet you,” he nodded, then raised an eyebrow. “Wait, whose boy toy?”

‘Didn’t we interrupt something?” I smirked. “You’re her toy. She plays with you when she wants, and you love every second of it.”

“Okay, fair, he laughed. ‘But ouch my pride. I might need therapy to recover. He made an exaggerated wounded face, glancing back at Nadia. We all cracked up.

“Give me my phone back, Nadia’s voice came through before her face reappeared on screen. “So what have you been up to? What were you doing last night?”

-

Milo wrapped his arms around her waist from behind, resting his chin on her shoulder. They fit together so naturally I really hoped they were true mates.

“Nothing special,” I said casually. “Running in the woods, meeting college students, building intelligence. Just reconnaissance stuff.”

“Which university? Where exactly?” Milo pressed.

“Northern University area, Aria replied. “We’re posing as students to gain their trust and gather intel.”

“So you spent the night with strange college guys? Did you know them before?” Milo’s tone suddenly sharpened.

“I knew a few. Met the rest last night,” I frowned. “Why?”

“No wonder the triplets have been blowing up my phone asking if I’m okay,” he said. “They felt something wrong. Not about me – about you being in

trouble.”

“What are you talking about?”

“Your connection with those guys has always been weird,” he said. “No matter how far away, they somehow sense when you’re in danger.”

“That’s impossible,” I shook my head. “Aria and I both have Sentinel marks now. Those emotional connections should be blocked.”

“You have a Sentinel mark?” Milo’s eyes widened. “You’re not even old enough! What’s going on?” His expression grew serious. ‘Guardian Griffin told me about those marks. You got it around Thanksgiving?’

‘Yeah, why?’ I asked, confused how he knew this.

“You said you don’t have a connection with them,” he tightened his arm around dia. Around that time, when several of us were together, we all collapsed in pain simultaneously. Alpha Adam gathered everyone to help, but nobody knew why. Elliot puked all night, then slept for three straight days. The triplets had trouble breathing for hours, said it felt like something was being ripped from their chests. They stayed glued together for days after. And me,” he rubbed his neck, “I was on high alert, bouncing between everyone, couldn’t turn off myotective instincts just like Orion. This has to be some connection between us and you, Evelyn. Only explanation, crazy as it sounds.”

I’ve never heard of anything like that,” Aria said.

“Neither have I, but weird stuff keeps happening, Nadia added. “I’ll ask my mom hout it. I wonder if Alpha King Nathan knows about this connection between you six?

“We’ll discuss that later,” I changed the subject, turning to Nadia. Since you have such an important guest,” I glanced at Milo, “how are you celebrating your birthday?” I didn’t want to talk about those boys anymore it just made me homesick. And if my mark really hurt them, I’d feel terrible.

”

“Just one special guest,” Nadia smiled softly, radiating happiness.

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09:51 Mon, Jan 12

Chapter 126: Those People Are Watching You

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“We can’t all leave our posts, Milo’s tone turned serious. We’re still investigatin that intrusion. Our intel shows activity points on the mainland near the coastline around the islands. They’ve been watching us all along. I just don’t get why they suddenly pulled back.”

“She’s your source for those clues,’ Aria stated bluntly. She connected those fragments. You know why they left, you just don’t want to say it.” Her gaze

moved between them before settling on me.

What does that mean?’ I asked.

“Those people are watching you, Evelyn,’ Aria said firmly. “They withdrew after you left. Robert’s group didn’t care about inviting me they were waiting for

you. We need to figure out why.” Anger flashed in Milo’s eyes.

“They’re watching you? You need to come back now,” he demanded. “You’re in danger, and we can’t protect you from here.”

‘Don’t start!’ I snapped. “I’m a warrior, and this is my job. I’m not some glass figurine you need to lock away. We called to wish Nadia happy birthday, not hold a ‘Evelyn needs protection’ convention. You tried this approach before, and blew up in all our faces. Nadia, about your birthday plans?”

## The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

### Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

## Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

### 127

Chapter 127: You Already Have Someone in Mind?

