

The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

131

Chapter 131: Too Bad I Missed That Spectacular Moment

Evelyn's POV

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Robert straightened up, rubbing his cheek where I'd hit him. His eyes flashed with a mix of anger and surprise.

"My mother died giving birth to me," I said, my voice shaking. "My birthday has never been a celebration – just a reminder of loss. Don't twist my friends kindness into something it's not." I touched the gemstone necklace. "This represents all my friends, not just one person. Each stone shows that even when we're apart, they remember me. The bracelet continues that tradition." I stepped back, glaring at him. "So before you make stupid accusations, get your facts

straight."

"Evelyn, wait!" he called as I walked away. "I didn't mean –

I ignored him and kept walking. Once out of sight, I felt my wolf stirring inside me.

I'm here, she soothed. Let me take over for a bit.

Why can't the Sentinel mark block these feelings? I asked. I don't even have real feelings for him – this was just for the mission.

Pain is part of being alive, she replied. Even Sentinels can't escape emotions completely. Let's run and clear our head.

I didn't tell Taric, Conrad, or Aria what happened. Someone had clearly wanted to create drama, and they'd succeeded. Whether it was Alistair or the boys trying to drive Robert away, I felt used, and I hated it.

For the next few weeks, I kept my phone in airplane mode, only using it for music during workouts. If anyone needed me, they could use the mind link. I sensed someone watching me from the shadows, but I never acknowledged them. At the safe house, I moved out of Aria's room into another one, locking the door each night. I still went to class but made sure other students were always around so Robert, Brandon, and Aria couldn't corner me.

Almost every night, I shifted and ran with Conrad following at a distance. He never bothered me, just made sure I didn't do anything stupid. I felt both grateful and annoyed by this silent supervision.

About three weeks after the birthday disaster, Aria finally picked the lock to my mom. She tried bragging about her 'special skills, but I wasn't amused. I

was busy with assignments, trying to maintain some normalcy.

'I'm really sorry,' she said from the doorway. "I didn't think it would blow up like that."

'So you were part of this plan?' I put down my pen, voice sharp. "Great to know how supportive my friends are. What was the point anyway?"

'You weren't making progress with him,' she explained, stepping closer. "When Alistair brought your gift, we thought we could use it to see if Robert really

cared about you." Her voice got quieter as she spoke.

"Well, mission accomplished," I laughed coldly. "He accused me of cheating, and you guys ruined what should've been a special gift. Did the boys know they were being used like this?"

She looked down, fidgeting with her hands.

"That's what I figured," I sighed. "Who exactly is 'we'?"

"Celine and me," she almost whispered.

"Not Alistair, Conrad, or Taric? Did Alistair even explain what this bracelet mean

"No, she admitted.

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09:52 Mon, Jan 12 GB.

Chapter 131: Too Bad I Missed That Spectacular Moment

4.76%

“Everything I told Robert was true, I leaned back, suddenly tired. “I hate my birthday because it’s when my father lost his mate. He never forgave me. Until last year, no one ever celebrated my birthday. It wasn’t allowed.”

I took a breath. “Before high school, it wasn’t just Acacia bullying me. My father, brother, even those future leaders all ignored me. Elliot acted like I was invisible. Getting close to me meant trouble, so no one bothered. Only Luna Isabella and Delta Griffin showed any concern, and even they had to be secretive.”

“Nadia changed everything,” I continued. “She’d just moved to Polaris, and Milo was into her right away. He thought being nice to me would score points with her. That’s how they found out things were worse than anyone knew.”

Last year was my first real birthday celebration. The boys gave me gifts – clothes books, and that necklace. This bracelet was supposed to continue that tradition. And you guys ruined it for some stupid mission trick.” I looked toward the window. “You can come in now. Hovering outside is pointless.”

Taric and Conrad entered, looking serious.

“So that’s why Robert showed up with a bruised face?” Conrad asked with a hint of curiosity. “And we weren’t ‘hovering.’”

Thinking about the mark I’d left on Robert, I couldn’t help smiling a little.

“Too bad I missed that show,” Conrad’s lips twitched upward.

“You still need to make up with him,” Taric said bluntly. “We’ve been watching his group. He’s been hanging around the safe house almost every day, obviously checking on you. His guard is completely down – that’s a good opportunity for us.”

“So how soon do I need to play nice?” I asked, already thinking about strategy. After this, Robert would mean nothing to me. I didn’t need someone who jumped to conclusions without listening.

‘I’ll start letting him approach me in class, I continued, “then slowly act like I’m forgiving him. He’ll need to work for it though, or it won’t look real.”

*Exactly,” Taric nodded. “But move quickly, before the semester ends. The university has events coming up that might distract everyone.”

I nodded and looked back at my work. Aria now knew part of my past, which was something. But I was still angry and didn’t want to wear the bracelet yet. She shouldn’t have learned about my history this way, and she shouldn’t have acted without the team leaders’ approval. Another example of being sidelined because we weren’t “old enough – too impulsive, too emotional. The thought made me even angrier.

But for the mission to work, I needed to patch things up with Aria first. The other issues would have to wait until after the mission.

I could sense Taric and Conrad preparing to leave. Aria lingered, looking like she wanted to say more, but seeing me focused on my assignments, she finally

headed for the door.

‘Evelyn,” she paused in the doorway, “I really am sorry. I hope you can forgive me

I’m trying, I finally looked at her properly, and she flinched at my calm gaze. “Some things can’t be unsaid. You didn’t know the whole story, I get that. But I shouldn’t have to expose my scars for any reason. We’re here on a mission, and you want it to work, stick with the team. Share your ideas with everyone instead of going rogue.”

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Chapter 132: I’ll Do My Best to Change

76%

Evelyn’s POV

“We’re not experts here, no matter how good we think we are,” I said, keeping my voice steady. “Stop making decisions on your own. Use your leadership

skills I know you have them.”

“We’re not here to save the world, I continued, holding Aria’s gaze. “These Sentinels have put years into this mission. Our training center drama is nothing

compared to what they’ve sacrificed. Celine’s specialty is tracking, not strategy. We all need to step up.”

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Aria nodded seriously. “I won’t make excuses. I just wanted to see Robert lose control. He’s always so composed one drink max, perfect behavior. We wanted to test your influence on him. She paused. ‘It’s weird how you’re everyone’s weak spot. Even Peter, who hates everyone except Brandon and Robert,

can’t completely ignore you.”

“Here’s the deal,” I said, fighting to keep my tone professional. “I’m still mad, but the mission comes first. We can train together at the gym, but I’m keeping

my solo runs. Take it or leave it. We need to look like friends again to outsiders, or they won’t trust me.”

I thought for a moment. ‘I’ll approach them at work first. Just follow my lead. Act more vulnerable than usual, and we need a consistent story about my mother since we’re supposed to be sisters. We should keep it vague. I shared too much truth during that fight. We need to sync with Taric and Conrad to

make sure our story matches what they’ve already told people.”

Are you moving back in with me?” She gestured down the hall.

“Maybe. I haven’t decided.” I hesitated. “Once you’ve had friends around, being alone isn’t the same. But I’m still upset, and I like having my space. For now, I’m staying here. We’ll see about later. That’s the best I can offer right now.”

“Got it,” she said, disappointment edging her voice. “I miss you. Your never-quit attitude pushes me to do better. I feel like we still have a lot to do together, and something big is coming. I’ll earn your trust back, I promise.” She turned toward the door. “I’ll find Conrad and Taric, tell them we have a plan.”

