

The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Souls Bound By Promise — Timothy Nelson 21

Chapter 21: We Just Want to Talk

Evelyn's POV

...

20

I walked through Silver Pines, my wet clothes clinging uncomfortably to my skin. The night wind cut through the fabric, but I barely

noticed. The storm raging inside me was way worse than any chill.

Finally saying all that stuff out loud should've felt good, but instead I just felt... empty. Like I'd ripped open something that was supposed

to stay buried.

Why did I have to say all that?

Because you're tired, my wolf whispered back. Tired of carrying it alone.

When I reached our house, I slipped through the back door. The kitchen was dark except for moonlight streaming through the windows. I

made it to my room, locked the door, and slid down against it.

All that strength I'd forced myself to show completely crumbled. Tears hit like a damn broke.

I crawled onto my bed without even changing, curling up under the covers. The pillow got soaked fast, but I didn't care. Years of buried

anger, sadness, loneliness it all came flooding out at once.

Their faces kept flashing through my mind. The shock, the guilt... After so long being invisible, suddenly having all that attention felt

overwhelming.

Exhaustion finally won. I passed out still crying, my consciousness fading into restless dreams.

I woke up at 4:15 AM with a killer headache. My throat felt raw, the pillow was drenched, and my face was sticky with dried tears,

Sitting up made me dizzy, I'd cried too hard and now I was paying for it. But weirdly, that crushing weight in my chest felt a little lighter.

Time for a run, I thought. Like always.

That's when someone knocked softly on my door.

"Evie?" Elliot's voice, quiet and careful. "You awake?"

My whole body tensed. Why was he here this early?

"Could you come run with me?" His voice had this pleading edge. "I... I need to talk to you."

1/4

11:35 Thu, Jan 8 M.

Chapter 21: We Just Want to Talk

:

I hugged my knees tight, burying my face. Fresh tears started up. Why now? Why when I felt so raw?

The silence stretched forever. I thought he'd left, but then I heard a deep sigh.

880

His footsteps moved away, then the front door closed softly. The house went quiet again except for my muffled sobs.

I dragged myself to the bathroom. The mirror showed exactly what I expected red, swollen eyes, messy hair, skin like a ghost. This was

the real me. The broken version I usually kept hidden.

Cold water helped a little. I brushed my teeth and tried to look less like death, but nothing could hide the damage.

After changing into running gear, I checked the hallway. Dad's door was still closed – he wasn't up yet. The kitchen was empty. Elliot had

really left.

I grabbed an apple and planned a new route while I ate. Couldn't use the old paths anymore – might run into them there. Silver Pines was

huge. There had to be other places.

The morning air felt thick with dew. I started jogging, deliberately picking a trail I rarely used. More rugged here, but also more isolated.

You're running away, my wolf said.

I just need space. My pace picked up automatically. Last night was enough.

They care about you.

What's the point now? The words came out bitter. Where were they before?

I ran deeper into Silver Pines where the trees were thicker and dawn couldn't break through. The darkness felt safe – nobody could see me

falling apart here.

After twenty minutes, my breathing steadied. Exercise always helped, focusing on physical stuff instead of emotional chaos,

Then I heard footsteps. Not just one person at least six from the sound. My heart rate spiked, but not from running.

–

They'd found me. Even changing routes hadn't worked.

Three left, two right, one ahead, my wolf warned. They're surrounding us.

I stopped, scanning around fast. Dense forest on both sides, but there was a hidden fork up ahead. If I could reach it...

"Evie!" Magnus's voice from the left. "We know you're there. We just wanna talk."

"Stop running," Lucian called from the right. "Come on, just talk to us."

2/4

11:35 Thu, Jan 8 A

Chapter 21: We Just Want to Talk

Hell no. I didn't want to hear their apologies or see their guilty faces. I needed time to sort this mess out in my head.

I sprinted toward the fork. Footsteps immediately pounded behind me.

“Wait! There she is! Nadia’s voice, full of worry.

80

I saw the narrow path and dove into it without hesitation. Low branches everywhere – hard for normal people to get through fast. But for

me...

I leaped, feeling the familiar shift start mid-air. Bones reshaping, muscles stretching, fur breaking through skin. The pain was nothing

now – just relief.

My paws hit the ground and I was running full speed as a silver-blue wolf. Branches brushed my fur but I didn’t slow down.

Shocked voices behind me:

“Was that a wolf?”

‘Did Evie just shift?’

“How is she...?”

But I was already gone, weaving through trees I knew by heart. Nobody could catch me here.

The chase sounds faded. I slowed but kept moving until I reached the far exit. Only then did I stop to catch my breath.

They might find my torn clothes, but hopefully they wouldn’t think too hard about the scent. I looked back once, then headed home.

Ten minutes later I was at our back door. I shifted in the shadows, standing naked in the cold morning air before slipping inside and

rushing to my room.

After locking the door, I finally breathed. Dirt and leaves covered me, but that didn’t matter. I threw on pajamas, dove under the covers,

and pretended I’d never left.

Fifteen minutes later, the front door opened. Elliot was back, his footsteps heading straight for my room. From his breathing, he’d been

running hard.

I held my breath and squeezed my eyes shut. Those footsteps stopped right outside my door and stayed there forever.

Finally, a knock.

'Evie?' He sounded winded. "You awake?"

I bit my lip, staying silent. He'd probably found something – my clothes, that silver-blue wolf. But I wasn't ready for this conversation.

3/4

11.35 Thu, Jang N

Chapter 21. We Just Want to Talk

The hallway went quiet. Then I heard it the doorknob turning.

Panic shot through me. I bolted upright. 'Elliot! I just woke up, I'm getting dressed!'"

The turning stopped immediately.

Ob... sorry." Embarrassment in his voice, but something else too. Understanding. "Come to the kitchen when you're ready. I just wanna

talk

His footsteps moved away, I collapsed back on the bed, breathing hard.

Maybe they figured it out, my wolf said. But at least you don't have to carry it alone anymore.

I'm not ready, I shot back. I never said anything before, and I don't want to now.

Taking a shaky breath, I got up and headed for the bathroom. Whatever was coming next, I at least needed to wash off the dirt and

exhaustion first.

Hot water poured down, washing away my last defenses. Time to face whatever was waiting for me.

The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

22

Chapter 22: I'm Used to It

Evelyn's POV

:

So

Hot water poured down, washing away dirt and the mess of last night. I closed my eyes, letting the steam fill the bathroom like a warm

barrier between me and everything waiting outside.

You should give them a chance, my wolf said quietly.

Why now? I shot back. After all this time?

Because they finally see you. Really see you.

I opened my eyes, watching water drip from my fingertips. Maybe she was right, but accepting help felt scarier than enduring pain. At

least pain was familiar.

Damage can heal, she added. Like the scars on your back.

I sighed and turned off the water. Maybe she was right, but accepting change felt harder than enduring pain. At least pain was familiar. Being cared for? That was foreign territory.

After drying off and changing into clean clothes, I stared at myself in the mirror. Still pale, but at least my eyes weren't red and swollen anymore. Time to face whatever was waiting downstairs.

Elliot was probably gone by now, right? I'd been in the bathroom forever. Maybe he'd given up and left to do his own thing.

But when I reached the kitchen, there he was sitting at the dining table with a book spread out in front of him, obviously waiting. The second he heard my footsteps, he looked up with this complex expression – hope, nervousness, and barely hidden guilt.

I wanted to turn around and bolt, but my feet wouldn't move.

“Don't go,” Elliot stood up, moving carefully like I might spook. “Please, Evie. Just talk to me, okay?”

He walked over and gently took my hand. His was warm, carrying that familiar sense of safety I remembered from when we were kids. How long had it been since we'd touched like this?

After a few seconds of hesitation, I nodded and let him lead me to the table.

My eyes automatically scanned the room. Elliot caught my movement and smiled. “Relax. Dad's at the pack house- emergency meeting.”

He headed to the kitchen. “You must be starving. I made breakfast.”

