

The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

151

Chapter 151: I Need to Ask Some Questions

Evelyn's POV

75%

After several manipulations, Diana precisely extracted a tiny metal capsule from the back of Freya's head and placed it on the sterile gauze. The tiny device

was barely the size of a rice grain but gleamed menacingly under the light.

"Unbelievable, I muttered, staring at the tiny device. "Something that small causing all this trouble."

"That's often how it works, Diana said, carefully placing the tracker in a clear container. "Because it's so small, the signal range is limited. Whoever's

tracking you must be nearby." She methodically organized her instruments, collecting all the blood-stained materials in separate labeled containers for

analysis.

Before heading back to the campfire, I decided to address something that couldn't wait.

"Diana," I said quietly, "there's something else you should know."

She turned toward me, clipboard in hand. "What is it?"

I glanced at Freya, who immediately looked away, her body language screaming discomfort. I took a deep breath.

‘Freya was repeatedly assaulted by Brandon,’ I said, keeping my voice steady while Freya leaned against my shoulder, silently crying. “She mentioned having

a contraceptive implant, but I think she needs a full medical exam. I didn’t want to bring this up in front of everyone, but as her doctor, you needed to

know.”

“Moon Goddess!” Diana’s hand flew to her chest. “Of course, that becomes our priority. You’re absolutely right.” She turned to Freya with gentle concern. “How are you feeling right now? Any pain or discomfort?”

‘Not... not much, Freya managed between silent tears.

“When was the last time?” Diana asked carefully.

Freya swallowed hard. “Hard to tell in that windowless hole. Maybe yesterday? One guard mentioned they had plans for more ‘fun’ before... Her voice cracked with disgust. “Before we escaped.”

Diana nodded grimly, then turned to me. “I need to ask you some direct questions You can stay with her if you want, but we’ll need a more thorough examination once we’re back at the castle.” Her expression darkened. “What about you? Did they also...”

“No,” I cut her off quickly. “I got beaten up plenty, and that psycho definitely enjoyed violence, but he seemed to prefer having an audience. I was basically forced to watch. I tightened my arm around Freya, trying to suppress a shudder

Diana took a steadying breath. ‘Let’s get back to the fire. You both need food and clean clothes. She picked up the container with the tracker and left, muttering curses under her breath.

Shortly after, Sophia returned with a backpack full of food, and Mark followed with clean clothes. He didn’t stick around, just dropped off the supplies with a quick smile before heading out again.

Those ordinary sandwiches and dried fruits tasted like a gourmet meal. I gulped down water and energy drinks, my body desperate for hydration after days of limited fluids.

The thick sleeping bags felt like clouds after the hard stone floor of our prison. Freya and I crawled into them gratefully, but despite my exhaustion, I couldn’t truly relax. My nerves remained on high alert, ready to respond to any threat.

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Chapter 151: I Need to Ask Some Questions

I lay on my side, watching the dancing flames. Freya's head rested on my shoulder, either asleep or halfway there. My body screamed for rest, every muscle aching, but every time I closed my eyes, I was instantly back in that dark, damp dungeon. The sounds of whipping and agonized screams echoed in my head, so vivid they suffocated me.

Memories kept flashing – rough hands dragging us, tearing at our already tattered clothes. Worst of all was Brandon in my dreams, always standing with his back to me until he turned with blood-red eyes and that spine-chilling smile. Each time, I'd jolt awake, frantically scanning the cave for threats.

Freya wasn't doing any better. She whimpered constantly in her sleep, and when she started thrashing wildly, nearly hitting the fire, she finally cried out my name. I grabbed her quickly, pulling her to safety and whispering reassurances until she calmed down again.

After this scene repeated several times, the Sentinels stopped rushing in to check on us. Sophia positioned herself at the cave entrance as a lookout. I could hear low conversations outside – probably updates about our situation or discussions about what to do next.

My thoughts were too jumbled to make sense of anything, but gradually my body transitioned from high alert to complete exhaustion. Maybe my system was finally clearing out whatever drugs they'd pumped into me.

When I woke again, everything had changed. I could smell Freya beside me, her head still against my shoulder, but we were moving. Steady vibrations came from beneath us. My brain snapped to attention, but my eyelids felt too heavy to lift. Pushing past the grogginess, I tried to assess my surroundings without

visual input.

Freya's scent was unmistakable next to me. I could identify Mark and Sophia nearby, with Taric farther away. We must be in some kind of vehicle. The

realization helped my heart rate slow down.

"Where are we going?" I managed to ask, my voice rough from sleep.

Home, Evie, Taric answered simply. "Rest now. We've got you both." His reassurance was enough for me to drift back to sleep.

Warmth was my first sensation when I regained consciousness. Before I even opened my eyes, my body recognized the familiar scent. I was back. When I finally looked around and confirmed my surroundings, my lips curved into an involuntary smile.

“Evelyn!”

A sudden scream yanked me from my sense of security. Fear washed over me as I’d been transported back to that terrible dungeon. Was this real? Or was my mind playing tricks, making me think I was safe?

I bolted upright, instinctively looking to my left for Freya. But there was only a dor. This wasn’t right in the dungeon, Freya should have been to my left.

Where was I?

‘Evie! Please, help me!’

I pushed aside my confusion Freya needed me. Turning right, I saw her on another bed a few steps away, tangled in blankets. Her eyes were shut tight as she thrashed wildly, fighting some nightmare attacker while desperately calling name. Without hesitation, I rushed to her side.

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Chapter 152: We Finally Found Our Way Home

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Evelyn’s POV

I grabbed Freya’s shoulders as she thrashed wildly in her bed. Her eyes were squeezed shut, face twisted in terror, every muscle rigid like she was still fighting for her life in that dungeon

Treya, I'm right here. You're safe now, I said, trying to keep my voice gentle. When she didn't respond, still struggling against invisible attackers, I had to get firmer. Freya, wake up! Right now!

Her eyes finally snapped open, but she immediately scrambled backward, pressing herself against the corner of the bed. I raised my hands to show I wasn't a threat. The door suddenly burst open as Diana, Taric, and Sophia rushed in, their faces etched with worry. This only spooked Freya more, making her curl into a tight ball between the headboard and wall.

Freya, look at me. Just at me, I repeated until she finally focused on my face. Her pupils were huge, eyes unfocused physically awake but mentally still trapped in her nightmare. 'We're safe now. We escaped. We found our way home'

When I reached for her hand, she flinched away.

"What do I do? I asked without turning around. She seems worse now than when we were actually in that place."

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Get her to describe what she sees,' Diana suggested. 'It reconnects the brain to reality. Ask her about everything she can see, hear, feel, and taste it helps

with panic attacks."

I nodded, keeping my eyes on Freya. "Hey, I said firmly but gently, avoiding that condescending tone people use with kids. "Look at me. We'll get through this together, but you need to work with me. If you can hear me, just nod."

I inched closer, just enough to touch her fingertips. Her eyes finally focused on my face.

'Deep breath, I coached. Tell me what you see right now.'

Her gaze darted around nervously. "I... I see you."

What else?

"The sheets all tangled around my legs. Some people by the door with Diana. Do remember their names. A hint of a smile crossed her face progress.

Good. Keep going

Another bed across from us yours, I guess. Table and chairs in the corner.

