

The Billionaire Alpha's Contract Lover

Chapter 21-30

Chapter 21

Roman took the opportunity to hand over a bottle of wine. "Alpha Knight, why don't you let Taya pour a glass of wine for you."

Roman had wanted to see me undress in front of everyone, but he quickly realized that I was his date and that he had publicly referred to me as his girlfriend. He would look like a fool if I took my clothes off in front of everyone—especially an Alpha.

And that was the only thing that saved me.

Preston reacted quickly and agreed with Roman. "Let her pour you a glass of wine as punishment."

pour

After that, he signaled me to pour wine for Griffon.

How...how was pouring him wine a punishment?

I looked up at Griffon. His face was blank, and I couldn't figure out what he was thinking...if he was thinking anything at all.

He'd been holding a glass of wine all evening, but I'd yet to see him take a sip of it. I didn't know what kind of wine was in his glass—if it was laced with wolfsbane or not.

I mustered the courage to pick up the expensive red wine on the table, walked up to him, and bent down slightly.

I was about to pour the wine into his glass when he suddenly raised his hand to cover the rim.

Griffon stared at me and spat out, "Dirty."

2/3

My heart sank, and the pain was almost unbearable. I struggled to catch my breath as my hand trembled, still holding the wine bottle.

My body stiffened, and I gazed into his eyes. There was no trace of affection there, only disdain.

It was commonplace for shifters to think that humans—or those born to shifters but who never got their wolves—were tainted.

This was just ridiculous, though. If that's what he was thinking right now, how wasn't I dirty when he was sleeping with me for five years? No amount of cleaning myself "inside and out" was ever going to take away the fact that I wasn't a shifter.

My anger began to rise, and I stood up straight, handing the wine bottle back to Roman, upset.

“Beta Starke, since Alpha Knight thinks I’m dirty, why don’t you pour a glass of wine for him instead?”

Her voice was soft, and when she called Roman “Beta Starke,” it almost made his bones go limp.

Roman was burning with desire, and hugged her waist,

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comforting her. “Okay, let me handle it.”

3/3

He took the bottle from her hand and poured wine for Griffon. “Don’t misunderstand, Alpha Knight. She’s not that kind of girl; she’s clean.”

Griffon snorted. “Is that so?”

The mocking laughter seemed to completely deflate Taya.

Roman gave him a suspicious look.

It was weird. Why did it feel like Griffon was making Taya feel uncomfortable on purpose? Was the Alpha playing some kind of game with her because she was human?

Worried that Griffon’s misunderstanding would jeopardize the project his pack was so desperately trying to get, Roman quickly explained with a smile, “Trust me, I’ve checked. She’s clean.”

Griffon’s hand tightened, and it almost looked as though he would snap the wineglass stem in two.

He raised cold, narrowed eyes and looked at Roman. “And just how did you verify that?”

Roman didn’t notice Griffon’s strange reaction and said proudly, “I’ve slept with her, of course.”

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I hadn’t expected Roman to lie, so I had no clue how to react.

1/3

Griffon was VERY particular and VERY possessive. I was not to sleep with anyone else, or to be involved with anyone else in any way during the duration of our contract. Even though we were not romantically involved-though I so desperately wished he had feelings for me-it didn’t matter.

No one touched anything that belonged to Alpha Knight, and the Alpha was very particular about his things. How they looked, smelled, felt... To say that control was important to him was an understatement.

The urge to explain myself to him was strong right now, but our relationship was over, and it was unnecessary.

He also didn’t deserve an explanation from me after so casually throwing me aside.

When I hesitated, Griffon nodded toward me and said, "Fine. Let her pour the wine."

Roman quickly returned the wine to me and said, "Hurry up."

Puzzled by Griffon's sudden change of heart, I complied with Roman's urging, picked up the wine bottle again, and bent down to pour Griffon a drink.

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2/3

Before the wine was poured out, the rim of the glass was covered by his hand again.

Griffon narrowed his eyes, and a borderline evil smirk crossed his lips.

"Kneel," he growled out low, commanding.

I was taken aback by Griffon's request.

