

# Hellbound Heart

## Chapter 241 Last Night (Part I)

### LAST NIGHT

Sebastian was all alone in the castle's wine cellar when Alexander found him. He was slumped over and moping around with many bottles of wine already emptied and lying all around him.

To put it nicely, he was not looking good. To put it bluntly, he was a mess. A complete mess. He had been drowning the past few days' sorrows and regrets in alcohol - ever since that night.

He could still remember it so clearly. So vividly as though he had just experienced it only minutes before. The image of him choking Izabelle. The tears that rolled down uncontrollably from her eyes. Her, coughing for breath as she lay there crumpled on the ground. Every bruise and wound on her skin were still freshly imprinted in his mind.

It was a new nightmare for him. One that was far worse than the previous others. He would have willingly endured any damages upon himself. But if it was her who suffers... it was impossible.

"I know it's going to be as hard as hell, but... pull yourself together, Sebastian." Alexander told him. Sebastian knew Alexander was just genuinely concerned about him and Izabelle. But Alexander would never understand. He could never. "Your wife needs you."

"No..." Sebastian replied, shaking his head as a bitter and cold smile curved across his lips. "Izabelle doesn't need a man like me... the very man who had hurt her and nearly killed her. I am the very last person she needs from here on."

"Sebastian... that's... What had happened was not your fault!"

"Enough... please..." his voice broke as he cut Alexander's words off. "Didn't you know about what the humans say? That once a man lay a hand on his own girl, he'd do it again next time too..." Sebastian pressed his forehead against the heel of his palm as he chuckled brokenly. "I know I'll hurt her again, Alex. One way or another, she'll get hurt again because of me... or worse... with these..." he looked down at his trembling hands. "With these f\*\*king hands of mine."

He buried his face into his palms. His body was trembling. He had never allowed anyone to see him like this, except for Izabelle. But he could not hold himself together anymore.

"That's not going to happen, Sebastian..." Alexander trailed off and closed his mouth when Sebastian shook his head again. Clearly refusing to believe him.

"What was it that's not going to happen again?" he bitterly scoffed, gulping more wine down in an attempt to numb his feelings. "You won't even allow me to go and search for Elijah and kill him." He then stood, turned his back from Alexander and yelled at the wall. "I know... f\*\*k, I know!"

Sebastian knew the risk of chasing after Elijah and killing him. Elijah had been holding onto the greatest threat not only to the vampires, but also to the entire kingdom of Viscarria.

For years, Elijah had been keeping so quiet. According to everyone, Elijah had been the perfect obedient one for so long. He had barely caused any significant troubles at all. He was fond of the humans and was even obsessed with studying. He did nothing for so many years but just studied. They said Elijah had wanted to learn everything and he never seemed to have any plans on stopping himself from going to school.

However, according to Alex, his brother Ezekiel still had him closely monitored in secret. Alexander had admitted he had even asked Ezekiel to stop doubting Elijah. Because he had sincerely thought Elijah was truly harmless.

They said Ezekiel had never caught Elijah doing anything suspicious. He had hidden his motives all these years. Or more like, Elijah had waited patiently to make his move. He waited until Ezekiel was gone.

Elijah had then taken over one of the world's internet providers and created a bomb-like system that could be detonated with just a single move from him. It was not a literal bomb but to the vampires and Viscarria, it was the same as an atomic bomb. It was a bomb containing loads of information and evidence including videos and everything that could prove the vampire's existence without a doubt. He had gathered them in secret for many years and now he was just one tap away in spreading all of that information throughout the entire world.

In short, Elijah held the key to detonating the possible destruction of the vampire race or... causing war to break out between humans and vampires.

They had simulated so many scenarios once Elijah detonated his bomb, and not one result could be considered even mildly good. They knew that this would only lead to destruction or worse, an apocalypse for the vampires or for the humans.

This was why for so many years, Ezekiel, his brother, had worked so hard in keeping the existence of vampires unknown and still secret to the whole world.

When Alicia still had her powers, Elijah was apparently still being cautious but he again made a huge mistake five years ago. His attempt in getting his brother, Ezekiel to return to his family had failed and as a result, Alicia lost her powers.

That was the day Elijah had started to really execute his plan. And when they found out about it, it was too late to undo it. They could only hope to mitigate the effects of Elijah's move.

Alexander and the witches had started to make plans years ago to counter this problem. And Alex still believes that Elijah will not just detonate the bomb on a whim. He had reasons they still were not privy to, and as long as they did not corner him to the very edge, Elijah would not do it. Not yet.

They thought they had time.

And he thought he would never... feel anything again.

Sebastian knew now what Elijah had been waiting for. He was waiting for him to find someone he'd love more than his own life and see and desire the light again in his eyes. He had waited so long, just for him to find a reason to live and fight so that when he managed to snatch everything away, he would be shattered completely to dust. So that the ending would be more satisfying for Elijah.

He needed to change the tide of the game now before it truly became too late.

He needed to give his Izabelle up... because right now, that was the only way to save her from thi

s hellish nightmare.

## **Chapter 242 Last Night (Part II)**

"I'm letting go of her, Alexander." Sebastian then said. His voice no longer audibly broken. It was steely. But the emotions in his eyes were still screaming out in pain. "She needs to leave Viscarria and go back to Dalenn now. As soon as possible. She needs to cut ties with me completely. And that will also include you, and every other non-human she has been acquainted with, especially Abigail. All of us need to cut ties with her."

Alexander's lips parted in disbelief, shaking his head even as he was still in the middle of listening to Sebastian speaking. But Sebastian firmly continued nonetheless. "I am divorcing Iza." His voice broke again but he stubbornly regained his composure in a blink of an eye, showing Alexander that his decision was now set in stone.

An almost mocking smile tugged at the corner of Alexander's lips. "Do you really think this will solve anything? Do you really think divorcing your wife is the solution, huh, Sebastian?"

