

Hellbound Heart

Chapter 251 Still Beautiful

That look in his eyes was enough for Elle to understand that it was not a lie. The divorce was as real as it can get.

A lonely but bitter tear fell from the corner of her eyes despite her efforts not to cry. And Sebastian moved to lick it away. She could feel his breath shaking and hear his heartbeats thumping impossibly fast and hard.

"You... tried to make me leave you... forever..." Elle continued. Her emotions could no longer be controlled. "You... you..."

"I was... trying to save you, Iza..." he finally spoke. His voice wavering. "I decided to... let you go... before... before something worse happens to you. It's the only way that I know to keep you safe."

Elle could only smile bitterly at him, shaking her head slowly. Wordlessly telling him that she did not understand him.

"You're in grave danger because of me, Izabelle. I am the reason why you're suffering, hurting... I am a blasted, damaged being." his gentle fingers that were brushing over her skin trembled. "If you... if you continue on and stay with a damaged man like me... one day, you will end up broken too."

He cupped her face and pressed his forehead against hers. "F**k..." he uttered so weakly but desperately. "I am terrified that one day you will end up as damaged as I am... beyond repair like I am... I will do anything and everything to stop that from happening! Even if... even if I have to kill myself again by letting you go."

When the trembling of his hands worsened, she cupped his face in turn and stared deeply into his wavering, vulnerable, breath-taking grey eyes. "No, Sebastian." she told him firmly. "You're never a hopeless case. Cause look at you... you're now able to... to kiss me. Yes, you're brutally damaged. But you've never been beyond repair. You are actually healing!"

"It's all thanks to you. You're my miracle, my cure, my salvation... and yet..." he buried his head in the crook of her neck. "I even failed to stop myself from hurting you with my own f**king hands."

"You weren't yourself..."

"No matter what state I was in ... I should never have hurt you. Never, Iza! But it still happened. No matter the excuse, it has happened and nothing can ever change that as a fact."

Elle could not stop it when another fat tear fell from her reddened eyes. She could feel the extent of his self-loathing at the moment. He hated himself for hurting her that night. And she could feel it in her bones that he would never forgive himself for it. "It will not happen again, Sebastian." She could only say, gently hugging his head and pulling on it to let him rest on her bosom as she buried her fingers in his silken damp hair. Something in her was telling her that nothing could ever make Sebastian forgive himself, and it terrified her.

"I have already told you before, Iza... that I don't even trust myself." his voice came out a little muffled from having his face pressed onto her chest. But even so, Elle could hear the hopelessness and self-reproach.

"I trust you, Sebastian" She had to say it. Even if he did not believe it himself.

"God, Izabelle..." he stared at her, smiling heartbreakingly at her. "What if I told you that I was... I was... I was a mad... literally a mindless creature for seven hundred years? I spent most of my existence in the darkness, in my little mad world... Now tell me, can you still put your trust in someone like that?"

"Yes." Elle replied without even missing a beat, causing Sebastian to freeze. He looked dumbstruck at how confident Elle had sounded and how quickly she had responded. As though his question was not even something that needed to be considered at all.

Elle cupped his face and gently answered as though she could almost hear the doubts in his mind. "This is not blind trust, Sebastian. It's not just because I'm in love with you. I still trust you despite all your past. Do you know why? Because despite everything that had happened to you..." she pressed her palm over his chest before looking into his eyes. "This heart of yours didn't die. It's still alive and capable of feeling, of loving. You don't know how amazing... how strong you are, Sebastian. You don't know how incredible this heart of yours is. To still be... to still be able to beat like this after all those... all the damages you had and still are suffering even up till now."

Her tears flowed hard as she told him these words. She did not bother to hold back her tears any longer. Being reminded of Alicia's story only brought more heartache to her and she could even imagine the bitter tang of loneliness and helplessness Sebastian had to endure. The abuse he suffered and that impossibly long time of suffering... Elle could not even imagine how she would even begin to go about surviving it. But Sebastian did it. Though he was now like this " still full of wounds and could not even bear to trust in himself " he was still a survivor. No one else might have survived such a horrible event and still remain sane, but he managed to.

"You are the strongest man I've ever known, Sebastian. Please believe that. You can do anything... I know you can. You just have to give yourself another chance. If you can't believe in yourself yet, then let me be the one who will put my trust in you. Because I'm not going to leave. You cannot push me away anymore, Sebastian. Because I'm never going to let go of you. You fear that I might break if I stay... but my love..." she smiled through her tears and pressed her lips over his. "As long as I don't give up, I believe I can survive anything too. In the case that I do end up breaking, that's okay too. Because I know that there will always be hope... we can always heal and put ourselves together again... and besides... broken people are still beautiful..." Her smile became so tender, so full of hope as she stared at his breathtaking eyes, his gorgeous face. "... If not the most beautiful."

Chapter 252 Yours

Feeling as though his heart was going to burst from her heartwarming words, Sebastian buried his head on her bosom. His arms around her tightened as he pulled on her, pressing her against himself and caging her within his embrace as if he was terrified that she would just disappear if he did not hold onto her tightly and close enough.

Words were just not enough to explain what he was feeling. Those words of hers... shook him to the core. It did something unthinkable, inexplicable, to his entire being... to his very soul.

He felt his own frame tremble as he held her. His body was now uncontrollable. Even he could no longer stop himself from showing everything he was feeling to her. All of his baggage was now bare to her. All of these emotions or whatever these may be called were all out, freed... freed by her. The skeletons that were trapped in the closet were all unearthed and cleared out by her. He realized that there was no one else on this earth who could make him feel the things she did. Only her.

And he felt tears fall from his eyes. He could not remember the last time he had cried. It was so long ago that he had forgotten about it. Now thinking back, perhaps it was on that day... that day he held... Alyssa's lifeless body in his arms. That was the last time he remembered shedding tears.

He pressed his face harder into her, attempting to hide the tears from her. But she held his head and kissed the crown of his head. And Sebastian knew then that she already knew. He could feel it in the way she held him, kissed him. He knew she was trying her best to make him feel better. Everything she was doing right now spoke to him, whispered to him, saving him from the darkness.

