

Book 2 Dragon King's Forbidden Love Chapter 46 - Tips

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LARA

He was looking at me with obvious fury in his eyes. At first. But then he probably noticed the tears on my cheeks and the dark magic disappeared from his pupils.

“Lara?” he stepped closer. Carefully, as if he was afraid to scare me off. Which was funny, really, we already knew that a dragon could catch me easily.

“Demir!” I threw the wings away and run into his arms, bursting out in tears. He stilled for a few seconds and then I felt his arms wrapping around me. It was a tight and warm embrace and Goddess knew, I didn't want anything else at this moment.

“What happened?” he started placing soft kisses at the tip of my head, “Tell me, Lara... Who gave you these wings?”

I sighed as I did not want to give away the gerdian princess.

“They were on my bed when I came back from my walk,” I chose my words carefully as I didn't really want to lie to him. And luckily, he didn't ask any more questions about it.

“And they made you sad?” he asked with a slight hope in his voice.

“No,” I shook my head and looked at him, “Demir, I found out something today. And this something is bothering me.”

“Tell me,” he asked as he lifted me in his arms and took me to the bed. He sat on the edge of it and placed me on his lap carefully and then cupped my chin, making me look at him.

“I was told,” I tried to swallow the lump that formed in my throat, “that gerdians can't have children with just anyone.”

I looked at him but he didn't deny it and I felt my heart breaking into million pieces.

"They say that except for other gerdians, only certain girls can have your children," I tried to turn away from him as I felt embarrassed to even talk about it, "The ones whose bodies can accept dark magic..."

"That's true," Demir admitted and I wanted to cry again, but instead I turned to face him and met a pair of laughing eyes. It was fun for him. He didn't even try to hide it.

"So, what's the point of you trying to keep me then?" I snapped, "You and I both know very well that I am made of light. Dark magic will never survive in me!"

"Well, maybe I am keeping you for something else," he smirked and I tried to slap him, but he caught my hand in time and threw me to the bed, immediately pressing me to it with his body.

"I didn't know you were so eager to give me children," he pointed out as his lips almost touched mine. Almost.

"Don't jump to conclusions!" I retorted, "I am just trying to figure out what your sick plan is!"

"Oh, it's terrible!" he chuckled, making sure that I couldn't wriggle out from under him, "It's so sick you'll be cringed when you find out!"

He was mocking me and I hated him! Goddess, I hated him with every fiber of my soul!

"My sick plan is to marry you, Lara," he said, making me lose all words, "To make you my Empress and then to live the rest of my life with you, having as many little copies of you and me as possible."

I couldn't say if he was serious and because of that, I didn't know how to react. But, luckily, he helped me out.

"I am not just a gerdian, Lara," he smiled and brushed his palm over my cheek, "I am a Dragon above everything. And even though I am a Dark

Dragon and there is too much dark magic circling in my veins, my dragon part is the strongest in me.”

I wasn't sure if he was going somewhere with it, so just clenched my lips expectantly.

“You are my soulmate, silly,” he pecked my nose with his lips, “The one and only person for whom I was born. The one and only person I was able to fall in love with... The one and the only person I'll ever have children with.”

I gasped as this sudden confession and looked at him in shock. But for once his face was serious. He wasn't joking...

“You...”, I was even afraid to repeat the words.

“I love you, Lara,” he got me without a doubt, “I loved you from the moment I saw you in that cave. Back then I already knew that you are mine. And you will always be mine.”

“And we can have children?” I asked just to make sure, making him chuckle at that.

“As many as you like and as soon as you like,” he nodded, leaning lower... but stopping right before he touched me, “Can I?”

“Yes, please,” I nodded to him through tears that unexpectedly formed in my eyes, and he covered my lips with his for a sweet kiss. But it soon turned into something else completely, with him deepening it greedily and his hands roaming my body. And to my shame, I didn't mind any of this.

“Mine,” he growled as he started to kiss my neck, giving me new sensations. Demir was clearly experienced and knew all the right places to touch me, making me gasp and moan from the new sensations. And I don't stop him...

However, to my greatest disappointment, he breaks the kiss and sits up with a groan.

