

# The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

## Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

## Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

### 41

Chapter 41: Let's Go Check Things Out

Evelyn's POV

"What?" I bolted upright. "What do you mean? Who's gone?"

Nadia's face was white as a sheet, hands shaking. "I got up around dawn to use the bathroom. All the boys' doors were wide open. Like

something out of a horror movie."

My heart hammered, but I forced myself to stay calm. "And then?"

"I checked every room - Elliot, Milo, the triplets... gone! Luna Isabella, Dora, the whole pack house..." Her voice cracked. "It's just us!"

Orion's words from last night hit me

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"Whatever happens, stay calm."

I gripped Nadia's shoulders. "Remember what Orion said? Don't panic, whatever happens."

Nadia followed my breathing until color returned to her face. "Right... stay calm."

"I think this might be part of the selection."

"What?" Her eyes went wide.

"Think about it. Yesterday Sentinel Conrad said there was a final test but didn't explain what. Now everyone disappears except the participants..." I jumped out of bed, grabbing my training clothes. "This could be the test starting."

Minutes later, we stood in the empty dining room. Usually Dora would have breakfast ready and Luna Isabella would be sipping tea. Now

there was only silence.

We grabbed bread from the kitchen and pushed through the front doors. Polaris was dead quiet no voices, no footsteps, just wind

through the leaves.

“This is way too quiet,’ Nadia moved closer to me.

BOOM!

The massive sound made us both jump. On the mountain peak outside Polaris, an enormous screen had appeared, glowing with blue light

and visible from everywhere in the city.

The screen flickered to life, showing rows of names. I quickly found mine and Nadia’s.

A cold, electronic female voice echoed from all directions: “Sentinel Selection officially begins. Rules: Acquire as many points as possible!”

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Chapter 41: Let’s Go Check Things Out

Then silence.

“Acquire points? Nadia looked down. “Hey, my wrist...”

I followed her gaze and my heart jumped. We both wore sleek, high-tech bracelets that were so light I hadn’t noticed them. They glowed with faint blue light, displaying: 0.

Every name on the screen showed 0 points. While we watched, several jumped to 2 points, moving to the top.

“Someone’s already started,” I muttered.

“So we have to beat other people? But how do we find anyone in a city this big?”

More scores changed on the screen. Some gained points while others dropped from 1 back to 0, their names dimming,

“The rules are clear now.” I took a deep breath. “Beat others, take their points. Highest scores win.”

Nadia’s expression turned serious. “So we don’t just have to beat people – we have to protect ourselves.”

“Exactly.” I scanned our surroundings. The empty streets suddenly felt dangerous. “All of Polaris is the arena. Everyone’s either hiding or already fighting.”

“We should find somewhere to hide and – ”

Movement in my peripheral vision cut her off. A shadow shift at the alley behind Nadia.

Time slowed.

A figure ghosted out, lunging straight for Nadia’s back! My wolf instincts screamed danger as I saw his hand reaching for her.

No time to think.

I shoved Nadia’s shoulder hard, sending her stumbling sideways while my leg shot up with all my weight behind it.

The attacker hadn’t expected my reaction time. He froze mid-air for a fatal instant – just long enough for my foot to connect with his

chest.

THUMP!

The impact echoed with a pained grunt. The figure flew backward, hitting the ground five meters away.

“Damn it!” Nadia steadied herself, fury lighting up her eyes. “A sneak attack! What a coward!”

She charged the struggling figure and unleashed a barrage of punches and kicks.

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Chapter 41: Let’s Go Check Things Out

“That’s for the ambush! That’s for being a piece of shit! Each word came with another hit.

I watched her vent before pulling her back. “Okay, chill. It’s just the selection. He’s had enough.”

Nadia finally stopped, breathing hard. “That felt good!”

I looked down at our unconscious attacker – an upperclassman from school. His face was swollen and bruised, looking pretty pathetic.

“So how do we get points?” Nadia panted. “We beat him, but now what?”

I noticed the bracelet around his wrist same as ours, glowing faintly, showing 0.

“Weird, he’s also at zero?” Nadia frowned. “Poor guy. First thing he runs into is you.”

I studied the bracelet thoughtfully. “Has to be this thing. Let me try something.”

I crouched down and touched his bracelet lightly.

The moment of contact, gentle blue light flowed from his bracelet into ours like liquid. Warm energy coursed through my body, washing

away the fatigue from our fight.

Our bracelets changed from 0 to 1. His went completely dark, turning ashen gray.

“Whoa!” Nadia stared at her bracelet, then at me. “This feeling... it’s incredible! Like being instantly recharged!”

I stood up, flexing my hands. The fatigue was completely gone – I felt like I’d just had a full night’s sleep.

“Has to be witch magic,” Nadia said excitedly. “This is so cool! But does beating one person completely restore stamina? Or is there some

pattern?”

I glanced back at the big screen. “There’s definitely a pattern. If beating one person fully restored you, people would fight continuously for points. But the current leader only has 3 points, which suggests not every fight gives full recovery.”

“Makes sense.” Nadia nodded. “So now what?”

“We get out of here.” I scanned the area warily. “That noise might attract others. We need somewhere safer to figure out the rules.”

We quickly left the main street, ducking into a narrow alley. Polaris's alleys were a maze – perfect cover now that they were usually just

confusing.

After about ten minutes, we reached a small plaza surrounded by buildings with only two entrances. Easy to defend.

“This looks good, I'd barely finished speaking when Nadia grabbed my arm.

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“Evie, we've got company. She nodded toward the far end.

A girl emerged from the opposite alley, scanning her surroundings. When she spotted us, she hesitated.

Three people facing off across the plaza.

Her bracelet showed 2 points. She'd already beaten someone.

“Looks unavoidable,” I whispered to Nadia.

“Perfect,” Nadia flexed her wrists, eyes gleaming. “I'm ready for round two.”

The girl realized a fight was coming. She took a deep breath and dropped into a fighting stance.

Without warning, she attacked. Fast – covering half the distance almost instantly. Definitely trained.

But so were we.

Nadia and I split up instinctively, flanking from both sides. The girl hesitated, unsure who to target first.

Big mistake.

Nadia struck first with a leg sweep. I cut in from the side, driving my elbow toward her ribs.

“Ugh!” She cried out, body curling.

But her reflexes were quick – she rolled away from my follow-up while kicking at Nadia’s knee.

The fight heated up fast. She had solid skills, smooth transitions between offense and defense. One-on-one might have been trouble.

Unfortunately for her, she was fighting both of us.

“Left!” I shouted.

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

### **42**

Chapter 42: We Really Did It

Evelyn’s POV

Nadia got it instantly. She faked left while I came in hard from the right.

My fist caught the girl in the temple. Her knees buckled, eyes unfocused.

“Sorry,” I muttered, then chopped her neck.

She dropped.

“Jesus...” Nadia bent over, breathing hard. “That chick could fight.”

“No kidding.” Even with the earlier boost, real fights drained you.

I touched her bracelet. Blue light flowed, transferring her 2 points to us. We were both at 3 now.

“We got everything?” Nadia stared at her bracelet. “Thought we’d only get 1.”

“Winner takes all.” The energy hit me again, but weaker. Maybe half my stamina back.

“Diminishing returns,” I said.

“What?”

“First time was full recovery, this time only half. More points you have, less you get back.”

Nadia grinned. “Smart. Can’t farm points forever.”

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We dragged the girl to a safe corner.

“Time to move,” I said, checking the sun. “Two fights made noise, Others will come.”

We picked a new route and kept hunting.

Over the next few hours, we cut through Polaris efficiently. Our teamwork got tighter with every fight. Some tried running, others went for brute force, a few tried talking. Didn’t matter they all went down.

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“Fifty-two points.” Nadia looked at her bracelet, exhausted but satisfied. “Holy shit, we did it.”

But the constant fighting was catching up. Even with the point boosts, we were running on empty.

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Chapter 42: We Really Did It

“Need to find somewhere to crash,” I said, leaning against a wall.