With a shaky breath, his body just relaxed in her arms. Just how... just how did he manage to find a woman like her? He never believed in miracles. But all because of her,

he was now a believer. Because here was the miracle that came into his wretched life in the form of an angel named Izabelle.

"Iza... Izabelle..." he uttered hoarsely, repeating her name like it was the only word he remembers at the moment.

And Elle smiled gently through her own quiet and hot tears that streamed down her cheeks.

"Mmm... I'm here, Sebastian..." she whispered to him, holding him tighter.

She could feel the wetness on her skin. She knew that he was crying. Her heart and soul ached for him but she was glad he was not trying to steel himself anymore. She was relieved that he was letting himself go and be vulnerable instead of acting all invincible and tough as hell like he used to.

"I love you..." she said, and he lifted his face after hearing her say those words again.

Without giving her time to look at his face, Sebastian kissed her, burying incoherent words into her mouth. And all she could do was shiver in pleasure at every delicious stroke of his tongue inside her mouth.

"Sebastian..." she moaned his name before she kissed him back. And she felt him harden inside her, stretching her, filling her to bursting once again.

Elle finally allowed herself to blush at the fact that he never did pull himself out of her since he entered her so many minutes ago.

"Iza..." he moaned her name back, causing gooseflesh to cover her skin. "Iza... kiss me..." his deep voice sounded so sensual, so compelling. "Please..."

Dear gods in heaven... she did not know she loved this kind of thing oh so much... Sebastian, pleading with her. It made her feel like he was truly hers. That he was giving himself totally to her. That she was not just his but he was also hers. It was as though finally, they were truly in a two-way relationship that involved the both of them.

It ignited that fire within her again and she took over. She had long since lost count of the times that she has devoured his mouth up till now since the moment they first kissed. But she did not care because she knew Sebastian could not get enough of it. It was as if her kisses were a drug, making him more addicted the more she tasted it. His reactions on the other hand was the drug for her. Of course, she couldn't get enough of his kisses, too. But his reactions right now were just more potent for her.

Pushing her fingers through his dark hair, Elle delved deep into his mouth, giving him the hottest, wettest, and wildest erotic kiss she could give.

"Yes... f**k... kiss me, Iza... f**k my mouth too..."

His words were like fuel to her already blazing fire. Honestly, she could not believe what he just said but she found it so hot, arousing her so hard she felt her insides pulse around him fiercely, even though both of them never made a move. He was just pinning her steadily tight against him with his powerful hands and she did not even try to move her hips.

And yet the pleasure was rising, sending them both to that height of pleasure.

He let her overpower him, overwhelm him until they were both utterly breathless. She could feel his rock-hard length thicken even more inside her.

"You're mine..." she told him and he smiled. At long last, she saw it. That gorgeous, heart-stopping dimple, paired with those devil-bright dazed eyes.

"Yours, baby... I'm yours..." he replied in assent. And Elle's eyes widened before she kissed him again. Until their hands were in each other's hair, pulling and grasping at each other.

Their tongues mated like never before and then he groaned loud, shuddering, coming like there was no tomorrow, spurting his seed inside her.

The fact that he came with just them kissing and without any of them moving to stimulate their connected sexes blew Elle's mind and she too, came and clenched hard around his rigid length that was still inside her.

Chapter 253 Like This?

After just lying there and listening contentedly to Sebastian's pounding heart, Elle finally lifted her face off his chest.

Though part of her was adamant and refusing to do anything too suddenly, for fear that this magical, miraculous moment would end, she knew that there was nothing else they could do but face each other and deal with their remaining dilemma. She needed him to speak now.

But first... she really needed to get off him first! Blushing hard, Elle moved her hips and tried to lift herself off him.

To her shocked surprise, Sebastian's hand around her waist did not budge. And that caused her to fall back into his lap again.

Looking at him with slightly widened eyes and reddened cheeks, Elle spoke. "I think... we need to fix ourselves first, Sebastian. We really can't be putting this off any longer and need to talk."

"Can't we talk... like this?" He looked at her with a neutral face, as though he was being serious with that suggestion.

Elle almost choked before parting her lips in shock. Those words were the last thing she had ever expected him to say in this situation. Was he even serious?! Who could even think straight if being put in the situation that they were both in right now?

Her hand shot out and before she knew it, she had already pinched his cheek. Hard. "Sebastian... I'm serious... we..." she trailed off at the realization of what she was doing. A wave of relief washed through her when she realized the fact that even if they were divorced now, it did not seem to have changed anything between them - with the way she was responding to him. In fact, it was unbelievable but she felt even closer to him right now than ever before. It was hard for her to put what she was feeling right this moment into words, but all she knew was that she was certain something had changed between them and it was only for the better. And that realization brought a flutter of joy filling in her heart.

Fighting the urge to smile outwardly in disbelief, Elle's eyes wandered and it fell to his neck.

Her expression immediately changed and her gaze turned worried and confused. "Why... is my bite not healing yet?" She asked, as her heartbeat raced and her brows knitted together. Sebastian's wound should have healed already with his vampiric powers!

"Because I'm not letting it heal." He replied to her simply. His fingers now on her lips, tracing its outline gently, looking so engrossed in that as though he was touching a highly prized piece of art.

"R-really? You can do that?" Elle was taken aback.

"Yes, Iza. That's your mark on me. I don't want it gone yet."

Elle tilted her head a little but she then felt relief flooding her entire body in the next second, knowing that it was intentional on his part and not that there was something wrong with him. Her creased brows relaxed. She sighed in relief because for a while there, she thought she felt something strange.

"But... it looked... grave. And it's still bleeding a little. Can you heal it a bit?" Elle still asked despite the assurance given from Sebastian earlier.

He shook his head. His gaze still focused on her swollen lips. "No can do. It'll heal without any trace if I do that."

"Oh... but we can't just leave it like that." She argued. No matter how she tried to ignore it, the wound and blood on him was something she could not bear. Just why in the world did she have to bite him that hard?! Did she have a dog for her ancestor?! Lord...

As though he finally realized how bothered she was about his wound not healing, Sebastian gave in. "Alright, let's just put some band-aid and ointment on it."

She blinked at him, not expecting his choice. But she chose not to argue anymore as she just found a way to have him release her. She could finally get off him so that she could finally think without getting distracted by having his manhood still stuffed inside her.

