

## The Forced 141

Chapter 141

Xander's POV

I should have known I wouldn't let it happen.

How could I ever expect to let Caldan and Sabrina leave together? I can't let that happen.

Perhaps this too was a big mistake. Perhaps I should have stuck to the original plan of letting her leave so I could forget about her. Perhaps I was only digging a hole for myself with this.

t I couldn't stop myself. And that angered me.

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Coupled with the talk I had with Sabrina this afternoon. Al that she said. How clear it was to me that she wasn't interested.

Her clear threats.

I looked at her after I had announced the news of Caldan not leaving anymore. her face fell and She looked deeply disappointed. It rubbed me the wrong way. Was she excited to leave the castle? So she could spend more time with Caldan? All of what she said this evening wasn't a bluff? Was she actually looking forward to it?

In that case it's good I took action. To think that I considered the fact that she wouldn't want to go with him and choose to

stay.

She never fails to amaze me.

"I won't be leaving?" Caldan asked, surprise visible on his face. He turned and looked at Sabrina. "But why?"

"It's something different." I said.

"Oh. That's sad. I was looking forward to having a partner with me for the first time"

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"It's fine," Sabrina said. She smiled at him. "I'm sure there'll be many more opportunities in the future. And it's not like I'm

later." going anywhere. I'll always be here. Even if the next mission is a year

Is that so?" Caldan said. "Thank you. Knowing you're here makes me happy."

"I'm glad I make you happy." She touched his hand. "And maybe the next time we'll have more adventures. I've always wanted to see a lot of packs in my time." "You didn't get to travel?" Caldan asked.

She shook her head. "No. Sadly. Thanks to a lot of-" her cutting gaze turned to me and that soft look she had in her eyes for Caldan vanished. "-things."

"We'll make up for lost them." Caldan said. "Meanwhile you should eat something. I'm sure you haven't had anything to eat all day."

"Why is that so?" I asked.

She raised a brow. "Why does it bother you?" Her eyes shot daggers at me. Daring. Challenging me.

"It's taking a while to get used to things back home." Cald

said. "Even for me. So I understand, Rina."

Chappen 141

9

She turned to him and smiled. "Thank you

1 rolled my eyes. This is so annoying. But at the same time I can't help but wonder what the hopes to achieve with this Aggression.

Caldan once again was treating her like she couldn't hold a fucking spoon And she let him, the leaned back and watched him cut up her food into small pieces, her hand on the low of his back.

"I think I'm starting to like the wine" She said to him. I might even get addicted at this point?  
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He laughed and looked at her briefly "Honestly, that's most of what you eat anyway?"

er hand moved up and down his back. "Hmm...perhaps because its so good? I wonder what's in it

He held a piece of meat up to her lips. "This is good too. Open up

For fucks sake. Can't they keep it down?!

"That's too big, can you cut it in half please? I wouldn't want to choke on it."

That fucking did it.

""Caldan." I called out. He turned to me.

"Yes, your majesty?"

"I'm a little curious about this new relationship of yours. What made you decided that she was the one?"

"Well um..."

"Because I know you. You're not for romance and dating and whatever."

He cleared his throat. "This time is different. And I know it because it's true."

I could feel the heat of Sabrina's eyes on me. That spurred me on. "Because its true?" I asked with a laugh. "What do you even know about her?"

He turned to her. "Well, not much. But opening up takes time. And I trust her to do so at her own pace. I would never force her for anything at all."

It's almost believable. The way he's looking at her. The way his eyes shine with love. To be quite honest I've never seen my brother this way. Not in the past. Not ever. That rubbed me the wrong way.  
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Sabrina chugged down her wine. A servant poured another glass and she drank it down.

"You'll get a stomach ache if you drink while hungry," Caldan took her hand and lowered the glass. He wiped away a drop of wine from her lips.

"I'm going to need it for this interview." She grumbled darkly.

Caldan laughed. "It's not an interview. My brother is only concerned about me."

2/8

12:39 Fri, 3 Jan 40.

Chapter 141

Her eyes darted to me. "I bet he is." She said. And my mind went back to this evening. Luckily, the true meaning of her words was lost on Caldan.

I drank from my wine glass, my eyes solely focused on her. "Caldan. Has your girlfriend been completely honest with you lately?"

"About what, your majesty?"

"I don't know...something she's hiding from you perhaps." I turned my head to Caldan, swirling the wine glass delicately. "Something that happened while you were away. Something she happened to love very much." Sabrina choked on her wine. Caldan was immediately at her side with a glass of water.

Drink this instead." He said as he gently rubbed her back. She covered her mouth and coughed, her eyes red and glaring at

1. me.

"T-thanks"

"Your majesty, I think we should stop this. I don't understand what it is you're trying to say."

Oh but she does. She understands everything. It's in her eyes and it's clear that she hasn't told she's been in my bed. I laughed to myself.

Oh but of course. if she had told him the truth, I doubt we'll be having this peaceful dinner right now. I even doubt she would be sitting by his side and glaring at me.

Her coughing subsided and she sat with her back rigid. "Your majesty, that wasn't a very funny joke."  
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"Whoever said it was a joke?"

She sighed deeply. "Excuse me." She said and rose to her feet. "I have lost my appetite."

"Rina," Caldan jumped up after her. "You've barely had anything to eat

"It's fine. I'll have Rose make me some tea. Don't stop your dinner on my

accord."

"Let's go. She'll have to make tea for two."

"But Caldan..." She started to say and paused. "Okay. That's fine by me." She looked at me for a second and bowed hesitantly.  
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This won't be last I see of her. I know it for sure.

It was late at night by the time I retired back to my room. I couldn't shake off the feeling that something was about to happen. I thought about the incident at dinner and wondered why Sabrina was lying to Caldan if he was obviously so in love with her and she was too. Did she tell him about the real reasons she left.? Or was that another crucial detail she simply left out too?

Either way thinking about it was giving me a headache. Perhaps tomorrow morning I'll ask her about it. Even if it meant. bearing the look of anger and hatred in her eyes for a few minutes.

I was about to go to bed when I caught a whiff of her scent. My body moved on its own and I walked to the door. I grabbed the doorknob and pulled it open.

12:39 Fri, 3 Jan M

Chapter 141

There she was. Her hand raised and about to knock on the door. Her eyes met mine and she took a step back.

What is she doing here at this time?