

### Getting to know each other better

Abril remained on the ground, savoring that moment of freedom she had. The sky, the breeze, the singing of the birds, all of it made her feel relaxed, and eventually, she fell asleep.

When she woke up, she found herself in the room. She wondered how she had gotten there. Outside, the sun had already set, and the room was plunged into shadow, allowing her to see the stars shining beautifully outside. She stepped out onto the balcony. It was a wonderful night, the sky was clear, and the stars seemed to shine with great intensity.

She leaned on the railing, admiring the night view of the sky. As she did, she thought she saw a bird flying in the darkness. She strained her eyes trying to see what kind of bird it was, leaning so far forward that she almost fell.

Alessandro entered at that precise moment and caught her by the waist and said, "What do you think you're doing? That's dangerous."

"Sorry, I saw something flying and wanted to know what it was."

"Don't do anything dangerous."

"Yes."

"Why is the room dark?"

"I just woke up and wanted to see the stars, so I didn't turn on the lights."

"Next time, don't do that. You shouldn't wander around the room in the dark because you don't know what could be hiding in the shadows."

"I won't do it again."

"I suppose you haven't had dinner yet."

"Not yet." She replied.

"I'll have something brought up for us."

"Your Majesty hasn't had dinner yet?" Abril asked, looking surprised.

"No, tonight I'll dine with you. Now come inside and don't do anything dangerous."

Alessandro left for a moment, and when he returned, he found Abril sitting on the edge of the bed. He asked her, "How are you? Does your wound hurt?"

"It doesn't hurt, I'm fine."

"I'm glad to hear that."

"Can I go for a walk tomorrow as well?"

"I've already told you yes, but don't overdo it and don't fall asleep on the ground."



"Did Your Majesty bring me here?"

"Yes, so just take a short walk and don't lie down on the ground."

"Alright, I won't." She replied with a smile.

The maids arrived shortly with dinner. As they arranged everything on a table in the corner of the room, she wondered why they had brought so much food. Normally, they only brought her a bowl of vegetable soup, some fruit, and water for dinner, but that day, the dinner was lavishly served with an endless array of dishes featuring meat, fish, chicken, and turkey.

After setting the table, Alessandro ordered the maids to leave them alone. He walked over to the table and said, "Come, let's have dinner."

Abril approached, and Alessandro pulled out her chair for her to sit. It seemed strange to her, but she said nothing. She had always dined alone. Having company that night made the dinner pleasant. The king asked her trivial things like what dishes she liked or if she preferred sweet or salty foods. It was a casual conversation about trivial matters, but it made her feel comfortable.

After dinner, Alessandro called the maids to clear everything and prepare the bath. After preparing it, one of the maids offered to help the king wash his back, but he refused and told her to leave, saying

he wanted to be alone with the princess.

When the maids left, Alessandro began to undress and told the princess to help him wash his back. Alessandro was already in the bathtub when Abril entered the bathroom. She approached and took a sponge, soaked it in the bathwater, and began scrubbing his back in silence. As she did, she could see the scars on his back, large and small. She touched them with her fingertips, feeling the roughness of the scars. Alessandro, feeling her gentle fingers caressing his back, said, "What are you doing? Are you trying to seduce me?"

"No, I was just looking at the scars. There are so many."

"They are from the series of wars I have fought."

"It must have been painful."

"Yes, it was. Back then, I couldn't even ask the mages to heal me, they were exhausted, both physically and mentally. They couldn't even heal the smallest wounds."

Abril ran her hand gently over his back and said, "Wars are terrifying."

"Yes, they are."

"It was all because of my father, wasn't it?"

Alessandro didn't want to lie, he spoke in total sincerity.

< Getting to know each other...

+5 Points >

"Yes, your father was the one who started this war, and I don't even know why. His kingdom is large and vast. I don't understand the reason for the war."

"My father is a cruel man, but he never does

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anything without a reason, at least that's the impression I got."

"What was your father like with you?"

"He was never a kind father, at least not with me, but he was with my sister Cira and my brother Enzo. Enzo has a great amount of magic, he is the crown prince. When I was young, I was always



compared with them. They were intelligent and strong. Even though I was the eldest, my father made my brother Enzo his successor when he found out I had no magic."

"Wait, you were the successor before your brother?"

"Yes, but it was never official. The firstborn is supposed to inherit the throne, but I was very sickly and was never treated as such. When they found out I had no magic, my father rejected me and sent me to a ruined castle to die."

"The soldiers who brought you said your father loved you, that you were his beloved daughter."

"I never was. The day he sent me here, he even said he hoped Your Majesty would kill me, though not in those exact words."

Abril continued washing Alessandro's back and moved up to his shoulders. He grabbed her hand and said, "I was very rude to you on our wedding day. I'm sorry."

"I am the daughter of your enemy. I am surprised His Majesty let me live. You don't have to apologize."

"I didn't know any of that."

"His Majesty had no way of knowing, so don't worry about it." Abril said.

