

# The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

## Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

## Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

### 91

Chapter 91: Your Performance Today Was Simply Admirable

Evelyn's POV

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I scanned the room, taking in the reactions around the table. Some Alphas looked shocked that I'd spoken so bluntly, others seemed thoughtful, and the ones who'd brought their daughters along shot me iry glares that could ve frozen pell over.

Alistair squeezed my shoulder lightly. When I turned, he was fighting back a grin

"That was something else," he whispered. "I've never seen Samoel at a loss for words before."

"Did I cross a line?" I whispered back. "I just said what needed saying."

"Not at all, Alistair assured me, his eyes dancing with mischief. "Man, I wish I could snap a picture of this for Magnus and the guys. They d lose their minds seeing you hold your own with these Alphas."

I couldn't help smiling at the thought of the guys back home. My fingers instinctively touched the necklace they'd sent. 'Based on this gift, I think you've already given them plenty to worry about."

Before we could continue, Alpha King Nathan spoke up.

Alpha Samuel, his voice was calm but carried unmistakable authority, it seems you have some work to handle first. Complete these basic defense measures, then we'll discuss additional support. He swept his gaze around the tale. "Let's take a short break before continuing. Several other city packs have matters to discuss as well.

Alistair helped me up, and we followed Nathan and Luna Selena to a small room adjacent to the hall while the other Alphas filed out through the main door.

‘One perk of living here, Nathan said after Conrad closed the door behind us, access to these private spaces. Our ancestors always built hidden paths for quick escapes or private conversations.’

He turned to me with genuine appreciation in his eyes. “You handled that beautifully. Evelyn. Samuel constantly tries to squeeze extra resources from us. You nailed his problem and left him speechless.” He tilted his head curiously. “I wasn’t aware Polaris had sent an aid team.”

“That was my first mission outside our territory.” I explained. Thomas and Griffin took me along. Raymond and Elliot probably still don’t know I went. We needed permission to cross Fury City, but Samuel dragged his feet forever and barely acknowledged us when we finally got through.”

I continued while accepting a glass of water. “Black Obsidian got hit hardest – lost their entire eastern region. Frost Glow and Eternal Night had smaller attacks. The pattern forms an arc, like someone’s systematically testing each city defenses.”

I took a sip before adding, “Honestly, Fury City’s actually safest – the attacks deliberately avoid their territory. Samuels just using the situation to grab resources. We gave them the same help as everyone else – damage assessment, recovery support, defense plans. If he’s expecting permanent royal warriors

stationed there, he s dreaming.”

“We should check if Frost Glow and Eternal Night implemented your strategies, athan said, making notes.

We refreshed ourselves during the break. When I came out, Luna Selena had her ylist make quick touch-ups to ensure I looked perfect for the next round. When we returned to the meeting room, everyone except Samuel had resumed their seats.

My guess proved right. Nathan had barely settled when Samuel strode in with a young man apparently his son-looking smugly satisfied at his late entrance. Nathan wasn’t playing along though, and immediately began discussing matters with the Frost Glow and Eternal Night Alphas before Samuel even

sat down.

As these Alphas detailed their defense improvements and specifically thanked me asking me to pass their gratitude to Alpha Adam, Thomas, and Griffin,

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## Chapter 91: Your Performance Today Was Simply Admirable

warmth spread through my chest. This was exactly why I wanted to be a Sentinel not for recognition, but to help people feel safe again.

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The day flowed more smoothly after that. Samuel avoided me like I had the plague, while others watched curiously, clearly wondering why this teenage girl

had the Alpha King's respect.

The second meeting fascinated me most. Rather than border security, it focused on establishing a cross-city emergency communication network. In a kingdom divided by oceans and mountains, traditional messengers often couldn't deliver warnings fast enough.

The elders presented various proposals – from specially trained messenger wolves to highland signal towers. After heated debate, they settled on a brilliant hybrid system using smoke signals and mirror reflections that could reportedly send messages hundreds of kilometers in minutes.

I scribbled detailed notes on communication strategies and resource plans. This experimental network could revolutionize emergency response. I'd never considered how vital communication was in warfare, giving me a deeper appreciation for what Sentinel work truly entailed.

After the second meeting, we broke for a late lunch. Following royal tradition, Luna Selena and I changed outfits again. This time, I wore a silver-gray silk ensemble – a knee-length coat and tailored pants. The coat's deep blue lining featured subtle lunar phase patterns that caught the light at certain angles. My

silver low-heeled boots combined elegance with practicality.

Unlike my morning outfit, this one projected authority rather than just beauty. Luna Selena personally adjusted my collar.

"The security meeting is more sensitive," she said quietly. "Some of your ideas have already been developed by Nathan and the warriors. The elders tend to question new concepts, so be ready for pushback."

The final meeting took place in a smaller hall, limited to specially invited elders and senior warriors. A rectangular oak table dominated the space, with seats for about thirty. Ancient war maps and portraits of past Sentinels decorated the walls, while the room smelled of polished wood and old books.

“We’ve analyzed the attack reports,” Conrad began, standing at the head of the tale. “These incidents clearly test various cities’ defenses. The tactical similarities suggest a single organization. While we can’t confirm the Rogue Wolves involvement yet, all evidence points that way.”

“Given the threat level,” Taric continued, “we’ve completely redesigned the royal perritory’s security measures.”

He pressed a button, and a wall slid open to reveal a large 3D projection device.

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Chapter 92: She Is a Warrior Who Has Undergone Rigorous Training

Evelyn’s POV

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The projection device hummed to life, revealing a detailed 3D model of the cast and surrounding area. My eyes widened as I recognized what I was seeing – it was an advanced version of the crude diagram I’d made with utensils and pebbles on Adam’s terrace. Now it appeared as a sophisticated engineering

model with tunnels, safety measures, and details I’d never even thought of.

“Only those in this room know these specifics,” Conrad said. “Various rumors about our security will continue to circulate, creating a smokescreen that will

confuse potential enemies.”

He’d barely finished when an elder with thinning gray hair jabbed a finger in my direction. “What about her?” His voice dripped with disdain. “How can we

trust she won't leak information? Or if captured, how long would someone so small last under torture? A minute or two?"

I clenched my jaw, fighting the urge to vault across the table and show him exactly what I was capable of. I was sick of people using my size against me, like being short somehow made me incompetent.

Taric cleared his throat – either warning me to stay calm or preparing to speak. Elder, his deep voice commanded attention, “this warrior has endured more

than you can imagine. More importantly, she created the core concept of this defense plan you're admiring. She considered almost every contingency we've implemented.”

Some elders still looked skeptical as they glanced between me and the model, but was too fascinated to care. I watched in amazement as Taric and Conrad

walked through each section, explaining the construction plans and security measures. They'd transformed my basic idea into something incredible.

perfecting areas I'd only roughly sketched and adding elements I'd never considered. Knowing I'd contributed to something this important filled me with

quiet pride.

“The key is unpredictability,” Taric explained, pointing to different sections. “Evelyn's design uses our terrain's natural advantages, integrating defenses so seamlessly that enemies can't pinpoint guard positions or traps, even if they know the general layout.”