“I am sorry,” he mutters, “It gets harder and harder to...”

I knew what he meant. Just a second ago I was ready to give myself to him.

“I'd probably better go,” he stood up and I almost wanted to cry, yet when he turned to look at me, I forced a smile on my face, fixing my dress.

“The wings,” he sighed, looking at his sister’s present for me on the balcony’s floor and rubbing the back of his neck.

“You can have them,” I said, walking there and picking them up. Without thinking twice, I returned to the gerdian in front of me and handed them to him. “I don’t think I need them now,” I smiled, “Will you keep them for me at the moment?”

“It would be my pleasure,” he took them and then grasped my hand and brought my fingers to his lips, kissing them with a promise in his eyes.

“Thanks,” I mumbled, feeling how even the tips of my ears were turning red.

“Lara,” he wasn’t letting go of my hand, “I need to go now... But I... I’ll see you at the masquerade, right?”

“Right,” I bit my lip and his eyes lingered over it, “Can’t wait.”

“I want you to think about what I told you today,” he got serious suddenly, “At the ball when all masks are off, I’ll have something to ask from you...”

“You will have to find me first,” I smirked, remembering the little trick that I had in mind for the upcoming event.

“I’ll find you even among millions of people,” he promised me confidently.

“Then you have nothing to worry about,” I giggled.

On the day of the masquerade, my maids started to prepare me early. I underwent so many painful procedures that I didn’t even have an idea were so necessary. But when Lisa was done with my make-up and I turned to look at myself in the mirror, I knew – this was the best I ever looked.

“You are going to have so much fun tonight!” Sandra sighed next to me, she was busy making her own face pretty. And just then and there I knew that she was right.

“So are you,” I chuckled and handed her the box with the dress that Demir gifted me for the ball...

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LARA

When Sandra was gone, I sent Lisa for my real dress. The one that the shop assistant from Lady Ria Solveig's shop brought as my special order. It was of course possible that Demir already knew everything if he had received the bill for the dress. Yet somehow it felt unlikely to me since he had a lot of work as an emperor and hardly had time to pay attention to his soulmate's expenditure.

It was something that I'd never consider wearing back at the White Archipelago.

The corset of masterfully crafted golden feathers was hugging my curves perfectly and there was a deeper cut than I initially asked for, but now when I actually had this dress on, I had to admit that it looked amazing this way. From under the golden feathers, wine red sheer fabric was flowing down to the floor with a slit starting at the middle of my thigh. There was also a thin light cape that was held by a golden clasp on my chest and two golden exquisite chains were going from it to my shoulders to help me keep the whole thing in place. It was so beautiful and so daring for someone from my background. But I loved it!

Lisa helped me to put on a small headband of golden feathers exactly like the ones on the corset but smaller. Yet the final touch was the golden feather mask, that was covering the upper half of my face. For the first time ever I applied deep red lipstick and I couldn't even recognize myself. Especially now when I put on an illusion of ash brown hair. I couldn't wait to check this soulmate's theory in person. Let Demir find me without knowing how I looked today. It was probably dangerous, yet I couldn't wait to see if he'd be able to recognize me in a crowd. Besides, my light was always with me and it seemed to be the best weapon against gerdians.

Also, I kind of hoped that no one else would be able to tell who I was.

Before walking into the hall where the masquerade ball was to be held, I took a deep breath. I was late and there were already sounds of music, chatter, and laughter. I squeezed Lisa's hand and she wished me good luck. This girl was sincere, unlike Sandra. However, today it was Sandra who got her chance to shine at the ball. I even got her a second invitation to avoid trouble. Luckily, all I had to do was tell that I lost mine.

The heavy doors before me opened and I stepped into something absolutely unreal! The celebrations hall was very dark with only magical ardenia flowers and butterfly illusions illuminating the event. The flowers were spread over the high ceilings and the columns and their live petals were opening and closing, responding to the energy around them. Those were very special flowers. We never had them at the White Archipelago but I've heard legends about them and saw them in the pictures of our history books. Those flowers were sensing people who had strong feelings for each other, no matter what it was – love or hate ... Those were the flowers that reacted to passion. And when they felt it, they were opening their petals and spraying their pollen over the heads of the two people who stood under it. It was considered a blessing of good luck and the ones blessed we're supposed to either kiss if they were lovers or at least shake hands if they were enemies. Bad events were supposed to happen if people did not obey the naughty plants. But all those were old tales, of course. And nowadays ardenias were mainly used at weddings to get the blessing for the newlyweds. And even at weddings, they hardly ever were spraying anything. But at least they looked amazing and cost a fortune.

