

5 princes and I By Kiraran Chapter 11 - 15

Chapter 11 A lesson with Ace –

“Will you stop doing that?” Ace asked me, pretty annoyed if I do say so myself.

We’re currently at the library for my first lesson: History and the important people of each kingdom.

He kept on talking and explaining things. Continuously, if I might add. I was sleepy and uninterested. Who can blame me? And why do I even have to learn their history? Whenever I tried to sleep this off, he would snap his fingers in front of my face. So I ended up doodling on a piece of paper to entertain myself. Oftentimes I would blankly stare at the ceiling and unconsciously make faces that cause him to get distracted. Steams would have appeared from his ears because of how pissed off he was. I think he prevented himself from punching me so much that his knuckles had gone white.

I am trying to listen to what he’s saying but all the terms that he is using make it hard for me to understand!

“It’s obvious that you hate me and it is no secret that I also dislike you, so why can’t we just agree to drop this lesson?” I said as I batted my eyes at him innocently.

“Not gonna happen.” He said as he opened a book. “This is a part of your lesson. So you’ll have to learn it.”

“Nothing you even say makes any sense to me.” I slumped on my seat. He didn’t bother to look up this time as he read something from a leather-bound book. His jaw clenched in annoyance, his black hair falling as he bent his head slightly forward to read in silence.

“Then I guess you need to try harder.”

I pouted. “Easy for you to say. You were born here. I was born waaaay over there.” Feeling disappointed, I started whistling.

“You are an annoying Princess!”

“Why thank you.”

His head perked up and gave me an annoyed look. “That wasn’t a compliment.”

“For me, it is,” I said and began to get comfy on the couch. I haven’t gotten much sleep since yesterday that my eyes started to close on their own. Not even a minute later and he was shaking me awake.

“No sleeping during cla** hours.” He said and continued to shake me. I tried to ignore him but I was getting dizzy from his shaking. My head bobbing back and forth.

Can’t this guy leave me alone?

I reached out and slapped his hand away. “Go away,” I said as I buried my face on the couch. A minute later and I heard a sound. I took a peek and I saw Ace holding a bag of cookies. He smirked when he saw that I was staring at it. “Now you’re awake?”

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“No, I’m not.” I blushed and looked away.

He started shaking the bag of cookies drawing my eyes at them again. “These are cookies baked by a well-known baker in Thalia. His bakery is so famous that countless dukes and even royals come to Thalia just to buy these.”

I stared at him. “You’re bluffing, aren’t you? The ‘baker’ is actually the chef of this castle.”

There was a long pause.

Ace suddenly cleared his throat. “Of course not. Why would you even think of that?”

I raised an eyebrow at him. “Are you taking me for a fool? You said that he is famous. Naturally, he would be hired by a nearby royal, which would be the king and queen.”

He stared at me. “What?” I asked.

“You actually got the name of this kingdom right. That’s a first.”

“I did!?” I gasped. “Wow, I am actually smarter than I thought. I could become a scholar.”

“Now what is the name of the kingdom that was destroyed in the year 455? Specifically 10 years ago.”

“You guys are in the year 465!?”

Ace frowned. “I asked you a question.”

“In case you haven’t noticed, I was already surprised by the current year and now you are asking me for the name of a ruined kingdom? I don’t know! Hogwarts!?”

“You’re hopeless! You didn’t even get that right.”

"I'm trying here!"

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"I said try harder!" He was yelling now.

"Well maybe if you can speak in a language I can understand then it might not be difficult! Back in my world, we have presidents and vice presidents. Only a few countries have royalty these days."

"Then what are you? A plebian?"

"I'm a student who doesn't even bother to do my homework and you expect me to learn this world's history? Sir, I bid you good luck."

He sighed and turned back. He didn't even bother to look at me as he said that. He just went back to the couch opposite of mine and sat down. He sighed and ran a hand through his hair. A sign of his frustration. He then grabbed a book and started to read. "Self-study from now on."

I frowned. "Hey, Ace." He didn't look at me as I called for his name. I wanted to ask him something.

Maybe he didn't hear me?

"Excuse me, Ace? Yoohoo!!" I waved my hands for him to notice me.

He continued to flip through a book. Pretending not to hear when it was pretty obvious that I was calling him. I know he heard me. My voice was already loud enough. Why is he not answering?

Oh I see

"PRINCE Ace?" This time he looked up and gave me a questionable glance. "Yes?" He asked.

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Stupid-Arrogant-Royal-Pain-in-the-b***!!!

I clenched my fist at my sides because of my annoyance towards the prince in front of me. I forced myself to smile despite his att**ude. "Can I ask you a question?"

"No." He went back to reading.

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I'm gonna kill this Prince.

"Why are you so grumpy?" I asked. Patience slowly faded. He didn't even answer my question and proceeded to read. I might go wolf on him now and tear him limb from limb! Hopefully.

"There are things that you must learn in this kingdom. You must first learn the ranks and positions in each kingdom so you can know your place. As you might know, the king ranks the highest. Followed by the Queen, then the Prince and Princess." His lips moved as he talked. His eyes were glued to what he was reading.

This guy is really serious about this.

My gaze darted to the bag of cookies on the table. I silently made my way towards it.

"Are you listening, Princess?" He looked up from the book that he was reading. He raised a questioning eyebrow at me. Face a mask of seriousness as he looked at me. I don't need to be a mind reader to know that he didn't appreciate my lack of interest.

"I...uh....yes," I said and hid the cookies behind me.

"Oh really?" He asked. Not buying my answer to his question. He folded his fingers in front of him and placed his chin on top. "What did I just say just now?" He raised an eyebrow at me.

"Easy....'What did I just say just now?'" I said. I know that wasn't what he meant, but that was the only thing I could think of.

"Your sarcasm always shows up in times like these. Let's be serious now and answer my question properly." His tone was dead serious. If I answer with another sarcasm, it might be my last. A small smile found its way to his lips when he saw my speechless form. He straightened up.

"You were really not listening."

"You know what? I should go upstairs and look for more books to read. Probably a dictionary so I can understand some of the words that you are saying and not purely historical. Be right back!" I lied. I only ran upstairs to eat the cookies I stole.

It took me a while to get back as I made sure to finish all the cookies and leave no traces of crumbs on my face. I took a random book with me that if Ace ever asks, I'll have proof. And if the book is now the right one then I'll just pretend to be ignorant.

At least that was the plan, but when I came down, he was nowhere to be found. I looked around the library to find him. He must have left somewhere. I sat on the couch once again and closed my eyes to take a little break.

Chapter 12 – I mean PRINCE Ace

I woke up feeling rejuvenated. The dreams that I just had were awesome! I was floating in a cloud of cotton candy, Prince Ace was my servant and I finally told him how I feel. That he is emo wanna be punk.

I felt great after saying it. Speaking of Ace. I wonder where he is. Is he back?

