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Prince Phoenix's POV

awake.

"You really hate it?"

"Yes, I do."

"Hmm."

"What?"

"Nothing."

ready as well.

voice.

alcohol from my glass.

I stood up at once.

"I want to go have a drink."

to agree and took her seat.

"Excuse me?"

suspicious."

still heard him snicker.

in number.

ear. "I was fine-"

closer.

her.

voice gradually increased.

everyone and she should be happy.

"What do you mean? Who are ' they?"

closer, I understood what she meant.

gets to come anywhere near you."

"It's fine. Really." She ended it.

questioning myself.

hoping she would drop it.

"How Prince Phoenix?"

"You should sleep."

green gems.

"No you weren't and don't try to lie. I know what I saw."

"You were watching? Why? Do you have to do that all the time?" her

"No I don't have to but I want to. I'm sorry but I can't help it if we are in the same place alright." She took deep breaths to relax herself.

"You don't have to answer me," I said staring ahead. I saw her pick up her drink and didn't miss the slight trembling of her hand. I didn't want to ask her anything else. Today was a victorious day for

"I d...don't like it when they get too close," she suddenly spoke. Her voice was so er than a whisper. Surprised she spoke, I scooted a little

"Uh...t..them," she whispered. "I don't...like it when they come too close to me." She said looking around. Who are you looking at? Everyone? followed her line of vision and slowly, as I observed

My Little Flower was looking at all the men. She was weary of the male population entirely. That's why she couldn't handle Zenas holding her close to him. She still hasn't completely recovered from what happened. How could she? Getting raped was one of the worst things that could happen to a person. My eyes so ened at the sight of

"I....I am so sorry. I truly am. I should have been there to prevent it from happening. Whenever I think about it, I am always filled with regret. You will come out of it someday I promise but you'll need time to heal. If you're feeling this uncomfortable then I'll make sure no one

"I can't imagine how uncomfortable it is for you to be around me. I'm the last person you'd want to be with," I muttered and looked away.

"That's what I don't understand. I don't get so anxious and I don't feel my skin crawl when it comes to you. I mean, when I'm around you. I

"I've always believed that I was the biggest monster in your life. That

"Well, you did save my life even when I didn't want to be saved. Plus, ever since that horrible nightmare, you always knew what to do and what to say when I felt like I couldn't go on. How?" I looked away,

"Please tell me." She looked at me with those captivating, bluish

"I don't know okay." I said sternly. It was so di icult to get the words out. Her eyes widened and she looked afraid. I abruptly stood up. "Come, let's get you to bed. You're beyond exhausted," I stretched my hand towards her. She stood up but did not take my hand. She simply

We walked until we reached the door to her chambers. "Good night

"No, it was fine." She said hesitantly as she looked down. It was

rested of course." Please say yes. She thought long and hard.

looked away. Seeming to be holding herself back.

"Is there something you want to ask?

Princess Aeval Florentine's POV

placing the grapes on my plate.

"Um...no. No."

"Are you sure?"

chambers.

"Oh, wow."

everyone up already?"

"So where's your buddy?"

"Good a ernoon Kyle."

"Which one?"

I told him a joke.

I mean I did try.

"What?"

immediately."

eyes at Kyle's dramatic gestures.

"Hmmm." He too continued eating.

to say. I almost dropped my spoon.

your mind. That's your gi!"

conversations were like this.

confused, angry, nervous looking Kyle.

hearing what he was going to say.

"You. Fucking. Read. My. Mind?"

wishes for things like that?

"Liar!"

when a person is lying?" I asked teasingly.

long as possible."

"Will it be alright if I spent time with you tomorrow? A er you are well

"I might go to the gardens in the evening so maybe you could meet

"Yes that would be good." I said quickly. She narrowed her eyes and

"Maybe tomorrow. Goodnight." She whispered and went inside her

"Good morning Timothy," I said helping myself with breakfast. I was starving and breakfast looked mouth watering. There were all kinds of fruit, bacon, meat, bread, butter, jam, cereal and much more.

"Um, it's actually twelve thirty princess." I froze for a second before

"Yup but in my opinion, one can have breakfast any time of the day.

"Yeah. We're the latest, princess. Your parents wanted you to rest as

"I just wanted to sleep and I have no regrets about it." That made me

"On his way here right now." At that moment I heard footsteps behind

me. I turned around and saw Kyle with a grumpy face.

"Mmhmm," he grumbled back as if telling me to shut up.

