

## Hellbound Heart #Chapter 141 -150

### Black Forest - Read Hellbound Heart Chapter 141 Black Forest

This chapter is dedicated to @Yaritza\_16!!! Thank you so very much for the supergift!!!  
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Elle had been expecting an eerie or even mossy and damp forest. But this was... she blinked multiple times to make sure her eyes were not deceiving her.

The trees were still dark and their bark was almost a blackish hue. However, that was the end of the darkness. All over the forest floor, it was covered with snow-white flowers. The flowers were like nothing she had ever seen before. They were like a cross between a dandelion and a daisy. She could not quite describe it properly even to herself. But what she knew was, they were gorgeous! Elle felt as though she had stepped into a meadow that had snow falling and covering every inch of it, but the snowflakes were in the shape of flowers!

"Oh lord... Abi!! This is absolutely beautiful!!!" she exclaimed at Abi with eyes so wide and Abi just giggled at her reaction. Abi had been waiting to see how Elle would react when she saw this. She knew she would not be disappointed as Elle's reaction was cuter than she had imagined it to be.

"You've been expecting something dark and creepy, weren't you?" Abi grinned and Elle nodded her head almost like a rattle.

"Yes, I was... I felt that this forest wouldn't be normal. But little did I expect that it would be this amazing! This is straight from a fantasy tale! I think I might have died and gone to heaven..."

"I'm glad the view surprised you in a good way." Abi replied and then they continued walking forward.

Elle glanced excitedly at Sebastian and she was pleasantly surprised to notice a faint surprise in his eyes. As if he too, was a little shocked at the view that had welcomed them.

Curious, Elle asked. "Is this your first time here?"

Sebastian halted in his steps and met her gaze. Somehow, Elle was starting to feel that the deeper they reached into the forest, the heavier Sebastian's aura seemed to become. He was obviously trying to hide it not only from her, but also from Alexander and Abigail. But with her this close to him, she could feel it!

"Y-you looked a little surprised so I'm curious." Elle added, trying to lighten up the atmosphere.

"The place wasn't like this the last time I was here." Sebastian's calm reply made Elle breathe out in relief. She was worried something serious was going on with him.

"Really? It wasn't this beautiful and enchanting before?"

"It was a..." he suddenly trailed off as he looked around the now seemingly completely different place. "Yes. It was the complete opposite from before."

"Actually, this place just recently changed." Alexander butted in after listening in to their conversation, glancing at Elle over his shoulder.

"Recently?"

"Hmm... about four years now, I think. These tiny flowers did not exist anywhere else except in the heart of this forest only."

"Uhm... did someone... uhm... planted these flowers and they spread... out?" Elle somehow felt like she was asking a stupid question. Just one glance at the tiny flowers covering the ground was... it was nothing like she had ever seen before. The tiny flowers were so unusual yet mesmerizing that she did not think they existed anywhere else on earth but here!

"Hmm... we'll leave it at that for now. Sebastian will tell you more about it maybe once we leave." Alex chuckled and the group went on deeper into the enchanting forest.

Conversation soon ceased because the moment the scenery changed as they reached near the heart of the forest, all she could do now was gasp and gape in wonder at the scenery around and above her.

The trees still had the same almost black colored bark. But that was where the similarities ended. These trees were massive, tall and straight, reaching far up into the sky that Elle could not quite see where the canopy was. And what was interesting and breathtaking about these trees was that their leaves were all white! Snow white as though each and every leaf were totally covered in snow. The only other color in them were tiny little flowers blooming between those snow-white leaves, in a blush pink hue. Elle felt that her breath was literally stolen from out of her lungs as she turned around, open-mouthed to take in such a bewitching scene.

"Oh my lord..." she uttered in a whisper before rubbing her eyes as though to clear them. "What is this place? Are we still on Earth?"

She heard Alexander chuckling ahead of them at her comment and then looked back. "Yes, Izabelle. We're still on earth. Don't worry, no one teleported us to a different world or something."

"This place shouldn't be called the Black Forest! This should be called White Forest!" Elle exclaimed in indignation.

"That name's pretty fair." Alexander agreed and Abigail seconded it with a nod.

"I can't believe this... that such a place exists here on Earth! Don't tell me fairies live here too?! This certainly looks like where faeries would live!" she gasped at Sebastian at what she had blurted.

"It's not fairies." He told her. "But witches."

Elle blinked. The hype in her eyes dropped a little. Not because she was disappointed that it was witches who lived here and not fairies. And also, not because she was scared that he just said witches do exist. At this point she was not even shocked to hear that anymore because somehow, it was easier to believe that witches exist than vampires and fairies.

What made her expression change was because of the look that flashed in his eyes the moment he mentioned the word 'witches'. Did Sebastian hate witches?

A sound of flapping wings " wings that must be bigger than the largest eagle's wings " echoed above them, pulling Elle's attention away from Sebastian.

She looked up and then around, wondering what bird could be so large to have made that sound. "Azy!!! That's cheating!!! Get back here!!!" another boy's voice echoed in the forest which Elle recognized to be the voice belonging to Alexis - Alexander and Abi's son.

But Elle kept looking up, finding the source of the flapping wing's sound and what she saw had her world completely shattering into pieces in that split second. It was not even a bird. It was a... oh lord... a boy was up there!

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A/N: See the pictures of the trees in the comment box. Or follow me on instagram @kazzenlx.x to see the HD pics of Black Forest

This mass release is dedicated to the supergifters @Sacogun, @MonsterUnderTheBed, @Ivette\_M11, @Babsia, @Yaritza, @chinawa, @edi\_o, @royan75, @Hollygolightly.

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The kind of massive bird or flying creature Elle had been expecting to see was not there. Instead, what she saw was a boy standing on top of a tree branch. There was no bird or any winged creature. Just a boy with bright grey eyes, raven black hair, and... he was extremely handsome.

Elle creased her brows when she caught herself actually trying to search if there were wings attached to the back of the boy. But of course there were none and she could not help but laugh at herself inwardly at the things that were crossing her mind. But she really heard the flappings of really large wings! That means there should be something which had produced that sound. And for it to sound so strong, it must be quite significant in size. Did the bird suddenly disappear or something?!