My eyes scanned my surroundings until I found him at the door, talking to someone outside. Maybe it was a servant? He was only wearing a white long-sleeved undershirt that was tucked in his pants. It framed his muscular body well.

He said a quick thank you and closed the door. When he saw me, he gave me a tight smile that would make me cringe in fear.

What did I do now?

“Had a nice dream, Princess?” He asked. His lip was twitching as he forced a smile at me. Maybe he was angry that I had fallen asleep during his absence.

“Actually, I had a wonderful dream.” In my dream, I saw my family and my friends there. I felt at home and content.

His jaw clenched even tighter as he jerked his head towards the door “Come on. The others are waiting. Lunch is ready.” He held the door open, waiting for me.

I sat up and felt a soft material fall from my shoulder. I picked it up, it was Ace’s dark blue coat. It made me wonder what it was doing here with me.

Did he not see me sleeping and simply threw his coat there? How rude.

I made my way to the door, the coat in one hand as I brushed my hair with the other. I gave him his coat back when I reached the door. “Thank you.” I was meant to say it sarcastically but stopped myself since I don’t want to add more fuel to his already annoying form. We walked towards the dining room side by side. Neither of us said a word. I was afraid to make a sound for fear of him. He was releasing some sort of dark aura that can really eat you alive.

“Tell me,” I jumped at the sound of his voice. “What were you dreaming?” He tried so hard to give me a friendly smile, which failed miserably since it looked more like a grimace. It could make anyone cry and pee themselves.

I put a little bit of space between us since I was getting scared of this Ace. It was as if he was pissed or something. “Why do you want to know?” I asked nervously.

“No reason. I just thought that you owe me that much since I let you sleep.” He said. I thank my lucky stars when we reached the dining hall. Everyone was already seated and waiting for us. I sat beside Nate and sighed relief when Ace sat across from me and beside Fred. We began to eat and I made sure that this time, I had placed a table napkin on my lap. I began to stuff food in my mouth as Fred asked Ace about how our training is going. Ace glared at me as he muttered a reply. “Terrific.”

I grinned at him with my mouth full of food. I heard Nate tsk beside me. “You should not stuff food in your mouth like that. And don’t slouch.” Nate said and chuckled when he saw me glaring at him.

“Not turn to teach yet so let me have this short freedom,” I said as I shoved another sp*** full in my mouth. Nate continued to chuckle and tucked a piece of strand behind my ear.

“Nate, keep your hands off already,” Dan complained while his brother, Ren, pouted. “Yeah, Nate. Don’t tint her purity with your impure hands.”

Nate moved up to my hair and dusted it. Torn pieces of paper fell from my hair. “Your hair has a lot of paper.” He said.

My eyes widened and looked at Ace, who only stared at me and went back to eating. That jerk! It was definitely him!

Nate’s attention went back to the twins for their previous comment. They stuck their tongue out at Nate. If this were an anime, Nate would have an angry mark on his head. Nate gripped his fork rather tightly. “I could stab you guys now and end this mess.” He said as he forced a smile.

“Your highness.” One of the twins said without any emotion like he was bored or something while the other continued in the same tone. “Nate is threatening our lives with a fork.”

“Oh come now you boys. Don’t start a fight now.” King Luke said and shook his head at the boys. “Honestly.”

The twins tsk at Nate three times. “Now look what you did Nate.” One twin said. “You made the king angry.” The other continued. It’s amazing how the two of them know what the other one wants to say. I wonder if I had a twin...could be fun.

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Nate stood up and chased the twins as they hid behind Fred. “Now you boys. Settle down.” Fred said to them as he tried to separate Nate and the twins. “The Princess is looking so please be on your best behavior.”

So they have to be on their best behavior when I'm here?

Well, I wanna see some action so I devoured my meal faster. After that I got my table napkin and wiped it to my mouth and got up, leaving the dining hall. "I'm done," I said.

At the corner of my eyes, I saw Nate smirking at the twins and ran around the table to get them. The twins and Nate ended up running around the table while Fred tried to stop them. So this is how the Princes behave when the rest are out. Interesting. Just like children.

I made my way to the library when I saw that Ace had also gotten up from his seat.

Oh no, I don't want to have a lesson with him yet! Especially when he's in a bad mood.

I briskly walked to the library since running around when your stomach is full is not good for you. Ace also noticed what I was doing and increased his speed. Too bad for him that I had gotten to the library first and locked the door behind me.

I heard him knock outside.

"Who's there?" I asked even though I know that it was him.

"Don't play dumb with me. I know you know that it's me." He growled.

I wonder if he's related to a wolf or something. Growling like that.

"Open the door!" He screamed.

"Sorry, but the library is closed for today so please come back later." I walked back to my couch and with my pleasure, I saw a book that I wanted to read since I finished reading the first book.

"Rose, you open this door right now." He shouted. Voice rising from every word.

"Quiet! We're in the library." I said and grabbed the book while sitting on the couch and reading it. He didn't say anything anymore. I just heard his groan in frustration and heard the door rattle. I guess he was leaning on it.

Three minutes later and I heard him try to talk to me again in a much gentler tone.

"Princess, please open the door so we can begin the lesson."

I smirked as I flipped onto another page and shifted my position so my stomach was laying flat on the couch. "Nope."

I heard him mutter some profanities before he quieted again. After a few minutes he tried again, this time his voice was laced with warning and authority. "Princess, you open this door right now you hear?!" He said as he banged the door.

"The princess is currently not around. Please try again later." I heard him kick the door and shout some curses.

I have no idea where I found the courage to act as I do now, but it is somewhat relaxing.

I was just one page away when the door was banged loudly making me jump. "Open this damn door or I'll break it open!"

Wow. What a temper.

I ignored him and finished my reading. Just as I finished, I heard him bang the door repeatedly as if he was hitting it with his shoulder. He probably was.

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I set the book down and walked to the door. Now we wouldn't want it to break, do we? The door was already rattling on its hinges. When I opened the door, Ace almost fell to the ground but immediately balanced himself. I slapped a hand to my mouth to keep myself from laughing. I watched as he composed himself and glared daggers at me.

If looks could kill I'd be dead a hundred times already.

"Stupid, Princess." He muttered as he made his way to his seat. I followed.

"Thank you, kind sir. But please don't call me a Princess anymore." I said and sat down.

He raised an eyebrow at me. "Why?"

"I don't like to be called a Princess. It gets on my nerves." I shuddered. My mistake when I said that got on my nerves when I saw him smirk.

"If you hate it so much, then all the more reason to call you a Princess."

I knew this was coming when I said that. I have to watch my words from now on cause he might use them against me again. "Now, let's begin." He declared. When he saw how unenthusiastic I was. He sighed. "What? Are you gonna sleep again?" He asked.

I shook my head. "No, I won't. But I might since things like these aren't my thing. If I can't sleep, then my consciousness might fly to somewhere else."

