

## Book 2 Dragon King's Forbidden Love Chapter 51 - Tips

LARA

He lifted me into his hands carefully, as if I was the most precious and delicate thing ever, and then walked out of the water and into the house. My skin was immediately covered with goosebumps, but I only wrapped my hands tighter around his neck and placed my head on his chest, which made a smile touch the corners of his lips. His heart was beating evenly now, and the sound was bringing peace to my heart.

It was beautiful yet humble inside. I'd probably even call it cozy.

Massive wooden walls had carvings all over them. The windows were tall and there was a stone fireplace in the centre of the main room with a sofa in front of it. Thick fur carpets were covering the floors, so when Demir placed me on one of them, I loved the warm and ticklish sensation.

He disappeared in dark flames for a second and reappeared with a few pieces of soft fabric in his hands, one of which he threw over me and started to dry me as if I wasn't capable of doing it myself.

"The water in the lake is magical, you know," he told me nonchalantly and I looked at him in surprise, feeling how my cheeks were turning red. I knew very well what we just did but it all felt so new. And he was standing there naked and looking at me as if what was happening was... normal.

"And since then everyone who makes love in that lake gets pregnant and has many babies," he continued and for a second there my jaw almost fell to the floor. What did he just say?!!

But then I saw this evil smirk of his and I knew that he was teasing me again.

"Demir!" I slapped his shoulder slightly. But then I froze, realizing something. What we did just now could result in us having children... And that was something I wasn't ready for.

"Lara," he cupped my chin, "Do not worry. It was just a joke."

"I know, but..." I looked at him apologetically yet desperately and he understood what I said.

“Lara, dragons can only have children with their soulmates and if they both desire it. You can’t get pregnant unless you really wish for it.”

“And if you wish for it?” I raised my eyes at him.

“Just my wish isn’t always enough,” he admitted with some kind of sadness in his eyes, “I really want to have everything with you. But I... I lived for a long time and you are still young. I will wait for you as long as you need. I will wait until you are ready...”

He wrapped me in the soft fabric and wrapped another one around his thighs. Then walked to the huge fireplace and with a click of his fingers fire started to burn there. First, it was the cold fire of dark magic, but gradually it changed to the normal warm flames.

I looked at him and at how the light was kissing his bronze skin that still had crystals of water all over it. He turned and stretched his hand to me, calling me to join him. I was getting slightly cold already so was glad to receive such an invitation.

We sat on the sofa and he placed me in his arms, drying my hair with his fingers and talking to me in the process. He told me about his youth and of how his parents used to bring the whole family here. How the lake had healing properties and his father created it especially for his mother after she had a hard delivery of one of his brothers. He told me of his first years as a king and how he struggled with the new role. He told me how he traveled around the world. And I told him about my life at the White Archipelago, realizing that there was not much to tell.

I spent my life under Gideon’s wing and that was it. He trained me, he taught me, he controlled every aspect of my life. I told him about the part that I loved – our holidays, traditions, temples of Brighta, and Warriors of Light. I told him how I found out that they would never let me become one of them.

“Their loss,” Demir kissed the top of my head, “You don’t need to belong to a group, Lara. You can be what you want.”

“It’s not that easy,” I chuckled, “Warriors of Light get the blessing of the Goddess of Light. With that blessing, they can summon their true wings. The legend has it that once upon a time all the people at the White Archipelago had light wings.”

“And what happened?” the dragon emperor asked.

“Betrayal,” I smiled sadly, “One of the Warriors of Light betrayed the Goddess and they all were punished as a result. Wings were taken away forever. And now only the worthiest can have them back if the Goddess gives them her blessing.”

“Your prick brother got them somehow,” the man next to me snorted, “And you didn’t... Something is wrong with that system.”

“It doesn’t matter anymore,” I smiled and rested my head on his chest while he was playing with my hair, “It’s in the past now. You don’t need warriors of light at the Gerdian Empire, right?”

“Not really,” he agreed, “But what I really need and want is for you to be happy.”

“You are sweet,” I smiled, feeling how heavy my own eyelids became. I blinked once, then twice, and closed my eyes...