I watched him move around like he actually knew what he was doing. Soon he set down a simple but perfect breakfast – fried eggs, bacon,

1/4

11:36 Thu, Jan 8 M...

Chapter 22: I'm Used to It

toast, and hot cocoa. All my favorites.

80

“Thanks,” I said quietly, picking up my fork.

Elliot sat across from me with a coffee cup, but I noticed he wasn't drinking. Just watching me with this intense focus that made my skin

crawl.

“This morning...” he finally spoke, voice soft. “How come you overslept?”

My hand paused for a split second before I kept eating. I knew what he was fishing for.

“I was wiped out last night,” I said, not meeting his eyes. “And I cried myself sick, so I didn’t hear my alarm.”

Not exactly a lie. I had cried hard and I was exhausted. I just left out some details.

Elliot stared at me for what felt like forever. I could feel the weight of his gaze, but I refused to look up. Finally, he sighed and dropped it.

“Evie,” his voice got gentler, heavy with regret. “I’m so sorry. Really, truly sorry.”

I kept eating and waited for him to continue.

“I’ve been a shit brother all these years,” he said, gripping his coffee cup so tight his knuckles went white. “I watched you suffer, watched you handle everything alone, and I just... I looked the other way. Told myself it was better that way, that it would keep Dad from getting worse with you. But really? I was just being a coward.”

–

His voice shook. “I should’ve protected you. Should’ve had your back. But I didn’t. I took the easy way out pretending I didn’t see

anything, pretending you didn’t need me.”

“Things are gonna be different now,” he looked up, eyes full of determination. “I’ll protect you. I’ll stand with you. I don’t care what Dad says or what it costs me. You’re my sister, my only real family.”

I finally put down my fork and looked at him. His expression was so sincere, so pained, it almost made me believe him. Almost.

“You don’t need to,” I said calmly.

Elliot blinked, “What?”

“I said you don’t need to,” I repeated, keeping my voice steady. “I’m used to it.”

“Evie...”

“You’ve never paid attention to this stuff happening around you,” I cut him off. “I don’t blame you for that. You’re future leaders you’ve got bigger things to worry about. The pack’s future, power transitions. That’s what matters to you guys.”

2/4

11:36 Thu, Jan 8 M

Chapter 22: I'm Used to It

I paused, organizing my thoughts, "If you only want to protect me now because I'm suddenly part of your group, then forget it. I don't

need that kind of protection."

"It's not like that," Elliot said urgently. "We really..."

"Nadia figured out I was hurt within a week of getting here," I continued, looking straight at him. "Delta Griffin and Luna Isabella have

been secretly taking care of me for years. They saw it, they cared, they helped. All of that happened before any of you noticed I existed.

Elliot's face went pale, but I wasn't done.

"So you see, I can handle it. Not because I'm tough, but because there are always people who help when I need it most. Those people just

weren't you."

"We want to change that now..." Elliot's voice was almost begging.

"Change what?" I asked. "Those rules you guys live by? Or just how you treat me specifically?"

He went quiet.

"See, that's the problem," my voice got softer, like I was talking to myself. "I'm no different from all those other bullied kids. We all live in this pack that worships strength and ignores weakness. If I get special treatment because I'm related to you, what about everyone else?"

I met his eyes. "If weak people suffering is just considered natural, then I'd rather keep suffering with them. At least that way, maybe

they'll hurt a little less."

"Evie..." Elliot's voice cracked.

-

"So let's just pretend last night never happened," I stood up. "You go back to your perfect lives training, parties, preparing to be great leaders. I'll go back to mine, protecting whoever needs it, doing what I can from the shadows."

I turned to leave but stopped at the doorway. Maybe it was the morning sunlight being too warm, or the pain in his eyes being too real,

but I heard myself add:

“Until I leave,”

Behind me, a chair scraped violently against the floor, but I didn’t turn around. If I looked back and saw his face, I might cave. And caving

was the last thing I needed right now.

Are you really gonna leave? my wolf asked.

Yeah. When I’m strong enough. When those kids have someone else looking out for them.

A life without them?

3/4

11:36 Thu, Jan 8 01

Chapter 22: I’m Used to It

A life without all this baggage.

“Leave?” Elliot’s voice cracked. “Where? Why?”

:

I turned back, leaning against the doorframe. “Leave this pack. Go somewhere I’m actually needed.”

“This is your home! This place needs you!”

I laughed, but there was no humor in it. “Here? This place that treats me like I’m invisible? This place that thinks I’m a walking reminder of tragedy? Elliot, you really think anyone here needs me?”

The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

23

Chapter 23: She's Going to Leave Us

Evelyn's POV

*But..."

"This pack needs strong wolves, needs warriors, needs leaders," I cut him off. "And me? I'm just a walking reminder that their mother is dead. Living proof that Dad's in pain and that you're stuck in an impossible situation."

Elliot's face went white. "That's not –

"If it wasn't for this Beta blood keeping me tied to the weak kids here, I would've bailed ages ago." My voice stayed weirdly calm. "You know what keeps me? Every time I see those kids getting their asses kicked, I think about how much worse it'd be if I wasn't around to

take the heat instead."

"When I graduate, I'm gonna become a warrior. Then I'm out." I could already picture it. "I'll find packs that actually need help. Maybe

somewhere I can actually belong."

A real smile tugged at my lips. "Maybe I'll even find my mate. Someone who doesn't know about all this baggage. Someone who won't

hate me or pity me because of who I am."

Elliot's face shifted from pale to gray. He grabbed my shoulders so hard I winced.

"No!" He practically roared. "You can't leave! This is your home – we're your family!"

"We get it now," his voice cracked with desperation. "We'll change. We'll treat you right. No one's gonna hurt you anymore..."

I gently pushed his hands away and stepped back. "You still don't get it."

"Get what?"

So

“You think I’m some victim who just takes beatings.” My voice got quieter but every word hit like a punch. “Truth is, I choose this. Every hit, every humiliation that was me making a choice. Because if it wasn’t me getting hurt, it’d be some other kid.”

“That’s what breaks my heart. Not that you ignored me, but that you ignore everyone who needs protecting. I kept going. “You can’t see the Omegas shaking in corners. Can’t see the weak ones getting treated like toys. Can’t see how many broken kids there are.”

“We can fix this...” Elliot said desperately.

“Can you?” I shot back. “When you’re leaders, you gonna trash this whole system? You gonna tell all the high-ranking wolves that everyone gets treated equal now? You willing to piss them off for the ‘weaklings’?”

Elliot went quiet.

1/4

11:36 Thu, Jan 8 M...

Chapter 23: She’s Going to Leave Us

๗๓

80

“Everything you guys worship? I hate it. Exhaustion crept into my voice. “Survival of the fittest, strong picking on weak... We’re

werewolves. We’ve got brains, feelings, the ability to choose kindness. But you picked the most basic animal bullshit instead.”

“Even the weakest Omega has value. I looked straight at him. “Maybe she can’t fight, but she might cook amazing food for tired warriors.

Maybe she’s not strong, but her voice could comfort someone who’s hurting. Everyone matters, not just the tough ones.”

“If I took your help now, what’s the difference between me and you? I’d just be another person benefiting from this screwed-up system. I’d

become exactly what I can’t stand.”

Elliot’s shoulders sagged like he’d aged ten years in ten seconds.

'I hope when I leave, it reminds you of something. My voice softened. "Stop always looking up at the stars. Look down at your feet

sometimes. You'll see completely different stuff there."

I turned toward my room. At the door, I glanced back. "Thanks for breakfast, Elliot. It was really good."

Then I closed the door softly.

Elliot's POV

That door closing sounded like a gunshot in the silent house. I stood there like my feet were glued to the floor.

Evie's words kept playing in my head. Every sentence was like a knife, cutting open everything I thought I believed in, showing me the rot

underneath.

She was leaving. My sister, my only real family, was walking away from this pack. From me.

And the worst part? I couldn't think of a single reason to stop her. Because everything she'd said was right.