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Evelyn’s POV

“Nothing fancy planned. Nadia replied, sounding slightly disappointed. “Milo set up some surprises, and we’re having dinner with my parents tonight. But seriously, Evie, his concerns aren’t completely off-base. I’m not saying rush back Polaris, just... be extra careful now that you’ve got these leads.”

I handed the phone to Aria with a heavy sigh and grabbed my training clothes from the storage box. Great. Even Nadia was taking their side now. I hadn’t

left the pack to run back at the first whiff of danger.

In the changing area, I quickly switched into a lightweight tank and shorts, pulling training pants over them. As I tied my hair back, several annoying strands escaped and brushed against my face. I really needed a trim I only remembered this when I was trying to focus.

-

When I returned, Aria had finished the call and held up a finger, signaling me to wait while she changed. After she returned fully geared up, we silently

headed to the training area.

The space was nearly empty this early Friday morning. Perfect. In my current mood, I couldn't manage polite small talk anyway. I just wanted an intense sparring session to replace mental frustration with muscle burn. Aria watched me understanding flashing in her eyes whenever I ramped up my attack

intensity.

As we finished our final combat set, a voice broke my concentration.

"Morning. Looks like we missed prime training time."

I spun around, my damp ponytail slapping against my neck.

Robert stood there but stopped when he caught my expression. "Though seeing you now, maybe it's good we didn't join in." His lips quirked into an amused

smile.

Aria chuckled softly, and I rolled my eyes but managed a small smile. At least I knew where to direct my actual anger, and it wasn't at him.

"You probably wouldn't last five minutes anyway," I shot back. "You were already winded during last night's run, and this takes way more stamina."

I should get ready for class, Aria said through our mind link.

He's right here - good chance to gather intel. I extended our mental link to Taric and Conrad. I need some alone time. Can one of you follow her and one stay as

backup?

At least you remember you need backup. Aria shook her head slightly, but understanding showed in her eyes.

'I'm heading out, I told her. She squeezed my shoulder before walking past Robe.

I'll wait in the car. Taric will monitor Evelyn, Conrad replied evenly. Don't let her do anything stupid. She's emotionally raw right now. And make her eat something after no sleep and an hour of training, she'll crash hard.

Robert studied me. "Want to talk about that call?"

'Not really, I admitted. "Talking about it will just piss me off more. I'd rather keep exercising. Wanna spar? I suddenly realized how self-centered that

sounded. 'Wait, you probably had your own plans. You didn't come here just to be my punching bag."

"Come sit,' he said, gently gripping my arm and guiding me to the side. I reluctantly followed but quickly pulled away. "What happened? Tell me."

"I'm completely gross right now," I stepped back, uncomfortable with how close stood. "Not exactly presentation-ready."

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Chapter 127: You Already Have Someone in Mind?

"Actually, he smiled, the more real you are, the more interesting you become. Stange, isn't it?"

"Wouldn't know,' I mumbled, feeling awkward. "This is all new territory. And seriously, I need a shower. I'm a mess."

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"You're showing your most authentic self," he said meaningfully. "Does this place have somewhere to clean up? Or do we need to head back to your place?"

'Didn't bring anything,' I sighed truthfully. "Left in a hurry, didn't think ahead, but I don't want to go back yet."

"How about this?' he offered. "I haven't started training, so I'm still fresh, and I bought extra stuff. You can borrow my things, and then we definitely need

to get you some food, or your friend will probably hunt me down.”

“You really don’t mind?” I asked, surprised. “Delaying your workout, lending me your stuff?”

“You’re really not used to basic courtesy, are you?” His smile widened as he moved closer, making this low rumbling sound that was oddly reassuring.

I took a deep breath. “Honestly... do you know how big our age gap is? That could be a problem.”

Evelyn! Don’t reveal your real age! Taric’s warning sliced through my mind.

I need to explain why I’m keeping distance; he keeps trying to close in. Relax, we need info, and I need to seem somewhat vulnerable to get him talking.

Be careful. Keep the link open.

Got it.

“If you don’t mind, I’ll be quick,” I said, noticing a small smile playing on his lips

“What’s to mind? Come on.’ He led me to his backpack, handing me the entire bag without hesitation, as if completely unconcerned about what I might find. His hand hovered near my back the whole way until he walked me to the changing area entrance.