However, her attention was quickly pulled from the flying creature the moment her eyes met the boy's vivid grey ones. There was no doubt that this must be the nephew Abi had been mentioning from time to time.

One look and Elle could tell that there was no doubt he really was Sebastian's nephew. He could actually even pass as his son! That was how much similarities the boy had to Sebastian's features. It was hard to deny their genetic traits that run through the both of them.

As their gazes held, Elle could not react for a while. The boy seemed to have a gaze so compelling and mesmerizing, it was hard for one to look away. Even in his young age, Elle could feel the impact of his aura. It instantly gave the impression that he would grow up to be someone very influential and mighty in the future.

"Seb... the boy... won't he fall from up there?" Elle uttered as she lightly tugged on Sebastian's sleeve, not taking her eyes off the boy. She suddenly felt a gush of worry for him as the height where he stood was really quite high up for a child like him.

Before she could hear any response from Sebastian, the boy launched himself off the branch he was on, jumping off, causing Elle to catch her breath and place both her hands on each other over her chest.

But he landed so fluidly. Graceful and as flexible as a cat that Elle just stared at him, completely speechless.

Quietly, the boy approached them and halted a few steps from them. His gaze shifted from Sebastian to her and he gave her a polite, respectful nod. He did not speak at all and Elle was surprised because what the boy gave her was a kind of silent greeting only mature adults should be able to pull off.

When he returned his gaze back to Sebastian, Elle finally turned to face Sebastian and what she saw next had her brows creasing. Sebastian looked... he looked so stony faced. He was so emotionless that Elle grew nervous and whipped her gaze towards the boy again with worry in her eyes. She was afraid that the boy would misconstrue Sebastian's statue-like greeting as being not welcoming his presence and would think that his uncle wanted to chase him off.

However, she was once again shocked to see that the boy was wearing almost the very same expression as what Sebastian had on his face! W-what was going on? This could not be how these uncle and nephew greet each other, could they?! Elle kept looking over from Sebastian to the boy, from uncle to nephew, not knowing what to say, until she felt herself becoming dizzy from looking back and forth.

No one spoke as the two just stared into each other's eyes, not looking away, as though wanting to see who would give up and look away first.

Elle waited for Sebastian to say something. But he kept silent, causing Elle to feel like she was suddenly trapped in the midst of an extremely awkward situation. She wanted to tug at Sebastian's sleeve again and gesture for him to speak but she could not bring herself to do it. She did not know why, but she felt as though... Sebastian was going through something internally. He was not trembling or exuding any deadly and extreme killing aura right now, unlike what happened to him last night at the club. But... his indifference and kind of uncanny calmness right now was certainly not something normal!

When no one spoke even after a few more moments, Elle decided that she needed to break the stalemate. Even if the two could go on and not be affected by the staring contest, she could not! She felt as though her heart was about to burst out of her chest with the pressure building around them.

"Hello," Elle smiled genuinely at the boy, bending a little to get closer to him and not tower over him. "My name is Izabelle. What's your name, dear?" Her voice was friendly and calm as she introduced herself.

The boy's attention immediately shifted from Sebastian to her. His completely blank expression changed into what seemed like a little surprise. But it then immediately changed into something else... was he feeling shy or uncomfortable communicating with her?

"His name is Azriel." Sebastian suddenly spoke up, surprising Elle. She did not think that the man-turned-statue would unfreeze and willingly speak. "He can't... talk."

Elle lifted her head up with a start and turned her wide-eyes to look at Sebastian, only to see his jaws clenching for a moment at what he had just told her.

"But don't worry, Princess Izabelle." Alexis was suddenly right behind Azriel, grinning at Elle as he draped his arm around his cousin.

"I'm right here as Azy's interpreter. You want to say 'it's a pleasure to meet your aunt, right?'" Alexis asked and Azriel nodded at Elle, confirming what his cousin had just said.

Elle could not help but feel her heart melt at the gesture of how both cousins interacted with each other. It was clear that Azriel had an exceptionally close bond with Alexis. Or else, Alexis would not be able to tell what Azriel wanted to say only by looking at his eyes and body language.

"Aw, thank you. It's such a pleasure to meet you too, Azriel." Elle's eyes gleamed gently at the boy as she smiled cheerfully. It was hard to explain, but she already felt like she adored this boy.

"He would like it if you called him Azy too, right, Azy?"

The boy nodded again, impressing Elle.

"And he thinks that you are so very beautiful, Princess Izabelle..." Alexis grinned, "right, Azy?"

Azriel seemed to be caught off guard by Alexis' words, but he eventually gave a shy nod, before lightly elbowing his cousin, causing Elle to giggle.

"You two are so adorable." Elle told them. She was so touched at how Alexis seemed to really know what Azy wanted to say. "I am so happy to meet you too Azy. And I'm happy to see you again too, Alexis. Oh..." Elle wrapped her hands around Sebastian's arms, "your uncle is also very happy to see you both as well."

Alexis looked at Azy but even after a few moments, Alexis seemed to choose not to speak for Azy. Or perhaps, he could not read what Azy wanted to say at that moment. He instead faced Elle again and smiled, changing the topic of conversation. "Mom and dad had already gone on ahead. So Azy and I will be the ones to escort you both."

Elle quickly shot her gaze towards where Abi and Alexander were standing earlier. They were already gone and she did not even notice when they had slipped away!

The four of them then started walking further into the magical, beautiful forest. And as Elle watched the two young boys' back, it then dawned on her that they too, were actually... not humans. It was amazing how she had completely forgotten about that fact while she was speaking to them despite seeing how Azy had jumped down from that height. Right now, she realized that she was with three... vampires and she was not even feeling anything remotely negative. As though to her, they were nothing but normal, harmless people.

Glancing over at Sebastian, Elle noticed that he was still expressionless. She wished that she could have seen the Sebastian from last night again – the Sebastian who did not bother to wear a calm and expressionless mask before her. But more than that, the further they went inside this forest, the more curious she became.

What was the reason behind all his reactions? And why was he treating his nephew so indifferently? And what was with Azriel's attitude towards him too? Why were this pair of uncle and nephew so weird?

No matter how she tried, she could not fathom the relationship between this uncle and nephew. She had never thought that was how they would treat each other the moment they met!

"Princess Izabelle," Alexis called out, turning back at them as he walked backwards. "I hope you find this place beautiful."