“Thanks, Aria,” I said, trying to soften my tone. “I’ll do my best to change too.”

After she left, I flopped onto the bed with a heavy sigh. I had no more tears for this situation, I wasn’t sad anymore maybe I never would be about stuff like this. My wolf had been comforting me since my birthday.

Don’t be so hard on yourself, she whispered. You’re doing fine.

I'm done blaming myself for my mother's death, I replied. I knew part of the truth, but couldn't share it. Alpha King Nathan wanted our family connection kept secret. If people found out, I'd become a target. I wasn't scared, but seeing how Alistair struggled with women pursuing him just for his status, couldn't imagine what people might do to get close to the royal family through.

No one said this mission would be easy. I needed better emotional control to separate real life from our cover stories. That outburst on my birthday night couldn't happen again. I needed more self-control than Robert. My wolf and I been working on staying clear-headed when emotions ran high.

I sat up and organized my notes, making sure I looked busy with schoolwork rather than hiding like a coward. Now that Aria and I had a plan, I should share my thoughts and have dinner with everyone tonight as a peace offering. The mission needed it.

Our surveillance changed after that. Aria went to classes, hinting we'd made up to my regular schedule and started acting normal again, leaving my dark mood at the safe house. Conrad pretended to be away on business, which let him work secretly with Celine. He and Taric were furious about Aria and Celine's unauthorized stunt that could have blown our cover. Conrad was now keeping a close eye on Celine's methods.

If I were him, with a year-long investigation going nowhere, I'd suspect a mole.

watch everyone closely for secrets, I had no proof Conrad was doing this,

and kept my suspicions to myself. I'd learned to observe more and talk less, which helped me make better decisions. I might seem quieter now, but I didn't.

care what others thought.

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Chapter 132: I'll Do My Best to Change

Every word I spoke was deliberate. I should have caught Aria's plan with my gift and stopped her. I was starting to believe our cover stories. I understood why undercover agents sometimes lose themselves; you begin to think the lies are real. But I had to remember my purpose: stop a dangerous enemy who wanted to kill my uncle, possibly my cousin too, then take over wolf territory and expand their power.

Making Aria and me appear vulnerable served our purpose as bait, luring enemies into the open. Our job was to leave scent traces everywhere, pretending to be college students escaping overprotective families and enjoying freedom.

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After Conrad “left, we skipped big parties but showed up at campus events and games. I hadn’t rejoined the Thursday runs yet I needed to make up with

Robert first and have him invite me back as a sign we’d reconciled.

Aria went every week, and her reports matched our initial observations. The werewolves took turns patrolling the perimeter in a clockwise rotation, socializing between shifts. With so many people, the pattern was hard to spot unless you were watching for it. She noticed they only patrolled outside campus, not between the bonfire site and campus – either they felt safe in their territory, or someone else was patrolling elsewhere.

At the gym, I took different routes daily, tracking scent changes and who had been where. After weeks of practice, I noticed abnormal patterns around campus. In the southeast, a few blocks from the forest preserve, all non-human scents had vanished. The same thing was happening at the north school gate

where we first ran with Robert.

This scent barrier spread like an invisible fog, expanding daily with an oppressive feeling. Even with my Sentinel mark, I felt a subtle pull in my stomach when I entered these areas. The pull had no clear direction yet, but I sensed it would eventually lead somewhere specific, like the bait guides in old legends. The sensation was a growing numbness easy to miss if you weren’t looking for

I’d been socializing again for over a week. I kept my phone on and read Robert’s apology texts so he’d see I’d seen them. I still hadn’t answered – after a month of silence, our makeup needed to seem gradual to be believable.

I started wearing my gemstone necklace and new bracelet again. If Robert wanted forgiveness, he’d have to accept that I wore jewelry from other guys that meant a lot to me. These pieces were too delicate for everyday wear, but they gave me strength. Both the necklace and bracelet provided an inexplicable sense of security – when I took them off for showers or workouts, I felt strangely incomplete.

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Chapter 133: See What He's Up To

Evelyn's POV

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This whole “gradually forgive someone” act was exhausting. I'd much rather march up to whoever pissed me off, punch them in the face, and walk away. But

to get back into Roberts circle, the roundabout approach was my only option.

I showed up at the wildlife management lab thirty minutes early, deliberately taking seats in Robert's group's usual row. My fingers drummed impatiently on

the desk as I waited, eyes flicking to the door every few seconds. Just before Professor Daniel started his lecture, the door finally opened.

Brandon walked in first, with Peter and Robert close behind, all wearing serious expressions. As they approached, Brandon suddenly stopped, causing Peter

to crash into him.

“What the hell? Peter muttered under his breath.

Brandon stood frozen, staring at me. “Let's sit somewhere else,” he said tensely. “Something feels off today.”

The other two scanned the room and spotted me. Peter's face immediately hardened with hostility, while Robert looked like he'd seen a ghost, his Adam's

apple bobbing nervously.

“Whatever, Peter said coldly, heading toward a front corner seat with Brandon following.

Robert hesitated before trudging toward me like he was walking through mud. “Hey,” he said, voice rough. “Long time no see.”

“Yeah, I kept my tone neutral, holding his gaze so he couldn't look away. “Long time.”

He shifted uncomfortably. “Wildlife management’s been boring without your questions. You always start the best discussions.”

“Haven’t felt much like talking lately,” I said simply. He needed to work harder than that.

Robert bit his lip. “Look, I know this isn’t the right time, but I’m really sorry about how I acted. I’d just gotten some bad news that day, which already had

me on edge, and then seeing that bracelet...” He shook his head. “Not making excuses. I just regret everything I said.”

Professor Daniel’s voice cut through our conversation as he started displaying habitat images while announcing our final field exam. I turned to face

forward, taking detailed notes and completely ignoring Robert’s apology.

He sighed, disappointment obvious, but quietly opened his notebook anyway. As he adjusted his position, his knee brushed against my leg. Every muscle in

my body tensed – I wanted nothing more than to drive my elbow into his face. But for the mission’s sake, I forced myself to stay calm. I needed him to invite

me back to those Thursday runs.

When class ended, students rushed to leave while I deliberately packed slowly, noticing Robert doing the same.

“Can I walk with you?” he asked, uncertainty in his voice.

I took a deep breath, exhaled slowly, then said simply: “Yes. Turning to face him put on my best reluctant expression. What you said hurt me, Robert. You don’t really know me, but you were quick to judge. I’m willing to move forward, though. I swung my backpack over my shoulder. “Just remember, you’re not the only one who’s had it rough. Some people carry way more pain than you can imagine they just don’t take it out on innocent people.”

Robert nodded silently, hands in his pockets, walking slowly toward the exit and pacing back every few steps to make sure I was following. By the time we

left the building, his friends were nowhere in sight.

I’m with Robert, everything’s fine, I reported to Aria through our mind link. Want to see what he’s up to.

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Chapter 133: See What He's Up To

Got it. Be careful, she responded.

We walked along the main campus path with no particular destination, just side side in awkward silence. Finally, Robert spoke up.

About your mom..." he said quietly, eyes on the ground. "Was that true?"

"Yes," I answered briefly, still walking.

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"Then, is Aria really your sister?"

