

## Book 2 Dragon King's Forbidden Love Chapter 21 - Tips

LARA

I look at the dragon with my mouth open and frantically thinking of what to do. I know very well that the leaders prohibited the dragons to arrive here for anything else except when they were needed as transport for their masters. It's too early for gerdians to leave. They haven't been here for one full day! So, what the chaos is going on here? Why is the dragon here?! And why is he looking at me like that?

"Smoke?" I ask when the realization suddenly hits me. It's the same dragon again!

He roars angrily and I fall from the rail to the cold floor. Somehow, I don't like all this...

Two shining dots in the sky appear out of nowhere, getting bigger by the second when I see several light arrows flying into the dragon. They land in one of his wings and he roars again. But this time it looks like it's out of annoyance, not pain.

Gideon and Fabian land right in front of me, the impact of their landing breaking the stone of my balcony. Fabian nocks another arrow and draws the bow, his favourite weapon since he was little. He never misses a shot even when flying.

"Aim for the eyes," Gideon suggests and then turns to me, "Lara, hide somewhere! We are going to k!!! him and..."

"No!" I hear myself saying, "Don't hurt him! It's Smoke!"

"What?" both guys ask in unison, looking at me just for a second.

And the dragon doesn't waste that second, breathing out dark fire at the two men trying to protect me. Luckily Deon puts up a shield just in time but they are still knocked off their feet with the force of the flames.

Strangely enough, it doesn't have any impact on me. I could swear I didn't even feel the heat!

“Lara!” my brother is looking at me, trying to get up, “Run! Run as far as you can!”

The dragon roars the moment he says it and I can feel that he is preparing to attack Gideon again. I, however, have no weapons on me!

So, I do the only thing that I can in a given situation. Spreading my wings, I jump off the rails and fly up all the way to the dragon’s head, making sure that he sees me.

And it works. Now all the attention is on me!

However, I regret this fast as the dragon’s eyes fill with dark magic fast.

Another arrow lands right next to the eye and I give out a little scream, looking back at Fabian, who seems to be ready to shoot again when Gideon, stops him.

“Lara is there!” he shouts at his friend and they both spread their wings.

Another blaze of dark fire and I am worried that my brother’s shield wouldn’t be able to hold it back.

The light is forming on the tips of my fingers almost on its own. But it’s me who sends it into the dragon’s nose, bringing him back to my persona and giving the opportunity for the two warriors of Light to recuperate.

“Stop it, Smoke!” I shout, “Don’t you dare to attack them!”

Another roar comes out of his mouth, almost making me lose my balance in the air. But, luckily, I manage to summon the element in time and it helps me to stay afloat. The dragon’s position is, however, changed. Now his claws are right next to me. And I can swear he is trying to grab me!

“Fly, Lara!” Gideon’s voice sounds desperate when I notice that his wing is wounded but he is forming a huge ball of light energy in his hand.

Whatever happens, I know one thing. I want neither Deon nor Smoke to get hurt. So, I quickly pick up height, flying away and I can sense it with my back that the dragon is chasing me.

I need to get as far from here as possible! Far away from the islands! Maybe I can last until I get back to that cave at the border?

The claws snap right next to me, but I manage to dodge it in the air. I fly as if my life depends on it. Which it does. And soon I can't see the White Archipelago anymore. It's just me, Smoke and the sea.

The dragon doesn't let me change the course. Each time I try to, he tries to get me. And soon I am too tired for all this. At some point, I lower myself so much to the sea that my fingers can touch the water. And the dragon does the same with his tail. That's when I realize that all of this is just a game to him. And the feeling that he is not going to hurt me comes back.

Flipping around, I trick the dragon and land on his neck, grabbing one of the huge spikes that he has. I need some rest!

I hold the spike hard with my hands and thighs and a huge growl emerges from the inside of the mighty dark dragon. What was all that about?!

He is definitely taking me in the direction of the Gerdian Empire. Interesting, how soon will Demir discover his dragon this time? However, I am not even sure that I want him to... What will he do? Take me to his ancient emperor as a prize?!

The memory of us kissing and dancing followed by his ridiculous proposal at the feast makes me shudder in anger.

I need to find a way out of this situation myself. I can't count on anyone else.