I might have been his secret lover, but I was not his servant. He'd never asked something like this of me before.

Part of me wanted to immediately kneel at his feet, willing to do whatever it took to have him pay attention to me. I wanted him so badly, and just being near him had my insides twisting up with desire, nerves...lust.

But then I remembered how he'd tossed me aside as if I didn't matter, didn't have feelings. Treated me the same way so many people treated the girl without her wolf.

I straightened up again and said, "Alpha Knight, I don't know what I've done to offend you, but clearly, something is going on." I turned and placed the bottle back on the table, then grabbed my purse. "I'll leave now and won't disturb you anymore."

I turned to leave, taking a step toward the door, but Roman's hand gripping my arm stopped me.

"There's no need to leave. You'll stay and enjoy the rest of the evening."

Then, he threatened in a low voice that only I could hear. "Don't forget your best friend."

3/3

Chapter 22

I quickly composed myself. I had hoped that Griffon's anger would give me a chance to leave, but Roman's insistence on pleasing him for the sake of his project made me angry. But I couldn't drag Harper into this.

I turned around, picked up the wine bottle, and knelt before Griffon.

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As I knelt, Khloe laughed with delight, while Preston frowned and the others looked on as if they were watching a show.

Roman showed no emotion, only ambivalence.

Only Griffon, leaning back against the sofa with one arm stretched across it

and his legs spread wide, looked down at me with a smug look across his face.

There was no mistaking who the Alpha in the room was, and Griffon clearly knew it.

I couldn't help but think of the hundreds of days and nights we had spent together, but suddenly it all felt like it wasn't worth it.

I'd thought I could leave with dignity, to escape this place and these people, but I should have known better.

This was the cruel reality of our different social statuses. I had slept with him for five years, destined to be trampled under his feet. Stomped down by his status as an Alpha, wolf, and billionaire.

However, I had only a few months left to endure. With this thought, I found a sense of calm. I knelt down, poured the wine, and handed the glass to Griffon.

Griffon took the wineglass, his large hand practically engulfing

Chapter 23

il.

2/3

Just as I thought he would take a drink, he raised the glass and slowly poured the red wine over my head. As it slid down the tips of my hair, it stained my pale face, thin neck, and long dress.

Frozen in place with shock and disbelief, I couldn't make myself do anything more than look down at the wine dripping off of my, blinking slowly in astonishment at Griffon's behavior.

"You are so cheap."

Griffon's voice was so cold that it made me shiver.

Clenching my fists and biting my lower lip, I looked up and met Griffon's gaze, staring him in the eye.

Any other time, this would have been seen as a challenge to an Alpha.

However, Griffon didn't care at all. He simply picked up his handkerchief and wiped his fingers, as though touching the glass I had touched had dirtied him.

His actions were like a knife stabbing into my heart.

I wanted to sink into the floor, never to be seen again.

Even through my shock and mortification, I wanted to ask him why he even cared enough to act this way toward me. He was the one who had dumped me, who wanted nothing else to do with

me.

But I didn't dare voice my thoughts out loud. I hadn't gotten rid

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3/3

of Roman yet. If I provoked Griffon again. I couldn't afford the

outcome.

After tossing the handkerchief aside, Grition got up and left witho

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“Griffon...”

Preston, who had recovered from his shock, hurriedly called out to him, but Griffon didn't even turn his head.

Roman looked at Griffon's back and asked, “Something wrong with your cousin?”

Preston smiled tightly. “He's the Alpha of the Knight Pack, so he's under a lot of pressure. Occasionally, he lets his temper get the better of him. Please don't mind his behavior. He didn't mean offense. I'll drink a glass of wine on his behalf as a punishment.”

After finishing it in one gulp, Preston put down the glass and said gently, “You two have fun. I'm going to check on my Alpha.”

He maintained his politeness and manners throughout the conversation, and since there was no reason to keep him any longer, Roman nodded and said, “Until next time.”

Preston nodded, put his shirt back on, picked up his suit jacket, and hurriedly left.