The darkness consumed me.

In the morning Demir gave me clothes that he found in one of the closets. But all he found was a very simple blue linen dress. I had the dress from the ball, of course, But that seemed a bit too much for breakfast. And the heels were too high as well. So, I was sitting there with bare feet and enjoying the meal that the emperor prepared for me personally. Although I had no idea where he got all those sausages and eggs in a clearly uninhabited house, it was the best breakfast that I ever had.

“Stop it,” I begged him when I caught him watching me eat again.

“Sorry,” he chuckled, “It’s just... You make me very happy, Lara. And I didn’t feel like this for a while.”

I smiled at first but then it felt like he was not done talking. So, I put my knife and fork down and looked at him with concern in my eyes.

“Shame we have to return,” he sighed heavily, and I felt relieved that this was what was bothering him so much.

“That’s fine,” I giggled, “As long as we are together it doesn’t matter if we are in a small house by the lake or at the gerdian palace.”

We appeared in front of the door to my room. My hands were around Demir’s neck and his were pressing me against his body tighter.

“My lady,” he chuckled without letting go of me, “That dark flames ride would cost you one k!ss.”

“Really?” I grinned, “Selling transportation now?”

“It’s a tough world out there, Angel,” he said and pulled me into a greedy and possessive k!ss.

At that moment someone cleared their throat right next to us...

## **Book 2 Dragon King's Forbidden Love Chapter 52 - Tips**

LARA

I felt how my cheeks flushed and tried to distance myself from him but Demir did not let me. Instead, his grasp on me only became tighter. Yet he had to break the k!ss when I started tapping on his shoulders.

“Stop it!” I hissed, feeling embarrassed. Suddenly I was aware that I was wearing a simple linen dress and did not have any shoes on. My hair was a mess and Demir only had his pants on. It was clear as a day what exactly we were doing while we were missing.

“At least one of you has some sense of respect for others,” princess Primrose rolled her eyes, while her hands were crossed on her c.hest.

“You want something, Prim?” Demir asked his sister nonchalantly. As if it was not a big deal.

“Yes,” her face looked indifferent but I saw sparks of golden magic in her eyes from time to time, signaling that in fact, the princess was furious.

“Speak,” the man who held me gave his permission and I felt really uncomfortable. The last thing I wanted was to be in a middle of a quarrel between the royal siblings.

"I'd prefer to do it in private and without witnesses," the princess narrowed her eyes.

"Anything you have to tell me, you can tell in front of my soulmate and the future Empress," Demir cut her off.

His words sounded like thunder in a middle of a calm day for both of us. I never realized before that moment that being with him could actually make me a royalty. Prim did not look happy about that either.

"So, now we are going to discuss how you abandoned the official event without even making a proper appearance in the middle of a passage hall?" the redhead girl seemed angrier by the minute.

"Look," I decided to interfere, "I really don't have to be here. I'd better go."

I tried to step away, but the emperor pulled me back by my hand, making me slam into his chest.

"Seriously?!" Prim rolled her eyes again.

"Demir," I put my hand on his chest, "Talk to your sister. If you'd want to tell me later, you will. I trust you."

He looked conflicted at first but nodded in the end and I curtsied awkwardly to the princess before hurrying to my room.

Inside, Lisa and Sandra were already waiting for you.

"How was it, my lady?!" Lisa asked eagerly but her friend only smirked.

"Don't you see, silly?" she pointed at my clothes, "It went great!"

I bit my lips and just nodded at them and they both giggled excitedly.

Then they started to lament about how horrible my hair looked now and how much work they have again. They took me to the bathroom and we literally spent hours there. We chatted the whole time and it was mostly Sandra telling us how she was dancing with the dark lords at the ball and how when the masks were off, she ended up in the arms of a knight. She was generally happy with how her once-in-a-lifetime ticket to the higher society paid off.

I was having lunch at my balcony when an unexpected guest arrived. It was a girl, just slightly older than my maids but by the respect they were showing to her, her position was higher. They led her to me and she announced arrogantly, "Princess Primrose would like to invite you for a walk in the garden."

"Of course," I smiled weakly, "When..."