I nodded. 'Now what can you feel?'

Your fingers touching mine. Her smile grew slightly more genuine. The soft be Warm alt from the vent.”

And what do you hear?

As I asked, color gradually returned to her face, her eyes clearing as fear receded

“People breathing Voices in the hallway. She corked her head. “Where exactly a we? I hear lots of people talking. And... silverware clinking?”

I stayed focused. There d be time later to show her around the training center.

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Chapter 152: We Finally Found Our Way Home

She closed her eyes briefly, and when she opened them, they held more clarity. Wait, I can smell myself. She wrinkled her nose. “God, I need a shower.”

We both laughed, breaking the tension.

“We both do, I agreed. “But first, what else can you smell?”

“Bacon! I smell actual food!” Our stomachs growled simultaneously, making us laugh harder. The others joined in softly from the doorway. Freya noticed them and immediately clutched the sheets tighter, wrapping them around herself

“Hey, look at me.” I redirected her attention before panic could resurface. I handed her a water bottle. “What can you taste?”

She examined the bottle cautiously before taking a small sip. “Just water. Nothing else in it.” She looked back at me, slightly more relaxed.

“See? We really are safe now.” I stood up. “Now, before all the bacon’s gone, let’s shower and head downstairs. I’m starving.”

She followed me to the adjoining bathroom. I helped her adjust the water temperature and told her I’d leave the door slightly ajar so Diana and I could hear if she needed anything.

While waiting outside, I went to Sophia and gave her a warm hug. “Thanks for coming to get us.”

I turned and hugged Taric next. His muscular arms wrapped around me, my fingertips barely touching behind his back.

“We’ll always come for you, little one,” he said, his voice uncharacteristically gentle. “Not just because you’re a Sentinel, but because you’re family.”

Those simple words hit me hard. I hugged him tighter, fighting back tears not from sadness, but from how much that meant to me.

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Freya emerged wearing the blue training outfit I’d left for her. I showered next, rushing so I wouldn’t leave her alone too long. I wasn’t sure how comfortable she felt in this strange place with people she barely knew.

The hot water felt amazing as I scrubbed away days of grime and trauma. I realized I needed to ask how long we’d been gone I’d completely lost track of time. I dried off with a fluffy towel, grateful for such a simple luxury, and change into clean training clothes.

When I came out, Sophia and Diana were talking with Freya, who seemed to be trying to follow the conversation despite looking uncomfortable.

‘I’m starving, I announced. “Freya, ready to head downstairs? It’ll be crowded and noisy. If that’s too much, we can eat up here instead.”

“No, I’m fine,’ she took a deep breath like she was preparing for battle. “I can’t be forever. Just... don’t leave me, okay?” She looked up at me, seeming almost embarrassed by the request.

‘I won’t, I promised, linking my arm with hers as we headed out with Sophia and Diana following.

I need to grab some supplies from the medical center for you both, Diana said, bucking my shoulder gently. I’ll be back in about an hour. Nadia’s been driving everyone crazy wanting updates.”

“Could you bring her when you come back?” I asked hopefully. I don’t know whether Taric will let me go back to school.

I’ll ask. First, let’s get food in you both. You’ve been out for quite a while.”

“Speaking of which how long was I gone? And how long have we been unconscious? I completely lost track of time in there.”

Alpha King Nathan wants to discuss that with you himself, Diana answered. “But you’ve been asleep for two full days since we found you.” She stopped us in the empty hallway. ‘I’ve completed exams on both of you. There’s no perman

your contraceptive implant. It was damaged and causing harm to your uterine w

physical damage, but I took samples for research. Freya, we also removed

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Chapter 152: We Finally Found Our Way Home

“What does that mean? Freya gasped, fresh tears welling in her eyes.

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Chapter 153: Welcome Back

Evelyn’s POV

75%

‘Let’s take this one day at a time, Diana said, her voice gentle but clinical. “You deserve to know what’s happening with your body, even when the news isn’t easy to hear. She gave Freya’s arm a reassuring pat. “If you need to talk about a thing and I mean anything my door’s always open.

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Freya nodded, blinking back tears. I slipped my arm around her shoulders as we headed down the stairs and through the main hall toward the dining area.

The moment we walked in, the room went quiet. Every head turned our way, and felt Freya stiffen beside me.

“Jesus, I didn’t think we’d have this many people staring, she whispered, shrinking against my side.

I squeezed her hand. “Don’t sweat it. They’re just trainees like us. Everyone lives here during training cycles, especially when they’re between missions. Beats

worrying about rent, right?”

The conversations gradually resumed around us. Sophia led us to the serving area where several Sentinels nodded greetings but kept their distance – clearly under orders to give us space.

After loading our plates with food, we headed toward my usual table, but found empty.

“That’s weird. Where are Mark and Cyrus?” I asked, scanning the room.

“Around,” Sophia said vaguely. “They wanted to give you guys some breathing room. Word got around about what happened.”

Their concern was touching, but special treatment was the last thing I needed right now.

“Mark! Cyrus!” I called out. “Quit hiding and get over here! We’re not made of glass, and Freya should meet everyone.”

Mark stood up hesitantly. “You sure? We don’t want to crowd you.”

“Don’t be ridiculous,” I laughed. “Get over here before I have Sophia tell everyone about that squirrel that nearly gave you a heart attack.”

They brought their trays over, settling into normal conversation. Freya mostly watched, picking at her food. They tried including her a few times, but backed

off when they sensed her discomfort.

I filled them in on bits of my college undercover work, carefully avoiding details about our capture. Partly because I hadn’t officially reported to Taric and

Alpha King Nathan yet, but also to keep Freya from becoming the center of attention.

The training bell rang, and I stood up automatically. Freya mirrored my movement, looking confused.

“Your conditioning’s still intact, I see. Good.”

I turned to find Aria, who practically crushed me in a hug. “Thank god you’re ok Taric and Alpha King Nathan want to see you both. Come on.”

I said quick goodbyes to my friends, promising to be back for dinner if the meet; wrapped early, then followed Aria with Freya right behind me.

Walking back into the meeting room where this whole mission began felt surreal

“Welcome back,” Alpha King Nathan said, his deep voice warm. “Aria, stay. This involves you too. He glanced down at a tablet. “Diana’s submitted her report.

Your recovery s on track, but I want you both focusing only on basic training this week. No need to rush things.

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Chapter 153: Welcome Back

I frowned, which made him raise an eyebrow.

‘Don’t give me that look. You were held captive for a month. We need to make sure nothing s been missed. He turned to Freya. I understand you had combat training as an Alpha’s daughter?’ When she nodded, he continued, ‘And you were imprisoned for over a year?’

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‘It’s hard to track time in that place, Freya said quietly, but somewhere between fourteen and sixteen months. She straightened her shoulders. ‘Sir, could you help me find other members of my pack? The attack happened so fast – I dont know who else might have survived. If any of them are out there as

rogues...”

“We’ll help you search, Taric promised, “but first we need to make sure you’re stable.”

‘How do we do that?’ she asked.

“You’ll both have psychological evaluations and physical assessments,” Alpha King Nathan explained. ‘The goal is getting you back to training as quickly as possible. Regular training gives you clear targets instead of time to dwell on what happened.’”