"Beautiful is even an understatement." Elle replied, loving how Alexis was such a cheerful boy.

"Right! Alice and I loved it here so much because it's such a pretty and peaceful place where we could roam around freely and play with Azy without any worries."

Elle was about to ask why they would feel worried but she held her tongue, realizing that they were vampires and that it was definitely a secret. Now that she thought about it, how could they have hidden this secret all this time? And why were the kids already... vampires? Were vampires not turned when they were at least older or else they would not grow up?

Her mind started to whirl from all the thoughts so she forced herself to stop thinking about it once again.

"Aunt and Alice would definitely be surprised to see you both, Princess Izabelle. We are only expecting mom and dad to arrive today." Alexis added, filling in the silence.

"Just call me aunt too, Alexis." Elle told the boy, not wanting him to address her so formally anymore.

Alexis scratched the back of his neck. "But..."

"Call her 'aunt', Alexis." Sebastian's voice echoed, causing Azy to turn around as well. And whatever he saw in his uncle's expression had his lips tugging up ever so slightly.

The two boys looked at each other and then turned their backs from them. "But we really don't think 'aunt' suits her, uncle. 'Princess Izabelle' gives a much nicer ring to it, right Azy?"



Azy nodded not once but twice and Elle could do nothing but giggle at the realization that the two boys were teasing their stone-faced uncle.

"We're finally here!" Alexis's cheerful voice echoed out as the two boys stopped and looked behind them. "This is Azy's house and where we've been staying at the past few days."

Elle looked ahead and saw a Victorian house in the middle of the woods. It was a three storey house that had beautiful floor-to-ceiling windows all over. There was a large chimney and a smaller one to the side, letting Elle guess that there might be two fireplaces in this house - one main one and another one perhaps in the master bedroom. The whole house was painted in grey and even the roof slates were of the same color. However, with charming warm lights lighting up the house, it gave off a very homely and welcoming feel to anyone who was looking in from the outside, despite being such a large and stately house.

She could imagine living a secluded but peaceful life here. The white flowers in the front yard as well as the vast beautiful forest was definitely something that could be called a safe haven for the young vampires.

"Azy is welcoming you both into their home, Princess Izabelle." Alexis said the moment they stood by the door.

"Thank you for having us, Azy." Elle replied with a smile when the door swung open.

Lifting her gaze, Elle stilled at the sight of the woman who had opened the door.

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A/N: check the pic of the house in the comment box.

Elle somehow felt as though she had forgotten how to speak at the sight of the woman who emerged from the large mahogany double doors of the mansion. Long, seemingly glowing silver hair cascaded down in luscious and sexy waves to her waist and when Elle lifted her eyes to meet hers, they just looked simply otherworldly.

There was only one thing Elle could think about at the sight of her. Goddess. She is a literal goddess in the flesh! Elle did not think that it would be possible for a person to look so perfectly beautiful until she saw this woman before her.

"Auntie, Azy and I present to you, Princess Izabelle." Alexis' voice rang as they stepped aside and introduced Elle.

The moment Elle met her gaze, Elle was almost certain she saw surprise in the silver-haired woman's eyes. It was almost as though something shocked her at the sight of her.



But that look in her eyes was quick to completely disappear, making Elle feel a little suspicious.

"Oh my... I am so happy Sebastian finally brought you over here, Izabelle!" the goddess-like woman was quick to rush over to stand right before Elle, as if she was suddenly excited at the thought of meeting her. "My name is Alicia, Azy's mother and Sebastian's sister-in-law."

Alicia spoke so friendly and yet still so naturally regal in every way. She carried herself and spoke like she was someone who was born to be a queen.

Elle also felt her feelings and those smiles were genuine. She was welcoming her warmly just like how Abi had been to her when they first met.

However, that name... it was not the same... right? This goddess-like woman was Alicia, not... Alysa... it is different. It is not her, right?

"It's a pleasure to meet you too, A... Alicia." Elle tried her best to stay composed, smiling back at the woman. "No, it cannot be her... Right?!"

When Alicia shifted her gaze to Sebastian, gladness seemed to flash across her eyes as she smiled at him. "Alright, you two, please come in first."

As Alicia led them to the door, Elle glanced over at Sebastian. And what she saw in his expression... she felt like someone had suddenly tossed her heart in the middle of an ocean and now it was sinking rapidly into the deep cold darkness of the waters.

Sebastian continued staring at her as they followed behind. She could not exactly fathom his expression but the way he looked at her was... Elle finds it a little too intense. As if just the sight of Alicia was enough to make him forget everything else but only focus on whatever it was about her that he was thinking about.

And it... caused her an unimaginable hurt. Her overthinking mind had immediately come up with the conclusion that the woman in his dreams was... her... that woman he had been calling out in his dreams was this oh so ethereally beautiful lady. She could not make herself believe otherwise. Because this was the first time she had ever seen Sebastian's attention gotten completely fixed on another woman while she was around. This was the first time she had seen him stare at another woman to this extent.

Forcing her eyes off him, Elle silently fisted her hands into her coat. She clenched her fists so tight that her knuckles turned white as she tried to calm herself. And she was secretly biting her inner cheeks hard. Even then, she maintained her smile, keeping it light and calm.

When she saw Abi holding a tray as she came walking out from the kitchen, Elle tried to shift her gaze to the interior of the house, trying to distract herself as she was afraid that

Abi would notice something. They have interacted enough that she was sure Abi could pick up on her fluctuating emotions.

Alicia led them both to sit on the couch in the living room. The living room was just as what you would expect of a Victorian house. As Elle looked around, she noticed that the architecture was very fancy and decorative. And there was a large but cozy looking bay window that made Elle wish to girl up there with a book and while her time away. Remembering that upon their arrival, she noticed that each floor had at least one bay window facing the entrance, it was clear that the design was as Victorian as it can get. She was even guessing that every single room on the first and second floor had a bay window. And what was interesting was that the bay window that she was looking at, had a very tasteful and elegant stained glass motif on it.

As her eyes strayed to the ceiling, she also noticed that the house had high ceilings with ornate carvings along the wooden beams that run across the ceiling. Even the staircase that she spotted at the far corner, had intricate wooden trimmings along the banister. Though large, the house still had the comforting aura of a home. All in all, it was a warm and gorgeous house.