Khloe looked like she wanted to play another game. But seeing that Preston had left, she had no choice but to toss away the cards in her hand and follow him quickly out the door.

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2/3

Then, Roman and Taya were left in the private room, the silence deafening. Roman was a little frustrated, and rubbed the space between his eyebrows. He had originally hoped that after having some fun, they could discuss the project, but Griffon had abruptly left before he could even bring it up.

And there was definitely something going on between Griffon and Taya, though he had no idea what that could be. The Alpha's behavior toward Taya had been deliberate. Especially after Roman had announced that he'd slept with Taya.

He was no longer in the mood to play. He waved his hand and drove the others out of the private room.

After everyone had left, he narrowed his gaze on Taya.

Taya sat still in her kneeling position, drops of red wine dripping down her face. The deep red of the wine running down her fair cheeks, almost like tears, made her appear stunningly beautiful, yet also deeply sad.

He didn't care about her feelings right now, though. All he cared about was figuring out just what the hell was going on that he wasn't privy to.

Roman's pack needed to get this project with the Knight Pack, needed to rise up in the ranks and become more respected among the Midwest packs. One way or anything, he would get his answers. "Do you know

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Taya slowly raised her hand and wiped away the red wine on her face before replying faintly, "Yes."

Roman bent down slightly and studied her carefully. "How?"

"I know I look like Ms. Thorin, so one night while delivering files to Alpha Knight, I added wolfsbane to his drink, hoping to seduce him and make him sleep with me. But he wasn't affected, and he kicked me out right after. Maybe that's why he called me dirty and cheap."

Her words dispelled half of Roman's doubts.

He initially thought there was some kind of sexual, or even romantic, connection between Griffon and Taya.

After all, if a man and woman became involved with each other, something like that was bound to happen.

But he hadn't pegged Taya as a social climber who had her eyes set on Griffon to earn his love, only for her plan to backfire and earn his disdain instead.

However, Roman was also confused about her intentions, and why she would target Griffon.

Alpha Knight was known to be inaccessible and cruel. If she were looking to achieve a better social standing due to her lack

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2/3

of a wolf, or if she was looking to get money from someone rich and powerful, how could this girl have been so stupid as to target Alpha Knight?

The only thing that made sense was that she wasn't actually after those things and harbored some misguided affection for him that would never be returned by someone as cold as Griffon.

Taya added, "I've always wanted him."

There was a dim light in her eyes, glimmering with something like love, which made Roman somewhat believe her.

"So that's how it is, huh?"

His mind put to ease for the time being, Roman pulled Taya up and made her sit on his lap.

What did he care about her love for someone else? He wasn't looking for a mate, wasn't looking to keep Taya around after he got what he wanted from her. She wasn't suitable mate material in the first place. A woman with no wolf? Pfft.

He wiped the red wine from her face and neck with cold fingers, his other hand straying over her body.

“Baby... I didn’t expect you to be so bold as to try and bait Griffon into sleeping with you.”

Had he been in Griffon’s shoes, he would have taken the bait. Hell, he wouldn’t have even needed to be drugged with wolfsbane to screw the delicious little Taya.

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Taya

My whole body stiffened. I didn’t dare to move, afraid of getting Roman even more aroused.

I fought to suppress my disgust and keep calm. “Bela Starke, when I fall in love with you one day, I’ll be bold enough for you, too.”

Roman pulled me against him, my dress still soaked in red wine, pressed against his chest. He lowered his head to kiss my neck. “I can’t wait that long.” After saying that, he lifted my dress until it was bunched around my waist and started to unzip his pants.

All the color drained from my face, and I struggled with all my might.

But all that did was turn Roman on even more. He held me even more tightly in his arms and clamped his teeth down on my neck harder.

“Beta Starke!”

Trapped, I could do nothing but hopelessly try to press my hands against his chest.

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I frantically looked around for my bag. Shit. It was on the opposite sofa, too far out of reach.

My palms were covered in a cold sweat, anxiety spreading through my body, but I had to force myself to calm down.

2/5

“Roman...you want the project from Alpha Knight, r-right? I can get it for you if you let me go!”