I watched the elders' expressions shift from doubt to serious consideration. This was real leadership – not forcing others to accept your view through authority, but earning respect by demonstrating competence. No matter how much they'd initially dismissed me, my ideas were changing their perception.

When the meeting finally ended, my brain felt overloaded from a full day of strategy discussions and political maneuvering. As we filed out, I noticed the women already whispering excitedly about tonight's ball – clearly what they'd been waiting for all day.

“Want me to walk you back to your room? Alistair asked, a teasing glint in his eye as he noticed my exhaustion.

“Thanks, but I need some alone time,” I said. “After being surrounded by voices a day, I could use some quiet.”

He nodded. ‘Don't get lost. The castle's trickier than it looks. Be at Mom's suite six she's got a whole team waiting to transform you for the ball.

I gave him a tired smile. Sounds like another battle.”

The castle corridors were peaceful, with thick carpets that muffled my footsteps, light streamed through stained glass, painting colorful patterns on the stone floors. Ancient murals lined the walls, depicting werewolf history without by explanatory text. You could feel the weight of centuries just by looking

at them.

As I wandered, my thoughts drifted to today’s meetings. The elders suspiciousness, Samuels arrogance, the constant political undercurrents these weren’t challenges I’d expected. What surprised me most was how Nathan had taken my casual tabletop model and developed it into something so sophisticated.

A faint noise interrupted my thoughts. It came from a half-open door ahead of me for my unusually sharp hearing. I might have missed it completely. I was about to walk past, not wanting to invade anyone’s privacy, but as I got closer, I recognized Alistair’s recreation room. The sounds were clearer now – hushed voices, rustling clothes, quiet breathing.

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Chapter 92: She Is a Warrior Who Has Undergone Rigorous Training

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I hesitated. No one was supposed to be in here. After a moment’s consideration, I gently pushed the door open just enough to make my presence known without fully intruding.

“Evelyn!” Alistair sounded shocked as he quickly put distance between himself and the person beside him, a handsome young man around his age. “What are you doing here?”

They both looked flustered. Alistair’s normally immaculate suit jacket was rumpled, his shirt untucked in places. They’d clearly been in the middle of something intimate, and I’d become the unwelcome interruption.

I was just walking by and heard noises,” I stammered, feeling my face heat up. I was worried since nobody’s supposed to be in here... but you’re clearly... fine...” My voice trailed off awkwardly.

“It’s okay,” Alistair took a deep breath, his expression flickering with nervousness before settling. “Since you’ve already seen us, I should introduce you to Rowan.” He turned to the young man with a tenderness I’d never seen before. “He’s my mate.”

Rowan nodded politely. “Nice to finally meet you. Alistair talks about you a lot.”

A realization suddenly clicked. ‘Wait, is this why everyone’s so weird about you finding a mate? Because you chose a guy?’

Rowan laughed a rich, warm sound. “Smart girl. Traditional wolf society isn’t exactly open-minded, especially for someone in the prince’s position.”

“But a Moon Goddess-chosen mate shouldn’t be questioned,” Alistair added. “We believe this is her will. Mom confirmed through prayer – the Goddess told her I’d have multiple mates, with Rowan being just one.”

“We think the other mate might be female, Rowan explained calmly. “That way, Alistair could continue the royal bloodline. But the elders would still use this situation to push him toward accepting someone they’ve chosen.”

I nodded, things falling into place. “So you need me as cover, to make them thinkm your –

“For now, yes, Alistair admitted. It protects our relationship and buys time to find my true mates. If you’re willing to help, of course.”

I didn’t hesitate. “Absolutely. If it helps you, I’m happy to keep playing this part. smiled at both of them, then awkwardly pointed toward the door. “I should go get ready. Luna Selena’s probably waiting for me.”

“Thanks for understanding,” Alistair said sincerely. “You’re more open-minded than I expected.”

“I just don’t think the Moon Goddess makes mistakes,” I shrugged, backing toward the door. “Besides, Rowan seems way better than those calculating girls the elders keep throwing at you.”

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### **93**

Chapter 93: Much More Complex Than I Imagined

Evelyn's POV

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I hurried toward Luna's suite, still processing what I'd just learned about Alistair and Rowan. Despite my own single-minded focus on training and becoming

a Sentinel, I felt genuinely happy that Alistair had found love, even if werewolf society wouldn't make it easy for them.

Luna Selena's suite buzzed with activity when I arrived. Stylists, makeup artists, and wardrobe specialists moved with quiet efficiency around the room.

"There you are!" Luna rushed over, taking my hand. "I was about to send someone to find you."

As she led me to the dressing table, I caught my reflection and couldn't help smiling. "This is more exhausting than a ten-kilometer run.

"You'll get used to it," Luna laughed. "Sometimes we need to showcase different sides of ourselves. Tonight isn't just social – it's political. Every detail

matters."

The next two hours were a whirlwind. First came a bath with herbs and flowers that left my skin impossibly soft, followed by treatments I couldn't even

name.

"I've never done anything like this before," I admitted while the stylist worked on my hair. "At my father's house, this stuff was considered a waste of time."

Luna's eyes softened. "Your life has centered on training and combat. That's not bad, but a woman's strength exists in how she presents herself too. You !!

look different tonight, but you'll still be the same brave, intelligent Sentinel inside."

Her words hit me unexpectedly hard. Since losing my mother, I'd never experienced this kind of maternal care – being truly seen and understood. It felt

like... home.

"You have extraordinary talents," Luna continued. "Not just in fighting, but in how you see the world. Your ideas are creative, your solutions unexpected.

That's why Nathan values your opinion.

I looked up, surprised. “Really? I thought he was just being polite letting me attend those meetings.”

“Never underestimate yourself. Those defense concepts completely changed our security strategy. Before you came, we’d been arguing for months without

1 1 reaching consensus. Then you solved everything with a few stones and utensils.”

My cheeks flushed, and I changed the subject. “So what exactly happens tonight with dancing and small talk?”

Luna’s eyes twinkled. “Small talk is the surface; politics is what’s underneath. Everyone will try to figure out your relationship with Alistair, looking for weaknesses. As his companion, you’ll be the center of attention.”

She grew more serious. “By tradition, Alpha King Nathan and I open the ball, with you and Alistair following immediately. This is significant – princes

typically only dance the opening with recognized mates. Your appearance will cause quite a stir.

“So it’s basically a strategic operation, I said. ‘Way more complicated than I thought.

“Politics never is simple, Luna smiled. But you’ll handle it beautifully. Just like martial arts: observe, adapt, respond.”

When the stylist finished with my hair, I finally stood to put on my dress. It was a deep blue, surprisingly simple in design. The gown flowed to the floor, cinched at the waist, with an off-shoulder neckline that showed off the muscle definition years of training had given me. The back featured an open design

with shimmering silver chains crisscrossing it beautiful but practical.

Standing before the full-length mirror, I barely recognized myself. The woman reflected back looked confident and mature, with bright eyes and an intricate updo adorned with tiny crystals that caught every ray of light.

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Chapter 93: Much More Complex Than I Imagined

“Wow,” I whispered. ‘Is that really me?’

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Luna stood behind me, pride in her eyes. “This has always been you. We just revealed what was already there. She squeezed my shoulder gently. “Ready?”

I took a deep breath and nodded. “Ready.”

A knock came at the door.