"Yes." Sebastian answered without hesitation.

Running his fingers through his hair, Alexander sighed exasperatedly. "Sebastian... I know you've already thought real hard about this. But listen, you're going to regret this. And have you ever thought that she'd only be put in more danger if she returns to Dalenn? Who would protect her then, huh? Have you even thought about that, Sebastian? Do you really think Elijah would stop going after her just because you divorced her?"

"Elijah only came after her because he'd found out I cared about her. Elijah thinks that I love her and that's why... that's why he had dragged her into this hell! As long as Iza's with me, he'll never stop targeting her until she's... All I have to do is prove him wrong. Elijah will never hurt anyone I care nothing about, Alexander, you know that!" Sebastian pressed his forehead against the wall, his fist clenching so hard as though he was restraining himself from punching the walls until the entire castle crumbled to pieces. "No one can hurt her in Dalenn anymore." He added. His voice suddenly became soft. He was clearly exhausted, emotionally. "Brandon Haze is already in my hands and he's never going to go back to terrorize my wife ever again. I'll torture him for as long as I want. Until I'm satisfied."

"And you think Izabelle will just let you decide everything on your own? You think she'll just sit there and nod and go away without a fight just because you said so? You should know what kind of a person your wife is by now." Alexander reminded him rather pointedly.

Sebastian flashed him a bitter smile. A smile so heartbreaking that even the appearance of his dimple did not do anything to make the smile look less broken.

"She will leave me. I'll make her." Sebastian whispered, as though making a vow to himself.

"You're going to hurt her, Sebastian. Is this really worth it? You're going to break her heart to pieces."

"I know... I know..." his voice nearly inaudible now as he slid down to the ground. "But I'd rather break her heart and break myself than have her broken corpse delivered to me one day."

A long silence reigned within the wine cellar. Sebastian had wanted Alexander to finally leave him alone, but the man spoke again and said, "You know... there could be another way out."

Just when Sebastian's jaws clenched and was about to retort, Alexander continued. "How about we make this as an act instead? That way, we can save you both from breaking yourselves. Let's have the divorce, but just make it as an act instead. At least until we are able to deal with this time bomb in Elijah's hand."

"No..." Sebastian shook his head. "Don't underestimate Elijah, Alexander. I don't think someone could ever fool him."

"I think it's you who is just thinking of the worst already, Sebastian. No matter how intelligent Elijah is, he'll always have some blind spots like every one of us. Even Zeke who is supreme in every way compared to Elijah had missed out some vital things. Your extreme fear of losing her has made you surrender and â€œ"

"What if Elijah won't be fooled, then? No, I'm not going to risk Iza's life anymore, Alexander. Never. I've taken risks before just because I refused to give up... I have never won. All I got in the end were the corpses of the ones I had been fighting for. I know I started risking Iza the day I started to want her. My guts warned me, but I ignored the warnings and told myself I can protect her... I told myself, this time I won't fail... And look what happened to her. So it is enough now... never again." His eyes closed and he sucked in a deep breath.

"I still think you need to think more about this , Sebastian. Give it a few more days before you decide..." Alexander trailed off. Whatever he saw in Sebastian's face at that moment seemed to make him finally understand that whatever it was that he's going to say, won't change Sebastian's mind anymore.

When Sebastian opened his eyes, he looked unseeingly at the ceiling. "It must be nice to be the villain... doing whatever you want selfishly without a care, even if the world burns to ashes. I'm envious of them. I've thought about betraying you and everyone and just go ahead and kill Elijah, so I can keep Iza in my arms. I've thought, 'to hell with the world'. But if I do that, I'd be doing the very same thing that creature I once called 'father' did. Iza doesn't deserve a man like that. She doesn't deserve to even live with a monster and his f\*\*ked up world." A heartbreaking chuckle escaped him before the smile faded and he held Alexander's gaze. "It's funny how every way I've considered, only leads to something worse. Letting her go is the best choice, Alexander. No matter how you try to twist everything, no other choice is better than that."

## Chapter 243 Result

BACK TO THE PRESENT

"I've signed our divorce papers, Princess Izabelle." Upon hearing those words that left Sebastian's lips, an unbearable silence reigned inside the study.

She did not make a sound nor made a single move. He knew that his words must have made her paralyzed. Maybe, it had shocked her so badly that she could not even respond.

He fought to keep his breathing even. To keep his stance as relaxed and uncaring as much as possible. He needed to end this quickly so she could finally leave this place. To leave him. He needed her gone now before he started to waver.

"Since you've already signed it beforehand, I've already sent it to the court for processing. It should be officiated soon enough." He mercilessly continued, breaking the silence once again. "I expect that the result should arrive in a few minutes."

"Look... look at me." Her shaky voice made his heart shudder in pain. The raw torment and tears that he could hear in them... he swallowed as subtly as he could, trying his hardest to stop himself from whipping his head around to look at her. It was all that he could do to stop himself from falling to his knees before her and beg her for forgiveness.

"Please... look at me, Sebastian." She sounded like she was trying her best to keep herself from crying. Every sound she made were like serrated daggers piercing into his chest before being twisted cruelly to cause the most extreme pain possible.

But he shook his head. He could not allow himself to look at her. Because the moment he does, his meticulously put up façade might shatter beyond repair. Moreover, this could be the best move that would make Elijah believe he and Izabelle were truly over as husband and wife.

"Sebastian..." she weakly called out as she took a trembling step forward as she lifted a shaky arm, when he shut his eyes closed and his entire body tensed up. It was so obvious that Elle could visibly see him stiffening up.

"Don't. Don't come any closer." He hissed out rather sharply. "You promised never to fight me over this issue. Did you not remember our agreement? This is the time to honor your vow, Princess." He reminded her heartlessly. Though he knew that was a vicious move, he still did it.