Roman was fiddling with his pants again. When he heard me mention the project, his fingers paused. “You can help me get it?”

“My plan to seduce Alpha Knight may have failed, but there was a moment when he mistook me for Ms. Thorin, and he kissed me. I recorded a video. If I use it to blackmail him and help you secure the project, he’ll comply. Without question.”

When Roman heard Taya could help him get the project, his interest was

immediately piqued.

The bidding for the new project would start next month, and his father said that if he could secure it for the Starke Pack, he would hand over the position of Alpha to him.

However, his competitor was the Collins Pack from Chicago, one of the top pack companies in the country. It would be difficult for him to defeat them based on reputation and talent alone. The Collins Pack had more resources and were more competitive, could probably complete the project at a cheaper rate.

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All Roman could do was try to win Griffon over personally, befriend him and make Griffon want to work with him.

3/5

But dealing with Griffon was far more difficult than he initially thought. If it weren't for Preston's assistance, Roman wouldn't have been able to even meet the Alpha.

Befriending Griffon would be impossible.

But if Taya could somehow help him, then...

Something wasn't adding up, though.

Confused, he asked her, "Why didn't you blackmail him into being with you?"

"Who said I didn't? I've threatened him before. I said I wanted to be his girlfriend, but he refused," she replied.

Roman narrowed his eyes. "If he refused you, what makes you think he'll agree to anything now?"

"If he doesn't agree this time, I'll just send the video to Ms. Thorin," Taya said firmly, shrugging one shoulder.

Roman raised an eyebrow. "You proposed this because you don't want to sleep with me. Didn't you?"

"Yes," she said, plain and forthright. "I told you before that I

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can't be physically intimate with someone I don't love. Right now, all I can do is help you with this project."

4/5

Roman never expected her to admit that so freely and directly, especially being in the position she was in. A girl who had no power, no wolf, no pack to protect her.

It made him look at her differently.

A few days ago, Taya had impressed and persuaded him with her cleverness, but today she earned a bit of his admiration as well.

Roman thought that Taya had no interest in money or power, so finding out that she loved Alpha Knight was surprising.

No wonder she didn't have eyes for Roman. She was interested in someone far more powerful.

Intelligence, ambition, tactics, negotiation. The small woman in his arms was formidable in all aspects.

Maybe if he left it to her, she could help him get the Westen City project, but...

Roman grabbed Taya's chin, forcing her to look at him. "I'll bite. Just this once. But if you f u c k up, all of my pack guards will take a run at Harper."

Harper was a weak spot for Taya, and just the leverage he needed to make Taya comply.

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I shook with anger.

How dare he threaten Harper in such a way. She had no involvement in any of this. But there was no way I was going to risk any harm coming to her. Not when I wasn't long for this world anyway.

Once I was dead, this would all be over and Harper would be safe.

I gritted my teeth. "Don't worry."

Only then did Roman let go of me.

A hint of regret colored his voice, his fingers tightening on my chin as he stared at me. "I really wanted to f u c k you. But now..." The points of his claws came out, and he licked one of his canines, leering at me. "For now, let's just focus on you securing the Westen City project for my pack. I want that more than I want to f u c k you right now. After you've gotten the project for me, we can focus on our relationship..."

I swallowed hard, trying not to flinch at his grip on my jaw.

He leaned forward to kiss me-hard-and then abruptly let go of my face, turning to leave.

bo was gone, I lay on the ground and breathed a sigh of

Chapter 27 relief.

I stood up slowly with the help of the sofa, trembling all over.

I didn't know who frightened me more-Roman or Griffon.

With shaky hands, I dug the medicine from my bag and took a few pills to calm my heart before struggling to leave.

2/4

After I was finally outside of Nightshade, the cold wind whipped through my dress.

However, I didn't feel cold at all. Like a statue, I walked home step by step.

A Town Car pulled up, blocking my way.

Andre exited the car, walked up to me, and said respectfully, "Ms. Palmer, Alpha Knight is looking for you."

I continued walking forward, keeping my face schooled as if I hadn't heard him

speak.