“Come in, Luna called.

Alistair entered wearing a perfectly tailored black suit. When he saw me, he froze mouth slightly open.

“Holy shit, he finally managed. “I wasn’t expecting this.”

\*Someone appreciates our work,” Luna laughed. “Don’t just stand there gawking.”

Alistair stepped inside, still staring. “The guys back home are gonna kill me.”

“What’s that supposed to mean?” I frowned.

“You look too damn good,” he explained. “I’ll spend all night fending off Alphas and their sons, while worrying about how those overprotective Polaris guys

will react when they see photos.”

I rolled my eyes. “You’re being ridiculous.”

“Am I? Since you left, they’ve gotten even more protective. If they knew I was letting you dress like this around a bunch of strange Alphas, they’d tear me apart.”

“If that’s what you think, why’d you invite me?” I challenged, suddenly uncomfortable.

\*Because I needed your help, and you’re the only one I trust,” Alistair said, his tone shifting. “Tonight, people will try to use you to get to me and my

parents. You’re not just our friend, you’re our shield.”

“Shield?” I raised an eyebrow. “Not exactly flattering.”

“What I mean is,” Alistair explained, “your presence will discourage those girls hoping to become my mate. We want rumors about us to spread so the elders

ease up on the pressure.”

Luna fastened a delicate silver chain with a wolf pendant around my neck. “It’s just a game, dear. Politics always is. But remember, you’re not just Alistair’s shield you’re our valued guest.”

I touched the pendant and nodded. I get it. So how do we get to this thing?”

“We enter together, Alistair gestured toward the door. ‘Guards first, then us, followed by Alpha King and Luna Queen. The order means something specific in formal settings.”

I took Alistair’s arm as we left the room. In the hallway, he leaned close to my ear. “Don’t accept food or drinks from anyone. Only take what Sebastian brings you personally.”

“What?” I stared at him. Someone would try to poison me?

“It’s happened before,” Alistair nodded seriously. ‘Rarely, but we can’t take chances. You’re now seen as connected to the royal family – anyone close to royalty could be a target.”

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Chapter 93: Much More Complex Than I Imagined

That put me on alert. I’d viewed this as a social event, but clearly royal life contained dangers I hadn’t anticipated.

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The corridor glowed with warm candlelight from silver candelabras. Guards stood at attention along our path, bowing slightly as we passed. We took the elevator to the first floor, meeting additional guards outside the ballroom.

“This next part might be a bit theatrical,” Alistair warned quietly. “When we enter, everyone will stare. Keep smiling, stand tall, be as confident as you are in

battle.

I never smile in battle,” I smirked. “Might make enemies think I’m having fun.”

Tonight you are fighting.” Alistair grinned. Just with manners and fake smiles instead of fists.”

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## Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

### 94

Chapter 94: Absolute Nightmare

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Evelyn's POV

Alpha King Nathan and Luna Queen Selena joined us in the gathering area minutes later. Nathan wore a dark blue suit that looked almost black in certain light, a silver royal insignia pinned to his chest. Selena floated beside him in a silver-white gown that rippled like water with her every movement, tiny crystals catching the light. Her upswept hair was crowned with a delicate silver tiara marking her as Luna Queen.

“Everyone set?” Nathan asked, his eyes sweeping over us.

We nodded, and at his signal, the head guard commanded the doors to open. The announcer's voice boomed through the hall as we entered in formation – guards first, then Alistair and me, with Nathan and Selena following.

The ballroom was breathtaking. Soaring arched ceilings supported crystal chandeliers that bathed everything in warm light. Ancient tapestries and portraits of stern-faced past Alpha Kings lined the walls. The central floor gleamed, cleared for dancing and surrounded by elegantly set tables.

Hundreds of eyes locked onto us as we entered. I felt their scrutiny like physical pressure against my skin – judging, assessing, wondering who this girl was

with their prince. I straightened my spine and lifted my chin, the way I would before a fight.

We approached a slightly elevated platform where the royal table stood. After we took our positions, Nathan delivered a brief welcome speech, thanking everyone for attending the day's meetings and officially opening the evening's festivities. The band started playing, and servers began circulating with trays

of food.

“See the girl in purple?” Alistair whispered. “That’s Stella Cairns. She’s been gunning to be my mate since we were kids. Her dad’s been pushing for the match for years.

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I glanced where he indicated and caught a dark-haired woman staring daggers at us. “Yeah, she looks thrilled to see me.”

“Three rejection letters and counting,” Alistair chuckled. “Now she’s watching her plans implode in real time.”

Nathan signaled for us to sit. To my surprise, Alistair pulled out the chair between himself and his mother for me. The placement clearly meant something, because it set off another wave of whispers around the room.

“You sure about this?” I muttered as I sat. “People are practically gossiping out loud.

“That’s the whole point,” Alistair grinned. “Let them talk. Keeps them too busy to push their daughters at me.”

The dinner was elaborate course after course of perfectly prepared meat, seafood vegetables, and desserts. I watched Luna Selena from the corner of my eye, copying her movements with the bewildering array of silverware.

“Relax,’ she said softly. “Nobody’s going to exile you for using the wrong fork. You’re doing fine.”

After the main course, Alistair leaned close. Ready for our big moment?

My stomach dropped. “Dancing? I completely forgot. Alistair, I don’t know how to dance. At all.”

“Just follow me,” he said. I won’t let you fall on your face.

When the last plates had been cleared, the band shifted formation. Nathan stood and offered his hand to Selena, while Alistair did the same to me. I took a deep breath and accepted, and we walked to the center of the floor as guests moved back to give us space.

“Eyes on me,” Alistair said, placing one hand on my waist and taking my hand with the other. Pretend they’re not even here.”

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## Chapter 94: Absolute Nightmare

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As the music started, Alistair guided me through the steps. I was clumsy at first, terrified of crushing his toes, but I gradually found the rhythm. It wasn't that different from combat training – balance, coordination, reading your partner movements.

“This isn't as bad as I thought, I admitted.

I'm a decent teacher, he smirked. “Though I bet Magnus or Lucian would have you dancing like a pro in half the time.”

The mention of their names sent an unexpected pang through my chest. “How are they doing?”

“Missing you like crazy,” Alistair said. “When I brought them your letter, they nearly tackled me to get it faster.”

I couldn't help laughing. “Hope they didn't rough you up too much.”

“It was brutal,” Alistair sighed dramatically. “Magnus threatened to personally hurt me down if you came back with so much as a hair out of place.”

More couples had joined us on the dance floor as we talked. Just as the first song was ending, a hand tapped Alistair's shoulder.

“Your Highness,” a sugary voice cut in, “surely you've shown enough courtesy. Perhaps it's time someone more... suitable... joined you for the rest of the

evening?”

It was Stella, her purple gown as elaborate as her expression was hostile.

Alistair's arm tightened around my waist. “That's incredibly rude, Stella,” he said, voice cool but firm. “I'm with my chosen companion for the evening.

Her perfectly shaped eyebrows drew together. “She's just some random warrior, not even of age. You can't seriously think she deserves this position?”

“Evelyn's worth isn't yours to judge,” Alistair's voice dropped dangerously. “And you're questioning the Alpha King's guest. Think carefully about your next

move.”