“As for academics,” he continued, looking at me, “Freya can join any classes she’s interested in. Evelyn, you’ve already finished a college semester. Going back to high school would be a waste. Would you consider special training with Taric and myself?”

“What kind of special training?” I asked, curiosity piqued. Skipping boring high school classes definitely had appeal.

“Since you never do anything the normal way,” he said with a hint of a smile, “we’ve decided to adjust your plan.” He turned to Freya. “Are you ready to begin Sentinel training and start searching for your pack members?”

Freya’s face brightened with a genuine smile. “Yes, Alpha King.”

“Good. I’ll contact Alpha King Pine in your territory about possible refugees.” Tare stood up. “You have psych consultations after lunch, but first I want to take you outside to check your physical condition.”

Sunshine, fresh air, actual training – I couldn’t wait to get back to normal. Who’d have thought a simple undercover assignment would turn into such a nightmare? After barely moving for weeks, recovery would be tough.

I wasn’t sure how much conditioning I’d lost, but Taric would definitely put me through my paces. Just the thought of running freely again, not just to

escape death, made my wolf hum with excitement.

Stepping outside, warm sunshine bathed my face as a breeze swept through my hair. Even in the training center’s courtyard, the scent of grass and pine reminded me of Silver Pines. Freya walked behind me, still scanning everything, but noticeably calmer than before.

“How’s it going?” I asked quietly. ‘Getting used to this place?’

‘It’s definitely better than the dungeon,’ she said with a weak attempt at humor. ‘Everything feels... too open. I need time to adjust to not being chained

‘It gets better,’ I assured her. “First day’s the hardest.”

Following Taric toward the training grounds, I felt my entire body celebrating. Even weakened, the feeling of freedom was incredible.

Taric glanced back. I see prison didn’t break your spirits.”

‘It would take a lot more than that, I replied.

He nodded. ‘Let’s see how much fighting ability you’ve lost.’”

Other Sentinels watched us curiously but kept their distance. The attention was weird but reassuring we were really back, part of the team again.

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Chapter 153: Welcome Back

Taric picked a quieter training area. “This way you can adjust without becoming the center of attention.

1 appreciated the consideration. Though eager to jump back into regular training knew we needed transition time.

Taric led us to an open space between the warm-up zone and obstacle course. From here, we could see paths worn into the grass leading to different

training areas.

“Freya, watch for a bit, Taric instructed. “Then I’ll test your basic combat level. This is just an assessment to check your reaction speed and movement quality. He turned to me with that barely-there smile. “As for you, no special instructions needed, since you never follow them anyway.”

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Chapter 154: This Is Your Victory

75%

Evelyn's POV

The moment Taric finished speaking, he struck. Pure instinct kicked in as I sidestepped and rolled right to create distance. No warm-up, no warning- just

like real combat.

I spent the next several minutes dodging his attacks, my body remembering moves that my tired muscles struggled to execute. After weeks of limited training during the undercover mission, this full-intensity sparring was brutal. Conrad and I had only managed light practice sessions in the safe house backyard nothing like this.

Taric suddenly changed direction, lunging for my midsection. Though he called this an "assessment," we both knew what it really was: a test of how much I had left in me. His size gave him a clear advantage, forcing me to identify weaknesses. And his biggest weakness? He wouldn't actually hurt me. Every attack

pulled back just enough, especially now when he thought I was weakened.

When he attempted a leg sweep, I pivoted into a side kick that connected with the outside of his knee. My leg muscles screamed in protest, but I managed

to throw him off balance. His arm still caught my waist, knocking me down, but immediately rolled back to my feet.

"Not bad, kid, Taric said, studying me. "Your breathing's ragged, but considering everything, you're doing better than expected." He turned to Freya, who'd

been watching intently. "What kind of combat training did you get as an Alpha's daughter? With proper food and training, your muscle memory should

bounce back pretty quickly."

"I still can't hear my wolf," Freya said, worry clear in her voice. "I thought she'd come back once we got out. Diana checked my blood, but nothing's changed.

Will she ever return?"

"That's hard to say, Taric considered. 'But she's definitely still in there - I can sense her. She just needs time. We don't know how much she endured

protecting you in that place. When she's ready, she'll come back. Meanwhile, we can use this situation to our advantage."

"Advantage?" Freya frowned. "How is this possibly good?"

“Because now you have to rely on your human side,” Taric explained. “If you’re ever in a situation where wolfsbane blocks your connection, this experience will make you stronger. Learning to fight without your wolf’s support means those toxins lose half their power against you.”

I watched Freya’s posture change as his words triggered something in her. Taric knew exactly what he was doing rebuilding her confidence instead of waiting for a complete recovery.

“Evelyn, watch her movements,” he instructed me, “Note what needs work and where we should start her training.”

I nodded and observed as they began sparring. Freya surprised me with her flexibility; she clearly had combat foundations, though her captivity had destroyed her stamina. Taric kept it basic, testing her reactions and instincts.

As I watched, I realized how much I’d missed this analyzing movements, spotting weaknesses, planning improvements. There was something comforting about the familiarity, like life was finding its rhythm again. Freya knew what to her body just couldn’t keep up yet.

At the edge of the training area, several senior Sentinels watched from a distance they didn’t approach but were definitely evaluating both Freya’s potential and my recovery. Their scrutiny made me uneasy but also drove me to prove that captivity hadn’t broken me.

After about thirty minutes of pushing Freya to her limits, Taric called a halt. She was breathless but smiling genuinely smiling. Like me, she found something healing in the physical exertion.

“Go eat something,” Taric suggested, “but take it slow. Your bodies need to readjust to normal food gradually. We’ll pick this up later and talk next steps.”

That sounds ominous, I said to my wolf. Wonder what he’s planning now.

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Chapter 154: This Is Your Victory

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At least we’re safe, she responded. We should figure out what Brandon used on us. Normal drugs don’t last that long even wolfsbane only affects us for hours. Whatever he and those witches cooked up could block our connection for weeks.

Good point, I realized. Acacia’s torture sessions never lasted long, but this time the effects never wore off.

“What’s your wolf saying?” Freya asked, pulling me from my thoughts.

‘She’s thinking about Brandon’s drugs, I explained. “I usually don’t react much to that stuff my body can push out most toxins pretty fast. But his formula was strong enough to keep us separated the whole time.”

‘Really? How are you so resistant?’ she asked curiously.

‘Just born that way, I guess,” I said, not wanting to get into it. “Found out what could handle through some... experiences. Someday I’d tell her she wasn’t the only one who’d suffered, but not today.

“Sounds like there’s a story there,” she commented.

“Maybe, I said, changing the subject. “Let’s get food. Lunch is busier than breakfast, and while everyone’s probably been told to give us space, that never lasts long. Sentinels gossip worse than high schoolers.”

She laughed softly. “Good thing you were on this mission, or I’d still be in that hellhole. Wonder how long the nightmares will stick around?”

‘Mine are bad enough can’t imagine what yours must be like,” I said as we headed toward the dining hall.

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On our way, I noticed curious glances from around the training grounds. Most Sentinels kept their distance, but their interest was obvious. Despite what we’d been through, we were still part of this tight-knit group. After being separated for so long, that sense of belonging felt especially precious.

