

## **Wolfless 551**

### Chapter 551 Unshakable

After dinner and a few polite words, Rebecca escorted Darren out.

Only Landon and Tessa remained in the private room.

“What’s wrong? Are you upset?”

His father’s attitude had indeed been unpleasant, but he’d already said it—what others thought didn’t matter.

“Not really... it’s just, your dad doesn’t seem very pleased with me.” Tessa pouted a little.

“I told you, ignore him.” Landon tightened his grip on her hand, his tone firm. “You’re with me, not him. You don’t have to care what he thinks. As for the Nightshade Pack elders, I’ll handle them. My Luna will only ever be you.”

“I just don’t want to put you in a tough spot.”

“Would you refuse to be my fated mate because of his attitude?” Landon looked her straight in the eyes. That was the real question.

“Of course not.” Tessa shook her head immediately, her voice straightforward and burning with conviction. “This bond was given to us by the Moon Goddess. Besides, I love you. Since I’ve chosen to be with you, then whatever challenges come our way, we’ll face them together. I’ll never let go of your hand.”

Hearing that, the tension in Landon’s face finally eased. He lowered his head and kissed the top of her hair. “That’s the answer I wanted.” His fingertips gently brushed over the back of her hand. “No matter what we face in the future, as long as we hold on to each other, there’s nothing we can’t get through.”

As long as he was around, he wouldn't let anyone hurt her—not even his own family.

“Yeah. So don't get into a fight with your father over me—it's really not necessary.” Tessa didn't want him caught in the middle.

“Don't worry. I'll make him accept you.”

“I've already told you—you don't need to win anyone over.” Tessa looked up at him, eyes warm with a hint of mischief. “I've already found you perfect. You don't need to change a thing.”

“Alright. Since I've chosen to be with you, I'll take care of everything. You don't have to worry about it, okay?”

Landon let out a helpless laugh—he really couldn't argue with her.

“Also, if my dad comes looking for you, just ignore him.” He added, “He's stubborn. He won't give up easily.”

“Okay.”

Afterward, Landon dropped Tessa off at her university.

Even though it was Saturday, medical students had a packed schedule—classes still ran on weekends.

Tessa had planned to deal with the Nathan situation after class, but she didn't even get the chance to make a move—he showed up on his own.

“Come out.” Tessa stood in the shadow of the academic building, her voice cold and sharp “You came all this way just to see me, right? What's the point of hiding?”

Nathan jumped down from the camphor tree beside her. His black coat swept through the fallen leaves, tall and striking in the dusk, but his eyes held a manic red gleam.

“Tessa.” He looked at her, his voice carrying a sickly tenderness. “So, how does it feel to be free from the Bloodbond? Do you finally think... you’ve escaped me completely?”

Tessa clenched the books in her hands until her knuckles turned white. “What else? Should I have kept that shackle and stayed under your control?”

“Control?” Nathan laughed lowly, bitter and hollow. “I just didn’t want to lose you. The ring being shattered doesn’t matter. The Bloodbond being broken doesn’t matter. We can start over—don’t you remember? Five years ago in Yalvaria, everything we shared, everything we went through in that hellish training camp wasn’t it real?”

“To me, it was never a bond. It was torment.” Tessa lifted her eyes, her gaze like sharpened ice.

“Nathan, you’re the alpha of Frost Pack. Have some pride. Clinging over and over to someone who doesn’t love you- isn’t that beneath you?”

## Chapter 552 The Chains That Remain

“Beneath me?” He stepped forward, the hem of his coat sweeping across the ground. “I’d give up my life for you—what does it matter if I lose a little pride?” He stared into her eyes, enunciating each word. “I came here to take you with me. You’re the one I chose. The Bloodbond may be gone, but that doesn’t change anything.”

“Do you not understand human language?” Tessa took half a step back to create distance. “I’m not going with you. I never would. Not in the past, and definitely not now.” She glanced around.

The campus was busy with students coming and going. If they started a fight here, the consequences would be disastrous.

She didn’t want to destroy the peace she’d worked so hard to achieve.

“Leave Navoris now—while I’m still holding back.”

Nathan let out a low laugh, like he’d just heard something ridiculous. But his eyes were ice cold, devoid of any humor. “This ‘restraint’ of yours—is it because you don’t want your quiet life disrupted? Or are you afraid of alerting Landon? Worried I might hurt him?”

He stepped closer, his tone taunting. “You think I don’t know? You and Landon are fated mates. He’s already paving the way for you in Nightshade Pack, preparing to make you his Luna. But so what? As long as you’re alive, I’m not letting go—your restraint doesn’t matter to me.”