Stella's mouth fell open in shock. She glared at me before stalking away, practically vibrating with anger.

"Sorry about that," Alistair muttered. "Should've warned you she might try something."

"Please," I rolled my eyes. "Compared to what happens in combat training, that was nothing."

When the dance ended, we rejoined Nathan and Selena. Servers brought drinks, and Alistair quietly reminded me to only accept glasses directly from Sebastian.

"The prince is right," Nathan added seriously. "Poisoning attempts are rare these days, but historically, it's happened."

"Father, Alistair said suddenly, "I think Evelyn should receive a Sentinel mark. I would let her communicate with us through mind link in settings like this.

Much safer."

Nathan considered this, then nodded. "Good point. She's proven herself worthy, secure communication would benefit everyone. I'll discuss it with Taric."

I blinked in surprise. "Really? I thought I'd have to wait at least until next year

"Special circumstances call for special measures, Nathan smiled. And this isn't st for tonight. The mark would simply formalize what we already know about your abilities."

"Speaking of safety," I said, changing the subject, would anyone really try something here?"

"We can't afford to take chances, Nathan replied.

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Chapter 94: Absolute Nightmare

Lana Selena's lips curled into a mysterious smile. Like Miss Cairns just now. That was quite bold, wasn't it?"

# The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

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## Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

### 95

Chapter 95: How Did You Gain His Favor So Easily?

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Evelyn's POV

“Can you believe she thinks batting her eyelashes will win Alistair over?” I whispered to Nathan as we watched Stella storm away, her head still high despite the rejection.

“For families like the Cairns, political marriages matter more than the Moon Goddess's blessing.” Nathan explained. “They see royal connections as stepping stones to power. He paused. “I met Selena much later than Alistair found Rowan. Now they just need to wait for their third mate.”

The way Nathan spoke about Rowan impressed me. Many Alphas would struggle with their son loving another man, especially with bloodline continuation at stake.

“If the Goddess already prophesied a third mate, why the long wait?” I glanced toward Luna Selena. “Wouldn't she want the Alpha King's power completed sooner?”

“The Goddess works in mysterious ways,” Selena replied with a gentle smile. “Personally, I think the future Luna Queen still has her own trials to face before she's ready.”

“Pardon the interruption,” a silver-haired elder approached, his tone polite but his eyes calculating. “Miss Evelyn, your insights during today's meeting were quite refreshing. I'd love to discuss a few points with you privately.”

I hesitated, remembering Alistair's warning about these seemingly friendly elders I glanced at Alistair, who nodded but kept his arm firmly around me, clearly intending to join us.

“Perhaps we could speak on the terrace,” the elder suggested, then frowned when he noticed Alistair. “Prince Alistair, surely you have more pressing matters? I can look after Miss Evelyn.”

“My place is with Evelyn,” Alistair replied firmly. “Our shared interest in strategy and training formed our friendship. Her achievements as a Sentinel trainee speak for themselves. She doesn't need looking after.”

\*Remarkable for a female warrior,” the elder said with barely hidden contempt the made my blood boil. “Women certainly have their place in battle- tending wounds, protecting cubs.”

I took a deep breath, fighting back the urge to snap at him. Alistair’s gentle pressure against my waist reminded me to stay calm.

“Evelyn fights alongside warriors of all kinds, Alistair stated. “She outperforms most at her level in mixed training. During selection, she beat several well- trained male warriors – his lips quirked into a smile, “including me.”

I exchanged a grin with Alistair, surprised he’d admit that so readily.

“Sentinel training?” The elder’s mask slipped, his voice thick with doubt. “Impossle you don’t even meet the age requirement.”

“Warrior Taric and Alpha King Nathan thought I qualified for early admission, rugged. “So here I am.”

“All new recruits require Council approval, the elder narrowed his eyes. How did you get authorization?

Alistair’s gaze hardened. My father, as Alpha King, doesn’t need to explain every decision. The king makes necessary judgments while elders serve as advisors. Only major issues require your full consultation.”

His statement directly challenged the elders attempts to position themselves at royal authority. I suddenly understood why I’d arrived at the training center later than others, and why I still hadn’t received my Sentinel mark not because of age, but because of these power-hungry elders.

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Chapter 95: How Did You Gain His Favor So Easily?

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“Alistair!” A woman with purple hair suddenly pushed into our circle. Ive been looking everywhere for you. You still owe me a dance.”

Alistair's expression cooled instantly. Their scheme was painfully obvious separate me so she could get to Alistair. Their tactics were laughably transparent.

Before Alistair could respond, I stroked his chest lightly and said, "Go ahead. Why not have Rowan join me while you indulge this purple-haired beauty's fantasy? Let her pretend for one dance that she has a chance with you." I made sure everyone could hear, then winked at Alistair.

Alistair's smile grew into genuine laughter. Purple-hair's face darkened, but she was smart enough not to show her anger openly.

"Whatever you want, little one, Alistair gently touched my jaw. Ten minutes, then Rowan brings you back to me."

Rowan approached smoothly, nodding to Alistair before turning to me. "Heard I'm playing bodyguard? Though you clearly don't need protection." The three

of us shared knowing smiles. "We'll be back in ten, Your Highness." He winked at Alistair.

Alistair kissed my temple lightly. "See you soon." I nodded.

"You're not mates, yet that boy is completely taken with you," the elder muttered after Alistair left. "How many women have chased him for years without success? How'd you win him over so easily?"

"Weren't we discussing strategy? I raised an eyebrow, keeping my tone respectful but firm.

Honestly, I'm just curious what makes you special," he admitted. "You've received extraordinary treatment from the royal family, raising questions. You've

won everyone over, even your new protector seems devoted to you."

I could feel Rowan standing alert behind me. His distrust of this elder was palpable, and I was inclined to trust his and Alistair's judgment.

"There's nothing special about me," I said. "I'm just a warrior, no different from anyone else who took the Sentinel tests. I've discussed strategy with the Alpha King and been lucky to receive guidance. That's all."

"Did you really participate in rescue operations around Samuel Alpha's territory? he abruptly changed subjects.

"I did."

"Hard to believe. No Delta or Gamma would bring a girl on such a dangerous mission."

“Maybe not in your pack,” I replied evenly. “But ours encourages full development rather than limitations. Many of our young wolves start training early

based on their talents some in medicine, others in cub care. Our Omegas work closely with other ranks. I have a knack for combat, so I joined the rescue

team for field experience. I’m also good at defense strategies, which is what I recommended to Samuel Alpha. He refused simply because they came from a

girl, and now he’s paying for that arrogance.”

I fell silent. My position was clear; he didn’t need more from me.

I felt Rowan trembling slightly behind me, suppressing laughter.

The elder shifted to safer topics as we walked the terrace. He asked about training facilities, whether I’d seen other parts of royal territory, and how I balanced school with training.

Rowan touched my shoulder. “Time’s up. Alistair’s waiting.” I nodded, relieved to cape the interrogation.

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The Lightning Wolf Chronicles

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### Chapter 5

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## Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

### 96

Chapter 96: You Will Be Tomorrow Morning’s Hot Topic

Evelyn’s POV

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Thank you for your time, Elder,” I said politely as Rowan and I turned to leave. I didn’t bother checking his expression.