We had ignored people's pain. We did worship 'survival of the fittest' like it was some sacred law. We really... had never actually seen her.

Not until now. Not until she was ready to walk away.

I collapsed into a chair, head in my hands. The breakfast dishes were still on the table, the cocoa had gone cold. Just like everything else.

I needed to talk to someone. I needed... hell, I didn't know what I needed. Maybe just someone to tell me there was still a way to fix this

mess.

I cleared the table on autopilot, washed the dishes, then left the house. The sunlight was so bright it hurt, but I kept walking.

The pack house wasn't far. The others should be there by now. Maybe they'd have answers. Maybe they'd have hope.

I pushed through the front door, familiar scents hitting me. Straight to the second-floor lounge where we always hung out.

2/4

11:36 Thu, Jan 8 M...

Chapter 23: She's Going to Leave Us

They were all there. Magnus and Lucian playing chess, Orlon rending by the window, Milo chatting with Nadia. When I walked in,

everyone stopped.

(60)

"You look like hell," Milo said first. "What happened?"

Also, his voice dropped, "that wolf we saw this morning... the scent on those clothes was familiar. Was that Evie? When did she awaken?"

I shook my head, dropping onto the couch like dead weight. "She said she never left her room this morning."

"But she never oversleeps," Nadia frowned. "That's weird..."

I let out a bitter laugh and shook my head.

"What did she tell you?" Orion closed his book, sharp eyes locked on me.

I sat there forever. Long enough that the air felt heavy. Finally, I took a shaky breath.

"She said she's leaving. Leaving the pack."

The room exploded.

"What?!"

"Leaving?"

"Are you serious?"

Voices crashed together, but I just sat there, letting their shock wash over me.

"Shut up!" Magnus's Alpha voice cut through the noise. The room went dead silent. He turned to me, expression deadly serious. "Tell us

exactly what happened.”

I looked at these guys I’d grown up with. Their faces were full of concern, but I knew that after they heard everything, that might change

to something else.

Guilt? Self-blame? Or the same hopeless feeling crushing my chest?

‘Here’s what went down...’ I started from the beginning.

Every detail, every word. I tried to get it all exactly right. Watched their faces change from confusion to shock, shock to deep thinking,

and finally to something I couldn’t even name.

When I got to the part about “looking down at your feet instead of up at the stars,’ Orion’s hand actually shook.

3/4

1136 Thu Jan 8 An

Chapter 23: She’s Going to Leave Us

When I mentioned her taking pain to protect other kids, Lucian went pale.

When I talked about her trashing ‘survival of the fittest,” Magnus’s jaw clenched.

And when I mentioned her plan to become a warrior and leave, Nadia’s eyes filled with tears.

“She really... Milo’s voice came out rough. “She’s been choosing to take all that? To protect other kids?”

I nodded. “She said if it wasn’t her getting hurt, it’d be someone else. She couldn’t live with that.”

“Damn it,” Orion shot to his feet. “Are we all blind? How did we miss something so

obvious?”

“Because we only saw what we wanted to see,” Lucian said quietly. “We lived in our little bubble, never actually looking around.”

Silence fell again. Everyone lost in their own thoughts.

“So she’s leaving, Magnus finally spoke. “Because we disappointed her.”

The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

24

Chapter 24: You Must Take Good Care of Her

Elliot’s POV

“Not just disappointed,” I corrected. “She sees right through us. Through this whole pack. And she’s choosing not to be part of it

anymore.”

“We gotta do something,” Lucian said. “We can’t just let her walk away.”

“Like what?” My voice came out flat. “Force her to stay? That’d just prove her point about-us using power to fix everything.”

“Then we change things,” Orion said firmly. “Change this whole damn system.”

Magnus shook his head. “Easier said than done.”

80

“Then at least start somewhere we can control,” Nadia jumped in. “Maybe we can’t fix the entire pack overnight, but we can handle what’s

in our power.”

She hesitated, biting her lip. We all stared at her.

“What?” Milo asked.

“You guys need to investigate everything. Especially the school.” Her voice got serious. “To hurt the Beta’s daughter this badly without

anyone noticing? Someone's got serious backing."

"We will. But first things first." Magnus stood up, his expression hard.

Orion and Lucian exchanged looks.

"We need to talk to Dad," Magnus continued. "And the other leaders. They have to know about this."

"Wait," I called out. "Evie doesn't want - "

"I know what she wants," Magnus cut me off. "But this goes way beyond personal stuff now. If someone's using their position to crush

pack members, it's not just about Evie anymore."

The triplets headed for the door. Orion paused at the threshold.

"We'll be careful. Won't embarrass her or go against what she wants. But... we need the truth."

They left, footsteps echoing down the hall. Soon I heard the Alpha's office door open, voices rising.

"Why didn't you tell us?" That was Magnus, pissed and confused.

1/4

11:36 Thu, Jan 8 M...

Chapter 24: You Must Take Good Care of Her

80

"Because you never gave a damn," Alpha Adam's response was calm and direct. "Telling you would've just made things worse for Evelyn."

I stood up, exhausted.

"I'm heading back, I told Milo and Nadia. "Gotta try again. Maybe there's still a chance."

Nadia's eyes filled with worry. "Take care of her. After all this, she's gonna shut everyone out again."

I nodded and left the pack house.

The sun was still brutal, but my mood was darker than when I'd arrived. Because I knew that no matter what we did, some things could

never be fixed.

Trust, once shattered, doesn't just glue back together.

And Evie's trust in this pack had been broken years ago.

What we were doing now was trying to patch a bone-deep wound with a band-aid.

But I had to try. She was my sister. I'd already lost her for too long.

Evelyn's POV

I spent the entire weekend holed up in my room like a wounded animal.

Dawn runs were my only escape. While the world slept in darkness, I'd slip out and take the remote trails. Silver Pines looked ghostly in the moonlight, tree shadows swaying like doorways to another world.

You can't hide forever, my wolf whispered.

I know. Just let me breathe for a minute.

Every time I came back, hot breakfast waited on the kitchen table. Golden-edged eggs, crispy bacon, milk at the perfect temperature. Elliot's cooking had improved - every detail showed he cared.

I ate in silence, then retreated to homework. Math formulas and history dates became my tools for avoiding reality. At least when solving problems, I didn't have to think about complicated relationships.

Elliot tried countless times to reach me. He'd linger outside my door - I could hear his breathing, feel his hesitation. Sometimes he'd knock softly, voice careful and probing. But I stayed silent, like an island refusing all approaching ships.

Monday morning came too fast. I got up early, hoping to avoid everyone and go to school alone. But when I opened the front door, Nadia stood there waiting, dawn light turning her dark hair golden.

2/4

11:36 Thu, Jan 8 M...

Chapter 24: You Must Take Good Care of Her

7

Her eyes lit up when she saw me. She rushed over and pulled me into a tight hug, her familiar jasmine scent wrapping around me like

comfort.

80

“Knew you’d be up early, she whispered. “So I came to ambush you.”

I couldn’t help smiling. With Nadia, I never stayed angry long. Her care was different from the boys’ genuine from day one, no guilt or compensation. Just simple protection.

“Idiot,” I pushed her away gently. “You should’ve slept in.”

“Yeah right,” she linked our arms. “Those stupid boys aren’t here, but I am. Don’t even think about ditching me.”

We walked to school together, Nadia chattering to cheer me up. Her mom was researching some new healing herb. Milo had sent twenty texts yesterday, all asking about me.

“Poor guy’s working overtime,” I teased. “Don’t let me mess up your relationship.”

“Shut up,” Nadia bumped my shoulder. “Friends and boyfriends don’t conflict. Besides, if he can’t handle this, he’s not worth it.”

School passed quietly. I kept my head down, picked corner seats, avoided crowds. The boys seemed to give me space, though I felt their

eyes on me sometimes.

After the last class, Nadia and I were heading out when we ran into Milo in the hallway. He looked awkward, sunlight streaming through

windows and catching his golden-brown hair.