"Now!" the girl interrupted me, "She is already waiting for you."

"Of course," I sighed and wiped my mouth with a napkin, then put it aside and stood up, "Lead the way, ...erm.."

"Lady Fiona," the girl smiled for the first time, "I am lady-in-waiting for the princess."

She led me to the garden, where Primrose was already waiting, pacing under one of the ancient trees.

"Your Highness," I curtsied respectfully as soon as she noticed me.

"Raise," she commanded and then took my elbow, pulling me deeper into the bushy labyrinths of the royal gardens, "My brother will be busy at the Council meeting for the next few hours, so I thought that you and I could talk finally."

We walked for a while but stayed quiet the whole time, and I saw that the princess was conflicted.

"I know you are disappointed to see me here," I sighed and she looked at me finally, "You got me my wings and I am still here... And I am probably not the kind of girl you want your brother to be with... Not perfect, not a princess.."

"You may not be a princess and yet your brother at the White Archipelago is ready to start a war for you," she looked at me intensely.

"The Council wouldn't let him," I assured her, "And neither will Keatar, our leader. It doesn't work like that. Gideon is powerful but he is not that powerful."

"Still," she looked away and we continued walking in silence for some time before she stopped and turned to face me, "Lara, I don't want you to think that I think about you as not worthy of my brother in any sense. It's not like that... I

see how happy he is with you. I haven't seen him smile like that for a while. Being the emperor drained fun and happiness out of his life and you... I see that you managed to bring it back for him. But there were other reasons why I thought that the two of you shouldn't be together..."

I listened carefully, expecting her to reveal those reasons yet she stayed quiet.

"However, after careful consideration," she made the pause and raised her brow. And for a second, I thought that she was going to banish me from the palace that very moment. "I approve," she announced, and my lips parted in shock.

"Really, Your Highness?" I gasped.

"Yes, and since you are my brother's soulmate and future empress of the Gerdian Empire, I insist that you call me just Prim from now on," she beamed at me and a part of me still thought that it might be a trick. Yet we kept walking and she seemed friendly.

"All right, Your... I mean, Prim," I smiled.

"So, Lara," she gazed at me mischievously, "Since you are staying, we are going to be spending all our free time together. I will be turning you into the perfect Empress that the Empire needs so much! And, no offense, but we have a lot of work to do."

"None taken," I smiled weakly, "I am not sure though... I mean... we never talked about me being an empress. We did not discuss anything like that yet..."

"Well, what's there to discuss?" she smirked, "he is the emperor, you are his soulmate. It was clear from the start that you'll end up being our empress."

"Not to me," I gave her an uneasy grin.

"That bad, huh?" she giggled, covering her mouth.

I was about to reply when we heard a few ladies talking loudly on the other side of the green labyrinth wall.

“I am so disappointed that Demir was busy yesterday!” one said and I recognized the voice at once.

“I am sure that if he was there, he would spend the whole evening with you, Camelia,” another lady assured her friend, “Especially considering that your husband was absent!”

“I know,” Camelia sighed, “By the way, have you seen the princess?”

“Yes, so many lords wanted to dance with her! She had absolutely no free time yesterday!” a third lady chuckled.

“See, this is where I don’t get it,” the fourth one interjected, “I know that she is beautiful and all. But going after her is just suicidal! What are they thinking?! No beauty is worth dying young!”

I looked at Prim in shock and she moved her perfectly manicured index finger to her lips, signaling me to stay quiet. I obeyed of course even though I wanted to call those gossips and make them apologize to the princess.

“Oh, don’t remind me!” their voices seemed to be further from us now, “I had so much trouble yesterday making my brother stay away from her. I don’t want her to fall in love with him and sign his death with the dragon gods! No woman is worth it!”

They all burst out laughing and I turned back to the princess to see that she was walking in a different direction. For once this perfect royal had trouble keeping her feeling locked and for a second there it even seemed that there was a little tear at the end of her long lashes. But she quickly blinked it away and sat at the edge of a fountain that we approached.

“Don’t listen to them,” I told her when I joined her, “No offense, but some gerdian ladies have poisoned tongues.”