I stopped and looked him straight in the eyes. "Not by blood. Sometimes the people fate brings you matter more than blood relatives. I call her my sister

because it's simpler and avoids the whole sad story. I hate when people give me those pity looks. Aria never does that, and neither does Conrad. They accept

all of me, not just my tragic backstory." I shrugged. "This is a chance to start ove kind of like you coming to this university."

"Every choice comes with a price," he said thoughtfully.

"Sure, but what matters is if you're willing to pay it," I replied, moving forward again.

"You seem so young, but you talk like someone who's lived through a lot," he said with admiration.

"When you face life's crap early on, you either break or get stronger," I said matter-of-factly. "I picked the second option. Waking up to the same pain every

day but deciding it won't define my future. And if everything I've been through helps even one person avoid the same stuff, then it was worth it."

He looked at me intently, like he was reassessing something. "Would you accept whoever the Moon Goddess picks as your mate? Even if it means giving up

your right to choose?"

“I don’t see it that way,” I corrected him. “There’s a reason we can’t find our mates until we’re eighteen. Gives us time to figure out who we are. I think our

experiences actually shape who the Moon Goddess pairs us with. Besides, even when she guides us to our mates, we still choose whether to accept or not.

It’s still our decision.”

“What about family expectations and all that status stuff?” he pressed.

‘What do you mean?*

‘A lot of packs arrange mates for Alphas and Betas based on bloodlines and politics. People say the next Alpha Wolf King already has his future Luna picked

out.”

I couldn’t help laughing. “Those elders wish that rumor was true. They always forget they’re just advisors, not the ones making decisions. If those future leaders actually deserve their titles, they’ll make smart choices for everyone’s benefit, not get pushed into arrangements that make them miserable just so others can gain power. Real leaders see through those games, especially with something as important as finding their mate.”

“You’d make an amazing Luna,” he smiled. “Smart, decisive, not fooled by appearances. He shook his head slightly. “But until you find that lucky Alpha, I’d be happy to keep you company.”

I never said I wanted to be a Luna,’ I stated bluntly. “I’m better as a warrior or advisor, not dealing with political schemes and backdoor deals.

“It’s exactly that lack of power hunger that would make you perfect for it, he said, somehow taking hold of my hand and gently kissing my knuckles.

The gesture should have alarmed me, but for the mission’s sake, I didn’t pull away. We kept walking until we reached the library where I worked.

“Guess this is goodbye for now,” he said, stepping back but still holding my hand

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Chapter 134: He Seems Quite Invested in You

Evelyn's POV

75%

“How did you know I’d be working here today?” I asked, eyeing Robert suspicious.

He gave a sheepish smile. “I might have... kept an eye on you while you were ignoring me. Plus, you’re always here Tuesdays at this time.

So you’ve been stalking me?” I raised an eyebrow. “That explains why I kept cateing your scent around.”

“Some people are hard to forget,” he said, his voice softening. “I can’t really explain it. I just needed to make sure you were okay. It’s not a mate bond or

anything.”

“How can you be so sure it’s not?” I asked, half-joking.

His expression shifted, becoming more serious. “Because you’re destined for some outstanding Alpha. As for me... I’ve already found my mate.” His voice

dropped, eyes drifting away from mine.

“What?” I couldn’t hide my surprise. “You never mentioned that before.”

“Never found the right moment,” he said quietly. “I’ll tell you the whole story next time.”

“And when exactly is ‘next time’?” I pressed.

“How about tomorrow? Lunch during break?” he suggested. “And maybe you’d consider joining the Thursday run again? Running’s only half as fun without

someone to chase.”

I pretended to consider it. “Lunch is doable. As for the rest... we’ll see.”

He nodded, still holding my hand. I made an impulsive move, stepping forward to give him a quick hug – calculated to show reconciliation without too much closeness. He immediately wrapped his arms around me, breathing in my scent and placing a light kiss on top of my head before letting go.

‘See you tomorrow, Evelyn.’

‘See you tomorrow,’ I replied, relieved that this first contact had gone smoothly,

Within an hour, he’d sent three messages – sweet nothings about missing me. After thinking briefly, I replied: I need time, please understand. Thanks for being

patient.

His response came instantly: For you, I’d wait forever.

We exchanged a few more vague, flirty texts before I finished work and met Aria at a restaurant near the sports hall a perfect spot for watching our targets. The place was a gathering spot for local werewolves, likely because the owner was one himself, though his scent didn’t match any pack I recognized.

So, joining the Thursday run? Aria asked casually, stirring her iced tea. Robert had been talking about it all day, apparently.

“He did invite me, I admitted. Haven’t decided yet. How’d you hear about it so fast?”

“When two good looking people don’t speak for a month then suddenly hug on the spot, she raised her eyebrows, “word travels.”

We rolled our eyes in unison. That was just for the mission.”

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Chapter 134: He Seems Quite Invested in You

‘Still gives people something to talk about, she teased with a wink.

“It was just a hug. Don’t read into it,” I said.

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Conscious of the sharp-eared patrons around us, I continued through our mind like: This is necessary to get back into their circle. Thursday’s run is exactly the opportunity we need.

He seems quite invested in you, she replied, eyes gleaming with mischief.

Don’t even start! I warned, but couldn’t help smiling.

Early Wednesday morning, my phone lit up: Good morning, beautiful. Can I join your workout today?

I texted back: Normal people are still asleep right now.

His reply was immediate: Thoughts of seeing you keep me awake.

I shook my head and typed: Gym in ten. I usually run there to warm up.

Robert: Can I run with you?

Me: Sure. How soon can you get here?

His answer caught me off guard: Already waiting outside your door.

I jumped out of bed, threw on a sports bra and shorts, pulled loose pants over them, grabbed my backpack and rushed downstairs. When I opened the door, there was Robert leaning against a column, looking smug. He must have heard me scrambling down the stairs and thought I was eager to see him.

‘What are you doing here?’ I asked bluntly.

‘Picking you up for our run,’ he said casually. “You said I could join, right?”

‘I’m asking why you were already waiting. How long have you been standing here

He shifted awkwardly. “Would it be crazy if I said I’ve been around all night?”

‘You stood outside my house all night?’ I stared at him.

'Since your birthday, I've often been nearby,' he admitted. "Far enough not to make you or your uncle uncomfortable, but close enough to keep an eye out. There's something about you that calms me.'

'Is that so?' I raised an eyebrow, not about to fall for sweet talk. "Since we're be

honest, what do you want to discuss first? How you treated me despite

knowing I'm not your mate, or what you're really doing in those forests? Because I'm pretty sure it's not just some running club."

His head snapped up, clearly surprised by my directness. He opened his mouth, said it, then sighed.

'Your perceptiveness is startling sometimes,' he said. "Things are more complicated than they seem."

"Then explain slowly,' I slung my backpack over my shoulder and gestured for him to follow. "We've got time."

We walked to the gym in silence, neither rushing. During our workout, we carefully avoided those complicated topics, though I'm pretty sure I heard him hint that meeting me hadn't been part of his original plan.?

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Chapter 134: He Seems Quite Invested in You

After showering and changing, we settled into a corner booth at a nearby restaurant.

"Let's start with something simple," I said. "You mentioned finding your mate. What's that about?"

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"I'm not bringing this up out of jealousy, he quickly clarified. "I'm just being honest. I've always been straightforward with you, but I can tell you're holding back. It makes me curious, because you guys mock the idea of mates, yet you hint at having one, or maybe... a former one?"