Tessa’s patience finally snapped. A faint wave of wolf energy rippled off her, though she kept it suppressed and didn’t shift. “Nathan, don’t push me. This is Navoris—Landon’s territory. If I kill you, the already weakened Frost Pack will fall into chaos again. Yalvaria’s wolves will go to war with Nightshade Pack. Neither of us can afford that.”

Without the Bloodbond, killing Nathan wouldn’t cause her any backlash—but he was still the alpha of Frost Pack, a central figure in the Yalvaria wolves. If she made a move, it would trigger a chain reaction she couldn’t ignore.

“You’re hesitating?” Nathan caught the trace of uncertainty in her words, and a sudden thrill lit up his voice. “You do care. You still care about me... about Frost Pack...”

“Don’t flatter yourself. I care about avoiding war.” Tessa cut him off, her tone sharp and cold. “But if you keep hounding me, I won’t hold back.”

The excitement drained from Nathan’s face, replaced by madness. “No matter what you say, I’m taking you -with me today!”

As soon as the words left his mouth, Nathan unleashed his wolf power and lunged at her like lightning.

Tessa had been ready. She dodged to the side and slammed her elbow hard into his ribs.

He grunted, reaching to grab her wrist, but she twisted with the momentum and threw him off.

“Don’t make me fight you here.” Tessa’s voice was edged with warning. Her eyes flicked toward a g

of students walking by in the distance. “You want the whole world to see that the alpha of Frost Pack is a lunatic who can’t get over his ex?”

Nathan froze.

He stared at the cold side of her face, at the disgust in her eyes—so raw and unfiltered—and it was like the

Chapter 552 The Chains That nemam

shattered Bloodbond was cutting into his heart all over again.

“I spent over ten hours on a plane to see you..” His voice turned hoarse “And feant even get our inv word

“There’s nothing left for us to say. Tessa turned and walked away, her vautre trailing behind her “Follow me again, and I won’t hold back.”

Nathan stood where she left him, watching her figure disappear around the corner of the academie building. His coat fluttered in the wind like the broken wings of a black bird.

Slowly, he raised a hand to his chest—right where the burning pain from the Bloorbond’s rupture still seemed to linger.

No. He wasn’t leaving.

Even if she was now Landon’s fated mate, he would take her back.

The Bloodbond was gone? Then he'd use chains. If those broke, he'd use his life.

One way or another, she would be his.

The Calm Before the Storm.

Two afternoons later, Tessa was at the Navoris University library, reading while mapping out ideas for a medical paper.

For most med students, that kind of thing was a pipe dream—many didn't even think about writing research until senior year. But she was only a freshman and already had a clear direction.

Ysabel showed up with two iced coffees in hand.

She spotted Tessa from afar, sitting quietly in the corner, reading. For a long moment, she just stood there, watching.

How could someone look so good just sitting still? Even in silence, she had a kind of glow that pulled people in. You couldn't help but watch her—like gravity.

Unable to resist, Ysabel pulled out her phone and snapped a secret photo, sending it to Landon.

Landon was in the middle of a meeting at Thorne Corp. He hadn't planned to check any messages, but the thought that something might have happened to Tessa made him open it.

In the photo, his girl sat in the library corner in a white dress, chestnut hair falling over her shoulder. Her eyes were lowered as she read, calm and focused, so gentle it felt like time itself slowed down around her.

Nathaniel sat beside him. It was the first time he'd ever seen this alpha get distracted during a meeting. Curious, he leaned over to peek at the screen, but Landon quickly pulled his phone away.

“What are you looking at? Don’t tell me it’s a girl?” Nathaniel teased.

“Shut up. Get back to work,” Landon muttered, but his fingertips still absently traced the edge of his phone.

Ysabel was feeling pretty proud of herself for pleasing her uncle—until the next moment, when a transfer notification popped up on her screen: 100,000 yuan.

One photo for a hundred grand? Ysabel stared, stunned, then grinned ear to ear. Money handed to her for free—who was she to say no?

She tucked away her phone and walked quickly over to Tessa.

“What took you so long?” Tessa closed her book as she saw her sit down.

“Got stopped by some fans at the entrance. They insisted on pictures and autographs—slowed me down,” Ysabel said, sliding one of the iced coffees toward her. “Guess I’m kind of a public figure now.”

“Can you handle it? If you want, I’ll ask Landon to get you a few bodyguards.”

Ysabel hadn’t awakened her wolf yet so she didn’t have much in the way of self-defense. If thing dangerous ever happened, it wouldn’t end well.

“No need. My fans are super chill. Just wanted a few pics and autographs.” Ysabel waved her off, then leaned over, peering at Tessa’s notebook/“What are you writing? You just started school.”

“A medical paper.”

Ysabel slowly retracted her gaze. Forget it—the world of overachievers wasn’t her business.