I was looking at all the decorations on the ceiling when I felt that something was off. I carefully glanced at my surroundings and noticed that everybody was looking at me. It was hard to read their facial expressions in this dimmed lighting condition so I decided that it would be best to move away from the entrance and pretend like I knew what the chaos I was doing.

A servant brought me a drink and I took a huge gulp, which unfortunately was too strong to my taste and made me cough. However, the plus side was the lightness that came to my head at once and I took another gulp. This time, it felt better.

I found a dark corner for myself from where I'd be able to watch the whole event and wouldn't attract too much attention.

I couldn't find Demir no matter how hard I tried. He either had a ridiculously good costume and mask or he simply wasn't here yet. I managed to find Primrose almost instantly. She was wearing a pale blue dress with tourmalines all over it and looked as regal as ever. Her ginger hair we're mostly down in perfect waves. As always. Without any exaggerations, she was the most beautiful woman in the room tonight. And the many suitors she had around her were the proof of that. I looked some more and I think I recognized Camelia, Demir's ex. Her shrieking voice was a good clue as she

was standing not far from me and chatted with her friends about how tonight would be the night for her and the emperor.

I wasn't sure if she recognized me or if she was just oblivious, but I wouldn't fall for the same trap twice.

I looked some more and was almost sure that I found Ryker, wearing all black with a silver mask. Just like me he was hiding in a corner and didn't take his eyes off Prim. I noticed him throwing strange glances at the Princess before but tonight those glances were as evident as ever. She, however, wasn't even noticing him. And somehow I felt bad for the poor emperor's second in command.

"Would the lady be so kind as to agree to dance with me?" A man wearing black with a mask decorated with rubies, covering most of his face bowed before me and offered me his hand. At first, I thought that it could be Demir but I quickly realized that he wasn't. They had the same height and built, yet I knew that it wasn't my soul mate at once. Maybe there was something to all that legends, after all... The man's hair was painted with silver paint and it was hard to say what his natural colour was.

"I'm sorry," I mumbled, "I don't dance."

"It's bad luck to refuse to dance when you are invited under the blossoming ardenia flowers," the man smirked and took my hand in his without permission, pulling me to the dance floor.

"Wait!" I muttered but he already pressed me to himself by my waist and made sure to hold my hand so strong that I couldn't move away.

"Just one dance," he smiled, and I shrug my shoulders. I didn't want to make a scene and it would be better to have a look from the centre of the crowd. So I just went with it.

Just one dance. What could happen?

The stranger moved firmly and it was obvious that he had been to many balls in his life. All his movements were in sync and he seemed to be a natural at this.

I, nevertheless, was not impressed and was just looking around carefully, trying not to give myself away.

I saw him at once as he entered the room. Demir.

It was like the whole atmosphere changed and he seemed to be looking for someone too. My heart skipped a bit as I was thinking that it could be me.

He was about to look in my direction, when my partner turned me forcefully and made sure that we stayed that way, completely hiding me from Demir's eyes.

"Trust me, Lara," my partner said all of a sudden, "the emperor will not bring you anything good. You'd better leave the palace as soon as possible. No one who is close to him remains happy for long. Not many who stay close to him even remain alive ... You should protect yourself while you still can. Trust me."

For the first time I really looked at him and for a second I was even afraid that it might be Gideon. Yet he didn't resemble my brother at all.

"And who are you exactly?" I asked with a raised brow, which probably wasn't visible due to my own mask.

"Someone who speaks from experience," the man answered, "Someone, who doesn't want for you to be hurt. Things are going to change, Lara, and you'd better be far away from here when they do..."

He looked me in the eyes and I wanted to ask him what he means exactly when dark flames appeared all over me again.

"Time for me to go," the stranger smiled, "don't forget what I told you today..."