"Stop being like this. What are you so annoyed about?"

"I hate mornings. A lot." It's not morning but never mind.

'Oh. He's out and we're with the princess now so you're safe.'

"He did say he wouldn't be so harsh on you guys." I chipped in to calm Kyle down. Then Timothy started laughing his lungs out.

"My brother?! Said he wouldn't be so harsh on us?!" he wheezed as if

"What? It's true. I asked him not to punish both of you too badly and a er some time he agreed that he wouldn't." I looked up from my plate and saw the two of them gaping at me with eyes wide open. "I'm sorry I couldn't tell him not to punish both of you at all," I added.

"Whoa, wait. He actually said that he isn't going to give us heavy punishments? He actually said that to you. You heard it?" I rolled my

"Yes Kyle, yes," a er emphasizing my point I started to enjoy my breakfast. Kyle felt much better while Timothy stared at me oddly.

"I just can't believe that you're not lying about this, princess."

"Timothy, please call me Aeval and why would I lie about something like this? If he wanted to hurt you guys, I would warn you about it

"When you said I wasn't lying, what was that about? You can tell

"Oh I can read people's minds. It's one of my gi s." He said with no traces of humor. Then he stared at me like it was such a casual thing

"You're lying! You just think you're so funny." Kyle was almost

"No it's not! You do that telekinesis shit. You can move things with

"And I read minds! I don't understand why it's so hard for you to believe I can read minds when I literally move objects with my mind!"

"Eeerrghh!" he threw his hands up. "I do know how much you hated me the first day you started o as my personal servant. You hated me for a long time a er that too. I know you lied about your opinion a er I tried my twentieth coat! I remember trying a brown coat and you thought it looked like dog shit but you said I looked matured and sophisticated." Timothy's hands were on his hips and he glared at a

He then squinted his eyes at the prince. I too was looking forward to

"Actually, I only read your mind the first day. Wanted to see what kind of a human you were. A er the first day I just chose not too but I

Kyle's hands flew up to hold his head. "This is supposed to be private! I had no privacy. I still have no privacy. Oh my God, you're such a brat! So you always knew that I at one time wished you rolled down the stairs?!" he asked Timothy in disbelief. I just gaped at him. Who

"Kyle, what is wrong with you? Just finish your breakfast and let him enjoy his." The young prince however gave Kyle a bored expression.

"No human, I did not know that and I didn't want to know what you thought about me or anyone else. It was better that way. Like I said I only read your mind the first day I met you. Why are you blurting everything out right now? What do want? A confession session with me?!" Kyle's cheeks turned red in embarrassment. I covered my mouth before I started laughing. They were so entertaining.

"Um, I'm not sure. I would like to go around to see if I could heal any

"Queen Aurora and King Sindrion are doing that." Timothy answered

"There are others to take care of the injured. We should do something

"Like what?" I leaned in. Kyle shook his head at me, warning me not

"Whatever it is, it's going to have to wait." I turned around to see

"Good a ernoon Princess," I greeted her. She returned my greeting and looked at Timothy and Kyle again. "Both of you are needed in the small meeting room on the third floor." The young prince groaned at

"Oh you know why. Both of you, up now. You know how impatient our

dear brother is." She said seriously. Kyle paled. I gave him a reassuring look and reminded him that it won't be so bad.

It took them five whole minutes just to leave the dining table.

"Alright, see you around." With that she sped out in the same

"Yes. He's a giant. Many of his branches are broken, princess." The little pixie explained to me. She flew ahead leading me towards a

"His broken branches are high up. I'll show you, princess." We then flew high up together. She showed me the tree's branches. There were three broken ones but they could easily be healed and a er using my light, life giving energy that is exactly what I did. We healed a few more trees and forest animals and soon it was late evening.

It was finally evening. The Dark Prince had a long, tiring day. He needed to write many reports regarding the war and the future plans for Red Kingdom and Golden Haven. A er long hours spent in the

Now all he could think of was his Little Flower. Reaching the main gardens within seconds, his eyes desperately looked for his princess.