"I'll go get the first-aid kit." She told him and Sebastian finally loosened his grip on her.

Elle quickly climbed off him and fixed herself. She rushed towards the door and then to their room to wash herself off first.

Once she was back in Sebastian's study, he had already fixed himself. He was standing by the window and looking outside.

Her eyes caught the box of first-aid kit that was sitting on his desk and it seemed that he had already dealt with his wound himself.

Elle approached him quietly, placing the kit down on the table before she stood behind him. Reaching out, Elle's arm circled around his middle and hugged him, pressing her forehead against his back.

She felt his body flexed at her touch and then relaxed. "What are you thinking about?"

Sebastian took her hand and turned around, facing her. His grey eyes now serious, a little intense. "I want to send you back to the Black Forest, Iza."

She met his gaze, staring deep into his eyes. "Can you tell me why? And what about you? What are we going to do about our... divorce?"

"I want everyone to think that we're truly over. You will leave me. But instead of going back to Dalenn as originally planned, you'll take refuge at Abigail's home instead." He caressed her cheek gently. "I don't know if this can fool Elijah. But at least, he can't touch you while you're in there if he ends up not believing it at all. Witchcrafts and such won't work if you're within the Black Forest. So that's the safest place for you to hide out for now. The safety won't be a hundred percent... but with Alexander and the witch queen in there, I know you'll be much safer with them than having you tag along with me."

"What about you?" she asked him in a low voice.

A/N: Thank you for your patience. The mass release will come next week as I needed time to write the chapters. ^^

Chapter 254 I Promise

"I'm going to deal with Elijah and end this stupid game of his once and for all." Sebastian replied firmly, his face turning serious. Elle could hear how resolute he was from his voice.

Seeing that dangerous power and renewed determination in his eyes, Elle sighed out in relief. He looked as composed as usual again. Anyone who could have seen him right now other than her, might never believe that this man had been trembling, vulnerable, and even shedding tears, just several minutes earlier.

"I wish there was something that I could do to help you out." Elle voiced out her genuine wish, knowing that as powerless as she was, the least she could do was not to get herself captured by the enemy and be used as bait to hurt Sebastian again.

He was about to respond when his gaze snapped up and focused towards the door.

Elle immediately understood that someone was outside, so she thought that Sebastian would call for whoever the person who came, to enter the room. But he did not. Instead, he looked at her as if to ask for permission.

Realizing what he was doing, Elle was struck speechless by his thoughtfulness. The feeling that gesture gave Elle was just so heart-warming.

"Who is it?" she asked softly. Though she did not want anyone to disturb them yet, Elle needed to know first, in case it was something very important.

"It's Lucas."

Knowing that Lucas would never disturb them over a trivial matter, a little helpless smile curved over her lips as Elle nodded at Sebastian. "It's okay. He might have something very important to say."

"Get in." Sebastian immediately called and Lucas entered.

Lucas gave them both a respectful nod before he stared into Sebastian's eyes. "Princess, can I speak with His Highness privately for a while? It concerns something important."

Elle stopped herself from frowning. Lucas usually does not do this. If he had something he did not want her hearing, he would have just communicated it to Sebastian through their eyes. So why was he asking her for privacy now?

"Of course. I'll wait out here"

"No." Sebastian cut her off. "Stay here, Iza. We're going outside."

After almost ten minutes of waiting, Sebastian entered the room again. Elle scrutinized his face but to her relief, she saw no signs of negative expressions on his face. There was not even the slightest scrunching up of his brows.

"What did... he say?" Elle asked. Part of her was amazed at how she was not hesitating to ask him anything now. Perhaps, due to the divorce, what she used to fear had actually already happened. Thus, nothing seems to be able to scare her anymore.

He strode towards her and without warning, he lifted her before seating her on top of his desk.

"Matters regarding Elijah." He replied without preamble, pressing himself between her parted legs. "We are trying to do something to destroy or counter his plans and it seems we're making quite the progress."

"So... You need to... go now?" Elle could not help but be hesitant in her questioning. She was loath to have their beautiful and passionate reunion cut short. But she knew she could only let him go if it was something really important.

"Tomorrow. You're going to leave the castle tomorrow as well, Iza." Sebastian smiled as he looked down at his Iza, as if he could already tell what she was thinking about.

"So, we have one more night before we part ways...?" she tried not to look disappointed. Knowing that she should be grateful instead for this one more night.

"That's right..." his hungry gaze fell on her lips.

"How long? When can you visit me in the Black Forest?"

He returned his gaze to her eyes. "As of now... I'm not sure yet. It will depend on how Elijah will respond once he learns about our divorce. So I can't really tell you any tentative dates yet."

"I see... I understand. Will you call me then?"

"I'm afraid not. Elijah has control over these things. He most probably have bugged the lines already. He can hear and see any conversations if he wants to investigate. So, we need to be extra cautious."

Elle nodded understandingly at his explanation once again. "I understand. I will cooperate and do my best not to make you worry for my safety, Sebastian. But in return, I need you to be careful and don't get hurt. Can you promise me that?"

A smile tugged at the corner of his lips. "I promise to be careful. But I don't think I can promise not to get hurt. However, I will not die nor disappear, that I vow to you, Iza."

She wrapped her arms around his neck and hugged him. That heartfelt and sincere promise was enough for her. Though she wished that he would not get hurt, she knew that would be unrealistic of her to request that from him. "I love you... and I will be waiting for you to come get me from there and bring me back to our home again, Sebastian." She whispered and he nuzzled her neck comfortingly.

"I promise..." he replied before once again, claiming her mouth passionately.

Elle kissed him back with as much fervor, if not more. His kiss this time was all-consuming, dominant. Telling her that his beast was back and he was now ready to take the reins back from her.

Tonight was going to be their last joining together for now. Not knowing when they will reunite has only added to their passion. And they were not planning on wasting even a single moment of it.

"Make love to me, Sebastian." She moaned against his lips.

"Yes, Iza... I'll make love to you this entire night."

The fact that he used the words 'make love' instead of f**king had Elle's heart swelling up with so much happiness. Her heart was so full it felt close to bursting.

Chapter 255 Happy

Sebastian had brought her to their room and made love to her in their bed. He took her slowly, so gently, and so unlike how he was used to.