I disappeared just for a second, only to reappear in Demir's arms...

"Got you!" He smirked.

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LARA

The emperor of the Gerdian Empire was wearing a black coat with dark golden embroidery, his mask was mostly plain gold and covering the upper part of his face, but I noticed feather patterns at the edges, which made me smile. On his chest, there was a golden pin with a white feather and that was

probably meant to make him match the dress that he prepared for me and that Sandra was wearing proudly now.

Yet he looked so smug that I wanted to do something to cool him off.

“That was cheating!” I narrowed my eyes at him, “You were supposed to find me and not use your gerdian magic!”

“To use it I had to know exactly where you are,” he shrugged his shoulders and I saw mischievous sparks of dark magic in his eyes, “And for that, I had to find you first. To be honest, I am offended that instead of looking for your soulmate, you were dancing with another man.”

I remembered the man in the ruby mask and turned to look for him. It was a bit rude to disappear like that even though it wasn't my fault exactly. At the next moment, Demir spun me around and then pulled me against his chest, blocking my view. However, I already noticed that my previous dance partner was gone. I was intrigued about who that was since his words stuck in my head, but on the other hand, it could be practically anybody. Camelia could send that man to me. And even without her, I was sure that there were plenty of people who did not like the emperor's new fascination.

Oh, well.

I noticed how Demir's lips are clenched tightly and smirked, “Your Majesty, if I didn't know any better, I'd think that you are jealous.”

His eyes sparkled again and he led me deeper into the dancefloor. It was the second time we dance together and maybe it was a coincidence, but it was exactly the same dance that he taught me back at the White Archipelago. Here it was considered completely normal and I noticed other couples indulging in it as well, so I felt free enough to be bold too and enjoy it.

“Jealous...is such an ugly word,” he smirked, making me arch my back, “I am...concerned.”

“Oh, are you?” I chuckled as he lifted me in the air briefly, so that I landed back in his arms, “Elaborate on that, please.”

“I was concerned that you tried to hide from me instead of looking for me,” he admitted.

“Isn’t it more interesting this way?” I smiled and after looking at me intensely for a few seconds, he smiled back.

“I would have to agree. But I still don’t like that you danced with someone else before you danced with me.”

“So, it would be all right to dance with someone else after you?”

“Don’t even think about it,” his grasp on me tightened and I couldn’t say that I hated it.

“If I am honest, I had something to be concerned about too,” I said before I had time to think about it.

“Do tell me, Lara,” he smirked.

“I heard a certain lady making her claim on you,” I said bluntly, and his expression changed. I could see it even with the mask still on.

“The only lady who can make a claim on me is in my arms this very moment,” he replied at once and I felt warmth in my chest, “The rest is irrelevant. I have no control over what people dream about or speak, Lara. But you do have control over who you dance with.”

“Touché,” I admitted his small victory, “In my defense, you can’t refuse dance invitations under the blossoming ardenia flowers.”

We both lifted our heads and looked at one particularly big one right over us. The glowing flower’s petals were moving slowly on the ceiling, it was almost at full blossom.

“I knew it was a stupid idea with those flowers,” Demir muttered.

“No,” I shook my head, “It was not. They are very beautiful... Mesmerizing...”

We stopped as the music finished but did not take our hands off each other.

“So, how did you find me?” I asked, licking my dry lips.

“Lara,” he traced them with his finger, “I’ll find you anywhere with my eyes closed. Soulmates can feel each other.”

I remembered how I knew at once when he entered the room and swallowed. Did we really have a connection like that?

I felt his breath on my lips as he leaned lower to me. A tiny spark was slowly falling between us and I didn't even understand at once what it was. I was too entranced by the idea that he was about to kiss me. But then another spark landed on my nose, glowing brightly...

"It's...", I gasped in shock at the realization.

"Ardenia's dust!" Demir finished the sentence for me, looking up. The flower we were standing under was spraying its pollen that looked like tiny stars that landed on us. They were disappearing almost instantly, after all those were tiny particles of magic that were easily absorbed by everything they touched...

"A blessing," I said absentmindedly and we looked at each other. People around us were watching us now and I felt slightly embarrassed, knowing what was about to happen next.