That’s when I spotted it – Polaris Athletic Center. Big modern building with a huge banner across the front.

“Come after breaking 50 points, Nadia read. “What’s that about?”

We looked at each other, both curious.

“Wanna check it out?” she asked.

I studied the building. Setting the bar that high meant something special inside. Stronger opponents, better rewards.

“Anyone in there’s gotta be tough,” I said. “But might be worth it.”

“Let’s do this.”

The doors opened as we approached. Hit us with familiar smells sweat, cleaning supplies, and lots of people.

“Holy crap,” Nadia gasped.

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The main hall was packed. At least fifty people – some sitting, others watching from corners, groups whispering. Every head turned when

we walked in.

Now I got it. Half the “missing” people from Polaris were hiding here.

“It’s Evelyn and Nadia!” someone whispered.

“They made it too.”

“Look at their scores both over fifty.”

I recognized faces in the crowd schoolmates, some with dead bracelets. They looked at us with everything from envy to hope.

“You finally made it.”

I turned at the gentle voice. Luna Isabella stood nearby, elegant as always.

“Luna Isabella!” Nadia called out.

‘I’ve been waiting,’ she said, approval in her eyes. “Looks like you did well.”

“What’s going on?” I asked. “Why’s everyone here? Who are we fighting?”

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## Chapter 42: We Really Did It

“Your opponent is me.”

My stomach dropped at the familiar voice.

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Orion stepped out of the shadows, wearing that trademark smile. Simple training clothes, looking relaxed. But I could feel the power

radiating off him.

\*Orion!” I blurted.

He walked over, green-gold eyes fixed on me. “I already beat all the other challengers.”

I glanced around at the people with dead bracelets. Made sense.

“This is our job,” Orion explained. “They scattered us through landmark buildings. We fight qualified participants. Winners get direct

passage to the final venue.”

“Final venue?” Nadia asked.

“Not sure exactly what,” he shrugged. “But it’s gotta be important. So far, nobody’s taken me down.”

His gaze landed on me, something complicated there. “Though I have a feeling you two will be different.”

“Flattering,” I said, trying to keep it light despite my racing heart.

“Alright, enough talking,” Luna Isabella said. “You should get to the arena. Someone already earned final qualification – you need to

hurry.”

We were about to follow Orion when a shrill voice cut through the noise.

“Orion! You got this! Beat them!”

My spine went rigid. I knew that voice.

Acacia pushed through the crowd in tight workout gear that showed off every curve. No bracelet – smart enough to know her limits.

When she saw me, her fake smile vanished. Pure disgust replaced it.

“Oh, it’s you,” she sneered, then moved toward Orion, trying to link arms.

Orion frowned and smoothly dodged her. “Acacia, I’m about to compete. Don’t interfere.”

“I just wanna cheer you on,” she pouted, going for the helpless act. “After all, you’re amazing – you can easily beat certain people who only got in through connections.”

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Chapter 42: We Really Did It

“Enough.” Orion’s voice went ice cold. ‘If you wanna watch, stay quiet. If not, leave.”

Acacia’s face darkened. She shot me a venomous look, about to say something when Luna Isabella stepped in.

“Miss Acacia, please go to the spectator area,” Luna’s voice stayed gentle but carried absolute authority. “The match is starting.”

“But I –

“Come along,” Luna took her arm with that iron grip disguised as politeness. “Trust me, you won’t want to miss this. I believe Evie will

give everyone quite a surprise.”

Under Luna’s “escort,” Acacia had no choice but to leave. But not before giving me one last death glare.

“Sorry about that,” Orion said awkwardly.

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“It’s fine.” I shook my head. No point letting the drama get to me. “Let’s go.”

The three of us looked at each other, all seeing the seriousness in the others’ eyes. Whatever happened before, this match was what

mattered now.

The athletic center had a standard fighting arena right in the middle. Usually this place hosted competitions and performances, but today

it would decide our fate.

The watching crowd naturally formed a big circle around the ring. I could feel every single eye on us. Whispers floated through the air:

“Future Alpha versus the rising star...”

“This match is gonna be insane.”

“Who do you think wins?”

“Obviously Orion – he’s the scariest of the triplets.”

“Yeah, but Evie and Nadia are two against one.”

“Doesn’t matter. Skill gaps can’t be fixed with numbers.”

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I took a deep breath, feeling the weight of the moment. This wasn’t just another fight in the selection. This was Orion one of the people I cared about most, and now we had to battle it out.

The arena floor was polished wood, perfect for movement. Good lighting, plenty of space. No excuses here – just pure skill against skill.

Orion stepped into the ring first, rolling his shoulders. Even relaxed, he moved like a predator. Those green-gold eyes found mine across

the space.

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Chapter 42: We Really Did It

“Ready?” he asked, but there was something else in his voice. Almost like he was asking if I was okay with this.

I nodded, stepping forward with Nadia beside me. Whatever happened next, we’d give it everything we had.

# Souls Bound By Promise — Timothy Nelson 43

Chapter 43: This Guy's Really Strong

Evelyn's POV

I took a deep breath, blocking out the crowd noise. Focus – that's all that mattered.

The three of us stepped onto the platform. Up close, facing Orion, I felt that dangerous aura radiating off him. Usually he stayed quiet in

corners. Now? Pure predator energy.

"Ready?" he asked.

"Hell yeah." Nadia and I dropped into fighting stances.

"Good." Orion rolled his neck slowly. "Since it's two against one, I'm going full strength. Hope you can keep up."

His presence shifted. Before, he was still water. Now he was a tsunami. The pressure hit us so hard I stepped back.

Holy shit. Is this what a future Alpha feels like?

"Let's go!" Nadia launched first. Smart – waiting would only hurt us.

Orion sidestepped like it was nothing, striking at her shoulder. Nadia barely dodged, but his force ripped her shirt.

I attacked from the other side. Without turning around, he kicked backward, forcing me to change direction.

"Nice teamwork," he said casually. "Not enough though."

What followed was a complete beatdown. Orion moved like he was dancing while we stumbled around. Every action was perfect, no wasted

movement.

Bang!

Nadia took a gut punch that folded her in half. She flew backward.

“Nadia!” My heart jumped, but I couldn’t afford distraction.

Orion’s attacks came like shadows. I barely managed to block, but each hit numbed my arms.

“Quick reactions,” he said while fighting. “But you’re too tense. Relax, trust your instincts.”

Was he seriously giving me pointers mid-fight?

Instead of blocking head-on, I went with his force, rolling backward and kicking at his legs.

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Chapter 43: This Guy’s Really Strong

He jumped to dodge, giving me a second to breathe.

“Evie, I’m okay!” Nadia stood up, face pale but eyes blazing. “This guy’s really strong!”

‘Together! I shouted.

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We launched another coordinated attack. This time we were smarter – using speed and teamwork instead of trying to overpower him.

Gradually, I picked up on something. Orion was incredibly powerful, but he seemed to be... waiting? Looking for something.

In one crossed moment, I got it.

He was waiting for us to show our real strength.

“Nadia!” I yelled. “Everything we’ve got!”

She understood instantly. We both exploded with full power, our speed jumping to another level.

Approval flashed in Orion’s eyes. “Now that’s more like it.”

The real fight started. Bodies crossed on the platform, fists cutting through air. The crowd gasped.

But I wasn't thinking about them. My entire world was Orion.

As we fought, I could predict his moves better. Not through analysis through instinct.

In one exchange, our eyes met. Time froze. Everything blurred except his eyes, and I saw something deep there.

Now!

I used our clash to retreat while signaling Nadia. She launched a feint from the side.

Orion split his attention to her my chance!

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I sprinted forward. Before he could react, my palm was pressed against his chest.

'Bang!'

Orion staggered backward, losing his balance for the first time.

"We did it!" Nadia shouted.

Orion steadied himself, smiling. "Well done. But..."

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Chapter 43: This Guy's Really Strong

His figure vanished.

Danger!