We are moving so fast that I start to see outlines of the gerdian shores before us. Now or never! I need to try and escape.

Not thinking twice, I stand up gripping the spike, making the beast under me roar again, and push off with my feet, spreading wings and flying in opposite directions.

It's bad that I am tired already, but I am sure that Gideon already arranged a rescue party for me. If I am lucky, I'll meet them somewhere in the middle, and if not... I can use air element to carry me... At least for some time. In the worst-case scenario, I can float in the water to get some rest. I just need to measure my strength wisely and...

But I don't get to finish my thoughts as a huge shadow covers me and claws close around me tight, crumpling my wings but at least not breaking them. I

give out a scream and the grip on my body gets tighter so that I can't move. Yet again, nothing hurts. It's almost as if the dragon tried to be gentle with me.

"Let me go!" I shout, "Smoke! Let go of me this very moment!"

Nothing.

"I order you!"

Silence. Not even a sound, except for flapping wings.

"Please, Smoke! Please!"

But the beast ignores me. The gerdian land is near and I start to panic as we reach it, but he doesn't stop. He doesn't stop either when we are at the mountains where we both fell into that cave...

We fly and we fly and I feel so exhausted that I struggle to have my eyes open. The other thing I struggle with is the temperature around me. The dragon flies pretty high and it's so cold here. And I am wearing just the stupid dress with beads, that now works against me since they are as cold as ice now. My teeth chatter, my throat is hoarse, and I can't keep up with anything anymore.

I notice some gerdian cities underneath, but I am too weak now to have a better look. I don't even notice how my eyes close...

I wake up in a dark place and it takes me some time for my eyes to adjust. I lie on a huge soft bed with warm blankets covering me and when I check my clothes, I am happy to come to the conclusion that it's still the same dress from the feast. Just torn in a few places, but that's to be expected after what we went through together.

The feast, the proposal, the fight, the dragon, the flight.. everything circles in my head, making it spin.

Right now, I know only one thing for sure – I am not in the White Archipelago anymore!

I hear some kind of noises behind the door and then the lock turns and it shuts open. Two angry eyes with some kind of magic glowing in them make me crawl back on the bed...

## Book 2 Dragon King's Forbidden Love Chapter 22 - Tips

### Book 2 Dragon King's Forbidden Love Chapter 22

LARA

A girl with long ginger hair burst into the dark room, her golden eyes illuminating the space around us. If anything, she looked furious. She looked over me and her face frowned even more when she got a dagger out of its sheath. I flinched. Was she crazy?!

"I am sorry," she muttered as if she was in pain to do it, "It has to be done! He is my brother!"

She closed her eyes and the light from the room was gone. But I didn't indulge myself with illusions that it was over or that she was gone. So, not wasting any time, I changed my location and jumped off from the other side of the bed. Even though I knew for a while that I'd never become a Warrior of Light like my brother

She moved quietly, but luckily, she was wearing long skirts and I heard the sound of the fabric touching the stone floor. So, when she was very near, I summoned light to the tips of my fingers and hit her with all that I've got, making her fly across the room and land with a thump.

I quickly created a few balls of light and sent them to the ceiling for illumination so that I could see her every move.

"You damn wretch!" she said while standing back to her feet and scratching the back of her head, "How dare you! I am..."

"How dare I?!" I lost my patience, "You are the one who pointed your dagger at me! And if you thought that I wouldn't be defending myself – you thought wrong!"

"You lied to him!" she gritted through her teeth and I just rolled my eyes.

"Who the chaos are you even talking about?! Because I am pretty sure that I haven't lied to anyone recently!" I told her, "Moreover, I have no idea where I am! And all I want is to go back home!"

She opened and closed her mouth a few times as if she couldn't decide what to say next.

"You are not getting married to the Emperor!" she said, yet she didn't sound so sure anymore.

"Thanks to all the gods for that!" I sneered and her expression changed completely as she stood before me. The magic from her eyes was gone. But I knew not to relax around her.

"You still lied about your hair!" she pointed at me angrily and I froze, touching my locks at once and looking at them. Golden! Damn golden hair!

My lips parted and the girl smirked.