Back in the great hall, I spotted Alistair trapped with the purple-haired woman, his face frozen in that polite smile that screamed ‘help me.’ After dealing with that nosy elder, I was done playing nice. I let go of Rowan’s arm and walked straight up to them.

“Dance time’s over,” I said, sliding between them. “The prince gave you your shot but clearly you struck out. Time to move on.” I released a wave of energy mixing my Beta bloodline with something else – something that felt strange but powerful. Now I understood why the triplets were always careful with their auras; this power felt intoxicating.

Purple-hair’s eyes widened as she stumbled back, clearly feeling the pressure.

“Remind me never to piss you off when you become Luna,” Rowan whispered behind me, genuine respect in his voice. I turned to him, confused, just as Alistair slipped his arm around my waist.

“What Luna?” I frowned.

That display was seriously intimidating,” Rowan explained, eyes bright with admiration. “Your aura has this natural authority that even I felt – and I have

zero interest in women.” He shot Alistair a playful look. “Someday, some Alpha’s gonna match with you. Hope you stay in this kingdom, or we’d be screwed in negotiations.”

Alistair and I both burst out laughing. Me, a threat in negotiations? Ridiculous.

The rest of the night was exhausting – ambitious girls circling Alistair like sharks; stuffy elders trying to isolate me. Thankfully, I had backup; if Alistair

wasn’t beside me, Rowan was my shadow. A few young Alpha heirs tried approaching, but Alistair and Rowan’s synchronized growls warned them off. Their

territorial display reminded me so much of Elliot and the triplets that I couldn’t help smiling.

When midnight finally came, Alpha King Nathan and Luna Selena signaled our escape. The three of us practically bolted for the elevator. Just as the doors

were closing, a hand shot through the gap, making my heart jump.

The doors reopened to reveal Taric.

“God, you scared me,” I exhaled.

‘Did I?’ His eyebrow rose. ‘After tonight’s battles, a hand stopping an elevator makes you nervous?’

Words are nothing. I admitted. I just let my guard down for a second. I kicked myself mentally. After all the warnings, I’d still slipped up.

“Consider it a lesson, Taric said, not unkindly. I nodded, staring at my feet. In a crisis, that mistake could be fatal.

“Don’t be too hard on yourself, Taric’s voice softened unexpectedly. “Your assessment was correct. These people fight with words and political games, especially inside these walls. They won’t risk getting thrown out by doing anything openly, but that doesn’t mean they play by the rules once they’re out of the king’s sight. Overall, you handled yourself well tonight.”

“You were watching me?” I asked, feeling both curious and uneasy.

“Alpha King Nathan wouldn’t trust your safety to anyone else, he replied simply. Remember, you’re important to this kingdom.”

Exhaustion hit me like a truck. I didn’t want to be ‘special’ or ‘important’ I just wanted to be normal, to become a good Sentinel, find my mate, and have a normal life with friends and family. Was that too much to ask? I leaned against the wall without thinking, resting my head on his shoulder. He pulled me

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Chapter 96: You Will Be Tomorrow Morning’s Hot Topic

closer, and I closed my eyes, letting his familiar scent calm me down.

I must have dozed off because the next thing I knew, I was being carried. Conversations filtered through my half-conscious mind.

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“You should’ve seen her shut down that elder,” someone was saying – Rowan? I’ve never seen anyone outmaneuver him, especially not someone so young.”

“And when she confronted Stella, another voice added. “That girl nearly collapsed from fear. Honestly, I’m a little scared of her myself now. Imagine how

intimidating she’ll be once she gets her Luna powers.”

“Why assume she’ll become Luna?” That was definitely Taric’s voice, stern as always.

I tried to stay awake to hear more, but the gentle swaying was pulling me back under.

“At today’s meeting, she was the only young woman there, and she guided fifty werewolves without breaking a sweat, Rowan was explaining. “Those old-school elders think women should just take care of kids or patch up wounds. They brought their daughters as decoration, not to actually participate. And she -he paused, ‘she made everyone listen and proved she belonged at that table. She wasn’t aggressive or manipulative. Tonight, no matter what they threw at her, she stayed cool. If she doesn’t become Luna. Warrior Taric. I’d worry about your job security.” Soft laughter followed.

“Alistair, this guest room is closest to yours, Taric’s voice switched to business. still don’t trust some of tonight’s guests. Someone might try something.”

I finally came fully awake, opening my eyes to find myself in Alistair’s arms.

“Hey, sleepyhead,” he said softly. “You crashed in the elevator. You’re staying here tonight and tomorrow. Don’t even think about your morning run.”

I chuckled; he knew me too well. “What if I wake you up and we run together? I can’t skip training just because I’m somewhere different.”

“Alright, gentlemen, out!” Luna Selena suddenly shooed all the men away. “This young lady needs to get ready for bed. Watching her command these tall, intimidating men like they were children made me laugh.

Selena sat me at the vanity and personally removed all the decorations from my hair. She gestured toward the bathroom where nightclothes had been prepared, letting me wash away the makeup and exhaustion.

When I came out, she was reading an old book by the fireplace. She closed it when she saw me but stayed seated.

“If you really want to exercise tomorrow, take Alistair and Rowan with you, but be back by eight for breakfast,” she suggested. “Some elders and Alphas are staying in the guest quarters. After tonight, they might not be thrilled to learn you’re housed in the royal section.”

“How would they even know? Do people really care about stuff like that?” I asked genuinely confused.

“Are you seriously asking?” She laughed, eyes twinkling. “They probably know exactly who’s in which room on every floor, how many servants they brought. even what desserts were served. Many believe higher floors mean better status, and rooms near the royal

family mean special favor. Truth is, all the guest rooms are identical- I designed them myself – but nobody wants to believe that she paused.?

“They saw you and Alistair leave together, which never happens he doesn’t usually leave with women because it would cause endless gossip. Without a doubt, you’ll be tomorrow morning’s hottest topic.

## The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

### Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

## Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

### 97

Chapter 97: I Swear She Did That On Purpose

Evelyn’s POV

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“Sweet dreams, dear, Luna Selena said softly before gliding out of the room. I reached over to switch off the light and crashed into sleep almost instantly, my body finally surrendering to exhaustion.

The next morning, I was about to sneak out to find Alistair when a gentle knock sounded at my door.

“Just a sec,” I called, frantically trying to tame my bedhead before pulling it open

Alistair and Rowan stood there already decked out in workout gear, clearly ready for our morning run.

“You guys actually showed up, I grinned, grabbing my phone before following them out.

Yesterday I’d texted Sophia to let her know I was at the castle but wasn’t sure about visitor rules. As we headed outside, I sent another quick message telling

her about our morning workout plans. Maybe we could meet up later so I could fill her in on last night’s drama.

Her response came almost immediately. She cursed me colorfully for waking her this ungodly hour” but mentioned she could drop by for breakfast since

it wasn't a formal event.

Dawn was just breaking as we stepped outside, the sun peeking over the mountains while a light mist still clung to the grass, giving everything a dreamlike

quality.

“At least those fancy ladies won't spot us back here,” I nudged Alistair. “Unless they're pressing their faces against windows with binoculars right now.”