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I rolled aside as wind swept where I'd been standing. Orion reappeared, speed almost invisible.

"This is my real speed,' he said.

For thirty seconds, we were completely defensive. Orion's attacks came like a storm.

Finally, when an opening appeared, he struck us both simultaneously.

"Ugh!"

Nadia and I flew backward, crashing onto the platform.

Was it over? I struggled to stand, but my body screamed in pain.

“Giving up?” Orion walked over, unfazed. “This isn’t the Evie I know.”

“Not... finished yet!” Nadia gritted her teeth.

I looked at Orion standing above us. Sunlight streamed through the skylight.

No. Can’t give up.

My wolf roared inside me, power surging from somewhere deep.

How dare they underestimate us! Evie, beat him!

“Evie?” Nadia stared at me in surprise.

I slowly stood up, feeling power flow through me.

Orion’s expression changed – excitement flashing in his eyes.

‘Interesting. Your wolf?’ he murmured.

I took a breath and resumed fighting stance. This time felt completely different. Everything became crystal clear.

“Come on,” I said.

The final exchange lasted maybe ten seconds but felt like forever.

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Chapter 43: This Guy’s Really Strong

We moved together. This time I didn’t think, just acted on pure instinct. Everything felt natural.

In one moment, I saw it. Orion’s attack showed tiny hesitation.

Nadia and I both seized the chance.

“Ha!”

Our attacks hit simultaneously. Orion flew backward, dropping to one knee.

The sports center went dead silent.

Then Orion smiled. He stood up slowly, dusting off his clothes.

“Excellent. I lost,” he announced loudly. “Evelyn and Nadia win! They’ve earned direct qualification to the final venue!”

The crowd erupted.

Nadia and I collapsed flat on the platform.

“We... won?” Nadia asked in disbelief.

“Yeah...” I gasped. “We won.”

Orion’s POV

After announcing results, I looked at the two girls sprawled on the platform. Couldn’t help smiling.

Evelyn was breathing hard, sweat beading her forehead. Even disheveled, she looked...

I shook my head, cutting off that thought.

‘Well done, you two,’ I walked over, extending my hand.

Evie looked stunned, then broke into a brilliant smile, grasping my hand. Her hand was small and soft, but the power she’d unleashed was

impressive.

“Thank you,” she said, voice hoarse.

I pulled Nadia up too. Even exhausted, she was chattering: “God, you’re so strong! What was that speed about?”

I led them to the platform edge, away from the excited crowd.

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Chapter 43: This Guy’s Really Strong

Looking at Evie covered in sweat, my mouth went dry. She tilted her head slightly, sweat sliding down her neck. Sunlight wrapped around her. She looked determined yet vulnerable.

What the hell was I thinking?

I looked away quickly. “You should head to the final venue now. Outside Polaris, north – you can see that huge screen on the mountain.”

“Now?” Nadia slumped in her chair. “Look at us do we have strength to run there? Let us rest. I feel like my bones are falling apart.”

I smacked my forehead. “Right, almost forgot.”

I raised my wrist, pointing my bracelet toward them both.

“Ready?”

Before they could answer, two blue beams shot from my bracelet into theirs.

Their expressions changed from exhaustion to surprise to comfort.

The numbers on their bracelets disappeared, replaced by golden marks. Final venue qualification.

“Wow...” Nadia flexed her arms. “This feeling... even stronger than before!”

Evie clenched her fists, surprise in her eyes. “Really amazing.”

I smiled. “Witch research the Sentinels brought in. Now that you’re energized, you should get going.”

## **Souls Bound By Promise — Timothy Nelson 44**

Chapter 44: I Have an Idea

Evelyn’s POV

Nadia and I looked at each other, both buzzing with energy.

“Let’s go then,” I said. “Thanks, Orion.”

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His smile made my heart skip. I spun around quick, grabbing Nadia's hand as we bolted for the exit.

Cheers erupted behind us. Everyone who'd watched our fight was rooting for us now. Being recognized like this felt amazing.

Outside, we ran full speed. With all this energy, running felt incredible. But Polaris was huge, and that mountain still looked miles away.

"Wait!" I skidded to a stop at the pack house.

"What's wrong?" Nadia panted.

"Grabbing something." I sprinted inside, yanked two sets of training gear from my closet and stuffed them in a backpack. No clue what

we'd face, but better safe than sorry.

"Why clothes?" Nadia eyed my pack.

"Just in case. And... I've got an idea."

We kept running, but our pace was slowing. Even juiced up, long-distance running sucked.

"This is taking forever," I stopped in a hidden alley. "Nadia, let's shift."

Her eyes lit up. "Hell yes! Wolf form's way faster!"

She transformed immediately. Bones cracked and reshaped, and seconds later a brown wolf stood there. Medium-sized with sleek fur, tail

wagging.

Evie! Come on! she urged through our mind link.

I let the change flow through me. The familiar sting spread as bones restructured. When I opened my eyes, the world exploded with new details sharper vision, enhanced hearing, complex scent layers.

Holy shit! Nadia's mental voice was pure amazement. Evie, your wolf form is gorgeous!

I glanced down. Silver-blue fur caught the sunlight like pearls. Smaller than Nadia, but sleek and graceful.

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## Chapter 44: I Have an Idea

I'm the first person to see you like this! The boys are gonna lose their mindst

Stop it. My cars felt hot. We need to move.

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Especially Orion he couldn't stop staring at you earlier-

You're crazy... I felt my face burning. Let's just go.

Running in wolf form was incredible. Powerful limbs launched us forward, wind rushing through our fur. We cleared the city fast and hit

the suburban forest.

When we get back, we're throwing the biggest party ever, Nadia chattered while running.

Yeah, when we get back...

I cut myself off. My wolf senses screamed danger. People ahead at least five or six familiar scents. Waiting for us.

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Evie? Nadia tensed.

Several figures stepped out from the trees, blocking our path. My heart sank. Acacia's crew – those upperclassmen who lived to make my

life hell.

"Well, well. Look who we have here," the tall leader sneered. "Our little 'genius' Evelyn."

"We caught your spectacular show with Master Orion," another said. "Real impressive stuff."

We shifted back to human form. I yanked spare clothes from my backpack.

"Move," I said flatly. "We're busy."

"Ooh, attitude," the tall one laughed coldly. "Think beating Master Orion makes you special?"

"He was obviously going easy on you," someone else chimed in. "Any idiot could see that."

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I took a deep breath. “I’m saying this once get out of our way.”

“What if we don’t?” The leader’s smile turned ugly. “You two gotta be exhausted after that fight. Should be easy pickings now.”

They didn’t know Orion had restored our energy completely.

“We’ve been camping here, waiting specifically for you,” he continued. “Figured whoever won would come through here.”

“So?” Nadia snapped.

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Chapter 44: I Have an Idea

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“So... hand over those qualifications. You don’t deserve them anyway.”

“Go to hell!” Nadia snarled.

“Guess we’ll do this the hard way.” He shrugged. “Your bad luck.”

They’d already circled us. Six elite upperclassmen, positioning carefully. This was planned.

“What’s the play?” Nadia whispered.

I scanned their formation. They knew our fighting style, our teamwork. “Head-on fight.”

“Perfect!”

“Shift up,” the leader sneered. “Let’s see this legendary silver-blue wolf.”

Bones cracked as they transformed. Six wolves appeared, all bigger than us. The leader was massive.

Nadia and I shifted too. Fighting wolves while staying human was suicide.

Stay smart, I told Nadia. They outnumber us avoid direct hits.

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They attacked as one. Six wolves lunged simultaneously, coordination tight from training together. Some came straight, others flanked,

while the rest cut off escape routes.

I danced between their attacks. My silver-blue form flickered through trees, making the bigger wolves miss completely.

But Nadia was struggling. Two wolves had her pinned down fast.

Nadia!

I tried to help but three others blocked me. Shit, their plan was obvious separate us, then crush us individually.

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Claws whistled past my eyes. I barely dodged, then leaped high as another wolf snapped at my leg.

