

Chapter 43

Love you.

God bless all of you and have a wonderful day ahead.

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### Prince Phoenix's POV

"How...what?" It was my turn to stutter.

"How can anyone just say something like this so soon?"

"I...forgive you," she said again, clearer.

"How...why?"

"You are so sorry."

"I'm sorry but I wish I did was--"

"You are sorry Your Highness and you feel...remorse. You...you also s...saved me," she whispered to herself and to me.

"How can you be so forgiving?" I asked in wonder and she tilted her head to the side trying to figure out what I meant. That only showed me that it was in her very nature. She was pure, innocent and forgiving. Even a er, all that's happened to her, none of those qualities were lost.

"You really forgive me. You really do. Wholeheartedly?" I mumbled

"Yes."

I couldn't hold it in anymore. I pulled her to me and caged her in my arms. She immediately flinched the second I moved forwards and her entire body stilled as I hugged her. She just stood against me with her hands frozen at her sides.

"Thank you. I have no other words for you Little Flower. I can only say this, thank you. You never fail to blow me away." I whispered. Only then did she relax in my arms. I didn't let go for some time. The situation was just too perfect. In that moment, with her in my arms, it was the only thing in my entire life I didn't care about anything else. It was as if the rest of the world faded away and she was the only thing that was crystal clear.

"Papa will be angry. I have to go," she said timidly while pulling back.

"I'll come with you."

When we entered the hall, I immediately locked eyes with the King as he sat at the head of the table. The Queen was seated on his right while Alexander on his left. Alex and Queen Aurora were having a light conversation while the King only glared at me. He wasn't listening to anyone else talking. His eyes were hard as he drummed his knuckles on the heavy wooden table.

My Little Flower greeted her mother and brother before walking towards the King. She kissed him on the cheek and whispered some 'tu' in his ear.

His stone cold eyes gradually lost their roughness. He slowly diverted his eyes away from me to look at his daughter. As a few painfully slow moments, he nodded at my girl. Alexander let out a heavy breath and signaled for me to sit beside him while my little one sat beside the queen.

"Sol... the King started. "I heard you're leaving soon?" King Sindrion looked expectantly at me.

"So eager to get rid of me? I hope you act differently when the trolls come back," I bit back.

"Boys!! Enough!!!" Queen Aurora exploded. Her eyes glowed brightly making her daughter nervous. The dress she wore made a slight movement which only means her wings wanted to be let free. That's what happens when fae creatures become anxious or angry or basically too emotional.

I couldn't care less about any of that. King Sindrion was pissing me off. I hated the fact that he was a King and I was just a Prince.

"Boys!!" I gritted out.

"I am much older Prince Phoenix, don't forget that and both of you will stop this bickering. Now!"

I snorted and looked away while the King glared at his wife.

"O dear God, he likes her alright!!" Alex blurted pointing towards me then to my Little Flower. "He's been blurted for a long time now and yes he's been awful, horrible, heartless and an ass plus a jerk but Prince Phoenix has proven himself to her or at least from what I can see, he's trying to do something. I think we should all just leave it for Evie to decide. Let this matter be between the both of them, please."

I looked to King Sindrion hopefully.

I just wanted to hit him and strangle him for calling me those names but I held myself back only because he was actually speaking to my advantage.

"Aeval is not even eighteen yet."

"She's old enough to understand what she wants and what she does not want dear." Queen Aurora said so ly as she placed her hand on his arm.

"We will not talk about any of this until a er the war," he le no room for any other words. He abruptly stood up and left the hall.

"She's his princess. He lost her when she was seven and he just got her back. We just got them back. I'm sure his reaction does not come as a shock to you, young prince." The queen turned towards me. Alex had taken his sister out of the hall a few moments a er the King le.

I let out a defeated sigh. "No, I guess it shouldn't come as a shock to me. I just don't have the strength to stay away from her. I don't know how to explain this feeling to you."

"You don't have to," she looked at me blankly. Up to this point I don't even know if Queen Aurora wholeheartedly approved of me wanting her daughter.

"As my husband said earlier, we'll wait until a er the war. You will need to earn his blessings, Prince Phoenix, and mine too. Though his will be much harder to achieve."

