

Chapter 102 Why Else

Watching Lancelot stroll in with the human woman in his arms, with no regards for any of them; not his father, not his mother, not his family, not even him - Garrett- or Ava his daughter, infuriated the head of the council in ways he never even thought possible. He strolled past them with confidence, as though he were not committing a sin, a taboo!

His eyes darkened on the young man, and did not leave him until Lancelot was out of their sight, before he turned to his daughter. Ava stood, visibly shaking. Garrett said nothing, he only stared at her and watched as she stood helpless and hopeless. From the corner of his eyes, he saw Madeline and Edward rush up the stairs, maybe to question their son. But, Garrett had lost faith in both of them, it was time to take matters into his own hands.

He took steps towards his daughter and dragged her by her hand, not caring who was looking, and led her out of the palace. Ava was stunned by her father's reaction, but even more stunned by Lancelot's audacity. The way he had walked into the palace...the palace! With that woman in his arms, without caring how she felt, or how her father would feel. Lancelot was far gone, too far gone.

Garrett didn't stop until he got to his car. He let go of Ava's hand before looking over her. Garrett could not tell if he was disappointed, or if he felt pity for her. Perhaps, it was a mixture of both, but he was too indignant to care. "Get in," the words escaped his clenched teeth. Ava bowed her head

to the ground and did as she was told. She walked to the other side of the car and got in the front seat, beside the driver's seat.

Garrett opened his door and climbed in. He banged the door of his car close and punched his steering wheel with his clenched fist. Ava was frightened as she sat beside her father, she did not know what to say in order not to anger him more, so she stayed quiet.

"I don't even know what's going on anymore," Garrett spoke, Ava swallowed hard and stared down at her shoes.

"He just...he just walks in, just like that!" Garrett turned to Ava before he continued his ranting.

"You have been in this palace for what? Three months! You have been with him, right from childhood, you have been an active member and a familiar face in this palace and not once Ava! Not once has he looked at you! He walked in today and he didn't even spare you a glance! No explanation, no apology, no nothing! He did not even regard your presence!"

With every sentence he made, Ava's temper stirred within her.

"This was not what I brought you here for. This was not what I raised you for and this was not the plan! You were not supposed to play second fiddle..." He stopped to scoff bitterly.

"What am I even saying? You're not second fiddle here, you're as good as insignificant. He acknowledges the stairs in this palace more than he regards you. Was this why I sent you to the palace Ava?"

Garrett thundered at her and she stayed quiet. In frustration, he banged his fist against the dashboard and Ava jerked up.

"Answer me for goddess sake!"

"No...No father," she whimpered. Garrett was panting heavily, breathless with anger. He turned away from her and fixed his eyes on the building in front of him, as he leaned into his seat.

"I cannot trust Madeline and Edward to put him in check anymore. We would have to do something ourselves."

"But father, we already tried..."

"So?" Garrett shot back, shooting her a glare.

"You would continue to do everything and anything until you are crowned Luna queen! You must be crowned Luna queen. You must be crowned Luna queen."

Ava did not reply her father, it was unreasonable to do so. Garrett returned to his usual calm, and faced his front again.

"We would have to do something, something that would work this time. And find a way to trace it back to the queen. Lancelot would not be able to harm his mother, even if he finds out. But now that she's in the palace, Lancelot would never let her out of his sight, the only way we can get to her, is through poison."

Ava jerked up.

"Poison?"

Garrett leered at her. "Do you have a better idea?"

She relaxed back into her seat, because she didn't.

"To do that, we would have to find someone in the palace who dislikes her, yet, has access to food and kitchen services. Do you perhaps know anyone like that? I mean, you should. You've been in this palace for long..."

Ava thought hard and fast. She wasn't sure the person she had in mind hated Roxanne, but she was certain that she could get the job done. After

all, everyone had a price, and whatever she needed, Ava was sure she would be able to pay. "The head maid!" Ava said aloud, cutting into Garrett's statement. His left brow arched as he stared down at his daughter.

"The head maid? Are you sure?"

Ava nodded, as a smug smile crept up to her lips. She knew exactly what to do.

"Yes father, I'm sure. But, it'll cost us."

Garrett's eyes brightened as he looked away from his daughter. "Whatever the price, the prize is worth it."