"See! I knew you are a scheming liar!" she snorted her pretty face. By now I had a pretty good look at her to admit that this was the most beautiful woman I have ever seen in my life! Her green eyes sparkled like emeralds, her facial features were the perfection of straight lines, her pink plump lips didn't need any fake colours on them and her skin was silky smooth. There wasn't even a single mole or freckle on it. Her body was perfect in every way too, with curves in all the right places. And all that was topped off with luxurious shining ginger hair that was falling in soft waves well beneath her thighs. She was like a nymph from a fairytale. A murderous one that wanted to kill you and looked at you as if you were a speck of dust under her shoe.

She was dressed well with huge gems over her dark teal dress. I knew that she wasn't a simple person at once.

"Yes, this is the natural colour of my hair," I answered to her calmly, "And what is the problem with it?!"

"When Demir saw you your hair was red!" she exploded again, taking a step forward and I summoned light to the tips of my fingers. Just a bit, so that she knew that I was ready to defend myself any moment.

The mention of Demir's name hurt me badly. I was still sure that he is the one responsible for the dragon coming after me. And if I'd ever see him again, I'd make sure he knew what I thought about him!

“That’s true,” my lips coiled into a smirk, “But he never asked me about it and I didn’t think that it was of any importance. What’s the big deal? The Emperor doesn’t like blondes and his dog brought him the wrong girl? What a pity!”

This time the girl’s expression changed again.

“So, you haven’t met the Emperor?” she glanced at me somehow strangely.

“And I am not intending to!” I snorted, “So now, since all that is a big misunderstanding, give me back my wings and I’ll be off here!”

I tried to use a superior tone with her but she looked amused and not impressed.

“Do you even know where you are?” she arched her brow.

“No,” I exhaled loudly through my nostrils, “But I’ll figure that out!”

“Alright,” she agreed suddenly, “I have no idea what wings are you talking about but I’ll find them and they are yours. Get them and get out of here!”

“With pleasure!” I nodded to her. It all still felt like a trap of some sort though. It couldn’t be so easy, right? But at least if she brings me my wings...

“And you are not to seek the attention of the Emperor or... Demir anymore!” she suddenly stopped when she was already at the exit.

“Please!” I roll my eyes, “That dog is the last person I’d ever want to see! And even if I did, the only thing that I’d do would be slapping him!”

She seemed happy with what I said and was about to leave when I added, “And as for the Emperor – don’t you worry. He is all yours! To love and...whatever!”

Her face contorted suddenly as if she was about to vomit. And that’s how I knew that I was right and that Emperor of theirs was an ancient old man. She was ready to fight for her position next to him but the only mention of him made her sick...

“Yeah,” she said, covering her mouth slightly and walking to the entrance, that suddenly got blocked by a broad chest.

“What is going on here?!” the growl sounded menacing.

## Book 2 Dragon King's Forbidden Love Chapter 23 - Tips

DEMIR

I excused myself early from the meeting that wasn't going anywhere. No matter how much we pushed, the White Archipelago folk wasn't going to give us Lara. And even though I was sure that her so-called brother would be resistant from the very beginning, I was surprised by the fact that their leader Marten was of the same opinion.

But why? Lara told me that she was some kind of an outcast here once. And I thought that they wouldn't care if I asked for her hand in marriage in exchange for a peace treaty. A big miscalculation on my part...

Even though everyone seemed shocked when her brother announced that they were getting married, Keatar got over himself pretty quickly and was more for them being together than for her going to the Gerdian Empire with me. And I start to believe that everything is not that simple with my Angel...

Lara... I couldn't imagine what she felt the moment her brother informed everyone that they were engaged. She seemed as shocked as I was. Maybe even more. Because at least I was suspecting something.

And I didn't know what this guy was thinking. Even though they weren't blood-related, her love for him was that of a sibling and nothing more than that. She'd never accepted him as a husband. It would break her heart. And if he doesn't see that – he is an i\*\*\*t. But if he does – he is a monster!

We tried to reason with them at first and then we tried to threaten them. After all, we could afford to destroy them within a day and it was a very kind offer from our side. Considering we could just take what we wanted and be done with it. I even offered them money, but the damn brother seemed reluctant.