"I understand. Just to let you know, I will be leaving tomorrow at dawn."

"So soon?"

"What do you expect. Your Grace? I have a war to plan. We still have to defeat them."

"Yes, of course. I hope we win. For good this time."

"We will..."

"I must help my daughter with the gi...she possesses within herself. She must unravel all of them."

"Hmm, perhaps when I see her again she'll be a changed Flower."

"Oh yes, definitely young Prince." Queen Aurora smiled brightly. I could tell she was excited to bring out the fae in my Little Flower.

"Don't let her change too much." I said sti ly. I like her like this. Adorable and sweet. I don't want to come back to a savage warrior. The queen must have read my reaction because I heard a heavy laugh.

"I wish I knew where your thoughts carried you to. What do you imagine Aeval will become?"

"I don't know..."

"And that worries you?" I remained silent. She rolled her eyes at me.

"She will not change in the way you think, Prince Phoenix. She will become stronger of course and she'll just learn how to use her gi...s and control it's great power. I don't really know the extent of it but I know she's strong and powerful so we'll see."

"Would you tell her I said farewell? I will not be good at goodbyes when it comes to her."

The queen looked at me like she was trying to solve a puzzle. Even I was surprised in the way I acted. "Of course."

"If she has any letters for her family in Red Kingdom, pass them to me later." I said and rushed out of the hall in a blur.

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What a day? thought to myself. Half of it was filled with peace and joy and the other half was a bloody battle.

I wasn't a fool. I knew I had to earn the Fae King's blessings. It won't be an easy task and he won't make it easy. On the other hand, the war was getting closer. I have to win. Losing will reflect the belief of the people in Red Kingdom. I am the future King. With all these heavy thoughts in my mind, I dropped myself on the bed and massaged my temples with my eyes shut.

Not even a minute later there were so...knocks on the door.

Give me a break!

I stood up and walked toward the doors, already annoyed at the person on the other side. As I opened the door, my previous emotions vanished and was taken over by delight.

"It's late, you should be sleeping," I said so ly, opening the door wider for her to walk in.

"I...wanted to um..." she stretched out her hand and gave me four letters.

I held up her chin to make her to look at me. "Train yourself to speak full sentences, no matter how hard it may be." She looked down and nodded in understanding.

"Is this everything or do you have five more?" I teased.

"That is all."

"Alright then." I stopped not knowing how to prolong the conversation anymore. I wanted to but what else was there to say? She turned around to leave but before she could reach the door I gently held her wrist and pulled her back. She turned around and our chests nearly connected. She was suddenly breathing hard the room was getting warmer. We were so close that our breaths mingled together. She freed her wrist on impulse but I held her by the waist and brought my lips down to forehead. It was gentle and fast. I didn't want to do anything stupid like scare her before le.

Once I had kissed her, she brought up her trembling fingers to touch the spot weren't lips touched her delicate skin. She frowned but said nothing.

"I don't know how I'm going survive without you." I confessed. Neither of us knew how long I'd be gone to train and plan for the war. She just looked at me then she looked down.

"I suppose I have to, but I will always be thinking about you," I said while caressing her cheeks.

God I'm going to miss this girl.

"Goodbye Your Highness," she said so ly.

"Don't say that. Please." I muttered feeling empty. She tilted her head and blinked at me. Then a sudden realization filled her eyes. As if she knew how I felt.

"Okay, I will...see you again." She tried. I looked down at her lovingly. "That sounded much better. Little Flower," I kissed the crown of her head before she walked out the door. She still had a slight limp in her walk but it was getting better each day. She took a le out the door.

"Your room is here?" I asked surprised.

"No, I want to see Mr and Mrs Salvador."

I had completely forgotten about bringing them along.

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### Princess Aeval Florentine's POV.

The next morning when I woke up I knew he was gone. I spent so much time with him that my body could tell whether he was in the same place as me or not.

Speaking about the Dark Prince, he's somehow changed. He used to be the cause of my nightmares but lately he was the one chasing them away from my mind. When Lady Esther and Henri did what they did, the Dark Prince became this whole other being. He had stopped hurting me a short-time before that but a er what happened I got to see a drastic change.

