

The Forced Maiden For The Cursed Alpha King

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Chapter 181

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Sabrina's POV:

"I totally agree, Sabrina." The king replied. He readjusted in his seat, cleared his throat and began speaking.

76%

I think I might actually need that tea right now. I poured myself a cup, and out of respect I poured him one too. I took a cookie and bit into it. My gaze encouraged him to go on.

53

"I was rude to you. From the very beginning. I roped you in with a madman and I accused you of being like him. Despite all your attempts to prove to me that you weren't, I remained stubborn and dug my hell in."

I sipped the tea. Sweet, floral and warm. It slid down my throat and warmed me up from inside. I am so loving this. I gave him an encouraging nod and he continued.

"I knew deep down that you didn't **deserve** it."

"I didn't."

"Let me finish."

"Okay."

He sighed softly. "You didn't deserve how I treated you, and that was wrong. Whether I choose to admit it was not, you were a tribute and I treat all tributes with respect and dignity. I could have let you enjoy an easy life like the rest of the tributes."

I nearly blurted out "you could have." But I bit my tongue and let him continue. I was still very pissed at what he did. Everyone else got the soft life and I was branded the runt of the litter and treated like trash. That's how I got to be his maid in the first fucking place.

But was it his fault? I mean...it was because he thought I was like Zayn.

Okay. It was his fault alright. He should have been a better judge of character. And that is his problem, not Zayn's.

My expression soured as I thought about Zayn, and I quickly shoved the bastard to the darkest place of my mind.

"I actually wanted to keep you around me." He confessed. My eyes widened in shock.

"What?"

"Yes. Back then in that throne room when I passed the judgment to take you away and make you a slave. I wanted to keep you around me. I wanted to keep seeing you, even when I knew that it was selfish and heartless."

I raised the teacup to my lips only to find it empty. I silently ate a cookie, letting this new revelation settle in my belly.

Some deep and dark part of me gloated at that. He wanted me around. While I hated him and thought him a monster, he wanted to keep me around him.

But the logical part of me hated him for that. Why would he ruin my life just because he didn't know what he wanted?

"You're angry," He said, his eyes searching my face.

"Are

you done?"

"No, not even close."

Oh boy. This is gonna be harder than I thought.

1/4

08:28 Tue, 18 Mar

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I'm sorry too, about letting Acheron convince me to throw you out."

That one struck a very sensitive nerve. Because that wound was still fresh and bleeding in my heart.

76%

“Like I meant nothing to you.” I spoke **up**, unable to hide the pain in my voice. “To be honest, your majesty. I pride myself on always seeing the worst case scenario. But that one took me completely by surprise?”

“I know.”

“No you don’t. Last...we had sex the previous night, your majesty. And the next morning you threw me out like I meant nothing to you! And there I was, thinking that maybe we shared something, Maybe it was just more than sex. I deluded myself into believing that we had a thing. Only for you to show me reality

My voice cracked towards the end and I inhaled deeply to try and ground myself,

I cannot
let him see me cry. I might as well bash my head into this lovely glass table and die.

I bit my lip hard till I bled. He stared at me, his eyes dark and full of hurt and **pain**.

“It was stupid. I **was** stupid.” I scoffed. I looked away from him **at** a bush of **white** roses and angrily ate **my** cookie.

“No, you aren’t stupid. We did share something.”

I didn’t reply.

“We did, Sabrina. I **was** ...I was too proud and too blind to acknowledge it even to myself.”

I turned to face him. “And the worst part was, I don’t even know what my magic is or how it works. I didn’t know. I planned to harm you? How could I have done? How?”

“I believe you. I do.”

Somehow I don’t believe him.

“Sabrina, I regretted sending you away. barely hours later, I went after you.”

Shock ran through me.

“I sent troupes to look for you. They searched, but you were gone.”

“Yeah well because Acheron made **it** so. He thought even after I was gone that I **was still** a threat to his best friend.”

Something in the air between us shifted, and goosebumps ran down my spine. The king’s eyes began to glow a brighter *red*, and anger filled his face.

“Acheron?” He growled.

“He didn’t tell you?”

“I’m going to kill him. He just crossed the line. And he..” He trailed off and scoffed.

I turned my head away. “I don’t care about him. I still can’t believe you send me away. That hurt, you know. Really hurt me.”

The air went back to normal.

“I’m deeply sorry. I had believed that I did you some sort of favour sending you back.”

“How? I left...I was thrown out with nothing but the clothes on my back. No money, no food, no water. How did you do me a favor, your majesty?”

2/4

76%

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“You’re contra. That was very smart. I know that it’s going to take more than an apology to fix this between us.”

I work my check out with my tongue. “You’re right on that one

A simple sorry can’t fix the crater sized wound in my chest. The betrayal. The hurt. The disappointment. It can’t just vanish with ‘I’m sorry’

“That reminds me, what happened? How did you survive? I never got an answer?

Should I tell him or nah?

I sighed deeply. What’s the point? Since we’re baring our souls to each other I might as well tell him about the lovely Devon and his cousin Marcel

So I did. I told him about how I was sold by Acheron and bought by Devon’s beta and all of that dark and depressing stuff I never want to relive again.

Devon” The king said when I was done. “That name sounds oddly familiar.”

“You know **him**?” I asked, recalling how Devon claimed to know the chronicle

I've met a lot of people **in my** lifetime. And he is irrelevant right now. I'm relieved that Caldan was able to get you out of

there

I burst out laughing, "Sorry," I said, clamping my hand over my mouth. "It's just ironic, isn't it? That was also how I felt. I felt so grateful, until he showed me who he truly was and also tried to kill me."

A few seconds of silence passed between us. The king stared at me, a hint of jealousy in his eyes. "Do you love him?"

"Devon?" I asked, playing dumb.

"Caldan. Do you love him?"

"What does that mean, your majesty? Does that question have anything to do with this conversation right now?"

He went silent for a while, then he spoke up again. "I'm being honest with you right now, Sabrina. About things *that* I have never spoken to you about. I would appreciate your honesty too."

I folded my **arms**. "You're not done with your apologies yet, your majesty."

He sighed with frustration and rubbed his nose bridge. I narrowed my eyes, a thrill of pleasure running through me. Oh, that's just a taste of how I felt for the past few months. Helpless. Frustrated. Angry.

It's **nice** to see the tables turned around for once.

"I'm sorry for being a jerk to you when you came back...or rather when you were found" He looked up and met my eyes.

Oh, there's that too.

"I was very relieved. Although it didn't seem like that. You were fine. You weren't dead, or severely injured. But then you were with Caldan. He announced that you were his girl. And that....that stumped me."

He was relieved? Wow. I did not know that. For *all* I thought he was going to just send me right back.

I opened my mouth to say something, but he wasn't done yet.

"I didn't know how to feel about that, that he was the one who found you and not me."

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Xander's POV:

"That must have hurt." Sabrina said, her tone biting and sharp "And not to invalidate your hurt or anything, but seeing you treat me like I was the most irrelevant thing ever, like I meant nothing, like I was disposable that hurt."

I waited for her to finish. The hurt in her voice cut through my heart like a knife. She steeled herself, despite the tears gathering in the corners of her eyes, she didn't shed a single drop.

"I hated myself because of that. I hated myself for how I reached out to you, despite how horribly you treated me. And when I was in that wretched place, I still thought about you. And that only made me hate myself the most."

I felt disgusted with myself. Hearing her voice her pain, trying so hard to keep it all together. I wanted to close the space between us and hug her. But I instinctively knew that if I did that, she would kick me. And it wouldn't be funny.

"I'm sorry." I said, from the depths of my soul. "You are not irrelevant to me. Sabrina, you mean a lot to me. More than you could ever know, or I could ever put into words. You're the most relevant person on this earth to me."