"Elle dear, do you want to come over and give me a helping hand in the kitchen?" Abi whispered to her and Elle immediately sprung from the couch. "But I think I need to go to the bathroom first, Abi. Can you show me where the bathroom is?"

"Of course, dear."

As they headed to the bathroom, Abi kept glancing over at her with concern in her eyes. "Are you okay, dear? You look a little â€œ"

Elle forced a smile. "I'm fine... don't worry about me Abi. I think... this is just me, adjusting myself with all... these... new things I'm finding out."

"Oh, Elle." Abi hugged her and smiled at her gently. "I understand, dear. If you need some space or need anything at all for the matter, or want to do something, just tell me, okay?"

Elle nodded at her. "I will. Thank you, Abi. Please don't wait for me. I'll be back there in a few minutes."

"Take your time, dear."

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[Hellbound Heart Chapter 145 Too Well 4/5](#)

The moment Elle shut the bathroom's door close behind her, she buried her face into her palms. Her breaths became a little fast as the memories of Sebastian calling out

that name in his sleep flashed across her mind. Her eyes burned and her throat stung so bad.

Slowly, she leaned against the door and looked up at the ceiling. A bitter and ironic smile started to tug at the corners of her lips as the memories from last night flooded into her mind next.

Last night truly was too good to be true. His sweetness... those confessions or whatever they were... they had been so out of the norm that she felt like she was dreaming. And now, here she was. She had been so happy last night that she felt a fleeting fear of feeling such a level of happiness in a very long time. Now she knows why. She should have known that when things are going too well, it truly was too good to be true. Feeling that pang of pain in her heart, she laughed mockingly at herself.

Taking another deep breath, Elle went to the sink and washed her face. She took all the time she needed and did not rush through. When she finally felt composed enough for her liking, she finally left the bathroom.

She heard the kids laughing alongside Alexander's rumbling chuckles.

The atmosphere in the living room was warm and almost magical. Abi and Alicia were chatting merrily, Alexander was playing with the kids while Alice sat right next to him, and Sebastian was sitting next to Alex and drinking some red wine silently. Observing from the side, they all seemed to be creating a beautiful and harmonious family spending time relaxing together at home. She could not see where Sebastian's attention was focused on as his back was facing her. But just as she was about to study the angle of his head, she quickly closed her eyes and scolded herself thoroughly to stop doing this. She was considering whether to stand there or approach them when she realized that she could not go anywhere else. Sighing out silently, she prepared to walk over.

Her gaze met with Alicia's and she smiled gently at her.

Elle noticed the flash of concern in her eyes so she smiled back and approached them. This warm, lovely family... this family of unordinary people she was not really sure she could even be able to belong to... ever.

Upon joining them, Elle's mood slowly shifted. The kids ogled over her but she was really glad because they managed to completely distract her from the negative thoughts and feelings that were threatening to overwhelm her. If she were to be allowed to stew in her own thoughts and entertain more thoughts, she was not sure if she could maintain her calm facade.

Until Elle found herself playing chess against Azy. In the middle of their mundane but certainly refreshing and warm conversations, Elle had mentioned she liked playing chess by herself.

Alexis had exclaimed that Azy was also very good at chess. And so, the two somehow ended up playing while everyone was watching quietly.

Elle had just made a surprise capture of Azy's queen and it seemed like the boy was going to lose. Even Elle was quite confident that she would win the game with just one more move. She tried to not show her pleasure as she was playing against a young boy, but in her heart, this game was in the bag.

However, Azy's next move had Elle and everyone else looking at Azy with shock on their faces. His move did not only capture Elle's queen in return, but it had also put his bishop in an undefended square that would also be a palpable threat to Elle's king. That was a move that had totally amazed and stumped the adults, especially Elle.

Elle shook her head in amazement as she smiled at the boy. If this was an official game, Elle would have already resigned as she knew the game was already over. But she continued until Azy checkmated her. The game had made Elle realize that this young boy was genius as that move he made was something that takes a lot of creativity and calculations and vision beyond a measurable scope. He was simply amazing!

"You're amazing, Azy!" Elle could not stop feeling amazed. But with this, now she must grant a request to Azy in exchange for her loss.

"Azy wants everyone to stay for the night." It was Alice who did the interpretation this time.

p When Azy nodded, Elle bit her lower lip. She had not expected him to ask for them to spend the night here. But she had lost and now she had to say yes even though a part of her wanted to go home tonight.

Their company was enjoyable. Everyone was warm and she loved the children. Alicia too was very friendly and she could tell she was such a great woman and an amazing mother. Her awesomeness as Azy's mom was truly commendable. And it could be seen at how wonderfully Azy had been raised up till now.

But it was her who felt insecure. She had not glanced at Sebastian even once the entire time since they had entered the house because she was trying to avoid anything that would ruin her mood. It was very hard for her to hide her emotions when it comes to him, so she really martialed against herself the entire time to keep her focus away from him, afraid that she would find him staring at Alicia again.

"Sure." Elle nodded and the children rejoiced. It was apparent they still could not have had enough with each other's company that they still wanted an extension of their vacation. It made Elle wonder why the twins could only visit Azy here during their school holidays. They can travel over within minutes all the way here and in a seemingly

effortless way. So she wondered why the twins could not seem to be allowed to come over to play with Azy any time they wanted.

## [Hellbound Heart #Chapter 146 Dinner \[5/5\] - Read Hellbound Heart Chapter 146 Dinner \[5/5\]](#)

Despite the fact that Elle was a little reluctant when she agreed to staying the night, the rest of the day was unexpectedly enjoyable. She had been ready to feel all awkward or even a little miffed out after feeling weirded out by the speculated connection between Sebastian and Alicia. So it was a good thing that she managed to shift her focus and enjoyed herself as much as she did.

They had gotten out of the house after their lunch and the kids merrily brought Elle to tour around. They had rushed all the adults to quickly finish their lunch as they could not wait to show off each of their favorite spots to Elle. One of Elle's favorites was Alice's tree house because it was just so cute. Looking at the tree house, Elle could see that it fits her personality perfectly.

The young girl said that it was her dad who made the house for her three years ago and she loved playing in it ever since. The only thing better was if she could come play in it even more often.