Gone was the monster side of him.

A while erent personally fought it's way through a er that. He became this gentle, caring creature. Not at all how I would have described him months ago. He made sure I was bathed, he fed me, took care of me, made sure I slept even when I couldn't, he protected me and most importantly he saved my life. I did not want to live a er that horrific experience but he didn't let me fade away. He brought back my emotions, he made me feel again. He even freed me knowing full well that he had the power to do anything else but instead he chose to send me back to my family.

I could never understand the mysterious Dark Prince. His actions from now and before were so contrast to each other. I couldn't understand anything until he confessed his feelings yesterday.

That made me think about his actions but I won't be able to fully understand everything about him.

Mr and Mrs Salvador told me that he was going to be craving for me when he's there but I personally think that craving is a very big word.

I walked towards the dining table and saw that my twin was already there. "There you are! I was waiting for you Evie." I smiled at him. Only Alex still calls me Evie or Evie.

"You d...don't eat anything?"

"Haven't eaten anything."

"Haven't eaten anything?" I corrected myself. I hated the fact that I couldn't talk properly so I was trying very hard.

"Stop beating yourself up, you'll get it soon."

"Thank you," he chuckled and ru led my hair. Just then a young castle servant walked in and served our breakfast.

"Thank you very much," we said it together. The servant blinked at us for moment then he went red and shyly walked away a er giving us a bow.

"Guess they don't expect us to say it." Alex said pouring himself some tea.

"But we know how it feels...L...to be appreciated."

"Yeap."

"What a beautiful sight." We both looked up at mama. "My two children having breakfast, in this hall," she said so ly.

"We are still getting used to this as well, sit with us already."

Breakfast went on smoothly. We laughed and talked like a normal happy family but papa wasn't there.

"Where is papa?" I voiced my thoughts.

"Training sweetheart. He will be back in about fi...een minutes or so. We'll spending more time because of the war. That reminds me, Aeval, he's starting your training by the end of this week." She looked at me all excited. I just gaped at her with my eyes wide.

Train?!

Train what?!

How to fade flowers?!

"Yes we could all train!" Alex exclaimed. He enjoys his training a lot. Even his body is fit and muscular. I wish Beth could see him now. She'll probably drool. The thought alone made me chuckle.

Alexander's head snapped towards me.

"What's so funny?"

"Nothing and what train...ing?" I asked my mother.

"Training to help you unlock all your gi...s. You must learn how to use them, all their strengths and weaknesses," she spoke slowly, to make me understand.

"Oh."

"Don't be afraid, you'll soon find out the true extent of your gi...s and what it means to be a fae."

"I wanted to ask you something else mother," my brother asked seriously.

"Go on then."

"Why were our memories taken away? I mean were they taken away? Why couldn't we remember anything about you and dad?"

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Back in Red Kingdom

Third Person's POV

Tonya had just received four letters from her beloved sister. Her heartbeat was all spiked up and she couldn't wait to open them. She was feeling like that ever since she received the closed envelopes from Ms.Odelle about an hour ago. She sat on her bed feeling excited. Tonya wanted to wait for the rest before opening them.

About half an hour passed before Beth walked in and plopped on her bed like a lifeless body. "I am so, so fucking tired," she grumbled.

"You've been sulky for a week now Beth."

"Work is heavy!"

"You just miss a special someone." Tonya teased her. She knew Bethany really missed Alex. She wasn't whole.

"Do not!! I don't need him okay!"

"Okay, okay! Where's the rest?"

"On their way. Why?"

"I have big news!"

"What is it?" Tonya remained quiet and smirked at Beth's eagerness.

"What is it Tonya? Spit it out before I bite you! Now!"

"Patience little girl. We have to wait for the other two. Now sssshh."

Beth grumbled and muttered under her breath before taking a shower. Not long a er she came out. India walked in. She looked worn out as well. That made Tonya wonder when all of this was going to end. Were they going to slave away to their death beds?

"What's wrong Tonya?"

"Nothing, where's Kyle?"

"You know him, his work doesn't follow fixed timing."

"Right. So the big news?"

"Finally." Beth exclaimed.