Surprise flitted across her eyes. I laughed to myself.

"Everything Orion said was proof enough. And last night, if I had lost you, I would have never been able to continue living."

"Why? You're the king. You've likely got people to live for."

"A king is easily replaced, Sabrina. You are not. I never got to reveal how I felt about you prior to last night. And worse, I never got to earnestly seek your forgiveness. I'm so fucking glad I didn't lose you."

She inhaled deeply. "This is all very surprising, your majesty."

"If this is too much, we can continue this talk later. I know it's a lot to take in, and I don't want you to get overwhelmed."

"No, no, I'm fine."

"Are you

sure?"

She nodded. "I just don't know what to say right now."

"You can ask me anything you want. Anything."

From the glint in her eyes, I knew she wouldn't go easy. but I need this right now. She needs this.

"Did you go back to fucking Blair when I was gone?"

I knew she'd ask that.

"No." I said. "I didn't fuck her"

"You weren't tempted?"

I paused. "Not tempted. At a point Nifra sent her to me, when I was... rotting away."

"Oh." She said. She folded her hands in her lap.

"She wasn't you. I sent her away and nothing happened."

"Why then did you lie about it to me?"

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"Because I didn't want to appeared pathetic to you. And also because I didn't want you to know how much I had missed you. That was why"

She seemed to be struggling within herself. "I see."

"Did you have sex with Caldan? Before he showed you who he really was?"

Her cheeks turned red. She pointedly looked away and puffed her cheek out. It was hard to tell if her blushing was from embarrassment or not.

Oh. So she did.

Jealously bloomed in my heart. Along with it was anger. Not at her, no no. But at Caldan. Everything he did was to mock me to my face. I bet he gloated about it too.

"You can ask any more questions you have." I said, when it was cleared I wasn't getting an answer from her.

I must not force her. She has to give me the answers on her own.

She turned back to me. "What is going to happen now?" She asked.

"For starters, I plan to make you mine. Wholly."

She blinked, her arms folded defensively. I winced at that action. It must have struck a nerve. "I'm not an object, your majesty. I am tired of being treated like a pretty little possession."

"That's not what I meant. I mean, I want you to be mine .with your full consent."

"What makes

you

think I want to be owned by you?"

I drew back, surprised. "...I thought we shared the same thoughts? Aren't our feelings mutual? And we only hid them because of well everything that stood in the way?"

She stared at me intensely. Her stunning blue eyes sharp and cunning. "What if I have gotten over your feelings? What if they don't exist anymore?"

"After how you held me last night when you found out I was alive, I doubt you've gotten over your feelings for me."

The moment I said those words, I realized how crappy that sounded. She was trying to talk to me and I just made it all about me. Again.

"Sabrina,"

She nodded to herself. "I see. Nothing has changed." She got to her feet and turned to leave.

I raced after her, grabbed her wrist and pulled her into me. She struggled against my hold, and slowly she relaxed. I hugged her, as close as I could physically get.

For a few seconds, we stayed this way. I cherished the warmth of her body, her scent clinging to her hair and skin, soft and floral.

She was the first to pull back.

"does this mean you belong to me now?"

"No. First, we have to get to know each other. Start a fresh, from the beginning."

"The beginning?"

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97%

"Yes. Because if we're being honest, we don't know anything about each other. So we'll have to take care of that first. And then, you can ask me to be yours, properly. And maybe, just maybe, I'll agree."

I laughed softly. A spark of pride bloomed in my heart. I like this new side of her. Sassy, confident, and daring. Come to think of it, she's always been like this. Flaunting my orders. Being disobedient. Digging her heels into the ground and doing what she pleases.

I missed it so much. And I couldn't believe I had survived this long without her grumblings and her talkative stubborn self.

I gently cupped her face and gazed into her eyes. "You're one hell of a woman, Sabrina." I said appreciatively.

She went red. "Thank you"

My eyes moved to her lips. A tremor ran through me, and I felt the violent desire to lean in and kiss her. Heavens, I've missed her. So fucking much.

Control. I must exercise control. Else it will all be in vain.

I looked up and met her eyes. My thumbs rubbed soft circles into her cheeks, feeling her soft skin under my palm. She didn't pull away, instead she slightly inclined her head into my touch.

I will never let anything come close to harming her. Ever again. even if it costs my life, I will protect Sabrina. From this day

1. on.

Even if she agrees to be mine or not.

"I don't love Caldan." She said after a few seconds of unbroken eye contact. "I never did. I hope that answers your questions about him."

A bright smile appeared on my face. "I'm glad." I said, meaning it. I'm so glad Caldan never got to her.

He never deserved her in the first place.

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Sabrina's POV:

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My head swam with all that I had just heard. The king's words rang in my head. His apologies, the softness he spoke with, the things I had never imagined that he would admit to me. It felt surreal, like I was in a hazy dream of sunlight and glitter.

After we were done talking, I headed down to the room I had stayed in, back in Caldan's wing. Being back here did bring back a lot of memories but I was too in shock by the king's confession to actually dwell on any of them.

I wasn't going to lie and say that my girly little heart didn't feel flattered by all he said, by the way he felt about me. And I was glad, relieved even that we shared the same feelings for each other..what I felt for him, he felt for me too.

There was no shame, no judgment, just plain truth.

But at the same time, his actions to me did hurt me a lot. And that wasn't going to be fixed with a simple "I'm sorry."

I paused, startled.

What was I saying? I had already forgiven him. The moment he laid his heart bare at my feet. I forgave him.

"Oh well," I said to myself with a lazy shrug. I may have forgiven him, but things were still stagnant between us.

I wasn't going to jump into his bed. No. Not that easily.

For him to have that access to me again, he would have to work for it. My forgiveness may have come too hasty and too easy, but everything else won't be like that.

It's fine. That makes up for the quick forgiveness.

I looked around the room and I sighed. I remember the conversation we had before I came down here.

"Pack up your things," He had said after he stepped back from the hug he forced me into. "You're coming back to my wing"

I folded my arms and challenged his eyes. "I am not coming back as a prisoner or as your slave, just so we're both cleared on that."

"Of course, you're not." He said quickly. "I'm sorry, I didn't mean for my words to have that meaning. You'll be staying in my wing that's all."

I had narrowed my eyes, still shocked and reeling.

I couldn't believe how vulnerable he had gotten with me.

It felt like I'd suddenly gasp and wake up and I was still in Devon's pack.

For the longest time I had seen the king as an emotionless and heartless monster. I wasn't used to this raw display of emotion and feelings. I appreciated it, a lot and my belly warmed at his words.

A knock sounded on the door, making me jump from the suddenness of it. I frowned, feeling wary. The times a knock had sounded on that door, it was Caldan behind it. Trying to get in and into my panties.

"Yes?" I called out. But Caldan was gone. At least for the meantime he was.

The door opened and Rose walked in. I exhaled a soft breath of relief.

"Good morning miss, I came to find you. You weren't here, and I thought you were in sir Caldan's room." She said with a cheerful smile. She wiggled her brows and smiled suggestively. "How did the dinner date *go*?"

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My stomach turned and I resisted the urge to gag. "Please, do not bring it up every again. I do not wish to talk about?"

She looked confused then she nodded. "Do you need anything? A bath, some breakfast? Anything at all?"

978

I stared at her, and I felt the awkward shift in the air between us. Honestly, I don't know what to do with her, Caldan gave her to me as my maid, and now he's gone I don't see the need for. A maid,

Should I just dismiss her without explanation? Or should I take her with me to the King's wing?

She and I haven't had much time to establish a relationship, so I don't think I can bring her with me.

"You can go, I'll take care of what I need." I said as kindly as I could, "When I need you, I'll send for you?"