He was truly tamed and it seemed that he was not planning to do her roughly nor unleash his usual intensity tonight. Elle wondered if it was because she had told him to make love to her and not f**k her. She was not complaining, because the slow sex was so good for her. Though there was this frustration and desire for him to go hard on her like he usually does, Elle was mind-blown by all these kinds of heightened sensations.

The slow sex was giving her all the time she needed to just relax and feel everything, savor all the different sensations and enjoy even the smallest part of the process... it was just as incredible as the usual rough and wild sex they shared before.

However, Elle was a bit worried and wondered if Sebastian was enjoying this as much as she was. She knew he never did this before. At least to her. And for some reason, she felt like he was a bit...

"Seb..." she uttered his name. Her hands landed on his face and brushed his hair up before staring into his tantalizing eyes. "Please don't... restrain yourself, okay? I love how you are being so gentle right now, but I love it when you're rough with me too."

His eyes stretched a little before he dropped his head onto her shoulder, groaned low, and then chuckled a little helplessly. "No, baby... don't think that I'm not enjoying this. You don't have any idea how much I'm loving this too."

"But... you're a bit..." Elle bit her lower lip. She wanted to accept what he said at face value and just listen to him. However, she just felt like he was...

"Don't worry. I'm just... a little nervous." He said in a somewhat hesitant voice and Elle blinked, surprised. What? Nervous? Sebastian? The word 'nervous' and 'Sebastian' do not usually go hand in hand in the same sentence.

"W-whatever for?" she managed to ask, eyes widened due to shock.

"I've never done this before, Iza. I've been doing it hard and rough my whole life. That is the only way I knew how to go about it for a very long time. So... this is the first time I'm doing it... this way."

Elle was dumbstruck. She never would have expected to hear these words from Sebastian. But oh lord... he was really going to make her heart burst for real at this rate!

"I want to do it slowly and gently, but I'm not confident if I'm doing it right..." he could only confess.

When he heard her say the word 'make love', Sebastian had felt that his heart had swelled and melted but the moment he had put Iza down on the bed, his heart thudded hard and fast. He found himself thrilled and a little nervous. Or maybe it was more than a little.

His whole life, he had only f**ked. He only had sex to get that release, that orgasm. And the only way he knew he could reach those was through rough and hard f**king. When he met Iza, something in him had slowly changed. He knew something had definitely changed, that sex with her was completely different from all the other experiences he ever had. However, he still could not quite call what they shared before as a real 'love making'.

Sex with Iza had always been mind-blowing. Overwhelming to the point that he felt like he was going crazy because of so much pleasure. It was something he had never experienced with anyone else. But he had called those heavenly moments as 'f**king'.

Alexander had indirectly educated him before about the difference of love making and f**king, since he never bothered even knowing or even thinking about it. It was during that time when he and Iza visited White Falls village. While following after their wives, Alexander overheard two young men having a debate about that topic and Alexander just nonchalantly butted in and stated straightforwardly like the wise old man he claimed he was, 'F**king is just about you having sex for the sake of your own pleasure and reaching that orgasm. Love making is not about that at all! It's about your partner and about enjoying the intimate connection of your body and soul, enjoying all the process and everything in between, and loving all of your partner's body. Got it, boys?'

Sebastian had totally forgotten about that until tonight when Iza had mentioned that she wanted him to 'make love' to her. He wanted it. To take her tonight in a way so unlike what he had been giving her all these time. The experience on the couch just a while ago was something so inexplicable. He simply did not even have words to describe it. He was shocked at how he came so hard with just kissing her, just feeling her clamped around his sex, just holding her so damned close.

Iza had made him experience something so extraordinary. That, to him, was pure lovemaking. And now, he wanted to do that to her too. He had wanted to do it naturally. But it seemed that she had noticed his stilted movements at times and felt his overly cautiousness to not mess up.

He could only groan in frustration, but he was not that embarrassed. It seemed that after all that she had already seen and experienced with him, he could easily show her everything now. Still... he really wanted to do this right! Perfectly if possible. He wanted to make love to her... give her the love making she so deserve and...

A sweet, soft, and gentle chuckle echoed. Causing him to immediately lift his face and to look at hers. And f**k... she looked so beautiful! That look in her eyes while she laughed was worthy enough for him to worship. Not that every part of her was not already more than worthy of worship.

"Oh, Sebastian..." she cupped his face and pulled his face closer to hers. "You are doing it so right! So very right in fact! I just thought you were holding back so much and that's why..." she paused, pressed her lips together and then smiled so gently, so lovingly at him. "I love everything, Sebastian. I'm enjoying it so much that I can't quite believe it is real. I want you to keep it up and continue making love to me like this."

He swallowed hard. His cock inside her twitched with pleasure and he bit his lower lip oh so slowly.

"F*ck..." he cursed almost inaudibly. "I really can't help but wonder what have I done to be blessed with an angel such as yourself, Izabelle."

She blushed hard at his words, slightly shocked at how he was expressing himself so clearly to her before she moved and kissed his lips. "I feel the same. I also can't help but wonder how on earth I could end up finding a man as beautiful as yourself, Sebastian."

At those words, he thrust into her oh so slowly but firmly that she bit her lip and momentarily shut her eyes closed. "Don't call me beautiful, baby girl."

"But you are." She teased and he teased her back by pulling his cock out excruciatingly slowly until the head was just about to slip out of her.

"You... tease..." She playfully bit him on his lower lip.

And when he chuckled, Elle laughed too. Their eyes were shining brighter than the stars as they stared at each other.

"F**k... I'm so..."

"Happy..." Elle took the word right out of his mouth when he trailed off.

"Yes." Sebastian whispered, eyes staring deep into hers, feeling as though his heart was full to bursting. It was the first time he was feeling this way.

"Me too... I'm so happy right now, Sebastian."

He kissed her, and then he pushed himself back into her depths, gently, before he lifted himself off her to watch her. His eyes savored every expression she made, listened to every sound of her moans and even breaths, worshiped every curve and dip on her exquisite body.

"You're the beautiful one... Iza... the most beautiful..." came his praise and when she opened her dazed eyes, she smiled at him.

"I love you!" She replied and he bent over her, claiming her lips again, burying a sound that seemed like the echo of those three words she had just uttered to him.