"Tonya, are those really pulled out four white envelopes from behind her."

"...are those from her?" Beth asked surprised. Tonya nodded and distributed the letters according to their names. They looked at each other for a moment before tearing open the envelopes.

They just scanned the words in silence, not really reading them. Seconds later, India suggested that they read their letters out loud.

"I haven't finished reading!" Beth whined. "So go first." India said excitedly.

"Alright then,

Dear Beth,

My dearest friend and my sister. Words cannot explain how much I miss you. I wish I could say all this in person but I cannot and I do not know when I will be seeing your face again. I miss your laugh and your energy. I need them. Both you've been my support and strength and our friendship had no boundaries. You stood by me in the worst most dangerous situation that we'll ever face. I am so sorry that you were hurt. Now I understand that they had despised me to a level that I can never comprehend but that doesn't mean the rest of you needed to sur er with me. I promise to be stronger and when I am strong enough I'll protect you Bethany. I hope to see you sooner than I expect. I will always keep you in my thoughts.

Love, Evie.

Read the other note behind.

When Beth finished there were tears in her eyes. "Awi miss her," she sni ed.

"Yeah now I don't wanna read mine." Tonya said. "Hey, there's another one," she reminded Beth.

Beth found the other letter folded in the envelopes. She took it out and opened it to see that it was from Alexander. She immediately went red in the face.

"Ooooooooooooooooohhhh!" the two other girls knowingly swooned.

"Read it already!" Tonya squealed. That's when the door burst open and a grumpy Kyle walked in.

"What's all this about?!"

They just blinked at him, all except Tonya. "Stop being a sour puss. We are reading letters sent to us from Evie." She bragged to him. Kyle's eyes widened as he looked at the letters. Beth's hand then his eyes traveled towards the letters that were held by India and Tonya.

His eyes narrowed at Tonya next. "Where's mine?"

"How do you know you actually have one?" Tonya teased him while adjusting her sitting position to hide away the white envelope behind her.

"I know it because she loves me the most!! So you pressed on. She was enjoying his anger and disbelief building up.

"Give it to me Tonya!! I'm her favorite a er that jerk, Alex, but I know you have my letter hidden and don't tell me I'm giving you a bow!"

Tonya gaped at him and then she reached for Beth's pillow wanting to smash his face with it. India couldn't control the laughter which escaped her mouth.

"Hand mine over Tonya. I'm tired of dealing with brats for today." Kyle growled, unhappy that he didn't already have the letter in his hand.

"Errrgh just take it."

"Thank you sister," he sounded excited all of a sudden.

Once he had his letter, India and Tonya jumped at Beth wanting her to read Alex's letter.

"No, you guys! Stop! I'll read it and tell you tomorrow." Tonya pouted like a child.

"Come on, what did she say in yours?" Beth diverted. When India and Tonya read their letters it was more or less the same. Aeval thanked Tonya for being the incredible sister that she is and deeply appreciated India for saving their lives.

"This is so beautiful and touching," India's voice became heavy. She then looked at Kyle and saw him smile while he read his letter.

"Hey Kyle."

"She called me her brave knight in shining armor!" he said proudly shouting o Tonya. "She also wrote that she loves me like ten thousand times and I'm so brave for putting myself in harms way. She...what?!"

"What is it?" India queried.

"She said I should be a little careful and don't get myself into too much trouble! P...ttt when have I ever done anything like that? I have to talk to that girl!"

"That girl" is the Fae Princess and she's right though." India said smiling at the mischievous boy.

"Princess or not, Evie is still Evie. She'll always be our little red head who attracts trouble. You know she's a little bit like me."

"Stop right there! She's not an airhead like you and she doesn't talk nonsense most of the time."

"Don't ever call me that Bessie! Now all of you keep quiet and go to sleep!" with that he fell back on his bed and stretched out with a yawn.

"Whoaaa, Kyle go take a shower. Now!" instructed India.

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### Five months later.

#### Prince Phoenix's POV

We'll attack from all sides. The Alpha King and our war commander will lead the troops at the south boarder. King Sindrion and Queen Aurora will take the Eastern entrance. King Eaprodus, the Western boarder and I along with my troops will lead up front. The archers will need more training." I commanded my generals.