He took a deep breath, closing his eyes. "Yes, 'former.' She chose a different path not just rejecting me, but deliberately making me feel the pain of her being with someone else."

'That's cruel, I frowned. "Why would she do that?"

Robert's eyes darkened with painful memories. "Because the guy she chose thought I wasn't worthy of her. Before our pack was attacked, he was our Beta. I was just an Omega in training. In his eyes, my rank made me completely unworthy of her. She eventually believed him. His voice hardened. 'He was as power-hungry as those elders you hate. If you told me he was involved in the attack on our pack, I wouldn't even be surprised.'"

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Chapter 135: You Know Nothing About My Future

Evelyn's POV

4.75%

"Whenever I think about her choosing him over me, it feels like someone's crushing my chest, Robert said, staring out the window. "Even after all this time, that connection's still there a constant reminder she's alive but will never be mine."

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He continued, his voice rough. "Peter and Brandon feel the same way. We all have our stories, but none of us get why mates can just walk away, leaving

wounds that never heal. I'm not questioning the Moon Goddess, but..."

The server interrupted, bringing our food that neither of us had touched. The easy vibe from our first lunch together was completely gone.

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"I'm sorry for what you went through," I said, meeting his eyes directly. "But if she couldn't see your worth, she doesn't deserve to mess you up like this."

“Maybe she saw something in me I couldn’t,” he replied, absently running his finger around his glass. “Maybe she knew what I’d become.”

“Don’t say that!” I snapped, drawing glances from nearby tables. “You can’t know what she was thinking. Maybe someone forced her hand. We’re just guessing at stuff we’ll never really know.”

His story might’ve been sad, but I couldn’t forget how cold he’d been over a simple birthday gift from my friends.

“I should get to class,” I said, gathering my things. “We can talk more by the lake later if you want. Just text me.”

As I stood up, he lightly touched my wrist.

*Thanks for listening,” he said softly. “You’re definitely going to be some powerful Alpha’s perfect mate.”

“You always say that,” I raised an eyebrow, “but you don’t know anything about my future.”

“True, his lips curved slightly. “I just hope after you find your mate, we can still be friends.”

“Interesting,” I laughed. “A month ago you freaked out seeing me wear a gift from my friends, and now you want to stay friends?”

“Exactly,” his expression turned serious. “And if that lucky guy has a problem with it, tell him I knew you first.”

He flashed that charming smile that probably worked on most girls. I just shook my head and headed toward the academic building.

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Walking under the dappled sunlight, I mulled over Robert’s story. His mate choosing someone with higher status, leaving him to suffer was it real pain or a cleverly designed sob story to win my sympathy? He’d had plenty of time to craft something pitiful, especially after seeing how much I valued mate bonds.

Despite my Sentinel training, I still struggled with certain things. Even experient Sentinels might have trouble spotting lies wrapped in emotional manipulation. I needed to find a way to follow him to those mysterious location and figure out why he was always hurking around. Looking back, our

meetings seemed suspiciously planned maybe even our first gym encounter.

The day passed in a fog. I sat through classes, my notebook filling with notes I barely remembered writing. I answered questions and talked to classmates on autopilot, my mind stuck on Robert and his friends. Peter's standoffish behavior confused me he never initiated contact. I didn't particularly care, but it

made understanding his motives harder.

After my last class, I was crossing the field when I heard someone behind me.

"Wait up!"

I turned to see Peter striding toward me, looking annoyed.

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Chapter 135: You Know Nothing About My Future

"Need something? I kept walking, only slowing slightly. I wanted to be able to bot if necessary.

I thought you were done with Robert," he said bluntly. So why am I hearing youre coming Thursday?"

"Not your business,' I replied calmly, "but yeah, I am."

I tried to walk past him, but he grabbed my arm not hard, but enough to make me stop.

Team, Peter's talking to me. Situation's a bit tense. Stand by. After sending the warning through our link, I faced him.

If you don't like me and want me gone, just say so. Campus is huge plenty of other people to bother."

"You're hanging around my best friend, so avoiding you isn't easy," he said, studying me closely. And you two aren't exactly just friends."

'We're not dating, I emphasized, and what I do is my choice."

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"That running thing isn't safe for you," he lowered his voice, and neither is Robert. Why can't you get that?"

‘If he’s so dangerous, why stick with him?’ I slowed my pace, feeling we might finally be getting somewhere.

‘I’m not at risk,’ Peter’s expression grew complicated. “I don’t have a choice that’s just how it is. But you’re different. You don’t belong with us. Thought that would be obvious after your birthday. Go back to your own world. You’ll just be a distraction, you’ll get hurt, and the people protecting you will be in

danger too.

His furrowed brow and flickering eyes made me uneasy.

‘I can take care of myself and my friends,’ I said firmly. “If you don’t want to see me Thursday, that’s your problem.”

“Just think about it,” his expression darkened like he wanted to say more, but he just snorted and walked away.

What was that about? Thoughts? I asked through our link.

He definitely doesn’t want you there, Aria replied. Question is, would your absence help or hurt him?

Seems extreme for a simple run. There’s more to this.

You might’ve messed up their plans, Conrad added. Maybe he wants Robert approaching other girls, and you’re in the way. Or you’re stopping them from luring

other girls. It’s been a while since we’ve had missing persons reports.

I definitely can’t skip now it would look suspicious.

It’s complicated, Taric joined in. You could be an obstacle, a disruption, or they’re afraid you’ll see something. Stay in touch with Robert, make sure he knows you’re coming tomorrow. Don’t give him any reason to cancel.

When I pushed open the safe house door, I was hit by a scene of organized chaos. The kitchen had transformed into a command center, the island covered with screens and equipment, five strangers hunched over them, flipping between surveillance feeds. The air smelled of coffee and overheated electronics.

‘Look who’s back! Tiny!’ A familiar voice called from behind the equipment.

“Mark!” I practically sprinted over to hug him. “What are you doing here?”

“Heard someone needed backup,’ he winked. “So I volunteered.”

2/3

09:54 Mon, Jan 12

Chapter 135: You Know Nothing About My Future

“Are Sophia and Cyrus here too?” I asked eagerly.

‘Not here, Mark explained. ‘But they’re part of the operation, assigned elsewhere Honestly, didn’t expect something this big.”

“Still figuring it out myself,” I smiled wryly. “Apparently I’ve stumbled into something major.”

“Evelyn, check this out, Taric called from behind the monitors. Just knowing my old friends had come to help made me smile.

75%

“What’d you find?” I asked, moving beside him.

Based on your observations during runs and the scent blockades, we’ve roughly located the source of their scent-masking,” he pointed to a map marked with

red and blue areas. “Like you suspected, it’s coming from the eastern forest preserve. We’ve got teams around the north campus where these guys run.”

“They probably wouldn’t put two bases this close together, but their activity and watchfulness in that area must mean something.”

The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

136

Chapter 136: Your Destiny Is Destined to Be Brighter Than Mine

Evelyn's POV

75%

"Make sure you contact Robert tonight to confirm tomorrow's plans," Taric said, his eyes fixed on the map. "Peter's sudden opposition to your participation is strange. He's been cold since day one, but never this hostile."

I nodded. "What should I do now?"

"Act natural. Prepare for your evening run," Taric glanced toward the window. "Robert's been lurking nearby, but we didn't detect him when Peter approached you earlier. That's odd." He turned to me with a more serious expression. "Tomorrow, join Robert for morning training and go to classes, but attend the run alone."

