

Wolfless 16

Chapter 16 Shadows of Rivalry: Tessa's Unyielding Resolve

That feeling again.

Just like the first time their eyes met, Tessa found herself captivated by Landon's deep, penetrating gaze. It was as if the rest of the world had disappeared, leaving only him.

Her usually steady heartbeat raced uncontrollably,

They were so close that she could catch the faint, comforting scent of pinewood from him. It was intoxicating. A strange, unfamiliar desire to step even closer stirred within her.

For all her capabilities, Tessa was a complete novice when it came to matters of the heart. Realizing how out of sorts she felt, she quickly averted her eyes and took a step back to create some distance.

Landon noticed her sudden retreat and immediately spoke to diffuse her discomfort. "You don't have to overthink it. I didn't mean anything by it."

Though it wasn't entirely true. Landon did feel something for her, but Tessa was young, and he had no intention of scaring her.

"I didn't overthink anything." Tessa replied tersely, trying to push down the unfamiliar emotions bubbling up inside her. She turned abruptly and went inside, closing the door firmly behind her.

The moment the door shut, Flex's voice, echoed in Landon's mind through their Mind Link.

"You upset her! She's definitely mad because you made her uncomfortable!"

“No,” Landon responded calmly, “She’s just shy.”

Recalling her flustered, almost annoyed expression, Landon couldn’t help but smile.

Since meeting Tessa, her demeanor had been mostly indifferent, cool, and detached. But tonight, he’d seen a glimpse of something new—something youthful and endearing, and it stirred something in him.

Tessa, meanwhile, took a shower and lay down. She had planned to play games for a while but fell asleep almost immediately, the events of the day having drained her energy.

The next morning, York dropped Queenie off at school

Last night had been Queenie’s first time, and while she was inexperienced, she believed that’s what men liked—innocent girls.

“Yorkie, about tonight...” Queenie hinted shyly, hoping to keep him interested. She wanted to use their newfound intimacy to secure her place in his heart.

York patted her cheek dismissively. “Be good. I have plans tonight. I’ll come find you when I’m done.” “Yorkie, are you not satisfied with me?” she asked, her insecurities surfacing.

“How could I not be? You were perfect,” he replied smoothly

“Really? Then don’t forget to come find me later.” Queenie clung to him, willing to do anything to keep his

attention.

After dropping Queenie off, York didn't leave immediately. Instead, he lingered outside Navoris High, waiting for the girl who had been on his mind all night

When he finally spotted Tessa approaching the school gates, he moved quickly to intercept her.

"Tessa, hi. I'm York, from the national team," he said with a confident smile.

Tessa recognized him as the guy from last night who had been staring at her. She didn't bother responding, brushing past him without a word.

For the first time, someone ignored his charm, and York's lips curled into an amused smile. He caught up

to her.

Tessa, don't be like that! There's no harm in making friends, right?" he said, handing her a business card. Tessa took the card and glanced at it. "York? National basketball team?"

York mistook her tone for admiration and nodded smugly.

"Let's be friends," he insisted.

Without hesitation, Tessa walked over to a nearby trash can and tossed the card in.

-You—York was stunned. No one had ever treated him like this before. Girls usually flocked to him, eager for his attention.

But instead of anger, York felt intrigued. “Interesting. I like a challenge,” he muttered. “Tessa, just wait. One day, I’ll tear off that mask of yours.”

To York, all women were the same. They acted tough until they were conquered. Once that happened, they became as submissive as Queenie, begging for his attention.

Unbeknownst to him, this entire interaction was being watched from a car nearby—by Winona

Winona smirked. “Tessa, you won’t last in Navoris, even without me lifting a finger.”

In her mind, Queenie was more than enough to handle someone like Tessa.

Whether it was five years ago or today, Winona was determined to see Tessa cast out of the Sinclair family

once more.