She frowned, disturbed. "Is everything alright, miss?"

"Yes. It's fine. Don't worry about it."

She hesitated, then she nodded and bowed. "Have a good day. I'll be there if you need me

"Thank you, Rose."

She turned and left, leaving me to try and pack something.

I felt helpless as I stood in the middle of the room, wondering what to pack. At the end of it all, I wasn't able to take anything at all.

Everything here reminded me of Caldan. The clothes I wore, each gown had a memory of him etched to it. And the last thing I wanted was to remember him. My plan was to fully erase every trace of him in my life.

Last night flashed through my mind again. All the depraved things he said to me, the ways he was going to violate and kill me. It played in repeat on my head.

I hurried out of the room, eager to leave his memory behind. And when I shut the door, I visualized that I locked him inside it too. To never bother me again.

Outside the door was a tall, slender maid with dark hair. She bowed. "Good day miss. The king sent me to assist you with carrying your things."

"Oh, there's no need. You can go back, I don't have any things with me."

She looked at my empty hands and back at my face. Then she smiled and walked away.

I had some time on my hands, so I decided to take a small walk around. I wandered the halls, tasting the freedom of being able to do so as a free woman and not a slave. It tastes so much better.

Also, I needed to think about myself.

My life, and where I need to go from here.

I can tell that I'm safe, but the future **is** completely uncertain. What if Caldan comes back for me?

The thought alone sends shivers down my spine.

Last night my power had worked. I was able to touch it, and used it to blast Caldan off me. For a few seconds, I tasted that delicious thrill of being strong. Of having her upper hand and then it was gone. And he knew, he mocked me *too*.

What was it? This power of mine, what exactly is it.

And my mind drifted to the king. If we settle things between us, what will I be to him? A mistress? Will I be a mistress

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forever?

Can I even accept that kind of sordid life?

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Sabrina's POV:

It quickly dawned on me that I had forgotten my old life.

Before it all went to shit and I caught Zayn and Iris together, I used to actually have a life. I was ambitious too. I had things that I wanted to do, places I wanted to be. People actually looked up to me and wanted to be me.

I had completely forgotten all of that.

But now my life has derailed from its tracks.

I no longer had a purpose, or a goal. It was almost easier before, when I was a slave.

But now, I can't tell. I felt unnerved by the realization. I had previously never allowed myself to think much about my life's path, all I was concerned with was making the next day out alive, and not incurring the King's wrath.

And now, I have no idea what to do.

"It's okay," I found myself saying out loud. "Just don't think too much about it. Just let things flow."

That wasn't my style. I didn't just let things flow. But lately whenever I plan things, they derail and I'm left with nothing.

After I was done checking out my new room, I decided to stop by the harem and see how things were going. It's had been a long time after all.

I walked to the harem, a pep in my step. The moment

I got to the building, I froze.

Normally, once I got closer there was always some sort of sound. Music, singing, something. Everywhere was deathly silent as I got closer.

I was about to believe that everyone **was** gone when I heard a loud shout from the garden. I ran to the garden, and the sight that met my eyes was nothing short of infuriating.

There was everyone, gathered outside in the gardens. And standing on a podium was Blair. Besides her with three hefty guards, no doubt her lackies.

"Well, what do you all **say**?" She asked, spreading her arms wide.

"You cannot do that!" One of the girls screamed. "We have the right to eat! You can't take it away just because we refused to kiss your stupid ass!"

One of the guards stepped forward. Blair grabbed his shoulder and pulled him back.

"Why do you have to be so stubborn?" She was saying. She waved her hands to a group of about fifteen girls who stood clustered together, their heads hanging in shame. "Your mates who knew what to do and submitted, did I torture them?"

"Blair!" I shouted, unable to stomach this any longer. I stormed up to her

She turned to me, her eyes narrowed cruelly. "Oh, look who it-"
"I grabbed her hair and yanked her down hard from the podium. She screamed out, and the girls released a collective gasp.

Anger thrummed through my veins. I hardly thought about anything else, except for making her pay. What the fuck does worshipping her have to do with eating.

"You bitch!" She screamed at me, clawing and punching at my hand. I tossed her on the ground and kicked her.

1/4

98%

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She howled in pain. I sank down to my knees and grabbed her hair, pressing her face into the dirt. She screamed and thrashed about, getting mouthfuls of dirt instead.

Strong arms grabbed both my hands and pulled me off Blair.

"Get the fuck off me!" I screamed at her guards, fighting them with all my might.

Blair jumped to her feet. She spat out dirt, brushing her mouth and screaming in disgust. She turned to me, her face contorted in rage. "You bitch!" She screamed at me, her hand flying across my face.

My head whipped to the side with the force of her slap. But that was nothing compared to what I had faced. I turned to her and spat in her face. It landed in her eye and she howled.

"Fuck you."

She slapped me again. I laughed at her.

"You lack strength, Blair. It's no wonder you have to use men to enforce your rule." I said with disdain.

"What is your problem?! Huh?!" She grabbed my hair and pulled it hard on purpose, pulling a few strands out of my scalp. I kicked her hand, my foot connecting with her stomach.

The guards kicked my legs out from under me and forced me to my knees.

Blair groaned, sputtering as she collected herself. She glared hotly at me, her hair dishevelled and face stained with dirt and grass. "You, can't you just stay down?! Like a fucking cockroach flushed down the drain, you keep showing your ugly stupid head?"

"I could say same about you."

"Just disappear already! This harem is mine! I alone control it! You think you can weasel your way into this?!"

"Wow. You think me a threat, how cute." I said.

She tried to slap me, I turned my head and snapped my teeth shut. She screamed out and jumped, pulling her hand back before I could bite off a finger or two. She clutched her hand to her chest and stared at me with anger.

"Close." I said with a click of my tongue.

"What are you waiting for?! Show her a lesson!" She screamed at her guards, shaking her finger at them.

The guards dropped me on the ground and began kicking me from all directions. Anger simmered slowly under my skin as I crouched in on myself, covering my head and my stomach. Their boots struck everywhere. My back, my arms, my legs, my chest.

Each thud was a pounding in my head.

Blair's mocking laughter filled the air.

"Show it to her!" She cheered them on.

The pain mingled with the anger and frustration I have felt towards this girl for months now. Who did she think she was?

I bit my lip hard so I won't make a noise. I can't give her that satisfaction. Never.

My eyes burned with angry tears.

I want to strangle her. Wring her pretty neck until it's dark with blood. Snap it in half like a twig. Watch the life drain out of her eyes.

2/4

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I wonder what pitiful face she'll make. Will she beg for help? Confess her sins?

And these stupid guards. rip them to pieces. I'll make them scream for hell.

Loud screams that weren't from Blair filled the air.

98%

+53)

I blinked, the thoughts of death and destruction dispelling. I realized that the blows had stopped. I lowered my hand from my face and looked up.

My jaw dropped when I **saw** Blair clutching her neck, gasping for air as her eyes bulged in her head. Same with the guards.

The harem girls gasped and screamed, their voices scared.

I want to strangle Blair.

She choked, her hand reaching out and grasping air.

I turned to the guards. I want to strangle them harder.

Their bodies convulsed as the invisible hands on their necks tightened.

I blinked, fascination running through me.

Woah.

That's me.

I shoved all thoughts of strangling them out of my mind. And instantly, they all fell to the ground, doubled over, inhaling large amounts of air and coughing.

"Blair!" Her lackies ran over to her, screaming and talking over one another. "Are you okay?!"

The guards' faces were blue as they laid on the grass gasping for air.

A tinge of horror ran down my spine.

I just did that. I nearly strangled them to death with my mind...with my magic.

I got to my feet and took a step

back.