After her small meeting with her father, Ava bid him farewell and watched as he drove out of the palace. He had asked her to act fast, and that was why she did not waste even a split second. Immediately he was gone, she turned away and headed to the place she was sure she would find the head maid at this time of the day; in the garden, trimming the flowers.

Yes, even though she had been completely invisible to Lancelot for most of her stay here, she was still able to pick on some things; like the daily routine of the head maid. Ava saw her too many times in a day not to know.

When she got to the garden, she was pleased to see that she was right. Marilyn was on her white apron and black gown, trimming the ixora flowers in the garden. Ava walked quietly towards her, when watching her with keen eyes. Ava didn't stop walking until she was inches away from Marilyn who was too engrossed in her work to see Ava. Ava cleared her throat loudly, before Marilyn jerked up. She had a frightened look in her

eyes, which dissolved after she saw it was Ava. She lowered her gaze to the ground as she bowed.

"My lady."

Ava smiled and touched her chin gently, raising it up slowly.

"How's work going?"

Marilyn appeared disturbed that the original Luna-to-be, not the human retard, was here, right in front of her. She couldn't help but wonder what was truly happening.

"It's been well, my lady. To what do I owe the honor of your...attention?"

Ava chuckled. She was going straight to the point, that was good. Therefore, she wasn't going to waste either of their time.

"Seeing as you know a lot of things about gardening, food and keeping a home..." She paused when she saw Marilyn blush, a wry smile spread across Ava's cheek.

"...I was wondering if you knew any...poison," Ava blurted out, with a broad and sincere smile on her face. As if she had not just asked for a substance that could be used to kill someone.

Madeline's brows squinted as she threw Ava a confused glare. Ava was smiling, and that confused her more. She was speechless, but she knew she had to say something.

"My lady...I...for what? If I may ask?"

Ava chuckled lightly.

"Why else? Poisons are used to kill people, are they not? I need something quick, something sharp, something that won't cause too much drama. I came straight to you because I knew you were the woman for me, the woman I could trust." As she spoke, Marilyn studied her carefully. She couldn't help but feel like she knew the exact reason Ava needed that

poison. If that was the case, then they were definitely on the same page. Marilyn was glad there was someone else who just wanted the human woman to seize to exist. Ava scrutinized Marilyn's expression, then she realized she had indeed picked the right woman for the job.

"I do know one," Marilyn said aloud.

"But, it's very rare. The venom of a snake, a rare specie of snakes. It makes one dizzy, before it attacks with a heart attack. The death is quick and most times...effortless. But, it would take some days for me to source for it and..." Days? Ava thought with a frown. She didn't have days! Whatever she was doing had to be done today, before things got more out of hand.

"Whatever the cost to get it over here today, I would pay," she cut in, and Marilyn stopped talking to stare at her. Wow, she must really want the human out of the way, Marilyn thought to herself.

"Very well then, my lady, I'll make a few phone calls and get it to the palace as soon as possible, since there is enough to hasten the process."

Ava's smile broadened.

"Good." She walked closer to Marilyn, slightly closing in the gap between them, she looked around, just to make sure there were no peeping eyes...or cameras. She slipped her hand into the pocket of her brown suit trouser and took out a thick wad of pound notes. She pulled out Marilyn's left hand and placed it in it.

The head maid stared at the money in her hands, her jaw dropped and her mouth watered. She had never seen such amount of money in her hands, at once. And it was all hers.

"If that's not enough, there's always more."

That was music to Marilyn's eyes. Her eyes softened as she stared at Ava.

"You'll have to put the poison in the human's food, before sending it up to her. Look, whatever happens, if you're caught, the queen sent you, okay?"

You're safe once you say that," Ava spoke, and dumbstruck Marilyn nodded her head. Ava's eyes softened as his grip on Marilyn's hand tightened.

"Look, I know what's going on with you, okay? I've been in this palace too long not to notice. I know that you have a son who is on life support in the hospital. You're a maid, not one of the Dankworths has paid attention to you. But, if you help me, I'll make sure your son is taken care of in one of the best facilities in the continent. And you? You would no longer be a maid! Once that human is out of the way and I'm crowned, you would not just be head of maids, you would be this palace's butler, I promise you."

That was enough to win Marilyn's heart. Her son's treatment and a good post in the palace? Damn! There was no way she was saying no to those.

So, she shook her head and bowed to Ava.

"I would do as you've asked, my lady."

Ava let go of her hand and folded her arms across her chest.

"Of course, you will."