I showered quickly, using his toiletries. My training pants were still relatively dry but my underwear was soaked through, so I had to go without. Thankfully,

his bag had a comb, letting me somewhat tame my hair.

Less than ten minutes later, I emerged from the changing room. Robert was leaning against the wall, scrolling through his phone, and looked up surprised.

‘Done already?’

“Yep. When I say ten minutes, I mean ten minutes.”

‘Most girls take at least an hour,’ he laughed.

‘Never been that type,’ I shrugged. ‘If you ever see me all dressed up, it’s definitely because my friends forced me into it.’

“That would be something to see,’ he smiled, taking back his bag. “Can I hold you hand? Or is that outside your comfort zone?”

‘I’m not really sure what this is,’ I admitted.

“Then why not try?” He gently took my hand, leading me away from the training area along a stone path toward a quiet spot at the forest’s edge.

Weirdly, it didn’t feel inappropriate. It was just completely different from contact with Magnus, Lucian, Orion, or even Milo – none of that familiar warmth, just a sort of numb calmness. The Sentinel mark’s effect ran deeper than I’d realized.

“You’ve been lost in thought,’ he said, stopping at a picnic area near the tree line “What’s on your mind?”

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Chapter 127: You Already Have Someone in Mind?

“Nothing special,” I answered. “Just thinking some people are really confusing.”

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He immediately dropped my hand, his expression turning wary. “Do you have a mate? Or someone who thinks they have a claim on you?”

“What?!” The question caught me completely off guard, and I instinctively stepped back before quickly regaining my composure.

No, nothing like that.’ I forced myself to stay calm. “Let’s sit and talk.”

We settled at a wooden table, him sitting across from me, suspicion filling his gaze. The air smelled of pine and wildflowers, but all I could sense was the strong possessiveness radiating from him.

‘You already have someone in mind, don’t you?’ he asked directly. “That’s why you’re so hot and cold with me?”

## The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

### Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 –

# Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

## 128

Chapter 128: I'm Quite Complex Myself

Evelyn's POV

76%

"No mate," I said, shaking my head. "It's complicated, and I'm pretty complex myself."

"Complicated how? His voice remained cautious, though curiosity flickered in his eyes. The forest breeze stirred my half-dried hair, sending a slight chill across my skin.

Robert, how old are you exactly?"

"Mid-twenties," he answered, frowning. "What's that got to do with whether you're taken?"

Instead of answering directly, I continued: "Do you have any siblings? A sister, maybe?"

"I have a sister," he said impatiently. "Where are you going with this?"

"Bear with me," I said, twirling a damp strand of hair while figuring how to get him to lower his guard. "Say your sister was only 15, but super smart so she

started university early. A few weeks in, you find out she's getting close with some guy in his twenties. What would you do?"

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"Make sure that guy learned what boundaries are," he answered instantly, his eyes hardening. "Probably not very nicely."

I just looked at him silently, waiting. After a moment, understanding dawned on his face and the color drained from it.

"Shit," he swallowed. "You're serious? If that's true, I'm screwed. Someone's watching us right now, aren't they?"

Of course there is, punk, Taric growled through our mental link. Though you're slightly smarter than I expected.

I kept my expression neutral. “Nobody’s gonna jump out and beat you up. But yeah, I’m clueless about this stuff. High school was too easy; I finished everything early. Aria was already studying here, so I asked to join her. Conrad agreed since we were moving anyway.”

“What about your brother?” Wariness flashed in his eyes. “I thought it was just you and Aria.”

He’s technically my best friend’s boyfriend,’ I explained. “But he’s known me since I was little, so he’s like a brother. It’s her birthday today, and when I called, he overheard me mention running with college guys. He freaked out, almost ordered me to come back. I hate being told what to do, so I hit the training area where innocent people wouldn’t get hurt.”

“So you’re way younger than me but taking the same classes?’ He seemed to be cussing this. No wonder you’re weird about the age gap. Does this brother have feelings for you beyond brotherly stuff?”