Andre reached out a hand and placed it on my elbow to stop me. "Ms. Palmer, you know Alpha Knight's temper. He's not someone you can afford to offend."

Yes, of course, I thought, rolling my eyes. But...how could I offend the powerful and influential Griffon as a wolfless orphan with nothing?

I couldn't imagine what would happen if I didn't listen to him. It

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would probably be even more difficult to deal with than Roman's punishment.

Heaving a sigh, I gave up and got into the car obediently,

surprised to see that Griffon was in the car. I'd thought Andre would be taking me to him.

The differences between us right now almost made me giggle. This whole situation was ludicrous.

The Alpha wolf versus the nobody human.

3/4

His designer suit and expensive cologne versus my dress reeking of spilled wine.

A Rolex versus...nothing.

All I wanted was to get out of here, to get this over with.

"Alpha Knight." I kept my voice chilly and abrupt. "What do you need?"

Griffon turned his head slightly, pursing his lips at my tone.

When I'd been his lover, I'd never spoken to him this way. Would have never dared to speak to him this way. His deep and gloomy eyes seared into my

soul as he looked at me, and I had to remind myself to breathe as I got sucked into the depths of his

gaze.

I turned my head to the side to look away from him, but he suddenly leaned over.

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The scent of Griffon's cologne mingled with the scent of the sweet wine soaked into my dress and made me a bit dizzy.

1/3

As he approached me, I felt a bit at a loss and tried to move away from him, my hand flailing a bit for the door handle. But the car was too narrow, and I

could only move a little before my back was pressed against the door, my hand unable to find the latch in my haze.

Griffon shifted his body so that he boxed me against the door, one hand pressed against the car window, the other hold me tightly around the upper arm.

His cold eyes glanced briefly over my body, landing on the diamond necklace

around my neck.

After what felt like an eternity, he let out a contemptuous laugh. "It seems that your new sugar daddy treats you well." Griffon let a rare smile cross his lips. However, his smile was even more terrifying than his typically stoic expression.

I wanted to explain, but the word "new sugar daddy" rendered me silent. From the moment Roman introduced me as his woman, there was no point in trying to defend myself.

He wouldn't believe me anyway. Why waste the energy?

Chapter 28

2/3

When I didn't say anything in response, Griffon's face darkened, all evidence of his smile erased.

He raised his hand to cup my cheek, his fingers reaching to the back of my ear.

When the coldness of his fingertips spread across my skin, I couldn't help but shiver.

Compared to the disgust Roman's touch brought me, Griffon's touch made me feel terrified.

The strength and power radiating off of him was suffocating.

Even as someone without a wolf, the all-encompassing dominance of his wolf, his Alpha presence, demanded I submit to him.

His hand inched farther around my ear, and he grabbed the back of my head.

He exerted pressure until I turned my head to look back at him.

Then Griffon lowered his voice and asked frostily, "When did you sleep together, and how many times?"

He drew my head forward, and as the distance between us shortened, his scent filled my nostrils, and my skin couldn't stop tingling.

I cursed myself for being weak and quickly turned my head, avoiding physical contact by surprising him with my movement.

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3/3

And then his hand was wrapped around my throat, his thumb swiping across the spot where Roman had bit down.

This time, his voice was deadly.

"You just had sex with him."

Chapter 29

I felt the blood rush from my face, leaving me lightheaded. I quickly raised my hand and covered where Roman had kissed. "No, we haven't done anything."

"Do you think I'll believe you?"

1/4

He looked at me as if I were a dead person, someone who didn't matter, who barely existed.

Yet...why did he care if I slept with Roman then?

My knees trembled, but I still forced myself to explain, the words tumbling out of my mouth. "Believe it or not, I've never slept with him."

Griffon gave that sneer of a smile again. "I'll know for sure after I check."

He suddenly tore off my dress.

Frightened, I covered my body with my arms. Part of me hated him for this, for degrading me this way, but the other part of me -the part that loved him deeply-was elated at the fact that he cared if someone else had touched me.

Cared so much that it brought out the possessive Alpha wolf.

Before I could ask what he was going to do, he parted my thighs.