“Hey,” he scratched his head, flashing that trademark grin. “What a coincidence.”

I knew this wasn’t coincidence. He’d probably waited here forever, creating this “chance encounter.” The boys’ advance scout, testing my

mood.

But I didn’t want to make things hard for Nadia. Milo’s sunny personality was tough to resist, and I could see the hope in Nadia’s eyes.

“Really coincidental,” I replied politely. “You two chat. I’m heading home.”

“Wait Nadia tried to stop me.

“It’s fine,” I gave her a reassuring smile. “Enjoy your alone time.”

I quickened my pace toward the exit. Behind me came Nadia’s sigh and Milo’s whispered comfort, but I didn’t look back.

Sunset painted the campus orange-red. Students left in groups, laughter floating in the air. This kind of ordinary, beautiful daily life was

something I’d once wanted so badly.

–

As I passed that familiar storage room near the gate, I stopped. The room should’ve been silent, but sounds leaked out sharp laughter

3/4

11:36 Thu, Jan 8 b

The Lightning Wolf Chronicles

Chapter 25: But They All Revolve Around You!

Evelyn’s POV

200

Light leaked through the crack under the door. I pressed closer, holding my breath. The sounds gu dearer Pearla’s sharp laugh, heavy breathing from several boys, and... sobbing. A kid, couldn’t be older than twelve,

My heart hammered against my ribs.

Can’t walt anymore.

I stepped back and kicked the door with everything I had. It slammed open with a loud crack.

Three upperclassmen stood in a half-circle around Acacia, who had her hand gripping some skinny kid’s face. His uniform was torn to

shreds, tears streaming down his cheeks.

“Let him go!” My voice shook with rage.

.

Acacia turned slowly, a sick smile spreading across her face. Her eyes weren't surprised they were satisfied. Like she'd been waiting for

this.

“Finally showed up,” she said casually. “Thought you'd keep us waiting longer.”

Ice crawled up my spine.

“Since you're here,” she patted the boy's shoulder, voice dripping fake sweetness, “you can go now. Good job.”

The kid looked up at me with guilty eyes that made my chest tight. His lips trembled. “I'm sorry...” Then he stumbled past me and ran.

The door slammed shut behind me. One guy leaned against it, grinning like this was Christmas morning. The other two moved closer, eyes

locked on me like I was prey.

“You know,” Acacia hopped onto a broken table, crossing her legs, ‘planning all this took real effort. Finding that little shits weakness,

getting the timing right, making sure nobody else was around...”

Each word hit like ice picks to my chest.

“But it was worth it,” she continued, eyes glittering with crazy. “You have any idea how long I've been waiting? Those boys following you

around constantly do you know how annoying that's been?

The first punch caught me in the stomach. Pain exploded through my abdomen and I doubled over, bile rising in my throat. Before I could breathe, another fist slammed into my ribs.

1/4

11:36 Thu, Jan 8 M

The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

25

Chapter 25: But They All Revolve Around You!

I bit down hard, refusing to make a sound. This pain was too familiar It had basically become part of my daily routine.

-

“How dare you?” Acacia jumped down, voice turning shrill. “How dare you let them throw you a party?”

Another punch. Blood filled my mouth.

“They never threw me a birthday party!” Her voice cracked. “And you? You did nothing! But they all revolve around you!”

One guy grabbed my hair, yanking my head up. I was forced to look directly at Acacia’s twisted face.

“You’re nothing but a freak who killed her mother,” she spat out each word. “What gives you the right to get their attention? What the

hell gives you the right?!”

I gasped, each breath feeling like broken glass in my chest.

“Teach her a lesson! Don’t kill her!” Acacia shrieked. “Make sure she remembers her place!”

So

She turned and left. The next second, fists rained down like hail. Each hit made everything blurrier, but through the pain, I felt something

waking up.

My wolf was roaring.

Not her usual gentle whisper, but pure rage. She surged through my veins, howling in my bones, desperate to break free.

Enough! Her voice exploded in my mind like thunder. I'm gonna rip their throats out!

I felt the change starting – my fingers twitching, something stirring under my skin. Fear and rage twisted together into an unstoppable

force.

A roar tore from deep in my chest, carrying inhuman power. The whole storage room shook.

All three guys froze. The smugness in their eyes turned to fear instantly. They must've seen the change in my eyes.

I shoved them away with more force than anyone expected. One guy hit the wall hard, groaning in pain.

“Is that her... her wolf? How old is she?” another stammered.

I ignored their fear and rushed toward the window. Glass shattered under impact, sharp pieces cutting my arms, but I felt nothing.

Only the need to get out.

The sun had set completely, night swallowing everything. I ran through the darkness faster than any human should be able to. Wind

roared in my ears, my heartbeat like war drums.

2/4

11:36 Thu, Jan 8 M

Chapter 25: But They All Revolve Around You!

Control it, I told myself. Can't shift here.

But my body wouldn't listen. Each step brought intense pain not just from the beating, but because my wolf was fighting against restraint. Bones shifting, muscles stretching, fur starting to break through my skin.

Silver Pines. I needed Silver Pines.

The place that witnessed my first transformation, the forest that gave me new life. Maybe only there could I get control back.

When I stumbled into that familiar clearing, my legs gave out. I hit the ground hard, curling into a ball.

Tears finally broke free. Not from physical pain, but from being so damn tired of everything.

It's not your fault, my wolf whispered, but her voice carried pain too. Never was.

The change was speeding up. I could feel my spine extending, fingers transforming.

"Evie?"

That voice made time stop. My wolf instantly retreated.

I struggled to lift my head, seeing through blurry tears – Orion stood at the front, shock and heartbreak written all over his face. Behind

him were Magnus, Lucian, Milo, Elliot, and Nadia.

They saw it. Saw me about to shift, saw the wounds I never wanted them to see.

Orion moved first. He practically lunged forward, pulling me tight against his chest. His body heat came through his clothes, so warm it

made me want to cry harder.

"I knew it," his voice trembled, face buried in my neck. "I knew that morning was you. Your scent... too familiar."

His tears dripped onto my shoulder, so hot they made my heart clench. This guy who was usually the calmest, most distant, was crying for

'Why'd you run?' His voice broke. "Why didn't you tell us you'd already awakened? Why just leave us with pieces?"

I wanted to answer, wanted to tell him everything. But when the words hit my lips, nothing came out. Because I suddenly realized that maybe what I'd been running from wasn't them it was this feeling of being cared for.

The others gathered around. Elliot knelt beside me, gently stroking my hair. Nadia was sobbing while checking my injuries. Magnus and Lucian formed a protective circle, watching for threats.

“I’m sorry,’ I finally found my voice, though it came out barely audible. “I’m just... so tired.”

3/4

11:37 Thu, Jan 8 M...

Chapter 25 But They All Revolve Around You!

480

80

That bone-deep exhaustion hit like a tidal wave. Not just physical, but spiritual. All these years of fighting, enduring, protecting... I had

nothing left.

“Sleep. Orion said softly. “We’re here.”

His arms were so warm, so safe. For the first time, I let myself completely relax, letting darkness wrap around me gently.

In the last moment before everything faded, I heard their voices:

“She’s hurt bad...”

“Damn it, who the hell...”

“Need to get her help first...”

“Take her to the pack house, let her rest...”

Then everything went quiet.

On this land that witnessed my pain and rebirth, protected by these people who finally saw the real me, I fell into deep sleep.

The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

26

Orion's POV

The guest room felt like a tomb. I sat beside the bed, watching Evelyn's chest rise and fall the only proof she was still with us.

Three days. Three fucking days since she'd collapsed in my arms, and nothing.

4

Magnus leaned against the wall, his usual composure cracked. His fingers drummed against his thigh that nervous tic he'd had since we were kids. Lucian couldn't sit still, pacing back and forth like a caged animal.

Elliot looked like hell. Bloodshot eyes, stubble, clothes wrinkled from sleeping in that chair. Milo had gone completely quiet, which was maybe the most disturbing thing of all. Nadia held Evelyn's hand, whispering to her like she might wake up if she just heard the right

words.

