

## Hellbound Heart #Chapter 71 – 80

This bonus chapter is dedicated to @Monica\_Ceja! Thank you so very much for the supergift!!! <3

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When Sebastian finally returned to their room, Elle was already asleep. She had tossed and turned for quite a long time, troubled at how he had just left without saying a word, and only fell asleep as her body just could not hang on to consciousness any longer. Even in her sleep, there was a slight frown etched between her brows.

Sebastian leaned against the door, quietly staring at her sleeping form. His eyes still held that longing for her, as intense as before he left if not more. He had to get out a while ago because he could no longer stand watching her tensing up on her side of the bed and trying to feign sleep. It was obvious that his presence had made her extremely nervous.

That should not be something that would bother him enough to send him out of his own room. But it f\*\*king did. He did not like the way she looked so uncomfortable with him inside the room. So, he had decided to leave and went out for a smoke at the veranda.

Now that his head had cooled down a little, he realized that it should not be a surprising thing for her to be uncomfortable. This would only be the second night that they would have officially slept together after all. And during that first time, she had actually passed out.

Leaning his head back, Sebastian stared unblinkingly at the ceiling for a long time before closing his eyes. He seemed to be listening out for something for quite a long while before he opened his eyes again. The entire time he was listening, his focus was absolute. There was absolutely no movement made. His entire frame was still and rigid, eyes closed and only showed a slight movement below his eyelids and even his breathing was so light that it was as if he were not breathing at all.

Then he sauntered quietly towards the bed, his long legs lending a graceful gait to his elegant strides. He stopped when he arrived right next to her and squatted down carefully, making sure that he made no sounds to disturb her from her rest. This was the best position for him to stare at her face all he wanted, as she was lying on her side. Thankfully, she was lying and facing the outside of the bed, making it such where after squatting, he was almost face to face with her exquisite face.

His molten grey eyes seemed to gleam in the dark as he watched her sleeping face. It was as though he was content to squat there, drinking in her calmness now that she was asleep. All the while, he enjoyed tracing her delicate facial features with his eyes,

over and over again and taking in the light and moist fragrance from her breaths as she exhaled in her sleep.

After what seemed like forever, he lifted his hand. He carefully rubbed a small stray lock of her fiery hair that was curled on her cheeks between his fingers, noting how silky they felt before brushing it away. Just in case it disturbed her rest.

"That's right... you have to learn to be comfortable around me, Izabelle." He whispered so lowly that his voice was almost inaudible. "Because from here on out, you won't sleep another night without me being next to you. Whether you like it or not." He smiled. It was a smile that was filled with wicked promise and firm decision. He had come to this conclusion after taking some time to ponder and think on how he wanted things to proceed between them from now on.

Sebastian still could not fully understand what was going on with him and why in hell was he having these sudden violent feelings towards her. The reason was still logically inexplicable to him, but there was one thing that he already knew for sure and was a 100 percent certain about. He wanted her. He so badly wanted her. And what he wanted... will ultimately end up being his...

The gleam in his eyes was still so intense even by the time he had climbed into their bed and silently laid down next to her.

He did not sleep and just stared up at the ceiling as if waiting for something to happen. And after some time, when Elle turned and scooted towards him – a source of warmth on the bed, the corner of his lips tugged upwards.

His arm draped around her naturally and pulled her closer to his body before whispering the words, "Mine... you're going to be mine, Izabelle..."

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Elle was so shocked to find herself lying so close to Sebastian when she opened her eyes. She even had her hand draped over his stomach, as though it fully belonged where it was. What happened? Did he not leave?!

She could not believe that he was right there in her bed that she thought she was dreaming for a second. But from the warmth that her hand felt, he was really there! And he looked... so... unlike the beastly god of the dark Sebastian that she was so used to. At that moment, he looked, like... some kind of heavenly being that accidentally fell into her bed.

The fact that he looked so peaceful and seemingly vulnerable had rendered her speechless. But she knew that this sleeping Sebastian just the eye of the storm. Once he awakens...

He suddenly pulled her even closer against him, causing her to almost gasp out in shock. The way he held her almost felt like... it felt like a lover's hug.

Her heart raced and thudded wildly as he squeezed her like he could not get enough of her closeness.

Just as she was about to call out his name, that familiar occurrence happened again.

"Ali... sa..." he uttered in a broken voice. And the gleam in Elle's eyes dulled in the blink of an eye. Her body stilled and stiffened like a block of ice as she continued listening to his voice, calling out that name. Again.

Elle did not move this time and just stayed as immobile as a doll in his arms for what seemed like a long stretch of time. His hold on her had loosened up slowly as he eventually stopped uttering that name. Her throat felt so hot and tight. She hated what she was feeling. She hated the damned ache that was in her throat right now. She hated it so much. So much...

Soon, her eyes fell to the thick curtains and realized that it was already morning. It was time for her to rise and get ready for the day.

Quietly, Elle carefully extracted herself from his hold. Thankfully, he did not wake up, so she climbed off the bed and immediately went to the bathroom. All she wanted to do was to get herself ready and leave the room before he wakes up so she could begin her work for the day. She just wanted to get herself moving and extremely busy again. That way, she would not need to think of any unnecessary things.

But the moment she entered the bathroom, she found herself standing there, utterly shocked at what she was seeing on the wall.

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A/N: We have 5 days left before this month end guys. We are currently #3 in GT ranking. If we finish at top 2 in GT ranking this month, i will give mini mass release. So don't forget to vote hellbounders. ^^

Elle could not quite believe what she was seeing. The destruction of one section of the bathroom wall was not small! This was definitely the source of the sound that she had heard last night while Sebastian was still in here!

The crack that had formed on the wall was serious and just unbelievable. She could see a somewhat circular depression and then there were cracks that spread out from the center. The effect looked as though it had been hit by a hammer with a size of a fist. Sebastian's fist to be precise. Looking down to the floor, Elle also saw little bits of the plaster from the wall that had crumbled off scattered about.