“Some do,” she admitted with a vague smile that reminded me of her brother, “But they were not lying...”

“What do you mean?” I asked her bluntly even though the princess did not look like it was an easy topic for her.



“Long time ago a dragon Seer said that I will never be with the man that I love,” she looked at the water and touched it, playing with the golden fishes inside.

“A Seer? I never heard of one that was real...”

“Well,” Prim snorted, “I wish I could say the same. But the one in my life is very real. I... Every time I fall in love, something drives me and the man I love apart.”

“I hate to break it to you, princess,” I chuckled, “But that happens to a lot of people...”

“I know,” she looked somewhere distant, “However it’s hard to ignore a prophecy that came to life three times already. Three times I’ve been in love, Lara... And three times my heart was broken...”

“But...”

“Two of them died,” she closed her eyes as if it was painful for her to remember those things, “My first fiancé found his soulmate on the day he proposed to me. It was painful but I got over it in several years. My second fiancé...died at war. I grieved for a long time but eventually, my heart opened to someone else. But when my third love was poisoned... I gave up. It was too much, Lara. Too much pain!”

Her whole body tensed as if she tried not to cry and I placed my hand on hers and squeezed it lightly.

“You know,” I said carefully choosing my words, “I didn’t hear one thing from you now...”

“What thing?” she finally looked at me.

“You never said that at least one of them was your soulmate,” I bit my lip and noticed how her cheeks blushed slightly.

“That’s because none of them wasn’t,” she said quietly, “But it doesn’t mean that I didn’t love them...”

“I know,” I admitted, “But after I met Demir and found out that I am his soulmate, I came to one conclusion...”

I stopped talking and Prim looked at me with interest, “And that is?”

“Two soulmates will always find a way to be together,” I smiled at her and for the first time, she smiled back.

But at the same moment, the sound of an explosion ruined our beautiful idyllic moment and I turned to see that one of the towers of the palace was on fire...

## **Book 2 Dragon King's Forbidden Love Chapter 53 - Tips**

LARA

I didn't understand at once what was going on but luckily Prim's reaction was better than mine.

“What the chaos?!” she snapped and looked at the tower behind her. Her beautiful face turned pale, and I knew that it wasn't a good sign. But deep inside I still kind of hoped that she was just sorry for the beautiful part of the palace and accidental victims of the explosion...

“No...”, she whispered, and I saw guards running in our direction, shouting something, “That's where they have Council meetings...”

The guards took us into the circle, all of them were shouting something about safety and dungeons... And I just looked at the destroyed tower... There were at least three or four stories there all of which were gone now.

Council... wasn't it where Prim told me Demir was supposed to be now?

Cold sweat swithered down my spine as I looked into the princess' eyes and met...coldness. She looked at me with such eerie coldness that I stepped back.

“Demir...”, I squeezed his name out of myself with force, my voice sounding hoarse and broken.

She did not answer but just nodded quietly, confirming my worst fears. And without hesitating or wasting any time, I threw myself out of the guards' circle and ran in the direction of the explosion.

“Wait!” the princess shouted somewhere behind me but I did not care, “Lara!”

I ran and I ran, feeling blood pumping through my heart. Everybody seemed disorganized and running in the opposite direction, but I kept going. All I wanted was to find him and make sure that he was fine.

He should be fine! Because... because if something happened to him, I would not be able to live. The thought itself was making me lose breath.

He meant too much. He was...everything! He... I loved him. I loved him so much that I felt pain in my chest.

The huge wide staircase that led to the tower was covered in dust and smoke. And the further I went, the more bodies I saw. Dead people, hurt people... Maids, servants, knights, lords... But I didn't see him.

"Lara!" Prim grabbed my hand and I turned to meet her angry gaze, "You are not supposed to be here! In events like this, you need to follow assigned guards and..."

She stopped talking, her eyes somewhere behind my back, and the amount of horror and pain in them was overwhelming. Brighta, Goddess of Light, tell me she didn't see him! Tell me it wasn't Demir that she looked at with such an expression...

The princess pushed me away and ran to a man lying under pieces of stone in black clothes and I felt how everything inside of me died... His hands were lifeless when the princess started to remove the bricks around him.