Freya seemed to feel it too; she was still on alert but noticeably more relaxed. She even nodded back at a few approaching Sentinels and, while clearly uncomfortable with the social interaction, was starting to adjust.

‘Do they all know what happened to us?’ she asked quietly.

‘Probably bits and pieces,’ I said. “News travels fast here, but the details stay with command. Don’t worry though no one’s judging you for being captured. If anything, surviving over a year in those conditions just makes them respect your willpower more.”

She raised her eyebrows, like that thought had never occurred to her. “Really? I’ve always felt so ashamed for not escaping, not fighting harder...”

“That’s backward,” I said firmly. “Just surviving is the greatest victory. Brandon wanted to break you, but you endured and now you’re here, ready to start over. Every breath you take is a middle finger to those assholes.”

Inside the dining hall, several Sentinels were already in line. Some senior membe glanced our way, nodded briefly, then quickly looked away, clearly used to teammates returning from rough missions.

I was about to step forward when someone grabbed me from behind with such fe I nearly lost my breath.

‘What the hell? I gasped, spinning around. ‘What’s going on?’”

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Chapter 155: Are You Ready for Today’s Challenge?

Evelyn’s POV

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“My little Sentinel is finally back! Aria crushed me in a hug that squeezed the a from my lungs.

“Can’t breathe, I laughed, wiggling free. “Where’ve you been? I haven’t seen you for two days.”

She released me, stepping back to look me over, tears gathering in her eyes. “Dont ask. Luna Selena sent me to the castle on some errand. Those noble girls have been swarming Alistair while you were gone. I had to play his date through Hountless meetings. She

rolled her eyes dramatically. All because of your performance at that meeting. Now every Luna and her daughter is dying to meet you.”

“I just answered some questions,” I shrugged. “Not like I gave some mind-blowing speech.”

“Stop being modest,” Aria gave me a playful shove. “You stood up to an Alpha in front of everyone! People are still talking about it months later. Several Lunas specifically asked Alpha King Nathan about you. You should’ve seen how proud he looked telling them you were on a special mission. Like a dad showing off his kid.”

I coughed awkwardly and turned to the quiet girl beside me. “Aria, this is Freya. We met during my mission. She’s the daughter of Crescent City Pack’s

Alpha. Noticing Freya’s discomfort, I added, “We just escaped together.”

“Maybe not an Alpha’s daughter anymore,” Freya said quietly, her gaze dropping. Not sure how many of my pack survived, or if my home still exists.”

“Don’t say that,” I squeezed her hand. “That’s partly why we brought you here. The Sentinels have connections across the continent. If your people are out there, we’ll find them.”

“Hope you’re right, Freya attempted a smile.

“How long were you locked up?” Aria asked, leading us toward the dining hall. “Was anyone else captured with you?”

I felt Freya’s hand tense in mine. Seeing her pale face, I shook my head. “Let’s say those questions for later. Alpha King Nathan will want details, but she doesn’t need to relive it multiple times. That place doesn’t exactly bring back warm fuzzy memories.”

She might open up to you first, Aria said through our mind link. But we really need her to talk so we can help.

I get that, I responded. But imagine what she went through. Being captured, imprisoned, abused. She needs time to adjust.

You’re right. Aria’s concern flowed through our link.

We sat at a long table, our trays loaded with food. Despite Diana’s warning about asing back into normal eating, I couldnt resist the smell of roasted meat and fresh vegetables. The first bite of hot, juicy meat made me groan with satis tion.

Jeez, are you inhaling that food? Aria raised an eyebrow Didn’t Diana tell you take it slow? Your stomachs shrunk you ll be puking everywhere.

If Taric hadn't said the same thing, I'd ignore you, I mumbled around a mouth, shoving in more bread. But this tastes too good, and I'm starving

'Better listen to Taric, Aria nodded, lighting a smile. Otherwise, you'll have an enthusiastic entry, miserable exit situation

We burst into laughter, and even Freya's shoulders relaxed a little.

As we ate, more Sentinels joined our table. Mark and Cyrus squeezed in beside with heaping trays, while Sophia and several female Sentinels gathered around, bombarding Freya with questions about her condition and our escape. Everyone offered to help Freya find her people, filling the air with genuine

warmth.

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Chapter 155: Are You Ready for Today's Challenge?

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The next morning, Taric showed up at my door right on time. He practically dragged me out for morning runs, each step feeling like I was wearing concrete shoes. Though I used to love these runs, now I just wanted to crawl back to bed.

Seriously? You used to live for morning runs, my wolf teased. Always first one out the door.

That's because running was the only thing keeping me from punching Acacia's face, replied, panting. And it helped me lower my guard, made me less afraid of

ambushes. Different now.

So you need new motivation, she mused. Think about Elliot and those boys. They've definitely been training hard while you were gone. When you get back, they'll

test you. Want them to see a weaker Evelyn?

That thought lit a fire in me. I quickened my pace, passing an equally winded Freya.

'Why'd you speed up?' she asked between breaths, cheeks flushed. "What's so funny?"

*My wolf reminded me of something," I explained as we ran. My brother Elliot and my friends back in Polaris are probably training like crazy, trying to get

better than me. I can't let them look down on me when I get back. I set goals before I left, and now I need to work twice as hard."

'So it's your competitive side?' Freya raised an eyebrow, following as we turned to a gravel path leading to the training grounds.

As we cleared the last bushes, the massive training area spread before us. Freya stopped dead, eyes wide.

"Whoa," she breathed. "Our pack's training area was nothing like this."

Welcome to Sentinel training," I said proudly. "Instructors set up different courses depending on what we're working on. Sometimes it's a full obstacle course, sometimes specific skills. These facilities will keep you busy for months. Plus we have strength training areas and combat halls."

"Hey, you two!" Mark called from nearby, waving us over. "Ready for today's challenge?"

"Hell no!" Freya and I answered together, then looked at each other and laughed.

Mark explained the day's training – a complete obstacle course with participants starting thirty seconds apart. I pulled Freya to the back of the line,

watching how others tackled each obstacle.

When my turn came, adrenaline was already pumping. I moved through wooden posts, climbing walls, balance beams, hanging rings, and crawl nets. My

muscles screamed and my lungs burned, but I pushed through.

Crossing the finish line, I was soaked and filthy, but couldn't stop grinning. This was where I belonged. The challenge, the feeling of pushing past my limits

– it filled me with life.

Freya completed the course too, gasping for breath but eyes bright with excitement.

'Good work, considering your condition,' a Sentinel instructor said, noting our tiles. "Five-minute break, then clean up. Alpha King Nathan and Warrior

Taric want you in the operations room ASAP."

I blinked, "Operations room? Now? I thought we'd have days of adaptation train and psych evaluations first.

“Not my call,” he shrugged. “Just know you’ve been summoned. According to scheule, you have he checked his watch, “less than ten minutes. Better hurry.”

I grabbed Freya’s arm and sprinted toward the dorms.

“What’s wrong?” she asked as we ran.

2/3

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Chapter 155: Are You Ready for Today’s Challenge?