She had very surely believed that he had hit the wall with a hammer last night. But... that was clearly a fist's pattern right there on the wall! There were even slight traces of blood left on it as she looked closer. What in the world... was this a prank? It had to be, right? There was no way Sebastian could have done this just using his fist alone!!! But... but that was clearly a trace of his fist and that blood too...

Shaking her head frantically, she brushed off the issue of the fist-like impression on the wall. For now. She needed to get ready and get going – ASAP.

Elle quickly finished her ablutions and went back out to get dressed. Dear lord... she already had a lot on her plate to think about. She could not afford to take more time in playing detective and finding out who or what was behind this bizarre happening in her bathroom at this moment. She really needed to get out first to breathe and calm down! That was her topmost priority for now.

To her relief, Sebastian was still sleeping when she left their room. She rushed out of the castle after grabbing a tumbler of water from the kitchen. Her morning routine was to usually have a light breakfast first before going for a run and cool-down walk at the small forest that was just behind the castle. But today, she had forgone her usual light breakfast routine. What she desperately wanted to do was to go cool off and relax her mind. If not, she might be driven insane with what was going on between her and Sebastian. And then that thing on the wall too.

Dressed in discreet and comfortable running clothes, Elle walked and jogged alone along the clean trail leading to the top of a small hill. She had come to love this place only in just the few days that she had lived here already. She liked the clean fresh air and all the nature that was so close, and breathtaking view that could be seen along the way and most specially at the top of the hill itself.

The place was a quiet, relaxing haven to her. It allowed her to take time off so that she could think and meditate on some things that were weighing on her mind.

Soon, after thirty minutes, she had finally reached her favorite spot. It was a place that was overlooking the beautiful Reign castle. It still was not the peak of the hill though. She had wanted to climb up more and reach the peak of the hill. But due to her schedules that were quite packed, and not wanting to exhaust herself out too much, she had decided to stop at this spot. She had planned to go up there though, once she had more time to spare.

Sitting on the bench by the side while gulping down her water, Elle smiled at the sight of the beautiful rising sun. It seemed as though today was promising to be such a beautiful day.

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Waking up on the bed, Sebastian realized that he was alone. Running his fingers across her side of the bed and feeling the coolness of the sheets, he then combed his fingers through his hair as he realized Izabelle had left the bed long ago. Again. How could he not have awakened when she left the bed? Was it because he had not had much sleep for the past three nights when he was away? That must be...

Lazily, he climbed off the bed and headed off to the bathroom, only to widen his eyes and run his fingers through his hair again at the sight of the cracks spreading on the wall. F\*\*k him... how had he completely forgotten about this?! He should have gotten someone to have dealt with it before she saw it.

In a matter of a few moments, Sebastian had rushed out of their room. He immediately called for the butler and told him to have the bathroom wall fixed as soon as possible.

When the butler nodded, Sebastian walked ahead only to stop and turn around to call for the butler again.

"Where's my wife?" he asked.

"She's taking her daily exercise, Your Highness." the butler reported the movements of his mistress.

Sebastian creased his brows. Lucas did not mention in his reports that she had some kind of daily exercise going on. "Where?"

"At East Hill, Your Highness. She likes hiking up the hill for a bit by herself –"

"By herself..." Sebastian's expression suddenly went a few shades darker. "You do mean to tell me that someone's trailing her secretly, right?" his question was a loaded one.

"Uhm..." the butler suddenly started sweating buckets as he could feel the clothes on his back getting damp.

"Where is Lucas right now?" his expression was much darker now. In his mind, he was thinking that Lucas should be keeping an eye out for Izabelle.

"I... I think I saw him in the courtyard a while ago, Your High..." The butler trailed off as he looked up. The spot that the prince had been standing in was now bare of his presence as he was already gone. He let out a long deep breath and wiped off his sweat.

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"I see that you're slacking off at your job, Lucas. You've specifically been given a royal order to watch over my wife, have you not? Yet why do I find you right here, having so much time on your hands that you can still smoke?" Sebastian's voice was calm and neutral, yet the intense and freezing look in his eyes had Lucas feeling goosebumps running down his whole body... not just his spine. Good god... this little dark lord...r

"Umm... Your Highness... perhaps... did you and the princess fight..." Lucas hazarded a guess before trailing off at the deadly gaze the prince had thrown at him. From the way he was behaving, it was very similar to the time he had stormed out the day after their wedding. And his guesses are usually not far from wrong. What in the hell was up with this prince lately? r

Lucas could not get used to how grumpy this prince had suddenly become since that night he left the castle as if he was running away from something that was hot on his heels. He was used to him being so annoyingly calm and lazy. Previously, nothing could cause this person to waver. The prince was not the type of person to react so strongly over anything, except if someone mentions his older brother, Prince Ezekiel. Yet here he was... behaving like this now. What in the hell had happened? It seemed as though things were starting to get more interesting in this castle now that Princess Izabelle had arrived, hmm? r

Lucas could only suppress the grin that was quivering to be released at the corner of his lips.r

"I had been ordered by your wife to not follow after her during her morning exercises. She had told me to wait right here for her to return, Your Highness." Lucas reported to Sebastian.r

"And you just listened to her orders and really didn't follow after her? Shouldn't you have trailed after her in secret at least?" r

"Uhm... you want me to disobey her –" Lucas blinked and hesitatingly asked the question.r

"It's for her f\*\*king safety, Lucas! How could you let her hike up there alone?! What if she encountered some kind of danger while on her own? Do you think she would be able to solve it alone?!" Sebastian was on the verge of shouting.r

"Oh..." r

Somehow, that caught Lucas off guard. That was... unexpected. This prince was coming at him like this because he was worried that something might happen to the princess. Now this was... getting really interesting. r

"I don't think there is any danger up there though, Your Highness. You know that there's no dangerous animals that could possibly attack her. And there are still some guards patrolling around the forest grounds for any threats." r