I choked on the air around me that smelled of smoke and death. Tears blurred my vision when two strong hands grasped me and turned me forcefully.

"Lara!" Demir looked at me with worry in his eyes, his hands roaming my small frame, checking for potential damage, "What are you doing here?!"

He pressed me against his hard and warm body and I breathed in his scent for the first time, my fingers digging into his flesh. Alive! He was alive!

"Oh, thank Goddess!" I whispered and then looked at him through wet lashes, "Demir, I thought... I... Prim found a body and..."

I pointed in the direction of the princess who was now dirty from all the work she was doing with her guards and we hurried to her.

“Ryker!” Demir kneeled next to his friend and in just a few seconds got his body out.

“Brother!” Primrose bit her lip, “Is he...”

“To the healer!” the emperor commanded and disappeared in dark flames. The princess ran past me and I followed her even though she wasn’t happy about it.

We walked for quite some time before we entered a spacious room full of beds and I realized that this was the healers’ wing. Demir was already there, next to Ryker’s bed and an older man was trying to heal the young gerdian.

“How is he?” Primrose sat on the edge of the small bed and took Ryker’s hand, squeezing it.

“He’ll live,” was all that the emperor said.

“But what was it? What happened exactly?!” I managed to ask the question that was really bothering me. The brother and sister looked at me with a tense expression. And it did not escape me that Prim was not happy to see me. She stared at me as if I was an eyesore and I had no idea why.

“It was an assassination attempt,” Demir sighed and looked away.

“But who did they try to kill?” I wondered and got no response, figuring it out on my own, “You?! Demir, they tried to kill you?!”

“It’s all right, Lara,” he said softly, “Don’t think about it. It doesn’t matter anymore. I wasn’t even there. They miscalculated.”

“But Ryker was there!” Prim interjected and glared at me as if it was my fault.

A sudden thought came to my mind, “Wh-who did this?”

They did not answer and a chill went down my spine.

“Was that...someone from the White Archipelago?” I demanded as if I had any rights to do that.

“No, of course not,” Demir came closer and brushed his palm over my cheek, “Don’t overthink it, Lara. It has nothing to do with you.”

"If you say so," Prim chuckled darkly, and I did not like it. She was blaming me for some reason, and I had no idea why.

But looking at how worried she was for the man on the bed, I knew it was not the right time to ask. However, I felt that something was wrong. They knew more than they were telling me.

"Prim," Ryker whispered but in the quiet room the words echoed and the princess' cheeks turned red even though she pretended that she did not hear it. I glanced at the emperor and he seemed to be surprised with everything that was going on. But then he turned to me and took my hands, "Lara, I need to get back there and check on the rest. Primrose will take care of Ryker but I want you to stay in your room and not leave. All right?"

"All right," I nodded. The last thing that I wanted was to become a nuisance. I could find out the truth behind everything later.

Dark flames surrounded me and in just seconds I found myself in my bedroom, with Lisa and Sandra worried sick for me.

"My lady!"

"Thanks to the chaos you are all right!"

They both looked genuinely happy with me being safe and started chatting about everything that they knew so far.

"It was definitely an attack by the reds!" Sandra insisted.

"Impossible!" Lisa splashed her hands, "Inside the palace?! They can't get in here! That was an accident!"

I went to my balcony and looked at the destroyed tower that was visible from here. Three stories gone... did not look like an accident to me.

I waited and waited that night, but Demir did not arrive. I took one of the books that he gave me recently with the name "The Last Dragon's Heir", hoping to find some useful information in there. And my cheeks flushed again at one of the scenes at the very beginning... That...dragon emperor was definitely choosing provocative books for me on purpose. However, it helped to kill time as I was captivated by the unusual story and I didn't notice how the sun rose again...

The dark flames of dark magic appeared before my eyes and I jumped off my seat...

## **Book 2 Dragon King's Forbidden Love Chapter 54 - Tips**

LARA

He looked exhausted and there was still cinder on his face and hair when he stepped into the light. I put the book away and threw myself into his arms, breathing in his scent.