This was weird..I can't believe I just did this. I tried to blank my mind, think of nothing at all for fear that this would happen again.

"Sabrina!" A loud scream cut through my panicked thoughts and the next thing I felt were arms thrown around

my neck.

Startled and unprepared, I toppled over. The girls hugged me, piling on top of me till I couldn't breathe.

"G—guys," I gasped.

"You're back!" One of them said.

"Our queen Sabrina is back!"

"We missed you so much!"

"Thank you so much for saving us!"

They got off me and helped me get to my feet. I stared at their faces, unsure of how I was going to reply.

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+53)

They saw what happened right now didn't they? They saw me strangle Blair and her guards without touching them? Right?

They should be wary of me.

I turned and looked at Blair who was sitting with her lackies, clutching her neck and wheezing. Then I turned back to the girls.

"You guys saw that," I jabbed my thumb in Blair's direction, "didn't you?"

"How did you do it?!"

"It was so cool! "

"You're so cool,"

What in the what just happened? This wasn't in my plans at all.

I can't believe this.

"You're not scared?" I asked just to be sure.

"Of what?! We missed you so much!"

I laughed, shocked beyond words. Woah. My life has just become a rollercoaster ride.

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Chapter **185**

"What is going on here?"

I turned to the sound of the voice to see two women. I recognized them as the ones who Lady Nifra put in charge. They walked into the garden, flanked by guards.

"Oh my goodness! Blair!" One of them shouted and rushed to Blair. The other one followed behind her.

"You!" They turned to me. "What did you do?! This was all your fault, wasn't it?"

I gently pushed the girls who surrounded me to the side and stepped forward. "Me? What did I do?"

"Don't play coy! You used a disgusting trick in Blair and these guards here! What was it, huh?! You're not going to talk?!"

I folded my arms calmly and stared at them. "You lot are not only siding Blair, you're ignoring your duties and acting like little obedient puppies. You have turned a blind eye to the suffering of this harem, and I am going to put an end to that."

She burst out laughing. "That is nonsense,"

"You were but a slave here, have you forgotten?"

“Cleaning up after us, obeying every command because that was all you could do. Have you forgotten, slave?”

I opened my mouth to reply and then paused.

Come to think of it, it's no use exchanging any word with them. They aren't listening, and it's clear they're here for something.

I looked at Blair who looked passed out on the ground and back at the women.

“I see what is going on here,” I said with a slow nod. “Are you all doing this because you want to get special treatment when the king makes Blair his Luna? **Is** that it, huh?”

“And?” One of them spat and folded her hands. “What is wrong with it? A little ambition never killed anyone.”

“And you should start making peace with us if you want to have a happy life after this.”

“That's right. Go on your knees, and we'll leave. Else, you will be responsible for the girls suffering. I'm sure you'll like that, right?”

Murmurs **rose** from the girls surrounding me.

“What a load of crap.” I muttered under my breath. I turned to leave, only for the guards to rush up to me and grab my arms. I sighed softly, shaking my head at their antics. Didn't they **see** their colleagues gasping on the ground? And they still had the guts to touch me.

“Make her kneel” one of the women said.

The guards forced me to my knees in front of them. Their eyes held cruel stares as they looked at me.

“You're going to pay, slave. By the time we're done dealing with you, you'd wish you were dead.”

I laughed to myself.

Ah, the ignorance on them.

If they knew just how much the king treasured me, they wouldn't dream of coming close to me. For heavens sake, just an

Chapter 185

hour ago I was in his secret gardens where he confessed his feelings to me,

These women still don't know that,

I wondered for a brief second if I should use the magic I had used on Blair on her guards on these women. Would it work? It should, right?

I banished the thought as soon as it came. Even if it will work, I don't want to actually lose control and kill someone. That isn't my aim at all.

I just have to find another way to deal with this situation.

"You have no idea what you're doing" I said. "Let me go, and I will forget all about this."

They both laughed in my face. "You're so arrogant it's cute."

"Guards, tie her up to that tree trunk over there. For her crimes, she is to be whipped until she asks for mercy."

"You can't do that!" One of the girls screamed out from the crowd.

"Who said that?!" The woman barked, her eyes rocking around the crowd like a hungry predator.

"I did!" The girl stepped forward. "Leave Sabrina alone! She didn't do anything!"

"Leave her?" The woman sputtered. She stormed up to the girl and grabbed her by her hair. "Do you want to take your darling Sabrina's place then? Would you?"

The girl began to tremble. She looked at me and she nodded.

"Let her go." I said. "I will take your punishment, leave her alone"

The woman rolled her eyes. "What nuisances. They think they have a sense

fidelity or something. Guards, tie her already!"

"You're going to regret this." I said **as** the guards dragged me to the tree trunk. "You have a chance, stop this now and I'll forget all about this."

They laughed at me. "Maybe you should gag her too." One of them said and the other agreed.

The guards tied me to the tree trunk, my face squished against the rough bark. I inhaled deeply and readied myself for the lashes to come.

This wasn't the first time I had been whipped, but that didn't mean it didn't sting.

The first lash tore through my clothes, stinging my skin and drawing blood. I squeezed my eyes shut and bit my lip, refusing to make a single sound.

The whip came down on my back. Over and over again. Around me I could hear the gasps of the girls, someone was crying. The women were laughing and screaming for the guards to whip me faster.

"Make her cry!"

"She's too silent! Are you even doing your job well?!"

I could laugh. They have no idea that I've been through a worse hell than a simple whipping. They are the ones that I feel sorry for. because soon they won't just be crying, they'll be in hell.

"What are you girls doing?!" A loud voice shouted. I recognized that voice as Lady Nifra, and I felt a tinge of relief that she was here. "Sabrina?! Oh my heavens! Sabrina!"

2/3

Sat, 22 Mar

Chapter 183

71%

The next thing I felt were hands hastily undoing the ropes that held me. Lady Nifra grabbed my shoulders and turned me to look at her. Her icy eyes were full of worry.

"I'm fine." I said with a small smile.

"Lady Nifra this slave was..."

She turned to the women. "Do you have any idea what you have just done?!"

"My lady! She was being haughty and we

"We disciplined her!"

"You disciplined her?" Lady Nifra asked with a scoff. "Do you know who she is?"

The women exchanged worried looks. Behind them, Blair got to her feet. She looked right at me and glared.

"She is the King's beloved." Lady Nifra said angrily.

"What?!" Blair screamed. "She...how-

"And for the touching her, the king would have your heads. All of you!"

Blair gasped, her eyes rolled back to her head and she passed out again.

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Comment

Chapter 186

Sabrina's POV:

The salve had a minty feeling to it, cooling down my skin. I stared off into the distance at an expensive oil painting hanging on the wall. And I wondered what made the king choose that painting. Was it a gift? Did he buy it? Or did lady Nifra choose

I sat on his bed, my gown off my shoulders and bunched at my hips, one of his shirts pressed to my naked chest, he rubbed a cooling salve into my back, his fingers firm and gentle.

"Does it hurt?" He asked, his voice deep behind me.

"No," I replied. "Lady Nifra healed me"

The cuts were gone and the blood had been washed off. But there were still some welts on my back.

"The people that did this, I'm going to kill them."

I turned to the king. There's no way he just said that. "What?"

"I will kill them. For hurting you." He said.

Oh my. Lady Nifra wasn't joking when she said he would do that

I laughed uncasily and pressed the shirt tighter in my chest. "Your majesty, that's unnecessary.

"It's not." He replied simply. "look at what they did to you."

My mind drifted back to the incident at the gardens.

Flashback

Lady Nifra had helped me down the tree trunk after she announced to those women that I was the king's beloved. The harem girls expressed varying degrees of shock and disbelief. And I wasn't going to lie, I felt a bit embarrassed that she just outed me that way.

