A sincere apology

After lunch, Abril rushed to her small house, as she did every day, to feed the fox cub she was caring for. When she arrived, she opened the door and found Cassian there, feeding the little fox.

Seeing her so angry, he asked, "What's wrong? I came to feed this little guy." Cassian said as he petted the small fox.

"I think it would be better if you took him to the palace. It must be very tiring to come all the way here every day. I hear you're very busy with your classes."

"I am, but I don't think His Majesty would like that."

Cassian recalled that Alessandro wasn't very fond of animals and said,

"I suppose you're right."

"If I could, I would set him free, but whenever I've left him in the forest, he ends up coming back."

"He's been living like a pet. I think this little one has no survival instincts. That's why he prefers to be with you."

"But there will be a day when I can't return to this house. What will become of him? Who will feed him?"

"If you want, I'll take care of him. If he's in the palace, you can see him every day, and you won't have to worry about him starving."

"I would be very grateful if you did that."

Abril lingered for a while, stroking the little fox with a sad expression on her face. As she did so, Cassian asked, "You've seemed sad lately. What's wrong?"

"Nothing, I just realized that..." Abril trailed off.

"I have to go. I'll see you later."

Abril walked towards the door. Before leaving, she said, "Take good care of him."

"I will."

Alessandro was in his office when Cassian appeared and asked, "Are you busy?"

"You know I'm never too busy for you, brother.
Come in."

Cassian sat in the chair facing his brother's desk and asked, "the princess is acting strangely. Has something happened between you two?"

"Why would you think that?"

"It's just that she's usually always happy, but lately she seems sad, subdued. She spends her nights

= +10 Points

A sincere apology with you, so I asked."

"She doesn't want to take magic lessons. She's upset that she has to spend all her time in the main palace."

"She has never liked the main palace. I understand why she feels that way."

"She's a real nuisance."

"Brother, she's alone in a country where everyone hates her, where everyone blames her for the death of their loved ones on the battlefield. Don't be so hard on her. Whatever the case, you are her husband. Try to be more gentle and kind to her."

"I don't know what has gotten into everyone today, asking me to be kind and loving to her."

"Someone else asked you to?"

"Sirius,"

"Then you should do it."

The king's assistant knocked on the door, then poked his head in and said, "I apologize for interrupting, Your Majesty, but your meeting will begin shortly."

Alessandro stood up and said, "I'll see you at dinner, brother."

"Until then."

That night, when Alessandro went to his chambers, the princess was already in bed, pretending to be asleep. He took off his jacket and loosened his shirt, sat on the edge of the bed, and said, "Stop pretending to be asleep. I know you're awake."

Abril kept her eyes tightly shut, then Alessandro said, "If you don't open your eyes, I think I should wake you up, and you might not like the way I do it."

Abril opened her eyes and sat up, afraid of what the king might do to her.

"Finally, you open your eyes."

"What does His Majesty desire?"

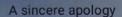
"I don't like to be on bad terms with the woman I sleep with. I wouldn't want you to kill me in the middle of the night for being upset with me."

"I would never do such a thing!"

"I know I broke my word. I apologize for that. I was very rude to you."

Abril stared at him, unable to believe he was apologizing, and said, "What exactly are you apologizing for?"

"For everything."



Abril rested her head on the pillow, turned away, and said, "Is Your Majesty's apology genuine?"

"What?"

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"You don't have to apologize if you don't mean it."

"But I do."

"That's not true."

Alessandro took Abril by the shoulders, forcing her to turn around and said, "Why are you so stubborn? I am apologizing."

"But your apology isn't sincere."

"How do you want me to apologize so you'll forgive me?"

"Keep your promise."

"What?"

"I just want His Majesty to keep the promise he made to me."

"I can't."

"Then your apology is a lie," Abril replied, turning her back to him and lying down on the bed.

Alessandro sighed heavily and said, "Fine. I'll do what I promised."

Abril sat up, looked him straight in the eye, and asked, "Really? You're not lying this time, Your Majesty?"

"Yes."

Abril hugged him excitedly and said, "Thank you so much! Does that mean I don't have to take any more magic lessons or wife's education classes?"

"Wait, I didn't say that."

Abril pulled away, frowned and said, "So you are lying."

"You can have your lessons with Lady Elizabeth once a week, and you'll continue with your magic lessons. It's the most I can do."