"Now that is a problem." I watched him as he rubbed his chin and thought for a moment. "What if I will just make a story out of it? Will that work?"

I have to say that I was impressed with Ace for his way of thinking. "It might."

"Alright so, once upon a time-" He started.

"Oh, not that crap again," I muttered and noticed him staring at me. I quickly covered my mouth with my hands. "Crap! Sorry. Please continue."

"So there was this Prince, who had two older sisters. One day, the eldest was asked by another prince from a different kingdom to marry him. Since she accepts she had no choice but to leave the throne to the second eldest sister.

The Prince had a friend, a duke. A duke is another royal, but not like the king and queen. Their sons and daughters are the ones who will take the throne if there aren't any heirs to another kingdom. They are also good candidates when the king is looking for someone to be betrothed to his son/daughter too. Dukes for males and Duchess for females."

"Like the queen and the king? They don't have an heir so does that mean that you and the boys are Dukes? Wait for no. You guys said you're princes. This is confusing." I asked. Afraid of the consequences since I just interrupted him. Surprisingly, he didn't go all Hulk on me and answered calmly. "No. The princes and I are born of royal blood from a different kingdom. We are real Princes....we just don't know what has gotten into the queen picking us instead of a neighboring Duke.

"So." Ace continued. "The prince's friend fell in love with his sister and again asked her hand in marriage. The Duke now becomes the new king and the sister becomes the new Queen. You see, when your rank is higher, your husband/wife's rank will also become the same level as yours."

"What happens to the Prince?" I asked.

"He remains a prince. If his friend and his sister, who is currently the king and queen die with no heir, then he succeeds to the throne." He said flatly. He continued to explain to me something by making a storyline out of it. Even though he wasn't good at it, he still forced himself for the sake of my learning.

I was surprised that I had learned a lot in such a short time. Ace was a good teacher if I do say so myself. "I want to say that it's awesome, but the sword thing?" I said.

"Well, that's the rules so we have to deal with it." Ace looked out of the window to see that the light was still shining outside. "Seems like we finished early and had some more time." I noticed that his eyes weren't purely black, they were a dark shade of blue when hit by light. They are just so dark that you would mistake them as black.

I grinned. "Well, how about I'll tell you something of my world?" I said and started to tell him how much we had improved. I told him about cars, airplanes, and other

transportation rides. I also explained to him that we don't use gold coins anymore and that our medium of exchange now is in the form of a dollar. He was leaning on his seat the whole time. He would often make comments like: "You guys use a piece of metal to take you to places?", "You exchange valuables for a piece of paper?", "How can a metal bird fly?"

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As I finished explaining things to him, he fell asleep.

And he goes all Hulk on me when I sleep.

I grabbed the book that he was holding and placed it on the table. His bangs were covering his eyes so I brushed them away with my hand. His skin is too smooth. I have to admit that he's cute despite the monster-like attitude that he possesses. His lips are a beautiful shade of pink and he smells so good. I placed a hand on his cheek as I leaned closer.....

.....then used my other hand to grab a pen and draw on his face.

I draw circles around his eyes and draw a mustache above and below his lips. I also drew stars on his left cheek. On his forehead, I wrote. "Kick me."

I smirked as I placed the pen back on the table.

This is payback for him bullying me the first time we met.

During dinner, as Ace and I stepped into the dining hall, everyone stopped talking and starred at Ace. I, on the other hand, avoided everyone's gaze as I made my way to my seat beside Fred. Better be safe than sorry.

Ace noticed that they were staring at him, but proceeded to sit beside Nate, who was biting his lips to prevent himself from laughing. The King and queen kept on smiling while the twins didn't hold back and laughed hysterically. Fred covered his laugh with a cough. "Did you do that?" Fred whispered to me.

As an answer, I smiled cheekily at him and he laughed. "Nice." The twins said from beside Fred and gave me a thumbs up.

When the servants arrived to bring us our food the one who served Ace gasped and almost dropped the plate. "What?" Ace asked. "Is there something on my face? You kept staring at it." you can hear the annoyance in them.

"Y-your highness. What an...interesting change of image you have there." said the servant.

I know that my life is ticking away like a clock every second that pa**ed.

“What are you talking about?” Ace asked, confused.

The servants held out a plate and showed Ace’s reflection to it. Ace abruptly stood up and grabbed the plate and examined my handy work.

“How?” Then he turned to me, fury in his eyes and he gritted his teeth. I smiled at him. “You!” He screamed at me.

I gasped. “Me!”

“Why you!” As Ace began to reach for me. All of us, except the king and queen who acted as if this was normal, stood up. Nate pulled Ace back to prevent him from killing me while Fred shoved me behind his back. “I think this is the right time for you to return to your room.” He said as he tried to talk some sense back to Ace as the twins e****ed me.

The scene with Nate, Fred, and Ace somehow reminded me of a meme with two ladies and a cat.

“Nice handy work.” One of the twins said and laughed as he walked beside me. The other was at my other side. “But don’t do that to us tomorrow or we’ll cry.” I laughed as I and the twins ran away from the dining hall, where Ace was shouting something about ways to kill me.

Well, he started it. I was just giving him a taste of his own medicine.

At least I don’t have to see him tomorrow, because I’ll have lessons with the twins on that day. Though I couldn’t imagine what kind of lesson it would be.

Chapter 13 Double Trouble

Back pain. I feel like an old lady

Today was my training with the twin Princes about how to walk and act properly. They were a little strict, which really surprised me. I thought that this training today would end up becoming a game, but no, they are serious. Dead serious. We are currently in a huge dressing. Dan and Ren were both standing beside me as they watched. One of them, Dan, walked to the front and examined me. I countered his look with my glare. They actually put on name tags for me to easily tell them apart.

“Don’t slouch,” Ren said as he straightened my back once again. I gritted my teeth as I felt a sting on my back for straining it too much. We’ve been doing this for hours and I can’t even feel my back anymore. How can the royals do this all the time? That explains why the prince and princesses from storybooks would usually sneak out of the castle.

The twins seem like they were having fun every time I get frustrated and would often laugh at my bad posture. It makes me feel bad and angry at the same time. I was getting frustrated that I started calling them with the wrong names on purpose. "Oopsie!! Sorry, Dan." I said. Ren's face twitched when I called him Dan.

"My name is Ren and not Dan! I thought you already knew who is who."

To be honest, I can slightly tell them apart. Both with the help of their name tags and the other for their mannerism.

I gasped. "Oh did I? I must have forgotten." I looked at Dan for help with my puppy dog eyes. He seemed to back away a little. Probably wanting to avoid being involved with the two of us. "Ren, Dan is being mean again," I complained to him.

Ren groaned in frustration. "This means war," he said while Dan gave me an evil smile and said. "Hmm...I think we should put a book on her head."

On reflexes, I screamed. "Oh heck no!"

The twins are evil.