"This is bullshit," I muttered, running my hands through my hair.

We'd hit every lead, questioned everyone we could think of. The school's security cameras had mysteriously malfunctioned right when Evelyn got hurt. Even the Omegas who usually knew everything were suddenly deaf and dumb.

Someone with serious pull was covering this up. And I had a pretty good idea who.

The thought of Acacia's smug face made my wolf snarl. If she was behind this...

Evelyn stirred.

"Evelyn?" Nadia shot forward. "Are you awake?"

We all crowded around the bed. I grabbed her hand without thinking cold and small, making me want to transfer every bit of warmth I

had to her.

Her eyelashes fluttered, then opened. Those smoky blue eyes looked confused, scanning our faces with growing awareness.

Her cheeks turned pink. “Um... why is everyone here?”

The relief hit so hard I almost laughed. Lucian actually did laugh, a sound caught between hysteria and joy.

“Look around,” I said, trying to keep my voice steady. “You’re in the pack house. Where else would we be?”

She glanced around, finally taking in where she was. Her face went redder, all the way to her ears.

After the laughter died down, reality set in. We needed answers.

1/4

18:11 Sat, Jan 10

Chapter 26 Why Didn't You Tell Us?

I reached out and lifted her chin, making her meet my eyes. She tried to look away, but I wasn't letting her escape this time.

Evelyn's POV

The moment Orion's fingers touched my chin, I knew the interrogation was coming.

Their faces said everything worry, anger, guilt all twisted together. No more hiding behind half-truths and deflection.

“Now, Orion's voice was soft but had steel underneath, “tell us what really happened.”

My throat felt like sandpaper. Where could I even start?

“Also,” he continued, “when did your wolf awaken? Why didn't you tell us?”

The room went dead quiet. Everyone was staring at me, waiting.

“I...” The words stuck. “My wolf awakened when I was fourteen.”

Shocked gasps echoed around the room. Normal wolves didn't awaken until sixteen – I was two years early.

“Fourteen?” Magnus's voice was sharp with disbelief.

“Why didn't you tell us?” Elliot's question came out like a plea.

I looked at his bloodshot eyes and felt that familiar ache in my chest. My brother, who'd spent years running from everything, was finally

standing his ground.

"You really want to know?" I asked quietly.

"Of course!" Elliot practically shouted. "You're my sister! Whatever happened, I should've known!"

I closed my eyes, those memories rushing back like ice water.

I got beaten up. Left for dead in Silver Pines."

The temperature in the room dropped.

"Stayed there for two days." My voice came out flat, detached. "If my wolf hadn't awakened early to protect me, I would've died."

"Who?" Orion's voice carried murder. "Who did it?"

I shook my head. "You guys already know. You just don't want to admit it."

2/4

18:11 Sat, Jan 10

Chapter 26: Why Didn't You Tell Us?

The truth hit them like a slap. Yeah, they knew. They'd always known. They just chose not to see it.

"We..." Milo started, then just closed his eyes in pain.

A knock interrupted the heavy silence.

*Kids? Luna Isabella's voice came through the door. "Can I come in?"

"Come in, Mom, Lucian answered.

The door opened and Isabella walked in with that grace she always had. When she saw I was awake, her whole face lit up. She came over

and pulled me into a gentle hug.

“Oh sweetheart, you’re finally awake. Relief flooded her voice. ‘We were all so worried.’”

–

Her embrace was warm, safe everything I’d never had growing up. My eyes started burning.

“Thank you, Luna Isabella,” I whispered.

She pulled back and immediately picked up on the tension filling the room. Her knowing smile appeared.

“Alright, enough with the twenty questions,” she said, shooting the boys a look. “Let’s get some food in you first. You haven’t eaten in

three days.”

She turned to the boys, her tone carrying gentle reproach. “Boys, if Evelyn doesn’t want to talk about something, that means it’s not time yet. Your job is taking care of her, not interrogating her.”

She paused, eyes twinkling with mischief. “Besides, there’s something important coming up that I’m sure Evelyn won’t want to miss.”

*Something important?” Lucian looked confused. “Mom, what event? You never mentioned anything.”

Isabella just smiled mysteriously. “You’ll find out when the time comes. Right now, everyone needs to get downstairs. Dora’s made enough

food to feed an army.”

With that, she swept out of the room.

We all looked at each other. Isabella had skillfully defused the bomb, but the unfinished conversation still hung in the air.

Nadia broke first, standing up and stretching. “Well, Luna Isabella’s right. Let’s go eat. You must be starving, Evie.”

My stomach chose that moment to growl loudly, making everyone laugh.

Orion helped me sit up, his movements careful like I might shatter.

18:11 Sat, Jan 10

Chapter 26: Why Didn't You Tell Us?

"Can you walk?" he asked softly.

I nodded and tested my legs. Wobbly, but functional.

Before I could take more than two steps, Magnus scooped me up without warning.

"Max!" I yelled. "Put me down!"

"Nope. His voice brooked no argument. "You just woke up. You're not walking anywhere."

76

He adjusted his grip, settling me against his shoulder. From this height, I could see everyone's heads, which was both cool and mortifying.

"This is embarrassing," I muttered.

-

But looking at their relaxed smiles the first real ones I'd seen in days I decided maybe being carried wasn't the worst thing in the

world.

Maybe letting them take care of me, just this once, wouldn't kill me.

The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

27

Chapter 27: They Were Going Crazy These Three Days

Evelyn's POV

76

Magnus carried me downstairs to find Alpha Adam and Luna Isabella already waiting at the dining table. When Alpha Adam saw me being

hauled around like a sack of potatoes, his lips twitched with amusement.

“Evelyn, you need to try Dora’s cooking,” he said warmly. “She’s been worried sick about you.”

Magnus set me down carefully, immediately claiming the chair to my right. Lucian swooped in on my left before anyone else could move.

Orion shot them both a look but settled for the seat next to Lucian.

The spread Dora brought out was insane. Fried eggs, bacon, toast, fresh fruit, steaming oatmeal – enough to feed a small army. My

stomach growled so loud I was pretty sure everyone heard it.

“Slow down,” Magnus said when I started wolfing everything down. “You haven’t eaten in three days. Don’t make yourself sick.”

I forced myself to eat at a normal pace. Had to admit, Dora’s cooking was incredible. Everything hit just right.

Nobody brought up the heavy stuff from upstairs. Everyone stuck to light topics, like they’d all silently agreed to give me breathing room.

After breakfast, I started to get up. “Thank you for everything, Luna Isabella, Alpha Adam. I should probably head home. Dad must be

wondering-”

“Boys, go wash dishes, Isabella cut me off, already grabbing my hand and Nadia’s. “You two are coming with me for a tour.”

“But-”

“No buts. Her smile was sweet but her tone meant business. “You’ve been here three days and haven’t seen anything.”

Next thing I knew, Nadia and I were being dragged around the pack house like reluctant tourists.

The place was way bigger than I'd thought. First floor had the dining room, living room, huge kitchen, and several guest rooms. Second floor was for visitors, plus Elliot and Milo's rooms. Elliot's was spotless – typical. Milo's looked like a tech store exploded in it.

Third floor belonged to the triplets. Orion's room was all books and training gear. Magnus's was like mission control with all his gadgets. Lucian's looked like it came out of a magazine.

“Fourth floor's our private space,” Isabella said as we climbed the stairs. “The boys don't come up here much.”

Everything up there screamed luxury and taste. Isabella led us into her suite – massive bedroom with a walk-in closet that was probably

bigger than my old room.

1/4

18:11 Sat, Jan 10

Chapter 27: They Were Going Crazy These Three Days

‘Go take a bath,’ she said gently. Both of you. Evelyn, you must feel gross after three days. And Nadia, you've been exhausted taking care

of her.”

‘I can wait until Nadia's done-

“Don't be ridiculous, Nadia laughed, pulling me toward the bathroom. “Come on.”