A/N: Just want to give a heads up that I might not be able to upload a chapter tomorrow as its my b-day. I will still try but if there's no update, I will give two chapters the next day instead. ^^

Thanks for your understanding and all you supports. <3 <3

Chapter 256 Her Name

It was the most passionate night Elle and Sebastian had ever shared together in the entire duration that they were married. They took pleasure in being in each other's arms and made love to each other to their heart's content. And yet, the entire night was not long enough. It was just not enough. They wanted more time to be with each other like this.

But dawn was coming, ending the night.

Staring quietly at the window, Elle's dazed eyes blinked slowly. She knew it was silly but she still wished the sun would not come out just yet.

The sound of Sebastian's heartbeats was steady and soothing. It was calming as she put her head sideways on his chest, her ears pressed right over his heart. It was like they were his voice whispering to her that everything would be alright. And a small, tender smile tugged at the corner of her lips. That was right. Everything would be alright. This separation would not last long. It was not a permanent parting between them. She was willing to accept this wholeheartedly... she would have anything except him sending her back to Dalenn and never seeing him again.

"I... Iza... Iza..." Sebastian moaned her name. Elle was not sure if he was calling out in his sleep or he had just awakened.

Elle could not say 'yes' because of the weird strain in his voice. So instead, she carefully pulled herself up and looked at him.

His eyes were still closed. "Iza..." he called out again. His brows creased tight.

Looking at him made Elle immediately remember those times when he was calling out for someone else. For Alysa.

She silently took a deep breath. Was she hearing it right? Was he really calling for her name and Alysa's? Or was she just hearing it wrong?

Her heartbeat thudded hard within her chest as she waited for him to speak again. She kept herself still as she held her breath, waiting for him to say her name.

"Iza..." The soft breath of her name escaped his lips and Elle widened her eyes when she clearly heard that it was her name that was called out.

Elle's hands flew to her mouth. Emotion flooded her eyes, her entire being feeling as though it had been electrocuted. She was so terrified she was wrong and that he would call out someone else's name again. But Lord... he really called her name.

"Izabelle?" The change in his voice had Elle lifting her face from her palms.

He was already sitting up, eyes reflecting his worry as he reached out and gently cupped her face. He ran his eyes all over her face, trying to see what was the matter and if there was something bothering her. "What's wrong?" he even glanced around like searching for threats.

"There's nothing wrong. I'm fine..." she smiled at him through her teary eyes. "I'm just a bit emotional."

Deep lines appeared between his brows after hearing her words. "Why?" He looked so upset, thinking that there might be anything negative that had caused her to turn emotional.

"Because..." her smile widened while her tears fell, "because it's my name that you finally called out while you're holding me in your sleep."

Sebastian froze upon understanding what she had said.

Seeing the utter shock in his eyes had Elle dropping her gaze. She was about to wipe her tears when Sebastian yanked her into his embrace. As he drew in a breath, she could hear how his intake of breath rattled slightly. He must have been shaken after hearing her words. Then his arms tightened around her a little more.

His hold on her was tight. So very tight that she could not move even a muscle. But he still did not say a thing. He just hugged her, caged her in his strong yet warm and tender arms.

"May I... know..." she hesitated, swallowing as she considered whether she should continue speaking or not. But Elle knew she must bring it up now or else this would bother her to no end again especially once they get separated. It was time for her to ask about Alyssa now. "Who is... Alyssa?" Elle paused just a little before mentioning the name.

He became very still after hearing her speak that name. She could swear that he even stopped breathing for a while. But she waited and did not move nor talk until his hold on her loosened.

Letting go of her, he pushed himself away from her at arm's length before staring into her eyes. "Since when did I... start saying her name?" he asked lowly.

Elle looked at him for a couple of seconds before answering his question. "Ever since the first night we slept together."

His eyes widened and then he pressed the heel of his palm against his forehead, looking as though he could not believe what he had just heard.

"This was the first time... I heard you call out mine." Elle added in a careful tone, observing him. "Though lately, I haven't awakened at dawn like today to hear if you were still calling out for her."

"Could this be the reason why back then, you had always acted cold and distant to me the next morning almost every time we had slept together?" Sebastian immediately identified the problem that he did not know why had kept cropping up previously.

Elle bit the insides of her lower lip. Now that she thought about it, he was actually right. She softened for him every time he touched her. But she had always managed to steel herself immediately the next morning, thanks to him calling out someone else's name in his dream.

She heard him curse under his breath and he pulled her into him again, kissing her hair. "I'm sorry... I really wish you had told me about this before."

"I had felt I didn't have the right to ask about her, back then. And there's also our agreement, remember? I never wanted to risk myself getting divorced by you even though... even though hearing you calling that name hurts me every single time."

Chapter 257 Paper

"Alyssa is..." Sebastian started in a low tone. His body was still a little tense but his grey eyes were unseeing as he stared at their entwined hands. "She's with me when I was held captive by that... woman."

Elle's eyes widened and at the same time, her heart throbbed painfully when she heard his admission.

"She's a... prisoner like me. She's..."

Without waiting for Sebastian to finish what he was about to say, Elle rose to her knees and hugged him. "I'm sorry..." she whispered. Pained. She did not know Alyssa was from the duration of that same dark past Sebastian loathed the most. She never meant to make him think back about that phase in his life. "I'm so sorry, Sebastian... I... I didn't..."

"Shhh..." he made her sit on his lap and rested his forehead on her shoulder, taking a deep breath of her scent as though to help him calm himself. "It's alright. You have nothing to apologize about, Iza." He told her with reassurance, causing Elle to feel so much better. She was afraid she had brought out something he had been trying to forget. "Alyssa and I met in that... prison. We had no one else but each other in that hellish place. She was the one who helped me stay sane." He paused for a long while, as though lost in his own thoughts and then Elle saw pain and regret flashed across his eyes for a moment. "But she didn't... make it out."

That painful throb nearly made Elle clutch her hands over her heart, but instead, she shot her arms out and wrapped them around Sebastian again. Pulling him into her embrace and tightening her grip around him.

...

The next time she opened her eyes, the sun was already high in the sky. Sebastian was still lying next to her, holding her. His face looked so peaceful, almost beyond tranquil that Elle could not help but stare. She could really stare at his face forever and would never get tired of it.