“Definitely not,” I said firmly. “You should see him with my friend. The age gap it an issue with schoolwork I can handle that fine. It’s the difference in life experience that’s obvious. For me, relationships are still just theory, which makes me nervous

He exhaled deeply. “You’re unlike any girl I’ve ever met. I get why you’re hesitant especially when this is all new to you. He took my hand slowly, carefully.

To anyone watching, this might have looked touching, but I felt nothing. The Senel mark had definitely cut off eotional connections. I felt guilty that this guy was showing patience I couldn t genuinely appreciate.

I just believe in destined mates, I said softly. Getting close to someone only tend out they re not your mate huits both people. It’s confusing. Sorry for the mixed signals I really don’t know how to handle this.

Some older werewolves passed through, nodding politely Silence stretched between us. I took the moment to look around spring had crept into the woodland, and sunlight sparkled on the distant lake. My mind wandered to Polar City, to breakfasts with Luna Isabella, to joking around with the guys at

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09:52 Mon, Jan 12

Chapter 128: I’m Quite Complex Myself

Wolf's Corner.

76%

I closed my eyes and breathed deeply, letting forest scents fill my lungs, briefly losing myself in memories.

'Why do you look so beautiful like this?' Robert's voice pulled me back. "You really love nature, don't you?"

I opened my eyes, surprised. "Who wouldn't enjoy fresh air when they're exhausted?"

"Most people," he lowered his voice. "Human women never notice this stuff, and werewolf women aren't much better. Most only connect with nature when shifting, but if they stayed in tune with their wolf like you do, they wouldn't lose that instinct."

'I'm just being me, I shrugged. "When something's beautiful, I notice it. Nothing special about that."

'It's how you connect with everything," he adjusted his position. "Makes all the difference."

Did he just...? God. I needed to change topics fast. He kept steering us toward flirting, and I needed information, not romance.

I looked away, deliberately switching subjects. "You mentioned having a sister. How is she doing now?"

His expression instantly darkened, his body tensing. I felt guilty for being so direct, but we needed this information. I had to remember this was a mission.

"When our pack was attacked, everything went to hell," he said, voice low and shaking. "No warning. As far as I knew, we had no enemies, not even minor disputes. My parents worked at the pack house, so we knew about leader stuff. The attackers were precise and strategic - not random at all. They knew exactly who to take out first and where to hit. I don't remember the timeline exactly, just that I eventually found my sister in our yard."

He paused, closing his eyes painfully. I gave him space, knowing how hard it is to revisit trauma. I touched his forearm lightly, offering silent support. He smiled faintly and took my hand.

"If you were trapped," I asked carefully, why not leave or choose a new leader?"

"We couldn't leave," anger filled his voice. "The new leader controlled everything claiming it was Alpha King's orders. He told us no one would help because our pack was

‘inadequate’ and needed reform.” Something beyond pain flickered in his eyes, something unsettling.

‘What about the elders?’ I pressed. “Couldn’t they contact Alpha King directly?”

Robert laughed coldly. “Those self-serving assholes cared more about their titles than their duties. They barely showed up, never talked to regular members. Our leader was a joke – not a bad guy, but only in charge because he married the previous leader’s daughter. Not fit to lead at all. The elders probably liked her bloodline more than his skills. They controlled everything by manipulating the leader and Luna, only caring about their own power,”

He took a deep breath, composing himself. If this was an act, he deserved an award. But looking into his eyes, I genuinely felt sorry for him and his pack.

‘The elders ran first during the attack, leaving the leader and Luna to fight alone caused it, maybe even planned it to get Alpha King’s attention. Who knows? Eith nobody did anything. His face showed disturbing anger, clearly hungry for revenge.

which they couldn t. Now those elders hide near Alpha King. Maybe they way, innocent people died or were taken, probably to worse fates, and

“Which city was your pack in?” I asked, suddenly worried about his answer.

“Used to be Sunset City Pack, his voice dropped, turning cold. Now they’re part of Black Obsidian City Pack.”

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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**

### **129**

## Chapter 129: I've Never Been One to Be Easily Influenced

Evelyn's POV

76%

I felt a jolt. Taric and Conrad immediately erupted with commands and warnings in my mind. I fought hard not to react while they relayed this crucial intelligence to the team and Alpha King Nathan's warriors. Despite my splitting Headache, I couldn't block them out this was too important.