Every place they brought Elle to visit was just too heartbreakingly beautiful for her not to just forget everything else and stand there, watching in awe. She felt like she was in a massive magical park that had lots of beauty to offer. For her, this was an ultimate sightseeing escapade.

Soon, they had arrived at a beautiful waterfall perfectly hidden somewhere in the forest. It did not have much volume of water, but she thought that it was what gave the waterfall its unique beauty. The white flowers that crept all over the stones along the banks and beside the falls, made the place look even more mystical and fantastical.

The boys climbed up there and stood over the rushing waters.

By now, Elle was not even gushing anymore whenever the kids leap and run and jump anywhere and everywhere. She was now getting pretty used to it as if what they were doing was a normal, everyday thing that kids their age would get involved in.

Alexander and Abi themselves too, were already happily playing around and enjoying themselves in the clear light blue water. It was so clear that Elle swore if there were no one in it, she would even mistake it for a mirror.

"Elle, come on in! Join us!" Abi yelled, waiving at Elle happily.

Feeling quite tempted to jump in and swim, Elle whipped around to ask Sebastian to go along with her. But her enthusiasm quickly dulled at the sight of him sitting there and looking extremely serious.

"Let's go swim, Sebastian." She still invited him.

"Go on, Izabelle. I'll stay here and watch over all the stuff." Was all he said and Elle did not bother to persuade him anymore.

She resigned herself to it. Taking off her outer clothes, Elle jumped into the water in her two-piece swimsuit and was determined to enjoy herself.

Soon, she somehow ended up stealing Abi from Alexander again and she only realized it when Alexander climbed off the water and joined Sebastian as they sat there at the banks, watching the ladies and the kids frolicking around in the water.

"I hope Alexander won't mind me stealing you again." Elle grinned apologetically at Abi. She truly did feel sorry towards Alexander. It was not on purpose that she moved closer to Abi and ended up taking so much of her time and attention that Alex turned out to be the third wheel. In fact, if there was anyone to be blamed, the fault should fall on Sebastian's head.

"Don't worry about it, Elle. I hope you are enjoying yourself." Abi only laughed good-naturedly and waved off her concerns. She knew her husband would make a fuss later and be childish about it for a while, but that was only because he loves to tease her and enjoy her method of making up to him.

"I am... Thank you for inviting me to come over here, Abi. This place is truly an eye opener for me."

"I'm glad to hear that, Elle."

As they continued to chat, their conversation went on further and deeper, and Elle finally found the courage to ask some burning questions that had been spinning around in her mind.

"Is Alicia a vampire too?" Elle finally asked, as she and Abi sat on top of a rock in the middle of the waterfall's shallow lagoon.

"She's actually... both. Half vampire and a half witch now."

"Oh... is that why her hair is silver and she looks like a goddess?" Elle fought hard to keep her tone curious and light.

"Yes. Alicia's hair returned to its silvery hue again after the incident four years ago. And that's why..." Abi trailed off but after staring at Elle, she continued. "She and Azy then moved over to live here in the Black Forest."

"Is it because of her... unusual appearance?" Elle did not quite understand why it was necessary for Alicia and Azy to live here.

"Hmm... that too but the main reason is because of Azy."

Elle was about to ask again when Alexander's voice echoed, calling out for them and telling them that it was time for them to leave.

The duo then realized that it was indeed getting late so they immediately cut their conversation short and climbed out of the water.

It was getting dark when they finally returned to Alicia's house. They could smell a feast waiting for them. It seems that Alicia had left them late in the afternoon for a good reason. It was to prepare for their fancy dinner!

After the pleasant and fulfilling dinner, the kids retired for the night first. So now, the once lively house slowly turned a little quiet.

While Alexander, Abi and Elle were enjoying their wine in the living room, Sebastian went to smoke outside. Alicia, who had just come from the boy's room, saw him going out and followed him.

"I'm really glad you finally came over, Sebby." Alicia started. "I believe this is all because of Izabelle, right?"

Sebastian quietly blew smoke and then turned to her.

"How are you?" He asked with a serious expression as though he didn't hear anything she had just said.

Alicia blinked and then she shrugged. "I'm doing great, as you can see."

His jaws clenched and shook his head before sucking furiously on his cigarette again.

"Please don't worry too much about me and Azy anymore, Sebastian. Everything is fine \_."

"You always say that... you always say everything is fine when it isn't!" He hissed at her before facing away.

Alicia just stared at him calmly. But after a while she faced ahead and looked up at the starry sky. "I can handle my and Azy's situation. Abi and Alexander are right here with



me so rest assured that everything is going to be fine. And more importantly, I came out here to tell you that you should be worrying about your wife the most instead, Sebastian. Izabelle is..." Alicia trailed off as Sebastian whipped his head towards her.

"Izabelle is what?"

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A/N: Hello hellbounders, reader Sacogun requested for me to put the challenge she posted in the FB GC here so all readers could see it. She said that she will gift a Golden Gachapon for each 200 Golden Tickets donated by 9-29, to help HH get top 1 rank in GT ranking for September.

Thank you so much in advance for the ones who will support! There will be another mass release waiting if we reach our goal. Let's do this hellbounders!

Abi kept glancing over at Izabelle. She was with Alex on the twin couch while Elle plopped herself down by the window, holding her wine glass.

Wanting to give her space to enjoy the night scenery, Abi did not approach her for another chat. But then, Abi noticed the subtle changes in Elle's stance, causing her to slightly crease her brows.

She contemplated if it was better for her to allow Elle to have some breathing space, or approach her. After thinking for a while, Abi rose from her seat and decided to approach Elle. For some reason, Abi was starting to feel that the reason behind Elle's somewhat strange expressions sometimes was not all because of the new realities that she had learned. Abi felt like there was something else that was bothering her. And her instincts were telling her that if this was not settled, it would be bad.

When she was about to speak to get Elle's attention, Abi was speechless as soon as she saw where her eyes were riveted to. Her gaze flew back to Elle again and her eyes widened at the realization that dawned to her.

Elle's expression was almost too serene, like a placid lake, as though she was looking out at the beautiful scenery of the front yard. But the look in her eyes gave away her complicated emotions to Abi. There was... hurt in them. Oh dear...

"Elle...?" Abi called out her name to get her attention.