“No chance,” he laughed. “Guest rooms all face the front. That's why we snuck out the back way.” The three of us shared a conspiratorial grin, pleased with our little escape.

Alistair led us to a training area behind the castle with top-notch equipment and a winding mountain path. After warming up, we hit the trail hard. The physical exertion felt amazing after last night's tension-filled social minefield.

During our water breaks, I got to know Rowan better. Turned out he was the royal Delta's son, a position that not only brought honor but gave him skills to protect the royal family – especially his mate, the future Alpha King. He explained he'd always thought he'd only be attracted to men, but now accepted their third mate would be female. I'd never really thought about how a multiple-mate relationship would work, but it sounded fascinating.

The scenery was absolutely stunning. We eventually reached that lake I'd seen from Alistair's window photo. When we found the ancient pine tree I'd admired, I asked Alistair to snap a picture for my friends back home my way of saying ‘still thinking of you’ without actually calling.

Alistair also wanted a photo of me standing between him and Rowan. I felt a twinge of guilt but couldn't help laughing. He'd definitely get responses from the guys before I even had a chance to check my phone.

I understood why limited contact was part of training, but the disconnection stilted an emptiness in my chest. I hadn't even answered their letters yet – those messages full of guilt and apologies. Reading between the lines, I could tell they must have seen me at my most vulnerable after the attack. I wished I could make them understand this wasn't their fault. The real culprits were Acacia and her minions. And yes, me too for having the ability to protect myself but choosing to suffer silently instead.

That was a mistake I wouldn't repeat. No matter what threats Acacia's father made. I would never again stand by while she hurt any pack member. She had no right to hurt others, even if she somehow became Luna. Those kinds of action wouldn't fly anymore not on my watch.

As we finished our workout, we cut through the maze where Alpha King Nathand dropped the royal family bombshell on me, then climbed the steps to the main entrance platform.

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Chapter 97: I Swear She Did That On Purpose

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I crossed our makeshift finish line first, naturally. No way was I letting either of them win without a fight. Our friendly competition had us all laughing, regardless of who came in where.

“Jesus, shorty,” Rowan gasped between breaths. How do you move that fast on such tiny legs? It’s not right.” I smiled at the nickname – it meant he considered me a friend already. Nicknames always gave me that sense of belonging I craved.

“She did that on purpose,’ Alistair wheezed from behind. Every time I almost caught up, she d just... zoom off again.”

“You train like this every day?’ Rowan asked, eyes wide with genuine respect.

‘Not always this intense,” I shrugged. “But yeah, daily workout is non-negotiable. Gotta mix it up though, or your body gets too comfortable. I spoke casually, like this was common knowledge.

“That settles it,” Rowan declared, still panting. “I’m finishing work early to train with your little cousin from now on, Alistair, or I’ll never keep up.” We were still laughing as we walked inside, barely noticing our surroundings.

“Prince Alistair!” a shrill voice cut through our moment.?

The purple-haired woman from last night stood there with her entourage of perfectly groomed ladies. “We’ve been looking everywhere for you,’ she continued. “You disappeared so suddenly last night. Her wording cleverly suggested Alistair might have spent the night with her before sneaking out at dawn. The manipulation was so obvious it was almost impressive.

\*Evelyn and I decided to get some exercise in early,” Alistair replied coolly. “Some things take priority. Maintaining training routines is essential – not everyone trades physical conditioning for beauty sleep. His tone was polite but left zero room for misinterpretation.

I instinctively stepped back closer to Rowan, letting Alistair handle his own fan club. Dealing with this kind of cattiness before breakfast was not my idea of a good morning.

“Now that you’ve finished your... diversion with less appropriate company, Purple Hair shot me a dismissive look, “you can join breakfast with people better suited to your station. We’ve saved you a seat.”

Why did these women always have to throw shade about status? If we were talking bloodlines, mine probably ranked higher than hers. I felt anger bubbling up and took a deep breath to calm myself. She wasn’t worth it. Then, for reasons I couldn’t explain, I stepped forward and grabbed Alistair’s arm.

“Actually,” I said, gripping him firmly while keeping my voice sweet, “we need to shower and change. Luna Queen expects us at breakfast by eight. At this rate, we might only have time for one shower between us.” I winked at Purple-Ha, then pulled Alistair toward the elevator. He kept pace with me while Rowan erupted into laughter behind us.

“That’s my girl!” Rowan howled as the elevator doors closed. “Remind me never piss you off, little Luna lady. The look on her face was priceless!” Alistair stayed quiet, but I caught the small smile playing at his lips, like he was hiding a private thought.

## **The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel**

### **Chapter 5**

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

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

### **98**

Chapter 98: That Attraction Is Almost Impossible To Resist

Evelyn’s POV

Did I cross a line? I asked, wiping sweat from my forehead. “That girl was just pushy.”

Alistair pulled me into a casual hug, both of us still warm from our run. “You didn’t cross anything, but do you realize what you implied?”

“In theory, sure,” I laughed awkwardly, “but practically speaking, I’m clueless about this stuff.”

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He stepped back, studying my face. "Sometimes I forget how young you are. You've dealt with more than most adults, but you're still innocent about normal

relationships."

"Holy crap, I never noticed!" Rowan's eyes widened. "You talk like a veteran commander in those meetings, but you're only sixteen? You haven't even had

your first real kiss, have you?"

I noticed Alistair tense up, his breathing changing as he waited for my answer.

"Nothing romantically meaningful," I admitted. "Just forehead or cheek stuff like Alistair does - basically brotherly." I bit my lip. "Until last year, nobody approached me. Acacia made sure anyone who tried being my friend became her next target. It wasn't until Nadia showed up that Elliot and the others

actually noticed me. Everything I know about dating comes from watching them.

"You really should tell me who this girl is," Alistair growled softly, his face in my hair.

"The more I hear, the more I want to deal with her personally. You're

not my mate, but your scent calms me like Rowan's does. That's super rare."

"Way to change the subject," I said, still in his arms with my heart racing.

"For real," Rowan agreed. "I noticed it last night too with that elder. Being near you clears my head, but you're definitely not our mate. It's weird."

"Must be one of those bloodline gifts," Alistair mused. "I should ask my father about it. This doesn't make sense - usually only a mate's scent has that

effect."

The elevator doors opened at our floor.

Get ready in my room this morning," Alistair suddenly suggested.

"What? Why? Rowan and I asked together.

"That crowd downstairs is already stirring, especially after your little showdown. Having you close would make me feel better.

Rowan's expression shifted. After our earlier conversation, this could be awkward

How about I promise not to leave until you come get me? I pleaded. "I feel weird invading your space. You do your thing, text me when you're ready, and I won't open the door for anybody."

'Oh, he'll definitely come for you himself, Rowan muttered, making my cheeks burn. I pretended not to hear him.

"I wish your dad would give me that Sentinel mark already so I could use mind links," I said, rubbing my temples as I walked to my room. Take your time. I swear I won't step outside."

I winked at them and slipped into my room, locking the door before they could get.

Alone with my thoughts, I wondered who my mate might be. The faces that came to mind were all familiar ones from Polaris City. Elliot was my brother,

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Chapter 98: That Attraction Is Almost Impossible To Resist

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obviously impossible; Milo clearly had feelings for Nadia. But Orion, Magnus, and Lucian... as I stripped off my sweaty clothes and stepped into the shower, their images took turns in my mind. If the Moon Goddess really gave me a choice how would I decide?