Freshman year, already writing a research paper. Gorgeous, powerful, and this driven—how was anyone else supposed to compete?

She popped the lid off her coffee and handed it over. “It’s way too hot out. Thank god the library’s got AG, or I wouldn’t have come.”.

Tessa took a sip of the coffee. “Got plans tonight?”

“Yup! I’m going to an offline event with Avery Band!” Ysabel’s eyes lit up, her excitement bubbling over. “I can’t believe I actually get to share a stage with them. It doesn’t feel like work at all—I wish we had events like this more often!”

Tessa smiled.

She knew Ysabel was a diehard Avery Band fan. Since she loved it, there was no reason to stop her.

The two of them read for a while longer until they started getting hungry. Then they got up and headed to the cafeteria.

They’d just picked up their food and sat down when Nathan walked up and sat directly across from them. “Excuse me. Is this seat taken?” he asked, though he already knew the answer, eyes fixed on Tessa’s face. The moment she saw him show up so openly, Tessa’s expression darkened.

But the cafeteria was packed with students. She forced herself to stay calm and didn’t react—yet.

Ysabel studied him curiously. He looked vaguely familiar, but she couldn’t quite place where she’d seen him before.

“Who are you? Are you a student here too?” she asked. He didn’t look it—he had none of that awkward student energy.

Chapter 554 Eyes That Won’t Let Go.

“No,” Nathan said calmly, though there was a trace of something probing in his gaze. “Just here to look around. I might enroll in the future.”

“I sec...” Ysabel scratched her head, gning didn’t feel right.”

She’d grown up in Nightshade Pack and had long heard about the alphas from the major packs. She’d even seen photos in the family archives. The man in front of her had sharp, deep-set features—he looked strikingly similar to the alpha of Frost Pack..

But then again, that couldn’t be. Frost Pack was all the way in Yalvaria. Nightshade Pack had even gone to war with them in the past. What would their alpha be doing in Navoris?

She must have been mistaken.

After all, she’d only seen old pictures of Nathan as a teenager in the annual family record books. It wasn’t hard to confuse him after all these years.

Nathan had never eaten cafeteria food like this before.

His meals had always been prepared by professional nutritionists. He’d grown up on rare delicacies and gourmet spreads—this kind of simple food would usually be beneath him.

But right now, sitting across from Tessa, watching her quietly eat, even this basic meal didn’t seem so hard to swallow.

His eyes barely left her the entire time—his presence so intense, it was impossible to ignore.

“He’s staring at you the whole time,” Ysabel whispered, leaning toward Tessa.

“Don’t pay attention to him.” Tessa didn’t look up as she kept eating, but her fingers curled tightly around her utensil.

Nathan's low-key behavior clearly meant he

n't want to be recognized.

As long as he didn't make trouble, she could tolerate it.

Nathan didn't care about their distance. Just sitting across from her like this, even in silence, was already a rare kind of closeness to him.

When they finished and stood to leave, Nathan didn't stop them. He just sat there, slowly chewing, as if trying to imprint the moment into memory.

Outside the cafeteria, Landon and Nathaniel stood waiting beneath a plane tree.

"You didn't say you were coming. We already finished dinner," Ysabel pouted at Nathaniel.

They could've eaten together.

"No big deal. I just came to pick you up," Nathaniel said, ruffling her hair.

"Oh." Ysabel didn't argue. "Come on, I'll show you around campus."

"Sure." Nathaniel was more than happy to have some time alone with her. Around an alpha like Landon, he wouldn't dare try anything bold anyway—separating was definitely the better option.

"Tessa, I'm taking Nathaniel for a walk. You guys don't have to wait for us."

"

Alright. Go ahead," Tessa replied.

The moment she saw Landon, all the annoyance she'd felt earlier because of Nathan faded completely.

No doubt about it—being with someone you love really could heal you.

Her mood lifted.

When she saw Ysabel and Nathaniel walking off hand-in-hand, Landon reached out and took her hand too, interlacing their fingers tightly.

Both of them were stunningly attractive—so much so that even on a campus full of beautiful students, they stood out like a dream pairing.

People around them couldn't help but turn to stare at the gorgeous couple strolling hand-in-hand through the university grounds, full of admiration and envy.

Not far behind, Nathan had finished his meal and emerged from the cafeteria. He began silently following them from a distance.

Watching her by Landon's side—so gentle, so sweet—Nathan felt stabbing pain in his chest, wave after wave.

He really wasn't asking for much. If she could just look at him that way too, instead of with hatred... wouldn't that be enough?

What had he done so wrong?

He was the one who had known Tessa first, wasn't he?

Yet Landon had swooped in and taken her away.

That thought left a bitter taste in his mouth.

The campus was crowded, the scenery beautiful).