And I also felt excited.

"Lady Nifra" one of the women stepped forward. "You need to understand why we had to punish her. She used a....a freaky trick on Blair over here."

"And she used them on the guards too!" The other said.

"That's a lie!" One of the girls stepped forward. "Well, lady Nifra it isn't exactly a lie "

"Yes?" Lady Nifra prompted.

"Sabrina only used that because Blair was being mean to all of us! She tortured us and didn't allow us to leave. We couldn't even speak out."

Lady Nifra was shocked. "You two! How could you?!"

"Lady Nifra it wasn't our fault!"

"And besides, this whole thing about her being the king's beloved. Are you sure? She is a slave "

Lady Nifra laughed. "Am I sure?"

1/4

Chapter 186

"She's a slave. She used to serve us. And also, a few weeks ago when she returned with Lord Calden, the meget so kee quarters. How is she the King's beloved

I stood there, blinking at the sheer audacity, and yet also appalled, to think does fly fat is the part of our word Ponds thing knew everything.

"Well," Lady Nifra said. She took my hand and held me. "If you really want to know if she's the King's beloved or not, why not give it a few hours? Since my warnings mean nothing to you, I'm sure you'll appreciate a vial of foglay

“Lady Nifra-

She ignored them and turned to me. “Come now Sabrina. We need to get you patched up

I followed her out, a strange sense of pride brewing inside me.

Once we were out of earshot, she turned to me. You used your powers**

I nodded.

“How were you able to?”

I explained how I felt in that moment. Cornered, angry, wishing I could strangle the life out of my assailants. She listened without interrupting me, nodding gently.

“That is wonderful” She said once I was done. “I was so worried your powers were being blocked, but now it’s dear fat’s not the case.”

“What does this mean?”

“It means that with a little bit of help, you will be able to master your powers.”

My eyes lit up and I smiled. “Then I’ll be able to use **it** at will?”

She nodded and smiled back. “Yes. You will.”

“Oh that sounds brilliant! When do we start?”

She laughed softly. “Let’s clean your wounds first.”

“Oh right.”

We walked to the closest room, where she had me lay down as she worked a healing spell on my back.

“Why did Blair always want to control the harem?” I asked when she was done.

“Well, if I’d say it’s because she thought she’d be the king’s bride. But that is very clearly impossible.”

As much as I do not like Blair, not even a little bit, I cannot help but admit that she will make a good Luna. If she worked on herself and stopped seeing people as below her, that is. She had a magnetic aura about her, that was really quite good. Plus how ruthless she was in getting what she wanted.

"Why is it impossible?" I asked.

Lady Nifra rolled her eyes. It was so sudden and so unlike her that I burst out laughing.

"You're asking me why it's impossible? I should be asking you, Sabrina." She said.

My cheeks turned red and I turned away.

2/4

04:52 Mon, 24 Mar AA.

Chapter 186

"I must ask, is this what you truly want?"

I turned back to her and shrugged. "I don't know what I want right now. But I trust my heart to figure it out."

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She stared at me for a moment. Then she sighed. "Be careful, Sabrina. And don't force yourself into any situations that make you uncomfortable. Not for any reason at all."

"What are you hinting at?"

"At this point, I am fully convinced that the king would let you go if you ask *for* it."

"What? That's crazy. He wouldn't-

"You have no idea how much you have him wrapped around your finger, do you?"

I refused to think about that. "Why are you even saying this? Aren't you loyal to the king? You want me to leave?"

Lady Nifra turned away.

She avoided my eyes.

"You may not believe this, but I care about you."

My brain short circuited. "You do?"

That's actually.... unbelievable. I mean she's never been mean to me, she just isn't exactly the picture of warmth.

"I didn't like you at first. You were always trying to kill yourself and stirring up a lot of trouble"

I laughed as those memories came back. "Yeah, I remember."

"But, I have learned that you are different from what I first perceived " She turned and met my eyes. "And I *have* started to care for you, without realizing. You've grown on me, Sabrina."

"Like a fungus?"

She laughed. "Like a fungus."

I went silent, she went silent too. It wasn't uncomfortable, if anything I liked it.

"You remind me of my daughter, just a little." She said.

I blinked in shock. "Oh, I do? What was she like?"

Her eyes went out of focus. Then she blinked and got to her feet. "We should get back to the king now."

There. That conversation is over. She's put up an ice wall now, reminding me that she is Lady Nifra.

"He has heard about the incident and he is furious."

Oh. Great.

***End of flashback*

"Your majesty, I don't want you to kill them. To kill two people because of me is crazy"

"Why not?" He asked.

"Why not?! They're people."

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"People who hurt you, Sabrina. No one gets to do that"

"If you kill them, you will make me lose sleep and feel like a shitty person?"

He frowned. "Fine. What do you want?"

I thought about it. Was that sarcastic? It didn't sound sarcastic, right?

Then I remembered what lady Nifra said about me having him around my finger.

Time to test it out? Right?

I came up with the craziest request I could muster at this moment. "I would like to be in full control of the harem"

I waited, my breath tight in my chest for him to refuse it. Or laugh it off. Or something,

"Done." He said. "Anything else?"

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Chapter 187

Sabrina's POV

"Done?" I asked.

He took a handful of my hair and toyed with it. "Yes." Was his absentminded reply. I gasped, shocked and completely baffled that he just agreed like that.

"Your majesty."

"Yes?" He looked up at me, and then stroked my chin. His touch made me shiver, but I didn't pull back.

"Are you sure? You want me to run the harem?"

"Yes. I am sure"

"But why did you agree to **easily**? I mean, it's not a trifle thing to be in charge of the harem. I know how much you care about the girls and you wouldn't just let anyone do it. So why."

"I know you'll do a good job." He said, gently cupping the side of my face. I resisted the urge to lean into his touch. "You're kind, and you care about people genuinely. Those girls, they would choose you without a second thought. I've seen how you've helped them, and how you've stood up to Blair multiple times. Even when the odds weren't in your favour."

"You know all this?"

"What? You think I wouldn't know about what goes on in every inch of this place? I have people watching and reporting to me. And they all tell me how much the girls love you."

My cheeks warmed and I smiled to myself. I honestly had no idea I was being watched at all. "That's....pretty cool."

"It is," He said, mirroring my smile. "And of course Blair always talked my ears off about much she hated you. And how you were threatening her place"

"This is a very pleasant turn of events for me." I said, trying not to think about what kind of situation he would have to be in with Blair for her to tap his ears off.

I don't care. She's in the past now.

But this is good. Being in charge of the harem would mean I'd wake up each day with a sense of purpose. I'll have something to do. Running the harem is no **easy** task. Making sure that everyone **is** cared for and seen and all of that. Plus keeping records of marriages, financial records, making sure no one vanishes overnight. I can already imagine how much work would go into this.

And I feel excited.

"I'm still punishing those women for hurting you." The king said, drawing me from my thoughts.

"You can punish them, of course. I wasn't against that. The ddi say a lot of mean things about me. What I was against was you killing them."

He groaned. "Fine."

"And Blair. What will you do to her?" I asked softly.

It wasn't lost on me what Blair was to him. Even if I chose not to ever think about her, she was a part of his life.

"For Blair, I have something planned." He replied. There was no fondness in his eyes or voice, which made me giddy with

1/4

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99%

Chapter 187

joy.

I inhaled deeply. Since we're on this topic, I might as well ask the questions that's been on my mind.

"Do you know she had expectations of being your Luna?"

"Yes."

"And you let her think that way for so long?"

"Yes. Why would I bother with correcting her delusion? I had better things to do."

I bit my inner lip, hiding a small smile. "Will you kill her?"

His eyes dazzled. "Do you want me to?"

