

Chapter 13 His Sanity, His Temptation

Elena braced herself as she stared at him. There was something he wanted to talk to her about. This was it. The moment he tells her that he's dating Beryl, and she shatters to pieces. She would put herself back together but would never be the same. Suddenly, she wished to remain ignorant. She just wanted to pretend that there was a chance. She took in a slow breath, collecting herself together.

"What is it?" She mustered a fake confidence, keeping eye contact with him.

"Please don't be upset with me." His voice sounded unsteady as he looked away from her.

Guilty. He looked ashamed and unsure all of a sudden. Her arrogant guardian suddenly looked vulnerable. Her chest squeezed together. He didn't want to hurt her, but knew he had to tell her.

"And you're back to telling me what to do?"

He looked back at her, a small smile resting on his lips. "The reason I've been going to Elysium a lot is because—"

The door to her room swung open. Colton and

Chapter 13 His Sanity, His Temp...

Beryl quickly stepped inside, closing the door behind them.

"Joel and Ashton have been summoned to Alaric's office as well. Tensions seem really high." Colton walked over to Elena, placing his hand on her shoulder. "Don't worry, I've got your back."

Elena wasn't sure if she was irritated or relieved that Aba was interrupted. But hearing everyone but her was in her grandfather's office made her flustered.

"So, everyone but me." She clenched her teeth together as she slowly shook her head.

"I think they want to protect you, Elena." Beryl said quietly as she moved closer. "Aba, I need to go back soon or my parents will start to worry. You know they don't like me leaving Elysium without them. I'll plan to visit again tomorrow."

Elena watched as Beryl wrapped her arms around Aba giving him a tight hug which he returned.

"Keep that anger under control, okay?" Beryl looked up at Aba giving him a crooked smile.

"As if that's possible." He laughed as he flashed her a broad smile.

"Elena, if this is Meryl, she is capable of anything

Chapter 13 His Sanity, His Temp...

and everything. You'll be deceived without even realizing it. Please be careful. And try not to upset your guardian."

"As if that's possible." Elena said, mocking Aba's tone. She was forcing herself to act normal. As if Aba wasn't about to tell her he was dating Beryl. As if all of her family wasn't gathered except her. As if she wasn't being blamed for the shadows attacking. "Aba, why don't you walk her to where her portal opened. She isn't from here. Right now it isn't a good idea for her to go alone."

She watched as he looked at her hesitantly. As he inwardly debated about leaving her.

"I won't leave my room and I have Colton here. It's fine." She insisted.

"I'll be right back." He then nodded at Beryl. "Let's be quick."

Beryl ran over and gave Elena a quick hug. "Be safe!" Then she turned and left with Aba. The door closing behind them echoed in Elena's ears.

Colton clicked his tongue with a shrug. "I don't get the big deal about your shadows, Laney. I mean look, I have a shadow that moves on my command. Everyone can do it." He made an exaggerated dance and pointed to the floor. "See?

Chapter 13 His Sanity, His Temp...

But can you do this?!" he asked, manifesting his sword in the air. "Look at this beauty." He wiggled his brows at Elena, who giggled.

"Put that thing away before you destroy my room. Heaven forbid you sneeze in here."

"Ouch, that one was below the belt, Laney!" The sword vanished and he plopped onto the bed. "You know what?" he asked as she sat beside him, curling her feet under her. "This place isn't that cool. We need to find a place where we can vibe." He reached over and grabbed her hand, squeezing it softly. "This place doesn't deserve you. Let's find a place that does." He turned his head and smiled at her.

"Am I that obvious?" she asked, wondering if she looked as sad as she felt.

"No, and that's how I know how badly you're hurting." He pulled her down so that her head was next to his. "Get some rest. It's been a long day, and who knows how long this meeting will be." She gave him a doubtful look. "I might not be your guardian but I am a guardian." He grinned at her. "That's what we decided to call ourselves, guardians. As a tribute to the guardians we all came from."

Chapter 13 His Sanity, His Temp...

"That's a great name for a species."

"Yeah, Masters of the Universe was turned down so guardians was the next best option." He chuckled, reaching his hand over her face. "Just close your eyes." He could see that she looked like she was on the brink of breaking. Usually when

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Aba was around, she looked good. This time, when he came into her room, her face looked blank. It's what she did when she tried to hide her pain or anger.

It was useless. No matter how exhausted she felt, there was no way she could fall asleep. But she

Chapter 13 His Sanity, His Temp...

humored him and closed her eyes. He began to hum a gentle, soothing tune. One she knew all too well. It was the fairy song that all fairies knew by heart. Like magic, the tune enveloped her, soothing her mind. And though she didn't intend to, she drifted off to sleep.

The door opened and Aba stepped inside quietly. His eyes found her immediately. Colton nodded his head to him, and then they both looked at Elena. Her face looked pale and she seemed more fragile. How much more was his princess supposed to endure?

Aba had always felt at home here, but now he was ready to leave, never looking back. He did his best to reassure Elena, but inwardly he was boiling. He was not going to tolerate Alaric's attitude. His eyes darkened as he thought how much that man had hurt Elena. He replayed everything in his mind and felt his blood boiling. He was not going to let this go. Then the fact that Alaric was insisting she take a vampire mate. His arms trembled as his breath became ragged. Rage consumed him. The demon in him demanded he do something.