Another unbearable silence crept through the walls. He could almost hear her heart breaking into shards that he could never ever repair. Or was that breaking sound coming from his heart? It seems, both their hearts were going through the same torment. But he truly hoped he was going through agony that was far worse than she was. He wished Iza's pain was still tolerable. He wished that she had not fallen for him way too deep yet.

"Look at me and... tell that to me again. Say it while looking me in the eyes, Sebastian." She broke the silence this time. Utter hurt was still in her voice but this time, she spoke with firmness. He knew she was obviously trying to steel herself from breaking down. "Otherwise... I'll go back to our room and pretend I did not hear anything. That all of this did not happen at all."

Sebastian clenched his fists. He hated how his heart just rejoiced at her words. At the fact that even after the hurt she was experiencing, she was still holding on and refusing to just back off as she was told to. His treacherous heart was already starting to f\*\*king betray him.

When he heard her move to turn around and leave, his voice echoed a little louder.

"I just f\*\*king can't!" he rose and braced his arms against the window. Dropping his head so low as he gritted his teeth. "I can't anymore. I can't... look at you anymore."

That was a big fat lie and he knew it as clearly as he knew his own face. Despite what happened, Sebastian never saw anyone else's face on Iza's the moment he snapped out of his nightmare. He had stared at her for so long that night until Alexander had brought her back to the Black Forest.

That last statement was a total lie, but he knew that it would be the final blow. The final blow to make her leave him. The final blow to end everything between them. The one and only thing that would make Elijah believe that he was truly and completely done with Izabelle. And the one and only thing that would make Iza believe they were truly over. He knew what it would mean when he said those words, but it needed to be said.

She would believe that the incident in that dungeon has made him unable to look at her the same way anymore. That he was traumatized by that incident. That the one he was seeing whenever he looked at her was the face of that monster.

This lie was going to kill every hope in her that the two of them would still be possible. That they might still have a chance. It would crush her with hurt but... he knew Iza would recover. She was a strong woman. Stronger than anyone else. She would stand again and finally be free. Free to live her life without the shadow of danger following at her heels.

He had already thought of what her life would be once she was back in Dalenn. With the amount of fortune she would receive as alimony and compensation from their divorce, no one - not even her own father - could treat her like a useless and powerless princess anymore. Izabelle was not a fool and he knew she would know how to utilize the fortune she had in her hands to her advantage. With the disappearance of Brandon Haze, she no longer needed to worry about him anymore either.

Izabelle was going to be alright. He knew she would. Even without him.

The vibrating sound of his phone pulled at his attention. He already knew what that notification was. The result he was waiting for was finally here.

## Chapter 244 Madly

"It's approved." Sebastian told her callously before slipping the phone back into his pocket. "Lucas will be dealing with the rest of the procedures with you. For now..." he paused and sucked in a deep shaky breath. "I need you to... leave. I don't... want to ever see you again." These words he forced himself to say shredded his heart into a million pieces. After today, once she was gone for good, he knew he would be good as dead all over again. Just like how he was before she appeared in his life. Or maybe he would be far worse this time. But it is alright. He was willing to die if that was what it takes to keep her safe.

Not giving her any more chances to react or to process the painful lies that he had cruelly thrown at her, he called out for Lucas and then told her, "Your luggage has been packed and all ready to go. The royal family's private plane is already waiting to transport you back to your country."

The door opened and Lucas's voice rang softly. "Yes, Your Highness."

"Escort the princess to the airport now." Sebastian ordered. Still never once looking back at Elle.

Elle could hardly breathe. Everything seemed to be moving too fast for her to process. She felt like she was freefalling to a certain death. No... even now, she felt like a part of her was already dying.

This pain that was wrapped around her so tightly was nothing like she had ever imagined. She remembered how she used to think about this day when Sebastian finally decides to divorce her. Everything she had imagined before was nothing compared to the reality of it happening at this moment. Right now, she finally realized that no amount of preparation would ever prepare her to face this pain. It was like knowing that a knife was sharp and it would definitely hurt if it cuts your flesh. However, knowing it and actually feeling the blade of the knife slicing into your flesh and drawing blood was worlds apart.

It hurts. It hurt so bad it was killing her.

Part of her wished that she did not hear his story. That she still did not know anything about the abuse he had gone through when he was young. The suffering and the nightmares he was enduring for so long until this day. If she did not know about all those, she would still be stubbornly refusing to back out of this marriage. Maybe, she

would be rushing towards him and hugging him from behind, demanding him to turn around and look at her.

But she was no longer ignorant of his history. And it hurt her so much that she could not do anything anymore. Because what else was there that she could do when he... when her Sebastian could no longer see her the same way as before? When he was now seeing that monster in her?

She could not even make herself try to fight for their relationship because she was terrified of his reaction if she dared to try and even touch him. Can she survive more heartbreak if he jerks in disgust the moment she touches him? Would she be able to survive that blow when her heart was already shattered to pieces?

Even if she was dying with pain right now, she could never do anything that would make him suffer even more than he had already suffered. This broken man had suffered enough. If her leaving would make it easier on him and reduce his torment, then she would go even if she was unwilling to leave him.

Her heart protested and cried out as silent tears finally fell from her eyes. She wondered if this pain would ever heal. If she could ever get over him her entire life.

Even though she had signed that agreement between them, she had never thought this was how their story would end...

"Princess..." a weak voice echoed and her eyes lifted to look at Lucas.

"I said to escort her out. Now!" Sebastian's cold voice thundered.

Lucas's face twisted with hesitation. But Elle knew the man did not have any other choice but to obey his master.

She forced a nod at Lucas as she wiped away the tears that were still falling from her eyes. And when Lucas finally moved to open the door, Elle felt like someone was sucking her breath away. The pain was getting more and more unbearable.

Looking at his stiff back one more time, Elle finally turned around. The door was like a gate of hell that was opened wide to her.