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'I'm so sorry,' I said sincerely. 'I can't imagine how awful that must have been. Were the people running with us last night all from your former pack?'

'Just Brandon and Peter,' Robert said, gaze distant. 'The leader who took over was ruthless. Cut off all contact with the outside world. Warriors punished anyone who resisted. Males joined their army, females taken somewhere else. Never saw them again. Few of us escaped, but no pack would take in

'deserters. Eventually wound up here.'

He shrugged, face blank but eyes filled with pain.

I stood and held out my hand. 'We've missed class anyway. You need to blow off team. Let's head back to the training area.'

He stared like I'd suggested something crazy. 'I just told you my pack was attacked, my sister killed, and we abandoned our packmates. And you want to go

training?'

'Exactly.' I nodded. 'When emotions get heavy, nothing beats physical training. Plus, I need to change these clothes feel worse than being mid-shift.'

I winked, and his expression softened until he finally smiled and followed me.

I could sense Taric nearby, watching everything. Robert's story was heart-wrenching, but I wasn't letting my guard down. If even half of it was true, someone

needed to answer for it.

We spent hours sparring – actual training this time, not just me venting emotions Robert had skills but couldn't match my speed. Afterward, we grabbed

food and found a spot to rest.

“Thanks for today,” he said, fidgeting with his wrapper. “Didn't realize how much needed to talk about it. We never discuss what happened, and nobody s

ever asked.”

“No thanks needed,” I said, wiping sweat away. “But I should go. Mission stuff this weekend, plus makeup work for missing class.”

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I stood, and he followed. To my surprise, he wrapped his arms around my waist, lling me closer. His movements were gentle, giving me space to back away. For the mission's sake, I returned the embrace, letting my cheek rest against his chest. He lowered his head, breathing deeply before kissing the top of

my head.

“You're making it hard to take things slow,” he chuckled. “You know that?”

“Sorry,” I laughed. “Must be a short-person hazard.”

“You're definitely not a kid,” he said seriously. “But I think you're worth waiting. He kissed my head again before letting go. Want me to walk you back?

That guy protecting you would love an excuse to tear me apart.”

I burst out laughing, the sound echoing through the trees.

“You've been perfectly decent, I teased. “Hand holding and head kisses aren't mder-worthy offenses.”

“Debatable, he shook his head. I've invaded your space and dumped my emotional baggage on you. Trust me, for some people, that's plenty.”

“Don't worry, I pointed toward the nearby building. “Aria's class is there. She'll be done soon, and we've got plans with Conrad tonight.”

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09:52 Mon, Jan 12

## Chapter 129: I've Never Been One to Be Easily Influenced

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“Right, him too! Robert’s eyebrows shot up. “He’s a warrior, right? Is he gonna show up at my place because I was talking to you? I don’t need warriors on my doorstep.

I laughed again. ‘Don’t overthink it. He knows about you and today.’”

Robert’s eyes widened. “He doesn’t mind you skipping class with a guy who’s obviously into you? With the age difference and everything?”

“First, he’s not the micromanaging type.”

And my surveillance skills aren’t easily spotted by amateurs, Conrad added through bur mind link.

“Second, I continued, lifting my chin, ‘he trusts my judgment. I’ve never been one to be easily influenced.’”

I do trust your judgment, Conrad confirmed, but this guy? Not a chance. He’s been getting all day, and his thoughts aren’t as gentlemanly as he’s acting. Good thing you can fight. I’d love to see his face when he realizes you could take him down without breaking a sweat. He and Taric laughed in my head.

Speak of the devil,’ I tapped my temple, smiling. “I should go.”

Robert anxiously glanced around, genuinely worried Conrad might appear from behind a tree. “See you later.” I turned and walked away.

As soon as I rounded the corner, Conrad materialized at my side, moving so quickly he seemed to appear from nowhere.

‘How are we handling the Victor information?’ I immediately asked. “If Robert’s lying the truth, the elders have been lying to Alpha King Nathan all along.”

“We’re looking into it, shorty,” Conrad said. “You did great today. Let’s get back; someone’s been following you.” He winked, making me chuckle.