5...75%

Around here, being on time isn’t optional,” I laughed, picking up speed. “Trust m, you don’t want to find out what happens when you’re late. So, runt

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Chapter 5

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Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

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Chapter 156: You Have a Special Mission Tonight

Evelyn’s POV

75%

Knocks echoed down the hallway as we approached the operations room. The dog slid open automatically, and Freya and I hesitantly stepped inside. A massive oak conference table dominated the center of the spacious room, with maps and display screens covering the walls. Alpha King Nathan and Taric were already waiting, documents and a laptop spread out before them.

Both men looked up at the same time, surprise briefly crossing Alpha King Nathan’s face.

“You’re early,” he said, gesturing to the chairs. “Take a seat.”

“Thanks,” I replied, pulling out a chair. ‘Figured being late wasn’t an option.’”

Freya sat beside me, hands clasped tightly on the table, knuckles white with tension.

“Relax, Taric said to her, his voice softer than I’d ever heard it. “This isn’t an interrogation. We just need to talk.”

“First things first,” Alpha King Nathan began, getting straight to business. “We’ve gathered some preliminary information about your pack and what happened to you, Freya, but we need you to verify it.” He opened a file folder. “But before that, I should mention that tonight, you two and Aria will be accompanying Alistair and Rowan to an event.”

“What do you mean by ‘gathering information about me?’” Freya finally spoke up her voice barely above a whisper. “My pack... are they... is anyone still

alive?

Alpha King Nathan set down the folder, his expression softening slightly. “Some members did escape to our territory. Based on their accounts and our intelligence, we have a basic understanding of the attack. I’ve spoken with the Alpha King in your region, who was relieved to hear of your survival.”

He paused, giving Freya a moment to process this, then continued: “But we can discuss those details later. Right now, we have more urgent matters.” His piercing gaze settled on Freya. “According to our investigation, you’re quite talented with computers. We’d like to arrange a special assignment that utilizes those skills. Would that interest you?”

“You haven’t even told me what it is yet, Freya said, raising an eyebrow. “But yeah, I’m intrigued. What exactly are we talking about?”

“Our team excels at traditional tracking methods,” Alpha King Nathan explained. So far, we’ve investigated the Rogue King and his followers through strictly legal channels, with everything properly documented.”

His voice dropped, barely concealing his anger. “But after seeing what they did to you both the tracking devices, the abuse – I think it’s time for a different approach. We want to provide you with resources to help dismantle this organization while keeping your mind clear. Are you in?

“Hell yes! Freya nearly jumped out of her chair, determination flashing in her eyes. “When do we start?”

Alpha King Nathan's lips, quirked into a small smile. 'Soon. You'll need to complete some assessments first, but things look promising.'

I glanced at Freya, feeling happy for her but also sad at the thought she might eventually leave.

"As for you," Alpha King Nathan turned to me, interrupting my thoughts, "you have two important jobs tonight. First, stick close to Alistair and Rowan. No matter what happens, you three stay together, got it? The threat from the previous attack is still out there, and we don't know if it's connected to what happened at the university. We're still investigating Robert's attack, so pay attention to any suspicious conversations and report anything unusual

"Alpha King, Freya suddenly cut in, leaning forward. "Could I provide tech support for Evelyn's team tonight? If possible, I'd like to equip her with tiny surveillance devices that work with facial recognition to gather intel. It could be the mission."

1/2

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Chapter 156: You Have a Special Mission Tonight

74%

Taric exchanged a surprised look with Alpha King Nathan before nodding. "Make list of equipment you need within the hour. Will you need to operate

these devices yourself?

"Yeah, the closer I am, the better," Freya said thoughtfully. "I'd need a warrior with me for real-time communication through mind links. Cyrus would be perfect he's your tech guy, right? If anything goes wrong, we could pretend to be a couple, and he could help me set up quickly. But I'll need more

background info first."

"Consider it done," Taric agreed. "You and Cyrus can exchange information during prep. Can you list what equipment you'll need?"

"No problem," Freya grabbed a pen from the table. "But first, tell me about the first attack and how it connects to tonight."

I took a deep breath and explained how Rowan, Aria, and I were attacked at the rest's edge. Then I mentioned Robert's revelation about his pack being attacked and absorbed by the Black Obsidian City Pack - ironically the most difficult representatives at conferences.

“So everything revolves around Alistair and Evelyn,” Freya observed while taking notes. She closed her eyes for a moment, like she was communicating with

her wolf.

She opened her eyes and pushed her list toward Taric. “This is what I need. Hopefully Cyrus will understand and add anything I missed. We should start preparing now, but I should also share what I experienced. It might connect to your investigation.”

She straightened her posture and placed her hands gently on the table. “The attack came out of nowhere. It was our annual celebration – a week of festivities, competitions, and dances that ended with my parents thanking the Moon Goddess in front of everyone. It was supposed to be sacred.

“The attackers clearly knew our schedule. Right as my father was giving the toast and we were drinking the ceremonial wine, strange werewolves appeared from everywhere. The weirdest part was that nobody smelled them coming.”

“All our warriors immediately formed defensive positions, including my parents. Omegas escorted pups and elders to safety. I started feeling foggy-headed in all the chaos. When I saw my mother attacked, I couldn’t even lift my arms my legs felt like they were made of stone.”

–

Her voice cracked. “When my mother died, I felt our connection snap. My father’s howl when he lost his mate still haunts me. A warrior tried to get me out, but I fought him, refusing to leave. If I’d just listened, maybe I wouldn’t have been captured. Maybe I could have saved more people.”

She wiped away a tear, her body trembling slightly as she looked between us. “The last thing I remember clearly is a huge wolf charging at us, knocking me and the warrior down. I hit my head on something hard, and everything went black. I don’t remember being captured or how long I was out. I only

remember waking up in a dark cell with just a dim light.”

“Brandon told me exactly why he captured me and what he wanted,” she added with bitter sarcasm. “He was an Alpha, I was an Alpha’s daughter, and he needed me to have his ‘pure-blooded’ heirs. What he didn’t know was that after birthday, when I hadn’t found a mate, I got a contraceptive implant. 1

wasn’t taking any chances.”

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Chapter 157: Stop Embarrassing Yourself

Evelyn's POV

74%u

“When Brandon realized I wasn’t getting pregnant,” Freya continued, “he started sing sex as punishment. If I was too stubborn to give him heirs, then he’d use violence instead. Her voice grew bitter. ‘The only upside’ was that he finished quicker when he was violent, so I got brief moments to recover.”

She turned to me. “Before you showed up, he never put other girls near my cell. could hear them crying, so I knew there were others, but I never

understood why he suddenly changed his approach with you.”

“Besides the guards and Brandon himself, did you interact with anyone else?” Alpha King Nathan asked, his expression thoughtful.

“Not clearly,” Freya frowned, trying to remember. After I found wolfsbane in my ood, I refused to eat. They started forcing injections on me. Everything’s

hazy after that just voices and blurry faces.”

-

“Diana mentioned your contraceptive implant damaged your uterine wall,” Alpha King Nathan said bluntly. “In a twisted way, that probably saved your life. If you’d given him what he wanted, you might’ve become a permanent breeding too He leaned forward.

“From your description, Brandon seems more like a

pawn than a mastermind a spoiled heir following someone else's plan."

-

"That's the creepy part," Freya laughed coldly. "He's not particularly smart, but I overheard enough to know he has this weird talent for manipulation. He always gets what he wants."