And when he hit his fist on the table and shouted that he was going to marry her tonight if he had to, I knew that negotiations were over. My dragon roamed inside of me asking for blood. Because since the moment we kissed her, we knew that she was ours. The soulmate that we didn't even hope to find after hundreds of years. I was already sure that it wasn't written in the stars for me. Some dragons were born to live a happy family life, some were born to fight and I... I was born to rule an Empire. My advisors stopped looking for an empress for me a long time ago. I couldn't attach to any woman and I didn't want to tolerate them near me for longer than it was necessary. I always had



lovers. As in multiple lovers. So that they all knew one thing for sure – none of them were my favourites and couldn't count on anything more than occasional pleasure and the gifts they were getting for it. For the best ones, I could even throw a t!tle into the mix. But all of them knew that I would never call them my Queen. That required choosing a special type of women – calculating social climbers who knew how to keep their mouths shut.

When I was younger, I tried being with all types of girls. But not everyone could be suitable to sleep with a Prince and then Emperor. Some were getting all those ideas in their heads and it always ended badly. After yet another murder in my name, I had to stop it.

It didn't bother me that I never found my soulmate. Even when most of my brothers and sisters were finding theirs. I was happy for them but that was about it. Our paths were different. My life was different.

Only my parents smiled when I told them that it was for the best that I was alone. As if they knew something that I didn't. And now I am starting to understand what it was.

The moment I met Lara she felt so not like everybody else. I had a perfect explanation, of course. She bathed in my bl00d and gave some of hers to me unknowingly. But I shared bl00d before. In battle, I had to share bl00d with men and women. And although it always helped to build some kind of bond, it never had such an effect on me!

Lara attracted me more than anyone else and for some time I could be in denial about it. When I went to the White Archipelago, my aim was to simply sleep with her and get her out of my head. But somehow deep inside I knew that it wouldn't work. And also, I enjoyed playing with her. More than I should have.

So, I came back again. With a plan to spend more time with her and check everything. But that one k!ss changed everything... Everything fell into places the moment our l!ps touched and I felt her body against mine. She was my soulmate! Mine! And mine only! And from that moment getting her for myself became my first priority.

And now, with everything that was going on I needed to get her out of the White Archipelago. And I needed to do that fast. I couldn't let this Gideon guy have her. If he touched her I could k!!! him of course. But because she is mine, my first instinct is to protect her from pain. And it would break her to

become her brother's woman. She is too innocent to comprehend the way he looks at her...

No, that wasn't going to happen! Not on my watch!

I ordered Ryker to stall for time and transport as soon as I order them to. I also told him to be ready to fight if the need arose. And then I excused myself since they all thought that Ryker was the one in charge.

Her scent told me at once that she was already back in her house and I wasted no time. The dragon urged me to get her and I obeyed. Although who was I kidding?! I wanted it even more than he did.

She was standing on the rails of her balcony, so small and glowing, spreading her wings and ready to fly. And I wanted to join her. However, when she saw me and fell back, it upset me. More than I could admit. So, when her "saviours" arrived, I was properly furious and ready to kill. And chaos knew that I would have done it! Only that she stopped me.

And then she flew away and I chased her. I knew very well what she was doing, distracting me from killing those boys... I hated that she was trying so hard to help them. None of them cared for her feelings back at the negotiations!

Yet she was moving in the right direction and I decided to indulge her. And when she realized that she trapped herself, all I had to do is to keep making her fly to my lands. Where she'd be safe.

Her strength wasn't enough to complete the whole flight, so I grabbed her in my claws and took her over the mountains. When she lost consciousness, I landed to check if she was fine. I chose the most beautiful flower field for her. So, it would be soft and pretty around my angel. Shifting back into a human, I came closer and froze... Because my angel's red locks were gone.

Before me lay a girl in the same silver dress from the feast, with the same long lashes and rosy lips, same birthmark on the right collarbone... But her hair was golden!

I swore under my breath seeing that. Sitting next to her, I was touching it, again and again, to check if I was dreaming and realizing that I wasn't.

That stupid prophecy...I never even believed in it. And I didn't think I believed in it now. But... the Palace was full of people who did. And who would stop at nothing to make sure that the Prophecy never came true.

What do I do now?

Her lips twitched as if she was about to wake up and I had to make her asleep again so that I had more time. I needed to think and weigh everything. I needed a plan.