I blinked. "Huh?"

He ran his thumb over my lower lip. "Do you want me to kill Blair?"

"If I say yes, will you do it?"

"Yes. I would."

I grabbed his wrist and lowered his hand from my face.

Lady Nifra was right.

"That's quite heartless, your majesty."

"I don't care. It's not like I have a heart to begin with"

"You don't?"

"I didn't." He said and touched my face again. "But then it returned, unexpectedly. Because of you."

His voice dipped at the end of his sentence, making my belly erupt into a thousand butterflies. I flushed, suddenly shy under his piercing gaze.

"Stop that," I whispered.

He chuckled to himself, clearly amused. "As for Blair, I'm going to relapse her memories of our time together."

up

I looked and met his
eyes.

“That’s it?”

He sucked. “No. Of course not, that would be too easy a punishment, don’t you think?”

I nodded.

“After her memories of us are gone, you are free to do whatever like.”

“Hmm, what should I start with?”

“You could return the favour, whip that attitude out of her.”

I gasped. “Your majesty! What a wicked idea.”

you

But already I could see it taking root in my head. That would be nice. Blair did whip me, and burn me with wax, and set my room on fire. Oh she did a lot of things.

2/4

Tue, 25 Mar

Chapter 187

And I don’t think one whipping will be enough to satiate my anger. But it’s a good starting point

The king suddenly pulled me into a hug. “Stay here, I want to hold you. He whispered to me.

“Your majesty, I’m shirtless

“You can put the shirt on.”

I bit my lip. “We should be doing this right now. Matter of fact, I shouldn’t even be in your bed. You haven’t earned it

He pulled back, his hand on my shoulders. I held up the shirt covered my chest. “What will I have to do to earn it? And beyond just holding you too.”

I pulled back and got to my feet. “You’ll have to find out, your majesty,”

I turned my back to him and pulled my gown back up my shoulders. Giving him one last glance, I bowed and walked out.

As I walked back to my room, I wondered if this was actually real.

All of this. Because it looks like an illusion trick. But either way, by tomorrow, I'll have a full **time** job.

By evening, I was summoned to a meeting. The king, Lady Nifra and Lord Acheron were present in the **King's** study.

The moment I walked in, my mind drifted to the times the king and I made out here. And the most recent one, right before lord Acheron blew my cover. He stared right at me as if he could read my thoughts. I decided to simply ignore him

After greetings we all got settled down.

Lady Nifra spoke up first. "Sabrina used her powers today." She announced.

"Interesting." Lord Acheron said.

"This means that the shield preventing her from using her gifts are mental and not magical. So I will help her master her gifts, starting tomorrow." She said the last part and turned to me.

My heart fluttered with excitement. "Thank you, lady Nifra. I can't wait to learn from you."

"I'm sure you'll make an excellent student" the king said to me with a smile of pride.

"Thank you, your majesty." I replied with a bow.

"I have interrogated the frozen witch." Lord Acheron said. "And what she said was not funny at all."

"You have the floor." The king said.

Lord Acheron sighed. "Caldan's plan was truly diabolical and far more than what we could have imagined. He planned to steal Sabrina's magic, and by doing so become the most powerful creature in existence."

"That sounds horrible." I said.

"There's more." He snapped. "He was going to dethrone you, my king. And then he would rid the earth of every living creature. And

unleash the bound gods who have been locked up for centuries. And for good reasons, if these creatures are released, it will be hell.”

I gasped. Lady Nifra gasped. I turned to the king, even he was shocked.

For seconds, a chilly silence reigned between us.

3/4

09:42 Tue, 25 Mar AA

Chapter 187

“It’s worse than we thought.” Lord Acheron said. “We have our work cut out for us now. And tomorrow, my king, your training with me will begin.”

“Training?” Tire long asked “what for? Sabrina is the one who clearly needs help honing her powers,”

99%

45

“My king, you can do so much more than cheap magic tricks. Teleportation, mind control, those are nothing compared to the true extent of your abilities. Thanks to your curse.”

Wait. So this isn’t even the king at full capacity?!

“Acheron, now is not the time for jokes.”

“I’m not joking. A long time ago, I offered to help you unlock all the abilities that arose as a result of your curse, but back then, you were clearly preoccupied with being depressed.”

The king scoffed. “Tell me about it.”

“If I’m being correct, which I am, your curse has accelerated. And this means that your magic has in turn increased. Right now you should be able to do a lot of things.”

“Like?” The king asked.

“Like making yourself immune to the stupid magic that witch used on you last night. You should be able to counter it by

now.”

“He could be right,” Lady Nifra said.

Lord Acheron turned to her with a cocky smirk. “I am right. I’m always right.”

She rolled her eyes and scoffed. “Narcissist.”

Lord Acheron laughed. “Guilty as charged.”

“That’s enough.” The king said. “We will all get to work tomorrow. We all need to be prepared for Caldan”

“Yes, your majesty.” We all said.

Lady Nifra and lord Acheron rose and left, leaving I and the king behind.

“Are you hungry?” He asked me, his gaze tender.

“Yes.”

“Come,” He said, rising to his feet and extending his hand for me. “I have something to show you.”

Chapter 188

Sabrina’s POV

+45)

The king led me to his study. Once we were inside and he shut the door behind him, he walked over to his desk and pulled

out a box.

The box was pretty sizeable, made out a black matte stone and a golden lock.

“What is it?” I asked the king.

He opened the box and showed its contents to me. lying inside against the plush velvet interior was a necklace. A dainty gold chain, studded with tiny glittering gems, and the pendant that hung from it.

My eyes widened as I saw the pendant. It caught light and reflected a dozen brilliant hues. It seemed to be made out more than one stone, each part of it dazzling.

“It’s a rare diamond native to these lands. There is only one of this necklace in the entire world. And it **was** crafted by hand, with love.”

"It's beautiful," I said. I hadn't ever been one for jewelry in the past, but this was one stunning piece.

"It's yours," The king said.

My heart fluttered. "But I, it's beautiful, yes."

"It's a token of my appreciation to you." He said and glanced at the necklace

"Appreciation? Did I do something good that I don't remember?"

"It's my first courting gift to you, Sabrina."

Courting?

Now **it's** been a hot minute since I last heard that word used.

"I didn't know I was being courted by you, your majesty." I said with a smile.

"Now you know. Will you accept the gift?"

I turned my back to him and pushed my hair to the side. "Help me put it on, your majesty?"

"Of course."

"By the way, who even courts each other these days? It's so outdated"

He put the necklace around my neck and fastened the clasp. His fingertips brushed my nape and I shivered. "I believe in courting." He said. "It's how it's always been since I was born."

I touched the pendant, and a thrill ran through my spine. "You make it sound like you were born on so many hundred years ago." I turned around and met his eyes. He looked down at my chest, where the pendant rested snug against my skin. Then he met my eyes back up. "Are you a hundred years old, your majesty?"

"It's more than that." He said.

I gasped, taken aback at his simple answer. "You are?!"

He turned away. "You should go back now. We'll meet for dinner."

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"Your majesty! You can't just drop such a bombshell and walk away."

"Forget about it. It was a slip of tongue."

"A slip?"

"Yes."

I narrowed my eyes. **It's** clear he won't talk about it, or he doesn't want to talk about it. It leaves me wondering how much I actually know about him.

+45

I didn't see the king till dinner, as he had said.

I recalled when dinnertime used to be filled with a lot of tensions for me. And then he spanked me over the dinner table. And then Caldan and all the drama that happened.

Phew. It's been a hot minute.

But now, I felt none of the heart twisting emotions I felt when it was time for dinner. I sat close to the king, **a** comfortable silence enveloped between us. The air between us was calm and still, and I quite liked it.