I felt that too during my captivity," I nodded. "He never fought his own battles, but pulled strings from the sidelines while somehow controlling

everything.

"Alright, that's enough for now," Alpha King Nathan stood. "In half an hour, you'll head to the castle to prepare for tonight under Luna Selena's guidance. She'll make sure you're well-fed." His eyes sparkled with mischief. "You'll stay at the castle tonight. No need to pack - Luna Selena has everything ready.

Aria's already there helping her prepare."

The way he mentioned Luna Selena made me smile. He knew I hated those elaborate dressing rituals, but also that Luna Selena could always persuade me to cooperate - just as she could make this powerful Alpha King change his mind with a look.

'Freya, Taric added, 'Cyrus is gathering your requested equipment and will meet you at the castle. He seems excited - apparently you two might have

common interests." He nodded once, "You're dismissed."

As we rose to leave, Alpha King Nathan called to Freya: "I know you have many they choose to return, we'll provide temporary sanctuary in royal territory. Your

help however we can.'

answered questions, but we've started searching for your pack members. If ck's land remains abandoned. Whether you decide to stay or leave, well

Tears welled in Freya's eyes, though she managed a grateful smile. I gently wrap my arm around her shoulders and led her out.

"He wasn't kidding about Luna Selena having everything ready," I said quietly. "S. are you really that good with computers?"

"It's nothing special,' Freya laughed. "Well, maybe a little. As a kid, I had a knack for breaking into systems. Pulled some pranks on my dad, little tricks. But tech changes

so fast I haven't practiced in ages. That's why I'm glad Cyrus is coming. If we hit newer security systems, at least someone can help.

'Let's find Mark,' I suggested. 'We still have time before heading to the castle. While Cyrus is busy preparing equipment, Mark's probably eating alone.'

We laughed as we walked toward the dining hall. The place buzzed with activity. Sentinels finishing meals, others just ending training sessions, some enjoying rare downtime.

'Didn't expect so many Sentinels here, Freya whispered, clearly amazed.

1/2

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Chapter 157: Stop Embarrassing Yourself

474%

I had to get used to it too,' I nodded. 'Most senior Sentinels don't actually live here. This place mainly houses newcomers and trainees since we train more frequently and instructors need to find us easily. But everyone comes here to eat especially at dinner it's when everyone gets together.'

'I see, Freya nodded thoughtfully. Just need time to adjust, I guess. Look, there Mark.'

'Hey, you two!' Mark waved from across the room. 'Heard you've got an exciting mission tonight. Am I the only one left out?'

'Want to take my place next to Alistair?' I smirked. 'You'd look great in my dress'

'On second thought,' Mark pretended to consider it, 'I'd rather stick to protecting Cyrus and keeping you all safe.'

'Wait, you're going too?' I shoved him. 'Why'd you lie?'

'It's good to make you worry about me sometimes,' he winked. 'Keeps things interesting.'

I rolled my eyes. 'Are you riding with us to the castle, or does Taric have other plans?'

'I've got the honor of escorting two beautiful ladies,' he gave an exaggerated bow 'Cyrus is on his way with Freya's tech stuff. Car's ready when we are.'

We laughed as we headed for the exit. Halfway across the hall, a cold voice cut through our conversation:

“Look who it is, the golden girl off to please someone new. Whose bed are you climbing into for favors this time, or are you planning to get captured again?”

“Who the hell do you think you are?” Before I could respond, Freya jumped to my defense, her voice fierce.

Seraphina stood there with arms crossed, looking smug. “I’m Seraphina, your superior and Evelyn’s too. Everyone here knows how she climbed the ranks. All

this time at camp without earning a decent mission, unless – ”

“That’s enough, Mark cut her off, his voice dangerously low. “Evelyn earned her place. Quit spreading your petty rumors. You’ve never been particularly

likable, and you never will be. Come back when you learn that actually showing up for training, working hard, and knowing how to be a team player is what

gets you mission assignments. Evelyn has all that; you don’t. That’s why her first mission successfully rescued an Alpha’s daughter, while you’re still here

being jealous. Stop embarrassing yourself.”

Mark turned, wrapped his arms around our shoulders and quickly guided us toward the waiting vehicle. We climbed into the back while Mark took the front

passenger seat. The journey passed in silence,

Has she always been that nasty?” Freya finally asked.

‘Only when it involves Evelyn,” Mark sighed. “She’s decent enough as a Sentinel, ut that floor supervisor title went to her head. Then Evelyn showed up –

not even of age yet smoked everyone in the selection trials and impressed both Warrior Taric and Prince Alistair.”

“Wait,” Freya turned to me, eyes wide. “How old are you exactly? I thought you we just small, maybe a particularly skilled Omega. But that’s clearly not

right I can feel your aura is almost as strong as mine.”

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Chapter 158: You're Part of Our Family Now

Evelyn's POV

"Hold up – you two spent all that time together and never talked about how old you are? Mark that us a glance through the rearview mirror.

< 74%

Freya sighed. "When you're just trying to survive each day, age isn't exactly top of mind."

"Seventeen," I said with a shrug. Had my birthday right before getting captured.

'Seventeen?' Freya's eyes widened. "That makes Brandon even more disgusting! And you were already in college?"

The car pulled up to the castle's side entrance. Freya pressed her face against the window, taking in the view. "Wow, it's amazing,"

I yanked the door open and pulled Freya out. "Come on! Aria's probably upstairs with Luna Selena waiting for us." I couldn't wait to see Alistair and Rowas properly – I'd barely been conscious during the rescue.

"Someone's eager, Mark teased, trailing behind us. Wonder who you're so excited to see?"

"Knock it off," I said, heading for the elevator. "I haven't seen them in almost a month. Why is this thing so damn slow?"

'Chill. They're just as anxious to see you.'

The elevator doors finally opened and I rushed toward Luna Selena's suite. The moment I saw her, my eyes welled up. Without thinking, I ran into her arms.

"My child," she whispered, holding me tight. "You had us all so worried."

'I missed you too. My voice cracked a little. "Didn't realize how much until now.'

“Are you really okay?” She held me at arm’s length, studying my face. “I hear you brought back someone special

I turned to see Freya hovering awkwardly at the doorway. ‘Come meet Luna Selena.

“Sorry,” Freya said quietly. “Mark just dropped me off and left. Didn’t know if I should barge in.”

Smart man,” Luna Selena smiled. “He knows better than to get caught in our girl talk.”

Luna Selene, this is Freya, daughter of the Crescent City Pack Alpha.”

Freya looked down as I mentioned her title. I got it having lost her pack, she probably felt she didn’t deserve the title anymore.

Luna Selena took Freya’s hand gently. I’ve heard about your courage from Alpha King Nathan. If you need help finding your people, just ask. You’re part of our family now

“Evie!” Ana burst out of the bathroom and slammed into me. Could you please getting hurt? The medical ward’s gonna name a bed after you at this

rate!”

“She’s back!” Nadia charged in from behind, tackling me until we all tumbled on ballistic. Thank god they didn’t know you were captured they would ve lost it

the carpet. When I heard about your mission, the guys nearly went

pletely.”

“Missed you too,” I laughed, trying to untangle myself. But you’re crushing me. This position sucks.”