The second I landed, I saw something that stopped my heart.

A gray wolf was creeping up behind Nadia. She was fighting the two in front, completely unaware. The gray wolf raised his claws, tips gleaming.

“No!”

I tried to reach her, but the three wolves blocked me completely.

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Chapter 44: I Have an Idea

Just as those claws started to fall, Nadia sensed something. She spun around, brown eyes wide with terror.

Too late.

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Instead of dodging, Nadia charged forward throwing her body between me and those claws.

\*Slash!”

The sound of claws tearing flesh cut through everything. Blood sprayed as Nadia's agonized howl echoed through the forest.

Nadia!!!

My mind went white. Watching her stagger, watching blood soak through her fur, something inside me shattered.

She'd protected me. That attack was meant for me.

Rage exploded in my chest. Power awakened inside me – like facing Orion, but stronger, more violent.

“ROAR!!!”

My howl shook the forest. Silver-blue fur rippled as terrible pressure rolled out in waves.

Those aggressive wolves stepped back, fear flashing in their eyes.

I moved. Not running – teleporting. Silver-blue afterimages flickered between trees, each appearance followed by screams.

My claws shredded the gray wolf's shoulder. My fangs snapped another's leg. Reason drowned in rage – only one thought remained:

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Make them pay.

Screams filled the forest. These upperclassmen had never expected me to explode like this. They tried fighting back, tried running, but

nothing worked.

When the forest finally went quiet, all six wolves lay broken on the ground. Some had shifted back, others stayed wolves. Alive, but barely.

I stood there panting, reason slowly returning.

“Nadia!”

I rushed to her side. She'd shifted back, three deep claw marks across her back, blood soaking her clothes.

“Nadia, talk to me.” My voice shook.

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Chapter 44: I Have an Idea

I grabbed spare clothes from my pack, tearing them into bandages. My hands wouldn't stop shaking as tears poured down my face.

"Don't... cry..." Nadia whispered, pale as death. "I'm okay... just... hurts a bit..."

I'm sorry, I'm so sorry..." I choked out. "This is my fault."

"Idiot..." She struggled to lift her hand, wiping my tears. "We're friends... protecting you... that's what friends do..."

Looking at her weak smile, my heart felt like it was being shredded.

Footsteps approached. I looked up, ready to fight again.

But then I relaxed. Sentinel Conrad stood there, taking in the carnage.

## **The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel**

### **Chapter 5**

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

### **45**

Chapter 45: I'm Not Dying

Evelyn's POV

Sentinel Conrad strode over, taking in the carnage. His eyes swept from the scattered upperclassmen to Nadia bleeding in my arms.

"Sentinel Conrad..." I started.

He held up a hand, then crouched beside Nadia. That's when I saw it – her bracelet was shattered. The golden qualification mark had

dimmed to nothing, cracks spider-webbing across the surface.

Nadia noticed too, lifting her wrist weakly. “Well, that sucks.”

“Don’t worry about that right now,” Conrad said gently. “Just rest.”

I realized I was still in wolf form and quickly shifted back, fumbling for clothes. Conrad looked away while I got dressed.

“We’ll handle the cleanup,” he said. “You need to keep moving.”

“But Nadia – ”

“Medical team’s already coming.”

I looked down at my best friend, guilt eating me alive. She was pale as paper but still trying to smile.

“Stop looking at me like I’m dying,” she said weakly. “It’s just a scratch.”

“Go.” She pushed my arm. “Don’t let these assholes win. Get to that final venue, kick ass, then come back and tell me everything.”

‘I can’t just leave you here.’

“Evie. Her voice got serious. “Promise me you’ll win. Not just for you for me too.”

I nodded, tears blurring my vision. “I promise.”

Walking alone through the dark forest sucked. Nadia’s smile kept flashing through my mind.

If I’d been faster... if I’d been stronger...

No. Self-pity wouldn’t help anyone. I had to win this thing.

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Chapter 45: I’m Not Dying

Without spare clothes, shifting was off the table. The energy boost from Orion was still holding up, so at least I wasn’t dead on my feet.

The sky had turned black, leaving only that massive screen on the distant mountain as my guide. Lights twinkled in the valley below the

final venue.

Then this weird feeling hit me.

I stopped, frowning at a patch of dark forest to my left. Nothing there but trees and shadows. But something was pulling me that way, like

an invisible rope tugging at my chest.

The smart move was to head straight for the valley. Others were probably already there.

But the feeling kept getting stronger.

Screw it.

I changed direction, following whatever was calling me. This was close to Polaris's border – middle of nowhere territory.

I tripped over something and went sprawling. As I pushed myself up, massive shapes materialized from the darkness.

My blood turned to ice.

Sentinels. Six or seven of them in wolf form, easily twice the size of normal werewolves. They'd formed a tight circle around whatever I'd

tripped over.

One shifted back to human form. Conrad. Again.

'Weren't you just in Silver Pines?' I blurted. 'How's Nadia?'

His face was stone. 'She's safe. We were heading back when another participant said they saw you coming this way. His eyes narrowed.

'Why are you here?'

'I felt something weird from this direction.'

Conrad's frown deepened. He glanced toward whatever the other Sentinels were blocking.

'What is that thing?' I tried to crane my neck around him. 'Can I see?'

Another Sentinel ran over, whispering urgently in Conrad's ear. I caught fragments "blood traces" and "marks."

Conrad's expression went grim. After a long pause, he looked at me and said flatly, "No."

Then he dropped a bomb. “Notify everyone – selection’s suspended. Recall all participants immediately. Get Alpha Adam and Alpha King Nathan back to the pack house now.”

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Chapter 45: I’m Not Dying

“What?” My jaw dropped. ‘Suspended? Why?’

Conrad ignored my question. ‘Secure the item. Leave no traces. Move!’

‘You two,’ he pointed at a pair of Sentinels, “escort Evelyn back to the city.”

One shifted to wolf form and lowered himself so I could climb on.

“Wait, what the hell happened?” I demanded.

“Not now.” Conrad’s tone killed any argument. “Go. Now.”

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The ride back was insane. Everything blurred past in streaks of green and brown. Twenty minutes later, we were back in Polaris. The dead city had come alive lights in every window, people in the streets, everyone talking about the sudden suspension.

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The Sentinels dropped me at the pack house. The second I walked through the door, familiar voices hit me.

“Evie!” Elliot rushed over first. “You okay?”

“Where’s Nadia?” Milo looked panicked.

That’s when I saw her – already bandaged and leaning against Milo on the couch. Still pale, but alert. She grinned when she saw me.

“I’m fine! Their healing magic is no joke.”

Magnus stood by the window with Alpha Adam, both looking grim. Alpha King Nathan was there too. Lucian jumped up from the couch.

And Orion...

He'd been staring out the window, but the moment he heard me, he spun around. Relief flooded his face.

Then he was right in front of me.

"You okay?" His voice was rough with barely contained worry.

Before I could answer, he pulled me into his arms. Warmth surrounded me. Sandalwood and something uniquely him filled my nose.

"Thank God," he whispered against my hair. "I was so worried."

His embrace felt like safety. Like home.

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Chapter 45: I'm Not Dying

"What happened? I gently pushed back. "Why'd they suspend everything?"

Orion shook his head. "No clue. The Sentinels found something, then shut everything down."

"Yeah, Lucian joined us. "Dad and Alpha Nathan are in meetings, but they won't tell us anything."

Alpha Adam and Alpha King Nathan approached, followed by several Sentinels.

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"Kids," Alpha King Nathan's voice was heavy. "Tonight's selection got suspended for special reasons. But based on your performances, we

can determine the results."

His eyes found mine. "Evelyn, congratulations. You passed the Sentinel selection."

Good news, but the mood stayed dark.

"Father," Magnus couldn't help asking, "what exactly - "

"We can't discuss it yet," Alpha Adam cut him off. "We need more investigation. Get some rest tonight."