For a few minutes, none of us was saying anything but when we looked at each other again, he just slammed his lips into mine, making me lose breath and sense of reality. My fingers entwined into his hair and his hands pulled my nightdress down. I hectically tried to unbutton his coat and he just growled at that, his eyes full of sparks of dark magic. Dark flames burned his clothes down and within seconds he lifted me in his arms and took me to bed.

I blushed knowing far too well this time what is about to happen and feeling this immense need for him. The scare of losing him today was too much. I almost couldn't handle it, so feeling now his lips all over my body was refreshing. With every kiss he was bringing me back to life, proving that we were together, alive and everything was great. Even now I could feel that he was holding himself back with me as he entered me slowly while looking for my reaction. And only when I arched my back, moaning from all the pleasure, he let himself go and I felt all the heat that a dragon has inside. He loved me passionately as if it was our last night in this world... The scare of losing each other from earlier definitely made everything heightened and sharper... My nails were digging into his flesh and he grasped my hair, pulling me into another mad kiss. We were climaxing in each other's arms again and again until we fell onto the bed together, exhausted and breathless.

"Demir," I whispered right before my eyes started to close and felt him flinch under me, "I love you so much..."

"I love you too, Lara," he kissed the top of my head, "More than anything..."

His hands-on me became heavier and his breathing got slower. He fell asleep within seconds and I let myself relax next to him as well.

But when I opened my eyes, he was gone, and it was the middle of the day already. I felt sorry that he didn't say goodbye but found a jasmine flower on

the pillow next to mine and just knew that he was the one who got it for me. Jasmine was growing all over the White Archipelago and it reminded me of home. Demir always was telling me that it was a part of my scent along with the sea breeze and I loved that.

Lisa arrived out of nowhere in a cloud of dark smoke as always and started tending to me.

“Where is the emperor?” I asked her and her face became sad in an instant.

“He is gathering the new Council,” she said quietly, “Half of the members of the old one are dead, so...”

“He is probably going to be very busy,” I sighed, “I think I’ll go to the library and...”

“No, my lady,” Lisa became pale and I just knew that something was wrong, “You can’t.”

“What do you mean?” I looked at her, startled.

“The emperor ordered for you to stay in the royal wing of the palace, my lady,” the girl mumbled, “You can’t leave...”

“Did he say why?” I asked her bluntly.

“No, my lady, he didn’t. The emperor never explains his decisions,” she informed but softened after she saw my tense expression, “I am sure he is just worried for you.”

“Yes,” I forced a smile as she helped me with my dress, “This must be it.”

Then an idea came to my mind, “Lisa, where is the princess?”

“She is in her chambers,” the maid replied again, “She spent the night at the healers’ wing helping the wounded and only came back recently.”

“Is she asleep?” I wondered.

“I don’t think so,” Lisa shook her head, “She just requested her tea.”

“Can I go and see her?” I bit my lip and the maid nodded.

"I'll go and ask for permission," she smiled and disappeared in the cloud of dark smoke. She came back a minute later and announced that the princess wanted to see me too.

She led me into a room not far from mine and I saw that Primrose was sitting at a small table on her own balcony. She still had a dress from yesterday on yet somehow managed to look as perfect as always. Only the small dark circles under her eyes were giving away her sleepless night.

"Your Highness," I curtsied.

"No need for this," she waved her hand lazily, "Come. Sit, Lara."

She pointed at a chair in front of her and I landed there, not taking my eyes off her.

"How is Ryker?" I managed to ask her when her servants placed teacups in front of both of us.

"He will be fine," she said, not looking at me and then added, "For now."

"Was it an attack by red dragons?" I shot another question at her.

"It was," she sighed.

"But how did they get here?" I started to think out loud, "The palace is protected and..."

"We got unlucky," the princess gritted through her teeth quietly and I tried to study her face.

"Prim, is there something you are not telling me?" I put my teacup down without even taking one sip, "About what happened yesterday?"

"There is nothing to tell, Lara," the princess furrowed her brows, "The reds attacked us and..."

"Prim," I stopped her, "I know you don't like me much but you can at least be honest with me..."