"Those guards' jobs are to guard the hill, not watch over her. What if she misstep and..." Sebastian broke off, clenched his jaws and glared at Lucas as though he wanted to bite his head off. "I'm sending you to Karam for two days. You will leave, effective immediately." r

Speechless, Lucas could only stand there watching as the grumpy prince quickly disappeared from his view. He shook his head and laughed. He could not believe the prince was actually punishing him for this! What in the hell!?! r

"Karam, huh... oh well... guess it's not bad that I'll be having two extra days of bloody action again." He murmured as he sighed and went to his car. He still had a grin on his face though. Because it seemed that the dark little lord had finally found someone who could rock his calm façade. r

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Sebastian had rushed off after giving his orders to Lucas. Within a few minutes, he had already reached where she was. r

Elle, who had just started to take her leisure walk back down, was shocked to see him on the trail. And he was still dressed in his usual regal attire. Who would come hiking dressed like this?! Was there an emergency that needed her presence?r

"What are you... why did you come here?" Elle rushed forward to meet him, expecting to hear some kind of emergency news.r

"To escort you back down, of course." Sebastian replied in a matter-of-fact tone.r

"Huh... What?" Elle stopped in her tracks as she blinked, not knowing if she had heard him right.r

"I don't think that it's wise for you to be hiking up here all by yourself. You could have met with an accident, and no one would be there to help you." As he said that, his brows furrowed in what seemed to be concern.r

Elle was shocked that those words could come out of his mouth. But... she had to give it to him that he was right on that point. r

Clearing her throat a little embarrassedly, Elle replied. "I'm not that clumsy if that's what you're worried about. And I am a very cautious person."r



He smiled seeing how prickly she had become after hearing his words of concern for her. Why did it seem so unbelievable to her that he was truly concerned for her safety? Does she only react cautiously to him?r

However, he replied to her comment in a teasing manner, wanting to see more of her reactions. "I highly doubt that."r

"Huh?" Elle looked as though she was being insulted and her brows furrowed a little.r

"If something catches your curiosity, I don't think you're the type to hold back."  
Sebastian continued.r

Elle creased her brows even more. r

"What kind of something do you think might catch my curiosity to the extent that I'll compromise my safety in an empty and beautiful forest like this?" r

"Like someone who is hunting a prey. You're the type who will pity the little prey and jump to save it, risking yourself to be preyed upon next."r

Elle blinked at him. r

"Are there... really hunters up here? I know hunting in this country is not illegal, but no one should be allowed to come and hunt here, right?" she was honestly curious to know.r

"There are no rules that forbids the hunters from coming here. And people in the castle also come out hunting from time to time."r

Elle opened her mouth to ask again when suddenly, she heard a rustle behind her. It was as if there was someone running toward her at full speed.r

This bonus chapter is dedicated to @Sacogun! Thank you so very much for the supergift!!! <3

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She quickly turned around to look behind her, but there was no one there. Tilting her head sideways, she wondered what was that sound.r

Then, all of a sudden, there a big dog so white its fur was as white as snow. r

Elle was unable to react for a moment. She kept herself still as the dog also stilled. Was that a wolf perhaps? There were wolves here?! How had she not heard about it before? She had not seen one the past few days she had been hiking in the morning, except for



some other smaller and furry animals. Could it be because she had come out a little earlier today as she had skipped her usual light breakfast?r

She was about to turn to Sebastian to tell him they should leave now, when she saw something red on the white wolf's back. That patch of red was so vivid especially with its snow-white fur as contrast. The wolf was really beautiful. r

"I think it's hurt." She uttered after realizing what that red patch was. r

When the wolf took a couple of steps forward with much struggle, Elle slowly turned to look at Sebastian. r

"You see what I mean?" he said, slightly raising a brow at her. r

Elle pressed her lips tightly together, knowing that he was trying to prove his point. But she knew that if she just leaves like this and act as though she had not seen anything, she would definitely be thinking of the animal for many sleepless nights. She had experienced this before when she was younger. There was once a kitty that had been drenched in the rain by their palace. She saw the small animal when she was on her way back home. She had wanted so badly to stop the car to help the kitten, but her fear of her father stopped her. Her father did not like pets, and he did not want her to touch one too. So, Elle was forced to ignore it. r

But that night, she was unable to get the wet little kitty out of her mind. So, the next morning, she woke up early and rushed to the gate. She had regretted it instantly, because she had then found that the poor little kitty was already dead. It had died due to drowning. The experience was so awful that she even ended up having a nightmare for several nights. If only she had just stopped and maybe left her umbrella to at least shelter it instead of acting like she had seen nothing. r

So since then, if she ever sees something like that again, she would always try her best to do something. More often than not, she would just ask her guards to pick the animal up and they would drop it an animal clinic and then have someone to bring them to the shelter. r

She could not even hide her expression from him at the moment. She needed to do something even if it was just a little thing or else, she might be dreaming of this animal tonight staring at her with its pitiful eyes. And it was such a beautiful dog too...r

"Is there... any way to help it? It's injured." She asked hesitantly. r

Sebastian sighed. "This was what I had been talking about. If I was not here, you would have gone ahead to do something to help the wolf aren't you? Even if it was by yourself... Even if you know it might be dangerous." He then shook his head as he looked at her with a reproachful gaze.r

Elle looked away a little guiltily and stared back at the wolf again. It did not seem to be going away. It had even seemed to move a little closer to them as it kept glancing behind. Was the hunter still after it? The more Elle looked at the white wolf, the more her heart ached for the poor animal.r

"The hunter seemed to still after it." She said seemingly to herself, but it was obvious she wanted him to hear it too. She could not help but worry. She did not want to watch the dog get killed before her very eyes. r

Before she knew it, she was already squatting down facing the wolf and called out to it, "Come." She knew she should be scared because that was still a wild animal even though it was injured. But somehow, maybe because Sebastian was also there with her, and the animal seemed already badly injured, that she was not the least bit afraid. She even wanted it come a little bit closer to them so that the hunter would not aim for it anymore if he sees them with it. r