The bathroom was huge. Not just a shower, but this massive tub that could fit like five people.

“Damn, Nadia whistled. ‘Luna Isabella doesn't mess around.’”

The hot water felt amazing. Three days of being unconscious had left me feeling grimy and stiff.

“You know they went completely insane while you were out? Nadia said, washing her hair. “Especially Orion. Guy barely slept, just sat by

your bed the whole time.”

I didn't know what to say to that.

“And Elliot had this massive blowout with your dad. Never seen him that angry.”

“They fought?”

“Yeah. Don’t know all the details, but Elliot looked like hell when he came back.”

Great. More complications.

When we got out, Isabella was waiting with two sets of pajamas. Pink. With bunnies on them.

“Seriously? I stared at the things.

“Cute clothes never hurt anyone,” Isabella grinned.

Nadia was already putting hers on, so I gave up and changed too. The fabric was ridiculously soft, I had to give her that.

“Perfect,” Isabella nodded approvingly. “Now, let’s go to the third floor.”

She stopped in front of a door next to Orion’s room, hand on the handle.

“There’s something we haven’t told you yet. Please don’t be mad.”

Before I could ask what she meant, she pushed the door open.

My jaw dropped.

2/4

18:11 Sat, Jan 10

Chapter 27: They Were Going Crazy These Three Days

My stuff. All of it. Clothes hanging in the closet, textbooks on the desk, even my training gear arranged in the corner.

“What the hell?” I spun around. “Why is my stuff here?”

“I brought it over.”

Elliot’s voice came from the hallway. The boys were all standing there with various guilty expressions.

Elliot walked over and pulled me into a hug before I could back away. His arms were tight, desperate.

“You didn’t come home, and Dad kept losing his shit, his voice was rough. “I couldn’t take it anymore. Had it out with him, told him I

found you somewhere else to live.”

His grip tightened. “Alpha Adam’s family agreed to take you in. I know I should’ve asked first- that’s on me. I just... couldn’t watch you

hurt anymore.

Anger hit first. They’d done it again – made decisions about my life without asking me. Like I was some helpless kid who couldn’t think

for herself.

But underneath the anger was something else. Relief? Gratitude? Elliot had finally stood up for me, even if his method sucked.

I hugged him back briefly, then stepped away. “This time it’s fine. But next time – and I mean this – you talk to me first. My life, my

choices.

“Deal,” he said immediately, relief flooding his voice.

“Okay, enough with the heavy shit!” Milo bounced forward. “Since everything’s already here, let’s help Evie organize!”*

Everyone laughed and crowded into the room. Magnus took charge of my training equipment, commenting on what needed upgrading. Lucian sorted clothes by color. Orion arranged my books by subject. Elliot and Milo handled random stuff while Nadia supervised.

“That doesn’t go there.”

“Training clothes should be easy to reach.’

“Should we organize these notebooks by class?”

The room filled with chatter and laughter. I stood in the doorway watching them all work together, something warm spreading through

my chest.

Maybe living here wouldn’t suck.

After organizing, we headed to school for afternoon training. On the field, I noticed the difference immediately.

3/4

18:11 Sat, Jan 10

Chapter 27: They Were Going Crazy These Three Days

◦ (76

Usually, certain upperclassmen would target me during sparring – Acacia’s little fan club looking to score points. Even after Nadia showed up, they’d still find opportunities to be ‘accidentally’ rough.

Today was different. My sparring partners were skilled but fair. No malice in their eyes, measured strikes. Real training instead of

disguised bullying.

The sparring was actually fun. My opponents were good enough to push me without trying to hurt me. We went back and forth, sweat flying, pure combat making me feel alive again.

“Nice work,” my partner said afterward. “Looking forward to next time.”

I nodded, understanding exactly who’d made this change happen.

Glancing across the field, I caught the boys training. They all looked over when they felt my gaze, smiling.

I smiled back and dove into the next round.

The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

28

Chapter 28: Can I Ask You a Question?

Evelyn's POV

19.00

A few more days passed, and things felt almost normal again.

My body had bounced back completely. The aches were gone, my strength was back, and I'd settled into this weird routine of actually having breakfast with people every morning. School, training, dinner at the pack house it was surreal how peaceful everything had become.

-

Like the lonely mess of the past few years had been some nightmare I'd finally woken up from.

Another training day rolled around. The weather was perfect - not too hot, nice breeze. Everyone was focused on their drills, including me

working on evasion techniques.

I was mid-dodge when I spotted someone new standing at the edge of the field.

Some guy just watching us train. He had this presence that made you notice him, even from across the field. When our eyes met for a second, he stared at me like he was trying to figure something out.

Then he turned and left.

Weird. I shook it off and got back to sparring, but something about that look bugged me.

After class, Nadia and I walked back toward the pack house. The sunset was doing that thing where it made everything look golden, and

you could smell flowers in the air.

'Man, today kicked my ass, Nadia stretched. "But you were on fire with those dodges."

'Probably 'cause I've been sleeping in an actual bed lately,' I said.

"Yeah, no kidding. Living it up at the pack house with your personal bodyguard squad."

She glanced back at the boys trailing behind us like they always did now. Close enough to jump in if needed, fart enough to pretend they

weren't hovering.

"They're ridiculous,' I said, but I was smiling.

"Hey Evie, Nadia's tone shifted. 'Can I ask you something?"

'Shoot."

"Are you gonna forgive them?" She was being careful with her words. "I mean, the guys. They screwed up before, but they're trying to

1/5

18:11 Sat, Jan 10

Chapter 28: Can I Ask You a Question?

change, right?"

I didn't answer right away.

5

'You should've seen them while you were out, she continued. "They were losing their minds. Especially the triplets they kept asking me

about you, trying to figure out how to make things right..."

I looked back. All three of them were watching me with these hopeful, nervous expressions. Orion especially looked like he was trying to

read my mind.

It was kind of hilarious actually.

"You know what? I do care about them, I told Nadia. "All of them."

Her face lit up.

"But changing this whole pack isn't gonna happen overnight,' I added. 'Maybe they want things to be different, which is great. But

honestly? That stuff doesn't matter as much to me anymore."

"What do you mean?"

“Think about it. Elliot’s being groomed to be the next Beta, and me?’ I laughed, but it came out bitter. “I’m just the Beta’s unwanted

daughter with his bloodline.”

The wind picked up, scattering some leaves across our path.

“I’ve wanted to be a warrior since I was little. Not because I suddenly decided to, but because it’s been my dream forever.”

I watched the sun getting lower. “Maybe someday I’ll come back here. But first I need to see what else is out there.”

“Evie...”

‘I’m not mad at them,” I said quickly. “It’s just... scars take time to heal, you know? The mental ones and the physical ones. I need time to

let go of all that.”

Nadia squeezed my hand and didn’t push it.

We’d reached the pack house by then. Luna Isabella was waiting by the door with this mysterious smile, looking all elegant in the sunset

light.

‘Finally!’ She grabbed both our hands, practically bouncing with excitement. ‘Come on, we need to get you changed.’”

The boys caught up, and Lucian asked, ‘Mom, what s going on? Are we expecting someone? You never said anything.’”

215

18:11 Sat, Jan 10

Chapter 28: Can I Ask You a Question?

:

‘Remember that event I mentioned?’ Isabella’s smile got more secretive.

Everyone looked confused.

“They’re arriving earlier than expected, so we’re a bit rushed.” She glanced at the sky. “They’ll be here for dinner soon. Boys, go shower

and change. Nothing too formal, but don’t look like slobs either.”

‘Who exactly are we talking about?’ Milo pressed.

‘You’ll see. Isabella was enjoying this way too much. Stop wasting time. Evelyn, Nadia, you’re coming with me.’

She dragged us upstairs before anyone could argue.

I was curious about these mystery guests, but I didn’t bother asking. Nadia, on the other hand, wouldn’t shut up about it.

“Are they important?”

‘Sort of.’

“Pack elders?”

“Nope.”

“Other Alphas?”