Lucas held the door open for her and the moment Elle took a step forward towards it, she could almost hear pieces of her heart falling and shattering like glass being smashed onto the floor. She thought that by the time she was out of the door, there would be nothing left of her heart. She would be leaving her heart back there. No, she did not even have a choice. Her heart decided to be left behind in pieces with him.

Maybe it was better this way... maybe that was a mercy in itself.

Why... why was it so hurt? How could it be this painful? Why? How? She almost laughed brokenly at the answer that her mind screamed at her. 'Because you fell so madly in love with him, stupid.'

She could not even deny it anymore. 'Madly' might even be an understatement. It was unbelievable. It was such a short time. She did not even get the chance to tell him how she felt. And he... he never said those words to her as well.

A heart-wrenching smile tugged at the corner of her lips. 'How tragic.' She thought.

Still, deep within her, she wished she had one more day. Just one more day before that tragic night happened that ended everything. If only she could have one more day... she would definitely tell him. How much she had come to love him. She would tell him over and over again that she loves him. But it was too late now. It was all too late...

She suddenly halted as she stepped on the threshold and whirled around.

Elle stared at his back and then... a hollow, almost lifeless sound escaped from her lips. "I love you."

## **Chapter 245 Three Words**

"I love you." The moment these three words left her lips, the walls holding back Elle's emotions collapsed like a house of cards. Everything she had been holding back gushed out like water from a broken dam. And she could no longer stop it, neither did she want to. "I love you, Sebastian!"

She could not even see him clearly anymore because of the tears that were flooding her eyes, blurring everything within her vision. But her lips kept moving. She kept on speaking. Letting him know what she truly feels for him.

"I love you..." She did not know exactly what she was trying to accomplish by saying it over and over again like a broken robot. They were already officially divorced. He was no longer her husband. She was not his wife anymore. But she still could not stop. As if those words were the only words she knew at this moment.

"I love you, Sebastian." Or perhaps she was saying them as many times as she wanted now because she knew this would be her last chance to say it to his face. She knew that after this... after she was sent out of his world, he could no longer hear it no matter how many times she said it. He would no longer be by her side to listen to her say these words that had been wanting to burst out of her heart and spill forth from her lips for quite some time already.

Or maybe because she was still hoping that by listening to her confession, that these words might still be able to do something to him. At least, to make him look at her one last time. Not with eyes filled with horror or disgust, but with eyes that belonged to the Sebastian she had come to know and love.

"I love you" she was secretly hoping for some kind of miracle to happen.

"Stop!" Sebastian roared. His nails were now digging into the window panes that he was facing.

The first time he heard her say those words, he felt completely paralyzed. Those were words that he had never expected to hear coming from her. Words he never thought would hit him so hard. Those famous three words. These well-known three love words that were said throughout the world, spanning across time, race and species. Words that he had never said to anyone and even to her. Never had he thought that these three little words would send such a significant impact ricocheting through his entire being.

Love was a word he despised - loathed to the extreme. Because that word only reminded him of his father's words to his mistress. When he said 'I love you' to that monster even as they watched behind bars.

His father loved his mistress so much that he was willing to give up everything to be with her. Everything, including them - his very own biological children - and even offering up their lives. He had thought since then that love was a dangerous and filthy powerful thing that could easily drive the sanest, most loving father into the maddest and filthiest b\*\*tard ever.

When he first came out of the dungeon ten years ago, he always scoffed every time he heard someone saying those words. His negative reactions slowly became better because of Alex and his wife, as well as the stories he had heard about his brother, Ezekiel with Alicia.

Still. After all these years, he had never said it to anything or anyone else. Nor did he ever want to hear someone, especially a woman telling him those utterly disgusting words.

But now it was Iza who was saying it...

Sebastian did not feel what he had expected himself to feel. He had been simply rendered dumbstruck like he had just heard the most unbelievable thing in his entire life. And when she repeated it, with that choked up voice which sounded to be filled with tears, he started to lose it.

His mind tried to hold on. Telling him that he could not afford to lose it. That he must hang on just a little while longer. That he needed to keep on with his plan.

But Iza did not seem to want to stop. She kept on repeating those words. And everytime she said it, it was like a massive hammer being swung before landing heavily on his already cracking defense. He did not know how much longer he could hold on.

"I said stop!" he hissed through gritted teeth. He could not take it anymore. He could not...!!

"I love you..." Her broken voice sounded again even after his angry warning. As though she had not heard it at all.

Before he knew it, he harshly turned to face her. His stiff body that felt battered from all the invisible shackles and chains he mercilessly wrapped around himself felt heavy. Despite feeling as though thousands of pounds were chained around him, he still could not stop his body from moving. Towards her. It was as though she was his gravitational centre and he would always gravitate to her no matter what.

"I â€" She started again. But...

He grabbed her shoulders. His heart and entire soul bled at the sight of her wretched looking face, her tears that were still falling from her eyes, showing no indication of stopping anytime soon. Now he had gone ahead and done it. This was why he had planned to never look at her no matter what. Because he knew that with that one look, he would never be able to bear it. Looking at her being so hurt and broken like this hurt him more than her.

"Stop." His voice sounded choked. His hands that were clutching her shoulders began to tremble lightly.

Elle snapped out of the numbing trance she was in. She only realized that he was right before her when he had grabbed her. The light yet firm squeeze of his hands on her shoulders was the trigger to jolt her out of her trance. Her mind had started to float as grief numbed her and censored everything out except the pain that continuously crashed over her in unending waves.

Eyes wide, she blinked up at him and her tear-filled eyes cleared.

The moment she confirmed that it was Sebastian who was indeed right before her, holding her and now looking at her, her lips trembled. And as though she had totally forgotten all the other words she had learnt, she repeated those same three little words again. However, this time, it was not with that lifeless, defeated sound. But with all her heart, soul and strength. It was spoken with all the love that she had within her.

"I love you!" she uttered and his lips crashed over hers, kissing her.