2/4

Chapter 29

I grabbed at Griffon's shoulder and cursed him for being a bastard, tried to squirm away from him.

However, he didn't seem to notice.

"Griffon, are you crazy? Let go of me!"

I grabbed his shoulders tightly, full of shame and anger and desire, my fingernails almost digging into his flesh, but he refused to let go.

At least Andre wasn't in the car to see this.

Griffon was pulling at my panties, almost ripping them off, his eyebrows narrowing as he was confused about something.

"What the hell are you doing?"

I was furious, but his expression told me nothing.

His urgent and fierce movements seemed off, completely unlike when we had sex.

The look on his face was different now, and his brows were furrowed with a hint of anger.

When he got angry, he looked like this. I used to be very afraid of him when he looked like this, but now, I was having difficulty understanding him...

"Griffon Knight!"

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I called out to him, but he didn't respond. He continued to examine my body.

3/4

"You have no right to touch my body! You ended our contract!"

Griffon finally paused.

When he lifted his gaze, the corners of his eyes were crimson, like sparks in flames, scorching and intense as his wolf's rage simmered just below the surface.

“You won’t let me touch you just because you sold yourself to Roman?”

The word “sold” sliced through me.

Yes, I’d once sold myself to him. But stupidly, I’d thought that not taking a penny from him would change his impression of me.

But I never expected that he would still view me as a prostitute who could be bought and sold at will.

My soul ached as if thousands of needles pricked it, but I forced myself to smile.

“Alpha Knight.”

I hooked my arms around his neck and choked out my next words.

“He bought me, so I can’t let you touch me. Once a man has

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4/4

purchased something, no one else is to touch it. You taught me that rule.

Have you forgotten?”

“What did you say?!” Griffon roared.

I raised my chin slightly, leaned close to his ear, and whispered, “Actually, I lied to you just now. I already slept with Beta

Starke a long time ago. We did it three times last night and two times today.

Now that I’m his woman, you wouldn’t want to do anything stupid now, would you, Alpha Knight?”

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The Alpha stiffened, his eyes flashing with anger and malice.

After staring at me, wordless, Griffon quickly pulled out some wet wipes and wiped his fingers.

Seeing his actions, I couldn’t help sneering. “Beta Starke told you that he had slept with me. Why bother checking, Alpha?”

I kept my face schooled, without a trace of annoyance or embarrassment reaching it, but rather with a hint of worldly charm.

My indifferent attitude and repeated provocations made the usually composed Griffon lose his temper. It’d been a while since I’d seen this side of him.

He threw away the wet tissue and pinched my chin. Hard.

I was going to bruise. My human flesh, the lack of a wolf to help me heal... My body was no match for any wolf’s strength, let alone an Alpha as powerful as him.

There was no way he didn’t see that I was in pain, especially since I was wincing, but Griffon ignored it and lowered his head until his nose was almost touching mine.

“Haven’t I told you that no one is allowed to touch anything I’ve used?”

Chapter 30

2/3

His eyes were filled with killing intent, and he squeezed my chin with increasing force-almost as if he wanted to dislocate my jaw or break it in half. It was the first time that I had seen him THIS angry, so I was slightly stunned. I didn't mean to provoke him like this, but he humiliated me again and again. I had to fight back.

But... He didn't care about me. Why was he so angry?

I endured the pain, raised my eyes, summoned all my courage, and asked, "Why do you care if I slept with someone else? Have you fallen in love with me?"

I had been with him for five years and had never seen him lose his composure to this level. He must have some feelings for me, right?

I stared at Griffon without blinking, trying to find a trace of love in his eyes.

My heart sank as I saw only disdain.

"Don't you know what I care about?"

Any hope I had was shattered.

Of course, I knew what he cared about, but I was just unwilling to give up.

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3/3

I had always known he would never love me like I loved him, but I'd prayed to the goddess for just a sliver of something back.

However, Griffon was different from everyone else.

He was the most unfeeling, distant person I had ever met.

I'd thought he was completely incapable of loving anyone...until Tara Thorin showed up.