"Relax, this will help you to keep your posture on and to keep you busy," Dan reassured me and muttered the last part more to himself as he placed a book on top of my head. The book felt heavy on my head as the weight pressed. It was a thick leather-bound book. It seemed old because the pages were already yellow.

"Now try walking while balancing that book on your head," Ren commanded. I did what they told me to and walked while balancing the book on my head. I was doing pretty good, but the only problem was that I looked like a drunken old geezer when I walked.

The boy's facepalm at me. Well good for them.

"Princess...not to be rude or anything but you lack grace." Dan commented, "Chest out, stomach in, and b*** out." I did what he told me to.

Just for the sake of annoying them, I exaggerated by putting my chest out and my b*** out too much, making me look like a duck. To add a little more twist, I made a duck face at them.

Dan's facepalmed at me as Ren went to a drawer at the far side of the room. I looked at him curiously as he brought something long and sparkly. Ren dusted them off first and walked in front of me, raising the things that he took.

I gasped and stared at it in horror.

High heels. Emphasis on the high. There's a reason why it was one letter away from spelling Hell.

"I think this would help you to walk properly," Ren said and bent down in front of him as if he would put it on.

"You're kidding me!" I screamed and removed my foot from his reach. Sure, the shoes are shiny and pretty but it's too high! I think it's at least 4 inches tall. I can't even walk with a good posture and they expect me to wear them?

Ren sighed and looked at me with tired eyes.

Am I really that difficult to teach?

"Rose, please. I promise you that it will help."

"No. You guys are just making fun of me." I said stubbornly and crossed my arms over my chest and smirked at him.

"Rose," he said warningly and gripped the shoes. I hope he will break them.

"Ren." I mocked in the same tone as his and smirked as he let out an exasperated sigh and ran a hand through his hair brown locks. He bit his lips and looked at Dan beside him and jerked his head towards me.

Before I could a**ess the situation, Dan threw me over his shoulder and I yelped.

From my view over here, I can see Dan's b***. It was pretty.

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I pounded on Dan's back and screamed at him to let me go. My attacks were futile because he didn't even flinch or say anything, in fact, he was laughing. It didn't take long until he set me on the couch. He moved behind it and grabbed my shoulders to prevent me from escaping as Ren went in front of me again. He grabbed my foot and removed my flats and replaced them with heels. I tried to kick them away but Ren stopped my foot from doing so as he gripped them. I flinched at how tight he was holding them.

"Ren, let go! Let go of my foot!" I tried again but man was he strong. I gasped when I saw that he had moved his face in front of me. His face was too close for my liking as he looked at me with serious eyes, no hint of flirting like they used to. His breathing was hot against my skin making me shrink back. This was the difference between them. Although both of them are goofy in general, Ren's mood can easily switch into a serious one. Dan tends to lay back a lot and let his older brother handle things.

“Rose, if you want this lesson to be over with then please cooperate.” His eyes told me that he doesn’t want any funny business.

“And,” I jumped in surprise when Dan, from behind me, lowered his head so he could whisper in my ear. His breath tickled my neck making shivers run down my spine. “If you don’t want us to get angry then you’ll do as we say. Get it?” he said.

I just nodded my head. Who knew that these two had a different side of them? I swallowed hard as they helped me up. I gripped at their hands as I tried to balance on my footing.

When I raised my head, the first thing that went into my mind was: Man! I like the view from up here.

I’m going on a trip. I’m going on a trip. I’m going on a trip.

“Rose, don’t spread your legs that far apart. You look like you’re ready to pee.” Dan commented, attempting to lighten the mood. I suspect that my face looked like I was an animal giving birth.

“Please don’t let me go,” I said nervously as I continued to grip their hands in fear that I might fall. I had always been a clutz, so heels were a big no for me. Wearing heels for me is like learning how to ride a bike. Sure I can handle an inch tall heels but not 4 inches.

They raised their eyebrows at me. “I’m guessing you don’t wear these types of shoes that often?”

I glared at Ren. “No. It’s more like I NEVER wear them.” I snapped. Okay, I may be a little overdramatic on this but still! “If I’m gonna break my neck on this I’ll make sure to visit you guys in the afterlife. I’ll curse you that the only pairs of shoes that you guys will be wearing are heels.” I threatened.

Ren flinched while Dan laughed. “Relax princess. Those are just shoes. Try straightening your back. It might help.” I did what he told me to. Dan nodded in approval. “Good, now try taking a small step forward.” I stepped my right foot in front of me while still holding their hands.

Whhhooooooooopppppp!!!!

I almost made a complete split when I took my first step. Luckily I was holding their hands. They pulled me up. “He said to take a small step forward!! That was a huge step!!” Ren said.

I gave him an annoyed look. “I was! Taking a small step I mean. I just wanted to practice my gymnastics. Apparently, I still need a lot of work to do.”

Ren raised his eyebrow in confusion. "What's gymnastics?"

I mentally facepalmed when I remembered that they don't know about those kinds of stuff. "Nothing. Forget I said anything."

I continued with practicing walking while holding their hands. They would often give some really helpful tips. "Hey, you're doing great!" Dan commented. Okay, I think I found another difference between them. Dan is nicer and gentler than Ren.

I grinned as I continued to walk with the twins still holding my hand. A minute later and they placed the book once again on top of my head. The book fell twice from my head before I learned to balance it without dancing. Oftentimes I would purposely drop it, earning glares from both the twins.

"Okay, I think you've gotten the hang of it." Ren smiled contentedly as he looked at me. When I saw his smile I immediately smiled back. Well, I guess his goofy self is back.

"I think it's alright to let go of your hand now." I looked at Dan as he started to loosen his hold from mine. I gripped it back, catching Dan off guard.

"W-wait a minute! Do you want me to trip?!" Although I said it seriously the two just laughed.

Ren placed his other hand on my shoulder. "Don't worry princess. If you fall, we'll be here to surely catch you." He said while trying to hide the smile that still lingered on his face. I'm guessing that he finds my situation funny.

Well, good for him.

"Okay Rose, we'll let you go now. Okay?" Dan asked me and I nodded. I took a deep breath as they slowly removed their grip from my hands, leaving me. They moved back a little to give me some space.

Just one step at a time. They're just shoes. But tripping is painful!

Taking a deep breath I put one foot in front of the other as I started to walk at a slow pace. Book still on my head. I feel like a baby taking her first step. Before I knew it, I was already walking at a normal pace. I started to grin at myself. I can hear Dan and Ren's approval behind me in each step that I took. What can I say? I'm so awesome that I have two princes as my fans behind me.

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If my best friend was here I would be shouting at her like: Look at me! I'm walking on heels! She would probably be clapping while wiping tears of joy from her face.

I felt a little giddy that I abruptly turned around to twins. Once I turned, my heel broke and I lost my balance.

“Rose!”

“Princess!”

I placed my hands together and prayed. If I fall it's all THEIR fault.

I closed my eyes as I waited for my fall. At that time I wished that if reincarnation was real, then I would become a boy so I wouldn't have to wear heels for the rest of my life.