Oh and I was so loving his courting gift, even though he wouldn't take any of my jabs or answer any of my questions. It was truly the most beautiful piece of jewelry ever.

"Sabrina?" The king spoke up, breaking the silence between us.

I turned to him. "Yes, your Majesty?"

"Blair has been locked up for the moment. By tomorrow, I will erase her memories **as** we had agreed."

I nodded. "I appreciate the update, your majesty. But tonight should be more about us."

The servants came out with our food and began to serve it out.

"You're right." The king said. "No talks of outsiders."

Yes. And besides tomorrow, we'll deal with Blair.

We started to eat in silence. And just like earlier today in his study, I recalled the question that nagged my mind.

What did I even know about him?

"Your Majesty?"

"Yes?"

"What is

your name?"

He frowned. "My name?"

"Yes. I just realized I don't know anything about you, I don't even know your name."

My cheeks burned bright red. It's almost embarrassing. He's been inside me, and I don't even know his name. Why didn't I ever think it was weird till now?

"Why didn't you tell me your name? Or why haven't you told me?"

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Chapter 188

He was silent for a moment. "It's nothing serious. I don't like giving out my name."

"That's why you didn't tell me?" Even when we were together? Although I didn't say the last part out loud.

45)

"That was why at first. But then as time went by, I fell in love with your voice. And now I know that hearing you say my name out loud will be my undoing."

My stomach fluttered, I grabbed my water and took a big sip. "That's....cheesy." I said.

He burst out laughing. "But you like it?"

Of course! I can imagine, my voice saying his name, his undoing. How will he come undone? I want to see it.

"Have you ever been in love?" I asked, in a bid to get my mind off the filthy thoughts that rushed to my mind.

His eyes became guarded. I saw it, a deep sadness cross his red gaze.

"I was mated, once." He said.

I blinked in shock. What? I had no idea. How? When? Who? What happened to her?

"Do you want to talk about it?" I asked, remembering how he reacted to his age question.

"I'd rather not."

I nodded. Ah, so the mate is a sore topic.

I brightened up. "I have more questions though, do you want to hear them?"

He mirrored my smile. "Yes. Go on and ask."

"Your friends, now I'll admit I was very shocked to hear you had friends."

"What does that mean?" He asked with a smirk, an elegant brow arched high.

"I thought you were a loner?"

He sighed and shook his head. "I'm glad you're wrong."

"So! How did you meet your friends? They're so different, did you grow up with them? Pick some along the way? Adopt some?"

He laughed to himself. "You make it sound like I have a party of friends. Well, as for Acheron, he and I grew up together. Childhood friends, you would say."

"Ah, that's why he's so protective of you?"

"Acheron is fiercely protective of all he loves, whether they have life or not. Now, Morana. She and I met at a ball. She had a bit of a situation that needed my help, and after that we became close."

"And Lord Maverick?"

"We adopted him." The king said with a sigh.

I smiled. "You seem very fond of them."

"I am. It's not often you meet friends who can stand the test of time. And I am glad I have them."

"Including Lord Acheron?"

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Chapter 188

He raised a brow. "I see what you're hinting at."

I'm sorry I just can't help it "it's hard to forget stuff sometimes. "Now onto my next question."

"Go ahead."

"When did you start liking me?"

"When?"

"Yes. I'd really like to know when your cold heart started to soften towards me."

"When I got the report from Nifra that you tried to kill yourself seven times in one day."

My jaw dropped. "What?!"

He calmly sipped his wine. "Now it's time for my question."

"Your majesty!"

Back then?! I hadn't even met him yet. And I wouldn't even consider him likeable for the next couple of weeks!

99%

45)

"Tell me about yourself. I know very little about you too. Let's start from, your life. Before you came here. I want to know about it."

Chapter 189

Chapter 189

Sabrina's POV:

"You want to know about me?" I asked.

"Yes. Tell me everything."

I readjusted in my seat and cleared my throat. I ran a slideshow of my life in my head as I debated where to begin.

"Okay so, I have a sister, she's younger than me." I said and started. "My parents favoured her more than me. She was a better wolf and all of that. My childhood wasn't the best, and it wasn't the worst either, it was just difficult."

I glanced at him to see if he was paying any attention. His gaze was focused squarely on me.

"Fast forward to when I finally got mated. My life became slightly better. Then my sister decided she wanted that for herself. And my stupid mate wanted her back. This went on behind my back for a while til i finally caught them. My parents didn't even take my side. They sided with her. They humiliated me in front of the entire pack. I just couldn't take it anymore and I tried to kill myself. And then I ended up here and the rest is well...history."

The king scoffed. "I can't believe that any man would let you go."

The dull ache of Iris and Zayn's betrayal stung in my chest. "Well, it happened."

"I'll have to admit that I knew of your parents not exactly caring much about you but this ___"

"You knew?" I blurted out. "How?"

"I had my own findings done, and I called them here. At first I suspected you had some vampire blood *in* you, hence how you were able to resist my compulsions."

"Ans they came here?"

"Came? I sent for them. Practically had them dragged here. But yes. They showed me how much they didn't care about you.

sister?" But I had no idea it was this bad. They went as far as support your

I nodded solemnly. My parents betrayal stung the least. I doubt they are even my real parents. Although it's clear *that* they

are.

"I had no idea you were that worried." I said.

"That was what intrigued me about you at first. No one has been able to resist my compulsions. But then there you were. Now with the recent developments, I'm guessing it's thanks to your powers."

"It could be," I said. My powers giving my mind immunity. If only they gave me strength when I needed it.

"Your parents, did any of them or anyone in their lineage show powers?"

I thought about it for a while. "No. No one."

"At this point I doubt they're your real parents. That would explain how they treated you."

"Huh? I'm adopted?" I asked. "That can't be. I just wasn't their favorite daughter. They are my parents."

He shook his head. "You haven't considered that they couldn't be your real parents?"

I shook my head. "The thought hadn't crossed my mind at all."

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But wait. It could be. Would real parents treat me like that? Letting me starve, leaving me in the cold, siding my younger sister and telling me to let it happen because Iris was a much better Luna?

"I'm not adopted." I said with a shake of my head.

"Let's say you're not. But that still doesn't excuse how they treated you." He leaned forward. "Don't you want revenge?"

"Revenge?"

"Yes. On your parents, on your sister, on your ex mate for how he hurt you? Don't you want to make them pay? I can help you, Sabrina. Just say the word."

I leaned back and folded my arms. "Why?"

He blinked. "Why?"

“Yes. Why do you want to help? What does it mean

to

you?”

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“I like you, Sabrina. And your problems are mine

pain. And I do not like that.”

My cheeks heated up and I gasped. “Well I...”

Yes. I want revenge. On all of them. Including the pack members who mistreated me.

But now, I’m not so sure. Do I even want that? Right now the threat of Caldan stealing my powers and unleashing hell on earth is far bigger than revenge.

“I’m not sure,” I finally admitted.

“It’s alright if you’re not sure. You can decide later, the offer is always on the table. Should we drop it?”

I nodded.

“Fine then. We won’t talk about it anymore.”

I tried to say something and paused. “Your majesty, this isn’t a fling, right?”

“This?”

“Getting to know each other better.”

He shook his head. “No, it isn’t. Is anything bothering you?”

I slowly nodded. “There’s something I have to tell you, something I missed out that probably drove my parents to support my sister and my ex mate being together.”

“Nothing you say can excuse their disgusting behavior. But go ahead. Tell me, what bothers you.”

I inhaled sharply, and by doing so a sharp pain lodged in my chest. “I can’t have children.” I said softly. “I’m barren. But my sister wasn’t. That’s why my ex mate left me. No matter what happened, I couldn’t give the pack an heir.