So, I lifted her up and transported her to the castle through my dark flames. I chose a guest room not far from my bedroom. We rarely had guests here as it was my personal wing, so no one should be checking the room. But just in case I put two guards outside, prohibiting them to let anyone in. I ordered them to call me if they hear any noises from the inside and left.

Lara slept for almost a day but I still didn't find a solution...

And when one of the guards appeared before me, shaking with fear, I knew Lara was in trouble!

## **Book 2 Dragon King's Forbidden Love Chapter 24 - Tips**

DEMIR

They both stood before me in the room illuminated with Lara's light. And it took me just a second to admire it. This is the kind of magic I never saw before, and I had to admit that it fascinated me.

Prim's hair was unusually dishevelled slightly. Just a little bit, but enough for me to notice. Were they fighting? My eyes went immediately to Lara, who hid her hands behind her back. Did my soulmate just put my naughty sister back into her place?

"Oh, Demir!" Prim grinned at me, "Just the man I wanted to see. We need to talk."

"Indeed, we do, sister," I nodded at her, still watching Lara who suddenly turned slightly pale. What were they talking here about exactly? "Just give me a minute, Prim. I'll say a few words to our... guest and be back with you in no time."

“Guest?” the dragon princes shot her brow up, “Is that how you call it now?”

“See you later, Prim,” I gritted my teeth, “Off you go.”

“As you say, brother,” she curtsied mockingly and left us alone, sending me a displeased gaze right before she exited the room.

It was so quiet in the room now that I could hear how fast Lara’s heart beat. However, I didn’t try to comfort myself with the thoughts that she was happy to see me. Her facial expression told me once and for all that she was furious. With me... With everything...

“How do you find your accommodation?” I asked the most stupid thing. What would be next – I’d ask her if she slept well while I put her to sleep?

Her golden hair was shining even more now when it was illuminated by her light... Reminding me that I just put a target on her back and now everyone in the Gerdian Empire would want to kill her. My enemies would want to get her... And even my friends and family... She’d never be safe from this day forward and all thanks to that stupid prophecy.

“Are you kidding me?” she snapped at me and I could swear that I saw sparks of light magic on the tips of her fingers, “How dare you! Where am I? Why did you do this to me?! Was that the plan all along?!”

I opened my mouth to say something but she continued, “Before you mumble anything ridiculous, I am going to tell you once and for all – I am not getting married to that Emperor of yours!”

I knew that she had no idea even now that I was the Emperor. But it hurt a little bit still to hear her say that out loud like that!

“What makes you think that the Emperor wants to marry you?” I smirked, cursing myself silently. Just why would I say that instead of trying to calm her down?

“Then why did you bother bringing me here in the first place?” she growled looking at me with furrowed brows.

“Let’s just say I did it to save you,” I said partial truth. Telling her that she was my soulmate now would make her laugh. Or worse...

“Oh, how kind of you!” she snarled at me, “And may I ask from whom exactly are you saving me? From my Homeland? From my family and friends?”

“Yes,” I replied bluntly and closed the door behind me, stepping inside. Unfortunately, she stepped back. As if she was afraid of me and didn’t know what to expect.

“I will not touch you,” I assured her, but she didn’t look convinced, “Until you ask for it yourself.”

“Ask for it?” she snorted, “You are delusional!”

She rolled her eyes as if I said something absolutely ridiculous and that ignited the fire within me. That was a challenge of sorts and dragons hated to be challenged. Or loved it. It was hard to decide. One thing for sure – it never left us indifferent.

“So, you insist that you are not wanting to continue where we left of last time?” I arched my brow as I came closer, cornering her to one of the walls.

“After you tried to marry me off to that ancient emperor of yours,” she did not give in as she spoke, “I assure you, I have no interest in you whatsoever. So, if you are telling me that you are not going to touch me until I beg you – good! Because that means that you are never touching me again and this is exactly what I want!”

She was so fierce when she said this that all I wanted was to grab her and k!ss her. But that wouldn’t do any good now. First, I’d prove to her that she was right and second, I’d only scare her to death. And I couldn’t have any of that. Besides, why terrify her if I could play with her instead?