But I didn't feel the ground. Instead, I felt strong muscular arms gripping me and preventing me from the fall. When I opened my eyes, I saw a pair of beautiful brown orbs staring back at me.

What is this?? A cliché Disney Princess story!?

Ren smiled warmly at me as he panted. “You okay?” I just nodded my head. His smile seemed to grow larger on his face as he said, “See? I told you that I'll catch you.” He boasted.

Arrogant prince.

His scent entered my nostrils and that's when I noticed the small space between us. “Ren, I'm glad that you kept your promise, but could you help me up now? I can't move properly in this situation.”

Ren seemed surprised and it seemed that he had just noticed a gap between us. His face turned a little red as he coughed and said, “Um yeah, of course.” He pulled me up with him and picked the fallen book from the ground.

“Sorry, Ren. Are you hurt?” I reached out to touch his shoulder. A sudden sting startled me. It felt like I was being electrocuted for a second. “What was that?” I asked.

“What was what?” He asked.

“You didn't feel it?” I asked. He shook his head. He didn't say anything after that as I felt another hand on me. It was Dan having a worried expression on his face while occasionally having a hidden smirk for Ren.

“Are you okay?” He asked.

I smiled at him and gave him a thumbs up. “Yep.”

He nodded. “Good. You can take a break for now. You can take off the shoes.”

I didn't waste any time as I bent down and removed the shoes. Throwing them to the side as if I had no care for them, which I don't. The ground seemed to comfort me as I fully felt the whole floor with my foot. I didn't even bother to look for my flats as I raced to the sofa. "Flat ground! Flat ground!" I rejoiced and ran barefooted.

I wonder how some of these girls were able to bear wearing those heels. What a pain. I started to stretch my legs on the sofa not caring about manners any more.

I saw Dan watching me as I made myself comfortable to where I am sitting. I stuck my tongue out at him. He smiled and waved at me. He approached his twin. I watched as the two exchanged some words and noticed that Ren's face looked confused, while Dan had a weird look on his face.

He kept wiggling his eyes at his brother, which annoyed Ren. "Cut that out, Dan. It's really annoying." Dan continued to dance his eyebrows at him. "Oh really? Why would this bother you?" He asked innocently. He returned his gaze to me, who was watching them curiously.

Ren furrowed his eyebrows and messed his hair up. "I think I'm gonna go out for a while to get some fresh air."

Dan was still smirking as he looked at the door that Ren had just disappeared to. When Dan turned in my direction, I immediately feigned sleeping in case he would say that the break time is over. I felt the couch move so I could only guess that Dan was now sitting beside me.

"Come on Princess. I know you're awake."

I didn't move. "Really Princess. I know you're awake with the way your feet dance." I sneaked a peek at my foot to see if it really was dancing. It wasn't. "No, it's not," I said.

"So you really are awake!" Dan said with a huge grin on his face. It made me frown.

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Damn it!

Dan decided to poke my cheek. "Aww. Come on. I didn't mean to trick you. In fact, I didn't even know that you'll fall for it. It's such a simple trick!" He snorted at that.

I slapped his hand back and pouted. "What do you want now, Dan? I want to rest. Go to the other chair." I said as I lowered my foot to the ground and pushed him off MY couch.

This time it was Dan who pouted. "Aw, but it'll be so lonely alone." He said with complete puppy eyes and all "And besides," he scooted over and wrapped an arm over my shoulders and pulled me towards him. "I wouldn't be able to cuddle with a beautiful

princess now can I?" He flashed me a seductive smile that would make any girl melt in a puddle on the ground.

These prices are insane!

I grabbed his arm and removed it from my shoulders. "Save your flirting for girls who care. And besides, you wouldn't be sitting alone for that long when Ren gets back." I said. "By the way, where did Ren go anyway?"

His lips seemed to quirk up at my words. "Somewhere. Maybe outside." He rubbed his chin with the quirky smile on his face. "But I think that it'll take some time for him to come back."

I raised an eyebrow at him. "And why is that?"

He tilted his head so he was facing the ceiling, smirking. "My brother is smart but can be an idiot in some categories in life." He said. "Please be patient with us, sister." He said and winked.

Sister?

This guy is seriously confusing me. "Dan please try and talk with some sense to it cause you really are difficult to understand."

He chuckled at my words and turned his head so he was facing me. "Oh, you are such a little cutie! You two are perfect." He pinched my cheek as he cooed.

"Ow!" I slapped his hand away and I ma**age my cheek. "That hurts you know!?"

He started to laugh. "Sorry about that Princess. I just don't have any self-control. You're just too cute." He said dramatically.

"Well stay away from me if you can't control yourself," I said bitterly as I continued to ma**age my aching cheek. "That really hurts."

"I'm sorry." He said apologetically. "So, do you know anything about wolves?"

"Why the sudden question?"

"Nothing. Just asking questions for fun and relaxation. Also a time for us to bond." He batted his eyes at me innocently.

I moved farther back to the opposite side of the couch and grabbed one of the heels on the floor. I pointed the pointy heel at him. "What's relaxing for me is not talking. And I'm having this weird feeling that you are up to something."

He smirked. "You know, wolves are pretty loyal."

"And I should care why? Is this part of our lesson?"

"Maybe?"

I stared at him. "You know, you twins are weird, but you alone can be really weird."

"You are too." He said and smirked in delight when he saw me frown. "You know. I think I'll just go outside to get my brother." He started to get up.

"Oh yippie. That's great. Please take all the time you need." I said jokingly.

Dan laughed. "By the way Princess, wolves mate forever. When a wolf finds its mate, it will know. Sort of." I stared at his retreating back. He paused just at the door and gave me a side glance. "Just remember that. For future reference." He winked and then he was gone.

Why are we talking about wolves again?

Chapter 14 Sibling Fight

Dan is a very weird individual. That I can conclude. It wasn't that long until they left that I decided to do a little stretching. I jumped off of the couch and did a few hops in place. I wore my flats again and decided to take a little stroll.

The twins were allowed to leave so why can't I? I'll return soon anyway.

I went out of the room and was deciding on which way I was supposed to go when I heard voices. It was coming from my right. Curiously, I followed the sound. Then, just as I was about to turn to a corner, I stopped. The twins were in the middle of the hallway talking. On reflex, I quickly moved back so I wouldn't be spotted.

By now, it would be the best and wise decision to return, but they seem to be in a serious conversation. Maybe I should stay and listen?

"So, how do you feel right now?" Dan was asking his brother with a very wide and teasing grin.

"I'm fine. Just finished getting some fresh air and some thinking."

"Rose is beautiful, isn't she?" He asked as he leaned on the wall beside the window.

They are talking about me, right? The same Rose that they are calling beautiful? Well, maybe I am. I blushed in embarrassment but continued to listen.

“Yes, she is.” Ren agreed. “She is beautiful despite her jungle girl attitude.”