But then, she suddenly thought of another more dangerous situation. What if the hunter accidentally lets out a shot and it hits either her or Sebastian? Wait... something's off here. How could they let hunters hunt anywhere, even up to the vicinity of the castle? Were they not worried of people getting accidentally shot? Something did not seem right with this situation.r

The snow-white wolf struggled to move itself closer to them and Elle could not help but feel her heart ache at how it seemed to be in so much pain. Every step it took, it would limp and looked as though it wanted to curl into itself. r

But a thought came to her and suddenly, she grabbed onto Sebastian's hand without warning and pulled him to hide behind a large tree trunk. The trunk was so wide and large that even with the both of them hidden behind it, there was still space to spare on either side.r

Sebastian looked surprised at her sudden action. His gaze then fell to her tight grip that she had on his hand as she hid him behind her, protectively. r

"Please stay back." She was stretching her free hand behind her to block him from stepping out. "The hunter must still be aiming for the... dog. I can't risk you getting accidentally shot!" she exclaimed as she peeked out from the side of the tree trunk, completely oblivious at Sebastian's expression at that moment as he looked at her. r

There were an abundance of emotions flashing across Sebastian's eyes currently as he looked down at his little wife taking the initiative to stand before him and acting as his shield. He had not thought that she would be this protective of him. He had not expected such an action from her that it took him quite a while to snap out of the surprise that came out of it. r

His gaze moved to her slender hand that was still stretched out horizontally, blocking him from moving to the front and before he had even realized it, his reserved dimple slowly made its way out. Suddenly, he imagined in his mind, a little white and innocent bunny enthusiastically jumping around, thumping its feet, trying to protect the deadliest beast behind it. And his smile widened more than a fraction. His eyes gleamed with amusement, awe, and something... more. r

"I think we should shout and call for help, right? Maybe that would be enough to alert the guards patrolling here?" she asked Sebastian while peeking out of the tree trunk, still not looking at his face as she was busy taking stock of the situation. r

When he did not make a sound nor responded to her question, she looked over her shoulder. Tilting her head at him, she blinked and wordlessly asked the question again with her actions. r

Quickly, he bit his lip to hide his smile from her. Her actions were just... fucking adorable right now. And he found himself enjoying seeing her reactions and wanted to observe more. Somehow, he just could not get enough of it. r

"It's to let them know... the hunter that people are here. If they know that there were others moving around in this area, I'm sure they will not dare to simply shoot, right?" her expression was serious and troubled, but she was calm. It could be seen that she knew how to respond in dangerous and high-risk situations. The fact that she could think of this option within a few seconds had impressed Sebastian. He already knew Isabelle was different from those sheltered royals he knew but her actions and reactions in such threatening circumstances still surprised him. r

"Hmm... I think so?" Sebastian replied in a questioning tone and as soon as she peeked past the tree trunk again, she took a deep breath and suddenly yelled. r

"Hello!!! Someone's here!!! Can you hear us?!!!" Her high-pitched voice projected at what he suspected to be her maximum volume echoed through the immediate area of the forest. Then utter silence followed, after her yells subsided. r

Elle creased her brows as there were no responses or any of the guards that appeared even after waiting for a while. "Is anyone out there?!!" she shouted again. Still, the only response she got was silence. Frowning, she wondered what had happened to the guards that were supposed to be patrolling around the area. Could they have encountered the hunters and were hurt? r

Slowly, she turned to look over her shoulder again, only to find Sebastian standing there, leaning against the tree trunk in such a relaxed stance as he watched her with hooded eyes. She had wanted to ask him about the absence of the guards. But... He was looking so... was he in daze? That should not be the case, right? r

Elle got momentarily distracted by the seemingly dreamy look in his eyes as he continued staring straight at her. This was the first time she was seeing him having such look. No, this was the first time she was receiving such a look from him! It was almost as if he was in a daydream, and he was... oh lord... this man... or was she just reading him wrongly? What could he have been thinking about in this situation that he could even wear such an expression? Does he not realize how precarious their situation was?r

Part of her somehow could not believe that Sebastian was caught in some kind of a dreamy trance. It was just too unbelievable for her to even consider it. Because well... this was Sebastian! She had never even imagined him ever having this kind of expression! Much less, training said expression onto her! What had gotten into him? r

The dog's high-pitched whining sounds reached her ear, causing her to immediately whip around. r

Seeing the snow-white animal falling to the ground had her heart jumping to her throat. Fear immediately gripped her. The dog cannot possibly die here! Not on her watch!r

Elle let go of Sebastian's hand and was about to rush out to the animal's aid when Sebastian grabbed hold of her wrist, pulling her back before she could expose herself. r

"Don't rush over it. Let me –" he whispered.r

,m "No!" Elle cut him off as she pressed both her hands onto his chest to push him back into hiding. "Please stay here. It's dangerous." r

His lips hung open in surprise, but Elle was too worried about the dog to notice his facial expressions right now. r

"Izabelle –"r

"We don't know if any moment, someone might shoot. So, stay here, okay? No matter what, please don't come out!" she firmly said, causing Sebastian to run his fingers through his hair in exasperation. This little... how could she be thinking of someone else's safety and not think of her own? r

At that moment, he looked like he did not know whether to be amused or angry at her. These actions of hers right now was something he could never even imagine a princess to have. He could not even deny how all this was making him feel inexplicable things. Suddenly, a memory flashed pass his mind. r

It was an image of him when he was a child standing right behind his... older brother. He looked terrified as he looked at his brother who was drenched in blood but was still protecting him. r

That flash of memory had him spacing out and he was too late to realize that he had released Izabelle's hand, until he saw her already about to reach the animal. r

This bonus chapter is dedicated to @CrazyRichAsian! Thank you so much for the supergift!!! <3

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Just as Elle was about to reach out and touch the wounded animal, she was grabbed from behind and pulled back. Almost in a violent way that she had almost screamed out.

But she had guessed that it was Sebastian. And she immediately turned her head to look at him, a little panicked that he had come out even when she had warned him not to. "Sebas...tian..." she trailed off at the look in his eyes.