## Chapter 246 Beyond

All the pain and grief that were consuming them both were completely suspended. Their whole world froze. Every part of them screeched to a full-on halt as their thoughts belatedly caught up to speed.

He had... kissed her. And he was... okay. Totally okay.

No flashes of unwanted disgusting images that would cause him to break out in shivers. It was just her beautiful face that was in his vision, filling up his every senses. Just her and the feeling of her soft, warm lips pressing desperately against his.

He had just lost it. He was desperate to stop her from saying those words but he could not bear to lift his hand anywhere above her shoulders. That horrifying scene from that night when he had returned to his senses and found his own hand wrapped around her neck, strangling her as though wanting to choke her to death, was still playing too vividly in his mind.

And then that just happened.

"F\*\*k." Sebastian cursed. Then he choked.

Elle could only stare dazedly at his darkening eyes. She was still paralyzed from the shock but her mind was at least now able to process. And there she saw the overwhelming emotions in his completely vulnerable eyes. The shock, the desperation, the disbelief, the awe, the ache and... the utter hunger. She was struck hard once again. Because she now understood the real reason why he refused to look directly at her. It was a lie. He had lied to her. It was not true that he could not look at her anymore. She could see it clearly in his eyes. She could even feel it in her bones from his touch... from that soft, brief but smouldering kiss that they had shared.

A feeling words could not explain suddenly surged like a ten-foot wave within her.

That horror in his eyes he had shown her before when he attempted to kiss her was no longer there. Not even a trace of it was left. It was as though it had been a hallucination on her part. The trembling also did not come. Lord... was this a dream? Please... could he just allow this to be a one-time miracle...

She prayed in that moment that this was not just a dreamy bubble that would pop in the next second. That he would not turn around again in the next second, sending her away and acting like nothing had happened between them.

When his thick and long lashes trembled against her cheek, Elle finally fully snapped out of the trance that she was caught in. But she was then seized in another compelling one the moment he stared at her lips.

Once again, Elle felt like everything was being slowed down. She could even swear that the world even stopped spinning. She heard him groan ferociously and a flood of electricity was sent rushing through her every nerve ending as their lips collided again. She did not know if he was the one who had leaned into her again, or was it she who had pulled him against her. All she knew then, was that their lips had met and crashed together, and the flood of electricity exploded and flowed into her.

His lips... oh dear lord... She was at a loss for words to even describe how wonderful those two pieces of luscious flesh tasted. She was shocked all over again. She was in complete disbelief that his lips were now against hers. That he... that Sebastian was kissing her. She had thought that with the way he had been so cold to her earlier, and even not wanting to turn to look at her face even once, that there would be no chance of them even hugging or kissing one another ever again. But... there they were, lips locked and breaths intertwined.

The taste of his lips... the satiny moist feel of his skin moving against hers... it was just as she had imagined. No... In fact, it was beyond what she had imagined. His kiss in that moment seems to give her the she-could-die-happy-now feeling.

She wanted to grab him tight and kiss the breath out of him. But there was still that little niggling doubt of fear at the back of her mind. Afraid that this was a bubble that would pop with one wrong move. That it was a fragile glasshouse that would come crumbling down with a single throw of a tiny pebble. She did not want this beautiful dream to end. Never ever should this end.

It was unbelievable how everything was forgotten so quickly. In that moment, nothing else mattered but him, but this kiss that they shared. She would give anything for this to last... please... do not let it end... please...

Slowly, Elle parted her lips. And dear lord in heaven... he took her, groaning even deeper and earning him a violent shiver at the realization that he was moaning out her name into her mouth.

Lord... His tongue inside her mouth was a moving flesh made of magma. It was extremely hot. So very feverish. So maddeningly good. It burned up everything, her mind included, into oblivion.

And before she knew it, they were clasped together. Burning up together. But neither of them cared right at this point.

Sebastian's fingers splayed across the back of her skull as he feverishly continued on their kiss, devouring her mouth like a man dying from hunger. Like a man who was only

tasting the sweet freshness of water for the first time after countless years being trapped in the desert.

His tongue stroked and danced inside her mouth like he could not get enough of the taste of her. He was uncontrolled. Until she was breathless and out of air, more than she can handle that she could only pull away from him to catch her breath.

"I... Iza..." her name was a low hoarse sound that fell like a prayer from his lips. Their lips were still brushing as they panted out almost fiery breaths against each other. "F\*\*k... Iza... Iza..."

And he was kissing her again, possessing her mouth in a frenzy as he pinned her against the now closed door behind her.

## Chapter 247 Vulnerable

Sebastian could not believe what was going on. He was overwhelmed. Completely overwhelmed. And all over a kiss. Over kissing her.

It was simply overwhelming and he found himself unable to stop. It was insane but right now, he wanted nothing else but her lips... for her mouth to be on his. And he felt as though he could never get himself to stop.

At that moment, nothing else mattered to him anymore. The only thing that was of any importance was her, and them kissing at last.

He had dreamt of this moment. Imagined it countless times in his head, how it would play out. He always knew that it would be different if it was her... if it was Iza that he would be locking lips with.

But even his imagination totally failed to foresee this reality happening right now. Never had he thought it would turn out this way. Never had he thought that it would be like this the moment he kissed her.

It was... like nothing else that had ever happened to him. It was even nothing else that he had ever imagined. Not even close.

'So, this was what it was supposed to be like...?' was all his overwhelmed mind kept repeating. Words were just not enough to explain what he was feeling. 'So, this was what kissing was supposed to be like, huh...'

When she groaned and pulled away, he almost did not let go of her. But thankfully, his dazed mind at least had somehow realized how breathless she was getting. And it was then that he too realised that he was as well. It was crazy how it seemed that he did not care if he was even breathing, as long as he could continue kissing her.

He just could not get enough of it. Of kissing her. He wanted more. Of her lips, her tongue, her mouth that were now at long last completely his.