Luna Isabella and Luna Queen Selena came over. Isabella touched my head gently. "You've had a long day. Both you and Nadia need

proper rest.”

“Absolutely,” Luna Queen Selena agreed. “It’s nearly midnight. Everyone’s exhausted.”

After a full day of fighting, fatigue hit me like a brick wall.

“Let’s go,” Nadia yawned massively. “I’m dead on my feet.”

“Evie,” Orion called as I headed for the stairs.

‘Yeah?’

He looked like he wanted to say something important, but just smiled instead. “Sleep well.”

Back in the room, Nadia was already under the covers. She patted the space beside her.

‘Come here. Let’s talk.’

I crawled in next to her, both of us staring at the ceiling.

About today...” My voice came out thick. “Thank you. If you hadn’t - ”

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Chapter 45: I’m Not Dying

“Stop! She slapped a hand over my mouth. “No more apologizing! Friends don’t apologize for having each other’s backs.”

“If it was the other way around, you’d have done the same thing, right?”

I nodded without hesitation.

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“Then we’re good.” She smiled. “Stop feeling guilty. Those assholes though you really messed them up. You looked so badass when you

snapped!”

“I was just... really angry.”

“Good! That’s exactly what they deserved!”

As we talked, drowsiness crept in.

“Evie?” Her voice was getting quieter.

“Mm?”

“Passing the selection feels pretty good... all that work paid off...”

“Yeah...”

“Tomorrow we should celebrate...”

“Okay...”

At some point, we both drifted off to sleep.

## **The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel**

### **Chapter 5**

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

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

### **46**

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Chapter 46: I Can't Tell Them Apart At All

Evelyn's POV

Morning light crept through the curtains, pulling me out of deep sleep. My body still carried that lazy comfort after yesterday's intense selection. Even though my strength had returned, my heart was buzzing with anticipation for whatever came next.

I started to sit up, but something felt off. The air was thick with multiple familiar scents, and -

Holy crap.

The room was packed with boys. Elliot was crashed in the chair by the door, head tilted at an awkward angle. Milo was sprawled on the carpet with a pillow, looking like he'd face-planted. And the triplets were scattered around like they owned the place.

All three wore identical dark blue loungewear. One was curled up on the window seat, another leaning against the bookshelf, the third sitting on the floor against the wall. In the dim light, they looked exactly the same.

“What the hell?” I whispered.

Nadia stirred beside me, blinking groggily. “Mm... Evie? What’s wrong?”

“Why are they all here?” I pointed at our impromptu sleepover guests.

She rubbed her eyes, glanced around, then shrugged. “No clue. Maybe they didn’t want to go back to their rooms?” She yawned. “It’s still early. Let them sleep.”

I carefully slipped out of bed, heading for the bathroom. Walking past the window, I automatically breathed in – crisp pine scent, that was Magnus. From the bookshelf came sweet cinnamon, Lucian. The one against the wall carried warm honey mixed with sandalwood – Orion.

In the bathroom, I brushed my teeth while wondering why they’d camped out in here. Were they worried about something?

“Evie?” Nadia pushed through the door, still half-asleep. “Scoot over, I need to brush too.”

She squeezed in beside me at the sink. Through the mirror, I saw one of the triplets shifting outside, starting to wake up.

“Which one’s by the window-again?” Nadia asked around her toothbrush. “They’re wearing the same clothes. I can’t tell them apart at all.”

I rinsed and answered casually, “Magnus.”

“How do you know that?” Her eyes went wide. “They look identical!”

“Different scents. Magnus smells like cold pine. Lucian’s by the bookshelf – cinnamon. Orion’s against the wall – honey and sandalwood.”

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Chapter 46: I Can’t Tell Them Apart At All

Nadia froze mid-brush. “Wait, you can tell them apart by smell?”

“Yeah, obviously. Plus Magnus’s shoulders are straighter, he always stands perfect. Lucian moves more casual. Orion’s got the most defined back muscles from all that climbing.

The door cracked open and Magnus’s face appeared. “What did you just say?”

His sudden appearance made me jump. “Magnus! You’re awake?\*

“You can tell us apart?” He pushed the door open fully, green eyes shocked. His voice woke the others, and Lucian and Orion quickly got

“What happened?” Lucian asked, rubbing his eyes.

“Evie says she can distinguish us by scent and physical stuff,” Magnus said, his voice carrying something weird.

The triplets exchanged looks, all showing the same shock.

“That’s impossible,” Orion muttered. “Even our parents have to look carefully, and they still get it wrong sometimes.”

“But she just nailed where each of us was,” Magnus said, “even described our physical differences.”

I felt uncomfortable. “Is this weird? Your scents are totally different.”

“Evie, Lucian’s voice got serious, “besides our parents and each other, no one’s ever been able to do this. Even Milo and Elliot still mix us

up after years.”

“But... I wanted to say it was simple, but seeing their expressions, I shut up.

The room went quiet. The triplets stared at me like they were seeing something new.

“Uh, Elliot’s voice broke the silence. “While this is... interesting, shouldn’t we get breakfast? I’m starving.”

Milo stretched. “Right, and I want to know what happened last night. Why was the pack house on lockdown?”

That question shifted everyone’s focus. Last night the royal visitors seemed fine, but at some point the pack house had gone into security

mode.

“Let’s go,” I said. “Time to find out what’s up.”

We got ourselves together and headed downstairs. In the hallway, I noticed several unfamiliar Sentinels patrolling, their faces grim – definitely not routine.

The elevator ride was quiet. I felt the triplets glancing at me occasionally, that thoughtful look making me squirm. Had I really done

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Chapter 46: I Can’t Tell Them Apart At All

something special? To me, telling them apart was like distinguishing different colors.

On the first floor, the atmosphere was totally off. Usually the main hall buzzed with activity, but now only scattered warriors remained.

We headed for the dining room but got stopped at the stairs.

A tall warrior blocked our path. ‘We’re under lockdown. Return to your rooms.’

I recognized him from yesterday’s selection. He was even bigger than Alpha King Nathan, and I had to crane my neck to look at him.

“I just want breakfast,” I said. “What happened?”

“We’re under lockdown. Return to your rooms,” he repeated.

Elliot stepped forward. “We live here, we’re not prisoners. Can you tell us what’s going on?”

The warrior looked us over, stopping on me. “You live here?”

“Yeah, third floor.” I crossed my arms not threatening, just making my point. “If you can’t give us details, at least let us grab food?”

Yesterday’s test was brutal, we’re all hungry.”

He considered, then relaxed slightly. “I’ll see what I can do. But you need to go back upstairs first.”

“Thanks...” I left it hanging.

“Taric,” he said, voice deep. “Go upstairs, little one. It’s not safe out here right now.”

“Why can they walk around while the rest of us are locked up?”

Acacia’s shrill voice came from upstairs. She stood at the top in some elaborate morning outfit, because God forbid she not look perfect during a crisis.

Taric took a deep breath. I saw him almost roll his eyes. Obviously he’d already dealt with her.

‘Child,’ his voice went formal and cold, “Alpha King Nathan ordered everyone to stay in designated areas. Please return.”

“If they can be here, so can I!” Acacia stomped down the stairs.

“No!”. I quickly jumped in, wanting to help Taric out. “We were just asking about stuff, now we’re going back.”

I turned to Taric, mouthing “sorry,” then led my friends back upstairs.

Behind us, Acacia was still complaining. “Wait! You live with the triplets?”

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She’d obviously caught the mixed scents. She took a deep breath, malicious light flashing in her eyes.

## **The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel**

### **Chapter 5**

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

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

### **47**

Chapter 47: It’s So Good to See You Safe

Evelyn’s POV

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“How the hell did you pull that off?” Acacia’s voice cut sharp through the stairwell. She stood at the top looking like she’d stepped out of

a magazine, because apparently even during a crisis she couldn’t look less than perfect.

“I heard only warriors get rooms on that floor. I was the last one placed and nearly had to crash in the formal living room!”

She took this obvious deep breath, clearly trying to catch our mixed scents. That nasty smile spread across her face.