The almost dreamy look had evaporated and was now replaced with something so terrifying. His eyes... his grey eyes had turned... reddish. Were her eyes... tricking her?

Time seemed to stand still for a moment before he yanked at her, causing her to tumble against him before burying her head into his chest. "I'm not going to let you touch this animal until I make sure it would not harm you, Izabelle." His tight voice echoed in her ears. He sounded so angry again. In fact, she could feel something so... so strong and heavy and dark emanating from him. It was making her unable to do anything else but stay still in his arms. She had the feeling that if she had tried to wriggle her way out of his hold, he would totally explode and go bonkers on her.

Lord... this man's mood swings and emotions really switch faster than anything she had ever known. And what dramatic level of change it was!

When his hold on her finally loosened up, Elle gingerly pulled away from his arms and slowly looked up. Her heartbeat was racing while she was at it. So she lifted her eyes to look into his eyes, hoping to gauge his emotions and the mental state that he was in. They were back to being grey again. That... a while ago was it... just her... imagination?

While absent minded, he had pulled her to stand behind him. "You stay back, I'll deal with this." He ordered her before squatting on the ground, just within reach of the animal.

Elle stared down at him as he reached out to check on the animal's wound. She snapped out her daze and rushed across from Sebastian, standing on the opposite side of him.

Sebastian lifted his eyes only to see her already standing there. She was... using her body to block him.

"I'll... I'll keep watch on the situation then... while you help it..." she said, looking back and forth behind her and then to the wolf lying pitifully on the ground and then at him.

He was speechless for a moment. She was really going to this extent just to protect him? Even using her body like that to shield him?

As though she finally realized the wonder and disbelief in his eyes as he looked up at her, she suddenly began to explain awkwardly. "I... I don't want to get... widowed so early." She had stammered out her excuse, knowing that it was totally lame and totally inelegant. But she was stumped! And that was the fastest thing she could grasp onto as she had scrambled to give him her defense.

His dimple appeared before he turned his attention back to the animal. But because Elle was too busy worrying about her response and wincing a little, she had missed that quick appearing of his dimple.

"Didn't I tell you bad grasses never dies?"

"Well... I don't think you're bad enough to be considered a bad grass. So, you're still at risk of dying in my books." Elle muttered out.

He laughed soundlessly without looking up. "I didn't expect you to think so highly of me." He teased.

"I don't think bad grasses would bother to help a wounded animal."

His hand stilled for a moment. "I might only be forced into doing this because you're watching, don't you think so?"

"Maybe..." Elle shrugged noncommittally. "But still... I think you could still die. And I can't let that happen." She looked behind her again before she quickly changed the topic. "How is she?" Elle stared at the animal that was still not moving.

"He..." Sebastian corrected.

"He doesn't look like... he was shot." Elle finally realized that the animal's wound was not from a gunshot. Though the moment she realized that, she had quickly covered her lips and almost gasped. The wound was... strange...

"He won't make it." Sebastian told her flatly and Elle's eyes widened at his diagnosis.

The look in her face had Sebastian trailing off. He had not expected her to look so shocked and devastated.

"That's... that can't be..." she was in denial as she slowly fell to her knees. "He looks so pretty... like a bad ass grass... he can't die that easily."

Sebastian kept his gaze on her. And before he knew it, he said, "Yes, you are right. Now that you have mentioned it, this one looks as though he is a bad grass. He might still really live if we can get him some first aid quickly." Sebastian sighed internally, cursing at himself for being so wishy washy and agreeing with her so easily. He had a feeling that he would regret saying such things to her.

"Right?!" the light in her eyes quickly returned, causing Sebastian to bite his lip before quietly nodding.

Two guards had finally arrived due to Elle's earlier cries for help. They were there to help them and had taken the white wolf away with them. Sebastian had then called for the medics using his phone and to her relief, they had arrived at the scene pretty quickly.

After that, the two of them decided to continue walking down the hill.

Elle had initially wanted to go along with the guards, but Sebastian had not allowed her. She could only relent as she knew that she still had an important schedule on for the day. But she was more at ease now that Sebastian had taken over with the matter of the injured wolf and could return her attention to the other duties that she needed to see to. Also, she trusted that the medics who were under Sebastian's payroll could not be anything less than the best in their field.

"Don't worry, you've heard the reports earlier. I've already called for the doctor to make sure that they'll take care of it." Sebastian said, after noticing that Izabelle was still obviously thinking and worried about the wolf.

This bonus chapter is dedicated to @Ivette\_M11! A big thank you for the supergift!!! <3

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After breakfast, Elle found herself to be in for another surprise when Sebastian stopped her from entering their room. She had wanted to rush in and have a quick bath before changing into her formal dress and getting straight to work. However, as she was about to grab the door handle, Sebastian's long arm suddenly zipped horizontally across her vision and blocked her way in.

"The bathroom's not ready yet. So, for now, we'll be using another room." He had cleared his throat before informing her. And without waiting for her reply, he led her away to their new room. Most of her things were already transferred over.

Elle just quietly went along with him but once she was inside the bathroom, her mind began to start getting troubled by so many things.



Two of the main bizarre things she could not seem to ignore no matter how she tried to talk herself out of was the cracks in the bathroom and... his reddish eyes... how could that happen? Could she really be just seeing things? But...

That day, Elle tried to distract herself from thinking about those matters. She had gone on ahead to her scheduled events and met with many new and important people as she had been doing the past few days. The only difference this time was the fact that Sebastian had come along with her. She however, had not expected him to actually come with her!

The day had been very busy, but Elle was glad she had to go around and socialize because it had help her to stop thinking about those bizarre things. And Sebastian... he had been acting as the perfect husband to her that the people around started to look so surprised to see how Sebastian was behaving towards her.

p Elle did feel really glad that he was kind of acting much better than that when they acted as a couple-in-love the first day she had come to the Reigns castle and met his family. And with all his actions, she could not help how her heart was reacting.