"Alone?" I stared at him. "Without Aria? That'll look weird we're always together

-

"They've already singled you out, Taric explained. "My gut says they'll make a move when they think you're completely vulnerable. Don't worry, Aria's arranged a cover story about a date. She's spread it around campus with plenty of witnesses."

The idea made me uneasy, but then I realized if something happened, the Sentinels would only need to protect one person instead of splitting their focus. After thinking it through, I nodded.

"What about tonight? I'm too wired to sleep."

"By the time you get back, we'll be gone," Taric said, his expression softening. "Robert only watches the house when you're home. He's waiting for something, but we're not sure what. Maybe invite him to run with you tonight and see how he reacts."

In my room, I hesitated before texting: Want to go for a run?

His reply came instantly: Sure, everything okay?

Me: Feeling on edge. Don't want to run alone, and Aria's busy with that new guy.

Robert: I heard about him. Guy's got a sketchy reputation. Tell her to watch out.

Me: Whatever. How soon can you get here?

Robert: I'm already nearby.

I narrowed my eyes. Seriously? You realize how creepy that is, right?

Robert: Just glad to hear from you instead of Peter.

Me: So you admit you're stalking me? Five minutes. Need to change.

I quickly threw on black leggings and a gray athletic jacket, tied my hair back, and grabbed a water bottle for my small backpack. When I went downstairs, the team was already packing up.

"He's waiting outside, I whispered to Taric. He mentioned seeing me with Peter day. Are you sure you didn't pick up his scent around us earlier?"

We detected nothing. Taric replied through our mind link. We've been tracking him but haven't found traces of him near the house these past few days. Be careful. The team will follow, but from farther back since they're using scent blockers. We don't want to blow our cover yet.

I took a deep breath and stepped outside.

1/3

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Chapter 136: Your Destiny Is Destined to Be Brighter Than Mine

"You know, I called out to the seemingly empty yard, 'sensing you without seeing or smelling you is just as creepy.'"

75%1

Robert emerged from the shadow of a large oak tree by the neighbor's house. Even though it wasn't completely dark yet, he'd clearly mastered using visual blind spots. I was grateful Taric had warned me they were monitoring him; at least I knew he wasn't as sneaky as he seemed.

"What did Peter say to you?" he asked, his voice low and his expression hidden in shadow.

I approached cautiously. "He asked if we'd made up."

"What did you tell him?" He kept his distance, his whole vibe off somehow.

‘I said we were never really together,’ I met his eyes, ‘but that I was trying to rebuild our friendship.’

‘Is that how you treat all men? The question came with an emotion I couldn’t quite place.

‘Wow, back to calling me easy?’ I shook my head. ‘Funny how fast your opinion changes. Just because one girl hurt you doesn’t mean we’re all like that.’ I took a breath, trying to defuse the tension. His carefully built facade was starting to crack. ‘You said you’d be patient, and I reached out to you, remember?’ I offered my hand, wanting to see if he was still the Robert I knew.

He laughed softly, shaking his head. ‘You did reach out, didn’t you?’

‘Yeah, and I think we both need a run to clear our heads. Coming?’

He took my hand with a gentle squeeze, and we started jogging. I chose the same route I’d run the past two evenings, through the neighborhood and around to the small path on the south side of campus. Robert didn’t question where we were going, further confirming Taric’s theory that he’d been following me. I kept that observation to myself; his mood had settled a bit, and I didn’t want to set him off again.

‘Want to talk about what’s bugging you?’ I asked carefully. Something was clearly off with him, and I’d noticed the change as far back as my birthday night.?

‘Not really, but she’s been particularly active today,’ he said, his eyes filled with sadness that seemed to expect me to understand his cryptic meaning.

‘Your mate?’ I asked, genuinely concerned. ‘I’m sorry. If it still hurts that much, why not just accept her rejection and end it? Maybe the Moon Goddess will give you another chance with someone who actually values you.’

‘I can’t,’ he practically growled, his steps heavier. ‘He threatened to kill her if I rejected the bond. Even knowing she doesn’t want me, I can’t risk it. My wolf

won’t let me.’

‘Would she feel it if you were with someone else?’ I asked quietly. ‘That must be torture for her too.’

‘I’ve never had a real relationship with anyone,’ he smiled bitterly. ‘That’s the worst part. I’ve tried, believe me. What’s worse is he hasn’t even marked her. I can see he’s just using her until he finds someone better. I tried telling her the truth, but that only brought more pain, proving he wanted her. What she doesn’t get is that he’ll hook up with anyone willing. She can’t feel it because she’s not his mate and doesn’t have his mark. But I’ve seen it all. He seems to... his voice dropped even lower, he seems to enjoy having someone watch. You can hurt someone on multiple levels, why not go for it?’

I'm really sorry. Wish I could help somehow, I said sincerely. We'd been running or about an hour and had slowed to a walk, now back on campus following the path around the central lake.

'You can't help me, his gaze drifted away. Your future is going to be way bright than mine.'

I stopped walking and turned to him. 'You keep saying that, but you don't actual know that, do you?'

'You're smart,' his tone softened. 'So young and already in college. The way you eat people like us, seeing us as normal...'

2/3

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The Lightning Wolf Chronicles

The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

Chapter 5

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Souls Bound By Promise — Timothy Nelson

137

Chapter 137: You Are Indeed a Bit Scary

Evelyn's POV

75%

'To me, you're just normal people,' I cut him off. 'I actually find guys easier to understand. It's girls and all their weird social rules that confuse me. I'm

more into training and running than gossip.'

Robert glanced at the crescent moon peeking through the trees. 'It's getting late should take you home. Your uncle would kill me if he knew I kept you out

this long.”

“Uncle Conrad isn’t who you should worry about,” I smirked. “Did you already forget I nearly knocked you out with one punch?”

“Trust me, that’s something I’ll never forget,” he said, finally giving me a genuine smile. “You really are kinda scary.”

“Good. Remember that.” I shifted to a more serious tone. “Since Aria’s got a date tomorrow and you’re apparently stalking my house anyway, why don’t you

pick me up for the run? Would Brandon mind?”

*He wouldn’t mind at all, Robert said, then muttered, “Unfortunately.”

“We usually get there early to set up the bonfire site, he explained. “We make two trips. That okay with you?”

‘Sure, whatever works.” I shrugged. ‘Just text me when it’s time.”

As we reached my front door, I added, “Thanks for running with me tonight. I just didn’t feel like being alone.”

I stepped forward and gave him a quick hug. He hesitated before hugging me back and dropping a light kiss on top of my head.

Like I said,” he murmured, “I’d do anything for you. Honestly, I’m glad it was me with you tonight instead of Peter.”

I laughed against his chest, feeling his heartbeat, then gave him one last squeeze before letting go.

‘I’ll remember that,” I pointed at him, then jogged up the porch steps and went inside. The house had returned to normal, no trace of the command center from earlier. I wondered if Robert had noticed anything unusual.

He’s picking me up tomorrow and taking me to prep the bonfire site, I reported through our mind link. Time still TBD, I’ll find out in class tomorrow.

Everything’s ready to go, Conrad responded. But are you prepared for what might happen? You won’t be able to tell who’s innocent and who’s the enemy. You might have to fight people who’ve been friendly to you.

Honestly, I can’t give you a solid answer, I admitted, conflicted emotions rising. W can really prepare for betrayal, even if you’re expecting it?