She whipped her gaze up, startled a little by the unexpected call. Blinking a couple of times, she took some time before she could respond to Abi's call. "Yes?"

"Oh, sorry for startling you."

"No, that's alright. I think the wine had gotten to me and is making me space out." Elle forced a chuckle at the sight of concern in Abi's face, before shaking her head and massaging her right temple with her fingers.

"Uhm... dear. Can we have a talk outside?"

Elle blinked at Abi, now curious as to why Abi suddenly wanted to talk to her privately. Could it be that she had noticed something? She would not put it past Abi to miss out on her fluctuating emotions that were quickly getting dark and depressed. Nibbling on the inside of her lip, Elle nodded. "Of course, Abi." There was no reason for her to refuse. She could only draw in a steadying breath before following after her.

Abi led her to the other exit at the side of the house. There was also another large and perfectly kept back yard on this side. And Elle noticed that it was as beautiful as the front yard where tiny flowers were blooming and were now actually looking like they were glowing in the dark. She just could not help but be awed at the magical feel of everything in this place. For a moment, Elle forgot her worries and was engrossed in drinking in the beauty of nature as she stood, looking around and appreciating it.

However, Abi walked a few more steps forward before stopping. In the midst of the glowing flowers, Abi turned around to face Elle.

"It's been more than ten years since I met Alicia," Abi started, looking back to the house behind Elle. Elle perked up, thinking that Abi was wanting to tell her a story related to Alicia and herself. "I first saw her in Whitefalls but I actually officially met her here in the Black Forest. I never thought she would one day become the sister that I never had. So, when she and Ezekiel fell in love and got married, I was truly happy."

"Ezekiel is... the eldest Prince, right?" Elle asked hesitantly. She already knew that this was the name of Reigns' eldest prince.

Abi nodded. "Ezekiel is... he's such an amazing man. He's the most intelligent man I've ever known. He's the best doctor too."

"D-doctor? The prince is a doctor?!" Elle's eyes widened. Was he not a vampire prince?

A wide grin flashed across Abi's face. "He is a doctor and also a tycoon back in the day. He was the one who had saved me back then. He managed to successfully remove my tumor and he also saved... another little girl that was like my little sister back then."

"Wow... that's amazing." Elle could not help but be amazed at what she was hearing. She would never have imagined that the man Sebastian did not want to even mention was this amazing! To think that he was both a surgeon and a tycoon was simply terrific! "I can already imagine him as such an incredibly cool and heroic person."

Abi chuckled. "Actually, Zeke was a... how should I put it... he's like Sebastian at times, but Zeke was worse because he never shows any emotions no matter the circumstance. He's quite a savage mastermind too."

Elle's lips formed a small 'o'. The word 'mastermind' reminds her of Azy's game play this morning. It seems the genius in Azy was something that was passed down from his father.

"What happened to him? To Prince Ezekiel?" Elle finally asked the burning question in her mind. "Where is he now?"

The change in Abi's expression told Elle that something... sad... had happened. That caused her to brace herself for what she would hear next. She prayed within herself that the prince was still with them and maybe he had just gone away somewhere far. And that was why he could not be here with his family.

But just as Abi was about to answer her, something jolted Abi and had her eyes stretching wide as she whipped her head towards the house.

"Oh, god." Abi uttered as they saw something like a dark wisp of smoke coming from the house.

"Stay here, Elle!" Abi told her and then she ran off into the house, leaving Elle standing there and looking up, paralyzed as she started to hear a shrill, agonizing scream that seemed to belong to a boy.

This bonus chapter is dedicated to @Ivette\_M11!! Thank you very much for the supergifts!!! <3 <3

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Elle's heart drummed so hard as she forced her feet to move. The screams did not seem to belong to Alexis. So, it could only mean that the one screaming was... Azy!

The magical and peaceful atmosphere suddenly made a 180 turn in the blink of an eye. It was like a fierce storm that had appeared out of nowhere and without any warning.

And Elle did not know what to do. What was... going on? Why was Azy screaming like he was being tortured to the extreme?

When Elle was about to reach the door, she suddenly felt like it was getting harder for her to breathe. Was it because of this smoke-like thing that had appeared? Could this be some kind of poisonous smoke?

The door swung open and Alexander emerged, holding Alice in his arms.

Alexis also came out and shut the door closed behind him.

"Izabelle, I'm sorry but we need to leave this instant." Alexander informed her and then he came at her like a blur.

The next thing she knew, she was hoisted and carried over Alexander's shoulder and they were already moving away from Alicia's house at bullet speed.

Elle turned and was about to protest as she saw it was only Alexis that was following after them. But the moment she turned, she saw Alice hugging her father's neck and crying as she looked ahead behind them. Her silent but heaving sobs caused the words to die before they could even leave Elle's lips.

Everything had happened too fast and before Elle knew it, they had arrived back at Alexander's house.

He slowly put her down by the door. Elle was about to bombard Alexander with questions but she managed to hold her tongue the moment she saw him squatting before his children and coaxing Alice to stop crying gently.

"Azy is going to be alright, right? Daddy?" Alice could not stop crying while Alexis just stood there silently, clenching his fists tight with his head hung down low.

"Don't worry. He'll be fine. Daddy's going to go back there to help. So don't cry anymore and wait here, okay? I promise Azy will be fine." Alexander promised and with that Alice nodded, wiping away her tears with the backs of her hands. However, though she promised, she still could not help but continue to sniffle.

"Okay, daddy. Please go now. We will wait here." She said obediently and Alexander kissed the little girl's head. Such a respectful and lovely young girl... it was impossible not to love her.

"Good girl," Alexander rubbed the girl's head with fondness shining in his eyes before he looked over at Alexis. "I'm leaving your sister and your aunt here into your care for a while, Alexis. You okay?"

Alexis nodded firmly without hesitation. "Yes, dad. I'll take care of them."

Elle noticed how the boy looked so emotional but he was trying his best to be strong.

"Alright, get inside, all of you. And don't come out until I'm back." Alexander patted his son's shoulder and then he finally stood and faced Elle.

"I know you are very confused with everything that is going on right now, Elle. But we will definitely explain everything that happens when things settle down. But for now, stay with Alexis and Alice as I need to return there as soon as I can."

Biting the inside of her lower lip, Elle nodded and with that, the three of them entered the house.