But Demir waved his hand and dark smoke surrounded us.

"I take my words back," he chuckled, pulling me closer by my waist, "Those flowers were the best idea ever!"

He tilted his head so that our masks do not touch each other and covered my lips with his. And I lost my mind in the whirlpool of emotions as tiny sparks were flowing around us while we kissed madly.

I don't know how long we were gone, but when we came to our senses, a completely different melody was played by the musicians.

The sparks from the flowers were gone, but the sparks in Demir's eyes were just starting their wild dance.

And we followed their example, not leaving the ballroom for most of the night. I didn't know most of the combinations and figures of gerdian dance but luckily Demir was a patient teacher. Or maybe he just didn't care because something completely else was going on now between the two of us... Every move, every touch, was bringing us closer...

When the music suddenly stopped, I wasn't happy... And by the look on Demir's face, neither was he.

“Time has come, lords and ladies!” Prim stepped onto the small staircase next to the throne at the head of the hall, “One minute until midnight and all masks are off!”

“Fifty-nine! Fifty-eight! Fifty-seven!” the crowd started to count, and we looked at each other. I knew that the minute he takes off his mask, our time together will be over. And so did he.

“Thirty-two! Thirty-one!”

Demir grabbed my hand and started to drag me towards the exit.

“Twenty-five! Twenty-four!”

Ryker stepped in front of us with his arms crossed on his chest, “Seriously?! You still have a speech to give and an ambassador to talk to!”

I sighed. It was disappointing.

But just then, Demir pressed me against his chest and snorted when dark flames surrounded us, “Not today!”

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LARA

The flames brought us to the middle of a forest and I looked at Demir, startled.

“Where are we?” I asked him, feeling slightly uneasy. One second ago we were in the middle of a luxurious palace and now dark woods surrounded us.

“I want to show you something,” he said and pulled me by my hand. I followed even though my shoes were not great for walking on the grass.

“If you brought me here to kill me and bury my body in secret then you’ve chosen a perfect place,” I mumbled.

“I am impressed by what a high opinion you have about me, Lara,” he chuckled, clearly knowing where he was going.

“W-well,” I tripped my leg and he caught me, “Can you blame me?”

“What do I do with you, Lara?” he lifted me up in his arm as if I weighed nothing and smiled, sending a few fireballs of dark magic to fly before us and illuminate the place.

For a second it seemed that we stepped into some bushes but I quickly realized that it was some kind of a barrier in disguise. We walked out in the clearing that was full of field flowers. On one side, there was a small lake, on the other a small but beautiful wooden house with carvings all over it. This was so not what I expected.

But what attracted me the most, was a huge bronze oak tree right next to it.

“Are we in Akyria?” I pointed at the tree, “Those only grow there, right?”

“Right,” the emperor was still holding me and a vague smile appeared on his lips, “But we are still in the Gerdian Empire.”

“But how is this oak growing here? I thought the climate was wrong for them here...”

“It is,” he looked bemused, and it started to annoy me. But Demir put me down onto my feet and turned to face me. “This place was a present of my father to my mother. They met each other back at Akyria and once assassins attacked them. They had to hide in a little hut in the mountains and... Well, they fell in love. That little hut meant so much to them but after they became the emperor and empress, they couldn't visit this place as much as they liked to. My mother mentioned it a couple of times and father decided to make her a present. He created this place just for her. So that they could escape the noise of the palace once in a while and enjoy the quiet peace together. To remind her more of Akyria, he brought here this tree and then he covered the whole space with a protective Dome so that nothing happens to it. Here summer continues forever, flowers bloom, the water in the lake is always warm and the birds are always thinking happy songs. I didn't understand why they need all this before now.”

He looked at me intensely and I felt how my heart started to beat faster and how much mixed flushed.

“I never wanted peace before,” he said, stepping closer, “I was born to become an emperor. I had set destiny and I was happy with it. Everything went according to plan in my life, and I thought that I was happy. But that was before...”

His voice broke and he stopped talking. But I needed to hear the rest. I needed to know what was in his head and in his heart.

“Before what?” I looked into his eyes which were already filling with sparks of dark magic.