“How about a bet?” I smirked, looking into her clear blue eyes.

“What kind of bet?” she didn’t seem impressed, but she did look interested. And that’s how I knew that I got her.

“If you ask me at least once,” I carefully touched her chin with my fingers, feeling tingles erupting through my body, “You are going to stay here and marry our Emperor.”

Her face frowned at once and I was sure that she was about to slap me, yet she held it back.

“I thought he is not interested,” she snorted bitterly.

“You know, I think he’d consider it... Uniting nations is an important matter and all that...”

“How kind of him,” she rolled her eyes and put her hand on my chest, trying to push me away lightly. However, I did not budge as the touch created more tingles and it felt too nice to break it now.

“He is a very kind man,” I nodded, part of me wanted to tell her who I was immediately. On the other hand, this didn’t feel like a good moment at all...

“All right,” she suddenly agreed, surprising me, “One month.”

“One month?”

“Yes, one month and if I don’t beg you, you let me go! Forever!” she pushed me harder, and I had to step back. Meanwhile, she walked gracefully as far away from me as it was possible in this room. She had bare feet and her dress was torn. Hair dishevelled since our flight and beads kept falling off as she moved. Yet she still managed to take my breath away. Yes, Lara Artes was the most beautiful woman I have ever seen.

“Fine,” I caught up with her quickly and shook her hand, “It’s a deal! I didn’t know that you were planning to stay here for so long, but I am happy to accept your request.”

“What?” she looked at me in shock, “What are you talking about? You and Smoke kidnapped me and I am a prisoner here!”

“I don’t know what you are talking about!” I laughed from the heart, “The dragon brought you unconscious and I graciously decided to let you stay here because I know that the moment you come back home, you’ll have to marry your own brother. And something tells me you had no idea about his plans for you...”

“Deon said that only to protect me!” the naïve creature insisted.

“Yeah,” I snorted again, “And that’s why he had papers ready and signed?”

She stayed silent just for a few seconds but soon gathered herself and raised her chin high, “You wouldn’t understand! Besides, don’t change the subject!”

You said it yourself earlier that you brought me here! And now you are denying it?!”

“I brought you here to this room,” I replied nonchalantly, “For safety. Or should I have left you lying in the yard where the dragon landed?”

“Smoke is your dragon!” she exhaled loudly through her nostrils and clenched her fists.

“His name is not Smoke!” I retorted, rubbing my forehead, “Anyway, lady Lara. You wanted to stay here for a month and I allow it! I’ll appoint you guards and maids, and make sure you have everything you might need. You are welcome! See you tomorrow.”

And before she had a chance to say anything else, I left her room.

“Wait!” she shouted but I already managed to close the door behind me. I didn’t lock it but made sure the guards stayed in place. Somehow I just knew that today she wouldn’t try to escape.

I came back to my office when I saw two unhappy advisors inside...

## **Book 2 Dragon King's Forbidden Love Chapter 25 - Tips**

DEMIR

“Please, not now,” I rolled my eyes, walking straight to my working desk. I still had a few letters and numerous papers to check after I had this little trip to the mountains and then to the White Archipelago. But Ryker and Prim looked like I wasn’t the Emperor of the biggest Empire but a small boy who had no clue what he was doing.

“Don’t give us that!” my sister sat in one of the chairs, her arms crossed on her chest. Her hair still didn’t look perfect as usual. Just what did Lara do to her?

“Look, Your Excellency,” Ryker joined her and I closed my eyes knowing that it was going to be a long evening, “You have no idea what happened back at the Archipelago when you left!”

“I don’t care,” I said honestly and both of them frowned.

“Well, you should!” Primrose gritted her teeth, “That’s in your job description! Literally.”

“They are not a flock of flying birds, you know,” Ryker continued, “If anything, the brother of that girl attacked me with so much force that I felt it. IN my dragon form.”

“And that’s good news because at least now we know very well what they are capable of,” I smirked at my advisor, “They are not a peaceful nation at all and we were underestimating them this whole time. Did you notice that they are training a whole army there? Why would they need it since nobody is even interested in attacking their stupid islands?!”

“So, let me be clear,” Prim straightened creases of her dress, “You knew that they had an army and you STILL brought that girl here?! What if they come for her?!”