“Looks like certain people’s relationships are way more... intimate than anyone thought.”

“Acacia, knock it off.” Taric’s voice stayed calm but carried weight. “Evelyn’s both a warrior and an official pack house resident. Her living situation doesn’t need your approval.”

Acacia whipped around to face the massive warrior. “Why do you even know her name? I’m going to be Luna someday – you better

remember mine.”

Taric straightened, and I swear the temperature dropped five degrees. “Let me make something clear. Whether you become Luna or not,

my rank’s higher than yours. Until the Moon Goddess herself confirms you’re worthy of that position, I don’t need to remember jack shit

about you.”

He paused, voice getting colder. “Everyone important knows Evelyn’s name. Her performance in the selection was killer, and she treats

people with respect. You? You gotta earn the right to be remembered first.”

Acacia’s face went red. Just as she opened her mouth to fire back, Taric got this distant look like he was listening to something through

mind-link.

“Evelyn,” he turned to me, “Luna Isabella wants to see you. Take the elevator from here – Sentinel Conrad’s waiting.”

He stepped aside while shooting Acacia one last look. “Final warning. Follow orders or you’re going to detention. Now get lost.”

That last part came with a low growl that made my skin crawl. Acacia shot me a death glare before stomping back upstairs.

The elevator ride up felt like forever. Conrad was already waiting, his expression unreadable.

“Can you tell me what’s going on?” I asked. “Taric wouldn’t say anything,”

Conrad lowered his voice. “There’s been a threat, so we’re on lockdown. Luna Isabella will fill you in.” He glanced around. “Those boys gave

up their rooms to patrolling Sentinels last night. Stayed in yours to keep you safe.”

That explained the sleepover. Warmth spread through my chest, followed immediately by worry. What kind of threat needed that level of

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Chapter 47: It’s So Good to See You Safe

protection?

The elevator opened and I was immediately pulled into Luna Isabella’s arms. She held me tight, like she was making sure I was real.

“My dear, thank God you’re safe! Her voice was thick with relief.

“Why wouldn’t I be?” Confusion hit me. “What happened?”

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She pulled back but kept her hands on my shoulders. We were alone in the room, which was weird.

“Ori,” she said suddenly. I realized Orion had followed us up. “Could you help Adam check the east wing defenses? I need to talk with Evie

alone.”

Orion looked like he didn’t want to leave, but nodded. “Of course, Mother.”

After he left, Luna Isabella’s whole demeanor shifted. She led me to the couch, her expression serious.

“What I’m about to tell you might be disturbing, but you deserve to know.” She took a breath. “Last night, someone breached our northern perimeter.”

My heart jumped. “Breached? How’s that even possible?”

“Carefully planned infiltration. The intruder left a package about five miles from the main outpost, then vanished. No scent, no tracks – like a ghost.”

“What was in it?” My voice came out shaky.

Her grip tightened on my hands. “A small box. Evie, that was what you tripped over last night.”

Everything went cold. “What? But I just...”

“Yes. We thought it was an accident then, but after examining it, we realized the box was placed there deliberately. Inside was a blood-stained Luna seal.”

I gasped. Luna seals were sacred. Blood on one meant...

“Our doctors confirmed the blood came from at least two different women.” Her voice dropped. “And there was skin around the seal that had been burned with silver powder.”

My body started shaking. The scars on my back felt like they were burning again.

“There was also a note,” she continued, watching my face carefully. “It said: ‘First them, soon you.’”

Ice shot down my spine. “So you think whoever did this is targeting...”

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Chapter 47: It’s So Good to See You Safe

“Targeting powerful women. Could be Queen Selena, could be me, but...” She paused. ‘Given your performance in the selection, and considering how similar those silver powder burns were to your scars, we have to consider you might be one of the targets.

My breathing got rapid and shallow.

“Evelyn. Her voice pulled me back. ‘I need you to tell me

who else knows about the injuries on your back?’”

‘Only... only you and Nadia.’ I tried to stay calm.

“No one else?”

I shook my head, then remembered. “Wait, the triplets and Milo and Elliot know something happened, but they haven’t seen the actual

scars. But I don’t think they would ever...”

“I know they wouldn’t.” She squeezed my hands. “I just need to understand the full picture. The entire pack’s on high alert now. Alpha

Adam’s leading elite warriors to search every inch of our territory.”

“The boys sleeping in my room last night...” Understanding hit me. “They sensed something was wrong?”

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She nodded. “After the Sentinels found that box near where you’d been, they notified us immediately. The boys insisted on staying close

to make sure you were safe. Especially Orion – he was on edge all night.”

Processing this made my chest tight with both gratitude and fear. Someone was hunting powerful women, and I might be on their list.

Worse – they knew about my past, knew what silver powder meant to me.

“You don’t need to be scared.” Luna Isabella seemed to read my thoughts. “The whole pack will protect you. And it looks like you already

have some pretty dedicated guardians.”

Thinking about waking up to a room full of boys made heat creep up my neck. “They’re just...”

“Just friends?” She raised an eyebrow. “Honey, friends don’t guard your room all night. They don’t think about protecting you first when

they sense danger.”

I didn’t know what to say to that. Too much was happening too fast.

‘Let’s not worry about that right now.’ She patted my hand. “I want you to promise me something until this threat is handled, don’t go anywhere alone. Always have someone with you. Understand?”

I nodded, even though it went against every independent instinct I had.

‘Also, if you remember anything suspicious, anyone who’s shown unusual interest in you, tell me immediately.’

“Okay.”

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Chapter 47: It’s So Good to See You Safe

The door burst open. I expected Orion, but Elliot rushed in, his face pale.

“Luna Isabella, sorry to interrupt, but Taric says they found new evidence. Alpha Adam wants you to take a look.”

She stood immediately. “I’ll be right there. Elliot, take Evelyn back and make sure she stays safe.”

“You got it. He came to my side.

Before leaving, Luna Isabella hugged me one more time. “Remember, you’re not alone in this. We’re all here.”

## **Souls Bound By Promise — Timothy Nelson 48**

Chapter 48: I Just Didn’t Know How Else to Bring You Back

Evelyn's POV

Elliot walked me out but didn't head straight downstairs. Instead, he led me to a quiet sitting room.

"You okay?" His face was tight with worry. "What did Luna Isabella tell you?"

I hesitated. Elliot was my brother, but this stuff...

"Someone's threatening the female leaders," I said finally. "Maybe including me."

His whole body went rigid. "What? Why you?"

I just shook my head, not ready to explain.

We sat in silence until Luna Isabella returned with Alpha Adam and several warriors. Her expression was darker than before.

"Sorry, kids," she said. "I need Evie again. Elliot, can you head back for now?"

Elliot shot me a reluctant look but nodded and left.

After the door closed, Luna Isabella's face went completely serious. "The new evidence we found... this is worse than we thought. There was another package in the western woods."

Alpha Adam stepped forward. "Inside was a vial of silver powder and a detailed torture manual."

My blood went cold.

"The manual described exactly how to use silver powder for maximum pain without killing," Luna Isabella continued, watching my face.

"The techniques match the scar patterns on your back perfectly."

Silver powder. Burning. Screaming.

The room started spinning. Those memories crashed over me like a tidal wave – Acacia's laughter, the agony of silver eating through my skin, the smell of burning flesh.

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"The worst part is how precise the descriptions are. Whoever wrote this has done this before..."

I couldn't hear her anymore. The world tilted sideways. That pain felt so real, so immediate, I could smell it, taste the metallic fear in my mouth.

My legs gave out.

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Chapter 48: I Just Didn't Know How Else to Bring You Back

Someone caught me before I hit the floor.

"Evie!" Luna Isabella's voice sounded far away.

I was shaking so hard my teeth chattered. Cold sweat soaked through my shirt. I wanted to run, to hide, but my body woside's later. The pain swept through me like I was back there, trapped in that storage room, helpless...

I curled up on the floor, hands over my head. But the memories were too strong, too real.