That's exactly what makes you valuable on this mission, Taric chimed in. We'll do everything we can to protect innocent people, but we can't guarantee perfect success. If you see any danger signs, call for backup Immediately.

Thanks for the support, I replied. This has been a hell of a learning experience.

Don't talk like you're saying goodbye, Conrad scolded. We still don't know what weind tomorrow. The goal is to take down the entire organization at once, but we might only catch some brainwashed underlings.

I smiled as I headed back to my room. After changing into pajamas, I grabbed anket and pillow and knocked softly on Aria's door.

"Who is it? her muffled voice answered, sounding half-asleep.

1/3

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Chapter 137: You Are Indeed a Bit Scary

'Can I crash with you tonight?' I asked quietly. 'Doesn't feel right to be apart before something this big goes down.'

75%

"Of course!" The door swung open immediately. Aria stood there with messy hair ut surprisingly alert eyes. She pulled me into a hug, which I returned tightly. With everything uncertain ahead, I needed someone I could trust nearby.

"Are you really ready for tomorrow?" she asked as we settled on her bed. 'You'll be alone with those people, and we have no idea what they re planning.

'Yes and no, I laughed softly, fatigue catching up with me.

'It would help to know what you're thinking, she squeezed my hand. "I feel like you haven't told everyone everything about your talks with Robert.'

"What bugs me, I traced random patterns on her bedspread, 'is how Robert keeps hinting I'll be some important person's mate, like he can see my future. But whenever he mentions it, there's this pain in his eyes I can't quite place."

I looked up at her. He basically admitted they're up to something secret in the forest, just not what exactly. It's like he's fighting some intense internal

battle."

‘I don’t think his interest in you is random, Aria sat cross-legged. A guy doesn’t keep chasing a girl who’s rejected him unless he’s got another agenda. And Peter’s little chat with you clearly rattled him. Maybe there’s a split in their group?’

She bit her lip thoughtfully. Should I join your morning workout? I could get a better read on how they interact.”

“That could work,” I considered. ‘But the more time I spend alone with Robert, the more he might reveal.’”

Eventually we agreed: she’d be up when I left, letting Robert see she was keeping an eye on me, but I’d still go alone to try getting more information before things escalated tomorrow night.

The clock showed past midnight as we tried to sleep with little success. I tossed and turned, mind racing with mixed anticipation and worry. We’d spent months on this mission, finally gathering enough intel to move forward.

Last night when the team was finalizing plans, the house thrummed with tension. Many had worked this case for years and were desperate to end it to find the rogue leader and either eliminate him or at least make significant progress.

Our world is vast, and werewolves are everywhere. Hierarchy is natural for us, and when everyone fulfills their role, the whole group thrives.?

–

But there are always those who see leadership as purely about power people will never become true leaders because they fundamentally misunderstand what leadership means ensuring every pack member is safe and healthy, putting the group’s needs above personal gain.

.

I stared at the stars outside the window, my thoughts drifting. If Alpha King Natin was right if this rogue leader really did have royal blood and nursed resentment over privileges he felt cheated out of then we faced a dangerous enemy. In a direct fight, his bloodline alone would give him an edge, not to mention his lifetime of hatred and vengeance driving him to win at any cost.

Many enemies truly believe their actions are justified, their goals righteous, and at everyone else is against them. We can’t fall for their delusions, but we need to understand their thinking to find weaknesses and beat them.

As dawn broke, Aria and I got up together, both obviously running on empty after a sleepless night.

2/3

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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

138

Chapter 138: Enjoy the Beauty of the Present

Evelyn's POV

“Who voluntarily wakes up before sunrise?” Aria groaned from my doorway, her face scrunched with sleepiness. “Your schedule is actual torture.”

I smiled while tying my shoes. “You complain every day, yet you’ve never missed session. What does that say about you?”

“That I’m insane,” she yawned, lazily running fingers through her tangled hair. “O your stubbornness is contagious.”

“Mark used to call this ‘the most effective form of suicide,’ I grabbed my backpack. But when everyone complains, I know I’m doing something right.”

“Twisted logic,” Aria muttered with the hint of a smile. Her determination was something I genuinely admired.

“Bring back coffee,” she pointed at me. And blueberry muffins. I need carbs to make up for the sleep you’re stealing.”

I nodded and hugged her quickly. Just as I reached the door, Aria suddenly called out: “Robert! Stop hiding! We’re not going to eat you!”

“That remains to be seen,” Robert emerged from behind an oak tree, hands stuffed in his jacket pockets. “Maybe you don’t know me well enough yet.”

“God, this is creepy, Aria sighed. “The skulking around has got to stop.”

75%

Robert stepped forward, glancing between us. “Is that why you’re not talking to Brandon anymore?”

“That’s completely different, Aria crossed her arms. “Instead of stalking my yard he could try asking me out directly. Brandon’s obviously preoccupied anyway – his mind’s always somewhere else.”

“Certain people have caught his attention,” Robert’s eyes darkened momentarily before turning to me with a calmer expression. “Ready to train? Been

thinking about it all night.”

Though the comment sounded odd, I let it slide. Morning training was my chance to get more information, and Robert tended to open up when we were

alone.

‘Let’s go,’ I told Aria. “Back in a few hours with breakfast.”

“Don’t forget,’ she said, the door locking crisply behind her.

We jogged toward campus, morning light filtering through trees. The mix of dewnd pine created that perfect morning freshness. I considered how to get Robert talking without making him suspicious.

“Your attitude toward me changes constantly,” I said, slowing down. “Cold one da friendly the next. What’s that about?”

“It’s complicated,” he sighed, looking away.

“That’s it? It’s complicated? I mimicked his tone. “And why do you keep hinting I be some important Alpha’s mate? Everyone knows no one can predict

who the next Luna will be.”

‘Just a feeling,’ he shrugged. ‘You must have noticed you’re not the only one wating you

“Nothing special about me, I shook my head and changed tactics. “What are you guys actually doing in the forest? Some secret project?”

‘You could say that,’ he answered vaguely. ‘Let’s focus on training before I get in more trouble because of you.’

1/3

09:54 Mon, Jan 12 GB

Chapter 138: Enjoy the Beauty of the Present

I stopped. “What trouble?”

75%

Robert turned to face me. “People have noticed you, and I approached you first. Some aren’t happy about that, and I’ve already been... punished for it.”

“You should’ve told me, I frowned. ‘I could’ve at least explained things to them.’”

“You’ve helped plenty,’ his mouth lifted in a bitter smile. “But no one believes were just friends. They’re convinced we’re hiding something.

“So every relationship has to be romantic? I rubbed my temples. “That’s ridiculous.”

Robert pushed open the gym door, gesturing for me to enter. The early morning facility was practically empty, with its punching bags, fighting mats and

weight equipment waiting silently.

“Why not invite them along?” I asked while stretching my shoulders. “Let them see we’re just friends.”

And share our time together?’ he said softly, his tone carrying something I couldn’t quite place. “They’d eventually use rank to keep me away from you.

Even if we’re just friends, I won’t give up any chance to be with you.”

Are you serious?” I raised an eyebrow, feeling pulled into some weird game. “Well since we’re here to train, how about sparring? We both need a good

workout.”

We launched into an intense session, from basic blocks to complex attack combinations. Robert was genuinely impressive – his movements clean, his reactions quick. I carefully controlled my strength to hide my Sentinel training.