1/3

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Chapter 158: You’re Part of Our Family Now

74%

Nadia pulled me up but kept an arm around my shoulders. “Freya’s working behind the scenes with Cyrus tonight, but you both need to look the part. Check out these options. She glanced at Freya. “If you hate any of them, just say so. Evelyn always complains about fancy clothes, but we always win that battle.”

'I'm sure they're fine, Freya said softly, touching a dark evening dress.

"Seriously, speak up,' I nudged her. "They won't be offended. Otherwise, you might end up in some hideous bright blue leather nightmare."

Freya's nose wrinkled. 'Um, that sounds..."

'While we don't currently stock bright blue leather,' Luna Selena laughed, we could probably find some if that's your preference. Just be honest if you don't like something. No point being uncomfortable all night."

The next hour flew by in a whirlwind of makeup, hair styling, and outfit selections.

After everything I'd been through, these social events didn't scare me anymore. Tonight was semi-formal, and while I wasn't clear on all the details, our job was to protect Alistair and Rowan. Apparently, some women had shifted their attention from Alistair to Rowan recently. Luna Selena explained this while Aria and I doubled over laughing.

"You should've seen these women pivot from Alistair straight to Rowan, Aria wheezed. 'Poor guy was dodging grabby hands all night like he was in some kind of obstacle course. And Alistair that jerk just stood there trying not to crack up. I finally had to step in and remind those vultures that Rowan was on

duty."

-

'So we're just arm candy because they're being stalked by social climbers?' I asked, twirling my hair.

'It's more complicated, Luna Selena said, helping Freya with accessories. Tonight Alpha King Nathan will discuss the Rogue King threat with all the Alphas. We're looking into what you learned about Robert's pack - we believe you. Brandon couldn't have operated so long without inside help. Alpha Victor causes problems and draws suspicion, but I doubt he's clever enough to be the Rogue King's right hand."

She turned to Freya. "The most dangerous ones are those who blend in, operating right under our noses. That's your job tonight. I won't brief you on the Alphas' backgrounds - I want you to observe everyone with fresh eyes. We've been in this situation too long; we might be part of the problem."

Freya nodded. "Makes sense. With Cyrus helping, we can confirm identities as soon as I spot anything weird."

'Perfect," Luna Selena smiled, then turned to Aria and me. "Some ladies have been aggressively pursuing our boys while you were gone, using some nasty tactics. Stay calm

and don't let them provoke you. When in doubt, just smile and shut up. The less you say, the less they can twist your words. Report anything unusual to Cyrus immediately.”

-

Before heading out, we checked ourselves in the mirror. Luna Selena had a real gift we all looked amazing.

We wore knee-length dresses in different styles. Freya's dark purple dress with long sleeves hugged her figure perfectly, with an elegant back design that made her look sophisticated and mysterious. Her hair was in a neat bun with a few loose strands framing her face.

Aria chose a jade-white high-necked dress with a cinched waist and flowing skirt edged with silver details that caught the light.

My dress was silver-blue, Luna Selena's special pick. It had a simple off-shoulder design that showed just my collarbone, with ribbon detailing across the back. The skirt had extra layers that moved like waves when I walked. A thin sily chain wrapped around my waist, and my hair was styled to look

effortlessly elegant.

2/3

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Chapter 5

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Chapter 159: Do You Chat Like This Often?

Evelyn's POV

‘Ready? Luna Selena gave us a final once-over, satisfaction evident in her smile. It’s time.’

4.74%

We stepped into the hallway where Alistair and Rowan were waiting. They both straightened immediately when they saw us.

“Holy crap!” Alistair clutched his chest dramatically. “Mom, you’re killing me! The silver-blue? The way it’s styled? Evelyn, are you trying to give everyone a

heart attack? His exaggerated reaction mirrored the first time he’d seen me in a dress, making me laugh despite myself. ‘Well, duty calls. Let’s get a quick

photo. At least I can complete this urgent mission.’”

“What are you talking about?” I asked, still laughing.

‘That photo of you in a dress last time.’ He glanced at his mother. “Luna Isabella saw it and immediately sent it to those guys back home. Now I absolutely

have to send your picture first, or they’ll be completely blindsided.” He rolled his eyes dramatically, making everyone laugh, even Luna Selena who tried to

hide her smile behind her hand.

“Why don’t we take a group shot?” Aria suggested with a mischievous glint in her eyes. “If you’ve got more people around you, maybe they won’t just stare at

Evie.”

‘Smart and terrifying at the same time,’ Alistair sighed theatrically. “But I’ll take it.”

I shook my head and moved beside him. Freya stood on my right while Aria squeezed in on Alistair’s left. Rowan hesitated nearby.

“Rowan, join them,” Alpha King Nathan called as he approached from down the hill. “Let them see Evelyn’s full security detail tonight. His hearty laugh

caught me off guard – I hadn’t seen him this relaxed in a while, making me realize how much pressure the Rogue King situation had put on him.

After taking the photo, Alistair immediately hunched over his phone to send it. Being short had its disadvantages I couldn’t see his screen, but his

practiced movements suggested he communicated with that group regularly.

“You chat with them a lot?” I asked casually. “Are you this tight with all the future leaders?”

I keep in touch with most young leaders,” Alistair said, pocketing his phone. “They’ll be running things someday, after all. But honestly, I like the Polaris

City crew the best – they never treat me like ‘the future Alpha King, just a regular friend. They focus on being good leaders while actually supporting the

kingdom. He gave me a meaningful look, ‘Plus, they have something others don

“What’s that?” I asked.

“They’ve earned your trust, cousin. He winked and turned toward the elevator.

I didn’t know how to respond. Among the guys I knew, Magnus, Lucian, Orion, Elot, and Milo were indeed among the few I didn’t dislike and even somewhat relied on

The event was more boring than I’d expected. The room full of guests felt underbeling- neither openly hostile not particularly warm. Even Stella and her followers only greeted us briefly without causing trouble. Most elders exchanged leasantries, saying they were glad td safely completed my mission. Unsure how much they knew about the actual situation, I just responded with polite tha

But some deliberately avoided looking my way the entire time, their obvious snu almost making me laugh

Their reactions are weird, Atia commented through our mind link. Either they’re putting something, or they re shocked you came back in one piece.

Why do you think that? I asked. I know the vibe is off, but why would my return curse them?

1/3

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Chapter 159: Do You Chat Like This Often?

474%

Think about it – if you thought the biggest threat was sent on a high-risk” mission, and someone said the problem’s handled, how would you react if that person

suddenly appeared completely fine? Atia explained.

I'd observe first, trying to figure out what happened – either the plan failed or some lied, I realized.

Exactly. So they won't be friendly or openly hostile. They'll just watch and wait, Aria modded subtly.

Is that why Alpha King Nathan wanted me here? To see how they'd react to my return? I've heard the elders have been pushing this "designated mate thing for

Alistair lately, even harder than before, I thought.

That's what I figure. Plus with your capture and the Rogue King using witches, they're checking all food and drinks for spells now. That's even worse than regular

poison, Aria's eyes flashed with concern.

Damn, I shuddered at the thought.

"You two have been mind-linking forever without sharing. Not cool," Alistair whispered as we walked along the edge of the ballroom.

The meeting had gone smoothly, mostly focusing on pack communications. Now everyone was mingling in small groups, discussing pack security and

rebuilding alliances.