When he opened his eyes, he stared back at her dreamily.

"Morning," Elle greeted him with a bright smile and then a slow, tender smile tugged at the corner of his lips.

"Good morning, my wife." A deep vibrating voice sounded from his chest. Elle felt that his slightly sleepy and just awakened voice sounded so dreamy that it felt as though her insides were filled with cotton candy.

Elle playfully pursed her lips and lifted her brow at him. "We're divorced, remember?"

He ran his palm over his face, groaning slightly but then he smiled again and said, "That's just mere paperwork. All we have to do is sign another paper again."

Elle could not help but grin when suddenly, a thought came to her. She lifted her hand and looked at her ring. "We must... remove our ring, right, Sebastian?" She looked longingly at her cherished ring, reluctance bubbling within her at the thought of needing to pull this long awaited band from her fingers.

"Do you want me to take it off?" Sebastian spoke softly.

"We don't have a choice, do we? To make our separation believable, we must... take it off." Although Elle knew and said the right words, her heart bled and was highly opposed, just thinking of it.

Sebastian pulled her into his embrace. "I'm not taking it off. I'm wearing my gloves again from now on so no one could see whether I'm wearing a ring or not."

A soft knock echoed, causing the couple to dart their eyes towards the door.

"What is it?" Sebastian asked.

Elle did not hear the response but Sebastian creased his brows and then groaned.

"Stay here, Iza. I'll be back once I send them away."

"Who came?" Elle asked as she tilted her head, wondering who it was that could bring out such reactions in Sebastian.

"The king and some of his officials." He answered flatly as he scooted off the bed. "I am not sure what they want, but you must not be seen by them."

"I understand." Elle nodded. "I'll wait for you here."

He bent over and then, his lips were slanted over hers. "I'll be back quickly. Just wait here for me."

"Mm. Go." Elle only gestured with her head towards the door.

Once Sebastian was gone, Elle rushed to the bathroom and took a bath. But she was faced with a dilemma once she was done. Her clothes were no longer in the dressing room. It seemed that Sebastian had truly packed everything that had belonged to her already!

She felt a slight pang of pain when she looked at her empty closet next to his. There was nothing left of her things except... except her red silk scrunchy. She could tell it was not left in there by accident. She just knew he had left it in there on purpose.

Picking it up, Elle smiled sadly. "This man..." she could only mumble before she put the scrunchy back on top of her makeup table.

Left without a choice, she put on one of his black shirts. She did not even need shorts because the shirt was already big enough for her and it had covered enough.

"Princess?" Lucas' voice echoed from outside and Elle rushed towards the door, peeking out.

"Yes?"

"I've brought you food. His Highness will still take a little more time."

While Lucas was placing a tray of food on the table, Elle could not help but frown a little. "Lucas... did... something serious happen?"

"He had sent everyone back but..." Lucas paused as if unsure whether to tell her the truth or not.

"But?" Elle stepped out of the dressing room to demand an answer from Lucas. For some reason, she suddenly felt a little uneasy. Lucas only stared at her for a couple more seconds before sighing. From that action, she could tell that he gave in to her request.

"Someone suddenly arrived so His Highness needed to..."

"Who is it?" The words were blurted out of her mouth before she even realized she had already spoken.

Lucas met her gaze and then answered. "It's the prophetess, princess."

Chapter 258 Quick

Whirling around from the window, Elle immediately opened her mouth to speak upon seeing Sebastian. "Is... is everything alright?" she rushed towards him.

But Sebastian was silent, busy eyeing her from head to toe and then back again before he sexily half-bit his lip. Elle was speechless, but if this man was still able to flirt like this, it should only mean that everything was going on well, right? But why would the prophetess, one of the vampires' most important figures, come over so early in the morning? And not to mention the king and some high officials too?

"Lucas saw you like this..." he mumbled, his eyes narrowing a little as he took in what Elle was wearing. She looked all too tempting dressed in nothing but his black shirt.

Blinking, Elle reached out and caught his face in her hands. "There are no other clothes available for me to wear. All of my things are gone." She then gave him a slightly accusatory look.

"That guy..." he ignored her look and clenched his fist while turning towards the closed door, but Elle knew he was not seriously angry. "I better go erase his memory."

"Sebastian!" She lightly slapped him on his shoulder before forcing him to look at her again. "He only looked at my face once and then left, okay? So just leave Lucas be and answer me. Is everything truly alright?"

He sighed and then nodded. "Everything's alright, Iza. We'll proceed as planned. But first... Lucas!" he looked over his head and called out for Lucas.

The door opened and a hand stuck out holding a bag that obviously contained clothes for her.

Sebastian took the bag from Lucas's hand before he lifted Elle and brought her to the dressing room. Gently, he seated her on top of a table, wedging himself between her legs.

"F**k!! And you don't have any underwear on!" Was the very first line he growled out. "You're really making it a torture for me to let go of you today, huh, baby girl?"

Elle blinked and her ears heated up. Because here he goes again, seducing her. "I told you... who's fault is this? All of my things are gone. There literally is not even a single stitch of my clothing left behind."

"Somehow... I'm glad I've got them packed away. If I didn't... then I wouldn't have gotten the chance to see you wearing my shirt so sexily like this." Sebastian grinned mischievously at her.

Her lips parted, surprised at his words. Was this man seriously seducing her right now?! This was supposed to be the time for them to prepare for their...

"F*ck, baby..." he caught her hard nipple between his lips and Elle moaned despite the fabric that was caught in between, instantly wet from his saliva. "Since when did these cute nipples of yours harden up so nicely like this? You didn't let Lucas see you like this did you, baby?"

"I made sure my hair was covering my breasts when I came out. But wait, Sebastian

"That's my good girl." He purred and then pulled away. "Kiss me, Iza..."

"But... I thought we need to..." Elle was thrown off from the sudden request from Sebastian.

"It's fine. We'll be quick. You've aroused me so much I don't think a cold shower alone would be sufficient enough to calm me down."

"Are you... sure? I don't think we can do it... quick." A doubtful look was on Elle's face as she pursed her lips and tilted her head.

He chuckled at her uncertainty.