Gee. Thanks. A compliment and an insult. Wow.

When I looked at Dan he was smiling. His eyes seemed to sparkle and he nodded his head in excitement. “Really?! And do you feel something when you see her?” He continued to press on.

“Uhh...yes.” Ren seemed uncomfortable.

“Really?!” His smile seemed to grow bigger.

I nodded my head. “Yes. Why else would I consider her as our sister if I don’t feel anything? Right?”

“ ... ”

I was crying tears of joy. The twins like me so much, that they consider me as their sister!?

Dan, though, seemed disappointed at his brother. Ren stared at him with a confused expression then I watched the expression on his face turn into anger. “What? What did I do?!” Ren asked. He just pouted at him and started to turn his back and said, “Idiot.”

“Wait! What do you mean?!” Ren even his pace to his brother, who was now headed in my direction. Dan just ignored him as he continued to walk. “Come on brother. Talk to me!”

“No. Find out yourself, stupid.”

“What? Why wouldn’t you just tell me why you’re upset? Brother tell me! Why are you ignoring me?”

“Cause you’re stupid!” He said and left him there, confused.

“Brother! Come on. What did I do?”

“Shut up”

“But-”

“No. Shut your mouth.”

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“Brother!”

It's time for me to go back. I gathered my skirt up and heard a few gasps from the maids when I exposed my legs. Geez, I forgot about their manners here.

I bolted for the room. Once I came in, a maid was just serving my lunch on the table. She had a confused look on her face, but I simply placed a finger to my lips. "Shh," I said. She simply nodded, bowed, and made her exit.

I sat at the table with my lunch on a tray and started to fill my stomach with yummy delight. It was good. I started eating a bit fast to make it seem like I was in the room the whole time eating when Ren and Dan arrived. I could only guess that the twins haven't settled their disputes because they didn't say anything to each other. It wasn't until the lessons started again that I wish I did something to help them make up.

"Rose! Straighten your back!" Ren ordered.

"No Rose! Chin up and face me! Don't listen to him." Dan argued.

I was really confused about who to follow. And I have to be the unlucky person to be in the middle of this...Why are they even fighting?

"Rose! You'll wear these pairs of heels again." Ren brought out the shoes that I was wearing earlier.

I started to reach towards them when Dan shouted. "No, Rose! Wear these!" Dan brought out another pair of heels which I think is higher. It made me stare at it in horror.

"Brother are you crazy?! She almost fell back then with just these heels and you're making her wear an even higher one?" Ren asked his brother in disbelief.

"She was able to walk on those heels. It's time for her to go to the next level idiot!" Dan told his brother.

"Now who are you calling an idiot, idiot?"

"You are, idiot!"

By then they were arguing. Their voices rose in every insult.

Oh boy...

"What's your problem with me anyway? Why are you so mad at me all of a sudden?!" Ren shouted at his brother.

"That is for ME to know and for YOU to find out!" Dan answered back.

"ALRIGHT! Stop this right now." I screamed. I can't take this anymore!

They seemed surprised at my outburst as they looked at me. "You guys want me to wear heels?! Fine!" As soon as those words left my mouth, both the twins started to shove the heels that they were holding towards me.

"Take this one, Rose!"

"No! This one!"

I waved both shoes off with my hand. "Hey back off!" I said. "I'm gonna get another pair of heels," I muttered and marched towards the closet in my frustration. I heard the boys shouting at me, "Don't spread your legs apart when you walk!!"

"Shut up!!" I growled at them.

As soon as I got my pair of heels, shorter this time, the training continued.

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"Rose, walk with me."

"No me!"

"Rose! Wear this!"

"Don't listen to him! Wear these instead!"

"Why are you always disagreeing with me?! Huh?!" Ren asked through gritted teeth as he closed the gap between them.

"Cause you're stupid and an idiot. That's why." Dan said with no emotion at all. Completely unaffected by Ren's rage.

I better stop them before it worsens. "Uhh...guys. Break it up." I got in between them as I gently pushed them apart. They were still bickering and I was about to punch them in the face when Dan held my curl fist in his hands.

"A Princess does not punch, but a slap." He said. "Allow me to show you the proper way of slapping someone." He pulled a white glove from his pocket and slapped Ren's face. It hit with a smack.

"Hey!" Ren complained as he clutched his slapped cheek. I slapped my hand to my mouth as I laughed.

"Cool!" I said. "Can I try it?" Dan grinned down at me and winked.

“Why of course. Anything for the lovely Princess.” He said as he offered me the glove. I took it.

“Hey wait a minute. That’s the men’s way of-”

SMACK!

I giggled at the impact. Cool.

“Rose!” Ren growled at me and glared at his brother, who started to chuckle. Ren took the glove from me and slapped his brother next.

“Hey!” Dan glared at his brother.

“You started it! And don’t you dare teach Rose how to slap!”

Oh boy. I was pretty sure that I was supposed to stop them...

“Alright let’s be serious now and stop this,” I said as I broke them apart once again.

Dan huffed at his brother and held my hand which was resting on his chest. He kissed it which surprised me and made Ren twitch. I saw Dan smirking at his brother before he faced me. “My deepest apology my Princess. Does it really bother you when we fight?”

If Dan won’t stop being this ridiculous, then I might fight him myself.

“Yes because whenever you guys fight you bring it on to ME!” I said in a ‘duh’ tone.

“Forgive me, Princess. Come. We shall practice somewhere else and leave this man be.” He jerked his head towards Ren as he started to pull me away.

I knew it. This guy was really up to something.

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We were about to leave the room when I felt a tug on my other arm. “And where do you intend to take her?” Ren asked his brother, not letting go of my arm. I looked at both of them in alarm.

Oh please don’t play tug-of-war. Oh please oh please oh please. I chanted in my mind.

Dan scoffed at his brother. “Somewhere away from you,” he said as he tugged at my other hand.

Dan, please don’t start tugging!!

Ren tugged at my arm next. "You are not taking her anywhere but in this room." His tone of voice was laced with finality.

"Just because you're the eldest doesn't mean I have to follow your orders," Dan said as he pulled me towards him again.

Ren's face turned into a scowl at his brother's words. "I'm not gonna repeat myself, Dan. You are not going anywhere with her without me and that is final." He said with authority and once again pulled me towards him.

"Oh my my my. Why do you care so much, Ren? Does it really bother you where I take Rose with me? ALL ALONE?" With that said, Dan was able to pull me off of Ren's hold. I was about to thank him for relieving me of their mini tug-of-war thing, but then he crushed me to his chest so hard that my air was cut off.

I'm gonna lie if I tell you that Dan stinks because he doesn't. In fact, he smells really nice. I'm gonna stop talking about this now.

"Of course it bothers me! Who knows what you'll do to her." Ren accused his brother. At those words, Dan gasped dramatically. "Are you telling me that I'll do something to her when we're alone? Oh brother you're still stupid."