Suddenly familiar warmth surrounded me. Arms lifted me from the floor, and that honey-sandalwood scent filled my nose.

"Evie, look at me." Orion's voice cut through the panic. "You're safe. That's over. I'm here."

But I couldn't escape the images. My breathing came in sharp gasps, heart hammering like it might explode.

"She's having a panic attack," Luna Isabella said somewhere above us.

Orion didn't answer, just held me tighter. One hand cradled my head against his chest, the other rubbed gentle circles on my back.

"Listen to my voice," he said quietly. "Feel my heartbeat. Just breathe with me. In... out..."

I tried to focus, but those memories kept clawing at me. The burning sensation felt so real.

Then Orion lifted my chin gently. The next second, warm lips pressed against mine.

He was kissing me.

The shock shattered everything else. My mind went blank. All the panic and pain vanished, replaced by this soft, unexpected contact

The kiss was gentle, almost careful. Orion's lips were warm and steady, carrying a strength that somehow made everything okay.

When he pulled back, I realized I'd stopped shaking. I blinked up at him, still dazed.

"Back with us?" he asked softly.

I managed a small nod. I was still in his arms while Luna Isabella and Alpha Adam watched with concern.

"Sorry," I mumbled, trying to stand. "I'm fine now."

"Don't apologize." Orion didn't let me go. "I'm taking you back to your room."

"I can walk..."

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Chapter 48: I Just Didn't Know How Else to Bring You Back

"No. His tone left no room for argument. "You need to rest."

He carried me through the hallway. I could feel his heart still racing. Obviously this had scared him too.

Back in my room, he set me carefully on the bed and sat beside it.

"Better?" he asked, reaching out to check my forehead.

I nodded, though I still felt weak. "Thanks for... that."

His face went slightly red. "I should probably apologize. I shouldn't have... I just didn't know how else to bring you back."

"It's okay," I said quietly. "It worked."

He looked at me for a long moment, like he wanted to say something else. Finally he just sighed.

The door burst open. Elliot, Milo, the other triplets, and Nadia all rushed in.

"Evie!" Nadia practically launched herself at me. "Luna Isabella said something happened!"

"I'm fine now." I hugged her back.

"What the hell happened?" Magnus's voice was tight with anger.

Orion gave them a quick rundown, leaving out certain details.

"So someone's using silver powder..." Lucian's voice went dangerous. "And they know about your injuries."

"Looks that way," I said.

The room went quiet. Everyone's faces were stone-cold serious.

"Who could know that?" Elliot asked through gritted teeth.

"I don't know. But whoever it is knows me well. Knows exactly how to hurt me."

"Starting right now," Magnus announced, "you don't go anywhere alone. We'll take shifts staying with you."

"That's really not necessary..."

"It's for your safety," Lucian cut me off. "We're not taking any chances."

Looking at their determined faces, I knew arguing was pointless. And honestly, having them around did make me feel safer.

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Chapter 48: I Just Didn't Know How Else to Bring You Back

"Okay, I gave in.

"You should sleep," Orion stood up. "We'll give you some space."

"Wait." I called out before they could leave. "Thank you. All of you. Really,"

They all smiled, and some of the darkness in my chest lifted.

After they left, I lay back on the bed, fingers unconsciously touching my lips.

That kiss... even if it was just to snap me out of the panic, why was my heart still racing?

# The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

## Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

# Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

## 49

Chapter 49: We'll See Each Other Again Soon

Evelyn's POV

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Sunlight hit my face, dragging me out of sleep. The Sentinel selection was done, the threat handled for now time to say goodbye to our

guests.

I woke up early to find the boys crashed in my room again. After yesterday's panic attack, they seemed even more glued to my side. I tried

sneaking out of bed without waking anyone.

"Going somewhere?" Orion's voice made me jump. He was sitting by the window, obviously hadn't slept.

"King Nathan and the others are leaving today. Want to see them off."

He stood up. "I'll come with you."

"Ori..."

"Don't argue." He cut me off. "At least let me walk you down."

The others started stirring, and when they heard about the royal departure, everyone decided to tag along.

The main hall was already packed. King Nathan and Queen Selena were saying their goodbyes to Alpha Adam and Luna Isabella while

royal guards handled final prep.

“Evelyn!” Prince Alistair spotted me and walked over. “Thought I might miss you.”

“Your Highness.” I gave a small bow.

“Cut the formal crap.” He grinned. “After these past few days, I think we’re friends, right?”

I smiled back. “Sure, Alistair.”

He pulled out his phone. “Wanna exchange numbers? I’m really interested in those combat techniques we talked about.”

I was surprised but got my phone out. Behind me, someone coughed clearly annoyed. Didn’t need to turn around to know who.

”

“Oh, and don’t forget about summer training,” Alistair suddenly remembered, turning to the boys. “Usually starts in July, but this year might be earlier. My father’s still working out timing with the other Alphas.”

“Summer training?” I looked at them confused.

“Learning and networking stuff,” Magnus explained, but his tone was stiff. All future leaders from different packs go to the royal territory

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Chapter 49: We’ll See Each Other Again Soon

for training.”

“Oh.” I nodded, but felt this weird sense of loss.

“This year should be interesting, Alistair continued, eyes flashing. “After all, so many unexpected things have happened.”

Taric walked over. The tall Sentinel still looked stone-faced, but something seemed softer when he looked at me.

“Little one,’ he said simply.

“Sentinel Taric. I craned my neck up at him.

–

He was quiet for a moment, then unexpectedly crouched down to eye level. “You’re special remember that. Whatever anyone says, don’t

doubt yourself.”

I was stunned. First time he’d spoken to me so gently.

“Also,” he pulled out his phone, “just call me Taric. If His Highness got your number, can’t let him beat me.”

I stared for a second, then burst out laughing. So the serious Sentinel had this side too.

After we exchanged contacts, he waved and went back to his group.

“Hey,” Alistair’s voice pulled me back. “Don’t look like that. It’s not goodbye forever – we’ll see each other again soon.”

“Yeah.” I managed a smile.

King Nathan and Queen Selena came over. The Queen hugged me gently. “Take care of yourself, dear. Can’t wait to see how much you’ve

grown next time.”

King Nathan patted my shoulder. “Your potential’s limitless – don’t waste it.”

The goodbyes went fast. I stood at the entrance watching the convoy disappear. Alistair waved from his car window until I couldn’t see

them anymore.

“Finally, Lucian muttered beside me.

“Don’t be such a brat.” I shoved him lightly. “Alistair’s a good guy.”

“Too good, Magnus said meaningfully.

I rolled my eyes and turned to go back inside. Unfortunately, Acacia appeared in the main hall like a bad rash, wearing her trademark fake

smile.

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Chapter 49: We'll See Each Other Again Soon

What a touching farewell, she said sweetly. Looks like little Evelyn's got quite the fan club.

Do you need something, Acacia?" I didn't have energy for her crap.

"Oh, nothing." She acted casual. "Just curious how you manage to get so much attention. After all..." She looked me up and down. "You're

really nothing special."

"If you don't need anything, move," Elliot stepped in front of me.

Acacia's eyes lit up with malice. "Speaking of which, I heard some interesting rumors. About someone sneaking into a certain mysterious

man's room late at night..."

I frowned. "What?"

"Oh my, you don't know what everyone's saying?" She acted shocked. "The whole pack house is buzzing – saying you've got some secret

boyfriend. I mean, how else could a girl be close to so many boys but not belong to any of them? Unless..."

She paused dramatically. "Unless she's already taken. And apparently this mystery guy's got serious status, which explains why everyone

treats you so special."

"You're full of shit!" Nadia snapped.

"I'm just repeating what I heard." Acacia shrugged innocently. "How else could a girl move onto that floor, have all these amazing boys around her? Without connections, what else could explain it? Everyone's wondering what methods you used."

"Enough!" Orion's voice was ice cold.

But Acacia had done her damage. She smiled smugly and walked away, leaving us all pissed off.