An hour later, we finished and moved to a wooded area on the edge of campus. Sting under an old pine, we caught our breath. The spot was deserted on Thursday mornings – worth reporting to Taric and Conrad.

“Plans for summer break?” Robert asked, sipping water while his eyes subtly scanned our surroundings.

More classes. Trying to finish early,” I said simply.

He laughed lightly. “Don’t you know how to relax?”

‘Of course I do,” I protested.

–

‘Studying and training isn’t relaxing,’ he raised an eyebrow. “Sometimes doing nothing matters as much as finishing tasks spending time with people you care about, just enjoying the moment.”

‘Aren’t I with you right now?’ I countered. ‘Except when I was mad, we train and talk almost daily. This is how I relax being with friends. Our biggest problem is you never share anything personal.’

He fell silent, looking at me like he was seeing me anew. This is more complicated than I expected.”

‘What do you mean?’

“Some people warned they’ll eventually forbid me from seeing you, using rank as an excuse, his voice lowered, tinged with concern. But the more I know

you, the harder it gets to give up this friendship.

“When is this self-important person planning to show up? I felt anger rising. They’ll find out I’m not someone anybody controls. Nobody decides who I spend time with.”

As we prepared to leave, Brandon and Peter appeared from nowhere, insisting on walking with Robert to see me home. Robert’s furrowed brow suggested this wasn’t planned. At my door, I politely refused to invite them in, claiming Coad didn’t allow guests. They didn’t seem convinced, but I maintained my

innocent act.

2/3

09:54 Mon, Jan 12

Chapter 138: Enjoy the Beauty of the Present

75%L

They definitely didn't need to know about the monitoring equipment inside, let alone our plans for tomorrow. Back inside, I shut the door firmly.

The hours dragged. I changed into tactical pants, a tank top under a simple gray shirt, thick socks and combat boots. I wasn't sure what might happen tonight and needed to prepare for situations where I couldn't return to the safe House quickly.

'Dressed for battle, not a party,' Robert commented from near the porch, a slight smile playing on his lips.

'Just adapting to the woods,' I explained, adjusting my boot laces. That forest is muddy. I'd rather dirty combat boots than ruin my running shoes.'

'You could just shift like we do,' Peter's tone was unusually light, almost teasing.

The comment drew immediate disapproval from Brandon and Robert, who both let out warning growls. I wondered why other girls shifting seemed normal to

them, while I was different. Curious, I just laughed it off like it was a joke.

The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

139

Chapter 139: He's in a Bad Mood Lately

Evelyn's POV

"Is this how you treat everyone?" I asked as I hopped down the porch steps, easily sidestepping Robert. "Snapping at friends for no reason?"

75%

“Sorry,” he muttered, his attention clearly elsewhere. ‘Let’s go. They’re waiting.’”

I deliberately quickened my pace, pretending to know our destination, which forced him to catch up and guide me. His car sat in a secluded lot nearby – the

location seemed too carefully chosen to be random.

Peter and Brandon were already waiting by the car. Brandon sat in the driver’s seat, his intense stare following us as we approached. When Robert moved

closer to me, Brandon’s expression darkened noticeably.

“Get in,” Brandon said sharply. “We’ve wasted enough time.”

Peter slid into the back seat and gestured toward me. “Come on, princess, your special seat awaits.”

I rolled my eyes and climbed in. Before I could close the door, Robert squeezed in beside me, wedging me between himself and Peter. Their body heat

pressed against me from both sides, making me uncomfortably aware of how little space I had.

Brandon slammed the accelerator, and the car lurched forward with screeching tires. I grabbed the seat to steady myself as we shot down the road.

“Hey! Take it easy!” Peter protested as he was thrown sideways. “We’re not racing to a fire!”

Brandon ignored him, just glared at the road ahead, his knuckles white on the steering wheel.

‘So, I said, trying to break the suffocating tension, “anything special tonight? Or just the usual?’”

“Same as always,” Peter answered, then whispered, “Ignore him, he’s been in a bad mood lately.”

Brandon suddenly swerved, tilting the car sharply and throwing me against Robe. After that, he drove in stony silence, the atmosphere in the car growing

heavier by the minute.

When we finally reached our destination, I practically jumped out, grateful for fresh air.

'Finally,' I said, stretching my legs. 'Honestly, Brandon, your driving could use some work. Thought we'd hit a tree back there.'

Brandon got out and looked me over with an uncomfortably appraising stare.

Robert touched my shoulder lightly. "Come on, let's set up. Supplies are in the trik."

We unloaded picnic baskets, coolers, and firewood while Brandon stood off to the side, barely helping, just watching our every move especially when

Robert came near me.

'Brandon, want to help with the bonfire?' I asked, trying to ease the tension.

"You handle it," he replied flatly. 'I need to check the perimeter.'

He walked into the woods and disappeared. After we finished arranging the bonf, he suddenly returned, his expression dark

"We need to head back," he announced with finality. 'Ruby's already at the meeting point. She hates waiting.

1/3

09:54 Mon, Jan 12 GB

Chapter 139: He's in a Bad Mood Lately

"We just finished, Robert said, dusting off his hands.

"You two drive her back, Brandon ordered. 'Meet at the school gate at six.

Without waiting for a response, he sprinted into the forest in the opposite direction from campus.

"Where's he going?" I asked, staring after him.

Peter shrugged casually. 'Don't worry about it.'

'Easy for you to say, Robert muttered. 'You're not the one he's taking it out on.'

4.75%

"Are you okay?" I asked quietly, noticing how pale he looked.

He moved closer, his voice barely audible. I'll be fine. It's been a rough few days He looked directly into my eyes. 'She's been particularly bad lately.'

I immediately knew he meant his mate. His pain was obvious, but somehow seemed connected to me.

'Does she know you spend time with me?' I whispered. 'Is that why?'

Before we got in the car, Robert nodded. 'Yes. I'm not sure whether it's her or him who wants to hurt me more.'

His pained expression stirred my sympathy. No one should suffer like this, especially from a mate bond.

We returned to the car with Robert driving, me in the passenger seat, and Peter

'Peter, did you have to piss him off like that?' he asked, eyes fixed on the road.

the back. The mood remained somber until Robert broke the silence,

'If it were reversed, he'd do the same, Peter replied with a shrug. 'I don't care what he thinks, and neither should you.'

The rest of the drive passed in silence. Since we were early for our meeting time we stopped in a small grove at the edge of campus. Robert and I sat on a flat rock sharing convenience store snacks. I sipped heavily sugared coffee while Peter had black coffee, sitting apart from us.

We avoided mentioning the awkward incident at the bonfire site. Sunlight filtered through leaves, casting dappled shadows that made the earlier tension seem distant.

'You're really staying for summer courses? Peter suddenly asked.

'You too with this question?' I sighed. 'Robert's already hassled me about it. But what else am I supposed to do? I need to work, and we don't have travel plans. Might visit some friends we met. Aria wants to know the area better before deciding to stay. Nothing's set in stone.'

'You're actually coming back here to continue studying?' Peter's tone carried something I couldn't place concern? Worry?

'It's not entirely my call,' I shrugged. 'Honestly, I don't care where I go to school Aria's looking for her mate, which is partly why we came. It depends on

her decision and Conrad s.”

“You two are still fixated on finding mates,’ Peter said with clear disdain. “Why you so eager to find your destined partner?”