"Oh, Lara," she stood up and went to the balcony rails, "Everything is more complicated than that!"



She obviously had a lot to say and I decided not to pressure her. She was looking at the setting sun and the wind was blowing her beautiful ginger locks when she turned to face me.

“I like you, Lara,” she confessed, and I felt like a heavy stone was lifted off my heart, “I like you a lot. I like how Demir is with you, how he looks at you and how happy he is... But...”

“But what?”

“It’s your hair!” she snapped, and my lips parted.

“My hair?” I gasped and touched the golden locks that were falling in waves over my chest. Please, not this again... All my life I was listening whispers behind my back because of its colour...

“It’s golden, Lara! Golden!” Prim closed her face with her hands and I did not see what was the tragedy here.

“So what?” I shuddered slightly, suddenly my surroundings felt so much colder.

“Remember I told you about the Seer’s prophecy about me never being able to be with the man I love?” she glared at me and I nodded quietly, “Well, Demir has a prophecy of his own, Lara. And his prophecy says that he will be the greatest emperor, the strongest dragon... but his end will come from a girl with golden hair.”

And I forgot how to breathe...

Surely, she wasn’t serious. She couldn’t be serious!

“I’d never hurt Demir,” I forced myself to say out loud and was surprised at how broken and hoarse my voice sounded.

“I know,” Prim turned around, “And yet the day he met you, he was betrayed and almost killed. Your brother almost started a war for you and now this explosion...”

“I have nothing to do with all this,” I felt tears in my eyes.

“Lara, I am not saying that... But the prophecy is already working against us. I can feel it just like... Just like when the men I loved died.”

I clenched my fists so hard that my nails dig into my own flesh, hurting me. This wasn't real... It was a joke... It had to be.

"You love him, don't you?" Primrose came closer to me and cupped my chin, making me look at her, "What would you feel if he dies in the next explosion?"

Her words stabbed me deeper than any dagger could.

"I would die," I replied honestly and she smiled sadly.

"Well, then you need to know that his chances of survival are higher without you around, Lara. I am sorry, but that's just how it is..."

"I see," I stood up and curtsied awkwardly since my legs were hardly holding me in place, "I have to leave you, Your Highness. I am afraid I am not feeling too well..."

She didn't say anything else and I saw myself out. I didn't remember how I got to my room but luckily I was alone there and could cry to my heart's content. Catching a glimpse of myself in the mirror, I came closer.

And took a knife for fruits on my way there...

## **Book 2 Dragon King's Forbidden Love Chapter 55 - Tips**

### **Book 2 Dragon King's Forbidden Love Chapter 55**

LARA

The hair was the reason why everyone hated me for as long as I could remember. The colour only brought trouble to me.

Angry tears were rolling down my cheeks as all I wanted was to cut it off and pretend that all this was a dream.

A prophecy... There was a prophecy that I would be the end of Demir! How could that be?! We were soulmates... And soulmates were supposed to complete each other, to make each other happy... So how could that be the truth?!

Dark flames appeared behind my back and I dropped the knife, the sound of it reaching the marble floors echoed through the room.

“Lara?” Demir looked at me questioningly, “Is everything all right? You were crying?!”

“I...”, words stuck in my throat. He had a hard day as it was and I didn’t want to upset him even more. “I am sorry,” I muttered, “It’s just... I was sad for Prim and Ryker... And for all those dead people...”

He came closer and pulled me into a tight hug, kissing the top of my head gently and stroking my hair with his fingers. I let myself mold into his hard body, to enjoy the sound of his beating heart so close to me and to inhale his wonderful scent of the mountain fresh air...

“You have a kind heart,” he said after a while and his breath tickled my cheek as he found my lips and placed a soft kiss on them, “It doesn’t always do you good. But that’s one of the reasons why I love you so much, Lara.”

I smiled sadly. My heart seemed to be the only thing that I could offer to him...

“Are there any news on who did this? Was it the reds just like everybody suspects?” I asked him to take my mind off things.

“Yes,” he nodded, “They were. We think that one of them infiltrated to the masquerade ball and placed the artifact on the room above the council to be activated during the next meeting.”