“Before you,” he confessed with the most serious face and I didn’t know what to respond. Somehow, I still couldn’t process his words.

“What changed?” I whispered.

“Everything,” here blind without any kind of hesitation in his voice, “I feel like a blind person who’s able to see colours for the first time. They were always there but I had no idea. You made my life colourful...”

“I didn’t do anything,” I felt slightly embarrassed and looked away.

“You made me want things,” he smiled and cupped my chin, “Things to share with you, things to do to you... I never even thought about this place. But when the time came to take off the masks, I knew that our alone time will be over. And that’s the last thing that I wanted. I want to be with you all day every day, every minute of every hour... I’m becoming addicted to you.”

“Is that bad?” The question slipped off my tongue on its own and I realized that I was really scared to hear the answer.

“No,” he brushed his thumb over my lower lip, “That’s not bad. In fact, I’m starting to believe that is exactly what I needed in my life. It seemed that I had everything, yet the most important part was missing. You make my life full, Lara.”

“Demir,” I bit my lip and he leaned lower, almost touching me but not quite. And I decided to push him slightly, “K!ss me...”

He touched me gently this time, just nibbling... and then he whispered into my lips, “I love you, Lara.”

A million butterflies spread their wings in my stomach and chest at his words, as I wrapped my hands around his shoulders.

I thought that I was so happy. That man had this effect on me...

In all honesty, I was supposed to be miserable now. Away from my homeland, disliked by pretty much everyone, betrayed by my own family... a normal person would feel like life was over.

But thanks to Demir, I felt that everything was just beginning... He made me happy and... content. It felt right to be with him. It felt right to be with him in any way...

His hands were caressing my skin as he devoured me and I broke the kiss, distancing myself from him.

He nodded understandingly and I stretched my hand to take off his mask.

"Tonight, I want us to forget who we are. Forget about the emperor of the Dark Gerdian Empire and the girl from the White Archipelago. Let this be our quiet place too," I said and removed my own mask, throwing both of them to our legs. I got pins out of my hair one by one and while my fingers were touching it, I returned my natural colour. I wanted him to see me for who I was.

He was watching me with his lips parted, frozen... as if he was afraid to scare me off.

I summoned light to the tips of my fingers and turned around, walking in the direction of the lake... Clouds of light were leaving me, illuminating the scene and shining like stardust.

At the edge of the lake, I turned to look at Demir, who did not take his eyes off me the whole time. I smiled at him and sliding my hand over the hem of the dress, made it fall to the ground...

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LARA

I was afraid to actually look at him, so I just stepped out of my dress and walked slowly into the warm water of the lake. I was in the water up to my waist when I turned over my shoulder to check where he was and noticed him standing on the shore, watching me as if he was mesmerized. Then, after a while, he remembered how to breathe and tugged the collar of his shirt, tearing off the buttons that held it in place.

"Well?" I arched my brow at him, "Are you going to join me?"

He swallowed and I saw sparks of dark magic dance wildly in his eyes. That made me smile. I wasn't even sure what I was doing here but I loved it that he reacted this way.

"Lara," he said finally in a very calm tone which did not fool me, "If I walk into that water with you tonight, I will not be able to stop. If you are not sure or you think you can change your mind, then, please, say it now. Don't do this to me... if..."

If I wasn't sure before he said that, I was sure now.

"Come," I breathed out, not taking my eyes off him and as soon as I said it, dark flames burned everything that he had on. It happened so fast and now I was taking in the godly frame of the man before my eyes. I saw him naked in our dreams already but this right now was so real. I could see every muscle flex, I could see how immaculate his body was, clearly trained but also naturally perfect in every sense. Yes, the dragon king was by far the most beautiful man that I had ever seen. And I grew up on the White Archipelago. All men there were beautiful too, but their beauty was of a different kind, sweet and angelic, full of light and soft lines. Everything in Demir screamed masculinity. From his sharp jaw and strong cheekbones to the way his body was carved as if it was made of rock by a talented sculptor.