I pounded on Dan's chest not because I wanted him to stop arguing with Ren but because I needed to breathe or else I might see the afterlife very soon. I don't care if you guys kill each other but don't drag me!

"Then what are you gonna do? Huh?!"

"Tsk tsk tsk. We'll proceed to train of course! What? Do you think that I'll do SOMETHING to her?"

"N-No! W-what are you talking about?"

"Oh my. What a dirty little mind you have there brother."

I was finally able to gather enough strength as I punched Dan on the gut. He doubled over as he clutched his stomach and groaned in pain. I was able to get away from him as I gasped for air. Actually, both of us gasped for air.

I greedily breathed the air and filled my lungs.

"Rose are you okay?" Ren asked in concern as he reached out for me.

"Hey, what about me?" Dan asked when he was finally able to recover from my punch. Man does punching him hurt. I kind of felt his abs when I punched him. Man those things are hard. Luckily I punch like a man but it didn't prevent my hand from throbbing.

Stupid abs.

“You deserve it, brother,” Ren said to his brother in anger.

“Huh. Now, why are you so angry? It’s not like I did something to you.” Dan said c***ily.

“Shut up! Rose is training with me. Right, Rose?”

“No, she will not be training with someone as stupid as you. Isn’t that right, Rose?” Dan asked. By now they were coming closer to me, offering their hand. I stepped back a little in fear of them.

Chapter 15 N@rnia

“Rose!”

Which one?

“Rose?”

Which one?!

“ROSE!!!”

A surge of anger washed over me. “SHUT UP!” I screamed at them. I a**ume that my scream had startled them because they had backed away and gave me a fearful look. I glared at both of them.

“If you guys wanted to fight, then could you please count me out?! If you wanna kill each other, then be my guest!! Just...just don’t drag me!!” They were about to say something but I held a finger up, silencing them. “Until you guys sort things out...I’ll be on that couch. Waiting.” I said as I turned my back on them and sat on the couch.

The twins didn’t move from their spot. They were just standing there and having a glaring contest.

“This is all your fault!” Ren accused his brother after a minute.

“Me? Now, why is it my fault?! If you just let us go then none of this would have happened!” Dan said to his brother. Disbelief in his voice that his brother had accused him.

I facepalmed at them. These guys are a lot of work. For once, I thank my lucky stars that my younger sister is only seven years old, whose name is Stella. At least I wouldn’t have to experience that sibling war that the twins are currently having.

What am I gonna do with them?! They are still bickering and throwing insults at each other.

Alright, Rose time to use your brain. You have to think of a way to forcibly make them up. But how?

If only I could lock them in a small room together they might make up. I looked around the room, scanning. My eyes then settle to the large closet in front of me.

While the boys were still arguing about who's a fault it is, I got up and examined the closet. It was made of wood, painted white, with a lock on it. It was huge if it weren't for the shoes which were piled on the floor of it.

I started to clear all of the shoes and threw them aside. I guess you could consider this as my revenge on the shoes. Once I cleared the closet from all the shoes, I examined the space and looked back at the twins as I estimated it. Perfect fit.

Now I just have to trick them in. How?

I pulled the closet doors wide open as I let out a gasp. "OH MY GOSH! THE PORTAL TO N@RNIA IS OPEN!" I screamed.

The boys stopped what they were doing as they gave me a confused look. "What's N@rnia?" They asked at the same time.

"..." I mentally facepalmed at my epic fail moment.

Duh! How can they know N@rnia? It's not like they're reading them, much less watched it.

Oh well, I started it now so why not continue?

"Uhh... never mind! Just look at it! There's a magical portal. Look!" I pointed at the inside of the closet.

They didn't move and just stared at me as if I had lost my mind.

"Just get over here!" Something snapped at me back then so I didn't notice that I was already shouting. That seemed to startle the boys as well since they immediately ran to my side to check the inside of the closet.

"Where's the portal that you're talking about?" Ren asked as he crouched down to look.

"I don't see anything," Dan said and moved some of the clothes out of the way to look.

"It's there. Just keep searching." I said. "Oh look! There it is!" I pointed to the inside of the closet.

"Where?!" They both asked.

"At the end! See? Go and look for it!" I told them. If their stupidity has reached a whole new level, then this is it.

When they started to crawl inside the closet, I immediately pushed them farther inside as I closed the door and turned the lock.

s***ers!

"Welcome to N@RNIA!" I cheered.

"Ahh....so this is N@rnia. It's a little dark in here..." Dan said in amazement. Idiot.

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"Rose? Rose! Let us out!" I could hear Ren shouting from the other side. "You open this door right now or you'll be in a heap of trouble once I get out." Ren threatened.

"Sorry. Until you guys sort things out you ain't leaving this closet."

"ROSE!!"

I smirked and happily walked towards the couch that I was sitting on a while ago.

"Move your b***, Dan!"

"Ow! Hey this is my side of the line! You move."

I could hear both of them pushing each other inside.

"Stupid!"

"Moron!"

"Your mom must have had a rotten brain cause apparently you inherited it!"

"Stupid!!! We have the same mother."

"Will you two shut up?! If you guys don't have anything good to say, then don't say anything at all." I shouted to them. At those words, the boys had silenced.

Wow, I guess they really don't have anything good to say.

5 minutes have pa**ed and still, they didn't say a word.

"Anytime now guys," I said boredly as I lay down on the couch.

"I don't have anything good to say so I won't say anything at all," Ren said stubbornly.

"Neither do I." Dan agreed.

Man do I need to do something or else I might break.

I scanned the room for something. ANYTHING to keep me sane. This silence is driving me crazy!

I marched to the closet as I knocked on it. Alright. Enough games. Time to help them make up

"Who's there?" Ren asked boredly from the other side.

"Stupid. Who else could it be?" I said.

Dan snorted at that. "See? Even Rose thinks you're an idiot—OW! Hey!"

"Daniel and Renevier Rutledge!!" I called them warningly. They fell silent and I could have heard them gulp loudly.

Huh. I think full names here also means you're in trouble.

"If you guys won't make up right now I'm gonna call the Queen and tell her to bust your b***s off!" I threatened.

No reply

I sighed tiredly. "You guys really aren't going to make up right now are you?"

"Yes." Both said stubbornly.

Are they always like this when they fight?

"Alright, fine. Stay there until dinners are over. I'm gonna go outside for a while and leave you two be." I got up from where I was crouching. "When I get back I expect you two to have sorted things out already. Ciao!"

I'm not really gonna leave them alone. I'm just gonna pretend that I'm going out for a while since I figured that they might be a little shy with me around. I marched towards the door and opened it then closed it to make it look like I left.

After that, I tiptoed heading to the closet, and leaned in. I didn't really hear them talking. It took them a moment before Ren broke the silence thickening between them.

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"Hey."