Soon that late afternoon, she had been separated from Sebastian as her group this time consisted of ladies only, hosted by a duchess. Sebastian had actually insisted to go with her but because Elle told him it was only for ladies, he could only relent.

As always, Elle had immensely enjoyed herself as everyone had been quite engaging. And she was naturally a social butterfly, thus, it was only normal that she thrived in such social engagements. She had also had a talk with the duchess about another organization she had been interested in to be a part of. And that had sparked off another lengthy but meaningful discussion with the ladies.

Though everyone had been nice to her so far as always, she had realized that this time, everyone had become even more opened to accepting and receiving her. During the past few days, she had already been feeling as though everyone had been putting an invisible wall that she had been so curious about. But since today, she felt that the wall had somehow dissolved. For whatever reason it was, she still did not know.

For now, though, she was happy because with this, she can finally start making real connections with these important people in this country. That way, she would be able to carry out her royal duties even better.

It was almost time for the late afternoon activities to end when Elle excused herself to go to the bathroom to freshen up.

"You know, I'm really shocked. It seems that the Prince is really in love with his wife and Princess Izabelle seemed oblivious about it. Was it just me, or did she seem to be the one who was putting some kind of distance between them?" A voice echoed along the corridor, causing Elle to stop in her tracks.

"It's a little obvious because she rarely looks at him. While the prince was staring at her almost the whole time. I've seen it happening since this morning." The other voice commented, sounding confident in her observation.

"Wow. I'm speechless. But seriously though? I can't really believe that the prince is really in love. That's prince Sebastian we are talking about. He never falls in love! It's just too hard to take in. But what else could be the reason behind his actions?"

"It's because Princess Izabelle is smart."

"Huh? What do you mean?"

"Oh, c'mon. You know that Prince Sebastian hates clingy girls. Princess Izabelle clearly isn't doing that and that's why the prince is current infatuated with her. Mark my words, once princess Izabelle starts becoming clingy to him and falls madly in love, you'll see what happens next."

Elle sighed and quietly left. A small ironic smile curved on her lips. She wondered who that woman was that she seemed to know Sebastian so well to be able to give comments that way. She seemed to know Sebastian's rules really well. Could she be one of the women Sebastian had told her about that night she had proposed to him? That should be the case, right?

There was a little sting in her throat as she walked away, head held high and strides elegant as ever. Being reminded of their moments the entire day, Elle could not help but smile bitterly to herself. Even though she was aware that his actions today were most definitely an act to clear whatever rumors that were spreading, Elle still felt all its effects on her. The good thing was that she did not dare believe that they were real at all. And thus, she did not dare react to him more than was necessary.

Whoever that woman was, Elle thought that she was right. Sebastian would be her husband, as long as she did not fall madly in love with him. As long as she does not cling to him. And she was determined to stay his wife until she could finally stand on her own. Until then...

By the time she had stepped out of the entrance, the first person that Elle saw was Sebastian. He was leaning against the car with his impeccable regal outfit. He looked so handsome that even the other males around were looking at him in awe.

"Y-you came yourself?" Elle was a little in disbelief that Sebastian had come to fetch her himself! "I thought Lucas or someone else –"

"Lucas went to a short vacation." Was all he said and even opened the door for her, causing her to blush. He behaved like a gentleman and buckled her in before getting in and driving off.

"I am very thankful you came, Sebastian. But I don't want to take too much of your time. You have your own royal duties to –"

"Did someone upset you?" he cut her off, causing Elle to whip her head towards him. Did he notice her expression when she was walking out of the entrance?

"Oh... it's..." Elle frowned. She suddenly felt something strange. Her heartbeat started racing impossibly fast and loud and her eyes became blurry.

"Izabelle?" She heard him calling out. But... lord... what was happening to her now?

The car screeched to a stop and the next thing she heard was him, cursing as he held onto her.

Elle woke up alone in their new room. r

A deep frown flashed across her face when she looked at the clock and it indicated that it was already mid noon. What had happened to...r

Then everything that had happened the night before came rushing back to her, as though her mind was playing a memory reel for her to recall the events and that had her eyes widening. Her hand flew to her chest, clutching at the nightgown that she was wearing. What happened to her last night? r

All she knew was that her chest had suddenly raced and then it ached so badly that she was even fighting to breathe. She had thought that she was suddenly having a heart attack, or she perhaps somehow had gone through anaphylactic shock. Because such an intense ache in the chest should only be something pretty serious! But if it was serious, why was she back here in her bed and not in the hospital? r

Confused and curious about what had actually happened, Elle slowly pushed herself up on her elbows before sitting up. After looking around and finding that there was truly no one else in the room, she then climbed off the bed. She tried to take stock of herself and so far, there seemed to be nothing amiss. This could only mean that nothing really serious happened? r

She was instantly relieved, but it was hard for her to believe that the strange and sudden extreme pain she had experienced last night was really nothing. Dear Lord... what was going on? Why do bizarre, inexplicable things keep happening to her lately? What in the world was going on? r

"You're awake, Your Highness!" the head maid assigned to their wing, Lorna, who had just quietly entered the room, gasped in relief at the sight of her already up and standing beside the bed. r

Elle glanced at the flowers that were in her hand. "Lorna, is Sebastian still in the castle?" she asked the maid immediately. She wanted to see Sebastian and ask him what had actually happened. The last thing she remembered was being with him in the car before totally blacking out. So he should have the answers she wanted.r

"The prince had already left at dawn. And Your Highness... he had already ordered that you are not to leave this room until he returns."r

"W-what?" Elle blinked at her in surprise. Sebastian had even left an order for her to remain in the room?!r

"Forgive me ma'am but this is a royal order. So, if you needed something please don't hesitate to call for me. I'd assist you to the best of my abilities." Lorna bowed her head, looking apologetic as she relayed the message Prince Sebastian left for Elle.r

Elle was speechless. She had never expected this! What in the world was going on?! What was happening that it was of such importance for her to remain in her own room?r