Each protected me in their own way, making me feel valued. What would it be like with any of them? Under the warm water, this question became increasingly distracting.

Magnus, the steadiest brother. Those deep green eyes always showing wisdom and determination, shoulders broad enough to carry any burden. He thought

through everything, catching every detail, with natural leadership no one could match.

Lucian was totally different, with unmatched charm. Those blue-green eyes seemed to read the heart's deepest secrets with warm understanding. His touch

always gentle and thoughtful, like he sensed what I needed before I knew myself

Then Orion, mysterious and intense. His gold-green eyes sharp enough to cut through any disguise, speaking rarely but always meaningfully. His protective

instincts were strongest, that contradiction of wildness and tenderness fascinating me.

Water ran down my skin as my mind wandered further. Imagining Magnus before me, Lucian behind, and Orion watching from the side, my breathing quickened. Magnus's hand on my cheek, Lucian's lips on my shoulder, while Orion observed with that intense focus – this fantasy made me tremble.

When the feeling peaked, I bit my lip to stay quiet. This entirely new sensation shot through me like electricity, leaving me breathless against the wall. Was

this what the Moon Goddess wanted us to experience? This intense feeling of being desired?

Coming back to reality, I quickly turned off the water. Realizing how long I'd been in there, I hurriedly dressed, not wanting to keep Alistair and Rowan

waiting.

They showed up thirty minutes late.

“Sorry about that,” Rowan explained awkwardly. “Some things we couldn't control. When you find your mate, you'll get it. That pull is pretty much

impossible to fight.

Seeing his embarrassment, I laughed, though I still felt a blush on my face. “When I find mine, I'll definitely ask for tips.”

I meant it as a joke, but Alistair turned to stare at me while Rowan wore a mischievous smile behind him. I had a feeling Rowan and I would be great

friends.

Okay, stop, Alistair rubbed his face, trying to hide his discomfort. ‘I feel like Magnus, Lucian, Elliot, and Orion are all screaming in my head right now.’”

“Let's pretend this conversation never happened,” I said casually, just like I would with Nadia. These two were definitely trouble.

“By the way,” Rowan leaned close to whisper, though we knew Alistair could hear everything, “who were you thinking about earlier?”

“What do you mean?” I asked, confused.

“That look on your face. Nobody came into your room, so you must've been thinking about someone special, right?”

“Does it count if I thought about more than one? I half joked, hoping this would satisfy his curiosity without further embarrassing me.

In the elevator, Rowan and I laughed while Alistair dramatically complained that those boys knew what we were talking about, they'd find creative ways

to kill him.

The hall was still crowded when we arrived, though less formal than yesterday. I women who saw me as competition watched carefully, but with Alistair and Rowan beside me, there wasn't much they could do. I noticed several men I hadn't seen at yesterday's meeting probably guards or warriors based on their build. I wondered why they were here.

Alpha King Nathan and Luna Queen Selena were already at the main table, waiting for us. I worried they'd been there long, but Alistair seemed

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Chapter 98: That Attraction Is Almost Impossible To Resist

unconcerned

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“Glad you could join us, Alistair, Evelyn, Rowan,” the Alpha King said politely, though his tone held a hint of teasing disapproval. He clearly guessed what had delayed the guys, while I didn't dare explain the truth, letting the misunderstanding fade like morning mist.

## The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

### Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

## Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

### 99

Chapter 99: We Should Train Together

## Evelyn's POV

Servers ushered us to our table as we nodded at guests along the way. I ended up sandwiched between Rowan and Alistair – apparently they thought I needed bodyguards on both sides. Being treated like I might break at any moment was getting on my nerves. If these people actually saw me fight, they'd

never look at me that way again.

The breakfast atmosphere was much more relaxed than last night's dinner. People moved around freely, chatting with each other and occasionally

approaching the main table to speak with Alpha King Nathan and Luna Selena.

I was halfway through my berry pancakes when a girl in Sentinel training clothes walked straight up to me. She looked about my age, with an unmistakable

confidence that reminded me of Nadia on a mission.

"Did you really take down a whole warrior squad by yourself during selection?" she asked bluntly, no hint of hostility in her voice.

"Honestly, I don't remember exactly, I admitted. "Everything was happening so fast, and I wasn't keeping count." I glanced at Alistair, hoping he might jump

The girl didn't wait for his input. "No need to be modest. I'm Aria, Kendra's daughter."

"Everyone's talking about you, but nobody has the guts to just ask." Her eyes held both admiration and challenge.

I liked her immediately. This kind of straightforward honesty was refreshing after all the political games.

"Warrior Taric would know better than me," I explained. "I just remember facing more opponents than most people. That's all I know for sure."

Aria cocked her head. "Every decent fighter keeps track of their record. If you're as good as they say, shouldn't you know your numbers?"

She wasn't challenging me, just being logical, but I realized how lame my answer must sound.

"You're right, normally I would," I acknowledged. "I actually love tracking my progress, but the selection was different. I'm only sixteen and needed special permission to even be there. If it hadn't happened in Polaris City, Alpha King Nathan probably wouldn't have approved my participation. I was more focused

on learning than counting wins.”

“So what did you learn?” Her eyes lit up with interest.

“Were you there?” I asked. “I feel like I would’ve remembered you, even in wolf form.”

Something about this girl clicked with me – maybe our similar warrior spirits. I guely heard someone mutter ‘we’ve completely lost her and now both of us are enchanted, but I barely registered it. Meeting someone who reminded me of Mark and Sophia gave me that sense of belonging I’d missed.

“Nope, missed it this year,” Aria replied. “But I’m definitely in for the next one. rn eighteen soon, and Dad says I can try finding a mate first. If he’s not around, then III hit the selection”

“Two exciting milestones to look forward to,’ I smiled.

“If you re only sixteen, why are you at the training center?” she asked directly,

I took a deep breath, pushing back flashes of Acacia and her accomplices. Alpha ing Nathan, Warrior Taric, and Warrior Conrad thought that with my academic progress, adjusted training here made sense. It was too good an opportunity to pass up I left out the part about being beaten unconscious – that would open a can of worms I wasn’t ready to deal with.

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Chapter 99: We Should Train Together

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She studied me for a moment, clearly sensing there was more to the story, but thankfully moved on. “What new techniques have you picked up there?”

“Basics are still king,” I replied, relaxing as we shifted to safer ground. “A lot of fighters forget that after they move up. I’ve been working on ground fighting – that’s my weak spot. Being small means I try to avoid getting taken down where size matters more. Doesn’t matter how good your technique is if someone twice your size has you pinned.”

Aria nodded. “We should train together sometime. My dad could set it up.”

“That would be awesome!” I said, genuinely excited. “New training partners always bring fresh perspectives.”

You're never this pumped about training with us," Rowan pretended to pout.

I already beat Alistair," I teased. "And I smoked you in our morning run, so wheres the challenge?" I winked to show I was kidding.

Aria burst out laughing, her voice carrying across half the dining hall.

"Damn, I like you!" she said with open admiration. "How long are you staying at the castle? We really need to spar."