I have to bite my tongue so I wouldn't shout at him and say 'ARE YOU KIDDING ME?! IT TOOK YOU A MINUTE JUST TO SAY A SINGLE WORD?!'

"Dan is not available right now. Please talk to him again after you settled your stupidity" Dan said. I facepalmed at Dan. Shame on him. And I thought he was a tad bit mature.

Ren sighed tiredly. "Dan please? You can't just ignore me forever. We're brothers after all."

"..."

Oh, come on Dan!

"Dan. Please. I miss talking to my brother without the fighting part." Ren pleaded. "I don't know what I did to make you hate me and I hope that you'll forgive me," Ren said. Even though Ren said all of those things, Dan still didn't answer.

"You know, fighting with you really hurts and bothers me. This is the longest that we fought. Usually, we would immediately make up even without words of apology." Ren sighed as if remembering some memories. "We don't fight that much too so I guess we're not used to letting our pride go and be the first to forgive each other." Ren laughed without the humor in it. "As men and as siblings, we value that pride. I too value that." He said. "But if I have to let that pride go and say the most honest apology that I could muster. I would. Just so you could forgive me. Dan, I give you my deepest apology. Will you forgive me?"

I slap a hand to my mouth so I wouldn't weep at his words.

That was wonderful, Ren!

I heard someone sniffing from the other side.

"Dan? Dan are you okay? Hey, are you crying?" Ren asked worriedly.

Dan sniffed once more before saying, "No. These are sweats. It's too hot in here." Dan said, but you could tell that it was a lie. "And besides, brother. I forgive you. You don't have to give me that speech of yours."

Ren snorted. "Sorry. I just thought that you needed it. Knowing you, it needs to be done. Besides, I'm the eldest. I have to be the considerate one. So are we okay now?"

"Of course we are. Besides, I miss my brother too."

"Thank you, brother." I smiled at that because finally the two of them made up. Now isn't that nice? At least I won't be tortured anymore. "By the way, can I ask you a question?" Ren asked.

"Sure. Shoot it."

"Why were you so upset with me?" I leaned in. They don't judge. I wanna know the reason for their argument too.

I could hear Dan smirking. "Like I said before. That's for me to know and for you to find out. Don't worry, you'll figure it out sooner or later." Ren whined at that but was silenced by Dan. "Besides, Princess Rose is currently listening to this. We wouldn't want her to know, right?"

Crap. How did they know?

Oh well since they did makeup why not release them already?

I whipped the silly little tears from my eyes, Curse Ren and his words, and unlocked the closet. I threw it wide open and saw Dan smirking at me and Ren gapping at me. Ren pointed a shaky finger in my direction. "Y-you were listening?"

I nodded my head. "Yep."

"H-how long?"

I thought about it for a moment. "Hmmm....from the very start." I grinned down at Ren.

"You heard everything?" He asked.

I nodded again. "Uh huh. Everything. Word per word."

Ren's cheeks flamed in embarra**ment while Dan had to slap a hand to his mouth to keep himself from laughing. I stared at Dan confusedly. "How did you know that I was listening?"

Dan stopped from laughing but the humor was still in his eyes. "I just figured it out from the start when you leaned in, the door rattled a little." He said. "Oh and I could see your shadow by the way."

I pouted at him. "Aw, man."

Both the twins got up from the closet as dusted themselves off. "Locking us into a closet. That was pretty mean, Princess." Ren commented as he grabbed his coat from the rack and placed it on and stretched his muscles. It was the coat that I was playing with earlier.

"Yes. For that, I think she deserves a punishment no?" Dan said to his brother and they both grinned at each other before turning to me.

"Err....but I did it to help you guys! At least be thankful!" I was slowly backing away towards the door by now. Each one took a menacing step towards me.

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"Yes we are thankful," Ren said as Dan continued. "But a punishment for that crime is needed."

"Um...I don't think that what I did was a crime." I said more of a question than a statement.

They both shook their heads. "No, it's not. But for us it is." As soon as they said that I quickly grabbed the heels that were on the floor and threw it at them.

"Hey!"

"Ow! That's dangerous, Rose!"

"Ha! If you knew that those are dangerous, then why would you let me wear those deadly weapons." I ran towards the door.

The boys were hot on my heels. I threw it open and ran outside as fast as my feet could carry me.

Luckily I was wearing my flats again.

I wasn't watching where I was going so I ended up bumping into someone, and that someone was Fred who had caught me before I could fall. He was with Nate and Ace.

Fred gave me a confused look as if wondering what I was doing. "Are you all right?" He asked.

I have to keep myself from stuttering in front of him. "Y-yes," I said. "Um...what are you guys doing here?" Okay, that was rude to ask. If anything, Fred didn't mind it.

"Well, since you guys are a tad bit late for dinner, we figured to pick you guys up." He said. Ace snorted at him. "Sorry, we have to force Ace to come too." He corrected me.

“Why are you out of breath?” Nate asked me as he examined my face.

“I-I...”

“ROSE!” At the sound of the twins’ voice, I acted fast and was behind Fred and Nate as I pointed towards the twins. “They are after me!”

Fred, Nate, and Ace followed the direction that my finger was pointing and looked at Ren and Dan, who were slightly shocked to see the others as well. Ren and Dan were gaping at them while Fred and Nate gave them a disapproving look. The twins laughed nervously. “Um...we were just playing. Right, Rose?” Ren looked at me for help which I replied by sticking my tongue out at them. They frowned at that.

Fred and Nate chuckled at my behavior. “You boys are gonna be in a heap of trouble,” Fred said more of a joke, but the twins thought he was serious, and fear flashed in their eyes. “I’m kidding,” Fred said after seeing the nervousness in their eyes. The twins sighed in relief knowing that Fred was joking.

“Are we done here? If yes, then let’s go. The king and Queen are waiting.” Said Ace in annoyance.

Nate only chuckled at him. “I hate to say it but Ace is right. Let’s go guys.”

We nodded as we walked together to the dining hall. I was walking between Nate and Fred since I figured that Ace still has a grudge against me and the twins wanted to have some revenge too. Ace still has a bit of doodle on his face. I guess the ink was pretty strong.

I peeked from Fred’s side to look at Ace. “Hey, Ace.”

He didn’t answer.

“Oh, I’m sorry, PRINCE Ace?”

This time he did look at me but with annoyance. “What?”

I smirked at him. “Nice look. I think that mustache really suits you, but I prefer it if you have shaved it for dinner.” If Fred wasn’t between us I might have been killed by Ace already. He had to stop Ace from charging at me as we all laughed, except for Ace.

“I’m gonna kill her.” Ace mumbled to himself.

I snorted at that.

Oh boy. I think I needed an e***** all the time whenever I walked into this castle.

“Hey by the way boys. Why do you smell of wood?” Nate asked the twins who were beside them.

“Oh. We just had a trip to Marnia.” Dan answered.

“Marnia?” Nate asked in confusion. The twins and I looked at each other and we laughed.

“Yes.”