The moment I stepped inside, Aria rushed over and hugged me tight. Conrad walked past us to Taric, who was staring at a computer screen.

“You’re crushing me, I gasped. She loosened her grip.

‘Sorry!’ She pulled me to the couch. “Tell me everything. Don’t leave me hanging gain. I couldn’t focus all day!\*

‘Seriously?’ I sighed. “We can’t always be together; that would look suspicious. you’d been staring at him, he never would ve shared that information.”

‘Did he say anything useful?’

“Yes, I nodded. “Conrad and Taric have teams verifying it. He told me he, Brand, and Peter came from a pack that was attacked but never received help

I detailed Robert’s story, analyzing the gaps while watching Taric and Conrad sections.

It sounds plausible,’ Taric said without looking up. “The attack probably happen. If the elders didn’t report up, and the leader didn’t know to contact Alpha King Nathan directly, this could’ve happened without anyone knowing. But here are too many unknowns.”

“The big question is: did Black Obsidian City Pack really take over Sunset City?onrad turned while opening food containers. That pack wasn’t even under Alpha King Nathan, just near the northern border. Were they trained in Black Obdian’s army? Did they leave on their own, or are they on a mission like

us?

He frowned. “We need to confirm if a pack was actually absorbed. Does Alpha Vior know, or is someone using his pack’s name to attack territories?

Over the next weeks, Aria and I established a routine with Robert, Brandon, and ter. We’d train before classes and run on Thursdays. Even Ruby’s group became less hostile not friendly, but not openly antagonistic.

Robert never mentioned his pack again but texted daily. We avoided heavy topic We hadn’t been alone since that day

not sure if deliberate or just

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09:52 Mon, Jan 12

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76%

Chapter 129: I’ve Never Been One to Be Easily Influenced

scheduling. When we met, he'd hold my hand or hug me gestures that weren't ke but felt like quiet declarations. The relationship was odd, but other

guys stopped approaching me.?

Aria said I'd been his target, but he didn't want to make it obvious. Meanwhile, she handled admirers from all directions, enjoying the challenge.

Neither of us gathered much additional intelligence. We were in a holding patter hoping the Sentinels could extract more from our limited information.

## The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

### Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

## Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

### 130

Chapter 130: This Has Special Meaning to You, Doesn't It?

76%

Evelyn's POV

Between missions and training, I dragged Aria to local shops, hunting for birthday gifts for the boys. At a small store, some minimalist necklace designs caught my eye, reminding me of the gemstone necklace they'd given me,

'What about this?' Aria held up something gaudy with too many dangling parts.

'God no. Way too flashy,' I said. "They'd never wear that."

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I settled on simple silver chains with small beads understated compared to the one they gave me, but similar enough to create a connection only we'd

understand.

On our way to the castle for a strategy meeting, I brought the wrapped gifts with me. Alistair promised to deliver them next time he visited Polaris.

‘How are they doing?’ I asked, trying to sound casual.

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Alistair smirked. ‘Missing them?’

I rolled my eyes, but couldn’t deny it to myself. I wondered if things had gone back to normal without me there.

‘Magnus’s working on his leadership skills, Luc is handling pack coordination, and Ori’s focusing on combat training,’ Alistair said. ‘Elliot and Milo are taking turns with the cubs’ training now.’

‘They’re officially 18 and stepping into their roles. Their birthday celebrations go pushed back – guess they didn’t see the point without you there.’

The advisors were going in circles with our intelligence reports, questioning details from every angle without making real progress. We also planned a network of safe houses, with Alpha King Nathan and Luna Selena both seeming pleased with my input. Seeing my napkin sketches turn into actual plans felt

pretty good.

‘Luna Isabella and Alpha Adam visited last week,’ Luna Selena mentioned. ‘Sham you missed them.’

I nodded, swallowing my disappointment. The boys were now responsible for Polaris while Alpha Adam was away they were really becoming leaders now.

I hoped Milo hadn’t told everyone about my dangerous mission. Knowing him, he never kept secrets from each other, so they’d learn about my mission and Sentine

–

probably already called everyone, exaggerating everything. Those boys mark eventually, but I didn’t want them worrying needlessly.

