

## I can't refuse

Cassian had gone to the training ground that day. He'd taken a sword and sparred with one of the soldiers. He had been a swordsman in the past, but after receiving that leg injury, that was over.

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But thanks to Abril's magic, he had recovered a lot. The pain was no longer a problem, and his leg had stopped failing him. That day, he wanted to vent with his sword as he had countless times in the past, and after a long time, he was holding a sword again.

The pressure he felt every time his sword clashed with his opponent's, the slight pain in his hands that had become too delicate to be those of a warrior, all of that brought back many memories from when he had first touched a sword.

After finishing his little training session, Cassian's arms were sore, and his hands were burning. Alessandro, who had been watching him from a distance, approached him and said, "It's been a long time since I've seen you hold a sword."

Cassian was surprised to see his brother. Alessandro sat down next to Cassian and asked, "How are you feeling?"

"My hands hurt. It reminds me of the first time I touched a sword."

"You trained until your hands were blistered. I remember mother getting very upset with you," Alessandro said.

"That's true," Cassian replied.

Alessandro sighed deeply and said, "Sometimes I wish I could go back to those days and just be a kid running around without a care in the world. Being an adult is a drag."

"I miss those days too. I miss being the man I was before..."

Cassian clutched his leg. Although Cassian hadn't

finished saying what he was saying, Alessandro knew very well what he was referring to before that fateful day when he had received that injury and said,

"When Abril can control her magic, we'll ask her to heal your injury. I'm sure she won't refuse to do it, and you'll be able to go back to doing what you loved, what you're passionate about. You'll be the sword maniac you used to be."

"The sword maniac... Mom always used to call me that." Cassian said.

"It's just that you wouldn't even let go of your sword to sleep. She hated that."

"Back then, I wanted to be the best, but it was no use. King Venobich defeated me easily."

"That guy's a monster."

"I know, but I would have liked to have been able to beat him."

"Someday we will, brother. We'll kill that damn bastard. We'll finish him off, I promise."

"What do you think the princess will say when that happens?"

"I don't think she'll take his side. He has hurt her a lot."

"Still, he's her father," Cassian replied.



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"One who never acted like it. She's just another one of King Venobich's victims. But let's not talk about that man anymore. It makes my stomach churn. Let's talk about something else."

"About what?"

"I have to go on an inspection of the kingdom soon. I promised the princess I would take her with me."

"What?" Cassian asked.

"I know that if you're away from her for more than a day, the pain in your leg will come back, so I wanted to ask you to come with us."

"You know I don't like to leave the palace."

"I know, but I think you need to get out too. And by the way, if you don't come, neither will the princess. I can't let you suffer."

Cassian hated leaving the palace. He didn't like others seeing him limping as he walked. Although Abril's magic helped him feel better, the way he walked still showed the aftereffects of his injury. He said, "I'll think about it."

"Alright, let me know when you've decided. There's still time before that day comes."

Alessandro stood up and said, "I have to go to work. See you at dinner."

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After Alessandro left, Cassian went to look for Abril. He didn't want to be with them during dinner. Seeing them flirt in front of him was painful. When Cassian asked about Abril, one of the maids told him that she was having breakfast in the garden and led him to where she was.

That day, Abril was wearing a yellow dress with white lace decorations. Her long red hair was tied in a braid with a white ribbon. She looked beautiful.

Seeing him, Abril raised her hand and called out, "Hello, Cassian."

She was smiling at him, and at that moment, he felt like they were the only ones in that garden. It was as if everything else had ceased to matter.

Cassian approached her and greeted her. "Good morning, Abril. What are you doing?"

"It's such a wonderful day today that I decided to have breakfast outside. Have you had breakfast yet?" Abril asked.

"I haven't yet," Cassian replied.

"Would you like to join me?"

"Yes, I would love to."

One of the maids went to get a chair for Cassian.



As they waited for her to return, Cassian saw that Abril was throwing food under the table and asked, "What are you doing?"

Abril lifted the tablecloth and said, "Feeding Koda. He won't come out from under the table."

When the maid returned with the chair, Cassian sat down opposite the princess. She said, "His Majesty has told me he would like to take me on the next inspection. I'm very excited about it."

Abril told him with a big smile on her lips.

"Are you excited about going with him?"

"Since I arrived here, I've only been out once. It was when I went to the temple. That time I was very nervous about what was going to happen, so I couldn't appreciate anything."

"It will be boring being with my brother during his inspection. Besides, you will only go to small towns. There is nothing worth seeing there."

"Perhaps, but it will be the first time I go out, so I am looking forward to it. I have always been locked up, both here and in the kingdom of Laios, so even if it is boring or there is nothing to see, I want to go out and see for myself."

After hearing how much Abril was looking forward to leaving the castle, Cassian couldn't refuse to go. She asked him, "Will you be going too?"

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"Yes, I'll go with you."

Abril smiled broadly and said, "I'm looking forward to that day. I'm sure we'll have a great time."



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