Tessa and Landon made their way to the basketball courts, strolling slowly around the perimeter, lap after lap.

The handsome man carried a stack of books in one hand, the other holding tightly onto the girl's hand.

He was saying something, and she listened closely, hanging on every word.

Then suddenly—a basketball came flying straight toward Tessa...

#### Chapter 555 Court Battle

Just as Tessa was about to dodge, Landon pulled her into his arms and casually swatted the basketball aside.

It looked effortless, but the ball slammed into the backboard with a loud thud and bounced far across the court, making the bystanders freeze in surprise.

Several guys who had been eyeing Tessa ever since she enrolled instantly bristled when they saw the commanding presence of the man beside her. Their expressions turned hostile.

“Tessa, is this your boyfriend? Doesn't look like much,” said the one in front, holding the ball, his tone laced with provocation. In his mind, no matter how intimidating someone looked, they'd have to fold on a basketball court.

Tessa frowned. “It's none of your business.”

“No need to be so cold.” He turned toward Landon, lifting his chin. “You got the guts to go one-on-one? Loser backs off and stays away from Tessa.”

Landon glanced down at the girl in his arms, gently squeezing her waist with his fingertips.

Of course he knew what this guy was thinking:

His girl was exceptional—people wanting her was nothing new. But this kind of arrogant little punk? That

was rare.

“No need for one-on-one.” Landon let go of Tessa. His voice was calm and flat. “You can all come at me.” He preferred clean and efficient problem-solving—not drawn-out nonsense.

“What?”

The guys from the basketball team stared at him, stunned.

Did he even know what he was saying?

“I said all of you. Don’t waste my time. Got it?”

“Well damn, cocky much? Fine, since you’re asking to lose, we’ll gladly help. Just remember—if you lose, you break up with Tessa!”

At some point, the campus had crowned a new queen.

Tessa was now Navoris University’s most popular girl.

Of course, she couldn’t care less about the title.

“Break up? That’s never happening./She wouldn’t look at any of you twice,” Landon said flatly.

Then, without another word, he snatched the ball from their hands and nailed a long-range three-

At first, the basketball team hadn’t taken him seriously at all.

But in just a single move, their opinion changed.

This man could snatch the ball right out of their hands without even trying.

He was faster than any of them—faster than guys who trained every day The

moment Landon made that shot, girls in the crowd burst into cheers.

“Lock him down!” the guy who’d challenged him barked to his

Truthfully, Tessa had never seen Landon play basketball before.

There had always been a bit

teammates.

orance between them—age, background, everything.

But now, watching him on he”

about looking cool.

He was dominating.

mpus, moving with such sharp grace and control, she realized it wasn't just

Even with all five players on him, none of them could stop him.

They tried to shoot—he stole the ball. They tried to block him—he launched clean three-pointers with ease.

The entire thing looked effortless, like he was playing a different game entirely.

And the five players from Navoris University's team couldn't keep up with a single outsider.

The crowd of girls screamed again and again. This guy—he was way too hot.

Good-looking was one thing, but this? This was charisma on another level. How was anyone supposed to compete with that?

Tessa stood on the sidelines watching, realizing for the first time why girls liked to watch their crushes play basketball.

Now she understood.

Watching him move freely and fiercely on the court... it felt amazing.

Chapter 556 The Alpha King's Warning

While Tessa watched Landon. Nathan watched Tessa.

He had never seen her like this before. To be honest, he was dying of jealousy.

He envied Landon—envied how he could have Tessa's full attention.

He could play basketball too.

If he were the one on the court...

198 Pearl

“Damn it!”

The group of guys was getting desperate. At Navoris University, they had always been the center of attention. But now? This was humiliating.

“Take him out!”

. If they couldn't beat him in skill, they'd use dirty tricks. One way or another, they had to show this guy he

wasn't someone to mess with.

Tessa had played basketball before—she could read their intentions from a glance.

The second she caught the shift in their eyes, her expression turned ice-cold.

Were these idiots tired of living? Trying to pull a cheap shot on Landon?

But when it came to dirty tactics, these kids were no match for Landon.

One of them tried to elbow him in the back, but Landon moved like he had eyes in the back of his head. He sidestepped smoothly, flipping his wrist, and the ball smacked the attacker square in the knee. The guy winced in pain, but there was nothing he could call a foul.

Every move Landon made looked relaxed, but each step mirrored the calculated rhythm of a wolf on the hunt. He dodged every hit before it came, spinning his opponents in circles.

The lead guy gave a signal. One player faked a dive for the ball while swinging his leg toward Landon's ankle -if that kick had landed, it could've taken him out for weeks.