I finally met Alpha Adam and Luna Isabella, and though they couldn't stay long, they took photos with me and promised to tell the Polaris City boys I was

doing well.

Alpha Adam clearly knew the mission details, and he said he wouldn't tell others.

Though I wished they could have stayed longer, I understood my duties. Before they left, I hugged them both tightly, trying to hold onto that piece of home.

"Ready?" Alistair suddenly asked.

"For what?" I looked up at him, confused by his mischievous expression.

"Dancing," his eyes twinkled. "You remember how, right? Haven't forgotten those steps?"

"You mean when you dragged me around in circles?" I raised an eyebrow. "Sure, remember. But I still don't know those fancy steps, so what are you

expecting?"

“I need to make an appearance on the dance floor, purely professional...” he said with mock seriousness.

“And?” I eyed him suspiciously.

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“Maybe have someone snap a few close-ups you know, stir up some rumors that we might have something going on. It’d be major news, since I’ve never

brought the same girl to two events. He said quietly.

“Right, and what else aren’t you telling me?” I pressed, crossing my arms.

“Fine,” he sighed. “Alpha Adam specifically asked for some photos, supposedly to ght a fire under certain people back home. His words, not mine.”

“Just so we’re clear, I’m only doing this to help Alpha Adam and those idiots back home. I rolled my eyes, grabbing his arm. Lead the way.”

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Chapter 5

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Chapter 160: You’ve All Worked Hard Tonight

Evelyn’s POV

74%

The ballroom music drifted around us as Alistair guided me across the dance floor. To anyone watching, we probably looked like typical teenagers having fun. In reality, we were both working.

Two figures in the corner caught my attention – Alpha Victor from Black Obsidian City deep in conversation with one of the elders. They looked casual enough, but something felt off. Every time someone else approached, they'd smoothly change topics or move away.

Freya, see those two on the left? Dark suit guy is Alpha Victor.

Got them. Already taking pictures. This guy's definitely sketchy – keeps dodging certain people. Her voice came through clearly. Cyrus is making his rounds too. We're tracking their movements.

Alistair must have noticed my focus because he adjusted our steps to give me a better angle. 'Spot something?'

"Alpha Victor's acting weird. He's avoiding specific people on purpose."

Prince Alistair, heads up. Cyrus's warning cut through our conversation. Lady incoming, and she looks pissed.

I felt Alistair's shoulders tense as an attractive brunette marched toward us. Her mile looked painted on, but her eyes screamed hostility.

"Who's that?" I muttered.

"Aurora. Pain in the ass," Alistair said under his breath.

She stopped right in front of us, hands clasped like she was posing for a portrait. Prince Alistair, seems like you forgot your promise. Not very princely to go back on your word, is it? People might start questioning your character."

Alistair's expression went flat. "What promise? I never promised you anything."

–

Her fake smile stretched wider. "Maybe your memory's fuzzy, but plenty of people heard it. Doesn't matter though what matters is you're wasting time with some nobody. She looked at me like I was something stuck to her shoe. "You need someone who actually deserves royal attention, not whatever this is.

"That's enough!" Alistair's voice carried real anger now. "You don't get to judge Evelyn or talk to her like that."

I could feel his wolf stirring beneath the surface. I touched his arm lightly. "I've got this."

Turning to Aurora, I kept my voice steady. "Miss, I think there's been some confusion. I'm not hogging Prince Alistair's time we're just being polite. As for

my background, that's really none of your business."

"Who the hell do you think you are?" Her mask finally cracked. 'Acting all cozy with royalty? You don't belong here, and you sure as hell don't deserve his

attention!'

Her voice carried across the room. People started turning to watch. I caught sight of Freya and Cyrus moving to better positions.

"You're right - I'm nobody special," I said calmly. "But that doesn't mean I have to put up with your attitude. Prince Alistair can talk to whoever he wants. He doesn't need your permission.*

I stepped forward, letting my aura slip just enough to make my point. "And if you think tearing down other people makes you look better, you're dead wrong.

Real class comes from how you act, not what title daddy bought you."

1/3

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Chapter 160: You've All Worked Hard Tonight

Aurora went pale. She clearly hadn't expected me to fight back. How dare you..."

74%-

"How dare I what? Stand up for myself? My voice stayed level, but each word hit like a hammer. 'News flash you don't make the rules here. If you want Prince Alistair's attention, try earning it instead of throwing tantrums."

Alistair moved closer to my side, approval written all over his face. 'Evelyn's absolutely right. Aurora, keep this up and security will escort you out."

Aurora's eyes darted around the room. Most faces showed they were backing us, not her.

"This isn't over,' she spat before spinning on her heel and stalking away.

Alistair exhaled slowly. “Damn, that was beautiful. Never seen anyone shut Auror down that fast.”

“She’s just a bully with a trust fund. I’ve dealt with her type before. I shrugged. Though this might cause you problems later.”

“Worth it. He squeezed my hand. “Some things need to be said. I won’t let anyone disrespect my friends.”

Evelyn, that was amazing! Aria’s voice buzzed through the mind link. Watched the hole thing from upstairs. Aurora looked like she wanted to disappear.

How’s the mission going? I asked Freya.

Great. Got tons of good shots, and your little performance gave us perfect cover to gather intel.

The music started up again. Alistair offered his hand with a genuine smile this time. Ready for round two?”

This dance felt completely different relaxed, easy. No more pretending or surveillance, just moving to the music.

“Thanks for backing me up tonight, Alistair said as we swayed. “Feels good having someone I can count on.”

“That’s what friends do.” I smiled back. Besides, I need the practice dealing with people like her.”

Eventually, Luna Queen Selena approached us. Children, you’ve worked hard end gh tonight. It’s late go get some rest.

We said our goodbyes and headed for the elevator. The moment the doors closed everyone’s shoulders dropped.

“God, I can’t wait to get out of this dress,” I groaned. “Feels like a medieval torture device.”

Alistair laughed. “My closet’s full of comfortable stuff. Help yourselves.”

“You’re a lifesaver!” Aria practically bounced on her toes. “These formal things are killing me.”

Back in Alistair’s room, we dove for his wardrobe like kids on Christmas morning as clothes hung loose on us, but they felt like heaven compared to the fancy outfits.

Freya, Cyrus, and Mark showed up a few minutes later. Seeing us in oversized hoodies and sweatpants, Freya immediately asked if she could raid the closet

too.

'Looks like your wardrobe's being invaded, Cyrus grinned.

'Don't care. Friends being comfortable matters more than clothes, Alistair said without hesitation.

Rowan walked in just as Sebastian wheeled in a cart loaded with pastries and tea

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10:00 Mon, Jan 12

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Chapter 160: You've All Worked Hard Tonight

"Late night snacks! Mark perked up immediately. "Sebastian, you're the best."

"Just doing my job," Sebastian smiled. "You all earned it tonight."

We sprawled around the sitting area, passing plates and cups while sharing stories. Freya talked about her old pack, her eyes lighting up at the good memories. Aria had us all cracking up with stories from school that somehow always ended with someone doing something incredibly stupid.

For the first time in weeks, everything felt normal. Just a bunch of teenagers hanging out, eating too much sugar, and laughing until our sides hurt.