He didn't say anything at first, his gaze tender.

"So if that bothers you, I totally understand. But I just thought you should be aware."

"It doesn't bother me, Sabrina." He said. He reached across the table and took my hand .

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Chapter 189

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"I am?" I whispered.

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Tears rushed to my eyes and my lip trembled. A dozen words rushed to my tongue. But I knew that if I spoke anything, I would burst out crying.

So I hugged him, my face buried in his shoulder. He hugged me close, his arms strong and powerful, yet gentle. Holding me like I was the most precious thing in the universe.

"It's okay," He said as he stroked my back. "You're safe with me now. I'm here for you. Always."

I believed him. I believed every single word he said.

Chapter 189

Chapter 189

Sabrina's POV:

"You want to know about me?" I asked.

"Yes. Tell me everything."

I readjusted in my seat and cleared my throat. I ran a slideshow of my life in my head as I debated where to begin.

"Okay so, I have a sister, she's younger than me." I said and started. "My parents favoured her more than me. She was a better wolf and all of that. My childhood wasn't the best, and it wasn't the worst either, it was just difficult."

I glanced at him to see if he was paying any attention. His gaze was focused squarely on me.

"Fast forward to when I finally got mated. My life became slightly better. Then my sister decided she wanted that for herself. And my stupid mate wanted her back. This went on behind my back for a while till I finally caught them. My parents didn't even take my side. They sided with her. They humiliated me in front of the entire pack. I just couldn't take it anymore and I tried to kill myself. And then I ended up here and the rest is well...history."

The king scoffed. "I can't believe that any man would let you go."

The dull ache of Iris and Zayn's betrayal stung in my chest. "Well, it happened."

"I'll have to admit that I knew of your parents not exactly caring much about you but this-

"You knew?" I blurted out. "How?"

"I had my own findings done, and I called them here. At first I suspected you had some vampire blood in you, hence how you were able to resist my compulsions."

"Ans they came here?"

"Came? I sent for them. Practically had them dragged here. But yes. They showed me how much they didn't care about you. But I had no idea it was this bad. They went as far as support your sister?"

I nodded solemnly. My parents betrayal stung the least. I doubt they are even my real parents. Although it's clear that they

are.

"I had no idea you were that worried." I said.

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Chapter 190

Sabrina's POV:

The rest of the dinner went by without much hitches. After dinner, the king and I took a walk through the grounds,

The moon, a lovely sickle in the night sky gave its pale light. the cool evening breeze carried with it the scent of flowers. We walked side by side, a peaceful air between us.

But there was a question nagging my mind.

I turned to the king. He has his gaze focused far ahead, his head held high and proud. For a moment I admired the angles of his face then he noticed me staring and looked at me.

"Is there something on my face?" He asked and touched his face.

"No, your face **is** perfect."

"You think I'm perfect?" He asked with a teasing smirk.

"I said your face is perfect, not you. Hold on...that doesn't..."

"It's alright," He purred. "You have to admit it."

I sighed heavily. "I have a question for you," I said and quickly changed the topic.

"What is your question?"

"Tell me about your childhood. Were you always this tall, intimidating king?"

"Yes. I spawned out of nothing, and I never had to go through childhood."

I paused in my tracks and turned to face him. He stopped a few paces ahead and looked at me. "You're being serious?"

To be honest, it's highly likely that he just spawned out of nothing. I stated at him, and I couldn't imagine him as a child. Or a baby, even. Did he have parents? Siblings? Did he cry as a child when he scraped his knee?

I can't come up with any images of that.

"It's actually very possible." I said, tapping my chin.

"Of course not." He said. "I was once a child. Like

any

other person."

"Somehow I find it hard to believe that."

He sighed and shook his head. Then he continued walking and I followed him. "I had parents too. And I was once a boy. I had a pretty normal childhood. I was born and raised as a prince, the next in line for the throne."

Oh.

I see we had completely different childhoods.

"Then what happened? The curse?"

"Yes."

"How did that happen? Were you born with it?" I asked. I couldn't imagine a life where he couldn't see the sun, even as a kid.

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"I wasn't born cursed." He said. "I once felt the sun. I once didn't have poison in my bite!

"Do you want to tell me what happened?"

"Of course. It happened when I was a young man, a few months after my coming of age ceremony. Acheron and I, troublemakers we were at the time, we left off to explore a temple. It wasn't supposed to exist, and we thought it was a

rumor,"

I could imagine him as a twenty something year old version of himself. With youthful eyes and a charming smile.

I listened with rapt attention as he went on.

"I broke a sacred item. It was a vase. Something dark came out of it and passed through me. At first I thought it was nothing, till I tried to step out on the sun and it burned. After much consultation with mages, we discovered that the temple belonged to an ancient vampire deity. And I had disturbed its eternal sleep. In anger, it cursed me to be...**this** creature. The curse blended with my wolf nature and created an anomaly"

My heart ached. I could imagine how it must have felt, knowing that he would never step in the sun again.

"I'm so sorry, your majesty."

"Ah don't be. It's been so long I barely think about **it** anymore."

I quickly thought of something to change the atmosphere.

"What about your parents? Did you have a good collection of memories with them?"

He smiled fondly. "Yes. My mother **was** a beautiful soul. She was kind, and she was loved by all. She met her untimely death at my father's hands."

The smile that had started to form on my face died as I heard those words.

"I tried to kill my father, but he managed to escape. Lucky him. Since then, I have barely seen him."

I gasped in shock. "I'm sorry about your mother."

We walked up to a tree that had a bench under **it** and sat.

"She's in a better place. Or at **least** I hope so." He said.

He took my hand and pulled me closer. His eyes held my **gaze**, deep and intense.

"Sabrina, I want you to answer this question truthfully."

I nodded.

"Do you want to stay here with me, or do you want to leave?"

I blinked twice. That wasn't the question I **was** expecting at all.

"Will you let me leave if I want to?" I asked softly.

A few seconds of tense silence stretched between us. His grip on my hand tightened, and he rubbed smooth circles into the back of my hand.

"I won't lie, *if* you leave, it will hurt. But yes, I will let you go. If you say the word right now, I will instruct the servants to pack everything you'll need. And I'll give you the **best** carriage. Yes, I would

Those words struck a deep cord in my heart. I can tell how painful it is for him to **say** it.

You have him wrapped around your finger, Lady Nifra had said.

I didn't think it'd be like this.

"Why would you do that?"

"Because I don't want you to ever feel forced to do anything ever again. If you do not wish it, it will not happen."

"Your majesty....you're so full of surprises. I...I never imagined you'd be this emotional. This kind to me."

He cleared his throat and avoided my eyes. "Best to keep this between us."

I laughed softly. "Are you shy, your majesty?"

"Shy?" He turned to me. He pulled me into his lap and held me steadily. "Who said I'm shy?"

I grabbed onto his bicep to steady myself. "You are?"

"Maybe." He said. "But one thing is for sure. My world has been plunged into darkness for many long years before I met you. You brought back my light. You are the sun of my life. And your warmth is all consuming, Sabrina."

My cheeks turned red. "You're joking. You had Blair the entire time."

"Blair? She can't be compared to you. Most times, I don't even remember her name. Aside from the duties she provided me at the time, I never had conversations with her."

"Duties."

"It was stress relief, and nothing more. I'm not the kind of man to sleep around and have multiple partners."

I raised a brow. "That's new. And it's not something you hear most men say."

"I'm not most men."

"You aren't. And that's really hot."

"You think I'm hot?" He asked and smirked.

I rolled my eyes. "Of course you are."

His hands ran down the sides of my thighs and slowly back up. "I know you're curious about my past mate."

I nodded.

"I will tell you everything about her. But not today."

"When will it be?"

He'