So, he kissed her again, not giving her any longer than a few seconds to draw in her next breath. His entire being seemed to be on fire. Everything else was thrown aside and forgotten. He wanted time to freeze and completely stop so they could stay like this forever. So, he could continue being lost in her kiss, their kiss.

But that was just not possible. Before long, she pulled away from him again, her pants sounding louder in his ears. "S...seb..." her voice was shaky against his lips. Their lips were still lightly touching as he did not allow her to pull away any more than what was enough for her to draw in air.

He really did not want their lips to part and he knew why. He did not want this kiss to end yet... because the reality that he was barely aware of was waiting to hit him hard once it did.

As their breaths mingled, Sebastian realized that his hands were cupping her face. His thumbs caressing her cheeks.

"Sebastian..." she whispered once again between her pants.

He responded by pressing his lips against hers again. But she stopped him this time and did not part her lips.

"W-wait... Seb... let me..." She struggled to speak.

He licked the seam of her lips oh so lightly, almost as though trying to coax them to open just a little, like he was licking something so precious. So divine. "Iza... let me kiss you more..."

And the desperation of his voice only ignited her further. She tightly wrapped her arms around his neck and grabbed onto his silken hair as she kissed him. Hard. As hard and passionate as she could until he was groaning, and pressing his hard body against hers.

Elle was also beginning to feel elated. Because it seems as though... for the first time... she was the one truly in control while he was the one being completely... and utterly... overwhelmed.

Lord... she could not believe what was happening to them right now... Sebastian, overwhelmed over an intimate act, over a simple kiss, was almost too unbelievable for it to be true.

But here he was, like this, and Elle found herself feeling a strong desire to...

She began to move her body. Without breaking their kiss, Elle tried her best to not buckle. Her knees were already so weak but she wanted to do something. Her desire to do it was so strong that she managed to fight through her daze and pulled him along, leading them both slowly to the sofa.

And the most unbelievable thing was that Sebastian had just allowed her to control the pace. It seemed as though he did not even realize it. As though he was too lost from their kiss to care or notice anything else. Which she thought was just so unlike Sebastian. But at the same time, that only gave her more courage, more boldness.

Elle gave her all to push him down. Her limbs were weak so she had to really put in more force. But he fell back down all too easily on the sofa in a sitting position. Though he pulled her along and did not let more than a couple of inches distance to get between their faces, Elle knew that all his defenses had given way. It was hard to believe it, but he was... right now... totally in her mercy. She could see it in how heavy lidded his eyes were right now. And a feeling far stronger than what she had felt when she made him come that night of her birthday surged like a giant wave within her.

Lord... he looked so hot with those dazed and vulnerable grey eyes of his.

Not giving him any chances to recover and maybe even turn the tables on her like he had always done before, Elle quickly made her next move. She kissed him again, this time with a dominance she did not know she had in her, as she wrapped her arms possessively around his neck. Then she straddled him, confidently pressing herself against his already massive and straining bulge.

---

To My Dearest Hellbounders;

It's the last day of 2022 and it'll be new year in a few hours in my country. It's been a long year and even though its a year full of challenges for me, it's still such a year full of memorable moments. And I want you guys to know that I'm thankful this story has become a part of your 2022. I hope that my stories will continue to be part of your 2023 as well.

I just want to express how grateful I am for all your love and support this entire year. Thank you for always being amazing to me. Thank you for loving my stories. Thank you for laughing and crying with my characters. Thank you so much for the comments, reviews, votes and gifts! You guys have been really amazing!

I wish I can give you an extra chapter today but it's new years eve here and I'm with family. I tried but I only finished a chapter in the end >.<

Hard to concentrate when everyone's around and the following chapter is... well... I think I better do it tomorrow instead. :)

I hope and wish that 2023 will be amazing to us all. I hope and wish that we will be more happy. I hope and wish that I will be blessed with more motivation and persistence to keep writing for myself and for you guys who love and adore my stories as much as I do.

Once again, thank you so much and happy new year!

Love, Kazzen

## Chapter 248 Not Today

Elle felt an electrifying jolt of lust rolled through her when Sebastian's breath hissed against her mouth the moment she pressed herself against him. She purred in satisfaction and kissed him harder, bolder, seductively tangling her tongue with his and sucking hard on that supple piece of flesh that was driving her inner temperature up. r

He groaned into her mouth, making such a sexy sound that did nothing but encourage Elle to keep on with what she was doing. The grief that had been gnawing at his heart and everything else that had been troubling him earlier were long thrown out his mind and forgotten. The only thing that was resounding and repeating in Elle's mind now was to... possess him, make him feel how much she loves him, make him surrender to the fact that no matter what happens now, he belongs to her and she belongs to him. She needed to impress and burn this into Sebastian's heart, body and soul so that he would not be forgetting it anytime soon. If ever. r

Reaching out for his waistband, Elle slowly unbuttoned the top of his pants before hooking both her thumbs into the side of his pants and pulling it down in one smooth motion, exposing him to her mercy then slid her hand up to touch him. r

He moaned into her mouth again when her warm fingers circled slowly but firmly around his erection, sending powerful tingles spreading out from where her hands were, out to his entire body. As his body shivered from his reaction, he could not help but draw in a hissing breath, alerting Elle to how sensitive he was right now. Stunned at his somewhat extreme response to a simple thing as grabbing his manhood, Elle looked down at where her hands were, a little concerned if she had hurt him accidentally. But Elle was stunned at what she saw. The fact was that he was already so damned aroused by just that little action of hers that his pre-cum was already leaking. r

'Was this not too early?!' Elle wondered, but wisely kept those thoughts to herself. Or was it their kiss that did this to him? Elle concluded that it must be it. Because just kissing him already made her wet she could feel the dampness in her panties for a while now!