Tessa opened her mouth to shout, but before she could, Landon twisted his ankle at an unnatural angle, dodging effortlessly. He caught the attacker's collar mid-motion and used the guy's own momentum to fling him aside like a rag doll.

The player landed hard outside the court and didn't get up for a while.

Landon had used a touch of wolf power—not enough to injure, but more than enough to send a message.

Finally, the guy who'd started it all got slammed to the ground by Landon's shoulder.

“You did that on purpose! Trying to start a fight?” the guy barked, giving up on the game completely as he leapt to his feet.

“You're the one looking for a fight.” Landon smirked. “If that's what you want, I'll be happy to oblige.”

“You”

The guy lunged at him.

But before he could reach Landon, the alpha caught him by the throat in one swift motion.

The gap in strength was overwhelming. The boy's face flushed red, struggling to breathe.

“What the hell do you think you are? Barking in front of me?” Landon’s voice was low, lethal. He had never taken these childish games seriously—the kid had brought this on himself.

“L—Let go—” the guy gasped, slapping at Landon’s iron grip.

He never expected this man to be so terrifying—both on the court and off it.

“What you doing?” the others

shouting

forward to help.

Landon’s icy gaze swept over them, and all four froze on the spot, not daring to move.

“What am I doing?” Landon’s voice was sharp. “Weren’t you the ones picking the fight?”

“This is a school!” the guy in his grip choked out, trying to save face. “You wouldn’t dare get physical here!”

“And what if I do?” Landon’s smile turned cold. “Getting into Navoris University must be the highlight of your pathetic life, huh? Then how about I help you drop out—right now?”

The boy froze.

What... what did he just say?

“You’re joking, right? Who do you think you are? You can’t control everything!”

Right then, Mr. Oscar arrived, hurrying toward them. He spotted Tessa first, then noticed Landon—and immediately broke into a cold sweat as he rushed over.

“Mr. Landon, what’s going on here?” Mr. Oscar’s voice trembled. “These kids clearly don’t know who they’re dealing with. Please, don’t take it to heart.”

He had never seen Landon like this before. The alpha king of Montedra was known for remaining calm even when the world crumbled. Not even tribal uprisings had made him flinch. But now, the subtle pressure of wolf energy rolling off him was sharp and icy—clearly provoked.

“Mr. Landon?”

The boy still caught in Landon’s grip was stunned.

Mr. Oscar had just said-

Is this the alpha king of Montedra?

Mr. Landon?

Chapter 557 Two Men, One Home

Landon shoved the guy aside.

“Mr. Oscar, your current basketball team has a serious character problem. I suggest you replace a few players—don’t let them tarnish Navoris University’s reputation.”

With that, he walked over to Tessa. She pulled some tissues from her backpack and rose on tiptoe to wipe the sweat off his face. Landon bent slightly to let her reach, a dotting smile in his eyes as he let her gently wipe the moisture from his skin.

“You smell like sweat.” Tessa wrinkled her nose—she liked sports, but hated the stickiness of sweat.

“I’ll shower when we get back. It’s getting late. Let’s go.”

“Okay.”

Mr. Oscar stood to the side, completely unable to get a word in and feeling utterly defeated—he didn’t even have the right to offer advice to this alpha king.

“We were just-” the boy Landon had pushed tried to explain.

“Enough. Don’t say another word.” Mr. Oscar cut him off sharply. “Can’t you read the room? In Navoris, who doesn’t know Mr. Landon is off limits?” The university never lacked talent. If these boys insisted on causing trouble, they could be replaced.

“Principal, we really know we were wrong!” the group panicked. “The intercollegiate basketball tournament is coming up. If we’re kicked off the team, it’ll fall apart!”

“I don’t have time for this,” Mr. Oscar said with a wave. “Go tell your coach if you’ve got a problem. I’m not wasting another second here.” He paused and added coldly, “And one more thing—if anyone breathes a word about Mr. Landon’s identity, you’ll deal with the consequences yourself.”

The five were completely stunned, forced to watch helplessly as Landon and Tessa walked away side by side.

In the distance, Nathan had been watching the entire time. He didn’t leave until he saw them enter the apartment building. Then he pulled out a cigarette and lit it.

They were living together?

Just the thought sent a sharp pain through his chest.

Nathan returned to the villa he'd bought in Navoris.

He was already planning to relocate Frost Pack's core operations here. Only by gaining a foothold on this land could he stand a chance against Landon. This clash between alphas would erupt sooner or later—and he needed to prepare his battleground in advance.

Maybe the warning had worked. Nathan didn't appear for several days, and Tessa finally enjoyed some peace in her college life.

That evening, after class, Landon picked her up and brought her back to the apartment near campus. While Landon went to shower, Tessa sat on the couch flipping through medical journals. Suddenly the —

doorbell rang.