Thankfully, I didn’t run into any elders at the castle. I couldn’t hide my suspicion about their connection to Robert’s pack, and I wasn’t in the mood to fake

politeness.

“By the way, Alistair leaned in during a break, “word is you and Aria made it on the elders potential mates list they were accidentally discussing

Aria and I locked eyes and burst out laughing. Those elders seriously had nothing better to do.

Spring settled into a rhythm of classes, werewolf surveillance, and occasional case meetings. Both Tatic and Conrad stressed that reconnaissance was a long game building trust took time.

Before I knew it, my 17th birthday arrived. I had mixed feelings about it. Aria wouldn't let me ignore it, even roping Robert into planning something. That morning, I sat by the window with tea, my thoughts drifting to Polaris, wondering if the boys remembered. I'd been wearing their gemstone necklace constantly since buying their gifts, like some invisible connection I desperately

eded.

Focus on the present, my wolf nudged.

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09:52 Mon, Jan 12 GB.

Chapter 130: This Has Special Meaning to You, Doesn't t?

“Happy birthday,” Aria appeared with a small cake and single candle. “Make a wis

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That evening, Aria, Robert and Brandon took me to a local bar. The atmosphere was nice, but nothing like the barbecues at the Polaris pack house. Something was missing, even with the conversation and laughter. I even ordered burger instead of my usual salad, but that nagging emptiness lingered.

As we were leaving, Aria pulled out an elegant box. “Here, this is for you.”

I eyed the deep blue velvet box suspiciously. Not Aria's style at all she loved bright colors.

“What is this?” I asked warily.

Robert and Brandon looked confused by my hesitation.

Someone asked me to give this to you after dinner, and insisted your suitor be present  
Aria's voice filled my head.

“Are you kidding? Now is not the time!” I blurted, forgetting to respond mentally

“Either you open it or I will,” she shrugged. “Alpha King’s orders.”

I narrowed my eyes. So Alpha King Nathan was behind this. Alistair too, probably. This was definitely a setup.

“What orders?” Robert frowned. “Why are you freaking out over a gift?”

“Hierarchy protocols,” I explained, still staring at the box. “When Alpha King says jump, we ask how high. I took a deep breath and slowly opened it.

Inside lay a silver bracelet on deep blue satin. Near the clasp was a crescent-shaped sapphire surrounded by six small star gemstones. At the other end were six capital letters engraved, each representing one of my boys. My eyes instantly welled up. I looked up to see Aria filming my reaction.

“This means something to you,” Robert said flatly, bitterness creeping into his voice.

I nodded slightly. He reached over and fastened it around my wrist. It fit perfect the moon and stars catching the light.

‘Friends don’t give gifts like this,’ he said quietly. “And you don’t react like that a normal friendship present.”

‘You’ve got

all wrong,” I tried explaining, but couldn’t find the words. “This is portant to me, but not how you think. I can’t explain everything

‘I should go,’ he stood abruptly. “See you tomorrow.”

Brandon followed, clearly wanting no part in our drama.

I chased after them, grabbing Brandon’s arm. “Give us a minute, okay? We’ll be right back.”

He nodded and rejoined Aria. I caught up with Robert outside.

“That’s it? You re just walking away? I demanded.

“What am I supposed to do?’ he turned, voice rising. “You act interested in me, behind my back, you ve got these special friends? He pointed at my bracelet. ‘Nobody gives jewelry like that to just friends.’”

'I told you before, I've known Milo forever. We practically grew up together. I induced him to Nadia,' I said. "There's never been anything beyond friendship. This bracelet represents important people in my life, not romance."

"Those guys send you expensive jewelry," he said with a bitter laugh, and you expect me to believe there's nothing there?"

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Chapter 130: This Has Special Meaning to You, Doesn't it?

"You don't want to know the real me, I felt anger bubbling up. "This is just your jealousy talking. I hated being distrusted, even if our relationship was

mostly for the mission.

"Milo has a funny way of showing friendship," he said through clenched teeth. Does he give fancy jewelry to all his female friends?"

That did it. I balled my fist and punched him square in the face. His head snapped to the side as he stumbled back.

"Listen, jackass," I growled, "don't make assumptions about relationships you know nothing about."