Happy that the effect of their kiss seemed far stronger on him, she ran little circles around the head of his sex using the pads of her thumb. She did that for a while before lifting herself and worked on sliding her panties off one leg first. Whenever he tried to make a move, like when his hold on her waist tightened and was about to do something, Elle gave him a soul-devouring and mind-blowing kiss. And he seemed to forget whatever he was planning to do again. Elle needed to do that. She needed him to just sit there and empty his mind and just let her take over.

Elle reached out for his sex again and she marveled at the fact that he was so aroused that his entire sex was fully upright and against his toned lower abdominals. She had to even pull his rock hard length away from his stomach. And when she pushed herself down a little and allowed the head of his shaft to enter slightly inside her, Sebastian's breath snagged in his throat. At the same time, Elle's breath also hitched as his swollen head speared her and stretched her in an oh-so-delicious way. That pleasurable mix of pain and gratification as he entered, caused her to be lightheaded and her eyes to blur a little. r

The pleasure threatened to make her lose her mind and let the mindless pleasure take full control. But she can't let that happen. Not today. r

Pulling away from their now slow but erotic kiss, Elle looked at his face. His eyes... oh lord... they were so devil bright... so lost, so drunk, and so high with desire. r

She did not realize how it would turn her on so much. This sight of him... good gods, she would do anything to see him in this state even if it was only for a little longer. She would do anything to prolong this moment.r

His hands burned a fiery path on her skin as they dragged their way from her hips and down to her butt cheeks, when Elle's hands shot out and grabbed his wrists. They were heavy and just so strong, but when she guided one of his hands back up to her face, he let her. Opening her swollen and moist lips, she guided one digit into her mouth and placed it on her tongue that she had stuck out a little. Keeping her eyes locked on his, she wrapped those seductive lips around his finger and sucked on it, applying some pressure, before she reached out and touched his lips too. Those sexy lips she had been yearning so intensely and for a long time... those very lips that she had finally possessed over and over in just a span of several minutes. r

She pressed her thumb between his sexy lips and he automatically opened up before sending that hot tongue of his out to lick her finger. That action of his only made her purr like a satisfied cat and she let herself slide another inch down his rock-hard shaft, feeling his throbbing length stretch her out more. r

He cursed. The low sound vibrated in his chest Elle could feel the slight rumble spread to the place where they were connected. He was so thick and hard that Elle found herself writhing a little to accommodate him. Was it because of the position that it felt more invasive or did he become even bigger? There was no way... right?r

As she was thinking about it, Elle became aware of Sebastian's strong heartbeats that were pulsing through him being communicated to her through his throbbing shaft that was partially within her. And that feeling was just so indescribable that Elle was thrown in a daze for a while. r

## Chapter 249 Desperately

Elle pulled her mind back and forced herself to concentrate on their current state right now. And before he could do anything to try and help her, she had let go and allowed gravity to pull her down. She swallowed him to the hilt, letting out a yelp as his thick length penetrated her deeply, and he moaned loudly at the sensation. r

"F\*ck... Iza...!!" he groaned before panting as though he was out of breath. And Elle reached out, kissing him again. Her lips might swell from too much kissing at this rate, but she just could not stop herself. How could she when she could finally kiss him freely while they were one? She had waited too long for this. She had longed to finally kiss him like this for many nights!r

Soon, their lips parted. Both of them were suffused with the heat of their pleasure as Elle moved her hips slowly, sliding herself up and then back down, inhaling sharply and making high pitched sounds every time he hit her at that one pleasurable spot, so deep within her. The pleasure was too much Elle forgot everything else for a while.r

Until Sebastian reached out and held her waist tightly. When she opened her eyes, she saw the look in his eyes change. Oh no... the beast had already been awakened! Not fully... but that gaze told her that if she did not do anything to stop him soon, he would be turning the tables on her and she would end up being the one under his total mercy again. Honestly, she wanted that too... being devoured completely by him. But not today... just not today... r

"Iza... baby... faster... f\*\*k me... f\*\*k faster..." his voice was hoarse and low and so sexy, but she wanted to hear his moans and groans better today. r

Before he could begin to take control, Elle had quickly grabbed his head and kissed him, caging his head within her arms as this was the only thing she knew right now that could wrestle back all control over him. "Don't move... my love..." Elle whispered. She did not know how that word came out naturally from her lips, but what matters was the

fact that it seemed to have struck Sebastian in a good way. She even felt his length jerk and twitch inside her, which made her heart dance excitedly within her chest. "Let me... don't do anything and let me... make love to you, Sebastian."r

She was no longer afraid to use that word anymore. It was crazy how natural it was coming out of her lips now. It was crazy because she was only able to say it out now that they were no longer husband and wife. r

Feeling his hold on her loosened, Elle kissed him again, her heart so happy at how this virile man was so easily surrendering to her right now. r

Pulling away, Elle began to set a steady rhythm going as she moved. This was the first time that she was doing this. But every time she looked at Sebastian's face, her confidence that she was doing it right just skyrocketed. That dazed look on his face was the most powerful confidence booster she could ever receive from him. No other words were needed.r

He was watching her as she rocked up and down his hardness, looking like he was suspended in a wonderful, erotic dream. There was utter lust, wonder, and love in his dreamy and fiery gaze. Yes, she dared saying she saw 'love' in those vulnerable eyes of his. She knew it was love because if she could look at herself in the mirror, she knew she would be seeing that very same look reflected back. r

And that only made her movements wilder, bolder. She rocked on top of him until her breasts bounced, shocking even herself. But she did not care. All she cared about now was this maddening pleasure they were sharing. All she cared about was for those heart-stopping sounds he was making, that look in his eyes, that expression plastered on his face. It looked to be as though he was not in control of all those reactions that were being freely shown. It looked as though he was truly being loved well and good. And Elle could only grin widely on the inside, satisfaction blooming and filling her chest. The feeling was simply overwhelming.r

"Iza..." her name was the only word he could form between his moans. Lord... Sebastian's moans were everything... she was certain it would be enough to send her into oblivion and blast like fireworks in the sky. r

His head fell back but Elle did not stop her movements. Until Sebastian's mouth-watering plea echoed in her ears. r

"Kiss me... kiss me, Iza..." he uttered in a guttural yet begging voice, his heavy-lidded eyes fluttering, as they looked at her like he was worshiping a goddess. His goddess of love. "Please..." r

And Elle could do nothing but give it to him. There was just no way that she could hold back. Not with that look that he leveled at her. It was impossible to stall when this man asked ... no, begged her like this. r

So she ravished his mouth. They both ravished each other as they held each other tighter, so much harder until they were completely bound to each other. One could not tell where one started and the other ended. Their hands in each other's hair as they grasped and pulled at each other so desperately like their closeness still was not enough to satisfy their cravings for each other.