“Nope.”

“Luna Isabella!” Nadia whined, hanging on her arm. ‘Just give us a hint!’

Isabella laughed but shook her head. “Surprises are only fun if you wait for them.”

Up in Isabella’s room, I pulled the still-complaining Nadia into the bathroom.

“Quit bugging her,” I said while getting undressed. “We’ll find out soon enough.”

‘But I’m dying to know! What kind of guests need this much prep?’

The hot water felt amazing after training. We cleaned up fast and came out in towels to find Isabella staring at her closet like it had

personally offended her.

“I can’t decide what you two should wear,’ she said, looking defeated.

Nadia and I cracked up.

3/5

18:11 Sat, Jan 10

Chapter 28: Can I Ask You a Question?

“Forget it,” Isabella waved her hand. “Pick whatever you want.”

Nadia immediately dove for this light purple dress. “Can I wear this one?”

It was gorgeous flowing chiffon with a deep purple ribbon at the waist.

“Of course,” Isabella’s eyes sparkled. “I haven’t seen you in a dress yet. Thought you were like Evelyn, all about the sporty look.”

Nadia shot me this evil grin.

I knew what was coming. “Oh no.”

“Evelyn needs to wear a dress too!” she announced. “She’d look amazing!”

“I’d rather –

”

“This one!” She was already holding up a moon-white dress. “Perfect color for you!”

The dress was simple and elegant, and most importantly, it had a high back that would cover my scars completely. Looking at Nadia’s

puppy dog eyes, I caved.

“Fine.”

Isabella changed into a dark green dress that looked effortless but probably cost more than my old wardrobe. We headed downstairs together, and the boys were waiting in the third-floor hallway.

76

They’d all cleaned up nice. Orion in a dark blue shirt and black pants, Magnus in a gray suit, Lucian in a white shirt with a vest. Elliot and

Milo went more casual but still looked decent.

When they saw us, their faces did that thing guys’ faces do.

“Holy shit...” Milo clutched his chest dramatically.

Elliot smacked him but was staring at me the same way.

Orion stepped closer. “You look beautiful.”

Simple words, but they made my cheeks warm up.

“Thanks,” I said quietly.

“Alright, quit gawking,” Magnus broke the moment. “The guests should be here by now, right?”

We headed down to the dining room. Alpha Adam was already seated at the head of the table with three other people – a middle-aged

4/5

18:12 Sat, Jan 10

Chapter 28: Can I Ask You a Question?

couple and a younger guy, maybe early twenties.

When I got a good look at the young guy’s face, I froze.

It was him. The one from the training field.

He obviously recognized me too, because his eyes went wide. “It’s you?”

The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

29

Chapter 29: We’re Just Ordinary Friends Visiting

Evelyn’s POV

Everyone's attention snapped to us.

I stared at him, confused. "Do I know you?"

"You were at the training field today," he said quickly. "I was watching from the edge. Didn't you see me?"

Oh. That guy. I'd noticed someone staring but couldn't make out his face from the distance.

I nodded. "Yeah, I saw you."

Alpha Adam looked surprised. "Evelyn, I didn't expect you two had already met. Let me make proper introductions."

He stood up, his voice taking on a formal tone. "These are Alpha King Nathan, Luna Queen Selena, and their son Prince Alistair."

My jaw dropped. Royalty? They seemed so... normal. Nothing like the intimidating figures I'd imagined.

"Don't look so scared," Luna Queen Selena laughed. "We're just friends dropping by for dinner."

Luna Isabella stepped in. "Enough standing around. Let's eat."

I ended up sitting across from Prince Alistair, who kept shooting me curious glances. It was making me squirm.

Dinner conversation stayed light – pack business, territory updates, the usual adult stuff. We younger ones mostly focused on eating.

After dessert, Alpha Adam cleared his throat. "Let the King explain why they're here."

76

Alpha King Nathan chuckled. "Nothing dramatic. We came for one reason the Sentinel selection is starting next week, and it's happening

right here in Polaris."

The room exploded.

"Sentinel selection?" Magnus nearly choked on his water.

"This early in the year?" Lucian frowned.

“Yeah, normally we’d wait,” Alpha King Nathan nodded. “But we’ve got some situations developing. Need to boost our numbers fast.”

My heart started hammering. Sentinels the elite warriors I’d dreamed about joining since I was a kid. This was it. My shot.

1/4

18:12 Sat, Jan 10

Chapter 29: We’re Just Ordinary Friends Visiting

“When exactly?” I couldn’t stop myself from asking. “What are the requirements?”

Alpha King Nathan’s eyes lit up with approval. “Good question. Selection starts in a week. Any werewolf eighteen or older can register.

Alpha, Beta, Omega, doesn’t matter.”

“What kind of tests?” I pressed, completely ignoring the weird looks everyone was giving me.

“That depends on what the Sentinels have planned for you.”

“If someone passes,” Nadia jumped in, “do they have to leave their pack?”

“Not necessarily,” Luna Queen Selena answered gently. “Sentinels have different assignments. Some guard borders long-term, others handle special missions. Some even request to return home as pack protectors.”

“But the really skilled ones,” Prince Alistair said, his eyes locked on me, “might get sent anywhere. Greater ability means greater responsibility.”

His words felt aimed directly at me. I met his stare head-on.

“I get it. Being a Sentinel means taking on more responsibility, facing danger, maybe even...”

“Death,” Alpha King Nathan finished. “Exactly. The Sentinel path isn’t easy. But that’s why they earn every werewolf’s respect.”

Silence fell over the table.

“Evelyn wants to leave us.”

Lucian's flat statement cut through the quiet. His voice was calm, but I caught the hurt underneath.

Everyone's eyes turned to me. The weight of their emotions hit like a wave,

"I...

'Don't." Magnus leaned back in his chair, fingers drumming the table. "Just thinking about you leaving makes my chest tight."

He was being dramatic, but I knew he meant it. These past few days, I'd felt their genuine care. They really didn't want me gone.

But this was different.

"This is the Sentinels," I said quietly. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime shot. I have to try."

"Have to?" Orion's voice carried an edge I couldn't identify. "Why?"

I looked at each of them – five boys plus Elliot, all watching me with those complicated expressions. Reluctance, worry, anger... pleading?

2/4

18:12 Sat, Jan 10

Chapter 29: We're Just Ordinary Friends Visiting.

–

"Because it's my dream. I've wanted to be a warrior since I was little. Not to prove anything to anyone it's just what I want to do."

Alpha King Nathan smiled wider. "That's the spirit! Dreams are important. Young people should chase what they want."

He looked around the table. "The Sentinels running this selection will arrive in a few days. You can all prepare. Remember, this is opportunity and challenge rolled into one. We're allowing high schoolers to participate this time – any of you can give it a shot."

After dinner, Adam and Isabella escorted the royal guests to their rooms. The rest of us headed upstairs in heavy silence.

Magnus wordlessly scooped me up like he always did now. Milo grabbed Nadia. The others followed behind without speaking.

Not until we reached the third floor did I break the tension.

“Why’s everyone so quiet? I thought you guys were gonna lose it back there.”

Orion smiled bitterly and leaned against the wall, looking exhausted.

“If we were the old us, we probably would’ve jumped across that table to stop you. But we didn’t.”

“Why not?”

76

“Because we get it now.” His eyes found mine. “When you decide something, we can’t change your mind. Just like when you hid your wolf

awakening. Just like when you chose to suffer in silence. You always carry everything alone.”

His words made my chest ache.

“We only want one thing,” Magnus set me down and looked at me seriously. “If you really have to leave someday, promise you’ll take care

of yourself.”

“And,’ Elliot added, “visit when you can. No matter how far you go, this is still home,”

I studied each of their faces, some unnameable emotion rising in my throat. Gratitude? Regret? Something else entirely?

“Being a Sentinel doesn’t mean leaving forever,” I tried to reassure them. “I could apply to come back, protect this pack as a Sentinel. We’d

still see each other.”