“Don’t listen to her garbage,” Milo said. “Everyone knows she’s stirring up trouble.”

But I knew once rumors started, they were hard to kill. Acacia always knew how to hurt people in the worst ways.

‘I’ll handle this,” Magnus said coldly.

‘Don’t bother.” I stopped him. “Let her talk. I don’t care.”

“But Evie...”

‘Really, it’s fine.” I forced a smile. “Compared to everything else, this is nothing.”

Acacia’s poison would keep spreading. Even after everything that happened, she wasn’t done with me.

‘Come on, I took a breath. “Let’s get breakfast. Still got stuff to do today.”

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Chapter 49: We’ll See Each Other Again Soon

We headed toward the dining room, but I noticed the bays exchanging looks. They obviously weren’t planning to let this slide.

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Fine, let them deal with it. I had bigger things to worry about like when summer came and they all left for training, how would I handle

being alone again?

Alistair was right – separation was temporary. So why did my heart still feel so heavy?

“What’re you thinking about?” Orion asked quietly.

“Nothing.” I shook my head. “Just sad to see them go.”

He was quiet, then gently squeezed my hand. “We won’t be gone long.”

“Yeah.” I nodded, but didn’t voice my real fear.

I wasn't scared of them being gone too long. I was scared that when they came back, everything would be different.

# The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

## Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

# Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

## 50

Chapter 50: He Said He Has Something Important to Discuss With You

Evelyn's POV

After Alpha King Nathan and his family left, the pack house felt weird. Too quiet. The Sentinels were mostly gone except for Conrad, who was wrapping up paperwork. Everything should've gone back to normal, but I couldn't shake this hollow feeling.

I spent the afternoon curled up on my window seat, staring outside at nothing. The past few days felt like some crazy dream – the selection, royal visitors, mystery threats. Now that it was over, reality was setting in.

Alistair's comment about summer training kept bugging me. Magnus had mentioned it was tradition for all Alpha heirs. Which meant the

triplets would be leaving. And knowing Alistair, it wouldn't be just a quick trip.

The thought made my chest tight. A few months ago, I would've been thrilled to get some space from them. But now...

A soft knock interrupted my spiraling thoughts.

"Come in."

Nadia peeked her head through the door, took one look at me, and sighed. "You've been up here since lunch, haven't you?"

I nodded without turning around.

"Evie..." She sat down across from me. "What's eating you?"

“Nothing major.” I forced a smile. “Just thinking about how everything’s gonna change again.”

“Change how?”

I took a breath. “Alistair reminded them about summer training. Elliot’s gonna have to do Beta prep stuff too. And knowing Milo’s skills, he’ll probably get invited somewhere...” I trailed off.

“You’re worried they’re all gonna bail on you?”

Leave it to Nadia to cut straight to the point. I smiled, but it felt bitter. “Not just them. Didn’t you say your stepdad’s research means you

might have to go back to your old pack?”

Nadia went quiet. Wind rustled the leaves outside, filling the silence.

‘I won’t lie to you,” she said finally. “Yeah, I might have to leave for a while. Mom told me yesterday – stepdad’s research hit some critical stage and needs special resources from our original pack.”

Even though I’d expected it, hearing it confirmed felt like a punch to the gut.

1/4

18:20 Sat, Jan 10

Chapter 50: He Said He Has Something Important to Discuss With You

‘So everyone’s leaving.” The words came out smaller than I intended.

‘Oh, Evie... Nadia came over and wrapped me in a hug. “It’s not forever. We’ll all come back.”

“I know.” I hugged her back, fighting to keep my voice steady. “I just... I got used to having you guys around.”

For years, I’d been fine on my own. Eating alone, training alone, dealing with shit alone. But these past few months changed everything. I

had real friends now, people who actually cared. Something that felt like family.

Going back to being alone felt impossible now that I knew what it was like to be loved.

The door opened and Elliot walked in with the other boys trailing behind. “Dora said you skipped lunch. We brought snacks.”

They all froze when they saw my red eyes.

“What happened?” Orion was instantly at my side, crouching down. “Who hurt you?”

“Nobody hurt me.” I wiped my eyes, embarrassed. “I was just... thinking about stuff.”

“What stuff?” Lucian plopped down next to me.

Looking at their worried faces made my heart do this weird twist between pain and warmth. “Summer training. You’re all gonna leave.”

The room went dead silent. Obviously they’d been thinking about this too.

“Evie...” Magnus started, then seemed to run out of words.

“It’s fine.” I forced another smile. “I get it – it’s your job. I’ll just... miss you guys.”

“It’s only a few months,” Milo said, though he didn’t sound convinced.

“A few months might not seem like much to you,” I said quietly. “But for me... you know? Before I met you guys, I didn’t have real friends.

Now I finally do, and you have to...”

I couldn’t finish. It made me sound pathetic and clingy.

“Who says we definitely have to go?” Orion said suddenly.

Everyone stared at him.

“Ori, you can’t skip, Magnus frowned. “It’s tradition. It’s our responsibility.”

“Screw tradition. Orion’s voice was stubborn. “If Evie needs us...”

2/4

18:20 Sat, Jan 10

Chapter 50: He Said He Has Something Important to Discuss With Your

“No.” I cut him off. “You have to go. This is important for your future.”

“But...”

“No buts.” I made my voice firm. “I can’t be your burden. You guys have your own paths – you can’t change everything because of me

“You’re not a burden,” Elliot said seriously. “You’re my sister. Our friend.”

“That’s exactly why I can’t hold you back.” I took a deep breath. “I’ll be okay. I’ve made it through all these years – a few months won’t kill

me.”

But we all knew it was different now. I wasn’t that girl who was used to being alone anymore.

“Maybe we can figure something out,” Lucian said thoughtfully.

“Like what?” Nadia asked.

“Regular calls? Video chats?” He shrugged. “Technology’s pretty good these days.”

“Right!” Milo perked up. “We could video chat every night. Like we never left.”

“We could write letters too,” Magnus added. “Old school, but meaningful.”

“I’ll send you weird local food,” Orion grinned.

Watching them seriously plan how to stay in touch made warmth spread through my chest.

“Thanks,” I said. “Really. Thank you guys.”

“Don’t get all formal on us,” Elliot ruffled my hair. “We’re family. Distance doesn’t change that.”

‘Besides, Nadia smiled mysteriously, “who says you definitely have to stay here by yourself?”

“What do you mean?”

“You kicked ass in the Sentinel selection maybe there’ll be special arrangements.” She winked. ‘Sentinel Conrad really likes you.’”

“Don’t talk crazy.” I shook my head, but a tiny spark of hope lit up anyway.

“Alright, stop overthinking.” Lucian pushed the snacks toward me. “Summer’s still months away. We should make the most of what we

have now.”

I grabbed a cookie and bit into it. Sweet flavor filled my mouth, matching my mood – bitter at first, but mostly sweet.

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18:20 Sat, Jan 10

Chapter 50: He Said He Has Something Important to Discuss With You

Another knock on the door interrupted us.

“Come in.”

A warrior stepped into the doorway. “Evelyn, Alpha Adam wants to see you. He’s waiting in his office downstairs.”

I froze. Alpha Adam wanted to see me? Why?

“Right now?” I asked.

“Yes.” He nodded. “He said he has something important to discuss with you.”

I stood up, nerves kicking in. Could this be about new developments with the threat? Or...

“I’ll come with you,” Orion said, standing too.

“Me too.” Elliot was already moving.

“No need.” I shook my head. “Alpha Adam only asked for me. Wait here I’ll be back.”

They all looked worried, but they let me go alone.

Walking downstairs, my heart hammered harder with each step. Alpha Adam rarely called someone for a private meeting unless it was

serious.

I reached his office door, took a deep breath, and knocked.

“Come in.”

I pushed the door open to find Alpha Adam alone behind his desk.

“Evelyn.” He gestured to a chair. “Thanks for coming.”

“Alpha Adam.” I sat down carefully, “Did I do something wrong?”