"Tsssk, over here," a childlike voice sang. He looked up only to be

"I know who you're looking for," the pixie sang again. The Dark Prince let out an exasperated sigh before turning towards the irritating

"Rich coppery red hair with ginger strands in the right places. Bluish green eyes that has trapped you in an inescapable enchantment. Oh

He continued walking along the stone path on the garden grounds. There were a few turns here and there but he continued walking. He

"You're going the opposite direction," the pixie decided to speak a er

"Owh ouch! Stop it! You're the one who wanted me to be quiet!" the pixie pleaded as the Dark Prince was slowly freezing the small

It didn't take them long to find her a er that. Once the Dark Prince spotted her from a distance, the pixie le him but not before sticking

She flew down a er healing a huge tree. Once she landed she thanked the pixie which was with her and the pinkish creature flew

away. He walked towards his princess taking his own time.

"How have you been?" he was a little surprised to see her using her

"Would you like a hot drink? I'm going to have some," she politely

They sat under one of the gazebos and the princess requested for some tea. They didn't wait long before they were served with a pot

"We brought the chocolate chip biscuits as well, Your Highness. Here." The maid servant said as she placed the small jar on the table in front of the princess. It was Aeval's favorite. She gave the servant a

"One biscuit will cause you no harm." She pressed on. With the way she looked at him, he was unable to refuse again. They were soon surrounded by a comfortable silence. The princess enjoyed her tea as

"The gardens here are serene and tranquil." Prince Phoenix said a er

"Don't worry, my day is much better now," he smiled at her. Then his

"You retired for the night a bit uneasy." He stated. She looked down at

"Yes. Are you going to answer me? I just want to understand how you

"I don't know what to say. I have no excuse for my actions before they took you. I thought a lot about how I treated you and I asked myself why I did what I did and....." he looked away unable to say anything

"I wasn't thinking. I guess I didn't understand that you were a person with feelings. If I at least understood that, then I wouldn't have acted the way I did. I saw you as a servant who was bound to me. I took advantage of your weakness and your inability to rebel against me. I gave into my darker self. I grew more and more possessive of you and I wanted you all to myself. I didn't want you to have any connections with anyone else." Princess Aeval only listened as he spoke. She wanted to hit him with the teapot but she refrained from doing so.

"Everything changed when I found you in that cell." The princess let out a sharp breath. She didn't want to think about it but he went on.

"Everything in me fell apart. I saw the walls caving in on me. When I carried your small, battered body in my arms, I tasted death. Not for you, but for me. As an immortal being, I never knew death but a er seeing you like that, I felt it. Soulless, empty and dark." It was his worst experience in all his life. He wished it would never repeat itself. "You won't have to feel like that again," the princess mumbled

"The Aplha King helped me to hold myself together. He did a lot actually. Anyway, it was during that time when you were in a

comatose state. On one particular day, when I saw you unconscious on my bed, all wrapped up in bandages I realized something.

If I continued be the person I was before I le the castle, if I continued to be possessive and if I kept hurting you, maybe you would have ended up like that anyway. You didn't need Esther or Henri to do anything, because I was no better. I made you feel depressed and weak. I thought I could take care of your my way but I was slowly killing you already. Before anyone else got involved," he said

"The truth is, you were slowly slipping out of my hands, through my fingers. My grip on you was getting weaker. I was helpless and I didn't want to lose you. I realized that I love you beyond what I simply felt. It wasn't just an emotion. I would have done anything to keep you alive. Even if it meant that I had to give up my life." He ended so ly. He couldn't look her in the eye anymore. She knew he meant it. Both of them remained quiet a er that. Princess Aeval's eyes welled up as she swallowed. "C...can you please talk about something else? I know I'm the one who asked but....it's bringing back too many memories."

"These biscuits aren't so bad." The princess smiled through her teary

How could anyone hate chocolate chip biscuitshe thought.

that he made her eyes tear up. "I needed to hear it, Prin-"

"I didn't mean for you to get upset." The Dark Prince said. He hated

"Phoenix." He felt warm just by listening to her call out his name. He understood that she needed to know how he felt. They needed to

"This is a very nice place." Princess Aeval smiled not getting what the prince was trying to say. He placed his hand on his forehead not believing her cluelessness. "I meant like a date, my Little Flower." She

"What do you say? I would very much like to get to know you better and I'll answer whatever question you have regarding myself."

"I...I don't know what to do when I'm on a date. I've never been to one," she sounded timid. The Dark Prince was surprised no one had ever asked his beautiful Little Flower out on a date before. Were the guys in Red Kingdom blindħe wondered. Nevertheless, he was glad her first date was going to be with him. He was going to make sure

"It's almost like what we're doing now. The only apparent dierence is, I'm going to take you out somewhere else," he explained lightly.