As soon as Alexander turned away from the door, a golden-haired man landed before him.

"I'm leaving their safety to you for now, Caelian." Alexander said in a low voice and as soon as the man named Caelian nodded, Alexander immediately left. He knew what was not said as well. 'If anything bad happens to them, it will be your head on the chopping block.'

...

The sun was already up and shining brightly when Elle woke up the next morning. She carefully and quietly moved to leave the bed as Alice was still fast asleep.

Elle had gone over and slept in Alice's room to console and comfort her as she knew the girl was truly shaken. Though she was being brave and had stopped crying so sadly as she had done earlier, Elle could still see how she was holding back and the slight tremble in her petite frame could be seen. She did not ask the kids any questions and simply tried her best to just be there for them, but she realized from Alexis' reactions that this was not the first time this happened.

And now she could not stop thinking about Azy. That scream still made her feel the shivers running through her and for such a young boy to go through whatever that had made him scream like that, made her heart ache so badly.

She found Alexis already awake in the kitchen, holding a box of oats as he was about to pour it into a saucepan.

"Morning Alexis..." Elle greeted the boy.

"Morning, Princess. I am wondering if you eat oats? Mom likes these so I thought you'd like it too."

"Mm. I like them." Elle replied. She was glad that Alexis looked much better now compared to last night.

"I only know how to cook oats so I guess we can settle on this for now." He scratched his neck a little sheepishly as he said that, shocking Elle. He was planning to cook for them! What a sweet boy!

"It's fine, Alexis. I'll do the cooking." Elle approached him and smiled.

"B-but..."

"Geez... I'll do the cooking. Don't worry, I'm good at it." Elle winked at the boy, seeing his hesitation and thankfully, he finally gave in and handed her the box of oats.

The duo then started their chores in the kitchen as Elle decided to cook something else for the three of them. And because Alexis insisted on helping, she gave him something to do.

Soon, Alice also woke up, just at the exact moment the food was being set on the table.

But just as they were about to eat, Alexis rose from his seat. "They're back!" he said and the three immediately rushed towards the door.

"Daddy!!!" Alice jumped into her father's arms as soon as Alexander walked through the door. "How is Azy? Is he alright now?"

Alexander patted his daughter's head gently before smiling and answering her. "Yes, he's doing good now."

Elle breathed out in relief when the door was pushed open again. Seeing Sebastian, Elle moved to approach him. He looked a little disheveled. Though his expression was still stony, Elle could somehow feel that the entire night had been really rough on him, mostly perhaps, mentally.

"Your mom has to stay back with them so she won't be back here yet." Alexander explained to his kids. And like last night, the kids simply nodded in understanding. Elle was still amazed at how mature and understanding the twins were about everything that was going on. It was as though this was no longer new to them.

Elle's heart ached for the poor boy at the realization that Azy must be going through that more often than she had imagined.

After their breakfast, Elle and Sebastian were left alone together in the kitchen.

"Sorry. But I think we need to extend our stay here, Izabelle." Sebastian told her.

Elle immediately nodded, understanding that even though Alexander said Azy was fine now, she realized that the situation was still tense. There must be something that still was not quite resolved. For the fact that Abi was still over there, Elle could have guessed things had not quite settled just yet with Azy.

"I understand," Elle replied, her gaze studying Sebastian's face the entire time. "Are you... okay?"

He stared back at her and their gazes held for a moment. "I'm fine. It's Azy and Ali..." he shut his eyes and his expression hardened. "They're not really fine yet... I never thought that their situation had become this bad."

,m Elle looked at his clenched fists and protruding veins on it. She could see how much he was affected by what he had seen over there and was trying hard to hold back his emotions. Slowly, Elle reached out, placing her hand comfortably over his before giving it a gentle squeeze, letting him know without words that she would be there for him and would support him. He stilled and took a sharp breath as his eyes dropped to her hand that was placed over his. Maybe because they were now alone, but Sebastian's stony mask had melted a little. And when he lifted his eyes to hers, she saw raw worry and anger and guilt flashing in his eyes.

"I'm going to go back there in a little while..." he continued. "...but sorry that I have to leave you to stay back here with the kids. It's dangerous for you to be there." Sebastian explained patiently to her.

Looking at him with understanding gaze, Elle quietly nodded.

...

"I hope you explained things clearly to your wife, Sebastian." Alexander told Sebastian as the two of them stepped out of the house. "Did you tell her about Azy and Alicia's situation?"

"I told her they're not fine yet."

"That's all?" Alexander creased his brows.

"You're not going to tell me to tell her everything that's going on right now are you, Alexander? She just found out that she was married to a vampire and living with vampires right now. I can't bombard her with all this information at one go." Sebastian sounded a little agitated as he replied to Alex.

Alexander stared at him before eventually sighing. "Well, if that's your decision..." he gave in and Sebastian finally left for the Black Forest. Alex could only shake his head as he watched Sebastian's figure sped off until it was out of sight.

Going back inside the house, Alex saw that Elle and Alice had gone into the backyard, taking up the chore of watering the garden together. Alex had refrained from sticking his nose too much into the relationship between Sebastian and Izabelle. Abi had spoken to him in quiet whispers last night about the two and the possible issues that they might be having. She had urged him to speak to Sebastian and tell him to sort things out with his wife quickly before more damage is dealt to their relationship. But Alex personally did not think that it was good for him or anyone else to keep doing something for Sebastian to realize something. He wanted Sebastian to work on his own relationship with his wife himself. Though he knew the guy needed some help and a little prodding at times, Alex understood his circumstances and he still believed that it was better not to do anything sometimes.



"Izabelle." Alex approached them. "If you want to go out and do something, you can tell me. I'll arrange a security personnel for you. I know it will be tedious for you to just stay cooped up in the house like this. Ah, I think you might be interested in visiting the town's library. I personally know the librarian there, so I can ask her to give you some restricted books if you want to learn and know more about us and this entire country." Alex generously offered her.

Elle's eyes immediately shone with interest. So even when Alex saw hesitation in her eyes, he knew she was dying to go.

"It's fine. You don't need to be guilty or anything. Azy and Alicia are doing much better than last night." Alex assured her. "Now if you desire to go, I'm headed into town for some errands. I can drop you there as it is on the way."