She frowned—very few people knew this address. Who could it be?

She opened the door to find Samuel standing there, looking completely disheveled. His clothes were torn in several places:

“What happened?” Tessa's heart sank.

She knew Michael had assigned Samuel to handle the relocation of the werewolf medical organization. He had been busy running around Montedra lately—and someone so conscious of appearances wouldn't show up like this without something serious happening.

“Dammit! That clingy bastard Nathan just won't quit!” Samuel stormed inside, swearing. “He's like a damn leech—I can't shake him off!”

Nathan?

Tessa frowned. No wonder he hadn't shown up lately—he'd been making trouble for Samuel instead.

She shoved Samuel onto the couch. "Don't move! Where are you hurt?" No way she was stripping him down in public just to check.

"It's fine, just some surface wounds. You know my healing rate," Samuel waved her off. He was more concerned about something else. "He didn't come after you, did he?"

"He did."

"What? He already came after you?!" Samuel instantly exploded.

"Who?"

Landon had just come out of the shower, a towel loosely wrapped around his waist. He frowned at the sound of their conversation.

Seeing Samuel, his expression darkened even more.

"What are you doing here?" Samuel glanced at him, then turned to Tessa, "He even took a shower? Landon, I'm warning you—Tessa's still young. Don't you dare try anything shady!"

Samuel jumped to his feet, pointing at Landon and yelling.

Landon ignored him, his gaze sweeping coldly over Samuel. "Who'd you piss off? Showing up looking like a mess—don't dump your problems on Tessa."

He wasn't worried—he just didn't want Samuel dragging trouble to her doorstep.

"I've pissed off a lot of people, alright? Who knows which idiot it was this time," Samuel scoffed. He was a bit

not dying.” arrogant on a normal day—no surprise people didn’t like him. “But don’t worry

“If you’re not dead, then get out. Don’t be an eyesore.” Landon’s tone was cold. “Don’t you know she has a mate? You think it’s appropriate for a grown man to show up at a couple’s place uninvited?”

Samuel clutched, his chest and turned to Tessa. “You see that? He’s always wishing me dead. How could you possibly like someone so heartless? You should dump him before you two bond!”

#### Chapter 558 No One Touches Her

Samuel was so stunned he couldn’t speak. After a long pause, he finally muttered, “I can’t believe it. I mean nothing to you compared to your boyfriend. I’m heartbroken!”

Samuel pretended to be wounded, while Landon wore a subtle smile in his eyes—he loved how openly she favored him.

“Alright. Since it’s nothing serious, you should head back. Be careful next time.” Tessa made it clear he was being dismissed.

Samuel’s mouth dropped open. “Wow. Guess I really shouldn’t have come to interrupt your little love nest.” He shot Tessa a wounded look. “Fine, fine. If I’m that unwelcome, I’ll go.”

He got up from the couch and let out a theatrical huff at Landon.

It was all this guy’s fault. If it weren’t for him, Tessa wouldn’t have kicked him out.

Landon, that walking disaster, was clearly the root of it all!

Landon couldn’t be bothered to react to his immaturity. In front of Tessa, Samuel wasn’t even worth losing

composure over.

Once Samuel left, the living room fell quiet.

“What really happened to him?” Landon asked.

He might have seemed indifferent, but he knew Samuel was someone important to Tessa—almost like family. If the guy had trouble, it wasn’t something he could ignore.

“It’s nothing serious. Nathan’s been messing with him.” Tessa didn’t try to hide it, knowing it was pointless. “They’re just surface wounds—he heals fast.”

“Nathan?” Landon’s voice turned cold as ice. His pupils narrowed, and the pressure of the obsidian shadow wolf surged out, carrying the weight of Montedra’s alpha king. “He dared sneak into Navoris? When did he come after you?”

He was livid.

Navoris was Nightshade Pack’s territory. He had eyes everywhere. And Nathan had managed to get in? And approach Tessa?

In the mind realm, Flex roared, “That Frost Pack lunatic came into our land? He’s asking to die!”

Landon’s fingers clenched so tightly they turned pale. He forced down the killing intent—he didn’t want to scare her.

Tessa could feel the fury radiating from him. She gently took his hand, her voice softening. “A few days. He showed up on campus. I warned him to back off. As for Samuel, he can handle himself. And if not, there’s always Michael and the medical corps behind him.”

She looked up, her eyes sincere. “Landon, I didn’t hide it because I don’t trust you. You’re the one I’ve chosen for life. I know you could crush Nathan. But he’s the alpha of Frost Pack. If you two go head-to-head, it won’t stop there. It’ll drag Nightshade Pack into a war, and the Yalvaria wolves won’t sit quietly. I don’t want you taking that risk for me, especially if it puts your people in danger.”