"If it's going to be something like this then it's okay I guess." she thought for a moment. Then her hand suddenly shot up as she pointed at him. "You cannot drink my blood for dinner." She tried to be as stern as possible but to him she looked even more adorable. He smiled and nodded. He felt bad for treating her like a blood bag.

"I will never drink from you like that again. Maybe in the future I'll ask permission from you first," he said thoughtfully. She only gaped at

"I won't give you my blood. You can take blood from many other

"You have no idea how your blood tastes like. It's like a drug to me. You have the sweetest blood," he said as if he was complementing her. She only became more nervous and images of him sucking her

"Oh God yes. I didn't mean for you get that sort of a thought. I know I've forcefully drank from you but I won't do it like that ever again, I

"T..tomorrow?" she asked a little shocked. He shrugged and asked her

That's all for now guys. Those are pictures of her dress and her

Continue to next part

why not. She didn't know what to say a er that. She was free tomorrow and he was trying his best to win her heart.

immediately blushed and felt embarrassed that she didn't

"You've only taken a small bite out of it."

sensing the ache in his voice.

sincerely.

eyes.

"It still counts."

"Phoenix please."

"It's fine if you hate it."

"I'm so glad you said that."

understand each other more.

"I want to take you out someplace nice."

"Can I take you out?"

understand it at first.

she has a memorable first date.

"Oh, okay." She said in a small voice.

"Okay? You mean you'll go out with me?"

"Oh."

source."

dry filled her head.

"What?! No!"

"You promise?"

"What are you thinking Little Flower?"

"Are you going to suck all my blood?"

swear." She visibly relaxed a er what she heard.

"Tomorrow then." Her eyes widened.

"Alright, we can go at six thirty."

tiara.

"We are out....Phoenix."

smile faded as he remembered their conversation last night.

"I asked you something but you got a little upset and ended the

her tea wondering how to say what was in her mind.

turned out to be so di erent a er what happened."

"Good evening," she greeted in her usual so voice.

needed to see her to complete his day. He needed to earn her a ection. He needed to explain so many things most of which did not

and the wings, the massive wings that drag behind her-"

"Enough!" he raised his voice and the pixie went quiet.

greeted by a creature be didn't really like. A pixie.

creature who enjoys singing a little too much.

"Where is she? If you do not know, then fuck o ."

"I dooooooo knowww...."

have proper explanation.

ten long minutes.

creature's wings.

its tongue out.

gi s again so soon.

"Much better today, and you?"

"I'm fine and I'm glad you're well rested."

asked and the Dark Prince accepted of course.

filled with tea and some biscuits to go with it.

wide smile before thanking all of them.

"Aren't you excited." Prince Phoenix observed.

"I love these. Try some, they're very delicious."

"Too sweet for me. I'll just drink the tea."

it soothed her inside out.

"Hmm. How was your day Pri-"

conversation? Why?"

"Oh, that."

further.

"And..?"

"Oh."

"Just call me Phoenix and I had a restless day."

"Show me. Now." He growled out.

Silence.

"So you do know how to zip it."

to listen to whatever the young prince was going to say.

"No," he said while he stu ed his mouth with bread.

of my creatures or the soldiers." I said thoughtfully.

"So, what are your plans for today...Aeval?"

me.

"Oh, I see."

this. "Now."

"Whyyy?" he whined.

fun." He said excitedly.

Princess Esmeralda walking in.

"Did you rest well Princess Aeval."

"I did. I feel a whole lot better today."

"Yes, I'll go to the gardens in a while."

direction she came in.

Time flew by too fast.

Third Person's POV

"Go away."

study, he managed to finish his work.

huge tree.

"Is there anymore Penelope?"

"That's good to hear. Are you heading out soon?"

could feel your anger towards me." Timothy shrugged.

The young prince argued back. I wondered if their everyday

"It's one of my gi s human," he repeated feeling irritated.

shouting. Timothy was sitting right beside the guy.

"Go eat something human!" Timothy glared at him.

"Is your brother anywhere nearby?"

"The one who wants me killed!"

It's the best meal and they prepare the best kind of food."

"I do feel much better. So why are you late."

"That.....is very true," I smiled taking the seat opposite him. "Is

walked ahead of me, her reaction unreadable.

Prince Phoenix," her voice sounded dull.

"Listen, if it was something I said earlier-"

definitely something I said. Great.

don't know why." She looked at me searching for answers.

being said, I have no idea why you feel secure with me." I said