"They are already training very hard, my Prince."

"They will train harder this coming month. I will give word for when they can rest. Silvan, I want the warwives to be excellent in their combat fighting. They have their weapons I presume."

"Yes, I'll let my Luna and Beta know. We won't disappoint."

"Good. We'll go through the plans again and if anyone has a better suggestion, let him or her come forward with it. Dismissed for today."

Once everyone was out, I slumped in my seat. Why was everything so fucking exhausting?

"You okay? You're getting gloomier by the day." I've already called the Dark Prince. You want a title upgrade? Silvan asked handing me glass filled with blood. I didn't feel like drinking it.

It didn't taste as good as..."

"Oh for the love of the Goddess, drink! You need it."

"He's right, brother." Zenas chimed in.

I forced everything down in one gulp. I didn't want a bloody lecture.

"You just can't stay away from her can you?" Zenas said like he couldn't believe my attitude. He le a er arranging some paperwork. Silvan was controlling his laugh as usual.

"Five fucking months and eight days," I muttered. Her fading scent still lingered in my chambers. It was the only thing that made me calm enough to go to sleep.

The flowers didn't last as long. Sometimes she could maintain the roses for two weeks or more. I couldn't wait to end this war and make her mine.

"Just a few more months. Don't be so depressed. Wait maybe less than that. There has been signs of troll activity not far from the boarder three day ago."

"I want to be alone Silvan."

"What? I'm filling in for her."

"I'm going to pretend that I did not hear that."

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Princess Aeval Florentine's POV

"Concentrate. Let your energy flow throughout your body. Every vein, nerve, every muscle must down in it. Remember Aeval, all these, nature itself will obey your will. You just have to believe that you can do it. You must trust in your gi...s and slowly let go. Allow them to take over, ease your mind." My mother patiently thought me. Training to use my gi...s wasn't easy.

It was the exact opposite actually. See, my mind and body always believed that I was human so they functioned that way. I cannot just become a whole other being based on words that were spoken. I had to change my mind, body and soul. I had to completely transform from human to fae.

It was crazy and it was extremely strenuous. I trained for at least five hours a day. The first few weeks were horrible. I would be completely drained out of energy and I would eat so much for every meal. Sometimes even more than Alex. It scared me at first but my stomach always wanted more. My mother told me it was normal and that my body needed all the energy it could get.

My first lessons were ecting little things like flowers and plants. I learnt how to manipulate them using my emotions. It wasn't so bad because I have unknowingly done it in the past.

It went on with one lesson a day. It got harder and harder but I would somehow manage with the guidance that came from both my parents.

Today's training was particularly burdensome. My mother was teaching me how to manipulate wild plants and trees in the forest. She wanted me to let my energy flow and conquer the entire forest with all its creatures living here.

"Speak to them. From your heart Aeval," came her motherly voice. I focused at the task at hand and at the same time I cleared my mind. I evoned out my breathing and willed my energy to flow. That way, connecting with nature was easier.

Following my mother's advice I spoke to them. Calmly and so ly but with a slight demand. I know all these creatures have will in their them. I could already feel the connection. Now I just have to enhance it.

'Hear me. Listen to my voice' palms in my mind. My arms were stretched out with both my palms open, facing up. There was only silence a er I spoke. My eye were closed as I tried to welcome anything at all.

A few minutes passed when I heard a gasp. I slowly opened my eyes. What I saw le me speechless.

My skin

It was glowing. A bright gold almost like the Sun. Majestic and glorious. My brilliant blue veins could be seen clearly, spread throughout my body. Lines that my eyes were glowing as well. It wasn't just that. The golden glow from my entire body was spreading and dominating the whole forest. At that moment I heard voices.

They were meant for me.

'We are here. We listen to you.'

I looked to my mother and gave her a triumphant smile.

She signaled for me to go on. I thought for a moment. What shall I ask of these creatures? Right now I didn't want anything but I needed all the help I could get for later.

"Stand by me for when the darker days come. It will be soon and there will be bloodshed. Be my light against the darkness. Stand with me. We must defend this land, united. Help us