Landon’s throat tightened. Flex growled low: “She’s protecting us. She doesn’t want us to take the hit

His heart warmed. The rage inside him was soothed by the calming energy of her white wolf bloodline. He squeezed her hand in return. “Tessa, I’m the alpha king of Montedra. Nathan can’t touch me. You

don’t have to shoulder this alone. If he dares step on my turf, I’ll make sure he doesn’t leave it.”

“I know how powerful you are.” Tessa smiled, rising on her toes to tap his chin. “But you’re my fated mate. I can’t bear to see you take risks for me. Nathan’s like a viper from the Eclipse Valley—crazy and unpredictable. I don’t want you spilling blood over me. Leave this to me. I can handle it.”

Her voice was soft, tinged with the natural soothing force of her bloodline, and the fire inside Landon finally eased.

He didn’t give a clear promise, but leaned down to kiss her forehead. “If you’re ever in danger, you Like you said, we’re walking this road together. Everything we face, we face side by side.”

tell me.

“Mm.” Tessa hugged him, resting her cheek against his chest. The faint scent of pine on him settled her nerves.

She hadn’t wanted to keep anything from him.

But Nathan’s obsession was like a snowland viper—silent until it struck.

If Landon got involved, it would no longer be a personal grudge. It would ignite a conflict between two major packs—and possibly two nations' wolf tribes.

“Come on. Let's get you dinner.” Landon ruffled her hair. “You've been busy all day—you must be hungry.” “Yep!” Tessa smiled and grabbed his hand, tugging him toward the door.

After dinner, Landon walked her back to her apartment near campus. He said he had pack matters to take care of and told her to get some rest.

“You rest early too.”

Tessa rose on her toes and kissed him lightly on the lips in parting.

Landon smiled and rubbed her head, then turned to leave.

But the moment he turned around, the warmth in his expression vanished completely.

In his eyes, a sharp, cold fury surged.

Chapter 559 The Dungeon Beneath the Throne

The moment Landon got in the car, he activated the mental link with Nathaniel, his voice cold as ice.

“Nathan is in Navoris. Find out exactly where he's hiding. Take the guards. Arrest him and throw him into the dungeon. Do it quietly—don't alert anyone.”

“Yes, Alpha,” Nathaniel's voice echoed through the link, firm and unquestioning.

Landon cut the connection, his eyes narrowing dangerously, knuckles white from the force of his grip.

He had dared to trespass on his land and harass Tessa?,

Then both new debts and old ones were going to be settled—painfully.

He hadn't forgotten the Bloodbond. He hadn't forgotten the pain Tessa had suffered. And Nathan would repay that—tenfold.

Tessa hadn't said anything out loud, but of course she was worried about Samuel. Deep down, she feared Nathan might do something insane—kidnapping Samuel to force her hand.

The next day, she asked Lina to investigate Nathan's whereabouts.

Lina quickly sent over an address Nathan had been using in Navoris. But there was no trace of him. No had seen him. It was like he'd vanished.

Days passed. Still no sign of Nathan. Samuel hadn't been bothered again either. It was as if Nathan had disappeared from Navoris entirely.

one

Tessa thought he might have returned to Frost Pack, but when she contacted friends in Yalvaria, they said he hadn't gone back.

Strange.

He wasn't in Navoris. He wasn't in Frost Pack. Then where could he be?

A grown man couldn't just vanish into thin air.

Still, as long as he wasn't showing up to harass her or anyone around her, Tessa let it go. Whatever came, she'd handle it when it did.

What she didn't know was that Nathan was currently locked deep beneath Nightshade Pack—in the hidden dungeon.

He was caged in a prison forged from blacksteel and wolfbone runes.

The dungeon was cold and damp, dim light casting shadows across his pale face.

Chains made of scorched iron and wolfmark bindings clamped around his wrists and ankles. The burning sigils gnawed at his wolf power—every movement sent sharp, stabbing pain through his bones,

“Landon...” Nathan growled through clenched teeth, his wolf eyes glowing red with madness and hate. You think this cage can hold me? Tessa is mine! Even without the Bloodbond, she'll never escape me!”

He tried to shift into wolf form, but the chains instantly tightened. The curse of the shadow wolf etched into the links surged through his veins, tearing into his wolf and forcing him to collapse to the ground in agony

Nathaniel stood outside the Cage, arms crossed, eyes filled with disdain. “Save your strength. No one who enters the Alpha's dungeon walks out again. You laid hands on Tessa—that's a declaration of war against Nightshade Pack.”

Nathan let out a hoarse laugh, voice scraping. “Landon won't kill me! If Frost Pack loses its alpha, the Yalvaria wolves will flatten Navoris. He doesn't have the guts!”