"I shall introduce to you how we can do a quickie, baby." He whispered, and then he kissed her. The passionate kiss was quick to escalate to a hungry one filled with such wild, uncontrollable desire. It was a kiss unlike their slow, tamed, and heavenly sweet kisses last night. This one was a literal hellfire.

Pressing her against him, Sebastian freed his already rock-hard length from his trousers and rubbed it against her slightly moist entrance, causing her to moan.

He lifted her and in the next moment, she felt her back pressed against the wall. She wrapped her legs around him and then she felt the head of his manhood enter her. Lord... he was going to f**k her while... standing!

The delicious entrance had her moaning louder and before she knew it, she was trying to rock her hips to meet his hard thrusts. Oh god... they had spent the whole night making love and yet... it felt like she had not had enough of him yet! And this... this wildness... him, being as untamed like this...

"Iza... yes, like that, f**k me back, baby." He whispered as he lifted her ass and then drove himself in, reaching the deepest parts of her.

"Sebastian...!!!" Elle squealed his name as her fingers tightened and her nails dug onto his shoulders.

"F**k, harder baby, hmm?"

"Yes...ungh, yes!" She could only scream out her pleasure.

And he lifted her until his length was about to fall out of her and then thrust back into her again, producing delicious friction as his push worked in tandem with gravity to slam their sexes together. Elle's head fell back from the intense pleasure. A powerful orgasm was already reaching its very peak.

"I'm... coming..." she cried.

"Me too, baby..." Sebastian groaned. And then with one last long and hard thrust that had him bottoming out, the fireworks of mind-blowing pleasure exploded for the both of them.

...

Elle still felt a little high even after they were both already dressed. They had to quickly get ready because of another knock that had echoed as soon as they were done with their speedy business.

Giving her a black sunglasses on top of her elegant outfit, Sebastian stared at her. "Alexander will be coming to get you before you reach the airport. That's just to make it

look like he had come to stop you from leaving the country of his own accord. Elijah knew Abigail's very fond of you, so it's certainly not suspicious for Alexander to try and stop you from leaving and even taking you to the Black Forest."

"Okay," Elle nodded, taking a deep breath. She supposed she was as ready as she could ever be.

And then their eyes held each others'. Both were drinking in the sight of the other as they knew it would be some time before they would be able to see each other freely again.

"Please don't get yourself hurt, Sebastian. And don't worry about me, I will be safe and alright." She told him and he smiled, reaching out and rubbing her cheek with his thumb.

"Yes." He pressed his forehead against hers. "I'll come to take you back home soon, Iza."

"I'll wait. I love you." She kissed him and when they reluctantly pulled away, Elle put on the sunglasses. Once Lucas lead her our of the room, she turned, looking back at Sebastian one last time before the door closed, blocking him from her view.

A/N; Thank you very much for all your patience and understanding. And thank you all for the birthday greetings! I really appreciate it! Love you guys!!! <3 <3

Chapter 259 Bothered

"Where is Snow?" Elle asked Lucas as they walked along the corridor. She had forgotten to mention Snow to Sebastian a while ago!

When Lucas did not respond to her question, Elle paused and turned to look at him. She had a niggling feeling that something was not quite right. It was unusual for this man not to respond to her like this. Usually, when she asks him anything, he would respond quite immediately.

"Lucas? Where is Snow?" She asked him again.

The man's eyes darted sideways and then he slipped his hand inside his pocket before pulling his phone out. "Give me a moment, princess."

While he was making a call, Elle waited patiently. She had initially planned to tell Sebastian that she was planning to take Snow along with her. Apart from the fact that she was really missing her pet, she believed that taking Snow with her could also be another solid proof that she was truly leaving the castle for good. Leaving her beloved pet behind might make someone see it as a sign that their separation might be a farce, even though the divorce was real.

"We'll wait for Rion in the courtyard, Princess." Lucas said upon ending the call and then continued walking. However, there was no response about the matter of where Snow was at the moment.

After just a few minutes of waiting in the car, Elle saw Rion arrive. However, there was no Snow with him.

Elle got out of the car and Rion immediately bowed his head to her. Though he had yet to say anything, Elle could clearly feel that this was a bow of apology.

"Forgive me, princess, but... Snow has been missing." Rion reported apologetically. "We don't know how he managed to escape from his cage. But he's been missing ever since the night of your birthday party. We initially thought that he might have been hiding somewhere in the castle. But..." His words trailed off with a guilty look flashing across his face.

Wordless, Elle simply looked at him with a shocked look on her face.

"I've been searching for him since we realised that he was missing. I've tried to look for him in the forest as well but... I couldn't find even a trace of him." Rion added, looking so disappointed in himself. "I'm so sorry, princess."

Despite the worry and sadness Elle felt when receiving the news, she forced herself to smile. "I... I see. It's not your fault, Rion. I believe that Snow should be fine wherever he is right now. Maybe he had returned to his pack already. He should be alright since his wound has fully healed." Trying her best not to show her emotions, Elle then climbed into the car again.

She clearly knew and again reminded herself that wolves could not possibly be domesticated. Though Snow had been very different and seemed very tame, she thought that perhaps, the wolf was like that merely because of his injury. Still, she could not help but feel sad to part with him. She wished she could at least have hugged him one last time before he left.

Taking a deep breath, Elle told herself that it was alright because Snow might have felt really lonely being caged alone with no one to play with and entertain him. The wolf would be much happier now in the forest, running free, rather than being tied up.

"We have someone to continue keeping a lookout for him, princess. So please be rest assured that once he is found, I'll definitely inform you as soon as possible." Rion said as he climbed into the driver's seat.

Elle just nodded, thankful at how thoughtful the man was. "Thank you, Rion. Please tell them not to capture him if they do see him running free in the forest."

Rion whirled around in surprise. "Are you sure, Princess?" Rion knew how much the princess loved the wolf when it was still around.

"Yes," Elle looked out the window, staring longingly at the direction where Sebastian's study was situated. "As long as he's alright, I don't want them to capture him. He might want to be free again. That might be why he escaped. So, please tell them to let him be... all I want is to ensure that he's alright and is not hurt." A gentle yet rueful smile curled her lips.

A short silence followed her statement as Rion looked intently at Elle to identify that she was serious with her orders before he finally nodded. "I understand, Princess. I'll forward your message to them ASAP."