‘I could ask you the opposite – why are you so against it? I countered, watching his mate bond. Somehow I’d become part of his pain, though I had no romantic to stop hurting him.

is expression. I understood Robert’s aversion since he suffered daily from

lings for him. I wondered who his mate was, wishing I could convince her

At this thought, Robert chuckled. I turned to him quickly and found him trying to suppress his laughter.

2/3

09:54 Mon, Jan 12 GB.

Chapter 139: He’s in a Bad Mood Lately

“What’s so funny?” I asked directly. “That woman is deliberately using some Beta o hurt you, just to satisfy some twisted need for revenge.”

“Nothing can really help me, he sighed. “I can only accept reality and keep living

75%D

I held his hand as we walked slowly. In Polaris City, I’d seen this kind of suffering- mates rejecting each other without completely severing the connection,

leaving both in endless torment.

“That’s exactly why I’m against it,” Peter said darkly. I realized then our conversa on wasn’t entirely private.

“How did you learn about this? Why would anyone be so cruel?” I asked, shocked by such malice.

‘Because they’re all sick bastards who don’t care about others’ feelings,’ Peter’s voice was ice-cold, his eyes flashing with fury. “This is the leadership and power we’ve seen. Your beautiful fantasies about mate bonds are just wishful thinking. The real world doesn’t care about mates’ feelings, or how else could someone hurt their destined partner like this?”

The hatred in his tone sent chills down my spine, and an ominous feeling crept into my heart.

The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

140

Chapter 140: Something's Wrong

75%

Evelyn's POV

"If she abandoned you by choice, you shouldn't keep torturing yourself like this, told Robert. "Whatever you have now is nothing like a real mate bond.

it's just hurting you."

'You don't get it,' Peter cut in, "This was never his choice."

Peter's gaze sharpened. "That man threatened to kill her if Robert broke the bond. He'd rather suffer himself than risk her safety. His voice dropped. 'Whenever that couple's in a bad mood, they take it out on him. The first time, they even made him watch, just to see him suffer."

I covered my mouth, genuinely shocked. Even Acacia's worst bullying had never been so deliberately cruel.

"That's enough!" Robert snapped, his voice cracking. His breathing quickened as he stepped forward, clearly desperate to end this conversation.

But Peter wasn't done. "Why stop? If she's sticking around, she should know what we deal with under our leader' every day. Robert never betrayed the bond, so his mate never felt any pain. She needs to understand what this is like."

I said enough!' Robert's voice dropped to a threatening growl.

I fell silent, trying to process everything. How could anyone treat their mate this way? It violated everything the mate bond was supposed to mean.

Robert straightened his shoulders with visible effort. “They should be finished by now. We need to go.”

The car ride back was completely silent. My mind kept circling the same questions – who was Robert’s mate, and who was this third person? This whole pack seemed caught in something much darker than we’d initially suspected.

Whoever was tormenting Robert deserved to pay. I suspected Peter might be suffering similarly. The casual way they discussed such cruelty was disturbing – like it was just part of normal life. If this was how the Rogue Wolf King operated, his organization needed to be stopped. And I had only confirmed two victims – how many others were suffering?

At the meeting point, we were the first to arrive, which visibly relieved Robert and Peter – being late apparently had consequences. Over the next twenty minutes, others trickled in, but barely half the usual crowd showed up. That immediately set me on edge – this run was typically packed.

Ruby arrived with several girls, all looking jumpy and constantly scanning the area.

Something’s off, I said through the mind link to Taric. At least half the regulars are missing.

Stay alert, he responded. Be ready to move.

“Where is everyone?” I asked Robert casually.

“Weather’s too nice. A bunch left early they’ll wait for us at the shifting spot. I wouldn’t meet my eyes, and the excuse was paper thin.

I let it slide for now and followed him to join the group. I noticed Brandon was missing too very unusual since he was normally one of the first to arrive.

“Let’s move!” Ruby shouted, taking off at a jog. Everyone followed immediately. night’s pace was nearly double the usual “warm-up run,” and we reached the shifting area in record time.

Despite everyone breathing hard, no one showed real fatigue. Some were already tripping down to shift. I watched Robert and Peter hesitate before preparing to shift themselves.

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Chapter 140: Something's Wrong

Something wrong?" I stepped back to give them space.

"Nothing, just... Robert started, then stopped, clearly weighing his words.

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I decided to be direct. "Don't BS me. Everything's weird tonight – we're missing half the group, there's nobody here who left early, we practically sprinted here, and everyone's acting like they're headed to battle. Plus Brandon's gone. What's going on?"

I always said your observation skills would land you in trouble." He stepped toward me but suddenly stopped with a grunt of pain. His eyes flicked to my

shoulder, then he backed away. "We should shift now." He quickly stripped and transformed, knowing that in wolf form, we couldn't communicate through

mind links.

Peter tore off his clothes and shifted with a growl. Everything about this felt wrong, but no one would give me a straight answer.

Everyone, heads up. I said through our link. This situation is totally off. Half the regulars are missing, and everyone's acting strange. Something's about to happen.

I'll keep the link open.

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We're watching. Taric replied. Conrad and Aria are positioned.

Everyone but me had shifted and was racing deeper into the forest. I hesitated, doubt filling me. Then I realized something – where was Ruby?

Her distinctive smaller wolf form was usually easy to spot; I'd guessed she might be an Omega. Looking around. I saw only the retreating pack with no sig

of her.

Where's Ruby? I tried asking Conrad, but got no response. The link seemed blocked by something.

I decided not to shift yet and was about to follow the pack when something slammed into me from the side. I went flying, and before I could steady myself

I was hit again. This time I caught sight of my attacker – Ruby in human form, her eyes blazing with fury.

I jumped to my feet, dropping into a defensive stance. If she wanted a fight, I wasn't backing down. Before I could think further, she had shifted back to

human form.

"You're such a problem," she spat, lunging at me again.

"Heard that one before," I said, easily sidestepping her clumsy attack. "Why not just tell me what I supposedly did to piss you off?"

"You thief!" she hissed. "You stole what was mine! You've been plotting against me the whole time!" She swung wildly.

I dodged, pushing her shoulder to knock her off-balance. "What are you talking about? We don't even know the same people."

Her hands transformed into claws as she slashed at my face. I blocked each attack but my arms got cut several times. Thanks to my wolf, the wounds started healing quickly.

"Who am I supposed to have stolen?" I asked, still defending.

"That Alpha!" she cared. "He was supposed to be mine! We were good together, en you showed up and ddenly I wasnt ensugh anymore!"

A horrible realization hit me she was Roberts mate, the woman who abandon him she left him for another man who knew about their bond and

enjoyed Roberts suffering. Even worse, Robert hadn't told the whole truth – his ta' was actually an Alpha.

"I still don't understand who you mean. Besides Robert, I barely talk to anyone he,' I said struggling to control my anger as I tried to subdue het. Rund if someone chose someone else, that was your choice. You're the one who betrayed out mate. Nobody should treat their destined mate the way you did."

We fought fiercely on the forest floor, leaves and dirt flying around us. I grabbed her wrists, but she was surprisingly agile, constantly trying to flap out

positions. I managed to straddle her, my legs controlling her lower body, but sheet licking at my back, fighting to break free.

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You understand nothing!" she spat, eyes wild. "When a powerful Alpha chooses you, nobody refuses! He chose me, wanted me as his mate!"