“Will you actually come back?” Milo asked, his expression unusually serious. “Or do you really just want to escape? From here, from us?”

The question was too direct. I didn’t know how to answer.

Escape? Maybe. This place held too many painful memories, too much past I wanted to forget. Starting fresh somewhere nobody knew my

history had definitely crossed my mind.

But now...

314

18:12 Sat, Jan 10

Chapter 29: We're Just Ordinary Friends Visiting

'I don't know,' I chose honesty. 'I did think about leaving. But not because of you guys. Because...'

'Because of the people who hurt you,' Lucian finished. 'We understand.'

'No, you don't.' I shook my head. 'It's not just them. It's me. I need to prove my worth, find out what I'm actually capable of. Staying

here, I'll always just be the Beta's unwanted daughter.'

Another heavy silence.

'Okay, enough!' Milo suddenly burst out, his usual energy returning. 'This is getting way too depressing! If the Sentinel selection's

starting, shouldn't we have fun while we can?'

'Fun?' Nadia looked puzzled.

'Yeah! If Evelyn really passes and has to leave, we should make some good memories first.'

Everyone agreed. Better to enjoy the present than mope around feeling sorry for ourselves.

'Game room!' Magnus suggested. 'I bought some new stuff - perfect for group playing.'

Just like that, the heavy mood lifted. We headed toward the game room, but I could still feel those unspoken emotions hanging in the air.

They were scared of losing me.

And I was scared too. Scared I'd regret leaving, scared of losing these connections I'd just found.

The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

30

Chapter 30: This Isn't Fair!

Evelyn's POV

"Welcome to our secret hideout!"

:

Lucian pushed open the game room door with this dramatic flourish.

a

I slid down from his shoulder and looked around. The place was huge massive screen on one wall, gaming consoles below, comfy couches, bar setup, pool table. Basically a mini arcade.

"Holy crap," Nadia whistled. "This is insane."

"No girls have ever been in here before," Magnus said. "You're the first."

"Ooh, that one!" Nadia pointed at the dance game on the screen.

The guys all looked at each other like she'd suggested we juggle fire.

"Dance game?" Lucian made a face. "We've never..."

"Perfect time to start then." I grabbed a controller. "Can't be that hard."

Famous last words.

Watching Lucian – who could nail any combat move flailing around trying to match the screen was hilarious. We were all cracking up.

–
“Left foot! Your left foot!” Nadia tried to help, but she was laughing too hard.

“I know which foot!” Lucian panted. “This beat is impossible!”

He collapsed on the couch. “That game’s broken.”

‘Let me show you how it’s done,” Magnus stepped up confidently.

Five minutes later, he was done too.

“My turn.” I picked up the controller.

Maybe all that training paid off, because I picked up the rhythm easily. The music felt natural.

“Perfect! Perfect! Perfect!”

1/5

18:12 Sat, Jan 10

Chapter 30: This Isn’t Fair!

The screen kept flashing those ratings while I heard shocked gasps behind me.

‘Are you even human? Milo threw his hands up. “That was expert level!”

I shrugged. “Just felt the beat.”

“Just felt the beat,” Orion walked over with this look in his eyes. “How about we try fighting games?”

“You’re on.”

Big mistake. Orion demolished me completely, pulling off crazy combos like it was nothing.

“This isn’t fair!” I protested. “You’ve obviously practiced this a million times!”

“Who said ‘just felt the beat’ earlier?” He had this smug smile going.

We kept rotating through different games. Elliot turned out to be scary good at shooting games, nailing headshots left and right.

“When did you get so good at this?” I asked.

“Play when I’m bored,” he scratched his head. “Didn’t think it mattered.”

Time flew by. Before we knew it, it was almost midnight.

“Movie?” Lucian suggested. “Something chill.”

76

We all piled onto the couches – Nadia curled up next to me, the guys scattered around. Lucian picked some old comedy.

I found myself watching everyone more than the screen. Milo had this huge bowl of popcorn, cracking up at every joke. Elliot sat on the floor, occasionally glancing back to check on me. Orion perched on the armrest, supposedly watching but I could feel his attention

drifting my way.

This felt... normal. Good normal.

No pack politics, no bloodline crap. Just friends hanging out late at night.

Halfway through, exhaustion hit me. Today had been intense royal visitors, Sentinel news, everything. I tried to stay awake, but my

eyelids kept getting heavier.

“Sleep if you need to,” Nadia whispered. “We’re all here.”

I let my eyes close, consciousness fading. I felt someone tuck a blanket around me, heard the TV volume drop, felt gentle fingers brush

hair from my face.

2/5

18:12 Sat, Jan 10

Chapter 30: This Isn’t Fair!

Safe. That’s what this was.

Lucian’s POV

Evelyn was out cold.

:

76

She'd curled up like a tired cat, that white dress making her look smaller than usual. Nothing like the fierce girl who could take down

guys twice her size during training.

I grabbed a blanket and covered her carefully. She stirred a little but didn't wake.

"She's really asleep, Nadia said quietly. "Today was a lot for her."

We all automatically lowered our voices. The movie kept playing, but nobody was really watching anymore.

"The Sentinel thing..." Magnus leaned back, looking troubled. "She really wants this."

"It's her dream," Orion said. "We should support her."

"Support?" I laughed, but there wasn't much humor in it. "Easy to say. Can you actually handle her leaving?"

Orion went quiet.

These past few days, she'd become part of everything. Breakfast wasn't breakfast without her quiet presence. Training felt off when she

wasn't there.

"Maybe she won't go, Milo said hopefully. "She said she could apply to come back, right?"

"You really believe that?" Elliot shook his head. "You know her. If she becomes a Sentinel, she'll take the most dangerous assignments they

have."

The room fell silent.

"I have an idea," Nadia spoke up suddenly.

We all turned to her.

“Instead of sitting here worrying about whether she’ll leave, why not figure out how to make her want to stay?” She looked serious. “You know what she told me today? She said she cares about all of you.”

“Really? Orion perked up.

“Yeah. But she also said she needs time to heal from everything that happened.” Nadia’s voice got softer. “So if you really don’t want her to leave, you need to show her this place is worth staying for.”

3/5

18:12 Sat, Jan 10

Chapter 30: This Isn’t Fair!

“How?”

“Be real with her. Not grand gestures – just daily stuff. Let her know she’s not a burden. Let her know she’s family.”

Family. The word hit different than I expected.

“It’s late,” Nadia stood up. “We should get some sleep.”

“What about Evelyn?” I asked.

“Let her stay here,” Orion said. “Luc, your room’s closest. You mind keeping an eye on her?”

I nodded.

Everyone else headed out, leaving just me and sleeping Evelyn.

I turned off the TV and dimmed the lights, then settled back on the couch. Her breathing was steady, peaceful.

“Don’t go,” I whispered, knowing she couldn’t hear. “Just... stay, okay?”

Evelyn’s POV

I woke up in Lucian’s room.

Morning light filtered through the curtains. I stared at the unfamiliar ceiling for a second, trying to remember where I was.

Then last night came back. The games, the movie, everyone laughing together...

76

I sat up, realizing I was in his bed with a soft blanket over me. Looking around, this was definitely Lucian's space. Clean, organized, books

arranged perfectly on shelves.

My eye caught a picture frame on the nightstand.

It was from my birthday party. All of us crowded together, genuine smiles on everyone's faces.

The happiest day I'd had in years.

Tears blurred my vision before I could stop them. I wiped them away quickly and took a deep breath.

I couldn't do this. Couldn't let emotion mess with my head. The Sentinel selection was everything I'd been working toward. I couldn't give that up for feelings.

I got out of bed and left a note on the nightstand:

4/5

18:12 Sat, Jan 10

Chapter 30: This Isn't Fair!

'Went for a run.

-

- Evelyn'

The hallway was quiet when I opened the door. Still early everyone was probably asleep.

I crept downstairs and slipped out the front door.

-

The morning air felt perfect, crisp and clean. I took a deep breath and started jogging down the familiar path.