"I'll go." She finally answered and soon, the two of them stepped out of the house.

"Ah, by the way. I'm assigning a guard to be with you at all times. I hope you understand â€“"

"No, no, don't worry. I'm totally fine with it, Alexander."

Alex nodded, pleased at how efficiently adaptive Izabelle was with everything so far.

As the two headed into a car, someone came out of the driver's seat and went to open the passenger's side.

Elle blinked at the sight of that... gold hair...

"This is Caelian, Izabelle. He's going to be your guard." Alexander introduced.

## Chapter 150 Unbelievable

This bonus chapter is dedicated to @Yaritza\_16!!! Thank you so much for the supergift!!

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"What...?? You two know each other?" Alexander tilted his head at Caelian and Elle, shocked at the discovery. He would not have thought that Elle was an acquaintance to the bodyguard he had assigned her to.

"I bumped into her and we chatted for a while in the bar the other night." Caelian rubbed the back of his neck as he explained to Alex.

"Oh, I see... wait... you didn't actually hit on her or something did you, Cael?" Alex narrowed his eyes at the man, causing him to chuckle awkwardly. His tone was bordering on dangerous as he asked the question.

"I didn't, Alex. Don't make it sound like I hit on every lady I meet." Caelian rolled his eyes, sounding as though he was being wronged for being thought of as a ladies' man.

"Well, I do know you're intuitive enough to realize that she's not someone you can so casually hit on. Well, anyway, I'm leaving Izabelle in your capable hands, Cael. You already know the drill. Stick to it, or else..."

"I know. As you know, I still value my head."

"Good." Alex faced Elle and his stern and serious face suddenly melted into a cheerful smile as he looked at her. "This guy may look and sound friendly, but don't be fooled by his appearance. He's the most capable guard I have at my disposal right now."

"Geez... did you really have to mention that last line?" Caelian complained in a low voice.

"What. You have never complained before whenever I said this previously. And did you forget that you were the one who said that very same line back then? Calling yourself the best man at my disposal?" Alex did not spare him any face and retorted smoothly, not caring if Elle had quickly covered her mouth and was snickering behind her hand.

Caelian looked away, rubbing his neck and climbing into the car. "Now get in, big boss. You're going to be late for your errand."

The banter between Alexander and Caelian continued until the car stopped in front of a certain mansion.

"Well, I'm getting off here, Izabelle. Make sure to enjoy yourself at the library."

"I will. Thank you, Alexander."

Elle and Caelian traveled quietly for a few minutes until Elle decided to break the silence. "How long has it been since you started working with Alexander? You seem to be pretty close to him though you call him your boss."

"It has not been all that long actually, Princess. It's only been three years since I started guarding Alexis and Alice. But Alexander and I have been acquaintances since a long time back."

"I see... how old are you, Caelian? If you don't mind me asking..." Elle could not help but ask out of curiosity.

He tilted his head and glanced at her through the rear view mirror.

"I already know... that you guys are vampires." Elle added when Caelian seemed to be hesitating to answer her question.

"I've lost count already, Princess. Haha." Caelian awkwardly replied.

"Is it... like... hundred or... hundreds?"

"We really don't like talking about our age, Princess. But if you insist on knowing, my age in my ID is thirty-one." He smiled mischievously as he said that.

When they reached the library, just as Alexander had said, the librarian was already expecting her and had closed off a certain spacious area from the public, just for her to use. The old lady handed her some books about the history of Viscarria, and Elle knew that she had retrieved the books from somewhere else and not off the library shelves.

"Please let me know if you need anything else, Princess." The old lady whispered to her and Elle nodded with a soft smile on her face.

She immediately sat down on the nearest available chair and started reading as soon as the librarian left. Caelian was by the door where he could see her directly but Elle was not bothered by his presence at all. Right now, all she wanted was information and needed some distraction. She wanted to know everything about this country, about the vampires that were apparently hiding in plain sight in this world.

"Princess... Princess." Caelian's voice caused Elle to lift her head.

"Yes?" she creased her brows at him and Caelian immediately knew she did not appreciate the interruption of her intense concentration on the book. This princess had such insane focus!

"It's already past the library's closing time." He informed her, looking at his wristwatch and pointing at it.

Elle blinked and then quickly swung her head to look at the windows, only to realize it was already dark outside.

"I've already informed Alex, and he didn't really give me a curfew. But... I think that it's time for you to take a break anyway. You have already done like... a straight several hours of intense studying. I'm sure your back and neck are tired out by now."

She bit her lip and stared down at her book.

"And no, Princess. Even you can't take this book home because it's a confidential one and needs to be stored in a safe place once you are done with it. Well... in your case, done for the day." Caelian explained patiently.

Elle looked behind him and saw the librarian smiling and nodding with agreement at what Caelian had said.

She could not help but purse her lips a little and reluctantly closed the book.

"I'll come back tomorrow then," Elle told the old lady earnestly.

"Of course, Princess."

And with that, Elle and Caelian finally left the library. She already could not wait for tomorrow to come quickly because everything that she had read had fascinated her beyond what she had ever imagined. Now she knew that these vampires were actually not like the zombies that get infected by some kind of virus or something else. These vampires were a species, a race! She was mind-blown by that fact because she had always thought that vampires used to be humans that were later on turned by being bitten by another vampire! That was how it had been portrayed in most, if not all movies and books.

Now she understood why Alice and Alexis and Azy were also vampires! And it seemed that most of the population of this country are actually vampires too!

Elle was smiling and laughing quietly to herself as she looked silently out the window. How unbelievable was this? How unbelievable was it to find out that vampires were not only real, but there was also a whole nation of them and yet the whole world had never found out about them?

She could only shake her head in disbelief.

It only came to her notice that it was raining when Caelian opened the door for her and he was taking his long coat off.

"Sorry, Princess. I don't have an umbrella with me. So please bear with my coat for now." He said and as she came out of the car, he gently draped his coat over her head, bringing himself closer to her to properly shield her from the rain. And with a look and nod at each other, they both ran towards the house.

Just as Elle was about to reach the door, she halted at the sight of Sebastian standing there, staring at her.

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A/N: 2 more days left for voting guys! If we finish at top 1 in GT ranking this month, there will be more than 5 chaps mass release. ^^