Sounds of utter pleasure vibrated in their mouths until they broke apart to breathe, to come undone together. But Elle suddenly aimed for his neck and she bit him there. So hard. She drew blood as he shuddered, exploding hard and emptying himself inside her, filling her up with his seed as she too, squeezed him intensely, milking him dry. r

—

A/N: Happy new year once again guys! I did my best to start this year with a blast XD. Hope it's good enough.

I would like to also say thank you to the supergifters and everyone sending gifts and votes so we could reach our goal for the GT event. Thank you very much from the bottom of my heart. Hopefully, we will be able to reach the goal before the event ends. (I'm a bit afraid i made a miscalculation and set the goal too high T^T)

## Chapter 250 Lied

Sebastian's body was completely wrecked by the ecstasy... by her... by his Izabelle.

He could hardly process anything right now. His mind, heart, body and soul were all possessed by her completely. And all he could do was surrender himself to her, too overwhelmed to even think or realize that she had bitten his neck so hard that it had broken his skin and drawn blood. It was not until he smelled the scent of his own blood that he snapped out of his daze.

The pain from her bite was completely overshadowed by the pleasure that had overtaken him. Or perhaps, even that pain she inflicted on him had somehow turned into pleasure like everything else that she had done to him.

Still panting hard, Sebastian slowly held her shoulders and gripped her. His mind was still hazy, but he had a burning want to look at her face. No... he needed to see her face.

It was like a vacuum that had instantly sucked away all the haze in his brain and gaze. He went very still as he looked at her, eyes slightly stretching wide.

A loud howl coming from the distance echoed in the silence and Elle awakened from her trance. A sharp gasp escaped her lips at the sight of Sebastian's neck.

Then she lifted her hand and lightly brushed at her lips. Drawing her fingers away and looking down at them, she saw the smear of bright red blood on them and her mouth parted with shock and disbelief. How... what had she just... What in the world had she just done?

She started to stutter. "I... I didn't mean to... I'm so sorry... I don't know why..."

Sebastian slanted his head and suddenly kissed her full on the lips, effectively silencing her. As he held her close against him again, Elle became aware of her own slight trembling.

Oh lord... What in the world had happened just now? How could she have bitten him so hard like that? Just how in the world...

He kissed her gently. In a way, it was as though he was trying to soothe her. Telling her that it was alright. That he was alright.

And her body calmed down and responded well to his tender ministrations. Her trembling eventually subsided and his butterfly kisses stopped. His breaths puffed and fanned out so hot against her lips. "Shh... it's alright. It doesn't hurt at all." He told her in a gentle and reassuring manner and Elle stared at the smudge of red on his lips that had gotten transferred from when he had kissed her just now. Flashing her a quick grin, he licked it away until it was gone. And the way he had slowly ran his tongue back and forth across his lips made Elle feel as though he was savoring the taste of his own blood on her lips.

"I'm sorry... I was just... I don't know why I did that." She began to explain before ending helplessly with that excuse. She could not stop herself from panicking. "I just wanted to..."

"You were copying me, Iza. You wanted to mark me like how I did to you before." His calm and gentle voice explained for her.

Elle went silent for a while, thinking over the explanation that he had provided for her before she slowly nodded. She decided he was right. A while ago, all she could think about was the words 'you're mine'. It kept reverberating in her mind and sent a possessive wave rushing through her entire body that it was all that she could think of at that moment. She had been repeating that phrase in her mind as she rocked herself on top of him. All she wanted at that time was to have a way to mark and identify him as only hers. And that must be the resulting action that had come about from her strong feelings of possession.

She only knew she had aimed for his neck, wanting to do that marking thing he had done to her without her knowing. But everything else after that had been a complete blur. The pleasure erupted and swallowed her to oblivion that she did not even realize she had really bitten him as what had been imagined in her mind, and in an unforgivably hard way at that!

"I could never... hurt you, Sebastian..."

"I know. Hush now... it doesn't hurt, believe me. You didn't hurt me at all, Iza. And did you forget that your husband is a vampire?" he whispered to her gently, a tender smile playing across his lips even as his voice was filled with helplessness when he continued soothing her.

And then something seemed to have struck them both right at that moment. The word 'husband'. It reminded Elle about the reality that he was not her husband anymore.

They stared at each other in silence. The bite was instantly forgotten as a new reality descended over them both.

Her heartbeats began to thud so hard in her ears. But Elle swallowed hard and broke the silence. "You lied..." she added. Her voice cracked. "It's not true that you can't see me anymore. That you're seeing someone else's face in mine."

Her throat was hurting so bad as she uttered those words brokenly. Her throat felt as though it was constricting, swelling on the inside, making it hard for her to speak. But she forced herself. She needed to open her mouth and speak. "Please tell me... that's a lie too, Sebastian." Her voice was weak, full of hurt but her eyes were still gleaming with intensity. "That we're... really divorced now."

---

A/N: The golden tickets event will end this reset, exactly around five hours from the moment I published this chapter. For those who missed my previous announcement, I will be giving a 10 chaps mass release for HH, a valentine special for Zeke x Alicia, and something secret (as of now) as rewards if we get top 1. Fighting and good luck hellbounders! öÿ<sup>ia</sup>