“Well, then they will find out that an army of mages with wings is still not enough to stand against dark dragons.”

“That’s if they are on their own, brother!” my clever sister retorted, “Still. That wasn’t in our plans to start any wars... And all that trouble for a mere girl?”

“Say what you really want to say,” I looked at her with a challenge in my eyes.

“Very well,” she suddenly got serious and that fierce look in her eyes reminded me of our mother back in the day, “You are not blind and neither are we! You saw the colour of her hair! I know already that you thought her hair was red. But face the truth, Demir, it’s golden! As golden as could be! And that makes the possibility of her being the girl from the prophecy pretty big!”

“Not that again!” I gr0aned but she didn’t budge.

“You should have taken her back the moment you saw the true colour of her hair! Why didn’t you?!” my sister stood up and continued her attack, “You do realize that you risk your life! And not only that! You risk the whole Empire!”

“I can take care of the Empire!” I growled.

“I am not so sure about it anymore!” she sighed, “You were always putting the country first. Always! Until the day you meet that girl and everything changes! The prophecy...”



“Chaos, Prim!” I hit my fist on the cold wood of my desk, “Enough! I can’t put my life on hold because of some stupid prophecy from hundreds of years ago! I am not like you!”

She looked taken aback and I immediately regretted saying it. Yes, it was the tradition in our family to go to the Dragon Seer before our children were born. And my parents did it every time, so Primrose had a prophecy of her own. And just like mine, it did not promise her anything good... Unlike our other siblings, who were promised soulmates, happiness, adventures, families, new kingdoms and so on... All that the Seer said about Prim was that she would become the most beautiful woman in all the lands. Everybody would want her. But she wouldn’t be able to be with the one she truly loved.

She didn’t care about it at first when we were young. But gradually over the years, every time she fell in love with someone... something was happening that drove them apart. The dragon she fell in love with first, found his soulmate on the day he proposed to her at a ball. The next time she fell in love with a gerdian who was a marquis and didn’t have dragon blood in him. He was killed in a war. And when her third serious boyfriend was poisoned, she gave up and decided not to have any relationships with men anymore. The beautiful princess that made everyone gasp when they saw her, closed her heart and stayed by my side instead of getting married and moving away like all my other sisters.

And it was shitty of me to remind her of that in such a way.

“What’s so special about her except for that damn hair?” she asked when we both calmed down.

“She is my soulmate,” I confessed and Prim fell back to her chair, staring somewhere behind me with empty eyes.

“No,” she whispered desperately. And even Ryker, who stood behind her all this time seemed more tense than usual.

“Yes,” I said calmly, “So, Prim, she stays and none of you is to touch her!”

“She will be the end of you,” my sister said, her voice broken, “Just like the prophecy promised... You’ll be the best Emperor, the strongest dragon... But your end will come from a girl with golden hair! Your soulmate...of course! It makes so much sense now!”

“Look, Prim,” I stood up and looked out of the window, from which I saw Lara’s balcony. She was already there, hugging herself with her hands... Hair shining in the moonlight... That colour suited her much more.

I cleared my throat and continued, “Lara is a good girl. Trust me on this. She is not going to hurt me and...”

“She hates you!” Prim chuckled darkly, “She hates your guts!”

“She doesn’t know who I am yet...”

“Oh, I am aware,” my sister snorted, “But she hates both of you. Demir the dog, and yes, that’s how she calls you. And the Emperor of the Empire! When she finds out that you are the same person, then she’ll give you your end that was promised in that damn prophecy!”

“Let’s agree to disagree!” I smirked at her, “Besides, the prophecies may be interpreted in different ways. Maybe it means that she’ll bring the end to Demir the bachelor. And you were worried for nothing.”

“I wish,” Prim whispered to herself and then stood up again, “I need time to think about it. Talk to you tomorrow, brother.”

“Ryker,” I decided to get rid of my friend too, “Take the Princess to her chambers, please.”

“Of course,” he bowed unexpectedly and they both gave me the look telling that they know what I was doing. However, they still left me alone.

I looked out of the window again, but Lara was already gone. And I was exhausted.

Thinking of her, I closed my eyes...

“How dare you!” a harsh slap landed on my cheek.