"Why?" She asked the maid, her expression firm and daunting. If she was to be held in her room against her wishes, the very least was that she wanted to know the reason why it was demanded of her.r

"I'm sorry, princess. But I wasn't told anything on the reason why you needed to do so. However, I am quite certain that whatever the reason is, it is definitely for your sake, Your Highness." r

Shaking her head in disbelief, Elle quietly clenched her fists before taking a few deep breaths. So, he would not even care to explain anything to me? r

"What happened last night? I believe something must have happened to me on our way back home." She tried to ask, hoping that the maid must have seen them or perhaps she was the one who had changed her evening gown last night, into the nightgown she was currently wearing as she realized that she was now wearing a completely new set. r

But the maid shook her head and looked at her with a sincerely apologetic look. "Sorry, princess. But I don't know anything about what had happened last night."r

Oh lord...r

"Are you sure?" she could not help but have doubts right now. Because there was no way Lorna would not know anything. She was the one who was in charge of most of the work that goes on in their wing of the castle, including their room. She has also been Sebastian's maid for a long time. "Surely, Sebastian must have had called you and one of the other maids to help me change out of my clothes last night, right?" r

"The prince didn't call anyone, princess. That I am very certain about. The truth is, he had forbidden anyone from the entire east wing to come into your room last night. I was only allowed to come over this dawn before he left just so he could give me the instructions." r

"Hold on... what? That's... ridiculous." Elle could not believe it. "Why would he do that? What is going on?" r

"I'm sorry again princess, but I don't have any answer to your question. Well then, I'll go prepare your meal now, Your Highness." r

Elle could only watch the now closed door in utter disbelief and confusion. She did not know what was happening anymore.r

Then she rushed towards the door, but before she could even open it wide enough for her body to slip through, someone held the double doors in place. A guard had been stationed outside and was now standing there. r

"Good day, Your Highness." He greeted Elle politely. "But we have been ordered not to let you out of your room, no matter what. And I'm sorry that I have to close this door. Thank you for your cooperation, princess." And then he unceremoniously pulled the doors closed again, leaving Elle standing there, mouth agape and shaking her head in disbelief. r

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A/N: Just curious guys... are there new readers here who didn't read Hellbound With You yet? I'd like to know the ratio of new and old readers. So can you like my comment below? Thank you. ^^

This bunos chapter is dedicated to @MonsterUnderTheBed!! A very big thank you for the supergift!!! <3

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"When will Sebastian be returning? Or don't tell me that he did not tell you that as well?" Elle asked as Lorna began to head back to the door, taking the trays along with her. She had asked questions while she was eating but the maid could not or perhaps it was more that she would not give her any answers. r

"I'm not told anything about that too, princess. I'm sorry once again." Lorna answered before the door shut closed again behind her. Elle had caught the slight flush on Lorna's cheeks just before she left the room. It could be embarrassment due to not knowing anything, or embarrassment due to guilt of concealing the truth from her. r

Time passed and soon it was already midnight. Elle had never felt time pass so slowly like it had today, for a long time already. However, she had decided to be patient and just wait in the room obediently as she had been instructed to. She had realized that she was only wasting her breath in asking the maid. Obviously, nothing would be spilled from those lips.r

Lorna had only repeatedly told her that this was for her sake and that she had to wait and ask Sebastian for the answers to her questions once he was back. She realized that that was indeed the only way for her to get an answer about this ridiculous situation she had suddenly somehow found herself into. She had been thinking of all the questions she was meaning to bombard him with once he emerged from the door.r

But the infuriating prince did not arrive even after the sun set. r

Elle did not even know what to say. A soundless laugh could only escape her lips. Sebastian you... you damned little cruel tyrant!!! Why were you suddenly doing this?!!r

No matter how she tried to figure out the reason why he had to go as far as to lock her in their room and even keeping guards by the door, she just could not find any logical answers. The man had even disabled the internet in their room and had also taken her phone hostage. That was just too much!!! r

That night, Elle finally fell asleep very reluctantly, blazing in frustration that she had no place to release it onto. r

The next day, she held herself back and stopped asking. She did not bug Lorna anymore and did not even ask a single question. r

When afternoon came, one of the guards entered the room. He was not as tall and big as Lucas but he's pretty good-looking. Well, everyone in this country were all disturbingly good-looking but Elle hadn't seen a green-eyed man yet except this guard. The air around him also seemed less intimidating compared to the other guards. Somehow, this man felt kind of different compared to the rest. His surprisingly beautiful long, blond hair really stood out too. r

Elle's gaze fell to the books in his hand and she creased her brows. Does this mean that she was going to be locked up in this room a bit longer? r

She fought for calm even though she was so close to blowing up now. r

"I've brought you books, princess." He said politely. "Please take a look if you want any of these. If nothing among these strikes your fancy, I'll go get you something else." r

"Rion, right?" Elle asked. Lucas had told her this blonde's name once before. Good thing she was good in remembering names.r

"Yes, Your Highness." Rion saluted. r

"How old are you?" r

"Uhm... twenty-one... ?" His reply came back hesitant and sounding more like a question than an answer, causing Elle to raise her brow.r

"We're the same age, I see... who told you to bring me books?" Elle questioned him strictly. She did not want to be hard on these people who were merely following their superior's orders, but she did not have a choice. r

"We just thought that you must be bored since the Internet is down. We're not allowed to let you use any gadgets. But books are fine, so we've thought about this. I'm not sure about what kind of book interests you though."r

"Really? It's not my husband who had instructed you people and ordered you to bring me books?" r

Rion blinked and then rubbed the back of his neck. "No, Your Highness –" r

"You're lying. Let me borrow your phone. I need to call him." She reached out her hand to the man. r

"Uhm... princess. I'm sorry but I don't have my phone with me..." his tone sounded stilted and unnatural. r

She narrowed her eyes at him and her gaze searched him down to his pocket sides. Her eyes stopped at something bulging in his pocket. "Give me your phone, Rion." r