As the car left the Reigns castle, Elle continued staring out the window. Prince Kyle was again accompanying her along with Lucas. Only this time, there was the additional Rion that had tagged along as their driver.

Prince Kyle did not say anything to her apart from the small greeting nod he gave her while entering the car a while ago. She honestly did not mind the silence as she understood they must be on high alert. But for some reason, Elle felt a little bothered about something concerning Prince Kyle. She felt as though there was something off with his presence. Or perhaps it might be his aura?

She was not that certain, but she just felt like the air around Prince Kyle right now was a little heavy and... kind of darker. It was very much unlike the calm and light air that he had around him just yesterday.

Elle tried not to think too much into it and just told herself that perhaps, the prince might just be having a bad day today.

By the time the airport was finally visible in Elle's view, an insanely fast car zoomed past their car that was already travelling at a fast speed.

However, Elle did not feel worried when the car swerved dangerously in front of them because she thought that the driver must be Alexander. However, to her surprise, Rion cursed under his breath as if he was angry at the overtaking car. Did Rion not know about Alexander coming to get her?

She then looked at Prince Kyle and Lucas to get a better bearing. But the look on their faces had her unable to help but spiral into worry.

The next thing she knew, the deafening sound of screeching tires filled her ears.

Chapter 260 Long Time No See

When Elle opened her eyes, the first thing she realized was the strong arm that had wrapped around her front. It was Prince Kyle's arm, holding her steady and keeping her pressed down against her seat. Even though she had her seatbelt on, she knew that his hold was definitely the reason why she had not felt any extreme impact she thought was coming from the almost car crash.

"Who the freaking he..." Rion's loud voice trailed off and everyone looked at the car that had cut right in front of them and was currently blocking their way.

Prince Kyle retracted his arm off her and he sat back, sighing before muttering to himself. However, Elle who was near enough heard his words clearly and could not help but crack a little smile of amusement. "Alexander should really stop doing this unnecessarily flashy antics of his."

Lucas, with his vampiric hearing abilities, also caught onto his mutterings and responded blandly. "This is already not considered flashy actually. To him, this is already holding back a lot because he knows the princess is with us. You know very well how he was in the past, Your Highness." Though Lucas did not show any expressions on his face, Elle had the distinct feeling that he was also amused internally.

"I know..." Kyle could only sigh again. "He still ended up scaring the Princess, though."

"Oh... I'm good... I'm fine." Elle laughed awkwardly as she waved off Prince Kyle's worry for her.

The prince slightly craned his head and looked at her. "You were even shaking a little a while back."

"Ah... that was... it's because I thought... someone was coming to kidnap me." She took a deep breath of relief and smiled. "I'm relieved now and glad it is actually Alexander."

The car door opened just as Elle said those words and Alexander bent over to look into the car.

"You scared her." Kyle told him curtly before he could even speak.

Alexander's warm smile faded hearing what the young man accused him of, and he looked at Elle with worry and apology in his eyes.

"Oh no... please don't worry about it. I'm really alright." Elle immediately waved her hands and shook her head, smiling back at Alexander.

"Sorry about that, Princess Elle. I was trying to play my role out as properly as possible. That way, it would make my chase look serious. Guess I overdid it a little, huh?" He flashed her a lopsided smile that was full of apology.

"No, not at all. More importantly, I think we should move our cars that are sitting in the middle of the road first, before the police head over..." Elle trailed off, realizing belatedly that traffic rules might not be something that she should be worrying about in this country. In fact, she was even wondering if traffic rules were even applicable to these supernatural beings?

"Right! We're lucky this highway is empty." Alexander quickly smiled again, stretching his hand to Elle. He was quick to discard the earlier issue. "My wife can't accept just letting you go like this. Thus, the reason I am here to get you."

Elle looked at the other men inside the car before she placed her hand in Alex's.

As she climbed off the car, Elle noticed that look in Alexander's eyes as he glanced at the other men who were still in the car. And she knew that he was using their vampire eye-communication to pass some secret message. But she could only wonder what he was communicating to them.

...

Somehow, Elle fell asleep in Alexander's car on their trip back to the Black Forest. She thought she could never fall asleep due to the anxiety in her that something like the other night would happen again. But perhaps due to her lack of sleep last night, she eventually passed out.

When she opened her eyes again, she was leaning her head against someone's shoulder. Almost jumping up from surprise, Elle quickly pulled away and immediately apologized for her rudeness.

"I'm sorry â€œ"

"Please don't worry about it, Princess." Rion smiled at her.

"We're finally here." Alexander's voice echoed, pulling her attention to the front. When she saw that they were already at White Falls village, Elle's jaw dropped. My goodness... now she knew why Alexander insisted on driving when Rion was begging

for himself to be the driver instead. How did she manage to sleep when this man had definitely driven as fast as a bullet?! It seems that she had been totally dead asleep!

Very quickly, their car stopped at the entrance of Black Forest.

Elle felt a rush of relief filling her up on the inside as she stood there, looking at that enchanting entrance again. She was just truly glad she had finally arrived here without any serious trouble.

"Well then, princess." Rion then bid her goodbye as he had just apparently tagged along until she was safely delivered to this forest.

"Thank you, Rion." Elle expressed her gratitude. Though she knew that Rion was expected to do this as it was his duty being a guard of Sebastian's household, she did not want to take his care for granted.

"I will send you word once I find Snow." Rion said, not forgetting about the princess' pet wolf.

"Yes. Thank you."

Once Rion had turned and left, Elle and Alexander entered the entrance.

It was already twilight and beyond the gate, it was already quite dark. But of course, with the dainty white, glowing blossoms everywhere, the place never felt scary to Elle. In fact, it always brought an otherworldly feeling to her whenever she entered this place.

Until Alexander suddenly halted and spoke to the darkness. "I don't know why you're trying to hide, but long time no see..."

A man so beautiful with features as breathtaking as Alicia's stepped out of the darkness. His long silvery hair shimmered with the few dim shafts of light that was waning. However, it not only did not detract from his beauty, but instead, seemed to accentuate it. The tall figure slowly walked out, his long legs and upright posture bearing a testament to the dignified yet solemn aura that surrounded him.

"... Zeres."