"Heading back to the center sometime today," I said with a touch of regret. "Alpha King hasn't specified when yet."

She turned toward Nathan. Alpha King, could I show Evelyn our training grounds I bet she hasn't seen them yet."

Looking back at me, she added, "We have several training areas, but the one near the castle is amazing – second only to the Sentinel center. Of course, us ordinary warriors' aren't allowed on your sacred training grounds." She dramatically clutched her chest, grinning.

"Excellent suggestion," Nathan nodded. "Evelyn hasn't had a proper tour. However Rowan must go with you both. Without mind-link capabilities, you ll need someone who has them in case of emergency. And be back before lunch."

"What about me?" Alistair sounded surprised at being left out.

"Son, Nathan spoke firmly but kindly, "you have your own responsibilities. We need to discuss follow-up from yesterday's meeting. The elders will inevitably raise the mate issue again – the one area they've consistently failed to influence.

Father and son exchanged a meaningful look, clearly continuing the conversation through their mind link.

I couldn't help wondering why these elders thought they had the right to meddle in everything. Their job should be advising, not controlling. Many had

clearly gotten too big for their britches.

Aria and I practically jumped up together, eager to go, while Rowan followed mo slowly. He obviously wasn't used to being separated from Alistair, but couldn't let outsiders see their special connection.

As we left the dining hall, we passed several girls who'd been chasing Alistair last night. The jealousy on their faces was obvious. I felt a twinge of guilt leaving Alistair to deal with them, but he could handle himself.

Rowan led us along a cobblestone path to a small garage housing several mini to vehicles with royal patterned tops and plush seating.

‘Ladies, he grinned, gesturing toward the vehicles, “your chariot awaits.”

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The Lightning Wolf Chronicles

## The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel

### Chapter 5

Read The Lightning Wolf Chronicles Novel Chapter 5 -

## Souls Bound By Promise – Timothy Nelson

### 100

Chapter 100: So We Can Talk

Evelyn’s POV

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“Do we really need the cart? I gestured at the vehicle Rowan pointed to. “Seemske a waste of fuel when we could just walk.

Why burn energy walking when we could use it training?” Rowan’s eyebrow arch. Besides, the paths here are more fun than you’d think.”

He started the engine, taking us up the winding mountain path. What should’ve been a peaceful ten-minute drive turned into Rowan’s personal rally course bumpy trails, sharp turns, and near-rollovers included. Behind us, Aria whooped ke she was on a roller coaster.

The training ground took my breath away. Unlike the manufactured structures at the training center, this place blended seamlessly with nature. A combat circle with white boundary lines sat in a clearing near the lake, surrounded by climbing equipment built into the trees. Ropes and nets hung from branches, while wooden platforms nestled in the canopy created perfect jumping courses. Sunlight glinted off the lake’s surface, the castle’s silhouette rising majestically in the distance.

“This beats the Sentinel center any day,” Aria said, stretching her arms. “That place is too... perfect. This is what real combat feels like.”

We spent hours training. Aria surprised me with her skill – quick reactions, unpredictable movements, and an uncanny ability to find gaps in my defense. By the time we finished, every muscle in my body complained, but I’d learned more than I’d expected.

“Going to rinse off,” I said, wiping sweat from my forehead. “Back in a few.”

“Don’t wander,” Rowan called while collecting equipment. “Thirty minutes, tops.”

I followed a path to a secluded bay, checked that I was alone, then stripped to my underwear and waded in. The cool water instantly soothed my aching muscles, and I ducked under to wash away the sweat and grime.

When I surfaced, the silence hit me. No birds, no insects – nothing. The forest had gone completely still. I scanned the shoreline, every nerve suddenly alert.

A low growl broke the silence. From the bushes, a massive gray-brown wolf lunge straight for my throat.

I dove deeper, letting water slow its attack while I started shifting. The familiar in tore through me, but adrenaline sped the transformation. Silver-blue fur erupted across my skin as bones reorganized and muscles reshaped themselves.

I burst from the water to face my attacker on shore. This wasn’t just any wolf – it was a rogue, either exiled or voluntarily separated from a pack. Filthy fur. bloodshot eyes, and nearly twice my size. Worse, it hadn’t come alone.

Four more rogues emerged from the trees, forming a semi-circle around me. They reeked of decay and old blood, a scent that should’ve been impossible to miss.

They masked their scent, my wolf realized. That’s... not normal.

The first wolf charged. I sidestepped and snapped at its flank, barely grazing the fur. It had size and strength, I had speed and agility. We rolled in the mud, locked in a deadly dance – it trying to pin me down, me constantly moving and searching for openings.

A familiar howl echoed from the forest. A second later, a brown wolf burst to the clearing, throwing herself at two of the rogues without hesitation. Her eyes flashed with fierce determination as she fought.

From another direction came Rowan, his deep brown form darting between attacks. One rogue caught him by the neck, drawing blood and pulling a pained howl from his throat.

Seeing Alistair's mate injured flipped a switch inside me. With a snarl, I slammed the rogue attacking Rowan, knocking it sideways. It recovered quickly,

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Chapter 100: So We Can Talk

77%

circling me with malice in its eyes before lunging. I dodged, but not fast enough claws raked my hind leg, making me stumble. It seized the advantage, jaws wide for my throat.

I leaned back instinctively, but its teeth still sank into my side. Pain exploded through me as I fought back desperately until it finally let go.

Aria battled two rogues at once, her movements growing slower as exhaustion and injuries took their toll. The remaining two prowled the forest edge, almost like sentries. This wasn't random – it was coordinated.

A commanding howl split the air as a powerful aura blanketed the clearing. Seven large wolves burst from the forest – the Sentinels had arrived, led by Alistair's massive black form, eyes glowing crimson.

I seized the distraction to lunge at my attacker, catching its throat precisely between my jaws. Not killing – we needed information – but definitely immobilizing. The taste made my stomach turn, but I held firm.

Alistair approached, checking me with worried eyes before his gaze hardened at the rogue beneath me. Pure Alpha energy radiated from him, along with a bone-shaking growl.

I released the now-subdued rogue, trying not to favor my injured leg. Alistair moved beside me, letting me lean against him for support while making it look

like a protective stance.

“Two dead, Alpha Prince, a Sentinel reported.

“This one's breathing, but barely, called another who resembled Aria.

“Take the survivors to the dungeon,” Taric ordered. “Minimal treatment. Have Dr. Diana force the shift, then collar them.”

The Sentinels moved with practiced efficiency. Alistair and I remained in wolf form; I wasn't about to shift back naked in front of everyone.

Taric approached with a shirt. “For you,” he said, his voice surprisingly gentle. “Alistair will shield you. Shift back so we can talk.”

I took the offered clothing. With an attack this serious, there was no point holding back information. Alistair shifted with me, his transformation smooth and seamless, clothes perfectly intact.

“How do you do that?” I asked, pointing at his clothes. “Shift without shredding everything? That would be super useful.”

“Part of Sentinel training, Taric said simply. “You’ll learn in the future. Now tells what happened. Why leave the safe zone? Aria and Rowan should know better than to wander when we’re short-staffed.”

“We didn’t leave the designated area,’ I said defensively. “We were exactly where we were supposed to be. I was just at the lake’s edge when they attacked.”