He moved to the bed, gingerly lying down next to her. She was the only one who could calm him down. Without her, his demon would surely rage.

Chapter 13 His Sanity, His Temp...

He laid down, keeping a gap between them. He just needed to be closer to her scent.

Colton looked at him closely, noticing his black eyes. A clear sign his demon had taken over. Elena rolled as if her unconscious body naturally sought out Aba. She buried her nose under his neck and within moments Aba's eyes returned to normal. Colton smiled and eased himself off of the bed. Elena was in good hands, and he wanted to go see what was going on with the rest of the family.

Where are you going? Aba asked as Colton reached the door.

I'm going to check on the family. He stared at Aba for a moment before he mind linked him again. *We need to get Elena out of this place. It isn't good for her.* He watched Aba nod his head slightly before he left the room.

Aba buried his nose in Elena's hair and inhaled slowly. His princess deserved better. Alaric might be doing what he thinks is best for his kingdom, but Aba needed to do what was best for his princess. He closed his eyes as her closeness comforted him. Things had been getting bad for him. A few years ago, the memories from his first life opened like a floodgate. Since then, his demon heart grew stronger and more demanding. His

Chapter 13 His Sanity, His Temp...

heart was one of an original demon's son that was put inside a werebear's body. After he became a guardian, the nightmares became more frequent. They tortured him and provoked his temper.

It killed him, but he had to leave and go to Elysium. While he was there, he bonded with Beryl. They both struggled with the past. Beryl was born with her memories, but they slowly faded. They haunted her in nightmares, just how his past came to him. They found comfort in one another, being able to talk it out.

When he turned twenty, his demon heart screamed the memories into him. A part of him woke up that almost caused him to lose to the demon. Since then, it had been a daily struggle. He was disgusted with himself and the things he did in the past. They haunted him.

Elena was his double edged sword. She could easily provoke his demon out. She didn't even realize she was doing it, but his emotions were connected to hers. When she disappeared earlier, he lost it for a split second. Beryl had to use her magic to subdue him. Beryl was part fairy and part witch. Her wiccan part was second nature to her, and it was a good thing. It allowed her to act fast and precise. Knowing exactly what to do without

Chapter 13 His Sanity, His Temp...

understanding.

Then there were moments like this. Where his demon raged and her scent, her touch immediately calmed him. She was his sanity and she brought out his crazy. He didn't like hiding things from her, which was why he felt so guilty. He had been keeping things from her and he needed to tell her. But with everything going on right now, he didn't want to hurt her more. Would she forgive him? Would she be angry and feel betrayed?

A soft moan escaped her lips as she arched her chest into his, moving her head to the side. "Please." She whimpered as she pressed against him. His eyes darkened as his arm trembled around her. Who was she dreaming about?

"Aba." Her voice whispered, making him freeze. He gulped down the solid lump that formed in his throat as he lifted his head up. She was dreaming about him? She pressed into him, swinging her leg over him, holding him captive. s**t. s**t. s**t. His breath grew ragged as he began to panic. He needed to ease himself away from her.

He slowly tried to move his head up, while leaning on his arm. Her head moved under his and she turned so that her lips were pressing against his

Chapter 13 His Sanity, His Temp...

neck. And then he felt it. Her warm tongue tasted his skin as a soft moan came from her throat.

What type of torturous test was this? He was a man, and Elena was beautiful. She was his charge, the fairy princess. Though at this moment she seemed like a temptress demon. A succubus working her magic on him. She was asleep, right? He glanced down at her, but his movements alerted her subconscious predatory instincts. Her fangs grazed his neck. The tiny pin pricks had him gripping the sheet. His knuckles were white as his breath caught. Slowly her tongue swirled over the droplets of blood she created, igniting an inferno inside him. Gods, how much more could he take? He couldn't give in, and yet he was breaking. His demon flickered to the surface, a dark force raging inside of him that was only kept in check by the slumbering princess. If she had been conscious, he would have been powerless to resist her call. Just when he didn't think he could take any more, her lips left his neck, and she buried her head into his chest. Her arms tucked into him as her body trembled slightly.

"Please don't leave me."

His heart clenched as he witnessed the single tear trembling on her delicate cheek. Was she so afraid

Chapter 13 His Sanity, His Temp...

that he would abandon her? He was supposed to be her guardian, sworn to protect and provide for her until the end of time. She was all he had. He might as well not exist without her. How could she fathom him leaving? Could it be something deeper troubling her mind? Why would she think

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he would leave her?

He gaped at her, speechless. A maelstrom of emotions churned in his chest like a stirred-up hive of hornets. Hot. Cold. Rage. Terror. Devotion. Craving. Love. Lust. He had never felt anything close to this extreme before. It was paralyzing and

Chapter 13 His Sanity, His Temp...

extraordinary.

He wrapped his strong arms around her, cradling her to his chest. His place was next to her. All guardians needed to be with their charges. More than they needed anything. No one could ever come close to the fairy princess. Even if they took a mate, no one mattered more than their charge. This was how it was. He would need to explain that to her. He was the one person she should never worry about leaving her.

Unless... she planned to leave him. The thought crept into his mind, making his demon angry. She better not even think about it. If she left, he would hunt her down. She would never escape him—never.



75

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