My eyes paused just for a second to notice that he was already aroused and heat rushed to my cheeks. He did not escape him and a smirk stretched on his perfect lips right before he jumped into the water. He swam right next to me and disappeared in the depth of the lake. Not thinking twice, I went underwater myself with a spark of light on my fingers. But however much I looked for him, he was nowhere to be found. Until two strong arms pressed me hard against his firm body and I'd probably gasped if I could, but it was impossible. He pushed us to the surface and in a few seconds, I took the long-desired breath of fresh night air.

"You scared me!" I reproached him as he turned me so that we were looking at each other. There was no smile on his face and his eyes were shining the cold light of dark magic. However, under his intense gaze, I did not feel chilly at all.

"I am going to ask you one more time, Lara, and, please, think of..." he started to say but I just took his face into my hands and moved closer to shut him up

with a kiss. I was still new at this but by the deep growl that emerged from his chest when he grasped the back of my head and responded to me, I could say that I was doing at least something right.

“Lara,” he muttered my name as he started to place little pecks all over my neck, creating goosebumps. He lifted me up higher and I placed my hips around his waist as he breathed in the soft flesh of my bosom, making it stiff within seconds under his touch.

The sensations were so unusual that I arched my back, only making it easier for him to caress me more. I didn’t notice how my fingers entwined in his hair, bringing him closer and only soft whimpers were leaving me as his hands roamed my body.

“Chaos, Lara,” he swore under his breath as I felt his fingers stroking my most sensitive skin, probing it and teasing, making my breath ragged and uneven. I bit my lip and he leaned lower to kiss me again, giving me the sensations that were unknown to me before this day. He knew exactly what he was doing, his every move and touch precise and making me lose my mind. Demir held my back for support when the circular movements of his fingers became faster and I almost lost myself in the intensity of what I felt.

“De...mir,” I choked on my own breath when millions of stars and tingles erupted in my body, bringing me over the edge. His head was buried somewhere in my chest when I screamed from the godly pleasure while my fingers were digging into his flesh.

He let me come to my senses, before cupping my chin and bringing me closer for a kiss. Gentle at first, but slowly turning into a greedy and possessive one. Now it seemed that he was the one who had trouble with breathing. And his skin was insanely hot to the touch.

“Mine,” he muttered while biting slowly on the skin at the crook of my neck, “Can’t... hold back... anymore...”

“Then don’t,” I replied to him and his eyes filled with dark magic so much that for a second I was afraid it was going to burst out of him.

He was already panting when he moved me higher onto him and placed himself to enter me.

"I love you so much," he whispered almost touching my lips, "I'll be very gentle but it'll still hurt a little bit... The water will help too..."

I didn't find the strength to reply to him so just nodded quietly as I bit my lip and wrapped my hands around his neck.

I knew that he was holding back as much as he could judging by how his muscles flexed against my body, he still moved slowly, giving me time to adjust. Yet when he reached a certain point, he pressed me tighter against his chest and covered my lips with his, muffling the little scream that came out of me.

"Are you all right?" he asked me, wiping the tears that formed on my lashes away, "Lara?"

I closed my eyes, trying to catch my breath and slightly surprised at the same time that the pain was already gone.

"Yes," I said when I felt how fast his heart was beating under my palm and slip my hand higher so that I could grasp his shoulder. Then moved closer to kiss him again and whispered, "I think I love you too, Demir."

The words triggered the dragon in him as an inner growl emerged and he started to move inside me. Gently at first, yet over time he changed his pace, unable to control himself anymore. His thrusts became deeper and stronger and I lost myself again, quickly coming over the edge of sensations.

Moan after moan was leaving me, as I became his. Fully. Irrevocably.

"Mine," he roared again and again, "Lara..."

He claimed me as his own tonight and I accepted. And the realization of it made all the sensations sharper. A few sharp moves and he pressed me harder, against himself, stilling inside me.

Panting, he cupped my chin with his spare hand and brushed his thumb over my lips, looking into my eyes as I stared at him weakly.

"From this day forward, you belong to me, Lara," he stated, not asked, "This was your choice. And whatever happens next, I will stand for what is mine."

“And you?” I shot my brow up, still not able to even my breath, “Who do you belong to?”

“I belong to the little angel who turned my life upside down,” he leaned lower and k!ssed me again, “Forever...”