The man stepped back. "Uhm, I'm sorry Princess, but I can't. Forgive me." And then he turned and rushed out of the room almost like a scared cat running away from a big bad lioness.r

Elle pressed her fingers on her temples and then slammed her palm on the table. "Sebastian... you devil!" she muttered angrily. r

Night came and still, Sebastian did not come home. This was already the second night!r

With a blank and dull expression, Elle stood by the window. All she had done the past hours was to think. She was tired and angry and frustrated. She did not know what to do. She cannot be stuck in here, held back against her wishes, when she was supposed to be doing so many other important things. r

Her mind was in chaos and turmoil. Whatever the reason was behind all this, she refused to be stuck here like some prisoner. She refused to be like a bird kept in a gilded cage like this again. She had had enough of it during her time being controlled



and watched over by her father and Brandon Haze. The reason she got married and was carrying out this farce with Prince Sebastian was also to get herself out of the last problem. She did not get married, only to be treated the same way. Never! No more!

Clenching her fist tight, Elle stared up at the full moon above when a howl reached her ears. r

## Chapter 80 Pet

This bonus chapter is dedicated to @Sacogun! Big thanks for the supergift!!!  
<3

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Hearing wolf howls were not something surprising as the Reigns castle was located in a forested hill. However, this was the first time so far that she heard a howl. And that one sound had reminded her of the snow-white wolf that they saved. She had totally forgotten about it due to all these ridiculous happenings.

Where was the white wolf now? It must still be healing up, right now, right? The medic team that Sebastian had put in charge of taking care of that wolf would surely be a skillful one. So the wolf should be on its way to getting better. Right...?

After contemplating for a few moments, Elle rushed towards the door.

"Rion?" she called out at the still closed door.

"Yes, Your Highness." The door quickly swung opened, and the man immediately responded. The big man who first blocked the door, stepped aside. "How may I help you?"

"You said the only thing that's not allowed inside this room is other unauthorized people and gadgets, right?" she asked with a straight face. Her eyes were looking pretty intimidating.

Rion slowly nodded. "Yes, Princess. You are right. That's the exact order we received." He was wary as he did not know what ideas this princess would somehow come up with. Prince Sebastian had already warned him to be on his toes when dealing with her.

"Alright then. I need you to go fetch Snow White and bring him here to me."

The man blinked, not following the princess' train of thought. What the hell was Snow White?! "Snow White... uhm... you mean the book? But you just referred to it as... him...??" Rion's mind was spinning. Since when Snow White had turned into a boy?!

"No, no, no... I was actually referring to my dog. His name is Snow White. He had gotten a little injured and is in treatment at the moment. I want him to be brought into this room this instant, Rion." Elle demanded, her voice commanding.

"S-sure, as you wish Your Highness." Rion easily agreed. Thinking back on the long list of things that Prince Sebastian had warned him not to bring into the princess' room, her dog was not on it. So, it should be alright for him to at least grant her this one request. He was feeling really bad already when he kept needing to reject her requests.

"I want him here in thirty minutes." She then shut the door herself this time. Thinking of being able to see if the wolf had healed up nicely had sent Elle into a slight nervous jitter. She truly hoped that it would have been give the best care possible.

On the other side of the door, Rion rubbed his face and looked at the other guard on sentry duty, who only shrugged at him rather helplessly.

"Good Lord... I didn't know the princess could be this scary! Were you aware of this fact, huh, Raven?" Rion whispered to his comrade. For such a small

sized and petite person, the princess sure do have a large and imposing presence when she wanted to.

"She's in a bad mood. She's usually such a ball of warm energy. Can't blame her though." Raven said blankly, shrugging at his own comment.

"How about this Snow White? Are you aware of it?" Rion needed more information on this Snow White that was supposed to be the princess' pet. Why is this the first time that he was hearing about it?

"Hmm... Lucas didn't tell me about a dog. Perhaps, it's the princess' pet from her home country that had just arrived?" Raven supplied an explanation. He himself was not aware of a pet, but that was the most plausible scenario in his mind.

"Damn... where do I even go to find it?"

"Go ask the butler. He might know where that dog is."

...

Rion was speechless for a moment as he looked at the large cage that was placed under a tree in the west garden.

"Wait a moment... this is Snow White? This isn't a dog!!!" Rion yelled at the butler, aghast that what he was looking at was a massive white wolf! Did the butler think it was wise to bring a wolf into a room with such a weak princess?

"There's no dog in the castle, you know that."

"Are you sure this is the princess's pet?!"

"I'm sure it is. Otherwise, why would Prince Sebastian have gone through all that trouble to have it saved? He had called expert doctors to tend to it. He had even asked me to take care of it and made sure it would not die." The butler provided Rion with more explanation. And the more Rion heard, the more shocked he was.

Rion frowned and then creased his brows. That was really unbelievable. The prince, saving a wolf, much less taking care of it was unheard of!!! Was this still the same prince and lord that he had sworn to serve? Why did he feel so different right now?

"I can't believe this. How could such a frail looking princess have a pet as dangerous and big as this one?" Rion was shaking his head in disbelief.

"Well, don't underestimate the princess. This one might be her pet since it was young. They could have grown up together. You know that's not impossible." The butler suggested.

"Fine, fine..." Rion could only surrender.

Soon, Rion arrived back at the front of the princess room, with a large cage in tow behind him.

Raven was shocked at the sight that he saw.

"What the... why the hell are you bringing such a dangerous beast in here, Rion?!!" the big man demanded. He looked as though just the sight of the wolf was enough to tick off his instincts.

"Calm down, Raven. Apparently, this beast is the princess' pet. You know... Snow White...?"

"W-what?!" As Raven exclaimed in disbelief, the door opened, and the princess stood just at the entrance.

As soon as she saw the white wolf in the cage, her face immediately lit up and a smile formed on her face for the very first time since she was locked up in her room.

"Snow White!!!" she yelled animatedly as she rushed out of the room, and ran towards the wolf.