My blood froze when I remembered the man in a ruby mask that invited me for a dance at the ball. He told me to get away... He...

“Demir,” I muttered with dry lips, “There was this guy at the masquerade that approached me...”

I told him everything that I could remember and as I went, his face was only becoming darker. Which only helped me to make sure that I was not imagining things here.

“That makes sense,” he said when I was done, “To make me jealous of you is the easiest way to distract me. To make me disappear from the ball and leave Primrose alone is the easiest way to keep her busy. And then Ryker’s eyes would be on her only... And that’s three top dragons out of the way.”

“Isn’t it a bit too far-fetched?” I asked him hopefully.

“Not if the person who did it knew us all,” Demir replied, “And unfortunately, red dragons have a person working for them who used to be one of my best friends.”

“Sean Sarn?!” my lips parted in shock when I remembered the man with the scars who tried to take me away back in the capital. I hated to admit it but everything made more sense now. And thinking about it now, I even realized that his mask was specially created to cover all those scars, to make him unrecognizable.

“Yeah,” Demir stood up and I saw his fists clench, “He knows us all too well. He knows the castle enough to do it. He knows how to work around the guards. He knows too much!”

“But,” I stuttered, “How did he recognize me? I was wearing a mask too and I even changed the dress that I was supposed to be wearing...”

“Good question, Lara,” the dragon king turned to me, “Where did you get that dress in the first place?”

“I,” I choked on my words, “At the Lady Solveig’s shop... The assistant was bringing the things that you brought for me and I asked her for help.”

“Excellent, Lara!” he came closer quickly and kissed me on the forehead, “I think you just helped me to c\*\*\*k this case! I need to go now! See you later!”

Dark flames started to appear on his body when he turned to me and said, “Hope you like my present. You still didn’t say anything... It should lift your spirits.”

“Your present?” I looked at him as if I was in a daze.

“Yeah,” he chuckled, “It’s in your wardrobe room.”

The flames consumed him, and he disappeared, leaving me alone with my thoughts. Bitter tears were blinding my eyes again...

Helped him c\*\*\*k the case?! More like I helped one of the traitors to walk freely inside of the palace! They used me to kill Demir! Almost successfully! And so many other people died...

Prim was right. She was right about everything! Everyone was right about me... It was as if I was truly cursed. Both sets of my parents died, my brother went mad... and now I was used to kill the man I love. While other people keep suffering around me.

My eyes fell to the knife again... But then I remembered Demir's words about his present. Curiosity took the best of me and I found myself walking into the wardrobe room and seeing that my old wings were lying on one of the chairs. White and shiny, they reminded me of the past and more tears came with that.

I let myself a moment of weakness, as I fell to the floor next to them and started sobbing.

But when I was done, I knew the one thing that would be right for me.

So, I stood up and found a dark green hunting suit with a brown leather jacket that I knew was somewhere there. I put it on and then packed what I needed into a small leather bag. Pulled on high leather boots and chose some jewellery to take with me that would be easier to sell later.

When I was done, I came back to the mirror and took the knife. With a cold heart, I started to cut my hair short. Lock after lock, soft golden curls were landing on the floor. Until the remaining hair was hardly reaching my shoulders.

With a sigh, I put an illusion on and made it black. That was better.

I still looked too girly but that's what hoods and scarves are for. And luckily, I packed those already.

I looked around, taking in the room that was full of love just a few hours ago. The room that I hated so much at first but now I was leaving it with a heavy heart.

Yet it was for the best.

I'd die anyway if something happened to him. But if I die somewhere there knowing that he was fine here, at least I'd die happy. Yes, everything was for the best.

I sat at the desk and got two lists of paper. Writing two letters, I felt like some weight was taken off my chest. At least I got to say my goodbyes.

I wanted to take something as a memory of Demir but there was nothing... He gave me everything yet at the same time I felt that I had no right to anything in here. That was probably also for the best. There was no place for me in his Empire as well. Just like there was no place for me at the White Archipelago...

Not letting myself think further, I stepped onto the rails of my balcony. Luckily for me, it was already too dark, and no one seemed to notice a pair of white wings in the night sky...