“There's nothing Alpha Landon wouldn't do,” Nathaniel said, stepping closer, voice glacial. “Three years ago, Frost Pack was crushed by Nightshade Pack. You're still recovering. You think your shattered pack could take us now?”

“Our alpha doesn’t keep threats alive. He’s only letting you breathe so you can live long enough to watch Tessa become his. When she’s Luna of Nightshade Pack, you won’t even be allowed to look at her.”

Nathan’s eyes snapped wide. He lunged at the bars with a roar, chains clanging violently as blood streamed from his wrists.

“Tessa` is my mate! Mine! No one can take her from me!”

Nathaniel didn’t waste another word. He turned and left, the heavy dungeon doors slamming shut behind him, leaving only Nathan’s furious screams echoing in the dark.

Nathan collapsed back onto the floor, fingers digging into the cold stone, nails splitting as blood seeped out —thick with hate, thick with venom like a viper from Eclipse Valley... slowly dripping into the silence.

#### Chapter 560 A Conversation in Shadows

Thanks to Landon capturing Nathan, Tessa finally enjoyed a rare stretch of peace.

She didn’t expect that two weeks later, one afternoon, Reginald would come to see her personally—for the first time, face to face and in private.

Tessa hadn’t seen it coming, but she still went to greet him. The moment she reached the door, The Thorne family’s driver opened the car door for her and remained waiting outside.

“Hello.” Tessa stepped into the car and greeted him politely.

Regardless of his attitude, he was still Landon’s father. That alone earned him her respect.

“You’re smart enough to know why I’m here,” Reginald said bluntly.

“You want me to leave Landon?” Tessa replied calmly.

“Yes,” Reginald said without hesitation. “Landon carries the future of Nightshade Pack on his shoulders. He also guards the Montedra wolf territory. Threats come from every direction—seen and unseen. What he needs is a partner who can fight beside him, not a young girl who distracts him and requires constant protection.”

He wanted someone who could support Landon’s rise—not someone who would become his weakness.

“A burden?” Tessa lifted her gaze, voice firm. “I would never be a burden to him. When the time comes, I’ll be his strongest ally.”

She was absolutely confident in that.

No one in this world was more qualified to stand beside Landon than she was.

Reginald chuckled, clearly unconvinced. “You’re clever, but you’re not right for Landon. And you’re certainly not fit to be the Luna of Nightshade Pack.”

“Give me a chance.” Tessa’s tone was sincere. “I’ll prove I’m the one who belongs at his side.”

She didn’t owe anyone proof. But because he was Landon’s father, she was willing to try.

“Oh?” Reginald raised an eyebrow. “Say someone tries to assassinate Landon what would you do?”

“I’d kill them.”

Reginald frowned, tapping his fingertips lightly against his knee. “The wolf clan code is clear: without an actual attempt, execution is forbidden. That kind of impulsiveness? It’s dangerous.”

To him, a true alpha's partner needed patience and strategy, not the kind of reckless aggression that shouted for blood-no matter the motivation.

But Tessa only shook her head slightly, her voice steady and composed. "Mercy toward an enemy is cruelty to yourself."

She lifted her eyes to meet his directly. The sharpness in her gaze belonged to a wolf's bloodline. "The Code exists to maintain order within the pack-not to shield those who wish Landon harm. Anyone who covets his life has already crossed the line. From the moment they even think about killing him, they're no longer just 'potential threats.'"

She paused, then added, "I'd act before they do."

That was the real key. Wait until the enemy bared their fangs? Only fools waited that long.

"Is that so?" Reginald narrowed his eyes, studying her closely, trying to read the truth in her words. "But do you actually have that kind of power?"

Tessa didn't mention her white wolf awakening. She simply said, calmly, "I've saved Landon's life twice. I can protect him."

As long as she was alive, no one would lay a hand on him.

"Really? And what about your past? You think it's any point of pride for Landon to have a mate like you?"

"Rumors stop with the wise. You believe gossip?" Tessa looked him in the eye, her tone unwavering. "Landon chose me. Don't you trust his judgment?"

Did her past matter that much?

“You may think it’s irrelevant. But the world doesn’t.” Reginald scoffed, voice hard and heavy with authority. “It doesn’t matter what I believe-what matters is what people will say. What kind of woman becomes Luna of Nightshade Pack?”

As the ruling family of Nightshade Pack, the Thorne name couldn’t afford to be stained. Landon wasn’t just an alpha-he was the alpha king of Montedra. His mate had to match him in power, in lineage, and in reputation-without a single blemish.

“Is that so?” Tessa suddenly replied with fierce confidence. “Then I’ll make sure no one dares speak a word about my past.”

Even if those rumors weren’t true.

If they dared talk, she’d make them too afraid to open their mouths.